



# JINDRAH IMAGES

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 12 | ISSUE NO: 175 | 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

## Parliament to discuss Pahalgam terror attack, 'Operation Sindoor' next week

JINNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUL 23 (KNO)

After continued protests by the opposition for three consecutive days in the Parliament, the government has agreed to hold a structured discussion on the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor in the coming week.

According to the details available with the news agency the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha faced disruptions again on Wednesday with Opposition demanding a debate on the Election Commission's voter roll revision in Bihar and Operation Sindoor, launched after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead. Both Houses were adjourned until Thursday. The Opera-

tion Sindoor, India's retaliatory strike targeted nine terrorist camps in Pakistan and PoK.

In the Rajya Sabha, BJP MP Shamik Bhattacharya will move the motion to begin the discussion on "Operation Sindoor."

The decision to allocate time for the debate was taken during a Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting held earlier in the day.

The Lok Sabha will begin the debate on July 28, followed by the Rajya Sabha on July 29, if the schedule goes uninterrupted.

The decision to hold the 16-hour discussion was taken during the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meetings held on July 21 and July 23.

The opposition has repeatedly asked that

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to address the House regarding the handling of the Pahalgam incident and the subsequent response by security forces.

While government representatives did not confirm whether the Prime Minister will reply directly to the debate, sources said he is likely to be present during the proceedings next week after returning from abroad.

A senior leader from the ruling party said the debate on "Operation Sindoor" will have national interest and could attract international observation. He said the Prime Minister may choose to speak on the matter and present the government's stance on various related developments. KNO

## CM Omar reviews key hydro power projects, emphasizes timely execution

JINNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JULY 23

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today conducted a comprehensive review of major hydro and solar power projects across Jammu and Kashmir, with a sharp focus on accelerating execution timelines and resolving bottlenecks.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance Satosh D Vaidya,



Principal Secretary Power Development Department Rajesh H Prasad, Managing Directors Jammu/Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited

and other concerned.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister reviewed the progress of key power projects including the 1856 MW Sawalkote Hydro Elec-

tric Project, 93 MW New Ganderbal HEP, 48 MW Lower Kalnai HEP, and the 5 MW Solar Power Project at Pampore.

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CM Omar directs monthly departmental reviews, stresses strict timeline enforcement under PSGA

JINNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JULY 23

In a significant push to enhance accountability and efficiency in public service delivery, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today directed all Administrative Secretaries to conduct mandatory monthly review meetings to assess the implementation of the Jammu & Kashmir Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA), 2011, within their respective departments.

He also underscored the need for strict enforcement of timelines for service delivery and imposition of

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## CM reviews functioning of Cooperative Banks

JINNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JULY 23

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a comprehensive review meeting on the functioning of Cooperative Banks across Jammu and Kashmir here at the Civil Sec-

retariat.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Cooperatives Javid Ahmad Dar, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India (J&K and

Ladakh), Principal Secretary Finance, Managing Director & CEO J&K Bank, Commissioner Secretary Cooperatives and senior representatives from NABARD.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister reviewed the current status and

functioning of various Cooperative banks.

He acknowledged the improved financial performance of the Jammu and Anantnag District Central Cooperative Banks, which have achieved operational profitability but called

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## Over 1.12 lakh kg drugs seized, 10,000 arrested in J&K since 2018: GoI informs LS

JINNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUL 23 (KNO)

The Union Government has revealed a grim picture of the growing drug menace in Jammu and Kashmir, with over 1.12 lakh kilograms of narcotic drugs seized and nearly 10,000 individuals arrested under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act since 2018.

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, as reported by the news agency, said the Union Territory has witnessed a persistent and troubling increase in narcotics trafficking, illegal cultivation, and substance abuse cases over the past five years.



The minister said the data from National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) indicates a sharp escalation in drug seizures from 2018 to 2020, followed by a gradual decline in the years that followed. In 2018, a total of 19,353 kilograms of narcotics were seized along with 87,713 units and nearly 8,000 litres of psychotropic substances.

Seizures rose significantly in 2019 and peaked in 2020, when authorities confiscated over 27,000 kilograms of drugs and more than 40,000 litres of liquid narcotics. However, from 2021 onwards, the volume of seized substances saw a decline, though officials believe trafficking activities have continued, often shifting to more concealed methods.

The number of arrests under the NDPS Act followed a similar trend. In 2018, 1,460 individuals were arrested, with the number rising to 1,884 in 2019. Although there was a slight dip in 2020, arrests surged again in 2021 and reached a five-year high in 2022 with 3,453 people apprehended for narcotics-related offences.

Alongside law enforcement efforts, the government also reported substantial destruction of illicit crop cultivation in the region. From 2020 to 2024, Jammu and Kashmir witnessed the eradication of hundreds of acres of poppy and cannabis cultivation.

While 893 acres of poppy crops

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## GMC Jammu treats over 500 patients daily

JINNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUL 23 (KNO)

The Government Medical College Jammu continues to witness a heavy rush of patients as over 500 patients are being treated in the emergency department on a daily basis.

As per the details available with news agency, on average 534 patients were treated in the emergency of GMC Jammu and 148 patients were admitted while as 69 minor and major surgeries were conducted in June 2025.

Details also reveal that 4933 lab tests are being conducted on daily basis in the emergency while on an average 76 CT scans, 196 USG, 292 X-rays and 254 ECGs are being conducted on

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## Rains to continue, predicts weatherman

JINNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUL 23 (KNO)

Weatherman has predicted that rains will continue to lash Jammu and Kashmir till Thursday.

Director Meteorological department, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, while talking to the news agency said that light to moderate rain and thunder are expected on Thursday at many places with intense showers and heavy to very heavy rain at isolated to scattered places of Jammu division, especially in Poonch, Rajouri, Ramban, Reasi, Udhampur, Jammu & Kathua.

He also predicted the hot and humid weather conditions from July 25 to July 27 with possibility of brief showers at few places.

However, he said that intermittent light to moderate rain and thunder shower with intense showers and heavy rain are expected at few places of Jammu division mainly towards late night/early morning hours from July 28 to July 30.

Meanwhile, J&K received intermittent rainfall for the third straight day today. Srinagar recorded a rainfall of 19.3 mm during the last 24 hours. The highest precipitation during the period was recorded

in Qazigund at 23.9 mm followed by 22.1 mm at Katra.

In its advisory, the MeT has forecasted a possibility of intense showers, gusty winds and heavy to very heavy rain at isolated to scattered places of J&K till tomorrow.

It reads, "Flash floods at few vulnerable places with landslides, mudslides & shooting stones are also expected."

Also, it added that the water level may rise in rivers, streams, local Nallas & water logging in few low lying areas.

The farmers have been advised to resume farm operations during 25-27 July. KNO

## MHA notifies resignation of Vice Prez Jagdeep Dhankhar

JINNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUL 23 (KNO)

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has notified the resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice President of India.

According to the details available with the news agency, the MHA vide its Gazette Notification S.O.3354(E) dated July 22, 2025 has notified the resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice President of India.

Pertinently, the Election Commission of India, under Article 324, is mandated to conduct the election to the office of the Vice President of India. The election to the office of India is governed by the



Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 and the rules made there under, namely The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974.

Accordingly, the Election Commission of India has already started the preparations relating to

the Vice-Presidential Elections, 2025.

On completion of the preparatory activities, the announcement of the Election Schedule to the office of the Vice-President of India will follow as soon as possible.

Major pre-announcement activities which have already been started include:

Preparation of Electoral College which consists of elected as well as nominated members of Rajya Sabha as well as Lok Sabha, finalisation of Returning Officer/ Assistant Returning Officer(s), and preparation and dissemination of background material on all the previous vice-presidential elections. KNO

## Amarnath Yatra: Day 20: Around 11,000 perform darshan, tally crosses 3.42 lakh mark

JINNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUL 23 (KNO)

On the 20th day of the ongoing annual Amarnath Yatra around 11,000 pilgrims paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine nestled in Himalayas, officials told the news agency.

The cumulative figure of devotees, who have undertaken the pilgrimage since its commencement on July 3, has reached 3.42 lakh, they said.

Officials said that a total of 10,828 pilgrims performed darshan on Wednesday. Among them were 8500 men, 1802 women, 89 children, 56 sadhus, 2 sadhis, 3 transgender persons and 415 security personnel.

While the footfall at the



shrine remained good, the number of pilgrims departing from Jammu—the starting point for most yatris—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, 3,536 on July 22, 2,837 on July 23—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.

"The yatra is proceeding without disruptions. All necessary facilities including shelter, food, medical assistance, and route security are fully

operational," an official said.

The 21st batch of 2,837 pilgrims, including 2,286 men and eight children, left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in 128 vehicles for the twin base camps in Kashmir, the officials said.

With this, a total of 1,30,378 pilgrims have departed from the Jammu base camp for the valley since July 2, when Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first batch.

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

## DHSJ inspects patient care services at Community Health Centre Khour

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 23

Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar visited the Community Health Centre Khour today to assess healthcare facilities being provided to the patients at the facility.

The Director was welcomed by BMO Pallanwalla Dr. Suresh Sarmal on his arrival.

The DHSJ took a detailed round of all sections of the hospital including Emergency Room, wards, OPD sections, labour Room, Operation Theatre, Lab section, Dental section, store, Immunization sec-



tion and interacted with Doctors and paramedical staff. He discussed in detail the routine functioning of

the hospital with BMO Pallanwalla and directed all staff to work with zeal and dedication.

The Director also chaired a meeting to review the implementation status of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and overall work done under the programme with BMO Pallanwalla and staff of the health institution. A detailed Power Point presentation was delivered by the BMO Pallanwalla. The DHSJ laid stress on effective and proper implementation of all Schemes and directed BMO Pallanwalla to ensure effective execution of the same.

## DC Poonch felicitates government school toppers with Tablets under BBBP Initiative

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, JULY 23

In a significant step towards promoting academic excellence and digital empowerment, Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal today felicitated seven meritorious students from government schools who secured top ranks in the Class 12 board examinations. As a token of appreciation and to aid their further studies, the DC presented tablets to the achievers.

Acknowledging the dedicated efforts of the Chief Education Officer, teachers, students, and their parents, the DC remarked that such achievements are a testament to the rising standards of education in government schools across the district. He encouraged the students to stay committed to their academic goals and continue striving for



success. The distribution of tablets was carried out under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme, underscoring the administration's unwavering commitment to girls' education and digital inclusion.

The event was coordinated by the District Social Welfare Officer and witnessed the presence of the Chief Education Officer, teachers, and proud parents. The Deputy Commissioner extended his heartfelt wishes to the students for their future pursuits and reaffirmed the district administration's support for educational initiatives.

The Deputy Commissioner also reopened and reassessed both new and pending files to ensure that all deserving applicants receive timely benefits. He directed the concerned departments to extend the benefits to all eligible applicants without delay.

## Power Shutdown

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JULY 23

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDC, in order to carry out the works of augmentation of 33 KV Budgam Parthan line, shutdown of 33KV Budgam Watrehail Tap line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Station at Watrehail shall remain off while power supply to Watrehail, Samsaan, Parthan, Watrehail PHE Substation and adjoining areas will be affected from 06:00 AM to 01:00 PM on 24 & 26 July, 2025.

Similarly, in order to carry out the Branch Cutting of trees coming in the alignment of 33 KV line, shutdown of 33KV Alasteng

Power House line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Zirpora Power House, Manigam, Duderhama, Contingency Plant shall remain off while power supply to Beehama, Arampora, Arch, Nunner, Manigam, Duderhama, Malsahaibagh, Wayil, Gutlibagh and adjoining areas will be affected from 08:00 AM to 01:00 PM on 27 July, 2025.

In this connection, shutdown of 33KV Alasteng Nagbal line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Alasteng, Nagbal, Gadoorra, Tulbagh shall remain off while power supply to Shuhama, Bakura, Darend, Nagbal, Fatehpura, Gadoorra, Tulbagh, Chunduna,

Shairpathri and adjoining areas will be affected from 08:00 AM to 01:00 PM on 26 July, 2025.

Also, to facilitate Branch Cutting of trees coming in the alignment of 33 KV line, shutdown of 33KV Alasteng Zakura line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Gulab Bagh, Ahmad Nagar, Umarhair shall remain off while power supply to Pandach, Pathan Colony, Gulbagh, Mir Mohalla, Umarhair, Nowbugh, Ahmad Nagar, 90 ft Road, Khalmulla and adjoining areas will be affected from 08:00 AM to 01:00 PM on 26 July, 2025.

Further to carry out Branch cutting/ stabilization and urgent repairing

work at different valuable spots, shutdown of 33KV Potushai Gurez line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Dawar, Gurez shall remain off and power supply to Dawar, Wanpora, Tragbal, NHPC and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 24 July, 2025.

Besides in this connection, shutdown of 33KV Potushai Naidhal line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Nusoo, Naidhal, Ajas shall remain off while power supply to Nursoo, Naidhal, Ajas, Garoorra, Papchan, Nishat, Argam and adjoining areas will be affected from 08:00 AM to 01:00 PM on 26 July, 2025.

## DC chairs meeting to review SRO 43 Cases

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, JULY 23

A meeting of the District Level Screening-cum-Coordination Committee was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal in his office chamber to review the cases submitted under the SRO-43.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Shafakat Hussain; Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik;



Assistant Commissioner Revenue Mohd Sayeed; Tehsildar HQ Palvi Verma and representatives from the CID and other security agencies.

At the outset, the ADC gave a detailed briefing on the current status of each case. After thorough deliberation and evaluation, the Committee approved several eligible cases under the provi-

The Deputy Commissioner urged all departments to adopt a proactive approach and ensure that all required formalities and verifications are completed within stipulated timelines.

## District & Sessions Judge chairs 7th District Coordination Meeting at Rajouri

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, JULY 23

The 7th District Coordination Committee meeting between the Judiciary and District Administration was today convened under the chairmanship of District & Sessions Judge, Rajinder Sapru, at Raj Kumar Thapa Conference Hall, Dak Bungalow, Rajouri.

At the outset, Chief Judicial Magistrate Javed Rana (Secretary Coordination Committee) welcomed the participants and briefed the chair on various issues requiring inter-departmental coordination and follow-up action.

A major focus of the meeting was on the review of land acquisition and infrastructural development for judicial institutions. The District & Sessions Judge took stock of



the status of land acquired for the construction of the boundary wall for the Court Complex at Muradpur, the removal of existing structures from the site, repair of the culvert (puli) on the approach road to the land, and the whitewashing and minor renovations of the existing District Court Complex building.

The meeting also reviewed the progress on the construction of the boundary wall at the Nowsheera Court Complex and deliberated upon the pending issue of land acquisition for the same.

Other infrastructure-

related issues pertaining to Munsiff Courts in Thanamandi, Darhal, Kotranka and Kalakote were also taken up, and timelines for necessary action were fixed by the chair.

Key issues discussed included the arrangement of separate seating for lady advocates, enhancement of the surveillance system at court complexes, and the installation of CCTV cameras in police stations to ensure transparency and accountability in the administration of justice.

The chair also stressed the importance of integrating digital reforms

in the judicial process, including the effective implementation of e-warrants.

The meeting was attended by Additional District & Sessions Judge, Sudesh Sharma, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Javed Rana and Secretary DLSA, Shama Sharma.

The coordination meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to ensure timely resolution of issues and strengthening of infrastructure for efficient dispensation of justice in the district.

Senior officers from the district administration including SE PWD Tilak Raj Sharma, ACR Rajouri Mohd Jahangir Khan, Chief Planning Officer Maqsood Ahmed, Executive Engineer PHE Sudesh Kumar Bhagat, Executive Engineers PWD and other sectoral officers also participated in the deliberations.

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
REASI, JULY 23

In a significant move towards women empowerment and community development, the Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik today inaugurated the "Didi Ki Rasoi" canteen at Government Polytechnic College Reasi.

The canteen is operated by Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) formed under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) and aims to offer affordable, nutritious, home-cooked meals to students, faculty, visitors and the general public.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Project Officer DUDA Udhampur-Reasi, Jaffar



Azad; Principal of the Institution Er. Arun Bangotra and other officials.

The initiative serves a dual purpose of providing Women SHG a sustainable source of income and ensuring access to healthy & hygienic food at reasonably price to the community. It also serves as a platform for SHG members to showcase their culinary talent and entrepreneurial capabilities.

Addressing the gathering, the DC appreciated

the SHG members and the concerned departments for launching the initiative. She emphasized the importance of economic independence of women, noting that the venture "Didi Ki Rasoi" will enhance the confidence, skill and leadership abilities of the SHG members.

The Deputy Commissioner further reiterated that the district administration is committed to holistic and inclusive development, and similar

initiatives will be promoted across Reasi to ensure community participation in local development.

To mark the occasion, Silver Oak and Sukh Chain trees were planted at the canteen site. The green initiative symbolizes harmony, prosperity, and environmental consciousness, aligning with the administration's focus on sustainable development and community well-being.

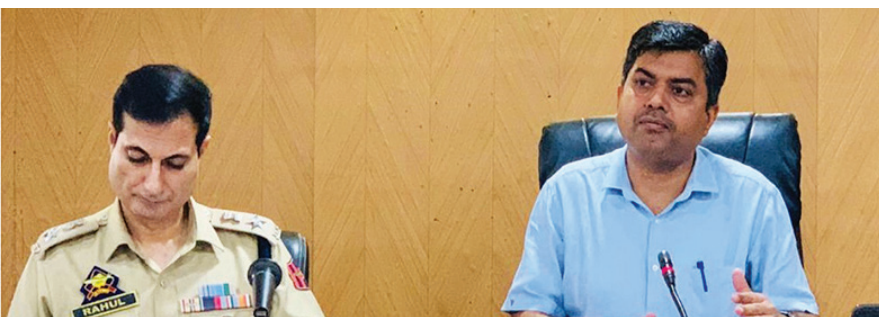
The launch of "Didi Ki Rasoi" reflects the core values of the DAY-NULM scheme, offering marginalized women opportunities for skill enhancement, entrepreneurship, and financial independence. The initiative stands as a model of empowerment and progress, reinforcing the vision of a self-reliant and healthy Reasi district.

## District NCORD meeting reviews Anti-Drug Measures

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, JULY 23

Additional Deputy Commissioner Vishavjeet Singh today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to discuss and review measures aimed at curbing drug abuse and the narcotics trade in the district.

During the meeting, extensive deliberations were held on issues pertaining to drug addiction, identification of areas of concern and hotspots of drug abuse. Besides, measures undertaken by law



enforcement agencies to combat this menace were thoroughly examined.

The ADC emphasis on generating mass awareness against drug abuse and sharing success stories of drug de-addiction. He also directs to identify the

persons indulged in drug peddling so that appropriate and timely action can be taken against them. He also emphasizes on timely and proper uploadation of events on the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) portal.

Among others, SDM Hiranagar, Phulail Singh and Chief Agricultural Officer Kathua (joined virtually), besides Addl. SP Kathua Rahul Charak and other Officers from BSF and other concerned departments were also present.

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, JULY 23

An awareness programme on the rising drug menace was today held at Qamaria Model Higher Secondary School (QMHS) Bamloora, Ganderbal, under the Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan.

The event was organized by the Cultural Unit Kashmir of Department of Information & Public Relations, Jammu and Kashmir (DIPR J&K), in collaboration with the district administration Ganderbal, through District Information Centre, Ganderbal.

The programme was coordinated by the Municipal Council Ganderbal,



with active participation from departments viz. Education, Health, and Social Welfare, aiming to sensitize the youth about the harmful effects of substance abuse.

A moving and impactful folk song performance

based on the theme of drug de-addiction was presented by a local artist group. The presentation left a strong impression on the audience and effectively conveyed the message of staying away from drugs.

Officers and dignitar-

ies present urged the students to stay aware, make informed choices, and take forward the message of a drug-free society within their families and communities.

DIPR remains committed to the cause and keen to organize such awareness programmes on a regular basis. These initiatives are aligned with the government's mission to eradicate drug abuse and foster a healthier, more responsible youth.

The event concluded with all participants taking a pledge to stand united against drug addiction and to actively contribute to spreading awareness.

## Coordinated action by Rajouri admin, Army, Police saves Precious Life

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, JULY 23

In a remarkable demonstration of swift action, seamless coordination and an unwavering commitment to public service, the District Administration Rajouri—under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma—successfully rescued and saved the life of a child trapped in a river near Muradpur, Rajouri, amidst flood-like situation. The life-saving operation was made possible through the prompt mobilisation of resources and close coordination with



the Army and Jammu & Kashmir Police. A critical element of the rescue was the timely arrangement of an Army helicopter, ensuring that the child was rescued from the river. Two youth—Imtiaz Ahmed, S/o Mohd Sadeeq, R/o Kakora and Mustafa Hussain, S/o Arab Hussain, R/o Chan-

dimarh—also played a vital role in assisting the District Administration during the rescue operation. In recognition of their courage and timely support, the DC felicitated both individuals with a cash award of 5,000 each. This mission stands as a shining example of how

duty and humanity can go hand in hand. The coordinated response not only saved a life but also highlighted the spirit of unity, compassion, and selfless service that defines our nation.

The Deputy Commissioner, demonstrating tireless dedication to public welfare, personally monitored the operation and ensured all necessary support was extended without delay.

The DC extended heartfelt gratitude to the Indian Army, J&K Police and all officers involved in this successful and inspiring mission.

## DC Bandipora visits Zurimanz Village, assures timely redressal of public grievances

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, JULY 23

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Wednesday visited Zurimanz village to assess public concerns and developmental needs.

During the visit, residents raised several pressing demands, including the upgradation of the main access road, which frequently gets submerged due to the rise in Wular Lake water levels.

Other key issues included the shifting of the New Type Primary Health Centre (NTPHC) to government accommodation, resumption of the halted



construction work on the local hospital, availability of doctors and ambulance services at the NTPHC, and other concerns of the district administration.

surplus ration distribution, creation of a separate Panchayat Halqa, and the development of a designated parking area in the village. DC gave a patient hearing to the grievances and assured the public that all demands would be addressed in a time-bound manner. Regarding the road submergence issue, he informed that the proposal for upgradation has already been submitted to the government and is under consideration for approval. Among others, the DC was accompanied by the Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Tehsildar Bandipora, and other concerned officers from the district administration.

## J&K PCC launches major drive in Srinagar areas to prevent use of SUP

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JULY 23

In a significant step aimed to put curbs on the use of Single Use Plastic (SUP) in the division, teams of J&K Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) Kashmir conducted a series of raids on godowns of banned polythenes in Kashmir.

These raids were conducted as part of the activities carried out under “World Environment Day, 2025,” and “Beat Plastic Pollution Globally” themes under the overall guidance and directions of Regional Director JKPCC Kashmir and under the chairman-



ship of District Officer (DO) Srinagar, PCC Kashmir.

As part of the drive, a designated team headed by D.O Srinagar conducted a targeted raid on a godown

located near Tengpora bypass where a total of 115 bags, each weighing 25kgs, were seized from the premises. The cumulative weight of the seized mate-

rial amounts to 2875 kgs. Similarly, on receiving specific and credible information D.O Sgr along with his team conducted a targeted raid on godown located near Parimpura Srinagar where a significant quantity of banned polythene weighing about 5380 kgs was seized.

Thus a massive quantity of 8255 tonnes of illegal polythene was seized before its circulation.

Also during an Anti-polythene drive, a targeted raid was conducted near Tengpora bypass where 2.5 tonnes of polythene was seized on spot by D.O Sgr along with his team.

## DC declares open District Level Tournament for U19 Boys, Girls at Historic Chowgan Ground Kishtwar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, JULY 23

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pankaj Kumar Sharma today inaugurated and declared open the Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament for U/19 Boys & Girls here at the historic Chowgan Ground. The sports event is being organised by the Department of Youth Services & Sports, marking a vibrant celebration of youth talent across multiple disciplines.

The grand opening ceremony was also attended by District Youth Services & Sports Officer Jaffer Haider Sheikh, Zonal Physical Education Officers (ZPEOs), sports staff, students, athletes and other concerned remained present.

Addressing the energetic gathering, the DC extended his best wishes to all the participating athletes. He emphasized



the importance of sports in shaping the personality and imbuing discipline among young individuals. He also praised the Department of Youth Services & Sports for offering a vibrant platform for budding talent.

He encouraged the student-athletes to showcase true sportsmanship, determination, and team spirit throughout the competition.

The DYSSO, in his address, appreciated the unwavering support of the

district administration and commended the enthusiasm and commitment of both student-athletes and sports staff.

He highlighted that such tournaments are not only vital for competitive exposure but also crucial for talent identification at higher levels.

The tournament features a wide range of sporting events for both boys and girls, including Volleyball, Kabaddi, and Kho-Kho, with participants drawn from various zones

across the district. Matches are being conducted under the guidance of DYSSO Kishtwar Jaffer Haider Sheikh and the close supervision of ZPEOs and trained sports officials, ensuring fairness, discipline, and enthusiastic participation.

Results of Today's Events in the disciple of Kho-Kho - U/19 Girls Winner- Paddar Zone and Runner-up- Kishtwar Zone ; In the disciple of Kabaddi - U/19 Boys Winner- Kishtwar Zone, Runner-up- Nagseni Zone;

In the disciple of Volleyball - U/19 Boys, Winner- Paddar Zone , Runner-up: Kishtwar Zone and Volleyball - U/19 Girls, Winner-Nagseni Zone.

This tournament stands as a testament to the department's continued commitment to fostering a vibrant sporting culture among the youth of Kishtwar.

## DLIC approves 157 cases under Mission YUVA

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, JULY 23

Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh today chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) for Mission YUVA- a transformative initiative of Jammu and Kashmir Government to foster entrepreneurship at grassroots level.

During the deliberations, the Committee scrutinized and approved 157 new cases were, thereby catapulting the total number of approved cases to 398 – a significant milestone reflecting the district's proactive engagement in youth empowerment through sustainable



self-employment. Speaking at the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted that Mission YUVA stands as a transformative initiative, designed not merely to foster entrepreneurship but also to channel the untapped potential of the District's youth into viable, productive avenues of livelihood.

He reiterated the District administration shall continue to extend unwavering support in the form

of capacity building, mentorship, hand holding assistance, and structured follow-ups to ensure seamless implementation and long-term viability of the approved projects.

Deputy Director Employment Rafiq Ahmad Jaral, while briefing the meeting, said that the youth of the district have responded with great enthusiasm to Mission YUVA, viewing it as a beacon of hope in an economy primarily dependent on agriculture and the service sector. He acknowledged that with the strategic implementation of Mission YUVA, a constellation of opportunities has emerged for the

unemployed populace, significantly altering the employment dynamics of the District.

He further assured the chair that the officials of the Employment Department are endeavouring to prepare viable Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and provide continuous assistance to the aspiring entrepreneurs.

The meeting concluded on a resolute note, with all stakeholders collectively pledging to uphold the vision of Mission YUVA and to persist in their efforts to cultivate a self-reliant, industrious, and entrepreneurially vibrant youth demographic in District Doda.

## Nasha Mukt Abhiyan: IEC campaigns held at GHSS Chadoora, GMS Bon Makhama & GMS Chewdara

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BUDGAM, JULY 23

As part of the ongoing district-wide efforts to combat substance abuse, a series of impactful Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaigns were today conducted at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Chadoora, Government Middle School (GMS) Bon Makhama, and GMS Chewdara under the banner of Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan.

The campaign aimed at sensitising students, staff, and the broader community about the ill effects of drug abuse and the urgent need for a drug-free society. The IEC drive includ-



ed interactive awareness sessions, group discussions, motivational talks, and the display of educational materials designed to engage young minds and empower them with knowledge to resist substance use.

Officers from the district administration, field

staff of the Social Welfare department, teachers, and local volunteers actively participated in the campaign. Resource persons highlighted the legal, psychological, and social consequences of drug addiction, while encouraging youth to act as ambassadors of change

in their communities.

These campaigns are part of a series of targeted interventions being rolled out across the district in line with the NCORD (Narco Coordination) Committee recommendations, which emphasises grassroots action, multi-stakeholder coordination, and sustained follow-up mechanisms to break the drug supply and demand chain.

District administration has reiterated its commitment to zero tolerance against drug abuse and has urged parents, teachers, and civil society to remain vigilant and supportive of young individuals vulnerable to addiction.

## DC Udhampur reviews Child protection measures

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, JULY 23

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai today chaired the meeting of District-Level Task Force on child Labour-Child Abuse-CISS herein the Mini Conference Hall of DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by District Child Protection Officer Kanika Gupta, Secretary DLSA, SDMs, DySP Headquarters, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer and other concerned officials.

DCPO Kanika Gupta informed the chair about the role and responsibilities of different stakeholders in the Task Force. She particularly emphasized the pivotal role of the educational machinery especially school teachers in identifying and reporting instances of child abuse and child marriage. She



also highlighted several challenges faced during raid operations and underscored the urgent need for the constitution of Sub-Division level Task Forces for timely and localized intervention.

The DC issued directions to all Sub-Divisional Magistrates to immediately revive Sub-Division level Task Forces to identify and act against instances of child labour and child marriage. She further emphasized the need for

coordinated efforts and active communication between all Task Forces to ensure effective enforcement.

The DC also stressed the importance of sensitization and awareness, especially in schools and communities to curb these social evils. She directed the Chief Education Officer to maintain a vigilant check on student dropouts and prolonged absences, which often act as early indicators of potential

child abuse or marriage.

Termining child marriage and child labour as a gross violation of the Fundamental Right to Life and Dignity, the DC appealed to all stakeholders, officials and members of the public to act as Ambassadors of Change by reporting such cases and contributing towards the vision of a safe and protected environment for every child.

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

#### Notice Inviting Tender

Sr. DEE/TRD/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date 14.08.2025 at 15:00 Hrs only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

S. No.	Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost. (Rs.)	Cost of Tender form (Rs.)	Date & time for submission of tender	Earnest Money # (Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
1.	705-TRD-FZR-2025-26	Provision of new PSI equipments in place of overaged PSI gears / installations to improve the reliability of TRD assets over Firozpur division.	2,24,20,184.35	NIL	Upto 14.08.2025 15:00 Hrs	2,62,100/-	Twelve (12) Months	14.08.2025 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in
2.	708-TRD-FZR-2025-26	Provision of new assets in place of old/rusty/fault prone assets and OHE capacity enhancement in the electrified section over Firozpur division.	4,09,79,612.29	NIL	Upto 14.08.2025 15:00 Hrs	3,54,900/-	Twelve (12) Months	14.08.2025 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

Similar Nature of work (applicable for both works): "Design, supply, erection testing & commissioning of 50Hz, single phase 25KVAC OHE".  
(Ref: OHE Works S.No. 1, 1 of Pr. CEE/NR's Letter No. 181-Elect/TRD/189/Pl.II, dated 29.07.2021).

Note:#  
Tenderer (s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway. No.: 705 & 708-TRD-FZR-2025-26 Dated : 21.07.2025

2224/2025

## Reasi admin discusses utilization plan for District Mineral Fund

JNEWS SERVICE  
REASI, JULY 23

Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik, chaired a crucial meeting of the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) to review the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) and ensure the optimal utilization of the District Mineral Fund for the welfare and development of mining-affected areas.

During the meeting, a comprehensive discussion was held on the proposed interventions and expenditures under the scheme, with a strong focus on sustainable, community-



driven projects.

Taking a stern stance against illegal mining, DC Reasi directed to install CCTV cameras in all subdivisions, particularly at locations near mining blocks vulnerable to unauthorized activities.

The DC stressed the need for modern surveillance systems with adequate recording backup to assist both the police and the mining department in

taking swift and appropriate legal action against offenders.

The District Mineral Officer was instructed to conduct thorough scrutiny of such sensitive locations and coordinate with Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) to ensure full coverage in high-risk areas.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed the District Mineral Officer (DMO) to take strict action against individuals involved in illegal mining activities without paying royalty or obtaining proper permission. She emphasized that there will be zero tolerance towards illegal mining and instructed the DMO to

submit a detailed action-taken report.

In addition to anti-mining measures, the meeting also reviewed proposals related to key public sectors such as school education, Public Health Engineering (PHE), and Public Works Department (PWD). The DC emphasized that these proposals would be considered for funding after detailed project reports (DPRs) and feasibility assessments are submitted.

The meeting was attended by CPO Reasi Narinder Kumar, ACR Nitin Verma, DMO, DFO, CEO, ALC, Executive Engineers and other concerned officers.

## U-19 district-level tournament kicks-off with enthusiasm at Indoor Stadium Baramulla

JNEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, JULY 23

The inter-school district level Under-19 Boys Sports Tournament was inaugurated today with great fervor and celebration at the Indoor Stadium Khawaja Bagh, Baramulla.

Organized by the Youth Services and Sports department, the event witnessed a grand opening ceremony presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa.

The tournament brings together 19 teams from



various Government and Private Higher Secondary Schools across the district, offering a spirited platform for young athletes to showcase their talent and passion for sports.

The event will continue till tomorrow, featuring competitive matches that promise high energy and sportsmanship.

The inaugural ceremony began with a solemn Oath

taking ceremony, where participants pledged to uphold the values of discipline, fair play, and unity, laying the foundation for a tournament grounded in integrity.

In his keynote address, DC praised the efforts of the Youth Services and Sports department in promoting sports at the grassroots level. He emphasized the vital role of sports in shaping the personality and future of youth, urging participants to compete with commitment, respect, and resilience.

## 71 SPMR College commerce students complete 10-day Summer Internship at JKEDI

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 23

A fresh batch of 71 students from the Government SPMR College of Commerce, Jammu successfully completed a 10-day Summer Internship Program at the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Bari Brahmana campus on Wednesday.

As per the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 guidelines, the internship program aimed at developing the entrepreneurial and research acumen among students, research aptitude and teamwork skills. During the program, the students were introduced to the role and functioning of the JKEDI. They gained exposure to the program verticals of the institute, all aimed at promoting entrepreneurship as a viable career choice in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

The internship program, designed to provide hands-on exposure to entrepreneurial devel-



opment, startup culture, and enterprise creation, spanned 60 hours over 10 days. It featured interactive lectures, practical assignments, exposure visits, and sessions by the JKEDI faculty and guest speakers from the startup ecosystem.

The program concluded with a valedictory ceremony held at the Bari Brahmana campus of the institute. Chand Kishore Sharma, Joint Director JKEDI, graced the valedictory session as the Chief Guest. He congratulated the interns on the successful completion of the program and lauded their enthusiasm and commitment. In his address, he emphasized the importance of cultivating an

entrepreneurial mindset among the youth and highlighted the institute's pivotal role in shaping the startup landscape of the Union Territory.

"The future of economic development in J&K lies in innovation, self-employment, and entrepreneurship. I am pleased to see such motivated young minds taking keen interest in these areas," the Joint Director JKEDI remarked during his interaction with the interns.

The Joint Director also engaged with the students in a feedback session to understand their learning experience and gather suggestions for further improvement. The interns expressed appreciation for the immersive and prac-

tical nature of the internship, particularly the insights into government schemes, business model development, and startup financing.

The internship program was conducted by a team of expert faculty of the institute under the overall supervision of Director JKEDI.

JKEDI regularly hosts internship programs for students across the Union Territory as part of its mandate to promote entrepreneurship and create awareness about self-employment as a viable career option. These programs aim to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and practical application in the entrepreneurial domain.

## Div Com Kashmir reviews preparations for I-Day celebrations, conduct of Tiranga Rally

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JULY 23

In view of the upcoming Independence Day, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, convened a meeting on Wednesday to chalk out thorough arrangements for the celebration of national festival.

Besides IGP Kashmir, V K Birdi, the meeting was attended by DIG Kashmir, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, and senior officials from various departments viz. Floriculture, Colleges, School Education, SM, KPDDL, R&B, PHE, Health, JKAACL, YS&S, Information, Hospitality, Transport, MED, Traffic Police, and security agencies.



During the meeting, Div Com instructed officers to ensure seamless and foolproof preparations to showcase the vibrant celebration of Independence Day with great enthusiasm.

He issued a slew of directives for detailed arrangements, including the showering of flower petals by the Airforce, illumination of government buildings, constitution of parade and band

contingents, issuance of security passes, appointment of nodal officers, organization of cultural programs, nomination of commentators, and making seating and security arrangements.

Furthermore, he emphasized the need for an uninterrupted electricity supply, installation of water dispensers, cleanliness and sanitation at the main venue besides ensuring proper traffic

management, deployment of medical staff, and other necessary arrangements.

Moreover, Div Com highlighted the importance of educating participants regarding following protocol during hoisting of national flag and singing of national anthem.

He stressed the significance of informing participants about the sequence of programs and directed the creation of a uniform schedule for the national event throughout the division. Meanwhile, he also reviewed the arrangements for the organization of Tiranga Rally on August 12 and impressed on overwhelming participation besides comprehensive measures regarding security and refreshment for participants.

### FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

#### CM Omar reviews key...

The arrears on account of outstanding electricity bills of commercial power consumers was also discussed and the power development department gave details of steps being taken for recovery and expected revenue protection in case of schemes that would be proposed by the department for recovery of arrears.

While reviewing the New Ganderbal and Lower Kalnai hydro projects, both of which have seen prolonged delays due to contractual and financial challenges, the Chief Minister directed the concerned departments to explore viable alternatives to expedite implementation. He emphasized the need for timely decision-making to prevent further cost escalation and energy shortfalls.

The 5 MW Solar Power Project at Pampore, being implemented through SECI, was also reviewed. The Chief Minister instructed for a cost-benefit analysis in light of existing solar tariffs and to put the idle land available at Pampore to productive use for the solar project.

The meeting also deliberated on the Draft Hydro Power Policy 2025, which aims to replace the 2011 policy and open new avenues for private investment through Independent Power Producer (IPP) and Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models. The policy includes transparent allotment mechanisms, financial incentives, streamlined clearances, and guaranteed power off-take—all designed to making investments in renewable energy more inviting. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reiterated his government's commitment to sustainable development, clean energy, and inclusive growth.

#### CM reviews functioning...

for other loss-making Cooperative banks to devise a roadmap for recovery which would be examined by the Government for appropriate intervention to revive these banks.

The meeting also reviewed key initiatives such as the ongoing PACS Computerisation Project and the formation of new M-PACS, both aimed at strengthening grassroots-level credit delivery and financial inclusion.

The Chief Minister emphasized the need for sustained reforms to ensure institutional resilience, financial stability, and rural empowerment across Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, Commissioner Secretary Cooperatives Babila Rakwal gave a detailed presentation on the functioning and progress of Cooperative Banks in J&K.

#### CM Omar directs...

penalties on officials for delays, reiterating the govern-

ment's zero-tolerance policy towards administrative laxity.

Chairing a high-level review meeting attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education; ACS, Jal Shakti; ACS to the Chief Minister; and all Administrative Secretaries. Chief Minister expressed concern over the inconsistent monitoring of PSGA at the departmental level. He emphasized the importance of structured and regular oversight.

"The monthly review at the level of Administrative Secretaries is to be done. Departments must ensure the Act is implemented robustly. Delays without justified cause must invite penalties, as prescribed under the law," the Chief Minister said.

While acknowledging challenges related to budgetary constraints and portal issues, the Chief Minister made it clear that these would be reviewed separately and decisions taken accordingly.

"Where applications are to be rejected, they must be rejected with clear reasons so that citizens retain their right to appeal," he said.

The Chief Minister particularly flagged the misuse of discretionary powers by officials, stressing that the PSGA framework is designed to eliminate arbitrary decision-making. He instructed departments to strictly adhere to defined timelines and ensure the levy of penalties in all cases where services are delayed beyond the permissible limit.

"The spirit of this Act lies in delivering services on time, without exceptions. Where timelines are violated, penalties must be imposed without leniency. Don't be soft," he added. To strengthen the oversight mechanism further, the Chief Minister announced that a comprehensive review of PSGA implementation will be conducted at his level every three months, based on departmental reports shared with the Chief Secretary's Office.

Earlier during the meeting, detailed department-wise presentations were made by the respective Administrative Secretaries on the current status and operational framework of the PSGA, which was enacted with the objective of ensuring timely, transparent, and accountable delivery of public services across departments.

The Act, notified on April 13, 2011, and followed by the notification of Rules on July 21, 2011, through SRO 223 followed by addition of several other government services through notifications remains a cornerstone of citizen-centric governance in Jammu and Kashmir.

The presentations gave details of the core provisions of the Act, which mandate the delivery of essential public services within prescribed timelines while clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of designated officers. The Act also establishes a structured appellate mechanism with fixed timelines for first and second appeals and empowers authorities to initiate disciplinary action in cases of

## Javed Rana reviews water supply management, infra development in Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 23

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a meeting to review the water supply management and infrastructure development in Jammu Province.

The meeting had threaded discussion on status of water supply schemes and to strategize their augmentation to ensure adequate and sustainable water resources for the populace.

Among others, the meeting was attended by the Chief Engineer, PHE Jammu, Vikas Sharma, Superintending Engineers, Ajay Sharma and Sunil Gandotra.

The Minister stressed on the importance of



early completion of ongoing Water Supply Schemes, prioritizing the early completion of ongoing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) schemes.

Emphasising on quick and efficient response mechanism to address any disruptions in the water supply system, Rana said that it is crucial to ensure the objectives of providing safe and potable water to every house-

hold are met in a timely manner.

The meeting also underscored the critical importance of regular cleaning and maintenance of water storage tanks to safeguard the quality of stored water and prevent contamination.

The Minister directed the concerned authorities to ensure the proper functioning of filtration

plants, which are instrumental in delivering clean and safe water to the community.

In addition, a key aspect of the discussion revolved around implementation of an effective water recharge strategy. This initiative is envisioned to bolster the sustainability of water resources, ensuring their replenishment and long-term availability.

The Minister also highlighted the urgent need for repair of defunct handpumps, which are a crucial source of water for many communities. He further reaffirmed the commitment of Government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to ensure effective implementation of these critical measures.

repeated non-compliance.

It was highlighted that a total of 493 services have been notified under the PSGA, with major contributions from departments such as Power Development (98 services), Revenue (58), Finance (58), Transport, Housing & Urban Development (47 each), and Industries & Commerce (40), along with Health, Education, Forest, Agriculture and others.

#### Over 1.12 lakh kg drugs...

were destroyed in 2020, the figure dropped sharply over the next two years but rose again in 2023 and 2024. Similarly, large-scale cannabis destruction was carried out, with over 900 acres cleared in 2023 and nearly 1,000 acres in 2024.

The government also highlighted its de-addiction efforts in the Union Territory. Under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the number of individuals receiving de-addiction services rose sharply from just over 1,500 in 2020-21 to more than 35,000 in 2024-25. In total, 83,208 people have been treated and discharged from various de-addiction centres across Jammu and Kashmir since 2020. Currently, ten de-addiction centres are operational in the region.

Meanwhile, the Drug Treatment Clinic at the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) Kashmir

reported 3,207 new registrations in 2021-22, followed by 3,334 in 2022-23. The number dropped to 1,457 in 2023-24, and 1,389 patients were registered up to January 2025. In total, IMHANS Kashmir has treated 9,387 patients for drug addiction.

In a deeply concerning revelation, the government informed the Lok Sabha that since 2018, at least 17 suicides have been linked to drug abuse and alcohol addiction in Jammu and Kashmir. The data underscores the depth of the crisis and the urgent need for a more robust, community-driven response to tackle addiction and its consequences.

The Ministry of Home Affairs reaffirmed its commitment to curbing the drug threat through strengthened enforcement, widespread awareness campaigns, and the expansion of treatment and rehabilitation facilities across the Union Territory. KNO

#### GMC Jammu treats...

daily basis. Details also reveal that 29 patients are being referred on an average to the hospital from other hospitals of the division with the majority of them Rajouri.

Details further reveal that 263 patients on average were registered in the Medicine department of GMC Jammu, 133 in Surgery, 92 in orthopedics, 28 in Ophthalmology and 19 in anti-rabies department. KNO

## DC Ramban reviews arrangements for Sampoonata Abhiyan Celebration, 7-Day Aakansha Haat

JINews SERVICE  
RAMBAN, JULY 23

Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a meeting to finalize arrangements for the upcoming Sampoonata Abhiyan celebration in Aspirational Block Khari and the 7-Day Aakansha Haat (Mela) at Ramban.



Tehsildars, and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of showcasing achievements under the Sampoonata Abhiyan, which targets the saturation of six key developmental indicators in Aspirational Block Khari.

As per the guidelines of NITI Aayog, it was decided that a grand celebration

will be held in the premises of the BDO Office Khari, where officers and officials with exceptional contributions to the campaign will be felicitated.

The Sampoonata Abhiyan, under the Aspirational Block Programme, is a significant initiative aimed at achieving "saturation" in key indicators—ensuring that all eligible individuals and communities benefit from government schemes

and services.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed preparations for the Aakansha Haat, a week-long event focused on the sale and exhibition of local products, in addition to creating awareness and delivering benefits under various government schemes and welfare programmes. All departments were instructed to install stalls, display and sell products; offer on-the-spot services, and actively engage the public throughout the event.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all departments to ensure comprehensive arrangements and active participation to make both events successful and impactful for the people of Ramban.

## DC Bandipora flags-off Water Tankers to augment drinking Water supply

JINews SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, JULY 23

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Wednesday flagged-off two water tankers to augment the existing water supply system in the district.

The tankers, each with a capacity of 9,000 litres and costing Rs.26.52 lakh, have been provided by NHPC under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. These tankers now allotted to Jal Shakti (PHE) department will help in



increasing the operational capability of the department in the district and thus promoting public welfare. Speaking on the occasion,

DC expressed hope that the initiative would help address water supply challenges in the region, especially during peak

demand periods. Among others, senior officers from NHPC and the Jal Shakti department were present on the occasion.

## Punjab livestock trade issues: Satish Sharma assures J&K traders of swift action

JINews SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JULY 23

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Transport, IT and Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma, has taken serious cognizance of reports alleging harassment and obstruction faced by Jammu & Kashmir's livestock traders at the hands of certain cattle fair contractors in Punjab.



stops of livestock-laden vehicles en route J&K, by the private contractors exceeding their authority.

The Minister was informed that such actions are causing prolonged delays, financial losses and serious risk to animal welfare, as livestock are subjected to extended

travel without proper ventilation, food or water. Not only do these acts violate the legal provisions but they also raise grave humanitarian and economic concerns for traders of the Union Territory.

Expressing deep concern over the issue, Satish Sharma reiterated the

government's unwavering commitment to safeguard the rights and interests of J&K's trading community. "We will take up the matter at the highest level to ensure immediate redressal," the Minister stated.

He further assured that the issue will be formally raised with the Government of Punjab and immediate directions will be issued to the Transport Department and other relevant authorities to coordinate closely with their counterparts in Punjab to ensure the smooth, lawful and uninterrupted movement of livestock from Jammu & Kashmir.

## DC Poonch reviews progress of Sanitation Projects

JINews SERVICE  
POONCH, JULY 23

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal chaired a meeting of the District Sanitation Committee today to review the implementation of projects under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).

The review meeting focused on creation of sanitation assets including composite pits, community soakage pits, community sanitary complexes, DEWATs (Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems), WASPs (Waste to Wealth Plants), FSTPs (Fecal Sludge Treatment Plants), PWMUs (Pan-



chayat Water Management Units), segregation sheds, and Gobardhan plants.

The DC assessed the status of ongoing works and laid out clear directions for expediting all phases—ranging from land identification and tendering to work allotment and execution. He stressed the urgency of timely completion to cater to the sanitation

needs of rural areas. The Assistant Commissioner Panchayat presented a comprehensive block-wise report outlining achievements as well as bottlenecks affecting progress.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed the Assistant Commissioner Revenue and all Tehsildars to immediately identify

suitable land for the projects within their respective jurisdictions. He also directed the concerned officers to fast-track the tendering process and remove procedural delays.

The meeting was attended by the Programme Officer Poshan, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Development, Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti and Irrigation & Flood Control, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, all Tehsildars, District Information Officer, Block Development Officers (BDOs) and other concerned officials.

## Labour Commissioner urges strict compliance with Payment of Bonus Act 1965

JINews SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 23

Labour Commissioner Jammu and Kashmir, S. Charandeep Singh has called upon all employers and establishments across the Union Territory to strictly comply with the provisions of the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965. This appeal is part of the Labour Department's broader efforts to ensure transparency, accountability, and the protection of workers' statutory rights.

The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, is a central legislation that mandates the payment of annual bonuses to employees of factories and other establishments employing twenty or more persons. The Act aims to promote equitable distribution of profits by linking a portion of an employee's wages to the productivity and performance of the establishment. It not only serves as an incentive for the workforce but also strengthens industrial harmony.

Under the Act, employees drawing a salary or wage not exceeding Rs 21,000 per month are eli-



gible for a bonus. The bonus is calculated on a wage ceiling of Rs 7,000 per month or the minimum wage for the scheduled employment, whichever is higher. Establishments are required to pay a minimum bonus of 8.33% of the wages, even in cases where no allocable surplus exists, while the maximum bonus can go up to 20% depending on profits.

The Labour Commissioner emphasized that timely and correct disbursement of bonus is not merely a legal obligation but also an important measure to boost

worker morale and foster a collaborative work environment. He urged all employers covered under the Act to ensure that bonus payments are made well within the prescribed time limits, as stipulated under Section 19 of the Act, and that proper records are maintained for audit and verification purposes.

Employers have been cau-

tioned that non-compliance with the provisions of the Payment of Bonus Act may attract legal consequences, including penalties and imprisonment under Section 28 of the Act. The Labour Department will be closely monitoring the compliance status of establishments and taking necessary action wherever violations are found.

## DC Ramban reviews Banking Sector Performance

JINews SERVICE  
RAMBAN, JULY 23

Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting to evaluate the performance of banks and review the implementation of the credit schemes in the district, with a special focus on the Priority Sector.



The meeting was attended by ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak; CPO Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather; ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo; ACD Shrinath Suman; GM DIC Ravinder Kumar; Lead District Officer RBI Anil Kumar; LDM Davinder Singh; Director RSETI S. Harvinder Singh; DDM NABARD, and district officers including CAO, CHO, CAHO, DSHO, AD FCS&CA, Dy. Registrar Cooperatives, BDOs, bankers and other senior officials.

During the meeting, it was informed that the district's Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio has improved by 1.36%, reaching 67.12% as on March 31, 2025. An amount of Rs 407.30 crore has been spent under the Priority Sector, achieving 51% of the Rs 551.38 crore Annual Credit Plan (ACP) target. The Non-Priority Sector saw a credit outlay of Rs 455.69 crore.

DC Khan emphasized the need to prioritize job-oriented schemes, farmer welfare initiatives, and sectors such as agriculture, education, housing, and social infrastructure. He directed bankers to work in close coordination

with all line departments for better implementation of schemes and service delivery.

The DC instructed banks to organize weekly awareness camps at the Panchayat level and monthly camps at the Block level to sensitize the public about various financial schemes and services.

Calling for swift processing of loan cases under MUMKIN, TEJASWANI, PMEGP, PM VISHWAKARMA, and KCC, the DC stressed on timely benefits to local youth. He also reviewed the implementation of PMMY, PMSBY, PMJBY and APY schemes

in the district.

Highlighting the importance of employment generation, the DC instructed Bankers and Departments to adopt a structured approach for achieving 100% performance under all government-sponsored schemes. He also emphasized the need to enhance market-relevant training, increase the number of eligible cases, and ensure financial and marketing linkages to empower the unemployed youth.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner also released the Annual Activity Report 2024-25 of RSETI Ramban.

## Cultural Unit Kashmir of DIPR organizes awareness programme on 'Drug Menace' at BHSS Gulab Bagh

JINews SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JULY 23

An awareness programme addressing the growing threat of drug abuse was today held at Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS) Gulab Bagh under the Nasha Mukat J&K Abhiyan, organized by the Cultural Unit Kashmir of Department of Information & Public Relations, Jammu and Kashmir (DIPR J&K).



The event saw enthusiastic participation from students and staff, aimed at spreading the urgent need to stay away from

awareness about the harmful consequences of drug addiction.

A powerful and engaging skit was presented by the Yemberzal Youth Club, effectively highlighting the dangers of substance abuse. The play left a lasting impression on the audience and served as a strong reminder of

drugs.

Principal of the institution, Oscia Jabeen Baba and Senior Lecturer Mumtaz Hussain Raja urged students to stay vigilant and act as agents of awareness in their communities.

Burhan Hussain, Cultural Officer Kashmir from the DIPR J&K, reiterated the department's commitment to conducting such programmes regularly in line with government directives. He stressed that raising awareness is key to fighting this social evil and encouraged youth to adopt a drug-free lifestyle.

NORTHERN RAILWAY		
Corrigendum for change in Item Description, Drawing and opening date of tender No. 62255130 through E-Procurement system.		
Tenders are invited for the procurement of Modified Guard Chair (New Design) vide this office Tender Notice No. 02/2025-26 dt. 10-06-2025. Now some modification are being published in tender notice as mentioned below:-		
Heading	Existing	New
Description of item	Modified Guard Chair (New Design) for BVCM Wagon, Drg. No. WD-15009-S-13 Item-25, All-3 or latest & WD-24025-S-01, Sheet-1 & Sheet-2 All-Nil or latest	Modified Guard Chair(New Design) for BVCM Wagon, Drg. No. WD-15009-S-13 Item-25, All-4 & WD-24025-S-01 All-1, Sheet-1 & Sheet-2
Drawing	WD-15009-S-13, All-03 WD-24025-S-01, SHT-1 All-Nil WD-24025-S-01, SHT-2 All-Nil	WD-15009-S-13, All-04 WD-24025-S-01, SHT-1 All-1 WD-24025-S-01, SHT-2 All-Nil
Date of Opening	07-07-2025	05-08-2025
NOTE:-Above changes in tender document vide corrigendum are available and uploaded on IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> . The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate form certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted. Tender Notice No. 02A/2025-2026 Date: 23/07/2025 2230/2025		
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE		

NORTHERN RAILWAY		
E-AUCTION NOTICE		
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:		
Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EAZR-PnU25-13	26.07.2025 at 11:00 hours	Allotment of contract for operation & maintenance of Pay & Use Toilets at Batala, Muktsar & Phillaur Railway Stations.
EAZR-PRK25-13	26.07.2025 at 11:30 hours	Allotment of Parking lot on contract at Kapurthala and DAV College Jalandhar Halt Railway Station.
EAZR-MPS25-9	28.07.2025 at 11:30 hours	Allotment of multi-purpose stalls on contract at Jalandhar City & Ludhiana Railway Station.
EAZR-CTG25-22	29.07.2025 at 11:00 hours	Allotment of Catering stalls on contract at Khem Karan, Muktsar, Tarn Taran, Kartarpur, RCF Kapurthala Halt & Kotkapura Railway Stations.
EAZR-OH25-15	29.07.2025 at 11:00 hours	Allotment of contract for Commercial Advertisement rights through: 1) Exterior of Overhead of Water. Tanks at Sahnewal, Amritsar & Jalandhar City Railway Station. 2) Static media at Level crossings adjoining to Verka, Jaintipura, Batala, Bhagatwala & Patti Railway Station. 3) Static media at Goraya & Lohian Khas Railway Station. 4) Static media/overhead of water tank at Makhu & Nakodar Railway Station.
EAZR-MMS25-1	29.07.2025 at 11:00 hours	Allotment of advertisement rights through patches on headrest and front and back of food trays of each seats of coaches of Train No. 14680/14679/14682/14681, 12054/12053 & 22488/87.
EAZR-MIS25-12	30.07.2025 at 11:00 hours	1) Allotment of contract for provision, operation and maintenance of Plastic Bottle Crushing Machine with advertisement rights on body of machine at Railway station Firozpur Cantt. 2) Allotment of contract for provision and operation of Water Vending Machines at Railway Station Faridkot, Phillaur, Firozpur Cantt. Amritsar & Phagwara
EAZR-CTG25-23	30.07.2025 at 11:30 hours	Allotment of Catering stalls on contract at Sahnewal, Nawan Shahar Doaba, Nakodar, Verka, Jagraon, Firozpur City, Sultanpur Lodhi, & Fazilka Railway Stations.
EAZR-PnU25-14	01.08.2025 at 11:30 hours	Allotment of contract for operation & maintenance of Pay & Use Toilets at Kot Kapura, & Dhandari Kallian Railway Stations.
EAZR-PMBJK25-2	01.08.2025 at 12:30 hours	Allotment of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra (PMBJK) at Phagwara Railway Station.
For other details and registration, please visit Railway website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> No. MC/38015/Pub/E-Auction/FZR/22 Date: 21.07.2025		
2206/25		Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager Northern Railway, Firozpur
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE		

## EDITORIAL

## Unity, not isolation to guide statehood struggle

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's recent remarks strike a chord at a time when the political demand for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood is regaining much-needed momentum. His call for coordination between the Congress party and the National Conference (NC) is not just timely—it is vital. The Congress, having stepped up its campaign for statehood, deserves credit for raising the pitch. But as Abdullah rightly pointed out, there can be no real progress on such a crucial issue unless the opposition acts as a collective. That the NC was kept in the dark about the Congress's protests, learning about them only through media reports, reflects a troubling lack of communication between key stakeholders. This fragmented approach only weakens the larger goal. Omar's candid statement—"First, they should talk to us"—is less a criticism and more a reminder of the need for strategy, synergy, and solidarity. The National Conference has consistently advocated for the restoration of statehood since the unilateral revocation of Article 370 in August 2019. From passing Cabinet resolutions to raising the issue in public and political forums, the NC's commitment has been clear and enduring. Its political record on this front cannot be brushed aside or downplayed. The Congress's willingness to now raise its voice should be seen as a welcome development. But entering the battlefield without forging common ground with long-standing allies like the NC only risks scattering the opposition's energy. In a region where trust in political institutions has taken a severe beating, unity among opposition parties is not just politically smart—it is morally necessary. The Chief Minister's call for a united effort also comes amid rising public sentiment in favour of restoring Jammu and Kashmir's democratic rights, autonomy, and dignity. Civil society voices, regional parties, and even former bureaucrats have repeatedly underscored that statehood is not a privilege—it is a right. Restoration of statehood is not merely a political slogan. It is the foundational demand for restoring local accountability, reviving public confidence, and re-establishing constitutional propriety. The lack of a legislative assembly and an elected government for over half a decade has widened the disconnect between the people and the administration. Statehood, therefore, is central to reclaiming democratic governance in the region. What's required now is a shared platform—perhaps through the INDIA bloc or another mechanism—where regional and national parties converge with a singular focus: to push the Centre toward honouring its promise of restoring statehood. Constructive collaboration between Congress, the NC, and other like-minded forces will not only add weight to the demand but also project a sense of unity and seriousness to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and to Delhi alike. As Omar Abdullah aptly put it, "Let's work together, not in isolation." The people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve a politics that is aligned with their aspirations, not fragmented by ego or miscommunication. If statehood is truly a shared goal, then unity must be its driving force.

RAJYOGI BRAHM KUMAR  
NIKUNJJI

As per a recent study by the WHO, nearly 4.4 per cent of the world population is suffering from a 'common mental disorder' – which is known as 'Depression.' In India, the burden is equally alarming. According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data for 2023, 1,70,924 Indians died by suicide in that year alone – roughly translating to over 460 deaths per day.

The numbers are significantly higher when suicide attempts are considered, most of which go unreported. Further, a post-pandemic mental health survey revealed that the prevalence rate of depression in India stands at approximately 4.5 per cent, accounting for over 57 million cases. Addition-

ally, as per UNICEF's 2021 report (still cited widely in 2025 due to its foundational impact), it was found that 1 in 7 adolescents aged 15 to 24 years reported feeling depressed or having little interest in doing daily activities – a trend that experts believe may persist for years without effective intervention.

A person suffering from depression would never accept his/her condition in the first place, because the majority of us do not believe that it exists. One of the hardest things for people to understand about depression is that it cannot be seen visually, as the pain is very deep within, subtle, and not visible. This lack of visual impairment makes depression difficult to deal with and identify by both those suffering from it and those around them. Due to our double standards, we fail

to understand the fact that someone who looks completely normal from the outside could be going through absolute hell and experiencing meltdown within.

There are umpteen reasons in the world for a person to get depressed. Some feel depressed because their efforts to achieve something have ended in utter failure; some may feel disappointed and low-spirited because they think that they have been let down by those from whom they expected help or support; some others feel that they have been left alone and that no one loves them or cares for them. There are also many such people who feel that society has no useful role for them, whereas others feel frustrated to find that there are hurdles all the way in this vitiated social set-up. The

pressure of these thoughts is so severe that in some cases a person may feel that life has become an unbearable burden for him/her and is, therefore, not worth living. It is quite common to talk about lingering stress or tension as silent killers or major causes of crime and psychosomatic diseases.

But a look around on a quick count gives us the impression that it is depression which is more disastrous and fatal for humanity, because in the current scenario, it is not only a cause for the major addictions among people in society but it is also the reason for the breakdown of family life, rise in crime graph, and even the high rate of population growth across the world. When one feels that quite a large number of people in this age are congenitally selfish, transparently

exploitative, and cruelly competitive and jealous, and that there is an utter lack of sympathy or fellow-feeling in the social environment, one feels deeply depressed. The behaviour of even those who are not visibly depressed may have been influenced directly or indirectly by an undercurrent of depression as it gripped them earlier today or yesterday, or a few days ago. Successful medical experiments over the years have proved 'meditation' to be an effective tool for curing chronic cases of depression. A society, which consists of a very large number of tense and depressed people, would certainly march towards gloom and doom if it does not use this remedy, which is psychological, biological, and spiritual.

As a part of society, each one of us can play a constructive role to help

such people by empathising with them and just standing by their side and letting them know that we are there and will go out of our way to fight their battle against depression. Let them know that you do not and will not think any differently of them because of their illness. Remember – it may not be possible to visually identify that someone has depression, but it is important to think about their normal behaviour, and if they are acting differently, then you should encourage them to see a doctor. So let us all come together to break down the stigma around depression so that we do not see it claim any more lives of our brothers and sisters.

**(The writer is a spiritual teacher and a popular columnist)**

## Who's afraid of clean electoral rolls?

RAHUL KAUSHIK

The process of electoral roll revision is a routine but critical exercise conducted by the Election Commission of India to ensure that the list of eligible voters is accurate, up-to-date, and free from duplication or fraud. It involves verifying the names on the voter list, deleting entries of deceased or shifted individuals, and identifying bogus or ineligible voters, especially those without valid citizenship. In Bihar, this revision has taken on exceptional importance. Following alarming data spikes and reports of demographic manipulation in border districts, the ECI launched an intensive drive to weed out fake voters, many of whom are suspected to be illegal immigrants or fraudulent entries enabled through forged documents. The aim is simple but vital, to protect the integrity of India's electoral process before it's too late. A full-scale revision of the voter rolls has uncovered something that everyone quietly suspected but few had the courage to say out loud:

India's electoral rolls, especially in border states, are riddled with phantom voters. In Bihar alone, a private study estimates over 77 lakh such entries – people who either don't exist, are dead, have moved, or worse, are illegal immigrants who should never have been there in the first place. And yet, when efforts are made to clean this mess up, it's the opposition that screams foul, not because they care about democracy, but because they care about votes, legal or not. Let's be clear. Fake and illegal entries in voter rolls are not just clerical errors. They're a full-blown assault on the legitimacy of Indian democracy. When someone who isn't even a citizen can cast a vote, that vote cancels out the voice of a legitimate Indian. Opposition parties, particularly those in the INDI Alliance, have gone on the offensive, labelling the effort "discriminatory", "undemocratic", even "anti-minority". But here's the thing: they aren't defending minority rights. They're defending their right to use illegal voters as a political lifeline.

Take a look at how this pattern plays out elsewhere. In West Bengal, the TMC has repeatedly blocked fencing projects on the India-Bangladesh border, citing "human rights" and "livelihoods", even when BSF reports pointed to massive infiltration routes through Malda, Murshidabad, and North Dinajpur. When Bengali-speaking migrants without documents were detained in Odisha, TMC leaders rushed to defend them, not ordinary migrants, but people with fake documents. So what exactly is the TMC protecting here? Genuine migrants or political assets?

This isn't isolated. In Meghalaya and Mizoram, Congress-allied state Governments have dragged their feet for years when asked to clear land for border fencing or BSF outposts. In Assam, illegal colonies on river islands were actively ignored or even encouraged under the previous regimes. Fake documentation – from ration cards to Aadhaar, to even voter IDs – were created en masse. And every time a cleanup was attempted, the same parties rose in

protest, citing "humanitarian concerns" as a smoke-screen. Here's what this really is: a calculated vote-harvesting operation built on illegal immigration. The numbers are staggering. Estimates suggest over 2 crore illegal Bangladeshi immigrants live in India today. West Bengal alone accounts for at least 60 to 80 lakh. And every election cycle, you see voter rolls in certain districts, mostly border ones, suddenly swell. That's not population growth. That's voter laundering. In several constituencies, the number of Aadhaar cards outstrips the actual population. That's not a glitch but a racket. And when the Election Commission tries to fix it, what does the INDI Alliance do? Instead of cooperating, they shout that it's a witch-hunt. Why? Because the voter list is their silent vote bank, more loyal than any real constituency. Let's not forget what's at stake. Free and fair elections are the bedrock of democracy. A democracy can survive dissent, unpopular governments but it cannot survive systemic vote fraud engineered by the

very people who claim to be its defenders. The Modi Government, to its credit, has acted where previous regimes only postured. In Assam, the NRC process excluded 19 lakh illegal names despite fierce push-back. Border fencing has accelerated nationwide, with over 4,000 km completed since 2014. In Uttarakhand, illegal Rohingya settlements have been dismantled, and fake documentation rings busted. The Government has digitised surveillance under CIBMS, deployed more BSF troops, and cracked down on fraudulent land deals in sensitive border districts. These are not small steps but are actually the groundwork of national security. Contrast that with the INDI Alliance's track record: obstruct, delay, protect. They've built entire political ecosystems on the back of this illegal vote bank. Their strategy is simple – import populations that will vote for them no matter what, dress them up as "marginalised", and cry foul when anyone challenges it.

So when the opposition attacks the Bihar voter roll revision, understand

what they're really doing: fighting for their right to rig democracy. This isn't about the poor, the minorities, or the under-represented. This is about illegal power built on illegal people. And anyone supporting that is not just anti-Government. They are anti-India.

Cleaning up electoral rolls is not a political act. It's a constitutional imperative. If we don't get this right, every other reform, be it economic, social or legal, becomes meaningless. Because a democracy built on fake votes is no democracy at all.

What Bihar is doing needs to be replicated nationwide. Not tomorrow, not next year but now. And every voice raised against it needs to be called out for what it is: a deliberate attempt to weaken the Indian state from within. The time for polite excuses is over. It's time to choose – between a clean democracy and a corrupted one. There is no middle path anymore.

**(The writer is commentator on socio-political issues)**

## India's \$4 Trillion economy: growth for whom?

SHAHID AHMED HAKLA  
POONCHI

India's recent rise to the position of the world's fourth largest economy has been hailed as a historic achievement. With a nominal GDP surpassing \$4 trillion, India has leapfrogged past the United Kingdom and, more recently, Japan – once the undisputed symbol of Asia's economic miracle. But beneath this glittering milestone lies a sobering question: Who truly benefits from this giant leap?

**Overtaking Japan: A Mirage?**

When India overtook Japan to claim the fourth spot, many saw it as a sign of India's unstoppable ascent. But a closer look tells a different story. Japan, with a population of just 125 million, has a per capita income of over \$33,000, while India's per capita income is just around \$2,700 – a stark gap that shows how average citizens actually live. Even when measured by Purchasing Power Parity (PPP), which adjusts for local cost of living, Japan's per capita PPP income is still more than \$49,000, while India's is about \$9,200.

Japan's economy is driven by cutting-edge technology,

world-class manufacturing, universal healthcare, and an ageing yet highly skilled workforce. India, meanwhile, remains one of the poorest among large economies when it comes to what truly touches people's daily lives – income, nutrition, equality, and dignity.

**What Makes Up the \$4 Trillion?**

So where does this \$4 trillion GDP come from? According to the Government of India's own estimates, about 53% of India's GDP is driven by the services sector – IT, telecom, finance, trade, and real estate being major contributors. Industry, including manufacturing, mining, construction, and electricity, contributes roughly 25%, while agriculture – still the backbone of rural livelihoods – contributes just 15-16%, despite employing nearly half of India's workforce.

This means India's GDP headline is heavily propped up by urban services that benefit a small middle class and global corporations, while core sectors like farming and small-scale manufacturing – which employ the majority – contribute relatively little and remain underdeveloped. This imbalance

makes growth look impressive in numbers but fragile in reality.

**Numbers That Reveal the Truth Behind the GDP cheerleading lies a darker reality:**

India ranks 111th out of 125 countries on the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2023 – worse than many poorer African nations.

Nearly 36% of Indian children are stunted (low height for age), and about 19% are wasted (low weight for height), according to the National Family Health Survey.

The top 1% of India's population controls about 40% of the nation's wealth, while the bottom 50% hold a meagre 3% – one of the worst inequality gaps among major economies.

India's Gini coefficient, a standard measure of income inequality, has been rising steadily for two decades.

**The Stark Figures Few Talk About**

Look further, and more unsettling figures emerge. India's unemployment rate has hovered around 7-8% in recent years – but youth unemployment is far worse, at nearly 45% for graduates

under 25, among the highest in the world. Over 22% of Indians live below the national poverty line, according to government estimates – but independent studies argue the real number is even higher when factoring in rising costs and informal work.

Tragically, India's agrarian distress continues unabated: over 10,000 farmers die by suicide every year, driven by debt, crop failures, and market volatility. Rural indebtedness and urban underemployment coexist alongside shiny urban expressways, highlighting a widening gulf between India's 'two economies'.

**Building Bridges or Repeating Mistakes?**

One area India's policymakers love to showcase is infrastructure: new airports, expressways, and high-speed trains. Mega projects like the Ganga Expressway or the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link are symbols of modern India's ambition.

But here too, there's an eerie parallel with Malaysia of the 1990s and early 2000s. Back then, Malaysia dazzled the world with glittering skyscrapers, highways, and an international image

of modernity. Beneath that sheen, however, inequality deepened, skilled jobs lagged behind, and economic progress benefited a privileged few. The 1997 Asian financial crisis exposed the cracks in Malaysia's lopsided growth model.

India now risks repeating this mistake – pouring billions into visible infrastructure while neglecting investments in human capital: education, nutrition, healthcare, and meaningful employment for millions at the bottom. Highways cannot replace healthy, skilled citizens.

**The Social Faultlines**

Even more troubling is that India's social fabric is fraying at a time it needs unity for inclusive growth. Communal tensions flare up regularly; caste-based violence and discrimination still stifle talent and opportunity. Language politics divides states; regional chauvinism feeds resentment.

Can a nation truly be a global economic powerhouse when its energies are drained by hate speech, religious polarization, caste atrocities, and identity politics?

**What's the Fun in This Giant Economy If Its Own People Suffer?**

So what is the point of boasting about being the world's fourth largest economy when tens of millions still sleep hungry, children remain undernourished, young people cannot find decent jobs, farmers live in debt traps, and social divisions fester? If growth does not guarantee dignity, equality, security, and hope for every citizen, then GDP numbers alone are no triumph – they are an illusion that comforts the powerful and ignores the powerless.

**The Middle-Income Trap: A Real Risk**

Economists warn that India may fall into what's called the middle-income trap – where a country achieves moderate growth but stalls before becoming truly developed. Many nations grow fast at first by using cheap labour and resource-driven exports, but then get stuck because they fail to innovate, build competitive high-tech industries, or ensure widespread prosperity. Without bold reforms in education, job creation, industrial policy, and inequality reduction, India risks remaining a giant economy in size but not in quality – trapped halfway,

unable to break through to the high-income league like South Korea once did.

**GDP Without Justice is Hollow**

It is easy for leaders to flaunt GDP rankings on global stages. It is harder to talk about the children who sleep hungry, the farmers crushed by debt, the daily wage labourers with no savings, the unemployed graduates forced into precarious gig work.

A large GDP with extreme inequality, social division, and unaddressed hunger does not make a nation truly strong – it makes it fragile. One economic shock, like the COVID pandemic showed, can push millions back into poverty overnight if the foundation is weak.

**The Road India Must Take**

India's path to becoming a genuinely advanced economy demands more than skyscrapers and GDP graphs: Bridge the inequality gap – fair taxation, wealth redistribution, social safety nets.

Invest in children – fight hunger, malnutrition, stunting, and poor learning outcomes.

Create decent jobs – scale up manufacturing, green industries, technology, and

skill-building.

Protect pluralism – confront communalism, casteism, and language chauvinism that sap energy and divide society.

Strengthen institutions – independent judiciary, free media, accountable governance.

Who Is the 4th Largest Economy For?

If India does not answer this question honestly, the '4th largest economy' tag will remain a hollow boast – a shining statistic hiding hunger, inequality, and wasted human potential.

South Korea and Japan show that wealth means little if it is not built on equity, unity, and investment in people. Malaysia shows that gleaming infrastructure means little if the wealth it creates never reaches the last mile.

India stands at a crossroads. It can either learn from history – or repeat it.

**The writer SHAHID AHMED HAKLA POONCHI is a Published Writer in the daily leading newspapers of J&K and an Independent Researcher. He can be contacted at shahidhakla360@gmail.com**

## Unable to sleep well? Yoga, tai chi, walking may help

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

If you are suffering from insomnia, performing exercises such as yoga, tai chi, walking, and jogging may help improve sleep quality, according to a study.

The findings, published in the online journal *BMJ Evidence Based Medicine*, back the use of exercise as a primary treatment strategy for poor sleep patterns.

Insomnia is characterised by difficulties falling and staying asleep, and early morning awakening. It is associated with heightened risks of various mental and physical health conditions, including dementia and cardiovascular disease.

Drug treatments for insomnia come with side effects, and cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), while effective, isn't always available due to the shortage of trained



therapists, explained the researchers from Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, China.

"The findings of this study further underscore the therapeutic potential of exercise interventions in the treatment of insomnia, suggesting that their role may extend beyond adjunctive support to serve as viable primary treatment options," said corresponding author Zhao-lan Liu, from the varsity.

"Although current clinical guidelines make only limited mention of exercise, this study provides relatively comprehensive comparative evidence that may inform the develop-

ment of more specific and actionable clinical recommendations," Liu added.

The team conducted a meta-analysis of 22 randomised clinical trials involving 1,348 participants and 13 different treatment approaches to ease insomnia. Of these seven were exercise-based: yoga; tai chi; walking or jogging; aerobic plus strength exercise; strength training alone; aerobic exercise combined with therapy; and mixed aerobic exercises.

The other approaches included CBT; sleep hygiene; ayurveda; acupuncture or massage.

The analysis showed that yoga resulted in a

large increase in total sleep time of nearly 2 hours and improved sleep efficiency by nearly 15 per cent. It also reduced the amount of time spent awake after falling asleep by nearly an hour and shortened sleep latency by around half an hour.

Walking or jogging resulted in a large reduction in insomnia severity of nearly 10 points, while tai chi reduced poor sleep quality scores by more than 4 points, increased total sleep time by more than 50 minutes, and reduced time spent awake after falling asleep by over half an hour. It also shortened sleep latency by around 25 minutes, the researchers said.

"Given the advantages of these exercise -- including low cost, minimal side effects, and high accessibility -- the team urged the need for integrating these into primary care and community health programmes.

## Indian medical tourism market to surge from \$18.2 bn in 2025 to \$58.2 bn by 2035: Report

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

The Indian medical tourism market is set to surge from \$18.2 billion in 2025 to \$58.2 billion by 2035, according to a new report.

The report, by the Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI), in collaboration with KPMG, showcased the country's ambitious vision to become the global medical hub by 2035, rising at a CAGR of 12.3 per cent.

The report also outlines a transformative national strategy that integrates India's clinical expertise with its centuries-old wellness traditions, aiming to make the country the world's most trusted destination for medical value travel (MVT).

It showed that India is emerging as a cost-effective alternative offering both modern surgeries and natural recovery options like Ayurveda,



Yoga, and Panchakarma.

India ranks 10th in the Medical Tourism Index and seventh in wellness tourism, and attracts nearly 2 million international patients from 75 countries.

The report showed that medical visa issuance rose to 463,725 in 2024, with the majority of patients from Bangladesh, GCC nations, and Africa.

Ayurveda and traditional medicine are gaining significant global importance, said Dr. Manoj Nesari, from the Ministry

of Health and Family Welfare, while unveiling the report at the Heal in India 2025 Medical and Wellness Tourism Summit, organised by the FHRAI in the national capital.

"India is very rich in traditional healing, and the government has taken a plethora of initiatives to boost this sector as an alternate economy in recent years," he said, adding that a series of initiatives have been taken to further promote Yoga and Ayurveda as a healing and wellness alternative across

the globe.

Suman Billa, IAS, Additional Secretary and Director General, Ministry of Tourism, noted that the tourism economy is reaching \$3 trillion in the coming years, and for that, several areas need to be activated.

"Medical and wellness tourism are strategic pillars to achieve this target. He strongly suggested that in the coming years we will have to showcase not only our competence but also our care, compassion, and delivery," he said.

## Lung TB: Higher dose of rifampicin safe, can boost recurrence-free survival, says ICMR study

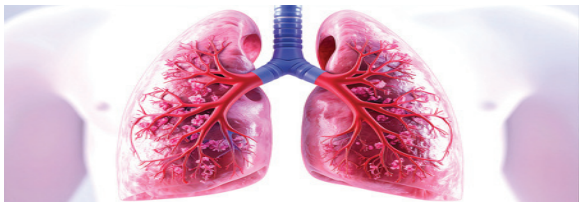
AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

A higher dose of rifampicin -- a bactericidal antibiotic used primarily to treat tuberculosis (TB) -- may be safe, and its use can potentially lead to recurrence-free survival in patients with pulmonary TB, according to a recent study by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

TB is curable but still remains the most common cause of death due to infectious diseases, with an estimated 1.3 million deaths globally in 2022. Rifamycins are a crucial drug group in the anti-TB regimen, which sterilise the lesions and aid in recurrence-free cure.

Currently, rifampicin is administered at 10 mg/kg for six months to all patients with pulmonary TB.

The team reviewed the available evidence from



published clinical trials to determine whether higher doses of rifampicin (more than 15 mg/kg) are more efficacious and safer.

"Compared to standard dose, higher doses of rifampicin were found to lead to early sputum conversion in eight weeks and thus faster TB bacteria clearance," said corresponding author Dr Leebark Raja Inbaraj, Department of Clinical Research, ICMR- National Institute for Research in Tuberculosis, Chennai.

Early sputum conversion is a valuable tool widely used as a surrogate marker for treatment response and those who are at risk for relapse in pulmonary TB.

"The ability of high-dose rifampicin to achieve early sputum conversion and eliminate the persistent bacteria that cause relapse could potentially lead to recurrence-free survival. Early bacterial clearance is also of public health importance as this could potentially reduce disease transmission in the community," the researchers said.

Notably, the study showed 20-30mg/kg rifampicin as the best balance.

"This dose range showed better sputum conversion without a significant increase in serious side effects and may be considered in TB treatment," revealed the

study, published in the *Indian Journal of Medical Research (IJMR)*.

On the other hand, doses above 30 mg/kg, although beneficial, came with severe side effects such as serious liver damage (hepatotoxicity) and adverse drug reactions (ADR), leading to treatment discontinuation.

The study showed no reduction in death or treatment failure in people with more than 15 mg/kg doses of rifampicin.

"High doses did not reduce mortality or treatment failure at 6 months compared to standard treatment," the team said.

"This dose could be administered with close monitoring of adverse events and hepatotoxicity. There is an urgent need for adequately powered trials that assess long-term treatment outcomes, including recurrence," they added.

## Gene essential for vitamin D absorption may boost cancer treatment

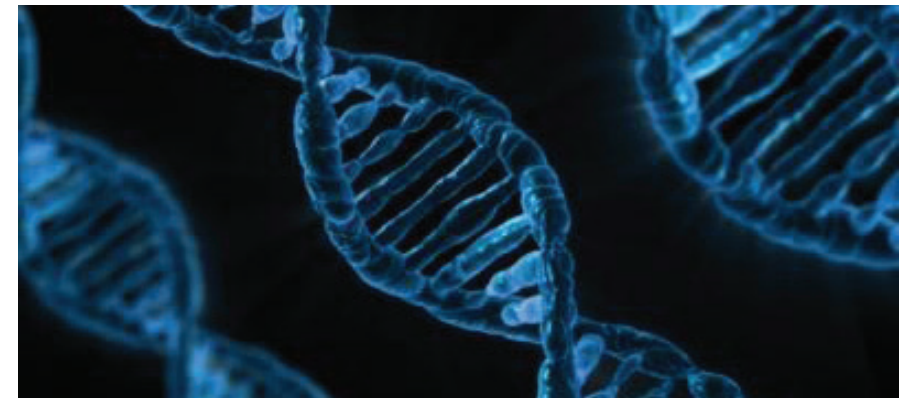
AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Scientists have identified a key gene essential for vitamin D absorption, which may also boost treatments for cancer and autoimmune diseases.

The gene, called SDR42E1, is crucial for taking up vitamin D from the gut and further metabolising it -- a discovery with many possible applications in precision medicine, including cancer therapy.

"Here we show that blocking or inhibiting SDR42E1 may selectively stop the growth of cancer cells," said Dr Georges Nemer, Professor at the University of College of Health and Life Sciences at Hamad Bin Khalifa University in Qatar.

Previous research showed that a specific mutation in the SDR42E1 gene on chromosome 16 is associated with vitamin



D deficiency.

The mutation caused the protein to be cut short, rendering it inactive.

In the study, published in the journal *Frontiers in Endocrinology*, the researchers used CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing to transform the active form of SDR42E1 in a line of cells from a patient with colorectal cancer, called HCT116, into its inactive form.

In HCT116 cells, the expression of SDR42E1 is usually abundant, sug-

gesting that the protein is essential for their survival.

Once the faulty SDR42E1 copy had been introduced, the viability of the cancer cells plummeted by 53 per cent, the researchers explained.

The results suggest that inhibiting the gene can selectively kill cancer cells, while leaving neighbouring cells unharmed.

"Our results open new potential avenues in precision oncology, though clinical translation still requires considerable

validation and long-term development," said Dr Naghm Nafiz Hendi, Professor at Middle East University in Amman, Jordan.

"Because SDR42E1 is involved in vitamin D metabolism, we could also target it in any of the many diseases where vitamin D plays a regulatory role," said Nemer.

However, as long-term effects of SDR42E1 on vitamin D balance remain to be fully understood, the researchers stressed the need for further studies.

## Climate, wildlife key predictors of bird flu outbreaks in Europe: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Environmental factors such as the temperature, the water level in lakes and ponds in winter, and the presence of mute swans (*Cygnus olor*) could be key reasons that predict the potential of an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian flu (HPAI) occurring in Europe, according to a study.

The findings, published in the journal *Scientific Reports*, are derived from a machine learning model trained on the characteristics of 21st-century European HPAI outbreaks and could help improve future monitoring programmes.

The model showed that the coldest recorded temperature in autumn had the greatest effect on the likelihood of an outbreak occurring.

However, the actual effect varied considerably by region. In some areas, warmer minimum temperatures were associated



with a higher likelihood of an outbreak; while in others, they were associated with a lower likelihood.

"HPAI outbreaks are a serious concern for both animal and public health. A wave of HPAI outbreaks across the Northern Hemisphere during 2022 was associated with an increase in the number of avian influenza virus infections in mammals, which subsequently increased the likelihood of a spillover event in humans," said Joacim Rocklöv from Heidelberg University in Germany.

The team trained the machine learning model on the characteristics of every HPAI outbreak reported in Europe between 2006 and 2021.

The characteristics assessed were all identified as potential outbreak predictors and included: the seasonal temperature and

"To reduce the chances of such an event occurring, it is critical for scientists to understand the underlying factors, which can increase the likelihood of an HPAI outbreak," the researcher added.

The team also noted that the presence of a local population of mute swans was associated with an increase in the likelihood of an outbreak.

The study could be used to help tailor regional HPAI surveillance programmes across Europe, increasing the likelihood of identifying an outbreak in its earliest stages, said the researchers.

precipitation conditions in the region; the local wild bird population; the local farmed poultry density; and the seasonal vegetation density and water level in the region.

The team then tested the accuracy of their model using the outbreak data for 2022 and 2023.

The findings showed that a low vegetation density between October and December, and a lower-than-expected water level in lakes and ponds between January and March, were both associated with a decrease in the outbreak likelihood.

The team also noted that the presence of a local population of mute swans was associated with an increase in the likelihood of an outbreak.

The study could be used to help tailor regional HPAI surveillance programmes across Europe, increasing the likelihood of identifying an outbreak in its earliest stages, said the researchers.

## Explained: What is 'chronic venous insufficiency' that Donald Trump is suffering from

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

US President Donald Trump has been diagnosed with chronic venous insufficiency (CVI) -- a condition where leg veins do not allow blood to flow back to the heart -- explaining the swollen ankles and bruises on his hands.

The 79-year-old US President was recently photographed at the FIFA Club World Cup 2025 final in New Jersey, where visible swelling around his ankles sparked public speculation about his health.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt informed that the ultrasound exams performed on Trump's legs confirmed CVI -- seen frequently among people over the age of 70.

However, additional exams showed "no signs of heart failure, renal impairment or systemic illness" in Trump, Leavitt said, adding that the US Presi-



dent is not experiencing any discomfort due to the diagnosis.

**What is 'chronic venous insufficiency'**

Chronic venous insufficiency is a multifactorial condition that affects a significant number of people worldwide.

People with the condition suffer from mild clinical signs, such as spider veins -- small, dilated blood vessels that appear as red, blue, or purple lines on the skin -- to severe mani-

festations, such as venous ulcerations -- a type of skin

ulcer.

Varicose veins -- swollen, twisted veins that often appear blue or purple -- are the most common manifestation.

The condition is centered on faulty valves in the veins, which ensure proper blood flows towards the heart. When these valves don't work well, blood flows backwards, causing it to collect (pool) in the legs, resulting in the condition.

CVI majorly occurs in people who are overweight, pregnant, have

a family history, have leg injury, surgery, or have had previous blood clot events.

The risk factors include high blood pressure, prolonged sitting or standing, lack of exercise, and smoking.

Those suffering from CVI are more likely to experience aching or cramping in the legs, heaviness or fatigue, particularly after standing for extended periods, swelling, especially around the ankles, and itching or tingling sensations in the legs.

CVI is typically considered mild, but if left untreated, the condition can lead to a variety of symptoms such as persistent swelling, leg cramps, skin changes, ulcers, and the formation of varicose veins.

"Chronic venous insufficiency is not a serious health threat. But it can be painful and disabling," according to Johns Hopkins Medicine.

## J&K BJP pays tributes to martyr Kuldeep Verma on his death anniversary

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, 23 JULY 2025:

The Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today paid rich floral tributes to martyr Kuldeep Verma on his death anniversary at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.



age and selfless dedication. "His supreme sacrifice continues to inspire the youth of Jammu. It is our duty to uphold his ideals and remain committed to the regional aspirations of our people," she said.

Yudhvir Sethi emphasized the importance of remembering those who sacrificed for the region. "Kuldeep Verma's martyrdom is a moral responsibility for us to continue working with the same conviction and vision for Jammu's development and dignity," he noted.

Ch. Vikram Randhawa called for honoring such martyrs through public service. "Kuldeep Verma was not just a name, but a movement. His sacrifice must translate into stronger regional unity and commitment," he added.

The tribute programme was marked by deep reverence and remembrance for the supreme sacrifice made by Kuldeep Verma who was martyred during the Amarnath Yatra land agitation in Jammu.

Rakesh Mahajan, Vice-President, J&K BJP, Sanjita Dogra, General Secretary, J&K BJP, Yudhvir Sethi, MLA, Ch Vikram Randhawa, MLA, Prabh Singh Jamwal, Treasurer, Tilak Raj Gupta, Office Secretary, Pawan

Sharma, Secretary, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Secretary, Ved Sharma, All Cells Incharge, Naresh Singh Jasrotia, District President, senior leaders S. Varinderjit Singh, Basant Raj Thakur, Shailja Gupta, Er. TK Sharma, Sanjay Bakshi, Kulbeer Charak, Ajay Gupta, Ramesh Katoch, and several other party functionaries paid floral tributes and recalled Verma's contributions.

Shilpi Verma, BJP leader and wife of the martyr Kuldeep Verma, was also present and acknowledged the outpouring of respect and support from the party leadership.

Speaking on the occasion, Rakesh Mahajan said, "Kuldeep Verma laid down his life while fighting for the just demands of the people of Jammu during the Shree Amarnath ji land agitation. His martyrdom reminds us of the power of people's movements and the sacrifices that lay the foundation for justice."

Sanjita Dogra described Verma as a symbol of cour-

## IGNOU-NIELIT collaborate to launch free skill development programme for students in J&K and Ladakh

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JULY 21, 2025:



Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) Regional Centre Srinagar has partnered with the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) Srinagar to offer a free skill development programme for IGNOU students under the project "Skill Development for Digital J&K & Ladakh."

The initiative aims to train 9,450 candidates over a period of three years in high-demand digital technologies. In its initial phase, training will commence in the NSQF Level 3 course titled "Cloud Computing Assistant" with a duration of 300 hours. The course will

follow a blended mode of delivery—40% online and 60% offline. The minimum eligibility is 10th pass, and each batch will accommodate 30 participants.

The training will be conducted free of cost at NIELIT Srinagar's state-of-

the-art facilities. Enrolled students will receive a free study kit for both theoretical and practical learning. The programme includes job-readiness support such as aptitude assessments, soft skills training, mock interviews, personalized

mentoring, and industry interaction. Hostel facilities will be available on a chargeable basis. Free job fairs will also be organized in collaboration with industry partners. Successful candidates will receive a nationally recognized certification upon completion. Interested students can visit <https://www.nielit.gov.in/srinagar> or contact +91-9906815499 for further details.

Dr. A. H. Rizvi, Regional Director, IGNOU Srinagar, and Shri Ashaq Hussain Dar, Director, NIELIT Srinagar, emphasized that the collaboration is expected to significantly enhance the employability and digital competencies of IGNOU learners across Kashmir and Ladakh region.

## National Broadcasting Day Celebrated at CUJ

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JULY 23

The Department of Mass Communication and New Media, Central University of Jammu, celebrated National Broadcasting Day with great enthusiasm and reverence under the patronage of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain. The event underscored the enduring significance of radio and broadcasting in India's media landscape.

The session was gracefully hosted by Ms. Pushplata, and Head of Department, Mr. Abhay S.D. Rajput extended a warm welcome to all attendees.



Prof. Paramveer Singh, a renowned media academician, delivered an insightful address, highlighting the historic and contemporary importance of radio broadcasting in shaping public opinion, promoting education, and fostering community engagement.

Adding vibrancy to the

event, Team Top FM joined as special guests, including RJ Pallavi, RJ Aryan, Station Head Neeraj, and Abhishek Gupta. They interacted with the students and faculty, sharing real-world experiences from the field of radio and elaborating on its evolving role in the digital age.

The event witnessed active participation from students and scholars of the department. A vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Manish Prakash, acknowledging the contributions of all dignitaries, guests, and attendees. Dr. Rashid Ali was also present and appreciated the efforts behind the event.

The successful organization of the program was managed by dedicated research scholars Aditya Negi, Sunaina Harit, Sujata Behera, and Neha Singh, along with enthusiastic support from the student community of CU Jammu.

## IIM Jammu hosts Spiritual Discourse on "Mastering Life and Mind" by Mahamandleshwar Gita Manishi Swami Gyananand Ji Maharaj

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JULY 23



The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, under the aegis of Anandam - The Centre for Happiness, in collaboration with GIEO Gita Manishi Swami Gyananand Ji Maharaj at its Jagti Campus. The event was graced by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu. The spiritual discourse brought together students, faculty, staff, and dignitaries for an experience that transcended intellect and touched the soul.

The session was graced by the presence of eminent dignitaries including Shri Sham Lal Sharma, Hon'ble MLA, Jammu North and former Minister; Shri Yudhvir Sethi, Hon'ble MLA, Jammu East; Shri Mohanlal Bhagat, Hon'ble MLA, Akhnoor; Shri Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG, Jammu-Samba-Kath-

ua Range; along with Shri Ajay Ji, Shri Manveer Ji, and Shri Gagan Sharma. Present on the occasion were Prof. Shyam Narayan Lal, Chairperson, Anandam; Brigadier Neeraj Soni, Co-Chairperson, Anandam; Dr. Mamta Tripathi, Co-Chairperson, Anandam; Dr. Sanjeev Pathak, Chairperson,

Executive Education and Consultancy; Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Co-Chairperson, Placements, IIM Jammu; CA Rajat Jain, FA-CAO and Cmdr. Kesavan Baskaran, CAO, IIM Jammu.

The spiritual discourse served as a reminder that while management teaches us how to lead others, spirituality teaches us how to lead ourselves. IIM Jammu, through its Anandam initiatives, continues to foster such integrative learning experiences that nurture not just professional competence but also personal and spiritual well-being, aligning closely with the vision of holistic education under the National Education Policy 2020.

## APS Damana organizes Investiture Ceremony 2025-26 with Grandeur and Gusto



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, 23 JUL 2025

"Leadership is not about a title or a position, but about impact, influence and inspiration."

The Investiture Ceremony for the Academic Session 2025-26 was conducted on 23 July 2025 with great dignity and solemnity at Army Public School Damana, reaffirming the institution's commitment to nurturing responsible future leaders. It truly celebrated the essence of student leadership and marked the beginning of a new chapter of responsibility and excellence.

The Investiture Ceremony is one of the most prestigious events in the school calendar where deserving young leaders are formally vested with their roles and responsibilities.

The event began with a Special Morning Assembly setting the tone for the day with patriotic fervour and a spirit of dedication. The ceremony was graced by the revered Principal, Head Mistress, Teachers and Students who joined

in bestowing the sashes upon the newly elected School Student Council members, symbolising their official induction into the leadership body of the school.

The ceremony advanced with the prime custom of bestowing sashes by the Principal, Mrs Pushpinder Kaur and Head Mistress, Mrs Anurita Kaul to the newly formed members of the Student Council who were selected through a rigorous interview and shortlisting process ensuring that each leader embodies the values and discipline of the school.

Tamishq Bhat (XII) and Gaytri Singh (XII) were bestowed with the prestigious titles of Senior Head Boy and Senior Head Girl respectively, while Trisha Yadav (V) and Namish Mengi (V) were appointed as the Junior Head Boy and Junior Head Girl.

Furthermore, the students entrusted with various key responsibilities included Sahil Bhandral (XII) and Mridul Pandita (V) as Senior and Junior Discipline In-charges,

Malvi Saini (XII) and Adharv Arora (V B) as Senior and Junior Co-curricular In-charges, Jaspreet Singh (XII) and Vanya Rana (V) as Senior and Junior Sports In-charges, Jogeshwar Singh (XII) and Nanshika (V) as Senior and Junior Health In-charges, Diya Sharma (XII) and Anahita Bali (V) as Senior and Junior English Editors, and Deepi Singh (VIII E) and Nitya (VII) as the Sanskrit Editor and Vice Editor of the School respectively.

The House Appointees of various houses were also accorded with the titles of Captain, Vice-Captain and House Prefect. Maanvansh (XII) & Akhil Deep (V) were chosen as Sr. & Jr. Captains of Amartya Kumar Sen House whereas Ajay Manhas (XII) & Ashel Sharma (V) were chosen as Sr. & Jr. Captains of Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman House. Meetali Manhas (XII) & Reyanish Bali (V) were appointed as Sr. & Jr. Captains of Dr.

Hargobind Khorana House whereas Palak Sharma (XII) & Gurvansh Kumar (V) were chosen as Sr. & Jr. Captains of Rabindranath Tagore House

The Head Boy and Head Girl then led the council in taking a solemn oath, pledging to carry out their duties with integrity, responsibility and a commitment to uphold the honour and ethos of Army Public School Damana.

In her address, Principal Mrs. Pushpinder Kaur congratulated the newly appointed leaders and urged them to serve as role models, guiding their peers with wisdom, empathy and vision. She emphasized the importance of perseverance, teamwork and leading by example. She also encouraged the students to balance their responsibilities with academic excellence.

The ceremony concluded with a formal Vote of Thanks, followed by the National Anthem leaving behind a spirit of pride, unity and leadership.

### UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT PHE MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH JAMMU

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-NIT PHEJ/MS/24 of 2025-26 Dated 22-07-2025

Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical Division South Jammu, on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered/ reputed firms.

Name of the Work	Name of the Division	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee(In Rs)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Validity of Rates
1	2	3	4	5
Providing installation testing and commissioning electro-mechanical components along with CGI shed for oceanarium (Sea world) at Bahu-fort, Jammu	PHE Mech. Division South Jammu	<b>Rs. 200.00</b> (Non-Refundable) In the shape of e-challan/single window challan of JMC pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division South Jammu/tender fee receipt through online payment through the JMC link <a href="http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html">http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html</a>	@ 2% of estimated cost/ tender value In the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division South Jammu	Bid shall be valid for 180 days

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 23-07-2025 (10:00 AM) and uploaded from 25-07-2025 (10:00 AM) to 12-08-2025 (3:00 PM). The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- Pre-Bid meeting shall be held in the Office of the undersigned on 24-07-2025 at 12:00 P.M
- Bids must be accompanied by EMD and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 3 & 4 of the table.
- The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the tenderer shall be debarred from participating in tendering process for a period of 1 year.
- The Technical Bids of the tender document received shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department PHE Mechanical Division South Jammu on 13-08-2025 at 3:00 P.M or any other day convenient to the Ex. Engineer in the Office chambers of Executive Engineer, PHE Mechanical Division South Jammu.
- The Financial Bids of the tender document of the qualified bidders shall also be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department PHE Mechanical Division South Jammu during office hours and shall be communicated separately.
- Cost of bidding document in shape of e-challan/single window challan of JMC pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division South Jammu/tender fee receipt through online payment through the JMC link <http://www.jmcjammu.org/online-payment.html>
- The original instruments in respect of cost of document, EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR and other relevant document of L<sub>1</sub> bidder will be required to be submitted to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division South Jammu within 05 days after opening of financial bids on line. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office / by the tender opening authority. In case the original documents are not submitted by the L<sub>1</sub> bidder within 05 days after opening of financial bid, the tender will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.
- Other details can be seen inside the detailed tender document.

No: PHE/MS/1708-12  
Dated:- 22-07-2025  
DIP/J-3795/25  
Date: 23-7-25

A.E.E  
Sub Div-I  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division South  
Jammu

## Vikram Randhawa listens to public grievances at BJP headquarters

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 23 JULY 2025

Senior BJP leader and MLA from Bahu Assembly Constituency, Ch. Vikram Randhawa, held a Public Darbar at the BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to address the public grievances.

A large number of deputations from various areas of Jammu participated in the darbar and raised issues concerning civic amenities, infrastructure, and public services.

Among other deputations, deputations from Gangyal, Deep Nagar, and Laxmipuram requested for the clearance of deep drains. Deputations from Nanak Nagar presented an issue related to CAPD for



bifurcation of ration cards and a theft case. A deputation from ward 56 sector 2 Gangyal garden requested for the construction of central drain. A deputation from Gole Gujral requested for the issue of Rehri Liscence. A deputation from SRTC voluntarily retired employee's association requested for the clearance of pending arrears. Deputations from Adarsh Enclave and Shiv Nagar complained about

leaking PHE pipes. Deputations from Nai Basti and Karan Bagh requested for the repair of lanes and drains. A deputation from Ashok Nagar Satwari raised a request for the repair of non-functional street lights.

Ch. Vikram Randhawa gave a patient hearing to all deputations and immediately took up many of the issues with the concerned departments. In several instances, he issued writ-

ten instructions to ensure timely action.

Speaking on the occasion, Ch. Vikram Randhawa said, "The BJP believes in reaching out directly to the people and addressing their issues on priority. These interactions help us stay connected with the ground realities. I assure the people that their grievances will be resolved in a time-bound manner. We are committed to ensuring transparency, accountability, and development across all sectors."

The event was coordinated by Er. T.K. Sharma, Co-convenor of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, J&K BJP, who facilitated smooth interaction between the public and the party leadership.

## JKPDP leader Karan Singh holds preparatory meetings for Foundation Day celebrations

JINNEWS SERVICE  
SUCHETGARH, JULY 23

In a bid to ensure the success of the People's Democratic Party's (PDP) upcoming foundation day celebrations, JKPDP leader Karan Singh today held a series of preparatory meetings in the Suchetgarh constituency on the directions of PDP Vice President Mohammad Sartaj Madni.

Karan Singh met with party workers and leaders to discuss the arrangements and preparations for the foundation day celebrations, scheduled for August 1st in Jammu. He urged the workers to ensure huge participation in the event, making it a grand success. Singh emphasized the importance of showcasing the party's strength and



unity on this significant occasion. The PDP's foundation day celebrations will mark a significant milestone in the party's history. The event is expected to be attended by party leaders, workers, and well-wishers from across the region, said Singh.

Singh said that PDP's foundation day celebrations will serve as a platform to reaffirm the party's

commitment to its core values and principles. The party will continue to work towards the welfare of the people and strive for a brighter future for the region. The People's Democratic Party (PDP) has indeed been a vocal advocate for the rights and interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. With a strong commitment to addressing the region's

unique challenges and concerns, the party has consistently demonstrated its willingness to stand up for the rights of the people, said Singh.

By prioritizing the welfare and development of Jammu and Kashmir, the PDP aims to ensure that the voices of its people are heard and their needs are met. The party's dedication to the region's progress and prosperity is evident in its tireless efforts to promote peace, stability, and economic growth. Through its bold voice and unwavering commitment, the PDP continues to play a vital role in shaping the future of Jammu and Kashmir, working towards a brighter tomorrow for its people, added Karan Singh.

## Dr. Shazad raises hostel issue of Eklavya School of Mendhar with Union Minister

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 23

The Jammu and Kashmir Border Area Development Conference (JK-BADC), a registered organisation working for the welfare of border residents and tribal population of J&K, has taken a strong step by raising the issue of hostel shortage at Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS), Mendhar (Border District Poonch) with the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Dr. Shazad Ahmad Malik, Chairman JK-BADC and former Vice Chancel-



lor, has written a letter to Union Tribal Affairs Minister Shri Jual Oram, seeking urgent action for arranging hostel facilities for nearly 60 newly admitted Class VI students, both boys and girls, who have joined the school after

clearing the entrance test. In his 2 page letter dated 22/July/2025, Dr. Shazad highlighted the difficulties being faced by these children, most of whom belong to the underprivileged Scheduled Tribe (ST) community with very limited financial means.

"These children have worked hard to earn their place in the school, but are now suffering due to lack of hostel accommodation. In a remote border area like Mendhar, hostel is not a luxury – it is a basic need," the letter reads.

The letter has also been copied to the Secretary,

Ministry of Tribal Affairs, and to Hon'ble MoS Tribal Affairs Shri Durgadas Uiquey, to ensure the issue gets attention at the central level.

Dr. Shazad added that this step was taken after several local residents and tribal families from Mendhar met JK-BADC and shared their concerns.

He expressed hope that the Union Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, will take timely steps to solve this problem in the interest of the children and the community.

## Sat Sharma chairs BJP organizational meet in Nagrota, emphasizes booth, grassroots strengthening

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 23

J&K BJP President Sat Sharma chaired an organizational meeting of Mandal Dansal and Mandal Nagrota in the Nagrota Assembly Constituency today at Nagrota.

The meeting was attended by the Shakti Kendra, Booth Presidents and party workers with an aim to strengthen the party's grassroots structure and to review the organizational working in the area.

J&K BJP General Secretary Baldev Singh Billawaria, Jammu North District President Nand Kishore Sharma,



Seh-Prabhari Vinay Gupta, Vistarak Inderjeet Sharma also addressed the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Sat Sharma said that the BJP draws its strength from the dedication of its grassroots workers. He said that every activist is a pillar of our mis-

sion to serve the people. Regular interaction with the public and effective implementation of public welfare schemes must be the priority of every activist. He encouraged the party leaders to focus on booth management, resolve local issues,

and act as a bridge between the administration and the people.

Sharma further asked the party leaders to intensify their grassroots efforts and work in alignment with the party's mission to empower every citizen and build a strong, self-reliant Jammu & Kashmir.

Baldev Singh Billawaria said that the party organization is only as strong as its foundation. He stated that the party's Shakti Kendra and booth units are the first point of contact with the people, and we must ensure their active and disciplined functioning.

## SBI Card, PhonePe forms strategic partnership; launch co-branded PhonePe SBI Card

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 23

SBI Card, India's largest pure-play credit card issuer, in partnership with PhonePe announced the launch of PhonePe SBI Card, today. This new co-branded credit card aims to provide a rewarding experience on everyday spends, crafted to serve the evolving financial needs of customers across India. The credit card comes in two variants, the PhonePe SBI Card PURPLE and the PhonePe SBI Card SELECT BLACK, catering to diverse customer preferences, and lifestyle spending needs. Additionally, both the variants of this contactless credit card are available on the RuPay and VISA payment networks, giving consumers the choice of network that best suits their needs. The RuPay cards can be linked



to UPI as well and can be used for transactions at millions of UPI merchants across the country. The VISA variant can be tokenised on PhonePe and used securely across a host of online merchants.

With the new PhonePe SBI Card, customers can earn reward points on various everyday transactions, including groceries, bill payments, travel bookings, utility payments, insurance premium payments, and more, across online and offline shopping platforms. PhonePe

SBI Card SELECT BLACK cardholders can earn up to 10% value back as reward points on essential and frequent PhonePe in-app transactions. Customers can also avail up to 5% value back as reward points on all their online spends on other platforms.

Furthermore, the application process is integrated into the PhonePe app, where customers can easily apply for the PhonePe SBI Card through digital application. Customers can make purchases using

the PhonePe app and repay their credit card bill on PhonePe platform.

Speaking on the launch, Ms. Salila Pande, MD & CEO, SBI Card, said, "Digital payments in India are experiencing rapid growth, driven by increasing convenience and accessibility of digital platforms. Our strategic partnership with PhonePe is a significant step towards further popularising credit card usage, by combining SBI Card's deep domain expertise and PhonePe's extensive digital network. This credit card is thoughtfully designed to offer a unique blend of exceptional benefits and unmatched convenience with every transaction. The launch of PhonePe SBI Card reflects our continued commitment to delivering best-in-class products, tailored for evolving consumer needs."

## Indian Army conducts Lecture on "Importance of Education in Life" at Behramgala, Poonch

JINNEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, 23 JUL 2025

In line with the Indian Army's core objective of fostering cordial relations with local communities through AWAM, a lecture on 'Importance of Education in Life' was organized on 23rd July 2025 at Behramgala, Poonch, to spread awareness among the children and locals. The aim of the event was to raise awareness among students about the significance of education and literacy, as well as to inform them about various government initiatives aimed at promoting education. During the event, a representative of the Indian Army delivered a motivational lecture, highlighting the importance of education for children and youth in Behramgala. The Army representative also emphasized



the immense potential of talented and academically bright students in the region. However, due to lack of proper guidance, many students fail to fully harness their potential. In this context, the interaction aimed to tap into this untapped potential and encouraged students to consider joining the armed forces through Sainik Schools, other educational institutions and pre-commissioning training academies. Modalities

for providing guidance, coaching and assistance to students, along with awareness about joining the armed forces, were also discussed during the interaction. A total of 33 locals attended the event. The event successfully conveyed the significance of education and its vital role in the growth of society. The Army representative urged the children to pursue their ambitions in their respective fields and contribute to the envi-

ronment, society and the nation as responsible citizens. The representative further assured them of all possible guidance and assistance from the Indian Army in their future endeavours. The children and locals expressed their appreciation for the initiatives taken by the Indian Army for the welfare of the local populace and students. This endeavour by the Indian Army to reach out to populations residing in remote areas, where civil administration has limited accessibility, will go a long way in developing and strengthening trust between the JAWAN and AWAM. The event also served as a platform to strengthen the bond between the Indian Army and the people of the region, showcasing the Army's unwavering commitment to service to the nation.

## Eighteenth Radiosonde Successfully Launched at Central University of Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 23

The Eighteenth Radiosonde was successfully launched on July 23, 2025 under the MOU between National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC, ISRO) and Central University of Jammu from the Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Sciences, Central University of Jammu under the able guidance of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain.

Prof. Vinay Kumar, Convener Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Science and Prof. Rakesh Kumar Jha, Head Department of



Electronics and Communication Engineering along with his dedicated Faculty, Technical team, Students, Scholars and Staff successfully culminated the launch.

Weather Balloon along with the GPS aided Radiosonde, i.e. The Pisharoty Sonde measures the vertical profiles of Tem-

perature, Relative humidity, pressure, wind speed, direction, altitude, time and location by using Sensors and GPS receiver module. The software used is development under ISRO called Indian Radiosonde Software (IndRoS).

This Radiosonde Ground Station is indigenously developed in the Semi con-

ductor Laboratory (SCL), Mohali, a make in India product under the Director General Dr. Kamaljeet Singh and Mr. Nemi Chand.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Sanjeev Yadav, Faculty Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, CUJ along with his team Dr. Haneet Kour,

Ms. Mehak Mahajan (Senior Technical Assistant, Central Instrumentation Facility, CUJ), Bandhna Verma, Ayesha Bandhary, Antusha Dogra, Amrit, Prashant, Pratyush, Tejas Bineesh, Sanatan, Anup, Anubhav, Rajvir, Sonam and team.

## Students of GCOE excel in Quiz Competition

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 23

Government College of Education, Canal Road, Jammu, students Kriti Sharma and Minerva Jamwal brought laurels to their institution by securing the second prize in ANVESHA 2.0 nationwide quiz competition organized by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme



Implementation (MOSPI) in collaboration with the National Statistics Office (NSO).

The competition was organized to mark 75 years of NSS i.e. National Sample Survey. The quiz

focused on topics related to Indian Economy, official statistics, and Government of India policies, testing participants' knowledge, awareness, and analytical thinking. Total 14 Teams from various reputed colleges and universities of Jammu region participated.

Principal Dr Jyoti Parihar congratulated the entire team

## EC starts preparations for Vice President's election

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

Two days after Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned citing health reasons, the Election Commission of India has started preparations to conduct an election for the second highest constitutional post in the country.

The central government on Tuesday notified the resignation of Dhankhar, an official communique issued here on Wednesday said.

"The election to the office of the Vice President of India is governed by the



Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 and the rules made thereunder, namely the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974.

Accordingly, the Election Commission of India has already started the preparations relating to

the Vice-Presidential Elections, 2025," it said.

The election schedule, it said, would be declared once the required preparations are made by the Election Commission, the official document added.

According to the constitution, to fill the vacant

post of Vice President, in case the vacancy arises due to death, resignation, removal, or otherwise, the election is organised as early as possible.

The ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has a majority in both the houses of the parliament, which clearly gives it an upper hand in the election as votes from members of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha decide it.

Meanwhile, Dhankhar's sudden resignation on the very first day of the monsoon session of the parliament had surprised everyone in the country's political scenario.

## Rahul questions PM Modi's silence on Trump's repeated ceasefire claims

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha (LoP) Rahul Gandhi today again hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, questioning his silence over US President Donald Trump's repeated assertions of brokering a ceasefire deal between India and Pakistan.

Speaking to the media in the Parliament House complex, Gandhi raised concerns about the government's foreign policy, national security, and the handling of Operation Sindoor.

"What statement will



Prime Minister Modi give... that Trump brokered the ceasefire? He can't say that. But the truth is - Trump did broker the ceasefire, and the whole world knows it," Gandhi said.

He pointed out that Donald Trump has claimed on at least 25 occasions that he was instrumental in brokering the ceasefire deal.

"Who is Trump to broker a ceasefire? That's

not his job. Yet Prime Minister Modi hasn't responded even once. This is the truth, and you can't run away from it," he said while slamming the Modi government for refusing to rebut Trump's statements.

Accusing the Modi government of evading critical national issues, the Rae Bareilly MP said, "There are many pressing issues that we want to discuss - from national defence and the defence industry to Operation Sindoor. Those who call themselves patriots have disappeared. The Prime Minister has not made a single public statement".

## SC to form Bench to hear Justice Yashwant Varma's plea against in-house inquiry report

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JUL 23

The Supreme Court today said it will constitute a bench to hear the petition filed by Justice Yashwant Varma challenging the in-house inquiry committee's report that indicted him in the cash-at-residence case.

The matter was mentioned before a bench comprising Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai and Justices K. Vinod Chandran and Joyimala Bagchi.

Senior Advocates Kapil Sibal, Mukul Rohatgi, Rakesh Dwive-



di, Sidharth Luthra, Sidharth Aggarwal, along with Advocates George Pothan Poothicote and Manisha Singh, appeared for Justice Varma.

"We have filed the petition on behalf of the Allahabad High Court judge. Some constitutional issues are involved. I request you

to constitute a bench as soon as possible," submitted the counsel team.

CJI Gavai responded, "It may not be proper for me to take up this matter. We will just take a call and constitute a bench."

Justice Varma has also challenged the recommendation made by former Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna to the President and Prime Minister to initiate impeachment proceedings against him.

In his petition, he alleged that the in-house inquiry committee made findings without giving him a fair opportunity to

respond.

The petition states that the committee proceeded in a "pre-determined fashion" and, even without finding any concrete evidence, merely drew adverse inferences after reversing the burden of proof.

It further alleges that the committee failed to notify him of its procedure, denied him an opportunity to provide inputs on evidence collected, examined witnesses in his absence, and provided only paraphrased statements instead of video recordings despite their availability.

## Congress MP moves adjournment motion notice in LS to discuss SIR in Bihar

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

Congress MP Manickam Tagore today submitted an adjournment motion in the Lok Sabha, demanding an urgent discussion in the Monsoon Session of Parliament, on what he described as a "blatant and unconstitutional attempt" to deny voting rights to the poor, backward, Dalit, and marginalised communities in Bihar through the Election Commission's Special Investigation Report (SIR) mechanism.

In his notice under Rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha, Tagore accused the Modi government of mis-



using the Election Commission to disenfranchise vulnerable sections of society - a move he said amounts to a violation of the fundamental right to vote enshrined in the Constitution and envisioned by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

"That this House do adjourn to discuss the dangerous and unconstitutional moves by the Modi Govern-

ment to use the Election Commission as a tool to systematically disenfranchise the poor, backward, Dalit, and marginalised communities in Bihar by means of the SIR (Special Investigation Report) mechanism, thereby violating the fundamental right to vote granted by the Constitution, as envisioned by Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar," his letter to the Speaker stated.

The Congress leader likened the alleged voter purging to "colonial practices," where suffrage was limited to the elite. "This calculated disenfranchisement is reminiscent of a time when only the rich and property-owning classes could vote, while the masses were excluded," he

said. He further alleged that the ruling dispensation was exhibiting a "Manuwadi mindset" aimed at reversing the gains of social justice and universal adult franchise.

"Under the guise of verifying voter identity and eligibility, official machinery is being misused to strike lakhs of poor voters - particularly from Dalit and backward communities - off the electoral rolls in Bihar. This is not an isolated incident, but part of a larger, disturbing pattern to manipulate the electoral process in favour of the ruling party by excluding sections of society that do not support them politically," Tagore wrote.

## India slams Pakistan at UN for terror support, demands accountability and UN reform

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK / NEW DELHI JULY 23

Reaffirming its unwavering commitment to international peace, security, and multilateral cooperation, India delivered a strong condemnation of Pakistan at the United Nations Security Council's High-Level Open Debate, calling out Islamabad's "continued sponsorship of cross-border terrorism."

Referencing the recent counterterrorism operation launched in response to the deadly Pahalgam attack, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Parvathaneni



Harish, underscored the mounting threat posed by proxy warfare. He warned that modern conflicts are increasingly shaped by non-state actors enabled by complicit state sponsorship.

In a pointed response to Pakistan, Harish drew a stark contrast between the two nations. "On one side stands India - a vibrant democracy,

an ascending economy, and a pluralistic society. On the other is Pakistan - caught in the grip of fanaticism, terrorism, and chronic dependence on international bailouts. It ill behoves any member of this Council to preach while engaging in conduct that the world unequivocally condemns," he said.

Citing the terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which claimed 26 innocent lives, Harish said India launched Operation Sindoor - a targeted, proportionate, and non-escalatory strike on terrorist camps located in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and

Kashmir. "The operation concluded swiftly after meeting its objectives - at Pakistan's own request," he noted.

"There cannot be a one-size-fits-all approach to dispute resolution. Changing realities and evolving geopolitical dynamics must inform our responses," Harish stated at the high-level debate.

The envoy reaffirmed India's long-standing constructive role in the global order, saying, "As a founding member of the UN, India has consistently worked with international partners to foster a more peaceful, prosperous, just, and equitable world."

## Heavy rains lash Delhi-NCR, IMD issues red alert

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

Heavy rains battered parts of Delhi-NCR today morning, causing waterlogging and traffic disruptions. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert for the region, warning of moderate to heavy showers, thunderstorms, and gusty winds reaching speeds upto 30-40 kmph.

Localities falling under the red alert include Preet Vihar, Shahdara, Seelampur, Vivek Vihar, Ghaziabad, Noida, Faridabad, Palwal, Hodal, Aligarh, Bulandshahr, and Mathura.

An orange alert has also been issued for northwest and southwest Delhi,



along with neighbouring regions in Haryana and Rajasthan, where light to moderate rain is expected.

In related developments, the Public Works Department (PWD) is planning major infrastructure upgrades at three key intersections, including routes leading to Indira

Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, New Delhi Railway Station (NDLS), and ITO. Plans are underway to construct elevated corridors or underpasses at these locations to eliminate signal-based delays and ease congestion.

At Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, trials of full-body

scanners for passengers have also begun. Initially scheduled for May, the trials commenced on June 16 and have been active for over a month. Four scanners have been installed - two at Terminal 1 and two at Terminal 3 - as part of a broader push to enhance security measures.

## Trump announces 'massive' trade agreement with Japan

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON, JULY 23

US President Donald Trump has announced a long-awaited trade agreement with Japan, a framework between allies and major trading partners that appeared elusive just weeks ago.

"We just completed a massive Deal with Japan, perhaps the largest Deal ever made," Trump said on Truth Social last night.

As part of the deal, US importers will pay 15 percent "reciprocal" tariffs on Japanese goods exported to the United States. Also, Japan will invest US\$550 billion dollars into the United States, the presi-



dent said.

Trump noted that the US "will receive 90 percent of the profits", without elaborating on how those investments would

work or how profits would be calculated, reported CNN.

"This Deal will create Hundreds of Thousands of Jobs - There has never

been anything like it. Perhaps most importantly, Japan will open their Country to Trade including Cars and Trucks, Rice and certain other Agricultural Products, and other things. Japan will pay Reciprocal Tariffs to the United States of 15 percent," Trump posted.

The Japan agreement was the third such trade-related news Trump announced yesterday. This comes after months of negotiations with key trading partners like the European Union, South Korea, India and dozens of others at a standstill as Trump's latest August one deadline for higher tariffs looms.

## UP CM performs Rudrabhishek at Mansarovar Temple on Sawan Shivratri

AGENCIES  
GORAKHPUR, JULY 23

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath performed Rudrabhishek at the Mansarovar temple in Adhiyari Bagh on the occasion of Shravan Shivratri.

Observed on the Chaturdashi of Krishna Paksha during the holy month of Shravan, Shravan Shivratri is a significant day when devotees seek the blessings of Lord Shiva for health, happiness, and prosperity.

At the revered temple, the chief minister, who is also the Goraksha Peethadishwar (chief of cow protection) performed



Rudrabhishek with water, cow milk, and sugarcane juice following an offering of sacred items, including Bilva Patra, lotus flowers, Durva grass, and other traditional materials.

A priest from the Goraknath Temple conducted the ceremony, reciting Mahamantras from the Rudrashtadyayi of the Shukla Yajurveda Samhita. The chief minister also per-

formed a havan and aarti, as Vedic chants echoed through the premises. He prayed to Lord Shiva for the well-being, prosperity, and peace of the people of Uttar Pradesh.

## SA20 announces pre-signed and retained players ahead of season 4 auction

AGENCIES  
JOHANNESBURG, JULY 23

Six franchises of the SA20 have announced the pre-signed and retained players for Season 4 ahead of the auctions, scheduled for September 9.

Each of the teams were permitted a maximum of six retained or pre-signed players, comprising a maximum of three South African and as many as overseas players during the player retention window, which closed on July 18.

The teams also strategically completed their six Wildcard signings, with all the focus now on the remaining slots and



the collective maximum purse of USD 7.4 million, to be spent on the 84 available slots at the auction.

For Season 4, a Wildcard player could be any overseas player or a South African player who was part of the team's squad in Season 3.

Durban's Super Giants have focused their ener-

gies on securing a high-quality overseas trio in West Indies T20I legend Sunil Narine, along with England's Jos Buttler and Afghanistan's Noor Ahmad, while holding on to megastar Heinrich Klaasen as a Wildcard. The KZN outfit will enter the auction with the second-highest available

purse of USD 1.7 million to purchase the 15 remaining players.

Joburg Super Kings have retained the experience of captain Faf du Plessis and brought in English duo James Vince and Richard Gleeson and will have the joint third biggest purse of USD 1.2 million to spend at the auction.

Defending champions MI Cape Town have opted for the full six-player allowance and Wildcard in a bid to consolidate the core of their Season 3 championship-winning squad, whilst bolstering the squad with the addition of West Indies superstar Nicholas Pooran.

## Kamboj gets debut, Sudharsan and Thakur come in as England opt to bowl first vs India

AGENCIES  
MANCHESTER, JULY 23

Seamer Anshul Kamboj has been handed a Test debut while B Sai Sudharsan and Shardul Thakur have also been included in India's playing XI as England won the toss and elected to bowl first against India in the fourth Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy Test at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

England are leading the five-match series 2-1 after a dramatic 22-run win in the third Test at Lord's. Kamboj, who is now the 318th Test cricketer to play for India, replaces Akash Deep, who is down with a groin injury, he picked in third Test at



Lord's.

Notably, Anil Kumble was the last Indian cricketer to make his Test debut in Manchester. Coincidentally, both Kumble and Kamboj have a 10-wicket haul in an innings in first-class cricket.

Sudharsan, meanwhile, comes in for Karun Nair,

while Shardul replaces Nitish Kumar Reddy, who is ruled out of the series due to a left knee injury.

The three changes have meant that India go in with four seam-bowling options plus left-arm spin of Ravindra Jadeja.

"I was actually a bit confused. The surface looks

pretty good; a good toss to lose. I think the way we have played in the last three matches has been outstanding... it's just small, crunch moments we have lost. All of the Test matches have been very intense, going up to the last hour of the final day. You need a bit of a break. All three Tests were intense. Looks like a good surface. Nice and hard. There's some forecast around for the four-five days," said India skipper Shubman Gill.

On the other hand, England have one change; injured Shoaib Bashir has made way for Liam Dawson who returns to the Test side after eight years.

## Uncapped Eyman Fatima named in Pakistan women squad for Ireland T20Is

AGENCIES  
LAHORE, JULY 23

Pakistan has announced a 15-member squad for next month's three-match T20I series against Ireland, with regular skipper Fatima Sana leading the side, which features the exciting inclusion of uncapped batter Eyman Fatima.

The three-match T20I series against Ireland will be played at Clontarf Cricket Club in Dublin from August 6 to 10.

Fatima earned her selection on the back of her performance in the National Women's T20 Tournament held in Karachi in May this year, where she scored 287 runs from eight matches at a strike



rate of 155.14. The right-handed batter also represented Pakistan in the inaugural ICC Women's U19 World Cup in 2023.

The squad comprises a mix of experienced campaigners and emerging talents, with names like Muneeba Ali, Aliya Riaz, and Diana Baig providing balance to the team. Left-arm spinner Nashra

Sundhu and leg-spinner Tuba Hassan are expected to shoulder spin responsibilities, while pacers like Waheeda Akhtar and Sadia Iqbal add depth to the bowling unit.

PCB said the squad has been selected from among the 24 players taking part in the Women's Skills camp, which will conclude on July 27 in Karachi. At

the conclusion of the Skills camp, the 15-member squad will undergo a pre-series camp in Karachi before departing for Ireland to take part in the bilateral series.

The last T20I series between these two sides took place in 2022, when Ireland toured Pakistan and claimed a memorable 2-1 series victory.

Pakistan squad: Fatima Sana (captain), Aliya Riaz, Diana Baig, Eyman Fatima, Gull Feroza, Muneeba Ali, Najiha Alvi (wicket-keeper), Nashra Sundhu, Natalia Parvaiz, Rameen Shamim, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Sidra Amin, Tuba Hassan and Waheeda Akhtar.

## China Open: Sindhu stuns world No. 6 Tomoka Miyazaki to enter pre-quarters; Satwik-Chirag pair prevails

AGENCIES  
CHANGZHOU, JULY 23

Double Olympic medallist Indian shuttler PV Sindhu entered the round of 16 of China Open after beating sixth seed Tomoka Miyazaki of Japan 21-15, 8-21, 21-17 on Wednesday.

Sindhu made a strong start to the match, racing ahead 6-2 with good control and composure on the court. Her precise lunges and well-timed lifts helped her keep the shuttle in play effectively. The lead grew to 10-5 and then 16-9. Although Miyazaki attempted a late comeback, Sindhu's early dominance ensured she comfortably took the opening game 21-15.



In the second game, Miyazaki found her rhythm and, after a closely contested start, pulled ahead to take an 11-7 lead

at the interval. She maintained the momentum to dominate the game 21-8, forcing a decider.

Sindhu came out firing in the third game, quickly building a 5-1 lead, capitalizing on a flurry of errors from Miyazaki. She extended her advantage to 11-2 at the final change of ends. While Miyazaki attempted to claw her way back from the far side, Sindhu held firm, pushing ahead to 17-9 before sealing the match in 62 minutes to advance to the second round.

Sindhu has had a challenging 2025 BWF World Tour season so far. Her best finish this year remains a quarter-final appearance at the India

Open in January, which was followed by four first-round exits and two round of 16 finishes. Last week, Sindhu, a former world champion, went down 15-21, 14-21 to Korea's Sim Yu Jin in the Super 750 Japan Open, her fifth first-round exit this year.

"It was a much-awaited win for me and winning against her, it was even tougher. The first round was very important for me to cross and I'm happy that I did cross the first round. And it was three games and even in the third set, it was important for me to take the lead from the beginning because one side was very disadvantaged and one side was an advantage.

## Marsh emphasises importance of squad depth after Australia's dominant win over WI

AGENCIES  
KINGSTON, JULY 23

Following a massive eight-wicket win over the West Indies at Sabina Park, Australia skipper Mitchell Marsh spoke of the importance of building squad depth given the first string of players won't be available for every game.

The Australian pace trio of Hazlewood, Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins, who have racked up legendary numbers in the past decade, opted out of playing in the five-game T20I series following the 2-0 victory in the Test format in the West Indies.

The relatively inexperienced pace attack of Ben



Dwarshuis and Nathan Ellis were included on the day where spinners ruled proceedings.

"We have a lot of talented players in Australia. We know those guys (Hazlewood, Starc and Cummins) won't be able to play all three formats all the time, so it is important to build the depth. International cricket is a step up, so make them (the

youngsters) feel relaxed and ease them in, which we have done in the first two games.

Glenn Maxwell and Marsh failed to make much of an impact at the very top of the batting order for the visitors, however, Josh Inglis and Cameron Green's 131-run partnership, Australia's highest for the 3rd wicket in T20Is, saw the visitors

comfortably chase down the 173-run target with 28 balls to spare.

Marsh also applauded the duo while also tipping his hat to the spinners with Maxwell and Adam Zampa combining for five wickets on the day.

"He (Green) hasn't played a lot of T20 cricket for Australia, played Test cricket and is coming back to the T20 side, but he is a really important player for us. We dropped four catches today and need to work on that. The spinners were fantastic and made use of the conditions. And Inglis when batting like that, there are not many bowlers who can stop him," he added.

## Harmanpreet shares POTM award with Kranti Gaud for series winning six-fer against England

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

India Women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur shared her Player of the Match award with fast bowler Kranti Gaud, who played a pivotal role in the team's win in the series decider, claiming six wickets in her quota of overs, at the Riverside Ground in Chester-le-Street.

Harmanpreet's gesture reflected her appreciation for Gaud's match-winning performance as she gave her a signed ball with a special message written over it. "Dear Kranti, you are a star." Along with the message, her bowling fig-



ures (9.5 overs, 1- maiden, 52 runs and 6 wickets) were also written on the ball.

An 84-ball 102 from captain Harmanpreet Kaur laid the foundation for India's series-clinching 13-run victory over

England in the third ODI at Chester-le-Street. This marked Kaur's first century since June 2024 and was the second-fastest century by an Indian woman in ODIs. Her knock powered the visitors to a formidable total of 318/5.

In reply, England fought hard through Nat Sciver-Brunt's 98 and her 162-run third wicket stand with Emma Lamb (68) but eventually ran out of steam as they were bowled out for 305. Kranti bagged her maiden five-wicket haul, finishing with 6 for 52 as India wrapped up the game by 13 runs with one ball remaining and clinched the three-match series 2-1.

Kranti became the fifth Indian bowler and the youngest to pick up a six-wicket haul in WODIs. She also became only the second Indian to achieve the feat against England after Jhulan Goswami (2005).

## Venus Williams becomes second-oldest woman to win tour-level singles match

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON, JULY 23

In her first singles match in 16 months, former World No. 1 Venus Williams stormed past World No. 35 Peyton Stearns 6-3, 6-4 in the DC Open women's singles first-round match on Wednesday (IST).

The 45-year-old Venus became the oldest player to win a tour-level singles match since then-47-year-old Martina Navratilova beat Catalina Castano at 2004 Wimbledon -- over 21 years ago.

"It's the first step, and the first match is always extremely difficult. It's hard to describe how difficult it is to play a first



match after so much time off. So going into the match, I know I have the ability to win, but it's all about actually winning. So this is the best result, to play a good match and win. I'm here with my friends, family, people

I love, and the fans, too, who I love and they love me, so this has been just a beautiful night," Venus said after the match.

Seven-time Grand Slam singles champion Venus was already the oldest player to contest a tour-

level singles match since then-46 year-old Kimiko Date lost her first-round match at 2017 Tokyo. Williams will now get to contest at least one more. This was her first singles win since she beat then-World No. 16 Veronika Kudermetova at 2023 Cincinnati -- meaning her last two wins have come over Top 35 players, almost two years apart, WTA reports.

Venus will face another Top 35 player in the second round: she will have her first career meeting with World No. 24 Magdalena Frech of Poland. No. 5 seed Frech beat qualifier Yulia Starodubtseva 6-2, 6-4 in the first round on Monday.

## Golf: Spain to host Ryder Cup for second time in 2031

AGENCIES  
MADRID, JULY 23

The Ryder Cup golf tournament, which pits Europe against the United States every two years, will return to Spain in 2031, the organisers announced on Tuesday.

A post from the Ryder Cup on social media announced that the competition will be held at Camiral Golf and Wellness, located near the city of Girona. Spain hosted the Ryder Cup at Valderama in Andalusia in 1997, with Europe emerging victorious under Seve Ballesteros as captain.

"As well as being one of the most prestigious com-



petitions in the sporting calendar, the Ryder is an exceptional platform to show the capacity Spain has to host important events," said Jose Manuel Rodriguez Uribe, president of Spain's sports council.

The cup is named after

the English businessman Samuel Ryder, who donated the trophy. The event is jointly administered by the PGA of America and Ryder Cup Europe, a joint venture comprising the PGA European Tour (60%), the PGA of Great Britain and Ireland (20%),

and the PGAs of Europe (20%).

Initially started as a contest between Great Britain and the United States, it was officially started in the USA in 1927 and has been a permanent fixture since World War II.

Teams representing Europe and USA compete in fourballs and foursomes, besides 12 singles matches to decide the winner, the team with maximum points out of the possible 28 points at the end of the three-day competition. The two Ryder Cup captains pick their respective teams based on rankings and current form.

## Empowering Youth through Mission YUVA: J&K Bank organizes Udyami YUVA Day at Kishtwar

J I NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, JULY 23

Carrying forward the J&K Government's flagship initiative Mission YUVA (MY) aimed at empowering local youth through entrepreneurship and self-employment, J&K Bank today organised 'Udyami YUVA Day' here in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex Kishtwar.

Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma, who was the chief guest, handed over loan sanction letters to 44 youth beneficiaries to help them to establish their ventures. ADDC Pawan Kotwal; Assistant Director Employment Shafiqat Ali Keen; Cluster Head Jammu and Kashmir Bank Khurshid Ahmad Akhoun; Labour Employment Department officers and Branch Man-



agers of J&K banks were also present on the occasion along with the YUVA scheme beneficiaries.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner expressed his pleasure at the enthusiasm shown by the youth towards entrepreneurship. He encouraged the youth to utilise the opportunity provided through the scheme to establish different business start ups with the support of entire

government machinery right from the conception to its implementation.

Emphasizing that the success of the Mission also depends upon the participation of youth, DC Kishtwar urged all the young entrepreneurs and employment seekers to come forward and register to participate in the process and become job providers. Further, the DC appreciated the contribution and efforts of J&K

Bank and its employees.

The Cluster Head said that the J&K Bank remains steadfast in supporting the Government's vision of empowering youth through sustainable livelihood opportunities.

On behalf of J&K Bank, he assured the people that the Bank will make every possible effort to make the Mission YUVA program a grand success.

The program concluded with enthusiastic interactions between the dignitaries and the beneficiaries, reaffirming the Bank's pivotal role as the region's leading financial institution dedicated to realising the objectives of Mission YUVA - creating avenues of employment, promoting entrepreneurship, and empowering the youth to become drivers of economic transformation.

## Speaker chairs High Level Apex Committee meet at Srinagar, reviews NeVA implementation

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JULY 23

Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly (JKLA), Advocate Abdul Rahim Rather, today chaired the High Level Apex Committee (HLAC) meeting at Assembly Complex to review progress on implementation of National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) project in Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

The meeting was attended by MLAs Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi, Nizamuddin Bhat, Tanvir Sadiq, Arjun Singh Raju, Dr Sunil Bhardwaj and Dr Bharat Bhushan, Secretary Information Technology department, Dr. Piyush Singla and Secretary Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita besides members of HLAC.

The meeting was also attended by Secretary Law department, Achal Sethi; DG Budget, SIO NIC J&K; representatives of NICS and other concerned offi-



cers.

The Speaker, who is also the Chairman of HLAC, took detailed assessment on this flagship project aimed at making the legislature digital and paperless.

Addressing the officers, the Speaker emphasized the importance of timely completion and integration of NeVA project to modernize the legislative processes and ensure a paperless functioning of J&K Assembly. He highlighted that NeVA as a milestone initiative aimed at increasing the transparency, efficiency and accessibility in legislative

proceedings for both the legislators and the public.

He stressed upon the officers to maintain regular coordination for effective implementation of the project in J&K Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker directed all the concerned departments to expedite the remaining tasks and adhere to timelines for timely rollout of this prestigious initiative. He directed the Finance department to fill the resource gap needed by the executing agency for procurement of different components under the project.

"Successful implemen-

tion of NeVA will bring J&K at par with digitally empowered legislatures of the country", the Speaker stated.

He also directed the NIC and IT department to keep the HLAC updated about the progress achieved on implementation of this project.

During the meeting, SIO NIC J&K gave a detailed presentation on current status of the project.

Pertinently, NeVA is a flagship project under Digital India Initiative led by Union Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, aimed at making the Legislature paperless.

## DC Poonch conducts extensive field visit to review landslide, flood-prone areas, essential services

J I NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, JULY 23

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, today conducted a comprehensive visit to multiple sites across the district to inspect the current status of landslide-prone and flood-affected areas, as well as to assess the status of essential services.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Chief Medical Officer, Tehsildar Haveli, Tehsildar Mandi, Xen irrigation Flood Control besides other concerned officers.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner



inspected the health care services at Primary Health Centre (PHC) Chandak and the Health Centre at Chaktroo. He reviewed the healthcare arrangements, including patient care services and the status of ongoing vaccination drives, ensuring readiness in the wake of prevailing weather-related challenges.

To conduct detailed inspection of vulner-

able riverbed zones, the Deputy Commissioner visited Drungali, Dingla, and adjoining areas. He assessed the flood situation and flow levels of water bodies, issuing strict instructions to the concerned Executive Engineer to maintain active monitoring of these areas. He also urged the public to refrain from venturing into riverbeds and other

landslide-prone zones for their safety.

Further, the Deputy Commissioner visited the Revenue Complex and the Power Station in Chandak, where he evaluated the stock position, infrastructure condition, and availability of lighting and other utilities.

Emphasizing preparedness, he directed all concerned departments to ensure robust arrangements, particularly in the areas of healthcare, electricity, water supply, and emergency response, during this period of heightened vulnerability due to inclement weather.

## DC Kupwara takes comprehensive stock of developmental projects in Handwara

J I NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, JULY 23

In a concerted effort to accelerate developmental progress and ensure timely execution of infrastructure projects, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today undertook an extensive tour of Handwara sub-division to review various ongoing developmental works.

During the visit, DC inspected the ongoing construction of High School Building Batpora Magam and construction of additional accommodation for HSS Magam and directed the concerned engineers to speed up the pace of work and ensure completion of the projects



within the stipulated time frame. She also inspected the ongoing development of Handwara-Magam road.

DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy

Commissioner Handwara, Javid Naseem Masoodi, CPO, Tehsildar Handwara and Executive Engineers of R&B and PMGSY. She also took stock of the Jag-

gerpora Water Supply Scheme and Kawari WSS and enquired from the concerned engineers about the status of the scheme. She directed them to ensure the completion of the projects to facilitate the people of these areas with clean drinking water supply. Later, DC chaired a meeting with concerned officers during which a threadbare discussion was held to ensure timely completion of the developmental projects in the Handwara sub-division.

During the tour, DC interacted with a large number of people who apprised her about their day to day developmental issues and she assured for time-bound redressal of their genuine issues.

## DC Shopian conducts comprehensive inspection in Zainapora sub-division

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, JULY 23

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Shishir Gupta, conducted a thorough and comprehensive inspection of Zainapora sub-division, reviewing land record maintenance and overseeing various development projects.

DC began the tour by visiting the Tehsil office, Zainapora, where he scrutinized land records, including Roz Namcha, Girdawari, Jamabandi, Mutation Register, and Partal, to assess their accuracy and upkeep. Emphasizing the importance of accurate and timely record-keeping, he



directed officials to ensure regular updates and maintenance of these critical documents.

He then inspected ongoing macadamization works under the Public Works Department (PWD) Division Zainapora, assessing their progress and quality. He also reviewed the

recently completed Water Supply scheme at Reban under the Jal Jeevan Mission, evaluating its functionality and impact.

Additionally, DC visited the Zainapora canal and nursery managed by the Horticulture department, inspecting their condition and management.

He stressed the need for quality assurance in development projects, advocating for social auditing to ensure compliance with norms and standards.

He also reviewed the water supply-demand network, emphasizing the importance of water budgeting to optimize resource utilization.

Instructions were issued for the repairs and maintenance of the Zainapora canal through proper desiltation, ensuring its efficient functioning.

ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; SDM, DIO, BDOs, AEE Jal Shakti, PWD officials, and other stakeholders were present on the occasion.

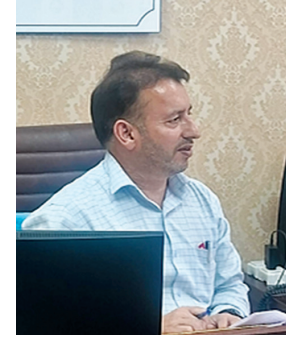
## MD Jal Jeevan Mission reviews the progress on ground water based schemes

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JULY 23

Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, today convened a review meeting of Jal Shakti (PHE) circles and divisions of Kashmir province at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

The meeting was convened to discuss the progress on ground water based schemes being executed in Kashmir province.

The meeting was attended by Superintending Engineers, Hydraulic circles of Kashmir provinces and superintending Engineers Mechanical North and



South Kashmir, Executive Engineers of civil divisions and their Mechanical counterpart in Ground Water Division besides Technical Advisor Kashmir in Mission Directorate and other officers

The Executive Engineer

Ground Water Division Srinagar presented a detailed report in this regard. He informed the meeting that most of the successfully drilled tube wells have been handed over to the concerned field division and the remaining allotted tube wells are being drilled.

The Mission Director asked the officers of Ground Water Division Srinagar to deploy more drilling rigs in the districts where there are substantial number of ground water based schemes. He also directed the Executive Engineer, Ground Water Division Srinagar to mobi-

lize rigs and manpower to the sites where allotments have been made for drilling the tube wells at new sites identified by the civil counterparts. He was informed that men and machinery have been deployed in some districts and more rigs will be deployed in coming weeks so that these tube wells are drilled and handed over to the civil divisions before onset of winter season.

Superintending Engineers Both Mechanical and Civil gave suggestions regarding efficient implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in their respective jurisdictions.

## DC Kulgam reviews functioning of Revenue Dept

J I NEWS SERVICE  
KULGAM, JULY 23

To review the functioning of the Revenue department and to ensure efficient and prompt public service delivery in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Revenue department at Mini-secretariat, here.

During the comprehensive review, progress and status of service delivery was reviewed of each patwar halqa.



The meeting held detailed discussion on various issues including, status of online services provided to citizens, digitization of revenue record, removal of encroach-

ment from state/kacharia land, change of Land Use Cases, grievances regarding migrant properties, progress of revenue court cases in different offices, progress of different services under PSGA, progress of Mussavies and Georeferencing in each Tehsil.

It also discussed pendency of SRO cases, progress on Land allotment to different departments, vacancy position of Naib Tehsildars in each Tehsil, progress on Samadhan registrations disposal, disposal of grievances on Revenue Plus portal, issuance of Land Pass books to the farmers, Land identification for CAPMA scheme and mutation camps attended.

DC urged the revenue officers to ease out the day to day difficulties of common masses by visiting for on-spot inspections.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Viqar Ahmed Giri; ACR, Reyaz Ahmad Shah; all Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, Girdawars, besides all Patwaris of revenue department.

## Sakeena Itoo, Javid Dar pay condolence visit to CM's OSD's Family

J I NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, JULY 23

Cabinet Ministers Sakeena Itoo and Javid Ahmad Dar paid a condolence visit to Kangan, Ganderbal, expressing solidarity with Chief Minister's Officer on Special Duty (OSD) Reyaz Ahmad Wani on the pass-



ing of his mother, Manzora Begum.

The Ministers, during the visit, expressed deep

grief over the loss and offered their heartfelt prayers for the departed soul.

The Ministers, while extending sympathies, also shared words of comfort with the grieving family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.