

The Kashmir Talk

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LG Sinha inaugurates 'Bharat Sanrachna J&K 2025' Exhibition



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today inaugurated 'Bharat Sanrachna J&K 2025' exhibition and public outreach initiative at Srinagar.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor issued a stern warning to divisive elements in the society to stop spreading fake and dangerous narratives that threaten peace and harmony.

"Some people are giving irresponsible statements by saying

that guests are spoiling the culture of J&K. They are stating there is a demographic invasion and alcoholism is spreading. This is the similar narrative as of terror outfit TRF. I appeal to those making such statements to stop peddling such narrative. We have already lost many innocent lives due to similar statements in the past" the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated his resolve to ensure justice for terror victim families and warned that those responsible for their sufferings will be held accountable.

"We are honoring and delivering justice to real terror victims of Kashmir valley. I recently met terror victim families in Anantnag. SRO-43 was compromised in the past. Instead of those who are entitled for jobs, the killers were granted jobs under SRO-43. Whoever

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Army launches Operation Shiva 2025 to ensure secure conduct of Amarnath Yatra



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

The Indian Army has launched 'Operation SHIVA 2025' in close coordination with the Civil Administration and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) to ensure the smooth and secure conduct of the Amarnath Yatra. This annual high-tempo operation aims to provide a robust security architecture along both the Northern and Southern Yatra routes, particularly in light of the heightened threat from Pakistan-backed proxies in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor. As part of this year's

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India hit 9 terror targets, no damage to Indian structures: Doval



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
CHENNAI:

India smashed nine terror targets with precision, crisscrossing Pakistan, under Operation Sindoor, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval said here on Friday and dared the foreign media to show "even one image" of damage to

any Indian structure, even a "glass pane having been broken".

Speaking at the 62nd Convocation of IIT Madras, Doval also asserted that not a single intended target in Pakistan was missed during the May 7 military offensive, which was in retaliation for the April 22

Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 persons dead.

"Mention of Sindoor was made here. We are really proud of how much indigenous content there was. We decided to have nine terrorist targets in the crisscross of Pakistan, it was not in the border areas. We missed none. We hit nowhere else except that. It was precise to the point where we knew who was where. The entire operation that started at 1.05 am took 23 minutes," he said amid loud cheers from the gathering.

Criticising the foreign media, Doval, who specifically named the New York Times, said: "They (international media) wrote these things and put out things. The images

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Tourism bouncing back in J&K post Pahalgam attack: CM Omar



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KOLKATA:

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said there is a renewed sense of optimism surrounding the revival of tourism in the state, following the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 people dead.

Speaking at a travel and tourism event, Abdullah said there is hope for a fresh start in

Jammu and Kashmir, with tourism "bouncing back" after the terror attack.

"2025 hasn't been an easy year for us. The year can be divided into two parts - before and after Pahalgam attack. We all see that tourism is bouncing back in J&K. There is a message of hope," Abdullah said.

He described the current phase as a "new beginning" for the state's

tourism sector. "It is no longer a story of gloom and doom," he added.

The chief minister noted that over the past three months, the tourism model in Jammu and Kashmir had evolved from "volume-based" to "value-based", reflecting a shift towards quality experiences over mere numbers.

Recalling the immediate aftermath of the attack, he said, "From full hotels to empty ones, from crowded shikaras in Dal Lake to none, the situation is gradually recovering. It is now a message of hope as dark clouds are lifting."

He said from 50 direct flights to the state to around 15 after the Pahalgam attack, it

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New BrahMos testing facility will strengthen India's Self-Reliance: Rajnath Singh

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
LUCKNOW:

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said the newly inaugurated integration and testing facility of BrahMos Aerospace in Lucknow will strengthen the country's self-reliance in the defence sector.

Singh said this at an event in Lucknow where he unveiled the statue of former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Chandra Bhanu Gupta at the National PG College and released a postage stamp. "Just a few days ago,

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JeM, LeT could use Nepal as transit route to target India, warns top Nepalese official

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

Two months after India destroyed key terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pak-occupied Kashmir during Operation Sindoor, a top Nepalese official has warned that terrorists carry out attacks from Nepal.

Sunil Bahadur Thapa, adviser to



the Nepalese president, said

Pakistan-sponsored terrorist groups like Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) could use Nepal as a transit route to target India. He was speaking at a discussion on the topic, 'Terrorism in South Asia: Challenges to Regional Peace and Security', conducted by the Nepal

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CONTD FROM PAGE 1...

LG Sinha inaugurates ...

misused the SRO-43, will face the action" the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor shared the remarkable growth story of the country and Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir in the past few years.

"Since 2014, our great nation is rapidly moving towards becoming a global superpower with new resolve, new thinking and a new roadmap.

Within 6 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has written a new history of J&K. It is new J&K where children have pens in their hands and not stones, schools and colleges remain open throughout the year, where calendars of international programmes are published instead of bandhs and strikes.

It's a new J&K where our youth is achieving new heights in innovation and research. It's a new J&K where our youth is now focusing on startups and starting their own business ventures. Now in the new J&K, instead of slogans of separatism, the noise of factories, tourists and people's laughter is being heard," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that in the last 5-6 years, J&K's economy has doubled. The UT of J&K has become a favourite investment designation and more BPOs are also coming up in the UT. J&K Bank which was earlier at the loss of Rs 1300 cr is now at the profit of Rs 1700 cr, he added.

"J&K is writing stories of its golden era by ensuring equal opportunities to the aspirations of the deprived classes, farmers, women and the youth. What was previously impossible in J&K has been made possible," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The Lieutenant Governor said the next 22 years can prove to be golden years for Jammu and Kashmir in the journey of Amrit Kaal, provided we give the new generation an opportunity to play a big role in this development journey of the nation.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Central Schemes and Innovations will shape our youth's dream into reality. I am looking forward to the day when youth from J&K will join the space sector, become an astronaut to explore new frontiers of space," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, commended the 'Bharat Sanrachna J&K 2025' initiative aimed at creating awareness about government schemes, welfare programmes and highlighting innovation and technology driven development across multiple sectors.

He said the two-day mega exhibition will educate and engage youth, students, farmers, entrepreneurs and every section of society with real-time exposure of government services and build the bridge between government and the people.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the presence of the Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of MSME, Ministry of Space, Bureau of Indian Standards, Indian Council of Medical Research, Ministry of Tourism and Indian Council of Agricultural Research in today's exhibition is a significant step towards inclusive development.

He emphasized that the schools and colleges should visit the exhibition in large numbers to inspire youth and encourage their contribution to Jammu & Kashmir's development journey.

The 3-day long event will feature interactive Exhibitions from central ministries, PSUs, institutions, and national boards; Live Demonstrations & Hands-on Experiences for students and visitors; Workshops, Seminars & Expert Talks on topics like innovation, sustainability, and government support; Skill Zones, career guidance sessions, and youth empowerment modules and showcase of local success stories and integration of local artisans and entrepreneurs.

Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Tarun Jain, Director, Tarmeh Events; officials from Central government departments and UT Administration, prominent citizens, innovators, entrepreneurs and youth in large number were present.

Army launches...

enhanced security framework, over 8,500 troops have been deployed, supported by a wide array of technological and operational resources. A dynamic counter-terrorism grid, prophylactic security deployment, and corridor protection measures have been instituted. Comprehensive assistance to civil authorities is also being provided, particularly in disaster management and emergency response.

The Indian Army's efforts include the installation of a Counter-UAS grid with more than 50 C-UAS and EW

systems each to neutralise drone threats. "Regular UAV missions and live monitoring of Yatra routes and the Holy Cave. Engineer task forces for bridge construction, track widening, and disaster mitigation," an official release read.

The Indian Army has arranged more than 150 doctors and medical personnel, with two Advanced Dressing Stations, nine Medical Aid Posts, a 100-bed hospital, and 26 oxygen booths supported by 2,00,000 litres of oxygen.

"Signal companies for seamless communication, EME detachments for technical support, and Bomb Detection & Disposal Squads. Emergency rations for 25,000 persons, QRTs, tent cities, water points, and plant equipment, including bulldozers and excavators," the release informed about the deployments by the Indian Army. Indian Army helicopters remain on standby for any contingency response.

The Indian Army is harnessing advanced technology to ensure a robust security framework during the ongoing Amarnath Yatra. By implementing live tracking of Yatra convoys between Jammu and the Holy Cave, the Army is maintaining constant situational awareness through high-resolution PTZ cameras and drone feeds.

Real-time updates on convoy movement are being monitored to pre-empt any threats, while seamless multi-agency coordination ensures swift response and effective security management across the entire route.

Operation SHIVA 2025 reflects the Indian Army's unwavering commitment to ensure a safe, seamless, and spiritually fulfilling Yatra for all devotees undertaking the sacred pilgrimage.

India hit 9 terror...

only showed 13 air bases in Pakistan before and after May 10, whether it was in Sargodha, Rahim Yar Khan, Chaklala or Rawalpindi," but images only showed damage done by the Indian Air Force on Pakistan's bases.

"You tell me one image or photograph which shows any damage to any Indian structure, even a glass pane having been broken," he said.

Addressing the students, Doval also emphasised the link between technology and warfare and said the country should develop indigenous technology to meet its requirements.

Referring to the earlier speaker, Padma Vibhushan awardee and legendary danseuse Padma Subrahmanyam, who congratulated Doval for the success of Operation Sindoor, the NSA said, "I am really proud of it (Operation Sindoor). Much of it was driven by indigenous content." "We are proud of it—that some of our best systems worked, whether it was BrahMos (missiles), the integrated air control and command system...or battlefield surveillance. We decided on nine terrorist targets, not in the border areas but in the crisscross of Pakistan, and we missed none," he added.

Earlier, speaking at the convocation, Subrahmanyam said the historic victory of Operation Sindoor was a manifestation of adherence to the valour that the Bhagavad Gita preaches.

"As a proud Indian, I have always offered my salutations to our jawans, who are our national guardian angels," she said, congratulating Doval for his role in the operation.

At the event, Doval said the country could not afford to lose the technology battle and remain behind or fall decades behind others.

He acknowledged the role of IIT, Madras, and the private sector in developing 5G in two-and-a-half years' time, whereas the Chinese took over 12 years and spent 300 billion dollars to develop 5G technology.

"Even a screw that deals with anything related to data or security protection must come from a trusted source. It is either made in India or by somebody who is very close to India," he added, emphasising the need to totally insulate our system from the enemy. A total of 3,227 students graduated. As many as 3,661 Degrees (including Joint and Dual Degrees) were awarded to the students on the occasion. A total of 529 PhDs were also awarded, which included PhDs, Joint Degree Ph.Ds with foreign institutions, and Dual Degree Ph.Ds, the institute said.

Tourism bouncing...

has now increased to over 20 per day now.

Abdullah also highlighted the successful ongoing Amarnath Yatra, with a strong turnout from West Bengal, and noted that hotel occupancy in popular tourist spots like Pahalgam, Gulmarg, and Sonmarg is rising again.

"Ask those who visited from Bengal recently if they felt unsafe, and they'll say no," he said.

People of West Bengal are with J&K, he said, adding that the relationship between the two regions tran-

sends over time in the context of "trust and affection".

"West Bengal stood with J&K both politically and economically. We offer adventure and destination tourism. On the ground, there is an air of hope of a new beginning," the chief minister said.

Abdullah assured that all necessary steps have been taken for the safety of tourists in J&K.

"I understand everyone's concern after the Pahalgam incident. But please be assured that all necessary steps have been taken. Please listen to the people who have returned from Pahalgam recently," he said.

Abdullah recalled the example of Rajkumar Banerjee, a Bengali who was appointed administrator to J&K a century ago but resigned in 1929, two years after being appointed in 1927, in solidarity with the local people.

The CM said since the 1990s, when Kashmir began witnessing a revival in tourism, the highest number of tourists consistently came from West Bengal and Gujarat—a trend that has continued despite the recent Pahalgam attack.

Looking ahead to the upcoming Durga Puja festivities, he expressed confidence in a strong turnout from West Bengal and assured that all necessary measures have been taken to ensure the safety of tourists in Jammu and Kashmir.

"I understand everyone's concern after the Pahalgam incident. But please be assured that all necessary steps have been taken. Tourism is bouncing back. I am here in the city (Kolkata) to boost that", he said.

On whether the perpetrators of the Pahalgam attack had been tracked down after 70 days, Abdullah said, "If you consider J&K's topography — with dense forests and high mountains — it poses challenges. But no effort is being spared to track them down."

He said security agencies were pursuing a "two-pronged approach" to ensure attackers stay away from both tourist and civilian areas and also hunting down the attackers.

Asked if there was any intelligence failure leading to the attack, Abdullah declined to respond, saying, "I don't wish to turn a tourism meet into a political slugfest."

Tourists are now being allowed back to Pahalgam, he said. "We are committed to reopening all tourist destinations — but only after ensuring complete safety," he added.

JeM, LeT could...

Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement in Kathmandu on Wednesday, according to The Kathmandu Post. It should be noted that India has an open border with Nepal with visa-free regime.

Rastriya Swatantra Party legislator Shisir Khanal said that in the wake of the Pahalgam terrorist attack, it is important for India and Nepal to jointly bolster border management and surveillance, invest in modern surveillance technology and ensure the terrorists cannot circumvent the well-equipped checkpoints. He also urged to deepen intelligence sharing and set up a unified, real-time intelligence hub besides continuous coordination between border security forces and regular joint counter-terrorism operations.

Minendra Rijal, a former defence minister, said Islamabad's support to these proxy groups has crippled the SAARC and the region, causing economic losses for not just India and Nepal, but also Pakistan. He noted that the terror attacks in India leads to spillover effects on Nepal.

The remarks come as the 26 civilians killed in the deadly Pahalgam attack on April 22 included a Nepalese tourist. The attack was carried out by The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of the LeT.

A week after Operation Sindoor, on May 18, the head of LeT Nepal module, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in the Badin district of Sindh, Pakistan.

Several terror-related incidents have been reported in Nepal, posing risks to Indian security. In May 2017, a Pakistani terrorist was arrested by Sahastra Seem Bal (SSB) from Sonauli, Maharajganj on the Nepal border. SSB is tasked with checking infiltration on Nepal border.

The 1999 IC 814 incident saw an Indian Airlines flight taking off from Kathmandu getting hijacked after it entered the Indian airspace.

New BrahMos ...

I inaugurated the integration and testing facility of BrahMos Aerospace in Lucknow. This facility will strengthen our country's self-reliance in the defence sector and also create employment," he said.

He praised the law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh due to which investments are increasing and industries are flourishing in the state. "Historical changes are taking place in infrastructure. Expressway, airport, metro, medical college" all these are presenting a new picture of development." the defence minister said.

Sakeena Itoo reviews healthcare scenario in Budhal, Surankote assembly constituencies



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review overall healthcare infrastructure and facilities in Budhal and Surankote Assembly Constituencies.

MLA Budhal, Javid Iqbal Choudhary; MLA Surankote, Choudhary Mohammad Akram; Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed; Director Health Services Jammu, Chief Medical Officers of Rajouri and

Poonch districts besides other senior officers of health department attended the meeting in person and virtually.

The Minister had in-depth assessment of existing healthcare infrastructure and its associated facilities in Budhal and Surankote Assembly Constituencies. She also took stock of medical equipments, medicines and other essential facilities available for the people of these far flung areas. Addressing the officers, the Minister emphasized on the need for strengthening healthcare infrastructure, upgrading medical equipment and ensuring availability of essential medicines in remote areas of these

constituencies. She asked the officers to establish tele medicine facilities in these areas, especially in critical spots having less nearby health facilities. She further asked them to ensure ample quantity of life saving drugs available in these places as it will reduce the chances of fatalities during referral.

Taking strong notice of shortage of specialist doctors, the Minister directed the Secretary Health and Director Health to cancel all attachments immediately and post them at their designated places. She also asked them to deploy specialist doctors on roster basis at the health facilities of these constituencies in order to amplify healthcare services in these areas.

The Minister asked the Secretary Health and Director Health to initiate action against the doctors indulging in private practice during working hours. She asked them to conduct surprise inspections of health facilities in order to make the doctors and other paramedical staff more accountable.

The Minister, during the meeting, also called for generating maximum awareness regarding PMJAY SEHAT scheme among the people of these areas so that they can take desired benefits from it.

RD&PR conducts one-day PAI training workshop in Samba



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SAMBA:

In a significant move to strengthen grassroots governance and fast-track local development in line with national priorities, the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (RD&PR), Jammu & Kashmir conducted a one-day district-level workshop on the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) in Samba. Presided over by Deputy Commissioner, Samba Rajesh Sharma, the workshop aimed to sensitize and train government officers on the crucial role of PAI in assessing and accelerating development at the village level. The event saw participation from Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP) Samba, N.D. Verma, officials from the RD&PR Department and representatives from key line departments involved in rural development. The workshop's central theme was translating global goals into actionable strategies at the local level.

Thematic Expert at the District Panchayat Resource Centre, Nida Rafiq led an intensive training session that explored the PAI as a dynamic evaluation tool designed to measure the multidimensional progress of Gram Panchayats across nine themes aligned with the Localized Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs). These include vital areas such as "Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihoods," "Healthy Panchayat," "Clean and Green Panchayat," and "Good Governance." Participants were introduced to the findings of the PAI 1.0 (FY 22-23), with report cards now accessible to the public via the official PAI portal (www.pai.gov.in). The session also spotlighted the upcoming PAI 2.0, which features significant enhancements aimed at improving data accuracy and usability. These improvements include rationalized indicators for better clarity, integrated data collection forms with in-built validation checks, auto-ported data from relevant line departments to ease the burden on Panchayats, and a stringent multi-tier validation process covering every level from Gram Panchayat to the national level.

The workshop placed strong emphasis on the practical applications of PAI data. Officials were trained on how to use PAI scores to formulate evidence-based Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDs), select Panchayats for the 'Sankalp' initiative via the 'Nirnay' portal, evaluate eligibility for the National Panchayat Awards and implement targeted interventions to achieve LSDG saturation.

Implementation of COTPA-2003 reviewed at Kulgam

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KULGAM:

A review meeting of the District Level Coordination Committee for the implementation of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA)-2003 under National Tobacco Control Program was held today at the mini-secretariat Kulgam. The meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kulgam, Viqar Ahmad Giri.

During the meeting, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) highlighted the pivotal roles and responsibilities of various departments and stakeholders in curbing tobacco use and ensuring strict enforcement of tobacco control measures across the district.

ADC directed the Chief Education Officer (CEO) and other concerned officers to strictly enforce the provision prohibiting the sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of educational institutions. He also instructed that all government offices and institutions must ensure a tobacco-free environment.

Emphasizing the urgent need for collective responsibility, Giri urged all stakeholders to work in close coordination to ensure the rigorous implementation of COTPA-2003, thereby safeguarding public health and preventing tobacco-related harm. The meeting was attended by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Noorabad, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, and other district officers.

Chairman, DLSA Ganderbal holds review meeting with Judicial Officers



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
GANDERBAL:

Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA) Ganderbal, Abdul Nasir, convened a crucial meeting of all judicial officers of district Ganderbal today in his office chamber, here. The meeting focused on the Mediation 'For the Nation' campaign, a 90-day mediation drive aimed at settling pending cases in all Taluka Courts, District Courts, and High Courts of India through mediation. This initiative seeks to reduce the burden on courts and promote amicable settlements, preparation for a special Lok-Adalat scheduled

for July 26, 2025, focusing on Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) and matrimonial cases.

The objective is to resolve these cases through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, ensuring speedy justice and reducing pendency, and review of cases pertaining to serving armed personnel, ex-servicemen, and Veer Naris, a review of the status of cases involving serving armed personnel, ex-servicemen, and Veer Naris, with an emphasis on their amicable settlement through the Lok-Adalat process. This initiative demonstrates the commitment to providing support and justice to these individuals and their families.

The meeting deliberated on strategies to identify cases suitable for mediation and Lok-Adalat, emphasizing the importance of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in reducing pending cases. Judicial officers exchanged valuable insights, and an action plan was formulated to execute these initiatives effectively. The key objectives of the meeting was to encourage the use of mediation and Lok-Adalat to settle disputes, reducing the burden on courts and promoting speedy justice, focus on resolving pending cases, particularly those involving serving armed personnel, ex-servicemen, and Veer Naris, through amicable settlements and Ensure that all parties, especially vulnerable groups, have access to justice through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

During the session, Chairman DLSA stressed on the judicial officers to identify and prioritize cases related to serving armed personnel, ex-servicemen, and Veer Naris. He added that these sections of society have made immense contributions and sacrifices for the nation and must receive expedited and respectful access to justice, and it is our duty to ensure that the families of armed forces personnel, including Veer Naris, do not face unnecessary legal delays.

Balbir remembered Guru Ravidass on Guru Purnima

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

A follower of the great 14th-century saint, social reformer, and messenger of equality and brotherhood, Guru Ravidass, and associated with various social organizations, Balbir

Ram Rattan, paid respectful homage to Guru Ravidass on the auspicious occasion of Guru Purnima and reaffirmed his resolve to walk the path shown by him.

On the occasion of Guru Purnima, Balbir Ram Rattan offered floral tributes to Guru Ravidass and said that

this day is meant to remember the importance of gurus in our lives and to follow their teachings. He said Guru Ravidass rose above caste, religion, and discrimination, and gave the message of serving humanity with love, equality, and hard work.

Preserving our ecosystem, a collective responsibility: Committee on Environment

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

The Legislative Committee on Environment of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today expressed serious concern over the environmental degradation and called for coordinated efforts to address the escalating crisis.

The meeting was presided over by Chairman of the Committee, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami and attended by MLAs Peerzada Mohammad Syed, Yudhvir Sethi, Choudhary Zafar Ali Khatana, Peerzada Feroze Ahmad, Mushtaq Ahmad Gurroo, Irshad Rasool Kar and members of the Committee.

Group of Concerned Citizens (GCC) led by its Chairman Khurshid Ahmad Ganie also attended the meeting and put forth their views and suggestions.

While speaking on the occasion, Tarigami said that there is a need to identify issues where we can intervene together for improving the environmental health of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Environment plays a vital role in people's physical, mental and social well-being. We have to move ahead in the direction of protecting our environment to do justice with the job entrusted by the House," he said. He added that protection of our ecology is a question of our present and future generations and we have to work collectively in this direction.

"The environmental health is our



survival and denial of this fact will prove to be disastrous if immediate measures are not taken to ensure its preservation. It is high time that each one of us in JK realize that the environment is our collective responsibility and everyone has a role to play in preserving and protecting it in every possible way with a sensible approach," he added.

"Whatever the limitations in the present circumstances but there should be no excuses in asserting ourselves towards protection of our natural resources", he continued.

The members also condemned the reckless felling of trees from time to time and warned that the elements of nature are all inter-related and has an impact on our very possibility to exist on this planet.

During the meeting, Khurshid Ahmad Ganie and its other members emphasized that the government should think seriously on climate action plan in order to address the environmental issues confronting

us. They also highlighted the increase in vehicular pollution due to increasing number of households possessing vehicles and stressed the need for strengthening of public transport.

It was also highlighted during the meeting that Environmental Impact Assessment should be done on all projects in JK before their implementation.

They also raised concern over the fast conversion of agricultural land into non-agricultural purposes and said that once it is lost it becomes irretrievable. They also raised the encroachments and debris dumping in water bodies as another pressing issue that needs immediate attention.

"People should be sensitized about the health of environment for the survival of human being. Community driven efforts are much needed to stem the degradation of our natural resources," they observed.

NC pays glorious tributes to Madr-e-Meharban on her 25th death anniversary

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference today organized a solemn programme at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu, to commemorate the 25th death anniversary of Madr-e-Meharban Begum Akbar Jehan Abdullah, the towering personality who stood tall as a motherly figure and a guiding light for the people of Jammu and Kashmir during some of the most challenging times in its history.

The event, organized under the leadership of Bimla Luthra, State Vice President of the JKNC Women Wing and former MLA, witnessed participation from a large number of party leaders, women activists, and workers who paid glowing tributes to the beloved Madr-e-Meharban. The programme commenced with Quran Khawani in the morning, followed by floral tributes and a two-minute silence as a mark of respect to her everlasting memory.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary described Begum Akbar Jehan as a towering icon of compassion, strength, and commitment towards the upliftment of the poor, marginalized, and especially womenfolk of Jammu and Kashmir. "Madr-e-Meharban was not just the wife of Baba-e-Quom Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, she was a leader in her own right. Her deep concern for the downtrodden, her tireless work for women's education, health and dignity, and her unwavering dedication to the principles of democracy, social justice and secularism remain unmatched," he said.

Surinder Choudhary also took the opportunity to expose the hollow claims of BJP regarding women empowerment, stating that the saffron party indulged only in slogans and optics. "In over 11 years of BJP's rule in Jammu and Kashmir, no meaningful steps were taken for the upliftment of women.

In contrast, during just eight months of Omar Abdullah's Chief Ministership, National Conference fulfilled several poll manifesto promises like free travel for women in government buses, increased marriage assistance from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000, provision of 200 free electricity units to AAY consumers, doubling of ration for AAY families and many more," he asserted. Surinder Choudhary said while BJP allowed non-locals to take away opportunities meant for J&K youth, including key academic and administrative posts in local universities, the NC stands committed to empowering the local youth and giving them their rightful place. "Jammu's youth are second to none. Yet outsiders are being appointed to top university positions. This is sheer injustice," he added. Highlighting the vision of the NC, the Deputy CM said that the recently announced Mission Yuva by the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will open new avenues for skill development, entrepreneurship, and empowerment of youth, especially daughters of J&K. "Only National Conference can translate the aspirations of the people into reality," he said. Addressing the gathering, senior NC leader and former minister Ajay Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary of the party, remembered Madr-e-Meharban as a symbol of resilience, humility, and social reform.

DLC Shopian approves 28 cases for housing assistance under PMAY-U

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SHOPIAN:

A District Level Committee (DLC) meeting was today held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishr Gupta at Mini Secretariat to approve the verified cases for PMAY- U (2.0) in the urban area of Shopian.

A total of 28 eligible cases were recommended by the ULB-level committee to the District Level Committee for approval in the first phase. The committee was apprised that 273 beneficiaries were found eligible who had applied online upon ground level verification under the scheme.

After deliberations, the Committee approved all 28 cases for financial assistance to the eligible poor and homeless beneficiaries of the Shopian municipal area for assistance. Directions were also issued to the MC and revenue officers to expedite the clearance of land revenue titles for the remaining 245 cases.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Shopian, Dr.Nasir Ahmad Lone; ACR, Shakoor Ahmad Dar; Tehsildar Shopian, CEO MC and other members.

J&K Govt embarks on study to establish IT/ITES Parks

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In a decisive move to strengthen the IT landscape of Jammu & Kashmir, the government has initiated a detailed study to explore models for setting up IT/ITES Parks across the Union Territory as envisioned in the J&K IT Policy 2020.

A high level meeting chaired by Secretary, IT Department, Dr Piyush Singla, brought together members of the Study Group comprising senior officials from the IT Department, Jammu & Kashmir e-Governance Agency (JaKeGA), Planning Department, IIT Jammu, IIM Jammu and SeMT to chart out the roadmap for developing state-of-the-art IT/ITES Parks in J&K.

Dr. Singla underscored the importance of adopting best practices from leading IT Parks in India to ensure the success and sustainability of similar initiatives in J&K. He highlighted that these efforts are aligned with the UT's IT Policy 2020, which envisions IT Parks in Jammu and Srinagar to spur innovation, generate employment and attract investments.

The meeting featured a presentation by Chief Innovation Officer, IIT Jammu, MT Arvind, showcasing preliminary findings on prominent IT and research parks across India. These included Electronics City (Karnataka), HITEC City (Telangana), T-Hub Hyderabad, Technopark Trivandrum (Kerala) and IIT Madras Research Park. The presentation detailed key aspects such as invest-



ment models, governance frameworks, operational best practices and policy support mechanisms.

Discussions also focused on distinguishing between research parks, incubation centers and full-scale IT Parks, with an emphasis on fostering innovation, integrating emerging technologies and creating an enabling ecosystem for startups and Global Capability Centres (GCCs).

Chief Executive Officer, JaKeGA, Mahima Madaan, referenced the IT Infrastructure Development Private Limited, established in 2019, as a potential vehicle for anchoring such initiatives.

Meanwhile, Director Planning briefed about the Center for Innovation, Transformation, and Governance (C-TAG) set up in partnership with IIM Jammu to drive policy innovation.

Dr. Guneet Soodan, Director, University of Jammu and OSD to the Vice Chairman of J&K Higher Education Council, stressed the

need for a collaborative ecosystem with strong government-industry-academia partnerships to attract major players and ensure availability of skilled manpower.

As a key outcome, the Study Group resolved to conduct field visits to successful IT Park models such as T-Hub and Cyberabad in Hyderabad and IIT Madras Research Park in Chennai. These visits aim to provide first-hand insights into operational dynamics, governance mechanisms and innovation ecosystems.

Dr. Piyush Singla stated that "This initiative reflects our commitment to transform Jammu & Kashmir into a digital and innovation-driven economy. By learning from India's most successful IT ecosystems, we will develop a sustainable, future-ready framework for IT/ITES Parks in the UT, he added. He said that these parks will not only catalyze job creation and investments but also position J&K as a key player in India's digital growth story.

Kavinder pays obeisance to Hridayadeep Ji Maharaj on Guru Purnima

Emphasizes Role of Saints in Nation Building



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta, today paid obeisance to Hridayadeep Ji Maharaj at the Jeevan Nagar Ashram, Jammu, on the auspicious occasion of Guru Purnima. His visit was part of the Bharatiya Janata Party's outreach initiative on Guru Purnima to connect with saints and spiritual leaders who have been pivotal in guiding

society through their wisdom and selfless service.

Speaking on the occasion, Kavinder Gupta said that Guru Purnima is not just a religious celebration but a moment of deep spiritual reflection and reverence towards the Gurus who enlighten our path with values, discipline, and dharma. He said, "Saints and Gurus are the moral beacons of society. Their teachings guide us towards righteous living and national consciousness. India has always drawn

strength from its spiritual heritage, and it is the saints who have preserved and propagated it through generations."

The senior BJP leader further added that in today's fast-changing world, the teachings of revered saints like Hridayadeep Ji Maharaj are more relevant than ever, as they promote inner peace, communal harmony, and a sense of duty towards society and the nation. "The role of saints in nation-building is immense. They inspire character, integrity, and unity, which are the very foundations of a strong and vibrant Bharat," he said.

The former Deputy Chief Minister extended his heartfelt greetings to the devotees and spiritual community on this auspicious occasion and lauded the efforts of the Jeevan Nagar Ashram in upholding the values of Sanatan Dharma and spreading the message of universal brotherhood. Prominent members of the ashram, BJP workers, and local devotees were also present on the occasion.

Director Sericulture visits cocoon auction market at Udhampur



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
UDHAMPUR:

Director Sericulture J&K, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat visited the Cocoon Auction Market, Udhampur, where hundreds of silkworm rearers and buyers participated.

He inspected arrangements and reiterated the aim to ensure smooth, transparent auctions. He noted that over 60,000 kg of cocoons had been procured, with ₹2.5 crore worth of transactions and ₹1600/kg as the highest price. About 1600 silkworm rearers have sold produce since July 1.

In view of the large turnout, the market will continue for one more week.

He stated that efforts are being made to strengthen market linkages and provide doorstep support to farmers.

Currently, over 70% of cocoon produce is sold outside J&K.

Cocoon auction markets across Jammu aim to connect sellers with buyers from within and outside the UT for better returns.

The Director was accompanied by District Sericulture Officer and department officials.

The visit highlighted the department's commitment to supporting silkworm rearers and sustainable sericulture practices.

"Omar Abdullah has to decide either Urdu in Naib Tehsildar's recruitment or Government": Arun Prabhat

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Arun Prabhat, state president Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, along with hundreds of youth held a massive protest march from Kachi chawni and gheraoed the JKSSB head office in Jammu. During his address he cautioned the current Omar Abdullah led state government of intense agitation if the discriminatory decision of imposing urdu in naib tehsildar's recruitment has not been taken back.

It has been more than a month the youth is protesting on the roads but there is not a statement from the government or any competent authority. This adamant attitude of the government depicts their policy of intentional exclusivity to a particular region.

Omar Abdullah or his cabinet ministers who represent Jammu in the government has to break the silence and clear their stance on this discriminatory policy otherwise next gherao will be of Civil Secretariat and chief minister's residence. He described this recruitment as unconstitutional as it violates the very core of fundamental rights of getting equal opportunity in public employment. How can the government justify itself by barring 70% of subjects from this naib tehsildar's recruitment. Urdu in revenue matters and NT exam in particular is a well intended conspiracy to keep Jammu division in darkness.

In his concluding remarks he gave a call to all the aspirants and people of Jammu Kashmir to come forward against this discriminatory recruitment policy of the NC led government. Furthermore he urged the aspirants of non urdu background to apply for the post of Naib Tehsildar's recruitment as BJP will fight for their rights at any cost until justice is delivered.

Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan Camp Held at Panchayat Latyar, Block Panchari, Udhampur



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
UDHAMPUR:

A vibrant awareness and benefit saturation camp under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) was successfully organized at Panchayat Latyar Block Panchari in Udhampur district, under the supervision of the Assistant Commissioner Revenue

(ACR), Udhampur, serving as the Nodal Officer.

The event, aimed at empowering tribal communities, witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents of Latyar and surrounding areas.

The camp, part of a nationwide initiative launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, focused on delivering citizen-centric services and raising

awareness about various government welfare schemes. Departments including Agriculture, Rural Development, Health, Social Welfare, and Revenue set up stalls to provide on-the-spot services, facilitating registrations for schemes like Aadhaar enrolment, Ayushman Bharat Card, and caste certificate issuance. The program also featured a Gram Sabha, allowing community members to voice developmental concerns and grievances.

Various person recieved their ST certificates on the spot. The District Administration, reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring last-mile delivery of welfare benefits to tribal and marginalized communities. The ACR, Udhampur, emphasized the importance of such outreach programs in bridging the gap between the administration and rural populations, ensuring inclusive development.

The Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan continues to gain momentum in Udhampur, with similar camps planned across the district to maximize outreach and empower tribal communities.

Conduct of Lecture on Cyber Fraud for Locals at Samote, Rajouri

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

The Indian Army at Samote has been working tirelessly for the welfare of the local populace. It is committed to transforming the perception of the underprivileged population, ultimately contributing to sustained peace and prosperity in the region. As part of this initiative, the Indian Army at Samote conducted an awareness lecture on "Cyber Fraud" at Government Higher Secondary

School (GHSS), Samote, on 10 July 2025.

The primary aim of this lecture was to raise awareness about cyber-crime and its impact on society. The session covered various technical aspects of cyber threats such as online fraud, identity theft, cyberbullying, phishing, and the misuse of social media. Practical tips and precautions were shared to help attendees protect themselves in the digital world.

The lecture also emphasized that

cyber fraud is one of the major security challenges currently faced not just by India, but globally. A total of 58 students attended the session. They actively participated, shared their views, and pledged to spread awareness in their villages about the nuances of cyber fraud.

Both teachers and students expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Indian Army and left the session enlightened about the dangers of cyber fraud and the ways to avoid falling victim to it.

SBSP State President Vivek Bali Holds Key Meeting with Dagarpora Team, Addresses Local Issues and Party Strengthening



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Today, Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) Jammu & Kashmir State President Shri Vivek Bali held a significant meeting with the Dagarpora team to discuss urgent local issues and strategies for strengthening the party at the grass-

roots level. During the meeting, the team raised serious concerns regarding the shortage of clean water and the lack of proper hospital facilities in the area. Shri Vivek Bali gave a patient hearing to the grievances and assured the team that he would raise these issues with the concerned government authorities for swift redressal. He reiterated the party's commitment to working for the well-being of the people and ensuring basic amenities are accessible to all.

The discussion also focused on strategies to strengthen the SBSP's presence at the group level. Shri Vivek Bali emphasized the importance of grassroots organization, active community engagement, and coordinated efforts to build a strong and united party structure in the region. Prominent leaders present at the meeting included Mudasir Nazir Dar District President Baramulla, Zumair Malik Youth District President Baramulla, Bashir Ahmed Najar, Lateef Ahmad Dar, Mohammad Ashraf Dar, Mohammad Ashraf Mir, Bashir Ahmed Mir & Ghulam Nabi Nagar. The meeting reflects SBSP's dedication to both addressing people's issues and strengthening the party at the grassroots level for a stronger and more connected Jammu & Kashmir.

DC Bandipora pays surprise visit to District Hospital; review functioning, patient care

Says no compromise on professionalism and accountability in healthcare



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BANDIPORA:

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Friday, along with a team of officers, conducted a surprise visit to the District Hospital Bandipora to assess its overall functioning and review the quality of patient care and adherence to work culture norms.

During the visit, DC inspected various sections of the hospital, including the Emergency Ward, In-Patient Wards, OPD, Maternity Unit, and other critical care units. He interacted with patients and attendants to personally gauge their level of satisfaction with the facilities and services being provided.

While taking first hand feedback from the patients, DC emphasized the importance of maintaining patient-centric services, medical hygiene and a disciplined environment within the hospital premises. He issued on-spot instructions to ensure better upkeep of wards and timely delivery of healthcare services.

DC directed the hospital authorities to ensure that all medical and paramedical staff adheres strictly to prescribed dress codes, with their name tags clearly visible on uniforms as per medical protocol.

He further instructed the incharge Medical Superintendent, Dr. Tahira, to enforce the hospital duty rosters strictly and ensure that rotational duties are followed meticulously to maintain round-the-clock medical services. He also stressed the need for punctuality, regular attendance, and effective internal coordination among the hospital teams.

DC Kishtwar reviews arrangements for upcoming Shri Machail Mata Ji Yatra 2025

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR:

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of developmental works and necessary arrangements for the upcoming Shri Machail Mata Ji Yatra 2025 commencing from 25th of July 2025 and shall culminate on 5th of Sept 2025.

The meeting was held at the VC Room, DC Office Complex Kishtwar.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed ongoing infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing facilities for pilgrims, including the completion of Yatri Bhawan, renovation of sanitary complexes, development of the area surrounding the Bhawan, uninterrupted power and water supply during the Yatra, medical facility, publicity, online and offline registration, construction of road from Chishoti to Hamori, sanitation and cleanliness, status of Chishoti Bridge and Traffic Plan. Special emphasis was laid on the timely completion of Chishoti Bridge. The DC directed the Executive Engineer PMGSY to double the shifts for its timely completion. The DC also instructed the ACD Kishtwar to ensure proper cleanliness and sanitation in the area and directed the outsourcing of sanitation workers in coordination with SDM Paddar. Additionally, the installation of 4 mobile toilets was ordered. The DC directed SDM Paddar to notify the cut-off timing of the Yatra and advisory for the general public in consultation with SSP Kishtwar.

The meeting also reviewed the preparation of parking zones, including a parking zone at Gulabgarh Paddar that can accommodate about 2000 vehicles. Directions were issued to all concerned officers to expedite the works, maintain quality standards and improve all already established assets.

Kupwara police arrests drug peddlers at Dragmulla

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KUPWARA:

Acting tough against the drug menace, Kupwara Police yet again arrests two more persons involved in drug trafficking.

Police Post Dragmulla, during its routine naka checking at Muqam Shah crossing, found two persons suspiciously fleeing from the naka point upon noticing the police personnel at the checkpoint. The two persons were swiftly nabbed, and a thorough personal search was conducted, leading to the recovery of a substantial amount of charas (cannabis)-like substance.

The two persons, upon questioning, revealed their names as Tariq Ahmad Khan S/O Ghulam Rasool Khan R/O Waterkhani and Mohd Irshad Khan S/O Mohd Khan R/O



Hyhama Batpora.

Taking cognizance of the matter, FIR No. 212/25 has been registered at Police Station Kupwara U/S 8/20, 27A, and 29 NDPS Act.

Kupwara Police shall continue with the same momentum till the drug menace is wiped out from society.

Public cooperation is solicited.

Political Momentum Builds in Langate: LJP (R) Holds Grassroots Meeting, Welcomes New Members Amid Rising Public Grievances

IRFAN GANI BHAT
LANGATE JULY 10

In a significant show of political activism, the Lok Jan Shakti Party (Ram Vilas) held a crucial meeting today at Haripora Langate, aimed at addressing local issues and strengthening its organizational base in the region. The meeting was led by State General Secretary Mr. Aashiq Hussain Ganie and Kupwara District President Mr. Tantry Javid, and attended by multiple senior leaders and local representatives.

The gathering became a platform for the residents of Haripora Langate to raise serious civic concerns. Chief among these was the lack of clean water availability for ablution (Wazoo) at the local mosque, an issue that deeply moved the party leaders. Mr. Ganie and Mr. Tantry expressed regret that even such fundamental needs remain unaddressed in an area that falls under active representation by a DDC member, MLA, and an MP.

Other grievances included:
Acute shortage of drinking water in the entire locality
Lack of electric poles and functional street lights
Absence of fencing around the local graveyard
Neglect in

developmental activities despite public appeals. Mr. Tantry Javid criticized the administrative indifference and called for immediate attention from elected representatives. He reaffirmed the LJP (R)'s commitment to acting as a voice for the voiceless.

New Political Inductees:

In a significant political realignment, dozens of workers from Peoples Conference (PC), Awami Ittihad Party (AIP), and National Conference (NC) joined the Lok Jan Shakti Party (R). Their inclusion marks a growing disillusionment with traditional parties and reflects increasing trust in LJP (R)'s grassroots approach.

The new members who joined the party today include:

1. Ab. Majeed Mir – S/O Gh. Mohi-ud-Din Mir
2. Tanveer Ah. Mir – S/O Gh. Nabi Mir
3. Sajad Ah. Bhat – S/O Gh. Ahmad Bhat
4. Nazir Ah. Mir – S/O Gh. Mohi-ud-Din Mir
5. Sajad Ah. Lone – S/O Ab. Hamid Lone
6. Akther Fayaz Wani – S/O (Father's name not mentioned)
7. Showket Ah. Mir – S/O Ab. Rashid Mir
8. M. Shafi Bhat – S/O Ab. Ahad Bhat

Bhat

9. Ishfaq Ah. Ganie – S/O Gh. Rasool Ganie
10. Aamir Fayaz Wani – S/O Fayaz Ah. Wani
11. Showket Ah. Ganie – S/O Gh. Mahamudin Ganie
12. Muneeb Reyaz – S/O Reyaz Ah. Gojri
13. Bashir Ah. Mir – S/O M. Subhan Mir
14. Rashid Hussain – S/O M. Assadullah Wani
15. M. Amin Mir – S/O Ab. Gani Mir
16. Bilal Ah. Bhat – S/O Ab. Ahad Bhat
17. Farhad Rashid – S/O Ab. Rashid Kubo
18. Shameem Reshi – S/O Gh. Ahmad Reshi

To strengthen its organizational structure further, Javid Ahmad from Haripora Langate was officially appointed as the Constituency Head of Langate for LJP (R).

As political temperature rises in North Kashmir, today's meeting is being seen as a turning point in Langate's political landscape, where new leadership is emerging from the ground level, with promises of accountability, action, and accessibility.

MLA Arvind felicitates young Wushu Stars for bringing laurels to J&K

Says sports play a pivotal role in shaping character, discipline, sense of responsibility among younger generation



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In a proud moment for Jammu, Senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu West, Arvind Gupta today felicitated young Wushu champions Varchaswa Gupta and Kartavya Gupta for their outstanding accomplishments in the field of martial arts.

The felicitation ceremony was held in the presence of Mandal President Kushant Prajapati and Vice President Karan Sharma.

Varchaswa Gupta was honoured

for clinching the Gold Medal in the Junior All India National Wushu Championship, a testament to his discipline and growing dominance in the sport at the junior level. Meanwhile, Kartavya Gupta was lauded for his exceptional performance in the Senior category, where he bagged a Gold Medal in the All India University Championship and a Bronze Medal in the Senior National Wushu Championship.

Speaking on the occasion, Arvind Gupta congratulated both athletes and praised their dedication, hard work, and spirit of perseverance.

He said, "These achievements are not only a matter of personal pride for the athletes and their families but also an inspiration for the youth of Jammu.

The consistent success of our local talent at national platforms is a shining example of what can be achieved with focus and determination."

He further emphasized the dire need to channelize the energy of the youth towards nation building, stating that sports play a pivotal role in shaping character, discipline, and a sense of responsibility among the younger generation.

He urged parents and educational institutions to actively encourage students to pursue excellence not just in academics but also in extracurricular domains like sports.

The MLA assured full support in promoting sports culture in the region and emphasized the need for better infrastructure and encouragement for young sportspersons.

The event concluded with warm wishes and blessings for the continued success of both Varchaswa and Kartavya in their future sporting endeavours.

DDC reviews Rural Development Department performance in Poonch



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch Vikas Kundal today chaired a review meeting at the DC Office Complex to assess the progress of developmental works under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented by the Rural Development Department (RDD) across all blocks of the district.

The meeting reviewed physical and financial achievements under key schemes including MGN-REGA, PMAY-G and other community development initiatives for the financial year 2025-26.

The DDC reviewed issues related to timely wage payments, Aadhaar seeding, Aadhaar-based payments and geo-tagging under various schemes. Progress under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) and Capex Budget PRI Grants was also discussed.

He directed all Block Development Officers (BDOs) to commence new MGNREGA works especially in border areas without delay and ensure their timely completion. Emphasis was laid on Aadhaar linkage of Job Card holders' accounts to enhance transparency.

On PMAY-G, the DDC instructed officials to begin construction of newly sanctioned houses and expedite pending units to achieve full saturation. He also called for recovery from defaulters in pending PMAY-G cases. The Assistant Commissioner Development and Assistant Commissioner Panchayat were directed to intensify monitoring of all ongoing works for timely and quality completion.

The meeting was attended by ACD, ACP, District Panchayat Officer, Executive Engineer REW, Headquarter Assistant, BDOs, AEEs and JE's of the department.

Food Safety Department intensifies efforts to ensure safe and quality food for pilgrims during Amarnath Yatra

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The Food Safety Department, Jammu & Kashmir, has intensified its surveillance and enforcement activities to ensure food safety during the ongoing Amarnath Yatra 2025.

The exercise is being conducted under the directions of Minister for Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, and Secretary, Health & Medical Education, J&K, Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, whose guidance has supported field mobilization and monitoring. Commissioner, Food & Drugs Administration, Smita Sethi, inspected hygienic conditions of langars and food service areas at key base and transit camps in Jammu Division, reaffirming the department's commitment to serving pilgrims safe and hygienic food.

In view of the increased footfall and operation of food business operators (FBOs), the department deployed Food Safety Officers, Food Analysts, and Mobile Food Testing Vans from Lakhnupur to Baltal and Pahalgam. These vans equipped with testing kits, conduct daily on-spot food analysis and raise awareness among langar operators and food handlers. During the first week of the Yatra, the department achieved 215 registrations issued to langar operators and vendors, 171 inspections conducted, 910 food samples tested via mobile vans, 77 training and awareness sessions conducted, and 30 kg of substandard food items seized and destroyed.

Advisories outlining hygiene, storage, preparation and waste management protocols have been issued. The department has appealed to all FBOs to cooperate fully. For grievances, the toll-free helpline 104 is available.

Dogra Front & Shiv Sena Demand More Amarnath Yatra Registration Counters in Jammu

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The workers of Dogra Front & Shiv Sena under the leadership of President Mr Ashok Gupta took out a rally in Jammu city demanding increase in the number of counters for the Amarnath Yatra registration.

Mr Gupta stated that the number of registration counters should be increased as huge lines are seen outside the registration counters which is leading to hassle for the yatries. He further stated that there is a lot of enthusiasm among the people within and outside the country about the upcoming Amarnath Yatra.

The 43-day-long pilgrimage to 3880-metre high holy cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas has started from the twin routes - traditional 48-km Nunwan in south Kashmir's Pahalgam and 14-km shorter Baltal in central Kashmir's Ganderbal.

The party president lauded the significant infrastructural advancements facilitating the Shri Amarnath Yatra. He urged the government to introduce a more convenient token distribution system for current registration



to alleviate the hardships faced by pilgrims standing in long queues. The recently constructed Yatri Niwas at Baltal has ensured comfortable accommodation for pilgrims, with a current capacity to house 800 devotees.

He further stated that this development, coupled with ongoing expansions on the Baltal and Pahalgam routes, is set to make the pilgrimage smoother and more accessible in the coming years. "The journey to the holy Amarnath cave, once considered arduous, has become significantly easier due to enhanced infrastructure, including

tent cities and improved road networks supported by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

He lauded the steps taken by the Lt Governor administration but the need to increase registration counters is imminent and the yatries who are getting the visiting delay of 3-4 days should be motivated to visit patnitop, Katra, Reasi, Raghunath temple so that the local economy of Jammu can also benefit from it.

The party people who were present at the time of rally were Raju, Bantu, Ganesh, Kalu, Prem, Naresh, Abhishek and various others were present.

KU holds special marathon for differently-abled students

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

To promote the values of inclusion, empowerment, and dignity, the Department of Students' Welfare (DSW), University of Kashmir (KU), organised a Special Marathon for Differently-Abled students at the

main campus today.

The marathon started at the varsity's Maulana Rumi Gate and concluded at the Centre of Central Asian Studies (CCAS) KU.

A valedictory and felicitation ceremony followed, honouring all the participating students for their inspiring spirit and perseverance.

While addressing the gathering and felicitating the participants, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, praised the efforts of the students and said, "Our differently-abled students have not only completed a marathon but they have also led a movement of courage, dignity, and inclusion."

THE KASHMIR TALK

EDITORIAL

Silent Health Crisis

Imagine someone offering you a slow poison — delicious, cheap, and easily available. Would you willingly consume it? This may sound dramatic, but for millions of Indians, snacks like samosas, jalebis, laddoos, pakoras, and bhature are serving that very purpose. They may not carry a warning label like cigarette packets, but their long-term impact on health can be just as dangerous. With India witnessing an alarming surge in non-communicable diseases like obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, and cardiovascular issues, these beloved fried and sugar-rich foods have become silent health hazards. Traditionally, tobacco and alcohol have been the focus of public health campaigns, with graphic warnings printed on their packaging. Smoking, for instance, has been universally acknowledged as a severe health risk. However, the foods many people consider harmless — or even comforting — are now being scrutinized in a similar light. Deep-fried and sugar-dense items, often consumed casually and in large quantities, are contributing to a national health crisis. The government is reportedly planning to introduce health warning labels on high-fat, high-sugar, and deep-fried food items, similar to those seen on cigarette packs. This move is a major step in redefining how we perceive unhealthy food. The figures are staggering. Indians reportedly consume over 21,000 crore samosas annually, along with 35,000 crore parathas, 14,000 crore kachoris, and thousands of crores of other calorie-dense items like bhature and bread pakoras. These figures represent more than just eating habits — they highlight a cultural attachment to deep-fried, flavorful street food. However, this cultural comfort comes at a cost. Excessive intake of saturated fats, trans fats, and refined sugars is directly linked to the rising rates of lifestyle diseases in both urban and rural areas. In response, India's Health Ministry is pushing for greater awareness. Proposals include mandatory display boards in cafeterias and public places that disclose sugar and oil content, as well as incorporating health messages in official stationery. Offices are being encouraged to offer healthier alternatives like fruits and low-fat snacks while limiting access to sugary beverages and fried items. According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5), nearly 20% of adults in urban India are overweight or obese. Projections suggest this number could rise to over 44 crore by 2050, leading to a significant burden on the country's healthcare system. Beyond local food vendors, the spotlight is also turning to multinational corporations. Lawmakers argue that packaged foods and sugary drinks sold by global brands should face similar scrutiny. In many cases, so-called healthy fruit juices contain more sugar than popular soft drinks. Hence, imported and packaged junk food should not escape regulation merely due to branding or clever marketing. The broader goal is not to demonize cultural cuisine but to make the public aware of the risks of overconsumption. Moderation, awareness, and informed choices must become part of everyday life. By recognizing these foods for what they truly are — potentially harmful when consumed excessively — India can begin to reshape its food culture for a healthier future.

DR. R BALASUBRAMANIAM

India today stands at a crucial crossroads in its educational journey. Over the decades we have built an expansive network of schools, colleges, and universities that churn out millions of graduates annually. On paper, our youth are more qualified than ever. Yet, behind this impressive quantitative expansion lies a qualitative void — one that manifests in a growing mental health crisis, ethical ambiguity in leadership, and a palpable loss of meaning among the young. This crisis is not merely institutional, it is civilizational. We have spent the last century borrowing pedagogical models from the West while steadily distancing ourselves from our own intellectual and moral traditions. The result is a system that prepares the youth to earn a living but leaves them ill-equipped to live fully and purposefully. It is in this context that India must turn inward — not in retreat, but in resurgence.

We must re-anchor our education system in the civilizational wisdom of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) and in the inspirational vision of Swami Vivekananda, whose call for “manmaking education” is more relevant today than ever. Modern education in India has become overly transactional. Marks, placements, and packages dominate the discourse, crowding out conversations about character, citizenship, or consciousness. This overemphasis on utility has created a generation that may be employable but not always ethical; informed but not necessarily wise. Swami Vivekananda's conception of education stood in stark contrast. For him, education was “the manifestation of the perfection already in man” — a process not of accumulation, but of awakening.

He emphasized character over career, inner strength over outer success. “We want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded, and by which one can stand on one's own feet,” he declared. Such an education is not about feeding facts into young minds but about lighting the fire of self-discovery. It is not about creating workers for the economy alone, but whole human beings who can shoulder the responsibilities of society and self. India's traditional education systems epitomized by the Gurukula model embraced this holistic vision. Students were not just taught logic and linguistics, but also humility, self-reliance, and spiritual discipline. Learning was experiential, values were internalized through example and immersion, and the teacher (Guru) was both a source of knowledge and a moral exemplar.

Disciplines like Ayurveda, Vastu Shastra, Arthashastra, and Vedic Mathematics were not esoteric abstractions, but practical sciences geared towards sustainable living and societal welfare. Ethics was not a separate subject but the foundation of every discipline. In this model, education served three intertwined purposes — personal transformation, social responsibility, and spiritual evolution. It was never a means to climb the ladder of individual success alone — it was a path to uplift society through

The soul of education

INDIA'S EDUCATION SYSTEM, THOUGH EXPANSIVE, FACES A DEEP CRISIS— MARKED BY MENTAL STRESS, ETHICAL CONFUSION, AND LOSS OF PURPOSE. INSPIRED BY SWAMI VIVEKANANDA'S VISION OF “MANMAKING EDUCATION,” THE FOCUS MUST SHIFT FROM MARKS TO MEANING, FROM CAREERS TO CHARACTER. INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS (IKS) OFFER A HOLISTIC MODEL ROOTED IN DHARMA, PERSONAL GROWTH, AND SOCIETAL GOOD. THE NEP 2020 TAKES A STEP FORWARD, BUT REAL CHANGE REQUIRES IMMERSIVE PEDAGOGY, TEACHER TRANSFORMATION, AND CULTURAL INTEGRATION. IN A DISTRACTED, DIVIDED WORLD, INDIA CAN LEAD BY OFFERING AN EDUCATION MODEL THAT BLENDS INTELLECT WITH INTEGRITY, MODERNITY WITH TRADITION, AND AMBITION WITH INNER AWAKENING.

dharmic action. Encouragingly, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 acknowledges the limitations of a purely Western, career-centric approach to education.

It calls for the integration of Indian Knowledge Systems into curricula, placing equal emphasis on cultural rootedness and critical thinking. This is a welcome corrective — but one that will require more than cosmetic changes. For IKS to be meaningfully embedded, it must move beyond token references. We need pedagogy that is immersive, interdisciplinary, and aligned with Indian epistemologies. Storytelling from the epics, project-based comparisons between modern and ancient sciences, and the inclusion of yoga, meditation, and Sanskrit are all promising approaches. Equally important is the transformation of the teacher's role — from a content deliverer to a mentor, guide, and value exemplar. As Vivekananda envisioned, the student must be treated not as an empty vessel but as a divine being, full of latent potential waiting to be awakened. The role of a teacher now needs to evolve into a facilitator; a co-creator of knowledge who seeks to work with the students and not on them. We need to move from hierarchy led Instructional design to a humility driven Learning design. Across India, there are promising models already at work. Institutions run by the Ramakrishna Mission, the Chinmaya Mission, Krishnamurthi Foundation and several other educational foundations are blending modern curricula with moral instruction, contemplative prac-

tices, and service learning.

These efforts have shown measurable improvements in student well-being, confidence, and ethical clarity. Importantly, this approach is not anti-modern. It is, in fact, a better preparation for modernity. In an age of digital distractions and rising loneliness, practices like meditation build focus and resilience. In a time of environmental crisis, traditional ecological knowledge offers sustainable alternatives. In a world obsessed with individualism, the values of seva (service), satya (truth), and ahimsa (non-violence) help foster compassionate citizenship. One of the most striking features of IKS — and one that Swami Vivekananda emphasized — is the integration of personal dharma with social purpose. Whether it is the Kautilyan model of just governance or the Gita's call for detached action, Indian thought has always linked — ed individual excellence with collective well-being.

This has direct relevance for the leaders of tomorrow. Whether in government, business, or civil society, we need decision-makers who are driven not just by profit or power but by principle. A few Indian companies have drawn upon Vedantic ideas of trusteeship, balancing profitability with nation-building.

This model of ‘compassionate capitalism’ can become India's unique contribution to global leadership in the 21st century. Moreover, IKS opens new avenues for careers rooted in culture — Ayurveda, classical arts, Sanskrit scholarship, and heritage conservation. These are not just preservationist vocations; they are economic sectors, aligned with the rising global demand for wellness, sustainability, and cultural tourism. As India aspires to become a knowledge superpower, we must ask the critical question — ‘knowledge for what? If we are to lead the world, it cannot be through borrowed paradigms.

It must be through an educational model that is authentically Indian, ethically sound, and globally relevant. Swami Vivekananda reminded us that education is not an end but a means — a means to inner awakening and societal transformation. He urged us to “Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached.” That goal, in today's context, is a \$5 trillion economy along with a nation of awakened citizens. We must reclaim the soul of education — not by retreating into the past, but by reinterpreting our civilizational wisdom for the needs of today. In doing so, India can offer the world an educational model that unites intellect with integrity, competence with compassion, and ambition with meaning. The time is now to craft such a renaissance. Let us not wait another century to heed the call.

(The writer is a development scholar, public policy advocate, and leadership educator with over four decades of grassroots experience. He is the founder of the Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement (SVYM) and currently serves as Member-HR in the Capacity Building Commission of the Government of India. Views expressed are personal)

Indian Army Undertakes Flood Relief Operations in Himachal Pradesh



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
MANDI:

The Indian Army continues to extend critical support to civil administration in Himachal Pradesh as part of ongoing Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations, following the recent floods in Mandi district. In close coordination with the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and local authorities, the Indian Army has deployed dedicated relief columns.

Tasks:

Indian Army Columns have been mobilised across key locations including Thunag, Bagsiad, and Pandoh. The Army column has been actively engaged in:

Opening of vital access routes – A critical mule track from Bagsiad to Thunag was successfully cleared on 06 July, enabling the delivery of essential supplies.

Medical assistance and distribution of relief material – Ongoing support at Thunag includes provision of first aid and distribution of ration kits to affected families.

Aid to inaccessible villages – In partnership with civil administration, the Army has ensured delivery of relief material to remote villages cut off by the flood. Aid has already reached Degi (07 Jul), Rushad (08 Jul), and Chapad (09 Jul).

All columns are in communication via mobile networks, with limited coverage at some locations like Thunag. Satellite communications including ISAT phone, RS STARSV and HX systems have been provided to ensure uninterrupted operational connectivity.

Planned Activities for 10 July:

The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh is scheduled to visit Thunag to assess the ongoing relief operations.

Brigade Commander, Indian Army is visiting Mandi for an operational update and interaction with the relief columns.

A meeting with the Chief Minister and Deputy Commissioner, Mandi is also planned to enhance coordination and response.

The Indian Army remains committed to supporting the citizens of Himachal Pradesh during this crisis and continues to stand by the civil administration in its time of need.

DC Srinagar reviews construction progress on Additional Block of JLN Hospital

Also inspects work progress on construction of DIPH Lab, functioning of new parking space at health facility



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Friday undertook a visit to JLN Hospital Rainawari to oversee the progress of ongoing health infrastructure upgradation projects at the hospital.

During the visit, DC conducted an on-site inspection of several key projects, including the construction of a 100-bedded Additional Block, District Integrated Public Health (DIPH) Laboratory, and a newly developed parking facility for the hospital.

While inspecting the ongoing works on construction of the new Block of the hospital being executed by JK Housing Board, DC directed the executing agency to accelerate the pace of work and asked them to redouble the efforts to ensure quick completion of the additional block aimed at significantly enhancing patient care services at the hospital.

Similarly, DC inspected newly created parking space and allied works developed for the hospital.

On the occasion, DC directed the concerned executing agency to complete the remaining works swiftly to fully operationalize the space and ease congestion at the hospital.

Later, DC took onsite stock of construction work on District Integrated Public Health Laboratory being established under PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM) aimed to improve disease surveillance and public health response in the district.

At the site, DC urged the concerned agency to expedite the work to meet project timelines.

While interacting with hospital staff, DC stressed the importance of maintaining high standards in patient care and ensuring that healthcare services are delivered efficiently to avoid inconvenience to the public.

DC Srinagar visits Rehabilitation Home for Marginalised individuals

Emphasizes their dignified reintegration into society

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Friday visited Rehabilitation Home established under Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE) scheme here in Hawal area of the district for persons previously engaged in begging.

On the occasion, DC took a detailed tour of the Rehabilitation Home and inspected the facilities and rehabilitation measures for the persons previously engaged in the act of begging.

While interacting with the officers and staff of the Rehabilitation Centre, DC said that the initiative has been taken to address the issue of begging in the district under SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme. He emphasized a holistic approach, focusing on social reintegration and the well-being of these individuals.

DC said that the district administration is committed to ensure that those affected receive the support they need to earn livelihood with dignity and honour.

He stressed the staff of the Rehabilitation Home to work in a compassionate manner towards the affected section of the society and enable them to lead a life of value and dignity.

Indian Army Undertakes Flood Relief Operations in North East Under 'Op Jal Rahat 2'

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

In response to the recent wave of heavy rains and urban flooding in the North Eastern region, the Indian Army has launched extensive Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations under Operation Jal Rahat 2, with coordinated deployment across Nagaland, Assam, and Manipur. These efforts are being led by Headquarters Inspector General Assam Rifles (North) [HQ IGAR (N)] in collaboration with local civil administration.

Nagaland (Dimapur)

On 10 July 2025, the Deputy Commissioner of Dimapur formally requisitioned assistance from the Indian Army to provide immediate flood relief in Singrijan Colony, one of the worst-hit areas. The Army swiftly responded with the deployment of an Engineer Task Force (ETF) team. While a verbal de-requisition was received later in the day, the Army remains on standby with resources



mobilised through the Flood Relief Control Centre at HQ IGAR (N).

Assam - In Upper Assam, the Dhansiri River in Golaghat district has breached danger levels. Although water levels are now receding, the Indian Army continues to monitor the situation closely and is ready to intervene should the need

arise.

Manipur - In Manipur, the Nambol River flowing through Imphal West and Bishnupur districts has also surpassed danger levels. While floodwaters are beginning to recede, the Army remains actively engaged in relief operations in coordination with civil authorities.

NIT Srinagar secures Indian patent for Innovative fabric wear measurement system

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has been granted an Indian patent for its pioneering invention titled "Wear Measurement Test Rig for Fabric Industry and System Thereof".

It was officially granted on July 9, 2025, marking a significant milestone in the institute's pursuit of cutting-edge research and technological innovation.

The patented system is the out-

come of collaborative research between the Mechanical and Civil Engineering departments. The team of inventors includes Prof. M. F. Wani, Head Mechanical Engineering Department (MED); Prof. Rakesh Sehgal (Former NIT Srinagar Director); Dr. Sheikh Shahid Saleem from MED; and Dr. Vivek from the Department of Civil Engineering.

Designed to enhance precision and efficiency in measuring fabric wear, the innovative test rig holds significant potential for applications in textile research laboratories and com-

mercial manufacturing, particularly in quality control and product development processes.

In a joint statement, team members said that "We believe that such innovations underscore the growing technological contributions of NIT Srinagar to the national and international research community. The development of this novel system holds immense potential for the fabric and textile testing industry, enhancing both precision and efficiency in wear measurement analysis," they said.

Border Residents Deserve Peace-Time Support, Not Just War-Time Sympathy: Dr Shazad

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The Jammu and Kashmir Border Area Development Conference (JK BADC), an organisation working for the welfare of border and tribal communities of J & K has appealed to the Union Government and the J & K administration to give attention to border areas in time of peace and not just during conflicts.

The organisation said it is very unfortunate that the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir and their people are ignored by the Government of India, political parties, Leaders, constitutional bodies, and even the national media during peaceful times. They only show concern to the border resident when there is a crisis, while the daily problems and needs of people living near the border are forgotten.

Citing the example of Operation 'Sindoor', which took place in May 2025 after Pahalgam Terror Attack, the BADC pointed out that several



innocent civilians lost their lives in Rajouri and Poonch districts of Jammu and Kashmir and many others were injured due to cross border shelling. It was only then that political leaders and media turned their attention towards these areas, but just for a short while. There was a race between the Political Leaders, News Channels and 'five star' journalists to visit Rajouri and Poonch in the month of May-2025 but after ceasefire they vanished.

Dr Shazad Ahmed Malik, Chairman of JK BADC and former Vice Chancellor, said that real development in border areas should happen

when there is peace.

"If we work on Infrastructure development during peace time, it will help not only the local people but the Nation in future conflicts," he said.

He also said that border residents are like unarmed soldiers. "They are the front-line warriors who, without any weapons and incentive to protect the nation's sovereignty."

Dr Malik also repeated a long-pending demand of his organization for setting up a separate body like a Border Area Development Authority (BADA) that can specially look after the needs of people living in border areas. He said that the problems of border areas are different from other regions. These places need special planning, that is why there is a strong need for a dedicated authority to take care of the overall development of border areas in Jammu and Kashmir wherein officers and experts from both civil and non civilian departments join hands to formulate development policy and their execution.

DDC B'la approves Rs.115.31Cr. District Capex Plan 2025-26 for 3,510 developmental works



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BARAMULLA:

In a significant stride towards grassroots development and inclusive governance, District Development Council (DDC) Baramulla, under the chairmanship of the DDC Chairperson, Safina Baig, today approved the District Capex Budget for the financial year 2025-26 amounting to Rs.115.31 crore.

The plan was approved during a comprehensive District Council meeting held at Dak Bungalow Baramulla.

The approved Capex Plan includes ₹9,981.53 lakh for 2,446 new developmental works and ₹1,550.39 lakh for 1,064 ongoing works, totaling 3,510 works across key sectors such as rural infrastructure, health, education, agriculture, roads, and social welfare.

At the outset, Chief Planning Officer Baramulla presented a detailed sector-wise Capex Plan before the Council, outlining allocation priorities, performance metrics of the previous year, and expected outcomes for the upcoming financial year.

The meeting was attended by Member Legislative Assembly Baramulla, Javed Hassan Baig; MLA Sopore, Irshad Rasool Kar; MLA Gulmarg, Farooq Ahmad Shah; MLA Wagoora-Kreeri, Advocate Irfan Hafeez Lone; Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa; District Development Council Members; and senior officers of the District Administration.

During deliberations, Members of Legislative Assembly shared key suggestions, urging focus on critical public service sectors such as roads, drinking water, education, and healthcare. They emphasized the need for equitable geographical distribution of projects and prioritization of people-centric and high-impact initiatives.

The MLAs also lauded the inclusive and consultative approach adopted by the district administration in framing the plan.

In her remarks, DDC Chairperson Baramulla appreciated the proactive participation of elected representatives and officials in shaping the Capex Plan. She underlined that the approved works aim to ensure balanced and inclusive development, reflecting the aspirations of the people. She also stressed the importance of timely execution, transparency, and accountability by all implementing agencies.

Kashmir Educators honoured for championing Theatre-Based learning

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK), in partnership with Piramal Foundation and the National School of Drama (NSD), felicitated 53 Master Facilitators at a convocation ceremony for completing the "Theatre in Education" professional development program. This initiative, aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, champions theatre as a transformative pedagogical tool to foster creativity, empathy, and resilience in classrooms. The event, attended by Director of School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N. Itoo; Joint Director (Central), Syed Shabir Ahmad; NSD Registrar, Pradeep Kumar Mohanty; and Zeeshan Hassan, Senior Program Director at Piramal Foundation, underscored a shared vision to integrate arts into education.

"Theatre-based pedagogy ignites imagination, builds confidence, and nurtures emotional intelligence," said Dr. Itoo, urging continued collaboration to create resilient classrooms for Kashmir's students.

NSD's Mohanty emphasized theatre's unique role in Kashmir, stating, "Theatre empowers communities to heal, reconnect, and reclaim their stories, offering students safe spaces to express and process their realities."

SHKSSJ Celebrates Guru Purnima with Devotion and Grandeur

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The Guru foresees the future and shapes the destiny of the present."

On the auspicious occasion of Guru Purnima, Shri Hari Kripa Seva Samiti (SHKSSJ), Jammu & Kashmir organized a spiritually enriching celebration comprising Guru Poojan, Satsang, and Bhandara at Sanatan Dharma Sabha, Geeta Bhawan, Jammu. The event was marked by deep devotion, reverence, and heartfelt participation.

Guru Purnima is a sacred day dedicated to acknowledging the invaluable role of the Guru in guiding and shaping the lives of disciples. In this spirit, devotees gathered to express gratitude at the feet of their revered Guru Maharaj Ji, offering their prayers and seeking divine blessings.

The gathering reflected upon the spiritual teachings and enlightened path shown by Shri Guru Hari Chaitanya Puri Mahaprabhu Ji. His divine message, profound wisdom,



and compassionate guidance were remembered and honored. The ambiance resonated with bhajan-kirtan, as devotees immersed themselves in devotional singing and spiritual joy.

Several distinguished individuals including Shri Satpal Mankotia, Shri Rajeev Charak, Ms. Jyoti Sharma, Raghuvir Lengha, Suraj Prakash Khajuria, Nirmal Sharma, Shantosh

Mankotia, Anuradha Charak, and Achalesh Singh Salathia, Rajesh Singh Slathia along with numerous devotees and volunteers, graced the occasion and paid heartfelt tribute to the Guru's divine glory.

"O Guru! How can I repay your countless blessings?"

Even the greatest treasures are insignificant—for my Guru is truly priceless."

DLSA Budgam holds awareness program on female foeticide, POCSO Act 2012

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BUDGAM:

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam, in collaboration with Legal Literacy Club Government Higher Secondary School Khan Sahib, Budgam conducted an impactful awareness program at Legal Literacy Club Khan Sahib, which focused on key issues including female foeticide, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

The event was successfully conducted under the



leadership of O.P Bhagat, Chairman DLSA Budgam and under the guidance of

Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA Budgam. Abdul Qayoom Shah

HOD Botany Legal Literacy Club Khan Sahib Budgam, Dr. Khan Muneer Aslam, Teacher incharge and Mehraj-ud-din Shah PLV DLSA Budgam were the resource persons. They emphasized the importance of the initiative and discussed the grave impact of female foeticide and also apprised the students regarding various provisions of POCSO Act, providing valuable information on child sexual abuse and students' rights to report such incidents, ensuring they are aware of the legal protections available.

Dogri Song "Ambli Banage Daal" Released in Jammu, Promising to Promote Local Culture



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

A new Dogri song, "Ambli Banage Daal," was officially released today at a special event in Jammu, marking a significant step towards promoting local culture and talent. The song was unveiled by Dy Inspector General Jammu Samba Kathua Range, Shiv Kumar Sharma IPS, who was joined by Keshav Chopra, Social Activist & Chairman of Samvedna Society, along with Rajat Sharma, MD of Unique Voice and Sahil Mahajan MD Maa Bawe Wali Records. The melodious track, sung by Vijay Malhotra, features music composed by V Kaith. The music video, directed by K K Malhotra, stars Sumit Sethi and Lakshmi Thapa, with makeup by Nidhi Singh.

"Ambli Banage Daal" is now available for streaming on Vijay Malhotra's official YouTube Channel Speaking during the Occasion Shiv Kumar Sharma Said that "I am incredibly proud to be part of the release of 'Ambli Banage Daal.' This song is a beautiful representation of our rich Dogri culture and heritage. It's crucial that we support and encourage local artists like Vijay Malhotra and the entire team who are working tirelessly to keep our traditions alive through art. Such initiatives not only entertain but also strengthen our cultural identity and promote harmony within the community. I extend my best wishes to the entire team and hope this song receives immense love and appreciation from the people."

Keshav Chopra while speaking

said that

"The release of 'Ambli Banage Daal' is a moment of great joy and pride for all of us. Our aim has always been to uplift and promote local talent and culture, and this song perfectly embodies that mission. Vijay Malhotra and the dedicated team behind this project have created something truly special that resonates with the soul of Jammu. We believe that music has the power to connect people and preserve our invaluable traditions for future generations. We urge everyone to watch and share this wonderful Dogri song."

Speaking During the programme Rajat Sharma and Sahil Mahajan said that "We are incredibly thrilled to witness the launch of 'Ambli Banage Daal,' a song that truly captures the essence and beauty of Dogri culture. As individuals and as representatives of Unique Voice and Maa Bawe Wali Records, we are deeply committed to fostering and showcasing the vibrant artistic talent prevalent in our region. This collaboration, bringing together the melodious voice of Vijay Malhotra.

The release event was attended by various prominent personalities including Manish Manotra, Sachin Mehra, Vishal Kumar, Shakti Kumar, Nidhi Singh (Singer), Ankush Kumar and others.

Inter-Zonal Handball & Volleyball competitions for U14 & U17 conclude in Baramulla

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BARAMULLA:

The thrilling inter-zonal district level Handball and Volleyball competition for boys under 14 and 17 concluded today with great enthusiasm and sportsmanship at GDC Boys Ground Khawaja Bagh and Indoor Stadium Khawaja Bagh.

The event was organized by the Youth Services and Sports department, district Baramulla.

In the Under-14 Handball final, Zone Sopore emerged victorious after a spirited contest against Zone Wagoora. Meanwhile, in the Under-17 Handball final, Zone Wagoora turned the tables and clinched the title after defeating Zone Sopore in an intense matchup.

On the Volleyball side, the Under-14 final saw Zone Wagoora claim the championship by overcoming Zone Dangiacha in a competitive game. In the Under-17 category, Zone Dangerpora outplayed Zone Tangmarg in a match that drew applause for its skillful display of teamwork and resilience.

DYSSO Baramulla congratulated all the winning and participating teams, emphasizing the importance of such competitions in nurturing sports talent and encouraging healthy competition among youth.

The spotlight now shifts to the Under-19 boys' Handball and Volleyball competitions, scheduled to begin on 14th July at the same venues, where new champions will be crowned in the senior category.

Joint mock drill on flood preparedness conducted by NHPC Salal and District Admin Reasi



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
REASI:

A joint mock drill on flood preparedness was conducted near Chenab River, Reasi, by NHPC Salal Power Station and District Administration under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik, in coordination with CAPF and Police.

The drill tested the early warning system and inter-departmental coordination. Scenarios included rising water levels, medical emergencies and evacuations.

Quick Response Teams (QRTs) were activated and medical and evacuation drills were conducted. Departments performed designated roles, including medical aid, crowd control, transport and rescue.

Present were ACR Reasi Nitin Verma, Tehsildar Thakrakote and representatives of NHPC, Police, NDRF and SDRF.

The exercise showcased the region's readiness and public awareness regarding flood risks.

Notification for Haj 1447 (Hijri)/2026 (CE) issued

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAMBAN:

The District Administration Ramban informs Haj aspirants that the Haj Committee of India (HCoI) has invited online applications for Haj 1447 (H) – 2026 (CE) from 7th July to 31st July 2025.

Applicants must read the guidelines and undertakings on www.hajcommittee.gov.in before applying. They must have a Machine-Readable International Passport issued on or before 31st July 2025 and valid at least up to 31st December 2026.

Applications can be submitted via www.hajcommittee.gov.in or through the official app "HAJ SUVIDHA" available on iOS and Android.

Eligible applicants are advised to apply within the deadline.

SIPS Hosts CBSE Cluster XVIII Kabaddi Tournament



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Stephens International Public School (SIPS) hosted the esteemed CBSE Cluster XVIII Kabaddi Tournament 2025 with palpable enthusiasm and vigour.

The opening ceremony welcomed an array of reputed CBSE schools from Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab, with

nearly two hundred and fifty participants in attendance. Gracing the occasion were dignitaries of distinction: Ms?Anuradha (JKAS), Director-General of Youth Services & Sports; Dr?Narendra?Singh?Raina, MLA and National Secretary, BJP; and Mr?Chandeep?Singh, a former International Paralympic champion.

The Trustee Adv Kunal Saini alongwith Principal Dr Manjari

Sehgal, Vice Principal Ms Shweta Bakshi, Headmistress Ms Khushboo Shaminotra, Coordinators along with staff and students were also present on the occasion.

Trustee Adv Saini formally welcomed the gathering, underscoring the pivotal role of sport in the nurturing of well-rounded individuals, and urging students to internalise the values of sportsmanship. The team captains ceremoniously carried the Mashaal and led the oath-taking, pledging to uphold fairness, integrity, and unity.

In her address, Ms?Anuradha extolled the virtues of discipline, perseverance, and teamwork, emphasising that kabaddi is not merely a test of physical strength, but also of mental resilience. Dr?Manjari?Sehgal, Principal of SIPS, expressed sincere gratitude to every contributor whose efforts ensured the event's success.

The tournament is scheduled to conclude on July 13, 2025, promising a fitting climax to several days of intense competition.

BJP leaders seek blessings from spiritual gurus on Guru Purnima, emphasize role of gurus in nation-building

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

On the auspicious occasion of Shree Guru Purnima, senior leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, paid reverent visits to various spiritual and religious Gurus across the region, seeking blessings and paying homage to the eternal wisdom of the Guru tradition.

J&K BJP President Sat Sharma

(CA) visited Mahant Shri Shri 1008 Rameshwar Das Ji at Shree Ram Mandir, Purani Mandi, Jammu and received his blessings.

He was accompanied by BJP Headquarter Incharge Priya Sethi, senior leader Thakur Narain Singh, District President Jammu Adv. Rajesh Gupta, and other party workers. Sat Sharma also felicitated Param Pujya Shri Gangadhar Ji Maharaj and renowned Sanskrit scholar Padma Shri Prof.

Vishwamurti Shastri and sought their blessings.

Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma said that the Guru Purnima reminds us of the eternal place of Gurus in our lives who show us the path of righteousness, duty, and devotion.

He added that today, as we strive to build a strong and spiritually awakened Bharat, the guidance of saints and scholars becomes ever more vital.

Jammu emerging as a premier spiritual and scenic tourism destination: Dr. Pardeep Mahotra

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Jammu, famously known as the "City of Temples," is rapidly gaining recognition as a diverse tourism destination that offers a seamless blend of spirituality, natural beauty, heritage, and adventure, stated Dr. Pardeep Mahotra.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge, BJP J&K, has urged pilgrims and tourists alike to explore the hidden treasures of the Jammu region beyond the well-trodden pilgrimage circuits.

"While Kashmir is globally renowned for destinations like Amarnath, Jammu too holds immense spiritual and scenic value," said Dr. Pardeep.

"From the revered Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in the Trikuta Hills to the sacred Shiv Khori caves and the tranquil Budha Amarnath in Poonch, Jammu offers unique and fulfilling pilgrimage experiences."

Dr. Pardeep emphasized that the region's tourism potential goes far beyond religious sites. "Hill stations



like Patnitop, Sanasar, Bhaderwah, and Nathatop offer mesmerizing Himalayan landscapes, dense pine forests, and adventure opportunities for trekkers and nature lovers," he said.

He also highlighted the serene twin lakes of Surinsar and Mansar, known for their spiritual and aesthetic appeal, as well as Sudh Mahadev and Mantalai, steeped in legends of Lord Shiva. The Jai Valley

in Bhaderwah, with its lush greenery and snow-fed streams, was described as an untouched paradise.

Among the region's natural wonders, Dr. Pardeep spotlighted Girgan, Valley of Seven Lake, as one of the most scenic and unexplored locations in Poonch.

He further mentioned the Nandini Wildlife Sanctuary for its rich biodiversity and appeal to eco-tourists.

Dr. Pardeep also underlined Jammu's historical and cultural legacy, with references to Bahu Fort, Mubarak Mandi Palace, and Raghunath Mandir. "Jammu's Dogra culture, cuisine, and festivals add a distinct flavor to the tourism experience," he added.

Calling on national and international tourists, Dr. Pardeep said, "Jammu is not just a stopover to Vaishno Devi; it is a destination in itself."

He reaffirmed BJP's commitment under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership to developing tourism infrastructure and unlocking Jammu's full potential as a global tourism hub.

Atharva University, Mumbai announces scholarship for J&K students

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Atharva University Mumbai on Thursday announced special scholarships for daughters of defence martyrs across the country and students from Jammu & Kashmir and India's North-Eastern states in all branches."

Sunil Rane, founder of Atharva University Mumbai said that 100% scholarship is available for martyrs' daughters and 75 percent scholarships for students from Jammu & Kashmir and North East India states.

The university offers courses in Engineering, BBA/MBA, Hotel Management, BCA and B Designs. With a heritage of 25 years, Atharva is a leading educational institute at MaladMarve Road, Malad West, Mumbai.

With high quality education with industry-focused and research driven courses, well-equipped buildings, laboratories with state-of-the-art facilities, excellent teachers and best academic environment, Atharva University has placement facilities in reputed companies. For admission one can contact at 022-40294949 or get information at www.atharvauniversity.org.

No place for Separatist symbols in New J&K: Kavinder Gupta

Slams NC's push to revive July 13 Holiday



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta today came down heavily on the National Conference (NC) for promising to restore the July 13 holiday, calling it a dangerous attempt to revive a divisive and outdated separatist narrative that has no place in New Jammu & Kashmir.

Responding to NC chief spokesperson's statement that the holiday on July 13 would "definitely return", Kavinder said that such political posturing reveals the NC's continued obsession with glorifying anti-national elements under the garb of martyrdom.

"The so-called 'martyrs' of July 13 were not national heroes—they were individuals who rebelled against the lawful authority of the then state and sowed seeds of religious discord.

By insisting on restoring the holiday, NC is yet again pandering to separatist sentiments and polarizing the people for political gains," Kavinder said after participating in a meeting held here at Party headquarters in Jammu.

The senior BJP leader said the decision by the government to remove July 13 from the official holiday list post-Article 370 abrogation was a step in the right direction to free Jammu & Kashmir from the clutches of separatist glorification and identity politics that had kept the region hostage for decades.

He said, "The NC's promise to reinstate the holiday only exposes their desperation to stay relevant by raking up emotional and controversial issues. This is nothing but political opportunism at the cost of national unity and peace in the Union Territory."

Kavinder said the people of Jammu & Kashmir are now focused on development, peace, and integration with the rest of India and will no longer fall for outdated narratives. "The UT has moved on. Political parties like NC must also evolve rather than clinging to colonial-era grievances and religious rhetoric," he said.

He urged all nationalist citizens and political stakeholders to reject this regressive mindset and uphold the spirit of One Nation, One Constitution.

EPG Submits 20-Point Environmental Memorandum to J&K Assembly Panel Chairman Tarigami



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

The Environmental Policy Group (EPG) on Wednesday held a significant meeting with Mr. M.Y. Tarigami, Chairman of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment, to deliberate on pressing ecological and environmental issues affecting the Kashmir region.

The EPG delegation comprised Faiz Ahmad Bakshi (Convenor), Dr. M.M. Shuja (Co-Convenor), and Er. Ajaz Rasool (Governing Council Member).

During the meeting, the EPG team threadbare discussed key challenges such as the conservation of natural resources, the impacts of global warming and climate change, solid waste management, and the urgent need to restore and protect waterbodies, including rivers, wetlands, lakes, and navigational waterways. Specific reference was made to the alarming degradation of River Jhelum, Wular Lake, Manasbal Lake, Haigham, Shallabug, Mirgund, Narakarra, Aanshar, Khushalsar, Gilsar, Padshahi Canal, Brari Nambal, Chuntkul, and several other interconnected systems that define the hydrological, ecological, and cultural landscape of the Valley.

Concerns over unregulated minor mineral extraction from rivers in Baramulla, Budgam, Bandipore,

Ganderbal, Pulwama, Shopian Districts hugely affecting Rambhara, Romshi, Sindh, Sukhnag, Kunzer, Ferozpora and other rivers/Nallahs were also discussed, highlighting the threats to aquatic ecosystems and river morphology. Additionally, serious environmental violations within areas falling under LCMA jurisdiction were flagged, including unregulated and illegal activities in Dara, Khimber, Chatterhama, encroachments, untreated sewage inflows, and illegal constructions and discharge of untreated liquid waste into Dal and Nigeen Lake.

The delegation apprised the chairman about the EPG ongoing Public Interest Litigations in the J & K High Court and submitted a comprehensive 20-point memorandum, outlining core environmental concerns and recommended interventions. The Chairman of the Committee assured full cooperation and joint action to protect Kashmir's ecological heritage and improve environmental governance.

The 19 critical issues highlighted in the memorandum include:

Catchment Area Treatment and Sediment Control in River Jhelum Basin

Flood Management and Long-Pending River Jhelum Project

Restoration of Flood Spill Channels and Srinagar's Traditional Waterways

Ecological Restoration/ Management of Wetlands and Urban Lakes

Reconnecting Waterbodies through Navigational Linkages

Manasbal Lake: Fragmented and Damaging Development Activities

Wular Lake Restoration – Technical Deviations and Need for Independent Audit

Lack of Technical Solid Waste Management in Bandipore and Sopore

Wetlands CMAPs Pending with Government of India

Sewerage and Drainage Infrastructure Deficiencies in Greater Srinagar and Riverbank Towns

Solid Waste Crisis at Achan Landfill Conservation of National Parks (e.g., Dachigam)

Urban Open Spaces and Playgrounds Under Threat

Opposition to the Proposed Flyover Over Polo Ground

Greenbelt Conservation Must be Prioritized

Illegal Extraction of Minor Minerals (including Doodhganga and Sukhnag)

Environmental Oversight for Road Infrastructure Projects

Development of new Tourism destinations according to an approved Master Plan, Environmental Impact Assessment and carrying Capacity.

Smart City Projects Require Independent Environmental Audits

Urgent Need for STPs and Enforcement of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016

The EPG emphasised the urgency of coordinated action across departments and agencies, and the need for scientific planning, empowered oversight, and transparent implementation mechanisms.

Chairman Tarigami welcomed the memorandum and acknowledged the critical role civil society must play in shaping sustainable environmental policy. He assured the EPG of ongoing dialogue and collaborative frameworks to advance ecological conservation goals in Jammu & Kashmir.

Arvind Gupta holds public darbar at BJP headquarters, holds meeting with Power Grid Department



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Arvind Gupta, Secretary, J&K BJP and MLA from Jammu West Assembly Constituency, held a Public Darbar at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

MLA also held a meeting with officials of the Power Grid Department to address the public concerns regarding electricity supply in the region. Present in the meeting were Deputy General Manager Sh. Syed Alamdar Hussain, Deputy Manager Vivek Ji, and Junior Engineer Aman Sharma.

The public darbar witnessed an overwhelming response from people across various localities and social

segments, who turned up in large numbers to raise their civic and administrative concerns.

During the Darbar, several deputations met Arvind Gupta and highlighted a wide range of issues affecting their daily lives. These included the need for repair of damaged roads, upgradation of drainage systems, irregular water and power supply, delay in pension disbursement, sanitation issues in residential colonies, and requests for early processing of files in revenue and municipal departments. A few individuals also raised matters related to ration cards, social welfare schemes, and pending job-related documentation.

Arvind Gupta gave a patient hear-

ing to each deputation and took note of every grievance in detail. He promptly conveyed the matters to the concerned departmental authorities in oral and written communications and ensures immediate redressal.

While addressing the gathering, Arvind Gupta reiterated BJP's unwavering commitment to development and public service in Jammu & Kashmir. "The BJP stands with the people of J&K and believes in the politics of delivery and accountability. These Public Darbars are a step to bridge the gap between the administration and the common man," he said. He further added, "Our government is focused on ensuring inclusive growth and resolving genuine public concerns in a time-bound manner. The feedback received here is being documented and will be followed up thoroughly until satisfactory action is taken."

During the meeting with Power Grid Department, MLA Gupta emphasized the importance of ensuring uninterrupted power supply and directed the officials to augment existing transformers to meet the growing demands of the population. He also instructed the department to prioritize the timely resolution of public grievances, reiterating that people's comfort and essential needs must always come first.

Mehfil-e-Mushaira organised at Pulwama



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Department of Information & Public Relations Pulwama, in collaboration with the District Cultural Society Pulwama, today organized a Mehfil-e-Mushaira here, celebrating the district's vibrant literary culture.

The programme was presided over by GM Dilshad, General Secretary of the District Cultural Society, while the introductory and welcome address was delivered by Shamas Siddique, President of the Society. Both speakers highlighted the significance of literary expression as a vehicle for cultural continuity and moral reflection.

An impressive lineup of poets from across the district mesmerized the audience with their compositions in Kashmiri and Urdu, touching upon themes of spirituality, social awareness, devotion, and sacrifice.

The Mushaira also provided a platform for budding poets to showcase their talent, gain encouragement from senior writers, and engage with a wider literary audience.

The Mehfil-e-Mushaira served not only as a celebration of literary richness but also as a moment of collective remembrance and moral reflection. The poetic contributions resonated deeply with the audience, affirming the district's commitment to preserving its cultural and spiritual heritage.

The event was also attended by officials of DIPR Pulwama, members of the District Cultural Society, and several literary and academic personalities from across the district.

"Clean Jammu Green Jammu Campaign"

J&K High Court conducts plantation drive at Janipur complex

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

A plantation drive was carried out in the Jammu High Court premises under the "Clean Jammu Green Jammu Campaign" and "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" initiative.

Under the directions and patronage of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Arun Palli, a plantation drive was organized today in the High Court Complex, Janipur, Jammu, in collaboration with the Jammu Municipal Corporation and Urban Forestry (Jammu Division) under the Chairmanship of Justice Sindhu Sharma.

Present on the occasion were Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Mohd Akram Chowdhary, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Justice Mohammad Yousuf Wani and Justice Shahzad Azeem who participated in the plantation drive by planting saplings of different varieties of ornamental trees including Chinara, Jacaranda and



Gulmohar. President, J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu, Nirmal Kotwal and members of executive body of Bar Association also took part in the plantation drive.

The event was organized to commemorate Guru Purnima as a contribution to mother nature with the aim to inspire the general public to make Jammu city clean and green, creating a safer environment for the future generations.

Sandeep Kour Registrar Judicial,

High Court Jammu Wing, Meyank Gupta Joint Registrar Judicial/Protocol, High Court Jammu Wing, Ajay Kumar Additional Registrar besides other officers and officials of the registry were also present on the occasion. Officers from Jammu Municipal Corporation including In-charge IEC JMC, Dr. Divya Sharma, Dr Rabia Khan AFO, JMC and officials from Urban forestry division Jammu also joined the event.

Fruit and Vegetable Mandi at Batote made fully functional, boosting Agri-Economy in area

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAMBAN:

In a major boost to the agricultural marketing infrastructure of Ramban district, the Fruit and Vegetable Mandi at Batote became fully functional.

The facility, developed by the

Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing, J&K, will now serve as a vibrant hub for trading fruits, vegetables, processed food items and other agri-produce.

The operationalization of the mandi is a direct outcome of proactive intervention by Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad

Alyas Khan, who had issued clear directives to concerned departments after his first visit to the site.

His action was closely supported by Director Horticulture Planning and Marketing, Ghulam Geelani Zarger with continuous coordination from Deputy Director Ayaz Ahmed Natnoo with all stakeholders.

SWD, ALIMCO distribute Prosthetic Aids to PwDs, Senior Citizens in Thathri

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
THATHRI, GANDOH:

The Social Welfare Department, Doda, in collaboration with the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) — a public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India — organized a prosthetic aid distribution camp today at R&B Dak Bungalow, Thathri. The event was held under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh and overall supervision of District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Doda, Tariq Parveez Qazi.

The program was chaired by Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Thathri, Sheetal Sharma.

During the camp, assistive devices and appliances were distributed to 34 beneficiaries identified during prior assessment camps in Thathri. The aids provided included adult and child wheelchairs, CP chairs, hearing aids, MSIED kits, smart canes, smartphones, Daisy players, Braille kits, crutches, walking sticks, rollers, calipers, artificial limbs, knee braces, lumbo-sacral belts and silicon foam cushions, among others.

These modern and scientifically designed devices aim to improve the mobility, independence and quality of life of the recipients.

The initiative was undertaken under two flagship schemes of the Government of India: the Assistance to Disabled Persons (ADIP) Scheme for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) for senior citizens.

These schemes aim to reduce the impact of disability, prevent secondary disabilities and promote physical, social and psychological rehabilitation, thereby enhancing the economic potential of the beneficiaries.

CS reviews progress, future plans of Mining Deptt

Deptt sets revenue target of Rs 500 cr for current financial year



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, held a comprehensive review of the operations and future strategies of the Department of Geology and Mining in a meeting here today.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Mining; Director, Mining; MD, JK Minerals besides other concerned officers.

During the deliberations, the Chief Secretary laid strong emphasis on leveraging technology to curb the illegal mining across the Union Territory. He directed the department to adopt tools such as GPS tracking, RFID tagging and geo-fencing, along with development of real-time monitoring systems to generate actionable triggers against the violators. He underscored the importance of creating sufficient deterrence, especially against habitual offenders, to ensure strict compliance and transparency in mining operations.

Dulloo further called for expediting the issuance of Letters of Intent (LoIs) in favour of all inoperational mineral blocks. He asked the department to actively liaise with the Union Ministry of Mines, for early assessment and auctioning of newly identified mineral blocks.

He asked the department to study and emulate the best practices adopted by other progressive States and Union Territories that are generating significant revenue from the mining sector.

The Chief Secretary observed that there is a need to revive the mining sector through comprehensive reforms. He maintained that for early

framing of District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) rules in line with national mining reforms.

Expressing concern over the overcharging of minor minerals, Dulloo directed the department to ensure fair pricing and abundant availability of construction material to the general public. He stressed the need for a more transparent, citizen-friendly, and technology-driven ecosystem to make the sector efficient, accountable and responsive to the needs of both the economy and the people.

Principal Secretary, Mining, Anil Kumar Singh, while speaking in this meeting made out that a total of 233 mineral blocks auctioned/reserved across J&K, 106 are currently operational while 127 are non-operational. Efforts are underway to make 60 of these non-operational blocks functional by October 31, 2025, he added.

He added that the department has set an ambitious revenue target of Rs 500 crore for the current financial year, a significant increase from Rs 150 crore in FY 2024-25. This target included Rs 260 crore from major minerals and Rs 220 crore from minor minerals, with an additional Rs 100 crore from other sources.

Regarding the major minerals, it was informed that 48 blocks of Limestone had been identified, including 23 non-operational mining leases, 7 prospected 10A2(B) cases and 3 newly identified blocks in Anantnag, along with blocks in Pulwama, Poonch and Rajouri. Five limestone blocks with a reserve of 75.597 Million Tonnes have been proposed for e-auction by October

31, 2025, with an expected revenue of Rs 260.00 crore, the meeting was informed.

About Minor Minerals (RBM), it was revealed that the department aims to make 60 non-operational blocks operational by October 31, 2025, contributing Rs 53 crore. Additionally, 8 Letters of Intent (LOI) are to be issued within one month and 19 blocks have been identified for e-auction with a reserve bid finalized, expected to be completed within three months.

Furthermore, 73 blocks identified for e-auction under the Single Window System are awaiting NOCs from the concerned Deputy Commissioners which are expected by August 18, 2025, with an estimated revenue of Rs100 crore, as was apprised in the meeting.

As far as Lithium reserves in Reasi are concerned, it was divulged that the Geological investigations by GSI indicate a resource of 5.9 million tons of Lithium stretched over 3 sq km. Additionally, detailed geological studies are underway with an expected completion date of December 31, 2025.

The other mineral resources that were discussed in the meeting included Sapphire (Kishtwar), Lignite (Kupwara), Limestone (Anantnag), Granite (Doda&Ganderbal), Quartzite (Kishtwar), Dolomite (Rajouri) and Graphite (Kupwara) with timeline for exploration of each detailed out in the meeting.

Moreover, it was given out that the department is actively implementing the technology to curb illegal mining and monitor activities. The first phase of an integrated Mining Surveillance System (MSS) portal and mobile application for detecting illegal mining using satellite imagery is operational, with the second phase in progress.

This system will include real-time vehicle tracking, GPS-enabled monitoring, integration with Vahan Portal and weighbridges besides e-Challan generation. On-spot imposition of penalties through Point of Sale (PoS) machines has begun in Jammu and Samba districts and will be implemented across J&K by July 15, 2025. The implementation of the Mine Surveillance System with BISAG is also on track.

DLSA Srinagar holds awareness programme on POCSO Act, drug abuse



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, in collaboration with School Education department conducted an awareness programme on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, and drug abuse at Govt. Girls High School Chaterhama Srinagar.

The programme, held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, aimed to sensitize students, teachers and staff of the school about the key provision of POCSO Act, 2012 and the harmful consequences of drug addiction.

Speaking on the occasion, resource person Adv. Suhaila Ali (Panel Lawyer) DLSA Srinagar highlighted the role of Legal Services in safeguarding the rights of children and explained how the POCSO Act provides the strong legal framework to deal with offences related to child abuse. Sunila Kumari (JLA) DLSA Srinagar also delivered an informative session on the early signs of drug addiction, peer pressure and legal consequences of drug related offences.

Real life case examples helped the participants understand the serious implications of such issues. Ayesha (Asstt. LADC) DLSA Srinagar also emphasized that the POCSO Act is a powerful tool to protect the dignity and innocence of children.

The participants were also made aware of the child helpline No- 1098 and availability of free Legal Aid through District Legal Services Authority Srinagar.

Legal Metrology cracks whip on cement manufacturer: seizes 550 bags in Jammu, Udhampur

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

Acting swiftly on the directions of Controller Legal Metrology Department, Rajinder Singh Tara, the teams of Legal Metrology Department carried out special surprise inspection of trade establishments dealing with hardware and building materials.

The team seized 550 bags of cement for violation of provisions of Legal Metrology laws like non-declaration of month and date of manufacture and MRP.

As part of the initiative, a team headed by Legal Metrology Officers conducted major enforcement drives and unearthed serious violations at two separate locations in Jammu and Udhampur.

During the inspection, cement bags of a prominent brand found lacking mandatory information like month and year of packaging. The team registered cases against the cement manufacturer and seized 300 cement bags at Jammu.

In another surprise inspection at Udhampur, the team conducted raid on manufacturing premises at Battal Ballian.

The team found that cement bags ready for retail dispatch were without the mandatory declaration for which the company was booked under Section 18(1) of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 and around 250 cement bags were seized.

As per a communique issued here in this regard, the Controller Legal Metrology reaffirmed the department's commitment to consumer protection and fair trade practices.

He further highlighted that the department will continue its rigorous inspections in days to come. The Controller urged upon the consumers to remain vigilant and report any irregularity found in pre-packaged goods. Proper labelling helps ensure transparency and provide consumers with accurate product information of pre-packaged commodities which discourages deceptive or fraudulent practices, he added.

Deptt of Fisheries Kupwara observes National Fish Farmers Day with Biofloc workshop, book launch

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU KUPWARA:

Department of Fisheries Kupwara celebrated National Fish Farmers Day by organizing a one-day workshop on Biofloc Farming in collaboration with GDC Baramulla and GDC Handwara.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from over 50 students and progressive fish farmers across the district.

Assistant Director Fisheries, Dr. Salman Rauoof Chalkoo delivered an insightful technical session on Biofloc technology and its potential in boosting fish productivity and self-employment.

A key highlight was the launch of Dr. Chalkoo's book 'Agri Economy,'



aimed at supporting rural development and agri-entrepreneurship.

Participants also visited operational Biofloc units in Kupwara for hands-on learning. The event con-

cluded with a commitment to strengthening the fisheries sector through innovation, education, and government schemes like PMMSY and HADP.

DC Bandipora visits Gurez, reviews developmental projects

Ensure 100% saturation across all indicators: DC to officers

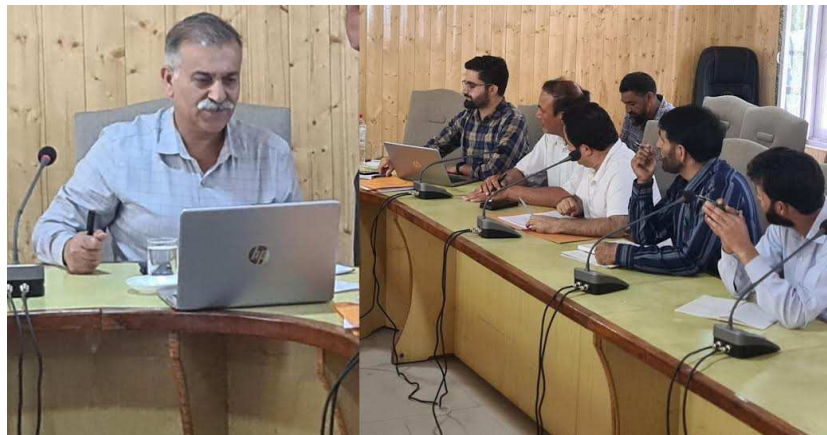
THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BANDIPORA:

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, conducted an extensive tour of the Gurez Sub-Division on Thursday to review ongoing developmental works and assess overall progress in the region.

During the visit, DC chaired a meeting with sub-divisional officers and other concerned officials to take a sector-wise review of the developmental initiatives currently under implementation.

On the occasion, SDM Gurez briefed the meeting on the status of various projects and shared updates on the progress made so far. DC emphasized the importance of timely execution and accountability in delivering public services.

It is worth mentioning that the visit comes in the backdrop of district Bandipora securing 2nd rank in the North Zone under NITI Aayog's Aspirational Block Programme (ABP). Tulail Block, identified as the focal block for the initiative, has



shown commendable progress across multiple key development indicators, ranking 2nd in Jammu & Kashmir for the quarter ending March 2025 (FY 2024-25).

On the occasion, a threadbare discussion was held on the weak indicators of Aspirational Block Tulail, with particular focus on the health and education sectors. DC called for renewed efforts to improve progress in these critical areas. He also sought proposals from each department outlining actionable measures to address the gaps and improve overall performance.

While reviewing the performance under the ABP, DC underscored the need for intensified and coordinated efforts from all departments. He directed concerned officers to ensure 100% saturation across all indicators. Among others, the meeting was attended by CPO Bandipora, Mohammad Maqbool and officers from other concerned departments.

SHEW Shopian organised awareness programme at Chanchmarg

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SHOPIAN:

In a dedicated move to foster gender equality and raise awareness on the rights of the girl child, Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW), Mission Shakti Shopian today organized an impactful awareness programme at Government High School Chanchmarg, Shopian.

The session was led by the Gender Specialist of Sankalp Hub, who strongly emphasized the importance of girl education and the need to empower girls to become informed and



confident individuals. The speaker urged students and staff to stand against gender discrimination and uphold the rights of every

girl child.

Faculty members of the school also spoke passionately about the value of educating girls, their fun-

damental rights, and the vital role girls play in shaping a progressive society.

A pledge ceremony was held where students and staff committed themselves to support and protect the rights of the girl child.

Awareness stickers carrying powerful messages were pasted in and around the school premises to spread the message beyond the event. The programme concluded on a hopeful note, with a collective commitment to continue working towards a society that values, educates, and empowers every girl child.

DLSA Shopian holds interaction with Ex-Servicemen; assures free Legal Aid

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SHOPIAN:

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian today organized an interactive session with ex-servicemen and Veer Naris (war widows) of district Shopian to listen to their issues. The event was held under the chairmanship of Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhury, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Shopian, and conducted by Rafie Ahmad Ganie, Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel (LADC), Shopian along with Deputy Chief LADC, Shah Nawaz Raina. During the interaction, ex-servicemen shared their grievances and highlighted pending cases in various courts across the district. DLSA assured them of full support in providing free legal aid as per the directives of the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority (JKLSA).

Chief LADC reiterated DLSA's commitment to ensuring accessible and efficient legal assistance to ex-servicemen and Veer Naris, in line with the vision of NALSA (National Legal Services Authority) and emphasized that all necessary steps will be taken to address their legal concerns promptly.

SKUAST-Kashmir, KVK Srinagar kick-start 3-day Skill Development Training



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

KVK Srinagar organised three days ESDP on "Scientific Management of Broiler and Backyard Poultry Farming" at its campus, here.

The programme aimed to equip rural youth with the necessary skills for sustainable poultry farming.

The opening session began with a presentation on the overall scenario of poultry farming in J&K and futuristic strategies to make the sector a commercially viable and employment generating enterprise.

Head KVK, Dr.S.A.Simnani urged the trainees to take up poultry farming as it is self-sustaining enterprises requiring minimal investment.

During the interactive sessions with the trainees, Dr.Simnani stressed on integrating Poultry with other agricultural practices for optimising feed efficiency and waste management practices. He emphasised the reduced use of antibiotics through adoption of biosecurity measures. Dr.Ishtiyak A Mir, Scientist (Animal Science), delivered a comprehensive presentation on scientific management, covering breed selection, nutrition, health management, and bio-security measures.

Nukkad Natak organised to promote cleanliness and safety awareness among Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

A Nukkad Natak was organised at the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Token Centre, Railway Road, Jammu, to promote cleanliness and safety among pilgrims.

The event was organised by the Cultural Unit, Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu in collaboration with District Administration Jammu.

The play conveyed messages on cleanliness, biodegradable waste use, disposal practices and following safety guidelines.

The initiative was held under the directions of Joint Director Information Jammu, Deepak Dubey and under the supervision of Cultural Officer Jammu, Mukesh Kumar Sharma.

Vyas Purnima observed at Ladhoo Pampore after 35 years

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
PULWAMA:

In a moment etched with emotion, reverence, harmony and hope, the native Pandit community gathered today at Shree Jeevan Sahib, Ladhoo, Pampore to celebrate Vyas Purnima after a gap of 35 years. The event also commemorated the Nirvan Divas of the revered saint Swami Jeevan Sahib Ji and was organised by the Swami Jeevan Sahib Baradari Religious Trust. The event included traditional Pooja and Havan ceremonies, accompanied by recitations and devotional hymns. The event provided an opportunity for the community to reconnect with their place of origin and revive longstanding reli-



gious traditions.

The local Muslim community warmly welcomed their long-separated neighbours, reviving the enduring spirit of Kashmiriyat. The elders of both fraternities reminisced about the days of harmony, festivity and togetherness, rekindling memories of a time rooted in shared humanity and mutual respect.

Senior members of the Pandit fraternity expressed heartfelt gratitude to the district administration for facilitating the event and ensuring its smooth conduct. They also conveyed deep appreciation for the hospitality and participation of the local community, which they described as a reassuring reflection of communal harmony and mutual respect.

Div Com Jammu reviews preparations for Annual Basohli Utsav

Stresses on community participation in showcasing region's rich culture, traditions and art & crafts



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KATHUA:

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, today visited Basohli to hold a comprehensive interaction with stakeholders and review the roadmap for the Annual Basohli Festival to be organised in coming

months for celebrating and reviving the region's rich cultural and artistic heritage. While interacting with the participants, the Divisional Commissioner underlined the importance of reviving Basohli's pristine glory through the Basohli Utsav.

He said that Basohli holds immense cultural and historical sig-

nificance with its world-famous paintings, fine Pashmina, traditional food, and iconic heritage sites like Atal Setu, Basohli Fort and Chanchlo Mata Mandir.

The Divisional Commissioner emphasized that coordinated efforts are required to put and promote Basohli on the tourism map of the country. He added that the need of the hour is enhanced local involvement and up scaled production of indigenous crafts like Basohli paintings and pashmina shawls to enhance their reach and market value. To enhance the vibrancy of the festival, the Divisional Commissioner suggested community-led beautification of homes and surroundings, bringing in renowned artists and experts to curate and guide the festival's aesthetics and programming, and roping in students and professionals from institutions like IITs and IIMs for innovative ideas to help the festival grow every year.

DDC Rajouri reviews progress RDD works, stresses transparency and timely execution

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, today chaired a comprehensive meeting in the VC Room of the DC Office Complex to review the physical and financial progress of works being executed by the RDD.

The meeting focused on key performance indicators under flagship schemes such as MGNREGA and PMAY. The DDC took a detailed review of the status of physical verification, geo-tagging of assets, timely wage payments under MGNREGA, and the total number of person-days generated till date. He also assessed the construction of check dams across various blocks to enhance water conservation and livelihood opportunities.

While reviewing the PMAY, the DDC expressed concern over delays by some beneficiaries and directed the concerned officers to initiate recovery of installments from individuals who have failed to commence construction despite receiving funds.

The DDC emphasized the need to expedite the generation of person-days under MGNREGA and ensure timely completion of all sanctioned works. He reiterated the importance of transparency, adherence to scheme guidelines and doorstep delivery of services to the public. "Officers must ensure that every rupee spent reaches the intended beneficiary and that all works are executed as per the prescribed norms. There should be no compromise on quality or accountability," he said.



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GALAXY ENCLAVE Sec -E(Ext.) Sainik Colony



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THE STUDENTS OF CLASS 10TH OF GALAXY PUBLIC SCHOOL HAVE SHOWCASED A
REMARKABLE EXECUTION OF HARD WORK WITH FAUDABLE RESULT IN THE CBSE BOARD
EXAMINATION 2025. THE REMARKABLE RESULT IS COLLECTIVE HARDWORK,
CONSISTENCY AND SINCERITY OF THE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS.