

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 muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Persistent vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Severe ten pain or more, head or joint, pain or loss
- Redness

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Operation Sindoor across LoC, Mahadev in valley; Pahalgam terror plot ends: Amit Shah in Lok Sabha

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUL 29 (KNO)

Amid the ongoing debate on Operation Sindoor, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday told the Lok Sabha that all three terrorists involved in the Pahalgam attack were killed in a joint operation by the Indian Army, CRPF, and Jammu & Kashmir Police on July 28 in the Srinagar forests, marking a major success both in cross-border retaliation and in counter-terror operations within the valley.

The operation, named Mahadev, neutralised Suleman alias Faizal, Afghan,



individuals, according to Shah, were those who had supplied food and shelter to the attackers.

"All three terrorists—Suleman, Afghan and Jibran—were killed in yesterday's operation. The people who used to supply food to them were detained earlier. Once the bodies were brought to Srinagar, they were identified by those detained by our agencies," he said.

The Home Minister added that Suleman was an A-category commander of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, while Afghan and Jibran were also listed as A-grade terrorists by the

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Pahalgam terror attack calculated move to trigger communal clashes in India: PM Modi

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUL 29 (KNO)

Stating that the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack was a calculated move to trigger communal clashes in the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Tuesday said that 'Operation Sindoor' sent a clear message that India would no longer tolerate nuclear blackmail or differentiate between terrorists and the governments that shelter them.

Addressing Lok Sabha, PM Modi, according to the news agency said, "Operation Sindoor was launched in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, where terrorists killed people after asking their religion. The barbaric



attack as an attempt to spark communal violence in the country. But people foiled the nefarious designs of the perpetrators."

"India thwarted the conspiracy through national unity and the country responded to the attack by targeting terror infrastructure across the

border," he said, adding, "We destroyed terror sites deep inside Pakistan within 22 minutes to avenge the April 22 Pahalgam attack."

He said that Pakistan had some inkling of India's response and began issuing nuclear threats. "But when the actual action happened, they could do

nothing," he said, adding, "Operation Sindoor showed the world that India would not bow down to nuclear threats. We have proved that nuclear blackmail will not work anymore," he said.

PM Modi said that India did not just strike only once. "From Sindoor to Sindhu, India has taken decisive steps," he said, referring to a broader regional response. He said Indian airstrikes inflicted severe damage on terror camps in Bahawalpur and Muridke. "No one could imagine we could reach there. Pakistani airbases are still in ICU," he said.

The Prime Minister said the entire country is celebrating the success of

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'J&K faces variation of 700 MWs power during day time'

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 29 (KNO)

In the backdrop of low voltage issues during the day time, 'Jammu and Kashmir is facing a variation of nearly 700 Megawatts (MWs) of power' in comparison to other hours.

The official documents reveal that in view of low voltage during the day hours from 9Am to 2Pm, Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Limited has a Available Transfer Capability (ATC) and Total Transfer

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Commitment of security forces once again foiled Pak's design to create unrest in Kashmir: LG Sinha

JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, JUL 29 (KNO)

Expressing gratitude to the Indian Army, Paramilitary Forces, and J&K Police for successfully carrying out Operation Mahadev, in which three Pakistani terrorists involved in the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack were killed in the Dachigam forest area in Srinagar, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that all nefarious designs of Pakistan will be thwarted.

Speaking at a function, Kashur Riwaaj 2025, a mega event celebrating Kashmir's Culture, here in



North Kashmir, LG Sinha, according to the news agency said, "On behalf of the entire nation and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, I extend my deepest appreciation to our brave security per-

sonnel. Their courage and commitment have once again foiled Pakistan's nefarious designs to create unrest in Kashmir."

Pertinently, the April 22 attack in

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Terrorism can never succeed: Farooq on Pahalgam attackers killing

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 29 (KNO)

National Conference (NC) President and former J&K chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday said that the terrorism can never succeed.

He was reacting to the Home Minister Amit Shah's statement in the Parliament where he stated that all the three attackers involved in the Pahalgam attack have been neutralized.

In the special discussion on Operation

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Amarnath Yatra set to cross 4 lakh mark today

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 29 (KNO)

The ongoing Amarnath Yatra is all set to surpass the four lakh mark, as the cumulative number of pilgrims, who have performed darshan at the holy cave has reached 3,93,401 as of Tuesday, official figures reveal.

According to data available with the news agency, a total of 7,203 pilgrims offered prayers at the holy cave shrine on Tuesday amid tight

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J&K Police refund Rs 1.53 crore to victims in Rs 2.39 crore job scam



JI NEWS SERVICE
NAGROTA, JUL 29 (KNO)

Director General of Police, J&K, Nalin Prabhat on Tuesday presided over a

special function at Police Station Nagrota, where Rs 1.53 crore were distributed among 22 victims of a Rs 2.39 crore job scam.

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No local terrorist roots now in J&K, only Pakistani infiltrators: Shah

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUL 29 (KNO)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir has significantly declined since the abrogation of Article 370. He added that there are no longer any local roots of terrorism, with terrorists now infiltrating from Pakistan.

While overall terror attacks and casualties have dropped, the number of terrorists neutralised has seen a dramatic 162% rise from 2015 to 2025, Shah said while addressing the Lok Sabha, as per the news agency.

Citing data, he said that from 2004 to 2014, the region witnessed over 7,200 terror incidents, leading to the deaths of 714 civilians and 1,068 security personnel. "From 2015 to 2025, the number of terror incidents dropped to 1,525. Civilian deaths during this period stood at 324, while 542 members of the security forces lost their lives," he said.

The Home Minister attributed these changes to enhanced security operations and the government's firm decision to revoke Article 370, claiming the move dismantled the "eco-system" that previously supported terrorism in the region.

Rejecting any possibility of talks with the Hurriyat Conference, Shah labelled the group

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If Pakistan can't fight terror, India will help: Rajnath Singh

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUL 29 (KNO)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said India is prepared to assist Pakistan in countering terrorism if Islamabad is unable to act on its own.

According to the news agency, during a discussion on Operation Sindoor in the Rajya Sabha, Singh said Indian forces are capable of handling threats not just within the country, but also across the border. "If Pakistan finds itself unable to deal with terror elements, India is willing to provide support," he said.

Rajnath said that Operation Sindoor was carried out as a direct response to the April attack in Pahalgam, which resulted in the deaths of 26 people. He said three individu-



als responsible for that attack had been located and killed.

The Defence Minister said the military action followed a meeting convened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the heads of the armed forces. He said during the meeting, the PM gave the go-ahead for an appropriate response.

According to Singh, the goal of the operation was to destroy camps

and structures used for planning and executing attacks. He said the aim was also to signal that India does not accept the use of violence across borders.

Singh told the House that the operation had now been halted. "However, if further incidents take place, the military action could resume," he said.

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PM must tell Trump he lied on India-Pak hostilities: LoP Rahul Gandhi

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUL 29 (KNO)

Congress leader and Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Tuesday questioned the Centre's handling of Operation Sindoor, saying Prime Minister Narendra Modi must tell the US President Donald Trump that he lied about mediating a cease-fire between India and Pakistan following the Pahalgam attack.

As per the news agency,



addressing the Lok Sabha, Rahul alleged that the operation was driven more by political image

management than national security. He claimed the armed

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360-degree strategy to combat terror, secure borders in place: MoS Home

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUL 29 (KNO)

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Monday informed the Lok Sabha about the measures taken by the Government of India to strengthen internal and border security and to curb internal and cross-border terrorism.

In a written reply to a question, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai, as per the news agency, outlined a



multi-dimensional strategy focusing on operational preparedness, legal

enforcement, surveillance and international cooperation.

Rai said that while 'Police' and 'Public Order' fall under the State List as per the Constitution, the Centre has taken several initiatives to support state governments and national agencies. These include the enhancement of the counter-insurgency grid, deployment of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), and modernization of security equipment. Capacity-building programs are

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CS reviews readiness for 'Sampoornata Samman' awards

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 29 (KNO)

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting of the Planning Department to review preparations for the upcoming Union Territory-level 'Sampoornata Abhiyan Samman Samaroh'.

The event is being organized to felicitate districts and blocks that have shown exceptional performance in achieving satura-



tion under the nationwide Sampoornata Abhiyan. The meeting was

attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Planning Department, Dr. Ashish

Chandra Verma; Director General, Economics

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DC chairs District Level Committee to review ULB Building Permission cases

J1NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 29

A District Level Committee meeting was convened today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, to comprehensively review building permission cases of the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

The meeting held detailed deliberations on key issues related to urban development, with discussions focusing on amendments to existing policies, updates to building by-laws, and strategies to address emerging urban challenges. Topics such



as zoning regulations, sustainability measures, environmental considerations, integration of modern technologies, and public

health safeguards were also covered.

During the session, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal sought inputs from all concerned departments and emphasized the need for factual and practical commentary regarding the urban development scenario of Poonch district. He underscored the necessity of ensuring a transparent, efficient, and timely process for building permissions.

Highlighting the significance of collaborative urban planning, the

Deputy Commissioner called for a coordinated approach that balances infrastructural growth with safety, sustainability, and strict regulatory compliance. He also stressed the importance of updating building bye-laws to suit the evolving needs of urban expansion.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner (Revenue) Poonch, Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti, JPDCL, and PWD (R&B), Assistant Town Planner Rajouri-Poonch, CEO Municipal Council Poonch, and EO Municipal Committee Surankote.

Five-day NEP Utsav-2025 commences at GGHSS Samba

J1NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JULY 29

The five-day NEP Utsav 2025 commenced with a grand inaugural ceremony here at Government Girls Higher Secondary School Samba, commemorating the 5th Anniversary of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The event was organized by the Chief Education Officer with a special emphasis on inclusion and empowerment of Children with Special Needs (CWSN).

The event was graced by Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma as the Chief Guest, who formally inaugurated the NEP Utsav. He was accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Ajay Bharti, Chief Education Officer



Samba Kewal Krishan, Principal GGHSS Samba Smt. Bhavana Abrol and Sh. Deepak Thakur from Bharti Airtel Foundation.

In his keynote address, DC Rajesh Sharma highlighted the revolutionary vision of NEP 2020 in

transforming Indian education and stressed the importance of inclusivity, equity, and accessibility in education. He lauded the efforts of the education department in ensuring that CWSN students are not left behind in the jour-

ney toward educational excellence.

A special feature of the inaugural day was a distribution camp for CWSN students, where aids and appliances recommended for them were distributed by DC Rajesh Sharma along with CEO Kewal Krishan, enabling them to access learning with greater ease and confidence. The camp witnessed active participation from children, parents, and educators, reinforcing the commitment of the administration toward inclusive education.

The NEP Utsav 2025 will continue till August 2, 2025, with various educational, cultural, and capacity-building activities lined up, focusing on holistic development, inclusion, and future-ready learning in line with NEP 2020.

Awareness, screening & medical education activities held to observe 'World Hepatitis Day' at D.H Budgam

J1NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JULY 28

In observance of 'World Hepatitis Day,' a comprehensive awareness and screening programme was organized today at District Hospital Budgam, focusing on the theme of hepatitis prevention, early diagnosis, and access to treatment.

The initiative aimed to enhance community awareness and promote proactive health-seeking behavior around hepatitis and its long-term impacts.

A Continuing Medical Education (CME) session was jointly conducted by the Department of Medicine, featuring expert participation from Dr. Irshad



Ahmad (Gastroenterologist) and Dr. Mehmood Qadri, with insightful presentations by Dr. Kunal and Dr. Tauseef Balroo. The session focused on key clinical and public health aspects of hepatitis, including its modes of transmission, preventive strategies, diagnosis, and clinical management.

The CME witnessed active participation from

hospital staff, paramedical professionals, and medical students, reflecting District Hospital Budgam's strong commitment to advancing public health education and training.

In parallel, a mass screening campaign was held at the Central Laboratory, where samples were collected for hepatitis testing. Patients visiting the hospital were also

sensitized about the significance of World Hepatitis Day, the dangers of untreated hepatitis, and the critical importance of early diagnosis, vaccination, and timely treatment.

The day's activities marked the culmination of a week-long campaign carried out across various service points within the hospital. These efforts contributed to increased hepatitis screening coverage and public education in the district.

The event underscored the importance of collective medical action, education, and preventive healthcare in the fight against hepatitis, in line with national and global health goals.

DDC Kulgam encourages progressive farmer under HADP

J1NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JULY 29

In line with the mission to transform the agricultural landscape by promoting high-tech and adaptive farming practices, District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today interacted with Qayoom Ahmad Allie, a progressive farmer from Wanigund village, to acknowledge and encourage his achievements under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

Qayoom Ahmad Allie has successfully transitioned from traditional farming methods to climate-smart, high-value agriculture by adopting scientific techniques and leveraging structured support provided under HADP. His efforts have earned him recognition as a lead farmer in his community.

Under HADP, Qayoom received various interventions aimed at enhancing



productivity and sustainability:

He was sanctioned a Low-Tech Poly Greenhouse (PG House) under the Protected Cultivation Initiative, enabling the cultivation of high-value crops such as capsicum, cucumber, and leafy greens in controlled conditions. This intervention protected crops from unseasonal rains, frost, and pests, resulting in a yield increase of up to four times for certain crops.

He also received financial assistance for nursery development under the Area Expansion of

Niche Crops component for raising planting material of Kashmiri Lal Chilli. This led to the production of robust seedlings with early transplanting vigour, shortening the crop maturity period and improving overall productivity.

Additionally, under the Open Field Vegetable Production scheme, Qayoom

was provided with certified hybrid seeds. By adopting improved agronomic practices such as line sowing, ridge and furrow layout, and nutrient management based on soil health card recommendations, he success-

fully cultivated cauliflower, knol khol, and brinjal.

As a result of these interventions, Qayoom achieved significant yield enhancement ranging from 35% to 50% especially in protected cultivation. His annual income has also seen considerable growth due to the cultivation of high-value crops, nursery sales, and an extended growing season.

During the interaction, DDC encouraged other farmers to adopt modern, technology-driven farming practices and make optimal use of government-run schemes like HADP to enhance agricultural growth, resilience, and sustainability in the region.

Qayoom Ahmad Allie's success under the HADP stands as a model of transformation and reinforces the department's vision to empower farmers through innovation, capacity-building, and market-oriented agriculture.

DC Doda flags off Doda-Chamba JKRTC Bus Service

J1NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JULY 29

In a significant step towards improving regional connectivity and promoting tourism, Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh today flagged off the much-awaited JKRTC bus service from Doda to Chamba (Himachal Pradesh) via Bhandarwah.

The flag-off ceremony took place here at the DC Office Complex in the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur, Chief Planning Officer Manesh Kumar Manhas and DySP Traffic Sarabjeet Singh.

The service is expected to benefit commuters,



tourists, students, pilgrims, and traders by providing safe, reliable, and affordable public transport to the holy shrine of Mindhal Chandi Mata in Himachal Pradesh.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted that the launch of this inter-state bus service fulfills a long-standing demand of the public and will significantly

ease travel between Doda and Chamba. He said the initiative would especially benefit devotees traveling to the holy shrine of Mindhal Chandi Mata in Himachal Pradesh by providing them a safe, reliable, and affordable mode of transport.

The DC further announced that a return bus service from Chamba

to Doda will also be started soon to ensure smooth two-way connectivity. He emphasized that such transport initiatives not only improve public convenience but also contribute to economic growth by boosting religious tourism, trade, and people-to-people connections between the two states.

The launch of this JKRTC bus service is part of the district administration's broader efforts to improve transport infrastructure and provide better facilities to the residents of remote areas. The initiative reflects the commitment of the administration towards responsive governance and regional development.

DC Budgam inaugurates Inclusive Education Distribution Camp at HSS Soibugh

J1NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JULY 29

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today inaugurated a distribution camp for Children with Special Needs (CWSN) under the Inclusive Education component of Samagra Shiksha at Higher Secondary School Soibugh.

The event was organized by district administration in collaboration with the Education department Budgam.

More than 100 CWSN beneficiaries were provided with customized aids and appliances to support their educational journey. These included wheelchairs, CP (Cerebral Palsy) chairs, collators, hearing aids, smart sticks, braille kits, teaching-learning material (TLM) kits.

Besides, Joint Director Education, Kashmir; CEO Budgam and other senior officers from the Education and Social Welfare department were also present on the occasion.

Speaking at the event, DC emphasized that inclusive education is not only a constitutional mandate but a moral responsibility.



He said this initiative is a message of empowerment, dignity, and opportunity.

He said every child, regardless of their physical or cognitive challenges, deserves the right to quality education, adding "District administration will ensure that no child in Budgam is left behind."

Dr Bilal highlighted the government's focused efforts under Samagra Shiksha to provide inclusive support to marginalized groups, especially children with special

needs.

He urged parents, teachers, and community leaders to actively contribute towards building a learning environment rooted in empathy, equity, and accessibility.

DC called for sustained collaboration among institutions, families, and civil society to promote inclusive education in both letter and spirit.

He said, "We must work hand-in-hand to ensure that children with special needs are not only

enrolled but fully engaged and empowered throughout their educational journey."

Dr Bilal said this distribution camp is aimed at facilitating mobility, sensory support, communication, and learning enhancement for specially-abled children, ensuring their effective participation in regular schooling.

The event also witnessed enthusiastic participation from school staff, parents, and resource persons.

TLSC Sumbal organizes awareness programme on 'Drug Abuse & Legal Framework'

J1NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JULY 29

Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Sumbal, under the aegis of District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora, today organized an awareness programme on 'Drug Abuse and Legal Framework' at Government Higher Secondary School, Naidkhai.

The programme was conducted under the supervision of Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, Chairman, DLSA (Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Bandipora, and the joint guidance of the Secretary, DLSA Bandipora, and the Chair-

person, TLSC Sumbal. The event witnessed active participation from staff members, students of the host institution, and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of TLSC Sumbal.

Eminent speakers including Panel Lawyer, Lecturer, Teacher, and selected students of the school delivered insightful lectures on the multifaceted issue of drug abuse and the legal mechanisms in place to combat the same.

Speakers collectively emphasized that drug abuse has emerged as a global menace, with the youth being the most vulnerable segment of society. It was articulated that

drug addiction erodes cognitive abilities, deprives individuals of the joy of life, and renders them socially and psychologically incapacitated. The condition of a drug addict was metaphorically described as that of a 'living corpse' caught between life and death.

Speakers urged that all responsible citizens, including religious scholars, community leaders, and educators, must come forward to combat this social evil. They stressed that drug addicts should not be stigmatized or treated as societal outcasts; rather, they should be approached with empathy

and supported through structured rehabilitation efforts.

It was further highlighted that cases involving drug addicts should be dealt with in a humane and reformative manner. Legal aid must be extended to them under the mandate of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, to ensure their access to justice and rehabilitation facilities.

The programme concluded with a collective resolve to raise continued awareness, discourage drug abuse in all its forms, and support those affected through legal and social means.

KVK Ramban starts 15 day certificate course on INM for Krishi Udhymis

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JULY 29

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Ramban and SKUAST Jammu today started a 15 day certificate course (training) on Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) for Krishi Udhymis of district Ramban at Dhalwas.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Jammu Dr B.N. Tripathi and organized by Senior Scientist & Incharge, KVK Ramban Dr Raj Kumar under the supervision of Dr Amrish Vaid, Director Extension SKUAST Jammu.

Chief Agricultural Officer Dr Vinay Kumar Jandial, DAO Kuldeep Raj Bassan, and District SMS Ramban Jyoti Parkash Sharma, were also present at the inaugural function of the programme.



Trainees/Krishi Udhymis from different Blocks of district Ramban enrolled for the certificate course joined this training programme.

The programme started with a welcome address by Senior Scientist & Incharge, KVK Ramban and briefed the participants about the content and outline of the 15 days programme schedule and highlighted the importance of the programme for the aspiring fertilizer

dealers. He added that the organization of the 15 day INM course in the Ramban district will benefit not only the input dealers but also the farmers of the Ramban district.

On the first day of the programme, Dr Raj Kumar delivered a lecture on essential plant nutrients and their role and proper nutrient management to increase production and productivity of crops. He laid emphasis on use of balanced nutri-

ent management by using recommended doses of fertilizers for different crops. Besides he deliberated and demonstrated the various components of Natural Farming.

The CAO threw light on the handling, stocking and transportation of fertilizers. He laid emphasis on use of balanced nutrient management by using recommended doses of fertilizers for different crops. The DAO deliberated upon the current scenario of fertilizer use in district Ramban. He also laid emphasis on the role of Krishi Udhymis. The DL SMS briefed the participants about the nutrient content of different manures and fertilizers. Various queries of the participants were also answered by the organizer. Technical session ended with the vote of thanks.

Rana lays foundation stone for Rs 594 cr WSS Samba under AMRUT

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JULY 29

Marking a major stride in the Omar Abdullah-led Government's mission to enhanced access to drinking water in Samba town, Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, today laid the foundation stone for Water Supply Scheme (WSS) Samba Town.

The project for augmentation of water supply in Samba Town is being taken up under AMRUT 2.0. The cost of the project is estimated at 594 crore, targeting 530 Functional Household Tap Water Connections.

The scheme once completed will ensure safe drinking water for all 17 wards thereby benefiting 30,000+ citizens.

While laying the foundation stone, Rana reiterated government's commitment to work towards a resilient, sustainable and equitable urban infrastructure.

"Water Supply Scheme is expected to significantly improve the quality of life



for the local residents, ensuring reliable and safe drinking water. This project is not just about improving the water supply but about ensuring a healthier, more dignified life for every resident of Samba," Rana said while highlighting the Government's broader goal of sustainable urban development under AMRUT 2.0.

Later, Jal Shakti Minister also inaugurated six Water Supply Schemes in rural Samba.

The five projects sanctioned under the Jal Jeevan Mission and one under UT CAPEX Budget, are critical infrastructure initiatives aimed at addressing the present and future drinking water needs of several

villages in Samba. The Water Supply Schemes included Devaka, Daboh, Gangeri Jamoda, Sandhi-II Sangwal-II and Dabri. With a sanctioned cost of 1775 lakh, the schemes are designed to significantly bolster water security and resilience in these villages.

Speaking at the inauguration, the Minister reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of Omar led government to provide safe and adequate drinking water to every rural household. He noted that projects like these are essential lifelines for communities, particularly in water-stressed and underserved areas.

The Minister com-

mended the officers of Jal Shakti Department and the implementing agencies for their coordinated efforts in execution of these projects. He emphasized that the schemes align closely with the vision of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to create climate-resilient rural infrastructure and ensure inclusive development at the grassroots level.

Key components under the schemes included sump tanks, Ground Service Reservoirs (GSRs) of varying capacities, comprehensive network of rising mains and distribution pipelines, rapid sand filtration plants, installation of advanced pumping machinery and erection of an Electric Sub Station to ensure uninterrupted water supply.

A significant aspect of the project is the expansion of household-level water access. Under the schemes, 673 Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) have been provided to bolster water supply in the area.

'TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan' launched at Budgam



JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JULY 29

In a step aimed at eliminating tuberculosis (TB) from the district, 'TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan' was formally launched in Budgam today under the chairmanship of the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who also serves as the Chairman of the District Health Society Budgam.

The campaign, aligned with the national objective of making India TB-free by 2025, aims to strengthen early diagnosis, promote complete treatment, and intensify public awareness across the community. The slogan of the cam-

paign was 'TB Harega, Desh Jeetega.'

On the occasion, the DDC emphasised the importance of collective grassroots efforts to combat TB. He said, "The fight against TB requires not just medical intervention but also strong community participation. Through this campaign, we aim to promote early diagnosis, complete treatment, and awareness to eliminate both the disease and the stigma attached to it."

The campaign involved rallies for vibrant awareness, carried out by enthusiastic students from various schools, who marched through the main areas of the town carrying plac-

ards, banners, and raising slogans to educate the public on TB symptoms, prevention, and the need for completing the full course of treatment.

IEC- health vehicles from RBSK (Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram) were innovatively decorated with eye-catching IEC materials in local languages. The material consisted of posters and banners detailing TB symptoms, transmission modes, and treatment protocols. Health vehicles were also equipped with public address systems broadcasting educational audio messages as they traversed through various towns and villages, ensuring that the campaign's

message reaches remote corners of the district.

DDC said, focus of the Abhiyan will be on, Active Case Finding (ACF) for early TB detection, nutritional support and care for TB patients, Public-Private partnership under the Nikshay Mitra initiative, destigmatisation and community-based awareness campaigns etc

He called for a unified effort to eradicate TB from Budgam, adding, "Let us all work together to build a healthy and TB-free Budgam".

Besides CMO, all BMOs, TB officer and other Health officers, school students participated in TB Mukht Abhiyan.

DC reviews implementation of HADP, JKCIP Projects in Poonch district

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 29

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal today chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP) in the district.

The meeting aimed to strengthen inter-sectoral coordination and ensure the timely and effective execution of key government initiatives to benefit the farming community.

During the session, offi-



cers from various departments presented updates on the physical and financial progress under HADP, along with their future action plans. Discussions also focused on enhancing agricultural productivity, promoting allied sectors such as fisheries, floriculture, sericulture, and strengthening the overall agricultural economy in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner held detailed deliberations on the status of major schemes like KCC, KKG, Daksh Kisan. He reviewed the set targets, achievements so far, and identified implementation gaps. He directed the concerned departments to take proactive measures to bridge any deficiencies and ensure maximum acceptance of application and farmer coverage under these schemes.

Highlighting the importance of a collaborative

approach, the Deputy Commissioner stressed on inter-departmental coordination, robust field-level monitoring, and direct farmer engagement to realize the goals of sustainable and inclusive agricultural development.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, District Sericulture Officer, Assistant Director Fisheries, Assistant Floriculture Officer, Area Grading and Marketing Officer, and the District Head of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Poonch.

JKEDI commences 3 fresh batches of Summer Internship Program for 133 UG students

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 29

The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Tuesday inaugurated three fresh batches of Summer Internship Program (SIP), welcoming 133 undergraduate students at its Bari Brahmana campus. The initiative underscores JKEDI's commitment to fostering experiential learning and strengthening industry-academia linkages in line with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The participating students, enrolled in undergraduate programs at Government Sri Pratap Memorial Rajput (SPMR) College, Jammu, will undergo a 10-day internship designed to fulfill the NEP-mandated 60-hour experiential learning component.

The program is structured to enhance students' understanding of entrepreneurship, innovation,



enterprise creation, and research. Interns will engage in interactive sessions led by seasoned professionals, participate in business simulations, and explore real-world entrepreneurial challenges and solutions. Key focus areas of the internship include fundamentals of research methodology and literature review, Orientation on the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27, preparation and presentation of internship reports, awareness of various self-employment

schemes operational in the Union Territory of J&K, career guidance on pursuing entrepreneurship as a viable option.

The program was inaugurated by Joint Director JKEDI Chand Kishore Sharma.

Meanwhile 38 students completed their summer internship program at JKEDI District Centre Jammu on July 28, 2025.

The participants will also gain insights into the organizational structure and functional verticals

of JKEDI, with hands-on exposure to its various programs and initiatives.

By bridging classroom knowledge with practical application, this initiative aims to cultivate critical thinking, problem-solving capabilities, and an entrepreneurial mindset among the students. It aligns with JKEDI's broader vision of nurturing future-ready talent and contributing meaningfully to the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir and beyond.

Commissioner Secretary

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 29

The Rural Development Department today presented the draft sustainable sanitation and fecal sludge management policy for rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir before the House Committee on Environment.

The meeting, held at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar, was chaired by Speaker Jammu and Kashmir and Chairman of the House Committee on Environment, Abdul Rahim Rather, and co-chaired by the Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javed Ahmad Dar.

Chairman of the Environment Committee, M.Y. Taragami and Members of the Committee including MLA Anantnag, Peerzada Mohammad Sayeed; MLA Uri, Dr. Sajjad Shafi; MLA Sopore, Irshad Rasool Kar; MLA Chanapora, Mush-taq Guroo; MLA Devsar, Peerzada Firoz Ahmed; MLA Kokernag, Zafar Ali Khatana; and MLA Gulab Garh, Khurshid Ahmed, attended the meeting.

Commissioner Secretary



Rural Development Department, Babila Rakwal; Director General Rural Sanitation, J&K, Anu Malhotra; Secretary Assembly J&K, Manoj Kumar Pandit; Director Rural Development Department, Shabir Hussain Bhat; and other senior officers were also present in the meeting.

A detailed presentation on the contours of the draft policy was given to the Committee members, outlining the proposed operational framework, institutional arrangements, funding mechanisms and monitoring systems for rural sanitation. The policy aims to estab-

lish structured operations and maintenance systems, ensure safe containment and treatment of faecal sludge, and promote environmental sustainability in rural areas.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said, "Sanitation is a critical aspect of public health, and it is our responsibility to ensure that our rural areas have access to safe and hygienic sanitation facilities. I am confident that the policies we are developing will make a significant impact on the lives of our people."

The Speaker appreciated the RDD Minister for

taking the initiative of holding a consultative process before formal notification of the policy. He observed that this approach would help incorporate key suggestions from stakeholders, making the policy more practical and better aligned with ground requirements.

The Chairman of the House Committee, while appreciating the draft policy, informed that the Committee would further deliberate upon it and finalize the suggestions to be incorporated before the policy is notified.

During the discussions, the members of the Committee suggested ensuring active community participation in implementing and monitoring the policy, starting sludge management and treatment plants on a pilot basis before scaling them up to all blocks in a phased manner, creating mass awareness on safe sanitation practices, strengthening village-level institutions for operations and maintenance, and ensuring convergence of schemes to secure adequate funding support for rural sanitation infrastructure.

Operation Sindoor...

security agencies. He mentioned that the terrorists had Pakistani voter ID numbers and that Pakistan-made chocolates were recovered from them. On forensic confirmation, Shah said rifles seized from the site matched those used in the Pahalgam attack. "Three rifles were seized from the terrorists. The ballistic report is in my hand, and it has been confirmed by six experts that these were the same rifles used to attack our citizens," he said. The weapons recovered included two AK-47 rifles and one M-9 carbine.

The HM said forensic testing of cartridges had already been conducted before the operation, and after the seizure of weapons, further tests were carried out in Chandigarh to confirm the link.

He referred to the arrest of those who provided shelter to the attackers. "The NIA had already arrested those who gave them shelter. Those who fed them were detained," he said.

Recounting his meeting with families affected by the Pahalgam attack, Shah said, "I met the affected families. I saw standing before me a woman who had been widowed just six days after her wedding. I can never forget that scene."

He added, "Modi ji neutralised those who sent the terrorists, and our security forces killed those who committed the killings."

Referring to Operation Sindoor, the Home Minister said the Cabinet Committee on Security met on April 30, following which the operation was launched on May 7 between 1:04 am and 1:24 am. "Nine terror sites in Pakistan were destroyed. No Pakistani civilians were killed," he said.

On May 9, Shah said, 11 of Pakistan's air bases were targeted, and eight were hit in a way that disrupted the country's air defence systems. "Our job was completed at 1:26 am on May 7. This is not Manmohan Singh's government. We will not sit quietly and send dossiers," he said.

Speaking on the ceasefire between India and Pakistan, Amit Shah told Parliament that six of Pakistan's radar systems were destroyed during the Indian operation. "While Pakistan targeted residential areas, India refrained from retaliating in kind and instead focused solely on military targets," he said.

"We only attacked their air bases and ruined their attacking capabilities. Our armed forces were intact, and their attacking capacities were destroyed," he said.

Shah added that, facing significant losses, Pakistan had no choice but to call for a ceasefire. "On May 10, the Pakistani DGMO called our DGMO, and we paused the conflict at 5 pm without any third-party mediation," he said.

He also commented on the historical context of Pakistan, saying, "Pakistan is Congress's mistake. If they had not accepted partition, there would have been no Pakistan today." KNO

Pahalgam terror attack...

the 'Operation Sindoor' as a "victory celebration." He credited the armed forces for precise and timely action. "This is a celebration of the willpower of 140 crore Indians," he said. PM Modi said that earlier, masterminds of attacks were confident nothing would happen, but now they know India will respond. "They are losing sleep now," the Prime Minister said, adding that India has sent a strong message to those who hatch conspiracies.

PM Modi also said India's technological capability had played a decisive role. "This is the era of technology-based warfare. If we had not prepared over the past 10 years, the consequences could have been very different," he said.

He said, "Operation Sindoor marked a shift in India's defence posture and showcased the strength of a self-reliant military. Made-in-India drones and missiles exposed Pakistan's weapon system."

The Prime Minister while referring to the decision to halt "Operation Sindoor" on May 10, said, "Questions raised about the operation and the armed forces were based on misinformation spread by Pakistan, which some individuals within India unfortunately echoed."

He recalled past military operations, including the surgical strikes and the Balakot airstrike, emphasizing that both missions were completed with precision and success. "In Operation Sindoor, our goal was very clear to dismantle the core infrastructure of terrorism. We struck the main base involved in recruitment, funding, and training of terrorists. Despite numerous challenges, our forces ensured the operation met its objectives."

He told the House that during the operation, Pakistan pleaded for it to be stopped. "Their (Pak) Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) contacted us, saying we had hit them hard and urged us to call off the attack. But from the beginning, we had made it clear there would be no escalation from our side unless provoked."

The PM also dismissed suggestions that any international leader pressured India to halt the offensive. "No head of state asked us to stop. On the night of May 9, the US Vice President attempted to contact me several times. I was in meetings with our armed forces and responded later. When we finally spoke, he warned me that Pakistan might launch a significant counterattack. I told him clearly: if Pakistan dares to strike, our response will be far greater and we will not return bullets with bullets, but with cannons." KNO

Commitment of security...

Pahalgam had claimed the lives of 26 civilians, mostly tourists, and was widely condemned as an attempt to disrupt Kashmir's peace and economic recovery. With the elimination of the perpetrators, the LG affirmed that the day is not far when Jammu and Kashmir will be completely free from the scourge of terrorism.

"For decades, Pakistan has been trying to destabilize Kashmir through terror. But our forces have given a clear message through Operation Mahadev and Operation Sindoor—that terrorism will not be tolerated and will be given a befitting reply. By targeting terror camps deep inside Pakistan, the Indian Army has shown its readiness and capability to strike at the roots of terror anywhere," the LG said.

He also acknowledged the long-standing role of the Chinar Corps in engaging with the people of the region and promoting initiatives like border tourism and youth outreach programs. "The Army is not just a security provider but a vital partner in development. Their consistent efforts to build trust with locals and provide opportunities to the youth are commendable," LG Sinha remarked.

REJECT VIOLENCE, FOCUS ON BUILDING PEACEFUL J&K Extending his heartiest congratulations to 20,000 youth of Baramulla for making history and securing world record title, the LG urged the younger generation to reject violence and focus on building a peaceful and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir. "J&K has always been a knowledge hub. The administration is continuously working to link youth with progressive government schemes. Our whole-of-government approach ensures that the young minds of this region are nurtured and empowered," he said.

He called upon the youth to utilize their energy in a positive direction and take a stand against the twin threats of terrorism and drug abuse. "Terrorism and drugs are the biggest enemies of our society. The youth must rise against the disruptive elements that promote violence or drug peddling. You cannot live in the past; you must think about the future and your responsibility to make J&K stronger," he urged.

COUNTER THOSE WHO SPREAD PUBLIC UNREST "Rise above language, sect, and religion and collectively counter those who spread public unrest. There are disturbing elements in society who attempt to justify terrorism and the killing of innocent lives and try to held hostage the aspirations and dreams of lakhs of youth.

Such individuals need to be unmasked," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He sought the cooperation of young generation in the fight against drug menace and to bring the youth who have fallen prey to drug addiction back into the mainstream.

Highlighting that peace is the foundation of development, LG Sinha said, "We are committed to ensuring a peaceful, secure, and progressive future for our youth. The administration stands shoulder to shoulder with them in their journey towards excellence. The enemies of peace have no place in our land."

BY COMING TOGETHER FOR LADISHAH AND CALLIGRAPHY, YOU HAVE SET A NEW WORLD RECORD

He said, "By coming together for Ladishah and Calligraphy, you have set a new world record. This accomplishment will serve as an inspiration across the sections of society to reconnect with their heritage, embrace their culture, and uphold their values," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also lauded the Indian Army and District Administration Baramulla for the commendable endeavour.

"I salute the dedication and commitment of our Army. They are not only safeguarding the nation's unity and integrity but also actively serving as a custodian of this region's vibrant cultural heritage and consistently striving to fulfil the dreams and aspirations of our youth. Unity in diversity is a hallmark of India's great culture. The Indian Army has consistently worked to harness this power for societal benefit, creating opportunities for youth to strengthen national unity through literature, music, art, and sports," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated the commitment of Government of India and J&K Administration, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, to empower Youth of J&K. With a whole-of-government approach, we are working to align the aspirations of youth of Jammu Kashmir with the nation's aspirations, he said.

"Hopes and dreams of youth can only flourish in a peaceful environment. Pakistan-backed terrorism and separatism had robbed Jammu and Kashmir of peace, progress, and the youth's aspirations. Now, Jammu and Kashmir is rapidly moving forward," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor announced Guru-Shishya Parampara programme of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages and Calligraphy course in collaboration of JKAACL with University of Kashmir.

J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages with University of Kashmir is going to launch a 6 month and one year Certificate/ Diploma course in Calligraphy.

Under the JKAACL's Guru-Shishya Parampara programme, Gurus to train 4-8 shishyas in extinct arts and will receive Rs 10,000 per month. The Shishyas will also get Rs 5000 per month, while assistants will receive Rs 7500 per month.

Principal Secretary Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma; GOC 19 Infantry Division, Major General Paranjvir Singh Punia; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri; DIG North Kashmir, Maqsood-Ul-Zaman; Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa; senior officials of Security Forces, Civil and Police Administration; office bearers of Universal Record Forum, Artists, prominent citizens and youth in large number were present. KNO

If Pakistan can't...

Rajnath said the decision to stop the operation was taken after Pakistan's military leadership reached out with a request to end the hostilities. India, he said, agreed to a pause, not a permanent end.

Singh said the operation was planned in such a way that it would only target those directly involved in terrorist activities. Civilian areas were deliberately left out of the operations to avoid unintended casualties, he said.

The Defence Minister said that allowing Pakistan to be part of a major counter-terrorism panel at the international level was questionable. "The global community should review any financial support being sent to Pakistan, as such funds were not being used for development but for supporting hostile elements," he said.

During the discussion, Rajnath said that a time may come when those living in areas under Pakistan's control may voluntarily express their desire to be a part of India.

The Rajya Sabha session was briefly disrupted as some opposition members protested and later walked out after being denied a chance to speak. KNO

PM must tell...

forces were restricted from targeting Pakistan's military infrastructure during the action.

Gandhi said the Indian armed forces informed Pakistan that there was no political intent to escalate the conflict. He claimed that the political leadership had directed the forces not to hit Pakistan's air defence or military installations, which he alleged led to the loss of Indian aircraft.

"We went into Pakistan, launched an attack, and told our pilots not to target their air defence systems," the Congress leader said.

Referring to a statement by Defence Attaché Captain Shiv Kumar, Gandhi said, "He may not agree with the number of aircraft lost, but he agrees some were lost — because of the political directive not to strike military targets."

Quoting Chief of Defence Staff Anil Chauhan, who had said it was important to understand why the aircraft were downed, Rahul said the Air Force made no mistake. "The mistake was made by the political leadership, which said military targets could not be attacked," he added.

He claimed the operation's main objective was to protect the Prime Minister's image. "His hands are stained with the blood of those killed in Pahalgam. He used the Air Force to safeguard his public image," Gandhi said in the House.

Rahul also questioned the government's narrative of success, saying, "The operation is still ongoing, yet victory has already been declared. The new normal now is that any act of terror is treated as an act of war. This gives terrorists control — they can provoke war by attacking."

Referring to comments by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, the LoP said the government had informed Pakistan that India would not attack their military infrastructure. "This means we demanded surrender within 30 minutes and, at the same time, reassured Pakistan we would not escalate," he said.

Gandhi questioned India's foreign policy direction, saying the real failure was the inability to keep Pakistan and China apart. "A few days ago, I said our biggest foreign policy challenge was to prevent a China-Pakistan alignment. But we failed," he said.

He also issued a direct challenge to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over Donald Trump's claim that he helped broker a ceasefire between India and Pakistan. "Trump has said 29 times that he brokered the ceasefire. If that's false, let the Prime Minister say here: Donald Trump, you are lying," Gandhi said.

Rahul also questioned Trump's meeting with Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir. "The man behind the Pahalgam attack is having lunch with Trump, while our Prime Minister is silent. Trump said he thanked Munir. Thanked him for what?" he asked.

He said the External Affairs Minister and Defence Minister had claimed India deterred Pakistan, but asked, "If that's true, why is the man who did terrorism in India being honoured in Washington, while our Prime Minister is not even present?"

"For our forces to be effective, they need full operational freedom and clear political intent. Without that, we risk repeating the same

mistakes," Gandhi added. KNO

No local terrorist...

as being linked to terrorist activities. He reiterated that the government's top priority remains eradicating terrorism and maintaining law and order in Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting recent counter-terror operation 'Operation Mahadev', the HM praised the efforts of security forces. "This mission led to the elimination of three terrorists believed to be behind attacks in Pahalgam and Gagangeer," he said.

Shah said that terrorism in the valley no longer has local roots. "There are no local terrorists now. All operatives are being sent from across the border in Pakistan," he said.

He further disclosed that over 1,000 individuals were interrogated for more than three hours each during the recent crackdown.

"Using information gathered from these interrogations, sketches of suspects were prepared. This led to the identification of two individuals—Bashir and Parvez—who were allegedly involved in sheltering terrorists. Both have since been apprehended," he said. KNO

J&K Police refund...

According to the details available with the news agency the amount was recovered by Jammu Police as part of a landmark case executed under the newly enacted Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).

Accompanied by senior officials including IGP Jammu Jogen B.S. Tuti, DIG JSK Range Shiv Kumar Sharma, and SSP Jammu Joginder Singh, the DGP lauded the police force for their exemplary investigation and commitment to justice.

The event was attended by officers from the Army, CRPF, civil administration, zonal SPs, SDPOs, and SHOs from Jammu's Rural Zone. SSP Jammu Joginder Singh and SP Rural Jammu Brijesh Sharma briefed the audience about the swift and efficient investigation led by SHO Nagrota, Inspector Parvez Sajad, under the supervision of SDPO Nagrota Vinod Kundal.

This case, according to the officials marked the first instance in the Union Territory where property was attached and proceeds of crime returned to victims under the BNSS. It involved Harpreet Singh, a resident of Pallanwala, who posed as a Lieutenant Colonel and duped individuals by promising jobs in MES, MoD, and DRDO. "The scam came to light after Arun Sharma of Nagrota filed a complaint on November 6, 2024, resulting in FIR No. 293/2024 at PS Nagrota. Harpreet Singh was arrested the next day. Investigations revealed that proceeds from the fraud were funneled into a real estate transaction involving a duplex property in Channi Bheja. The property, worth Rs 2.22 crore, was being transferred to the accused's mother, Paramjeet Kour. An amount of Rs 1.93 crore was traced back to Harpreet through cash and digital transactions," the officials added.

"On a plea by the police, the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jammu, issued an attachment order under Section 107(5) of BNSS, executed by Tehsildar Bahu. A show cause notice was served to the accused to explain the source of funds. During proceedings, Kamaljeet Kour (the seller) judicially admitted to receiving Rs 1.53 crore, and voluntarily committed to refund the amount," the officials said.

"In the first phase, Rs 75 lakh was distributed among 17 victims, and today, Rs 78 lakh was distributed among 22 victims through cheques. A total of Rs 1.53 crore has been refunded so far, with disputed amounts pending trial. A dedicated account was opened for disbursement on court directions, ensuring transparency and timely restitution."

DGP Prabhat hailed the case as a model for effective implementation of new criminal laws. "The government's new laws are being implemented on the ground, and their focus is firmly on victims. Today's development reflects our commitment to justice — swift, fair, and restorative," he said.

He reiterated the police's guiding principle — "not to touch the innocent and not to spare the guilty" — as laid down by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Highlighting the evolving demands of policing, he encouraged his team to aim for excellence across disciplines. "We must aspire as if we're winning a Nobel Prize or earning a PhD from a top university. Our work must be transformative," he said.

The DGP emphasized that crime, including scams and frauds, can only be prevented when society remains alert. "The first line of defense against crime is society itself. Citizens must remain vigilant and refuse to fall prey to such deceit," he warned.

He praised the investigating team led by Inspector Parvez Sajad and supervised by DySP Vinod Kundal and SP Rural Brijesh Sharma for their professionalism. Legal support was provided by Sr. Prosecuting Officer Altaf Wahid and financial expertise by Accounts Officer Kamal Bhagat.

IGP Jammu Zone B.S. Tuti commended Jammu Police for their dedication and urged officers to maintain high standards of public service. The case stands as a strong example of how coordinated legal, administrative, and investigative efforts can restore public trust and ensure justice under the new criminal justice framework—(KNO)

360-degree strategy...

regularly conducted for state police forces, law enforcement and cyber investigation agencies.

To strengthen border security, the government has implemented the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS), which uses surveillance tools like sensors, ground radars, UAVs, and satellite monitoring. Strategic infrastructure projects such as roads, tunnels, bridges and check posts are being developed, and coordinated patrols are carried out with neighboring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.

Efforts to combat terrorism include preventive operations by CAPFs, the Army and State Police. Investigations led by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) aim to dismantle support networks and expose those aiding terrorist activities.

Legal provisions under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 and the NIA Act, 2008 support prosecution, the reply reads, adding that technology tools like artificial intelligence, big data analytics, and facial recognition are employed to detect networks, while online spaces are monitored to prevent radicalization.

In response to a question on financial support to terrorists, Rai said a Combating Financing of Terrorism (CFT) Cell has been operating under the Ministry of Home Affairs since 2011. The NIA hosts a Terror Funding and Fake Currency Cell, and the FICN Coordination Centre (FCORD) facilitates information sharing among agencies. Financial channels, NGOs, and hawala networks are under continuous surveillance.

Regarding sanctions, Rai stated that actions under UN Security Council Resolutions 1267 and 1373, and Section 51(A) of the UAPA, 1967, include freezing of assets, travel bans, and restrictions on fund transfers for designated individuals and organizations.

India has Joint Working Groups on Counter-Terrorism with 26 countries and participates in 5 multilateral forums: ASEAN, BIMSTEC, BRICS, EU, and QUAD-CTWG. It also maintains a stand-alone dialogue with Tunisia.

On the role of intelligence agencies, the MoS Home said national and state-level agencies operate jointly through the Multi Agency Centre (MAC) and State Multi Agency Centres (SMACs), sharing real-time intelligence. Coordination among central forces, state police, and technical intelligence units has been increased, along with the strengthening of State Intelligence Bureaus. KNO

CS reviews readiness...

& Statistics; Director, Planning; and other senior officers. Deputy Commissioners of the Aspirational Districts participated via video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary also took stock of preparations for district-level felicitation events being organized to honour the frontline workers and block-level officers who played a crucial role in implementation of the programme. He interacted with the Deputy Commissioners individually, reviewed their progress and directed them to ensure proper arrangements and dignified conduct of these events.

Dulloo further reviewed the overall performance of districts and blocks under the Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks programmes. He assessed national-level rankings, status of key indicator saturation, and commended the remarkable efforts of the administrative machinery. He emphasized the need for sustained progress and focused intervention to ensure long-term development.

Highlighting the impact of the three-month Sampoonnata Abhiyan campaign (July 4 – September 30, 2024), the Chief Secretary appreciated the efforts of the officers and field teams. The campaign, launched by NITI Aayog, focused on achieving 100% saturation in six critical indicators spanning health, nutrition, education, agriculture, infrastructure and livelihoods.

Providing a detailed overview, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma informed that both Aspirational Districts of J&K Baramulla and Kupwara have achieved saturation across all six key indicators. Based on performance, the recognitions in the shape of Gold Medals shall be awarded to DDCs of Aspirational Districts that had saturated all six indicators including that of Baramulla, Kupwara, Bandipora, Kulgam and Reasi. Besides, the Silver Medals had been proposed for the DDCs of Pulwama, Ramban and Kishtwar districts with saturation of five indicators and a Copper Medal to DDC of Rajouri district for achieving saturation in three indicators.

Among the Aspirational Blocks, Tulail, Singhpora, Manzgam, Keran and Thakrakote have accomplished full saturation. Three others Marwa, Khari and Ichegoza have saturated five indicators, while Khwas achieved saturation in three.

Noteworthy performance improvements were also recorded. Ichegoza (Pulwama) improved its composite score by +9.13 points, reaching Rank 2 in March 2025. Tulail (Bandipora) rose by +6.66 points, securing Rank 8 with a score of 68.90.

The campaign positively impacted around 12.64 lakh people, nearly 10.3% of the population across 44 identified backward blocks, driving progress in sectors such as agriculture, health, education, water supply, irrigation, and power infrastructure.

To honour these achievements, the Sampoonnata Abhiyan Samman Samaroh will recognize District Development Commissioners, block-level officers and frontline workers.

For successful conduct of the event, NITI Aayog has sanctioned Rs 10 lakh for the UT-level function and Rs 5 lakh to each district for organizing district-level felicitation programmes.

A key highlight of the event will be the launch of "Akanksha Haat", a week-long initiative aimed at showcasing local innovation and entrepreneurship. NITI Aayog has provided an additional Rs 5 lakh per district to support this initiative across the aspirational districts of the country—(KNO)

'J&K faces variation...

security arrangements and a spiritually charged atmosphere. The day's pilgrim turnout included 5,025 males, 1,352 females, 109 children, 47 sadhus, 1 sadhvi, 1 transgender person, and 668 personnel from the security forces. The total footfall of pilgrims since July 3 has now reached 3,93,401.

Officials said the yatra has continued smoothly with a good daily turnout despite weather-related challenges in the higher reaches. "We expect the total number to cross 4 lakh tomorrow if the trend continues," an official said.

Meanwhile, the 27th batch of 1,490 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu early Monday morning and has reached the twin base camps in the Valley.

According to the details, the convoy departed in two segments and was escorted by CRPF and J&K Police personnel to ensure safety throughout the journey.

The batch comprised 1,262 men and 186 women, along with 42 sadhus and sadhvis—37 sadhus and 5 sadhvis. The yatris were accommodated in 61 vehicles, including 35 buses, 7 medium motor vehicles (MMVs), 18 light motor vehicles (LMVs), and 1 two-wheeler.

The convoy was split between the two main routes leading to the holy cave. The first group, consisting of 327 pilgrims in 16 vehicles, proceeded towards the Baltal base camp in Ganderbal district via the shorter but steeper 14-kilometer route. The second group, comprising 1,163 pilgrims in 45 vehicles, took the traditional 48-kilometer Pahalgam route in Anantnag district.

The annual Amarnath Yatra, which commenced on July 3 and is scheduled to conclude on August 9, has been proceeding smoothly, drawing participation from across the country. KNO

'J&K faces variation...

Capacity (TTC) of 2700/2800 MWs of power. However, during the other hours except for 9Am to 2Pm, there is an ATC and TTC capacity of 3400/3500 MWs of power—highlighting the need of improving the grid and other major infrastructures that can help in increasing the voltage during the day hours.

According to the official document available with the news agency, "J&K SLDC is also sharing (transfer capability limit) ATC/TTC base-case on a regular basis as per CERC approved procedure."

"However, due to low voltages during the daytime, the ATC and TTC figures for day time were recently reviewed and revised figures were communicated to J&K SLDC. Due to low voltages in the Kashmir valley area, the transfer capability limits (ATC/TTC) are 2700/2800MW during 09-14hrs and 3400/3500MW for other than 09-14hrs duration," it reads.

The documents said that "As of now the schedule of the state control area is not being restricted to ATC, and sometimes it is crossing the assessed ATC and TTC limits."

"However, in future as is the case with Punjab which is separate bid area, schedule of J&K state may be restricted upto their ATC and TTC limits upon formation of separate bid area," it reads.

Keeping in view the issues, the authorities have said, "Expeditious actions are required from J&K side to improve the low voltages in Kashmir valley". KNO

Terrorism can...

Sindoor during the ongoing Monsoon Session in the Parliament, Shah said the terrorists were killed under Operation Mahadev on Monday. They were identified as Suleman alias Faizal, Afghani and Jibran.

Farooq said although he doesn't know them (terrorists), only those who know them can identify whether they were the same. "If they are the same terrorists involved in the Pahalgam attack, then it is a good thing. Terrorism can never succeed," he said, as per the news agency.

Furthermore, reacting to the statement of PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti wherein she stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi can resolve the issue of J&K, if he wants, Farooq said, "The issue of Jammu and Kashmir will be resolved. We need to stay united and work together and every issue can be resolved". KNO

DLSA Srinagar holds awareness programme on drug abuse, bullying & teasing

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 29

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and under the supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar organised an awareness programme at Boys Higher Secondary School.

The awareness programme, organized in collaboration with the School Education department, aimed to sensitize students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the rising concern of bullying and teasing among school-going youth.



Students, faculty members, and legal experts ensured their participation in the programme. The program aimed to equip students with knowledge about the psychological, social, and legal consequences of substance abuse and bullying behaviors.

Speaking on the occasion, Zeenat Nazir (Deputy

Legal Aid Defense Counsel) emphasized the importance of early intervention and peer support in curbing addiction and promoting a safe and respectful school environment.

She also interacted with students and elaborated on the legal provisions under the NDPS Act related to drug abuse.

Adv Syed Shabana Kounser (Panel Lawyer) highlighted the availability of free legal aid services for students and laws pertaining to harassment, bullying and juvenile justice. Real life examples, case studies, and open discussions encouraged active student engagement and awareness.

Principal of the school appreciated the efforts of DLSA Srinagar in educating students and expressed hope that such initiatives would bring about positive behavioral change.

DLSA Srinagar remains committed to creating awareness about social and legal issues in educational institutions to empower the youth and build a responsible and informed society.

Anantnag celebrates 5 years of National Education Policy

JI NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, JULY 29

To mark the 5th anniversary of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Chief Education Officer Anantnag today organised a distribution camp of aids and appliances for specially-abled children & awareness programme under the Inclusive Education component of Samagra Shiksha, J&K.

The event was held at Government Higher Secondary School (Boys), Bijbehara, and witnessed participation from students, teachers, officials, children from educational zones Bijbehara & Sirigufwara, besides civil society members.

Speaking on the occasion,



Chief Education Officer (CEO) Anantnag highlighted the significance of the NEP 2020 in ensuring equitable and inclusive education for all learners, especially children with special needs. He stated that the policy is being implemented in letter and spirit across all schools in the district to promote holistic development and equal opportunities for

students from all backgrounds.

“NEP 2020 lays strong emphasis on inclusive and accessible education, and we are committed to reaching every child, including the specially-abled, with quality learning facilities,” CEO said.

District Education Planning Officer (DEPO) Anantnag, in his address, elaborated on the key provisions

of NEP and the steps taken for its effective implementation in the district. He emphasized the transformative nature of the policy and its potential to reshape the education landscape of Jammu & Kashmir.

Likewise Padma Shree Javid Tak spoke about the problems of the specially-abled and the provisions in NEP for them.

The event concluded with the distribution of mobility aids, learning tools, and assistive devices among 61 Children including Wheelchairs, Crutches, Hearing Aids, Tricycles, Braille Kits, Smart Phones etc. to several specially-abled children, enabling them to better participate in academic and co-curricular activities.

DSEJ celebrates 5 years of NEP

Div Com hails inclusive, future-ready approach of National Education Policy-2020

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 29

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, addressed an event to commemorate five impactful years of the transformative National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 organised by the Directorate of School Education Jammu, in collaboration with SCERT J&K and Samagra Shiksha at Polytechnic Jammu.

The event witnessed participation from stakeholders from across the School Education Department of Jammu & Kashmir, including teachers, students, heads of institutions, educational administrators, and representatives from JKBOSE, JKSCERT, DIETs, Colleges of Education, and other allied institutions.

The Divisional Commissioner inaugurated the exhibition of innovative Teaching-Learning Materials (TLMs) developed by teachers and SCERT, showcasing the creativ-



ity and learner-centric approach promoted under NEP 2020.

In his address, the Divisional Commissioner spoke on the transformative spirit of NEP 2020 and its far-reaching impact on the education system. He highlighted the improvements NEP 2020 has brought over previous education policies, especially in terms of its learner-centric, inclusive, and future-ready approach. He emphasized the relevance of the policy in the context of Jammu & Kashmir

and called attention to its focus on holistic development of school children, the integration of vocational education, promotion of mental health and emotional well-being, and inclusion of Children with Special Needs (CwSN).

The Divisional Commissioner urged the teaching fraternity to become agents of change, shaping the future of students by implementing NEP 2020 in its true spirit.

Director School Education Jammu Naseem Javed Choudhary presented an

overview of the implementation of NEP 2020 in the Union Territory. He also underscored the department's efforts in training teachers, revamping assessments, promoting multilingualism, and setting up school complexes for resource sharing and academic enrichment.

A special highlight of the event was the distribution of educational aid kits to Children with Special Needs (CwSN), who were specially invited guests, reflecting the Department's continued emphasis on equity and inclusion.

Joint Director, SCERT, Sindhu Kapoor, Director Academics JKBOSE, Dr Sudhir Singh, Ajeet Sharma, Chief Education Officer Jammu, representatives from Government College of Education DIET Jammu, Samagra Shiksha, JKUT, along with students, ZEOs, HOIs, teacher educators, and officials from various wings of the School Education Department were present.

Sheep Husbandry Kashmir organizes seminar on role of Para-Veterinary Professionals

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 29

The Sheep Husbandry Department, Kashmir, in collaboration with the All J&K Sheep and Wool Workers Association, today organized a day-long seminar at Lal Mandi, here, focusing on the vital role of Para-Veterinary professionals in the department.

The event was presided over by the Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives & Elections, Javid Ahmad Dar while MLA Sonawari, Hilal Akbar Lone and Principal Secretary Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar, graced the occasion as Guests of Honour.



During the seminar, the President of the Association highlighted the immense dedication of Para-Veterinary professionals, particularly their work in high-altitude and difficult terrains during harsh winters. He also projected several issues faced by the workforce, including a demand for additional remuneration for services rendered under challenging conditions.

Speaking on the occasion, Javid Dar lauded

the commitment of Para-Veterinary employees and assured the gathering that their genuine demands would be examined and addressed on priority. He emphasized that livestock plays a pivotal role in strengthening the rural economy and acknowledged the critical contribution of Para-Veterinary professionals in safeguarding the livestock wealth of farmers.

MLA Sonawari, Hilal Akbar Lone, also appreci-

ated the dedication of the Para-Veterinary staff and underscored their role in ensuring effective service delivery at the grassroots level.

On the sidelines of the seminar, the Minister flagged off eight new pickup vehicles to be deployed across districts of the Kashmir division to strengthen the department's field operations and improve service delivery to farmers.

The seminar also witnessed participation of Director Sheep Husbandry, Kashmir, Dr. Rafiq Ahmad Shah; Director Agriculture, Kashmir, Sh. Sartaj Ahmad Shah; Joint Director (Farms), Dr. Ajay Sudan; and other senior officers of the department along with para vet staff and officials.

J&K shines at Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam 2025, New Delhi

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

The prestigious Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam 2025 was held today at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, with a vision to further the transformative goals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The event was inaugurated with an address by Union Minister for Education, Dharmendra Pradhan, who emphasized the Centre's commitment to inclusive and innovation-driven education in India.

From the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, participated in the event. She was accompanied by Secretary School Education, J&K, Ram Niwas Sharma, Director School Education Kashmir (DSEK), Dr. G. N. Itoo, SPD Samagra Shiksha and two UT topper Students of INSPIRE MANAK Awards from HSS Pahloo, Kulgam, J&K.

In an interaction with the media during the programme, several parents expressed appreciation for



the Union and J&K Governments' proactive efforts to disseminate awareness about NEP 2020 among all stakeholders, especially through grassroots initiatives.

In her remarks, Sakeena Itoo commended the committed efforts of higher officials and Heads of Institutions (HOIs) for ensuring mass participation in the “NEP Mela - Paigam”, which was held across the length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir. She noted that the initiative has successfully



carried the message of NEP 2020 to students, teachers, and communities at large.

Secretary School Education, J&K, Ram Niwas Sharma, reiterated the Government's strong resolve for effective and timely implementation of NEP 2020 in the Union Territory. He underlined the focus on quality, inclusivity and innovation in education as per the national vision.

Dr. G. N. Itoo, Director School Education Kashmir, who also participated in the Samagam, closely

monitored the conduct of NEP Mela 2025 in Kashmir from New Delhi

Speaking to the media, Dr. Itoo stated that “an extensive mega programme under the title ‘Paigam’ was conducted across Jammu and Kashmir to spread awareness regarding NEP 2020. In the Kashmir Valley alone, nearly 400 events were held, witnessing participation from over 42,000 students, 3,000+ teachers and Heads of Institutions, along with a large number of community members.”

The NEP Mela featured debates, discussions and cultural programmes centered around NEP 2020, aiming to empower the learners and educators with the knowledge and spirit of the policy.

The participation of J&K's top officials and young achievers at the national stage underlines the region's active and commendable role in transforming its educational ecosystem under the vision of NEP 2020.

Div Com Jammu forms Joint Committee to study Birds related hazards at Jammu Airport

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 29

Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar today chaired a meeting to discuss measures for preventing birds related hazards at the Jammu Airport.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner JMC; AOC Air force Station Jammu; Vice Chairman JDA; ADDC Jammu; CEO Cantonment Board Jammu and representatives of AAI.

The meeting discussed the issue of Birds hazard originating from surround-



ing areas of the Jammu Airport. It was informed that the accumulation of garbage and dumping of waste attract the birds that fly over the periphery of the Airport.

The Divisional Commis-

sioner directed the JMC, JDA and CEO Cantonment Board Jammu for implementing a robust garbage disposal mechanism in the areas surrounding the Jammu Airport. He further asked

them for issuing prohibitory orders and awareness drives for prevention of garbage dumping that attracts birds.

The Divisional Commissioner also constituted a Committee under ADDC Jammu Sher Singh with members from JDA, JMC, Cantonment Board Jammu, AAI Jammu and Air Force Station Jammu to conduct the field visit and submit a report within a week, suggesting effective measures to prevent the Birds related hazards at the Jammu Airport.

Free Aids, Assistive devices Distribution camp organized at Ramban under NEP 2020

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JULY 29

In line with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 Utsav, a Camp for distribution of free Aids and Assistive Devices among Children with Special Needs (CWSN) was organized here today. The event was held under the aegis of Samagra Shiksha in collaboration with Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) and with the active support of the District Administration Ramban.

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan, distributed aids and assistive



devices to the beneficiaries. He appreciated the Education Department for coordinating the event and ALIMCO for its efforts in providing equipment to specially-abled children.

DDC Member Renuka

Katoch, Chief Education Officer Mukhtar Ahmed, District Youth Services & Sports Officer Jagdish Sharma and several other officers were also present.

A total of 14 beneficiaries from the six education

zones of the district received various aids and assistive devices at the camp. These included wheelchairs, CP chairs with commodes, hearing aids, Teaching Learning Material (TLM) kits, and Sugamya canes, all aimed at improving the quality of life and education accessibility for CWSN children.

The speakers underlined the need for implementing NEP 2020 in its true spirit, ensuring that no child is left behind in the journey of education.

EDITORIAL

End of road for Pahalgam killers

After months of pursuit, intelligence-led counter-insurgency, and relentless ground action, justice has finally caught up with the perpetrators of the barbaric Pahalgam massacre. The killing of Sulaiman Shah, alias Asif – the alleged mastermind behind the April 22 Pahalgam attack – marks a significant moment in India's counter-terrorism efforts in Jammu and Kashmir. The attack, which claimed the lives of 26 people, including tourists enjoying the scenic Baisaran meadows, had sent shockwaves across the country. Today, justice has been delivered, and with it comes a powerful message: those who spill innocent blood will not escape retribution. What makes this success even more remarkable is the role of technology and sharp intelligence in tracking down the killers. The trigger came from an unusual source – a satellite phone signal, rarely used in the region due to its detectability. The momentary blip on surveillance radars prompted a swift response from the Army's Special Forces, leading to the launch of Operation Mahadev. Acting on this critical lead, forces closed in on a militant hideout on the outskirts of Srinagar. The encounter that followed neutralized three terrorists – one of whom was confirmed to be Sulaiman Shah himself. Shah, a senior Lashkar-e-Taiba commander, had long evaded capture, skillfully moving between the dense forests of the Pir Panjal range and the Kashmir Valley. He was not just the brain behind the Pahalgam massacre; he was also linked to multiple deadly attacks – from the ambush on an Air Force convoy in Jammu to the Ganderbal tunnel killings that left seven civilians dead. His escape during a December operation, where fellow terrorist Junaid Ahmed Bhat was killed, had frustrated security forces. But this week, the circle closed. The success of Operation Mahadev lies not only in the tactical elimination of terrorists but in the intelligence ecosystem that made it possible. Coordination between surveillance agencies, the Army, and counter-terrorism units ensured that the window of opportunity provided by a rare satellite phone use was not missed. The strategic importance of such collaboration cannot be overstated in today's asymmetric warfare environment. More importantly, this operation sends a resounding signal to terror networks across the border: India's patience is not infinite, and its resolve is firm. The killing of innocent civilians, particularly unarmed tourists who symbolize normalcy and trust, will be avenged with clinical precision. Yet, even as the nation hails this breakthrough, the work is far from over. Shah's use of high-altitude hideouts, his mobility, and his use of alternate communication channels highlight the evolving nature of terrorism in Kashmir. The porous terrain, combined with radical indoctrination and external support, remains a challenge. Intelligence agencies believe that Shah may not have acted alone – remnants of his module could still be active and plotting. Justice may have been served, but vigilance must continue. For the people of Pahalgam and for the families of the victims, this operation offers a measure of closure. For the country, it reinforces faith in our armed forces and their unwavering pursuit of justice. As Union Home Minister Amit Shah rightly stated while confirming the death of the mastermind: "Those who orchestrated the Pahalgam killings have paid the price." Terror may have raised its head in the meadows of Pahalgam – but it will find no sanctuary in the valleys of Kashmir.

The hidden environmental cost of Artificial Intelligence

NIYATI ANAND

In recent years, AI has gained huge popularity in the fields of science, social studies, and technology for solving complex problems, from diagnosing diseases to forecasting floods. Its potential in addressing the climate crisis is also praiseworthy – for instance, in aiding environmental research, which has contributed to mapping deforestation and soil erosion, as well as forecasting droughts and wildfires. Activists are now using Global Fishing Watch, which employs machine-learning software to identify overfishing and illegal fishing in specific areas, thereby protecting our ecosystems. However, behind all this excitement, there is an uncomfortable truth – AI might be doing more harm than good for the environment.

AI's Profit Problem

The rise of AI has opened

many opportunities for businesses to maximise their profits, but this comes at a price. Businesses increasingly rely on AI, leading to increased resource extraction, industrial production, and global consumption. For instance, deep learning technologies are used by major corporations to analyse massive geological datasets, aiming to identify new oil and gas reserves. Additionally, smart submersibles, led by AI, can now detect untapped oil and gas reserves in remote parts of the ocean. Moreover, to generate profit, states and firms often exaggerate the benefits of new AI technology for personal gain, while downplaying or concealing its environmental costs. The tech world works by hyping people up – for example, when start-ups claim 'technological breakthroughs' to attract funding from investors. Large firms, such as Amazon and Google, dominate this space, control-

ling the technology and shaping public perception. The result? Increased production, overconsumption, and escalating pressure on the planet's already limited resources.

AI's Own Environmental Footprint

AI not only facilitates environmentally harmful practices but is also resource-intensive. Training advanced AI models, such as ChatGPT and GenAI, requires enormous amounts of electricity. According to the United Nations Environment Programme, a single search made through ChatGPT consumes ten times more energy than a simple Google search. Intuitively, complex models tend to be even more energy-intensive and have a negative impact on the overall environmental footprint.

Moreover, once an AI model is trained, the energy demand does not stop; rather, it contin-

ues to consume electricity every time it is used. The rise of AI has also fuelled the expansion of data centres, which require vast amounts of water to cool equipment and prevent overheating. They also produce electronic waste and generate significant greenhouse gas emissions. As companies constantly release newer and more powerful models, the carbon emissions continue to rise at a pace that far outweighs any emissions that AI tools could help reduce.

Smart Tech Needs Smart Governance

If left to corporations alone, AI risks being misused for short-term profits, leading to long-term environmental degradation. Without proper regulation, AI could become a tool of overproduction and unsustainable consumption. Hence, I believe that the best way to manage the risks of AI is to combine technology with politics to provide

innovative solutions to environmental crises and to ensure that AI development is aligned with environmental and social goals.

The Government should more closely control AI development to prioritise its use for public interest, particularly among researchers, scientists, and institutions working on climate and sustainability. Additionally, state-funded AI initiatives can help transform industries with low-carbon technologies while also preventing businesses from overusing these technologies for purely profit-driven purposes. In today's world, we are not passive receivers of technology; rather, we have the power to shape it to our advantage responsibly. Hence, we must redefine its purpose as a tool to ensure sustainable development.

(The author is a graduate in International Relations from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver)

Significance of Ramayana in Karachi

PRAFULL GORADIA

It was recently reported in the media that a theatre group called Mauj had collectively staged the play Ramayana in a theatre, the Arts Council of Pakistan at Karachi.

Despite the environment of enmity because of the gruesome killing of 26 Hindus in Pahalgam by Pakistani terrorists, drawing a devastating military response by India in the form of Operation Sindoor, and the events preceding and following, the Ramayana's staging sold approximately a thousand tickets, as reported, and the show was enjoyed by the entire audience. Incidentally, a hitch was that a part of the audience did not understand the word 'Mundrika'; the Pakistanis are more familiar with 'Anguthi', meaning ring, which was presented by Hanuman to Sita when he reached Lanka in search of her.

All the actors in this play were local Muslims; the director, Yogeshwar Karera, was the only Hindu, and the producer's name is Rana Kazmi. Perhaps the Ramayana epic had not been staged as a theatre performance earlier, but both our epics did

command a large audience when they were screened on Doordarshan in 1987 and 1988.

For one hour, every Sunday morning during those two years, the traffic in the cities of Pakistan would disappear as citizens were busy indoors watching the teleserials Ramayan, produced and directed by Ramanand Sagar, and Mahabharat, made by BR Chopra, both well-known filmmakers of their day. In India as well, the Muslim populace too used to watch the epics being brought alive in their television avatar with equal zeal.

Research into the phenomenon of why both of India's timeless epics have attracted so much interest in Pakistan has so far been insufficient. Is this only a case of great narratives being delivered masterfully? Is it because the Islamic tradition does not have comparable literature?

Is it because the Muslim common folk, whether in India or Pakistan, do not suffer from communal prejudice as their leaders might? Or is it because of the social memory of most Muslims, who were once Hindus? It is pertinent to remember and reiterate here that although cut

from the same cloth, Pakistan's sharp turn away from whatever common it culturally had with India began in 1951, the year its first Prime Minister, Liaquat Ali Khan, was murdered. The need for a national mythology became particularly urgent after the country's humiliating defeat in the 1971 war at the hands of its hated enemy India, and the subsequent secession of the eastern wing, ie, East Pakistan, which broke away from West Pakistan to become Bangladesh. Pakistan was now equated to Islam itself, became more of a deal, and then the Zia era made that turn complete. For those born during the Zia era or after, Hinduism itself was a very powerful sense of the Other, indoctrinated since their infancy.

But social memory, as psychology explains it, or the memory embedded deeply in the psyche of individuals and communities regarding their history and ancestry of bygone eras, is difficult and near-impossible to eradicate by ideological indoctrination. History has been witness to this across continents and cultures.

What we are witnessing is just another instance of this human

phenomenon, for which no neat and convenient explanation exists. Take, for instance, the views of Rana Kazmi, producer of the recently staged Karachi theatre's Ramayana: "I don't know if something particularly good ever came out of banning anything. My view is that putting something down or stopping something from happening is never the solution. I think there is so much that we have to offer as a part of the world and we are so much stronger together. I don't know why we don't see that strength, realise it and actually leverage it. Imagine what we would do as one group. I am a champion of us doing things together. We watch content from each other's countries. We relate to it and enjoy it. No bans have ever stopped that from happening."

Similar views have been expressed by Samhan Ghazi, who played Ravana in the drama, and Sana Toaha, who played Kaikeyi. Several places and the events occurring in them mentioned in both the Ramayana and Mahabharata are today located in the geography of Pakistan. Kekaya (Kaikeyi's native kingdom), Takshashila

(Taxila), Sindhu, and Peshawar are some of them; Gandhara, the native land of Gandhari, mother of Duryodhana and the Kaurava brothers, is in Afghanistan, but adjacent to Pakistan's Peshawar district.

We have mentioned social memory to be the most likely cause of the Ramayana and Mahabharata still resonating in many Pakistanis' hearts and minds. In historical context, social memory can be said to be the shared recollections and interpretations of the past that are held by a group or society, shaping their understanding of themselves and their place in the world.

It encompasses the collective knowledge, beliefs, and narratives about past events, experiences, and cultural traditions that are passed down through generations. Viewed through this perspective, social memory can be glimpsed at its most expressive in the active remembrance of the Hindu epics in some pockets of Pakistani society.

(The writer is a well-known columnist, author, and former member of the Rajya Sabha)

Roar for Resilience: Why Saving Tigers Equates to Saving Ourselves

TANUSHREE SINGH

Every year, on July 29, nations unite to celebrate International Tiger Day, a worldwide effort designed to promote awareness of the critical importance of safeguarding one of the planet's most renowned species. For India, which hosts approximately 75 per cent of the global tiger population, this day holds great significance – not only for wildlife protection but also for broader objectives, including climate change adaptation, ecological stability, and sustainable development. **Tigers: Protectors of the Woodland**

Tigers are frequently called umbrella species. This implies that by preserving tigers and their ecosystems, we unintentionally safeguard a diverse array of plant and animal life. Tiger reserves throughout India house not only big cats but also elephants, leopards, deer, birds, reptiles, and a multitude of plant species. These ecosystems play essential ecological roles, including water retention, carbon sequestration, soil conservation, and temperature regulation – all vital in the era of climate change.

Protecting tiger habitats means conserving

extensive areas of forests, grasslands, wetlands, and watersheds – India's natural climate protection mechanisms. Healthy and intact forests absorb carbon dioxide, moderate regional climates, and lessen the occurrence and severity of climate-related disasters like floods, droughts, extreme weather events and heatwaves.

India's Tiger Protection Program

India's dedication to preserving tigers has gained international recognition. The groundbreaking Project Tiger, initiated in 1973, was an innovative conservation initiative that contributed to the recovery of tiger populations. Through committed funding, robust legal safeguards, and the creation of 58 tiger reserves spanning over 82,000 sq km, India has become a frontrunner in tiger conservation.

According to the All-India Tiger Estimation 2022, India reported more than 3,600 tigers. This achievement was recognised worldwide, with India receiving praise for reaching its target – doubling its tiger population by 2022 – much earlier than anticipated. However, this extends beyond just numbers. Each data point

represents the success of initiatives like habitat restoration, village relocation from core areas, community engagement, anti-poaching efforts, and technological tools such as camera traps and drones for wildlife monitoring. These initiatives also provide broader climate benefits, as protected and well-managed forests continue to offer vital ecosystem functions. **Tigers and Climate Change**

The relationship between tiger conservation and climate change is complex and important. Climate change introduces new threats to tiger habitats – warmer temperatures, changed rainfall patterns, and rising sea levels can disrupt ecosystems and push wildlife into human areas.

The Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world, and home to the unique Royal Bengal Tiger, is experiencing the impacts of rising sea levels, coastal erosion, and more frequent cyclones.

Conversely, preserving tiger habitats presents one of the most nature-oriented solutions to climate change. Tiger reserve forests serve as carbon sinks, capturing greenhouse gases and contributing to the reduction of global warming.

The Corbett Tiger Reserve, for example, holds millions of tons of carbon within its thick Sal and mixed deciduous woodlands. These reserves not only sequester carbon but also enhance the resilience of local communities by offering shade, water, and forest resources, as well as mitigating soil erosion and landslides.

Community and Livelihood

The success of nature conservation relies on the involvement and support of local communities. Numerous indigenous and forest dependent groups in India reside close to or within tiger territories. Due to the impact of climate change on agriculture and water supply, these communities are experiencing increasing stress. Conservation approaches that overlook their rights and requirements may lead to conflicts and dislocation.

Thankfully, India has acknowledged the importance of local communities in conservation efforts. Initiatives like eco-development committees, community-based ecotourism, and joint forest management in reserves such as Pench and Periyar have engaged villagers in tiger conservation while offering them sustainable means of live-

lihood.

Efforts such as the Van Dhan Yojana and the enforcement of the Forest Rights Act are essential for guaranteeing that conservation initiatives contribute to climate justice for underprivileged communities.

Obstacles Ahead

Even with advancements, tiger conservation in India encounters increasing difficulties. Swift urban growth, infrastructure expansion, linear encroachments such as roads and railways, and excessive tourism jeopardise tiger corridors and their habitats. Numerous reserves are turning into conservation islands, isolated from each other. This fragmentation of habitats decreases the genetic viability of tiger populations and undermines the ecological stability of forests.

Climate change is introducing an additional level of pressure. Extended dry periods, unexpected rainfall, and severe weather patterns are currently changing the ecosystems of tiger habitats. Heatwaves amplify forest fires, jeopardising tiger habitats in areas such as Bandipur and Simlipal.

Additionally, numerous conservation initiatives continue to adhere to a top-down approach.

There needs to be a more robust integration of traditional knowledge, women's involvement, and grassroots innovation into policies and action plans.

Government Programs and Innovations

To tackle these obstacles, the Indian Government has initiated various significant programs:

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA): Oversees all initiatives for tiger conservation and guarantees scientific management of reserves.

CAMPA Funds (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority): Allocated for projects aimed at restoring forests and adapting to climate change.

Green India Mission and National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC): Focus on increasing forest cover and enhancing ecosystem services.

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB): Addresses illegal wildlife trafficking and poaching, a continual danger to tigers.

Moreover, initiatives are in progress to rehabilitate wildlife corridors, like the Central India Landscape, to guarantee secure passage for tigers between conservation zones, consequently

improving their survival and ecological influence.

Suggestions

To enhance current achievements and effectively utilise the climate benefits of tiger conservation, India should undertake these actions:

Incorporate Climate Initiatives into Tiger Conservation Strategies: Assessments of climate risks must be included in the management plans for tiger reserves.

Encourage Conservation at a Landscape Scale: Linking tiger environments via corridors and buffer zones improves ecological well-being and carbon retention.

Empower Local Communities: Conservation should provide job opportunities, medical services, education, and official acknowledgement of land and forest entitlements.

Invest in Infrastructure Resilient to Climate Change: Develop roads, tourism amenities, and communities near tiger reserves with an awareness of environmental impacts.

Enhance Climate Funding for Conservation: Leveraging international climate finance via several initiatives can aid in safeguarding tigers and achieving climate objec-

tives.

Foster Community Engagement: Raising public awareness and encouraging participation in initiatives such as tree planting, wildlife observation, and conservation education can generate a widespread societal movement.

Tigers Represent Our Future

International Tiger Day is more than just a celebration of a magnificent species; it serves as a reminder that our existence is connected to the health of nature.

In a nation such as India, where countless individuals rely on forests for nourishment, water, and clean air, preserving tigers translates to preserving forests, and preserving forests equates to enhancing resilience against climate change.

While celebrating International Tiger Day on 29 July, we should keep in mind that safeguarding tigers leads to a healthier planet, enhanced ecosystems, and a safer future for the generations ahead. The tiger's roar is not merely a sound of nature – it serves as a summons for action.

(The writer is Doctoral Fellow, Amity University, Gurugram)

Hepatitis B drugs vastly underused, must be used early to save more lives: The Lancet

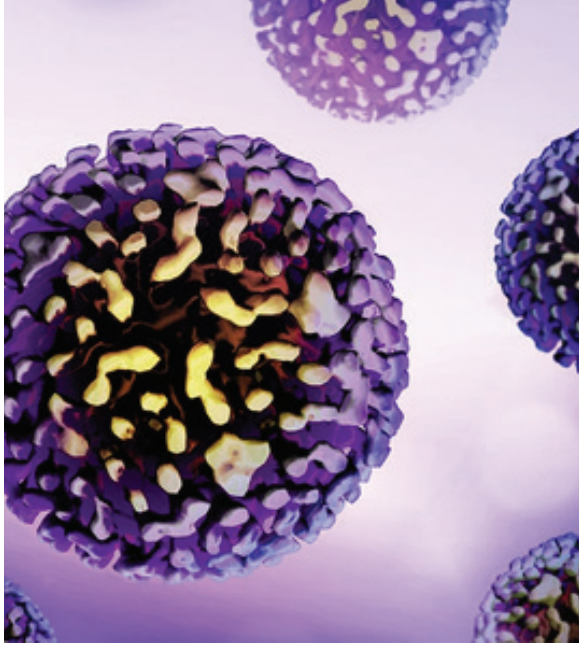
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Hepatitis B drugs are being vastly underused, and boosting early treatment against the deadly hepatitis B virus (HBV) could save many lives over time, argued scientists in a new paper published in Lancet Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

HBV kills over 3,000 people every day, or over 2 people every minute. Of the people who do not clear the infection and go on to develop a chronic HBV infection, between 20 and 40 per cent will die if they do not receive treatment.

The experts noted that even though the currently available drugs do not cure people, they are safe, effective, and relatively inexpensive.

"These medications are good drugs that are being badly underused," said John Tavis, Professor of molecular microbiology



and immunology at Saint Louis University School of Medicine.

"Less than 3 per cent of all people infected with HBV are receiving treatment, and the evidence suggests that many more people could benefit from treatment. If we get people

on medication earlier, the net disease and death rate is going to be much less," Tavis said.

In the research, the scientists noted that early treatment not only slows down the disease progression but also limits the cumulative liver

damage throughout a 20 to 30-year-long chronic infection that causes liver cancer and liver failure.

The researchers also noted that hepatitis B carries an emotional, mental, and social burden that adds to the disease's impact on quality of life.

"The most common way the infection is passed along is from a mother with HBV to her infant," Tavis said. "Most mothers don't know they have the infection. And, the stress of learning that you passed along a deadly illness to your baby is unimaginable," he added.

Although the virus does not spread by casual contact, many people also suffer in their communities.

"We know these drugs could reduce the incidence of liver cancer by two-thirds, or possibly even three-quarters. That's a big impact, saving millions of lives over time," Tavis said.

AB-PMJAY: Over 9.84 cr hospital admissions worth Rs 140 lakh cr availed till June: Govt

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

More than 9.84 crore hospital admissions worth over Rs. 1.40 lakh crore have been authorised under the flagship Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) scheme, the government informed the Parliament during the ongoing Monsoon Session on Friday.

In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Prataprao Jadhav informed that "a total of 31,466 hospitals have been empanelled under the scheme across the country, out of which 14,194 are private hospitals" till June.

"More than 9.84 crore hospital admissions worth over Rs. 1.40 lakh crore have been authorised under the scheme," he added.

The AB PM-JAY pro-



vides health cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to approximately 55 crore beneficiaries. This corresponds to 12.37 crore families constituting the

economically vulnerable bottom 40 per cent of India's population.

Further, till June 30, "more than 41 crore Ayushman Cards have been created across the country".

Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of Ayushman cards (5,33,20,357), followed by Madhya Pradesh (4,35,66,400), Bihar (3,91,99,682), and Odisha (3,46,19,714). Lakshadweep has the lowest at 36,563.

The AB PM-JAY scheme is implemented in States/UTs through one of three modes: Trust Mode, Insurance Mode, or Hybrid Mode.

States have the flexibility to implement the scheme in any of these modes, and can switch from one mode to another based on their own.

"National Health Authority has laid down guidelines under AB-PMJAY for payment of claims to hospitals within 15 days of claims submission for the intra-state hospitals (hospitals located within the State) and within 30 days in case of portability claims (hospitals located outside the State)," the Minister said.

Over 41 Cr Ayushman, 7541 lakh Vay Vandana cards, 79.55 cr ABHA created: Centre

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Friday informed the Parliament about the increase in adoption of Ayushman Card, Ayushman Vay Vandana card, as well as the Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA), indicating a significant boost in public health in the country.

In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Prataprao Jadhav shared details of transformative policies and initiatives under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) to enhance healthcare access and equity for citizens in the country.

"Under AB-PMJAY, over 41 crore Ayushman cards have been created, out of which 20.47 crore cards have been created for female beneficiaries," the



MoS said.

"Under the Vay Vandana scheme, a total of 75.41 lakh Ayushman Vay Vandana cards have been created, out of which 32.3 lakh cards have been created for female beneficiaries," he added.

The Ayushman Vay Vandana Scheme provides free healthcare benefits of up to Rs 5 lakh annually to all Indian citizens aged 70 and above, regardless of income or social category.

Further, the AB-PMJAY scheme was also expanded to include 37 lakh Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), Angan-

wadi Workers (AWWs), Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs), and their families.

"About 10.45 lakhs Ayushman Cards have been created for ASHAs, 15.01 lakhs for AWWs, and 15.05 lakhs for AWHs," Jadhav said.

The Minister also noted the advancements made in India's digital health infrastructure through the Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) initiative.

"Over 79.55 crore ABHA have been created and over 64.28 crore health records have been linked with ABHA till July,"

Jadhav said.

ABHA, created under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), empowers citizens to access and manage their digital health records with consent across the healthcare ecosystem.

The ABDM registries provide access to health records and gateways to easily access individual health records and to share them securely and seamlessly via 'Scan and Share' -- a QR-code-based OPD (Outpatient Department) registration service. This minimises long queues at the registration counter as well as the entry of incomplete or inaccurate data.

"Till July, a total of 22,404 health facilities across 36 States/UTs have generated 12.48 crore OPD registrations, with an average of about 3 lakh registrations being enabled by this service," the Minister said.

Sudden deaths caused by health issues, genetic link not Covid vax: Nadda

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Covid-19 vaccination did not increase the risk of sudden deaths, said Union Health Minister JP Nadda in the Parliament on Friday.

Speaking in the Lok Sabha during the ongoing Monsoon session, Nadda noted the role of underlying health issues, as well as genetic links behind the rising unexplained deaths in the country.

"Covid-19 vaccination does not appear to increase the risk, whereas the role of underlying health issues, genetic predisposition, and risky lifestyle choices does play a role in unexplained sudden deaths," said Nadda.

He cited the studies undertaken by the ICMR and NCDC, as well as the ICMR and AIIMS, to investigate the causes of sudden death.



"The studies observed that Covid-19 vaccination did not increase the risk of unexplained sudden death among young adults in India. Past Covid-19 hospitalisation, family history of sudden death, and certain lifestyle behaviours increased the likelihood

of unexplained sudden death," Nadda said.

"Early analysis of data from the AIIMS-led study indicates that heart attacks, or myocardial infarction (MI), continue to be the leading cause of sudden death in this age group. Importantly, no

major changes in the pattern of causes have been observed when compared with previous years before the Covid-19 pandemic," he added.

Meanwhile, the government informed the Parliament that Covid claimed 164 lives between April and July in the recent summer wave.

In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Prataprao Jadhav shared details on Covid cases increasing in the country during the last three months.

"There was a slight increase in Covid 19 cases reported by States/UTs from the end of May 2025, which declined significantly since mid-June," Jadhav said.

"As of July 22, 164 deaths due to Covid-19 had been reported by states/UTs since the first of April; the majority had comorbidities," he added.

Sigachi Industries slips into losses in Q1 FY26, posts net loss of Rs 100 crore

AGENCIES
MUMBAI

Sigachi Industries posted a net loss of Rs 100.97 crore in the first quarter of the current financial year (Q1 FY26), the company said in an exchange filing on Friday.

The company had posted a profit of Rs 16.17 crore in the preceding quarter (Q4 FY25) and Rs 12.75 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago (Q1FY25).

However, the total revenue of the Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical company jumped by 34 per cent to Rs 128.24 crore from Rs 95.7 crore in the same period a year ago. The revenue increased marginally quarter-on-quarter from Rs 128.20 crore in Q4 FY25.

Gross profit increased by 14.67 per cent to Rs 54.7 crore, while gross margin declined from 49.79 per cent to 42.64 per cent, the company said in the filing.



Meanwhile, EBITDA stood at Rs 24.1 crore, with an EBITDA margin of 18.79 per cent.

On June 30, a massive explosion took place at Sigachi's Pashamylaram-based factory, claiming multiple lives and significant damage to the facility.

In the aftermath of the tragic incident, the com-

pany has slipped into losses in the April-June quarter.

"Q1 FY26 has been an emotionally and operationally challenging quarter for us. The tragic incident led to the loss of lives and injuries among our workforce, and we extend our deepest condolences to all affected," Sigachi

Industries Limited MD & CEO, Amit Raj Sinha, said.

Our immediate focus was on supporting families, ensuring medical care, and cooperating fully with authorities, Sinha said.

The incident disrupted manufacturing operations, damaged plant infrastructure and inventory, and delayed shipments, impacting revenue and margins, he added.

This event has prompted a comprehensive review of the operational controls and risk governance of the company.

"Looking ahead, we are committed to a decisive reset, prioritising safety, accelerating cost improvements, focusing on margin-led portfolios, and rebuilding with global standards, resilience, and transparency," Sinha stated.

Meanwhile, the company's shares settled in negative territory on Friday. The stock closed at Rs 38.71, down 2.64 per cent.

Study links common diabetes drug with cardiovascular risk

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

A commonly used type 2 diabetes medication in the US -- Glipizide -- may be linked to a higher rate of heart-related conditions, claimed a study.

Researchers from Mass General Brigham examined nationwide data from nearly 50,000 patients treated with different sulfonylureas. They found that glipizide was linked to a higher incidence of heart failure, related hospitalisation, and death compared to dipeptidyl peptidase-4 (DPP-4) inhibitors. The findings are published in JAMA Network Open.

"Patients with type 2 diabetes are at heightened risk of adverse cardiovascular incidents such as stroke and cardiac arrest," said corresponding author Alexander Turchin, Division of Endocrinology at Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH).

"While sulfonylureas



are popular and affordable diabetes medications, there is a lack of long-term clinical data on how they affect cardiac health in comparison to more neutral alternatives like dipeptidyl peptidase 4 inhibitors," he added.

Type 2 diabetes is a common chronic disease whose prevalence contin-

ues to grow worldwide. Individuals with Type 2 diabetes have an increased risk of adverse cardiovascular events, including coronary ischemia, stroke, and heart failure. Mitigation of cardiovascular risk is therefore an important aspect of the treatment of diabetes.

The study included

48,165 patients with type 2 diabetes and moderate cardiovascular risk who received care at 10 different study sites across the country.

The researchers studied the five-year risk of major adverse cardiovascular events in patients treated with different sulfonylureas (glimepiride, glipizide, or glyburide) or DPP4i in addition to metformin, a primary diabetes medication.

They found that glipizide was associated with a 13 per cent increase in cardiovascular risk when compared to DPP4i, while glimepiride and glyburide led to relatively smaller and less clear effects, respectively.

"Our study underscores the importance of evaluating each drug in a particular pharmacological class on its own merits," said Turchin.

The team also called for further research to uncover the underlying mechanisms.

Dr. R.K. Uppal felicitated for distinguished contribution to Hr Education, Research

J1 NEWS SERVICE
MALOUT (PB), JULY 29

The Senior Citizens Welfare Association, in association with NRIs the Parents Association and Charhdi Kala Welfare Association, Malout, organized a significant Awareness Seminar focused on the legal rights and welfare of senior citizens. The event, held in Malout, was graced by the presence of eminent dignitaries including Sh. Raj Kumar, Hon'ble Session Judge, Sri Muksar Sahib, and Sh. Himanshu Arora, Hon'ble Civil Judge. The seminar aimed to disseminate vital information on the evolving legal provisions for senior citizens, while also promoting awareness of their constitutional entitlements and essential role within society. Hon'ble Judge Raj Kumar delivered a keynote address highlighting the legal frameworks and societal responsibilities



essential for the protection and dignity of the elderly population. As part of the event's felicitation ceremony, outstanding individuals from various sectors were honored for their exemplary public service. In the field of higher education and academic research, Dr. R.K. Uppal, Principal of Guru Gobind Singh College of

Management and Technology, Gidderbaha, was formally felicitated for his exceptional dedication, scholarly achievements, and visionary leadership in academia. Dr. Uppal, a nationally and internationally acclaimed academician, was recognized for his innovative research contributions, extensive publications, and significant

impact on educational advancement. In his acceptance remarks, Dr. Uppal expressed profound gratitude to the organizers and dignitaries for the recognition and reaffirmed his commitment to promoting educational excellence and conducting research that contributes meaningfully to societal development.

SMC launches Major Anti-Encroachment Drive across Srinagar City to clear footpaths, key market areas

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 29

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) has stepped up its anti-encroachment operations across key areas of the city in a sustained drive aimed at clearing public pathways, decongesting traffic routes and restoring public spaces. The campaign is being led by SMC Chief Anti-Encroachment Officer, Mohammad Syed, under the order of the Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

In recent weeks, SMC teams have launched a major Anti-Encroachment Drive in different market areas and high-traffic zones where roadside encroachments, illegal shop extensions and vehicles placed by car and motorcycle dealers were obstructing pedestrian and vehicular movement.

"This is not a one-time activity, but a continuous drive. Our focus is on locations where pedestrian movement is heavily disrupted and traffic congestion is worsened by illegal encroachments," said Mohammad Syed, emphasizing the department's



commitment to reclaiming public space.

Syed said that "We have issued formal notices to all violators and given them time to remove their encroachments voluntarily. Our aim is not to harm anyone's livelihood but to ensure that city infrastructure works for everyone, especially the common citizens who face daily hardships due to blocked footpaths and narrowed roads."

The operation has been particularly focused on areas like Sanat Nagar, Khayam, Karan Nagar,

Hyderpora, Tengpora, Batamaloo, Shaheed Gunj, Bemina, Qamarwari and bypass stretches including Bemina to Parimpora. In these zones, several illegal structures, stalls and parked sale vehicles on roads have been cleared.

The Chief Anti-Encroachment Officer also pointed out that locations near major hospitals and traffic junctions such as JVC Hospital, Children's Hospital, SMHS Hospital and the Bypass near Shalteng and Parimpora have witnessed severe encroachments, hampering not only traffic

but emergency services as well.

Syed appreciated the public support the initiative has garnered, "General Public and other stakeholders have welcomed our efforts. People now understand that public pathways and roads belong to everyone. Shopkeepers have a role in maintaining civic discipline and should avoid occupying space that affects public mobility."

He also cautioned that strict action will continue against repeat violators. "This drive will not stop. Wherever encroachment occurs, our teams will reach and dismantle it. We are doing this for the collective well-being of Srinagar's citizens."

The SMC urges the business community, especially vendors and auto dealers, to cooperate with the administration and help create a more pedestrian- and commuter-friendly city. With a consistent anti-encroachment policy, backed by field enforcement and legal notices, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation aims to restore order on the city's roads and ensure public convenience takes priority.

Spirit of Shravan reverberates at Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir with Bhajan Sandhya, Maha Aarti

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 29

In the holy month of Shravan Maas, a time revered for devotion and divine energy, Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Management Trust, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, organized a spiritually charged Bhajan Sandhya followed by a Maha Aarti of Lord Shiva on Monday evening at 6:00 PM. The temple premises came alive with the divine vibrations of devotional music, sacred chants, and unwavering faith.

Held under the esteemed guidance of Th. Gulchain Singh Charak, President of the Mandir Management Trust and Former Minister, the event drew a large gathering of devotees from across the city who came together in prayer, music, and spiritual unity.

In view of the ongoing



Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, special prayers were also offered for the safety, well-being, and successful completion of the holy pilgrimage. The atmosphere was filled with divine fervour as devotees sang bhajans dedicated to Lord Shiva, invoking blessings during this sacred time.

Speaking on behalf of the Mandir Trustees, Sh. Gambhir Dev Singh emphasized the deeper significance of Shravan

Maas, highlighting how such collective religious observances help preserve and propagate the eternal values of Sanatan Dharma. "As thousands embark on the challenging Amarnath Yatra, it becomes our sacred duty to pray for their well-being and to uphold the spiritual heritage of our region," he noted.

The Trustees ensured the smooth and serene conduct of the event, with

the Bhajan Sandhya culminating in a grand Maha Aarti, performed with great devotion amidst resonant chants and divine hymns. The atmosphere was one of deep reverence, devotion, and spiritual elevation.

The Mandir Management Trust extended heartfelt gratitude to all the devotees for their enthusiastic participation and reaffirmed its commitment to regularly organizing such sacred gatherings that nurture the cultural and spiritual fabric of society.

Prominent amongst others who participated on the occasion included S/Shri Karan Singh, P.C. Gupta, Sumesh Damral, Kapil Slathia, Krishan P. Gupta, Ved Verma, Prashant Sharma, Sandeep Singh, Tarun Gupta, Smt. Kiran Rajput, Kulbir Singh Chib, Ashok Gupta and Ashok Khajuria.

Dharmendra Pradhan Virtual inaugurates 04 new buildings of CU Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 29

The Union Minister of Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, virtually inaugurated four newly constructed buildings of the Central University of Jammu today. The ceremony was held in the august presence of Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge), Government of India, and Shri Sukanta Majumdar, Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Central University of Jammu, was present at the venue and witnessed the virtual inauguration ceremony. The building were inaugurated are Aryabhata Bhawan - School of Basic and Applied Sci-



ences, Chanakya Bhawan - Library cum Administration Building, Shailputri Bhawan - 500-Bedded Girls' Hostel and Brig. Rajinder Singh, MVC Bhawan - 500-Bedded Boys' Hostel. The inauguration was live streamed at the University Auditorium, where

it was attended by Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar, along with Deans, Directors, Heads of Departments, administrative officers, and other university staff.

This momentous occasion highlights Central University of Jammu's dedication to advancing the goals

of NEP 2020 by enhancing academic infrastructure and promoting inclusive, quality education. The University remains steadfast in its mission to contribute to India's vision of a knowledge-driven and developed nation.

Office of the Executive Engineer, PMGSY Division Jammu

Near DG(P) Residence Bikram Chowk, Jammu, Fax No.: 0191-2439734

E-mail.: executiveengineer61@yahoo.in

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. EE/PMGSY/J/10 of 2025-26 Dated:- 28-07-2025

Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Jammu. For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No	Name of Work/ Package No.	Advertised Cost (₹ in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs₹)	Earnest Money (in laces)	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contractor	Head of Account
1.	Providing & Laying of Renewal Coat on Tara to Doha, Under Package No. JK05-120 Block Dansal, Distt. Jammu, Length:- 5.500 Kms. (Call-Ist) Adv. Cost Including GST	85.25	1600	1.71	04 months	CLASS "A" & "B"	City & Town Plan 2025-26
2.	Providing & Laying of Renewal Coat on Nud to Bharatgarh, Under Package No. JK05-123, Block Samba Distt. Jammu, Length:- 5.000 Kms. (Call-Ist) Adv. Cost Including GST	77.50	1600	1.55	04 months	CLASS "A" & "B"	City & Town Plan 2025-26
3.	Providing and Laying of Renewal Coat on Road from L023-Tanda to Kappian De Ban Package No. JK05-150, Block-Akhnoor, District Jammu, Length: 3.000 Kms (Call-Ist) Adv. Cost Including GST	46.50	1100	0.93	03 months	CLASS "A" & "B"	City & Town Plan 2025-26
4.	Providing and Laying of Renewal Coat on Road from L048-Gajansoo Chinor Farm Package No. JK05-175, Block Marh District Jammu, Length: 3.00 Kms (Call-Ist) Adv. Cost Including GST	46.50	1100	0.93	03 months	CLASS "A" & "B"	City & Town Plan 2025-26

Position of AAA: -

Accorded

Position of T. S: -

Accorded

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

1	Date of Publishing of Tender Notice	28-07-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 28-07-2025 (2:00 PM) to 06-08-2025, (05:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	28-07-2025 (4:30 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	06-08-2025 (05:00 PM)
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	07-08-2025 on or after 2:00 PM in the Office of Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Jammu
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document paid online while submission of bid **indicating Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Jammu uploading a copy of system generated voucher and EMD/Bid Security paid online while submission of bid (The date of Treasury Challan (if applicable)/ Bid Security/Affidavits between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date) duly pledged to Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Jammu**, as mentioned in the bid documents.
- The date and time of opening of bids shall be notified on Web Site www.pmgsytendersjk.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address.
- The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Jammu.

No:- EE/PMGSY/J/1754-60
Dated:-28.07.2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PMGSY Division
Jammu

DIP/J-4033/25
Date: 29-7-25

Clean and Green Environment Society organizes plantation drive at PM Shri KV, IMA

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, JULY 29

The third tree plantation drive of this monsoon season, organized by Clean and Green Environment, was successfully conducted at PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya, IMA. On this occasion, more than 80 trees of various species were planted. The species included Ashoka, Gulmohar, Kaner, Champa, Bottle Brush, Cassia Siamia, and others.

The Principal of PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya, IMA, Mr. Mamchand, had requested the committee for some flowering trees for the school ground. Accepting this request, the committee carried out the plantation on 27 July. The Bharatiya Janata Party's State Minister, Mr. Aditya Chauhan, was invited as the Chief Guest



by the committee. He participated in the tree plantation along with committee members. Both Mr. Aditya Chauhan and Principal Mr. Mamchand appreciated the efforts of the committee and called for planting more trees and promoting greenery in the future.

Present on the occasion were: Mr. Ram Kapoor (President), Mr. Randeep Ahluwalia (Vice President), Mr. J.P. Kimothi (Secretary), Mr. Shambhu Shukla (Treasurer), Mr. Gagan Chawla, Ms. Manjula Rawat, Mr. Deepak Singh, Mr. Ravinder Khalsa, Mr. Sanjay Bhatia,

Mr. Anurag Sharma, Mr. Rajesh Bali, Mr. Diwakar Naithani, Mr. Vansh Naithani, Mr. Sundar Shukla, Mr. Rajan Negi, Mr. Dheeraj Bisht, and from PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya IMA - Principal Mr. Mamchand, Teacher Mr. Piyush Nigam, and the entire school staff.

JMC gears up for I-Day, Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav reviews preparations

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 29

A high-level review meeting was held today under the chairmanship of Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav, to finalize preparations for the upcoming Independence Day celebrations and plan various civic activities in the city.

During the meeting, it was decided that JMC will organize a series of events focused on public awareness, environmental conservation, and community participation. A major highlight of the celebrations will be a city-wide plantation campaign aimed at enhancing green spaces across Jammu. The drive will involve planting trees in parks, roadside areas, government institutions, and other public spaces to promote a sustainable and eco-friendly urban environment.

To further promote cleanliness and civic responsibility, a cleanliness-themed marathon



will also be organized. The event will encourage citizen involvement and spread awareness on keeping the city clean, in line with the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Additionally, a range of community-level awareness programs will be conducted, covering topics such as solid waste management, water conservation, animal welfare, floriculture, sanitation, and digital initiatives. Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner emphasized that Independence Day is not only a celebration of national pride but also an opportunity to reflect on civic duties and contribute to the city's development.

Senior officials from various departments presented their plans and suggestions during the meeting. All departments were directed to ensure close coordination for the smooth execution of the planned events. The Commissioner urged all stakeholders and residents to participate actively in the upcoming initiatives to make Jammu cleaner, greener, and more citizen-centric.

Among others, Joint Commissioner Revenue and Enforcement Subah Mehta, Joint Commissioner Health and Sanitation Abdul Sattar, Joint Commissioner (A) Rajiv Khajuria, Joint Commissioner (W) Firdous Ahmed Qazi,

Deputy Commissioner (South) Lal Chand, Chief Accounts Officer Sandeep Singh, Superintending Engineer Jal Shakti Sunil Gandotra, Health Officer Dr. Vinod Sharma, Municipal Veterinary Officer Dr. Jaswant Singh, Animal Welfare Officer Dr. Gaurav Chaudhary, Assistant Floriculture Officer Dr. Rabia Khan, Chief Informatics Officer Ankush Kapoor, IEC Incharges Dr. Divya Sharma and Dr. Priyanka Malhotra, Executive Engineer Projects Lokesh Gupta, Executive Engineer Electric Simar Pal Singh, Chief Transport Officers Dharamvir Singh and Talat Mahmood Khan, and other senior officials of JMC attended the meeting.

Cluster University of Jammu organizes Yuva Samvad on 'Emergency Period in India'

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 29

The School of Sciences, Cluster University of Jammu, organized an insightful Yuva Samvad on the theme "Emergency Period in India" along with an Anti-Drug Pledge on July 29 as part of the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of students from all the departments.

In a significant move to promote a healthy and drug-free lifestyle, all participants took the Anti-Drug Pledge, reaffirming their commitment to stay



away from drugs and harmful substances and to work towards building a clean and positive community.

Dr. Chander Shekhar Gupta, Dean, Faculty of Sciences, appreciated the efforts of the students

and faculty members for making the programme a grand success. He encouraged the students to continue engaging in such meaningful initiatives that foster awareness, critical thinking, and national

responsibility. The programme concluded with a collective resolve to contribute positively to the vision of a Viksit Bharat, leaving the participants inspired and motivated.

Grand Launch of Music Video "Rajput" held at Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 29, 2025

The much-awaited music video "Rajput" was officially launched today in a grand function held at the Press Club, Jammu. The event witnessed the presence of several distinguished personalities and artists from the region.

The Chief Guest for the occasion was Hon'ble MLA Shri R.S. Pathania, while the Guest of Honour was Tarun Sharma, President of Nat Manch – a noted actor, director, and prominent social, sports, cultural, and political activist, Rakesh Jamwal SHO Pacca Danga, Varsha Jamwal Singer, Kusum



Tikko noted actress, anchor and Director, is beautifully sung by Sushma Rajput, with music composed by Adrey and lyrics penned by Shivani Taak. The video has been impressively directed by Prabh Zaildar and Abhishek Singh, with a stellar performance by lead cast Maddi Marjawa.

The song "Rajput" Key contributors to

the production include Prince Sandhu as the Line Producer, Manpreet Singh as Team Coordinator, light arrangements by Taari, and poster design by KD Kashyap.

The launch event was filled with celebration, cultural pride, and applause for the team's dedication in showcasing regional talent and Rajput legacy through music and visuals. The song was highly appreciated for its powerful message, artistic direction, and melodious composition.

CMD Production, under the leadership of Sushma Rajput, expressed gratitude to all guests and supporters who made the event a success.

MLA Arvind holds review meetings on sanitation, electrical infrastructure in Jammu West

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 29

In a significant step toward enhancing civic amenities and infrastructure in the Jammu West Assembly Constituency, MLA Arvind Gupta held two separate meetings on Tuesday with officials from the Sanitation and Electrical Departments of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC).

These discussions were aimed at addressing pressing public issues and accelerating development initiatives in the region.

In the first meeting, MLA Arvind Gupta met with JMC Sanitary Inspectors to take stock of the sanitation situation across various wards of Jammu West.

The deliberations focused on improving cleanliness, ensuring efficient waste disposal, and strengthening community participation in maintaining hygienic neighborhoods.

The MLA stressed the importance of routine sanitation drives and the need for timely garbage collection to prevent health hazards.

Officials present in the meeting included Sanitary Inspector Sumeer Bali, Sanitary Officer Ramesh Wazir, and Sanitation Supervisor Yaqub.

The team shared



updates on the current operations and challenges faced in waste management.

MLA Gupta directed the sanitation teams to work in close coordination with local residents and ensure that all grievances related to cleanliness are addressed promptly. He emphasized the role of awareness campaigns in encouraging citizen participation and instilling a sense of responsibility among the public.

In a separate session, MLA Arvind Gupta held a comprehensive review meeting with officials of the Electrical Department

of JMC. The agenda included assessing the progress of ongoing electrical infrastructure projects and identifying areas needing urgent attention. Issues such as non-functional street lights, maintenance of power cables, and safety concerns were discussed in detail.

Among the officials present were XEn Electrical Simran Pal Singh, AE Ranjay Gupta, AE Ravi, Line Inspector Victor Bhatti, Engineer In-charge J&K EESL Daljeet Singh, and Florida Manager Arun.

The MLA asked the department to prioritize public safety and ensure

timely maintenance and upgrades of electrical systems. He also recommended the installation of energy-efficient lighting systems in public spaces under the EESL program to promote sustainability.

These meetings underscored MLA Arvind Gupta's commitment to proactive governance and his focus on improving the quality of life for the residents of Jammu West.

He assured that such review sessions will be conducted regularly to ensure efficient service delivery and accountability across all departments.

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Seed Development Division, SFRI, Janipur, Jammu- 180007

E-mail:- dfoseed123@gmail.com, Tel:- & Fax: 01912953921

E-TENDERING

Short Notice Inviting Tender: e-NIT No. 06 of 2025-26 Dated: 28-07-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt Governor, Jammu & Kashmir State, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K UT Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for supply of skilled labour for collection of seeds from the Seed Production Areas (SPA) established by this Division in different areas as detailed in Annexure-I:-

Name of Work: Collection of seed of different broad leaved and conifer spp. in Jammu from the Seed Production Areas (SPA) established by Seed Division Jammu under CAPEX

S.No.	Name of work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In lac)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Class of Contract or	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion	Receiving /Opening Authority																		
1)	Collection and supply of seeds including extracting sorting, cleaning, drying under shade, packing in gunny bags including head load/ mule load and mechanical carriage of seed from the sites of collection to the O/o, RO seed Lab at Janipur HQ of JKFR. To be collected from SPA of different species location is enclosed as Annexure-I	3.00 lac	6000/-	A, B, C & D	Rs.600/-	Collection Work as detailed to be done on daily basis uptill 30/11/2025	Tender Opening Committee																		
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S. No.</th> <th>Species</th> <th>Qty</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Deodar</td> <td>70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>Chir</td> <td>55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td>Kail</td> <td>70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.</td> <td>Shisham</td> <td>28.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.</td> <td>Khair</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S. No.	Species	Qty	1.	Deodar	70	2.	Chir	55	3.	Kail	70	4.	Shisham	28.5	5.	Khair	30						
S. No.	Species	Qty																							
1.	Deodar	70																							
2.	Chir	55																							
3.	Kail	70																							
4.	Shisham	28.5																							
5.	Khair	30																							

The seed so supplied must be collected from the marked mother trees and packed separately for each SPA duly labelled with the place of collection (with Comptt. No., Range, SPA name) and the species and the Qty. Of seed in kg should be written on each package. The list of SPAs along with Geo-coordinates is enclosed/ procured from this office. The contractor shall be bound to execute the work as per conditions detailed in Annexure-II

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities, (B.O.Q), Set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- www.jktenders.gov.in

Scheme: CAMPA
Position of funds: APPROVED
Position of AATS: ACCORDED

Publishing Date	28.07.2025
Download Start Date	28.07.2025
Bid Submission Start Date	28.07.2025
Bid submission End Date	04.08.2025 at 02.00 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid	05.08.2025 at 01:00 PM (in the office of DFO Seed Development Division, Forest Complex, J&K FRI, JANIPUR, Jammu).
Date of opening of Financial Bid(online)	05.08.2025 at 01:30 PM (in the office of DFO Seed Development Division, Forest Complex, J&K FRI, JANIPUR, Jammu).

Divisional Forest Officer,
Seed Development Division,
Jammu.

No. JKFR/1/F-181/2025-26/531-36

Dated:-28-07-2025

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PM Modi congratulates Divya Deshmukh on historic chess victory

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Indian chess prodigy Divya Deshmukh for her remarkable triumph at the 2025 FIDE Women's World Cup, where she not only clinched the prestigious title but also earned the title of Grandmaster.

In a message shared on X, the Prime Minister



wrote, "It's been a phenomenal day for Indian Chess! Divya Deshmukh has not only won the 2025 FIDE Women's World Cup but also become a Grandmaster. Congratulations to her. Her accomplish-

ment will motivate many people and contribute to chess becoming even more popular among the youth."

The 19-year-old Deshmukh defeated seasoned Koneru Humpy in a tense final held in Batumi, Georgia yesterday. With this win, she became the first Indian woman to win the FIDE women's world cup and only the fourth Indian player to attain the Grandmaster title.

DRDO successfully conducts two consecutive flight-tests of Pralay missile

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted two consecutive successful flight-tests of Pralay missile from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha.

The flight tests were carried out on July 28 and 29 as part of the user evaluation trials to validate the missile system's maximum and minimum range capabilities. The missiles precisely followed the intended trajectory and reached the target point with pinpoint accuracy, meeting all the test objectives, a Defence Ministry statement said.

All subsystems performed as per expectations, which were verified using test data captured by various tracking sensors deployed by Integrated Test Range (ITR) including instruments deployed on ship positioned near the designated impact point.



Pralay is an indigenous developed solid propellant quasi-ballistic missile employing state-of-the-art guidance and navigation to ensure high precision. The missile is capable of carrying multiple types of warheads against various targets.

The system has been developed by Research Centre Imarat in collaboration other DRDO labs. The flight-tests were witnessed by senior scientists of DRDO, representatives of the users from the Indian Air Force and the Indian Army as well as the industry representatives.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh while complimenting the DRDO, armed forces and industry said that the missile equipped with modern technologies will give further technological boost to the Armed Forces against threats.

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and chairman DRDO Samir V Kamat congratulated the teams, stating that the successful completion of this phase-I flight tests paves the way for induction of the system into the armed forces in near future.

SC to hear Presidential Reference on timelines for Governor, President's assent to bills from August 19

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUL 29

The Supreme Court today announced that it will begin hearings on the Presidential Reference concerning the constitutional powers of the Governor and the President in relation to granting or withholding assent to state legislation, under Articles 200 and 201 of the Constitution.

The hearings will commence on August 19 and continue through September 10, with the Court making it clear that the schedule is non-negotiable and will not be altered under any circumstances.

A Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Justice BR Gavai, and comprising Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, PS Narasimha, and AS Chandurkar, will adjudicate the Reference made by President Droupadi Murmu under Article 143 of the Constitution. The Court has directed all parties to submit their written submissions by August 12.

The hearing schedule will be as follows:

August 19: Kerala and Tamil Nadu governments to raise preliminary objections to the maintainability of the Reference.

August 19, 20, 21, 26: Attorney General and the Union of India to argue in support of the Reference.

August 28, September 2, 3, and 9: States opposing the Reference will present their arguments.

September 10: Rejoinders, if any, to be heard. The Court has appointed



Advocate Aman Mehta as the nodal counsel for the Union and Advocate Misha Rohatgi as the nodal counsel for the opposing States to compile and coordinate submissions. Senior Advocate KK Venugopal, appearing for the State of Kerala, informed the Bench that Kerala has filed an application contending that 11 out of the 14 questions raised in the Reference have already been answered by the Supreme Court in the Tamil Nadu Governor case.

He submitted that invoking Article 143 in this instance amounts to an attempt to bypass or undermine that judgment.

Senior Advocates Dr Abhishek Manu Singhvi and P Wilson, appearing for the State of Tamil Nadu, informed the Court that Tamil Nadu has also challenged the maintainability of the Reference, echoing similar concerns.

The Reference follows the Supreme Court's landmark ruling in the Tamil Nadu Governor case, where a two-judge bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan held that Governors must act

within a three-month timeframe when deciding on assent to Bills passed by the legislature.

The Court also stated that if the Governor reserves a Bill for Presidential assent, the President must likewise act within three months.

Importantly, the Court ruled that if either constitutional authority fails to act within the stipulated time, a writ of mandamus can be sought by the concerned State. In that judgment, the Court also held that ten Bills kept pending for over a year had received deemed assent.

The Reference by the President seeks clarity on 14 substantive constitutional questions, including, What options are available to a Governor under Article 200 when a Bill is presented?

Is the Governor bound by the advice of the Council of Ministers while acting under Article 200?

Is the Governor's discretion under Article 200 subject to judicial review? Does Article 361 bar courts from reviewing the Governor's actions under Article 200?

Can courts impose

timelines on Governors and prescribe how their powers should be exercised in the absence of constitutional guidelines?

Is the President's discretion under Article 201 justiciable?

Can courts prescribe timelines for the President's actions under Article 201?

Is the President required to consult the Supreme Court before acting on a Bill reserved by a Governor?

Are the decisions of the Governor and President under Articles 200 and 201 justiciable before a law comes into force?

Can orders or actions by the President or Governor be overridden using Article 142?

Does a law passed by a State legislature come into force without the Governor's assent under Article 200?

Should constitutional benches determine in advance if a matter involves substantial questions of constitutional interpretation under Article 145(3)?

Does Article 142 empower the Supreme Court to issue orders contrary to existing constitutional or statutory provisions?

Is Article 131 the sole remedy for resolving disputes between the Union and States?

The hearing promises to be a landmark event, with far-reaching implications on Centre-State relations, constitutional conventions, and judicial limits on executive discretion.

Inaccurate info being circulated in Nimisha Priya case: Official sources

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

Amid reports about cancellation of the death sentence of Nimisha Priya -- an Indian national sentenced to death in 2020 by a Yemeni court for the murder of her business partner, Talal Abdo Mahdi -- official sources today said such information was inaccurate and did not reflect the current status of the matter.

Recently, a statement from the office of Indian grand mufti Kanthapuram AP Aboobacker Musliyar claimed that "the death sentence of Nimisha Priya, which was previously suspended, has been overturned." The statement further said that a high-level meeting held in Sanaa had decided to "completely cancel the death sentence that was temporarily suspended earlier."

However, official sources have indicated



that this information is not accurate.

Addressing the media on July 17, official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Randhir Jaiswal, described the matter as "sensitive" and emphasized that the government was providing all possible assistance.

"This is a very sensitive matter, and the government of India has been offering all possible assistance in the case," Jaiswal said during the weekly briefing. "We have provided legal support and appointed a lawyer to assist the family. Regular consular visits by her family have also been

facilitated, and we are in constant touch with local authorities in Yemen, as well as with the family members."

Nimisha Priya, 38, is a native of Kerala's Palakkad district. She moved to Yemen in 2008 in search of better employment opportunities. A trained nurse by profession, she later entered into a business partnership with Yemeni national Talal Abdo Mahdi, and together they ran a clinic in the capital, Sanaa.

Jaiswal added that the government had made concerted efforts in recent days to secure more time for Nimisha Priya's family to reach a mutually agreeable solution with the victim's family -- a provision permitted under the Yemeni law, which incorporates elements of Sharia.

Local authorities in Yemen have postponed the execution, which was originally scheduled for

July 16, following India's diplomatic intervention.

"We continue to closely follow the matter and render all possible assistance," Jaiswal said. "We are also in touch with some friendly governments, seeking a favourable outcome."

Meanwhile, Abdul Fattah Mahdi, the brother of slain Yemeni businessman Talal Abdo Mahdi, has demanded the immediate execution of Nimisha Priya.

In a social media post, Abdul Fattah shared a formal letter addressed to the attorney general of Yemen, stating "his family continues to seek full enforcement of the retributive justice verdict without delay". He also refuted claims made by the office of Kanthapuram AP Aboobacker Musliyar that an agreement had been reached during a meeting reportedly attended by Yemeni officials.

SC adjourns hearing on Imran Khan's bail pleas

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD, JULY 29

The Supreme Court today adjourned the hearing of an appeal filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan against the rejection of his bail pleas in cases related to the May 9 mayhem by the Lahore High Court (LHC).

A two-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi heard the plea today, Geo



news reported. However, the court adjourned the hearing till August 12 at the request of Khan's lawyer Salman Akram Raja.

Khan, on Thursday, had moved the SC against the

LHC's last month's verdict of rejecting his bail petitions in eight separate cases related to the May 9 riots, including the attack on Jinnah House in Lahore.

In the petition, the PTI founder argued that a first information report (FIR) lacked sufficient evidence and termed the allegations of his involvement in the riots as baseless, according to reports.

It also stated that since he was in NAB custody at

the time, it was impossible for him to take part in those riots, besides raising doubts over the case on the basis of "contradictions" in the prosecution statements.

Khan also sought further investigation into the case, as he suspected mala fide intent on the part of the police for avoiding his arrest for five months.

Previously, on November 27, 2024, the ATC had dismissed Imran's bail pleas in these eight cases.

Countdown for the NISAR satellite launch to start in the afternoon

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, JULY 29

The countdown for the July 30 launch of the first Indo-US joint earth observation satellite NASA ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) is slated to start at about 2.10 pm on Tuesday, said ISRO officials.

"The 27-hour-and-30 minute countdown for the launch of the NISAR Mission is expected to start at 2.10 pm today (Tuesday)," an official of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said.

According to the official, during the countdown, fuel for the rocket will be filled while checking of the rocket systems will also be done.

India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-F16 (GSLV-F16) carrying the NISAR weighing 2,393 kg will blast off at 5.40 pm from the second launch pad at the rocket port in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

Around 19 minutes after its lift-off, the 420-ton GSLV-F16, an expendable rocket will eject the NISAR satellite.

The satellite will be injected into a 747 km Sun Synchronous Polar Orbit (SSO) with an inclination of 98.4 degree, ISRO said.



Built at a cost of about \$1.5 billion, NISAR's mission life will be five years.

The three-stage GSLV rocket standing 51.7 metre tall and weighing 420 ton is powered by a solid, liquid and cryogenic fuel -- liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen.

The GSLV-F16 rocket is a three-staged vehicle. The first stage (GS1) is powered by a solid propellant motor having 139-ton propellant and four earth-storable propellant stages strap-on motors with 40 tons of liquid propellant in each.

The second is also an earth-storable liquid propellant stage loaded with 40-ton propellant.

The third stage is a cryogenic stage with a 15-ton propellant loading of liquid oxygen (LOX) and liquid hydrogen (LH2).

Incidentally this will be the first mission for the GSLV rocket to the Sun Synchronous Polar Orbit. The rocket was basically developed for orbiting communication satellites in the Geo Transfer Orbit (GTO).

GSLV-F16 is the 18th flight of India's GSLV series and the 12th flight with the indigenous cryogenic stage. This is the 9th operational flight of GSLV with indigenous Cryogenic stage.

The Payload Fairing or the heat shield in GSLV-F16/NISAR Mission is 4 m dia Ogive configuration.

NISAR-only for earth observation: A retired chief of ISRO said NISAR is only for earth observation and not for strategic purposes though it has SAR that can look through the clouds.

The Indian space agency said NISAR is a unique earth observation satellite and the first satellite to observe the earth with a dual frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar (NASA's L-band and ISRO's S-band).

The satellite will observe earth with a swath of 242 km and high spatial resolution, using SweepSAR technology for the first time.

According to ISRO, the satellite will scan the entire globe and provide all-weather, day-and-night data at 12-day intervals and enable a wide range of applications.

NISAR can detect even small changes in the Earth's surface such as ground deformation, ice sheet movement and vegetation dynamics.

Further applications include sea ice classification, ship detection, shoreline monitoring, storm characterization, changes in soil moisture, mapping and monitoring of surface water resources and disaster response, the Indian space agency added.

The data gathered will assist in tasks as infrastructure monitoring, disaster response, biomass assessment, and agricultural management.

Five Kanwaris killed, many injured in bus-truck collision in Deoghar

AGENCIES
DEOGHAR (JHARKHAND), JULY 29

At least five Kanwaris were killed and several others were injured when the bus carrying the pil-

grims collided with a truck in Deoghar district today morning, said SK Sinha, Zonal IG of Santhal Pargana. The accident occurred during the ongoing Shra- van Kanwar Yatra, a major annual religious pilgrim-

age undertaken by the devotees of Lord Shiva, also known as Kanwaris.

Deoghar MP Nishikant Dubey expressed grief over the tragedy in a post on X. He wrote, "In my Lok Sabha constituency

of Deoghar, during the Kanwar Yatra in the month of Shra- van, 18 devotees lost their lives due to a bus and truck accident. My Baba Baidyanath Ji grant strength to their families to bear this grief."

Mandhana slips to second as Sciver-Brunt returns top position in ICC Women's ODI rankings

AGENCIES
DUBAI, JULY 29

Despite India clinching a 2-1 ODI series win against England, vice-captain Smriti Mandhana has dropped one place to No. 2 in the latest ICC Women's ODI batters rankings. England skipper Nat Sciver-Brunt reclaimed the No.1 spot among ODI batters, riding on a superb 98 off 105 balls in the final match of the series. Sciver-Brunt's 160 runs in the series proved decisive in her leap to the top, despite England falling short in the series decider at Chester-le-Street.

Mandhana, who scored 115 runs across the three



matches, slipped a spot after briefly holding the top position. However, the rankings update brought better news for Indian captain Harmanpreet Kaur, who surged 10 places to 11th, after her composed middle-order contributions. Jemimah Rodrigues also inched up two spots to

13th, rounding off a strong showing from India's core batting group during the England tour.

The rankings update also reflected gains for bowlers. England's Sophie Ecclestone maintained her place at the top among ODI bowlers, followed by Australia's Ashleigh Gardner. However, Ireland's Orla Prendergast was the standout name across all departments.

The 22-year-old Irish all-rounder had a series to remember against Zimbabwe, scoring an unbeaten 67 in the second ODI in Belfast. That effort catapulted her 12 places up to joint 22nd in the ODI batting charts.

With Women's ODI World Cup looming, India grapples with fast-bowling injury crisis

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

As India builds toward a critical Women's ODI World Cup campaign on home soil, a troubling pattern has caught everyone's attention: the conspicuous absence of its frontline fast bowlers from recent assignments in Sri Lanka and England.

With Renuka Singh Thakur, Pooja Vastrakar, and Titas Sadhu sidelined after injuries post the 2025 Women's Premier League (WPL), India fielded an inexperienced pace attack that raised eyebrows. Though India won the ODI tri-series in Sri Lanka and secured ODI and T20I series wins in England,



the absence of frontline pacers in run-up to the ODI World Cup in concerning - though Kranti Goud, Amanjot Kaur and Arundhati Reddy managed things admirably. While Titas has been named in India 'A' squad for the upcoming Australia

tour in August, uncertainty looms over Renuka and Pooja, with the latter undergoing shoulder surgery three months ago. These recurring breakdowns prompt deeper inquiry: is there a systemic issue in how India manages its women fast bowlers?

The injuries may differ in nature, but the pattern reflects broader concerns around the spike in match volumes post Covid-19.

"A fast bowler would play 10-15 matches in a year, but now they are probably touching 35-40 or even 50 games in a year. There are multiple camps happening, including the national camps. States have started doing a lot of camps, and that means bowling has increased. Also, there are a lot of WPL camps and doing their personal practice. So, overall, the fast bowlers are bowling far more than what they would do say three years back," said a source aware of the developments to news agency.

Indian Ambassador to Egypt hosts U-17 squash team for Junior Worlds in Cairo

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

Indian Ambassador to Egypt Suresh Reddy hosted India's U-17 Squash Team representing India at the World Junior Squash Championships. The Ambassador also congratulated Anahat Singh for her historic bronze in the individual junior championships.

India have sent an eight-member contingent to Egypt with four players each in the men's and women's categories.

"Ambassador @AmbSKReddy welcomed the U-17 Squash Team representing India at the World Junior Squash Champi-



onships in Cairo. We are proud to see the success of @Anahat_Singh13, who won the Bronze Medal in Women's Singles, ending the drought after 15 years!" Embassy of India in Cairo shared the glimpses of an

event on X. The 17-year-old Anahat, who became the first Indian squash player since Dipika Pallikal in 2010 to win a medal at the junior worlds by clinching a bronze, will be leading

India's challenge at the World Squash Junior Team Championships, which will run from July 27 to August 1 at Cairo's Black Ball Sporting Club.

Anahat will be joined by Anika Dubey, Unnati Tripathi and Navya Sundararajan in the Indian women's team that has been clubbed in Group B alongside Hong Kong, Brazil and Ireland.

The four-member India men's team, featuring U17 Asian champion Aryaveer Dewan, Arihant KS, Yusha Nafees and Sandhesh PR, has been drawn in Group E. They have been clubbed alongside Japan, South Africa and Germany in the group.

Shai Hope blames batting after 0-5 whitewash against Australia

AGENCIES
BASSETTERRE (ST. KITTS), JULY 29

West Indies skipper Shai Hope didn't mince words after his side slumped to a 0-5 whitewash in the T20I series against Australia calling the team's overall performance disappointing and lacking intent.

Chasing a target of 171, the middle-order trio of Cameron Green, Mitchell Owen and Tim David once again played pivotal roles. Green's consistent performances across all five matches earned him the Player of the Series accolade.

The crushing defeat in the final T20I at St. Kitts



capped off a tour where the Windies failed to compete meaningfully in either format - having already lost the Test series 0-3, including a record-low innings total of just 27 in the final red-ball match.

Speaking at the post-match presentation, Hope admitted the batting unit was largely to blame. "Don't think we put up a good batting display," he said. "We came up against a quality opposition in

Australia but as a batting group we didn't give ourselves the best chance. We were always one step behind the eight ball, but have to commend the bowling effort. Just didn't happen for us today."

Despite boasting a squad packed with explosive T20 specialists, the West Indies never found rhythm or consistency.

Australia, meanwhile, played with clinical efficiency, exposing flaws in both departments of the Caribbean side's game. In the final game, the Windies again struggled with both bat and ball, with Hope conceding that key decisions, including the toss, added to their woes.

Dominant Australia thrash West Indies 5-0 in T20Is

AGENCIES
BASSETTERRE (ST. KITTS), JULY 29

Australia wrapped up their Caribbean tour in style with another commanding win, sealing the final T20I in St Kitts. After sweeping the West Indies 3-0 in the Test series, the Aussies maintained their dominance in the T20Is, completing a 5-0 series sweep.

Chasing a target of 171, the middle-order trio of Cameron Green, Mitchell Owen and Tim David once again played pivotal roles. Green's consistent performances across all five matches earned him the Player of the Series accolade.

Australia made an ideal start in the powerplay



after choosing to bowl first. Returning to the lineup, Ben Dwarshuis made an immediate impact by dismissing both openers. Keacy Carty followed soon after with a mistimed shot, departing for a scratchy 1 off 8 balls, leaving the hosts in early trouble. It was only Sher-

fane Rutherford's aggressive, boundary-filled start that prevented the West Indies' powerplay from turning into a complete collapse.

Rutherford continued to look in red-hot form even after the powerplay, greeting Nathan Ellis with a couple of bound-

aries. However, just as he seemed to be settling in, he was bowled by a quicker delivery from Glenn Maxwell, departing for 35 against the run of play.

Shimron Hetmyer then took over, unleashing a flurry of boundaries to keep the scoreboard ticking, but Australia continued to strike at regular intervals. In the 17th over, Hetmyer went after Dwarshuis with a sequence of 4, 6, 4 to bring up a 30-ball half-century, only to miscue one right after reaching the milestone. That timely breakthrough proved crucial, as the West Indies managed just 14 more runs in the final three overs and were eventually bowled out for 170.

Bouchard, Raducanu and Osaka advance to second round of Canadian Open

AGENCIES
MONTREAL, JULY 29

The 2014 Wimbledon finalist Eugenie Bouchard, who announced earlier this month that the Canadian Open will be her final career tournament, defeated Emilian Arango in three sets 6-4, 2-6, 6-2 in Tuesday (IST).

The former World No. 5, who last played a four-level main draw match in 2023, is playing on a wild card -- and currently doesn't have a ranking in the WTA Rankings.

She will next play No. 17 seed Belinda Bencic

In the second-round meeting, Bouchard's victory was the 300th match



win of her career -- though she hopes it won't be the last one. She has never beaten Bencic in three prior matches, according to WTA stats.

I'm so proud of how

I competed and stayed focused throughout the whole match and fought. It was a physical battle, a mental battle, and it just felt amazing to play in Montreal in front of every-

one," Bouchard said. Meanwhile, two Grand Slam champions, Emma Raducanu and Naomi Osaka, picked up straight-sets wins in the first round.

Raducanu continued her solid start to the North American summer hard-court season by defeating Romania's Elena-Gabriela Ruse 6-2, 6-4.

Up to World No.33 in the PIF WTA Singles Rankings, Raducanu reached her first semifinal of the season last week on the hard courts of Washington, D.C. She picked up another summertime victory in Montreal, beating Ruse in 1 hour and 37 minutes of play.

Gambhir reflects on historic rivalry during Team India's High Commission visit

AGENCIES
LONDON, JULY 29

The Indian Men's Cricket Team paid a visit to the Indian High Commission in London on Tuesday, a day after the gripping fourth Test of the Anderson-Tendulkar series ended in a hard-fought draw.

The visit was marked by a sense of reflection, pride, and determination as players and support staff interacted with officials and dignitaries, acknowledging the unwavering support received throughout their UK tour.

Head Coach Gautam Gambhir spoke at the event, reflecting on the



historical significance of India-England encounters and the intensity of the ongoing series.

"Touring this part of the world has always been exciting and challenging

because of the history between the two countries, which can never be forgotten," Gambhir said. "We have cherished every bit of support we have received every time we

have toured the UK."

With England leading the five-match series 2-1, both sides have delivered high-quality cricket that has kept fans engaged. "The last five weeks have been really exciting for both countries," Gambhir noted. "I am sure that the kind of cricket that was put on display has made every cricket lover proud. Both teams threw a lot of punches and fought for every inch."

Looking ahead to the final Test, Gambhir called for one last collective effort. "We have one more week to go. One final push to make. One final opportunity to make our country proud. Jai Hind."

Raftaar, Sunanda Sharma to light up DPL opening ceremony

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

The stage is set for a grand opening as the second edition of the Delhi Premier League (DPL) kicks off on August 2 at the iconic Arun Jaitley Stadium. The inaugural edition began with a vibrant musical concert -- a lively mix of sport and song that instantly captured everyone's attention and set a fresh template for opening ceremonies at various cricket leagues.

Promising a night of glamour, music and high-octane energy, the opening ceremony will dazzle fans with spectacular performances by Punjabi pop sensation Sunanda



Sharma, chart-topping rapper Raftaar, lyrical powerhouse KRSNA and the electrifying hip-hop duo Seedhe Maut.

As cricket meets culture under the lights of Delhi, the DPL is all set to begin its new season with a celebration befitting the capital's spirit - bold, vibrant and unforgettable.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, Rohan Jaitley, President, Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA), said, "We are thrilled to launch the second edition of the Delhi Premier League, ushering in a new chapter of excitement, opportunity, and high-quality cricket. This season marks a fresh beginning - not just for the teams

and players, but also for fans across the city and beyond. With renewed energy, emerging talent, and a deeper commitment to promoting both men's and women's cricket, the DPL promises to deliver a bigger, bolder, and more engaging experience for everyone involved."

The opening clash of DPL 2025 will set the tone for a thrilling season as South Delhi Superstar take on the defending champions, East Delhi Riders, in what promises to be a blockbuster curtain-raiser. All eyes will be on star performers like Navdeep Saini, Anuj Rawat, Ayush Badoni and Digvesh Rathi.

Baramulla lifts U-17 Boys title in a thrilling IDPL Kabaddi final at Pulwama

JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, JULY 29

Baramulla continues its dominance in the inter district provincial level Kabaddi competitions as the Under-17 Boys team emerged victorious against a strong Budgam side, winning the grand finale by a close margin of 4 points in Pulwama.

This remarkable victory comes right after Baramulla's Under-14 Boys team also lifted the championship trophy, making it a double triumph for the district in this prestigious



event organized by the Youth Services and Sports department, J&K.

DYSSO Baramulla expressed immense pride on the achievements of the young athletes and extended heartfelt congratulations to all the par-

ticipating players. Special appreciation was also given to the dedicated field staff, whose tireless efforts in training and mentoring the players have borne fruit on the provincial stage.

"It's the relentless hard work, discipline, and commitment of our field staff that has shaped our teams into champions. Baramulla stands tall today, and we are confident that our Under-19 boys will continue this winning streak and bring further glory to the district," remarked DYSSO Baramulla.

The victories reflect the growing sports culture and talent development initiatives in the district under the guidance and supervision of the Youth Services and Sports department.

Doda Academia celebrates impactful 5 years of National Education Policy-2020

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JULY 29

The National Education Policy (NEP) Utsav was enthusiastically celebrated today at the Resource Centre, MS Bun Doda, bringing together students, teachers, and parents to underscore the transformative goals of NEP 2020.

The event particularly highlighted Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) and the crucial role of School Management Committees (SMCs) in the policy's successful implementation.

The celebration was honored by the presence of distinguished guests, including Anil Thakur,



Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mohammad Hafiz, Chief Education Officer, Doda, Chaman Lal, Zonal Education Officer, Doda, Kismat Singh Jaral, District Nodal Officer for Inclusive Education and Zonal Coordinators Inder Singh Rukwal (Zone Ghat) and Arif Hussain (Zone Doda). Special Edu-

cation Teachers were also in attendance, reinforcing the commitment to inclusive education.

A key aspect of the Utsav was the distribution of aids and appliances to identified Children with Special Needs (CWSN), facilitated by ALIMCO. Both the Additional Deputy Commissioner

and the Chief Education Officer stressed the importance of NEP 2020's objectives and the effective use of these distributed aids. Their remarks underscored the commitment to ensuring equitable educational opportunities for every child, empowering them to become literate, self-reliant, and productive contributors to society.

The event garnered significant positive feedback from both students and the wider community, who expressed their appreciation for the various schemes and initiatives launched by the Government under the comprehensive NEP framework.

Drug Control Authority Kulgam seizes huge quantity of contraband formulations/ scheduled drugs at Pahloo

JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JULY 29

A team of Drug Control Authorities of district Kulgam seized a huge quantity of contraband formulations/ scheduled drugs in Pahloo area of Kulgam.

The drugs were recovered from a medical shop, after a surprise raid for different violations with respect to the conditions of licences, non maintenance of records and non disclosure of information under



various provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 & Rules thereunder.

The shop was sealed on the spot u/s 22(d) of Drugs Act, and further investigation was taken up.

The drive was part of continued efforts to plug gaps in the misuse of habit forming drugs especially the drugs falling under scheduled category and to bring transparency in sale and purchase of all medicines available to the patients/ general public.

Committee on Privileges meets in Srinagar



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 29

The Committee on Privileges of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to discuss matters related to the constitutional privileges and entitlements of legislators.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Nizam-ud-Din Bhat and attended by members of the committee including Vikram

Randhawa, Javaid Riyaz (Bedar), Salman Sagar, Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed (Pardesi), Reyaz Ahmad Khan, Bharat Bhushan and Javaid Iqbal.

Also present were Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department (GAD), M. Raju; Secretary, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Department, Achal Sethi; and Secretary, Hospitality & Protocol Department, Neeraj Kumar and Secretary Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita.

The Chairman underscored the significance of legislators asserting their constitutional rights and privileges on all appropriate platforms. He stressed the need for a well-defined framework to safeguard the dignity, autonomy and effective functioning of elected representatives.

The Committee resolved that a detailed report concerning the privileges and protocol issues of legislators be compiled and submitted within a stipulated timeframe.

The Chairman expressed confidence in collective efforts and commitment of the Committee members, reaffirming their role in upholding the integrity of the institution. He assured that the Committee would cooperate and perform within its defined mandate to continue contributing for the public welfare.

The meeting witnessed active participation from members, who shared insightful suggestions and feedback on various issues.

DC Budgam reviews Power infrastructure and Renewable Energy progress

JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JULY 29

In a bid to strengthen the power infrastructure and expedite renewable energy adoption in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC) Budgam and allied departments.

The meeting was convened to deliberate on critical power sector initiatives and ongoing projects in Budgam, with a focus on improving energy access, grid efficiency, and solar energy implementation under the Government of India's flagship schemes.

Meeting discussed overall functioning and performance of KPDC in district Budgam, progress of solarization initiatives under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, including targets, achievements, and vendor performance.

The chair was apprised that as of July 25th, 2025 a total number of 10,420 applications have been received, and total 1,218 Vendors have been selected besides 211 SRT systems stand Installed by Vendors



across district Budgam. It was further informed that total Subsidies approved are 183, total subsidy approvals under process are 17 in the district.

At the outset, Implementation status of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) and Prime Minister's Development Programme (PMDP) in the district, assessment of capacity, load management, and augmentation plans for Receiving Stations and Grid Stations across Budgam were also reviewed.

Executive Engineer KPDC division Budgam delivered a detailed presentation covering each agenda point.

The presentation outlined current infrastruc-

ture capacities, ongoing augmentation works, technical gaps, and proposed upgrades required to meet the growing power demand.

DC emphasised the urgent need to modernize the district's power infrastructure to reduce transmission losses and improve quality and reliability of power supply, particularly during peak demand.

He said, reliable electricity supply is critical for socio-economic growth, "Our focus must remain on infrastructure strengthening, clean energy integration, and timely implementation of central schemes."

DC said, Budgam must emerge as a model for energy efficiency and solar

adoption. He also highlighted the significance of solar energy in reducing dependency on conventional power sources, urging officials to fast-track household-level installations under PM Surya Ghar, while ensuring awareness and affordability for rural households.

DC directed all concerned departments to work in close coordination and monitor implementation timelines closely under RDSS and PMDP to achieve the desired impact.

He assured full administrative support from district administration, and directed periodic monitoring to ensure efficient delivery of services and long-term sustainability of the power ecosystem in Budgam

Besides, GM DIC Budgam, CPO, Deputy CEO (JAKEDA) Kashmir, Executive Engineer, KPDC Division Budgam, along with all AEEs and AEs, Executive Engineer, STD-II Division Srinagar, Executive Engineer, Project Division Left KPDC, Assistant Executive Engineer, JAKEDA Budgam, District Nodal Officer, JAKEDA Budgam were present in the meeting.

Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan: Cultural Unit Sgr- DIPR organizes awareness programme on drug abuse at GBHSS Zadibal

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 29

As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan, Cultural Unit Srinagar of the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), in collaboration with Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS) Zadibal, organized an awareness programme

focused on the perils of drug addiction.

The highlight of the event was a thought-provoking short play performed by a group of local artists, who dramatically showcased the devastating impact of substance abuse on youth and society.

The performance received an overwhelming response,

with students deeply moved and inspired, many expressing eagerness for more such meaningful engagements.

Ishrat, Principal of the institution, emphasized the need for collective community efforts in guiding the younger generation.

Burhan Hussain, Cultural Officer Srinagar, delivered an insightful address, high-

lighting the transformative power of theatre and cultural expression in raising awareness and shaping public attitudes.

The programme concluded with a solemn pledge by students, staff, and officials to stand firmly against drug abuse and contribute actively to building a healthier, addiction-free society.

Poshan Awareness Programme held at Thathri

JI NEWS SERVICE
THATHRI, JULY 29

An awareness programme was today organized by Poshan Project Thathri under the overall supervision and guidance of District Programme Officer Akther Hussain Qazi.

As part of the programme, engagement orders were formally handed over to the newly appointed Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) of the project. Additionally, baby kits were presented to eligible beneficiaries

under the centrally sponsored scheme aimed at maternal and child welfare.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation and was graced by the presence of DDC Member Thathri, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Tehsildar, Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), Tehsil Supply Officer (TSO), along with Supervisors, Angan-



wadi Workers, and a large number of local residents.

The event aimed to spread awareness about health, nutrition, and child care, while also celebrating to continue working with commitment and dedication for the betterment of women and children in the region.

BBBP: SHEW, MS Shopian organizes awareness programme at Zainapora

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, JULY 29

Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW), Mission Shakti (MS) Shopian organized a significant awareness programme under the banner of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) at CFC Centre, Zainapora.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Zainapora, Bilal Ahmad among other officers were present at the event.



On the occasion, the SDM delivered an insightful speech emphasizing the importance of empowering the girl child through education and equal opportunities.

Other speakers also addressed the gathering

and shared their views on gender equality and social upliftment.

Key highlights of the event included a pledge ceremony, sticker pasting activity, awareness rally, and the felicitation of girl toppers who had shown

exceptional performance in academics. These activities aimed to spread awareness and reinforce the message of valuing and empowering girls in society.

The programme saw active participation from girl students, ASHA workers, Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), and members of NRLM Self Help Groups (SHGs), reflecting strong community engagement and support for the BBBP mission.