

DC Ganderbal Reviews Arrangements for Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Qamar-Ud-Din Bukhari (RA)

J1NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, JULY 24

Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today convened a meeting of district officers to review and finalize the necessary arrangements for the upcoming Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Qamar-Ud-Din Bukhari (RA), to be held at Reshipora Saloora, Ganderbal.

Representatives of Qamaria Auqaf Trust informed during the meeting that the week-long Urs Mubarak will commence from the 6th of Safar as per the Islamic calendar. The main congregation is expected to witness a significant gathering of devotees at the revered shrine of Hazrat Qamar-Ud-Din Bukhari (RA) in Reshipora Saloora.

A detailed discussion was held regarding the various arrangements required for the smooth and successful conduct of the religious event.

The meeting finalized comprehensive plans relat-



and order during the large gatherings, the Police and Traffic Departments were tasked with maintaining security and managing traffic regulations effectively. The ARTO was asked to ensure proper transport and parking arrangements for the convenience of the devotees.

The Executive Engineer KPDCL was directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the Urs days and to keep a generator set ready as backup.

DC assured the Representatives of Qamaria Auqaf Trust that the district administration is committed to ensuring that all necessary facilities are in place to facilitate a peaceful and spiritually enriching experience for the devotees participating in the Urs Mubarak.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Syed Fahim Behaki; ACD, ACP, Executive Engineer KPDCL, ARTO, Tehsildar Ganderbal, CMO and other concerned officers.

ed to uninterrupted power supply, safe drinking water, Medicare facilities, fire safety, transport and parking, sanitation, security, and traffic regulation.

The DC directed all concerned departments to ensure that all arrangements are put in place well before the commencement of the Urs to provide a smooth, safe, and comfortable experience for the devotees.

The Fire & Emergency Services Department was instructed to deploy fire tender at the venue, while the Health Department was asked to station an ambulance with adequate emergency medicines and medical staff.

The Municipal Council Ganderbal was directed to maintain cleanliness at and around the shrine premises, including the approach roads. To ensure safety

Div Com, IGP review arrangements for Shree Machail Mata Yatra 2025

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 24

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar alongside Inspector General of Police Bhim Sen Tuti, on Thursday chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for smooth and secure conduct of Shree Machail Mata Yatra 2025.

The meeting was attended by DIG Traffic, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, SSP Kishtwar, MD JPDCL, Secretary Culture, officials from Tourism, Transport, Health and other line departments.

The Divisional Commissioner and IGP took a detailed appraisal of the arrangements made for the annual yatra by the civil and police administration as an elaborate PowerPoint presentation was given by the Deputy Commissioner and SSP Kishtwar.

Reviewing the preparations, the Div Com inquired about the civic amenities put in place for the pil-



grims en-route to the holy Pilgrimage. Point wise discussion was held on accommodation capacity at places designated for night halts including Darmshaals, homestays and guesthouses. He took feedback on arrangements for power, water supply, medical facilities, illumination, mobile connectivity and sanitation arrangements en-route from Kishtwar to Gulabgarh to the holy shrine.

The Divisional Commissioner directed for installing sufficient numbers of mobile toilets along the route. He further asked the

administration to ensure the pilgrims don't digress from the designated route to the holy shrine.

Strict directions were issued for adhering to the cut off timings for crossing the specific location of the pilgrimage route. The District Administration was asked to give wide publicity to the cut off timings and the Dos and Don'ts for pilgrims.

The IGP Jammu, while reviewing the security arrangements, directed for movement of the pilgrims under proper regulation and with full security. He

suggested for mini-convoy of vehicles of the pilgrims and restricting any kind of movement after the cut-off timings.

Directions were also issued for a robust queue management system, CCTV camera coverage at the Shrine and at vulnerable spots along the route. Further stress was laid on ensuring Fire and Emergency services and wide publicity of the annual holy yatra through print, electronic media and hoardings by the Tourism Department.

DC Reasi reviews arrangements for Independence Day Celebrations 2025

J1NEWS SERVICE
REASI, JULY 24

To finalise the arrangements for the smooth and successful celebration of Independence Day 2025, a meeting of district officers from various departments was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by heads of the line departments and focused on ensuring the seamless execution of the upcoming national event. It was decided that the main function will be held at General Zorawar Singh Sports Stadium. The celebration will begin with the unfurling of the National Flag by the chief guest, followed by a ceremonial march past by contingents from the District Police, CRPF, NCC



and students from various schools.

After detailed discussions, the Deputy Commissioner issued directives regarding seating arrangements, barricading, security, traffic management, drinking water and power supply, sanitation, transport, distribution of prizes, illumination of government buildings, first aid, PAS (Public Address System), fire tenders and other logistical aspects.

She instructed all officers to ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place well in time to

facilitate smooth and spirited celebrations.

In addition to the parade, school children will present cultural programmes showcasing the rich heritage of the state and the country. Various committees have been constituted to oversee the arrangements and coordinate efforts across departments.

The Deputy Commissioner also stressed the importance of illuminating all government and heritage buildings to enhance the festive atmosphere. She directed all officers to finalise preparations promptly.

Additionally, she instructed all Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) to convene meetings and make similar arrangements for Independence Day celebrations in their respective sub-divisions.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, SSP IRP 1st Battalion Anita Sharma, ADC Rakesh Kumar, Addl. SP Iftikhar Ahmed, CPO Narinder Kumar, ACD, XENs of JPDCL and Jal Shakti, Tehsildars of Reasi and Bhomag, DIO (Info) and SDMs who joined the meeting virtually.

DLSA Budgam organizes Legal Awareness Webinar for Persons with Mental Illness and Intellectual Disabilities

J1NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JULY 24

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam, under the aegis of the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority (JKLSA), organized a Special Legal Awareness Webinar through its Legal Services Unit for Persons with Mental Illness and Intellectual Disabilities.

The programme was held under the leadership of O.P. Bhagat, Chairman DLSA Budgam. The event was coordinated and conducted under the guidance of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary, DLSA Budgam, in collaboration with District Hospital Budgam.

In his address, Lateef Ahmad Khan, Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel (LADC) Budgam, emphasized that the primary objective of the programme was to raise awareness among individuals with mental illness and intellectual disabilities and their families about their legal rights and safeguards against abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

The session focused on key provisions of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

The Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, as discussed during the webinar, is a progressive, rights-based legislation aimed at providing accessible mental

healthcare while ensuring the dignity of persons living with mental illness. A notable feature of the Act is the decriminalization of suicide, emphasizing care and rehabilitation over punishment.

Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, was described as a landmark legislation that aligns India's legal framework with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). The Act guarantees equality, non-discrimination, and dignity for persons with disabilities, including those with intellectual impairments.

The webinar witnessed enthusiastic participation

from legal professionals, para-legal volunteers, social workers, caregivers, medical staff, and members of civil society.

In her remarks, Secretary DLSA Budgam highlighted the importance of inclusive access to justice and emphasized the transformative power of legal awareness in empowering marginalized and vulnerable communities.

The event concluded with an interactive session and free legal counseling, followed by the distribution of Information, Education & Communication (IEC) materials designed to help individuals better understand and exercise their legal rights.

Sakeena Itoo conducts midnight inspection of JVC Hospital Bemina

J1NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 24

In a remarkable display of commitment to public service and healthcare accountability, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, conducted surprise midnight inspection of JVC Hospital Bemina and assessed the quality of medical services being delivered during night hours as well as availability of doctors and paramedical staff.

During the inspection, the Minister went from ward to ward well past midnight and personally reviewed the availability of doctors, nursing staff, medical supplies and emergency response systems. She took a detailed stock of the hospital's infrastructure, including emergency services, maternity care, cleanliness and the condition of patient wards.

She also interacted with the patients and their attendants, listening



intently to their concerns, feedback and suggestions.

The Minister also checked the roster register of doctors and medical staff and gave strict directions for availability of doctors and medical staff as per roster register.

Interacting with the doctors, the Minister emphasized the importance of round-the-clock accountability in

public health institutions. "Healthcare is not a 9-to-5 service, hospitals must be fully functional and responsive 24/7", she asserted.

The Minister further emphasized the need for enhanced accountability and consistent quality of care irrespective of the hour. She added that healthcare services must be patient-centric and

responsive at all times, especially during the night hours when people are most vulnerable.

During the inspection, the public while interacting with the Minister, appreciated her for this surprise inspection during midnight and dedication towards improving the public healthcare infrastructure.

Chief Secretary reviews progress on compliance reduction measures

J1NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 24

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress on compliance reduction and deregulation reforms recommended by the national Task Force headed by the Cabinet Secretary, Government of India.

Senior officers present at the meeting included Principal Secretary, Power Development Department; Commissioner Secretary, Forest; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development Department; Secretary, Law and Director, Industries & Commerce, Jammu, among others.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took stock of priority reform areas flagged by the Task Force and assessed both the completed compliances and those returned with observations. He emphasized the urgent need to upload the evidentiary proof of compliance across all priority areas without further delay.

Highlighting the broader vision behind these reforms, Dulloo noted that such efforts are criti-



cal to enhance the ease of doing business in Jammu and Kashmir. He called for mission-mode implementation of the required regulatory changes. He directed the Industries & Commerce Department to ensure that all necessary documentation is completed and report submitted to him about the same.

Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, informed the meeting that 434 reform points across various departments had been successfully implemented. Of these, 09 reform points relating to a few departments had been returned by the Task Force with observations.

He assured that as the nodal department, Industries & Commerce is actively working to address these gaps, particularly the nine high-priority areas and will ensure compliance uploads in the coming

days.

Director, Industries Jammu, Arun Kumar Manhas, elaborated on the specific areas identified for improvement. These included simplification and digitization of the Change of Land Use (CLU) process, rationalization of minimum road width requirements for different industrial setups in rural areas, amendment of building regulations to minimize land loss in industrial plots, lifting prohibitions on women working in certain hazardous sectors, review of working hour limits under factory laws, removal of business hour restrictions for commercial establishments.

These measures, he noted, will significantly enhance the industrial ecosystem and contribute to a more business-friendly environment in the Union Territory.

It is pertinent to men-

tion that the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP), launched by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), is a flagship initiative of the Government of India. It aimed at simplifying the business regulations and creating an enabling regulatory environment across the states and UTs.

Since its inception in 2015, BRAP has seen six successful editions. The current edition BRAP 2024, along with BRAP+ and RCB+ is the seventh iteration, with a target completion date of March 15, 2025.

The Chief Secretary reiterated that all departments must treat compliance reduction and regulatory simplification as top governance priorities, as these reforms will directly impact economic growth, investor confidence and the employment landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

DC Doda reviews functioning of Revenue Department; Stresses timely digitization, transparent service delivery

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JULY 24

To assess the functioning of the Revenue Department, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda Harvinder Singh today chaired a review meeting here in his office.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), ADC Bhaderwah, Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) a, Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) of Gandoh and Assar, Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars and other senior officials of the Revenue Department.

The deliberations included a detailed review of the status of digitization of land records, eviction of encroachments



on the state land, updation of Jamabandis and Girdawaris, implementation of Svamitva Scheme, revenue court case management, progress under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and implementation of online revenue services. The status of ongoing infrastructure works at various Tehsil headquarters and Niabats were also reviewed in detail.

Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars from across the

district presented their respective progress reports and outlined field-level challenges affecting timely completion of assigned tasks.

Highlighting the pivotal role of revenue officers in governance, the DC emphasized that maintaining updated and error-free revenue records is crucial for effective administration. He noted that delays or discrepancies in land records not only obstruct

development projects but also cause undue hardship to the general public.

The DC instructed all revenue officers and officials to work in mission mode for the timely resolution of pending cases and ensure seamless coordination with line departments. He also urged officers to expedite the implementation of digital platforms to improve transparency, accountability and public convenience.

GHSS Kasuri hosts awareness programme on Life and Legacy of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JULY 24

Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Kasuri today organized a special morning assembly-cum-awareness programme dedicated to the life and contributions of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, a distinguished patriot, visionary leader and statesman.

The event aimed to educate students about Dr. Mookerjee's pivotal role in national integration, educational reforms and



constitutional values. As part of the programme, students presented insightful speeches and presentations, highlighting Dr. Mookerjee's enduring legacy and his significant contributions to the nation.

Addressing the gathering, the school Principal underscored the importance of instilling patriotic values and a sense of

national service among the youth. She urged students to draw inspiration from Dr. Mookerjee's courage, vision and steadfast commitment to the nation.

The programme was organized as part of the ongoing two-year commemoration of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee's 125th birth anniversary, which began on July 6, 2025 and will conclude on July 6, 2027. The campaign reflects the nation's deep respect for his contributions to national unity and constitutional integrity.

State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission meets Satish Sharma to strategize consumer awareness initiatives

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 24

State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission Jammu & Kashmir today held a meeting with Satish Sharma, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Transport, Information Technology and Youth Services & Sports, to review functioning of the Commission and chalk out a roadmap for strengthening consumer rights awareness across the Union Territory.

The meeting was also attended by Commissioner Secretary FCS&CA, Saurabh Bhagat, officiating President of State Consumer Commission, Nighat Sultana and officiating Presidents of District Consumer Commissions of Srinagar, Baramulla, Budgam and other senior officers.

During the interaction, the Commission apprised the Minister of the ongoing



activities undertaken to safeguard the consumer interests. He highlighted the challenges related to outreach, grievance redressal and awareness, particularly in rural and far-flung areas.

Satish Sharma appreciated the efforts of the Commission and emphasized the need for a comprehensive and community-driven approach to consumer empowerment. He said that a structured programme must be launched at the district and block level with awareness camps, school and college-level outreach programmes, partnership with youth clubs

and use of digital media and mobile applications for real-time grievance redressal.

"The Government is committed to ensure that every citizen becomes aware of their rights and duties as a consumer. This calls for collaborative efforts involving youth, civil society and educational institutions," the Minister said.

"A massive IEC (Information, Education and Communication) campaign using FM radio, local TV channels and social media platforms will be launched to spread key consumer messages. Besides, the Consumer

Clubs will be revived and new ones will be established with support from the District Administration, Education and other Departments", the Minister maintained.

The Commissioner Secretary, while speaking on the occasion, laid out a detailed framework for the future action plan. He said that every district should prepare a monthly calendar of consumer awareness events in consultation with the DRDCs and consumer welfare associations.

He further said that consumer Helpline numbers and grievance redressal mechanisms must be prominently displayed at all ration depots, fair price shops and public offices.

He also directed the concerned officials to ensure real-time monitoring of consumer complaints and prepare a quarterly review report on consumer awareness and protection initiatives.

Javid Dar inaugurates HP&M Buyer-Seller meet

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 24

Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, today inaugurated first of its kind Buyer-Seller meet, organized by the Department of Horticulture Planning & Marketing (HP&M) to bridge the gap between the farmers and the market.

The Minister visited the stalls of various FPOs and entrepreneurs and interacted with the participants.

He instructed the Director HP&M for handholding the entrepreneurs, sharing the information of government interventions and schemes with them.

While addressing at the event, the Minister appreciated the department for organizing the first Buyer-Seller meet for promotion and development of horticulture sector. This will facilitate the growers to harvest prolific benefits of their produce in the national market. He emphasized on realization of government's envisioned goals of the Horti-



culture Department.

Javid Dar urged the growers to think innovatively and adopt modern production techniques for increasing their yield. He highlighted the significance of diversification of crops and also called for promotion of indigenous varieties of crops.

Regarding the demand for curbing import of spurious fertilizers and pesticides damaging crop production, the Minister assured that a separate enforcement wing shall be created to maintain strict vigil on selling of substandard quality of fertiliz-

ers and pesticides in the market.

Javid Dar stated that affirmative action shall be initiated to reform the system and more labs shall be established to check the quality of imported horticulture inputs. He said that all the stakeholders need to remain updated with the information of empanelled agencies with the department and also asked them to register with eNAM.

Meanwhile, Javid Dar highlighted the subsidies being offered by the department for CA stores, Reefer Vans, Portable

Grading Lines and Packaging materials.

Earlier, Director Horticulture Planning & Marketing, Ghulam Jeelani, shed light on the progress of the department. He shared insights regarding the HADP, JKCIIP, linking of fruit mandies, vision of the department, introduction of technology, target groups and other strides.

During the program, a presentation on implementation of JKCIIP was also given to educate the participants about the project.

Various representatives of associations, entrepreneurs and progressive farmers also spoke on the occasion. They highlighted the requirement of interventions of government, expectations, experience, feasibility for growth of the Horticulture sector and its role and contribution in GDP.

The meet was attended by representatives of Fruit Growers Associations, Traders, Entrepreneurs, Buyers both Local and from other States, officers and officials of Agriculture Production Department and HP&M department.

Chamber of Traders Federation delegation meets Controller Legal Metrology J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 24

A delegation from the Chamber of Traders Federation (CTF), led by its President Neeraj Anand called on the Controller Legal Metrology Department, J&K Rajinder Singh Tara here today.

During the meeting, the delegation highlighted various issues and challenges faced by the trading community and stressed the need for a balanced regulatory framework—one that safeguards consumer interests while ensuring ease of doing business. The CTF also emphasized the importance of bridging the communication gap between trader associations and the department through consistent



dialogue and collaborative awareness initiatives.

The Controller LMD acknowledged the concerns projected by the Federation and reaffirmed the department's commitment to a fair, transparent, and cooperative enforcement regime. He emphasized that the department aims to strike a balance between consumer protection and trader facilitation.

The Controller further assured that, with active collaboration from the Chamber, the department will organise awareness and reverification camps across all districts. He informed that the department is already working towards simplifying procedures as part of the Ease of Doing Business and Business Reform Action Plan. These initiatives aim to foster mutual

trust, promote voluntary compliance, and educate stakeholders about the provisions of the Legal Metrology laws. He also expressed hope that the Chamber will proactively encourage its members to strictly adhere to Legal Metrology norms, thereby minimizing violations and promoting responsible trade practices.

District Zoonotic Committee meeting held at Budgam

JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JULY 24

A comprehensive District level Zoonotic Committee (DLZC) meeting was convened today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, whose is also Chairman of DLZC.

The session was presented by State Veterinary Consultant (IDSP) Kashmir, who gave a detailed overview of the current zoonotic threats including Rabies, Brucellosis, Avian Influenza, Leptospirosis, and Scrub Typhus. She highlighted how these diseases not only affect public health but also have economic and agricultural implications, disrupting food systems and overburdening healthcare infrastructure.

She underlined Rabies as a priority concern due to high incidence of stray dog bites in the region, emphasizing the fatal nature of the disease and the urgent need for mass dog vaccination drives, sampling, and community education. She also drew



attention to Brucellosis in livestock handlers, Avian Influenza from migratory birds, and waterborne risks of Leptospirosis, calling for intensified surveillance and community-based interventions.

DC stressed on various key challenges like inadequate surveillance systems across human and animal health sectors, poor inter-departmental coordination among Health, Veterinary, Forest and Municipal bodies, low public awareness in rural and semi-urban zones, gaps in diagnostic infrastructure and delayed outbreak response mechanisms.

He directed all depart-

ments to adopt a 'One Health' approach, ensuring coordinated action across veterinary, human health, and environmental sectors.

He stressed on early detection through joint surveillance, timely sharing of data, integrated IEC campaigns, and prompt field response.

He also highlighted the importance of safe water supply, food hygiene, animal control, and community participation.

DC further directed for strengthening of District Level Rapid Committees (DLRCs) for combating rabies or other diseases. He directed CPO to include District Disease Investigating Officer (veterinary) in the DLRCs for prompt response in combating any zoonotic diseases.

He further reviewed the roles of various departments like Jal Shakti, especially their involvement in water-borne disease outbreaks through joint sampling, testing, and provision of potable water in affected areas.

DC directed municipal-ity and PRIs to coordinate

with Animal Husbandry in catching and controlling the stray dog population.

He also directed all stakeholders to 'Take a S.T.E.P. in the Right Direction,' focusing on Source identification, Transmission control, Entry prevention, and Public awareness to effectively combat zoonotic diseases in the district.

The meeting was attended by CMO, ACP, Chief Education Officer, Professor & Head, Dept. of Community Medicine, SKIMS Bemina, Medical Superintendent, DH Budgam, Deputy CMO (Nodal MCH), District Health Officer, Block Medical Officers, State Veterinary Consultant (IDSP), Kashmir, Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Disease Investigation Officer, Divisional Forest Officer, Principal ANMT School, District Nodal Officers for NP-NCI and NP-CCHH, Pollution Control Officer, Executive Officer MC Budgam, Data Manager IDSP, DGMO (Ayushman Sehat), and District Consultant (Tobacco Control).

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, JULY 24

In a significant step towards raising awareness on gender equality and the importance of valuing the girl child, Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti Shopian, organized an impactful awareness programme under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initia-

tive today at Govt Middle School Devpora Shopian.

The event commenced with a pledge ceremony, where students and staff vowed to uphold the dignity and rights of girls in society. This was followed by a sticker pasting activity, symbolizing support and collective responsibility toward the cause.

Speeches were delivered by the officials of

Sankalp Hub, staff, and students emphasizing the need to educate, respect, and empower the girl child.

As part of the campaign, informative pamphlets carrying motivational messages about the value and rights of the girl child were also distributed among participants.

The programme witnessed the enthusiastic

participation of the Principal, school staff members, and students, all of whom contributed to making the event a success.

This initiative reflects the ongoing commitment of Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women towards creating a just and equal society for all, especially the daughters.

CETA blueprint for shared...

beneficial for India's youth, farmers, fishermen, and the MSME sector.

He said, "Due to this agreement UK-made products such as medical devices and aerospace components will become more accessible and affordable for Indian consumers and industries."

"Alongside the trade agreement, a consensus has also been reached on the Double Contribution Convention. This will inject new momentum into the service sectors of both countries, particularly in technology and finance. It will enhance the ease of doing business, reduce operational costs, and boost confidence of doing business. Additionally, the UK economy will benefit from access to skilled Indian talent," PM Modi added.

"These agreements will boost bilateral investment and generate new employment opportunities in both countries. Moreover, these agreements between two vibrant democracies and major global economies, will also contribute to strengthening global stability and shared prosperity," he said.

VISION 2035 WILL SERVE AS ROADMAP FOR STRONG, TRUSTED, AND AMBITIOUS PARTNERSHIP

"To infuse new momentum and energy into our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership over the next decade, Vision 2035 is being launched. This will serve as a roadmap for a strong, trusted, and ambitious partnership in the areas of technology, defence, climate, education, and people-to-people connectivity," PM Modi said.

"A Defence Industrial Roadmap has been developed to deepen our collaboration in defence and security. We will also work to further strengthen our Technology Security Initiative," he said, adding, "It is our commitment that, from AI to Critical Minerals, Semiconductors to Cyber Security, we shall create the future together."

"In the field of education as well, both our countries are writing a new chapter together. Six universities from the UK are opening campuses in India. Just last week, the University of Southampton inaugurated its campus in Gurugram, India," he said.

THANKS PM STAMMER, HIS GOVT FOR CONDEMNING PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

Expressing gratitude to Prime Minister Starmer and his government for their strong condemnation of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 civilians dead, PM Modi said, "We are united in our view that there can be no place for double standards in the fight against terrorism. We also agree that forces with extremist ideologies must not be allowed to misuse democratic freedoms. Those who misuse democratic freedoms to undermine democracy itself must be held to account."

He said, "On the matter of extradition of economic offenders as well, our agencies will continue to work together in close coordination and cooperation."

TODAY'S ERA DEMANDS DEVELOPMENT, NOT EXPANSIONISM

"We have continued to share our perspectives on peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific, the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, and the situation in West Asia. We support early restoration of peace and stability. Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries is essential. Today's era demands development, not expansionism," PM Modi said.

LAST MONTH'S TRAGIC ACCIDENT UNFORTUNATE

Referring to the plane crash of England bound Air India flight near Ahmedabad last month, PM Modi said, "Last month, in the tragic accident that took place in Ahmedabad, several of those who lost their lives were our brothers and sisters from the UK. We extend our heartfelt condolences to their families."

"The people of Indian origin living in the UK serve as a living bridge in our relationship. They did not just bring curry from India, but also creativity, commitment, and character. Their contribution is not limited to the UK's thriving economy – it is equally visible in the country's culture, sports, and public service," he added.

FOR BOTH OF US CRICKET NOT JUST A GAME BUT A PASSION

"I would be remiss not to mention cricket when India and the UK are coming together, especially during a Test series. For both of us cricket is not just a game but a passion. And also, a great metaphor for our partnership. There may be a swing and a miss at times. But we always play with a straight bat. We are committed to building a high scoring solid partnership."

The agreements concluded today, along with our Vision 2035, are milestones that carry forward this very spirit." KNO

India, UK Sign...

economies respectively, India and the UK's bilateral engagement holds global economic significance. The signing of the India-UK CETA follows the successful conclusion of negotiations announced on 6th May 2025. The bilateral trade between the two countries stands at nearly USD 56 billion, with a joint goal to double this figure by 2030," they added.

As per the officials CETA secures unprecedented duty-free access for 99% of India's exports to the UK, covering nearly the entire trade basket. "This is expected to open new opportunities for labour-intensive industries such as textiles, marine products, leather, footwear, sports goods, toys, and gems and jewellery, alongside fast-growing sectors like engineering goods, auto components, and organic chemicals," they added.

"The services sector, a strong driver of India's economy, will also see wide-ranging benefits. The agreement provides greater market access in IT and IT-enabled services, financial and legal services, professional and educational services, and digital trade. Indian professionals, including those deployed by companies to work in UK across all services sectors, professionals deployed on contracts such as architects, engineers, chefs, yoga instructors, and musicians, will benefit from simplified visa procedures and liberalised entry categories, making it easier for talent to work in the UK," the officials said.

Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, conveyed profound gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his visionary leadership and resolute commitment, which have been instrumental in achieving this historic agreement.

"This CETA marks a milestone in the trade relations between two major economies, setting an ambitious and balanced framework. It unlocks tariff-free access on 99% of Indian exports to the UK, covering nearly 100% of trade value- including labour-intensive sectors advancing the 'Make in India' initiative and setting the stage for bilateral trade to double by 2030," they added,

The CETA includes ambitious commitments in goods and services, covering various sectors, while enhancing mobility for Indian professionals by simplifying access for contractual service providers, business visitors, and independent professionals. The innovative Double Contribution Convention will exempt Indian workers and their employers from UK social security contributions for three years, boosting competitiveness and earnings. "This FTA will serve as a catalyst for inclusive growth, benefiting farmers, artisans, workers, MSMEs, startups, and innovators while safeguarding India's core interests and accelerating our journey towards becoming a global economic powerhouse."

"India has also secured an agreement on the Double Contribution Convention. This will exempt Indian professionals and their employers from social security payments in the UK for up to three years, improving the cost competitiveness of Indian talent.

The agreement has been designed to make trade more inclusive. Women and youth entrepreneurs, farmers, fishermen, startups, and MSMEs will gain new access to global value chains, supported by provisions that encourage innovation, promote sustainable practices, and reduce non-tariff barriers," the officials said, adding, "The CETA is expected to boost trade volumes significantly in the coming years, creating jobs, expanding exports, and supporting a deeper, more resilient economic relationship between India and the United Kingdom." KNO

Concept of Viksit Bharat...

and Kashmir taking part and performing their important role in the Viksit Bharat journey," Sinha said.

He further said that in the past four years, the development not only in Jammu and Kashmir Higher Education but across the country will motivate all the educational institutes.

LG Sinha added that he dreams of seeing every university and all educational institutes of Jammu and Kashmir drug free.

"We must conduct anti-drug drives in all educational institutes. In every university, there should be a 'Say No To Drugs' student association and under the supervision of faculty members there should be an early warning mechanism. In all universities, we should prepare a Confidential Reporting System," the LG said.

LG Sinha further added that "Besides counseling and support system, we must also devise a mechanism wherein we can bring the content related drug-de addiction in the curriculum to spread awareness from the basics."

He urged the VC of IUST to work on this initiative with his team.

About the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect, the LG said, "As we all know that on August-12, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi will formally launch Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect and 1339 students and other faculty members of all universities will join it. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will facilitate all of the students and staff."

"Vice Chancellor of IUST informed me that from the registration on My Bharat Portal to Youth Parliamentary imitative, Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, Debate Competition etcetera, the students of the varsity are taking part positively," LG Sinha said.

He also said "I was also informed that from the past two weeks, students from science, literature, technology, management, philosophy and journalism, all the minds of different disciplines all-together have discussed the goals on nation building."

"Because of the long slavery, the British looted our major resources and properties, according to an estimate the British looted our 45 trillion dollars from India. We must take pride in the fact that we are taking India again to the same development soon," LG Sinha said.

The LG added that "In past ten years, the way India has seen rapid development, that is worth appreciating. From 2014, there is a historical milestone for India's economy. India overtakes from 11th position to 4th position in the past eleven years."

"As we are already sharing 15 percent of world GDP but once we start again sharing 25 percent and 33 percent to it, we will be in Viksit Bharat," he said.

LG Sinha further said, "I think India can achieve new heights with the IUST and other universities in terms of their potential in science and modern technology in balance with culture and spirituality." KNO

Over 39,000 forest right...

concerns about evictions and delays in recognising forest rights, the Ministry reiterated that the Act includes safeguards. Section 4(5) of the FRA states that no forest-dwelling tribal or other traditional forest dweller shall be evicted from their land until the claims process is completed.

To facilitate implementation, the Ministry has provided funding under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA) to set up dedicated FRA cells in states and districts. These are intended to expedite the verification and approval of claims, support digitisation efforts, and help in mapping forest areas through the proposed FRA Atlas. KNO

Power deficit...

raised by Dr. Shashi Tharoor, the Union Territory's installed power generation capacity as of June 30, 2025, stands at 3,624.42 megawatts (MW).

This includes 3,360 MW from hydroelectric sources and 264.42 MW from renewable energy sources other than large hydro. The region does not have any installed capacity from coal, gas, diesel, lignite, or nuclear sources.

In terms of power supply performance, Jammu & Kashmir has seen a significant decline in its power deficit over recent years. In the financial year 2019-20, the region registered an 18.8% power deficit, with 3,767 million units (MU) of energy not supplied against a requirement of 20,025 MU. This figure decreased to 12.9% in 2020-21 and further to 7.6% in 2021-22.

In FY 2022-23, the deficit dropped to 1.6%, and in FY 2023-24 it stood at 1.4%. The most recent data from FY 2024-25 shows a further reduction, with a deficit of only 0.4%, or 90 MU of energy not supplied out of a requirement of 20,374 MU.

Provisional data for the current financial year (up to June 2025) indicates a power requirement of 4,854 MU, of which 4,848 MU was supplied, showing a deficit of

6 MU, or 0.1%.

The Union Ministry stated that India's national transmission infrastructure is adequately developed to allow reliable power transfer across regions, which has helped mitigate supply deficits in regions like Jammu & Kashmir.

The inter-regional transmission capacity has increased from 75,050 MW in 2016-17 to 1,20,340 MW as of June 2025, and it is projected to reach 1,43,000 MW by 2027 and 1,68,000 MW by 2032.

This transmission network enables surplus power from other states to be directed to deficit-prone areas such as Jammu & Kashmir, effectively managing regional disparities in power availability without major transmission bottlenecks.

The Ministry further said that the development of power generation capacity in states is influenced by factors including fuel source availability, demand growth, and logistical and infrastructure readiness. KNO

3.5 lakh undertake...

on Thursday. Among them were 6,805 men, 2,130 women, 137 children, 73 sadhus, 3 sadhvis, 4 transgender persons, and 330 security personnel," they added.

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, and 3,500 on Thursday.

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

Of these, the first escorted convoy of 45 vehicles carrying 832 yatris left for the Baltal base camp, while the second convoy of 95 vehicles carrying 2,668 yatris left the Pahalgam base camp, officials said.

This year's Amarnath Yatra, scheduled to conclude on August 9. KNO

CM Omar takes serious...

at Civil Secretariat Srinagar calling for prohibiting sale of machine-made carpets in all handicrafts-registered showrooms and stronger enforcement mechanisms. They also raised the issue of some unscrupulous traders making use of fake GI label on machine-made carpets. They called for preserving this craft, Kashmir's identity and livelihood of artisans.

A delegation from Manigam, Ganderbal called on Chief Minister requesting for safe-guarding parcel of land in their area for future Institutional use. A delegation of HR agency voiced their grievance regarding their pending emoluments with J&K Housing Board. A delegation of Dental surgeons submitted their demand for creation and filing up of posts of dental surgeons.

MLA Sopore, MLA Trehgam also met the Chief Minister to discuss issues concerning their constituencies.

Another delegation of Private Schools' Association raised several issues concerning private schools before the Chief Minister such as establishment of the State School Standards Authority (SSSA), bringing ease and expediting issuance of NOCs by departments to private schools, requirement of having 10 years lease-deed for schools operating in rented accommodations, ensuring that students get minimum number of working days in an academic calendar, representation to private schools' bodies in various Government committees on education and other matters of concern.

On the issue of delay in granting of NOCs by various departments to private schools and delay in delivery of services, the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah elaborated that in the PSGA meeting held yesterday, all Administrative Secretaries were directed to conduct monthly review meetings to assess the implementation of the Jammu & Kashmir Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA) and stressed on strict enforcement of timelines for delivery of services to the general public.

It may be recalled that Chief Minister yesterday chaired a high-level review meeting on implementation of Public Services Guarantee Act in which CM emphasized that PSGA framework is meant to eliminate arbitrary and tardy decision-making and to deliver timely services to the public such as revenue records, certificates, licenses, utility connections etc. He instructed departments to strictly adhere to defined timelines and ensure that penalties are imposed on defaulting officers. KNO

100 road projects underway...

by Doda at 267.29 crore, and Rajouri at 178.02 crore. In response to a specific query by MP Jugal Kishore, the Ministry informed that roads in Jakhu, Arnia, Majua, Nandpur, Ala and Dumlad in Jammu and Kashmir are not covered under the CRIF scheme. The Ministry stated that project selection is based on proposals submitted by the UT government and available budgetary allocations.

The reply also said that projects under CRIF are finalised as per the priority list from state authorities and subject to the availability of funds. KNO

SDH Bani faces staff...

demoralized, while patients, many from low-income families, continue to suffer.

Emergency situations further expose the fragile system. With no specialists and minimal diagnostic equipment, the critical patients are often referred to distant tertiary care hospitals, causing delays that sometimes turn fatal.

Locals said that they have repeatedly appealed to authorities, but with little success. While officials say the matter has been brought to the notice of higher-ups and hope that vacant posts will be filled "soon," people on the ground say mere assurances are no longer enough.

"There is a desperate need for an Orthopaedic Surgeon, ENT specialist, and Radiologist, given the accident-prone nature of our terrain," said another resident. "A CT scan machine is also a basic necessity now, not a luxury."

Bani's residents are calling on the government and the health department to stop treating rural health like

an afterthought. They are demanding immediate action to fill vacant posts, create new ones tailored to the region's needs, and upgrade the hospital's diagnostic infrastructure.

They said that apart from SDH Bani, there is a similar situation of staff at PHC Dhaggar, PHC Koti Chandyar, NTPHC Sandroon, NTPHC Lowang and NTPHC Dullangan. KNO

CS discusses key...

external supply chains due to its geographically sensitive and climatically challenging terrain.

He emphasized that uninterrupted road connectivity is essential for ensuring the smooth movement of essential commodities, especially during the harsh winter months when weather-related disruptions frequently impact mobility.

Special attention was drawn to the NH-44 stretch between Banihal and Ramban, where the Chief Secretary stressed the need for timely completion of tunnels and viaducts to mitigate disruptions caused by adverse weather. Highlighting the strategic and economic relevance of the region, Dulloo noted that J&K's key sectors tourism, horticulture, and agriculture are closely tied to robust road infrastructure.

The Chief Secretary also called for accelerated implementation of flagship projects including the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway Corridor, Tunnel construction on the Jammu Ring Road, and Enhancing pace of work on the Srinagar Ring Road. He further impressed upon NHA to take up the development of service roads along the Domel-Udhampur and Qazigund-Srinagar stretches of NH-44 on priority.

Reiterating the critical need for improved connectivity to remote and border areas, Dulloo advocated for the expeditious execution of key tunnel projects such as Sadhna Pass Tunnel for all-weather access to Gurez Valley, Singhpora-Vailoo Tunnel, and Sudhmahadev Tunnel on NH-244 to establish a dependable alternate highway to the Kashmir Valley, especially benefiting the remote districts of Doda and Kishtwar.

The Chief Secretary also sought active support from NHA in fast-tracking the approval of DPRs (Detailed Project Reports) for a number of strategic road projects that are vital to the region's development and economic growth.

These include Development of the Fourth Tawi Bridge, Upgradation of the Satwari-Suchetgarh (Old Jammu-Sialkot) Road to NH standards, Construction of Phase-II of the Jammu Ring Road, Expansion of the Chenani-Nashri Tunnel, Upgradation of the Samba-Mansar-Udhampur Road, Development of the Kathua-Bhasoli-Bani-Bhaderwah-Doda corridor, Bhaderwah-Chamba Road, Phase-III of the Srinagar Ring Road besides others.

The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to enhance inter-agency coordination and ensure time-bound execution of all highway development works, with a shared vision of building a more connected, resilient, and economically vibrant Jammu and Kashmir. KNO

Centre highlights...

was Rs 7,222 lakh, including Rs 2,953 lakh each for water conservation and watershed development, Rs 1,031 lakh for reuse and recharge structures, and smaller amounts for other components.

The Jal Shakti Abhiyan has been in operation since 2019 as a mission-mode, time-bound programme focused on over-exploited and critical districts. In 2024, a new initiative under JSA titled Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) was launched to construct cost-effective groundwater recharge structures using locally suited designs and community participation, the ministry said.

Additionally, Atal Bhujal Yojana, a groundwater management programme implemented in select water-stressed districts of seven states, has not yet been extended to the Union Territories but follows a participatory model that could be replicated in future interventions in J&K and Ladakh.

For long-term planning, aquifer mapping across the country has been completed under the National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM). Micro-level studies under NAQUIM 2.0 have also been undertaken in water-stressed and ecologically sensitive zones.

The government has also focused on community awareness and capacity building, including public interaction programmes on groundwater management, training sessions at the Gram Panchayat level, and information dissemination through Jal Shakti Kendras, the reply states.

The Ministry further stated that groundwater management is primarily a State subject, but the Centre continues to offer technical support and financial assistance to UT administrations for recharge, monitoring, and conservation efforts. KNO

Police attach...

2013, 2016, and 2018, situated at Reban Ramham, falling in the ownership of Javaid Ahmad Dar son of Ghulam Rasool Dar resident of Reban Sopore, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency.

The attachment has been made in connection with FIR No. 133/2024 registered at Police Station Sopore under sections 13, 18, 19, 20, 23, 38, 39 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and section 7/25 of the Arms Act.

During the course of investigation, it was found that the said property was wilfully used for harbouring terrorists and facilitating their stay, thereby aiding the execution of terror activities in the Sopore area. Acting on the gathered evidence, and after obtaining necessary approval from the competent authority, the said property has been attached as per legal provisions under UAPA. Police reiterates its firm commitment to dismantling the terror ecosystem operating in the area by targeting not just the operatives but also those providing shelter, support, and resources to them. General public is once again advised to refrain from extending any kind of support tangible or intangible to terrorists or their associates, failing which strict action under the provisions of law shall follow. KNO

DDC Chairperson Rajouri chairs meeting to finalize District Capex Budget 2025-26

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JULY 24

Chairperson of the District Development Council (DDC) Rajouri, Advocate Naseem Liaqat today chaired a crucial meeting at Dak Bungalow Rajouri to discuss and finalize the District Capex Budget for the financial year 2025-26. Those present in the meeting included Vice Chairperson DDC Shabir Khan; MLA Rajouri Iftiqar Ahmed; MLA Budhal Javed Iqbal Choudhary; MLA Kalakote Thakur Randeer Singh; MLA Thanamandi Muzzafar Iqbal Khan, besides DDC Thanamandi Abdul Qayoom Mir; DDC Member Rajouri Ch. Sai Abdul Rashid; DDC Member Doongi Khalid Choudhary; DDC Member Dhangri Rameshwar Singh; DDC Member Sunderbani Rajinder Sharma; DDC



Member Nowshera Manohar Singh; DDC Member Moughla Shamim Akhter; DDC Member Budhal New Nasreen Akhter; DDC Member Seri Sangeeta Sharma and DDC Member Kalakote Anita Thakur. At the outset, Deputy CEO Sheraz Chouhan presented an overview of the proposed Capex plan. The meeting commenced with a solemn two-minute silence to pay tribute to the martyred Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa, who laid down his life in the line of duty during cross-border shelling.

In a heartfelt gesture to honor his service and sacrifice, it was unanimously decided that a museum/library will be established at the residential quarter of Martyr ADDC Dr. Raj Kumar Thapa. Additionally, a commemorative gate will be constructed at the entrance of the ADDC office complex as a mark of tribute.

The Capex plan proposals were thoroughly deliberated upon. All plans were approved except for proposals related to R&B, PHE, Education, Health, SSS and BDCs of a few blocks, which will undergo further review and consul-

tation. Chairperson Advocate Naseem Liaqat underscored the importance of inclusive planning and emphasized that the consultation of MLAs and DDC members must be ensured during the formulation of developmental plans to reflect the genuine needs of the people at the grassroots level.

The participating MLAs and DDC members echoed the same sentiment, highlighting that development must remain a top priority to ensure that the public does not face inconvenience or delay in accessing basic amenities.

The meeting concluded with a collective commitment to work in unison for the holistic development of Rajouri district and to uphold the legacy of those who served with dedication and sacrifice.

DC Reasi reviews progress of PMAY-U 1.0

JINNEWS SERVICE
REASI, JULY 24

Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) 1.0 in the district.

The DC conducted a detailed evaluation of the scheme's implementation, focusing on beneficiary-wise progress, the pace of housing construction and the disbursement of financial assistance.

Taking serious note of 34 non-starter cases - including 20 in Reasi town, 3 under Katra Municipality, and 11 from the Katra Development Authority area, Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik issued immediate directions to fast-track the recovery process.

She further took note of pendency under Katra Development Authority (KDA) area and asked for



immediate corrective measures.

The DC directed officials to prioritize stalled projects at the plinth, lintel, and roof levels, which have been delayed due to issues in fund disbursement. She instructed that pending payment cases be taken up urgently with the Housing Board to ensure timely release of installments and accelerate construction progress.

DC Nidhi Malik emphasized that recovery proceedings against defaulters must be concluded within a week, in accordance with PMAY-U 1.0 guidelines. It was informed that recovery action has already begun in Reasi town, with three beneficiaries having

refunded the sanctioned amount and three more cases currently under process.

Addressing cases involving deceased beneficiaries, the DC directed officials to identify legal heirs and instruct them either to commence construction or return the financial assistance to the government.

The Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Reasi reported that 64 houses are currently at various stages of construction. Similarly, the Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Katra, confirmed that 74 houses have been completed under PMAY-U 1.0. The DC Reasi also under-

scored the importance of frequent field visits by officers to regularly monitor on-ground progress, address bottlenecks and provide necessary support to beneficiaries to ensure timely completion of all houses.

In addition to PMAY-U 1.0, the progress of PMAY-U 2.0 was also reviewed. The DC directed both Executive Officers to intensify Information, Education & Communication (IEC) activities to enhance awareness and boost beneficiary enrollment. Reiterating the vision of the scheme, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized that the timely and effective implementation of PMAY is crucial to achieving the goal of 'Housing for All'.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Reasi, Sukhdev Singh Samyal; EO Municipal Committee Reasi, Suresh Singh; EO Municipal Committee Katra, Rajat Abrol and other concerned officials.

DC Budgam chairs DGRC meeting under AB-PMJAY SEHAT

JINNEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JULY 24

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today chaired a comprehensive District Grievance Redressal Committee (DGRC) meeting to assess the functioning of grievance redressal mechanisms under the Ayushman Bharat - PM-JAY SEHAT scheme.

Threadbare discussions centered on the redressal of beneficiary complaints related to denial of treatment, out-of-pocket expenses, technical issues, and misconduct by healthcare facilities.

CMO Budgam presented a quarterly grievance resolution report, affirming that

a majority of complaints particularly technical in nature had been addressed promptly and satisfactorily.

Speaking during the session, DC highlighted the need for robust and people-oriented grievance handling. He said, "Every grievance represents a trust deficit. Our job is to bridge that gap with fairness, speed, and compassion. No patient should be denied their entitled care under PM-JAY."

Two representative grievance cases were reviewed in detail.

In the first, a beneficiary from Khansahib was fully refunded after the administration promptly intervened following a complaint via JK Samadhan.

In another case from Yari Kalan, necessary clarifications were provided and the beneficiary was guided to avail the rightful treatment under the scheme.

DC directed officials to strengthen public awareness regarding their entitlements and to ensure that empanelled healthcare institutions display grievance redressal information visibly, including QR codes for real-time patient feedback.

He said, "We must institutionalise accountability. Grievances should not just be resolved; they should be prevented through awareness, quality service, and transparency."

Dr Bilal instructed all functionaries, including

the SHA representatives and DGNOs, to regularly monitor complaints received via CGRMS, JK Samadhan, 104 helpline, and other channels to ensure swift action and closure.

DC directed the health department to be committed and reinforce a citizen-first, health-rights protected environment under the AB-PMJAY SEHAT scheme in Budgam.

The meeting was attended by Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Budgam, Chief Education Officer (CEO), Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP), Chief Planning Officer (CPO), and all Block Medical Officers (BMOs).

Tea plantation drive launched in Billawar - a first for J&K UT

JINNEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, JULY 24

The Agriculture Department Kathua has launched the first-ever tea plantation drive in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir at Billawar. As part of this new initiative, over 20,000 tea saplings are being planted in the area.

The plantation drive was formally inaugurated by MLA Billawar, Satish Sharma, in the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Billawar Vinay Khosla, Chief Agriculture Officer Kathua Jatinder Kumar, Divisional Forest Officer Billawar Indu Sharma, Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer Ravi Sharma, District SMS Sanjay Gupta and Sanjay Sharma, officers from allied departments, Ex-PRI members and a large gathering of locals.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Satish Sharma lauded the efforts of the Agriculture Department for initiating such an innovative step in the hilly terrain of Billawar. He observed that the region's climate and soil condi-



tions—particularly across the Shivalik range—closely resemble those of Palampur, a region renowned for tea cultivation. The saplings for the drive, he informed, have been sourced from Palampur.

Sharma appreciated the UT Administration and the Government of India for extending support to developmental initiatives in remote and rural belts. He called for greater community involvement and said, "If this pilot proves suc-

cessful, more such plantation drives will be taken up across the region." He also highlighted the relevance of the green initiative "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0", encouraging every citizen to plant trees in memory and honour of motherhood.

ADC Vinay Khosla, in his address, termed the initiative as a path-breaking move towards self-reliant rural communities. He urged the youth and farm-

ing community to become active stakeholders in such projects and emphasized the government's ongoing commitment to rural transformation under the Mission Yuva campaign.

CAO Jatinder Kumar appreciated MLA Satish Sharma for supporting the tea plantation initiative. He also briefed the gathering on several farmer-centric interventions being undertaken under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

SDAO Ravi Sharma reiterated the department's round-the-clock support to the farming community and urged farmers to stay informed and avail benefits of various departmental schemes and technical services.

On the sidelines of the programme, agricultural machinery was distributed among beneficiaries under HADP. These included 2 tractors, 1 thresher, 1 power tiller, 2 brush cutters and 1 reaper-cum-binder—aimed at promoting farm mechanization and productivity.

Udhampur: 135 loan assistance cases approved under Mission YUVA scheme

JINNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JULY 24

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai today chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee for the Mission YUVA scheme to evaluate, screen and approve loan assistance applications across various sectors, including the Nano and MSME categories.

The meeting was attended by GM DIC Kishore Singh Katoch, Deputy Director Employment Mohinder Sharma, Assistant Director Employment



Priyanka Gupta along with concerned departmental officers and representatives from the banking sector.

After a comprehensive scrutiny of the applications, the Committee

approved 135 loan cases out of the total 138 applications put before the Panel.

While speaking at the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the need to expedite the implementation process

through effective coordination among all line departments. She directed the concerned officers to ensure 100 percent approval of eligible cases under the scheme.

Highlighting the significance of Mission YUVA in empowering youth through self-employment opportunities, the DC stressed the importance of robust monitoring of the activities of YUVA Doots. She further instructed the concerned departments to organize regular awareness camps across the district to ensure wider outreach and participation.

Nasha Mukh Abhiyan IEC campaigns reach BHS Choon, & BHS Magam

JINNEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JULY 24

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 across Government Boys High School (BHS) Choon and Boys High School Magam under the banner of Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan.

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

The IEC drives included 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.

DC Poonch reviews road restoration measures post rainfall, landslides

JINNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 24

In the wake of recent heavy rainfall and resulting landslides, Deputy Commissioner Poonch Kundal today convened a meeting to assess the condition of roads in the district and review ongoing restoration measures.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik; Executive



Engineers from all subdivisions, along with Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs) and Junior Engineers (JEs).

The concerned officers

apprised the Deputy Commissioner of the current condition of roads in their respective jurisdictions, particularly highlighting the areas affected by land-

slides and flash floods.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Engineers of BRO, PWD, PMGSY to closely monitor their respective areas and ensure immediate restoration of road connectivity for safe public movement and avert any inconvenience. He emphasized the need for swift and coordinated efforts to address the damage caused by recent weather conditions.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM
Sub:-Publication of Corrigendum No.1 to referenced tender notice. Ref:- (i) Tender Notice No. 433-Sig-T-17-25-26 dttd. 17.07.2025. In connection with the above please note the following modification in the published tender:-
Items Modified for work No. (i): NIT Condition

S.No. of condition as mentioned in NIT document	Condition Type
2	"Special Technical Criteria" of "Eligibility Conditions" mentioned at S.No. 4 of NIT document.

Note: All other terms and conditions except item modified above will remain same in tender document.
Tender Notice No.: 433-Sig-T-17-25-26 Dated:- 24.07.2025 2251/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Dy.CEE/GSU/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.reps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.
Tender No:- 27-Elect/GSU-T-01-2025-26 Name of Work: Electrical works in c/w with Augmentation of homing capacity at ELS/LDH from 200 to 300 locomotives. App. Cost. (in ₹): 1,29,57,941.53p Earnest Money (in ₹): 2,14,800.00/- Completion period: 06 Months Opening of tender: 14.08.2025 after 15:00 Hrs. Website Particulars: www.reps.gov.in.
Open Tender Notice No. NIT-01/2025-26 Dated:- 23.07.2025 2239/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
Sr.DEN-4/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.reps.gov.in with closing date- 18/08/2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. In place of Earnest money deposit, "Bid Security Declaration" is to be submitted or prescribed format as available in document section on the portal.

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
23.07.2025	04.08.2025	18.08.2025/ 15:00 Hrs.

S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender	Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion
1.	88-2025-26-ADEN-LDH	Conversion of BH-01, BTTN and MAUL from IBH to IBS on SNL-JUC Section and civil work for Interlocking of C-86 SNL-JUC & C-16 JRC-PTK Section) as per Type Plan No. HQ/01/02-2017/R-1 i.c.w. Interlocking of 5 No's manned L-Xing gates Over FZR division.	29,76,507.04/-	59,500.00/-	60 Days	06 Months
Similar nature of work: "NIL..."						

Note1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. Tender Notice No:-88-2025-26-ADEN-LDH Date: 24.07.2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

EDITORIAL

CETA – A new dawn for Kashmir's Handicrafts

The recently signed India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), while silent on Kashmir in explicit terms, has kindled renewed hope among artisans and exporters in the Valley. With zero-duty access on 99 percent of Indian exports, the agreement could mark a transformative moment for Kashmir's world-renowned handicraft sector.

Signed in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, CETA is being hailed as a landmark in India's economic diplomacy. But beyond macroeconomic numbers and trade flows, it holds a deeper, more personal meaning for thousands of Kashmiri artisans whose livelihoods depend on delicate, centuries-old traditions—Pashmina weaving, Sozni embroidery, walnut wood carving, Papier-mâché, and Kani shawl craftsmanship.

The significance of CETA lies in its potential to inject life into Kashmir's slowing handicraft exports, which have long been burdened by competition from machine-made replicas and limited access to global markets. The elimination of import duties in the UK—a key destination with an established appreciation for Indian handmade goods—gives Kashmir's artisans a rare competitive edge.

As Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal noted, the pact empowers grassroots sectors—artisans, MSMEs, and women-led enterprises—many of which form the backbone of Kashmir's informal economy. It is precisely this bottom-up upliftment that makes the agreement a promising tool of socio-economic revival in the region.

Local exporters, like Srinagar-based carpet trader Abdul Rashid Wani, view the development as a potential turning point. For years, Kashmiri handicrafts have suffered from stagnant demand, often priced out of global markets due to high tariffs. With CETA, not only does the pricing become more competitive, but the very idea of Kashmir's craft gaining easier access to high-value Western markets becomes real.

Perhaps equally significant is the expected impact on youth and women-led startups in Kashmir, many of which are blending tradition with innovation. The Ministry of Commerce's plans to link regional industries with global value chains can catalyze a generational shift—ushering new entrepreneurial energy into a sector historically defined by inherited skills.

However, the path ahead is not without challenges. Mere access to markets is not enough. There must be robust institutional support—training, marketing, branding, and quality assurance—to ensure that Kashmiri handicrafts not only reach UK shelves but also resonate with contemporary consumers. Infrastructure bottlenecks, inadequate credit facilities, and logistical gaps must also be addressed with urgency.

In conclusion, while CETA may not have been crafted with Kashmir in mind, its potential impact on the Valley's craft economy cannot be overlooked. It offers an unprecedented opportunity to preserve and promote Kashmir's cultural heritage in global arenas—revitalizing livelihoods, empowering women and youth, and breathing new life into an age-old legacy. For Kashmir's artisans, it could indeed be the beginning of a renaissance—if met with the right policy vision and on-ground execution.

A journey from worldly chaos to divine clarity

AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Lord Krishna has given plenty of information on this topic in the Bhagavad-Gita. Beginning with, "I am the cause of coming into being of the entire creation. From Me everything gets activated" (10.8). "One who knows Me as unborn, without beginning and the Supreme Lord, he amongst the mortals is undeluded and is freed from all sins" (10.3). "Intelligence, knowledge, freedom from bewilderment, forgiveness, truthfulness, control over senses, being able to subdue the mind, enjoyment, misery, creation and dissolution, fear and fearlessness also" (10.4). "Non-violence, equanimity, satisfaction, austerity, charity, fame, infamy – these different kinds of states of living entities originate from Me only" (10.5).

Having given a brief summary of what all originates from God, Lord Krishna talks about benefits of this information: "One who knows My this opulence and yoga in the real

sense, he gets linked to Me with steady yoga; there is no doubt about this" (10.7). "Realising this, intelligent persons endowed with the right consciousness – the ones who are balanced between intelligence and emotion – worship Me" (10.8). We know about the famous astrologer Nostradamus, who used to meditate for long hours to know the future. God obliged him, and he made some very important prophecies, some long time in future. Many scientists have admitted that what they came up with was due to inspiration from God. They had prayed sincerely and God had obliged – because what they were seeking was for common good. What is my experience? I have hankered for peace from my early years. I felt that I would be able to gain it by possessing lots of money, sense enjoyments, etc. What did I find? Peace became more distant. Highly disturbed, I sought explanation till I found it in the Bhagavad-Gita. Lord Krishna states: "There is no real intel-

ligence of the faithless, and for one who has no faith, there is no proper consciousness, and for one who has no proper consciousness, there is no peace, and from where could there be any sukha (happiness) for one who is not peaceful?" (2.66).

This was a shocker. I was just doing the opposite by reposing my faith in everything except God. This verse also explained why there was no 'sukha' either. What I considered 'sukha' was giving me no satisfaction. Sense enjoyments of the lusty types just do the opposite. This was another rude realisation; I was moving in the opposite direction. Where was 'sukha' then? The merciful Lord has answered this question when He stated: "A person, having consciousness unattached to external sense objects, enjoys that sukha within, which is extraordinary." I needed strong 'atmabala' (willpower) to control my rascal mind. Again, the source was God only.

Lord Krishna guides: "Exter-

nal attractions are very difficult to overcome. Only those, who take shelter in Me, they are able to transcend them" (7.14). Now nothing was going to stop me from pursuing this path. Having understood who the source was, I made a list of what all I desperately needed. This list had fulfilment of my proper desires like maintenance and protection of what I had my body, my near and dear ones, etc. Next on my list was continuous guidance in whatever I did. God is that source. "By being specially kind to them, I, situated within, destroy the darkness born of ignorance by the shining lamp of knowledge" (10.11). Is God not omniscient? He is. I am finding out – the largely ignorant me. Same is true about we small helpless souls with no exceptions, including devotees of God, which I claim to be. God promises: "Having My consciousness, you will cross all impediments by My kripa (grace)" (18.58). Gone were the days when I drove myself crazy by cyclic think-

ing. Now I switch to God's shelter without much delay. Now that I have become so dependent upon God (18.62), He has mercifully taken charge of me; He alerts me about possible dangers.

Fortunately, I am quite receptive now about signals coming from my Lord. Surely, reforms could not be ignored by my Lord. I am on a roller-coaster ride – with reform of some fault of mine on one day and bliss the next day, feeling great about the needed correction done. I will close this article by stating that my one more fervent desire was for God to use me as His nimitta (instrument), as Arjuna was chosen. My Lord has granted this wish. Now practically everything I take up, which is based on dharma (highest principles), succeeds. And guess who gets credit? I do. God, the source, does not need any credit from anyone.

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

How shifting US policies are hitting India's informal backbone

SUBHASH MISRA

This spring, as I walked through America's iconic cities – New York, San Francisco, Boston, and Los Angeles – it wasn't the skylines or startup buzz that stood out. It was the anxiety. Conversations that once championed innovation and opportunity were now tinged with unease – about immigration crackdowns, student protests, tariffs, and the uncertain soul of American democracy.

Millennials and Gen Z voiced growing frustration over the suppression of student dissent and the erosion of academic freedom. Older generations debated economic nationalism and whether tariffs offered real solutions or political distraction.

The ideological fatigue was undeniable. Yet while these conversations echoed through affluent American spaces, their impact landed far away – on the worn-out factory floors of Surat, the gem-cutting rooms of Jaipur, and the electronics hubs of Tamil Nadu.

In India, US policy doesn't just spark intellectual debates. It determines livelihood. India's Export Lifeline, Powered by the Invisible India's

export success depends heavily on informal labor.

In industries like textiles, electronics, and jewellery – worth tens of billions in annual exports – millions of workers remain outside the formal system. No contracts, no job security, and no safety nets. The textile industry, which ships over \$2.5 billion of goods annually to the US, relies on about 12 million informal workers. Many endure sweatshop-like conditions. Electronics and auto parts, contributing over \$12 billion to exports, are supported by 4.5 million precarious jobs.

The gems and jewellery sector alone employs nearly 4 million artisans, most paid by the piece and lacking social security. When American demand drops or tariffs rise, the results are immediate and brutal. Factories cut shifts. Orders vanish. Wages fall. For these workers, a tariff isn't a statistic – it's school fees unpaid, medicine unaffordable, and meals skipped.

The Quiet Retreat of US Soft Power

The pain is amplified by another trend: the shrinking global footprint of American aid. Cuts to USAID and devel-

opment budgets have caused a chain reaction. International NGOs, UN partners, and grassroots organisations are downsizing, freezing projects, and abandoning vulnerable communities. In India, this has quietly strangled aid-dependent micro-enterprises and grassroots health workers. Small businesses once integrated into humanitarian supply chains are seeing demand dry up. Government safety nets, already under pressure, can't absorb the fallout.

The Fraying Threads of India's Safety Net

India has made strides in building a safety net—from Ayushman Bharat's healthcare promise to rural employment through MGNREGA.

But challenges remain. Healthcare access is still dominated by out-of-pocket spending. Millions fall through cracks due to poor documentation or logistical barriers. Urban informal workers – especially gig workers on platforms like Uber, Amazon, and Zomato – have no equivalent protections. Labour law reforms are underway, but many high-export sectors continue to operate in grey zones where protections are weak or unenforced. Digital welfare

delivery through Aadhaar has improved efficiency but also exposed systemic exclusions. Migrants, seasonal workers, and undocumented populations remain at the periphery of coverage. Initiatives in partnership with the International Labour Organisation aim to fix targeting and data gaps – but progress must accelerate.

A Fiscal Tightrope

All of this brings us to a hard truth: strengthening welfare requires money. Yet India's fiscal space is tightening. Global tensions and domestic demands compete for limited resources. While calls to tax the super-rich grow louder, policy still leans toward corporate incentives to attract investment.

The middle class, meanwhile, feels squeezed – overtaxed, under-served, and watching the ground shift beneath their feet. As public services stretch thinner, the need to rebalance priorities becomes urgent.

When Wall Street Sneezes, Bharat Catches a Cold

The recent announcement of US economic restrictions under the banner of "self-reliance" sent American stock

markets tumbling. But in India, the consequences were already in motion. Cancelled orders shuttered factories. Slashed aid budgets closed health clinics. Tariff hikes raised input costs for exporters.

Each data point – whether it's GDP or export growth – masks a human story. A mother losing her job. A child pulled from school. A village losing access to clean water or essential medicine. This is the hidden toll of global economic disruption.

A Global Fork in the Road

The world is at a pivotal moment. If post-pandemic globalisation serves only the insulated elite, we risk building a future that resembles a fortress – tall walls, tight gates, and growing inequality outside. This is not just about trade or diplomacy. It's about justice. It's about the dignity of labour, and the silent majority who power our global systems but are first to suffer when those systems fracture. The next chapter of globalisation must be more equitable—or it will be more explosive.

(The writer is International Humanitarian Professional and worked with UNDP and UNICEF)

The Myth of Israel's 'Legitimate Security Concerns'

ABDULLAH ABU SHAWESH

In the modern era, war is no longer waged solely on the battlefield. Strategic conflicts are increasingly fought in the realm of perception – through language, media, and the manipulation of global consciousness. At the heart of this psychological warfare lies a phrase that has shaped international discourse for decades: "Israel's legitimate security concerns." This phrase is repeated so often in diplomatic circles, media coverage, and political statements that it has become immune to scrutiny. Yet behind these seemingly reasonable words lies a dangerous justification for decades of violence, occupation, impunity, and the current televised genocide in Gaza. The Palestinian struggle has long stood as a symbol of injustice in modern history – a story of ethnic cleansing, displacement, occupation, and systematic violations of international law.

Yet the Zionist movement, through its far-reaching influence in Western political insti-

tutions and media networks, has succeeded in reframing this reality. Terms like "Israel's right to self-defence," "anti-Zionism is antisemitism," and "legitimate security concerns" have become ideological weapons – taboo phrases repeated without thought, used to silence criticism and normalise oppression. These phrases are not harmless. They serve as the linguistic armour behind which Israel shields itself from accountability. They reframe state-sanctioned violence as necessary defence. They erase the Palestinian narrative from global consciousness and perpetuate the myth of Israel as a perpetual victim surrounded by existential threats. A close reading of speeches by Western leaders on the Middle East reveals a common thread: peace, they insist, must account for Israel's "legitimate security concerns." This phrase has become a sacred, immovable pillar of diplomacy.

In practice, however, it has become a structural obstacle to peace – on par with illegal settle-

ments, land theft, and demographic manipulation. Under the pretext of "legitimate security concerns," Israel has repeatedly violated international law and breached agreements signed with the Palestinians. It has expanded illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank, maintained a devastating blockade on Gaza since 2007, denied Palestinians access to a seaport, destroyed their only airport, and carried out repeated bombardments that have killed thousands – including children. It has imposed collective punishment on an entire civilian population – just to name a few. These are not isolated acts of overreach. They are systematic policies rooted in the logic of domination. Yet the international community continues to accept and rationalise them under the guise of Israeli "legitimacy."

The most grotesque irony is that the Palestinian people – besieged, stateless, and under military occupation – are expected to provide security to their occupiers.



The victims must prove their goodwill to the powerful. This inversion of justice lies at the heart of the current impasse. Let us consider the historical record. Since 1948, Israel has seized over 24 per cent more land than was allotted to it under the UN Partition Plan (Resolution 181), carried out dozens of massacres to ethnically cleanse Palestinian towns, invaded neighbouring territories – including Gaza and the Sinai Peninsula – in 1956, and occupied the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Syrian Golan Heights in 1967. It has ignored hundreds of UN resolutions calling for its withdrawal. All of these actions, without exception, have been rationalised under the ever-expanding label of

"legitimate security concerns." According to the 2025 Military Strength Ranking by Global Firepower (GFP), Israel ranks among the world's top 15 military powers. Meanwhile, its neighbours pose no serious threat. Egypt ranks 19th, Jordan 75th (and has a peace treaty with Israel), Iraq 43rd, Syria 64th, and Lebanon 115th. The latter three are internally unstable and lack the capacity – or the political will – to challenge Israel militarily for decades to come. Furthermore, intelligence coordination between Israel, Egypt, and Jordan is both robust and long-standing. So where is the threat? The notion that Israel faces an existential threat from its neighbours

is no longer supported by facts. Rather, it serves as a convenient narrative to justify permanent occupation and military supremacy. Israel is the only state in the Middle East that has not signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). It is widely believed to possess over 220 nuclear warheads, developed secretly since the 1950s at its Dimona nuclear facility. In contrast, every other state in the region is a signatory to the NPT and has repeatedly called for a nuclear-free Middle East. And yet, the country that cries "existential threat" is the only one in the region with an undeclared nuclear arsenal and a policy of strategic ambiguity. Contrary to popular portrayal, Palestinians have consistently demonstrated a willingness to pursue peace. The PLO leadership accepted a demilitarised Palestinian state along the 1967 borders and agreed to international oversight of border security. President Mahmoud Abbas has consistently advocated non-violent resistance, modelling his approach on Mahatma Gandhi and

India's struggle against British colonialism. Palestinian negotiators have made profound concessions in the name of peace – only to be met with more settlements, more annexation, and more violence. If "legitimate security concerns" are to be the basis for negotiation, then what about Palestinian security? What about their right to live free from military occupation, arbitrary arrests, home demolitions, and daily siege? What about their right to exist without being labelled a "demographic threat"? The obsession with Israeli security, to the exclusion of Palestinian humanity, reveals the deep double standards that pervade the international order. It reflects a colonial hierarchy where Israeli fears are sacrosanct, but Palestinian suffering is dismissed. This is not diplomacy. It is colonialism dressed in the language of human rights.

The current war on Gaza, along with broader regional shifts over the past two years, must serve as a wake-up call. It is time to interrogate the language we use. Phrases

like "Israel's legitimate security concerns" are not neutral – they are ideological constructs that have distorted public perception and crippled international diplomacy. The endless repetition of this cursed incantation has fuelled nearly two years of relentless war on Gaza. Even now, efforts continue to frame everything through the lens of October 7th, stripped of context and history. But October 7th should be a wake-up call for global policymakers – a moment to confront root causes, rather than justify further repression. Continuing down the path of crushing Palestinians, expelling them from their land, and legitimising it all under the banner of Israeli security will not bring peace. It will only fulfil the apocalyptic fantasies of messianic warmongers and Armageddon-believers, whose end goal is not peace – but the realisation of a doomsday vision, no matter the cost to humanity.

(The author is the Ambassador of the State of Palestine to India)

Twin studies report global rise in gastrointestinal cancers among middle-aged adults

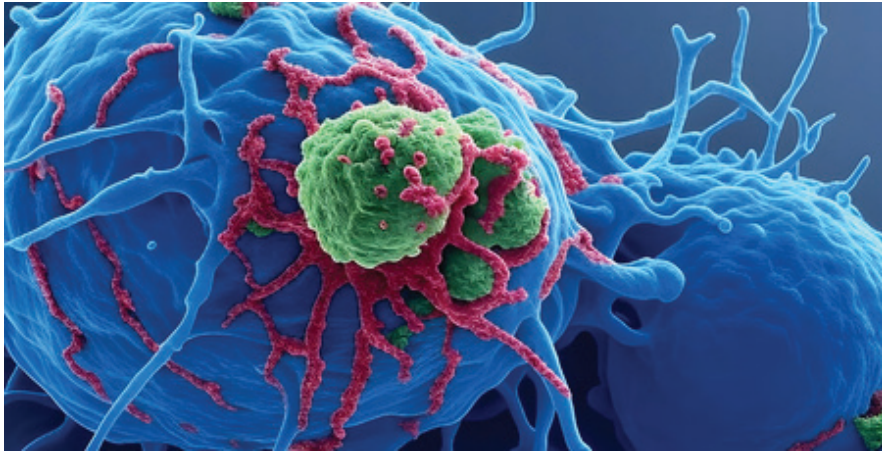
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Gastrointestinal (GI) cancers are rising at alarming rates worldwide in adults younger than 50 years, according to two studies.

The first study, published in JAMA, showed that the surging cancer cases go beyond colorectal, and include gastric, oesophageal, and pancreatic.

"Colorectal cancer is the most common early-onset GI cancer worldwide, accounting for more than half of the cases, but it is not the only GI cancer that is rising in younger adults. Unfortunately, pancreatic, gastric, and oesophageal cancers are also increasing in young people," said Dr. Kimmie Ng, from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in the US.

"The rising incidence of early-onset GI cancers is alarming and underscores the need for enhanced prevention strategies and



early detection methods," Ng added.

The second study, published in the British Journal of Surgery, showed that the number of newly diagnosed cases of early-onset GI cancers rose by 14.8 per cent between 2010 and 2019.

The study showed that the count of early-onset GI cases is highest in the oldest group -- people aged 40 to 49 -- but the rise in rates is progressively steeper in younger groups.

People born in 1990 are twice as likely to develop colon cancer and four times as likely to develop rectal cancer compared to those born in 1950, revealed the findings, also led by Ng.

The common risk factors associated with early-onset GI cancers include modifiable lifestyle factors such as obesity, poor diet, sedentary lifestyle, smoking, and alcohol consumption. The study also emphasises the importance

of genetic testing for all patients with early-onset GI cancers to assess familial risk of cancer and to guide treatment, and to increase early screening.

"Screening adherence is absolutely critical. Each missed screening is a lost opportunity to detect cancer early when it is more treatable, or to prevent cancer altogether by identifying and removing precancerous polyps," said Dr. Thejus Jayakrishnan, from Dana-Farber.

India's millet standard gains recognition at global meet in Rome

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

India's leadership in developing a group standard for whole millet grains was appreciated during the 88th Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC88), held at the FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy from July 14-18, it was announced on Saturday.

The Committee reviewed the progress of this work, which is being chaired by India with Mali, Nigeria, and Senegal as co-chairs, said Health Ministry in a statement.

The terms of reference for the same were finalized at the 11th Session of the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes (CCCPL11) held in April 2025.

CCEXEC88 critically reviewed the works chaired by India on the new standards of fresh dates as recommended by



the 23rd session of Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV23) held in February this year.

The Executive Committee appreciated the efforts of the CCFFV and India in finalizing these standards and endorsed them for further approval at the 48th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC48) scheduled for November 2025.

India will also serve as co-chair in new work proposals to develop standards for fresh turmeric and fresh broccoli.

India actively participated in discussions on the monitoring framework for the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031, where SMART Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were finalized for endorsement at CAC48.

According to the ministry, the country recommended that monitoring indicators should be outcome-based, measurable and considered. India also informed about its capacity building programme for neighbouring countries like Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste etc., which has been recognised by FAO.

It is noteworthy that India has been chairing the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) since its inception in 2014.

India also encouraged less active Codex member countries to utilize the Codex Trust Fund (CTF) for mentorship and twinning programmes.

Drawing from its successful CTF-supported training and capacity building initiatives with Bhutan and Nepal, India proposed the inclusion of such training efforts as indicators toward achieving strategic goals.

Nearly 76,000 Indian startups now led by women: Minister

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Around 76,000 startups in India today are women-led and a large number of them from tier 2 and 3 cities, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said on Saturday.

The minister said that India's path to becoming a developed nation by 2047 will be led by empowered women and youth, as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi under the paradigm of women-led development.

Addressing a conference here, Dr Singh stated that over the last 11 years, the PM Modi government has focused its governance architecture around four pillars -- the Poor, Farmers, Youth, and Women.

"Women-centric governance has not only empowered individuals, but reshaped society. What began as targeted welfare has now evolved into insti-



tutional leadership," he told the gathering.

The minister launched the Jeevika E-Learning Management System App, aimed at providing accessible learning for women, and unveiled the publication titled "Shashakt Mahila, Samridh Bihar", which celebrates women's contributions to Bihar's progress.

Dr Singh elaborated on the PM Modi government's structured and comprehensive approach to women empowerment, built across four key pillars.

The first phase, Access and Inclusion in Institutions, marked a historic shift in India's educational and military landscape. The second phase, Scientific and Technological Empowerment, has empowered women through targeted schemes such as WISE (Women in Science and Engineering), GATI (Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions), CURIE, and the Women Scientist Programme.

The third phase, Economic and Social Empowerment, has witnessed a

massive scale-up of women's access to financial resources. Over 48 crore Jan Dhan accounts have been opened for women, while more than 60 per cent of Mudra Yojana beneficiaries are women entrepreneurs.

The creation of over 3 crore 'Lakhpati Didis' through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) is transforming rural economies. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, homes registered in women's names are providing not just shelter but also financial and social dignity.

Researchers say new vaccine can protect babies from serious lung infection

AGENCIES
LONDON

New research has suggested that vaccination of pregnant women has been linked to a drop in newborns being admitted to hospital with a serious lung infection.

Researchers found the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine, introduced across the UK in late summer 2024, led to a 72 per cent reduction in babies hospitalised with the virus if mothers were vaccinated.

The findings, published in the journal The Lancet Child and Adolescent Health, are the first to show the real-world effectiveness of the vaccine in pregnant women in the UK.

Uptake of the jab among pregnant women could help to limit the number of sick babies each winter, reducing hospital pressures, experts say.



RSV is a common virus that causes coughs and colds but can lead to a severe lung infection called bronchiolitis, which can be dangerous in babies, with some requiring admission to intensive care. The virus is the main infectious cause of hospitalisation for babies in the UK and globally.

The research team, led by the Universities of Edinburgh and Leicester, recruited 537 babies across England and Scotland who had been admit-

ted to hospital with severe respiratory disease in the winter of 2024-2025, the first season of vaccine implementation. 391 of the babies tested positive for RSV.

Mothers of babies who did not have RSV were two times more likely to have received the vaccine before delivery than the mothers of RSV-positive babies -- 41 per cent compared with 19 per cent.

Receiving the vaccine more than 14 days before delivery offered a higher

protective effect, with a 72 per cent reduction in hospital admissions compared with 58 per cent for infants whose mothers were vaccinated at any time before delivery.

Experts recommend getting vaccinated as soon as possible from 28 weeks of pregnancy to provide the best protection, as this allows more time for the mother to generate and pass on protective antibodies to the baby, but the jab can be given up to birth.

Study finds that agricultural dust can put gut health at risk

AGENCIES
NEW YORK

A team of US researchers has found that inhaling agricultural dust may pose significant risks to gut health for workers in animal agriculture.

Led by Declan McCole, a professor of biomedical sciences in the, a University of California, Riverside School of Medicine, the study expands on prior findings that hog farm dust causes airway inflammation.

The study in the Journal of Applied Toxicology found that inhaling this dust also alters the gut microbiome and impairs intestinal function, including increased "leaky gut" or intestinal permeability.

Leaky gut is associated with a range of chronic diseases, including inflammatory bowel disease, celiac disease, and type 1 diabetes.

"Exposure to swine farm dust, which contains



high levels of bacteria and endotoxins, caused both airway inflammation and increased passage of gut bacterial products into the bloodstream in our mouse models," said Melisa Crawford, a former postdoctoral researcher in McCole's lab and the paper's first author. "But what's especially striking is the impact we observed on the gut microbiome and metabolism."

The researchers exposed mice intra-nasally to hog dust extract for

three weeks. The mice showed a significant drop in beneficial bacterial species, including Akkermansia muciniphila, Clostridium sp. ASF356, and Lachnospiraceae bacterium.

The research team also found decreased levels of critical compounds in the gut of the mice, such as riboflavin, nicotinic acid, inosine, and leucine -- key players in energy metabolism, immune regulation, and gut barrier maintenance.

"While most research

has focused on the respiratory effects of farm dust, our findings clearly show that inhaled pollutants can have systemic consequences," McCole said. "This research underscores the importance of considering the gut-lung axis when assessing the health risks of bio-aerosol exposure in agriculture."

The study builds on growing evidence that pollution from concentrated animal feeding operations can impact multiple organ systems.

Smartphones before 13 may raise suicidal thoughts, aggression risk in youth: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Children who own a smartphone before the age of 13 are more likely to experience poorer mental health and well-being in early adulthood, according to a global study of more than 100,000 young people released on Monday.

The study, published in the Journal of Human Development and Capabilities, found that 18- to 24-year-olds who had received their first smartphone at age 12 or younger were more likely to report suicidal thoughts, aggression, detachment from reality, poorer emotional regulation, and low self-worth.

Smartphones give early social media access and increase the risks of cyberbullying, disrupted sleep, and poor family relationships by adulthood, the team said.

"Our data indicates that early smartphone ownership -- and the social media



access it often brings -- is linked with a profound shift in mental health and well-being in early adulthood," said lead author neuroscientist Dr. Tara Thiagarajan, the founder and Chief Scientist of US-based Sapien Labs.

Thiagarajan called for urgent action to protect the mental health of future generations, as their symptoms are not the traditional depression and anxiety, and can be missed by studies using standard screening procedures.

The researchers urged policymakers to adopt a precautionary approach, similar to regulations on alcohol and tobacco, by

restricting smartphone access for under-13s. They also called for mandating digital literacy education and enforcing corporate accountability.

In recent years, several countries have banned or restricted the use of cell phones in institutions, including France, the Netherlands, Italy, and New Zealand. Several states in the US have also passed legislation requiring schools to have policies that at least limit access to smartphones for children.

For the study, the team at Sapien mapped the data on 100,000 young adults using the Mind

Health Quotient (MHQ) -- a self-assessment tool that measures social, emotional, cognitive, and physical well-being -- to generate an overall mental health score.

Young adults who received their first smartphone before age 13 had lower MHQ scores, with scores progressively declining the younger the age of first ownership.

Younger ownership was also linked with diminished self-image, self-worth, and confidence, and emotional resilience among females, and lower stability, calmness, self-worth, and empathy among males.

"Our evidence suggests that childhood smartphone ownership, an early gateway into AI-powered digital environments, is profoundly diminishing mental health and well-being in adulthood, with deep consequences for individual agency and societal flourishing," Thiagarajan said.

Tony urges CM Omar Abdullah to intervene into arbitrary cut of Rs 71.25 Lakh from DDC Fund

JNEWS SERVICE
SUCHETGARH, JULY 24

In a scathing attack on the Rural Development and Planning Department, District Development Council (DDC) Suchetgarh and senior Congress leader Taranjit Singh Tony has condemned the arbitrary slashing of Rs 71.25 lakh from the Capex budget allocated to the DDC Suchetgarh constituency. He described the move as an "assault on grassroots democracy" and called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to take immediate action to restore the funds.

Tony said that the funds, earmarked under the District Capex Budget 2024-25, were vital for completing long-pending developmental works across various panchayats. "This money was not for personal use. These were public funds meant for essential rural infrastructure – roads, water supply, drainage systems, and community development. The government's decision to withhold Rs 71.25 lakh without any accountability is shocking



Capex funds.

He also made a direct appeal to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, warning that this situation could set a dangerous precedent. "If the CM does not step in now, it will send a message that elected grassroots institutions can be overruled at any time by bureaucratic diktats. That would be a complete reversal of democratic decentralization," he warned.

Tony also criticized what he described as a "culture of impunity" within the department. "Year after year, money is allocated and then allowed to lapse due to official negligence. No one is held responsible. But when it comes to elected bodies, the system acts swiftly – not to support them, but to curtail their power," he said.

Concluding his statement, Tony called on all DDC members across Jammu and Kashmir to unite against this injustice. "This is not just about Suchetgarh. It's about the integrity of our democratic institutions. If we allow this to happen silently, the very purpose of DDCs will be defeated," he said.

and unacceptable," Tony said.

He alleged that the funds were originally allocated last year for several projects but remained unspent due to the "negligence and inefficiency" of officials in the Rural Development Department. "Despite having full authority and clear directives, the concerned department delayed implementation. Instead of penalizing the erring officers, the government has punished the people by cutting off their rightful budget," he added.

Tony emphasized that the DDC, formed under the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, is a democratically elected body and deserves to be

treated with respect and authority. "From day one, the bureaucratic setup has tried to undermine the power of DDCs. This budget cut proves that the bureaucracy still refuses to cooperate with elected representatives. They treat us as obstacles rather than partners in development," Tony said.

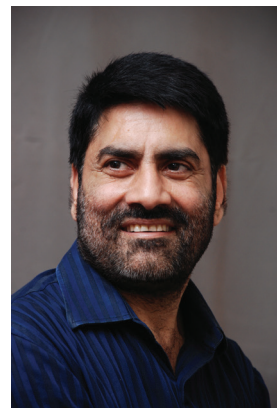
Highlighting the urgency of the matter, Tony pointed out that a crucial meeting to finalize project implementation plans is scheduled for tomorrow at 3 PM, and the sudden budget cut has left all planning in disarray. He urged Rural Development Minister Javid Ahmad Dar and Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo to intervene immediately and restore the withheld

Balwant Thakur leaves for England to explore Natrang's Int'l Network

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU JULY 24TH, 2025

Padma Shri Balwant Thakur, internationally acclaimed theatre director, former cultural diplomat and the founder of Natrang left today for England on a significant 25-day tour aimed at expanding the international footprint of Natrang's pioneering theatre work. This visit will involve engagements with premier universities and leading theatre institutions across the United Kingdom to explore collaborations, performance opportunities, and avenues for cultural and academic exchange.

The visit is part of a larger vision to strengthen Natrang's global presence and bring its vibrant theatrical productions to a wider audience. During the tour, Balwant Thakur will be visiting eminent institutions including the Royal Shakespeare Company and birth place of Shakespeare in Stratford-Upon-Avon, West End Theatre, Globe Theatre, Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts (RADA), Tara Theatre, London, London International School of Performing Arts, Nehru Centre (London), Birming-



ham Repertory Theatre, and the Birmingham Hippodrome, among others.

On 8th August, 2025 he will visit Lyceum Theatre, London where world's most popular theatre show 'The Lion King' is running as West End's longest running show. The show 's technical review is aimed at exploring possibilities of evolving Indian mythology based spectacles of much bigger scale than 'Lion King' back in India.

A major focus of this tour will also be reviving interest in staging Natrang's most celebrated Dogri play 'Bawa Jitto' in London. The play was previously shortlisted for the prestigious London International Theatre Festival but could not be staged due to the organizers' request to reduce the number of performers—an

artistic compromise Balwant Thakur chose not to make. With renewed efforts and deeper dialogues planned during this visit, hopes are high for a breakthrough that respects the original artistic integrity of the production.

Balwant Thakur is no stranger to the UK cultural scene. In 2016, he directed and presented a spectacular series titled 'Celebrating Diversity' in London. These performances, held under the aegis of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Festival, were staged at the British Parliament, Nehru Centre (London), Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, and Trafalgar Square, where nearly 50,000 spectators witnessed the grand spectacle. The production received overwhelming appreciation, and even today, there is strong demand for its revival.

Globally acknowledged for evolving a new dramaturgy rooted in Indian ethos while embracing modern sensibilities, Balwant Thakur has become a sought-after voice in international theatre circles. His recent innovations in applied the-

atre—extending theatrical methodologies into non-arts domains such as management, medicine, and technology—have created waves. These theatre-led interventions have been successfully conducted at institutions like IIMs, IITs, and AIIMS, demonstrating the transformative potential of theatre in leadership, communication, and creativity training. Balwant Thakur started visiting the U.K. in 2001 when he presented his theatre research paper at the prestigious University of Oxford at an international conference.

During his UK visit, Balwant Thakur will also engage with academicians, researchers, and theatre professionals interested in his pioneering work and methodologies. Workshops, discussions, and exploratory meetings are scheduled with the aim of building new partnerships and expanding the pedagogical impact of his theatre practices.

This landmark visit underscores Natrang's continuing mission to take the richness of Indian theatre to the world stage, while also inviting global influences that can enrich its ever-evolving creative journey

Eminent Writer Abdul Quddir Kundria presents Dogri Book 'Gottey Gae Gottey' to DC Reasi

JNEWS SERVICE
REASI, JULY 24

In a significant cultural gesture, eminent writer Abdul Quddir Kundria presented his latest Dogri poetry collection 'Gottey Gae Gottey' to the Deputy Commissioner of Reasi, Ms. Nidhi Malik (IAS), at her office. The DC appreciated the book, highlighting its powerful thematic focus on social evils and other pressing societal concerns.

On the same occasion, Abdul Quddir Kundria also presented the book to Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Reasi Sh. Sukhdav Singh Samyal, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Addl. DC) Sh. Rakesh Kumar, Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Reasi Nittin Verma, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Reasi Dr. Mohd Asraf Kohli, and Deputy CMO Reasi Dr. Mohd Yousaf Khan.

He has also presented his book to many degree colleges along with



Gae Gottey—is metaphorical, symbolizing the intertwined layers of personal, cultural, and social struggles. Each poem in the book is laced with local idioms and cultural references, making it relatable for readers of all ages, especially those from rural and semi-urban communities.

Kundria's poetic style is noted for its simplicity, emotional depth, and moral clarity. His use of rhythmic verse and vernacular expressions gives the book a unique identity in the contemporary literary scene. By combining artistic expression with social commentary, he has produced a work that educates, engages, and uplifts.

Widely appreciated by critics and readers alike, Gottey Gae Gottey has been termed a cultural milestone and a beacon of conscience in Dogri literature. It stands as a call to action, urging readers to reflect, reform, and rebuild a society grounded in compassion, truth, and justice.

schools across the districts of Jammu, Udhampur, and Reasi.

Gottey Gae Gottey is a thought-provoking literary work written in a blend of Dogri, Urdu, and Hindi. Deeply rooted in the cultural ethos of Reasi and the surrounding region, the book presents a poetic exploration of societal challenges, especially those affecting marginalized and underrepresented communities. With heartfelt verses, Kundria addresses issues such as substance abuse, erosion of moral values, commu-

nal disharmony, and the plight of the youth.

Ms. Nidhi Malik commended the poet's efforts in using literature as a tool for social reform. She stated that 'Gottey Gae Gottey' is not only a contribution to Dogri literature but also an instrument that highlights the darker facets of society and inspires positive change. She also applauded Kundria's commitment to preserving the Dogri language while promoting meaningful dialogue around critical issues.

The title itself—Gottey

166th Income Tax Day celebrated in Jammu in presence of DGIT Investigation

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 24

The Director General of Income Tax, North West Region, Smt. Vatsala Jha, IRS 1992, graced the Income Tax Office of the Investigation Wing at Jammu to celebrate the 166th Income Tax Day. With the jurisdiction of Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, Smt. PVatsala Jha gave the message of honesty, commitment, integrity and efficiency to



the officers of the Income Tax Department. The officers were directed to

uphold the principles of taxpayer service and facilitation with a focus

on expansion of tax base in Jammu and Kashmir. The Principal Director of Income Tax (Inv.), Ludhiana Dr. Ashish Abrol, IRS and The Principal Commissioner of Income Tax (Central), Ludhiana Sh. Md. Tarique Kalim, IRS were also present and encouraged the officers to administer the Income Tax Act in fair and transparent manner. Addl Director of Jammu Investigation, Sh Anand Swaroop and Deputy Director of Jammu Investigation was also present at the venue.

Indian Army inaugurates Shaheed Zorawar Football Championship at Hirri, Kupwara

JNEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, JULY 24

With an aim of keeping the youth actively involved in shaping their future by providing opportunities thereby strengthening the community, Indian Army's Kupwara Terriers in inaugurated football tournament in remembrance of Martyr Hawaldar Zorawar Singh, SM (P) at Hirri Kupwara on 23 Jul 25.

The tournament will witness a participation of 180 players from 16 different teams of district Kupwara. The Inaugural match was played between Hamas football club and JFC Ganapor at Hirri ground. The match was won by Hamas football club from Panzgam

by 4-1 and the Man of the match was Amir Ahmad of Hamas football club.

The match was witnessed by a huge gathering of locals along with the officers from Indian Army's Kupwara Terriers. The participants from local teams thanked Indian Army's Kupwara Terriers for their continued support in organizing such events and appreciated their commitment towards youth engagement and supporting the locals

Indian Army is committed to keep the youth of Kashmir engaged in constructive activities especially promoting sports to keep them away from negative influences and provide a platform to showcase their talents. The

conduct of tournament is yet one more attempt by

Indian Army to appreciate game of Soccer in valley.

OFFICE OF THE SUB REGISTRAR OF MARRIAGES (TEHSILDAR NAGROTA) NOTICE

Subject: Verification of marital status of Mr. Ajay Koul S/o Lt Trilok Nath Koul R/o Lane-12 Block-63 Flat-21 Jagti Colony Nagrota Jammu and Ms. Raheela Shabnum D/o Ghulam Mohd R/o Wanipura Malwana, Tehsil Gundna, District Doda.

A letter has been received from the Office of Registrar Special Marriage Act, 1954, Assistant Commissioner (Gen) Jammu vide No. DMJ/SMR/25-26/193-96 dated 12-07-2025 regarding the marital status of Mr. Ajay Koul S/o Trilok Nath Koul R/o Lane-12 Block-63 Flat-21 Jagti Colony Nagrota Jammu and Ms. Raheela Shabnum D/o Ghulam Mohd R/o-Wanipura Malwana, Tehsil Gundna, District Doda.

In this context, the general public is informed through the medium of this notice, if anybody has objection for registration of his/her marriage, file objection (if any) in the office of Sub-Registrar of Marriages, Tehsildar Nagrota within one month from the date of publishing of this notice.

Sd/
Sub Registrar of Marriages
Tehsildar Nagrota



Department of Wildlife Protection J&K Government
OFFICE OF THE WILDLIFE WARDEN KATHUA
Tel/Fax No. 01922-294037, Email: wildlifekathua1@gmail.com



E-TENDERING
Short term e-Tender Notice: e-NIT No.:- 04/WLW/K of 2025-26 Dated: 23-07-2025.

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. /Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:

Name of work	Adv. Cost (₹. in lacs)	Earnest Money (3% of the total estimated cost)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee (In Rs)	Time of completion	Receiving /Opening Authority
Repair of Path at Range Office Thein , Co:-11/KTH , Wildlife Division Kathua for the Year 2025-26	0.96964 lacs	Rs. 2909/- @ 3% of the tendered amount in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Wildlife Warden Kathua	All Classes	600.00 (Non-Refundable) Deposited in Govt. treasury through challan under the receipt head 0406 in favour of the Wildlife Warden Kathua payable at Kathua mentioning name of work	30 days	Tender Opening Committee

The e-NIT, consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details, can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website: - <http://jktenders.gov.in>
Position of AA/TS: **Accorded.**
Position of Funds: **100 % Available.**

Publishing Date	23-07-2025
Download Start Date	23-07-2025
Bid Submission Start Date	23-07-2025
Bid submission End Date (online)	28-07-2025 up to 5:30 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid	29-07-2025 at 11:30 AM (In the Office of Regional Wildlife Warden Jammu, Manda Hills Jammu)
Date of opening of Financial Bid (online)	29-07-2025 at 11:00 AM (In the Office of Regional Wildlife Warden Jammu, Manda Hills Jammu)

Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website: - <https://jktenders.gov.in>. Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.

Sd/-
Zuhaib Chowdhary, SFS
Wildlife Warden
Kathua
Date: 23-07-2025.

NO.: WLW/K/Tender/2025-26/138-142
DIP/J-3858/25
Date: 24-7-25

AIKS writes to Delhi HM to thwart release of Santosh Kumar Singh rapist and murderer of Priyadarshini Mattoo

JINNEWS SERVICE
DELHI, JULY 24

AIKS (All India Kashmiri Samaj Regd) has written to Ashish Sood, Home minister Govt of Delhi not to release convict Santosh Kumar Singh from Tihar Jail as his petition lies with Sentence Review Board, of which the state Home minister is the Chairperson.

In a strongly worded letter on behalf the community, AIKS has requested Ashish Sood to reject the plea as his release would create a wrong precedence of convicts jailed



for heinous crime like Rape and murder. "We raise strong objections to the review that was rejected earlier also. The release of Santosh

Kumar Singh would send a chilling signal across India" said Ravinder Pandita, President AIKS. It was in 2006 that Delhi High Court judgment following days of national uproar, awarded the sentence. The Delhi sentencing Remission policy 2004 requires a minimum of 14 years of actual imprisonment for life convicts whose death sentences are commuted.

Earlier many other socio political organizations also submitted a similar memorandum to the minister.

Langars enroute to Shri Amarnathji Shrine reflect faith, cultural heritage: Col Mahan

JINNEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, JUL. 24

Col Mahan Singh (Retd), Chairman of the District Development Council (DDC) Kathua, today visited the Shri Amarnathji Yatra Langars at Khrote Morh and Hiranagar Morh, underscoring the deep-rooted spiritual significance and cultural unity symbolized by these community kitchens set up to serve pilgrims on their sacred journey.

Accompanied by Dr. Narinder Jasrotia, Ashok Jasrotia, Ashok Sharma, and other prominent local figures, Col Mahan interacted with devotees who had arrived from across India to pay obeisance to Lord Shiva, fondly known as Baba Barfani. During the interaction, yatrish shared heartfelt accounts of their yatra experiences, including both the



challenges faced and the overwhelming hospitality received along the route. Expressing satisfaction with the smooth arrangements and robust security measures in place, the pilgrims praised the administration for ensuring a safe and spiritually enriching environment throughout the pilgrimage corridor. The langars, they said, provided not just nourish-

ment but also a deep sense of communal harmony and devotion.

Col Mahan Singh highlighted that these Langars serve as more than just food distribution points.

"They are a living reflection of our unwavering faith, hospitality, and centuries-old cultural heritage," he remarked. He commended the selfless service of volunteers and

organizers who tirelessly work to provide free meals and comfort to thousands of pilgrims, many of whom travel under physically demanding conditions.

At Khrote Morh, Col Singh was warmly welcomed by Sardar Rajinder Singh and other committee members managing the langar. He appreciated their efforts and reiterated the role such community-driven initiatives play in strengthening social bonds and showcasing the spirit of unity in diversity that defines India.

Col Mahan also encouraged continued cooperation between local authorities and religious committees to ensure that the spiritual journey remains smooth, safe, and memorable for all devotees. He concluded by extending his best wishes for the successful and safe completion of the ongoing yatra.

Serving people is essence of our political mission: MLA Yudhvir

Holds public grievances camp

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL. 24

"Serving people is the essence of our political mission," said Yudhvir Sethi, BJP leader and MLA from the East Constituency, while addressing a public grievances camp held at Pt. Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan, where a large number of people, including several deputations and individual citizens—most of them women—participated to voice their concerns.

People raised a wide range of issues related to ration cards, pensions, school admissions, PHE and PDD services, water and power supply, revenue matters, poor road conditions, and other development-related grievances. Many also shared their personal difficulties, seeking help from the local represen-



tative. Yudhvir Sethi gave a patient hearing to all visitors and assured them that their concerns would be addressed on priority. Demonstrating his commitment to public welfare, Sethi instantly resolved many of the grievances by directly contacting the concerned officials and departments on the phone during the camp itself.

Speaking to the media during the camp, Yudhvir Sethi said, "My doors are always open to the people. It is my responsibility to

ensure that their voices are heard and their problems are resolved. Public grievance redressal is not just a duty—it is a commitment towards making governance more responsive and people-centric."

He further emphasized the importance of direct communication between elected representatives and the common citizens. "Public outreach and grievance camps like these help bridge the gap between the administration and the public. Immediate resolution of problems builds trust and

confidence in democratic institutions," he added.

Sethi also assured that issues requiring departmental follow-up would be pursued rigorously. He directed his office to maintain a record of pending grievances and ensure regular follow-ups with the concerned authorities until each matter is resolved.

Residents expressed gratitude for the accessibility and proactive approach of their MLA. Several women, who had attended the camp with issues related to pension delays and water shortages, appreciated the timely interventions made during the session.

The camp concluded with Sethi reaffirming his pledge to hold such public interaction drives regularly. "Our mission is not just about politics—it is about public service, and every effort will be made to address the people's issues with sincerity and urgency," he stated.

Citizens' Cooperative Bank Jammu conducts Plantation Drive

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 24

To coincide with the International Year of Cooperation 2025 and ongoing Vanmahotsava, the management and staff of the Citizens Cooperative Bank Jammu in collaboration with Urban Forestry Division Jammu and Municipal Corporation Jammu organized a major plantation drive in and around Bala-daan Stambh Jammu aimed at enhancing the local environment and promoting sustainability. Many Police dignitaries including Dr. Koshal Sharma (IPS) SSP PCR Jammu and Joginder Singh SSP Jammu also took active part in the drive and applauded the efforts of the Bank to ensure "Clean Jammu Green Jammu"

On the occasion, Parveen Sharma Chairman of the Bank apprised that this initiative is a part of the institute's commitment to environmental stewardship and this event is being organized to raise awareness about the afforestation and ecological balance. He further said that the bank had decided to



commemorate the International year of Cooperation with this Plantation Drive in the City of temples to discharge its responsibility towards society and mother earth. He further informed that around 200 saplings of different plants which are native to the area are being planted by the members of the Board and the staff of the bank in the presence of distinguished guests from Jammu & Kashmir Police.

"We are thrilled to be taking part in such kind of initiative and every institute in Jammu must come forward to organize similar kinds of drives to ensure safe environment for our future generations to come", said Koshal Sharma

SSP PCR Jammu.

Joginder Singh SSP Jammu in his message said that the act of planting trees has far reaching benefits, ranging from providing oxygen to creating habitat for wild life. He further deliberated that it is sustainable and impactful way to address environmental challenges and promote a healthier planet for current and future generations.

DFO Urban Forestry Division Jammu Ashwani Kumar on the occasion imparted awareness about the plantation stating the importance of flora and fauna for maintaining a healthy environment and supporting life on earth. He further informed that a noble initiative has been

launched by the Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation wherein QR codes are being issued for adopting a plant by its owner under Clean Jammu Green Jammu drive due to which the planter of the plant can take care and nurture the plant life long.

Earlier Ravi Kant Managing Director of the Bank welcomed the distinguished guests along with all other members of public and environmentalists for the noble cause and thanked all for their cooperation during the event, especially Urban Forestry Division Jammu and Municipal Corporation Jammu.

All the Directors of the Bank also very enthusiastically participated in the plantation process and planted one tree each on the occasion. Those who were present during the event were Sumant Singh Jamwal, Varinder Singh Jamwal, Suresh Kumar Gupta, Sachin Gupta, Suneel Mahajan, Sonal Vaid, Charanjit Singh Raina & Ashwani Puri, S Surinder Singh and CA Joginder Singh.

Van Mahotsav Blossoms in Jammu: A Celebration of Green Heritage and Ecological Awakening

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU: 24 JUL 25

In a heartening tribute to nature and national heritage, the Chinar Eco Warriors, in close collaboration with the State Forest Department Jammu & Kashmir, organized an impactful Van Mahotsav celebration across key locations in Jammu. The initiative underscores a renewed commitment to environmental sustainability, biodiversity and the cultural heritage of India's green legacy. Mass plantation drives in Dhulote, Koulpur and Patyari captured the interest of community and engaged the younger generation.

The plantation drive brought together soldiers, forest officials, local administration, students and citizens in a remarkable display of civil-military synergy, sowing seeds of environmental stewardship and shared responsibility for a sustainable future. This year's drive went beyond traditional plantation efforts by introducing an educational component to rejuvenate public knowl-



edge about significant tree species, both ecologically and historically. Notable highlights included:

Vertical Farming Demonstrations: In a bid to integrate modern eco-techniques, small-scale vertical farming modules were showcased to promote green solutions for urban and space-constrained areas.

Freedom Struggle Trees: Native trees linked to India's independence movement-like the Dahiman, Juniper, Banyan, Peepal etc under which freedom fighters gathered were planted to remind younger generations of their symbolic and historical significance.

Medicinal Heritage Trees: A wide variety of trees known for their healing and therapeutic properties such as Amla, Arjun, Neem etc were introduced into public spaces and educational institutions, reinforcing the wisdom of India's ancient medicinal traditions.

Knowledge Awakening Zones: The campaign included interactive awareness sessions and curated Tree Talk by chief resource person Sh. OP Sharma Vidhyarthi, IFS (Retd), former Principal Conservator of Forests, J&K, an ardent environmentalist, presently member of JK Biodiversity and Wild Life Board and

recipient of 'Sahitya Academy Award' for the Dogri Book 'Trip Trip Chete' educated the participants on the environmental, cultural, and strategic significance of tree species, transforming plantation into a celebration of living heritage.

Senior officials from the Forest Department echoed the sentiment, lauding the commitment of the Chinar Eco Warriors in advancing the goals of ecological security, public awareness, and climate resilience in the Himalayan region. At the heart of this initiative was the relentless effort and leadership of Subedar Mohinder Singh whose dedication, grassroots coordination and passion for environmental stewardship were instrumental in the success of this multi-location campaign.

As monsoon showers grace the land, the Chinar Eco Warriors and the State Forest Department J&K pledge to continue this green crusade, ensuring that Jammu's hills and plains bloom with renewed life and purpose.

Modi govt has launched schemes for all sections of society: Balbir Ram

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 24

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the central government has launched numerous welfare schemes over the past 11 years for the benefit of all sections of society. The objective of these schemes is to accelerate the economic, social, and educational development of the country, so that every citizen can benefit under the guiding principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, and Sabka Prayas" (Together with all, Development for all, Trust of all, and Efforts by all).

Balbir Ram Rattan, senior BJP leader and former Vice Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Backward Classes Development Corporation, was sharing information about various



schemes launched by the Modi government for the benefit of all sections of society with a group from the Scheduled Caste community.

Balbir informed that for the poor and underprivileged sections under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, lakhs of poor families have been provided with permanent housing. The Ujjwala Yojana has freed rural women from smoke by providing free gas connections. Under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, crores of people

are being provided free health insurance, allowing even poor families to receive treatment for serious illnesses at major hospitals.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, small and marginal farmers are receiving annual financial assistance of Rs 6,000, directly deposited into their bank accounts. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana has also provided farmers with financial relief and improved productivity.

Initiatives such as Startup India and the MUDRA Yojana have provided self-employment opportunities to lakhs of youth. Through the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, youth across the country are being given vocational training, empowering them for employment.

Balbir further shared that schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana, and Sukanya Samridhi Yojana have provided financial security to senior citizens, women, and girl children.

Balbir said that the goal of the Modi government is to ensure that the benefits of government schemes reach every citizen so that India can become a developed and self-reliant nation. These schemes are a strong step toward a "Developed India," he added.

Both Houses adjourned for fourth day amid Opposition uproar over Bihar SIR

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

For the fourth consecutive day today, both Houses of Parliament were adjourned for the day after Opposition members created ruckus, demanding the withdrawal of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process in Bihar and discussion on Operation Sindoor.

As soon as the Lok Sabha reconvened at 2 pm, and the presiding officer, Krishna Prasad Tenneti, called for the proceedings of the House, Opposition members entered into the well of the House hold-



ing placards in support of their demands and started raising slogans.

Tenneti urged the members to return to their seats and participate in the discussion on the bill related to the Scheduled Tribes of Goa, which was due today.

He said that the bill was also listed for discussion yesterday, but due to the commotion caused by Opposition members, the discussion could not take place.

Meanwhile, Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal

said that an important bill related to the Scheduled Tribes is listed for discussion and passage, but the Opposition was not concerned about the interests of the Scheduled Tribes.

He said that this is a significant bill as for the first time, a legislation has been introduced to provide representation to the Scheduled Tribes of Goa.

The presiding officer said that yesterday as well, the Goa State Scheduled Tribe Representation Re-adjustment Bill, 2014 was brought for discussion and passage, but the House was not allowed to function. He added,

Siddaramaiah slams Goa CM over Mahadayi remarks

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, JULY 24

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah today lashed out at the Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant over his remarks on the Mahadayi river water dispute, calling them "an insult to the people of Karnataka," and accused the BJP-led Union government of betraying the state through silence and covert obstruction.

In a statement, Siddaramaiah questioned the Centre's failure to officially respond to Karnataka's repeated representations on the issue. "Is this what



federalism looks like under BJP rule - betrayal, sabotage from behind closed doors, and a calculated silence?" he asked. The controversy intensified after the Goa Chief Minister reiterated his

government's firm opposition to any diversion of the Mahadayi river, asserting that the water must continue to flow into the state to meet essential drinking water needs and sustain the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary ecosystem.

"Our issue is simple - the Mahadayi river water that comes to Goa must keep flowing. We need it for drinking, and it is also the lifeline of the Mahadayi Wildlife Sanctuary. The survival of wildlife there depends on this water," the Goa CM said.

He further added that Goa would continue to pursue the matter in all

legal forums. "Whether it is the Supreme Court or the Tribunal, our fight will go on. We will fight this case in the Supreme Court till the very end," he asserted.

Reacting sharply to these remarks, Siddaramaiah reiterated that the Mahadayi project is not meant for luxury or wasteful use, but is a "lifeline" for over 40 lakh people in the parched districts of Belagavi, Dharwad, Gadag, Bagalkot, and surrounding areas. "What crime have Kannadigas committed? Are we being punished for not surrendering to the BJP?" he asked.

13 Naxals capitulate in Chhattisgarh

AGENCIES
JAGDALPUR (CHHATTISGARH), JULY 24

Thirteen Maoists have surrendered in Chhattisgarh's insurgency-affected Bastar division's Narayanpur and Sukma districts.

Eight rebels - including a technical team commander - who were active in Narayanpur's Abujmahad, capitulated during an anti-Naxal operation. The others were active in Sukma's Jagargunda and Chintalnara areas.

In order to implement Union Home Affairs Minister Amit Shah's declaration of a Naxal-free Bastar at the ground level, the security forces are conducting a monsoon operation. The



entry of personnel into dense forests has instilled fear into the minds of militants who were hitherto considering rivers and nullahs as a protective cover.

"A forceful campaign is underway against the banned Maoist organisa-

tion in entire Bastar division. In the first six months of this year, 204 insurgents have been neutralised in encounters, whereas 140 surrendered. Bastar Police is committed to maintain the momentum of the drive. This success even

during inclement weather showcases the firm resolve of the security forces. Lasting peace, progress, and prosperity shall be ensured in Bastar," Inspector General (Bastar Range) Sundarraaj Pattilingam said today.

MHA relocates from North Block to new office complex

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

The relocation of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to a new, state-of-the-art office complex in Central Vista is underway with most of the offices shifted already.

Currently operating from the historic North Block on Raisina Hills, the Home Ministry has already begun the transition to the newly constructed Common Central Secretariat (CSS).

A majority of senior officials have already shifted to the new facility. The CSS complex, a key component of the ambitious Central Vista redevelop-



ment project, aims to centralise and modernise government infrastructure in the national capital.

The new premises are equipped with advanced facilities, enhanced securi-

ty, and sustainable design features, ensuring a more efficient working environment for government functionaries.

The complete relocation of the Ministry is

expected to be completed soon. Once fully operational, the new complex will streamline inter-ministerial coordination by housing multiple ministries under one roof.

Five bus passengers killed, 25 injured in a road accident in Himachal's Mandi

AGENCIES
MANDI (HP), JULY 24

Five bus passengers were killed and 25 others injured when a road transport bus rolled down into a deep ditch near Maseran Talgara on Sarkaghat-Jamni-Durgapur road of Mandi district early this morning, said an official.

There were 35 passengers in the bus when it met with an accident, said an official spokesperson.

Three women are also among the dead. All the injured were taken out of the ditch with the help of local police and villagers and taken to a Sarkaghat hospital. The condition



of three injured is said to be critical, and they have been referred to Bilaspur AIIMS.

Sources said the bus was coming from Jamni towards Sarkaghat. The

vehicle suddenly went out of control and fell into the ditch near Maseran Talgara on Sarkaghat-Jamni-Durgapur road. Relief and rescue work is going on. The cause of the acci-

dent has not been ascertained yet, the spokesperson said.

Senior roadways' officials have rushed to the spot along with other district level officers.

General coach of Shalimar-Sambalpur Exp derails

AGENCIES
BHUBANESWAR, JULY 24

A minor derailment occurred today when the rear trolley of a general coach, located next to the guard van of the Shalimar-Sambalpur Express, derailed near Sambalpur City Station, East Coast Railway (ECoR) sources said. The incident took place in the Sambalpur City-Sambalpur section shortly after the train departed from Sambalpur City at 09:18 hrs, moving at a very slow speed.

ECoR officials confirmed that there was no loss of life or damage to property. Except for the affected coach, the rest of the train resumed its journey to Sambalpur with all



passengers safe.

Senior railway officials, including the Divisional

Railway Manager (DRM), reached the site to supervise early restoration work

and initiate an inquiry into the cause of the derailment.

TPCC chief accuses BJP of opposing BC reservations in local body polls

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD, JULY 24

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud alleged on Thursday that the BJP is against providing a 42 per cent reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) in local body elections.

Speaking to the media in New Delhi after a key meeting at Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge's residence, Goud stated that the Telangana government has fulfilled its obligations by conducting a scientific caste survey and passing the relevant bills. He claimed, how-



ever, that the BJP-led central government has been deliberately stalling the implementation of these bills by refusing to act on them.

"The BJP supported the reservation bill in the Telangana Assembly but took a complete U-turn at the Centre," Goud said. "They are clearly against BC reservations."

The meeting, which lasted over two hours, was attended by senior Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge. Goud, along with Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and the Deputy Chief Ministers, briefed the national leadership on the scientific methods used in the state's caste census and the status of the pending reservation bills.

"We have urged the central leadership to raise this issue strongly in Parliament, demand the removal of the Supreme Court-imposed cap on reservations, and push for the state legislation's inclusion in the Ninth Schedule

of the Constitution," he explained.

Goud added that Congress leaders would also engage with other INDIA bloc allies to build broader support for the issue.

Later in the evening, the Telangana Chief Minister and his deputies were scheduled to deliver a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the caste census to Congress MPs at Indira Bhavan.

"Telangana has become a role model in implementing BC welfare policies. If the Centre refuses to act, we are prepared to launch a nationwide agitation under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi," the TPCC chief asserted.

West Bengal may seek legal route against ECI directive on CEO office autonomy

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, JULY 24

In a significant development that has triggered a potential standoff between the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the West Bengal government, the state is reportedly considering legal options to challenge a recent ECI directive that mandates full financial and administrative autonomy for the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO).

A senior bureaucrat confirmed on Wednesday that the Trinamool Congress-led government views the ECI's directive as politically motivated and is evaluating its constitu-



tional validity.

"Though the ECI is an independent constitutional authority, it cannot override the established administrative structure of the state. Such unilateral directions amount to interference in state administration," the official said.

Legal counsel is being sought to decide the next

steps.

The directive, issued by the ECI in a letter dated July 17 to West Bengal Chief Secretary Manoj Pant, calls for the creation of a fully autonomous Election Department, delinked from the Home & Hill Affairs Department under which the CEO's office currently functions.

The Commission noted that the CEO's office suffers from limited financial powers, relying only on a minor permanent advance from the finance department, and lacks meaningful operational autonomy despite CEO Manoj Kumar Agarwal holding the rank of Additional Chief Secretary.

"This arrangement, wherein the CEO is designated ex-officio Additional Chief Secretary, Home and Hill Affairs (Election), has not translated into real independence," the ECI observed. The Commission stressed that such structural dependency compromises the neutrality of the electoral process.

4th Test: Pant's injury a 'body blow' for India, will affect the dressing room, says Shastri

AGENCIES
MANCHESTER, JULY 24

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri termed Rishabh Pant foot fracture in the ongoing Test against England at Manchester as a 'body blow', adding that this will affect the visitors' dressing room due to them losing one batter in the line-up.

In the 68th over of India's innings on day one, Pant attempted a premeditated reverse sweep off seam bowler Chris Woakes, but the ball hit his right boot after taking an inside edge. With the swelling on top of the foot taking the shape of a table tennis ball and some



blood coming out as well, Pant was unable to put any weight on his injured foot. Eventually, an ambulance buggy resembling a golf cart took a grimacing

Pant off the field, as he retired hurt on 37 off 48 balls, after having a partnership worth 72 runs with B. Sai Sudharsan. Scans later revealed that Pant has sustained a fracture on his metatarsals, with the recovery period being of minimum six weeks.

"It's a body blow. It will affect the dressing room, because they will have lost a batter for the game - not just this innings, but for the next innings as well. If India get in to a tight position, his services will have been needed. He's an in form player, plus the energy he brings in the way he plays, the way he disrupts the opposition attack."

India men, women teams to tour England in 2026, confirms ECB

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 24

Indian men's and women's teams will be touring England again next year for the white-ball games, along with the first-ever one-off women's Test at Lord's, as the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced the home fixtures for the 2026 summer on Thursday.

The India men's tour to England next year, starting from July 1, will feature five T20Is and three ODIs in 2026, while the women will play three T20Is from May 28.

The men's team will



kickstart their summer with three Tests against New Zealand from June 4-25, followed by five T20Is and three ODIs against India (July 1-19). They will then host Paki-

stan for three Tests from August 19 to September 9, before hosting Sri Lanka for three T20Is and three ODIs from September 15-27.

"I'm sure fans will be

excited to watch Ben Stokes' and Harry Brook's England teams, the Men's red-ball and white-ball teams, both offering so much in the way of entertainment. It's terrific to see so many different nations coming over to compete, and we can expect another summer of big crowds and fantastic cricket," ECB Chief Executive Officer Richard Gould said.

The 2026 summer will also see England Women host the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 from June 12 to July 15, bringing the global spotlight to women's cricket.

Markram, Bavuma return for South Africa white-ball series against Australia

AGENCIES
JOHANNESBURG, JULY 24

South Africa's regular white-ball captains, Aiden Markram and Temba Bavuma, are set to resume leadership duties for next month's tour of Australia, with Markram heading the T20I side and Bavuma leading the ODI squad.

Markram was rested for the recent Test and T20I series in Zimbabwe, while Bavuma was ruled out of the Zimbabwe Tests due to a hamstring injury picked up during the World Test Championship final in June. Both captains will have near full-strength squads at their disposal.

Off-spinner Preenelan Subrayan, who recent-



ly made his Test debut against Zimbabwe, has earned his maiden T20I call-up. He is one of four frontline spinners in the squad alongside George Linde, Senuran Muthusamy and Ngqaba Peter.

Dewald Brevis and

Lhuan-dre Pretorius have been named in the ODI squad, with Pretorius receiving his first call-up to the 50-over setup. While Brevis, who was part of the ODI squad for the home series against Australia in 2023, is yet to debut. Both

players will be aiming to build on their experience in T20Is and Tests as they continue their progression at the international level.

Brevis, Pretorius and Subrayan feature in both squads, along with batters Aiden Markram, Ryan Rickelton and Tristan Stubbs, as well as seamers Corbin Bosch, Nandre Burger, Lungi Ngidi and Kagiso Rabada.

"It's great to have our senior players back in the mix after their rest following the WTC Final. Their experience and quality add real value to the group as we continue to build a strong core in both formats," said head coach Shukri Conrad in a statement.

Pant ruled out of fourth Test with fractured toe, Ishan likely to be added for fifth game: Reports

AGENCIES
MANCHESTER, JULY 24

In a major blow to India's hopes of bouncing back in the series, wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant has been ruled out of the ongoing fourth Test against England after sustaining a toe fracture on the opening day.

Pant, who retired hurt on 37 after being hit on the right toe by Chris Woakes in the final session, has been advised six weeks' rest to recover from the blow, according to reports.

Wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan is in line to be added as a cover for Pant for the final Test of the series at The Oval in London.



In the 68th over of India's innings, Pant attempted a premeditated reverse sweep off seamer Woakes but missed completely, with the ball striking his right boot after

taking an inside edge.

With the swelling on top of the foot taking the shape of a table tennis ball and some blood coming out as well, Pant was unable to put any

weight on his injured foot. Eventually, an ambulance buggy resembling a golf cart took a grimacing Pant off the field, as he retired hurt on 37 off 48 balls, after having a partnership worth 72 runs with B. Sai Sudharsan.

After the end of the play, Sudharshan revealed that it was a hefty blow, and Pant was in a lot of pain.

"He was in a lot of pain, definitely, but they have gone for scans; we will get to know overnight, probably get the information tomorrow," Sudharshan said in the post-match press conference. "Obviously, because he was batting really well today as well. So, it will definitely have consequences."

China Open: Satwik-Chirag storm into quarters, says could have been calmer, more aggressive in second game

AGENCIES
CHANGZHOU, JULY 24

India's top men's doubles pair, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, continued their winning momentum at the China Open, a BWF Super 1000 tournament, to book a place in the quarterfinals on Thursday.

The World No. 12 duo delivered another composed performance, edging past Indonesia's Leo Rolly Carnando and Bagas Maulana 21-19, 21-19 in straight games, underlining their strong title aspirations.



The win in the men's doubles kept India's campaign alive in the BWF World Series Super 1000 event after HS Prannoy exited with a defeat to World No. 6 Chou Tien

Chen of Chinese Taipei after a hard-fought encounter in men's singles.

In the post-match interaction, Satwik and Chirag felt they could have

restricted their opponents a bit in the second game. Chirag said the first game was quite close before they could take control by winning the last 3-4 points.

"First game, yeah, it was quite tippy-turvy. Like a lot of back and forth where we didn't really have a sizable lead, and neither did they. Maybe at some point we were leading by 2 points, or they were leading by 2 points. Eventually, at 1 think, 16 something, we finally had that breakthrough where we got 3-4 points in a row and eventually closed out that first game," said Chirag.

DC Open: Sakkari reaches QFs, Venus Williams's doubles campaign ends

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, JULY 24

Maria Sakkari scored a 7-5, 7-6 (1) win over Emma Navarro to advance to the quarterfinals of the DC Open. Sakkari, who received a wild card into the main draw, has now won three of four career matches against the 24-year-old American.

She'll next play the winner of Thursday's match between Grand Slam champions Naomi Osaka and Emma Raducanu on Friday.

This year has been difficult for Sakkari before beating Navarro, as she had lost 11 of 13 matches to seeded players in 2025.



Now, she's looking for a slice of history, trying to emulate the feats of Paula Badosa (2024) and Nadia Petrova (2012), who won the title here as wild cards. WTA reports.

Elsewhere, in her tournament debut, No. 3 seed Elena Rybakina defeated teenage wild card Victoria Mboko 6-3, 7-5 to make the quarterfinals.

In the women's dou-

bles, No. 2 seeds Taylor Townsend and Zhang Shuai narrowly defeated wild cards Hailey Baptiste and Venus Williams to reach the DC Open doubles quarterfinals.

After winning her doubles match on Monday and singles on Tuesday night, Venus finally came back to earth as Townsend and Zheng were 6-4, 3-6, (10-6) winners over Venus and Baptiste.

Before another packed house on John Harris Court, it was an entertaining match until the winner asserted itself in the final frame. With a lunging Townsend volley, they converted their second match point.

Badminton: Vennala Kalagotla, Tanvi Sharma lead strong start for India on Day 1 of Asia Junior Individual Championships

AGENCIES
SOLO (INDONESIA), JULY 24

Vennala Kalagotla, Tanvi Sharma won their respective matches as India's campaign at the Badminton Asia Junior Individual Championships 2025 began on a strong note, led by commanding performances in the singles events.

In women's singles, Vennala Kalagotla impressed with two back-to-back wins - a swift 21-6, 21-10 win over Alissa Kuleshova in just 15 minutes, followed by a 21-18, 21-16 result against Indonesia's



Auberta Zerlina to enter the Round-of-32 on Thursday. Second seed Tanvi Sharma eased past UAE's

Vaidehi Kalidasan 21-6, 21-6, while Tanvi Reddy Andluri defeated Cheok Ian Ung 21-9, 21-10.

In men's singles, Pranaav Ram Nagalingam beat Myanmar's Lal Zuidika 21-15, 21-7. Ansh Negi overcame Ding Han Jin 21-16, 21-15, and there were straight-game wins for Hmar Lalthazuala and Rounak Chouhan.

In doubles, Kalagotla/Reshika Uthayasooryan beat Vietnam's Nguyen Vu Ngoc Tran/Pham Thi Truc An 21-16, 21-14, while Gayatri/Mansa Rawat edged out Andrea Hernandez/Mary Unte 21-17, 21-18. Vishnu Kode/Keerthy Manchala held firm in a 22-20, 16-21, 21-19 mixed doubles win.

China Open: Prannoy exits in Round of 16, India's campaign in men's singles ends

AGENCIES
CHANGZHOU (CHINA), JULY 24

India's campaign in the men's singles section of the BWF China Open came to a screeching end with H.S. Prannoy slumping to defeat against sixth seed Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei in a Round-of-16 clash at the Olympic Sports Centre Gymnasium here on Thursday.

Prannoy, who was the lone Indian in the fray in this top-tier event on the BWF World Series, went down to the 35-year-old World No. 9 player in hard-fought three games, going down 21-18, 15-21, 8-21 in the clash played out on Court 2 that lasted



65 minutes.

The 33-year-old Prannoy established an early lead in the first game as

he opened up a 6-2 lead, and though the Chinese Taipei shuttler had levelled scores at 9-9, the

Indian star kept his nose ahead to eventually quell another fightback from his opponent (19-18) to win the game 21-18.

Prannoy fought back from 1-4 down in the second game and had his chances in the neck-and-neck battle 13-all before Chou won six points in a row to open up a lead and went on to win the game 21-15 and took the match into the decider. Prannoy failed to play his game in the third game and lost it tamely 8-21 to exit the tournament.

Asked to analyse the game, Prannoy said he found things tough in the second game, from where it turned against him.

Two-day Boot Camp/ Ideation event held at Balpora Shopian

JINNEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, JULY 24

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Shopian, SKUAST-K, in collaboration with JKICP, Innovation and startup cell SKUAST-K kick-started two-day Boot Camp/Ideation event aimed at identifying, mentoring, handholding, and supporting aspiring and early-stage Agri-entrepreneurs in the field of agriculture and allied sectors.

The Inaugural session was graced by Principal Degree College, Shopian Prof (Dr.) Shafiq Ahmad, and was attended by District Agricultural Officer Shopian, Superintendent ITI, Shopian, CEO SKIIE Centre, Manager Incubation JKICP SKUAST-K, scientists of Kendra, members from different FPOs, SHGs, NGOs, aspiring entrepreneurs, Agri-tech enthusiasts, innovators, rural youth and students.

Prof. (Dr.) Shafiq in his



Start-up ecosystem under SKUAST-K and JKICP led by Hon. Vice Chancellor SKUAST -K and highlighted the JKICP Startup Policy Framework and strategies to handhold the young minds for self sustainability and self-reliant J&K.

This Boot Camp will span two days of intensive mentoring sessions, ideation events, pitch presentations, and expert-led panels. Participants will receive guidance on business model development, value chain integration, marketing strategies, funding opportunities, and government support schemes for Agri-entrepreneurs.

Special emphasis is being placed on ideas that are sustainable, climate-resilient, and community-focused. The event marks a significant step towards nurturing a vibrant innovation ecosystem.

keynote address emphasized the critical role of innovation and entrepreneurship in addressing modern agricultural challenges and enhancing farmers' income.

Prof. Zaffar A Badri, Head, KVK Shopian reaf-

firmed the Kendra's commitment to nurturing startups that can generate employment, improve productivity, and enhance farmers' incomes.

CEO SKIIE Centre, SKUAST-K, highlighted the role of Innovation and

Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament showcases youth talent and sporting spirit in Doda

JINNEWS SERVICE
DODA, JULY 24

The Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament continues to serve as a vibrant platform for promoting physical fitness, discipline and sportsmanship amid combat sports competitions held here today.

Taekwondo and Wrestling (Boys AAG) events were held witnessing enthusiastic participation of over 280 students drawn from different educational zones of the district.

The competitions reflected the high energy, discipline, and competitive spirit of the youth,



who showcased exceptional athletic prowess and teamwork.

To acknowledge their dedication and excellence, the winners and runner-ups were felicitated with medals, trophies and certificates, recognizing their

hard work and sporting achievements.

The event is being organized under the directions of Director General Youth Services and Sports, J&K Anuradha Gupta and Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh, under

the guidance of Joint Director Jammu Vinakshi Koul and overall supervision of District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO) Jaffar Haider Sheikh.

On the occasion, DYSSO Doda Jaffar Haider Sheikh lauded the efforts of the entire staff for their dedicated work in making the tournament a grand success. He especially appreciated the contribution of the field staff for mobilizing wide-scale participation from boys and girls across the district.

DC Kulgam launches 'Classes of Joy'

JINNEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JULY 24

District administration Kulgam, in collaboration with the Pratham Foundation and the School Education department, today launched the 'Classes of Joy' initiative to bridge learning gaps in foundational literacy and numeracy among primary and middle school students.

The initiative was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, who highlighted that the program follows the Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) approach.

This method is designed to improve literacy and numeracy skills among primary-level students, particularly in low-



resource settings, by tailoring instruction to the actual learning levels of students rather than their age or grade, he added.

Khan emphasized that classrooms should become 'sources of joy' where every student can thrive and reach their full-

est potential. He elaborated that the first phase will involve a 100-day learning program in all 458 government primary and middle schools of the district, followed by a reassessment and a second 100-day round.

He further added that

TaRL focuses on simple assessments to determine students' current abilities, grouping them according to learning levels, and using engaging, activity-based teaching methods with daily practice to build core skills.

DC reviews progress under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme in Samba District

JINNEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JULY 24

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Samba Rajesh Sharma today chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation and progress achieved under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the district. The meeting was held in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

At the outset, Chief Agriculture Officer Dr. Rakesh Khajuria presented a detailed overview of the progress achieved across various sectors under the



HADP. He highlighted the key interventions being made to promote agricultural sustainability and rural development.

The DDC reviewed and discussed the list of feasible beneficiaries who had applied through the

HADP portal for availing Agriculture and allied Departments schemes. A total of 268 beneficiaries have been approved under various components of the programme in the district, the meeting was told.

The DDC emphasized

the need for inter-departmental coordination and community involvement to ensure timely implementation of the schemes and tangible results on the ground. He urged all stakeholders to work collectively towards the shared goal of transforming the agricultural landscape of Samba district.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Samba Champa Devi Thakur, GM DIC, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, AD Fisheries and other members of the committee.

DLSA Kulgam organizes awareness programme on Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace

JINNEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JULY 24

In compliance with the directions of the J&K LSA, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Kulgam, under the chairmanship of Aijaz Ahmad Khan Chairman DLSA (Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Kulgam, organized an awareness programme on Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, at South Kashmir Paramedical Nursing College Kulgam.

During the event, Dar



Zubair Altaf (Asst. LADC), Labeeba Alamgir (Asst. LADC) and Saima Gull (Asst. LADC) delivered lectures on the significance

of Prevention of Women from Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act and also provided detailed information on the various

schemes introduced by NALSA.

The programme was attended by the DLSA staff, LADCs, PLVs, students and teachers of the institution.

Furthermore an awareness programme on Beti Bachao Beti Padhao was organized at Govt. Girls Hr. Secondary School Qazigund. The programme was moderated by Chairman TLSC Qazigund and was attended by Panel Lawyers, PLVs and students and teaching staff of the said Institution.

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 24

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar in collaboration with School Education department, Srinagar, conducted an awareness programme on 'Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, drug abuse, DV Act and Free Legal Aid Services' at Govt. Hr. Sec. School Nishat Srinagar, focusing on key legal and social issues affecting children and families.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief,



Principal District and Sessions Judge, and supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

The event covered vital topics such as Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, drug abuse, Domestic Violence Act and the availability of Free Legal Aid Services.

Session on the POCSO

Act and Drug abuse was conducted by Jahan Ara (Deputy Legal Aid Defence Counsel) Srinagar who sensitized the students about the legal protection available to minors and the harmful impact of substance abuse. Real life examples and preventive strategies were also shared to help students safeguard themselves and others.

Sadiya Sidiq (Asstt. Legal Aid Defence Counsel) Srinagar addressed the gathering on the domestic violence act and informed students and staff about the importance of identifying and reporting abuse in families and in communities. She also explained the provisions and procedure for accessing Free Legal Aid, especially for marginalized and vulnerable sections of society.

The programme aimed to create awareness among school children, equip them with legal knowledge and promote a safer, drug free and just society.

Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025: DC inspects arrangements at base camp

JINNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 24

In preparation for the upcoming Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025, Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal today conducted an extensive visit to the base camp (College Ground) to review the arrangements being put in place for the smooth conduct of the Yatra.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Chief Executive Officer Muni-



pal Committee, Tehsildar Haveli, Yatra Officer and officers from various line departments. Members of the Yatra Management Committee also participated in the inspection.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner took a comprehensive

overview of the preparedness of the administration and allied departments, with a focus on ensuring that all necessary facilities and services are in place for the convenience and safety of the pilgrims.

He laid special emphasis on inter-departmental

coordination and directed the concerned officers to ensure the availability of essential services such as drinking water, power supply, medical, sanitation and toilets, traffic regulation, security, parking spaces etc.

The Deputy Commissioner further stressed the importance of maintaining cleanliness, hygiene, and creating a pilgrim-friendly atmosphere. He instructed the officials to provide round-the-clock assistance to ensure a comfortable and spiritually fulfilling experience for all pilgrims.

Secretary J&K-KVIB presides over awareness camp in Gurez

JINNEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JULY 24

Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (J&K KVIB) on Wednesday organized an awareness-cum-Interactive camp at Dawar, Gurez.

The event was presided over by Secretary/Chief Executive Officer, J&K KVIB, Dr. Jagdish Chander.

The camp was aimed at sensitizing the unemployed educated youth and aspiring entrepreneurs about the benefits and opportunities available under flagship employment generation schemes viz. Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme



(PMEGP) and J&K Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP).

In his address, Dr. Chander emphasized the transformative impact of employment generation schemes in empowering the youth and fostering inclusive development in challenging terrains like Gurez. He underscored the importance of coordination among the government departments, KVIB and banks to ensure

effective and time-bound implementation of these schemes.

On the occasion, Dr. Chander informed the gathering that over the past three years, Rs. 27.60 crore, as margin money, have been disbursed under PMEGP and JKREGP in district Bandipora, facilitating establishment of 1,360 units and creating employment for 10,780 individuals, underscoring the immense potential

of these schemes even in remote areas.

He encouraged the youth to explore tourism-based ventures such as eco-villages, guest houses, adventure camping and homestays.

During the programme, an interactive session was also held, during which the participants raised their queries and concerns, which were addressed by Dr. Jagdish Chander and other officials present.

Among others, ADC Bandipora, Zafar Husson Shawal; Deputy Chief Executive Officer, KVIB Kashmir division; SDM Gurez and other concerned officers were also present on the occasion.