

The Kashmir Talk

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Wireless Operator In Police Dept Among Two Govt Employees Sacked For Terror Links In J&K



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday dismissed two more government employees including a wireless operator in police department for their alleged terror links, officials said.

More than 70 employees have been sacked by the LG since taking over the charge in August 2020, emphasizing a "zero-tolerance" policy towards terrorism and focusing on dismantling the networks that sustain it, including those providing ideological, financial, and logistical support, the officials said. The two employees

dismissed from the service are Basharat Ahmad Mir, assistant wireless operator in Jammu and Kashmir Police Department and Ishtiyak Ahmed Malik, senior assistant in Public Works (Roads and Buildings) Department, the officials said.

According to the separate dismissal orders, General Administration Department (GAD) said the LG invoked sub-clause (c) of the proviso to clause (2) of Article 311 of the Constitution to terminate with immediate effect the services of the two employees without an inquiry.

Official sources said Mir, a resident of Upper-Brein locality of Srinagar, was appointed as a police constable operator in 2010 and remained posted in various units till 2017.

In late 2017, he along with some other constable operators were laid off after a court ruling but

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Govt Won't Allow Mining At Cost Of Environment: Dy CM Choudhary



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, today chaired a high level meeting to review the mining issues related to NHAI projects besides assessing progress on National Highway projects being executed across J&K.

The review encompassed critical infrastructure projects especially Delhi-Amritsar-Katra (DAK) Expressway, Srinagar Ring Road, Chenani-Patnitop-Nashri, Jammu-Rajouri and other crucial projects. Emphasising the critical importance of these projects, he issued firm directives to ensure their timely completion while minimising public inconvenience. Earlier, the representative from NHAI apprised of the issues regarding delay in permissions related to mining, pending permissions at various levels, STPs for ordinary soil and RBM, and supply of material.

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Govt transforming military into a technologically-advanced combat-ready force: Rajnath Singh



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Thursday stated that the world is in the age of Grey Zone and Hybrid warfare where cyber-attacks, disinformation campaigns, and economic warfare have become tools that can achieve politico-military aims without a single shot being fired. Urging the

officers of the Indian Armed Forces to operate jointly and remain future-ready in today's ever-evolving multi-domain environment, Singh dubbed cyber, space, and information warfare as potent as conventional operations.

The defence minister was addressing the Armed Forces officers of India and friendly countries during the

Convocation Ceremony of the 80th Staff Course of Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington, Tamil Nadu.

Speaking about global geopolitics, Singh said that in today's age, it is being redefined by three key metrics: a major pivot towards prioritising national security, a technological tsunami sweeping the global landscape, and accelerating innovation.

Highlighting that Artificial Intelligence and other emerging technologies are revolutionising deterrence and war-fighting in critical ways, Singh termed the power of technological innovation in combat theatres as breathtaking. "In the Ukraine-Russia conflict,

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Legacy Of Legendary Gen Zorawar Singh Recalled; 'Chair Of Excellence' Set Up

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

A courageous warrior with "strategic brilliance", a "master of high-altitude warfare" who led multiple historic campaigns into the Tibet region is how senior army officers and military historians described the legacy of General Zorawar Singh on Friday.

On the occasion, it was also announced that a "chair of excellence" has been established in his honour at Delhi-based think-tank Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS).

The "chair of excellence" has been established by Jammu and Kashmir Rifles regiment. Jammu and Kashmir Rifles regiment and CLAWS hosted



a symposium on the legendary military general's life and legacy at Manekshaw Centre at Delhi Cantonment.

The event got underway with a keynote address by Colonel of the Regiment of Jammu and Kashmir Rifles & Ladakh Scouts, Lieutenant General M P Singh, followed by presentations by a panel of speakers. Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi

is attended the event as a chief guest.

Lieutenant General Singh in his keynote address said that General Zorawar's rise was "purely merit based". He was a "military genius" who is known for his ability to conduct "high-altitude warfares", the officer said. General Zorawar's saga is of courage and "strategic brilliance", he added.

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Bhagwan Mahavir's ideals give strength to countless people, says PM Modi

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended his greetings to the nation on the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti, saying Bhagwan Mahavir's ideals give strength to countless people worldwide.

Commemorating the birth of Lord Mahavira, the 24th and final Tirthankara of Jainism, PM Modi said his teachings have been beautifully preserved and popularised by the Jain community. In a post on his X

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India Geared Up For 'High Degree' Of Urgency, Says Jaishankar On Trade Deal Negotiations With US, EU

AGENCY
NEW DELHI:

The Trump administration was quick in responding to what was tabled for a bilateral trade pact with India and New Delhi is geared up for a "very high" degree of

urgency in concluding trade deals with the US and the European Union, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Friday.

In an interactive session at the Global Technology Summit, Jaishankar said the US

under President Donald Trump has fundamentally changed its approach to engaging with the world and it has consequences across every key domain, especially in the technology sector. Jaishankar's remarks come as Trump's policy on tariffs has trig-

gered massive trade disruptions and fears of a global economic recession. On Wednesday, Trump announced a 90-day pause on his sweeping tariffs on all countries, except China. In his remarks, Jaishankar,

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Wireless Operator...

in the next year, he was again appointed as a wireless assistant after a subsequent court ruling, the sources said.

In December 2023, credible inputs were received that Mir was in touch with Pakistani intelligence operatives and was sharing critical and vital information to the adversary, they said.

He was posted at a hypersensitive establishment, which is highly vulnerable to espionage attacks from adversaries and therefore his dismissal was the only option to safeguard the integrity and sovereignty of the nation, they said.

Malik, a resident of Shitroo village of Larnoo in Anantnag district, was appointed in 2000 and despite being a government employee, he started working for Jamaat-e-Islami and proscribed terror outfit Hizbul Mujahideen.

He facilitated the creation of a network of sympathisers who later became Over-Ground Workers and foot soldiers of the terror outfit and was also providing food, shelter and other logistics to the terrorists besides sharing information related to the movement of security forces and aiding transportation of arms and ammunition, the sources said.

They said Malik played a key role in abetting terrorist activities in South Kashmir. His terror link came to the fore during investigation of a case related to Hizbul terrorist Mohammad Ishaq who was arrested on May 5, 2022.

Ishaq during the interrogation revealed that Malik was providing shelter, food and logistics to terrorists. Subsequently, he was arrested on May 17, 2022 and charge-sheeted along with Ishaq under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

During interrogation, the sources said Malik also revealed that he played a key role in organising mobs for street violence, arson and 'hartals' (strikes) after killing of Hizbul terrorist Burhan Wani in 2016.

On July 9, 2016, Malik led a violent mob armed with stones, petrol bombs and sticks and attacked Larnoo Police post. It starkly reveals his mindset, motivation and allegiance towards terrorist organizations, the sources said.

On February 15, Sinha had ordered dismissal of three government employees including a jailed policeman for their alleged terror links.

The officials said the LG's approach aligns with the broader security strategy of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government, which prioritizes neutralizing terrorists and their sympathizers to establish lasting peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

The LG recently had directed police to hunt down terrorists and their aides, emphasizing that terrorism was breathing its last in the Union Territory

Govt Won't Allow...

The Deputy Chief Minister assured that all their concerns are under consideration and shall be dealt prominently to avoid any kind of hindrance to development works.

Meanwhile, raising serious concern over illegal mining, the Deputy Chief Minister exhorted that mining will not be allowed at the cost of environment of J&K. "Saving environment is government's responsibility and we will not allow illegal mining at any cost," he reaffirmed.

The Dy CM directed the concerned officials to initiate strict measures as per law against those involved in illegal mining across J&K.

Surinder Choudhary impressed upon the concerned to go tough against the illegal miners. He told them to use the provisions of enforcement measures quite rigorously for putting total end to this illicit practice.

Th Dy CM also asked the executive agencies working on various packages to deposit the penalties first imposed on them by the department to get the incessant supply of material. He assured full cooperation to NHAI from the Government prior to clearance of penalties imposed on executive agencies.

The Deputy CM also reviewed various National Highway projects, examining the individual packages, scheduled completion dates and current progress. He specifically instructed the NHAI to expedite project completion while ensuring that public inconvenience is minimised.

Surinder Choudhary emphasized that projects must not be delayed and completed on time to avoid public inconvenience to general public.

In a move to prevent resource-related delays, the Dy CM asked the departmental officials to conduct field visits along with officers from NHAI and ensure that no illegal mining activities are held and hinder the project progress. He asked all the concerned departments and

stakeholders to work in tandem and convene regular meetings to resolve issues, if any.

The meeting was attended by senior officers including Commissioner Secretary Mining Vikramjit Singh, Secretary, Public Works (R&B), Bhupinder Kumar besides representatives from key agencies like the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), Border Roads Organisation (BRO), MoRTH, Project Directors while other officers participated online including RO NHAI, RS Yadav.

Govt transforming...

drones have virtually emerged as a new arm, if not a transformative science. The majority of losses of soldiers and equipment have been attributed neither to traditional artillery nor to armour but to drones. Similarly, space capacities in the Low Earth Orbit are transforming military intelligence, persistent surveillance, positioning, targeting and communications, thus taking combat to a new high," he said.

He added that India faces persistent threats along its borders, which are further compounded by the challenge of proxy war and terrorism emanating from its neighbourhood. The defence minister also spoke of the impact of the conflict in West Asia and the geopolitical tensions in the Indo-Pacific on the overall security calculus, in addition to non-traditional security threats such as natural disasters and climate change.

"Lessons of the ongoing conflicts teach us that building a resilient, indigenous, and future-ready defence technological & manufacturing ecosystem is not an option, but a strategic necessity. There is a need to develop low-cost high-tech solutions and enhance the fighting capability of the Armed Forces. Our forces must not only keep pace with technological changes, but also lead them," he said.

Singh exhorted the officers to focus on five 'A's - Awareness, Ability, Adaptability, Agility and Ambassadors - to tackle future challenges. "As warfighters and protectors of national security, you need to remain aware of the environment and its implications. You must acquire the ability and skill set required by future leaders. You must imbibe adaptability and agility as key virtues. The battlefield of tomorrow will require leaders who can adapt to unforeseen circumstances, leverage technology to their advantage and come out with innovative solutions. You must become Ambassadors of your respective Armed Forces. Be an ambassador of change and the perfect role model amongst the society at large," he added.

Legacy Of Legendary...

The military experts, who addressed the gathering, described his campaigns in Tibet in the 19th century as one of the most "audacious and ambitious" military campaigns in history.

General Zorawar was a "master of high-altitude warfare" was the refrain at the symposium. The military general was born in 1786 in Kehlur in Bilaspur, which falls in today's Himachal Pradesh.

His campaigns in Tibet took place in the first half of the 19th century. CLAWS Director General, Lieutenant General Dushyant Singh (retd.), spoke about the establishment of the "chair of excellence".

He described General Zorawar as an "astute strategist" who was driven by an "unwavering will to achieve

victory at any cost".

Bhagwan Mahavir's ...

handle, PM Modi said, "We all bow to Bhagwan Mahavir, who always emphasised on non-violence, truth and compassion. His ideals give strength to countless people all around the world. His teachings have been beautifully preserved and popularised by the Jain community. Inspired by Bhagwan Mahavir, they have excelled in different walks of life and contributed to societal well-being."

PM Modi highlighted his government's efforts in preserving heritage. He further said, "Our Government will always work to fulfil the vision of Bhagwan Mahavir. Last year, we conferred the status of Classical Language on Prakrit, a decision which received a lot of appreciation."

This year marks the 2623rd birth anniversary of the revered spiritual leader, celebrated with devotion and grandeur across India. Mahavir Jayanti, one of the most significant religious festivals in Jainism, is observed on the 13th day of the waxing moon in the Chaitra month, as per the Jain calendar. According to religious texts, Mahavira was born in 599 B.C. in Kundalagrama, near present-day Patna, Bihar.

On Wednesday, PM Modi participated in the Navkar Mahamantra Divas at Delhi's Vigyan Bhawan and chanted the 'Navkar Mahamantra' with people from more than 108 countries.

He said it is not just a mantra but the centre of faith. He added that the Mahamantra is the key to life and its significance is not just spiritual. He added that it shows the path to everyone from self to society and presents a journey to the people to the world from within.

The Prime Minister also listed nine resolutions one should take on the Navkar Mahamantra Divas.

In a symbolic gesture of humility and reverence, PM Modi attended the Navkar Mahamantra programme on Wednesday without wearing footwear and chose to sit among the public instead of occupying the dais.

India Geared Up ...

without sharing any specific details of negotiations between India and the US on the proposed trade pact, indicated that New Delhi was keen to conclude it as early as possible.

"Within a month of change in the administration, we have conceptually an agreement that we will do a bilateral trade agreement; that we will find a fix that will work for both of us because we have our concerns too. And its not an open-ended process," the minister said.

"We did four years of talking with the first Trump administration. They have their view of us and frankly we have our view of them. The bottom line is that the deal did not get through," he said.

Jaishankar also referred to India's negotiations with the European Union for a free trade agreement.

"If you look at the EU, often people say we've been negotiating for 23 years which is not entirely true because we had big blocks of time when nobody was even talking to somebody else. But they have tended to be very protracted processes," he said.

"This time around, we are certainly geared up for a very high degree of urgency. I mean, we see a window here. Our trade teams are really charged up," he said.

"These (Indian negotiators) are people very much on top of their game, very ambitious about what they want to achieve," he said.

Forest Department organizes workshop for Forest Services aspirants in North Kashmir



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

In continuation to its efforts aimed at capacity building of Forest

Services aspirants, a one day workshop titled 'Strategies and Approaches for Qualifying Indian Forest Examination' was today held at the North Forest

Headquarters at Mazbugh Sopore.

The training cum workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from forest services aspirants from Baramulla, Kupwara, Ganderbal and Budgam districts.

Conservator of Forests (CoF), Kashmir North Circle, Irfan Ali Shah in his address spoke at length about the immense potential of local youth and the significance of increasing awareness about the Indian Forest Service.

CoF encouraged aspirants to pursue careers in the green sector with passion, commitment, and integrity.

He underscored the department's need for young, dynamic officers for ensuring good governance and a sustainable future.

Block Diwas held at Ajas to address public grievances, review dev needs

DC assures timely redressal of public grievances

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BANDIPORA:

The District Administration Bandipora on Wednesday conducted mega Block Diwas at Ajas Bandipora to strengthen grassroots governance.

The programme presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri witnessed participation of District Development Council Member Hajin B, Ghulam Mustafa Khan; civil society representatives, youth delegates and large public gathering.

During the programme, DC took firsthand appraisal of public grievances and developmental demands.

Delegations from Go Green Ajas, Civil Society, Tehsil Welfare Committee Ajas, Ex-BDC Chairman Nazir Ahmad, Youth Representatives, and representatives from ST community highlighted various issues including macadamization of inner links, construction of tehsil office, availability of staff in schools, approach road to NTPHC,

upgradation of school infrastructure, construction of playground and public library, effective waste management, besides other issues of public importance.

Speaking on the occasion, DDC Member Hajin B emphasized the need for development of sports infrastructure to engage youth positively and keep them away from drugs and substance abuse. He also highlighted the need for ground-level implementation of the Forest Rights Act besides raising various issues of public importance. Responding to public issues, the DC assured that all genuine demands will be addressed in a time-bound manner.

Regarding waste management, DC directed Tehsildar Ajas to identify land for construction of Material Recovery Facility (MRF), besides also instructed BDO Hajin to conduct awareness programmes to generate awareness regarding proper waste segregation and disposal.

Qadri also instructed tehsildar to identify land for construction of the

playground and Public library.

Regarding irrigation concerns, DC directed Tehsildar Ajas and Executive Engineer I&FC to ensure removal of encroachments from irrigation canals, and assured that all issues related to irrigation for agricultural land will be resolved on priority.

Highlighting the importance of the IEC campaign against drug abuse under Nasha Mukh Jammu and Kashmir, Qadri emphasized the participation of the general public, civil society members and youth in the ongoing panchayat level IEC campaign to combat drug abuse. Later, DC visited the NTPHC Ajas to take firsthand appraisal of the issue concerning the approach road besides reviewing the functioning of the health facility and interacting with the staff to ensure quality healthcare delivery to the public. Chief Planning Officer, Tehsildar Ajas, BDO, District Officers of various departments and other concerned were present on the occasion.

Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan: IEC Campaign kick-started across Municipal areas of Kishtwar District

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR:

To combat the challenges of drug menace, an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Awareness Campaign was today launched in the Municipal areas of the District Kishtwar under Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan. The campaign, conducted under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan, has received an overwhelming response from the local



community.

The inaugural event of the campaign was held in Ward No. 1 of Kishtwar Town, where informative sessions were led by

resource persons from eight key departments, including Health, Police, Education, Rural Development Department (RDD), and Ex-PRIs. The

Resource Persons were nominated by the District administration to raise awareness and educate the public about the devastating consequences of drug abuse.

During the sessions, the resource persons provided crucial insights into the damaging effects of drug abuse on the individuals and the society as a whole.

The campaign was executed under the guidance of Nodal Officer (DSWO) Zubair Ahmed, ensuring a comprehensive outreach to the public.

Screen Addiction: A Growing Challenge for the New Generation

VICKY VERMA
JAMMU:

While the digital age has made life more convenient with smartphones, laptops, and tablets becoming everyday essentials, it has also given rise to a serious concern - screen addiction. This issue is becoming alarmingly common among children and youth.

According to mental health experts, excessive screen time negatively impacts both mental and physical health. They warn that prolonged exposure to screens is diminishing children's ability to concentrate and weakening their social interactions.

In a rapidly digitizing India, screen addiction is emerging as a major challenge, especially for the younger population. Experts emphasize that if not controlled in time, the consequences could be severe. Over 60% of children in India are at risk of falling prey to screen addiction, which is severely affecting their mental and physical well-being.

Common symptoms of screen addiction include sleep deprivation, irritability, difficulty focusing, withdrawal from social activities, and declining academic performance.

For parents, managing their child's screen time has become one of the most difficult tasks. Many complain that their children are so immersed in their digital devices that they have little to no interest in the outside world. Some parents also observe aggressive behavior in their children when access to screens is restricted. To combat this growing menace, experts recommend practical strategies:

Set a fixed screen time schedule and strictly enforce it. Introduce at least one 'No-Screen Day' every week to encourage engagement in alternative activities. Encourage participation in hobbies such as sports, music, painting, and reading. Use parental control tools to monitor online activity.

Parents should also model balanced digital behavior and spend more quality time with their children.

Avoid screen usage at least one hour before bedtime to ensure better sleep.

"Taking screen addiction lightly can be dangerous. It not only affects children's health but also hinders their social and academic growth. Parents must be vigilant and proactive in helping their children adopt a balanced digital lifestyle," experts said.

As the digital world continues to grow, it is crucial that awareness around screen addiction grows with it - before the screens begin to shape an entire generation's future.

Cattle Lifter Gang Busted in Billawar, Four Arrested; FIR Registered

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KATHUA:

In the intervening night of 10/11 April 2025 one complainant namely Mukesh Sharma S/o Mahant Ram Sharma R/o Baggan Billawar arrived in Police Station Billawar and lodged a written complaint that some unidentified persons attempt for theft of cattle in Billawar town. On this complaint a Case FIR No.50/2025 U/s 303(2)/62/3(5) BNS got registered in PS Billawar and investigation started.

During investigation Police party of PS Billawar led by SHO P/S Billawar Inspr Zaheer Mushtaq under the supervision of SDPO Billawar. Neeraj Padyar-JKPS arrested 04 persons using human and technical sources. During questioning they disclosed their names as ;

1. Sushil Kumar S/o Rattan Chand r/o Mandli Billawar. 2. Love Kumar S/o Omkar Chand R/o Durung Billawar.

3. Bablu Singh S/o Jagdish Singh R/o Mandli Billawar.

4. ?Tisham Kumar S/o Charan Dass R/o Thantur Ramkot.

During questioning they confessed their involvement in the attempt of cattle lifting crime.

Further the Auto load Carrier bearing registration No.JK08P-5940 was also seized which they were using for committing crime. Further investigation of the case is going on regarding their involvement in any earlier offence.

SSP Kathua Shobit Saksena- IPS further briefed that Kathua police is working tirelessly to curb the menace of bovine smuggling and there is zero tolerance policy for bovine smugglers, whosoever is involved in this will be dealt with iron hand.

DC Kupwara chairs Block Diwas at Trehgam

Appeals people to take benefit under PM Surya Ghar, HADP & other schemes

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KUPWARA:

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today chaired the weekly Block Diwas programme at Trehgam block of district Kupwara to listen to the grievances and developmental issues of the people.

On her arrival, DC visited various stalls set up by different departments showcasing their schemes and achievements. She enquired from the concerned officers about the progress of these schemes in Trehgam block.

People in large numbers attended the block diwas. District and Block level officers, besides, a large number of employees were also present at the event.

In her address, DC said that the Government is committed to holistic development and welfare of the people especially belonging to far flung areas. She highlighted various Government schemes aimed for wel-

fare of the people and urged upon the people to come forward and avail the benefits of these schemes.

Regarding Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna, Ayushi said that the scheme aims to reduce the electricity bill of the consumers to make them self-reliant. She urged them to enroll themselves under the scheme which is heavily subsidized by the Government for the benefit of the consumers. She appealed to the people to register themselves under the scheme to take benefit of free electricity which will reduce their electricity bills. While raising awareness on JK Samadhan portal, DC said that the portal provides opportunity to the citizens to raise their grievances through online mode and appealed to the people to register on the portal to get their grievances redressed which will save their time and efforts from physically visiting the government offices.

Earlier, senior citizens and youth spoke and put forth their demands and issues of the area including

beautification of Trehgam stadium, completion of ongoing JJM schemes, upgradation of link roads etc.

Regarding power supply, she said upgradation of power infrastructure is under progress through RDSS scheme across the district which include establishment of new Receiving Stations, Distribution Transformers, Conductor, Poles and allied material and said that this will improve the overall power scenario of the district.

Replying to the issue of water supply, DC said that 80% targets under Jal Jeevan Mission have been achieved so far under the scheme and said on completion of the Mission, the whole scenario of the water supply will improve in the district.

After giving patient hearing to the issues raised by the people, DC redressed several issues on the spot and assured them that all their genuine concerns would be addressed in a phased manner with active coordination from relevant departments.

DIPR Cultural Unit spreads anti-drug awareness at Bakshi Nagar



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Cultural Unit of Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) Jammu, in collaboration with the District Administration Jammu, today organized a cultural aware-

ness programme titled "Nasha Mukht Bharat" (Say No to Drugs) here at Bakshi Nagar.

The purpose of the initiative was to raise awareness about the harmful consequences of drug abuse and advocate a drug-free society.

Artists from the Cultural Unit

engaged the audience with theme-based songs, effectively illustrating the impact of drug addiction on individuals, families, and society as a whole. Present at the event were the Lecturers from the Education Department and Naib Tehsildar Jammu Khas, who also shared their viewpoints on the issue and emphasized its relevance to the audience. They praised the Department of Information and Public Relations for hosting such an impactful event aimed at increasing public awareness.

The programme was conducted under the directions of Joint Director Information Jammu, Atul Gupta and under the supervision of Cultural Officer Jammu Mukesh Kumar Sharma.

DDC Poonch reviews developmental activities in Aspirational Blocks, Panchayats



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal today evaluated the performance of departments with regard to achievement of indicators prescribed under District Good Governance Index (DGGI) and progress of development works under the Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP) and the Aspirational Panchayat Development Programme (APDP). He was chairing a meeting held today at the District Development Commissioner's office complex. The DDC evaluated key performance indicators across different sectors, utilizing data from relevant portals. He discussed a comprehensive and implementable framework for the current financial year aimed at enhancing the quality of life and service delivery in Aspirational Blocks and Panchayats in the district. The sectors reviewed included Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Basic Infrastructure, Drinking Water, Sanitation, and Social Development.

Emphasizing the need for strict adherence to program guidelines, Kundal insisted on regular updates to ensure the accuracy of progress reported on the portal. In a focused directive, he instructed the Chief Medical Officer to improve health service quality and set a target for achieving bronze certification in a health institution in Balakote. The Chief Education Officer was tasked with verifying toilet and drinking water facilities in educational institutions and reporting back to the office.

Additionally, the Block Development Officer was directed to prioritize the saturation of PMAY-G and toilet facilities in aspirational panchayats and blocks to better meet the basic needs of the public. The DDC stressed the importance of enhancing efforts in areas requiring improvement and ensuring that all aspirational blocks and panchayats are connected to internet services.

The Common Service Centre manager was assigned the task of saturating these areas to provide government services at residents' doorsteps.

SMC conducts demolition drive in Shalteng, Maloora areas

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Srinagar Municipal Corporation today launched a demolition drive in Ward 25 and Ward 26, targeting unauthorized and illegal constructions in the Shalteng and Maloora areas.

This initiative carried out on the directions of Commissioner SMC, Dr. Owais Ahmed and supervised by the Enforcement Officer for Zone West, aims to reinforce municipal regulations and curb illegal building activities.

During the demolition drive, several unauthorized structures were dismantled, highlighting the SMC's commitment to maintaining urban order.

The corporation strongly urges residents to obtain the necessary building permissions before undertaking any construction work.

Commissioner Dr. Owais Ahmed said, "We reiterate our appeal to the general public to adhere to legal processes and secure prior approvals from the competent authority to avoid punitive measures."

SMC has increased its vigilance across Srinagar city and warns that violations of building norms will result in strict action.

Corporation remains dedicated to ensuring that all development within the city aligns with the Master Plan 2035.

GCOE hosts Seminar, Preamble Pledge to mark Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The NSS Unit of Government College of Education Jammu, organized a thought-provoking seminar and Preamble Pledge ceremony to commemorate the 133rd birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the principal architect of the Indian Constitution.

The event was held under the dynamic leadership of Principal of the college Dr. Jyoti Parihar and the guidance of NSS Programme Officer, Professor Sarita Dogra.

The celebration began with the solemn recitation of the Preamble,

reaffirming the constitutional values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity, which Dr. Ambedkar stood for. This was followed by a seminar where students eloquently expressed their thoughts on the life, struggles, and contributions of Dr. Ambedkar towards social justice and nation-building.

The seminar was judged by an esteemed panel comprising Dr. Rajinder Kour, Professor Anuradha Choudhary and Dr. Sonam Gandotra. Their insights and encouraging words added great value to the event. The First Position was clinched by Salma Khatoon, second position by Shiwali Sharma, while

third Position went to Maansi Rajput. The event was graced by the presence of distinguished faculty members including Dr. Shubhra Jamwal, Professor Kiran Thapa, Professor Deepali, Professor Roopa Kumari, Dr. Shalini Sharma and Dr. Suraj Prakash, who appreciated the efforts of the students and emphasized the relevance of Dr. Ambedkar's vision in today's time.

The NSS Unit continues to uphold the values of service, education, and equality through such meaningful engagements. The event concluded with a vote of thanks and a collective commitment to carry forward the legacy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Satish Sharma inaugurates 3 day painting exhibition at Kala Kendra



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, ARI & Trainings, Satish Kumar Sharma, today inaugurated a three day painting exhibition at Kala Kendra, Jammu, showcasing the remarkable works of renowned artist Muneer Ali Khan.

The exhibition, being organized by Kala Kendra Jammu, featured a collection of art works that highlight

the diverse and unique artistic vision of Khan.

In his welcome address, Dr. Javaid Rahi, Secretary of Kala Kendra, stated that the primary objective of today's exhibition is to promote creativity in arts and provide a platform for artists like Muneer Ali Khan to share their work with a wider audience.

Kala Kendra is committed towards nurturing and celebrating the talent that contributes to our cultural richness.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister emphasized the importance

of art in shaping cultural identity and inspiring the future generations. "Art and creativity are essential components of our culture and I am truly impressed by the talent and expression reflected in the paintings of Muneer Ali Khan. Events like this not only celebrate artistic excellence but also encourage our younger generation to engage with creative pursuits. I sincerely appreciate the efforts of Kala Kendra for organizing such a purposeful exhibition", maintained the Minister.

He suggested that similar exhibitions should be held in various districts to bring art closer to the people and foster cultural awareness at the grassroots level.

The exhibition was also graced by the presence of noted journalist Zafar Choudhary, who shared his personal experience of being associated with Muneer Ali Khan's artistic journey over the years. "Muneer Ali Khan's work stands out for its diversity and imaginative expression. His art reflects deep thought, emotion and a distinctive creative approach. It is always a pleasure to witness his evolving style," asserted Choudhary.

Muneer Ali Khan expressed his gratitude to the organizers and attendees. He shared insights into his artistic process and the inspiration behind some of his key works on display.

Kishtwar: Single Window Committee discusses quarry land request by CVPPL

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR:

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan today chaired the Single Window Committee Meeting to discuss the request made by the CVPPL, represented by the General Manager (GM) of the Pakal Dul Hydroelectric (HE) Project.

The request pertains to obtaining Single Window Clearance for a proposed quarry land located on the



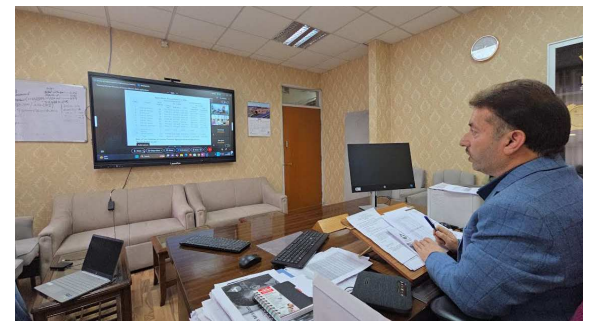
right bank of the Marusadar River, downstream of the Coffor Dam of the Pakal Dul HE Project, in order to secure a Quarry License.

During the meeting, the DC directed all concerned members of the Single Window Committee to thoroughly review the contents of the communica-

tion and conduct a joint inspection of the proposed site. The committee has been given a one-week deadline to submit their comments/the No Objection Certificates (NOC) or otherwise for further process by the DC.

The meeting was attended by DFO Vishal Choudhary; CAO Amjad Hussain Malik; CHO Sajid Mustafa, ExEn PWD Ravinder Verma, besides other concerned officers and staff.

Mission Director Jal Jeevan Mission, J&K directs, Jal Shakti divisions of Jammu province to speed up the pace of pipeline mapping



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K Mr. Khurshid Ahmad Shah today convened a review meeting of Jal Shakti (PHE) Divisions of Jammu province through virtual mode.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Jammu, Executive Engineers of civil and Mechanical divisions besides Superintending Engineers of respective circles.

The, MD enquired about the pace of pipeline mapping in respective divisions. The chair was assured that the targets in this regard will be achieved soon. The chair urged the officers concerned to speed up the process so that the backlogs regarding them are cleared and new targets given are achieved within set timelines.

The Mission Director also directed the divisional officers to complete the ongoing schemes were 80-90 percent works stand completed.

Expenditure reconciliation, Dump data and overall progress in the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in Jammu Province was also discussed in the meeting.

"Major crackdown on bovine smugglers"

ANOTHER NOTORIOUS BOVINE SMUGGLER BOOKED UNDER PSA BY JKP IN NAGROTA AREA OF JAMMU.



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Jammu police under the leadership of SSP Jammu, Sh. Joginder Singh-JKPS tightening noose against bovine smugglers under Operation Kamdhenu Nagrota police apprehended another notorious bovine smuggler from Miran Sahib area & booked him under the Jammu and Kashmir *Public Safety Act (PSA).

Pertinent to mentioned here that 04 PSA slapped against Bovine Smugglers and 01 drug peddler booked under PIT NDPS Act in the year 2024 and during the current year 03 PSA warrants already executed against bovine smugglers in Sub-division Nagrota shows the commitment of Jammu Police towards ensuring the peace and harmony in Jammu area. The detail of PSA detainee is as under:-

Mohd Shakoor S/O Mohd Gafoor R/O Village Muralian Mira sahib and District Jammu.

Following his repeated engagement in criminal/bovine smuggling activities due to which the sentiments of particular community have been hurt badly. Multiple FIR's are registered against the accused for indulging in bovine smuggling. The warrant of said accused executed by PSI Sandeep Kumar of P/S Nagrota.

District Admin Jammu organises series of impactful anti-drug awareness events

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The District Administration Jammu, under the directives of Deputy Commissioner Sachin Kumar Vaishya and the overall supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner Ansuya Jamwal today continued with impactful Information, Education and Communication (IEC) programmes to combat drug abuse.

One such event was held at Tawi Mahal, Udheywala, drawing participation from over a hundred attendees, including local residents, ex-corporators, ex-Sarpanches, government officials and members of the general public.

The campaign featured presentations and speeches from resource persons deputed by the District Administration. These included Tehsildar Jammu North Aman Kumar Anand; SDPO Domana Mudassar Chowdhary; representatives from the Social Welfare Department Kunal Gupta, Health Department Dr. Sandeep; Naib Tehsildar Muthi, Mehar Singh and Education Department representatives Shanti Saroop.

Through their addresses, the experts highlighted the dangers of drug abuse, its societal impact and



the importance of rehabilitation efforts.

A special cultural performance by artists Mohinder, Surjit and Balbir from the Information Department captivated the audience. Utilising music and art -the powerful mediums of communication, they sensitised attendees about the menace of drug addiction and its connection to crime within society.

Community Hall Trilokpur in Tehsil Jammu West also hosted a similar event where local residents gathered to discuss preventive meas-

ures against drug abuse.

These initiatives are part of the month-long IEC campaign launched by the J&K Government to combat substance abuse through sustained awareness efforts across panchayats, urban local bodies, Educational Institutions and major public spaces.

In addition to the event at Udheywala, similar awareness programs were organised in multiple government schools as part of a broader initiative under the Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan.

84 Bn CRPF unveils Memorial stone of its brave hearts at Digdol



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAMBAN :

While the country is celebrating Valour Day, 84 Bn CRPF, under the aegis of DIG CRPF Jammu North Ops Range Vivek Bhandral, unveiled

a memorial stone dedicated to the supreme sacrifice of its 02 brave personnel. Sh Shailendra Vikram Singh, then DIG CRPF Srinagar North and Constable/Dvr Naveen Kumar of the 144 Bn laid down their lives in the line of duty at Digdol on

15 Dec 2019. The memorial stone was unveiled by Sh N Ranbir Singh Commandant in the presence of Sh A K Dixit Second in Command and personnel of 84Bn, Sh Zaheer Ahmed Ex-Sarpanch and prominent members of Digdol and media personnel. During the function, floral tributes were paid to the 02 CRPF brave hearts. Speaking on the occasion, Commandant 84 Bn stated that the memorial stone signifies CRPF's steadfast commitment to honoring its heroes and upholding its legacy of valour. CRPF, with approx 250 Bn, is the largest Central Armed Police Force in the country and deployed for multifarious duties across the length and breadth of the country. The 84 Bn CRPF is securing a 47 km stretch of the NH 44, a major lifeline connecting Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country and ensuring smooth passage of SF, Yatri, VVIP, etc.

DDC Pulwama chairs DLRC meeting

Focus on financial inclusion and infrastructure expansion



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
PULWAMA:

To assess the performance of banks and line departments under various financial and developmental parameters, a District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting for the third quarter of the financial year 2024-25 was held today at Circuit House Pulwama under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom.

At the outset, the Lead District Manager Pulwama presented a detailed report through a PowerPoint presentation, highlighting the district's banking performance.

The chair was apprised that Pulwama has recorded a year-on-year growth of 6.32% in deposits, while advances and CD ratio grew by

9.49% and 2.98% respectively. The district's CD ratio stands at 110.65%, ranking among the highest in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. During the review, Dr. Basharat examined the sector-wise performance of banks against allocated targets and directed all concerned banking institutions to identify existing gaps across sectors and prepare a comprehensive strategy to address them during the current financial year.

Emphasizing the importance of financial inclusion, the DDC instructed the officers of line departments and banking institutions to ensure saturation of all Government Sponsored Schemes, with a particular focus on extending benefits to the marginalised and underprivileged sections of society.

Banks were also directed to aug-

ment the ATM infrastructure across the district to ensure equitable access to financial services for the entire population.

On the issue of NPA management, banks, particularly the ED Bank were directed to take prompt corrective measures and prioritize efforts to reduce the burden of Non-Performing Assets in the district.

The progress under Smart Card distribution under Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme was also reviewed. The DDC instructed the banking institutions to expedite the distribution of smart cards and achieve full saturation on priority. As part of the proceedings, the Potential Linked Credit Plan for the financial year 2025-26 was formally launched, outlining sectoral credit potential and investment opportunities.

The meeting concluded with an emphasis on collaborative efforts between banks and government departments to drive inclusive growth, improve financial service delivery and enhance credit outreach in the district of Pulwama.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Lead District Manager (J&K Bank), other banks operational in district and Director RSETI and officers from various line departments, forming part of the committee framework.

Arrangements for annual Urs of Sakhi Zain-ud-Din Wali (RA) Aishmuqam reviewed at Anantnag



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
ANANTNAG:

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid in a review meeting held today took stock of the arrangements for the upcoming Annual Urs Sharief celebrations at Ziarat Sharief Sakhi Zain-ud-Din Wali (RA) in Aishmuqam Anantnag. DC emphasized the need for meticulous planning to ensure the smooth conduct of the religious observance, which attracts a large number of devotees from across the region. The Annual Urs Sharief, particularly the Shab-e-Doum (Chiragaan) event holds deep spiritual significance for the local community. DC passed specific instructions to the concerned District and Sectoral Officers, directing ARTO to formulate a detailed plan for traffic management. Health Department was instructed to set up medical camps near the Ziarat Sharief, with a team of doctors, nurses, and ambulances on standby to handle any emergencies. The Municipal Committee was tasked with maintaining cleanliness around the shrine and ensuring necessary amenities such as water supply and sanitation facilities to ensure the comfort of the devotees. Assistant Director FCS&CA was directed to ensure that extra food grains are available in the village to meet the demand during the event.

In addition, DC held consultations with religious leaders and representatives from the shrine management committee to ensure the smooth conduct of the religious ceremonies and observances during the Urs. He urged the local community to cooperate with the authorities and follow all guidelines and protocols to ensure a peaceful and successful event.

DC reassured the public that all necessary steps were being taken to ensure their convenience during the annual celebrations. The meeting concluded with directions to officials and other stakeholders to ensure that Urs Sharief celebrations are a success.

The meeting was attended by the SDM Pahalgam, ARTO Anantnag, Tehsildar, EO Municipal Corporation, Assistant Director FCS&CA, senior officials from various departments, including Health Services, PDD, PHE, Fire & Emergency Services.

BEAUTY PAGEANT 2025 begins in KATRA

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KATRA:

With an aim providing platform to enthusiastic models of Jammu and Kashmir UT, Harman Cultural and Educational Society and DIVINE MODELS of North organized two days beauty pageant "NATIONAL BEAUTY PAGEANT 2025", a gala beauty pageant with a difference began today at SPIRITUAL GROWTH CENTRE, SMVD, KATRA, JAMMU AND KASHMIR in which models from various districts of J&K UT PARTICIPATED and exhibited their talent in the field of modeling and fashion.

On the first day of grand opening of beauty pageant, Sh. Khayatimaan khajuria, honourable SHO, KATRA was chief guest and a galaxy of celebrity guests namely AARTI BHATIA, MODEL FROM MUMBAI, MEGHNA BHATIA, BEAUTY PAGEANT WINNER, ARUN SHARMA, PRESIDENT, PRESS CLUB OF KATRA, SATISH DUBEY, DIRECTOR, SVN HOTEL & RESORT, CHOREOGRAPHER ISHA JAIN, graced the occasion and were received by organisers of beauty pageant Tajinder Singh, president, Harman Cultural and Educational Society, Jammu, and Gurminder kour, renowned choreographer and General Secretary, Harman Cultural and Educational Society. The program begin with traditional lighting of lamp by honourable guests present on the occasion. The event was anchored by celebrity anchor Rajni Sharma.

BJP Launches 'Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan' to Commemorate Ambedkar Jayanti from 13th April to 25th April: Parmod Kapahi



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced a series of programmes under the banner of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan, to be

observed from April 13 to April 25, in honour of the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

The announcement was made by Parmod Kapahi, senior BJP leader and Incharge of the Abhiyan for Jammu & Kashmir, during a press conference held at the party's head-

quarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. He was accompanied by Abhiyan Committee Members Sanjita Dogra, President of BJP Mahila Morcha, and senior leaders Sanjay Kumar Baru and Rekha Mahajan.

While addressing the media, Kapahi underscored Dr. Ambedkar's monumental contribution as the principal architect of the Indian Constitution and his tireless efforts toward empowering the marginalized and underprivileged sections of society.

He emphasized that the BJP, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, remains committed to furthering Dr. Ambedkar's vision through its focus on Antyodaya - the upliftment of the last person in the queue.

Indian Army Strengthens Civil-Military Ties with Amity Meet at Sindarah, Poonch

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

In a continuing effort to reinforce trust and build lasting partnerships with the local population, the Indian Army organized a meaningful Amity Meet with the Sarpanch and community members of Sindarah village in Poonch district. The event highlighted the Army's unwavering commitment to civil-military cooperation, particularly in strategically sensitive regions located near the Line of Control (LoC).

Sindarah, being close to the LoC, faces numerous socio-economic and security-related challenges. The Indian Army's outreach initiative aimed to bridge gaps in communica-

tion and further strengthen the foundation of trust that already exists between the Army and the people of this border region. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from local leaders including the Sarpanch, Chairman, Panchayat members, and influential figures from Sindarah and its neighboring villages.

The Amity Meet served as a vibrant platform for mutual interaction and open dialogue. The Indian Army took this opportunity to brief the villagers about various welfare schemes and development initiatives under the Sadbhavna project. Special focus was laid on career opportunities and skill development programs designed for local youth, encouraging their

integration into mainstream society through education, sports, and training.

One of the significant discussions during the meet revolved around community-led efforts to counter terrorism and promote peace in the region.

The Army emphasized that the active participation of civilians is indispensable for long-term peace and security. Officials reiterated that the shared vision of peace can only be achieved through unity, vigilance, and sustained cooperation between security forces and local communities.

Villagers, in turn, appreciated the proactive approach of the Indian Army.

THE KASHMIR TALK

EDITORIAL

Toxic Plastic Reality

The increasing plastic and microplastic particles in the whole world are a big challenge and crisis due to destroying nature, air and water pollution, harmful effects on agricultural crops, proving to be fatal for human life and animals. Recently, in a study, concern was expressed about the arrival of plastic nano particles in the human brain. It was claimed that hundreds of microplastic particles enter our body through breathing every day. Many such new national-international research-surveys-studies are warning that the presence of deadly microplastics in our breath, drinking water and crops is a serious crisis. Research articles published in many research journals of the world keep publishing warning findings of various studies from time to time. The crisis has increased to such an extent that plastic particles have started affecting the photosynthesis process of plants, due to which the productivity of many food grains included in the food chain is declining. Such a conclusion has come to the fore after a joint study by many countries including America-Germany. Actually, the process of food production of plants is getting disrupted due to the interference of plastic particles. In this way, the presence of microplastics in food, air and water is a serious danger not only for nature, agriculture, environment but also for human existence. This should be taken very seriously and governments should make plans to find ways to get rid of this crisis. Microplastics have become a part of our environment. Death is looming in front of us due to the abundance and dependence on plastic. Even if we want, we are not able to imagine a plastic-free life, because microplastics are in life, in air, in water, in rivers, in seas, in rain, and due to all this, they are also in our food, in the lives of us humans, animals and perhaps in the lives of all creatures. The government has been assured of awareness and cooperation on issues like continuously polluted water, climate change, biodiversity and land degradation. Seeing the dangers of plastic pollution, the government has decided that there will be no place for single-use plastic in India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already launched a campaign under the Clean India Mission, appealing to free the country from plastic waste. Plastic is creating various problems not only in the country but also in the world. Its direct dangers are of two types. One is that plastic contains many chemicals that are considered to be the cause of cancer. Apart from this, such things are entering the body that our body is not made to digest, this is also creating health complications in many ways. Therefore, the common people will have to launch a campaign to get rid of it, create awareness. It is also a matter of concern that in developing countries, while being engaged in arranging basic amenities like food, clothing and shelter and battling the problem of poverty, the governments are not able to give priority to those high quality standards of health that are in accordance with international standards. Researchers have made bottled water of ten major brands in Kerala the subject of study. The conclusion of the study is that 153 thousand plastic particles enter the body of a person who uses water in a plastic bottle every year. This is certainly a matter of concern. However, choosing Kerala for the survey and choosing Indian companies selling bottled water can raise many questions.

Logistics growth

SAUMITRA MOHAN

West Bengal is a state uniquely positioned because it offers many advantages critical to the logistics sector. It is the sixth-largest economy in India, with a Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of Rs 17 lakh crore. Growing at an impressive annual rate of 15.24 per cent, West Bengal is one of the fastest growing states in the country.

With an estimated population of over 100 million, the state represents both a massive consumption base and an ever growing industrial hub. What truly sets West Bengal apart, however, is its strategic geographical advantage. Positioned as the gateway to India's Northeast and land-locked neighbours like Bhutan and Nepal, it also acts as India's vital conduit to Southeast Asia. This strategic geographic significance makes West Bengal the ideal destination for investments in the logistics sector. The state's logistics sector is poised for exponential growth, with the current market size estimated at USD 20 billion.

Our key infrastructure includes strategically-located sea-ports in the form of the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (erstwhile Kolkata Port Trust) and Haldia Dock Complex. Together, they serve as major gateways for cargo, offering robust multi-modal connectivity. Together, these ports handle over 65 million metric tons of cargo annually. The proposed Tajpur Deep-Sea Port is likely to be a game-changer that will accommodate large vessels and significantly reduce logistics costs. Extensive inland waterways provide immense opportunities for development of tourism, passenger and cargo services. With 4,593 kilometers of navigable waterways, including the National Waterway-1 and the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route, we are fostering greener and more efficient cargo transport systems.

These waterways link us not only to Northeast India, but also to Southeast Asia and beyond, providing a cost-effective alternative to road and rail. Under the West Bengal In-land Water Transport, Logistics and Spatial Development Project, the state is exploring ways and means to operationalise the RoRo (Roll-on, Roll-off) service on NW-1, especially in and around the Kolkata metropolitan area. The initiative, if successful, is likely to reduce travel time for cargo and passenger movement while also significantly reduce carbon footprints as a result of vehicles having to travel lesser distances. The state has already operationalised RoRo and RoPax services in the Sundarbans and Gangasagar areas. There are many private players who are also bracing to introduce RoRo services along NW1, not to speak of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) similarly conducting studies to this effect. Better air connectivity is an advantage that drives the logistics sector in the state. Kolkata airport, the largest freight facility in eastern India, is a critical hub for high-value and perishable goods. Recent enhancements, such as express courier terminals and the Centre for Perishable Cargo, strengthen its capabilities.

The airports at Andal, Bagdogra and Coochbehar add to the available options and could be further leveraged for seamless logistics movement across the state using its airways. The state is further exploring the possibilities at such other locations as Malda, Balurghat, Charra (Purulia), Kalaikunda and Hasimara. West Bengal's extensive road and rail network is yet another infrastructural advantage that catalyses the logistics sector. The road network spans over 100,000 kilometers, with 33 national highways connecting the state to the neighboring regions. Additionally, 1,409 kilometers of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor run through West Bengal, connecting Dankuni to Uttar Pradesh and beyond. This must be leveraged to the advantage of smooth cargo movement from West Bengal to the other states.

Extensive warehousing facilities including better inventory management practices and cold chain networks, as exist in the state, provide the enabling springboard for the sector. It is notable that West Bengal leads eastern India in warehousing capacity, with hubs like Dankuni and NH-16 witnessing a surge in demand. Modern facilities cater to sectors like e-commerce, FMCG and pharmaceuticals, meeting the needs of a fast evolving market. What makes West Bengal a preferred destination for logistics investment? These three core drivers include a conducive industrial ecosystem, well-endowed economic corridors and strategic geographical location. West Bengal is home to a thriving industrial base, from MSMEs to large-scale enterprises.



The state's Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector boasts over 42 lakh units, contributing 7.2 per cent to India's total MSMEs. Industrial clusters span sectors like textiles, leather, chemicals, and hi-tech electronics, driving demand for logistics services. The state serves as the terminus for several mega-corridors, including the Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor and the East Coast Economic Corridor. These corridors promise seamless connectivity to global value chains and open doors for exports and imports, enhancing the state's logistics ecosystem. West Bengal's connectivity with Southeast Asia through projects like the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project and the Trilateral Highway (India-Myanmar-Thailand) positions us as a strategic partner for India's integration into global value chains. The Government of West Bengal is committed to creating an investor-friendly environment.

The West Bengal Logistics Policy, 2023 embodies this vision. Some of the key features include industry status to the logistics sector, development of multi-modal logistics parks and freight villages, dedicated land banks for logistics infrastructure, streamlined approvals through an integrated single-window system, development of green logistics and the adoption of digital technologies and the existence of the West Bengal Logistics Centre of Excellence to foster innovation and skill development. Additionally, initiatives like the West Bengal Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme and the Utkarsh Bangla Scheme, as conceived and stewarded by the Department of Technical Education, Training and Skill Development, are ensuring a readymade pool of skilled workforce tailored to the sector's needs. Premier institutions such as IIT Kharagpur and IIM Calcutta complement this effort by nurturing managerial talent and innovation.

Industries and businesses are availing the opportunity for sector-specific customized capacity building of human resources as required for spurring the economic and commercial activities in respective sectors. As global supply chains shift toward greener practices, West Bengal is leading the charge with initiatives in green logistics. From leveraging inland waterways to reduce carbon footprints to integrating renewable energy in logistics parks, sustainability is at the heart of our strategy. Furthermore, the "Blue Economy" ~ focusing on fisheries, maritime tourism, and coastal trade ~ is further set to unlock significant opportunities. The rise of e-commerce has also transformed logistics. Companies like Amazon and Flipkart are investing heavily in the state, creating a ripple effect in warehousing and last-mile delivery solutions. Quick commerce, driven by demand for shorter delivery times, is further fuelling the need for modern infrastructure and technological innovation. West Bengal's logistics story is one of opportunity and transformation. The state's strategic location, growing industrial base, skilled workforce, and investor friendly policies make it the ideal destination for those looking to make impactful investments.

From infrastructure development to operational innovation, the opportunities here are vast and varied. Whether it is developing multi-modal logistics parks, investing in cold chain solutions, or pioneering green logistics practices, West Bengal offers a platform for sustainable and profitable ventures. Leveraging all these advantages, the State has already created a logistics ecosystem that not only powers economic growth, but also enhances the quality of life for millions. West Bengal's strong infrastructure, ingenious policies, facilitatory ecosystem and a strong commitment provide the enabling ambience for everyone to be part of this fascinating growth story.

(The writer is Secretary, Transport Department, Govt of West Bengal. The views expressed here are personal and do not reflect those of the Government)

Block Diwas held at Noorkha Block in Baramulla

People raise key developmental issues; DC Baramulla issues on-spot directions



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BARAMULLA:

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa Wednesday presided over a Block Diwas at Noorkha Block of Boniyar Tehsil, drawing significant public participation.

General public on the occasion flagged-off various developmental concerns and demands with the district administration.

Key issues raised included road connectivity, with demands for macadamization of inner link roads like Chala to Noorkha. Locals also called for the promotion of Vijitop

Gagward as a tourist destination and requested construction of tourism infrastructure such as huts. The upgradation of the High School at Bimyar to a Higher Secondary School was strongly advocated to improve access to higher secondary education.

Concerns were also raised regarding drinking water shortages in certain habitations. Locals demanded swift completion of PHE schemes under Jal Jeevan Mission, and also requested the establishment of ration depots in underserved areas.

Healthcare demands included the deployment of a veterinary doctor at Phelipora, as well as an ambulance,

lab technician and night staff at PHC Bimyar. Residents further demanded linking of the irrigation pump at Naganari with Ijjara and the development of a local playground.

Responding to the issues, DC issued several on-spot directions to the concerned departments. The Executive Engineer PHE was directed to expedite work on ongoing schemes and ensure that all unconnected habitations are covered in a time-bound manner. The officers from FCS&CA, were instructed to examine the feasibility and take necessary steps for establishing additional ration stores in the region to meet public needs. The concerned Zonal Education Officer was asked to process the proposal for upgradation of the High School at Bimyar to Higher Secondary level and submit it for consideration at the appropriate level. Regarding road development, the DC informed that PMGSY Phase 4 is underway, with DPRs submitted and around 40 roads in Sub Division Uri likely to be approved soon. He directed concerned engineers to prioritize macadamization of roads under (CND) scheme, especially in areas highlighted during the Block Diwas. DC also stated that the Hilan to Hakhpatri road would be developed to enhance regional tourism potential. On healthcare, he assured that an ambulance will be provided to PHC Bimyar under CSR funding, and other staff-related demands are being reviewed. Minga Sherpa reiterated the administration's commitment to inclusive and responsive governance and assured the public that all genuine demands will be addressed with urgency.

Dr. A.V.M. Public Senior Secondary School achieved 100 percent result in the 8th class results



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
LUDHIANA:

Like every year, this time too, Dr. AVM Public Senior Secondary School near Isa Nagari Puli's 8th class result was 100 percent. Out of 100 students of the school, Shruti Jha secured the first position by securing 96.16 percent marks, Yashika Soni secured the second position with 95.6 percent marks and Gurjot Kaur secured the third position with 95.66 percent marks, bringing glory to her parents and the school.

School Management Committee Chairman Rajiv Kumar Lovely congratulated the students as well as the teachers and their parents for this success.

He said that Dr. AVM Educational Society is continuously moving forward to fulfill its objective of promoting and disseminating education among all sections of the society. He believes that only by providing good education to the children can we contribute to the progress of the country. He wished a bright future for all the students.

School Principal Manisha Gaba said that apart from the first, second and third positions, Arshpreet Kaur has brought glory to the school by securing the fourth position with 94.33% marks and Gourish Goyal has secured the fifth position with 90.6% marks. Similarly, Manyata has secured 89.33 percent, Janhvi has secured 87 percent, Harleen Kaur has secured 86 percent, Jayant Olak has secured 85.33 percent, Trija has secured 85 percent, Ritesh Kumar has secured 84.66 percent, Prateek Ahuja has secured 84.66 percent, Rishika Solanki has secured 84.5 percent, Jashanpreet has secured 83.6 percent and Khushi has secured 83.66 percent marks.

She said that 10 students of the school have secured 80 percent marks and 27 students have secured more than 70 percent marks.

Principal Manisha Gaba said that the school will continue its efforts for the all-round development of the students. She wished the students a bright future.

J&K Govt sponsored Startups shine at Startup Mahakumbh 2025; wins Rs 25 Lakh cash award



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In a significant development, two startups M/s Genetico Private Limited and M/s GR8 Private Limited from J&K have emerged victorious at the prestigious Startup Mahakumbh 2025, clinching top honors in the Startup MahaRathi Challenge.

M/s Genetico Private Limited received an award of Rs. 20 lakh under the HealthTech and BioTech sector, while M/s GR8 Sports Private Limited won Rs. 5 lakh under the Gaming and Sports sector, emerging as top performers among startups

from across India in their respective categories.

Pertinently, the Startup MahaRathi challenge is a flagship initiative of the department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to organise competition among promising recognised early and growth stage startups across 10 high impact sectors wherein 2400 startups participated from across the country. The awards were given on the eve of concluding ceremony of Startup Mahakumbh organised by the DPIIT at Bharat Mandapan, New Delhi from 3rd April to 5th April, 2025.

With a funding pool of over Rs. 70

crore, the challenge not only offered grant support but also provided startups with national recognition, global exposure, structured mentorship, incubation opportunities and access to leading investor networks.

Five startups from Jammu and Kashmir participated in the Startup Mahakumbh 2025, namely GR8 Sports Private Limited (Gaming & Sports), CLMRAT Sports, AL-Hamdaan Crafts, Studio Agama, BISA Innovation Private Limited. These startups were led by Irtif Mehraj Lone, In-charge Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Business Modeling (CIIBM), JKEDI and Zahid Ali Dar, Project Manager, JKEDI.

The J&K Industries and Commerce Department has played a pivotal role in laying a strong foundation for the startup ecosystem in the Union Territory. The recognition of these two promising startups from Jammu and Kashmir demonstrates a growing startup ecosystem in the UT. The department has not only formulated a vibrant J&K Startup Policy-2024, but has also taken necessary steps for ensuring its speedy implementation through the designated Nodal agency, viz., the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI).

Sharing his thoughts on the achievement, Arjun Gupta, Founder of Genetico Private Limited, said, "It is wonderful that our years of hard work and commitment are being recognized by the government.

TLSC organises awareness program on Child Rights, Child abuse at Gurez

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BANDIPORA:

Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Gurez under the aegis of District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora today organised an awareness programme on child rights and child abuse.

The programme was aimed to sensitize the public, especially students and parents, about the fundamental rights of children and the alarming issue of child abuse in its various forms.

Chairman Tehsil Legal Services Committee, Gurez, presided over the programme and emphasized the importance of safeguarding children's rights and ensuring a secure, nurturing environment for their growth and development.

In his keynote address, Chairman highlighted various legal provisions under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, and the Constitution of India, which guarantee the safety, education, and dignity of every child. He urged all stakeholders viz. parents, teachers, legal authorities, and the community at large to remain vigilant and report any instances of abuse or exploitation.

Resource person Adv. Javaid Iqbal, legal experts, Headmaster Boys Middle School addressed the gathering and conducted interactive sessions with the audience, shedding light on identifying signs of abuse and mechanisms available for legal and psychological support.

The event concluded with a pledge to collectively work towards the protection and empowerment of every child in the region.

SKUAST-K, AICRP on Seed (NSP) distribute Quality Seed among Tribal Farmers at KVK Budgam

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BUDGAM:

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Budgam in collaboration with AICRP on Seed (Crops) NSP, Shalimar SKUAST Kashmir today organized an input distribution programme under Tribal Sub-Plan at KVK Budgam.

About 50 tribal farmers of village Lobran, Khag Block received 10q of high yielding SKUAST-K released variety of paddy seed (SR4) and Seed bins (50).

Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension SKUAST-K, chief guest on the occasion, stressed the



need for adoption and dissemination of the high yielding university-released variety of Paddy.

Explaining about the benefits of the SR4 paddy variety, Director Extension, SKUAST-K said that the variety is climate

resilient, less susceptible to diseases and has the potential to tolerate adverse weather conditions. She also briefed the farmers about the role of SKUAST-K in augmenting research in agriculture to facilitate the farming com-

munity in the valley.

Dr. Bilal Ahmad Lone (Prof. & Head KVK Budgam) briefed the tribal farmers about the role of KVK Budgam in facilitating agriculture and allied activities in the district through on farm trials, front line demonstrations and skill-based training/awareness programmes. He encouraged the farmers to avail the services of the Kendra for more profitable farming.

Dr. Gowhar Ali (Assoc. Prof. NSP) and Dr. Aflak Hamid (Assoc. Prof. NSP) deliberated upon the Package of Practices to be adopted for the SR4 variety.

Market inspections conducted in Srinagar to check quality of food items

7 FBOs found operating in insanitary/ unhygienic condition in Hazratbal area penalized

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, a Food Safety Team today conducted intensive inspections of various food outlets in Hazratbal area of the District.

During the inspection, some street vendors in Hazratbal market were found violating provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act. These violations included Temperature Control; High-risk food was exposed to temperature danger zones. Environmental Protection: High-risk food was not protected from environmental hazards.

At Hazratbal market about 7 FBOs were found operating in insanitary/ unhygienic conditions and improper handling of High Risk foods. Accordingly challan was submitted before Adjudicating Officer (ADC) Srinagar for violating various provisions of the Food Safety Act.

The Srinagar Food Safety Team led by Assistant Commissioner, Yameen ul Nabi has been working to strengthen its intelligence network to gather information about unhygienic or misbranded food items. This initiative aims to enhance food safety enforcement in District Srinagar.

Those Food Business Operators especially dealing with High Risk food are directed to maintain high standards of sanitary and Hygiene conditions of their establishments failing which strict action under FSS Act will be initiated against defaulters.

The Food Safety Team actively made food business operators aware of food safety laws. They were cautioned that strict action will be taken against violators.

Meanwhile, taking cognizance of the viral video that surfaced on social media yesterday, the Food Safety team inspected a meat shop in Hazratbal.

The shop was found to be non-operational for over 10 years, as confirmed by locals and the shopkeeper. However, the owner was discovered to be running a street vending business selling chicken, potentially storing equipment like wooden logs and knives within the shop premises.

Indian Army Hosts Symposium Honouring General Zorawar Singh's Legacy

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

In a tribute to one of India's most iconic military leaders, the Indian Army's Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, in association with the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), organized a high-profile symposium titled "General Zorawar Singh: Up, Close and Personal" at the Manekshaw Centre in Delhi Cantonment. The event was aimed at celebrating the extraordinary life, military exploits, and enduring legacy of General Zorawar Singh, a hero of Indian mili-

tary history known for his campaigns in Ladakh and Tibet.

Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), General Upendra Dwivedi, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from serving officers, especially from the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles and the Ladakh Scouts regiments, along with veterans, family members of soldiers, scholars, and historians. Their presence highlighted the continued reverence for General Zorawar Singh within the armed forces and academia. Throughout the symposium, speakers shed light on

the strategic brilliance and courage of General Zorawar Singh, particularly his expertise in high-altitude warfare. His role in extending and safeguarding the territorial boundaries of the erstwhile Dogra kingdom-largely forming the present-day region of Jammu and Kashmir-was widely acknowledged.

His legacy is deeply embedded in the traditions and ethos of the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles Regiment, which continues to serve the nation with distinction. A key moment of the event was the unveiling of two important books.

Mahatma Jyotiba Phule was a crusader for social reforms: Sat Sharma

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

On the birth anniversary of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, a commemorative programme was held at the BJP headquarters in Jammu where party President, Sat Sharma CA, led the party activists to pay floral tributes and remembered the pioneering contributions of Mahatma Phule towards social justice and equality.

The programme was organized by BJP OBC Morcha President Sunil Prajapati, who spoke on different social works done by Phule ji. Sat Sharma highlighted the unparalleled role played by Mahatma Phule in uplifting the downtrodden and challenging the deep-rooted social evils of his time. He said that Mahatma Jyotiba Phule was not only a visionary thinker but also a fearless crusader for social reforms. At a time when the marginalized and oppressed had no voice, he rose as a beacon of hope and worked tirelessly to ensure education and dignity for all. He further emphasized that Phule's work laid the foundation for an inclusive and just society, and his teachings remain as relevant today as they were during his lifetime.

Sat Sharma also spoke about



Phule's landmark efforts in the field of education, especially for women and the underprivileged sections of society. He lauded the role of Mahatma Phule and his wife, Savitribai Phule, in starting the first school for girls in India, setting in motion a revolutionary change in the Indian education system.

Calling upon the youth to follow the ideals of Mahatma Phule, Sat Sharma said, "His life teaches us the importance of courage, compassion, and commitment to social justice. It is our duty to carry forward his mission by building a society that is equitable, inclusive, and empowered through education." Rakesh Mahajan, BJP

Organizational Election Incharge, asked the party activists to take pledge to work towards the upliftment of the marginalized and to keep alive the spirit of reform that Mahatma Phule embodied throughout his life. We should promote the values of equality, education, and empowerment as envisioned by Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, he said.

Rashpal Verma, National Secretary BJP OBC Morcha, said that the life of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule teaches us to stand firm against the social evils.

Balbir Ram Rattan, Ashok Salgotra, Ram Pal, Suraj Parkash Verma, were prominent among others who also paid tributes.

J&K Startup Policy 2024-27: Renowned experts from TISS mentor J&K startups at JKEDI

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) in collaboration with the Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS) organized an exclusive mentorship programme for the startups of Jammu and Kashmir here.

The mentorship cum interaction session involving renowned experts from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Prof. Satyajit Majumdar, Managing Director TISS Incube Foundation and Sujay Dixit, CEO TISS Incube Foundation, was aimed to provide guidance and insight to the J&K startups, thereby handhold them to navigate the challenge of building and sustaining their ventures. The session offered a unique opportunity for startups of Jammu and Kashmir to benefit from the knowledge and expertise of these distinguished professionals, who have made a mark in academia, social entrepreneurship and startup incubation. The mentoring session provided the participating startups valuable insights into business growth, scalability, innovation, and entrepreneurial best practices guiding them through the challenges and opportunities in their journey.

The session brought together a diverse group of participants including budding entrepreneurs, startup founders and innovators from across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and facilitated a direct interaction between the startups and seasoned professionals in social entrepreneurship and incubation, thus inspiring and equipping them to address challenges and seize opportunities in their ventures.

Interacting with the participants, Prof. Majumdar, MD TISS Incube Foundation highlighted the importance of such collaborative initiatives in fostering a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Awareness prog. held for LSUC, support for Admission/ Re-admission in schools at B'gam



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BUDGAM:

In a significant move, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam in collaboration with Juvenile Justice Board, Budgam organized an awareness programme for Legal Services Unit for Children (LSUC), Support for Admission/Re-admission in Schools at Juvenile Justice Board Budgam.

The programme was organized

under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority and under the guidance of O.P Baghat, Chairman DLSA (Pr.&Distt.Judge) Budgam and under the supervision of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA Budgam and Shabber Ayaz, Principal Magistrate Juvenile Justice Board Budgam.

Sandeep Kour, Member Child Welfare Committee Budgam gave a brief introduction about the programme.

Advocate. Feroz Ahmad Khan

Member Child Welfare Committee, Budgam, briefed the audience about LSUC and about educational opportunities for children particularly those rescued from trafficking, abuse, and other challenging circumstances and how they can be supported for Admission/Re-admission in Schools.

Mehreen Zafer, Panel lawyer DLSA Budgam briefed the audience about the role of DLSA in rendering the services. She urged the collaborative partners including Child Welfare Committees and Child help line to raise awareness about the free and competent Legal aid meant for the juveniles and other marginalized sections of society.

In her address she also apprised the audience about specific legal provisions for vulnerable children, including those with disabilities, transgender children, and children at risk of trafficking or abuse. She clarified legal provisions, children's rights, and remedies available through legal services for children in need.

Commissioner SMC reviews progress under PMAY-U 2.0



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Commissioner SMC, Dr.Owais Ahmed Friday chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0). The meeting focused on intensifying efforts to provide 'Housing for All' and ensuring that the benefits of the scheme reach the intended urban poor and homeless populations. A key outcome of the discussion was the directive to conduct ward-wise intensive beneficiary identification camps across the city.

Commissioner emphasized the importance of transparency and inclusivity in the implementation process and instructed the teams to ensure proper field verification and documentation for each identified beneficiary. He also called for enhanced inter-departmental coordination and public outreach to raise awareness about the scheme.

"Every eligible person must be given the opportunity to live in a dignified and secure home. The goal of 'Housing for All' is inclusive urban development, and we must act swiftly and efficiently to achieve this target," said Dr. Owais.

Commissioner directed the teams to expedite pending approvals, fast-track the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), and closely monitor the progress on ground. Special attention was given in ensuring the inclusion of vulnerable groups such as women-led households, SC/ST families, and persons with disabilities.

The meeting concluded with a strong call to action to intensify implementation efforts under PMAY-U 2.0 and to make Srinagar a model city for inclusive housing.

GDC B'la hosts IEC prog. under PM Internship scheme

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BARAMULLA:

In a significant step towards youth empowerment and community outreach, an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) programme was organized today at Government Degree College (GDC) Baramulla under the ambit of the Pradhan Mantri Internship scheme.

The initiative aimed to harness the potential of young students by involving them directly in awareness generation related to key government schemes and developmental pro-

grammes.

The event was organized by the District Employment and Counselling Centre (DECC) Baramulla, and was attended by Assistant Director, DECC Baramulla, Rahil Amin, who also serves as the Nodal Officer for the Pradhan Mantri Scholarship Internship scheme in the district.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of Government Degree Colleges of Baramulla, Pattan, Sopore, as well as Polytechnic College Kanispora Baramulla and Industrial Training

Institute (ITI) Baramulla.

Interns actively engaged with the community through interactive sessions, informative talks, and direct interactions, disseminating vital information on entrepreneurship, skill development, self-employment opportunities, and various government welfare schemes.

Prominent dignitaries present on the occasion included Prof. Tariq Ahmad Chalkoo, Principal, Government Degree College Baramulla; Javed Ahmad, Principal, Industrial Training Institute Baramulla.

DC Srinagar reviews functioning of One Stop Centre

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

With an aim to ensure effective support for women affected by violence, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting at DC Office here to review the functioning of One Stop Centre (OSC), Bemina in helping women in distress and battling any form of violence.

At the outset, DC held a detailed review of the working of One Stop Centre and discussed various issues to further strengthen and broaden the activities of OSC. He directed the Officers to handle the cases of victims in a compassionate manner with extra care and precautions so that the affected women are rehabilitated with dignity.

The DC directed the concerned to show proactive approach in reaching out to the women in distress and cooperation to provide timely assistance to victims with legal protection. He also directed to spread mass awareness about the services of OSC through different kinds of IEC activities. He also stressed on increasing linkage of OSC with Police Stations.

Dr Bilal assured additional support from the administration for

Stresses proactive approach in reaching out to the women in distress, ensuring timely assistance to victims



ensuring effective and efficient functioning of the One Stop Centre so that women in distress are provided integrated support and assistance both in private and public spaces, under one roof.

The meeting was informed that as many as 727 women visited the OSC Bemina and registered complaints,

out of which 310 affected women were provided proper counseling at the centre while free legal aid was given to 188.

In addition, free Medical aid has been given to 17 affected women, police assistance to 76 and shelter to 20 women victims of violence in the District.

Dozens People Join Today Indian Praja Congress in District baramulla Our party raise always public issues: Provisional President Kashmir Javeed Ahmad Sofi



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BARAMULLA:

Today District Baramulla Various areas Join Indian Praja Congress in presence of Provisional President Kashmir Javeed Ahmad Sofi New joining people said our hope This party Solve general people problems like unemployment Water rice and road connectivity problems in Baramulla district Provisional President kashmir javeed ahmad sofi said.

Our party focus only general people issues People love with our party in j&k he said coming days more people join our party in across jammu and kashmir our state President abdul hameed goji really helpful honest and dedicated persons he available twenty four hours for people many time he go many areas in late night for people help he appealed General public please come in our party our party door every time opened for public and strong our hands Javeed ahmad sofi appealed Lg administration for solve people issue in valley like unemployment Daily wagers demands and high prices in food items also he said coming days others districts people join our party.

Bhumi & realme empower over 80,000 young lives through Tech-Driven Education and Community Development Programs



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Bhumi, one of India's leading non-profit organizations dedicated to youth empowerment and social change, has partnered with realme, the most popular smartphone brand among Indian youth, to expand its impact through a range of educational and community development programs. As a brand that understands the aspirations of young India, realme has always stood at the intersection of innovation and impact. Through this collaboration, realme aims to empower more young individuals by providing them with the right skills, resources, and opportunities to shape a brighter, more promising future.

This initiative will enable Bhumi to reach and support a larger community, equipping them with the necessary tools to build a successful path forward. Through this partnership, Bhumi will strengthen its key initiatives such as the Bhumi Fellowship, Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Program, Schools of Excellence, Ignite Shelters and Bhumi Clubs. These programs focus on enhancing education, leadership, and civic engagement, ensuring holistic development for underserved youth. By empowering young individuals with

the right tools, resources, and knowledge, realme is working toward building a brighter, more inclusive future.

The Bhumi Fellowship is a unique, two-year paid program that empowers young changemakers to bridge educational inequity in low-income communities. Fellows work hands-on in under-resourced government schools, teaching foundational skills, supporting teachers, engaging parents, and enabling holistic school transformation. Designed by Bhumi, India's largest youth volunteering organisation - the Fellowship builds a cadre of future leaders who are deeply invested in systemic education reform. Since 2020, the program has engaged 21 fellows and impacted 5352 students. The program is currently engaging 75 fellows, impacting over 13017 students and continues to nurture alumni who are driving change across the education sector. Through immersive training, mentorship, and community engagement, the Bhumi Fellowship is not just transforming schools, it's shaping the next generation of education leaders. The Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Program nurtures emotional intelligence and resilience among students, equipping them with essential life skills. Schools of Excellence aims to enhance learning

environments by improving infrastructure, training teachers, and introducing innovative teaching methodologies. Ignite Shelters provides quality education and mentorship to children in shelter homes, while Bhumi Clubs foster a spirit of volunteerism and leadership among students in schools and colleges.

Speaking about the partnership, Vaishnavi Srinivasan, Executive Director of Bhumi, said, "At Bhumi, we believe in the power of education to drive lasting change, and with realme, we're able to take this mission to the next level. With realme's support, we are not only amplifying our reach but also adding incredible momentum to our programs. Their deep connection with young India and commitment to social impact make this collaboration truly transformative. Together, we are creating meaningful opportunities for children and youth across the country to learn, grow, and lead."

Speaking on the collaboration, Tao Zhang, Chief Marketing Officer at realme India, added, "At realme, we see technology as a powerful enabler of change not just in how people connect, but in how they grow, learn, and thrive. As a youth-centric tech brand, we believe it's our responsibility to go beyond innovation and actively contribute to shaping a better future for the next generation. Our partnership with Bhumi reflects this vision; empowering young individuals with access to education, skills, and opportunities that can truly transform their lives. We are proud to support Bhumi's incredible work and to be part of a mission that combines innovation with social impact." Through these programs, more than 70,000 school children and 10,000 students from colleges across India have been empowered with access to quality education, essential life skills, and leadership opportunities.

Distt Admin B'pora conducts IEC campaign against drug abuse in educational institutions across the District

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BANDIPORA:

District administration Bandipora on Thursday organised awareness programmes in identified educational institutions across all blocks of the district, to sensitize students about the harmful effects of substance abuse.

Senior officers from the District Administration participated in the campaign to ensure comprehensive outreach and grassroots-level involvement.

The IEC campaign event at Higher Secondary School Naidkhai presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl was attended by Dy CEO, Principal HSS Naidkhai, Staff members, students and other concerned.

Speaking on the occasion, ADC highlighted the devastating impact of drug abuse on individuals, families, and society. He underscored the role of youth in building a drug-free future and highlighted the efforts of Government in eradicating the menace through awareness, rehabilitation and enforcement measures.

Resource persons from different departments also addressed the gathering, elaborating on the physical, mental, and social impacts of drug addiction, while also informing about available support systems and rehabilitation facilities for victims.

Girls Kabaddi & Volleyball Tournament organised at Thatthri, Batyas to promote Beti Bachao Beti Padhao mission

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
DODA:

The Department of Youth Services and Sports Zone Bhatyas & Thatthri in collaboration with Social Welfare Department organised an inspiring Zonal Level Girls Kabaddi & Volleyball tournament as part of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.

Over 180 Girls from different Schools of Zone Bhatyas and Thatthri showcased their athletic skills during the contests coordinated by as many as 40 YSS officials. The events aimed to empower young girls and promote gender quality through Sports. In zone Bhatyas, the inaugural Ceremony was held at Malikpura. SDM Arun Kumar Badyal presided over the inaugural event in presence of ZPEO Salahuddin and other officials.

Meanwhile, in zone Thatthri the tournament was held at GHS Boys. The school Principal Ghulam Farooq was the chief guest while ZPEO Madhan Lal coordinated the event.

The winners of the competitions were awarded with trophies and medals, while refreshment packs were distributed among all the participants.

GDC Vijaypur organises series of contests for students

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SAMBA:

Government Degree College Vijaypur Organised today organised a series of contests to assess students' perception on a wide range of subjects.

An essay writing competition was hosted on the theme 'The Consequences of Drug Abuse' under the aegis of Nisha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

The Participants were encouraged to express their views on the detrimental impact of drug abuse on individuals, families and civil society, also suggesting effective strategies for prevention and control.

The first position was secured by Palak Panotra of B. A Sem-IV, the second position was secured by Amit Kumar of B.A Sem VI and third was secured by Shravan Jamwal of B.A Sem II.

As part of the series of activities being organized to celebrate B. R. Ambedkar Jayanti, Department of History, in collaboration with NSS Unit (KHIDMAT) organized slogan writing on the theme "Constitutionalism and Rule of Law".

The event was organized to make students aware of the contribution of B. R. Ambedkar in the Indian Constitution. NSS volunteers participated in the event with great enthusiasm and zeal.

Ashok Koul underlines localized, people-centric activism, in culturally rich areas like Bhaderwah

BJP Active Member Sammelan held in Bhaderwah to strengthen grassroots engagement

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BHADERWAH:

Emphasizing the vital role of active BJP workers, Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), J&K BJP, said that "the role of an active member of BJP is crucial in building the party's presence, strengthening its organizational structure, and connecting with the local population." He underlined the importance of localized and people-centric activism, particularly in strategic and culturally rich areas like Bhaderwah.

Ashok Koul was addressing during the BJP Active Member Sammelan of Bhaderwah Assembly Constituency, held at Bhaderwah. Prominent leaders including Shakti Raj Parihar (MLA Doda West & Vice President J&K BJP), Daleep Singh Parihar (MLA Bhaderwah), Dhanantar Singh Kotwal (DDC Chairperson), Babu Ram Sharma (District President BJP Doda), and Pawan Sharma (Prabhari BJP Doda) were also present.

During his address, Ashok Koul urged active members to step up



their village-to-ward engagement to understand people's concerns and involve local civil society in disseminating awareness about Modi government welfare schemes and BJP's organizational initiatives. He asked activists to organize area-specific programmes to ensure targeted outreach and strengthen public trust.

Highlighting upcoming campaigns, Koul emphasized active participation in the 'Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Samman Abhiyan', encouraging the inclusion of prominent civil society members at the grassroots. Shakti Raj Parihar, speaking at the Sammelan, praised the Modi government's economic achievements, stating that India's

rise from the 11th to the 5th largest economy globally is a testament to visionary policies and self-reliance initiatives like Atma Nirbhar Bharat.

Dalip Singh Parihar highlighted the sustained development and peace in Jammu & Kashmir under PM Modi's leadership, acknowledging the government's commitment to consistent policy implementation and ground-level transformation.

Dhanantar Singh, DDC Chairperson, detailed the fulfillment of BJP's core promises, including economic growth, job creation, increased FDI through Make in India, and robust support for youth via Startup India and Skill India initiatives.

DC Poonch reviews arrangements for Baisakhi Festival at Dera Nangali Sahib

Ensures adequate Facilities, Security Measures for Annual Celebration



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU POONCH:

In a proactive approach to ensure the smooth conduct of the annual Baisakhi festival, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, along with concerned officers, visited Shromani Dera Santpura Nangali Sahib today. The visit included a crucial meeting with Shrimaan Mahant Manjeet Singh Ji to discuss the arrangements needed for the festival. During the meeting, the members of the management committee of Dera

Santpura Nangali raised several important issues seeking adequate provision for drinking water, proper lighting, sanitation, security and a parking facility. They also highlighted the urgent requirement for repairing potholes on the main road leading to Nangali Sahib. Responding to the demands, the Deputy Commissioner assured the committee that necessary security arrangements would be made and directed the ARTO to ensure organized vehicle parking during the festival. He directed for deployment of water tankers on the

day of Baisakhi and instructed the Power Development Department (PDD) and Jal Sahakti to guarantee sufficient power and potable water supply. Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner called on the Executive Officer of the municipality to repair all non-functional street lights and install additional lights as required. He emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness in and around places of worship and areas of congregation. To bolster security, police officials were tasked with ensuring foolproof arrangements during the festival.

Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner inspected vehicle parking sites. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Tehsildar Haveli, ARTO, XEN PHE, XEN PDD, EO Municipality, XEN PWD (R&B), along with the president of DGPC, the Manager of Nangali Sahib, members of Ramdas Sewa Society, General Secretary DGPC, and other distinguished members of Dera Nangali Sahib.

Yoga and Badminton Event Organized under Fit India Initiative at SCS GDC Mendhar



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU POONCH:

Under the Fit India Initiative, the Department of Physical Education and Sports, SCS Govt. Degree College Mendhar, organized a Yoga and Badminton events on 10th April 2025 to promote health, fitness, and well-being among students.

The programme commenced with a Yoga session at 11:15 AM, held on the college ground. Students from various semesters actively participated, practicing asanas aimed at improving flexibility, concentration, and inner calm. The Programme organized under the patronship of InCharge Principal of the college Prof. Bashir Ahmed. Dr. Sarshad Hussain Coordinator IQAC and convener sports committee who always guide in organizing such events. The session was conducted under the guidance of Head Department of Physical Education Department Dr. Mohd Ibrahim guided by Dr. Mahmood Ahmed and Mr. Fida Hussain (Lecturers Physical Education) as part of efforts to encourage a healthy lifestyle.

Following the yoga session, a Badminton match was held at 11:53 AM. Students of the college displayed enthusiasm, agility, and sportsmanship during the game. The match reflected the growing interest of students in sports and the commitment of the college to nurturing fitness culture on campus.

The event successfully aligned with the goals of the Fit India Movement, motivating students to incorporate physical activity into their daily lives and embrace a fit and healthy lifestyle.

Kupwara Police Organizes 'Thana Diwas' Across the District to Strengthen Police-Public Partnership

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU KUPWARA:

Kupwara Police Organizes 'Thana Diwas' Across the District to Strengthen Police-Public Partnership Kupwara, April 10, 2025:

As part of its ongoing initiative to promote community-oriented policing, build trust-based relationships, and ensure effective public grievance redressal, Kupwara Police today organized 'Thana Diwas' at various police establishments across the district.

A flagship event of the day was held at Police Station Kupwara, which was chaired by SSP Kupwara, Shri Ghulam Jeelani Wani (JKPS). The program was attended by DySPs (Probationers) — Mr. Shivek Sharma, Mr. Raghav Chowdhary, Mr. Goldy Sharma, and Ms. Manisha Kumari — along with SHO Kupwara, Inspector Yasir Rashid. The event witnessed active and enthusiastic participation from local residents, civil society representatives, business leaders, retired police personnel, and youth groups.

Simultaneously, Thana Diwas programs were conducted at:

- Police Post Kelaroos, chaired by ASP Kupwara Mr. Ghulam Mohammad Bhat,
- Police Post Hatmulla, attended by DySP Headquarters Mr. Mohammad Rafee Rather, and
- Police Post Awoora, chaired by DySP Lolab Mr. Javaid Lone.

During these interactive sessions, citizens were encouraged to raise issues related to law enforcement, drug abuse, road safety, domestic violence, traffic management, infrastructure gaps, and civic concerns. The police officers listened patiently, documented all grievances, and assured timely action and coordination with the concerned departments wherever necessary. SSP Kupwara, while addressing the gathering, emphasized the importance of public participation in policing and reiterated the police department's resolve to function with transparency, accountability, and approachability. He assured that grievances related to policing and public safety will be addressed on priority, and police will continue working closely with the community to ensure peace and harmony in the district.

DC reviews drug control measures in Udhampur

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU UDHAMPUR:

To review and reinforce measures to combat drug abuse in the district, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai today chaired the District-Level Committee meeting under the Narco Coordination Centre here in Mini Conference Hall of DC Office Complex Udhampur. The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Amod Ashok Nagpure; Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh and other

senior officers.

A comprehensive discussion was held on different aspects of drug prevention, including identification and rehabilitation of drug addicts, tracking and apprehending individuals involved in drug trafficking, identifying drug abuse hotspots, strengthening Nasha Mukta Panchayat initiatives and implementing robust rehabilitation measures for addicts.

The DC directed the stakeholder departments to intensify counseling services and IEC activities to spread awareness about devastating conse-

quences of drug abuse.

Head of the Colleges were directed to organize regular awareness programs in their institutions.

The CMO was instructed to conduct sensitization and counseling sessions for staff at all healthcare institutions and to extend IEC campaigns. The DC stressed strict enforcement actions to seize illicit drugs and protect the youth from drug abuse. The DC emphasized disrupting drug supply chains through a collaborative approach among all line departments.

DDC inspects key developmental projects in Poonch

Inaugurates SHD's Multifunctional Common Facilitation Centre at Seiklu Mandi

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU POONCH:

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Vikas Kundal today conducted an extensive tour of the district to assess the progress of various developmental projects aimed at enhancing the socio-economic landscape of the region.

During his visit, DDC Kundal inspected several key initiatives, including the Mother Block Orchards and Revised Modified High Density Orchard at Block NSSB, the Crusher to Kotli Road at Chaktroo Sathra and the Multifunctional Common Facilitation Centre at Seiklu Mandi. At the horticulture orchards, the Deputy Commissioner was informed about cultivation of 166 Apple plants in one kanal area by using the innovative trellis system combined with drip irrigation. It was further informed that more than three varieties of apples are being grown, which are expected to begin fruiting within a year—earlier than the typical fruiting cycle in Kashmir. The advancement allows farmers to sell their produce at higher market prices. The DDC urged the department to establish more such



orchards across the district to further enhance farmers' incomes and improve their livelihoods. District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal also inspected the progress of work on Crusher to Kotli Road at Chaktroo Sathra. The project is being executed by the Rural Development Department. He evaluated the quality of the work to ensure it meets the detailed project report (DPR) and engineering standards. Later, the District Development Commissioner inaugurated the newly constructed Multifunctional Common Facilitation Centre at Seiklu Mandi under the Holistic Agriculture Development

Program (HADP) at an approved cost of ₹ 39.07 lakh. The facility will serve local sheep breeders, cooperative societies, Self Help Groups, and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) by providing value addition to locally produced wool through bailing, spinning, weaving, and knitting, ultimately producing finished products for marketing. This initiative aims to boost the economy in the sheep husbandry sector.

The visit underscores the administration's commitment to addressing civic issues, expediting developmental works, and improving the overall infrastructure and living standards of local residents.

Intensive Snow Clearance Operations Underway on Mughal Road; Senior Officials Monitor Progress

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

In a high-level review of the snow clearance efforts on the historic Mughal Road, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Poonch, Vikas Kundal, conducted an extensive on-ground inspection up to Pir Ki Gali, emphasizing the urgency of reopening the road for vehicular traffic.

During his inspection, DC Kundal met with Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta, to discuss the feasibility and timeline for reopening this crucial route that links the Pir Panjal region with the Kashmir Valley.

Accompanying the DC were key officials including SSP Poonch Shafqat Hussain, Additional SP Shopian Showkat Wani, SDPO Surankote Ajaz Ahmed Choudhary, SHO Surankote Sachinder, and Incharge Police Post Bafiaz Amit Singh. The presence of this elite team highlights the strategic importance of the Mughal Road not only as a historical artery but also a lifeline for trade, travel, and tourism.

While the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) had completed



snow clearance from Poonch to Pir Ki Gali two days ago, fresh snowfall and landslides today have posed new challenges, delaying the reopening. The road was earlier expected to be opened for traffic today, but renewed landslides at multiple points have made it unsafe for travel.

"We understand the importance of this road for the economic and social well-being of our people," said DC Kundal.

"Efforts are being expedited to ensure the road is cleared and rendered safe for movement. BRO,

Traffic Police, and other stakeholders are working in coordination to open the route as early as possible."

SSP Shafqat Hussain added that security and traffic management protocols are being finalized, and teams have been deployed to ensure swift communication and assistance in case of emergencies.

Early restoration of the Mughal Road is expected to benefit farmers, local traders, transporters, and tourists, potentially boosting the economy of both Poonch and Shopian districts.

MD JJM calls for speeding up of pipeline mapping in Jammu province

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Mission Director Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) J&K Khurshid Ahmad Shah today convened a review meeting of Jal Shakti (PHE) Divisions of Jammu province through virtual mode.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Jammu, Executive Engineers of civil and Mechanical divisions, besides Superintending Engineers of respective circles.

The MD enquired about the pace of pipeline mapping in the region, while directing the Engineers to expedite the execution work in their respective Divisions.

The Mission Director was assured that the targets will be achieved soon. The chair urged the officers to clear the backlogs and gear up for achieving new targets within set timelines.

The Mission Director also directed the divisional officers to complete the ongoing schemes where 80-90 percent works stand completed.

Expenditure reconciliation, Dump data and overall progress in the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in Jammu Province was also discussed in the meeting.

CS pushes for tourism promotion of Reasi's iconic rail bridges



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
REASI:

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today conducted an exhaustive visit to two of the region's most iconic engineering landmarks; the Anji Khad Bridge and the world's highest railway bridge over the Chenab River in Reasi district.

Recognizing the immense potential of these architectural marvels, the Chief Secretary called for their immediate promotion as key tourist destinations. He emphasized that both sites, due to their engineering brilliance and scenic location, deserve to be integrated into the broader tourism circuit of the region.

Highlighting the proximity of these sites to the holy shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, the Chief Secretary advised that the pilgrims visiting the cave shrine should be encouraged to also visit AnjiKhad and the Chenab Rail Bridge.

This, he observed, would not only diversify the tourism offerings of the region but also serve as a catalyst for local economic development, generating employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for the local youth.

In his interaction with the district administration, the Chief Secretary directed the officials to explore development of supporting infrastructure and visitor amenities around both the locations.

This included provision for rest areas, guided tours, food stalls and other facilities aimed at enhancing the overall experience for the tourists and pilgrims alike. He also stressed the need for installing informative signage and display boards at the sites.

These boards, he said, should highlight the unique technological and structural features of these bridges. By doing so, visitors would not only gain insights into the engineering prowess behind these projects but would also develop a sense of national pride and appreciation for the infrastructural advancements being made across the country, he added.

The Chief Secretary was accompanied by Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; DC, Reasi; SSP, Reasi; senior officers from the Northern Railways and other local officers from civil administration and police department.

Progress of JJM, HADP schemes reviewed at Handwara

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KUPWARA:

In order to ensure timely completion of works under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and saturation of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in sub district Handwara, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi Friday chaired a series of meetings with concerned officers, here.

While chairing the meeting of PHE officers, the ADC impressed upon the concerned engineers to speed up the

pace of work and ensure completion of all ongoing JJM schemes in the sub district to mitigate the water supply issues of people of various areas.

The meeting held a threadbare discussion regarding the status of various ongoing water supply schemes coming up in different areas of PHE division Handwara.

It was informed that 10 schemes have been completed under JJM in the sub district besides, out of the total 122 allotted works pertaining to construction of Bore wells/Tube wells/Dug wells, OHTs, RSFPs,

GSRs/Pipe Network, 59 works stands completed and work is in progress on the rest of the projects.

The ADC chaired a separate meeting of concerned officers to review the progress of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and other schemes of the Agriculture department.

He enjoined upon the officers to ensure awareness of the HADP scheme at grassroots level so that maximum beneficiaries are covered and benefitted under the ambitious scheme targeted for upliftment and welfare of the farmer community.

DC Baramulla convenes meeting to review alignment of Sopore-Kupwara Railway Line



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BARAMULLA:

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired an important meeting to

review the proposed alignment of the Sopore-Kupwara railway line, a key connectivity project in north Kashmir.

The meeting was informed that the proposed alignment has been care-

fully planned to minimize the impact on horticultural land and avoid existing structures to the maximum extent possible. The Northern Railway officials presented detailed maps and technical plans to support their assessment.

DC emphasized the need for a balanced approach that ensures development while safeguarding public interest. He instructed the concerned departments to maintain coordination and ensure that land acquisition and other procedural aspects are handled smoothly and transparently.

The Sopore-Kupwara railway line is expected to significantly enhance regional connectivity and contribute to the socio-economic upliftment of the area.

The meeting was attended by ADC Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina; ADC Baramulla, Syed Altaf Hussain Musvi; senior engineers and consultants from Northern Railway, besides other senior revenue officers of the district.

DDC conducts extensive tour of Block Arnas to review development works, redress public grievances

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
REASI:

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Nidhi Malik today conducted an extensive tour of the Arnas block.

During the visit, the DDC convened a Public Grievances Redressal Camp at the CFC Salal, where she interacted with local residents and listened to their demands, primarily related to water supply, land compensation, and need for new developmental projects.

The DDC passed on-the-spot instructions to the concerned executing agencies to resolve the issues raised by the community on a priority basis. She assured the people of Salal that their grievances would be addressed promptly. The DDC also directed the Tehsildar to visit the site again and submit an action-taken report.

As part of the tour, DDC Reasi also visited several educational institutions, including the Government High Secondary School Salal, Government Middle School Chubbi, and Government Girls Middle School Kanthan. She checked staff attendance, classrooms, ICT labs, class-wise timetables, and the academic performance of the schools. She interacted with students, teachers, and parents and inquired about their concerns. DDC Malik directed the school heads to ensure that students have access to the necessary resources for their studies. She also emphasized the importance of maintaining proper hygiene in school kitchens and washrooms.

Additionally, the DDC visited the Kisan Khidmat Ghar at Salal and urged the authorities to enroll more farmers in the Daksh Kissan pro-



gram to boost agricultural productivity and welfare. She also visited the Health and Wellness Center and instructed the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Reasi to fill all vacant posts to ensure the center operates effectively and serves the community's healthcare needs. Furthermore, the DDC inspected the Anganwadi Centers in Salal and Arnas areas and urged the staff to ensure the best possible nutrition for children, focusing on their health and well-being. She also inspected various Rural Development Department (RDD) works, including the composite pit and protection wall completed under the MGNREGA scheme.

Later, DDC Nidhi Malik reviewed the implementation of Integrated Dairy Development Scheme, engaging with beneficiaries of the program. She directed the concerned officers to raise awareness about the scheme to ensure that more people benefit from its provisions.

The DDC also inspected the min-

ing blocks at Arnas, evaluating the current status and ensuring proper management of mining activities in the district.

She gave strict instructions to the concerned authorities to take immediate action against any individuals or groups found mining beyond their designated parameters. She directed the concerned officials to submit daily Action Taken Reports (ATR) to keep track of mining activities and ensure compliance with all regulations.

The DDC also visited Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) in Arnas, inspected the classrooms, dining hall, and lodging hall, interacted with the students, and directed the executive agency to improve the building and infrastructure of the KGBV. Various officials, including CPO Narinder Kumar, Tehsildar, BDO, CAO, CAHO, DSHO, XENs, CMO, DIO, CDPO, ZEO and other concerned personnel accompanied the Deputy Commissioner.

Special summary revision intensified in Budgam, Nagrota ACs

Special camps to be held on April 12,13

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The activities of Special Summary Revision 2025 for the twin Assembly Constituencies of 27 Budgam and 77 Nagrota have gained momentum following the guidelines of Election Commission of India.

The integrated draft electoral rolls for the two constituencies have already been published on 8th April 2025 with 1st April 2025 as the qualifying date. The period for filing claims and objections in that respect shall end on 24th April with the disposal of claims and objections by 2nd May 2025 and final publication of Electoral Rolls on 5th May 2025.

It is pertinent to mention here that the eligible voters can register themselves by filling Form 6 for inclusion (Form 6A in case of overseas elector, Form 7 for objecting inclusion or deleting of name and Form 8 for correction of particulars in the electoral roll or replacement of photograph). Electors can also submit their claims in their respective polling stations on 12th and 13th April wherein Special Camps are to be organised.

The filling of claims is a continuous process and shall be closed on 24th April 2025, reads the communique issued by the Office of Chief Electoral Officer J&K, Pandurang K Pole. Pole, while highlighting the importance of voting, said that, "it is our duty to participate in the democratic traditions of our country and the first step towards that goal is getting ourselves registered as electors."

Speaking on the mechanism of grievance redressal of electors regarding inclusion/deletion; the Chief Electoral Officer assured that the issues/ grievances of citizens shall be promptly addressed. He stressed that any aggrieved elector can appeal against the decision of the Electoral Registration Officer to the District Magistrate. If he/she is still unsatisfied with the decision, there is also a provision of second appeal before the Chief Electoral Officer, he added.

7th Rashtriya Poshan Pakhwada 2025 celebrated in Poonch



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

District Administration Poonch, in collaboration with Poshan Unit, celebrated the Seventh Rashtriya Poshan Pakhwada 2025 with great enthusiasm here at the Auditorium Hall of SKC GDC.

The campaign focused on four critical themes set for this year -- the first 1,000 days of life, popularising the Poshan Tracker's beneficiary module, community-based management of malnutrition, and addressing childhood obesity through lifestyle changes. Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal was the chief guest at the event attended by ACR Mohammad Sayeed; PO ICDS Khalid Hussain Wafa; DSWO Wakeel Ahmed Bhat; Chief Medical Officer Dr. Parvaiz, ACP Parvaiz Ahmed Khan and Professor Rakesh Sharma from GDC Poonch, along with a large number of female guests. In his address, the DC emphasized the importance of the POSHAN Abhiyaan, a national nutrition mission aimed at improving the nutritional status of children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. He commended the staff working on the mission for their dedication and achievements. PO ICDS, ACR, CMO and others also addressed the gathering, stressing the significance of the mission and its various initiatives. The event featured engaging skits, speeches, and awareness activities focused on Mission Poshan schemes, such as "Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi," traditional dietary practices, health education for pregnant women, infant and young child feeding practices, and the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, along with information on Aadhar enrollment.

CS for boosting last mile connectivity under PMGSY-IV



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In a decisive step towards enhancing rural infrastructure, the UT Level Standing Committee (UTLSC) meeting was today convened here under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, to review and approve critical proposals under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Phase-IV (PMGSY-IV).

The meeting besides Principal Secretary, Home; Secretary, PWD; Secretary, Transport; Secretary, Revenue; DG, Budget; Engineer-in-Chief was attended by other concerned officers from the various departments. The Chief Secretary emphasized upon utilizing this scheme for expanding all-weather rural road connectivity to underserved areas across the Union Territory. He made out that the department should target speedy approval for all the surveyed roads.

Dulloo directed the department to prioritise these projects as per the

Comprehensive New Connectivity Priority List (CNCPL) so that same receives early nod from the central government. He also advised them to ensure that the far off areas get last-mile connectivity under this flagship scheme.

The newly launched PMGSY-IV initiative, approved by the Ministry of Rural Development, aims to connect rural habitations those are eligible due to increased populations as recorded in the 2011 Census. Spanning from 2024-25 to 2028-29, this phase promises to bridge critical gaps in access to education, healthcare, markets and administrative services by giving them access through construction of all-weather roads. About the criteria, Secretary, PWD, Bhupinder Kumar, informed that the PMGSY-IV has been structured to ensure inclusivity with population thresholds of 500+ in plains, 250+ in Hilly States/UTs and 100+ in LWE (Left Wing Extremism) affected areas. He further elaborated that the cluster approach combines habi-

tations within a 500-meter radius (or 1.5 km in hilly terrain) to qualify as a single entity for connectivity. In addition to sensitive border blocks, all habitations within a 10 km path distance are considered a cluster to address strategic and developmental priorities.

It was also revealed that all-weather roads under PMGSY-IV would ensure minimal service disruption with no more than 24 hours of blockage at a time and not exceeding six such instances per year. Roads previously constructed with just Stage-I formation under PMGSY-I, lacking essential pavement layers, will also be completed under the current phase. Regarding the funding model, it was revealed that the share of Centre would be 90% with 10% UT share. The UT would be responsible for full maintenance for a decade post-construction. It was apprised that a Comprehensive New Connectivity Priority List (CNCPL) has been finalized at block and district levels. The list incorporates inputs from the Home Department to factor in security-related exigencies, especially in sensitive or border-adjacent areas. The committee reviewed and approved a district-wise alignment of road projects proposed under Batch-I. These included not just new roads but also the de-sanctioning of 13 road projects and 11 bridges under PMGSY-I, which are proposed to be taken up afresh under PMGSY-IV for early completion under this scheme.

Govt focuses on boosting entrepreneurship, employment: Dy CM Surinder Choudhary

Reviews functioning of Labour and Employment department



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, convened a comprehensive meeting to review the functioning of Labour and Employment department, here today.

Secretary Labour and Employment, Rajiv Ranjan, Labour Commissioner, Charandeep Singh, Deputy Labour Commissioner, Assistant Labour Commissioners of Jammu division and other officers were present during the meeting.

The Department gave a power point presentation highlighting its progress and achievements under various schemes. He apprised that the department intends to establish

1.5 lakh nano entrepreneurship which are under Rs 10 lakh and need no collateral from the applicant as overall budget for Mission YUVA is Rs 1830 crore.

The Dy CM had district wise review of all the schemes besides assessing the hindrances in desirable outcomes of the initiatives.

The Dy CM, while highlighting the need for creating awareness about various labour welfare schemes being implemented by the Government, said that the same will help in ensuring the benefit percolates to the targeted population. He asked the officers to regularly hold awareness camps so that the information about the benefits of different schemes is properly disseminated. "The officers should ensure that

these camps are holistic, so that massive participation of stakeholders is ensured", he maintained.

He asked the concerned officials to motivate the individuals and create supportive environment for all businesses to thrive besides focusing on capacity building. Surinder Choudhary reiterated government's commitment to establish J&K as a thriving hub of enterprises and holistic employment by fostering entrepreneurship culture. "Government's prime focus is on boosting entrepreneurship and employment," he added.

He also directed for undertaking regular inspection of various business establishments so that the welfare of workers is ensured. He said that there should be no laxity whenever a violation is observed. He asked the officers to conduct regular inspections of Industrial Estates, Hotels, Factories and other business establishments to gather feedback on production units besides the facilities and working conditions of human resource engaged there.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister met several deputations who projected their issues and sought redressal of the same. Surinder Choudhary assured them that the Government would ensure time bound redressal of their issues.

DC reviews implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme in Samba



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SAMBA:

District Development Commissioner Rajesh Sharma today reviewed the implementation and progress achieved under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) here at a meeting held in the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex. At the outset, Chief Agriculture Officer S. Madan Gopal Singh and Sectoral heads provided a comprehensive update on the progress achieved under HADP across their respective departments.

Speaking at the meeting, the DDC urged the officers to intensify efforts to reach out to farmers, ensuring their maximum participation in HADP initiatives. He emphasized the optimal utilization of available resources to achieve tangible results.

The DDC also directed the Agriculture and Allied Departments to strengthen beneficiary tracking through the Kisan Sathi Output Tracking App (KSOT) and ensure the registration of maximum farmers on the Kisan Kendra Ghar (KKG) Portal.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Samba, Champa Devi; Chief Horticulture Officer Samba; District Sheep Husbandry Officer Samba; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Samba & others.

DIPR Pulwama hosts Mahjoor Day

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
PULWAMA:

A mega function was held today at Mahjoor Memorial Govt Boys Higher Secondary School Pulwama to pay tribute to the legendary poet of Kashmir, Peerzada Ghulam Ahmad Mehjoor—widely revered as 'Shaair-e-Kashmir'. The event was organised on the occasion of Mahjoor Day to honour his timeless legacy, celebrate his profound contribution to Kashmiri language and literature and reflect upon the social, cultural and philosophical messages embedded in his poetry.

The programme was organised by Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) Pulwama in joint collaboration with the JK Mahjoor Foundation and District Cultural Society Pulwama along with special invitation to A. R. Azaad Memorial Foundation. Peerzada Abdaal Mahjoor, grandson of Peerzada Ghulam Ahmad Mehjoor and President of J&K Mahjoor Foundation, graced the occasion as the chief guest while Dr. Peerzada Farhat Ahmad, ACD Pulwama, also presided over the event as the chief guest, which was also attended by CMO Pulwama, BDO Pulwama.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from renowned poets, literary figures and cultural enthusiasts from across the valley, besides students in large numbers also attended the event. Speaking on the occasion, Peerzada Abdaal Mahjoor introduced the audience to lesser-known aspects of Mahjoor's life and informed that work on various projects of Mahjoor is currently underway, with "Kulliyat-e-Mahjoor" expected to be published soon in response to the pressing demand of Public. He commended the DIPR, Pulwama, along with various literary associations, for their efforts in organising events of cultural and literary importance. During his speech, he highlighted the message of universal brotherhood and peace conveyed by Mahjoor through his poetry. In his address, Dr. Peerzada Farhat Ahmad highlighted the significance of Pulwama's intellectual and cultural heritage, emphasizing the need to preserve and promote these traditions for future generations.

Polycab India Doubles Down on the Fan Category; Unveils Super ROI Fans Superior Air delivery, Superior Savings

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BUDGAM:

Polycab India, a leader in electrical solutions, is strengthening its presence in the fan category with the launch of its Super ROI range. Designed to set new benchmarks, this strategic initiative aims to redefine Return on Investment (ROI) for the fans category. This range promises a perfect synergy of high performance, energy efficiency and modern aesthetics. With rising energy costs and evolving consumer preferences, Polycab remains dedicated to delivering innovative solutions that ensure superior value for customers.

Polycab's range of Super ROI Fans, are powered by BLDC technology. They not only help you save up to 50% energy and electricity*, but their select BLDC models also provide 25% higher air delivery Reverse rota-

tion help you stay comfortable in winters also. Built with a 100% copper winding motor, these fans promise durability and reliability, backed by a four-year warranty. Polycab fans are available in modern aesthetic designs, in over 30 colours to complement your home décor.

These Polycab Super ROI fans, ensure Return on Performance, Return on Technology and Return on Product, making it the right investment that pays off.

To cater to the growing demand, Polycab has made substantial investments in the fan category. The company has set up a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility with a production capacity exceeding 9 million fans. This strong manufacturing infrastructure is backed by an advanced Research and Development (R&D) centre, leveraging deep consumer insights to drive

innovation and deliver exceptional products

Speaking on the launch, Mr. Ishwinder Khurana, Executive President & Chief Business Officer (B2C), Polycab India, said, "Today's consumers expect more from their home appliances. With evolving needs and rising energy costs, 61% of consumers prioritize energy efficiency, without compromising on performance or aesthetics. Recognizing this demand, fans have become a strategic growth pillar for Polycab.

Following the success of our Roorkee plant, we have established a state-of-the-art facility in Halol to accelerate expansion. The Super ROI Fans are designed to exceed traditional expectations, embodying Polycab's dedication to innovation and offering solutions that genuinely 'pay back' over time."

ECI rejects suggestions on EVMs' vulnerability to hacking

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The Election Commission on Friday rejected the suggestions that Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) used in the country are vulnerable to hacking, asserting that the machines work like simple calculators which are not connected to the internet or infrared.

Referring to the reported remarks of United States Director of National Intelligence, Tuksi Gabbard, that her office has obtained evidence of vulnerabilities to the hacking of elec-

tronic voting systems for manipulating votes, the sources pointed out that some countries use "electronic voting systems" which are a mix of multiple systems, machines and processes including various private networks including the Internet.

They underlined that India uses Electronic Voting Machines that work like "simple, correct and accurate calculators" and cannot be connected to either the internet, WiFi or infrared.

These machines have stood legal scrutiny by the Supreme Court and are invariably checked by the politi-

cal parties at various stages, including conduct of "mock polls" before actual polling starts.

More than five crore paper trail machine slips have been verified and matched while counting in front of political parties, they pointed out.

Then Chief Election Commissioner, Rajiv Kumar, had in January responded to Musk's claim saying, "A global IT expert said EVMs can be hacked while our elections were going on.

They (the US) don't have EVMs, they have electronic voting mechanisms.