

The Kashmir Talk

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PM Modi arrives in Cyprus on a historic visit



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
CYPRUS:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Sunday arrived in Nicosia in Cyprus on a historic visit, the first by an Indian prime minister to the island nation in over two decades. "Landed in Cyprus. My gratitude to the President of Cyprus, Mr. Nikos Christodoulides for the special gesture of welcoming me at the airport. This visit will add signifi-

cant momentum to India-Cyprus relations, especially in areas like trade, investment and more," Modi wrote on his X handle.

Modi was personally received by Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides at the airport.

The prime minister, who is on his first overseas visit since India launched Operation Sindoor targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied

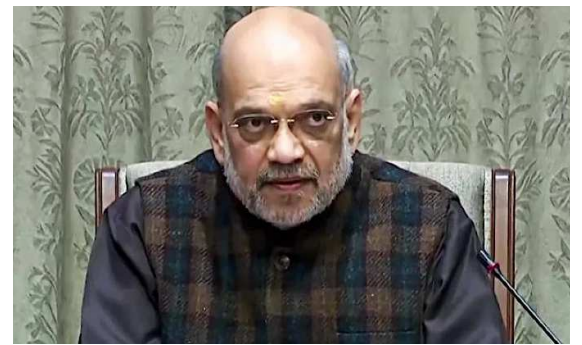
Kashmir, will be in Cyprus for two days from June 15 to 16.

Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides described the visit as historic, saying the upcoming discussions with Prime Minister Modi will be on significant issues, including connecting India to Europe through Cyprus. While in Nicosia, PM Modi will hold talks with President Christodoulides and address business leaders in Limassol. The visit will reaffirm the shared commitment of the two countries to deepen bilateral ties and strengthen India's engagement with the Mediterranean region and the European Union.

Describing Modi's visit, by an Indian prime minister after 20 years, as historic, President Christodoulides also noted that during the talks with Prime Minister Modi, a number of important issues will be discussed, underlining that one of the goals of the discussions will be the connection of India with Europe through the Republic of Cyprus. President

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PM Modi Made Clear India's Blood Is Not Meant To Be Shed: Amit Shah



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
LUCKNOW (UP):

With Operation Sindoor targeting and destroying terror bases, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sent a message to Pakistan that India's blood is not meant to be shed, and whoever does dare will be punished for it, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said during a public gathering in Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow on Sunday.

Shah is in the city to attend the ceremony to give appointment letters to more than 60,000 newly selected police constables. On the occasion, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath handed the letters to the new recruits. Shah also attacked Congress for not being able to curb terrorist attacks

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Dr Jitendra Announces Major Reforms For 'Ease Of Innovation', 'Ease Of Research'



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

In a major policy shift aimed at streamlining the research environment in India, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public

Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh on Sunday announced a set of policy reforms to enhance the "Ease of Innovation" and "Ease of Research", providing long-awaited relief to innovators, researchers, scholars, scientists and institutions across the country.

Addressing a press conference at The National Media Centre in the national capital, Dr.

Jitendra Singh unveiled decisions that will enable academic and research institutions to bypass some of the most cited hurdles in their day-to-day functioning—particularly around procurement delays and financial ceilings. Such pathbreaking decisions could not have been possible without the personal indulgence and support of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he added. The announcement follows extensive consultations led by the Principal Scientific Adviser's office, drawing insights from 13 IITs and multiple research bodies across India.

One of the most consequential decisions announced is the delegation of procurement powers to institutional heads.

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THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today had a detailed review of the critical infrastructure and services being provided across the associated hospitals of medical colleges besides assessing the status of faculty and courses offered in each of these colleges.

The Chief Secretary, while chairing a meeting held in this regard, thoroughly analysed the progress achieved in introduction of specialisation courses (MD/MS, DM/MCH and DNB), increase of 50 MBBS seats in new medical colleges, status of faculty recruitment and strengthening of the tertiary care services in all the newly



established GMCs.

The meeting besides Secretary, H&ME was attended by Director, SKIMS; Principals of GMC, Srinagar, Jammu, Anantnag, Baramulla, Kathua, Doda, Rajouri, Udhampur, Handwara; MD, JKMSCL; Director, Coordination (Medical Colleges); Director Health, Jammu/Kashmir besides other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the

department to continuously endeavour to upgrade their services especially the tertiary care services like critical care, emergency, neurological, cardiac care, cancer care, kidney care and radiology services by these health institutions.

He impressed upon the Principals of the medical colleges to create a timeline on the basis of infrastructure and manpower

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Jammu University reserves one seat for transgenders in each on-campus programme

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In a step towards fulfilling its social responsibility, the Academic Council (AC) of the University of Jammu on Sunday approved the creation of one supernumerary seat for transgender candidates in each on-campus programme of the University. The Council, which met under the Chairmanship of Vice Chancellor

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Tourism In Jammu And Kashmir's Pahalgam Limping Back To Normalcy

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
PAHALGAM:

Nearly two months after the deadly terror attack here left 26 persons dead, the tourism trade in this south Kashmir resort is limping back to normalcy as locals and a "trickle" from Punjab have started visiting the valley of shepherds



after the Eid holidays.

A significant number of Kashmiris from other parts of the valley made their way to Pahalgam on the third day of the Eid, much to the delight of people associated with the tourist trade in this resort, which is 100 kilometres from Srinagar. "We have been visiting Pahalgam every year irrespective of

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CONTD FROM PAGE 1...

Dr Jitendra Announce...

Directors of scientific organisations and Vice Chancellors of universities will now be empowered to carry out non-GeM (Government e-Marketplace) purchases for specialized research equipment and materials—a departure from the existing rules which mandated GeM procurement even when suitable items were unavailable.

“We have tried to do away with red tape-ism,” said Dr. Jitendra Singh. “This is a move that places trust in the science leaders of this country. The message from the Modi Government is clear—we trust you, we value you and we are committed to you.”

The government has also revised key financial thresholds under the General Financial Rules (GFR). The ceiling for direct purchases has been doubled from ₹1 lakh to ₹2 lakh, while the range for purchases through departmental committees has been raised from ₹1-10 lakh to ₹2-25 lakh. Similarly, the limits for limited tender enquiries and advertised tenders have been increased from ₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore. Additionally, heads of institutions can now approve Global Tender Enquiries (GTEs) up to ₹200 crore—previously a power reserved for central authorities.

The new policies respond directly to longstanding grievances from research scholars and faculty, who often faced delays due to slow exemption processes and cumbersome procurement rules. A recent report by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, along with a presentation by the PSA's office, highlighted how rules originally intended to ensure transparency were inadvertently hampering scientific progress.

Dr. Jitendra Singh clarified that while these reforms offer greater flexibility, they are built on a foundation of trust and accountability. “There is an enormous responsibility that comes with this autonomy. We are relying on the integrity of the science community to ensure that this flexibility is used judiciously,” he said.

The move is seen as part of the broader national effort to position India as an innovation-driven economy. Dr. Jitendra Singh pointed out that similar liberalisation in the space and nuclear sectors had yielded strong results. “We opened up the space sector, and today we’re looking at an \$8 billion economy poised to grow fivefold. These reforms are meant to replicate that success across the R&D ecosystem.”

He also underlined the alignment of these reforms with the National Education Policy 2020, which encourages interdisciplinary flexibility and student-led academic trajectories. “If we are allowing students to choose their learning paths, we must also enable the research ecosystem to support that ambition,” he said.

The policy changes are expected to significantly reduce delays in research projects, improve access to high-end equipment, and motivate young scholars, start-ups, and innovators who had often taken to social media to express their frustration with existing bottlenecks.

With the Modi government completing 11 years in office, the announcement is being seen as a reaffirmation of its focus on science, innovation, and youth-led development—core themes that Dr. Jitendra Singh said are “integral to India’s future global role.”

The press conference was addressed in the presence of Dr. Rajesh S. Gokhale, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology; Prof. A. K. Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India; and Sunil Kumar, Additional Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, with participation from scientists and senior officials of the respective departments.

PM Modi Made...

across the country during the UPA-led years before 2014.

“Terrorist attacks used to happen every day under Congress’ rule, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Coimbatore, Delhi, and don’t even mention Kashmir. Pakistan tried to attack India thrice during PM Modi’s rule. When they tried in Uri, they were met with a surgical strike. After Pulwama, they were met with an air strike, and after Pahalgam, the headquarters of terrorists were razed to the ground with Operation Sindoor. PM Modi sent a message to the whole country that India’s blood is not meant to be shed, and whoever dares to do this will be punished,” Shah said during the program.

Talking about the promise of eradicating Naxalism

by March 31, 2026, Shah added how in 11 years of governance led by PM Modi, Naxalism’s spread has been reduced from over 11 states to just 3 districts.

“In 11 years of PM Modi, the country has gotten safe. Naxalism was prevalent in 11 states of the country. After these last 11 years of PM Modi, naxalism is present in only three districts now. Don’t forget my words: by 31. 3. 2026 this country will be free from Naxalism,” he said.

Operation Sindoor was one of the responses by India to the deadly Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir in April. The attack killed 26 people, mostly tourists. Operation Sindoor was launched on May 7, following which Pakistan retaliated and the Indian armed forces carried out targeted strikes against terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in the deaths of over 100 terrorists linked to groups such as Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Taiba, and Hizbul Mujahideen.

PM Modi arrives...

Christodoulides also stated that among the issues that will be raised during the discussions will be the situation in the wider region.

Prime Minister Modi described Cyprus as a close friend and important partner in the Mediterranean region and the European Union.

India is pursuing an India-Middle East-Europe Corridor trade link by sea and rail. The visit also aims to expand cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, security, technology, and people-to-people exchanges.

“One of the objectives of our discussions is the connection of India with Europe through the region of the wider Middle East, (and) its entry into Europe through the Republic of Cyprus,” Christodoulides had, according to media reports, told journalists earlier Sunday.

In statements ahead of his departure for Nicosia, Narendra Modi said that the visit to the island is an opportunity to strengthen historical ties and expand cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, security, technology and exchanges between peoples.

During his visit, Modi will also address business leaders in Limassol, highlighting opportunities for cooperation and growth.

Continuous Upgrade...

available to introduce such high-end services in these colleges. He advised them to dovetail their available resources to meet such requirements along with taking the much needed assistance from SKIMS and GMCs at Jammu and Srinagar.

He stressed on taking swift measures to augment services in the identified critical care services to save lives of the patients by making timely interventions. He impressed upon them to receive the requisite hand-holding from the SKIMS or GMC Jammu/Srinagar with respect to training of staff besides acquiring the small equipments, necessary consumables to deal with such exigencies.

The Chief Secretary further enquired from each Principal of the medical college about the new specialized courses like MD/MS, DM/MCH, and DNB successfully introduced in their colleges along with the applications made to NMC this year. He called for serious perusal of these applications as per set norms to secure the NMC approval before the next academic year. As far as the introduction of additional 50 MBBS seats are concerned, the Chief Secretary stressed on securing the requisite faculty. He urged them to fill all the entry level posts of Assistant Professors besides taking steps like hiring of staff on academic arrangement where there are no feasible candidates available to fill higher positions of Professors and Associate Professors through conduction of DPCs.

Dulloo also reviewed status of the functioning of each medical college besides availability of infrastructure in each college and the associated hospital. He also enquired about the completion of critical care infrastructure raised under PM-ABHIM in each of them along with the newly established blocks in associated hospitals of these GMCs.

Secretary, H&ME, Dr Syed Abid Rashid Shah, while throwing light on the status and functioning of these colleges, informed the meeting that a total of 391 applications have been submitted to enhance the seat availability for MD/MS, DM/MCH and DNB programs across various medical colleges. He elaborated that these included 234 applications for enhancing MD/MS courses, 129 DNB and 28 applications for introduction of DM/MCH courses across the GMCs.

He added that the approval has been received for two DM Neurology seats and 1 DNB seat each in Cardiology, Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery by GMC Srinagar. He added that GMC Handwara has received approvals for 2 DNB seats in General Surgery and 5 DNB seats in General Medicine, he added.

Additionally, GMC Kathua received approvals in

respect of 4 DNB seats in Anaesthesia while as IGGDC Jammu has received permission for starting 3 seats in Public Health Dentistry, the meeting was informed.

Regarding enhancement of additional 50 MBBS seats in new medical colleges, he informed that applications have been submitted by all the nine medical colleges of the UT and a couple of them had been inspected recently while others are waiting for the NMC inspection for approval.

With respect to faculty recruitment in New Medical Colleges, the meeting was informed that the vacant positions of APs had been referred to PSC for filling while those of Associate Professors and Professors are being filled by making promotions wherever feasible and taking candidates on academic arrangement at other locations.

As far as the progress on major infrastructure and development projects is concerned, the meeting was informed that the work on key infrastructure projects is being expedited.

It was further given out that the tendering and work allocation under the PM ABHIM scheme has been completed with work apace on these projects. He also mentioned that the work on all the critical care blocks including 2 100-bedded CCBs and 7 50-bedded CCBs, along with 20 DIPHLs and 236 Block Public Health Units (BPHUs) is in progress.

Tourism In Jammu ...

whether there has been a rush of tourists or not. So, it was no different this year. However, we did feel pampered this time,” Nabeel Bhat, a youngster from Srinagar said.

Bhat was referring to “special attention” showered on the tourists by the locals of Pahalgam and the rock bottom prices for most services.

The tourism trade came to a standstill in most of Kashmir after the April 22 terror attack on tourists at Baisaran, a meadow six kilometres from here, in which 26 persons — 25 tourists and a local service provider — were killed.

The incident led to air skirmishes between India and Pakistan while cross border shelling took a toll of people along the Line of Control (LoC).

“The service providers this time are more affable towards locals...It was not the case in the previous years when a large number of tourists used to flock to this place,” said Aleena Jan, a resident of Srinagar’s Civil Lines area.

Most of the local tourists were happy that Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had decided to open the parks at Pahalgam, saying it would attract more people to the place.

“There is no better advertisement than word of mouth...The people from various parts of Kashmir started to visit soon after Eid, but the numbers did not increase much as they had no place to sit as all the parks were closed. We hope that it will change now as the LG on Saturday announced that the parks will be opened again,” said Mohammad Ishaq, a hut owner.

Ishaq said that a few tourists from other states also returned to Pahalgam over the past 10 days.

“Most of them were budget tourists from Punjab and they were left dejected as they could not explore the beauty of Pahalgam for which it is famous. We had Aaru closed, Betaab Valley closed and no one should expect Baisaran to open anytime soon,” he added.

Mohammad Ramzan, a ponywalla, said his community was hoping that the trend of increasing tourists visiting Pahalgam will continue.

“Our peak season for earnings has gone...but we hope that more locals (Kashmiris) will visit us over the next few months before the onset of winter. That might offset some of the losses,” he added.

Basheer Ahmad, another ponywalla, said they were also hopeful that a large number of pilgrims will come for the Amarnath Yatra scheduled to begin from July 3. “We have a lesser number of pilgrims coming for the Amarnath Yatra via Pahalgam route now. We hope it will change this year,” he said. A hotelier, who wished not to be identified, said the Amarnath Yatra usually does not impact his business.

“The pilgrims stay in the Nunwan base camp, they do not venture out much for shopping and eating out. So that way, I have not attached much hope for getting direct business from the yatra,” he said.

The hotelier, however, added that a peaceful and successful yatra will immensely benefit the entire tourism sector of Kashmir as the pilgrims will be “our ambassadors to the rest of India”.

Jammu University reserves....

Prof Umesh Rai outside Jammu at the Bhaderwah Campus for the first time as part of its outreach programme, also endorsed the adoption of the National Credit Framework (NCrF) along with its Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for effective implementation at the University of Jammu.

Farewell Party Organized for 6th Semester Students in Department of Botany, SCS GDC Mendhar



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Today (12/6/2025), the Department of Botany, SCS GDC Mendhar, held a heartfelt and memorable farewell party for the outgoing 6th semester students, hosted by their juniors from the 4th semester with the enthusiastic cooperation and support of the department's teaching and non-teaching staff.

The function began with a welcome note by the 4th semester student, Noveeda Faiz, who took the lead in organizing the program, ensuring that their seniors felt appreciated and cherished for their

academic journey and contributions to the department.

One of the key highlights of the event was the sharing of experiences and thoughts by the 6th semester students. They fondly recalled their academic and extracurricular journeys, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the faculty, and offered encouraging words to their juniors. Their speeches were filled with emotion, reflecting both the joy of accomplishments and the nostalgia of parting ways.

Adding inspiration to the occasion were motivational talks delivered by Dr. Mahroof Khan, Head of the Department of Botany, and Dr. Sajad Hussain Shah, faculty mem-

ber of the department. Dr. Mahroof Khan emphasized the importance of staying rooted in one's values and using the knowledge acquired to contribute meaningfully to society. He encouraged students to pursue higher education and research with passion and perseverance. Dr. Sajad Hussain Shah, in his engaging address, shared insights on career opportunities in the field of Botany and urged students to stay curious, determined, and resilient in the face of challenges.

The program was further enriched by the presence of Prof. Inam ul Haq, Assistant professor, Department of Zoology, who joined the celebration and extended his best wishes to the outgoing students.

His participation added an interdisciplinary spirit to the gathering, reflecting the collaborative culture of the institution.

The non-teaching staff of the department were also present, showcasing the collective spirit and unity of the department.

The event concluded with a poetry segment and refreshments.

The farewell party stood as a testament to the strong bonds forged during the academic years and highlighted the values of camaraderie, respect, and mentorship upheld by the Department of Botany.

Principal Secretary SWD chairs introductory cum review meeting

Calls for seamless implementation of Central, UT-level schemes, enhanced beneficiary coverage



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Principal Secretary, Social Welfare, Anil Kumar Singh, today chaired an introductory-cum-review meeting at the Civil Secretariat, here.

The Principal Secretary undertook a comprehensive, sector-wise review of the implementation of all Centrally Sponsored and Union Territory-level schemes, including flagship programmes. The officers presented detailed updates on the status of various schemes through PowerPoint Presentations.

Anil Kumar emphasized the need for robust implementation of all schemes and stressed ensuring wide coverage of eligible beneficiaries. He specifically reviewed the physical and financial progress on the department across the Union Territory.

Key schemes reviewed during the meeting included Mission Poshan, Saksham Anganwadi 2.0, Mission Vatsalya, Mission Shakti, Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS), Ladli Beti, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Marriage Assistance Schemes, and various welfare initiatives for tribal communities, women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

The Principal Secretary directed for timely disposal of pensions, loan assistance and scholarships to the intended beneficiaries. He also called for closely monitoring the recruitment process to ensure timely filling of vacancies critical to the effective implementation of programmes. Anil Kumar stressed the need for seamless functioning of Saksham Anganwadi Centres, Vatsalya Sadans, shelter homes, juvenile homes, Child Care Institutions (CCIs), One Stop Centres for Women and other welfare facilities across the UT. He asked for accelerating the completion of infrastructure development and expedite work on all ongoing departmental projects in all the districts.

DC Kupwara reviews preparation for 'International Yoga Day'

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KUPWARA:

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan Friday chaired a meeting of concerned officers at D.C Office here to review the preparations for celebration of 'International Day of Yoga' being observed on June 21. On the occasion, DC impressed upon all the officers to work in coordination for smooth and successful celebration of the International Day of Yoga. She directed the line departments to make all necessary arrangements well in advance at the sites where mega yoga sessions will be held to commemorate the day. The meeting was informed that the main function will be held at Government Degree College Boys Kupwara where a large number of people are expected to participate in the event. Besides, mega events will also be held in Government Degree Colleges, Schools, Arogya Mandirs, Amrit Sarovars and tourist locations across the district for celebration of 'International Day of Yoga'.

DC directed the stakeholder departments to work in a coordinated manner to ensure all the necessary arrangements well in time for successful conduct of the Yoga events. The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Mufti Fareed-ud-Din; ADC Handwara, Javaid Naseem Masoodi; ASP Kupwara, ASP Handwara, Principals of GDCs, ACD, CEO, District Officer Ayush, EO MC Kupwara, besides Officers from LBDDA, YS&S, BSNL and other concerned officials.

Tributes Paid to Ahmedabad plane crash Victims During Poll Meeting Addressed by Arora

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
LUDHIANA:

A two-minute silence was observed at the start of an election meeting at Citizen Enclave (Ward No. 58) to honour the victims of the Ahmedabad plane crash. The meeting was addressed by Rajya Sabha MP and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate for the Ludhiana (West) Assembly by-election, Sanjeev Arora.

During his speech, Arora spoke at length about the development work he has undertaken over the past three years, stressing that his efforts stem from a deep commitment to serving the people of Ludhiana. He said that his vision for development aligns with the aspirations of the citizens and not personal ambitions. "People form the government, and it is their voice that must guide our work," he remarked.

Arora promised to give Ludhiana a complete facelift if elected, pledging to transform it into a model city that would become a benchmark for urban development across the country. "People will soon refer to Ludhiana as the most developed city



in India," he stated, urging voters to poll in large numbers to support him in the upcoming by-election.

He also elaborated on the policies of the Punjab government under Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, particularly in areas such as education, healthcare, and industry. Emphasizing the importance of democratic participation, Arora appealed to all residents to vote and motivate others to do the same. He expressed heartfelt thanks to residents of

Citizen Enclave, Jiwan Preet Nagar, Raja Garden, and Sukhdev Nagar for their active participation in the event. Among those present at the meeting were MLAs Jiwan Singh Sangowal and Inderbir Singh Nijher, Municipal Councillor Satnam Singh Sunny Master, Sunil Kapoor, Jagdeep Deol, Balwinder Singh, Nikki Kohli, Rupinder Singh Sekhon, Jeeti Mann, Jaspal Kaur, Harpal Singh, Harminder Singh, and Amit Jain.

BJP Organizes Sankalp Se Siddhi Program in Thanna Mandi

NISAR KHAN
THANNA MANDI:

Thanna Mandi: : The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) organized the "Sankalp Se Siddhi" program in the Thanna Mandi Mandal at the Town Hall, led by DDC Member Mohammad Iqbal Malik. The aim of the event was to inform the public

about the developmental initiatives undertaken by the BJP and to further strengthen India's development journey under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The event was attended by prominent leaders, including DDC Members Mohammad Iqbal Malik and Abdul Qayyum Mir, Mandal Pradhan Manzar Ali Shah, Shakeel aAhmed

Shwal.Abdul Ghani Shawl, Qazi Qamar Javed, and Haji Maqbool Raina, who addressed the gathering. The leaders highlighted that the government is focusing on developmental projects in Thanna Mandi and other rural areas. These initiatives are not only providing essential infrastructure but are also bringing about a transformative change in the lives

IMCSD media interns attend session on Ethics, Time Management at SMGS Hospital

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

As part of its ongoing Summer Media Internship Programme 2025-26, the Institute of Mass Communication and Skill Development (IMCSD) today organized an insightful and interactive visit for its media interns to Shri Maharaja Gulab Singh (SMGS) Hospital, Jammu.

The session was hosted by Dr. Dara Singh, Medical Superintendent of SMGS Hospital, who delivered a comprehensive address focusing on the significance of moral values, professional ethics, time management, and the evolving role of media in modern society.

In his address, Dr. Dara Singh underscored the importance of punctuality, dedication, discipline, and academic commitment for aspiring media professionals.

Providing a detailed orientation about SMGS Hospital, Dr. Singh elaborated on the hospital's operational structure, patient care mechanisms, administrative functioning, and the collaborative efforts of healthcare professionals that ensure timely delivery of medical services to the community. He shed light on the challenges faced by medical institu-



tions and the pivotal role of teamwork in maintaining quality health-care.

Turning to the responsibilities of the media, Dr. Singh stated, "As emerging journalists, you are entrusted with the sacred responsibility of disseminating truth. In today's fast-paced world, media not only informs but also shapes public opinion, educates communities, and plays a crucial role in holding institutions accountable." He encouraged the interns to report responsibly, particularly on sensitive sectors such as healthcare, public services, and social welfare, while always upholding journalistic integrity.

The visit offered the students valu-

able hands-on exposure to the hospital ecosystem and highlighted the importance of human-centric journalism that balances accuracy with empathy. The entire session was coordinated by senior journalist and IMCSD executive member Mr. Vicky Verma, who also accompanied the interns during the interaction. The interns expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Dara Singh and the staff of SMGS Hospital for their warm hospitality. The Summer Media Internship Programme 2025-26 by IMCSD continues to provide aspiring journalists with practical exposure to various sectors, bridging classroom learning with real-world experience.

Nasha Mukh JK Abhiyan: DC Baramulla reviews progress of IEC campaign against Drugs

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BARAMULLA:

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of the ongoing IEC campaign against drugs under Nasha Mukh JK Abhiyan.

During the meeting, DC took stock of the awareness activities conducted in various educational institutions, Panchayats and ULB's. He also reviewed the role of nodal departments in ensuring the effective implementation of the campaign.

Key issues including inadequate display of IEC materials, limited video screenings, incomplete uploading of event and participant details, and absenteeism of designated resource persons were discussed. DC directed all officers and event coordinators to ensure that all organized events are promptly uploaded on the designated portal. He further instructed the concerned to ensure maximum community participation and visibility of awareness content to achieve the intended impact.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Assistant Commissioner Development Baramulla, District Social Welfare Officer, various other officers, event coordinators participated in the meeting.

Health Society Budgam intensifies Tobacco control efforts

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BUDGAM:

A comprehensive enforcement and awareness drive under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003, was conducted today in the villages of Iskanderpora, Ichama, and Pirpora of Medical Block Beerwah. The initiative aimed to curb public tobacco consumption and reinforce compliance with anti-tobacco laws. The drive focused on three key objectives vis a vis strict enforcement of Section 4 of COTPA (prohibiting smoking in public places), restricting tobacco sales near educational institutions (Section 6) and ensuring mandatory display of statutory warnings at shops and public points. Health teams on the occasion inspected markets, shops and public spaces, distributing awareness materials and counseling violators. Three challans were issued to individuals caught smoking in public, with fines levied as per COTPA provisions. Shopkeepers were sternly warned against unlicensed sales and non-compliance with signage rules.

The campaign concluded with strong stakeholder support, paving the way for similar drives across the district in the coming weeks. District Health Society, Budgam, reaffirmed its routinely conducting COTPA enforcements to reduce tobacco-related harms, aligning with the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP).

Arrangements for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025 reviewed at Udhampur

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
UDHAMPUR:

To ensure smooth conduct of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Prem Singh on Thursday convened a meeting with officers from the line departments here in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex. The meeting held comprehensive discussion on key arrangements along the Tikri to Chenani route. The ADC inquired about the security deployment, provision of power and water supply, sanitation, first-aid, identification of lodging sites, provision of temporary toilets, traffic management and regulation of service rates. He directed departmental heads to work in close coordination and ensure that all necessary preparations are completed well before the commencement of the Yatra. The Power Development Department (PDD) was instructed to ensure uninterrupted electricity, while the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department was tasked with arranging 24/7 water tanker services.

Traffic authorities were directed to maintain smooth vehicular movement, and the Municipal Committee was asked to install dustbins and provide vehicles for efficient garbage disposal from larger sites and transit camps.

JMC, Urban Forestry Division launch 'Clean Jammu Green Jammu' Campaign

Target to plant 60,000 saplings before August 15, 2025



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In a significant step towards promoting environmental sustainability, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), in collaboration with the

Urban Forestry Division Jammu, launched the "Clean Jammu Green Jammu" campaign today.

The campaign was inaugurated by Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav, who led the initiative by planting a

sapling, symbolizing the start of a city-wide plantation drive. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from Swachhata Champions of various wards, media personnel from print and electronic media, and officers from both departments.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Yadav emphasized the urgent need for enhancing green cover in the city, especially in light of rising temperatures. Under the joint initiative, around 60,000 saplings will be planted across Jammu city before August 15, 2025, he informed and urged upon the citizens to actively participate in this noble campaign and contribute towards making Jammu a cleaner and greener city.

Each sapling will be tagged with a QR code, providing detailed information about the species and the individual who has adopted it.

Craft of journalism buried in Jammu and Kashmir No one is ready to listen to the cries of journalists

ASHOK RAINA
JAMMU:

Day by day Looking at the current situation in the public sector of Jammu and Kashmir and Everywhere, fear and anger are being seen. The dreams we believed to be true were taken away from us and due to inaptitude behavior of blue-collar theoretical impractical creations created and promoted by the department of information and public Relations Jammu and



Kashmir while as the old dictum the art and craft of journalism have been buried. The journalism industry has suffered a lot of losses since 2014, especially in Jammu and

Kashmir which we have not faced in the last 60 years of independent India. In the earlier times, people with high standards of etiquette, reputed and

skilled, professionals' journalists were allowed to move ahead and work in the interest of the country and the people with discretion.

But after the year 2014, even the illiterate, tailors, vegetable sellers, medicine sellers, shopkeepers, bread makers, contractors, flower garland sellers. readymade garment operators and those who work in the roadshows of political parties have been included in the ranks of journalists and editors.

Javed Rana reviews progress on implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat Srinagar to review progress on implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in PHE division Chadoora and other areas.

The meeting was attended by MLA Chadoora, Ali Mohammad Dar, MLA Beerwah, Dr Shafi Ahmad Wani, MLA Khan Sahib, Saifud Din Bhat, MLA Sopore, Irshad Rasool Kar and senior officers from Jal Shakti department.

While reviewing various ongoing JJM projects in Chadoora, Budgam, Sopore, Khan Sahib and Beerwa, Javed Rana exhorted upon the officers to expedite pace of progress on these works for timely completion. He directed the officers to personally monitor the execution of works in their respective divisions.

He instructed the concerned officers to ensure pace of work is expedited to ensure speedy construction of filtration plants, civil works and other related works at all water supply schemes. He stressed that work



on all JJM projects be carried out in full swing without any delay. He exhorted upon the officers to work in mission mode so that safe and adequate drinking water is made available to all citizens of Jammu and Kashmir.

He enjoined upon the officers to maintain coordination and better synergy between executing agencies to ensure timely and effective implementation of Water Supply Schemes. He further said that work should be resumed on the water supply schemes wherever it has been stalled so that people don't have to face any

problems. MLA Chadoora, while speaking on the occasion, said that certain water supply schemes in his constituency are nearing completion and require little attention from the officers so that they can be dedicated to public use.

The MLAs raised various issues related to water supply and irrigation pertaining to their constituencies and demanded immediate attention of the Minister for early resolution.

The officers assured that most of the WSSs are nearing completion and will be put to public use at an earliest.

Amarnath Yatra - 2025: Div Com, IGP Jammu review arrangements at Yatri Niwas-Bhagwati Nagar

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
REASI:

JAMMU: : Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police Bhim Sen Tuti today visited Yatri Niwas Bhagwati Nagar- the Amarnath Ji Yatra Jammu base camp and took stock of facilities and arrangements being put in place for the comfortable stay of the pilgrims.

The Divisional Commissioner and IGP Jammu along with Senior officials from CRPF, JK Police, Civil administration and HoDs took a round of the Yatri Niwas complex and assessed the pace and quality of ongoing works.

Chairing a meeting afterwards, the Divisional Commissioner and Inspector General of Police conducted a thorough review of the arrangements made by the concerned departments. They issued necessary instructions for effective implementation of their respective action plans envisaging augmentation of civic amenities, security set up and improved services by using digital technology.

The Chief Engineer Public works department was asked to complete the construction of sentry posts as per the recommendation of the CRPF, besides installing langar sheds and german hangers inside the Yatri Niwas.

Commissioner JMC Devansh Yadav was asked to deploy adequate sanitation staff and toilets at key spots and start desiltation of the canal.

Director Information, Nitish Rajora was asked to explore the possibility of installing Speakers in the halls of the complex, besides a Public Address System for dissemination of information and advisories among the pilgrims.

The Inspector General of Police emphasized to encourage the pilgrims to undertake the journey with official Convoy and adhere to the Yatra cutoff timings. He called for using print, electronic and social media for informing the pilgrims about the cutoff timing and other advisories.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the JPDCL Jammu to expedite the illumination work in and around the Yatri Niwas and make available sufficient number of Generators to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the Yatra. The JKRTC was asked to keep a close watch on the fitness of private vehicles to be used in Yatra Convoy.

The Health Department was asked to maintain sufficient stock of medicines, medical equipment, besides adequate number of ambulances and medical staff at the Yatra Base camp and other key locations.

Preparatory meeting for International Day of Yoga-2025 held at Shopian

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SHOPIAN:

In connection with the forthcoming International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2025, a preparatory meeting was today convened under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz at the Mini- Secretariat Shopian. At the outset, ADC reviewed the proposed activities and arrangements being made for the grand celebration of International Day of Yoga on June 21, 2025 across the district. He laid emphasis on ensuring wide public participation, particularly involving school and college students, employees, security personnel, sports associations, NGOs and local yoga enthusiasts.

He said that a grand yoga event will be held at Mini-Secretariat Shopian, and reviewed the preparations for conduct of Yoga events at higher and school education institutions, Ayush Health & Wellness Centres and other places.

ADC underlined that the International Day of Yoga is a significant initiative aimed at promoting physical and mental well-being. He stressed inter-departmental synergy and timely completion of all arrangements to ensure a well-organized and enthusiastic observance of the day.

He directed all officers to work in close coordination and make the Yoga Day celebrations a grand success across the district.

Committee on Privileges holds first meeting in Srinagar

Chairman expresses confidence in seamless coordination, effective performance



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

The Committee on Privileges of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly held its first meeting today at the Assembly complex in Srinagar.

The meeting was chaired by the Committee Chairman, Nizam-u-din Bhat.

The Committee members including MLAs Riyaz Ahmad Khan,

Salman Sagar, Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed (Pardesi), Javaid Iqbal, Vikram Randhawa and Bharat Bhushan participated in the meeting.

The Chairman elaborated on the roles and responsibilities of the Committee members. He expressed confidence in the members' ability to work in coordination and contribute effectively to the Committee's performance.

The members actively participated

in the discussions, sharing their suggestions and feedback on various pertinent issues.

The Chairman emphasized that the Committee will function strictly within its mandated framework and will regularly meet to formulate and implement a course of action for the resolution of matters brought before it. He further urged all the members to discharge their duties diligently and uphold the decorum and responsibilities entrusted to them.

Pertinently, Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Speaker, Abdul Rahim Rather, had announced the formation of the nine-member Committee on Privileges during the latest Assembly session. The Committee will serve for the term ending March 31, 2026.

DC chairs District-Level Zila Sainik Welfare Board meeting at Udhampur

Stresses on welfare of Ex-Servicemen, veterans & dependents of war heroes



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
UDHAMPUR:

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai today chaired the annual general body meeting of the Zila Sainik Welfare Board to review its functioning and deliberate on the welfare measures and schemes for ex-servicemen, war widows and their

dependents in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Chief Planning Officer Mohammad Iqbal, General Manager DIC Kishore Singh and other senior officers from the district administration. At the outset, the Zila Sainik Welfare Officer briefed the meeting about the functioning of the Board

and highlighted the issues being faced by the ex-servicemen community. He projected a wide range of demands seeking allotment of land for the construction of Sainik Sarai, development of housing colony and reservation of plots for ex-servicemen, establishment of a KV at Majalta, employment opportunities for ex-servicemen, infrastructure improvement of the Zila Sainik Welfare Board, construction of a meeting-cum-waiting shed for ex-servicemen, survey, demarcation and construction of a front boundary wall for the ZSWB, repair and furnishing of ZSWB cum Boys Hostel building, construction of toilet facilities for women, improvement of road connectivity to the Zila Sainik Board.

DC Baramulla presides over Block Diwas at Lalpora Tangmarg

Emphasizes youth engagement, public grievance redressal

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BARAMULLA:

In continuation of the district administration's public outreach programme, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today presided over a Block Diwas at Lalpora, Tangmarg.

At the outset, DC held an extensive interaction with the public, during which people raised several demands and developmental concerns. These issues included the establishment of a veterinary centre, construction of a sports playground, desilting of irrigation canals, provision of safe drinking water, proper functioning of the local hospital, instal-

lation of ATM facilities, and the need for door-to-door garbage collection along with a designated dumping site.

DC gave a patient hearing and issued on-the-spot directions to concerned officers for prompt redressal of the genuine grievances raised by the public. He assured that the district administration is committed to ensuring responsive and efficient governance at the grassroots level.

Highlighting government initiatives, DC urged the local youth to actively register under Mission Yuva and benefit from various livelihood and skill development schemes. He also stressed the importance of

availing benefits under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, encouraging eligible individuals to come forward for enrollment.

As part of the programme, DC also inspected stalls set up by various government departments, which were aimed at creating awareness about different government welfare schemes and services. He appreciated the efforts of departments for disseminating valuable information to the public and promoting citizen participation in ongoing development initiatives.

Adding a cultural touch to the event, students from local schools presented

various cultural performances and participated in sports activities, which were highly appreciated by the DC. He commended their talent and enthusiasm and encouraged continued participation in such constructive extracurricular engagements.

DC emphasized that outreach programmes like Block Diwas are vital platforms for bridging the gap between the administration and the people. He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to holding such events regularly, especially in remote and rural areas, to ensure equitable development and efficient delivery of public services.

Secretary in Agriculture Production Department reviews implementation of HADP projects in J&K



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Secretary in Agriculture Production Department and Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), Sandeep Kumar, today said that successful implementation of HADP will play a pivotal role in transforming Jammu and Kashmir's agriculture and allied sectors into a sustainable and vibrant Rs 1 lakh crore agri-economy.

Chairing a review meeting held at the Directorate of Agriculture, Lal Mandi, Srinagar, Sandeep Kumar emphasised the importance of output-based monitoring and real-time progress tracking to maximise the impact and efficiency. The review meeting focused on 13 major HADP projects.

Director Agriculture Jammu, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Director Horticulture Jammu, Director Horticulture Kashmir, Director Animal Husbandry (Jammu/Kashmir), Director Sheep Husbandry (Jammu/Kashmir), representatives from SKUAST-Jammu and SKUAST-Kashmir, Directors of Sericulture, CAD, Fisheries and other allied sectors besides concerned PGMs and technical teams attended the meeting while officers from outside the station joined the meeting virtually.

The Mission Director stressed the need for robust and measurable outcome tracking over 92,000 units already established at the grassroots level under HADP schemes. He also underlined that output-led project governance, efficient inter-departmental coordination, and strategic bottleneck resolution are vital for achieving the goals of HADP.

Sandeep Kumar called for stronger last-mile delivery, data-driven monitoring systems and greater accountability in implementation. He reaffirmed the government's commitment towards empowering the farmers, improving productivity and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities through HADP.

Awareness event held at GMHSS Ramban to mark World Day against Child Labour



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAMBAN:

To commemorate the World Day Against Child Labour, the Labour Department Ramban, in collaboration with Government Model Higher Secondary School (GMHSS), Ramban, organized an awareness programme under the global theme "Progress is clear, but there's more to do. Let's speed up our efforts."

The event was presided over by Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) Amit Kumar. The host school Principal Kewal Krishan Sharma, Chairperson Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Nighat Ganai school staff, students and other stakeholders attended the programme. Addressing the gathering, the ALC highlighted the need to continue and accelerate efforts to eradicate child labour. "Though much progress has been made through legal frameworks and awareness campaigns, a united and sustained community response is essential to address the root causes and protect every child's right to education and a dignified life," he maintained.

Mission Vatsalya B'pora organizes awareness programme on World Day against Child Labour

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BANDIPORA:

A comprehensive awareness programme aimed at highlighting the evils of child labour and advocating for child Rights was today organized by Mission Vatsalya Bandipora, in collaboration with district administration Bandipora, Labour Department Bandipora and International Delhi Public School Bandipora to mark the World Day against Child Labour.

The event commenced with all participants taking a solemn pledge against child labour, reinforcing the collective commitment to eradicate this social evil. A large number of students, teaching and non-teaching



staff, civil society members, and officials from the District Child Protection Unit, Child Welfare Committee, Child Help Line and the Labour department attended the programme. Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Labour Commissioner

(ALC) Bandipora, Rabia Iqbal emphasized the significance of observing this day and the crucial role that various stakeholders, including educational institutions and government departments, must play in preventing child labour.

NCORD Meeting: DC Rajouri orders attachment of properties of those detained under NDPS Act



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

To strengthen drug control measures, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma and Senior Superintendent of Police Gaurav Sikarwar today jointly chaired a meeting of the District level Committee under Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) here at Dr R K Thapa memorial Hall.

The DC emphasized the need for intensifying awareness campaigns targeting students and youth. He directed the Education Department to organize special awareness ses-

sions in Higher Secondary Schools, while the Rural Development Department was asked to host anti-drug camps in Panchayat Ghars during the upcoming summer vacation, particularly in uncovered and vulnerable villages.

To tighten noose around the perpetrators, the DC directed for attaching the properties of individuals detained under NDPS Act. He further called for the implementation of computerized billing systems in all shops to monitor suspicious transactions and directed concerned teams to randomly verify CCTV footage from business establish-

ments. Highlighting the importance of data tracking, the DC instructed for the Aadhar-based documentation of individuals admitted to and discharged from drug de-addiction centres, with a focus on improving the in-patient rehabilitation facility at GMC Rajouri.

To maintain vigil, the DC directed enforcement teams to conduct random checking around coaching and tuition centres, besides installation of CCTV cameras in all government offices to keep check on suspicious activities. "Any government official found to be involved in drug-related activities must be immediately reported and dealt with strictly," he added.

The Senior Superintendent of Police, while briefing the Committee, informed that property worth ? 85 lakh of drug offenders has already been seized, and FIRs have been registered against several individuals involved in drug trafficking and consumption. He also underscored the need to thwart attempts of drug smuggling across Line of Control (LoC).

DC Baramulla visits Imam-bara Goom Ahmadpora, reviews Muharram Arrangements

Assures timely redressal of public demands

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BARAMULLA:

In view of the forthcoming holy month of Muharram, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, accompanied by SDM Pattan, today visited Imam-bara Goom Ahmadpora to take stock of the arrangements and assess the preparedness of line departments for the smooth conduct of religious gatherings.

During the visit, DC held a detailed interaction with members of the Intizamiya Committee and local residents. Several key public issues and demands were raised, primarily related to infrastructure and essential services.

The residents demanded blacktopping of link roads leading to the Imam-bara, installation of street lights and solar-powered lighting systems, provision of a DG set for uninterrupted power supply, and improvements in the drinking water supply system.

A major concern highlighted by the community was the presence of



poplar trees in the vicinity of the Imam-bara, which they said posed a threat to public safety during the large congregational events. Taking note of this, the DC issued on-spot directions to the concerned departments to initiate immediate cutting of the trees before Muharram.

The residents also raised concerns about the ongoing power curtailment schedule, stating that it was causing inconvenience, particularly in relation to agricultural activities. They appealed for a revision in the curtailment plan to better suit local needs.

Responding to the concerns, DC assured the gathering that all genuine demands will be addressed on priority. He emphasized that the district administration is committed to ensuring a safe, peaceful, and well-facilitated environment for Muharram observances.

Minga Sherpa urged all departments to work in close coordination and ensure timely execution of all required arrangements, underlining the administration's dedication to public welfare and smooth conduct of religious events.

Awareness programme for Krishi Udyamis organised at Town Hall Doda



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
DODA:

An awareness programme under the

here at the Town Hall.

A large number of Krishi Udyamis, along with officers from the Agriculture and allied departments attended the programme chaired by Chief Agriculture Officer Amjad Hussain. The AO provided a detailed overview of the objectives of the Kisan Khidmat Ghars. He assured Krishi Udyamis of full cooperation from the department and addressed their grievances.

He raised awareness about various departmental schemes aimed at improving the livelihood of farmers and agri-entrepreneurs. The District officers from allied departments and functionaries from Banks also briefed attendees about the benefits of HADP schemes and other initiatives.

The DDM NABARD and Bank Cluster Head highlighted the role of financial institutions in supporting agricultural growth. They discussed different credit schemes and financial assistance available to farmers.

Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) was today organised for Krishi Udyamis by the Agriculture Production Department

Chairperson DDC B'la conducts site visit of proposed Ayurvedic Medical College

Urges distt admin to expedite additional land transfer process for the commencement of work

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BARAMULLA:

In a move towards strengthening the healthcare infrastructure in the district, Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Baramulla, Safina Beigh, today conducted an extensive site visit of the proposed Ayurvedic Medical College and Associated Hospital at Kanispora, Baramulla.

Chairperson DDC was accompa-

nied by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla and other officers during the site visit.

On the occasion, Chairperson stressed that the establishment of the Ayurvedic Medical College and Hospital would not only augment the existing health infrastructure in the district but also promote alternative and traditional systems of medicine.

She further informed that a significant portion of land for the project

has already been formally transferred to the AYUSH department and more land was identified to facilitate the seamless construction and expansion of the proposed medical college and hospital.

Safina Beigh urged the district administration to fast-track the remaining land transfer process and promptly address any existing bottlenecks to ensure that construction work on the hospital can commence at the earliest.

Divisional Commissioner reviews arrangements for arrival of Hajj pilgrims

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

In preparation for the arrival of Hajj pilgrims, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, chaired a meeting today to finalize the comprehensive arrangements for safe and smooth arrival of pilgrims at the International Airport Srinagar.

Addressing the officers from various departments, Div Com issued a slew of directives aimed at facilitating the pilgrims and their attendants during their arrival.

He emphasized for issuing vehicle and entry passes to the attendants promptly to avoid any inconvenience during the arrival process.

Div Com directed the concerned authorities to earmark dedicated parking spaces for vehicles accompanying the pilgrims, ensuring smooth traffic flow and reducing congestion.

He instructed the Chief Medical Officer Srinagar to deploy medical teams at the airport to provide immediate assistance to any needy pilgrims.

He further directed the Hajj Committee to deploy adequate staff to assist pilgrims, ensuring they receive the necessary support throughout their arrival.

To ensure uninterrupted vehicular movement, Div Com stressed the need for proper traffic management on the Airport road during the pilgrims' arrival.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from the District Administration of Budgam and Srinagar, Airport Authority, Police, CRPF, Hajj Committee, and Emigration.

Drug Free J&K initiative: Srinagar admin organizes series of drug de-addiction awareness programmes



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

As part of ongoing Drug Free Jammu and Kashmir initiative, district administration Srinagar hosted a series of drug de-addiction awareness programmes in Shahr-e-Khaas areas and rural pockets of the district to sensitize people about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

The awareness programmes, held on the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, aimed to sensitize communities about the dangers of drug addiction and highlight Government schemes and benefits available to those affected.

These programmes were organized at Marriage Halls of Munawarabad, Khanka-e-Mohalla and Khawaja Bazaar. The anti drug awareness programmes were also held at Government High School New Theed-A and Panchayat Office, Saidpora.

The events witnessed active participation from multiple departments, including Health, Police, Education, Social Welfare, Excise and Rural Development Department.

Experts from these departments delivered informative sessions, shedding light on the issues surrounding drug addiction and the support systems in place to help individuals and families.

Rural Development and Education departments played a crucial role in the programmes, raising awareness among students about the risks and consequences of drug addiction. Additionally, counseling sessions were conducted to support students and provide guidance on overcoming addiction.

During the programmes, awareness sessions on the risks and consequences of drug addiction were held and information regarding Government schemes and benefits for those struggling with addiction were highlighted in detail.

THE KASHMIR TALK

EDITORIAL

India Circles Turkey

Prime Minister Narendra Modi reached Cyprus, a member country of the European Union, which is also an old friend of India, in the first leg of his very important visit to Cyprus, Canada and Croatia. President Nikos Christodoulides gave him a warm welcome at the airport. Later, he also decorated PM Modi with the highest honor there, which reflects the deepening relations between India and Cyprus. The main objective of this visit of PM Modi to three countries is to strengthen India's global relations, promote global cooperation against terrorism and further intensify diplomatic efforts regarding the priorities of the Global South. If seen, Cyprus is of very special importance for India among the above three countries. However, till now we have paid little attention to this. That is why, after almost 22 years, an Indian Prime Minister has made an official visit to Cyprus. Earlier, the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1983 and Atal Bihari Vajpayee, while being the Prime Minister in 2002, had made an official visit to the Republic of Cyprus. However, there should be no doubt that the cordiality, unity and mutual cooperation in the relations between the two countries due to PM Modi's Cyprus visit will prove to be a sleepless night for Turkey in the coming times. In fact, the purpose of this visit of PM Modi is not only to increase the friendship between India and Cyprus, but also to give a strong message to Turkey, Cyprus's neighbor, which keeps speaking openly against India, especially on the issue of Kashmir, and keeps providing military and diplomatic support and cooperation to Pakistan, that India knows very well how to respond to its actions. At the same time, India standing with Cyprus is a clear message to Turkey that India will continue to support those countries against it, which are troubled by Turkey's aggression. It means that India has touched Turkey's sore spot. Also, this visit of PM Modi has also raised the hope that apart from further strengthening the friendship between the two countries, it will also prove effective in promoting mutual trade, culture and defense cooperation. This expectation is not baseless either, because the geographical position of Cyprus makes it very important for India. It is located in the Mediterranean Sea, south of Turkey, west of Levant (Syria-Lebanon-Palestine-Israel) and near the Suez Canal. That is, Cyprus is a very important stopover between Europe, Asia and Africa, which can prove to be a very important link for the India-Middle-East-Europe Corridor (IMEC). IMEC is such a trade corridor or route, which can connect India to Europe via the Middle East. If Cyprus is included in this corridor, then success can be achieved not only in advancing trade activities, but also in stopping Turkey's unexpected arrogance. In fact, for this purpose, India has made efforts in recent years to strengthen its relations with all the opposing countries of Turkey, including Greece, Armenia, Egypt and Cyprus. In this sequence, PM Modi has already visited those countries with the aim of strengthening friendship and trade and strategic relations with Greece, Armenia, and Egypt. Now, his visit to Cyprus seems to be a part of India's strategic campaign to surround Turkey from all sides. By the way, Cyprus' friendship has always been very important for India. Let us tell you that Cyprus has always supported India in times of crisis, whether it was the time after India's nuclear test in 1998, when we started getting isolated in the world or during the Indo-US nuclear agreement in 2008 or the matter of gathering global support for India's permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council. Apart from this, Cyprus has always supported India instead of Pakistan or Turkey on issues like terrorism and Kashmir.

Powering a Green Future: How 11 Years of Modi Govt Changed India's Renewable Energy Sector

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI

"Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, India has not just set ambitious targets in the renewable energy sector, we have delivered with resolve, innovation, and unmatched scale."

Today, India stands as one of the world's foremost clean energy leaders, ranked third in solar energy, fourth in wind power, and fourth in total renewable energy capacity. With over 232 GW of renewable capacity installed and another 176 GW under construction, we are not just meeting our energy needs but actively shaping the global discourse on energy transition. This progress is not coincidental, it is the outcome of bold reforms, timely decisions, and a clear long-term vision pursued consistently under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi over the past 11 years.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a clear vision to build a robust renewable energy ecosystem. As Chief Minister of Gujarat, he pioneered large-scale solar projects long before clean energy became a global priority. After assuming office in 2014, he scaled that vision nationally. As a result, today India stands as a global leader in solar, wind, and clean energy innovation.

In the past year alone, we added a record 29 GW of renewable energy to the national grid. Solar capacity has grown from just 2.63 GW in 2014 to over 108 GW in 2025, a staggering 41-fold increase. Wind capacity has also surpassed 51 GW. These projects, spread across the length and breadth of the country, are now being stitched together through a unified transmission system, realising the vision of One Nation One Grid, where every Indian, regardless of geography, can access reliable power.

But to appreciate the scale of this transformation, we must remember where we began. In 2014, India's power sector was in deep crisis. Electricity shortages were chronic. The double grid failure in 2012, first impacting the Northern Region with 36,000 MW of load loss and subsequently causing the collapse of the Northern, Eastern, and North-Eastern grids affecting 48,000 MW is still fresh in our memory. Transmission infrastructure was overburdened, and investor confidence was low. Renewable energy was considered expensive and unreliable. The global community did not view India as a serious clean energy player. And within the country, public expectations were modest at best. Policy indecisiveness had also contributed to India being labelled as one of the 'Fragile Five' economies.

That scenario has changed decisively. India has gone from energy scarcity to energy atmanirbharata. From lagging behind, we now lead by example.

Here, I highlight 11 transformative reforms in the RE sector over the last 11 years under the Modi Government, each reflecting our commitment to self-reliance, inclusive growth and sustainability.

First, the shift from feed-in tariffs to a transparent, market-driven

bidding process marked a watershed moment. Competitive bidding and tariff rationalisation led to solar tariffs plummeting from ₹10.95 per unit in 2010 to an astonishing ₹1.99 per unit by 2021, positioning India as a global price leader in solar power. This reform anchored investor confidence and established price parity with fossil fuels.

Second, another key enabler has been the waiver of inter-state transmission system (ISTS) charges. By removing these charges, the government eliminated one of the major bottlenecks for project developers. Extended until 2032 for offshore wind and 2030 for green hydrogen, this policy effectively unshackled renewable energy deployment from geographic limitations and encouraged pan-India energy flow.

Third, to reduce import dependence and create jobs, the Government introduced the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for solar manufacturing with ₹24,000 crore in incentives. This has ignited a domestic manufacturing boom, from 2.3 GW in 2014 to 88 GW in module and from 0 to 25 GW in cell capacity by 2025. India is no longer just deploying solar, it is making it, too. This strengthens supply chains and boosts energy security.

Fourth, to promote self-reliance and boost domestic manufacturing, the Government implemented the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM), Approved List of Components and Manufacturers (ALCM) as well as Domestic Content Requirements (DCR), ensuring quality assurance, supply chain integrity, and reducing dependence on imported solar components. These measures have created a level playing field for Indian manufacturers, paving the way for a resilient and competitive solar ecosystem.

Fifth, under the Prime Minister's vision, the PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana has become a transformative initiative, targeting rooftop solar installation in one crore households to create 30 GW of decentralised capacity. With nearly 13.75 lakhs households already onboarded, it is transforming access to clean energy at the grass-roots level.

Sixth, the PM-KUSUM scheme is solarising agriculture by enabling farmers to deploy decentralised solar systems. Over 11 lakh pumps have been solarised, transforming India's most energy-intensive sector into a climate ally. Seventh, India is no longer following the world in clean energy, it is leading it. From modest inflows of FDI in 2014, India attracted \$19.98 billion FDI in RE sector during April 2020 to September 2024 emerging as one of the top FDI attracting sectors in India today, reflecting its rise in global stature and economic potential. Another key catalyst in this journey is the National Green Hydrogen Mission, backed by an investment of nearly ₹20,000 crore, which aims to make India a global hub for clean fuels. Eighth, transmission infrastructure remains the backbone of the transition. India's investment in Green Energy Corridors and the 2030 transmis-

sion roadmap ensures that renewable energy projects can connect to the grid efficiently and reliably. This backbone reduces curtailment risks and enhances grid stability. Ninth, the government is also tapping into the vast potential of India's coastline. Offshore wind initiatives, with 37 GW of tenders planned by 2030, are being backed by viability gap funding and robust site surveys. Pilot projects in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu are already laying the foundation for India's next renewable frontier. Tenth, recognising the challenge of intermittency, India has also moved decisively with a hybrid and round-the-clock power policy. By promoting wind-solar hybrids and firm & dispatchable renewable energy (FDRE), India is building 24/7 clean energy solutions. With over 65 GW in the pipeline, this is vital for grid reliability and for substituting fossil-based baseload power.

Eleventh, in tribal and remote areas, we are reaching households that never had electricity before. Through special solar programs for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups and under the PM JANMAN mission and the CPSU Scheme Phase-II, thousands of homes have been electrified. These are not just energy programs, they are instruments of empowerment and inclusive growth.

Global Recognition and Domestic Resolve

India is not just progressing at home. We are leading globally. The International Solar Alliance, launched by Prime Minister Shri Modi, has brought together over 100 countries. The vision of 'One Sun One World One Grid', is showing the world how solar power can unite nations. It is also the first international and inter-governmental organisation to have headquarters in India. The world is watching India. And the world is learning from India.

At the RE-Invest 2024, investors from across the world committed 32.45 lakh crores by 2030 to India's clean energy future. A National Workshop on Mobilizing Finance for Renewable Energy was also organised with top officials from all major banks to strengthen financial support and accelerate investment in the sector. Regular meetings with Chief Ministers under the guidance of Prime Minister are also being held to fast-track renewable energy projects and foster a competitive environment among states to perform and innovate.

At the recently held Governing Council Meeting of NITI Aayog on 24th May 2025, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held detailed discussions with all Chief Ministers on creating job opportunities in the clean energy sector. Initiatives such as Suryamitra, Vayumitra, and Jal Urjmitra were highlighted as key skilling programmes aimed at preparing a future-ready green workforce.

The Road Ahead

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has set a target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel power capacity by 2030. As of now, we are already at 228 GW. Another 176 GW is under construction.

Give top priority to youth fitness and nurturing sporting excellence: CS

Reviews Functioning of the Youth Services & Sports Department



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

In a significant move to harness the power of youth and channel their energies into productive and health-enhancing pursuits, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting to review the performance and roadmap of the Youth Services & Sports Department (YS&S). The meeting witnessed vibrant discussions on expanding the sporting landscape of the Union Territory and enhancing youth engagement through structured and inclusive initiatives.

Calling the Department's role vital in building a fit, focused, and drug-free society, the Chief Secretary underlined the transformative power of sports in shaping personalities, cultivating discipline, and deterring youth from harmful distractions like substance abuse. He emphasized that increased community participation in sports must become a key pillar of public health and social development in the UT. The Department should aim to bring every young per-

son into the fold of some sporting discipline. This not only nurtures physical well-being but fosters a sense of purpose, teamwork, and self-control, Dulloo remarked.

He applauded the strides made in strengthening sports infrastructure* which he said now rivals national benchmarks. Encouraging the optimal utilization of newly created stadiums, indoor arenas, and playgrounds across the UT, the Chief Secretary urged the department to aspire towards organizing more mega sporting events that can spotlight local talent and inspire wider participation.

Recognizing the natural water bodies as untapped potential for adventure and water sports, Dulloo also directed officials to **initiate water-based sporting activities at Manasbal Lake and to explore competitive events at Ranjit Sagar Lake in Kathua, adding a thrilling dimension to the UT's sports repertoire.

The meeting also marked a milestone celebration with the release of the Annual Sports Calendar, alongside beautifully curated coffee table

books and compendiums that capture J&K's remarkable journey in sports. These publications showcase the Department's achievements, the growth of infrastructure, and the rising graph of talent emerging from every corner of the UT.

The Commissioner Secretary, YS&S, Sarmad Hafeez, in his remarks, gave a panoramic view of the sporting ecosystem in the UT. He informed that millions of youth have been directly or indirectly engaged in various sports activities organized at the block, district, and UT levels. The Department, he noted, has created dozens of world-class infrastructure facilities over the past few years, many of which now align with national and even international standards.

He reiterated that the day is not far when Jammu & Kashmir's sports infrastructure will be counted among the best in the country, adding that the Department is also collaborating with national sports associations to host major events in the region.

Secretary of J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, also made a detailed presentation outlining the Council's efforts in tournament organization, grassroots coaching, and infrastructure upgradation. She highlighted the impact of trained coaches across disciplines and expressed confidence that, with continued support and planning, J&K's athletes will soon rank among the country's finest. With a renewed commitment to nurture sporting talent, promote physical fitness, and build a robust sports infrastructure here.

Reasi Administration hosts training programme on e-Office 2.0



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
REASI:

In a progressive move towards fostering digital governance and enhancing administrative efficiency, the District Administration Reasi, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik today organized an Orientation-cum-Training Programme on the implementation of e-Office 2.0. The session was conducted at the DC Office Complex and was attended by nominated Master Trainers and helpdesk officials from different departments.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Sukhdev Singh Samyal chaired the training session.

The training programme marks a pivotal step in the district's transition towards a more transparent, efficient and paperless administrative ecosystem. The initiative aims to equip government employees at the Tehsil and Block levels with the skills and knowledge required to effectively operate the e-Office platform.

Participants received comprehensive hands-on training on the features and functionalities of e-Office 2.0. The session covered key aspects such as document workflow management, on-boarding procedures, digital file processing, system navigation and resolution of common operational queries.

The ADDC emphasized the administration's commitment to digital transformation and the importance of officials becoming proficient with the new system. The program was conducted by technical experts from NIC and the Information Technology Department.

District Informatics Officer Asheesh Dogra, an IT expert from information technology department played a key role in delivering technical insights and facilitating smooth understanding of the platform's capabilities.

DC reviews preparedness for Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan in Udhampur



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
UDHAMPUR:

Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai today reviewed the district's preparedness for the implementation of the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan at a meeting held here today.

The campaign scheduled to be held from June 15 to June 30, 2025 aims to promote inclusive and sustainable development in tribal regions.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, PO Poshan Subash Dogra, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Umesh Shan, Chief Planning Officer Mohd Iqbal and other concerned officers.

Speaking at the meeting, the DC underlined the significance of the campaign in reaching every eligible beneficiary across the district. She directed the line departments to increase reach out to targeted areas and instructed the officers to ensure saturation of all schemes across 17 line departments, with a focus on active community participation to achieve the intended outcomes of the campaign.

The DC urged the officers to work in coordination and ensure that no eligible beneficiary is left out during the course of the campaign.

World Day Against Child Labour: J&K Labour Commissioner's Office hosts series of awareness events

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

To mark the World Day against Child Labour, office of the Labour Commissioner, J&K Government organized a series of awareness events to draw the attention of the employers and workers' organizations as well as civil society towards ending child labour menace.

The observance began with a webinar followed by a panel discussion, highlighting key issues and collaborative strategies to combat Child Labour under the Theme "Progress is clear, but there's more to do: let's speed up efforts". The theme reflects both the progress achieved and the urgency to intensify action to meet global targets.

Esteemed speakers and stakeholders shared insights on child labour laws, reforms and challenges being faced to eradicate this menace of Child Labour.

Labour Commissioner J&K Charandeep Singh underlined the efforts to



eliminate the child labour and required measures to help them.

A Walkathon was organized to spread the message "Stop Child Labour" among the civil society, while a Nukkad Natak was staged at Bahu Plaza to raise public awareness and reinforce the collective responsibility towards making the region child labour free.

Speaking on the occasion, the Labour Commissioner said "Child Labour is a curse, it cannot be accepted. Let us, on this

World Day Against Child Labour, pledge to connect every child with education, safety, dignity and values". He urged common masses, stakeholders and employers and workers' organizations to unite against the practice by ensuring that every child receives education, security and dignity. "The Labour Department is organizing awareness camps from time to time to make the people aware about the rights of the Children and consequences of Child Labour and also

taking effective measures in connivance with other departments to eradicate this curse of Child Labour and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of Child labour", he added.

In addition, he said, the Department of Labour is making every effort to plug the loopholes which are being faced while enforcing the laws with respect to prohibition of Child Labour to make the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir free from child labour.

He added that Child Labour is robbing many children of their basic right to live with dignity, enjoy their childhood and attain their full development potential, so, it is the responsibility of each and every person to make effort in this regard to eradicate this Child Labour.

Observed annually on June 12, the World Day Against Child Labour was launched by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2002 to highlight the plight of child labourers worldwide.

Poshan Abhiyan triumphs in Shopian, strengthens roots, nourishes futures

2984 new beneficiaries enrolled in 03 months in the district



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SHOPIAN:

In the picturesque yet challenging terrain of Shopian district, a quiet revolution in child and maternal health is steadily transforming lives. Under the flagship Poshan Abhiyan, formerly known as ICDS, the district has emerged as a glowing example of grassroots mobilization and unwavering commitment towards eradicating malnutrition and ensuring better nutrition & health outcomes for women and children.

A vast network of 566 Anganwadi Centres, 403 in Shopian and 163 in Keller, the reach of the Poshan Abhiyan is on way to benefit every eligible member of the district thereby serving the heart of communities.

According to the latest survey data, the target population under the scheme included 27,360 beneficiaries, comprising 2,085 lactating mothers, 1,713 pregnant women and

23,562 children aged between 6 months to 6 years.

Due to multiple factors, enrollment lagged behind with only 18,275 beneficiaries initially registered. A major chunk of the 9,085 eligible population remained uncovered.

These gaps were attributed to several factors including remoteness of certain Anganwadi Centres, harsh winter conditions, migration patterns of nomadic families and limited mobilisation besides awareness among sections of the population.

Recognizing the urgency to close this gap, the dedicated team of Anganwadi Workers and Supervisors, under the guidance of district-level leadership led by Deputy Commissioner Shopian, launched an aggressive mission-mode campaign during the ongoing year for enrollment of left out eligible population.

The impact was immediate and measurable, within just three

months; the district achieved a remarkable increase in enrollment numbers. Total enrolled beneficiaries rose from 18,275 to 21,259, with 2,984 new beneficiaries added during the ongoing year for availing benefits under the Abhiyan. The number of uncovered individuals reduced from 9,085 to 6,101 marking a 30% improvement. These new enrollments were significantly recorded from villages including Heerpora, Keller, Hermain, Pinjoora, Turkawangam, Vehil, Zainapora, and Zawoora, where intensified efforts helped overcome resistance of families and logistical hurdles.

Key strategies employed to achieve the visible results included door to door surveys and mobilisation drives, village level awareness camps, health- nutrition education sessions with mothers, real-time data entry and monitoring through the poshan tracker app.

While the journey is far from over, the past few months stand as a testament to what is possible when policy, people, and purpose align. The district administration, together with its Anganwadi workforce, has shown that with determination and passion even the most challenging gaps can be bridged.

Time-bound targets for ensuring 100% inclusion of the pending beneficiaries under the ambit of Abhiyan have been set and are being monitored by the DC Shopian?

The Poshan Abhiyan in Shopian is not just a story of numbers — it is a story of lives touched, of futures secured, and of communities empowered. It is a reminder that real progress begins at the grassroots — one mother, one child, and one village at a time.

MLA declares open Inter-Zonal District Level Sports Tournament at Ramban

Over 335 student athletes from all six zones participate on inaugural day



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAMBAN:

The Department of Youth Services and Sports Ramban, today inaugurated the Inter-Zonal District Level Sports Tournament for Under-14 and Under-17 boys and girls in the disciplines of Kabaddi, Kho-Kho and Volleyball here at District Police Lines (DPL) Ground.

The tournament was declared open by Member Legislative Assembly Ramban Advocate Arjun Singh Raju as the Chief Guest. The event is being held under the direction of the Director General, YSS J&K and the guidance of District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Jagdish Raj Sharma.

The opening ceremony witnessed an enthusiastic participation of over 335 student athletes from all six zones of the district, accompanied by their respective Zonal Physical Education Officers, Physical Education Teachers, Rehbar-e-Khel instructors and field staff. The ground buzzed with energy as young athletes showcased their passion for sports in an environment filled with discipline, sportsmanship and zeal. An anti drug pledge was also administered to the participants.

Addressing the gathering, the MLA lauded the Youth Services and Sports Department for providing a platform to youth to showcase their talent and energy through sports.

Shiv Sena slams Govt over power, water crisis in Jammu; accuses public representatives of silence

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Amid the relentless heatwave sweeping across the region, residents of Jammu are grappling with prolonged electricity and water cuts despite the installation of smart meters and timely payment of bills.

Expressing strong displeasure over the worsening situation, Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) Jammu and Kashmir unit has criticized the administration and public representatives for failing to act.

Addressing media persons at the party's state central office, Shiv Sena (UBT) President Manish Sahni condemned the government's apathy and questioned the silence of elected BJP representatives from the Jammu division. "Even after installing smart meters, the promise of 24-hour uninterrupted power supply has proven hollow. Power cuts of several hours during peak summer have pushed people to the brink of misery," Sahni said.

He further pointed out that the irregular power supply is also impacting the water distribution system, compounding the distress of residents. Sahni reminded the Lieutenant Governor of the government's commitment to ensuring round-the-clock power supply in Jammu and Kashmir, a promise that, according to him, remains unfulfilled on the ground. Sahni also raised concerns about the BJP MLAs who, despite winning from the Jammu division, have remained silent while the public suffers.

"The public is being tormented, and our elected leaders are acting as mute spectators," he said, urging the government to take immediate action to rectify the situation.

Cautioning about the implications of such service failures, Sahni remarked, "If this is the state of affairs even after paying bills, what will happen when the government starts implementing promises like free electricity?"

Secretary RDD visits Sheshnag; reviews preparations for Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2025

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
PAHALGAM:

Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today conducted an extensive tour of Pahalgam to assess the sanitation facilities being put in place along the axis for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY), 2025.

He also visited different camps along the route, starting from Nunwan Base camp, Chandanwari and trekked upto Sheshnag to oversee the sanitation arrangements for the upcoming yatra.

The Secretary took stock of arrangements of men and machinery at Pissu top, Zojibal and Wawbal upto Sheshnag. He was accompanied by Director General (DG) Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra; Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Anantnag, Shafiq Ahmad; BDO Pahalgam and other district officers. The Secretary emphasized that the department remains fully committed towards ensuring the highest standards of facilities and services for the pilgrims.

During his visit, the Secretary reviewed installation and functional-

ity of various sanitation infrastructures including the toilets, washrooms, dustbins, drainage for grey water disposal, segregation of wet waste site, plastic waste management site and related facilities along the Pahalgam axis.

The Secretary also examined the installation of dustbins around the Nunwan base camp and yatra route to ensure effective waste disposal, segregation of waste at source and promote cleanliness among the pilgrims. He stressed the importance of maintaining highest standards of cleanliness and called for implementation of a zero-landfill policy along the entire pilgrimage route.

Pertinent to mention here that toilets and baths are to be installed along both the Pahalgam and Baltal axes and on yatra route. Besides, the department is also responsible for the operation and maintenance of 1,576 already installed toilets.

The Secretary issued specific directions for effective grey water management, including construction of adequate soak pits and drainage systems to prevent water logging and ensure environmentally sustainable waste disposal practices. He emphasized the need to ensure clean, safe

and efficient facilities for pilgrims, particularly in areas such as sanitation, water supply, accommodation and medical support.

Inspecting the arrangements on the ground, the Secretary underscored that quality service delivery and hygienic conditions are non-negotiable. He asked the officials to adopt a pilgrim-centric approach and ensure that all necessary arrangements are made promptly for the convenience and well-being of devotees.

Aijaz Asad called for immediate redressal of complaints, especially those related to hygiene, through a real-time response system. He informed that a QR code-based feedback system had been introduced at toilet points to enable pilgrims report cleanliness status, provide feedback and support centralized tracking for improving the service delivery.

The Secretary also interacted with the field staff, sanitation workers and ground-level officers. He instructed the concerned officials to ensure that every pilgrim has access to the best possible sanitation facilities. The Secretary, later, in the evening visited the helipad at Pahalgam to review the preparations for the Yatra.

Fostering environmental stewardship among youngsters, reconnecting with nature, need of the hour: Itoo

Addresses World Environment Day-2025 week celebrations at GGHSS Kothibagh
Calls for collective efforts for environmental preservation



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today emphasised on the urgent need of reconnecting with nature and foster environmental stewardship among the young generation, especially college and school going students.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing a gathering held in the backdrop of World Environment Day-2025 week celebrations at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Kothibagh here today.

Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N Itoo; Chief Education Officer, Srinagar; Principal GGHSS Kothibagh, Heads of various institutions of Srinagar district, faculty members and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Education Minister said that Kashmir's weather is witnessing drastic changes due to deforestation and other allied activities. She emphasized on the urgent need of the hour is to reconnect with nature and foster environmental stewardship among the younger generation as well as school and college going

students.

"Environmental preservation is not just a policy issue, it is a personal responsibility. Each of us has the power to influence change, starting with our homes, schools and communities", Sakeena Itoo stated.

The Minister called upon all the participants to make plantation of trees a routine habit, highlighting that we need to work collectively to bring back the charm and environmental conditions our Kashmir was known for across the globe.

On the occasion, Education Minister also praised GGHSS Kothibagh for academic excellence, highlighting that Government institutions are at par with Private schools in these days. She added that the position holders of various government institutions felicitated today reflect this.

The Minister also said that selections in prestigious examinations like IAS and KAS as well as professional exams like NEET, GATE and others are usually alumni of Government institutions. She added that the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah is giving more impetus to education and health sectors as they form the pillars of any developed society.

Arrangements for celebration of Int'l Yoga day discussed in Udhampur



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
UDHAMPUR:

Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai today convened a meeting of officers of line departments to discuss and finalize the necessary arrangements for the smooth celebration of International Yoga day here at Conference Hall DC Office Complex Udhampur.

Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, PO Poshan, Subash Dogra, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umesh Shan, Chief Planning Officer, Mohd Iqbal and other officers attended the meeting.

Threadbare discussions were held to finalize various arrangements related to the venue of event, participants, stage, refreshment, publicity, parking, security and other necessary requirements.

The DC directed the concerned departments to start the execution of respective responsibilities well in advance. She called for inter-departmental coordination and stressed on ensuring mass participation to make the event a grand success.

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana: Poonch administration plans to develop Solar Villages



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today chaired a review meeting to assess the status of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in the district. The meeting focused on evaluating the progress of the scheme, identifying bottlenecks and devising strategies to ensure timely implementation.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to launch a mass awareness campaign to educate the general public about the scheme's benefits and simplify the registration process to maximize public participation.

Highlighting the importance of coordinated efforts, the DC instructed the power department, banks and vendors to work in close synergy to resolve any technical, financial or procedural issues being faced by the applicants. He emphasized that timely approvals, hassle free processing and handholding of beneficiaries are crucial for the success of the scheme. The Deputy Commissioner directed the stakeholders to continue to work with dedication to achieve 100% coverage under the scheme, contributing towards the broader goal of promoting clean, affordable and sustainable energy. The meeting was attended by Superintending Engineer JPDCL, ADDC, Executive Engineer JPDCL, AEEs, JEs, AEE STD, JEs & Technicians, Cluster Head J&K Bank, Lead District Manager J&K Bank, I/c Draba Grid Station with JEs & Technician staff, I/c Grid Chandak and all empanelled vendors of Surya Ghar Yojana for District Poonch. Later, Deputy Commissioner chaired a meeting of the District Level implementation Committee for the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana to discuss the selection of villages to be developed as Solar Villages.

The Committee recommended the villages as per the set parameters and the meeting decided to roll out the final list shall after completion of the due procedure. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of the Solar Villages initiative in promoting clean energy, reducing dependence on conventional power sources, and bringing long term socio economic benefits to rural areas.

Doda: Zila Sainik Board reviews welfare measures for Ex-Servicemen



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
DODA:

The annual meeting of the Zila Sainik Board Doda was convened today in the Mini Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, Doda.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anil Kumar Thakur chaired the meeting which was attended by Chief Medical Officer, Dy. SP Headquarters, District Treasury Officer, Chief Education Officer, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B), Lead Bank Officer, Post Master,

Tehsildar General Manager DIC and other stakeholders. Zila Sainik Board Officer Wg Cdr Tirath Singh (Retd) projected a range of demands seeking renewal of weapon licenses for ex-servicemen, resettlement of veterans in the Union Territory of J&K, construction of the road from Dessa to Lal Draman, filling of vacant posts in the Board and issues related to the salary of security guards. Discussions were also held on improving pension disbursement system, enhancing employment and self-employment opportunities for

ex-servicemen through coordination with DIC and KVIB, facilitating Ayushman Bharat healthcare benefits, providing educational support including scholarships and fee waivers to their wards and resolving land allotment and housing matters.

The meeting was also attended by unofficial members of the ex-servicemen community who provided valuable grassroots-level feedback.

Responding to the projected demands, the ADC said the preparation of a DPR for road connectivity to Dessa would be prioritized and submitted to higher authorities. He further assured the relocation of ECHS Polyclinic to a more accessible site for the benefit of veterans. He encouraged ex-servicemen to use the online system for weapon license renewal and assured them of full support and timely redressal of their grievances through effective inter-departmental coordination. He urged ex-servicemen to utilize their experience in training others in civil defence.

Tribal Affairs Minister meets Gujjar-Bakerwal delegations; assures govt's support

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today met with several delegations of the Gujjar-Bakerwal tribe from districts of Jammu, Samba and Kathua at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar.

The delegations raised various

issues and problems including alleged discriminatory treatment, lack of security of life and property and concerns related to selective acquisition of their immovable property in the name of development. The tribal delegates projected various grievances regarding forced eviction from places they have resided in for decades.

Javed Rana gave a patient hearing to the delegations and assured them that the Jammu and Kashmir government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, will not tolerate harassment of any section of society on sectarian grounds.

The Minister asked the officers to prioritise early redressal of the delegations' problems.

Indian Army commences Pre-Training for Agniveer Aspirants at Banihal



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAMBAN:

The pre-training classes for Agniveer aspirants under the Agnipath scheme commenced today with a solemn and inspiring opening ceremony held at Bn HQ, Karawa Camp Banihal. The event witnessed the presence of distinguished guests, training staff, and a large number of enthusiastic candidates who are preparing to serve the nation

through this prestigious program. The ceremony began with the warm welcome of the chief guest, ZEPO, Banihal Rubina Ahmed Bhat. During the interaction session, the ZEPO encouraged the candidates besides emphasizing the importance of discipline, integrity and commitment in shaping the future of the youth and building a strong nation. Delivering the opening address, Major Gurpreet Singh Hora, 2IC said, "This training is not just a

physical or academic preparation; it is the beginning of a transformation where each of you will learn what it truly means to wear the identity of an Agniveer.

This journey will demand your best, but it will also prepare you to serve the country with honor and pride". The pre-training classes aim to prepare aspiring candidates holistically focusing on physical fitness, mental toughness, academic readiness, and values-based orientation. Trainers and coordinators will mentor the candidates in alignment with the Indian Armed Forces' expectations, building a strong foundation for their upcoming selection processes.

The ceremony concluded with a collective pledge by all aspirants to uphold the values of patriotism, dedication, and discipline throughout their journey.

The Indian Army continues to remain at the forefront of initiatives aimed at promoting Various Pre Training of Youth in the area and as part of its unwavering commitment to public welfare and holistic community development.

JU boys hostel embraces student empowerment with launch of student-run mess



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In a pioneering step towards fostering student leadership and participatory governance, the University of Jammu has inaugurated a fully student-run mess at the Baba Jitto Boys Hostel (BJBH), marking a significant shift in hostel management and student engagement.

The initiative—spearheaded by the hostel administration in collaboration with resident students—aims to empower boarders by involving them directly in the decision-making process related to mess operations. This reform is seen as a milestone in the university's vision of promoting democratic values and accountability within campus life.

The newly formed Mess Committee, led by Avinash Choudhary, a law student and resident of BJBH, comprises elected student representatives and functions on principles of transparency and inclusiveness. The committee is responsible for overseeing the mess operations, ensuring quality food services, and addressing students' concerns effectively.

The inauguration ceremony was held with great enthusiasm and was graced by Prof. Pankaj Kumar from the Department of Zoology, who lauded the effort as "a blueprint for student-administration partnership" and a progressive model for other hostels to follow. Prominent university officials present on the occasion included Prof. Lalitsen Sharma, Provost (Boys Hostels), Dr. Surinder Sharma, Warden (BJBH), Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Resident Warden (BJBH), Dr. Amit Gupta (Department of Zoology), and Dr. Nitin Sharma, Resident Warden (Jambu Lochan Boys Hostel). Their presence reflected the administration's strong support for student-led governance. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Lalitsen Sharma emphasized that the student-run mess model not only brings operational transparency but also inculcates leadership, accountability, and community responsibility among students.

4-Day Training on digitization of Jamabandis commences at Kishtwar



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR:

A four-day hands-on training on the Digitization of Jamabandis was inaugurated today by Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Idrees Lone.

The training is being imparted to Junior Assistants, Patwaris and Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) of the district by 10 trained Master Trainers through Web-HALRIS Portal.

This initiative is a part of the broader Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP) and is expected to significantly enhance efficiency, transparency and accessibility in revenue record management.

The ACR encouraged the participants to take full advantage of the training to improve and update their skills. The training sessions are aimed at ensuring 100% digitization of Jamabandis in a time-bound and efficient manner.

DC Anantnag chairs maiden DLIC meeting on Mission YUVA

50 Youth venture projects approved

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
ANANTNAG:

District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) on Mission YUVA meeting was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Syed Fakhruddin Hamid at DC Office Complex.

The meeting was held to evaluate and approve youth venture projects submitted under the ambitious Mission YUVA initiative.

During the meeting, 50 project proposals duly verified by the Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) were placed before the committee. After thorough scrutiny of each application all 50 were

approved for financial assistance and handholding support. The committee assessed eligibility, business viability, and the socio-economic profile of each applicant to ensure alignment with the mission's objectives. DC underlined the significance of promoting self-employment opportunities, especially for youth from marginalized and underprivileged backgrounds. He urged all departments and stakeholders to operate in a mission mode for prompt disbursement of funds, rigorous monitoring, and comprehensive mentoring of the approved ventures.

He also emphasized the importance of well-prepared Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and directed that they be carefully examined to

ensure each venture is viable and aligned with the goals of Mission YUVA. He further called for enhanced outreach and awareness campaigns to attract wider participation from youth across the district.

DC reiterated the district administration's commitment to fostering a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation through collaborative and time-bound efforts under Mission YUVA. The meeting was attended by key DLIC members, including General Manager DIC, Nazia Hassan; Assistant Director Employment, District Social Welfare Officer, DDM NABARD, Lead District Manager, District Nodal Officer JKEDI, Employment Officer and Career Counselling Officer.

DC Kupwara reviews preparations for launch of 'Skill Mission-Hunarmand Kupwara'

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KUPWARA:

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting of concerned officers at D.C Office here to review the preparations for 'Skill Mission-Hunarmand Kupwara', an initiative for empowering youth through skill development under Aspirational District Programme of NITI Aayog which shall be launched on June 16 (Monday).

'Skill Mission-Hunarmand Kupwara' is an initiative of district administration Kupwara to equip the youth of the district with different skills to boost their employability and livelihood potential.

Speaking at the occasion, DC said that 'Skill Mission-Hunarmand

Kupwara' initiative is not just a set of training courses but a step towards unlocking possibilities, enhancing employability and redefining the future of thousands of youth in Kupwara district.

She impressed upon the officers to identify maximum youth especially belonging to vulnerable groups for their skilling under the initiative so as to boost their employability. She emphasized the need for offering customized courses to cater to the needs of the potential candidates.

The officers were directed to ensure wide publicity of the Skill Mission to ensure its grass-root awareness. Besides, the ADCs and SDMs will lead the launch of the initiative in their respective jurisdictions.

It was informed in the meeting that

about 600 candidates have been identified and enrolled under 18 different courses in Government Polytechnic College and Industrial Training Institutes which will start from Monday. The courses under which the candidates will be skilled include Basic Computer Digital Literacy, Sozni Embroidery, Basic Masonry and Concreting, Solar Power Technician, Basic Tailoring, Basic Multimedia & Animation, Mobile Repairing etc.

The meeting was attended by SDM Lolab, SDM Karnah, Principal Govt. Polytechnic College Kupwara, Chief Education Officer, CPO, Assistant Labour Commissioner, Superintendents of ITI Kupwara, Handwara, Lalpora & Tangdar, District Officer EDI, DPM NRLM Kupwara and other concerned.

Sakeena Itoo conducts surprise inspection of GGHS Drugjan Dalgate

Takes on-spot assessment of school's functioning, interacts with students, staff



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today conducted the surprise inspection of Government Girls High School (GGHS) Drugjan Dalgate and took on-spot assessment of functioning of the school. Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N Itoo;

CEO Srinagar, ZEO Nishat and other officers also accompanied the Minister. During the visit, Minister Sakeena took detailed round of the school premises, inspected classrooms, computer lab and other infrastructure. She also interacted with the students and took feedback from them about the quality of education being imparted at the institute. She also encouraged students to remain focused on their studies and urged

the school authorities to identify and address any gaps in academic performance and infrastructure.

Later, the Minister held a brief interaction with the staff of the school and assessed the overall functioning of the institution, including teaching methodologies, infrastructure, attendance records and availability of essential resources.

Expressing concern over certain shortcomings, Minister Sakeena emphasized on the need for more robust monitoring mechanism to ensure timely academic delivery and conducive learning environment in the institute. "Education is the cornerstone of a progressive society. We must ensure our girls receive quality education, adequate support and modern facilities to thrive in every sphere and field of life", Minister Sakeena stated.

She lauded the dedication of the teaching staff and called for renewed efforts to uplift educational outcomes, particularly in government-run educational institutions.

ADDC Shopian reviews Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan rollout program

Abhiyan to start from June 15 in Kathohalan & Pehlipora villages of Keller



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SHOPIAN:

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr.Nasir Ahmad Lone today chaired a meeting of officers to review the preparations for the rollout of National level tribal development program of Dharti Aaba Janbhagidhari Abhiyaan starting from June, 15.

The program shall be inaugurated on June, 15 in Kathohalan village of the Keller area and will be attended by different departments who will set up stalls for scheme awareness, on-spot registrations and enrollment under schemes meant for tribal development and welfare.

ADDC reviewed department wise action plans of all departments and asked for putting up arrangements well in advance for the impactful and result oriented program.

The abhiyaan shall run from June 15 to 22 in Kathohalan village and from June 23 to 30 in Pehlipora village of Keller block.

The focus of the abhiyan shall be the cent percent coverage and saturation of at least 25 interventions across 17 Ministries of the Government.

On-spot demonstration of best practices, enrollment for various services and spot service delivery along with awareness of government programs meant for tribal empowerment shall be held.

The meeting was attended by various district and block officers assigned with the responsibilities related to the event.

Reasi Admin finalises arrangements for launch of 15-Day "Dharti Aaba Abhiyan"

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU REASI:

The District Administration Reasi has finalized arrangements to launch a 15-day Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan from June 15 to June 30, 2025.

The campaign will begin with a district level launch event at Mahore on June 15 and soon after span across 44 selected tribal villages including 7 in Chassana Block, 5 in Mahore Block, 5 in Thuroo Block, 5 in Jij Bagli Block, 16 in Thakrakote Block, 3 in Pouni Block and 1 each in Bhomag, Reasi and Arnas Blocks.

In this regard, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Sukhdev Singh Samyal chaired a meeting to finalize the preparations.

The campaign will feature delivery of services related to Aadhaar enrollment, issuance of Ayushman Bharat card, caste and domicile certificates and saturation of a host of other social welfare schemes.

To promote livelihood, the tribal community would be provided benefits of agriculture and allied sector schemes, access to drinking water supply through Har Ghar Nal Se Jal scheme, Electricity connections under Power sector schemes, besides offering health services, skill development training, provision of ration under food security schemes, creation of public assets under Rural Development Department schemes, benefits under forest right Act and other tribal welfare programs.

The Block Development Officers (BDOs) will serve as campaign nodal officers and shoulder the responsibility of planning, organizing and documenting each event — including uploading of photographs and videos on the dedicated portal. The Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Mahore was directed to make adequate arrangements for proper seating, uninterrupted power supply and provision for safe drinking water at the District Level Launch event. Banking institutions were instructed to facilitate the opening of accounts for eligible individuals on the spot to facilitate direct benefit transfer under the schemes.

DC Srinagar reviews preparation for 'Int'l Yoga Day'

Asks stakeholder departments to ensure all necessary arrangements well in advance for successful commemoration of the Day



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

In order to review preparations for 'International Day of Yoga' being observed on June 21, a meeting of senior Officers was held under the

chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat here.

At the outset, DC called for inter-departmental coordination, besides ensuring mass participation for the success of the divisional and district

level events.

He passed directions to the line departments for making all necessary arrangements well in advance at the sites where mega yoga sessions will be held to commemorate the day. The meeting was informed that the main divisional level event for celebrations of 'International Day of Yoga' will be organized at the lawns of SKICC where a large number of people are expected to participate in the event.

DC directed the stakeholder departments to work in a coordinated manner to ensure all the necessary arrangements well in time for successful conduct of the divisional level event.

Distt Admin Kulgam braces up to launch intensive IEC campaign from June 15 in tribal villages under DAJGUA

DC reviews arrangements & preparations, directs departments to ensure 100% saturation of govt schemes & welfare programmes

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU KULGAM:

With a focus on ensuring last-mile delivery of government services and welfare schemes in tribal areas the district, district administration Kulgam is set to launch an intensive IEC (Information, Education & Communication) campaign under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) from June 15 to June 30, 2025.

In this connection, a meeting of officers was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, at the DC Office Complex to finalize the arrange-



ments for the upcoming campaign.

During the meeting, DC held a detailed review of the action plan and emphasized that the primary objective of the campaign is to achieve

100% saturation of all government schemes and beneficiary-oriented programmes at the grassroots level in tribal areas.

He stressed the importance of intensified outreach efforts and inter-departmental coordination for effective implementation of the campaign. It was informed that the programme is aimed at uplifting tribal communities and ensuring their inclusive socio-economic development. DC directed departments to also organize IEC cum beneficiary saturation camps in tribal villages.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Joint Director Planning and other senior officers.

SANJY-2025: DC Srinagar visits Yatra transit camp Pantha Chowk

Emphasises on ensuring robust arrangements for seamless conduct of the annual pilgrimage



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

In connection with the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat undertook a visit to Yatra Transit Camp at Pantha Chowk here on Wednesday.

The visit focused on ensuring robust arrangements for the smooth

and seamless conduct of the annual yatra, set to commence on July 3, 2025, and conclude on August 9, 2025.

DC meticulously reviewed the boarding, lodging, sanitation, medical facilities at the Pantha Chowk Transit Camp, a halt station for yatries traveling to the Amarnath cave. He also took stock of other amenities to ensure they meet the

needs of the yatries.

During the visit, DC issued clear directives to officers to expedite preparations and ensure all arrangements are put in place well ahead of the yatra. Emphasizing pilgrim comfort, he stressed the need for seamless coordination among departments to enhance services at the camp.

Special attention was given to the setup of Langars (community kitchens) to provide nutritious meals and the availability of clean drinking water and proper sanitation facilities.

DC also inspected the readiness of Yatri facilitation centres, which will handle critical services such as e-KYC verification, RFID card distribution, and on-spot registration to streamline the pilgrimage process.

DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed; Sub Divisional Magistrate East, Zubair Ahmad; ARTO, Muazam Ali and other officers during the visit.

DLSA Srinagar conducts comprehensive inspection of Central Jail Srinagar, Legal Aid Clinics

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, under the guidance of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge/Chairman DLSA Srinagar, conducted an inspection of Central Jail Srinagar and the Prison Legal Aid Clinic on Friday.

The primary objective of the visit was to assess the living conditions of the inmates and review the overall functioning of the jail and legal aid mechanisms in place. The inspection was carried out by Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, accompanied by Sajad Ur Rehman, Secretary DLSA Srinagar, officials and Legal Aid Defence Counsels of DLSA Srinagar.

During the inspection, the team visited various key sections of the jail including the Legal Aid Clinic, Welfare Block, Vocational Training Centre, Computer Training Centre, Music and Fine Arts Centre, Calligraphy Centre, Jail Hospital, Kitchen Area, Women's Block, and the dedicated Women-Centric Tailoring Centre. The team paid special attention to the Medical Centre, with a particular focus on the de-addiction facilities available to the inmates. The inspection was also joined by Sheikh Zulfikar Azad, Senior Superintendent, Central Jail Srinagar; Deputy Superintendent; medical officers; and prison staff. Together, they visited all the barracks and interacted directly with the inmates, including women prisoners, to obtain first-hand insights into their concerns and the quality of services provided. Tasleem Arief and the team attentively listened to the grievances and feedback shared by the inmates, reaffirming the commitment of DLSA Srinagar to safeguard the rights and dignity of prisoners. The interaction provided a crucial platform for inmates to voice their needs and ensured transparency and responsiveness in the justice delivery system within custodial institutions.

In addition, Chairman DLSA Srinagar also interacted with Para Legal Volunteers posted at the Prison Legal Aid Clinic. He reviewed their functioning and emphasized the importance of their role in ensuring continuous access to justice for inmates. He encouraged the PLVs to remain proactive, compassionate and vigilant in addressing the legal needs of the prison population.

Review meeting on facilitation of Trademark Registration for MSMEs through IPFCs held

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

A review meeting on the facilitation of Intellectual Property (IP) registrations for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) of Kashmir region was held today at the Branch MSME Development & Facilitation Office (DFO), Srinagar.

The meeting convened by Assistant Director-MSME, Saheel Alaqband was attended by officials and members of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kashmir.

During the meeting, Iqbal Jan from the PHD Chamber informed that a significant number of MSMEs have been facilitated for trademark registration through IPFC. He shared that a total of 138 applications were received directly and also routed through Br MSME DFO Srinagar office in Kashmir region for IP registrations, out of which 48 registrations for trademarks have been done successfully, while rest applications are under process and few have been objected.

Assistant Director MSME highlighted that through Intellectual Property Facilitation Centres (IPFCs) created under MSME Innovative Scheme of Ministry of MSME, MSMEs are required to pay only the official registration fee, while no charges are levied by IP attorneys on MSMEs, even in cases where multiple objections arise. This has provided significant relief to MSMEs, particularly those in the manufacturing and service sectors. Additionally, he emphasized that the registration fee also is reimbursable under the MSME Innovative scheme, and advised the official of PHD Chamber to inform all applicants to apply online for reimbursement through the prescribed portal who have successfully attained the trademark registration.

SANJAY 2025: DC B'pora reviews arrangements; conducts on-site inspection of Transit Camp Shadipora

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU BANDIPORA:

In preparation for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri convened a comprehensive review meeting on Wednesday at the office of Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division Shadipora.

On the occasion, DC stressed the importance of proactive planning, timely execution, and collaborative efforts by all departments to provide seamless services and ensure the safety and comfort of the pilgrims.

He took a detailed review of the facilities including transportation, health care services, sanitation, drinking water supply, traffic regulation, and security deployment along the Yatra route.

DC directed concerned officers to remain in a state of readiness and ensure that all necessary arrangements including manpower, logistics, equipment, and contingency plans are put in place well in advance to avoid any challenges and



to ensure the smooth conduct of the Yatra. The meeting was aimed at finalizing necessary arrangements and ensuring inter-departmental coordination for the smooth conduct of the Yatra. Qadri reaffirmed the district administration's commitment to ensuring a safe, well-managed and spiritually fulfilling yatra experience for all devotees.

Later, DC conducted on-site inspection of Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board's Shadipora Transit Camp to review the ongoing works at the site and directed concerned officers to ensure timely completion of

all infrastructure projects aimed at improving facilities for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl; Commandant 45 BN CRPF, SDM Sumbal, Project Director NH-1 Srinagar, Chief Medical Officer Bandipora, Executive Engineers from PDD, PHE, and R&B, Tehsildar Sumbal, SDPO Sumbal, BDO Sumbal, AD F&ES, EO MC Sumbal, while Deputy CEO Shrine Board (SANJY) attended the meeting virtually.

DC Poonch reviews implementation of Mission YUVA

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU POONCH:

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) for Mission YUVA. The meeting was convened to review and approve applications submitted through the Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) and to assess the progress of the scheme's implementation in the district.

The committee scrutinized the applications received, assessing the eligibility, business viability and socio-economic background of the applicants.

Each case was discussed in detail to ensure fair and merit-based consideration in line with the objectives of Mission YUVA.

Speaking at the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of promoting self employment avenues for local youth, particularly those from underprivileged and marginalized sections of society.

He directed the concerned departments to ensure timely disbursement of financial assistance, continuous handholding and regular monitoring to ensure the long-term sustainability of the approved ventures.

The Deputy Commissioner also

stressed the need for enhanced outreach and awareness programs to encourage wider participation from eligible youth across the district.

The meeting concluded with a resolve to strengthen youth-led entrepreneurship and promote sustainable livelihood through effective implementation of Mission YUVA in the district.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Poonch, Pankaj Mangotra, Assistant Director Employment Poonch, Mohd Arif, Lead District Manager (LDM) Poonch, Industrial Promotion Officer (IPO) Poonch, representatives of JKEDI Poonch and other concerned officers.

DC Rajouri inspects key projects, government institutions in Thanamandi Sub Division

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today conducted a comprehensive inspection of the ongoing development works and government institutions in Thanamandi Sub Division.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the ongoing work on the vital Rajouri-Thanamandi-Surankote road stretch, inspecting the progress of work on Rajouri to DKG segment. The road being constructed by the BRO is of great strategic and developmental importance as it will significantly improve connectivity in the hilly region.



The DC directed the concerned authorities to expedite the pace of work while maintaining quality standards and ensuring adherence to timeline.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited Sub

District Hospital Thanamandi, where he assessed the healthcare facilities, manpower, infrastructure and medicine supplies.

He interacted with the hospital staff and patients and stressed the need for

improved sanitation, better patient care and round-the-clock availability of medical services.

Afterwards, the DC visited several other government institutions in the area to evaluate their functioning and services delivery.

He issued necessary directions to the heads of departments to ensure accountability, punctuality and effective implementation of government schemes at the grassroots level.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Sub Divisional Magistrate, Abid Hussain, local Tehsildar, BDO and officers from BRO and other departments.

Ittoo calls for timely disbursement of payments under social welfare schemes to eligible beneficiaries

Directs JK Bank to do away with PAN, Form 16 requirements for low income group



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ittoo today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to discuss various issues arising during the release of benefits under various flagship social welfare schemes like Old Age Pension, Widow Pension, Ladli Beti, Marriage Assistance, Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS) and others through Jammu and Kashmir Bank.

The meeting was attended by Director Social Welfare Kashmir, Secretary in Social Welfare department, Director Finance Social Welfare department, senior representatives of Jammu and Kashmir Bank and other concerned officers.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, Minister Sakeena emphasized on the facilitation of common people, especially those belonging to down-trodden communities and low income group.

She called upon the officers for timely disbursement of payments under various schemes to eligible beneficiaries in strict adherence to eligibility norms.

"Social welfare is not just about disbursement, it is about dignity, inclusion and empowerment of people, especially those in need. Every eligible citizen must feel the impact of these welfare schemes in their daily lives and we must work towards complete saturation with accountability at every level", Minister Sakeena stated.

The Minister directed the officers to streamline the process of disbursement of payments to beneficiaries and sort out the issues related to Aadhaar seeding of the beneficiaries. She also called upon the JK Bank representatives to do away with procedures like PAN or Form 16 requirements for these beneficiaries as they belong to lower income group.

Minister Sakeena further asked the Social Welfare department to revisit the MoU held with J&K Bank by the department for implementation of Ladli Beti scheme and update some conditions in it for the facilitation of beneficiaries.

DHS reviews medical facilities to handle heat wave induced ailments

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar today reviewed preparedness of health institutions to handle heat wave triggered health conditions here at a meeting.

The meeting was attended virtually by Medical Superintendent Gandhinagar, Medical Superintendent Jagti, all CMOs and Medical Superintendents of Jammu Division.

Controller of Stores Dr. Ritesh Khullar and Nodal Officer National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH) Dr. Rashmi Sharma attended the meeting physically.

Taking stock of the overall situation, the DHS laid stress on conducting aggressive IEC campaigns to



enhance awareness on prevention and control of heat related illnesses.

The DHS directed the CMOs and MSs to establish ORS corners, maintain stocks of essential medicines, IV fluid and keep heat stroke rooms ready in all health facilities. Availability of Ambulance services

and Fire Safety Protocols in the health institutions was also stressed upon. He instructed all stakeholders to keep record of heat related illness cases at PHC/ NTPHC/ UPHC levels and update the same on Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP) portal on daily basis.

Bulbul falls silent

Ustad Ghulam Nabi Shah, popularly known as Hamle Bulbul, took Kashmiri music to new heights; colleagues, fans pay tributes

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

The Bulbul of Kashmiri music and art has fallen silent today. Ustad Ghulam Nabi Shah, famously known as Hamli Bulbul, who rendered more than three decades to the Information Department and took Kashmiri music to new heights nationally breathed his last today at his ancestral place Dangiawacha Rafiabadd in Baramulla. An inborn talent who devoted his life promoting Kashmiri art and culture, Bulbul served the department in various capacities representing Kashmir folk and music on both national and international canvas, earning accolades for himself and the department, setting legacy for others to follow.

Bulbul captivated audiences for decades with his soulful voice, masterful command of the sarangi and signature 'glass' dance performances, where he balanced a glass of water on



his head while executing intricate dance movements showcasing his exceptional skill and commitment to Kashmiri performing arts.

Bulbul was also renowned for his mastery of the traditional Kashmiri folk dance form known as Bacha Nagma. This vibrant and expressive dance involves young boys dressed as women, performing intricate footwork and spinning movements while singing Kashmiri ballads. In 2011, Bulbul was honored with the presti-

gious Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah Award for his significant contributions to promoting Kashmiri Lok Sangeet (folk music). This accolade recognized his dedication to preserving and revitalizing the rich musical traditions of Kashmir. More than just a performer, he was a deeply respected personality whose humility and grace endeared him to generations. Meanwhile, colleagues, fans and admirers have condoled the demise of Bulbul terming it a huge loss to local music and art. Several of his superiors and colleagues took to social media and described their association with him. In this regard a condolence meeting was also held here under the chairmanship of Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari with Deputy Director Information (PR), Ahsanul Haq Chishti, Cultural Officer Kashmir, Burhan Hussain and other officers and officials present.

Shreya Singhal assumes charge as Chief Executive Officer, J&K ERA

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Shreya Singhal today assumed the charge as Chief Executive Officer J&K Economic Reconstruction Agency, a specialised agency established by the



Government of Jammu and Kashmir to implement and oversee execution of all externally funded projects within the Union Territory.

Immediately after formally taking over the charge, Singhal convened an introductory meeting with senior officials of the agency, during which she had a comprehensive overview of the organization's operational framework.

The senior officers provided insights into broader parameters of the World Bank-funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project, which is currently being executed by J&KERA across the Union Territory.

Shreya Singhal was informed that, till date, 200 out of the total of 213 sub-projects initiated under the World Bank funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project have been successfully completed, while work on the remaining sub-projects is actively progressing. The Chief Executive Officer expressed hope that the officers and other staff will continue to work with same zeal and enthusiasm, ensuring positive change in the infrastructure development in J&K.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu visits Sukrala Mata Shrine, reviews civic amenities

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KATHUA:

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar today visited revered Sukrala Mata Shrine in Billawar, where he reviewed the facilities for devotees.

Accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Kathua Dr. Rakesh Minhas, ADC Billawar Vinay Khosla and other sectoral officers, he also inspected the progress of development works in the area.

The Divisional Commissioner paid obeisance at the Holy Shrine and took stock of the facilities available for the devotees including the provision of drinking water in and around the shrine. The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti informed that the water supply is being provided to devotees and adjoining areas from a Tube Well.

Responding to the demands raised by the locals, the Divisional Commissioner assured that the possibility of extending the parking area near the shrine will be actively explored for the convenience of pilgrims and tourists. He reiterated the



administration's commitment to resolve genuine issues in a phased and time-bound manner for hassle free pilgrimage experience at the shrine.

Later, the Divisional Commissioner visited the Community Health Centre (CHC) and reviewed the progress of work on its new building.

Observing that certain portions of

the building are near completion, the Divisional Commissioner directed the executing agency to immediately hand over the completed portion of the project so that the Health Department can start the operations, especially the gynecology ward without further delay.

He also emphasized timely completion of the entire project to enhance healthcare delivery in the region.

Sports passion overwhelms Chowgan Ground Kishtwar amid inauguration of Inter-Zonal District Tournament

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR:

The Department of Youth Services and Sports (YS&S) Kishtwar today declared open the much-anticipated Inter Zonal District Level Tournament for U/14 and U/17 Boys and Girls amid a vibrant inaugural ceremony held here on the historic Chowgan Grounds.

The tournament would feature competitions across multiple sports disciplines. Additional Deputy Commissioner Pawan Kotwal inaugurated the tournament as the Chief Guest amid cheers from hundreds of participating student-athletes, officials and spectators. The inaugural event was held under the overall supervision of District Youth Services & Sports Officer Jaffer Haider Sheikh.

A well-coordinated march past by teams from different zones of the district marked the ceremonial start, followed by National Anthem, oath-taking ceremony led by young athletes, pledging commitment to sportsmanship and fair play.

The atmosphere was charged with patriotic fervor and youthful energy as cultural performances and motivational addresses inspired the gathering.

In his address, ADDC Pawan Kotwal emphasized the role of sports in holistic development of youth stating, "Sports events not only promote physical fitness and discipline but also foster unity and cultural exchange among students from all corners of the district."



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