

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Severe and continuous headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Stomach pain
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit
- Redness on the face or chest

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

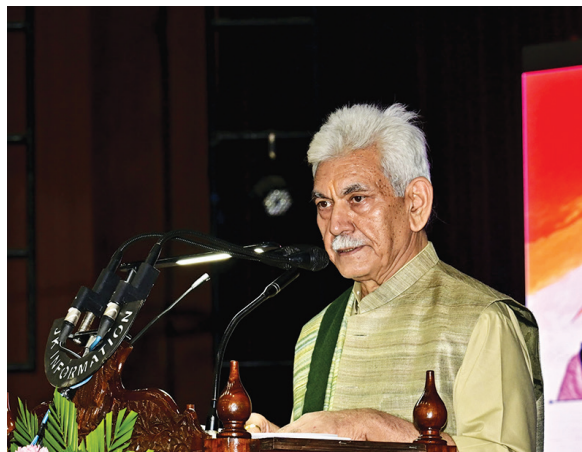
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Dharma's victory over Adharma inevitable: Lt Governor Sinha

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 28 (KNO)

Asserting that the administration and the security forces will not rest till terror victim families get justice, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that 'Dharma's victory over Adharma' is inevitable.

Speaking at a function organized to handover the appointment letters to 80 Next of Kins (NoKs) of terror victims here, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, according to the news agency said, "We will not rest until the perpetrators who killed you dear ones—whether they are hiding in J&K or across the border—are brought to justice."



The programme in Jammu followed the historic event in Baramulla, where 40 terror-victim families received appointment letters.

Today's event marked yet another significant step in delivering justice

to terror victim families in Jammu Kashmir.

LG Sinha paid heartfelt tributes to the countless victims of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, stating that "Pakistan-sponsored terrorism has shed the blood of innocents

for over three decades, but under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the era of silence and injustice has come to an end."

"Under PM Modi's leadership we are determined to crush terrorism and bring those aiding and abetting terror outfits to justice. I assure the terror victim families that the perpetrators will be punished," he said.

LG Sinha said, "I pay my deepest respects to the martyrs who lost their lives to the bullets of Pakistani terrorists. For thirty years, you waited for justice—today, I assure you, your wait is over."

He emphasized that the administration, alongside the police, have provided

platforms to terror victim families to publicly share their grief and recount the atrocities committed by terrorists operating with Pakistan's support.

COMMITTED TO ENSURING JUSTICE FOR EVERY TERROR VICTIM FAMILY

"Dharma's victory over Adharma is inevitable. We are committed to ensuring justice for every terror victim family, making their rehabilitation, jobs, financial assistance, and livelihood opportunities our foremost responsibility. This initial step towards justice has already brought a ray of hope to the terror victim families. It is the beginning of a new era of justice in Jammu and Kashmir."

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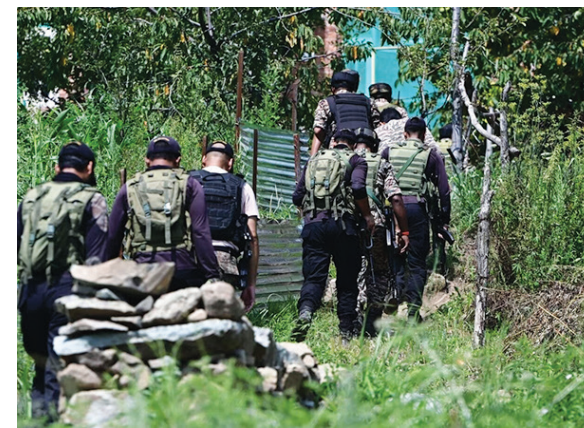
3 terrorists killed in Harwan encounter, operation Mahadev still underway: Officials

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 28 (KNO)

Three terrorists were killed in an encounter with the security forces in Lidwas forest area of Harwan in Srinagar outskirts on Monday.

Officials told the news agency that a joint anti-terror operation was launched by the Army, CRPF and Jammu and Kashmir Police under code-name Operation Mahadev in the upper reaches of Harwan.

"Security forces on a tip-off cordoned dense Mulnar forests near Mahadev. The terrorists present there opened fire which was retaliated to, triggering a gunfight which led to the elimination of three terrorists," they added.



Moreover, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, Vidhi Kumar Birdi, confirmed the killing of the terrorists.

"As per initial reports, three bodies have been spotted, and they appear to be neutralised. However, identification is underway," IGP Birdi told reporters.

However, sources told KNO that one of the slain terrorists has been identified as Suleiman Shah, a top Lashkar-e-Taiba commander and mastermind of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 people, mostly tourists dead.

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Decades of neglect end as LG delivers justice to Kashmir's terror victims

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 28 (KNO)

In a historic milestone for families of terror victims, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday handed over appointment letters to the next of kin (NoK) of civilians who lost their lives in terror-related incidents.

The ceremony, according to the news agency, took place at the Convention Centre here and marks a crucial step toward delivering justice and rehabilitation to those who have endured decades of pain and neglect due to Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.

For over twenty years, these families have lived in the shadow of grief, their voices silenced and their stories untold. Many victims expressed that after losing loved ones, they lost hope of receiving any relief from the government, as their files remained unattended in indifferent offices. However, the LG administration has emerged as a beacon



of hope, helping to heal the wounds of loss.

Satish Singh from Ramban, whose father, Special Police Officer (SPO) Brij Nath, was killed by terrorists in 2003, highlighted the neglect faced by families like theirs.

"My father was killed by terrorists. The government at the time assured us compensation and a job, but no one ever cared to follow up on our pain. For over two decades, the authorities neglected us while terrorists thrived," he said. "Today is an important day for us, as the LG administration has delivered justice."

Similarly, Nazia Kousar from Poonch, whose father, Mohammad Nisar, was gunned down by terrorists in 2001, shared her ordeal. "After my father's killing, our family faced many hardships. My mother struggled to raise my siblings, and we were promised a compensatory job, but we received no help. Today, I commend the LG administration for supporting families like ours," she said.

Sheetal Sen from Kishtwar recounted her long struggle to secure employment after her brother, Hansraj, was

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'Lost father in terrorists attack, mother lost mental balance in shock'

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 28 (KNO)

In a heart-warming moment of justice and recognition, Ajay Kumar, a resident of Kathua, has been handed an appointment letter for a government job by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha.

This milestone marks the culmination of Ajay's relentless fight for compensation and support following the tragic loss of his father to terrorism in 1992, a loss that left his family disturbed and mother mentally trauma.

Narrating his heart

wrenching story, Ajay as per the news agency, said, "The year 1992 was a dark chapter for our family when my father fell victim to a terrorist attack, a tragedy that shook the very foundation of our lives."

"We don't process the loss but with time we left to navigate the aftermath, my mother suffered profound mental trauma, rendering her unable to cope with the demands of daily life," he said. "We don't even have land and our neighbour raised us," he said.

"Since 2006 when I attained the age of 18 to become eligible for a

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Operation Sindoor paused, will resume if Pakistan commits any 'misadventure': Rajnath Singh tells Parliament

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUL 28 (KNO)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told Parliament on Monday that India's stance remains firm that terrorism and talks cannot go together. He said Operation Sindoor, launched after the Pahalgam terror attack, has only been paused and will resume with greater force if Pakistan engages in any future "misadventure".

Addressing the Lok Sabha during a discussion on India's response to the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, Singh, as reported by the news agency, said Opera-



tion Sindoor was a decisive military response that achieved all its stated objectives without targeting civilians.

The operation was launched after a detailed assessment by the Indian armed forces, he said, adding that the purpose

of the operation was to target terrorist camps, their supporters, and to destroy them.

Operation Sindoor, according to Rajnath, was not a campaign to occupy land or escalate to full-scale war, but a

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LG congratulates security forces for eliminating 3 Pak terrorists in Srinagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 28 (KNO)

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday congratulated the security forces, J&K Police and all the personnel

for eliminating three Pakistan terrorists during the anti-terror operation in Srinagar.

Talking to reporters here, on "Operation Mahadev" LG Sinha, according to the news agency, said, "It's true

that three Pakistani terrorists have been eliminated. The police will give full information about this. I congratulate the army, police and all those involved in this operation."

KNO

LG Sinha addresses inaugural ceremony 'Navarambh' to welcome students of IIT Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 28 (KNO)

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Monday addressed the inaugural ceremony 'Navarambh' to welcome incoming BTech, MTech, PhD and MSc students at Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) Jammu.

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

He lauded the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) for their exemplary contributions to nation-building and for developing remarkable scientific and technological capabilities over the decades,



positively impacting lives worldwide.

"Science and Technology are going to be the key drivers for Viksit Bharat and the country expects IITians to make it happen. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, continuous efforts

are underway to provide facilities and resources to tech-entrepreneurs. Today's India offers better opportunities to IIT graduates than abroad, and I am confident that with your talent and hard work, India will become a hub of innovation in the future," the Lieutenant Governor

said. The Lieutenant Governor called upon the students to develop new solutions for global challenges, prepare for an unpredictable future, and stay at the forefront of technological advancement. He also entrusted the

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Thar car involved in attempt to murder case seized: Police

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 28 (KNO)

Jammu Police on Monday seized a Mahindra Thar, involved in an attempt to murder case in Gandhi Nagar area of Jammu, while a massive manhunt was launched to nab the accused driver.

As per officials, the incident, which has been classified as an attempt to murder, was caught on CCTV cameras, has raised serious concerns about road safety and reckless driving in the region.

Speaking to media, Superintendent of police SP Jammu South Ajay Sharma as per the news agency said that the Mahindra Thar JK02DP-9594 allegedly struck

an elderly pedestrian in Gandhi Nagar, Jammu has been seized while the driver, who was identified as Manan Aanad managed to flee the scene.

"As per the video, the driver deliberately hit the victim, seriously injuring him and fled the scene, shows the intent of crime," the officer said, adding, "The incident has been registered as a case of attempt to murder under relevant sections of the BNS at Police Station Gandhi Nagar. The vehicle has been seized and a manhunt launched to nab the culprit," he said.

Moreover, the elderly victim, who rushed to medical care, has been receiving treatment at Government Medical Col-

lege and Hospital Jammu, though his condition remains critical due to head injury.

Preliminary investigations suggest the driver acted with malicious intent, prompting the police to treat the case with utmost seriousness.

Addressing the media at Gandhi Nagar Police Station, SP South Ajay Sharma emphasized the police's resolve to bring the culprit to justice: "This is a heinous act of violence against a defenseless elderly person. The driver of the Thar vehicle, bearing registration number JK02DP 9594, not only endangered a life but also fled the scene, showing complete

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Expecting 'something' this Monsoon session, says CM Omar on statehood restoration

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 28 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said he is expecting the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir in the ongoing Monsoon session of Parliament.

Talking to the reporters here, Omar, as per the news agency, said the party won't go on strike at least till the Monsoon session is ongoing. "We are expecting something in this session. If there is no progress on statehood restoration, then we will talk after that," he said.

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BGSBU, IGNC A organize National Seminar on Bakarwal Community: Exploring faith, tradition and nature

J I NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JULY 28

Environmental Sciences, Centre for Biodiversity Studies, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Regional Centre Jammu, organized a thought-provoking two-day National Seminar titled "Astha, Parampara aur Prakriti: Exploring the Sacred Continuum of Faith, Tradition, and Nature among the Bakarwal Community."

Registrar, BGSBU Abhishek Sharma graced the inaugural session as the Chief Guest and delivered a compelling keynote address.

In his address, he underscored the urgent need to preserve and promote indigenous knowledge systems that are rapidly eroding in the face of modernisation, climate change and cultural homogenisation.

He emphasized that the Bakarwal community embodies a sustainable way of life, deeply rooted in ecological balance and spiritual wisdom. "Their traditions are not relics of the past, but living systems of knowledge that offer critical lessons in environmental conservation, resilience, and community cohesion," he noted.

Abhishek Sharma further remarked that the time has come for academic institutions, policy-makers, and civil society to recognize the value of indigenous voices and integrate them into main-



stream development narratives. "We must create platforms like this seminar to celebrate, learn from, and protect the intangible heritage of nomadic communities like the Bakarwals, who for generations have lived in harmony with the natural world," he added.

He lauded the organizers for curating a multidisciplinary forum that brought together scholars, ecologists, anthropologists, cultural experts, and community members to engage in meaningful dialogue and knowledge exchange. He urged for actionable outcomes from such academic gatherings that can inform policy, enrich curricula, and inspire youth to engage with indigenous knowledge traditions.

Earlier, Director CBS Dr. Shreekar Pant presented the welcome address and said that the event aimed to shed light on the intricate tapestry of beliefs, traditional practices, and ecological knowledge that define the cultural life of the nomadic Bakarwal

community of the Western Himalayas. Regional Director, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, Regional Centre Jammu. Dr. Shrutika Awasthi, in her address, stated that the Bakarwal community represents a living archive of Himalayan wisdom – their seasonal mobility, oral traditions, and sacred relationship with the land form a unique lens through which we must view sustainable living.

Professor M. K. Waqar, renowned academician lauded the university's initiative to bring academic attention to communities whose knowledge systems have long been marginalised in mainstream discourses and commended the efforts of the organisers in highlighting such a vital and often underrepresented community.

Distinguished speakers namely Dr. Bhanu Kumar Vats, Assistant Professor, University of Delhi, Dr. Harish Dutt, Assistant Professor, University of Jammu, Dr. Danish Iqbal Raina, Assistant Professor

and Rajesh Jha, Senior Journalist also addressed the growing challenges faced by the Bakarwal community, including the pressures of sedentarisation, shrinking pastures, lack of representation in policy frameworks, and the impact of climate change on their traditional routes and water sources.

The inaugural session concluded with a strong call to action for more inclusive research and policy interventions to protect the cultural and ecological heritage of pastoral nomadic communities in India. Special gratitude was expressed to Professor Jawaid Iqbal, Vice Chancellor, BGSBU University for their constant support.

Dr. Shachi Sood, Assistant Professor, Department of English conducted the proceedings of the program while Dr. Mamta Bhat, Coordinator, Department of Environmental Sciences extended heartfelt thanks to all collaborators, scholars and student volunteers who made the event possible.

abuse IEC campaign was also held at Government Polytechnic Chanderkote. Principal Vivek Mahajan inaugurated the event, aimed at sensitizing youth about the harmful effects of drugs. The Officers from various departments, along with resource persons, highlighted medical, legal and social consequences of substance abuse. Students delivered motivational speeches and the programme concluded with a collective pledge to build a drug-free society.

The sessions included expert talks, interactive discussions and community engagement activities to sensitise participants about preventive measures and the importance of a drug-free society.

Reejuta Mahajan and representatives from the Health Department, Police Department, Education Department, Social Welfare Department, Excise Department, JKSRM, Women SHGs, RDD & Revenue departments, along with local officials and resource persons, actively participated in the events at designated places. An anti-drug

campaign was also held at Government Polytechnic Chanderkote. Principal Vivek Mahajan inaugurated the event, aimed at sensitizing youth about the harmful effects of drugs. The Officers from various departments, along with resource persons, highlighted medical, legal and social consequences of substance abuse. Students delivered motivational speeches and the programme concluded with a collective pledge to build a drug-free society.

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The primary agenda of the meeting was to look into the grievances raised regarding the hospital's closure on Sundays.

During the visit, ADC conducted an on-the-spot assessment of the institution's operational framework. Taking note of the

concerns, he issued directives to the concerned authorities, emphasizing the need for uninterrupted healthcare services to ensure smooth functioning of the hospital. He also directed for enhancing patient care, particularly for

those relying on the NTPHC for treatment and preventive healthcare services.

Later, ADC conducted a surprise inspection of Government Schools in the area, including Government Higher Secondary School Behnpora, UPS Behnpora,

and overall institutional functioning. ADC checked attendance records, observed classroom activities, and interacted with students and staff to gauge the schools' operational efficiency.

DLIC approves 104 cases under Mission YUVA in Ganderbal

Anti-drug IEC campaign held at multiple venues across district Ramban

J I NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JULY 28

As part of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, the District Administration Ramban successfully organised a series of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) programmes today across various panchayats, urban areas and educational institutions across the district.

The awareness campaigns were held at Panchayat HQ Gund Adalkote-B (Banihal Block), Panchayat HQ Bheri Neghal (Ramban Block), Panchayat HQ Neel-A (Ramsoo Block) and Panchayat HQ Pinglola (Ukhral Block). The programmes also covered educational insti-



tutions including Government Polytechnic College Chanderkote and Government Higher Secondary School Dalwah along with the Urban Local Body venue at Batote.

These programmes aimed to raise awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse among youth and the community. The EO MC Ramban Sudarshan Jamwal; Tehsildar Batote

and representatives from the Health Department, Police Department, Education Department, Social Welfare Department, Excise Department, JKSRM, Women SHGs, RDD & Revenue departments, along with local officials and resource persons, actively participated in the events at designated places. An anti-drug

society as a whole. The events were held in all nineteen blocks of the district including Budhal Old, Budhal New, Darhal, Dhangri, Doongi, Kalakote, Khawas, Lamberi, Manjakote, Moughla, Nowshera, Panjgrain, Planagarh, Qila Darhal, Rajouri, Seri, Siot, Sunderbani and Thanamandi. In addition to this, the events were also held in three ULBs including Rajouri, Kalakote, Sunderbani, Nowshera and Thanamandi.

A large number of people from across the

social spectrum attended the events, where resource persons from the government departments and health organizations spoke about the devastating impact of drug abuse. The sessions focused on educating the masses about the physical, psychological, and social consequences of drug addiction and the importance of early intervention and rehabilitation. The officials emphasized the need for community participation in combating the drug menace and ensuring a

healthier, drug-free environment for future generations. The district administration reaffirmed its commitment to continue the battle against drug abuse and further strengthen its efforts through awareness campaigns, rehabilitation programs and support for those affected by addiction. The aim of these events is to encourage everyone to stay engaged in this vital campaign and help in creating a drug-free society for the well-being of all.

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Week-long 'Aakanksha Haat' inaugurated at Gulmarg to promote local artisans, SHGs & entrepreneurs

J I NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, JULY 28

Member of Legislative Assembly from Gulmarg, Farooq Ahmad Shah and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa today jointly inaugurated, 'Aakanksha Haat,' a week-long exhibition organized by the district administration Baramulla under the national initiative, 'Vocal for Local' campaign at waiting area of Gondola in Gulmarg.

The initiative is part of the countrywide 'Aakanksha' brand launched by NITI Aayog, aimed at promoting local products, artisans, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) from Aspirational Blocks across India with a goal to strengthen the rural economy, support traditional skills, and connect local entrepreneurs to national and global markets.

'Aakanksha Haat' featured a wide array of local products including traditional crafts, Kashmiri carpets, handloom items, organic produce, local delicacies, and herbal goods, among other region-specific offerings. The event also hosted live craft demonstrations, cultural per-

formances, skill-building workshops, and sessions on marketing and entrepreneurship.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by the Chief Planning officer, Baramulla along with other district officers and saw enthusiastic participation from artisans, SHGs, local entrepreneurs and hundreds of tourists/visitors.

At the outset, MLA and DC Baramulla took a detailed round of the exhibition, inspecting stalls set up by various SHGs, artisans, government departments, and local entrepreneurs. These stalls showcased a wide range of region-specific products, including intricately woven Kashmiri carpets, handloom textiles, organic produce, herbal goods, traditional crafts, and local delicacies.

The week-long exhibition also features a series



of engaging activities such as live craft demonstrations, cultural performances, skill-building workshops, and sessions on marketing and entrepreneurship.

Hundreds of tourists visiting the internationally acclaimed tourist destination of Gulmarg were seen thronging the exhibition stalls, exploring authentic local products and appreciating the craftsmanship on display.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Gulmarg lauded the district administration for organizing the exhibition and emphasized the need for more such initiatives to provide sustained market access to local producers thereby enhancing their financial economic conditions.

DC said that the reason for hosting 'Aakanksha Haat,' as part of the 'Sampoornata Abhiyan' (Saturation Campaign)

of NITI Aayog's flagship programme at Gulmarg was to showcase the local products of the SHGs, artisans, crafts people and local entrepreneurs to the hundreds of the tourists visiting the international tourist destination which otherwise are only available to the local market.

A vibrant line-up of cultural programs added colour and energy to the event, offering visitors a rich glimpse into Kashmir's cultural heritage while celebrating its artistic diversity.

Later, MLA Gulmarg, DC Baramulla, and MD Cable Car Corporation J&K, Syed Qamar Sajad left their handprints on 'Hunar ki Chap' wall and shared their valuable insights on the feedback wall, honouring craft, culture, and unwavering spirit of local artisans, SHGs and entrepreneurs.

Meanwhile, 'Aakanksha Haat' will continue throughout the week, promising a unique blend of culture, commerce, and community participation and the district administration Baramulla invites all visitors to explore the stalls, interact with the creators, and support the spirit of 'Vocal for Local.'

ADC Handwara visits Upper Rajwar, takes stock of Health care & Education sector

J I NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, JULY 28

In a bid to address public concerns, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, today paid a visit to the NTPHC Behnpora.

The primary agenda of the visit was to look into the grievances raised regarding the hospital's closure on Sundays.

During the visit, ADC conducted an on-the-spot assessment of the institution's operational framework. Taking note of the



concerns, he issued directives to the concerned authorities, emphasizing the need for uninterrupted healthcare services to ensure smooth functioning of the hospital. He also directed for enhancing patient care, particularly for

those relying on the NTPHC for treatment and preventive healthcare services.

Later, ADC conducted a surprise inspection of Government Schools in the area, including Government Higher Secondary School Behnpora, UPS Behnpora,

and overall institutional functioning. ADC checked attendance records, observed classroom activities, and interacted with students and staff to gauge the schools' operational efficiency.

DLIC approves 104 cases under Mission YUVA in Ganderbal

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J I NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, JULY 28

In a significant step towards youth empowerment, the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) Ganderbal today approved 104 cases under the Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan) scheme.

The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatinder Kishore here today.

The primary agenda of the meeting was to review and scrutinize applications submitted by aspiring



youth entrepreneurs seeking financial assistance and guidance under the Mission YUVA initiative. After detailed deliberations, the committee approved 104 eligible cases for support.

DC also took stock of the overall progress of the scheme, including the status of applications

received, and the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs).

He directed the concerned departments to expedite the DPR formulation process and adhere to the set timelines. Specific targets were assigned to ensure timely processing of all pending applications.

Highlighting the transformative impact of Mission YUVA, DC emphasized the scheme's role in equipping youth with the resources and support required to pursue sustainable self-employment

and entrepreneurship ventures. He stressed on coordinated efforts among departments to maximize the outreach and effectiveness of the scheme. The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Ganderbal, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat; General Manager DIC; Assistant Director DE&CC, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, District Nodal Officer JKEDI, District Nodal Officer NABARD; Lead District Manager, and other concerned officials.

Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan: Series of impactful IEC events organised across different blocks & ULBs

J I NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JULY 28

In continuation of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan campaign a series of impactful Information Education and Communication events were organized today across the Rajouri District here on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma.

The events aimed to spread awareness about the disastrous consequences of drug abuse on the individuals and the

society as a whole. The events were held in all nineteen blocks of the district including Budhal Old, Budhal New, Darhal, Dhangri, Doongi, Kalakote, Khawas, Lamberi, Manjakote, Moughla, Nowshera, Panjgrain, Planagarh, Qila Darhal, Rajouri, Seri, Siot, Sunderbani and Thanamandi. In addition to this, the events were also held in three ULBs including Rajouri, Kalakote, Sunderbani, Nowshera and Thanamandi.

A large number of people from across the

social spectrum attended the events, where resource persons from the government departments and health organizations spoke about the devastating impact of drug abuse. The sessions focused on educating the masses about the physical, psychological, and social consequences of drug addiction and the importance of early intervention and rehabilitation. The officials emphasized the need for community participation in combating the drug menace and ensuring a

healthier, drug-free environment for future generations. The district administration reaffirmed its commitment to continue the battle against drug abuse and further strengthen its efforts through awareness campaigns, rehabilitation programs and support for those affected by addiction. The aim of these events is to encourage everyone to stay engaged in this vital campaign and help in creating a drug-free society for the well-being of all.

DLSA Shopian organizes awareness programme on LSUM at GHSS- Kanjiullar

J I NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, JULY 28

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian today organized an awareness programme on 'Legal Services Unit for Mental Illness and Persons with Intel-

lectual Disabilities (LSUM) at Government Higher Secondary School, Kanjiullar.

The awareness programme was held under the directions of Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary Chairman DLSA Shopian.

The event aimed to

spread awareness regarding the legal rights, entitlements, and support mechanisms available to individuals living with mental illness and intellectual disabilities.

Deputy LADC, Shahawaz Raina, Assistant LADCs, Meenu Jan, Bisma

Rafiq and Aamir Ayoub were the speakers at the programme. They delivered insightful talks focusing on the importance of safeguarding the legal rights of persons with mental and intellectual challenges.

DC Budgam chairs DLC meeting to discuss Change of Land Use cases

J NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JULY 28

A District-Level Committee (DLC) meeting regarding the conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes under the J&K Agricultural Land (Conversion for Non-Agricultural Purposes) Regulations, 2022, was convened today under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, here.

All designated DLC members and concerned sectoral officers attended the meeting.

The agenda of the meeting was to deliberate on pending land use conversion cases and to examine them in light of departmental remarks and statutory regulations.

The committee discussed various cases related to set-up of different units such as, Establishment of Packaged Drinking Water Unit, Construction of Shops, Construction of Hotels, etc.

DC directed the concerned departments



to verify all technical parameters, ownership documents, zoning compliance, and environmental considerations before final recommendations are issued. He stressed the need for efficient inter-departmental coordination to streamline the process of land conversion while ensuring adherence to legal and ecological safeguards.

He underscored the importance of balancing developmental needs with sustainable land management practices, adding that while the administration is committed to facilitating ease of doing business, no compromise shall be made on

legal provisions and environmental norms.

He further instructed that all departments must ensure clarity, accountability, and public transparency in processing such cases. "Each case must be examined on its merit with strict adherence to the J&K Land Use Conversion Regulations, so that genuine applicants are not subjected to procedural hurdles," he stated.

DC directed all concerned departments for prompt participation and responsiveness. He reiterated that such meetings must be conducted regularly to speed up decision-making and support planned infrastructure growth in the district.

He directed all the concerned departments for forwarding the examined cases to the appropriate quarters along with consolidated departmental remarks for final decision under the framework of the J&K Agricultural Land Conversion Regulations.

CEO Doodhpathri Development Author-

ity, General Manager DIC Budgam, ACR, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer DFO Pir Panjal Forest Division, Budgam, Executive Engineers of PWD (R&B) Budgam and Beerwah, Executive Engineer, Irrigation & Flood Control Division, Budgam, Executive Engineer, KPDC Budgam, Executive Engineer, PHE Budgam, Pollution Control Board Officer, and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

National Archery Champions Meet LG Sinha, Hrithik Sharma Felicitated for FISU Silver

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 28

A delegation of National-level Archers Shri Hrithik Sharma, Shri Shubham Sharma, and Shri Amit Thakur called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, today. They were accompanied by Ms. Abhilasha Chaudhary, National Archery Team Coach.

The members of the delegation expressed their gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor for



his continued encouragement and support to archery and other sports disciplines in the Union Territory.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated Archer Shri Hrithik Sharma for securing a silver medal at the FISU World University Games 2025, recently concluded in Germany. He also extended best wishes to the Archers for their upcoming games and assured them all support from the administration.

Handicrafts & Handloom deptt Kulgam organizes day-long workshop, exhibition



J NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JULY 28

Handicrafts and Handloom department Kulgam today organized a day-long workshop and exhibition at the Handicrafts Office, Kulgam, aimed at empowering local artisans through awareness, skill-building, and design innovation.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from artisans across the district.

The exhibition featured exceptional handwoven textiles, embroidery, blocks printing and ornamented crafts, reflecting the traditional craftsmanship and cultural richness of Kulgam.

As part of the program, a training session was conducted by renowned crafts and textiles designer, educator, and researcher Shradha Mehta. Her session focused on bridging traditional techniques with

contemporary design trends, promoting innovation and sustainability.

Drawing from her extensive experience with UNDP and the Ministry of Textiles, she emphasized the importance of preserving cultural identity through creative evolution.

Artisans expressed heartfelt gratitude to the organisers for the valuable support and guidance provided during the event.

Doda gears up for celebration of NEP UTSAV-2025

J NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JULY 28

To discuss activity plan and preparations for celebration of NEP UTSAV 2025, Chief Education Officer (CEO) Mohammad Hafiz today convened a crucial virtual meeting with the Principals, Zonal Education Officers and Headmasters of educational institutions from across District Doda.

The meeting focused on comprehensive planning and coordination for the upcoming week-long celebrations marking the fifth anniversary of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The Directorate of School Education Jammu has proposed a series of events from July 29 to August 2, 2025 under the theme "Celebrating 5 Years of NEP 2020." The initiative aims to highlight the significant strides made in education since the policy's inception.

During the virtual session, the CEO emphasized the critical importance of showcasing the achieve-



ments, innovations, and ongoing transformations brought about by the NEP in schools in the district. He urged all stakeholders to ensure the enthusiastic participation of students, teachers, parents and community members in the festivities.

NEP UTSAV 2025 will feature dedicated thematic days designed to reflect the diverse aspects of the policy's impact:

Community Involvement Day aims to strengthen the bond between schools and local communities through interactive engagements.

TLM/FLN Day would focus on innovative Teaching-Learning Materials and foundational literacy and numeracy initiatives.

Sports Day aims to

promote physical fitness, discipline and teamwork through various sporting events.

Cultural Day would be held to showcase the rich cultural heritage and diverse talents of students through performances and exhibitions.

Skilling & Digital Initiative Day would highlight the advancements in vocational education, digital learning tools and pedagogical innovations.

The meeting concluded with a collective commitment to make NEP UTSAV 2025 not just a commemoration, but a powerful reflection of the dedication towards building a learner-centric, skill-oriented and inclusive education system in the district.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT GOVERNMENT ITI SUNDERBANI

Provisional Selection List Round-II of the candidates selected for training in different trades for the session 2025-26-27

Computer Operator and Programing Assistant (NCVT , Normal , Gender Applicable: ALL)

S.No	Rank	App. No	Name	Parentage	DOB	Gender	Category	PWD	ExMen	%age	Round
1	30	ADM2590580	VANSH GUPTA	LT. ANIL GUPTA	05-06-01	Male	GEN	N	N	80.6	2
2	52	ADM2597143	SHIVAM KUMAR	RATTAN LAL	10-09-07	Male	ST2	N	N	76.2	2
3	64	ADM2521196	ANIL SHARMA	KASTURI LAL SHARMA	01-05-01	Male	ST2	N	N	74	2
4	66	ADM2594648	PIYUSH SHARMA	DHARAM VEER SHARMA	05-08-07	Male	ST2	N	N	73.8	2
5	69	ADM2567214	VIKAS SHARMA	SATISH KUMAR	30-03-08	Male	ST2	N	N	73.4	2
6	71	ADM2548171	SAMEER SINGH	SURAM CHAND	02-07-06	Male	ST2	N	N	73	2
7	151	ADM2528974	RAJNISH KUMAR	AJEET KUMAR	02-03-08	Male	SC	N	N	64.4	2
7	158	ADM2542024	TANISHA SHARMA	VIJAY KUMAR	09-04-07	Female	ST2	N	N	63.6	2
8	164	ADM2575730	SUKRITI SHARMA	BABU RAM SHARMA	23-03-05	Female	GEN	N	N	63	2
9	214	ADM2557895	MOHIT KUMAR	MULKH RAJ	05-12-07	Male	SC	N	N	58.4	2
11	330	ADM2552077	ISHTAQ AHMED	NAZIR HUSSAIN	01-04-08	Male	ST1	N	N	49.8	2

Computer Operator and Programing Assistant (NCVT , Normal-Women Wing , Gender Applicable: FEMALE)

S.No	Rank	App. No	Name	Parentage	DOB	Gender	Category	PWD	ExMen	%age	Round
1	125	ADM2535524	SHIVANGI SHARMA	ASHOK KUMAR	30-03-08	Female	GEN	N	N	66.6	2
2	143	ADM2525584	NANDANI SHARMA	RAKESH KUMAR	02-03-06	Female	ST2	N	N	65.2	2
3	171	ADM2596726	ARADHANA SHARMA	GIRDHARI LAL	08-01-07	Female	ST2	N	N	62.2	2
4	174	ADM2537903	MANSI SHARMA	MOHAN LAL	02-03-06	Female	ST2	N	N	62	2
5	176	ADM2557202	VISHALI SHARMA	KULDEEP RAJ	03-02-03	Female	ST2	N	N	61.8	2
6	182	ADM2517687	ARCHANA DEVI	SWARN SINGH	01-10-06	Female	GEN	N	N	61	2
7	188	ADM2522598	RUBI SHARMA	AMOLAK RAM	17-03-02	Female	ST2	N	N	60.2	2
8	191	ADM2512480	RUKSAR BHATTI	MOHD ZAFFER BHATTI	22-05-08	Female	GEN	N	N	60.2	2

Electrician (NCVT , Normal , Gender Applicable: ALL)

S.No	Rank	App. No	Name	Parentage	DOB	Gender	Category	PWD	ExMen	%age	Round
1	72	ADM2590216	NITIN SHARMA	INDER PAL	20-03-07	Male	ST2	N	N	73	2
2	73	ADM2514204	GOVIND SHARMA	PUSHPINDER KUMAR	10-03-03	Male	GEN	N	N	72.8	2
3	86	ADM2526806	NITISH SHARMA	CHHATU RAM	05-10-07	Male	ST2	N	N	71.2	2
4	254	ADM2544987	NITISH KUMAR	RAM LAL	11-09-07	Male	SC	N	N	55.4	2
5	277	ADM2518650	MOHD TAHIR BHATTI	AKBAL HUSSAIN	03-01-07	Male	OBC	N	N	53.6	2

Mechanic Motor Vehicle (NCVT , Normal , Gender Applicable: ALL)

S.No	Rank	App. No	Name	Parentage	DOB	Gender	Category	PWD	ExMen	%age	Round
1	110	ADM2568937	SHUBAM SHARMA	SAT PAUL	15-03-08	Male	ST2	N	N	68.4	2
2	113	ADM2577502	RAHUL SHARMA	SURESH KUMAR	22-05-04	Male	ST2	N	N	67.6	2
3	116	ADM2521069	RAJAT KUMAR	SAT PAUL	12-11-07	Male	ST2	N	N	67.4	2
4	122	ADM2533549	ARIJUN SHARMA	KEWAL KRISHAN	20-07-05	Male	ST2	N	N	66.6	2
5	127	ADM2519749	KARTIK SHARMA	PREM PAUL	29-12-06	Male	ST2	N	N	66.2	2
6	129	ADM2558835	SHUBAM KUMAR	CHAMAN LAL	10-03-08	Male	GEN	N	N	66.2	2
7	136	ADM2522015	PRINCE SHARMA	JOGINDER PAL	19-08-06	Male	ST2	N	N	65.6	2
8	141	ADM2526487	DHEERAJ KUMAR	HEM RAJ	12-04-09	Male	ST2	N	N	65.4	2
9	142	ADM2569331	NITISH SHARMA	ASHOK KUMAR	20-01-06	Male	ST2	N	N	65.2	2
10	223	ADM2593480	MOHD IRFAN	ZAFFAR HUSSAIN	18-05-04	Male	OBC	N	N	57.4	2
11	231	ADM2536456	KARTIK KUMAR	MADAN LAL	26-03-08	Male	SC	N	N	57.2	2

Draughtsman (civil) (NCVT , PPP , Gender Applicable: ALL)

S.No	Rank	App. No	Name	Parentage	DOB	Gender	Category	PWD	ExMen	%age	Round
1	75	ADM2519158	KARTIK SHARMA	MADAN MOHAN	17-03-08	Male	GEN	N	N	72.8	2
2	83	ADM2529075	KRISH RAINA	HARISH KUMAR	10-11-07	Male	ST2	N	N	71.6	2
3	94	ADM2545981	KARTIK SHARMA	ROMESH CHANDER	04-03-08	Male	GEN	N	N	70.6	2
4	114	ADM2574833	VANSH SHARMA	VIJAY KUMAR	25-03-08	Male	ST2	N	N	67.6	2
5	252	ADM2549458	KAJAL SHARMA	SOM DUTT	04-09-04	Female	ST2	N	N	55.4	2
6	256	ADM2593922	PRACHI SHARMA	BARFU RAM	28-01-05	Female	GEN	N	N	55.2	2
7	306	ADM2577175	MOHD SAHIR	NAZIR HUSSAIN	10-03-08	Male	OBC	N	N	51.6	2

Stenographer & Secretarial Assistant (English) (NCVT , Normal , Gender Applicable: ALL)

S.No	Rank	App. No	Name	Parentage	DOB	Gender	Category	PWD	ExMen	%age	Round
1	84	ADM2578741	SACHIN SHARMA	PARDEEP KUMAR SHARMA	16-02-01	Male	ST2	N	N	71.4	2
2	87	ADM2517600	POONAM SHARMA	JOGINDER PAUL	02-11-03	Male	GEN	N	N	71	2
3	88	ADM2533618	ANIKET SHARMA	PAWAN KUMAR	12-07-07	Male	ST2	N	N	71	2
4	93	ADM2516776	ANMOL SHARMA	RASHPAL SHARMA	10-07-07	Male	ST2	N	N	70.6	2
5	100	ADM2564473	YOGESH SHARMA	RAKESH KUMAR	27-01-07	Male	ST2	N	N	69.6	2
6	105	ADM2599837	SANJANA SHARMA	PARDEEP KUMAR	01-08-03	Female	ST2	N	N	69	2
7	194	ADM2589053	AVLEEN KOUR	GURDEEP SINGH	19-12-04	Female	GEN	N	N	60	2
8	278	ADM2546112	ARUSHI VERMA	SANJAY KUMAR	06-04-04	Female	OBC	N	N	53.4	2

Fashion Design Technology (NCVT , PPP , Gender Applicable: ALL)

S.No	Rank	App. No	Name	Parentage	DOB	Gender	Category	PWD	ExMen	%age	Round
1	208	ADM2544260	PALAK SHARMA	SUBASH CHANDER	11-08-08	Female	ST2	N	N	59.2	2
2	212	ADM2511061	MEHNAZ BHATTI	KARAMAT HUSSAIN	03-03-08	Female	GEN	N	N	58.8	2
3	217	ADM2573939	NANDNI SHARMA	DALIP KUMAR	22-10-05	Female	GEN	N	N	58	2
4	218	ADM2568432	SEEMA DEVI	KUNJ LAL	06-02-04	Female	GEN	N	N	57.8	2
5	234	ADM2512313	SURBI SHARMA	SOM DUTT	06-04-07	Female	ST2	N	N	56.8	2

Plumber (NCVT , PPP , Gender Applicable: ALL)

S.No	Rank	App. No	Name	Parentage	DOB	Gender	Category	PWD	ExMen	%age	Round
THE CANDIDATES WHO ARE INTERESTED TO SEEK ADMISSION IN PLUMBER TRADE ARE ADVISED TO ATTEND THE OFFICE OF THE UNDERSIGNED ON ANY WORKING DAY FOR ADMISSION FIRST CUM FIRST SERVE (ON SPOT ADMISSION)											
WOOD WORK TECHNICIAN (SCVT , NORMAL , Gender Applicable: ALL)											
S.No	Rank	App. No	Name	Parentage	DOB	Gender	Category	PWD	ExMen	%age	Round
THE CANDIDATES WHO ARE INTERESTED TO SEEK ADMISSION IN WOOD WORK TECHNICIAN TRADE ARE ADVISED TO ATTEND THE OFFICE OF THE UNDERSIGNED ON ANY WORKING DAY FOR ADMISSION FIRST CUM FIRST SERVE (ON SPOT ADMISSION)											

Terms and Conditions:-

- Provisionally Selected candidates are advised to take admission w.e.f 26-07-2025 to 02-08-2025 after that the candidates will not be entertained.
- Candidates have to submit following documents in original along with one photostat copy of each documents.
 - Domicile Certificate.
 - Qualification Certificate (8th / 10th Class Marks sheet).
 - Date of Birth Certificate.
 - Category Certificate (SC/ST/Ex-serviceman/Physically Handicapped/EWS) if any.
 - The Candidate have to submit self declaration that He / She had not taken admission in any other Institute (Govt/ Private) and affidavit duly attested by 1st class magistrate.
 - Prescribed Fee as per norms
 - Adhaar Card/ UID No. Along with a photo copy of the same.
 - Two Photographs
- The selection has been made on purely merit wise basis
- Error and omissions are accepted.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Dharma's victory over...

Highlighting the prolonged neglect that terror victim families endured, LG Sinha said that successive regimes ignored their pain. "When terrorists were killed, processions were taken out and floral tributes offered at their graves by certain elements. But the innocents slaughtered by these very terrorists received no attention," he said. "People know the faces that glorified terrorists. I don't want to name them, but their soft corner for Pakistan is well known."

"For too long, Pakistan sponsored terrorists and its supporters, conflict entrepreneurs and separatist ecosystem suppressed the voice of thousands of victim families. The fabricated narratives of separatist elements are now crumbling," the Lieutenant Governor said.

TERROR ECOSYSTEM SILENCED VICTIMS AND REWARDED PERPETRATORS

He condemned the "terror ecosystem" that silenced the victims and rewarded perpetrators.

Sharing a heart-wrenching account, he said, "A daughter of an SPO narrated how her father was killed by terrorists and how her mother raised them with immense hardship. Shockingly, the killer was later given a government job."

The Lieutenant Governor narrated the heart-rending incident of 21st July 2001 when Tara Devi, a resident of Cherji village, Kishtwar sacrificed her life while protecting her son from the Pakistan-sponsored terrorists. "On 30th April 1998, Pakistani terrorists slit the throats of Gyan Devi and her one-and-a-half-year-old son Kikar Singh in Balgran village of Kishtwar. On 5th April 2005, Ashfaq Ahmed, from Doda, a member of the Village Defense Committee was martyred in an encounter with terrorists. His son Shamim Ahmed was only 7 years old at that time," LG Sinha said.

"For decades, countless families and their loved ones lost to Pakistan sponsored terrorism, were reduced to mere statistics, their pain unheard, their tears unwiped. Finally, after all this time, justice has come knocking at their doors," he said.

AFTER YEARS OF GRIEF AND SUFFERING, TERROR VICTIM FAMILIES GOT JUSTICE

After years of grief and suffering, terror victim families of Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban Poonch, Rajouri, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur and Reasi get Justice.

LG Sinha referred to the massacres of the 1990s-Doda in 1993 where 170 civilians were killed, and the Udhampur and Rajouri carnages in 1995 that took over 215 innocent lives.

He lauded late PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee for raising these issues with the international community. "On one side, Pakistan spilled innocent blood; on the other, terror supporters within the system ensured families of martyrs were left to fend for themselves," he said.

Stating that loved ones of terror victim families cannot be brought back, LG Sinha said, "Providing them with the job letters is a move toward healing and recognition. The process will continue until every last deserving family receives assistance."

He also promised to reopen old cases of terror killings where even FIRs were not registered. "Many families had to flee the Valley in the 1990s due to threats. We will ensure those cases are investigated and perpetrators punished," he declared.

CONFLICT ENTREPRENEURS WHO FED OFF THIS BLOODSHED WILL BE PUNISHED

In a stern warning to those who peddle terrorist narratives under the garb of freedom of speech, LG Sinha said, "Conflict entrepreneurs who fed off this bloodshed will be punished. Freedom of speech doesn't allow glorification of terrorism."

"For too long, Pakistan sponsored terrorists and its supporters, conflict entrepreneurs and separatist ecosystem suppressed the voice of thousands of victim families. The fabricated narratives of separatist elements are now crumbling," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said that an internal web portal has been launched and a centralized database of terror victim families is being developed to monitor and process all cases, ensuring timely relief. "Additionally, helplines are now active in every district of Jammu and Kashmir for victims to register grievances. Further support is available through divisional helplines, staffed by trained employees, at the offices of the Divisional Commissioners. Deputy Commissioners in every district are now receiving a steady flow of applications, which are being thoroughly scrutinized. We are also integrating a mechanism in the portal for extending self-employment assistance to the members of terror victim families," he said, adding, "Appointment letters and other assistance will be handed over to terror victim families in large numbers on 5th August, in Srinagar," he added.

Referring to the recent July 24 incident, LG Sinha said, "Don't touch the innocent and don't spare the guilty is our policy. Police have taken effective action. SIT has been constituted and magisterial investigation has been ordered. Two officials stand suspended. Further action will be taken on the basis of the inquiry report," he said.

"A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been formed and a magisterial probe has been ordered. Names of two personnel had surfaced and they stand suspended. Further investigations are on."

Reaffirming the administration's resolve, LG Sinha said, "Pakistan and its terror machinery may have carried out massacres, but our armed forces and this administration will not stop till the last terrorist is eliminated. We owe this to the martyrs and their families."

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo; DGP, Nalin Prabhat; Principal Secretary Home, Chandrakar Bharti; Commissioner Secretary, GAD M Raju; Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar; IGP Jammu, Bhim Sen Tuti, Deputy Commissioners of various districts, senior officials and family members of victims of terrorism were present.

Chairpersons of District Development Councils, Members of Legislative Assembly, and members of various social organisations were also present. KNO

3 terrorists killed...

They said the other two terrorists killed are believed to be Abu Hamza and Jibrin, both foreign terrorists and reportedly linked to the same Pahalgam strike.

Moreover, no official confirmation has been received from Army or police regarding the groups link with Pahalgam attack, and they are likely to speak on the details once the operation concludes.

About the recovery, sources also revealed that weapons recovered from the encounter site include Carbine, AK-47 rifles and other arms, indicating the group was preparing for a major strike.

Earlier in the day, the Indian Army's Chinar Corps confirmed the operation in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

"OP MAHADEV: Contact established in the general area of Lidwas. Three terrorists have been neutralised in an intense firefight. Operation continues. #Kashmir"@ChinarcorpsIA"

In a separate development, the GOC, Chinar Corps, along with senior Army and CAPF officers, was scheduled to brief the media on Operation Mahadev at Udaan, Badami Bagh Cantonment, Srinagar, at 5:00 PM today. However, according to an update from PRO Defence Srinagar, the briefing was postponed due to new developments in the operation.

It says, a revised date and time will be communicated.

Meanwhile, the Lidwas area has witnessed a surge in anti-terror operations recently and is considered a hotspot for terrorist activity, given its difficult terrain and forest cover. KNO

Decades of neglect...

killed in 2001. "Since then, I have been running from pillar to post for a job, only to be turned away repeatedly. But LG Manoj Sinha acknowledged our hardships and has now provided me a job in the health department," she said.

The distribution of appointment letters represents not just a policy decision but a moral commitment to right past wrongs and empower those affected by terrorism, said an official in the LG administration.

"This initiative forms part of a broader effort by the Jammu and Kashmir administration to dismantle the terror ecosystem while ensuring justice, employment, and recognition for victims' families," he said.

Expressing gratitude, Balbir Singh from Rajouri, whose father Rashpal Singh was beheaded by terrorists in 2001, said, "None of us believed that this day would come when we would receive compensation. The LG administration has recognised our sacrifices and addressed our 20-year-old issues within just ten days. Despite facing rejection and hurdles for two decades, we are thankful that our voices have finally been heard."

Addressing the gathering, LG Sinha reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to supporting terror-affected families. "Eligible individuals will be given government jobs. Those who have not received financial assistance will be provided with it. In cases where FIRs were not lodged or properties confiscated, FIRs will be filed, inquiries conducted, and properties returned," he assured.

He said the administration is committed to correcting historical injustices. "For nearly three decades, conflict entrepreneurs spread false narratives, portraying terrorists as victims and India as the aggressor. That narrative has now been dismantled. We are identifying those who supported terrorism and removing them from government positions. Justice belongs to the true victims," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor underscored the policy's core principle: "We do not believe in buying peace, but in establishing it. Innocent people must be protected, and the guilty must be held accountable."

The families expressed profound gratitude to LG Sinha and his administration for acknowledging their pain and fulfilling their promises of justice. They said the initiative not only provides economic stability through employment but also restores dignity to those who suffered in silence.

As one victim's kin remarked, "This is not just policy; it is a watershed moment in justice."—(KNO)

'Lost father in...

job, I started running pillar to post to get the compensatory job. I left no office from district administration to civil secretariat but I only get rejections," he said.

"In between I shouldered the responsibility of caring for family while battling systemic delays and bureaucratic hurdles to secure the government job promised under compensatory schemes for victims of terrorism," he said.

Ajay's journey is a testament to human resilience and perseverance. For over three decades, he fought tirelessly, submitting petitions, attending hearings, and advocating for his rightful claim under the government's compensation policies for families affected by terrorism.

The appointment letter, presented by the Lieutenant Governor, is more than a job offer, it is a symbol of hope and acknowledgment for countless families in Jammu and Kashmir who have endured the scars of terrorism.

Ajay's story reflects the human cost of such violence and the strength it takes to rebuild.

In his remarks, Ajay expressed profound gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor, stating, "This job is not just for me; it's for my mother, who has lived with pain no one can imagine, and for my father, whose sacrifice will never be forgotten. I thank the LG for giving us a chance to live with dignity."

The appointment will provide financial stability and access to resources to support his mother's ongoing mental health needs.

However, Ajay's case also sheds light on the need for streamlined processes to ensure timely support, as many families continue to face delays in receiving promised aid. KNO

Surinder Bhagat holds public darbar at BJP headquarters

JINNESSERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 28

Bharatiya Janata Party MLA from Marh constituency, Surinder Bhagat, held a Public Darbar at the BJP headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, where a large number of people and deputations from different parts of Jammu city and surrounding areas participated to raise their civic and administrative concerns.

The interaction witnessed active participation from residents, social activists, and delegations representing various wards and sectors. People highlighted a wide range of pressing issues related to water supply, power outages, road maintenance, sanitation, drainage, irregularities in public welfare schemes, delay in



revenue-related services, and other developmental concerns. Several deputations also pointed out specific problems being faced in their localities, including need for street lighting, repair of inner roads, and issues related to government school and health center.

Surinder Bhagat gave a patient hearing to all those who came forward with grievances and sugges-

tions. He took immediate cognizance of the major concerns and promptly contacted the officials of the concerned departments to ensure timely action and redressal. In several cases, directions were issued on the spot for field inspections and necessary administrative follow-ups.

While speaking on the occasion, Surinder Bhagat said, "Public Darbars are

an important medium to directly connect with the people and understand their problems firsthand. It is our responsibility to bridge the gap between the administration and the public. I am committed to ensuring that every legitimate concern is addressed with urgency. Resolving people's issues is my top priority, and I will continue to be available for the public at all levels."

He further added that such platforms enhance transparency, accountability, and trust between the people and their elected representatives. Bhagat appreciated the active participation of the public and said that their feedback helps in identifying ground-level challenges that need immediate policy and administrative attention.

Operation Sindoor...

targeted strike. "Our aim was not to occupy territory or start a full-scale war. It was only to locate and destroy terror camps," he said, adding that India's defence systems ensured that no critical assets were harmed during the conflict.

The Defence Minister said that coordinated strikes were carried out on nine terror sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). "The operation was completed within 22 minutes," he said, adding that over 100 terrorists were killed.

The strikes on May 10 also targeted key Pakistani air bases, including Nur Khan Air Base in Rawalpindi, PAF Base Mushaf in Sargodha, Bholar Air Base, and PAF Base Shahbaz in Jacobabad.

Singh said India informed Pakistan in advance about the nature of the strikes. "On May 7, Indian DGMO called the Pakistan DGMO and informed him about the rationale of the attacks; told him they were non-escalatory," he said.

Rejecting suggestions that the operation was paused under external pressure, Rajnath said, "This is completely wrong. In my political life, I have tried not to speak untruths." He said the operation was paused only after achieving the political and military objectives defined before and during the conflict.

He recalled that India had made multiple efforts over the years to build peaceful relations with Pakistan. "Whenever India extended a hand of friendship, the response was war," he said. "We once spoke the language of the Lahore bus journey, but Pakistan did not understand that. We now respond with the Balakot strike."

The Defence Minister said the armed forces were granted full operational freedom, including the authority to select targets. He clarified that the objective was not to wage war, but to compel the adversary to back down in the face of India's military strength.

Referring to previous actions like the 2016 surgical strikes and the 2019 Balakot air strike, Singh said the government had adopted a new approach. "Our government made numerous efforts to establish peace. But later, through these operations and now Operation Sindoor, we have taken a different path."

"If there is any misadventure in the future, the operation will resume," he said, adding that the global community had condemned the Pahalgam attack and backed India's right to respond.

Rajnath also recalled the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, calling it one of the deadliest in India's history. He said the government in power at the time failed to respond effectively, and noted that no major global platform, including the BRICS joint declaration, even acknowledged the attack.

Singh said Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced a firm approach to tackling terrorism, including cross-border strikes inside Pakistan, a policy he believes earlier governments should have adopted. He also noted that during the SCO defence ministers' meeting, no joint statement was released because India refused to soften its position on terrorism.

The Defence Minister said India has shifted its approach to dealing with terrorism under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. He said that instead of sending dossiers, India now responds with action aimed at dismantling the source of terrorist activity. According to Singh, this approach is based on the idea that India must directly address the origin of cross-border threats and has the capacity to act when required.

Rajnath said that the current government has adopted a clear and structured policy in response to national security threats. "Under Prime Minister Modi, India does not stop at documentation. It goes to the root of terrorism and has the strength to uproot it," he said. KNO

LG Sinha addresses...

faculty members of IIT Jammu with the responsibility of expanding research programs of national importance and improving the standard of engineering education to solve real problems faced by industry and the nation.

"Operation Sindoor sent a clear message that India's defense system is second to none. It was a great victory for armed forces and our engineers and this operation has proved that the era of con-

ventional warfare is over, and we must prepare for future warfare.

We must set new paradigms in the defense sector and encourage innovations in cybersecurity, AI-driven warfare, and modern communication systems," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised on increasing the participation and share of IIT graduates in Tech Startups, Artificial Intelligence, Automobile and Space sectors.

Energy and environment along with artificial intelligence are other important sectors that will require leadership from the brainpower of IIT engineering graduates in the near future, he further added.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor launched four new programs for BTech and MTech students. He also congratulated Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu and all the faculty members for the new courses starting from this academic session and for making necessary changes in the syllabus to promote the idea of innovation and startups.

"The Predictive Analytics program will forecast future outcomes through data analysis. Its algorithms are poised to revolutionize healthcare, risk management, operations, and marketing. This will not only empower industries with better decision-making, but it can also be applied to governance and public services. The inter-disciplinary approach of the Engineering Physics program will bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical engineering, thereby aiding in the development of new technologies. This program is expected to foster new innovations in product development and pharmaceuticals," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

He observed that the M.Tech programs like Tunnel Engineering and Structural Engineering will offer modern and global standard solutions to the challenges, especially in Jammu Kashmir and other Himalayan regions.

Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu presented a detailed overview of the institution's Academic Programmes.

Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), senior officials, HoDs, faculty members, and incoming batches of students were present on the occasion. KNO

Thar car involved in...

disregard for the law. We have registered a case of attempt to murder and are employing all available resources, including CCTV analysis and witness statements, to apprehend the accused. The Jammu Police will leave no stone unturned to ensure justice is served."

Local MLA Bahu Vikram Randhawa also visited GMC Jammu to enquire about the health of the victim.

Expressing concern over an attempted murder case reported in Jammu's Gandhi Nagar, Randhawa condemned the violent act and urged police to nab the culprit as soon as possible and punish as per law. KNO

Expecting 'something'...

today's encounter, Omar termed the reports of the killing of a terrorist involved in the recent Pahalgam attack as a positive development, asserting that security forces, including police and Army, have been pursuing terrorists since the attack took place. "If anyone among those involved has been killed today, it's a good thing," he said.

Although it has not been confirmed yet, it is a 'good thing' if anyone amongst them has been killed today, he added.

Omar said that while the discussion on Operation Sindoor in Parliament is appreciable, the Pahalgam attack must also be discussed.

"When Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has admitted intelligence and security failures, it is imperative to discuss who has been held accountable," he said.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister visited the bereaved family of Gujjar youth, Parvez Ahmad, who was killed in crossfire when police were chasing suspected peddlers. Omar was accompanied by his Advisor, Nasir Aslam Wani and Minister Javid Rana.

The CM had earlier called for an impartial and time-bound probe into the incident. KNO

PMMVY awareness, enrollment drive held at Thondwa, Faridabad to strengthen maternal health

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JULY 28

As part of the ongoing nationwide enrollment drive under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) from July 15 to 31, officials from Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) organized a comprehensive awareness and registration session here at Anganwadi Centres Thondwa and Faridabad.

The drive was held under the directions of District Social Welfare Officer Tariq Qazi, aiming to educate and enroll pregnant and lactating women for the scheme's financial and nutritional benefits.

During the session,



detailed guidance was provided on early registration—preferably within the first trimester—to ensure eligible beneficiaries receive full support.

Participants were sensitized about the importance of a balanced diet rich in iron, calcium, and folic acid, the need for adequate rest, and the significance of institutional deliveries and timely vaccinations.

The initiative highlight-

ed the value of safe motherhood practices and the role of preventive care in reducing maternal health risks.

To support smooth implementation, Anganwadi Workers from both centres received training on the technical aspects of registering beneficiaries on the PMMVY portal.

The hands-on session aimed to enhance real-time data updating and ensure proper document-

ation and tracking of services under the scheme. The training also enabled workers to become more effective in community outreach and service delivery.

Aligned with the objectives of Mission Shakti and Mission Poshan, the drive emphasized strengthening healthcare services at the grassroots level. By focusing on early intervention, community education, and inter-departmental collaboration, the PMMVY awareness and enrollment campaign has contributed meaningfully to improving maternal and child health outcomes, empowering rural women and building a healthier society in the region.

Satish Sharma inaugurates stakeholders meet on STI; launches innovation initiatives for J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 28

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Information Technology, and Transport, Satish Sharma, today inaugurated a major Stakeholders Meet on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) at IIT Jammu.

The event, jointly organized by the Northern Region S&T Cluster (PI-RAHI) and the Jammu & Kashmir Science, Technology & Innovation Council (JKSTIC), brought together the leading voices from academia, government, industry and the startup ecosystem to strengthen J&K's innovation landscape.

On the occasion, the Minister launched three ambitious initiatives aimed at catalyzing inno-



vation and research in the Union Territory which included GINI, Grassroot Innovators of Northern India, Innovation Ambassadors Program and SPARK-J&K - Strategic Program for Accelerating Research and Knowledge, J&K

Satish Sharma underscored the importance of innovation in governance and sustainable development. "Science and technology are integral to the progress and prosperity of any society. The government of Jammu & Kashmir is fully committed to create an enabling

ecosystem that supports innovators, startups and researchers at every level," he stated.

Highlighting the integration of technology into public service delivery, Sharma pointed out the synergy between science, IT and citizen welfare, especially in sectors like agriculture, health, food security and transport. He stressed that such platforms are critical to build evidence-based policy, sustainable industries and a future-ready workforce.

Scientific Secretary to the Principal Scientific Adviser, Government

of India, Dr Parvinder Maini, applauded the growing STI capabilities of the region and called for deeper collaboration among stakeholders.

Technical sessions were held on diverse topics such as AI in governance, waste-to-wealth initiatives, agri-tech and sustainable tourism.

Senior officials including Dr. Nasir Shah (Additional Director, JKSTIC) and Dr. Jatinder Kaur Arora (Advisor, PI-RAHI) spoke on the transformative role of science and innovation in regional development.

Faculty from IIT Jammu, SMVDU, SKUAST-K along with industry experts and policymakers, participated in the deliberations, reaffirming their collective commitment towards advancing J&K's STI mission.

PMMVY Camp held at Chingam village; Beneficiaries enrolled on-the-spot

Joint Director Poshan J&K applauds grassroots level implementation

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JULY 28

In a significant outreach initiative aimed at extending the benefits of welfare schemes to remote areas, a Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) camp was successfully organized here at Chingam village of Poshan Project Inderalwal.

Joint Director Poshan J&K Vinod Behnal attended the camp held on the directions of MD Poshan JK Musheer Ahmed.

The event witnessed the active participation of CDPOs, Supervisors, Anganwadi Workers, Anganwadi Helpers, ben-



eficiaries—including pregnant women and lactating mothers, besides the general public.

A notable number of beneficiaries were enrolled on the spot during. The Joint Director Poshan conducted a detailed tour of the village to supervise the implementation of the PMMVY

scheme at the grassroots level. The PMMVY provisions financial assistance of Rs 5,000 to the eligible expecting mother for the first live birth and Rs 6,000 for the second girl child, to ensure required nutrition for mother and child.

Addressing the gathering, the Joint Director

commended the tireless efforts of field-level functionaries, particularly the Anganwadi Workers and Helpers, for their commitment and dedication in ensuring the delivery of essential services to the most remote corners.

He also emphasized the importance of such initiatives in strengthening last-mile delivery and ensuring the vision of Poshan Abhiyaan is realized.

The camp highlighted the Department's commitment to inclusive outreach and reaffirmed its goal of supporting maternal and child health through effective scheme implementation.

World Hepatitis Day celebrated across J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 28

World Hepatitis Day was today celebrated in various health Institutions across Jammu and Kashmir.

Pertinently, the World Hepatitis Day is being observed annually on July 28th, a global health day focused on raising awareness about viral hepatitis, which is a serious inflammation of the liver.

This year's theme "Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down," emphasised the need to eliminate the barriers to testing, treatment and prevention. The day serves as a call to action for countries to expand access to testing and treatment and prioritize vaccination, safe injection practices and community engagement to combat this preventable disease.



The medical fraternity has been advised to tackle this grave public health challenge of such huge magnitude with utmost dedication. They have been emphasised for generating mass awareness among the high risk categories like blood/organ donors/recipients, patients on haemodialysis, pregnant women, prisoners, Induced Drug Users

(IDUs) and others.

Under the National Health Mission, J&K, 135 camps were organised and 103 rallies conducted across the UT of Jammu & Kashmir on the eve of "World Hepatitis Day -2025". Nearly, 14578 individuals including High Risk Groups and other target groups viz-a-viz pregnant women, patients on haemodialysis and

blood donors had been screened for Hepatitis-B & C.

Further, it is pertinent to mention that on the eve of "World Hepatitis Day -2025" Hepatitis-B vaccination was administered to various healthcare workers across the UT for prevention of Hepatitis- B infection and its associated complications among all the healthcare workers.

Besides, screening camps were organised by the National Health Mission, J&K, in collaboration with Directorate of Health Services, Jammu/Kashmir across various blocks and districts of the UT. These screening camps were inaugurated by the respective District Development Commissioners, Director Health Services, Jammu/ Kashmir and Project Director JKSAKS, J&K.

Director Horticulture Jammu tours District Poonch to review developmental activities

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 28

Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Sayed undertook a two day comprehensive tour of District Poonch to assess the implementation of the horticultural schemes and review on-ground developmental activities aimed at strengthening the horticulture sector in the region.

During the tour, Sayed was accompanied by Chief Horticulture Poonch Sanjeev Kumar and other senior officers & officials of the department. He visited multiple farmers' orchards across Poonch, Lassana, Harni, Mendhar, Surankote and Balakote blocks. He inaugurated different Mother blocks of Apple and Walnut established by the



beneficiaries under HADP.

During the interaction programme with orchardists, he took first hand appraisal of the condition of orchards of apple, walnut, pecan nut and other stone fruit crops. He encouraged farmers to adopt advanced horticultural practices to improve productivity and enhance income.

He also addressed the concerns of the farmers and encouraged them to fully leverage the benefits of departmental schemes especially HADP and JKICIP aimed at improving horti-

cultural productivity and increasing farm income. He asked the farmers to come forward and access the HADP & JKICIP portals, apply online and avail benefits of these schemes. He highlighted the solar fencing being introduced through JKICIP scheme for the areas affected by monkeys & other wild animals.

Further, Director inspected various Govt. fruit plant nurseries across the district viz: Ajote, Poonch, Ari, Mendhar & Surankote and appreciated the working of District Horticulture

department in implementing various schemes and developmental works going on in district Poonch. The Director took stock of the ongoing developmental activities in the nursery and gave on spot instructions to the nursery staff regarding the production of quality grafted planting material in the nursery.

Later, the Director convened a meeting of the District Officers, HDO's, officials & field functionaries of district Poonch. He impressed upon staff to make maximum efforts to reach every farmer and create greater awareness about various departmental schemes, particularly focusing on the promotion of Pecannut, Walnut and HD Apple.

Public hearing held for environmental clearance of proposed Clinker Grinding Unit

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, JULY 28

A public hearing for the proposed Standalone Clinker Grinding Unit, with a cement production capacity of 6.0 Million TPA (2 x 3 Million TPA), was conducted today at Nuh Barnoti, Kathua. The event was organized by the Jammu & Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC), Jammu, as part of the statutory process for obtaining Environmental Clearance under the EIA Notification, 2006, issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India.

The proposed unit is planned to be set up at villages Merth and Nagrota in Tehsil and District Kathua. The hearing was supervised by senior officials from J&KPCC, the office of the Additional Deputy Commissioner Kathua and Divisional Officer, Pollution Control Committee Kathua. The session witnessed active participation from local residents, public representatives, environmental stakeholders and community members, who raised pertinent queries and concerns related to the project's environmental and social impact.

During the hearing, the project's Environmental



Consultant presented the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report, detailing the findings of baseline environmental studies and proposed mitigation measures concerning air and water quality, noise levels, ecological aspects and safety during the construction and operational phases of the project.

To ensure transparency and adherence to regulatory norms, the entire proceedings were videographed and voice

recorded. All relevant documentation and feedback from stakeholders will be compiled and submitted to MoEF&CC for further examination and processing of the Environmental Clearance.

The public hearing is a key step in promoting participatory environmental governance and reflects the Government's commitment to sustainable development and responsible industrial growth in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Jt. Director Information Kashmir condoles demise of Bashir Ahmad Bhat (Kotur)

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 28

Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari, has expressed deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of renowned theater artist and comedian Bashir Ahmad Bhat, popularly known as Bashir Kotur, who passed away on Monday.

In his condolence message, Joint Director described Bhat as a gifted performer who brought smiles to people through his powerful performances and distinctive comic timing. He added that Bhat's contributions to Kashmiri art, culture and theatre were immense and will be remembered for generations.

Meanwhile, a condolence meeting was held in this connection under the chairmanship of the Joint Director Information, Kashmir, at the Joint Directorate of Information Kashmir, Kot- hibagh, here.

During the meeting, participants offered their condolences to his family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul besides

courage for the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Deputy Director Information (PR) Kashmir, Ahsanul Haq Chishti; Cultural Officer, Burhan Hussain and other officers and officials of Information Department Kashmir also extended sympathies to the bereaved family and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

Preparations for I-Day 2025 reviewed at Sumbal

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JULY 28

In view of the upcoming Independence Day 2025 celebrations, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Sumbal, on Monday chaired a meet-

ing of concerned officers and heads of various departments to review the preparedness for the national event across the sub-division. During the meeting, key issues including security arrangements, venue readiness, cultural pro-

grammes, sanitation, power and water supply, transportation, and healthcare facilities at the venue were discussed. SDM directed the officers to maintain a high level of preparedness and ensure public participation while uphold-

ing the dignity and patriotic spirit of the day. SDM emphasized the importance of seamless coordination and timely execution of responsibilities by all departments for the smooth conduct of the celebrations.

EDITORIAL

J&K deserves its Statehood back

As August 5 nears, it brings with it the memory of a political and constitutional reimagining that changed the course of Jammu and Kashmir's history. On this date in 2019, Article 370 of the Constitution was abrogated and the state was bifurcated into two Union Territories—J&K and Ladakh. The Centre justified the move citing national security concerns and the need to integrate the region fully into the Indian Union. But six years later, the promised return of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir remains unfulfilled, despite repeated assurances by the country's top leadership. Union Home Minister Amit Shah had committed on the floor of Parliament that J&K would regain its statehood at an "appropriate time." Prime Minister Narendra Modi, too, has reiterated this assurance multiple times. That "appropriate time," however, has remained undefined, dragging people into a loop of uncertainty. The road-map seemed clear initially: delimitation, then elections, followed by statehood. The Delimitation Commission submitted its report in May 2022, and after judicial intervention, the Supreme Court directed Assembly elections to be held by September 30, 2024—a deadline finally met in October. But the final step—restoration of statehood—still hangs in balance. Over these years, political narratives around statehood have shifted. The Congress has taken to the streets, reminding the Centre of its constitutional promise. The National Conference (NC), while supportive of statehood, has chosen a non-confrontational path with the Centre, arguing that governance is handicapped without statehood. Meanwhile, the Apni Party was among the first to raise the issue in the early days of political freeze, attempting to revive engagement between Srinagar and Delhi. Despite this, the Centre appears reluctant, citing national security concerns. The tragic Pahalgam incident of April 2024, which claimed 26 innocent lives, is now being used as a cautionary tale against devolving power. But this logic is flawed. Security in J&K has always been a central subject, even under an elected government. Blaming a potential political setup for intelligence failures is neither fair nor constructive. The larger concern is the emergence of a dual-power system—where bureaucracy governs but accountability is elusive. The absence of a locally accountable government has strained the administrative machinery and eroded public trust. People increasingly feel alienated, not just politically but psychologically. The disconnect is palpable on the ground. Statehood should not be viewed as a risk to national security or a concession to political parties. Rather, it must be seen as an essential component of democratic governance. Restoring statehood is not about winning or losing—it is about restoring agency, trust, and dignity to a people who have waited too long for political normalcy. The solution lies in open dialogue, mutual respect, and a willingness to listen. The Centre must call an all-party meeting and chart a roadmap. All stakeholders—including BJP, which has a substantial presence in the region—should come together. Let us not reduce statehood to a zero-sum game. It is time to move beyond fear, and toward a shared vision of inclusive governance.

Echoes of Togetherness in an Age of Independence

SHARMILA VAIDYA

When my daughter got engaged, I was thrilled. I imagined the joyful planning of wedding shopping, the invitations, venue, dress fitting, etc. However, when I offered my help. She politely said, "Mom, dad, we would like to plan our wedding ourselves." We knew she was financially secure, knew the latest trends and above all, it would make her happy. We looked at her beaming face and gave in. At first, I assumed it was just her independent personality. But when I looked around, I realised it was everywhere, "a modern trend" where individual preferences often took precedence over collective involvement.

This shift made me pause and reflect on just how much life has changed since I was growing up. Amongst some of the other changes, the one that stood out the most to me was how dinner used to be a time where families gathered around the dining table and socialised, talking about their day. Now, however, it's mostly replaced by screen time, TV or reduced to text messages. "Gather" has just become a decoration on the wall. It seems like individualism is more prevalent now than it used to be. Is the shift from "we" to "I" a sign of progress? Can it be equated with financial independence and personal freedom? Economic empowerment and technology have led to self-sufficiency. But is this shift "always"

a sign of development? These are some of the questions we have to ask ourselves. So, I asked myself.... let's take marriage for instance. Today, couples have more choices, greater acceptance from society and access to a wealth of resources. Financial security gives them the power to decide what they want and when they want. Hence, there is less tolerance, less compromise and sometimes less inclination to accommodate. So, what's the flip side to these changes? Perhaps a feeling of void amongst the couples. Families with children suffer the most as children often bear the emotional burden and suffer the consequences. They may be confused, hurt

and insecure, which, in turn, affects their development and personalities in the long run. This is where counselling comes into the picture. For couples and families, therapy can provide clarity and support—though sometimes it helps and sometimes not so much. One wonders what they did back then. There was counselling provided by family members, who could be a trusted aunt or uncle or an experienced adult. The community feeling was there in the form of a built-in support system. "Godparents" were not something to be requested for, but an intrinsic part of the extended family. It was not something you had to ask for—it was always there. There was a sense of "We," which extended beyond the

nuclear family. As the saying goes, "the new bequeath the old." Is true. Progress is inevitable and necessary. However, moving forward does not necessarily mean discarding the past; it means building on it with an open mind. My article intends to encourage both younger and older generations to think outside the box. The objective is not to follow the changing trends blindly. Progress is meaningful when it preserves what's valuable while adopting what's necessary. As one moves forward in life, maybe we do not need to choose between "We" and "I." Perhaps, the real growth lies in blending the two. (The writer is an author based in the USA)

India's AI Dream Faces a Hard Reality Check

GOVIND BHATTACHARJEE

A press release issued by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in March 2025 claimed that India was on the cusp of an AI revolution, having allocated Rs 10,300 crore, or US\$ 1.2 billion, over the next five years to develop a high-end common computing facility equipped with 18,693 GPUs, making it one of the most extensive AI compute infrastructures globally. This can give India substantial computing power, given that the Chinese open-source AI model DeepSeek uses only 2000 GPUs and operates on 25000 GPUs. However, the promise to make India a global AI giant is unlikely to be fulfilled anytime soon. A reality check might help the mandarins at MeitY to wake up from their make-believe world of AI greatness and realign their policies with a wartime urgency, because the fact remains that India is a laggard in the global AI race in which the US and China are lightyears ahead of us. It is not that India lacks talent—it has a 1.2 million strong talent pool of AI/ML professionals—its educational ecosystem turns

out over 22,000 AI specialists every year. It boasts a vibrant tech ecosystem that facilitates AI applications. AI systems require massive amounts of data; indeed, AI is only as good as the data that fuels it, and India has one of the biggest data ecosystems in the world—its 900 million internet users generate huge amounts of data. But our AI innovations are still stuck at a nascent stage with huge resource constraints and lag way behind the frontrunners in scale, innovation and research. With just 33 supercomputers, none of them dedicated to AI, India holds only 2 per cent of the global AI computing power, while the USA and China have more than a hundred supercomputers each, many dedicated to AI use. Among the fastest 500 supercomputers in the world, India has only 6, with our top-ranked machine, AIRAWAT, placed at only 136th position in terms of speed and performance. The result is that OpenAI's GPT-4, Anthropic's Claude, and Google's Gemini dominate global benchmarks, and US companies continue to release large-scale, general-purpose foundation models trained on

vast amounts of data that can be adapted to a wide range of downstream tasks like translation, summarisation, question answering, image generation, etc. They have access to unmatched compute, massive datasets, and cutting-edge chip designs. Even Chinese models like Baidu's Ernie 4.0 or Alibaba's Tongyi Qianwen rival Western large language models (LLMs) in Chinese language performance. China's DeepSeek, offering cheaper, open-source, and quickly iterated variations, has jolted the US tech giants and greatly accelerated the race to the top, while in India, our efforts remain limited to tackling diverse local challenges in diagnostics, logistics, finance and governance, with AI startups building mostly language and domain-specific solutions. India's LLMs like Sarvam, Krutrim, and BharatGPT focus on low-resource language inclusion, digital public infrastructure like Aadhaar, ONDC, UPI, and lower-cost compute and localisation, lagging in scale, benchmarks, and ecosystem maturity compared to the USA or China.

While the USA or China can leverage their AI advantages for economic expansion, global influence, space race and military superiority, we will remain trapped in a low-level equilibrium at great peril to our economy and national security. Lack of resources remains the major constraint. According to the 2025 AI-Index published by Stanford University, global private venture capital funding for AI startups reached \$132 billion in 2024, of which the USA attracted \$109 billion of that, followed by China at \$9.3 billion and the UK at \$4.5 billion. India stood at the 12th spot with only \$1.2 billion in private AI investments. In total, from 2013 to 2024, India's cumulative private AI investment was \$11.29 billion—still less than what the US invested in a single year in 2024. One reason behind the low investment is the risk-averse start-up mindset of domestic VC funds, which prefers quick solutions and returns over original innovation, which may carry a high risk of failure but also delivers much higher long-range returns. The other is the government's inability or unwillingness to increase R&D expendi-

ture, which remains among the lowest in the world, at only 0.6 per cent of GDP, compared to 2.7 per cent for China and OECD countries, and over 3.4 per cent for the USA. Government Initiatives like IndiaAI Mission (2024) or our AI Strategy lack the boldness, scale and determination backed by resource commitment needed to compete with the frontrunners, while we continue to pour billions of dollars' worth of doles into highly wasteful and poorly targeted welfare schemes like food security. AI has already created a huge digital divide in the world, in which only a few countries today are appropriating all the benefits. The divide is influencing not only geopolitics but also creating huge dependencies. We run the risk of getting excluded from a technology race that is shaping and defining our world if we do not urgently change our approach to become a contender rather than remaining a laggard forever. (The writer is former Director General at the Office of CAG of India and is currently a Professor at the Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management)

Common Service Centres: Taking digital revolution to rural India

DINESH TYAGI

India has been in news for building and promoting the Digital Infrastructure as a public good. It is one of the few countries to have offered such digital infrastructure with connected application to other countries in the world for ensuring that such benefits reach citizens of nations with poor or low level of digital penetration. Some of these are disruptive, as UPI, Digital Locker, Aadhaar, Cowin etc. There is, however, another side to using the digital initiative/programme for building a unique model of sustainable social enterprise, especially in the rural areas. The Government programme of Common Service Centre (CSC) is designed on this framework of skilling and using the service delivery as the incentive for entrepreneurship development. Out of about more than six lakh CSCs, more than one lakh are operated and managed by women. Women-led ICT-enabled enterprises on such a large scale and geographically equitably spread across the country is unique and probably first of its kind in the world. Digital service delivery model through a local entrepreneur (CSC) enabling citizens to access most of the G2C and B2C close to the place of residence in India is today the world's largest network. Started in the year 2006, the real momentum to the CSC scheme was provided after 2014 when CSC became an integral part of the 'Digital India' programme and got the

desired support at the political level. Government took steps to make the programme a "movement" rather than a scheme and generated passion and commitment amongst the new breed of entrepreneurs to serve the society and build sustainable enterprises. There were only 68,000 functional CSCs before the year 2014 which has increased to more than six lakhs as on March 2025.

Garnering Private Capital

Government did not provide any capital support required for the infrastructure to start such enterprises but utilised the network to deliver various services to citizens. With an average capital investment of Rs 2 lakhs for each CSC, the total private investment in this scheme has been to the tune of Rs 12,000 crore.

Government support enablement to catalyse the private capital investment from a large number of entrepreneurs, that too mainly in the rural areas, is exemplary and a lesson/case study to take similar initiatives in other areas such as agriculture and allied sectors and mobilise private capital for investment for larger public good.

Government service delivery through the CSC has evolved over a long period of time. Even today some States are unable or unwilling to deliver the G2C through the CSC network. In such States either the service delivery framework is still underdeveloped or being delivered through other channels. The good thing is that at GOI level, almost all the Minis-

tries/departments are utilising the CSC network to deliver the services to the citizen.

Aadhaar Registration and Updates

Initially the sustainability and enthusiasm for the entrepreneur was by enabling Aadhaar registration for citizens. More than 20 crore of Aadhaar registrations were done through CSC, which helped in increasing the credibility of CSC entrepreneurs in the community as well as increased their income substantially. About 40,000 CSCs at some point were doing Aadhaar registration. They also played a significant role in registration of school-going children and the new-born which the Government was unable to get through its other channels.

This service was stopped and resulted in a big loss of business to the CSC entrepreneur, besides non-utilisation of the capital invested (each Aadhaar centre required a capital of Rs 3 lakh). Subsequently, only Aadhaar updation was allowed through selected CSCs (those working as banking correspondent—BC). Stoppage of Aadhaar was a great setback for the entire CSC ecosystem.

Financial Services

G2C for the CSC was only an enabler and did not provide the adequate resource for developing a sustainable business model. CSC then started to focus on other services as BC and B2C. The banking, insurance and pension services did help to a great extent in enhancing the income of the CSC entre-

preneur. Not only public sector banks but banks such as HDFC supported in promoting the delivery of financial services to citizens through the CSC. HDFC MD even visited many CSCs and set up an exclusive team at every level to support the CSC in delivering their products and services (PSB MDs do not even visit their branches). Similarly, for the insurance services HDFC Ergo and India First were the first few to use the CSC network. IRDAI, however, for the first time enabled a CSC to work as Broker—deliver products of all the insurance companies—and framed guidelines for the same. Citizens can now pay premium for the insurance policies and purchase new policies of Life and Non-Life through the CSC. Delivery of financial services through the CSC became a game changer as the BC can put up a board of the concerned Bank which enhanced the footfalls significantly and increased revenue.

Digital Literacy and Educational Services

Government scheme of PMGDISA—digital literacy programme for training 6 crore citizens through the CSC network transformed the CSC into a digital Knowledge Hub. The CSC could improve on the infrastructure—5-10 computers—and identify a new gamut of long-term service delivery—educational services. PMGDISA redefined the CSC delivery framework and a number of service providers like NIELIT, NIOS, IGNOU, Symbiosis, IIT Mumbai got associated in making their courses available

to the citizen through the CSC. The launch of CSC Bal Vidyalaya—more than 3000—is another step in a similar direction. Concept of school without teacher—promoting education through a facilitator using technology—has been tried in these Bal Vidyalayas. CSC could support those children/citizens who are weak in studies/unable to go to school or college or not allowed to go but desire to study. Remote proctoring exam was first time introduced in the country through CSC and benefitted a large number of girls/women who could not or were not allowed to go to the examination centre which in many cases were 100-200 km away from their residence. Educational services through the CSC mainly supported the girls and women from rural India. Even the OBC, SC, ST and minorities got benefitted, which is reflected in the number trained and certified under the digital literacy programme.

Delivery of Products

CSC has become a reliable instrument for promoting digital and financial inclusion in the country. These are now being utilised extensively by private companies to promote/sell their products across the country in an easy and acceptable format. Large companies as Tata, IFFCO, UNIBIC, Crompton, Symphony etc. are delivering products and finding this non-traditional channel quite exciting. Companies who cannot set up distribution channels and have new products can utilise the CSC channel for competing with established

players. For CSC VLEs this is a new stream of business.

What Next?

CSC service charges have not been revised since inception and need immediate intervention by the State Government to consider so as to enable the VLE cope up with enhanced cost in maintaining the establishment and infrastructure. Aadhaar updation can be allowed through all the CSCs—of course with required regulatory prescription. CSC played a significant role in activation of Bharat Net Phase I. They can be utilised to maintain and manage the last mile of Bharat Net, which can be a win-win for Government, internet provider (BSNL) and the citizen. CSC VLE can work as 'Cable Connection Provider' for the last mile ISP. Rather than selecting large companies, it is better to select/engage the local CSC for optical fibre maintenance and upkeep of the GPON—Panchayat level equipment. As CSC will be the first user of the internet in the village, he/she will ensure its proper upkeep and maintenance. We can then only fulfil the Government dream of 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' and 'Gram Swaraj' thereby creating local level skilled resources.

Similar to the PMGDISA, a programme to enable citizens learn how to use AI and protect themselves from cyber threats can further enhance the role of CSC in promoting use of emerging technology by the citizens, especially those living in rural India—a truly digitally inclusive society.

CSC can also be transformed as 'Digital Knowledge Hub', the Government earlier programme of Digital Village can be revisited and CSC entrepreneurs can truly be utilised for the overall village community (child, adult, women and old) empowerment and support Government in delivering the schemes and programmes effectively and efficiently. Even the private sector companies, especially the emerging 'start-ups' can use the network for easily accessible outreach. CSC can enable them to deliver products and services across the country including the remote and difficult areas which otherwise are quite cumbersome and costly through the traditional distribution channel. Each CSC on average directly or indirectly engages four persons and can be further supported for sustaining the manpower through additional services delivery. A network employing more than 2 million persons, especially in rural India, is a story of success of the Digital India programme and can be further utilised as a model to promote similar grassroots level institutions in agriculture, social and allied sectors of the economy. Each of the CSCs can be registered and promoted as a "Start-up" and provided incentive similar as provided in the prescribed policy. We can be the first nation of having six lakh "Start-ups" uniquely designed to meet the expectations of the youth and build sustainable business at grassroots level. (The writer is retired IAS officer)

48 projects approved to avoid disruption in supply of critical active pharma ingredients

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The government on Tuesday said that it has approved 48 projects under the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for promotion of domestic manufacturing of critical Key Starting Materials (KSMs) / Drug Intermediates (DIs) and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) in India.

The scheme aims to avoid disruption in supply of critical active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) used to make critical drugs for which there are no alternatives by reducing supply disruption risk due to excessive dependence on single source, said Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers, Anupriya Patel, in Rajya Sabha in a written reply to a question.

Products notified and approved under the scheme prior to commencement of produc-



tion under the PLI scheme were primarily imported.

As of December 2024, against an investment commitment of Rs 3,938.5 crore over the period of six years, investment of Rs 4,254 crore has already been made under the scheme.

As a result of the scheme, cumulative sales of Rs 1,556 crore have been reported over the period from the beginning of the scheme till December 2024, including exports of Rs 412 crore, thereby avoiding imports worth Rs 1,144 crore and creating

domestic manufacturing capacity for 25 identified KSMs/DIs/APIs.

Number of measures were taken to enhance awareness and encourage participation in the scheme at the time of the launch of the scheme and various rounds of invitation of applications under it, said the minister.

These are conducting of webinars and stakeholder consultation meetings with industry associations and potential applicants; issuing of press releases, detailed guidelines, clarifications in the form of frequently asked questions (FAQs) and answers thereto and scheme notifications on official websites;

Regular outreach through social media campaigns; provision of dedicated helpdesk support and query resolution mechanisms through the scheme portal; and issue of press releases and hosting of the same on government websites.

Study claims beetroot juice can lower blood pressure in elderly

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Older adults with high blood pressure may benefit from drinking beetroot juice, claimed a study on Wednesday.

The blood pressure-lowering effect of nitrate-rich beetroot juice in older individuals may be attributed to specific changes in their oral microbiome, according to a study led by researchers at the University of Exeter in the UK.

Nitrate is crucial to the body and is consumed as a natural part of a vegetable-rich diet.

In the study, when the older adults drank a concentrated beetroot juice 'shot' twice a day for two weeks, their blood pressure decreased. However, the effect was not observed in the younger group, as revealed by the findings published in the journal *Free Radical Biology and Medicine*.

"This study shows that



nitrate-rich foods alter the oral microbiome in a way that could result in less inflammation, as well as a lowering of blood pressure in older people. This paves the way for larger studies to explore the influence of lifestyle factors and biological sex in how people

respond to dietary nitrate supplementation," said Professor Andy Jones, of the University of Exeter.

The study recruited 39 adults aged under 30 and 36 adults in their 60s and 70s who spent two weeks taking regular doses of nitrate-rich beetroot juice

and two weeks on a placebo version of the juice with nitrate stripped out.

The older age group experienced a notable decrease in the potentially harmful mouth bacteria *Prevotella* after drinking the nitrate-rich juice, and an increase in the growth of bacteria known to benefit health, such as *Neisseria*.

The team said that an imbalance between beneficial and harmful oral bacteria can decrease the conversion of nitrate (abundant in vegetable-rich diets) to nitric oxide.

Nitric oxide is crucial to the healthy functioning of the blood vessels, and therefore the regulation of blood pressure, the researchers explained.

"The good news is that if you don't like beetroot, there are many nitrate-rich alternatives like spinach, rocket, fennel, celery, and kale," added Professor Anni Vanhatalo, from the varsity.

7,000 daily steps can cut your risk of cancer, depression, death: The Lancet

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Just 7,000 daily steps can be key to reducing your risk of developing a range of chronic diseases like cancer, diabetes, and cognitive issues like depression, dementia, as well as death, according to a new study published in the journal *The Lancet Public Health* on Thursday.

The comprehensive review, including 57 studies, analysed data from over 160,000 adults, and found that walking approximately 7,000 steps per day is associated with reductions in the risk of several serious health outcomes.

The 7,000 steps aided in reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease (by 25 per cent), cancer (by 6 per cent), type 2 diabetes (by 14 per cent), dementia (by 38 per cent), depression (by 22 per cent), and falls (by 28 per cent). The all-



cause mortality was cut down by nearly 50 per cent.

Notably, while the current unofficial target of 10,000 steps per day, the study highlighted that 7,000 steps daily may be more realistic, particularly for less active people.

"Although 10,000 steps per day can still be a viable target for those who are more active, 7,000 steps per day is associated with

clinically meaningful improvements in health outcomes and might be a more realistic and achievable target for some," said corresponding author Prof Ding Ding, from The Charles Perkins Centre, at The University of Sydney in Australia.

The study also revealed that even modest step counts (around 4,000 steps per day) are linked to better health com-

pared to very low activity (around 2,000 steps per day).

For some conditions, such as heart disease, health benefits continued to increase beyond 7,000 steps, but for most conditions, the benefits tended to level off.

However, the team also acknowledged limitations, such as the small number of studies available, particularly for cancer and dementia, and a lack of age-specific analysis and biases at the individual study level.

Yet, the findings underscore the value of using daily step counts as a straightforward way to measure physical activity, the researchers said.

They suggest these results could help shape future public health guidelines and recommendations, encouraging more people to track their steps as a practical way to improve their health.

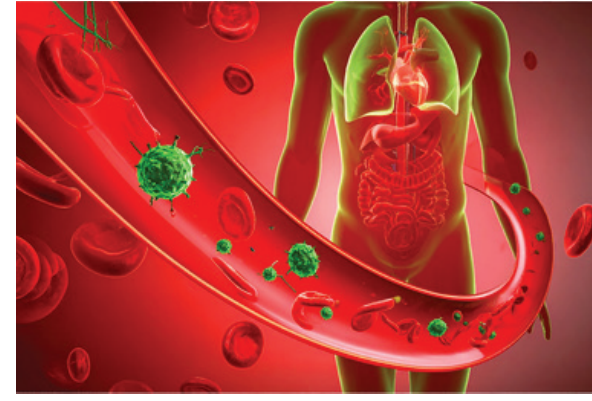
Indian scientists develop new nano-sensor to detect deadly sepsis infection in minutes

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

A group of scientists from the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Calicut has developed a new highly sensitive, low-cost, and point-of-care device with an electrochemical biosensor that could rapidly diagnose deadly sepsis infections and boost treatment outcomes.

Sepsis is a serious medical condition caused by an infection that can lead to multiple organ failure, shock, and even death. Early and accurate diagnosis is crucial for timely therapeutic intervention and improving patient outcomes, which in turn directly impact mortality rates.

Early diagnosis is possible with the precise and sensitive detection of specific biomarkers. Endotoxin, a toxic component of the outer membrane of Gram-negative bacteria,



acts as a key biomarker, signalling the presence of an infection that could lead to sepsis.

To rapidly detect endotoxin, the NIT team developed eight distinct sensor architectures. Of these, seven employed electrochemical detection, and one utilised optical detection, said the team led by Dr. N. Sandhyarani, Professor, NIT Calicut.

In the paper, published in the journal *Langmuir*, the team demonstrated a highly sensitive elec-

trochemical sensor chip designed for the selective detection of Lipopolysaccharide (LPS), which is compatible with a portable analyser for on-site detection.

All the sensors exhibited high selectivity and detected endotoxin in the presence of other interfering compounds.

"The presence of endotoxin is detected in the pharmaceutical drug Biphase insulin, fruit juices, and whole blood by the stan-

dard addition method. The endotoxin recovery was within 2 per cent error in all the cases," the researchers said.

Further, two of the electrochemical platforms demonstrated versatility by enabling the sensitive detection of Gram-negative bacteria, specifically *E. coli*, in water samples.

The findings also demonstrated that the quantification of *E. coli* using these platforms is comparable to traditional biological methods and also reduces analysis time. This highlights their potential for efficient water quality monitoring, the team said.

The team's point-of-care device -- a portable and cost-effective electrochemical biosensor prototype specifically for endotoxin detection -- detected endotoxin in blood serum using a standard addition method, providing results within 10 minutes.

WHO calls for urgent global action on contamination of medicines with toxic chemicals

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Thursday called out the need for urgent regulatory action against contamination of medicines with industrial-grade toxic chemicals, posing severe health risks, especially among children.

Calling it a "tragic and ongoing public health crisis", the WHO mainly focussed on diethylene glycol (DEG) and ethylene glycol (EG).

"These substances are used as industrial solvents and antifreeze agents but can cause severe health issues and be fatal if ingested, even in small amounts, especially for children. They are often illegally substituted for pharmaceutical-grade excipients such as propylene glycol, glycerin, and sorbitol -- ingredients used in the formulation of medicines, including cough and paracetamol syrups,"



the WHO said.

In a report jointly released with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the global health body unveiled critical findings on the persistent and preventable threat of contaminated medicines, which claimed the lives and compromised the health of countless patients, predominantly children, through the ingestion of medicines with dangerously high levels of toxic chemicals.

"Over the past 90 years, at least 25 documented incidents of excipient contamination have resulted in more than 1,300 deaths worldwide, many of them children," the WHO said. The more recent case was in The Gambia, in which at least 66 children lost their lives, quickly followed by similar incidents in Indonesia and Uzbekistan, with a further 268 reported deaths.

"These incidents occur often due to systemic vulnerabilities in the global

supply chain of pharmaceutical excipients, and they have disproportionately affected people in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), where regulatory oversight and access to quality-assured medicines may be limited," the WHO said.

The report also revealed how criminal networks exploit market volatility and regulatory gaps to introduce toxic substitutes into the supply chain. These include the use of falsified labels and substitution of toxic chemicals for legitimate excipients such as propylene glycol; the marketing of falsified excipients via online platforms, including e-commerce and social media, among others.

The WHO called for urgent global action to close regulatory gaps, strengthen oversight of excipient supply chains, and protect all populations, especially children, from preventable and deadly poisoning.

Air pollution, car exhaust emissions may raise your risk of dementia: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Regular exposure to air pollution, including that coming from car exhaust emissions, can increase your risk of dementia, according to an analysis of studies published on Friday.

Dementias such as Alzheimer's disease are estimated to affect more than 57.4 million people worldwide, a number that is expected to almost triple to 152.8 million cases by 2050.

The study, published in the journal *The Lancet Planetary Health*, showed that for every 10 micrograms per cubic metre of PM2.5, an individual's relative risk of dementia would increase by 17 per cent.

For each 1 micrograms per cubic metre of soot as found in PM2.5, the relative risk for the cognitive condition increased by 13 per cent. Soot comes from sources such as vehicle



exhaust emissions and burning wood.

"These findings underscore the need for an interdisciplinary approach to dementia prevention. Preventing dementia is not just the responsibility of health care: this study strengthens the case that urban planning, transport policy, and environmental regulation all have a significant role to play," said joint first author Dr. Christiaan Bredell from the University of Cambridge.

Air pollution causes inflammation in the brain and oxidative stress (a chemical process in the body that can cause damage to cells, proteins, and DNA), leading to the onset and progression of dementia.

"Tackling air pollution can deliver long-term health, social, climate, and economic benefits. It can reduce the immense burden on patients, families, and caregivers, while easing pressure on overstretched health care

systems," said Dr. Haneen Khreis from the MRC Epidemiology Unit.

For the study, the team carried out a systematic review and meta-analysis of existing scientific literature. They included 51 studies, including data from more than 29 million participants, mostly from high-income countries. Of these, 34 papers were included in the meta-analysis: 15 originated in North America, 10 in Europe, seven in Asia, and two in Australia.

The researchers found a positive and statistically significant association between particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 microns or less (PM2.5), Nitrogen dioxide (NO2), and soot and dementia.

Further analysis revealed that the effect of exposure to these pollutants was stronger for vascular dementia -- a type of dementia caused by reduced blood flow to the brain.

Cushman & Wakefield and Pyramid Infratech Host Real Estate Event in Jammu



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 28

Cushman & Wakefield, a global property consultancy, in association with leading developer Pyramid Infratech, successfully hosted a real estate event in Jammu on 26th July 2025 at Radisson Blu. The event was attended by over 100 guests, including representatives from the business and professional communities, senior public officials, and members of the bureaucracy. Notable dignitaries in attendance included Sh. Vikram Randhawa Ji -

MLA, Bahu Constituency (J&K); Former MLC (J&K); Former State Secretary, and Sh. Baldev Singh Billawaria Ji - General Secretary, BJP J&K; Former Deputy Mayor; Former Sarpanch.

The session featured presentations by Shalin Raina, Managing Director - Residential Services, Cushman & Wakefield, and Ashwani Kumar, Chief Operating Officer, Pyramid Infratech, on real estate investment trends, growth opportunities, and emerging corridors for investors from the region.

Ashwani Kumar, Pyra-

mid Infratech said "SPR corridor has transitioned from being a peripheral bypass to a central pillar. What excites us as developers is the clarity of vision. This corridor isn't developing in isolation but is an epitome of connectivity, planned residential clusters, and supporting infrastructure. Also, the buyer sentiment here is serious and discerning. For us, the SPR corridor is the new canvas for quality-led, future-ready real estate, allowing us to build not just homes but complete urban experiences."

Photo caption - Left to

Right Kabir Malik Manager- Residential Services, Ashwani Kumar COO -Pyramid Infratech, Mayank Grover Director- North India, Sundeeep Chandra- Sr. Manager- Residential Services, Sh. Baldev Singh Billawaria Ji - General Secretary BJP J&K, Former Deputy Mayor & Former Sarpanch, Sh. Vikram Randhawa Ji - MLA - Bahu Constituency (J&K), Former MLC (J&K), Former State Secretary, Shalin Raina Managing Director Residential Services, India, and Kadambari Sharma AVP Residential Services

Soulful Bhajan Sandhya by Jasmeet Kaur at Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir

Rangyug's Young Voices Mohit & Krishna Add Grace to Sawan Mahotsav

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 28

As the sacred month of Sawan unfolds, the ancient Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir in Jammu continues to draw scores of devotees through its spiritually uplifting Bhajan Sandhyas held every Monday.

This week's soulful evening featured Surmani Dr. Jasmeet Kaur, a distinguished classical vocalist whose powerful yet serene renditions of devotional bhajans stirred deep spiritual emotions among the audience. An A-Grade artist of Akashvani and disciple of the celebrated duo Pandit Rajan and Sajan Mishra, Dr. Kaur is the daughter of renowned singer Sudarshan Kour Keerti. Her expressive performance, rooted in the rich Hindustani classical tradition, brought contemplative depth and spiritual calm to the Bhajan Sandhya.

The evening also wit-



nessed delightful performances by Mohit and Krishna, promising young classical singers from Rangyug Sangeet Vidyalyaya, who are currently training under Guru Ashutosh Magotra and Guru Pankaj Pradhan. They captivated the audience with their sincere devotion and blossoming artistry. Their renditions showed their hard work, dedication and growing confidence in classical

music and the audience appreciated them with warm applause.

Expert musicians Pankaj Pradhan and Deep Sehgal on (Harmonium) Parshotam Kumar (Pakhawaj), Rakesh Anand (Flute), and Dr. Vinay and Ram ji (Tabla), Harsh Kapoor on Guitar accompanied the bhajans, weaving soulful rhythms that elevated the devotional experience for the gathering.

The program com-

menced with traditional invocations, including Ved Vyas Stuti and Vedic mantra chanting by students of the Panjvaktra Mahadev Ved Pathshala, reflecting the temple's ongoing efforts to inspire the younger generation towards spiritual heritage.

Suresh Kumar Sharma, Receiver, Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the artists, devotees and supporters for making the event truly meaningful. He especially acknowledged the commendable performances by young artists who are playing a vital role in preserving and celebrating our rich cultural heritage. He emphasized that this initiative, undertaken by Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir, celebrates classical music along with all allied devotional art forms, with the aim of nurturing talent and fostering spiritual and cultural values in the region.

Brahman Sabha Rajouri-Poonch protests Ban on Religious Yatra in Noweshara

JJ NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JULY 28

The Brahman Sabha Rajouri-Poonch strongly condemns the district administration's abrupt decision to prohibit a sacred religious yatra from stopping in Noweshara, an act that deeply wounds the Hindu community's sentiments and violates their constitutional right to freely practice their faith under Article 25 of the Indian Constitution.

Religious yatras are profound expressions of devotion, culture, and heritage. Halting this revered pilgrimage without clear justification reflects administrative insensitivity and



disregard for cherished traditions. Led by Convenor Dheeraj Sharma, the Sabha organized a peaceful protest, demanding:

- A transparent public explanation from the district administration.
- Accountability for

officials responsible for this decision.

• Firm assurances to prevent such actions in the future.

"If our faith is silenced, our voices will echo louder," declared Dheeraj Sharma, addressing the gathered supporters. The Brahman Sabha remains steadfast in safeguarding dharma and cultural rights, urging all socio-religious organizations to unite in this cause.

The Sabha calls for immediate corrective measures to uphold the Hindu community's religious freedoms and ensure such incidents are not repeated.

We Demand Justice - We Stand for Dharma.

Dy CM conducts public darbar at Rajpur Kamila, Andhrooth

JJ NEWS SERVICE
NOWSHERA, JULY 28

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today held a public darbar in Rajpur Kamila and Andhrooth village of Nowshera to take first hand appraisal of people's grievances and concerns.

The interactive session witnessed a significant turnout of people from various walks of life. They highlighted issues ranging from infrastructure development to basic amenities including road connectivity, water scarcity, irregular power supply, insufficient staff in schools and health centres.

The Dy CM patiently heard the concerns of the attendees and assured them of swift redressal. He instructed the concerned officials to address the genuine issues of public on priority.

Encouraged by the enthusiastic participation of public in grievances redressal camp, the Dy CM



maintained that our mission is inclusive governance that reaches every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that such interactions strengthen our resolve to deliver effective, people-first governance assuring timely resolution of genuine public issues.

In an endeavour to provide basic health facilities to people living in remote areas, the Dy CM laid foundation stone for Block Public Health Unit (under HSCC Ltd.) at Andhrooth. Reaffirming govern-

ment's commitment towards hassle free connectivity to the public, the Dy CM visited the site selected for construction of motorable bridge between Andhrooth bus stand to Nowgram with an estimated cost of around Rs 2 crore. "This bridge is a testament to our government's commitment to provide better connectivity in far flung areas of J&K" he added.

He further said that it was long pending demand of the local residents and expressed satisfaction that

government is proficient to fulfil their aspirations.

Surinder Choudhary exhorted that the Government is committed to improve transportation in J&K, especially in far flung and border areas. The aim is to enhance mass mobility, providing increased safety and sustainability along with greater access and convenience for commuters, he added.

He asserted that under the leadership of CM Omar Abdullah, the government is dedicated to deliver effective governance and ensuring that the public grievances are addressed on priority.

Surinder Choudhary also highlighted several key initiatives undertaken by the government. These included measures to improve road connectivity, strengthen the healthcare system and promote educational opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir.

SUF condemns denial of entry to Sikh girl to Rajasthan exam center for wearing Sikh Kakaar Kirpanand Kara

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 28

An Emergency meeting of Sikh United Front and various Sikh organizations held under the Chairmanship of S. Sudershan Singh Wazir Chairman Sikh United Front J&K in which he condemns denial of entry to Amritdhari Sikh girl Gurpreet kour candidate who was allegedly stopped from appearing for the Rajasthan High Court (Jodhpur) Civil Judge recruitment exam in Jaipur because she was wearing Sikhkakaar kirpan and kara. While reacting to the incident wazir said that this is a big violation of country's constitution and an act of religious discrimination against the Sikhs.

Mr Wazir said the entire world knows that Amritdhari Sikhs wear a kirpan as a mandatory article of faith, yet they were being repeatedly targeted in India for their distinct identity and beliefs.

Expressing grave concern over growing incidents of disrespect and discrimination against the sacred symbols of Sikh religion, he said the incident was a gross violation of her constitutional rights under Article 25 of the Constitution, which guarantees Fundamental Right to Freedom of Religion. Article 25 of the Constitution specifically mentions 'kirpan' among other symbols of Sikh religion, which are exempt from any bar even in flights. He said if a Sikh lawyer or judge can perform duties in court with religious symbols, why can not a Sikh student appear in an exam?

He further said that for some time now, Sikh candidates are being targeted in all over the country and also such incidents often come to light in Jammu & Kashmir also where Amritdhari Sikhs are asked to remove the religious symbol Kakar and if they protest, they are not allowed to enter

competitive examinations. He termed this phenomenon as a big discrimination against Sikhs in his own country. He said that despite everyone knowing that the Kirpan is part of the five pillars of Sikhism and that it represents Sikh identity and fundamental rights, it is highly condemnable to treat Sikhs with hatred.

Mr Wazir warned that if such challenges to Sikh identity and beliefs continue, the consequences will be more serious in the future and demanded the Union Government and the Chief Minister of the Rajasthan Government to intervene immediately in this matter and said that they should take strict action against the guilty officials who prevented the Sikh girl from appearing in the exam and demanded that the student be given another opportunity to appear for the exam.

The other sikh organisations and leaders who participated in the meet-

ing are S. Darbinder Singh President Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, S. Mohinder Singh Chief Organizer Bhai Kanhaya Nishkam Sewa Society and Ex member DGPC, S. Rajinder Singh Gen Sect Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, Smt. Kuldeep Kour President Istri Akali Dal J&K, Kulwant Singh Khajuria Joint Secretary Shiromani Akali Dal J&K S. Charan Singh Bali, Convenor, Kashmir Province Shiromani Akali Dal J&K, S. Harpreet Singh Chhotu President Youth Akali Dal J&K, Dheeraj Singh, S. Surjeet Singh Kukoo Ex-President Sikh Naujawan Sabha, S. Manmohan Singh Chairman Gurdwara Singh Sabha Gole Gujral Jammu, S. Jagmohan Singh, President Gurdwara Sec-14 Nanak Nagar Jammu, S. Surinder Singh Dutt General Secretary Gurdwara Mata Gujar Kour Trikuta Nagar Jammu, S. Kulwant Singh, S. Kultar Singh, S. Paramjeet Singh, S. Tejpal Singh, S. Charanveer Singh (Laad).

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
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Phone/Fax: 01962-262510
Mobile No.: 9419171895
No: GDC/RAJ/2025/1308
Dated: 28/07/2025

Notice inviting Tenders/ Quotations

Sealed tenders/ quotations on plain paper/ bill/ voucher are invited on annual rate contract on monthly food charges as per menu basis (extendable on the same terms and conditions or conditions set by the College Hostel committee at the time for another year) for the session 2025-26 from the experienced agencies/contractors/caters/ cook for the college hostels (Boys and Girls) at Govt. P. G. College Rajouri on the terms and conditions set by the college Hostel Committee available in the college and on the College website www.gpgcollegerajouri.ac.in. The tendree must be holding an experience certificate from the registered firm/ agency.

The tenders/ quotations must reach the office of the undersigned by post/ delivered personally within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. The tender documents and terms and conditions can be had from the office of the principal on all working days up to the last date between 11.00 Am to 2.00 PM. The tender/ quotations shall be accompanied with a DD of Rs.5000/- in favour of Principal Govt. Degree College Rajouri as security money.

Sd/-
Principal
Govt. Degree College
Rajouri

DIP/J-4012/25
Date: 28-7-25

Development must be judicious; for every tree uprooted, a hundred must be planted: CM

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 28

Climate change is real, and the signs are all around us. The earth and our environment are a heritage we must pass on to the next generations—if not improved, at least preserved in our lifetime, asserted Chief Minister Omar Abdullah as he inaugurated the Van Mahotsav 2025 celebrations organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department at Abhinav Theatre. Let's find joy in planting trees and gifting plants, he remarked, calling on people to transform the festival into a vibrant people's movement.

He was joined by Javed Ahmed Rana, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology and Environment and Tribal Affairs; Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; Commissioner and Secretary to the Government, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, Sheetal Nanda; Secretary Tribal Affairs, Prasanna Ramaswamy G; Principal Chief Conservators of Forests; DDC Member (Dansal) Shamima Begum; besides senior officers from various departments.

The event was marked by broad community participation including tribal members, students, and citizens across the Union Territory.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasised that our actions today would have repercussions long



afterwards. There needs to be a check on greed; only our needs must be met. Uncontrolled deforestation must stop. Genuine afforestation efforts are required to produce results that matter, not just statistics. He added that development is a need, but it should be judicious. There must be a balance, development carried out with sincere concern for the environment. For every tree uprooted, a hundred must be planted.

Reaffirming the government's resolve, the Chief Minister said that the administration will ensure the benefits of the Forest Rights Act and minor forest produce reach every intended beneficiary. Addressing the youth and tribal communities, he celebrated the enduring value of trees and the importance of collective stewardship.

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology and Environment, and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana recognised the unique responsibility of the tribal

population in protecting forests. He emphasized that the Tribal Affairs Department must become the nodal agency for implementing the Forest Rights Act. The Minister detailed government initiatives for tribal welfare, with special focus on water conservation in Kandi areas through check dams, rainwater harvesting and percolation pits.

He also highlighted youth-focussed employment opportunities under the Van Dhan Yojana and spoke of upcoming sustainable tourism plans currently being developed, such as eco trek activities. Referring to holistic empowerment, he mentioned the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, under which several projects have been proposed to support inclusion, infrastructure, and the saturation of government guarantees for tribal communities.

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, reflected that forests are not just resources—they

are living guardians that gift us firewood to warm our homes, fodder to feed our cattle, timber to build our shelters, and the very air we breathe to stay alive. He urged people to reconnect with the age-old traditions of tree planting, which once formed an integral part of rituals. These were not mere customs, he noted, but deeply rooted acts of gratitude and responsibility towards nature. The government, he assured, will make every effort to revive these traditions and ensure that the rights of forest dwellers, as well as the forests themselves, are upheld and protected. Development matters, but never at the cost of nature, he asserted.

The ceremony also witnessed Chief Minister Omar Abdullah handing over appointment letters to newly selected candidates in the Forest Department and felicitating individuals and organizations for their environmental contribu-

Will reach the unreachable; will create leadership of future: Arun Prabhat

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 28

Arun Prabhat officially resumes chair as BJYM President at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, after being re-elected as the state president of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, Jammu Kashmir for the third consecutive term.

Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP, Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), Dr. Nirmal Singh, former Dy. CM, Priya Sethi and Rekha Mahajan, Vice-Presidents, and Sanjita Dogra, and Gopal Mahajan, General Secretaries, and Amandeep Singh, Prabhari BJYM J&K felicitated Arun Prabhat on the occasion.

Amid a grand rally that witnessed participation from party workers and hundreds of supporters and youth from the different parts of Jammu as well as Kashmir, Prabhat has retaken the charge and resumed chair for the third consecutive term.

Sat Sharma extended his



heartfelt congratulations to Arun Prabhat on resuming the chair as the President of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), Jammu and Kashmir. He praised the dynamic and result-oriented functioning of BJYM under Arun Prabhat's leadership during the past two terms, acknowledging the organisation's energetic presence across the region. He emphasized that the BJP carries a proud legacy of service to the nation, and the BJYM plays a vital role as a training ground and manufacturing hub for future leaders who are committed to the values of nationalism, development, and organizational discipline.

Ashok Koul extended congratulations to Arun Prabhat and his team

and gave best wishes for the future organizational activities.

Dr Nirmal Singh extended best wishes to Arun Prabhat for his third tenure as state president. Furthermore, he appealed to the youth to be always ready for the struggle and work for the betterment of society.

During the chair assuming ceremony Arun Prabhat expressed gratitude towards the party high command for reimposing faith in him and assured the senior leadership that he will leave no stone unturned to take the party to the new heights.

He thanked them for their support and urged them to proliferate the party's ideology and policies of union government to the grassroot level.

BJYM will strive to reach the unreachable; will work towards building political workers for developing Jammu Kashmir; will work towards strengthening our state. He said that the BJP is the party of karyakartas - who serve the party despite facing severe personal odds. BJYM pledges to work hard to ensure sacrifices of our karyakartas don't go in vain.

He thanked the karyakartas who were present on the occasion and appealed to be ready for the upcoming endeavors in the service of nation and organization. He also promised that he will keep working for the welfare of youth with the same zeal.

Arun Prabhat started his career as student leader of ABVP from school days. He did B.A LLB from the Law School of University of Jammu. He also contested the election of student's union of Jammu University and was elected as the president in the year 2017.

Prabhat is a practicing lawyer at Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh High Court.

Jammu admin vows stringent check on Gattu Urges citizens to report illegal sale and stocking

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 28

The district administration Jammu has urged citizens to report any individuals or establishments involved in the sale of banned Gattu or Chinese Manja (plastic/nylon kite-flying thread). The sale of nylon kite-

flying thread has been strictly prohibited for safety and environmental concerns.

The administration is actively monitoring the situation and will take immediate enforcement action against violators.

The people can report to Emergency Operations

Centre on 0191-2571616, 0191-2571912 phone numbers; Police Control Room on 0191-2560401, 0191-2542000, 100, 112 numbers and on Official Social Media Platforms.

In this regard, an order has already passed by the District Magistrate, Sachin Kumar Vaishya on

June 25, 2025, imposing a complete ban on the sale and use of plastic/nylon manja under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). The order was issued to prevent accidents and protect birds from the harmful effect of synthetic kite strings.

“Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025”

LG flags off the holy Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra from Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 28

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha flagged off the first batch of devotees for the holy Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra from Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas today.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his best wishes to all the pilgrims for a safe and spiritually fulfilling journey.

“The sacred journey to the abode of Mahadev is an enlightening experience. I strongly believe this pilgrimage is the greatest alchemy and unveils secrets of life before the devotees,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor appreciated the meticulous work done by Baba Amarnath and Budha Amarnath Yatri



Nyas, tourism department, district administration, other stakeholders and organisations serving langar.

All the arrangements have been made for the annual pilgrimage and Budha Amarnath Ji Mela, the annual festival.

Interacting with the media persons, the Lieutenant Governor said: “In

the first batch, more than 1000 pilgrims from across the country set off for the holy yatra of Shri Budha Amarnath Ji. Till yesterday, 3.77 lakh pilgrims have performed darshan at holy cave of Shri Amarnath ji. I hope that pilgrims from across the country will also arrive to pay their obeisance at Shri Budha Amarnath ji

and pray to Bholenath for the peace and progress of J&K and the nation.

Eminent spiritual leaders; heads of religious organizations; public representatives; senior officers of civil administration, Police, security forces, prominent citizens, and devotees in large number were present at the Flag-off ceremony.

Priya Sethi lauds PM Modi’s vision of ‘Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat’

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 28

J&K BJP Vice-President and former Minister, Priya Sethi, praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary initiative 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' during the Hariyali Teej Utsav organized by Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP), Shivalik Branch, Jammu today. The event was celebrated with great cultural fervour and was marked by devotional ceremonies, traditional performances, and community bonding.

Addressing the gathering, Priya Sethi highlighted the significance of the 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' initiative as a powerful tool for fostering national integration.

She said, “Prime Minister Modi's campaign is more than just a slogan; it is a reflection of India's deep-rooted ethos of unity in diversity. This initiative encourages citizens to embrace, respect, and celebrate the rich tapestry of cultures, languages, and traditions that define our great nation.”

She emphasized the role of youth and students in strengthening national



unity through participation in cultural exchange programmes, educational collaborations, and interstate interaction platforms.

“Such efforts are nurturing a deeper emotional connection among people across regions and promoting the spirit of one India,” she added.

Priya Sethi also lauded Jammu & Kashmir's unique contribution to India's composite culture.

“Our region has always stood as a symbol of cultural resilience and harmony. Jammu & Kashmir continues to enrich the national identity with its heritage, traditions, and communal harmony,” she said, encouraging the younger generation to actively involve themselves in cultural activities that reinforce national solidarity.

The event, organized by the BVP Ladies Club, was a grand celebration of Hariyali Teej, a festival deeply rooted in North Indian traditions. The festivities included a ceremonial puja dedicated to Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, symbolizing eternal love, devotion, and marital bliss. Women, dressed in vibrant traditional attire, observed fasts and offered prayers for the well-being and long life of their husbands.

A highlight of the celebration was the Teej-themed cultural program, featuring traditional songs, folk dances, festive games, and a Teej Queen competition. Women from various age groups participated enthusiastically, showcasing their talent and festive spirit. The celebration reflected the essence of Indian wom-

anhood, values, and rich traditions.

The event witnessed the active involvement of several dignitaries and members of the Bharat Vikas Parishad, Shivalik Branch namely Hriday Chander Vaid-Advisor & State Sanskar Coordinator, Ashok Gupta-Advisor, Ashok Khajuria-President, Rakesh Khajuria-Secretary, Vivek Gupta-Treasurer, Raj Kumari-Incharge, Mahila Sahvagita, Sunita Mahajan-Member, National Mahila Sahvagita, Amita Sharma - Incharge - Mahila Sahvagita Region North-I, and Sunita Gupta - President, B.V.P. Prant Jammu & Kashmir (UT).

All members contributed to the seamless organization of the event, ensuring its spiritual and cultural significance was upheld.

The festival not only celebrated religious devotion but also served as a platform for community unity, cultural bonding, and the empowerment of women through active participation. It reinforced the values of togetherness and cultural pride, resonating with the broader vision of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'.

“After Operation Sindoor, PM Modi’s Operation Mahadev to deliver a decisive blow to Pak sponsored terrorism: Chugh

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 28

BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh today hailed prime minister Narendra Modi's new initiative, Operation Mahadev to pin down the Pakistan sponsored terrorists.

Chugh saluted the Indian Army, CRPF, and J&K Police for the success of Operation Mahadev near Mahadev Peak in Srinagar which resulted in the elimination of three foreign terrorists, reportedly including the mastermind behind the Pahalgam attack.

Chugh emphasized that this is not a one-off action but part of the



Modi Government's decisive anti-terror doctrine – in which Pakistan ISI has been a key factor.

He went on to highlight Operation Sindoor, which delivered precision strikes on nine terror launchpads deep inside Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir. These camps belonged to Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and Hizbul Mujahideen. Over 100 terrorists were neutralized, proving India's strategic superiority.

Speaking on the ongoing discussion over Operation Sindoor in Parliament and controversial remarks made by opposition leaders Chugh said “Instead of backing our forces, senior Congress leaders like P. Chidambaram and Gaurav Gogoi started raising doubts about the Pahalgam attack. They questioned whether the terrorists were even from Pakistan, casually calling them “homegrown” and demanding proof, as if the Army, intelligence agencies, and the victims' families needed a certificate from Congress.” Tarun Chugh hit out at these remarks, saying Congress leaders today sound less

like the opposition and more like spokesperson and blue eyed boys of the Pakistani Army.

Chugh said the era of impunity in Jammu & Kashmir is over. He reaffirmed that the government will continue dismantling separatist and terror networks with full force.

He saluted the valor of Indian security forces and reiterated that protecting sacred spaces like Shri Harmandir Sahib, Vaishno Devi, and the Amarnath Yatra remains the Modi Government's top priority. Operation Mahadev is a clear message to any terror sponsor: “We don't negotiate. We neutralize.”

Assam CM calls on PM Modi, briefs him on development works in his state

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi here today and briefed him on the strides his state has taken across socio-economic indicators and the near saturation of major welfare schemes.

The Prime Minister's Office said in post on X "CM of Assam, Shri @himantabiswa met Prime Minister @narendramodi."

The Assam Chief Minister said on X "had the privilege of calling upon



Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji in New Delhi today. Briefed him on Assam's notable

The Chief Minister said that on behalf of the people of Assam, he conveyed anticipation to welcome the Prime Minister on September 8, "a moment that will mark another milestone in our state's development journey."

The Prime Minister will visit Assam on September 8 to attend some official programmes.

The Chief Minister also met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and invited her to visit Assam to lay the foundation stone of the upcoming Kanaklata Barua University in Gohpur.

strides across socio-economic indicators and the near saturation of major welfare schemes."

EAM Jaishankar speaks with new South Korean FM Cho Hyun, discusses deepening of bilateral ties

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today spoke with newly-appointed South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun, and discussed ways to strengthen India-South Korean relations.

Cho Hyun was appointed as the new Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea on July 18.

EAM Jaishankar said in a post on X:

"Good to speak with @FMChoHyun of RoK this morning.

"Conveyed my best wishes for a successful tenure. Discussed deepening of our bilateral coop-



eration."

The South Korean FM said in a post on X that he had his first call with the Indian foreign minister.

"I reaffirmed our commitment expressed at the G7 Summit and during the special envoy's visit. We agreed to enhance high-level exchanges and practical cooperation," he posted.

Cho Hyun previously

served as the first Vice Foreign Minister under former President Moon Jae-in and represented South Korea at the UN from 2019-2022.

The phone conversation comes days after the visit by South Korean President Lee Jae-Myung's delegation of special envoys to India, led by former prime minister Kim Bo-kyum. The special envoys

had called on PM Modi and also met with the EAM in Delhi, during which the two sides had discussed cooperation in economic, technology, defence and maritime spheres.

The engagement came in the wake of the meeting between Prime Minister Modi and South Korean President Lee Jae-Myung on the sidelines of the G-7 Summit in Canada, on June 17.

Following the impeachment and removal from office of President Yoon Suk-yeol, Lee Jae-Myung of the Democratic Party was elected president in a snap election on June 3, 2025. He was sworn in the next day, June 4.

SC expresses concern over student suicides at IIT Kharagpur: Questions institutional response

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUL 28

The Supreme Court today expressed serious concern over the recurring incidents of student suicides at Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur (IIT-KGP), taking a prima facie unfavourable view of the institute's handling of the issue.

A Bench comprising Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice R. Mahadevan asked pointedly, "What is wrong with IIT KGP? Why are students committing suicide? Have you given a thought to it?"

The query came during a hearing in a suo motu case initiated by the Court concerning student suicides at IIT Kharagpur and Sharda University.

Appearing on behalf of IIT-KGP, the counsel informed the Court that



a 10-member committee has been constituted to address student mental health concerns. The counsel further submitted that a counselling centre is operational and proactive steps, such as a dedicated helpline, are in place to identify and support students facing mental health challenges.

Despite these submissions, the Court was visibly dissatisfied and high-

lighted the urgency of the issue, stressing the need for effective institutional mechanisms to prevent such tragedies.

Regarding ongoing investigations, the Court noted In the Sharda University case, an FIR has been lodged by the deceased student's father, and the probe is underway.

In the IIT-KGP matter, the institute reportedly

informed police within 30 minutes of the incident and an FIR has been filed. The Court directed that both investigations continue "in the right direction and in accordance with law."

The Bench also took note of a June 4 suicide incident at IIT Delhi, where, it was informed, no FIR has yet been registered. The Court directed that this aspect be taken up with the Amicus Curiae in the case.

The matter has now been posted for further hearing after four weeks.

On Friday, the Supreme Court issued guidelines to address the growing tendency of suicides among students. The Court will look into the need for student mental health and accountability of premier institutions in safeguarding student welfare.

LS takes up debate on Op Sindoor; Rajnath reiterates India's policy against terrorism

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

Discussion on Operation Sindoor began in Lok Sabha today after the House witnessed two disruptions since morning.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh while initiating the debate said, "It was not merely a military operation, but it was an effective and decisive demonstration of India's sovereignty, its



identity, our responsibility towards the nation's citizens, and our policy against terrorism".

The Defence Minister informed the House that before the execution of Operation Sindoor, "our

armed forces thoroughly studied every aspect. We had several options. But we chose the option that would cause maximum damage to terrorists and their hideouts while ensuring no harm to Pakistan's innocent civilians".

He said that the Indian Armed Forces carried out well-coordinated strikes and hit nine terrorist infrastructure targets with precision.

Stampede at Ausaneshwar Mahadev Temple leaves two dead, 29 injured

AGENCIES
BARABANKI, JULY 28

A tragic incident occurred at the Ausaneshwar Mahadev Temple in Barabanki during the third Monday of the holy month of Shrawan, when a stampede broke out in the temple premises, leading to the death of two devotees.

A total of 29 other devotees, including women and children were also injured in the mishap.

The stampede took place around 2 am during the Jalabhishek ritual. According to initial reports, the chaos was triggered after an electric current spread through the temple premises.

Authorities stated that the electric wires snapped and fell onto a tin shed inside the temple complex after some monkeys



jumped on them, causing a short circuit.

As panic spread among the devotees due to the electric shock and the resulting commotion, a stampede broke out. Upon receiving information about the incident, a large police force was deployed to the site. The injured were immediately rushed to Haidergarh and Trivediganj Community Health Centres via ambu-

lances. Those critically injured were referred to the district hospital.

District Magistrate Shashank Tripathi and Superintendent of Police Arpit Vijayvargiya, along with other senior officials, reached the spot to assess the situation. The DM confirmed the cause of the incident, stating that the broken electric wire had come into contact with the tin shed, leading to the

current spread and subsequent chaos.

Among the deceased is Prashant (22), a resident of Mubarakpura, who died during treatment at the Trivediganj CHC. Another unidentified devotee also succumbed to injuries. Ten injured persons were brought to the CHC, out of which five in critical condition were referred for advanced treatment.

Eyewitnesses confirmed that the stampede ensued after rumors of electric current spread among the crowd, causing devotees to panic and rush for safety.

Authorities have since brought the situation under control, and two hours after the incident, the temple resumed normalcy, with devotees continuing to offer prayers and perform Jalabhishek in queues.

BSP chief Mayawati urges unity in Parliament on 'Operation Sindoor' debate

AGENCIES
LUCKNOW, JULY 28

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati today called for a united approach by all political parties during the Parliamentary discussion on 'Operation Sindoor', underscoring the importance of rising above party lines when it comes to matters of national security.

As the discussion on 'Operation Sindoor' is



set to begin in Parliament today, Mayawati appealed ruling party and the opposition to join forces in formulat-

ing a robust and effective strategy.

"The government and the opposition must work together so that no

woman loses her sindoor and no mother is left to mourn the loss of her son. This is the urgent need of the hour," she said in a statement issued on Monday morning.

Extending support to the opposition's demand for a full-fledged discussion, the former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister also emphasized the need for a constructive and meaningful dialogue throughout the ongoing session.

Andhra, Singapore discuss cooperation in Green Energy, Data Centre Development

AGENCIES
SINGAPORE, JULY 28

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu met Singapore's Minister for Manpower and Minister-in-charge of Energy and Science & Technology in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Dr. Tan See Leng, today to discuss enhanced collaboration in sectors such as green energy, data centres, logistics, and housing.

During the meeting, held as part of his second-day visit to Singapore, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu highlighted Andhra Pradesh's major initiatives in green energy,



He sought greater cooperation from Singaporean firms in projects related to green hydrogen, transmission corridors, and port development. He emphasised the need for Singapore's participation

in establishing data centres and elaborated on the state's rapid expansion of its port infrastructure.

Recognising Singapore's global strength in logistics, the Chief Minister called for its support in imple-

menting best practices in the ports and logistics sectors in Andhra Pradesh. He also underscored the importance of Singapore's involvement in human resources, science and technology, and trade collaboration.

Addressing concerns faced by Singaporean companies during the previous administration, the Chief Minister assured Minister Tan that measures are being taken to resolve those issues and that his visit reflects a commitment to transparency and rectification. He remarked that his government is investment-friendly and deeply values its relationship with Singapore.

INDO-US satellite NISAR will start scientific operations after 90 days

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, JULY 28

The highly anticipated NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite, a collaborative Earth observation mission between the United States and India, is slated for launch on July 30 at 5:40 pm IST.

The 2,400 kg satellite will be carried into orbit by ISRO's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-F16 (GSLV-F16) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

However, ISRO has clarified that while the launch is imminent, NISAR's dedicated scientific operations



will not begin until approximately three months after it is successfully placed in orbit. This initial period will be critical for preparing the advanced observatory.

According to ISRO, the NISAR mission is structured into distinct phases. Following the Launch Phase on July 30, the satellite will enter its Deployment Phase. This crucial

stage involves the complex in-orbit unfurling of NISAR's 12-meter diameter reflector, a key component developed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), which will extend 9 metres away from the satellite.

Subsequently, the mission will enter a 90-day Commissioning Phase, also known as "In-Orbit Checkout (IOC)." This period is solely dedicated to meticulously preparing the observatory for its scientific tasks. It will involve initial checks and calibrations of the satellite's core systems, followed by a thorough engineering checkout of the payload and instruments by JPL.

IOA president PT Usha applauds champions of inaugural Esports Championship

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

Indian Olympic Association president PT Usha met and felicitated the champions of the inaugural Esports Championship, held this May under the aegis of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, during the preparations of 3rd Asian Youth Games, Bahrain at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) headquarters here, applauding their achievements and recognising their role in shaping the nation's digital sporting future.

The medal winners included Danial Patel (Gold, eFootball), Tejas-



kumar Hasmukhbhai Bhoi (Gold, World Cricket Championship 3), and Pavan Kampelli (Bronze, eFootball) at the Asian Esports Games, Bangkok) young champions who have not only demonstrated exceptional talent but have also elevated India's standing on the global esports stage. Speaking at the event, PT Usha said, "India's

esports future lies in capable hands, and today's interaction with the champions of the WAVES Esports Championship has been truly inspiring. The discipline and excellence shown by these athletes mirror that of any traditional sportsperson. I wholeheartedly thank Prime Minister Modi for his visionary steps in recognising esports and creating platforms like WAVES to showcase India's digital prowess. The Indian Olympic Association stands committed to supporting our esports athletes as they script new chapters in Indian sports."

England add Jamie Overton to squad for 5th Test

AGENCIES
LONDON, JULY 28

England have added all-rounder Jamie Overton to the squad for the fifth and final Test of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy, starting on Thursday at The Oval.

After an exhausting five-day Test at Old Trafford, where England bowlers were made to toil for over 250 overs, the team has added Overton to the squad. The decision comes with just a three-day turnaround before the series decider, as the management looks to manage the wear and tear on the bowling unit. The 31-year-old will provide valuable depth if the side decides to change its playing XI. England skipper Ben



Stokes, while speaking in the post-match interview, confirmed that they will make a decision after assessing the bowlers in the coming days, adding that his side is lucky to have an array of fast bowlers that they can call in at any time. "Even before this Test

everyone and see how they're going. We're very lucky at the moment that we've got a battery of fast bowlers who we can call at any point in time, so it'll be assessed over the next couple of days and then we'll make that decision," said Stokes.

Overton made his Test debut in July 2022, in the third Test against New Zealand at Headingley, and has not made another appearance in the whites since. He joins Gus Atkinson as a potential fresh bowling option in the England squad.

After claiming 52 wickets in 2024, marking a solid debut year, Atkinson suffered an injury in the one-off Test against Zimbabwe and has not played since.

Adelaide Strikers re-sign Jemma Barsby and Liam Scott ahead of WBBL 11 & BBL 15

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

Adelaide Strikers have announced the re-signing of two pivotal players, Jemma Barsby and Liam Scott, ahead of the upcoming Women Big Bash League 11 and BBL 15 seasons.

Jemma, a captain of the South Australian Women's Cricket team, joined the Strikers in WBBL 07 after successful stints with the Brisbane Heat and Perth Scorchers. The two-time WBBL Strikers Championship winner made an immediate impact in her first season in blue, boasting the second-best bowling economy amongst her



teammates. She adds another option to Strikers spin attack this season that will feature England's Sophie Ecclestone alongside leg-spinners Amanda-Jade Wellington and Anesu Mushangwe. "It's an absolute privilege to continue my journey with the Adelaide Strikers. Winning two championships with this

group has been incredibly special, and I'm excited to see what we can achieve together in the upcoming season. I love the team culture, and I'm eager to get back out there with the girls," Barsby said in a statement shared by the Strikers.

Scott, a dynamic all-rounder, made his debut for the Strikers in BBL 10 and was a crucial local replacement player last season. A prominent member of the South Australia Men's team, Scott's exceptional form was recently recognised with the Player of the Tournament award for the 2024/25 One-Day Cup campaign.

Kaushal Silva named head coach of Hong Kong ahead of Asia Cup

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

Former Sri Lanka Test cricketer Kaushal Silva has been named the new head coach of the Hong Kong men's cricket team. His appointment comes at a crucial time, with Hong Kong gearing up for the 2025 Asia Cup. They are set to open the tournament against Afghanistan on September 9, followed by group-stage clashes with Bangladesh and Sri Lanka in Group B.

Silva brings a wealth of experience to the role. Between 2011 and 2018, he played 39 Tests for Sri Lanka, earning a reputation as a gritty wicket-



keeper-opener. Over his first-class career, he accumulated 13,932 runs in 209 matches, including 41 centuries - three of which came at the international level. Since retiring from

playing in 2019, Silva has been involved in coaching across Sri Lanka, England and Australia. However, this marks his first assignment as the head coach of an international team.

Cricket Hong Kong, China's chairperson Burji Shroff expressed confidence in the appointment, stating, "Kaushal's dedication to nurturing and developing talent resonates with our vision for the future of cricket in Hong Kong. We believe that under his guidance, we can not only elevate our competitive standing but also promote the sport within our community."

Silva said his "focus will be on instilling a strong work ethic and a winning mentality amongst the senior squad and working to identify and nurture fresh talent for continued growth".

WCL 2025: India Champions look to end campaign on high

AGENCIES
BIRMINGHAM, JULY 28

India Champions will look to end the World Championship of Legends (WCL) 2025 on a high as they will play their last match of the tournament.

Going on from July 18 to August 2 across Birmingham, Northampton, Leicester and Leeds, the WCL 2025 brings together the heroes of yesteryears in a grand summer spectacle sanctioned by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

India Champions remained winless in the tournament after falling 23 runs short against England Champions in a high-



scoring contest at Leeds. Chasing a stiff target of 224, India managed 200/6 in their 20 overs despite a valiant 52 off 29 balls from

(38) and Stuart Binny (35) - got starts but couldn't convert like England's Ravi Bopara, who earlier smashed an unbeaten 110 off 55 balls.

Bopara, along with Ian Bell (54) and Moeen Ali (33 off 13), helped England post a daunting total after being put in to bat by Yuvraj. India Champions, who also lost to Australia Champions on Saturday, now find themselves at the bottom of the standings.

With South Africa, Pakistan, and Australia already through to the semifinals, India's last hope hinges on a must-win clash against the West Indies Champions on Tuesday.

De Minaur saves 3 championship points to clinch Washington title

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, JULY 28

Alex de Minaur saved three championship points to clinch a 5-7, 6-1, 7-6(3) victory against Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, earning his 10th tour-level title in dramatic fashion.

After his title run, De Minaur moved up five places this week to No. 8 in the ATP Live Rankings and two places to eighth in the ATP Live Race To Turin. Fokina rose seven places in the Live Rankings to return to the Top 20 at No. 19, and also shot up seven places to 11th in the Race To Turin.

The Aussie saved three championship points on serve at 5-4 in the final set



— but only after breaking from 30/0 when the Spaniard served for the title. De Minaur was 16 millimetres from defeat on his opponent's third match point, but a desperate lob clipped the sideline and helped

him turn the point and the match around, ATP reports.

"It's something about this court. I did it in 2018 against Rublev and honestly, I just kind of knew I could do it. I just backed

myself and I told myself to commit no matter what and if I lost this match it was going to be on my terms. Today it went my way. I've had a couple of brutal ones not go my way, so I'm glad this one went my way," said the Aussie.

De Minaur credited his mentality and mindset with his recent success: "I'm very happy with where I am at the moment, how I'm dealing with things on and off the court," he explained. "I had the mindset that even if today didn't go my way, it was a very positive week. So I was proud of my efforts no matter what, but jeez it feels good to hold my 10th title."

Gambhir advocates injury replacements in Tests; Stokes call the idea 'ridiculous'

AGENCIES
MANCHESTER, JULY 28

India head coach Gautam Gambhir has advocated for the introduction of injury replacements in Test cricket, suggesting that teams should be permitted to bring in a substitute player in the event of a serious external injury during a match, while England captain Ben Stokes expressed a contrasting viewpoint, calling it a 'ridiculous' idea.

India wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant retired hurt on the first day of the drawn fourth Test in Manchester but courageously returned to the crease the next day with a broken



right foot and added a further 17 runs to score a half-century. India were able to use Dhruv Jurel, a substitute, as their wicketkeeper in Pant's place, but he would not have been

available to bat in their second innings.

Gambhir praised Pant's bravery and voiced strong support for a rule that would permit teams to bring in a replacement

under such instances. "Any amount of praise is not enough for him... Absolutely, I'm all for it. If the umpires and the match referee sees and feels that it is a major injury, I think it's very important. It's very important to have this rule where you can get a substitute, that is, if it's (the injury) very visible. "There's nothing wrong in doing that, especially in a series like this where it's been such a closely fought series in the previous three Test matches. Imagine if we would've had to play with 10 men against 11. How unfortunate would this be for us?" Gambhir said in the post-match press conference.

England beat Spain on penalties to retain Women's Euro title

AGENCIES
BASEL, JULY 28

Holders England came from behind before beating Spain on penalties to retain UEFA Women's Euro 2025 title.

Mariona Caldentey gave Spain the lead as she rose highest to meet Ona Batlle's cross, before Alessia Russo responded after the break with a brilliant header back across goal to put England back in it.

And after Hannah Hampton had saved two penalties in the shootout, Kelly stepped up to secure a historic victory. Russo posed an immediate threat in the



early moments, charging away behind the Spanish defence down the left after three minutes and seeing her shot parried by Cata Coll, with Lauren James unable to react fast

enough to the rebound. Spain then looked dangerous as Olga Carmona found space on the left to pick out Esther Gonzalez, who saw her shot saved well by Hampton at

the near post. And it was almost a repeat minutes later as Carmona once more clipped a cross in after finding space behind Lucy Bronze, but Gonzalez fired wide.

In a half of shifting momentum, Lauren Hemp took initiative to win the ball back in the Spanish box on the stroke of 20 minutes but Coll proved equal to her low shot. It was Spain who went ahead in the 25th minute, though, as Ona Batlle found space at the byline to the right of the box before dinking a delicate cross into the centre and it was Arsenal's Caldentey who rose highest to nod home the opener.

World Hepatitis Day: Mega screening camp held at Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 28

World Hepatitis Day was observed at Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar by organizing a mega screening camp.

The Camp was inaugurated by Director Health Services Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar in presence of Chief Medical Officer Jammu Dr. Harbaksh Singh, Medical Superintendent Dr. Narinder Bhutiyal and District Health Officer Dr. Samina Nazir.

The event started with detailed power point presentations on implementation and challenges of National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme (NVHCP) in District Jammu by Dr. Rolly Sharma (RMNCHA consultant and District Nodal officer NVHCP), followed by PPT on Epidemiology, clinical features and treatment by Dr. Shri Ram (DNB Scholar) and key aspects on Prevention and control of Hepatitis by Dr. Ruchita



Mahajan (Microbiologist Gandhi Nagar Hospital). The event also witnessed the screening of High risk patients for Hepatitis Band Hepatitis C using Rapid Diagnostic kits. The healthcare staff members, unvaccinated against Hepatitis B were also administered Hepatitis B vaccine.

Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar, in his speech, high-

lighted the importance of early diagnosis and preventive measures to be taken through proper hygiene and timely vaccination to combat the spread of hepatitis viruses. The CMO laid stress on the risk factors and encouraged regular screening to fight this silent disease. The Day was also observed in health institutions of all Districts and

Blocks of Jammu Division with active participation of Chief Medical Officers, Medical Superintendents and Block Medical Officers along with Officers & Officials. Awareness programmes regarding transmission and control of Hepatitis were organized for patients, General Public and students in schools and colleges.

Young students were made aware about safe injection practices, transmission of Hepatitis B and C by using unsafe needles and they were also made aware about risks of IV drug abuse. Hepatitis B vaccine was also given to staff members who were previously not vaccinated, in continuation to previous vaccination drives launched in different blocks. Stress was laid on immunization of newborn with Hepatitis B vaccine and role of Hepatitis B immunoglobulins for high risk infants and patients for prevention and management of Hepatitis B.

Zonal level programme on BBBP organised at GGHSS Shopian

J I NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, JULY 28

A zonal level programme under the banner of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, organised by the Chief Education Officer (CEO) Shopian in collaboration with the District Social Welfare Officer Shopian was today held at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Shopian.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from girl students and female teachers from various schools across



Zone Shopian. It aimed to create awareness about the importance of girl child education and the various government

interventions available under the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao.

Experts delivered special lectures focusing on

the empowerment of girls through education and the need for societal support in ensuring equal opportunities for the girl child.

To further engage students and encourage their creativity, a series of competitions were held, including painting, essay writing, and slogan writing, all themed around Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao.

The top performers in each competition were suitably awarded for their excellence and contribution.

Kupwara observes 'World Hepatitis Day' with comprehensive awareness, outreach activities

J I NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, JULY 28

District administration Kupwara, in collaboration with the Health department, marked 'World Hepatitis Day' on Monday with widespread awareness drives and health services across the district.

Activities conducted to mark the occasion included an awareness rally, screening camps, and vaccination drives targeting high-risk groups.

The programme commenced with a district-level awareness rally flagged-off by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, in the presence of CMO, Dr.



Masrat Iqbal Wani; Dy. CMO, Dr. M Ashraf, nursing students, healthcare workers, ASHAs, and the general public. Besides, health education sessions and free screening facilities were also conducted on the occasion, emphasizing this year's theme: 'Let's Break It Down'.

Addressing the participants, DC highlighted the theme's significance, stressing the need

to 'demystify hepatitis through accessible information and community action.' She reiterated the administration's commitment to eliminating hepatitis as a public health threat, aligning with WHO goals, and urged citizens to utilize free testing/vaccination services.

Later, CMO Kupwara presided over a district-level program at ANMT School featuring health

education sessions, screening facilities, and expert-led discussions centered on the global theme.

The initiative, supported by the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir and NHMJK, underscores integrated strategies to combat communicable diseases.

Meanwhile, District Health Society will intensify IEC campaigns and outreach in the coming days.

DC Poonch reviews arrangements for Independence Day 2025 Celebrations

J I NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 28

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting here at Dak Bungalow to review the preparations for the Independence Day 2025 celebrations. The meeting was attended by key district officers and stakeholders to ensure timely, well-coordinated and dignified observance of the national event.

ADC Tahir Mustafa Malik gave a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation, outlining departmental responsibilities and the status of preparations.

The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of all aspects related to the celebrations includ-



ing security arrangements, venue decoration and seating plans, Public Address System, cultural programmes and media coverage, parade readiness and Shanai Vadan, fire safety protocols, barricading and traffic management, refreshments and hospitality, power and water supply, illumination of government buildings and cleanliness

drives. Special emphasis was laid on maintaining cleanliness around the venue, ensuring flawless parade rehearsals and a faultless public addressing system during the main event.

The main function is scheduled to be held at Sports Stadium Poonch, where the Chief Guest will unfurl the National Flag

and take the salute during a ceremonial march-past by various contingents.

In his concluding remarks, the Deputy Commissioner directed all departments to work in synergy and uphold the spirit of patriotism by ensuring that Independence Day 2025 is celebrated in a grand, smooth and inclusive manner.

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DC Reasi distributes 48 sanction letters to beneficiaries under Mission YUVA



J I NEWS SERVICE
REASI, JULY 28

In a major stride towards fostering youth entrepreneurship, Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik today handed over loan sanction letters to 48 young entrepreneurs under Mission YUVA initiative. The beneficiaries hailing from different parts of the district will receive financial support to launch and develop their own business ventures.

The distribution ceremony was held in the presence of ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal; CEO, AD Employment, CAO, CHO, DSHO, LDM Reasi,

Cluster Head JK Bank and other key district officials.

Addressing the gathering, the DC congratulated the selected beneficiaries and lauded the collaborative efforts of the district officers and banking institutions. She emphasized that the district's focused outreach and extensive awareness campaign has resulted in a remarkable response from even the most remote areas.

The DC emphasised that the Mission YUVA is more than just a financial support scheme—it is a movement to cultivate self-reliance and entrepreneurial spirit among our youth. She urged

the beneficiaries to use the financial assistance wisely and work towards building sustainable and dignified livelihoods.

During the event, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with young entrepreneurs, who shared their business plans and aspirations. One individual from the remote area of Mahore shared plans to open a bakery shop. A woman entrepreneur proposed launching a local Dogri cuisine food outlet featuring organic products. Other ideas included setting up a mobile repair shop and hardware stores. The Deputy Commissioner assured them

of continuous support from the administration and urged banking institutions to ensure timely processing of loans and provide proper handholding to beneficiaries throughout the process.

"By distributing these sanction letters publicly, we aim to inspire more youth to come forward, explore their potential and leverage the opportunities offered under Mission YUVA," she added.

The initiative marks a significant step towards empowering the youth of Reasi and promoting a culture of innovation, entrepreneurship and self-employment across the district.

Distt admin Kupwara disburses Rs.3 cr. in sanctions under Mission YUVA

J I NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, JULY 28

In a remarkable step towards empowering youth and promoting self-employment, district administration Kupwara today organized a formal disbursement event under Mission YUVA in the meeting hall of DC Office Kupwara.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, handed over 50 sanction letters amounting



to Rs.3 crores to eligible beneficiaries, marking a significant milestone in the district's youth empowerment journey.

The event was graced by the presence of ADDC Kupwara, Mufti Fareed ud Din; Cluster Head JK bank, Abdul Majid Bhat

and LDM, Tariq Ahmad Jan, who reaffirmed institutional support to nurture local entrepreneurship and economic self-reliance among the youth.

Speaking on the occasion, DC lauded the beneficiaries and urged them to utilize the opportunity with

commitment and innovation. She highlighted the administration's unwavering resolve to transform youth into job creators under Mission YUVA, a flagship initiative designed to channelize the potential of young minds into productive enterprises.

The event concluded with an assurance of continued handholding, capacity building, and convergence of resources for sustainable livelihood promotion across the district.

DC Budgam felicitates health workers and panchayats in TB Mukta Panchayat award ceremony

J I NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JULY 28

A grand felicitation ceremony for the TB Mukta Panchayat Awards was held today at Sheikh-ul-Alam Hall, DC office Complex Budgam, to recognize and celebrate the efforts of panchayats and health workers in making Budgam a model district in the fight against tuberculosis (TB).

The felicitation function was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat.

The event marked a significant milestone under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP), as 168 Panchayats across the district were officially recognized as TB-Free for the year 2024. Out of these, 105 Panchayats earned the Silver Status



and 63 secured Bronze Status, based on national parameters laid out under the TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

On the occasion, DC praised the tireless efforts of grassroots health functionaries, including health workers, Panchayat Secretaries, Community Health

Officers (CHOs), and field-level staff, whose dedication played a vital role in attaining the TB-Free status across Panchayats. He emphasized that this achievement was a result of sustained community participation, robust inter-departmental coordination, and unwavering

dedication at all levels. DC said, "This fight against TB is not yet over, we celebrate the success today, we must intensify our efforts and ensure that no household in Budgam is left behind in our goal of total TB eradication".

During the event, DC felicitated Panchayat Secretaries and Health staff with Gandhi Emblems and Certificates of Appreciation, acknowledging their pivotal role in this public health success.

The ceremony witnessed the presence of Chief Medical Officer Budgam, District Health Officer, District Tuberculosis Officer, Block Medical Officers, Medical Officers-Tuberculosis Control, NTEP staff of District Tuberculosis Centre Budgam, Panchayat Secretaries, field-level health workers, and CHOs, among others.