

The Kashmir Talk

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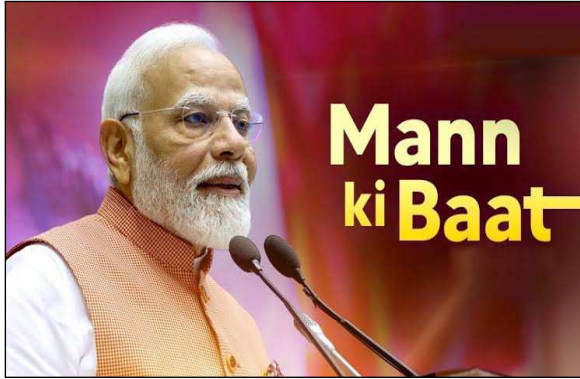
Operation Sindoor not just Military Mission, but reflection of changing India: PM Modi

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that Operation Sindoor was not just a military mission, but "the face of a changing India" that reflects the country's resolve, courage, and growing strength on the global stage.

Addressing the nation through his monthly radio programme Mann Ki Baat, the Prime Minister said, "Today the entire country is united against terrorism, filled with anger and determination."

Modi hailed Operation Sindoor as a turning point in the global fight against terror, describing it as a symbol of India's



growing strength and clarity of purpose.

"Operation Sindoor has infused new confidence and energy into the global fight against terrorism," he said.

He lauded as "extraordinary" the precision with which Indian forces attacked the terrorist infrastructure across the

border.

Modi emphasised that the operation was not a one-off military action, but a reflection of a changing and resolute India.

"Operation Sindoor is the picture of our resolve, courage, and a changing India," he said, and delved on the impact of

the operation that resonated deeply across the country.

The operation's success was followed by a series of gestures in tribute to the armed forces, ranging from patriotic poems on social media to paintings by children and massive Tiranga Yatras.

"In many cities, youth volunteered for civil defence, wrote poems, sang songs of resolve, and children made paintings carrying powerful messages," Modi said.

He talked about a recent visit to Bikaner where he was gifted paintings made by children. "In cities like Katihar and Kushinagar, families named their

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Our armed forces will destroy Pakistan for any misadventure in future: LG



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today addressed the All J&K Jat Sabha in Jammu.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the valour of armed forces and reaffirmed the government's resolve to completely rid J&K of terrorism.

"Pakistan is on notice. If it resorts to any misadventure in future, our armed forces will make sure to destroy this terrorist state. I assure the people that there will be no discrimination between armed terrorists and their supporters and sympathisers. Their actions will be met with similar punishment," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant

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Two Army Brigades, Mobile Network Established In Remote Billawar Areas: Dr Jitendra



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BILLAWAR:

Two Army Brigades and mobile network in remote areas of Billawar region have been established, which would not only provide security to the local people but also ensure surveillance through mobile connectivity and ease of communication in far-flung areas.

This was disclosed here

today by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh during a Public Durbar held by him.

The Public Durbar was attended by senior officers of the district administration with representatives from all the engineering wings and health department, in the presence of elected representatives including MLA Satish Sharma, DDC Chairman Col Mahan Singh, DDC

Members Vikram Singh, Narayan Dutt Tripathi and Neeru Rajput, former Municipal Chairman Basotra, BJP District President Gopal Krishan, Amrik Singh, Romi Khajuria, all the panches, sarpanches and former DDCs.

Dr Jitendra Singh further informed that one Armed Brigade had already been established at Sarthal and now another similar Armed Brigade has been set up in Rampur township of Billawar. This will not only provide round the clock army surveillance in the area but the Army personnel will also maintain regular liaison with the civil administration with the concerned Brigadier and the

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JK CM Urges PSU, Panel Meets in Kashmir to Boost Tourism



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday proposed a dual approach to resuscitate Jammu and Kashmir's tourism sector, severely impacted by the Pahalgam terror attack, urging the Centre to mandate PSUs to hold meetings in Kashmir and to convene parliamentary committee meetings there. Speaking at the Governing

Council meeting of the NITI Aayog under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Abdullah also raised the issue of recent shelling from Pakistan that claimed 23 lives in Poonch, Rajouri and north Kashmir and underlined that the construction of individual bunkers for residents is necessary.

Acknowledging the severe impact of the recent events on the vital

tourism sector, Abdullah proposed that as an immediate step, the government should direct its public sector undertakings (PSUs) to hold their meetings in Kashmir.

He also strongly pitched for holding of parliamentary consultative committee and parliamentary standing committee meetings in Jammu and Kashmir.

These concerted efforts by the government will significantly alleviate public fears, foster a renewed sense of security and trust, and ultimately pave the way for the revival of tourism in the Kashmir valley, bringing much-needed economic relief and a return to normalcy, he added. During his extempore speech,

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DGP Nalin Prabhat Reviews Amarnath Yatra Security

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Director General of Police Jammu and Kashmir Nalin Prabhat on Saturday reviewed the security arrangements for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra.

Prabhat chaired a meeting with officers from

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CS Chairs SLSC Meet; Approves Rs 75.80 Cr AAP For Watershed Development Under PMKSY

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

The State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) for the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) 2.0, which met here today under the chairmanship of Chief



Secretary, Atal Dulloo, gave nod to

Annual Action Plan worth Rs 75.80 crore for Watershed Development under PMKSY.

The meeting was convened to review implementation of the scheme besides assessing the Annual Action Plan for the year 2025-26. Present in the meeting were Principal Secretary, Finance;

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Operation Sindoor...

newborns 'Sindoor' in honour of the operation," he said. The PM credited India's home-grown defence capabilities for the mission's success, following the spirit of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

"This was the ultimate bravery of our soldiers, backed by the power of weapons, equipment, and technology made in India," he said.

Modi noted a renewed energy across the country towards the 'Vocal for Local' campaign post-Operation Sindoor, saying the mission had not just inspired patriotism but also strengthened the spirit of self-reliance. "This victory carries the sweat of our engineers, technicians, and every citizen who contributed," he said.

Our armed forces...

Governor appealed to the brave Jat Community and all sections of society to strengthen their resolve and unite in the fight against the divisive forces threatening our peace and social fabric.

In these challenging times, your responsibility to uphold national unity is more crucial than ever, he added. "Jat community has a rich legacy of valour, courage, and sacrifice. A significant population of the Jat community resides near our borders, making them the country's first line of defence. I am proud that your devotion to the motherland has deepened the spirit of nationalism in the society," Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor paid homage to victims of Pahalgam Terror Attack and those killed due to unprovoked shelling by Pakistan. He said the Government of India is committed to proper rehabilitation of the affected families. The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, further called for recognising the threat from divisive elements who are trying to divide the society.

"We must celebrate our diversity and foster unity to defeat the Adversary's nefarious designs. Our brave Armed Forces have scripted a new saga of valor with 'Operation Sindoor.' It is now our sacred task to transform the vision of a United and Viksit Bharat into reality and pay a fitting tribute to our bravehearts who cherished the dream of a powerful nation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Home Minister Amit Shah, for ushering in an era of equality in Jammu and Kashmir, and empowering marginalized communities. He also reiterated his commitment to the welfare and prosperity of the Jat community.

Vikram Randhawa, Member of Legislative Assembly from Bahu constituency; Sukhnandan Choudhary, former Minister; Manjit Singh, President, All J&K Jat Sabha; Taranjit Singh Tony, and other members of J&K Jat Sabha, prominent citizens, and people from different walks of life were present.

Two Army Brigades,...

DM constantly being in touch with each other.

As for the Mobile network, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the far-flung areas, particularly areas beyond Lowang in the Bani area, were deprived of connectivity ever since independence and only yesterday evening, the first mobile phone call was made after the installation of the Mobile Tower and mobile network. This has not only come as a huge facility for the local residents including particularly students and youth, but this will also enable the armed forces to maintain round the clock real time surveillance, he said.

All these measures, taken as a result of the personal follow up on a day to day basis by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, have instilled a lot of confidence and sense of security among the local people.

Dr. Jitendra Singh further informed that the long pending demand of the widening of the Dhar Road has been taken up with impetus received from the Home and Defence Ministries in the wake of the recent armed conflict and very soon the BRO will hand over this road to National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) for widening. Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that in the last summer, the main demand from this region was regarding the shortage of drinking water. He informed that this too has also been taken care of with 55 Jal Jiwan Mission (JJM) schemes approved for region of which nearly 70% work has been completed at a cost of Rs. 131.55 Crore. This, he said, has ensured drinking water supply to 14875 households.

Under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme, the Minister informed that another 1250 households in the Billawar town will be given the facility of drinking water supply at a cost of Rs.11.03 Crore .

Dr. Jitendra Singh informed that he has suggested a proposal for a Master Plan for Sukrala Mata which can be taken up at its next Board meeting. This could

enable this entire area to attract a new genre of tourists like Mussoorie etc.

Dr Jitendra Singh recalled his recent visit to International border and said, that nearly 2500 Family Bunker constructed along the Hiranagar sector over the last seven years have been found highly convenient and received appreciation from the local people that now demands are received from other areas including the LoC for construction of similar family bunkers. He said, this could be accomplished because we had taken up the task of planning and constructing such family bunkers for nearly 10 years and we went ahead in a very meticulous manner. As a result, today, he said, these Family bunkers in the Hiranagar sector have emerged as a role model for the country to build bunkers elsewhere along the border.

Later, Dr Jitendra Singh held a Public Durbar, which lasted for nearly two hours. During his interaction, the Minister gave a patient hearing to individuals and sought to dispose of their grievances and demands on the spot by issuing the required instructions to the administration.

JK CM Urges ...

the chief minister hailed the public's defiance against the April 22 Pahalgam attack while simultaneously seeking the Centre's attention for the region's security, tourism and economic revival. The security challenges post-Pahalgam have severely impacted Jammu and Kashmir's economy, particularly its crucial tourism sector — a significant source of livelihood for many in the region. Abdullah emphasised that while the nation mourns the loss of lives in the Pahalgam massacre, the memory of the 23 people who died due to shelling from across the border must not be forgotten. The speech began with the chief minister commending the widespread condemnation from the people of Jammu and Kashmir following the Pahalgam massacre, which claimed 26 lives. He also extended his gratitude to the central leadership, including the prime minister, for its crucial assistance in protecting Kashmiris targeted by anti-social elements in the rest of the country in the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack.

"When the victims of the Pahalgam massacre are remembered, the nation should also not forget 23 people who lost their lives in shelling from across the border as they were also killed by shells that emanated from Pakistan," he said, drawing a direct link between the violence and its source. India launched Operation Sindoor and targeted nine terror camps, including the headquarters of Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba outfits, on May 7. This was followed by heightened tensions along the Line of Control (LoC) and the International Border (IB).

In a move to bolster civilian safety in vulnerable areas along the LoC and the IB, Abdullah stressed the urgent need for constructing individual bunkers for residents.

The call for individual bunkers highlights the persistent threat faced by border communities while the push for government-led tourism initiatives aims to rebuild confidence and economic stability in the valley.

DGP Nalin Prabhat ...

the police, CRPF, ITBP, Traffic Police, Railways, and security and intelligence agencies at the Police Control Room-Kashmir. The meeting was attended by Special DGP Coordination S J M Gillani, ADGP M K Sinha, ADGP-CID Nitish Kumar, IGs of Kashmir and Jammu Zones, and IG, BSF, Kashmir.

At the outset of the meeting, the zonal IGsP briefed the chair on the proposed security arrangements for the conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025.

The officers of Central Armed Police Force and other security forces also briefed the chair, gave their feedback. During the meeting, the DGP ordered the implementation of the Standard Operating Procedures.

He also directed the field officers to intensify their efforts to dismantle the terror ecosystem.

The DGP instructed the officers to bolster security measures and mitigate potential risks by deploying anti-sabotage teams along the yatra routes.

He also directed the officers to enhance surveillance and threat detection capabilities by using advanced technologies and real-time monitoring of both pilgrimage routes.

CS Chairs SLSC ..

Secretary, RDD; representatives from JSD, PWD, Revenue and other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary exhorted upon the concerned to make the best use of this scheme for creation of durable assets in the water stressed areas. He called for community participation in such initiatives so that these could prove to be the most beneficial for them.

He assessed the progress registered in different districts being covered under this flagship scheme and stressed on prioritizing works which are most suitable for the particular areas. He directed the senior officers

in the department to conduct frequent visits to the sites to take first hand appraisal of the works being executed under this scheme.

Principal Secretary, Finance and APD Departments, Shailendra Kumar, while speaking in the meeting, stressed on including other minor irrigation works in the DPRs so that the water reaches up to the last fields in these areas. He also suggested measures to make the execution of works more transparent and beneficial for the public at large.

The meeting reviewed the progress and approved the proposals under the centrally sponsored flagship programme aimed at enhancing the water conservation, climate resilience and sustainable agriculture in the UT.

While highlighting broad contours of the scheme, Secretary RD& PR Department, Aijaz Asad, informed that WDC-PMKSY is continuation of the earlier Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), which had been subsumed into PMKSY in 2015-16.

He revealed that under WDC-PMKSY 2.0, several initiatives and infrastructure projects had been implemented to boost watershed-based development. Besides, physical and financial progress has been recorded across various districts, with special emphasis on construction of water harvesting structures, ponds and irrigation channels.

Additionally, the rainwater harvesting tanks and bunds for soil and moisture conservation, beautification and rejuvenation of water bodies including springs and streams also constitutes the actions being taken under this programme.

A significant highlight of the year has been the Watershed Yatra Campaign 2025, launched on 5th February in Kathua district by the Union Cabinet Minister for Agriculture and the UT Minister for Rural Development. The campaign underscored the integrated watershed governance and community participation for which J&K secured the 2nd rank nationally for strategic planning and participatory implementation of WDC-PMKSY 2.0. In alignment with the theme of public engagement, the Janbhagidhari Watershed Cup is set to recognize 2-3 districts demonstrating exceptional community involvement in project execution, the meeting was informed.

Moreover, it was divulged that as part of a new initiative under WDC-PMKSY 2.0, 300 springs have been allocated to J&K for rejuvenation as pilot projects. Further, under the national initiative to rejuvenate 50,000 springs, 3,100 more have been tentatively assigned to the UT for which the final project guidelines are awaited from DoLR.

The SLSC also reviewed and approved the Annual Action Plan (AAP) for 2025-26 with a proposed budget of Rs 75.80 crore, focusing primarily on Natural Resource Management (Rs 42.70 crore), Production Systems (Rs 15.03 crore), Consolidation & Withdrawal Phase (Rs 2.15 Cr), Work done claims from AAP 2024-25 (Rs 8.14 crore) and Administrative Expenses of Rs 4.15 crore to be utilised over the ensuing financial year. The committee also approved the revision of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to include the newly allocated 300 springs and asked for creation of DPR in consultation with the Jal Shakti Department.

The approved initiatives, as concluded in the meeting, are expected to accelerate the sustainable agricultural growth and foster inclusive rural development across the region.

ACB Books Srinagar DC Office Employee In Disproportionate Assets Case

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Saturday registered a case against an employee of the Srinagar deputy commissioner's office for possession of assets disproportionate to his known sources of income, an official spokesperson said.

He said the accused official was identified as Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat, presently posted as 'Nazir' (clerk grade) in the office of the deputy commissioner, Srinagar.

"A discreet verification conducted by the bureau into the financial transactions and asset holdings of the said public servant revealed that Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat has accumulated assets grossly disproportionate to his known and legitimate sources of income," the ACB spokesperson said. The assets identified during the verification include a house situated at Firdousabad in Batamaloo, Srinagar, constructed on land measuring 11 marlas (1 marla = 272.25 square feet); an additional structure with appurtenant land measuring 6.5 marlas at the same location; and two plots of land measuring 10 marlas and 13 marlas at Mouza Nowgam in Srinagar, he said.

River Transport in J&K to be a reality soon

CS seeks IWAI support in developing the requisite infrastructure

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU, MAY 23

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a high-level meeting to explore the introduction of Inland Water Transport (IWT) across the major river systems in Jammu and Kashmir.

Besides the Chairperson, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) the meeting was attended by ACS, Jal Shakti Department; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Commissioner Secretary Tourism, Secretary Transport, Secretary PWD, and other senior officers from J&K administration.

The Chief Secretary emphasized the immense potential of river transport in the Union Territory, not only as an ecologically sustainable mode of travel but also as a complementary alternative to road connectivity.

He stated that the river systems in J&K—most notably Jhelum, Chenab, and Ravi—link several districts, thereby presenting a unique



opportunity to develop a cost-effective, less congested, and environment-friendly transportation network. Seeking technical and infrastructural support from IWAI, Dulloo urged the Authority to extend their assistance to UT for making inland water transport a reality at the earliest. He called for collaborative development of the necessary infrastructure, including terminals and electric cruise operations, in coordination with the Tourism, Transport, and PWD departments.

During the meeting, IWAI repre-

sentatives presented findings from their preliminary surveys, which had been conducted to assess the feasibility of river stretches for water transport. The surveys identified viable segments on the Jhelum, Chenab, and Ravi rivers for potential IWT operations.

It was also highlighted that the development of inland water transport aligns with the Government of India's national policy of promoting river transport for its comfort, efficiency, and pollution-free nature. Plans were discussed to procure

Rattan Lal Gupta calls on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Discusses political scenario of Jammu Region

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Advocate Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to deliberate on the prevailing political scenario in the Jammu region and highlight pressing public issues.

During the meeting, the Provincial President apprised the Chief Minister that the people of the Jammu region are generally satisfied with the current dispensation. He stated that the entire cadre of the National Conference—ranging from ministers and party legislators to grassroots workers—has been actively present on the ground, working tirelessly to resolve public grievances and address emerging challenges.

Reflecting on the recent India-Pakistan border conflict, Rattan Lal Gupta emphasized that the people have observed the proactive approach of the government and the party. "From yourself to Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, and the rank and file of the party, everyone stood firmly with the people during this time of crisis. They not only monitored the situation closely but also ensured the availability of essential services and relief support to the affected areas," he said.

The Provincial President also submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister regarding the tragic incident in Ramban district, where a sudden cloudburst caused significant damage. He expressed deep concern over the loss of three lives and the extensive destruction in the surrounding area of Ramban and Dharamkot area.

He urged the Chief Minister to immediately direct officials to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the losses. Gupta also emphasized the Chief Minister regarding deep concern of affected families of Operation Sindoor who have lost their nears and dears and huge loss of properties, he said appropriate compensations be given to them at the earliest so that their derailed lives be come normal.

The senior NC leader stressed the need for timely and adequate compensation to the affected families so they can rebuild their homes and lives without delay. He appealed to the Chief Minister to prioritize rehabilitation efforts and ensure that no affected family is left without support.

Army, local admin organise medical camp at Village Dhanna Dhanu- Chowki Chaura



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

A medical camp was organised today at Village Dhanna Dhanu in Block- Chowki Chaura, Akhnoor jointly by Indian Army, specifically, Chenab Rangers and the local Sub Divisional Administration.

The camp was inaugurated in the presence of SDM Ankush Hans, Tehsildar Pramod Kumar, Panchayat Secretary Dhanna Jalara, Mandeep Chib, ex-Panchs and Lambardars of nearby villages and spirited local villagers.

The aim of the medical camp was to provide health care facilities to people residing in far flung villages of the hilly parts of Akhnoor Sub District. A joint Medical team of Indian Army and Government Hospital, Chowki Chaura comprising 4 doctors including a lady doctor and one pharmacist and four nursing assistants extended their services for betterment of the local population.

Apart from the medical consultation, free life-saving medicines were also provided to the patients at the camp. The camp received an overwhelming response from the nearby local villages to include senior citizens, ladies and children who benefited from the medical camp.

140 students participate in Inter-School Zonal Cricket Tournament at Kishtwar

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR, MAY 23

The Department of Youth Services and Sports, under the leadership of District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO) Jaffer Haider Sheikh, successfully conducted an Inter-School Zonal Level Cricket Tournament at Chowgan Ground, Kishtwar. The event featured Under-14 and Under-17 Girls (Zone Kishtwar) and Under-14 Boys (Zone Nagseni), drawing vibrant participation from over 140 young athletes. The tournament witnessed an impressive display



of cricketing skills, discipline, and teamwork. Over 70 girls competed in the U/14 and U/17 categories, showcasing determination and sportsmanship that won the admiration

of spectators and educators alike. Simultaneously, Zone Nagseni's U/14 Boys competition featured intense matches with remarkable individual performances and close finish-

es. Held at the Historic Chowgan Ground, the event underscored the district's growing enthusiasm for school-level sports and provided a robust platform for nurturing young talent.

2 yr electrician course for youth of Project-Affected Families inaugurated at ITI Kishtwar



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR, MAY 23

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan today inaugurated the first batch of the Electrician Training Course for the youth of project affected area. Organised under the ongoing Skill Development Training Program, the initiative caters to members of households impacted by the hydroelectric proj-

ects including Rattle HEP, Pakal Dul HEP, Kiru HEP, Kwar, and others.

The inaugural session was held here at the Industrial Training Institute (ITI), where a batch of 20 youth from project-affected families were enrolled for free two-year-long Electrician Training Course.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC urged all project-affected families to enroll in the Skill Development Training Program. He also informed

that interested individuals can pursue skill development courses across India through support from the district administration.

The DC advised the trainees to engage sincerely and diligently with the course. He also highlighted the opportunities under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana Scheme, pointing out that trained electricians are in demand under this scheme, and that the current batch may benefit by associating with the vendors of the said scheme in the district, as vendors have apprised about the shortage of trained electricians.

Furthermore, he mentioned that the trainees will be given exposure visits both within and outside the district for on-the-job training across India. It is pertinent to mention that the Skill Development Program launched by the Power Projects Authorities of the District and District Administration provides comprehensive support including free meals.

Healthcare infrastructure across J&K to witness major upgradations soon: Sakeena Itoo

Conducts extensive tour of Kokernag Constituency | Reviews functioning, status of infrastructure of various healthcare facilities, educational institutions

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KOKERNAG (ANANTNAG), MAY 23

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today conducted an extensive tour of Kokernag Constituency during which she reviewed functioning as well as status of infrastructure of various healthcare facilities and educational institutions in the area.

MLA Kokernag, Choudhary Zafar Ali Khatana; MLA Zainapora, Showkat Hussain Ganie; Director Social Welfare Kashmir, Director School Education Kashmir, Director Family Welfare & Immunization, Director Health Services Kashmir, Director AYUSH J&K, ADC Anantnag, Programme Officer ICDS Anantnag, SDM Kokernag and other senior officers from Health, Social Welfare, and Education departments accompanied the Minister. During the visit, Minister Sakeena inspected Sub-District hospital Kokernag, PHC Larnoo, PHC Gadole, PHC Wandavelgam, GDC Larnoo and took first hand appraisal of the functioning of these healthcare facilities and educational institutions. At SDH Kokernag, Minister Sakeena took detailed round of the hospital and assessed the facilities available for the general public. She inspected various departments, interacted with staff and patients and took feedback from them about the services avail-



able at the facility.

While interacting with the public on the occasion, Minister Sakeena assured them that under Omar Abdullah led Government, major upgradations will be done in the healthcare infrastructure of Jammu and Kashmir soon. She further assured them that significant upgrades like establishment of an oxygen plant, blood bank and dialysis facilities, will be done at SDH Kokernag in coming months to improve medical services and ensure accessibility of better healthcare facilities to local population within their vicinities. While visiting PHC Larnoo, PHC Gadole and PHC Wandavelgam, Minister Sakeena minutely evaluated the healthcare facilities at these locations. She interacted with local health workers and discussed strategies with them and accompanying officers to improve healthcare accessibility and quality in these areas.

Later, the Minister also inspected the Government Degree College (GDC) Larnoo and took comprehensive assessment of college's infrastructure, faculty strength as well as status of educational facilities available for students. She took detailed round of the college campus and also interacted with faculty as well as students and took feedback from them about the quality education being imparted at the college. During this extensive tour, Minister Sakeena also interacted with public delegations and individuals at various locations.

While interacting with them, She reiterated the government's commitment towards strengthening of healthcare and educational infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir. "Accessibility to quality healthcare services and quality education for our people is prime motto of Omar Abdullah led Government", Sakeena stated.

SWD Reasi organises awareness camps on Gender Sensitization

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
REASI, MAY 23

In continuation to the effort to promote gender equality, Mission Shakti-Hub for Empowerment of Women, Social Welfare Department, in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihood (JKRLM), organised awareness camps on gender sensitization at Arnas, Pouni, Katra, and Panthal of district Reasi.

The events, held under the overall supervision of District Social Welfare Officer, Sachin Sharma, aimed to create a society where individuals are treated equally and fairly, free from prejudice and discrimination based on gender.



The officials from Mission Shakti highlighted the importance of gender equality and equal participation of women and girls in decision making at all levels. The participants were encouraged to break free from traditional roles and embrace opportunities in all fields.

The officials highlighted that the root cause of gender discrimination is the patriarchal mind set prevalent in the society. Though this mind set is changing with urbanization and education, still there is long way to go for a permanent change in the scenario.

The participants were made aware about various flagship schemes of Social Welfare Department including Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Pradhan Mantri Mantru Vandana Yojana, Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalaya schemes.

Shree Machail Yatra-2025: GREF starts road resurfacing work in Padder to facilitate devotees

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR, MAY 23

Sub-Divisional Magistrate Paddar, Dr. Amit Kumar inspected the Bitumen laying/Resurfacing work being carried out by the GREF

agency. The work is underway from Lidrari to Laie Point in the Paddar Subdivision, aiming to facilitate the upcoming Shree Machail Yatra, as well as to improve connectivity for local commuters.

SDM Paddar emphasized the

importance of this project in ensuring a smooth and safe journey for both pilgrims and residents.

He also commended the GREF agency for its efforts in executing this vital infrastructure development.

NCC Cadets Gain First-Hand Exposure to Army Aviation During Visit to Nagrota Squadron

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NAGROTA:

In a significant initiative aimed at fostering military awareness and inspiring future leaders, a group of cadets from the 1 J&K NCC Battalion embarked on an educational visit to the Indian Army Aviation Squadron (Repair & Overhaul) located in Nagrota. The visit offered the young cadets a rare opportunity to experience, observe, and understand the inner workings of one of the most crucial wings of the Indian Army.

The visit began with a warm and formal welcome by personnel of the Army Aviation Squadron. The cadets were then taken through an engaging and informative briefing session that highlighted the squadron's rich history, strategic relevance, and its continuous contributions to national defence. Officers detailed the core mission of the Aviation Squadron, emphasizing its integral role in supporting ground operations, humanitarian missions, and high-altitude logistics in challenging terrains.

The cadets were introduced to the operational dynamics of Army Aviation, including flight operations, air mobility tactics, and aircraft maintenance protocols. They were given an overview of the precision and discipline required in managing both aerial and technical functions that are vital for the success of military missions. The officers also spoke about how aviation units adapt to evolving battlefield scenarios, technology upgrades, and high-risk environments, demonstrating their importance in modern warfare. One of the most exciting parts of the visit was a guided tour of the aircraft hangars. Here, the cadets witnessed different types of Army aircraft and aviation systems up close.

They had the opportunity to interact directly with pilots, engineers, and ground support crew, who shared their real-life experiences and insights about the life of an aviator in the Indian Army.

These interactions offered the cadets a deeper understanding of flight instrumentation, mission planning, air safety protocols, and maintenance routines. The cadets showed exceptional enthusiasm and discipline throughout the visit. They actively engaged with the squadron personnel, asked questions, and showed a keen interest in the operational and technical aspects of military aviation. Their curiosity and eagerness to learn underscored the importance of such outreach programs in motivating young minds and cultivating a sense of patriotism, responsibility, and service to the nation. As the visit concluded, the cadets and squadron personnel gathered for a group photograph, capturing the spirit of camaraderie and mutual respect that had developed over the course of the day. The photograph stood as a testament to the success of the initiative and the positive impact it had on everyone involved.

Girls shine in Taekwondo, Volleyball & Kho-Kho competitions across Baramulla

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BARAMULLA:

In a spirited continuation of the inter-zonal district level Taekwondo championship hosted at Subhana Stadium, Sopore, Youth Services and Sports, Baramulla, today successfully conducted the girls' competitions across the Under-14, Under-17 and Under-19 categories.

A total of 30 enthusiastic girls showcased their martial arts prowess- 07 in the Under-14 category, 16 in Under-17, and 07 in Under-19. Their energy, discipline, and sportsmanship reflected the department's vision to uplift and empower young female athletes across the district. The event comes a day after the successful culmination of the boys' Taekwondo bouts, adding further vibrance to the ongoing district-level championship. Meanwhile, in another corner of the district, zone Tangmarg witnessed a spectacular turnout at Govt. Degree College Tangmarg, where over 300 girls from various government and private schools participated in inter-school zonal level Kho-Kho and Volleyball competitions under the Under-14 and Under-17 categories. The fields were alive with vibrant sporting action as young athletes competed with exceptional zeal and coordination. The sports fervour is set to continue as inter-zonal district level Wushu competitions are scheduled to commence tomorrow at the same venue in Sopore, promising yet another day of thrilling action and athletic brilliance.

Dy CM pays surprise visit to govt offices at Sanat Ghar Bemina

Emphasises prompt disposal of public grievances, punctuality



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR, MAY 23

In a bid to enhance the public convenience and ensure efficient service delivery, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, paid a surprise visit to various government offices at Sanat Ghar Bemina, Srinagar. The Dy CM visited the offices of Director Industries Kashmir, MD JK Minerals, MD SICOP/SIDCO, MD Handloom Development Corporation, KVIB,

Office of TPO. He reviewed the functioning of these offices and asked the officers to ensure that the public receives hassle-free services.

During the visit, the Dy CM emphasised the importance of maintaining cleanliness, ensuring quick disposal of public grievances and enforcing punctuality in government offices. The Dy CM held a detailed discussion with the officials regarding steps to streamline the functioning of their respective departments. He emphasised the need for prompt

service delivery, better management of public inflow and improved infrastructure, especially considering the ongoing summer heat.

He also stressed that benefits of all government schemes should reach the last person in line in real-time. He directed for conducting awareness programs to educate the general public about the government schemes.

The Dy CM cautioned that no lackadaisical approach would be tolerated, underscoring the administration's commitment to transparency and accountability. He directed that all the HoDs should be stationed in Srinagar stating "it is essential that citizens do not have to wait unnecessarily and services are provided strictly according to the scheduled time frame".

Reiterating commitment of the government towards citizens satisfaction, the Dy CM emphasised that every citizen should receive government services in a prompt, corruption-free and transparent manner.

Pertinently, the Dy CM conducted similar surprise visit to Udhog Bhawan in Jammu.

DC Doda reviews functioning of ANMT School



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR, MAY 23

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh conducted a comprehensive review of the functioning

of the Auxiliary Nurse Midwifery Training (ANMT) School at meeting held today in the mini conference hall DC office complex.

The review meeting was held to assess the status of the institution

and to ensure better training facilities for nursing students.

Key issues discussed during the meeting included the infrastructure status of the ANMT School, staff position, and the ongoing development of the Nursing College. The DC instructed the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to depute doctors as guest lecturers to support academic activities.

Later, the DC visited to the ANMT School campus and interacted with the students to understand their concerns and needs. The interaction focused on improving the learning environment and addressing any gaps in academic support and facilities. The meeting was attended by the Chief Medical Officer, Deputy CMO, Chief Accounts Officer GMC Doda, Medical Superintendent, Epidemiologist, Principal of the ANMT School, and the Assistant Director Planning GMC Doda, among others.

The DC emphasized coordinated efforts among all departments to ensure quality training and overall improvement in healthcare education in the district.

DIPR Cultural Unit conducts 'Say No to Drugs' campaign at GGHS Agore



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The Cultural Unit of the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) Jammu today conducted a Cultural Awareness Programme titled 'Nasha Mukh Bharat' (Say No to Drugs) at Govt. Girls High School Agore, Jammu.

The initiative aimed to raise awareness concerning the negative effects of drug abuse and to promote a drug-free community. Artists from the Cultural Unit, Jammu enthralled the audience with thematic songs, successfully showcasing the effects of drug addiction on individuals, families, and society in general.

The event was attended by both school staff and students. The School Headmaster Prem Chand shared his thoughts on the topic, emphasizing its importance to the audience. He praised the Department of Information and Public Relations for arranging such a significant programme aimed at raising awareness.

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

Ashok Koul chairs organizational meeting of Kathua BJP, focuses on grassroots work

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), J&K BJP, chaired a meeting of BJP District Kathua at its District Office in Kathua. The meeting served as a platform for detailed discussions on party activities, strategies, and the way forward in strengthening the party's base across all levels.

District President Updesh Andotra, Hiranagar Assembly MLA Adv. Vijay Sharma, Kathua Assembly MLA Dr. Bharat Bhushan, Vice President of District Development Council (DDC) Raghunandan Singh Bablu, senior leaders Gopal Mahajan, Prem Nath Dogra, Kuldeep, Ravinder Sharma, Gagan Sharma, and other prominent leaders were present in the meeting. Ashok Koul addressed the gathering with a strong emphasis on organizational discipline and unity. He highlighted the BJP's status as the largest political party in the world and urged all workers to take pride in being associated with such a monumental political force. He further motivated the cadre to continue working with dedication and in an organized manner to ensure the successful implementation of the party's vision and policies at the grassroots level. "The strength of any political party lies in its workers. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that the party's ideology reaches every household. Our programs must be effectively communicated and implemented at the booth level to build a strong and responsive organization," Koul stated. Updesh Andotra, on the behalf of senior leaders, district, mandal teams expressed the determination to work collectively for the continued growth and success of the BJP in the region.

Adv. Vijay Sharma assured the senior leadership of his commitment to the party's goals. He stated that the leadership's directives are being followed with utmost sincerity and that every possible step is being taken to bolster the party's presence from the booth to the state level.

Dr. Bharat Bhushan reaffirmed that consistent efforts are underway to expand the BJP's base and to connect with the masses more effectively, ensuring inclusivity and development for all.

A sapling was planted in the premises of the BJP District Office by Ashok Koul, symbolizing growth, sustainability, and the party's commitment to a greener future.

DCDRC B'la directs HDFC Bank to compensate customer for deficiency in service

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BARAMULLA, MAY 23

District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (DCDRC) Baramulla/Bandipora has directed HDFC Bank, Baramulla Branch, to compensate a local resident after the bank failed to honour two cash certificates issued in his name. The complainant, Habibullah Sheikh of Dewan Bagh, had invested a total of Rs 6.35 lakh in the form of two cash certificates issued by the bank in 2022 and 2024. Upon maturity, when Sheikh approached the bank for encashment, he was informed that no such records existed.

The bank later suggested that the certificates may have been fraudulently issued by an employee who is currently under suspension.

After reviewing the case and evidence, the Commission comprising President Peerzada Qousar Hussain and Member Nyla Yaseen observed that the cash certificates in question bore the official seal and signature of the bank.

The Commission held the bank vicariously liable for the actions of its employee and stated that institutions cannot disown responsibility for documents that appear genuine and carry their endorsement.

In its final order, the Commission directed the bank to pay the matured amounts of both certificates along with applicable interest.

Additionally, the bank has been ordered to pay Rs 50,000 as compensation for mental agony, Rs 20,000 towards litigation expenses, and Rs 10,000 to the Consumer Welfare Fund, Baramulla.

The bank has also been granted liberty to investigate the matter and take appropriate legal action against the concerned employee.

The Commission has directed that the order be implemented within four weeks from the date of receipt.

Palli PACS launches Co-operative Crumbs Bakery-n-Café to Promote Employment, Self-Reliance



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SAMBA, MAY 23

The Palli Primary Agriculture Co-operative Credit Society Ltd. (PACS) today inaugurated its latest initiative — Co-operative Crumbs Bakery-n-Café — on Bishnah Road, Palli.

The venture aims to generate employment and foster self-reliance among cooperative members.

The inauguration ceremony was

graced by MLA Vijaypur Chander Prakash Ganga as the Chief Guest. The event also witnessed the presence of the Joint Registrar Audit Jammu, Deputy Registrars of Samba and Jammu, Assistant Registrars from Samba, Jammu, and Kathua, along with several District Officers from Samba, including the District Animal Husbandry Officer and the District Development Manager, NABARD.

During the event, the Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies Samba briefed the guests on the functioning and achievements of Palli PACS. Guests were taken on a tour of the Sahkar Mandap, a dedicated cooperative display centre showcasing locally made products such as pickles and handcrafted suits produced by Sahkar Saheli, a women-led cooperative initiative.

In a brief interaction with the media, the MLA praised the initiative, describing it as a model of self-sustained growth aligned with the national vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

He lauded the role of cooperatives in generating local employment opportunities, especially for women and youth.

This initiative comes in the backdrop of the 2025 International Year of Cooperatives, reaffirming the spirit of unity and mutual support in building a more inclusive and resilient society.

DC Budgam flags-off Refrigerated Vans of fresh peas to Chandigarh

Move aimed to boost supply chain of vegetable movement from Distt Budgam



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BUDGAM:

In order to boost supply chain of vegetable movement from District Budgam to Chandigarh, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo Friday flagged-off refrigerated vans carrying 90 quintals of fresh peas in presence of senior officials and local farmers.

The initiative was organized by district administration Budgam in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Budgam and AF Multi-Cooperative Society (FPO) Budgam, under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), a government measure designed to support timely and cost-effective transportation of perishable agricultural produce. On the occasion, DC said that this is not just a transportation initiative; it is a step towards empowering our farmers by providing them direct access to markets. He said the use of departmental refrigerated vans ensures that the quality and freshness of the produce is preserved during transit, helping to secure fair market prices for the farming community. He further said the Market Intervention Scheme is a crucial platform to reduce wastage, ensure better returns, and create sustainable market linkages for our high-quality produce.

DC Rajouri conducts Surprise inspection of Urban Health Training Centre, Tehsil Office

Stresses on Service-Oriented Governance



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

To strengthen public services delivery and reinforce accountability in the district administration, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma today conducted surprise inspections of the Urban Health Training Centre located at Town Hall and the Tehsil Office.

During his visit to the Urban Health Training Centre, the Deputy Commissioner took a comprehensive review of the functioning of the facility and assessed the quality of services being provided to the public. Expressing concern over punctuality and the standard of service delivery, he directed the staff to maintain strict discipline and ensure that patients receive timely and quality healthcare.

Emphasizing the need to bolster healthcare services at the grassroots level, he stated, "We are here to serve the people. Every official must remember that our prime responsibility is to ensure public welfare through responsive and transparent administration." As an immediate impact of the visit, two intern doctors were deployed at the Urban Health Training Centre on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner to strengthen the healthcare delivery mechanism and ensure adequate medical support for visiting patients.

District Level Committee reviews provision of civic amenities in Doda Hostels

DC orders regular inspection, CCTV surveillance for safety of inmates



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
DODA, MAY 23

Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh today chaired a meeting of District Level Committee on Hostel Inspection here in the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex.

The meeting was convened to review the inspection and overall functioning of hostels across the District Doda, with a focus on ensuring effective management, safety, hygiene, and the welfare of students residing in these facilities, in alignment with government norms and

expectations.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur; District Social Welfare Officer Tariq Qazi; District Education Planning Officer Anis Ahmed; Assistant Director FCS & CA, Accounts Officer SSP office, Food Safety Officer and wardens of G&B Hostel (Girls), G&B Hostel (Boys), Hostel GHSS Doda, Parisha (Nari Niketan), and Palash (Bal Ashram).

During the meeting, the DC emphasized the need for regular and surprise inspections of hostels to monitor food quality, sanitation

standards, safety protocols, and the overall living conditions of students. He directed the concerned officers to submit detailed inspection reports and take immediate corrective measures wherever necessary. Special focus was laid on ensuring the psychological well-being of hostel residents and the availability of proper grievance redressal mechanisms.

The Deputy Commissioner also instructed officers to coordinate closely with hostel wardens to streamline the supply of essential commodities, maintain infrastructure, and ensure timely health check-ups for inmates. He stressed that hostels should function as safe, supportive, and development-friendly environments for the children and youth of the district.

The DC reviewed the work rosters of all permanent and temporary hostel employees, as well as the accommodation facilities. He also reviewed staff positions in hostels across the district and issued necessary directions to utilise their services for the betterment of hostel inmates. He directed that routine medical check-ups for all hostel boys and girls be ensured.

DIC Shopian hosts RAMP awareness programme at Keller

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SHOPIAN:

As part of its continued efforts to empower local entrepreneurs and promote inclusive industrial development, District Industries Centre (DIC) Shopian organized an awareness programme under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) initiative today at the Block Veterinary Office, Keller. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 75 individuals representing diverse sectors including Handicrafts, Handloom, NRLM Self-Help Groups, MSMEs and local business units/traders. The focus of

the event was to educate participants about the importance of Udyam Registration and the benefits it offers for formalizing and growing micro, small, and medium enterprises. Key officials in attendance included the Officers from DIC Shopian as well as representatives from various line departments/stakeholders. They highlighted various central and state-sponsored schemes available for entrepreneurs and underscored the importance of institutional support for enterprise development.

The comprehensive workshop was organised to explain the Udyam Registration process, including eligibility, documentation and advan-

tages such as improved access to finance, market linkages and government subsidies. In their addresses, officers encouraged participants to take full advantage of government initiatives and reassured them of DIC Shopian's continuous support in guiding and facilitating their entrepreneurial journeys. The event concluded with an interactive session, where participants shared their queries and received hands-on guidance from the officials. The session reaffirmed DIC Shopian's commitment to fostering a robust MSME ecosystem and empowering grassroots entrepreneurs in remote areas like Keller.

International Day for Biological Diversity 2025

Rana calls for community driven conservation, biodiversity management in J&K

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, today exhorted the people to contribute vigorously towards preserving the natural habitats, reducing pollution and promoting sustainable living to ensure a thriving planet for future generations.

He called for community driven conservation and biodiversity management in J&K, ensuring harmony with nature and sustainable development.

The Minister stated this while speaking as chief guest during an event organised by the J&K Biodiversity Council at Tagore Memorial Hall Srinagar. The event was held to mark celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity, 2025 under the theme "Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development", that featured exhibitions, documentary screening and felicitation of competition winners. Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Sheetal Nanda, also attended the event as the guest of honour.

Javed Rana emphasised the government's commitment to conserve the rich biodiversity of the region through community-based conservation initiatives, scientific research and inter-departmental collaboration. He lauded the Council's efforts in engaging youth and educational institutions to become future stewards of biodiversity.

Principal Chief Conservator of



Forests (HoFF) and Chairman, JKUTBC, Suresh Kumar Gupta, termed IDB 2025 an opportunity to reconnect with nature and renew commitments towards conservation. He stressed the importance of Biodiversity Management

Committees (BMCs) and community-driven efforts in sustaining ecosystems, assuring continued institutional support at the grassroots level.

Chaturbhuj Behera, Member Secretary, JKUTBC, in his welcome address, underscored the need to integrate biodiversity concerns with planning and education. He highlighted the importance of local action aligned with global sustainability goals.

The event featured an exhibition of student paintings, posters and biodiversity documentation organized by JKFR, J&K Forest Department and local eco-clubs. A forest publication highlighting J&K's rich biodiversity

was also released, along with the felicitation of winners from inter-school and inter-college competitions.

The celebration drew enthusiastic participation from the students, teachers, forest officials, researchers and NGOs, all united in their commitment to environmental awareness and action.

Conservator of Forests, Research Circle Jammu, Pradeep Wahule, expressed heartfelt thanks on behalf of the J&K Biodiversity Council, acknowledging the valuable contributions of the Department of Forest, JKFR, SKUAST-K, University of Kashmir and various schools.

The J&K Biodiversity Council reaffirms its commitment towards promoting biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the region, working towards a future where humans live in harmony with nature.

Rajouri sets new benchmark for 'Catch the Rain' Campaign

Records 3,800 groundwater recharge harvesting structures
DDC emphasizes quality, maintenance, water recharge

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Abhishek Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of the Jal Shakti Abhiyaan – 'Catch the Rain' campaign, a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at promoting water conservation and rainwater harvesting.

At the outset, District Statistics & Evaluation Officer Sandeep Kumar Sharma briefed the chair that the district has made significant progress under the campaign. He reported that 3,800 groundwater recharge and water conservation/harvesting structures have been successfully uploaded on the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) portal. This notable achievement has qualified the district for a national-level award.

Commending the efforts of all departments involved, the DDC emphasized the importance of ensuring the long-term sustainability and quality of the assets created under the campaign.

He directed the Jal Shakti, Rural Development, Forest and Agriculture Departments to ensure proper maintenance of these structures.

He also instructed the departments to thoroughly verify the data uploaded on the JSJB portal and make necessary corrections where required. The DDC stressed the importance of uploading only geo-tagged photographs to ensure accuracy and transparency in monitoring.

In addition, the DDC directed all Block Development Officers (BDOs) to prioritize the desilting of Khuls under the MGNREGA scheme to improve water flow and enhance groundwater recharge in the district.

The meeting was attended by the CPO Rajouri, Maqsood Ahmed, SE Hydraulic Circle Rajouri, ACD, Auqil Naveed, Block Development Officers (BDOs) and Executive Engineers of the Jal Shakti Department.

TRIFED organizes workshop on Tribal welfare in J&K



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), in collaboration with the Department of Tribal Affairs and Jammu & Kashmir State Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKSRLM) today organised a one day workshop at the Convention Center, Jammu on 22 May 2025, aiming to promote awareness and implementation of tribal welfare schemes in the Union Territory. The workshop was conducted under the chairmanship of Managing Director, TRIFED, Hirdesh Kumar. Among others present were Prasanna Ramaswamy G, Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Jammu & Kashmir; Shubhra Sharma, Mission Director, JKSRM; Sachin Kumar Vaishya, District Development Commissioner Jammu; Sher Singh, Additional Development Commissioner,

Jammu; Director, National Institute for Small Business Development (NIESBUD); officials from TRIFED Head Office, New Delhi; TRIFED Regional Office, Chandigarh and DPM, BPM and SPMs of SRLM, J&K besides the nodal officers and representatives from DPM, BPM, SPMs of SRLM of all 20 districts of J&K.

The Managing Director, TRIFED, provided detailed insights of the flagship schemes and activities i.e., Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produce (MSP for MFP), Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK), Infrastructure development and Retail Marketing activity being implemented by TRIFED on behalf of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA). He highlighted the potential of livelihood generation in Tribal communities in all the districts of Jammu & Kashmir. He asked the senior officials and other stakeholders involved in tribal development for their active

participation in implementing all the activities in the UT. He stressed upon operationalisation of 100 already established VDVks in 8 districts of J&K, creation of 100 more VDVks in rest of the 12 districts of J&K, opening of Tribes India Outlet in Jammu, saturation of DAJGUA and conduct of Tribal Artisan empanelment Mela (TAeM) in Jammu & Srinagar.

Senior officials of TRIFED Head Office subsequently elaborated on various components of the schemes, implementation modalities and sanctioning process.

Poonam Sinha, Director, NIESBUD, highlighted the crucial role of NIESBUD/Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MoSDE) in skill development and capacity building of VDVks, outlining the modalities for empowering the tribal stakeholders in the Union Territory. Besides, the Nodal Officers from various districts under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyaan (DAJGUA) updated the gathering on initiatives being taken in their respective districts. The workshop marked a significant step towards fostering inclusive growth and empowerment of tribal communities in Jammu & Kashmir. TRIFED in partnership with state agencies, remains committed towards supporting the socio-economic upliftment of tribal populations through sustained implementation of its schemes and initiatives.

CII delegation calls on Dy CM

Urges for infrastructure upgradation of industrial estates of Jammu, Srinagar



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

A three member delegation of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) today called on Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, at Civil Secretariat Srinagar.

The delegation was led by Dr M.A Alim, Chairman CII J&K Council, who was accompanied by Iqram Ali Shafiee Vice Chairman CII J&K and Khurshid Dar, Head CII J&K.

During the deliberations, Dr Alim appreciated the performance of different departments under the guidance of Deputy Chief Minister.

Dr Alim raised several issues including the need for infrastructure upgradation at industrial estates of Srinagar and Industrial Estate Khangrail Jammu.

The delegation offered to set up two Skill Centers one each at Jammu and Srinagar under the aegis of Skill Development Department.

They also proposed free training at CII member premises to students of ITIs and Polytechnics.

The DyCM patiently heard the issues of CII delegation and assured all possible support from government to redress their concerns.

THE KASHMIR TALK

EDITORIAL

Nation Beyond Borders

In today's India, nationalism has become the epicenter of political and social discourse. As debates intensify, it is essential to revisit and reimagine the concept of Indian nationalism through the lens of its civilizational ethos. Unlike the Western model of nationalism, which often hinges solely on geographical boundaries or military might, Indian nationalism is rooted in a deep cultural, spiritual, and humanitarian consciousness. A nation is not merely a physical territory. It is a living organism shaped by geography, culture, and most importantly, its people. Among these, the people form the soul of a nation. Therefore, true nationalism must prioritize the well-being, dignity, and spiritual upliftment of its citizens. In this sense, Indian nationalism extends beyond borders, touching the universal essence of humanity. From a spiritual standpoint, all humans are inherently one. Great saints, spiritual leaders, and thinkers have consistently emphasized that humanity is united through a collective consciousness. Swami Vivekananda described India not as a static geographical entity but as a sentient force, bound by values, traditions, and a timeless philosophy. This vision of India gave birth to the concept of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"—the world is one family—a message not of political dominance but of universal brotherhood, rooted in the Upanishads. Indian nationalism is therefore not based on the assertion of power, but on the pursuit of spiritual and cultural harmony. It does not aim to conquer land or impose ideologies. Rather, it seeks the liberation of the human spirit. In Indian thought, it is not the state or its borders that define the nation, but the collective consciousness, culture, and shared values of its people. Historically, Indian nationalism has never been state-driven. It evolved through the efforts of sages, saints, and philosophers who nurtured the spiritual and intellectual fabric of society. Kingdoms came and went, but the idea of India as a unified cultural entity remained intact. The expansion of Indian knowledge, such as the teachings of the Buddha, spread not through force but through inner transformation and intellectual depth. India, unlike many other nations, is not rooted in rigid, dogmatic ideologies. It is a living, breathing civilization grounded in organic and inclusive thought. That is why India has endured for millennia—it adapts, absorbs, and grows. The Indian mind embraces diversity, but never at the cost of unity. Indian nationalism also emphasizes spiritual freedom and self-realization. It is not confined to any one religious path, language, or ideology. Rather, it is a humanitarian vision that seeks the upliftment of all people, irrespective of caste, creed, or region. It is a nationalism that reveres knowledge, honors saints, and promotes tolerance. True Indian nationalism teaches that political power is secondary. In the cultural narrative of India, even royal figures—like Rama, Krishna, Buddha, and Mahavira—renounced worldly power in search of truth, wisdom, and service to humanity. This symbolic detachment reflects a higher national vision—one that values renunciation over accumulation, service over authority, and wisdom over warfare. Indian nationalism, at its core, is about cultivating a just, inclusive, and spiritually aware society. It is not aggressive or authoritarian. It does not seek dominance, but harmony. It recognizes that greatness lies not in conquering territories, but in winning hearts. In a time when nationalism is being distorted for political gains, it is crucial to pause and reflect. Do we still understand the essence of our nation? Or have we reduced it to slogans and narrow identities? To truly honor Indian nationalism, we must return to its roots—its humanism, its spiritual depth, and its cultural generosity. Only then can we ensure that India remains not just a country, but a civilizational beacon for the world.

Towards techno-fascism



ASH NARAIN ROY

Italian Futurism was an art movement led by the charismatic poet Filippo Tommaso Marinetti. It was known for futurists' love for disruption. It rejected the past and celebrated speed. The movement called for the destruction of museums, libraries and feminism. It became associated with fascism. Marinetti's Futurist Political Party was actually absorbed into Benito Mussolini's Fascist Party. The big tech industry and the Silicon Valley moguls are ushering in techno-fascism which stands for conformity in thought and values and loss of historical memory.

They also harbour a patriarchal outlook which is reminiscent of the early celebrants of Eurofascism from the 1930s. What is worrying is how technology, today, is being treated with messianic reverence. And big-tech czars have become natural allies of authoritarian leaders. The Silicon Valley moguls, traditionally perceived as liberal strongholds, have surged into MAGA's orbit. American journalist Michael Malone invented the term "techno-fascism".

He warned in the 1990s, "forget digital utopia. We could be headed for technofascism." Various descriptions as "Silicon Valley techno-libertarians", "post-liberal right" and "neo-monarchists", the neoreactionary movement is shaping President Donald Trump's agenda. What the world is witnessing today is what George Orwell had written in his celebrated book 1984: "if you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face forever." The worldview of technofascists is outright decadent. A few years ago, Peter Thiel, a close associate of Vice President J D Vance, supported the idea of pre-drugs version of the Olympics, called 'Enhanced Games'. In 2009, he lamented women being given voting rights which dealt a blow to libertarianism. To the techno-fascists, techno-utopianism is a tool for self-aggrandisement and to play god. Techno-fascists are protagonists of dark enlightenment which is all the rage in the white supremacist circles. The self-styled internet philosophers trace modern-day problems to the end of Middle Ages. They believe that Enlightenment's humanism, democracy and quest for equality are responsible for decay of Western civilisation. In his pivotal 2009 essay for the Cato Institute, Thiel asserted, "I no longer believe that freedom and democracy are compatible."

He argued that the increase in welfare beneficiaries and the expansion of the franchise to women have undermined the libertarian cause. He went on to propose solution: create a world devoid of historical nation-states, emphasising a corporate rather than democratic structure of governance. To the ideologues of techno-fascism, technology is a space for colonial reproduction. It is hardly surprising that large technology companies should become allies of authoritarian governments. In the history of humanity, dominant technologies have served to control nature and to foster an idea of what society, work, and relationships should be like. The way big tech bros have gravitated towards Trump marks a dangerous new phase in the concentration of their power. Today's fascism is internationalist by design and overtly structured around a theory of victory. Elon Musk and other high-tech bros are often good at selling dystopian dreams.

And they are in the right company of Trump who is equally good at selling lies, abuses and misogyny. In

2016, Musk claimed his driverless car was only two years away. It continues to remain a sci-fi movie magic. His car is still a road to nowhere. Earlier, the governments depended on domain experts and think tanks for advice on foreign policy. Today, Trump depends on MAGA oligarchs intellectuals. Trump believes they read the tea leaves of technological determinism with perfect clarity.

They don't prescribe; they merely translate the gospel of inevitability. Some believe, big tech bros have come together because of their fear that the American left has overreached culturally, and that the election of Trump reflects the cultural mood of the country as a whole. They have joined hands to pronounce the death of woke-ness. They also see themselves as Friedrich Nietzsche's "ubermensch" (the ideal superior man of the future). As disruptors, they resent any barrier in their path. It is not difficult to understand the metapolitics of tech giants.

By buying social media platforms, the super-rich want to become political gatekeepers. We are witnessing what Nietzsche had called "chaos of modernity" (weakness of truth, death of god and reversal of values). Elon Musk has moved to the inner circle of American power by channelling his inner Trump. Thiel and his intellectual guru Curtis Yarvin believe universities, media organisations, bureaucracies and non-governmental organisations have failed to sustain popular trust. Yarvin is a follower of the 19th century British polemicist Thomas Carlyle who argued that monarchy was inherently better than democracy. Both blame progressive political correctness for ruining tech, education and governance culture.

They believe Trump is an agent who will reverse American decline. After 100 days of Trump's second stint in power, Americans have begun to realise that they are in the belly of the beast. A world in which eccentric billionaires control their public spheres is a very dangerous world to live in. The left criticizes the big tech bros as 'alt-right' who are bent on undoing the efforts of egalitarian liberal humanism. Some see then as a version of what Karl Polanyi called the "double movement." Quinn Slobodian, author of Hayek's Bastards: Race, Gold, IQ and the Capitalism of the Far Right, describes the conservative movement as "new fusionism". It refers to how libertarians and neoliberals have made race and intelligence an intellectual hobbyhorse, laying the foundation for today's nativist right. It is rooted in three aspects ~ "hard wired human nature, hard borders and hard money." They have forged sordid alliances with biologists, evolutionary psychologists, and ethno nationalists, spouting pseudoscience about the link between race and IQ. Trump doesn't forget, nor does he forgive. The broligarchs have bent over backward to praise the king. But Trump's tariffs haven't spared them.

Only Elon Musk seems to have extracted his pound of flesh. That prompted Le Monde's Anne Deysine to assume that tech magnets could turn against the president.

The same big tech monarchs who lined up in the first row during Trump's inauguration this January had been harsh on him in his first term. Musk clashed with Trump for withdrawing from the Paris Accords. Jeff Bezos sued him for his alleged personal vendetta and Mark Zuckerberg found him to be too dangerous for Facebook. The broligarchs' romance with MAGA may not be over but their love has whizzed past its sell by date.

(The writer comments on global affair)

Sakeena Itoo conducts extensive tour of Chanapora Constituency

Inspects health facilities, Educational institutions; Also Interacts with Senior Citizens, students

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today conducted an extensive tour of Chanapora constituency and took detailed appraisal of public infrastructure like healthcare facilities and educational institutions.

MLA, Chanapora, Mushtaq Ahmad Guroo; Director Social Welfare Kashmir, Director School Education Kashmir, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Director Health Services Kashmir, Director Coordination New GMCs, Director AYUSH, Director Colleges J&K, Executive Engineers of different wings and other sectoral officers also accompanied the Minister during the visit. During the tour, the Minister visited PHC Chanapora, Government Girls Higher Secondary Chanapora, PHC Nowgam, Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Rawalpore, Health centre site at Wanbal, Government Degree College Hyderpora, Government Girls High School Hyderpora, Mini Maternity Centre Sanat Nagar and other public



welfare institutions.

While on tour, the Minister evaluated healthcare services at medical facilities and educational standards at schools and colleges. She also engaged with local community members as well as students to understand their concerns and aspirations.

Minister Sakeena also took stock of available medical services, infrastructure, and patient care standards. She interacted with medical staff and patients, assuring them of Government's commitment towards improving health services.

She also made on-ground assessments of local educational institu-

tions, examining their infrastructure, staffing position as well as overall academic environment. She also held interactions with students and took on-spot feedback from them about the quality of education being imparted at these educational institutions.

Minister Sakeena also addressed a gathering of Senior Citizen Council at Ahata Waqar Day Care and Recreation Centre of PHC Chanapora. She expressed her deep respect for the elder members of society, acknowledging their contributions and underlining the need for inclusive policies that cater to their well-being.

IMPA President Abhay Sinha becomes Vice President of FIAPA, Indian cinema gets new respect on the global stage

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Abhay Sinha, President of Indian Motion Picture Producers Association (IMPPA), has been elected as the Vice President of FIAPA (International Federation of Film Producers Associations) and its headquarters ASBL. This decision was taken unanimously at the annual general meeting of FIAPA held in Cannes, France. This is a historic and proud moment for the Indian film industry. It is known that FIAPA is the apex organization representing filmmakers from more than 30 countries globally. The selection of Abhay Sinha for this post not only reflects the growing international acceptance of the Indian film industry, but it is also a step to give new energy to India's rich cinema culture on the global stage. Under IMPA, established in 1937, Abhay Sinha transformed the organization into a dynamic, influential and internationally active entity. He has played a decisive role in providing a global platform to Indian filmmakers, especially independent and regional content creators. For the second consecutive year in the year 2025, he led IMPA's participation in the Cannes Film Festival. This time more than 40 films and representatives from India participated, who presented the diversity and depth of Indian cinema to the world. During this, Abhay Sinha also shared important views as a speaker in the panel discussion "Changing paradigm of film screening: from theater to OTT, digital platform and beyond" organized at the India Pavilion. Abhay Sinha has made successful interventions in several states — Maharashtra, Bihar, UP, MP, Gujarat, Uttarakhand — to strengthen film subsidy policy, film certification process, and industry representation in India.

BMS's 70th Golden Year Closing Ceremony will be held in Delhi



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh has completed its 70 years. On this occasion, various programs like youth conference, women conference, etc. were being organized across the country for almost a year. Now the closing ceremony is being organized at Talkatora Stadium in Delhi on 23 July. Yesterday, on 22 July, in the meeting of Prachar Toli, National Organizational Secretary B Surendran, Regional Organizational Secretary Anupam ji and State General Secretary Dr. Deependra Chahar were present in the meeting with journalists and social media workers.

Meeting started by Regional Organization Secretary Anupam ji, who gave information about the upcoming program and the program being held throughout the year. Later, National Organization Secretary B Surendran ji said that the golden program was started on completion of 70 years from where Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh started in Bhopal in 1955. In this journey of 70 years, we have become the number one trade union from a union with zero members in the country. Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh works keeping in mind human, social and national interest. He told that in 1974, we have introduced it for the first time by forming a union of domestic workers. He told that today there are more than 6200 unions and more than 2 crore members.

Publicity head Sarvesh Mishra, National General Secretary of Working Journalists of India Narendra Bhandari, National President (working) Sanjay Upadhyay, Senior Vice President Sanjay Saxena, Senior Journalist Shivaji Sarkar, Narendra Dhawan, Sandeep Sharma, Ish Mallik, Photo Journalist Jagjit Singh, Sudhir Saluja, Diwakar Kundu, Sanjeev Chauhan, Pramod Goswami, Amrit etc. were present in this meeting.

Int'l Year of Cooperatives 2025: Theme based Quiz Competition organised at GGHSS Kishtwar



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KISHTWAR:

As part of the series of activities being held to mark International Year of Cooperatives 2025, a quiz competition was today organized here at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, under the Supervision of Deputy Registrar

Cooperative Societies Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal.

The primary objective of the event was to educate and sensitize students about the principles, values, and importance of the cooperative movement, particularly its role in promoting socio-economic development.

The program began with a wel-

come address and an insightful presentation by Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies Amit Sharma, who provided a detailed overview of the Cooperative Department and its functions.

The quiz competition featured five teams and covered a wide range of topics including Cooperatives, Indian History, Polity, and Geography.

The participants demonstrated remarkable awareness and understanding of the subjects, reflecting their academic diligence and interest.

To recognize and encourage the efforts of the students, all participants were felicitated with prizes and certificates.

The awards were distributed by the Principal Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Kishtwar, along with the Assistant Registrar Kishtwar and other dignitaries from the school and Cooperative Department.

Walkathon held to raise awareness on Hypertension in Kupwara

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KUPWARA:

A Walkathon aimed at raising awareness about hypertension and promoting a healthy lifestyle was organized today in Kupwara.

The marathon was flagged-off by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad, from the D.C Office Complex Kupwara.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from school children,

healthcare workers, and members of the general public. Chief Medical Officer Kupwara, Dr. Ramzan; Chief Education Officer, Mehraj-u-Din Shah; Medical Superintendent SDH Kupwara, Liaison Officer Youth Services & Sports Kupwara and other concerned officials were also present at the flag-off ceremony. Participants carried placards with messages encouraging blood pressure control and healthy living. The marathon started from the DC office and passed

through General Bus Stand Kupwara and Lolab Bypass, and finally concluded at Zangli Park. On the occasion, ADC, CMO, CEO and other medical experts underscored the importance of hypertension awareness and advocated for proactive measures to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The event was part of an ongoing campaign to engage the community in public health initiatives and foster better awareness around non-communicable diseases like hypertension.

Deputations call on Satish Sharma; seek prompt grievance resolution

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Several deputations from various areas today called on Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, Youth Service and Sports, Satish Sharma, seeking prompt redress of long pending grievances related to public services and employment.

A deputation from Basohli raised the urgent demand for starting a bus service from Basohli to Chamba. The delegation highlighted lack of direct transportation between the two regions, which is causing inconvenience to residents especially the students, daily commuters and patients requiring medical assistance in nearby towns. They urged the Minister to take prompt action to improve regional connectivity through public transport.

Another deputation of NHM ERCP COVID Warriors met the Minister, requesting their reinstatement into service. The delegation, comprising frontline health workers who played a vital role during the COVID-19 pandemic, expressed disappointment



ment over their disengagement and appealed for a fair policy to absorb them back into the health system, recognizing their dedicated service during critical times.

A deputation of the Radio Taxi Union also submitted a memorandum to the Minister. They voiced concerns regarding operational challenges, regulatory issues and competition from unregulated service providers. The Union urged the Minister to streamline the regulations and provide necessary support to sustain the livelihood of drivers.

MLA Hazratbal, Salman Sagar,

called on the Minister and discussed a wide range of development and civic issues concerning his constituency. He emphasized the need for infrastructure development, improved public amenities and attention to employment and youth engagement programs in the Hazratbal region.

Another deputation of RMSA subject specific teachers demanded rehiring of their services. Satish Sharma assured all the delegations that their concerns would be taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate action.

Pakistan running on the path of self-destruction: Ravinder Raina

Said if Pakistan not changes its policies, it will suffer badly

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Pakistan is running on the path of self-destruction and said if Pakistan does not change its policies, it will suffer badly, said Ravinder Raina.

Raina also made a scathing attack on Congress, advising its leader Rahul Gandhi to join the nation in celebrating the success of Operation Sindoor in hitting the roots of terrorism, instead of indulging in petty politics and backstabbing the nation. He also accused the Congress saying that the terrorism and separatism are the outcome of its wrong policies.

Ravinder Raina, BJP National Executive Member, accompanied by former Minister Choudhury Zulfiqar Ali was addressing a Press Conference at J&K BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. BJP Office Secretary Tilak Raj Gupta, Spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan, and Library Incharge Kulbhushan Mohtra were also present on the occasion. Ravinder Raina praised the Indian armed forces and the Narendra Modi-led government for the success of Operation Sindoor, which he claimed forced Pakistan into submission.

He condemned the April 22 terrorist attack on tourists in Pahalgam, calling it a "dastardly act," and highlighted that Indian forces responded with strength by dismantling terrorist infrastructure across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). He added that the Indian military also thwarted a Pakistani Army attack on Indian civilian areas, showcasing India's strength to the world.

The world witnessed a new doctrine under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership that India will no longer tolerate any act of terrorism.

Operation Sindoor not only delivered a crushing blow to terror infrastructure but also shattered Pakistan's nuclear myth. Faced with India's decisive action, Pakistan was left pleading to the international community for peace.

PM Modi also made it clear that Operation Sindoor is not complete yet and any act of terror will be taken as an act of war. India also salutes the bravery and the sacrifice of forces as well as the civilians who were affected or lost their lives.

Raina also welcomed the Central Government's decision to keep the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance, despite the agreement on a ceasefire.

DC inaugurates Inter-Zonal District Level Chess, Kabaddi Tournament at Doda

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
DODA:

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh inaugurated the Inter-Zonal District Level Chess and Kabaddi Tournament here today. The DC graced the event as the Chief Guest.

The tournament is being organised by the District Administration Doda in collaboration with the District Youth Services and Sports department (DYSSD).

As part of the event, the participants took a solemn pledge to promote Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (Get rid of drugs before they get rid of you), reinforcing the commitment to a drug-free and healthy lifestyle.

The opening ceremony saw the participation of Zonal Physical Education Officers, field staff, and more than 200 young athletes representing different educational zones of the district. The event was marked by enthusiasm and discipline, reflecting the values of teamwork, sportsmanship, and camaraderie. The tournament is set to host competitions in Kabaddi and Chess for U 14 and U17 boys and girls, providing them a platform to showcase their sports skills and interact with each other.

The DC lauded the Youth Services and Sports Department for nurturing sports culture and talent at the grassroots level. He emphasized the vital role of sports in personality development, confidence building, and leadership. Encouraging the young participants, he urged them to uphold the spirit of fair play and strive for excellence both on and off the field.

Mega Career Counselling Programme organised at GHSS Girls Samba



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SAMBA:

A Mega Career Counselling Programme was organised today here at Capt. Dhruv Singh Memorial Government Girls Model Higher Secondary School to felicitate stu-

dents who excelled in Class 10th and 12th exams and guide them in choosing academic and career paths after passing Matric and Higher Secondary. The programme was attended by Deputy Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma, who appreciated the efforts of students and

motivated them to explore diverse career opportunities with clarity and confidence.

During the programme, 9 meritorious students were felicitated with mementos by the Deputy Commissioner.

Students enthusiastically participated in interactive counselling sessions and received guidance from subject experts and officers. The event was attended by ADC Jagdish Singh; ALC Himani; Chief Education Officer Kewal Krishan; District officer JKEDI; the School Principal, Lecturers from the School Education Department, Faculty from Polytechnic College Samba and ITI Samba, along with around 200 students from nearby schools.

MP Arora applauds role of Nursing Staff, Ward Boys, Security Personnel and Class IV employees in quality healthcare

NISAR KHAN
LUDHIANA:

Rajya Sabha MP Sanjeev Arora presided over a special session titled 'Dil Se', organized as part of the ongoing soft skills initiative 'CommunicateX' at Dayanand Medical College & Hospital (DMCH) on Wednesday.

Arora, who also serves as Vice President of the DMCH Managing Society, addressed the gathering and emphasized the vital role of nursing staff, ward boys, security personnel, clinical staff, and doctors in ensuring effective hospital care. He stressed that coordination, politeness, and humility among all staff members are essential for patient satisfaction and recovery. He applauded role of Nursing Staff, Ward Boys, Security Personnel and Class IV employees in quality healthcare in the hospital.

Praising DMCH for its commit-



ment to enhancing communication skills, Arora noted, "While the staff already demonstrates excellent communication abilities, striving for par excellence will elevate patient care." He further added, "If hospital staff speak softly and behave politely with patients and their attendants, it gives fifty percent relief. The remaining fifty percent comes from medical treatment."

Encouraging staff to maintain professionalism, Arora advised, "Leave personal worries at home. Treat every patient as if they are a member

of your family. This approach offers a healing touch that accelerates recovery."

Sharing personal experiences from his journey as a parliamentarian, Arora said he had passionately pursued the 'Dil Se' initiative over the past three years. Highlighting his contributions, he briefly mentioned key projects such as the development of Halwara Airport, upgradation of the Civil Hospital and ESI Hospital, and the elevated road project-all undertaken without expecting anything in return.

Department of Botany at North Campus Organizes Seminar on Biodiversity

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BARAMULLA:

In a move to spotlight the intersection of biodiversity and sustainable development, the Department of Botany at the University of Kashmir's North Campus in Delina, Baramulla, hosted a day-long seminar on Thursday to mark the International Day for Biological Diversity. Centered on the theme "Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development," the event drew over 100 participants from across Baramulla and beyond.

Presided over by Dr. Sheikh Ghulam Mohammad, Director of the North Campus and the event's Chief Guest, the seminar brought together a constellation of scientific voices and policy experts, highlighting the role of medicinal plants in both preserving ecological heritage and fostering local entrepreneurship.

"This day is not just a celebration," Dr. Ghulam Mohammad said in his inaugural address, "but a call to action — to value, protect, and sustainably harness the biodiversity that sustains us all."

Joining him on the dais were Dr. Raja Amjad Ali Khan, District Ayush Officer for Kupwara and Baramulla; Dr. Wahid ul Hassan, Technical Officer at the J&K Medicinal Plants Board; and a panel of invited speakers that included Dr. Shakir P.



Sultan from the CSIR-IIM in Srinagar and Dr. Azra Anjum, CEO of Emiliu Private Limited.

The seminar aimed to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those tied to environmental stewardship and indigenous knowledge systems. Participants engaged in sessions exploring the commercial and therapeutic potential of medicinal plants, with special emphasis on local species. "Medicinal plants form a vital yet often overlooked part of our heritage," said one speaker, echoing the day's central message. "They are not only reservoirs of health but also engines for sustainable livelihoods."

A unique feature of the event was a guided "Nature Walk" for students,

led by Dr. Aijaz Hassan Ganie, which introduced participants to the local biodiversity of the region in an immersive setting.

As the world confronts accelerating biodiversity loss, events like these serve as crucial platforms to align local efforts with global frameworks. The seminar emphasized the urgency of achieving the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) targets and reinvigorating conservation strategies at the grassroots.

As the day concluded, the atmosphere was charged with renewed purpose — a reminder that the preservation of nature is not just an environmental imperative, but a moral and communal one.

ICG and Haldia Dock Complex Conduct Two-Day Marine Pollution Response Workshop in Haldia

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In a bid to bolster oil spill preparedness and enhance maritime environmental safety along the West Bengal coastline, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), in collaboration with the Haldia Dock Complex (HDC), organized a two-day Marine Pollution Response Seminar and Workshop on May 21-22, 2025. The event was hosted in Haldia and saw participation from key stakeholders across the maritime, port, and petrochemical sectors.

The workshop was aimed at improving coordination, communication, and rapid response capabilities among organizations responsible for managing marine pollution incidents, especially oil spills, which pose a significant threat to coastal and marine ecosystems. With Haldia being a vital industrial and port hub, it becomes imperative for local authorities and industries to be equipped with the knowledge, skills, and infrastructure to respond effectively to any environmental emergency. The seminar was inaugurated by the ICG Commander (West Bengal), who emphasized the importance of joint initiatives and real-time preparedness in tackling maritime pollution. He highlighted the role of inter-agency cooperation in minimizing the ecological and economic impacts of oil spills and other hazardous material leaks into marine environments.

The event featured a series of technical sessions and expert presentations delivered by domain specialists from the Indian Coast Guard and the Haldia Dock Complex. These sessions covered a wide range of topics, including the latest pollution response technologies, legal frameworks governing marine pollution, past case studies, and best practices for emergency response.

One of the key highlights of the seminar was a live demonstration of state-of-the-art pollution response equipment held at the HDC premises. The demonstration provided participants with a hands-on experience of how various pollution control tools and containment systems function in a real-world scenario. This included equipment such as containment booms, oil skimmers, dispersant spraying units, and other specialized tools used in marine pollution response operations.

DIPR Cultural Unit promotes awareness among students at GHSS Akhnoor



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Cultural Unit of the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu organised a Cultural Awareness Programme themed 'Nasha Mukht Bharat' (Say No to Drugs) at Government Higher Secondary School Akhnoor.

The DIPR artists, through variety cultural presentations, raised awareness about the adverse effects of drug abuse and encouraged the students to become ambassadors for a drug free society. The thematic songs and other presentations effectively highlighted the impact of drug addiction on individuals, families, and society in general.

The event was attended by both school staff and students.

The students also presented a Nukkad Natak and delivered speeches, focusing on the theme. The School Principal Sunder Bala Sharma expressed her insights on the subject, highlighting its significance to the audience. She commended the Department of Information and Public Relations for organizing the programme designed to enhance awareness.

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

Integrated Command & Control Centre operational at Vaishno Devi Shrine



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KATRA:

As per the directives of the Hon'ble Chairman (Lt. Governor, JK-UT), the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board has operationalised the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra to enhance pilgrim safety and security. This state-of-the-art facility utilizes a network of 700 CCTV cameras equipped with advanced features like gesture, face recognition and PTZ, enabling real-time monitoring for efficient decision-making and swift response mechanism in the Shrine area.

A joint inspection of the ICCC was conducted today by Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and Sarah Rizvi, DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range alongwith Addl. Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB; SSP, Reasi; Commandant, CRPF; Jt. Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB; SP, Katra; Tehsildar, SMVDSB and officers from Army, intelligence agencies, local administration and Shrine Board. The inspection was followed

by a comprehensive security review meeting to discuss and strengthen various security measures brought out in the joint security review conducted last year.

Notably, the ICCC will enhance pilgrim safety and security by leveraging advanced technologies like surveillance systems, data analytics and communication networks. A joint team from the Shrine Board and security agencies is now conducting real-time monitoring of key areas including ingress points, movement of pilgrims and service providers and critical infrastructure on the track, ensuring a seamless and safe experience for prompt emergency response and improved situational awareness.

The security review meeting stressed for action on diverse fronts and crucial decisions were taken for hassle free pilgrimage including the issuance of fresh UHF cards to pithoo and ponywallas and installation of readers to prevent impersonation and ensure their legitimate presence on the track. The meeting also involved an in-depth discussion on identified threats with a focus on devising effective countermeasures to

mitigate potential risks. Furthermore, measures were discussed to plug unauthorized ingress points in the Shrine area, thereby strengthening the overall security apparatus for a safer environment for pilgrims. The concerned quarters were directed to undertake the numbering of private shops along the track, facilitating easy identification and reference for security agencies. Emphasis was laid on early activation of the integrated hotline system to enable seamless communication amongst the stakeholders for swift response to emergencies and further strengthening the security infrastructure.

The meeting also explored deployment of additional security personnel, area domination and the use of drones and other advanced technologies to monitor the Shrine and surrounding areas. The CEO reiterated the importance of effectively utilizing advanced security equipments crucial for maintaining robust security measures provided to security agencies. These equipments include X-Ray Baggage Scanners, Door Frame Metal Detectors, Hand-Held Metal Detectors and Under Vehicle Search Mirrors / Scanners recently procured and installed by the Board in the Shrine area. The meeting took a stern view of the begging menace in Katra, deeming it a nuisance to pilgrims and a potential security threat. Directions were given to concerned quarters to strictly curb the practice with a focus on rescuing and rehabilitating minors by sending them to shelter homes, thereby ensuring a safer and more dignified environment for pilgrims visiting from across India and abroad.

Celebration organized in Uttarakhand Bhawan on the birth anniversary of great poet Sumitranandan Pant



DR. SHAMBHU PANWAR
NEW DELHI:

On the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Sumitranandan Pant, the poet of timeless creations like "Nanha Paudha", the country's well-known Chhayavadi writer, the gentle great poet of nature, Sumitranandan Pant, a celebration was organized by Uttarakhand Film and Drama Institute at Uttarakhand Sadan in Chanakypuri, capital, on

the personality and work of Pant ji. On this occasion, a souvenir "Aunjal" was also released to show the heritage of Uttarakhand on the completion of 10 years of "Uttarakhand Film and Drama Institute". In the program, the chief guest was Dr. Govind Singh, a well-known journalist, litterateur and chairman of the "Media Advisory Committee" of the Uttarakhand government and Ramesh Chandra

Ghildiyal presided over it and Rishi Kumar Sharma, a famous Hindi activist, critic and former Deputy Secretary of Hindi Academy Delhi, was present as the special guest. Well-known writers and litterateurs Dr. Harisuman Bisht and Ramesh Pant were also present in the program. The program, "Speak the language of Uttarakhand" was organized for the development of culture by Garhwali film actress and director of

Uttarakhand Film and Drama Institute, Mrs. Sanyogita Dhyani. In the program, journalist, thinker and media person Dr. Harish Lakhera was awarded for his achievements in the field of journalism by giving him a certificate, a shawl and a cash prize. In the festival, all the speakers threw light on the poems and life of the great poet Sumitranandan Pant. On this occasion, artists, litterateurs, journalists, actors and actresses of Uttarakhand were present. Also present were Uttarakhand's first film "Jagwal"'s heroine "Ms. Kusum Lata Bisht" and new film "Dwi Hola Jab Saath"'s actress Riya Sharma along with Dr. Satish Kaleshwari, Darshan Singh Rawat, actress Rakhi Bisht, B.L. Shastri and Gauri Rawat. The program started and ended with the musical presentation of Dr. Kripal Singh Rawat. The program was successfully conducted by writer, litterateur and poet Mr. Neeraj Bawdi.

Awareness program on POSH Act held at South Campus of Kashmir University



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
ANANTNAG:

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Anantnag conducted an awareness program on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment at the Workplace (POSH Act) at Kashmir University South Campus. The keynote speaker for the event was Fozia Paul, Secretary DLSA. She discussed in detail the legal framework surrounding the POSH Act and highlighted the need for creating a safe and inclusive work environment. She also discussed the role of institutions in upholding the dignity and rights of individuals at the workplace. The event aimed to educate participants about the importance of constituting Internal Complaints Committees (POSH cells) on campuses, and the proper procedures for reporting and addressing complaints of workplace harassment. Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel, Mohammad Aleem served as the resource person and provided insights into working of free legal aid services under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. Program witnessed active participation from students, faculty members, and administrative staff, reflecting the growing awareness and commitment to ensuring a harassment-free workplace.

The event concluded with an interactive Q&A session, where participants clarified their doubts and shared their views on fostering a respectful work culture.

CRPF organises free medical camp in Shahgund



GOWHAR MAQBOOL
HAJIN:

Under its civic action programme Free medical camp was organised by

45 battalion of CRPF at Shahgund area of Hajin village in north Kashmir's Bandipora district on Thursday.

The camp was inaugurated by

commandant of 45th Battalion Apoorwa in presence of Sh Brijesh Kumar Yadav, Assistant commandant Vijay Singh of CRPF, and Principal Govt Higher secondary school Shahgund and other officers and local eminent personalities were present during the camp.

During the camp besides free medical checkup, consultation medicines were distributed by CRPF and civil doctors. Around one thousand patients has taken benefits of the said medical camp. Commandant Apoorwa said that earlier 45 Bn CRPF assured the local public that CRPF has always been helping the Kashmiri people and putting all out efforts for peace, prosperity and development of the society. He added that they will continue to conduct such a civic programme for the benefit of the local public in future.

Mohanlal Gihara said on Yogendra Chandolia's birthday that he is a precious gem of the Scheduled Caste community

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Bharatiya Janata Party Hundreds of people reached today on the birthday of Lok Sabha MP from Delhi Yogendra Chandolia. BJP workers celebrated his birthday with great enthusiasm. Thousands of his fans reached to congratulate him on this occasion. On this occasion, State President of BJP Scheduled Caste Front Mohanlal Gihara arrived with his delegation in which General Secretary Lajpat Rai, General Secretary Rupesh Mehra, Office Minister Sumesh Liloithia, Media Co-in-charge Guruji Raju Chandel, Priyank Gupta

and other dignitaries were present.

On this occasion, State President of BJP Scheduled Caste Front Mohanlal Gihara said that our elder brother Lok Sabha MP Yogendra Chandolia is a precious gem of the Scheduled Caste community and apple of the society's eye. His popularity is spread all over India. Our popular MP is among the people of Scheduled Caste.

He works day and night for the upliftment of the Scheduled Caste community, due to which his popularity increases. Yogendra Chandolia always raises the voice of Scheduled Caste community in Lok Sabha and in front of the administration. He is always concerned about the rights of Scheduled Caste community. During his tenure in Bharatiya Janata Party, he got lakhs of people from Scheduled Caste community to join the party.

On this occasion, Guruji Raju Chandel said that our elder brother Yogendra Chandolia is a priceless heritage for the Scheduled Caste community and a ray of hope for the Scheduled Caste community. He has always achieved many achievements for the Scheduled Caste community, which cannot be expressed in words. We are proud of Yogendra Chandolia that he is leading our Scheduled Caste community.

DIPR Shopian organises IEC Campaign on drug abuse at GHSS Sedow

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SHOPIAN:

As part of Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Shopian, in collaboration with the Education Department today organised an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Sedow, Shopian. Skit/ dramatic performances by students and artists, poetry session, nukkad natak and expert sessions were held to educate students and the community about the perils of drug abuse, promoting a drug-free lifestyle.

The event, held with the coordina-



tion of the District Administration, Shopian, saw enthusiastic participation from students, school staff and officials from the education departments along with locals of the area.

On occasion, artists conveyed powerful messages about the devas-

tating effects of substance abuse, resonating with the audience in a culturally relatable manner. Expert sessions led by resource persons delved into the root causes of addiction, including depression, curiosity and feelings of inferiority.

Indian Forces played decisive role in foiling Pakistan-facilitated terror plot: Kavinder

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta today lauded the Border Security Force (BSF) for its resolute action in foiling a massive infiltration attempt by 45-50 terrorists along the International Border in Samba district amid the Operation Sindoor on May 8. He condemned Pakistan for attempting to push terrorists into Indian territory under the cover of ceasefire violations.

"The valour and preparedness shown by the BSF during Operation Sindoor is exemplary. Their swift and strategic response not only thwarted a major terror bid but also delivered a strong message to Pakistan and its terror proxies," Kavinder said in a statement issued today.

The senior BJP leader praised the BSF's precise and heavy retaliation,



which led to the destruction of enemy posts and significant losses to infiltrating terrorists. "The terrorists were not only detected in time but were also driven back effectively by the unmatched courage of our jawans. This is the India of today—alert, decisive, and ready to crush terrorism at its roots," he said.

Coming down heavily on Pakistan, Kavinder said that Pakistan has exposed globally for violating the sanctity of the ceasefire. "Pakistan must realise that India will not tolerate any act of aggression. The response during Operation Sindoor and the subsequent retaliation across the border have shown our intent clearly. We will hit back ten times harder if provoked," he warned.

Kavinder appreciated the efforts of the Indian Army and BSF in the broader scope of Operation Sindoor, launched in the aftermath of the barbaric Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 innocent civilians. He saluted the bravery of India's armed forces and reiterating the BJP's unwavering support for their actions. "Every citizen of the nation stands behind our soldiers. We are proud of their courage, sacrifice, and unshakable commitment to keeping our motherland safe," he added.

LIT serves notice of cancellation of allotment for New Senior Secondary School; Orders Property Handover

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
LUDHIANA:

The Chairman of the Ludhiana Improvement Trust (LIT), through a letter dated May 19, 2025, addressed to the Secretary, New Senior Secondary School, Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana, has informed that the allotment to the President of the Shivalik Public Welfare Trust has been cancelled. This decision was taken via Resolution No.132 dated May 6, 2025, and has been approved by the government through a letter dated May 15, 2025. It may be mentioned here that Shivalik Public Welfare Trust runs New Senior Secondary School, Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana.

The property in question is now declared as belonging to the Ludhiana Improvement Trust. Accordingly, the Secretary of New Senior Secondary School has been directed to hand over possession of the property to the Trust within 15 days.

Earlier, on May 16, 2025 the Court of SDM (East), Jasleen Kaur Bhullar, ordered the District Education

Officer (Secondary Education) to immediately take possession of all records maintained at the school and assume supervision of its operations.

It is pertinent to mention that the New High School Alumni (Old Student Association) of New Senior Secondary School, Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana, has raised allegations of fund misuse against the school's management committee. An FIR has already been registered at Police Division No. 5, Ludhiana on January 8, 2025. It was alleged in the FIR that a land measuring 4.71 acre (1.59 and 3.12 acre) was allotted by Improvement Trust, Ludhiana for running the school at subsidised rates. However, the present school management, while going against conditions of the allotment, divided the site of the school in various parts and illegally transferred the land to other persons. Thus, the land was subdivided and used for commercial purposes. As per the FIR, different persons were given possession of the land on high rents after transferring the same. Tampering/ cutting was found in the sale deed done in favour

of the school by Improvement Trust, Ludhiana.

Earlier last year, the Deputy Commissioner Office, Ludhiana, with the intervention of Rajya Sabha MP Sanjeev Arora, had initiated an inquiry against the school management committee. The Deputy Commissioner's Office had constituted a 3-member inquiry committee with the direction to submit the complete conclusive report to DC Office. Arora, on August 1, 2024, had written to Deputy Commissioner, Ludhiana stating that it has been brought to his attention by the New High School Alumni Association, supported by esteemed members such as Rakesh Bharti Mittal (Airtel Group) and Onkar Singh Pahwa (Avon Cycles Group), that the school once a prime institution of Punjab, reputation and operational integrity has significantly declined under the current management committee. There are serious allegations that the committee is misusing school properties for personal commercial gain, which is detrimentally affecting the school's primary objective of providing quality education.

Residents of Islampur, Thannamandi Protest Against BRO and Private TBA Company Over Poor Road Conditions in Ongoing Upgradation Project



NISAR KHAN
THANNA MANDI, RAJOURI:

Residents of Islampur village in Thanamandi tehsil of Rajouri, staged strong protest today against the Border Roads Organisation

(BRO) and the private TBA Company, expressing deep frustration over the poor condition of the road under the ongoing upgradation project. According to the locals, the road—currently under construction by TBA Company collaboration with

BRO in—has been left in a highly deteriorated state. They allege that slow-paced work and lack of dust control measures have made daily commuting hazardous, especially for school-going childrens and elderly residents.

"The road is filled with dust and potholes.

Students are forced to walk through clouds of dust every day, and vehicles struggle to pass. It's affecting our health and lives," said one of the protesters. The villagers are demanding immediate intervention by the district administration. They are calling for proper water sprinkling to suppress dust and the swift completion of road blacktopping before the situation worsens further.

Yousmarg to be developed as next Gulmarg: Speaker Legislative Assembly

Inaugurates Rs. 1.88 cr PHC at Nagbal



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BUDGAM:

Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today said that special focus will be laid on developing the scenic tourist destination Yousmarg as the next Gulmarg.

He made these remarks while inaugurating a newly constructed Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Nagbal, in Charar-i-Sharief Constituency, built at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.88 crore.

Highlighting the government's vision, the Speaker stated that Yousmarg will be equipped with all modern tourist facilities including a gondola, all-weather connectivity, skiing and other recreational and basic amenities. He emphasised that this development of Yousmarg will significantly uplift the socio-economic conditions of the local population living in kandi area. Speaking on the importance of the health sector, the Speaker noted that the newly inaugurated PHC will provide essential medical services to the residents of Nagbal and adjoining Kandi areas. He said that the building, completed at a cost of Rs. 1.53 crore, will require an additional Rs. 35 lakh for construction of a boundary wall, landscaping and development of the approach road.

The Speaker said that the PHC is equipped to offer ECG, dental care, gynecology services, separate male and female wards and minor operation theatre facilities. He inspected various sections of the facility, including the general wards, minor OT, dental unit, immunization area and took stock of availability of medicine at pharmacy section.

He remarked that the establishment of this health centre will minimize the need for residents to travel long distances to avail medical services in Srinagar or Charar-i-Sharief. The Speaker also highlighted sanctioning of other PHC buildings across the constituency, including, Kanir, Tilsara, Nowpora, Hushroo, Nilnag, Bonen, Watkalu, as well as the Sub-District Hospitals at Charar-i-Sharief, Pakherpora and Nagam, all of which are functional and catering to local healthcare needs.

Strict measures introduced to streamline vehicular traffic in Baderwah Town



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
DODA:

Additional Deputy Commissioner Baderwah Sunil Bhutyal chaired a meeting to discuss measures to streamline traffic and decongest the town. The meeting was held under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh.

The meeting was attended by SDPO, Tehsildar, ARTO, DTI, EO MC Baderwah, Naib Tehsildars, SHO, and stakeholders from the transport and business communities. Major decisions included the stern relocation of all buses and E-Rickshaws from Seri Bazar and Pasri Adda to the New Bus Stand, implementation of a Rotational Parking system and the identification of designated auto stands.

Leverage VVP to transform the lives & livelihoods in border villages: Dulloo

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo today held a detailed meeting of the concerned to take the assessment of the preparedness of the administration for implementation of the centrally sponsored Vibrant Villages Programme Phase-II here in the identified border villages of the UT.

The meeting besides Secretary, PD&MD was attended by the concerned Deputy Commissioners and other concerned officers of the Department. The programme, spearheaded by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, aims to bring sustainable development, security integration, and socio-economic vibrancy to strategically significant border villages across India, including 124 villages in J&K. In his remarks the Chief Secretary impressed upon the Planning Department to leverage this programme for transforming the lives and livelihoods of these border inhabitants in line with the vision of the Prime Minister of the country. He maintained that the belief of the PM is to treat these border villages as 'Pratham Gaon' meaning the frontline villages of the country deserving all



attention and focus of the government for their development and sustainability. Dulloo also called for laying focus on the implementation of the programme by designating the Village wise nodal officers especially the SDMs of these areas for their smooth and effective implementation on ground. He called on them to assess the capacity of each village and utilize the schemes like HADP, Mission YUVA, Daksh Kisan, JKRLM etc to make these villages a model in agriculture, horticulture, skilling, tourism as per their innate strengths. The Chief Secretary also directed the concerned Deputy Commissioners to take immediate actions to complete service and infrastructure gap analyses in close coordination with BGFs.

He also emphasised upon expediting formation of District and UT-level committees for submitting the first batch of Village Action Plans to MHA within stipulated timeframe. He further stressed the importance of community engagement, inter-agency convergence, and the role of youth and local institutions in making this programme a success.

The Secretary, PD&MD, Talat Parvez Rohella while throwing light on different aspects of this programme gave out that a total of 124 border villages across 43 border blocks in eight districts of J&K including Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Rajouri, Poonch, Bandipora, Baramulla, and Kupwara have been selected for development.

DC Shopian conducts extensive visit of sub-division Zainapora

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SHOPIAN:

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta conducted an extensive tour of Zainapora on Friday to take firsthand appraisal of civic amenities, market regulation and ongoing developmental activities in the area. During the visit, DC carried out a thorough inspection of the Zainapora main market, interacting with shopkeepers, traders and the general public. The visit focused on monitoring the availability of essential commodities, quality control, adherence to government-notified price lists and sanitation standards in the market. On-spot directions were issued to the SDM Zainapora and concerned officers to maintain cleanliness and ensure strict compliance with market regulations to safeguard consumer interests.

Later, DC visited a prominent high-density apple orchard at Wandina Zainapora where he reviewed the implementation of modern horticultural practices under the high-density plantation scheme being promoted by the government to boost the region's apple production and improve growers' income.

While interacting with orchardists and field officers from the Horticulture Department, DC emphasized the importance of adopting scientific techniques, including integrated pest management, efficient irrigation systems and timely nutrient application. DC also visited Government Higher Secondary School, Zainapora and Indoor Stadium Zainapora and took stock of the educational and sports facilities being provided to the school children and stressed for providing best education to them.

Chairperson DDC B'la inspects key dev. projects in Wagoora-Kreeri

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BARAMULLA:

Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Baramulla, Safina Baig, today conducted an extensive tour of the Wagoora-Kreeri area to review the progress of several ongoing developmental projects, with a focus on improving infrastructure and public services. During the visit, Safina Baig inspected key works in

the education and connectivity sectors. At Higher Secondary School Bandi Bala, she reviewed the construction of a nine-roomed triple-storey building being executed at a cost of Rs 237.75 lakh, and a three-roomed double-storey building worth Rs 130 lakh. These projects aim to strengthen educational infrastructure and accommodate increasing enrolments. She also assessed progress on the Shrunz Bridge, a significant connectivity project involving a 50-meter span bridge under construction at a cost of Rs 7 crore. Once completed, the bridge will greatly enhance mobility and access for several villages in the area.

At Middle School Kohlina, Safina Baig reviewed two construction works—a four-roomed double-storey building estimated at Rs 45.77 lakh and a three-roomed building costing Rs 31.18 lakh.

MP Arora Inaugurates Total Attack Volleyball Pitching Machine



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
LUDHIANA:

Rajya Sabha MP Sanjeev Arora inaugurated the Total Attack Volleyball Pitching Machine at the sports grounds of SCD Government College, Ludhiana, on Thursday evening. The machine, aimed at enhancing the training quality of local volleyball players, was imported from the USA with financial support of Rs.8.50 lakh provided by Arora.

The three-wheeled Total Attack machine is designed in collaboration with top international and collegiate coaches. It enables players to practice against high-speed serves with sidespin, replicating real-game conditions.

The machine can deliver balls at speeds of up to 90 mph, simulating jump serves with precision. It also allows coaches to conduct specialised drills covering various aspects of the game, from digging to attack formations.

During the inauguration, the machine was demonstrated before Arora and other dignitaries, who expressed satisfaction with its performance. The initiative is expected to significantly benefit aspiring volleyball players by providing them with world-class training tools.

Speaking on the occasion, MP Sanjeev Arora said, "Sports are not just a form of recreation—they are essential for shaping the character, discipline, and health of our youth. I believe in empowering athletes with the best infrastructure and equipment available.

By bringing this international-standard volleyball machine to Ludhiana, we hope to create a more competitive and professional training environment for our young players. I urge coaches and players to make the best use of this facility to bring laurels to the state and the country."

District Sports Officer Kuldeep Chugh and Aam Aadmi Party Sports Wing District President Sonia Alag were also present at the event.

Director Agriculture Jammu conducts 2 day extensive visit to Banihal-Ramban



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Director Agriculture Jammu, S. Arvinder Singh Reen undertook a two-day extensive tour of District Ramban, focusing on the implementation and progress of various ongoing agricultural initiatives and schemes.

During the visit, the Director convened a detailed review meeting at the Chief Agriculture Office, Ramban, where he assessed the status of several central and UT-sponsored schemes including HADP, JKIP, CSS, and NABARD. He also

reviewed the progress of various flagship programmes under SHCS, PMFBY, KCC, PM Kisan and RKVY. Chief Agriculture Officer Vinay Kumar Jandyal briefed the Director Agriculture about the status of works going on on the field.

The meeting was attended by Sub-Divisional Officer Ayaz Rishi, Sub-Divisional Officer Gool Naveen Kumar, ASCO Jamshed Ahmad, SMS-DL, other senior officers and field staff of District Ramban.

The Director inspected key agricultural infrastructure in the district, including the Mushroom Unit and Honey Processing Plant at DCTC and

visited the Integrated Farming System (IFS) Model established by progressive farmer Zubair Ahmad Sohail at Chenab Valley Farm, Village Chamalwas, Banihal. Commending the initiative, he urged farmers to embrace Integrated Farming for sustainable income generation.

Further, the Director inspected a Low-Cost Polyhouse of beneficiary Abdul Rashid Khan in Panchayat Karwah, Zone Banihal, highlighting the importance of protected cultivation.

At a well-attended farmers' gathering in Banihal, he elaborated on various components of HADP, encouraging farmers to utilize the Kisan SATHI Dashboard to apply for government schemes related to plantation, protected cultivation, water harvesting, drip irrigation, custom hiring centers, farm machinery, processing units, and nursery establishment. On the second day, the Director visited the SM Farm Tethar, Banihal, to assess on-ground farm activities. While interacting with farmers and beekeepers, he issued instructions to field functionaries to provide immediate technical support to address the challenges faced by farmers.

"Most Family Disputes Don't Belong in Court-They Begin at Home": Advocate Shahzada Saleem's Candid Take on Rising Domestic Conflicts

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

In a deeply reflective conversation with Voice of Kashmir, Advocate Shahzada Saleem, a well-known legal expert practicing in the District Courts of Srinagar and the Jammu & Kashmir High Court, spoke at length about the rising tide of family disputes that, despite being born out of minor misunderstandings or emotional manipulation, tragically end up in courtrooms.

Drawing from years of experience, Advocate Saleem highlighted how many marital disputes today are not rooted in criminal behavior or serious misconduct, but rather in ego clashes, miscommunication, and unchecked interference from within the family itself-particularly by siblings.

"Most homes don't break because of big problems," Advocate Saleem reflected, "they break because small problems are allowed to grow unchecked."

A large number of cases, he explained, originate from a pattern that is disturbingly common: married sisters returning to their parental homes and speaking negatively about their brothers or their wives. Over time, these seemingly harmless conversations evolve into damaging narratives that poison the minds of elderly parents.

This constant feeding of suspicion and complaint, he noted, creates a deeply biased environment. Parents, often out of love and blind trust, start believing these narratives without verification. In doing so, they unintentionally turn against their own son and his wife. Rather than acting as mature, stabilizing influences in the household, they become emotionally reactive and begin to impose harsh judgments.

"When parents lose neutrality, families lose direction," he said firmly. "Justice in a home is just as important as justice in a court."

In many cases, the daughter-in-law is unfairly blamed for things she neither said nor did. The home, instead of being a haven, becomes a space of emotional suffocation and targeted hostility.

This kind of biased behavior often leads to emotional trauma within the marriage. Women are humiliated, blamed, and sometimes even threatened with eviction. Phrases like "Yeh tumhara ghar nahi hai", or "Hum apne bete ki doosri shaadi kar denge" become part of everyday con-



versations-words that carry the weight of deep cruelty and long-lasting scars.

In such households, the son is often left torn between two roles: that of a loyal son and a responsible husband. Caught in this emotional tug of war, many men retreat into silence or helplessness, unable to take a firm stand for either side. What begins as an internal family matter slowly deteriorates into an emotionally charged legal dispute, consuming time, peace, and relationships.

"We have turned our homes into courtrooms and our families into opposing parties," Advocate Saleem remarked with concern. "And the tragedy is, no one wins."

He lamented the reality that so many families wait too long before taking a step back to reflect. By the time these matters reach the courtroom, the damage is already done. Trust is lost. Dialogue has been replaced with accusations. Children suffer in the process. Reputations are ruined. And most painfully, bonds once filled with love are replaced with bitterness.

Advocate Saleem strongly advocates for early intervention and mature communication. He believes that parents must remain neutral and objective, especially when presented with complaints about their children's marital lives. One-sided trust and emotional bias, no matter how unintentional, can destabilize an entire family. Siblings, too, must respect boundaries.

"Being a sister doesn't give one the right to sabotage a brother's marriage. Advice should build-not break." He emphasized the importance of the husband's role in maintaining harmony. A man must not become a mute spectator when his wife is mistreated. Protecting her dignity while balancing family relationships is not just a moral responsibility-it is an act of justice.

"Silence in the face of injustice within a home," he said, "isn't loyalty-it's cowardice."

In cases where things escalate beyond resolution, Advocate Saleem recommends family counselling over litigation. Courts should be the last resort. He emphasized that the Indian Constitution, which protect personal liberty and dignity, extend fully to women within the household, including daughters-in-law. No individual has the right to emotionally or verbally abuse someone in the name of tradition or family honor.

To add further moral context, he referenced sacred teachings from both Islamic and Hindu traditions that underscore family harmony and the sanctity of justice.

From the Holy Qur'an, he recalled: "O you who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to Allah, even though it be against yourselves, your parents, or your relatives..."

(Surah An-Nisa, 4:135)
"And live with them in kindness..." (Surah An-Nisa, 4:19) - a commandment to men regarding their wives, stressing respect and compassion in marriage.

From Hindu scriptures, he cited a powerful verse from the Manusmriti: "Yatra n?ryastu p?jyante ramante tatra devat?"

(Manusmriti 3.56) - "Where women are honored, there the gods rejoice."

And the Bhagavad Gita (Chapter 16, Verse 2) reminds us of the virtues of non-violence, truthfulness, and absence of anger, all of which are essential in sustaining peaceful family life.

His parting message was both powerful and thought-provoking:

"The solution to most family problems isn't found in a courtroom-it's found in a conversation."

"Before dragging each other to court, ask yourself: have we tried understanding more than blaming?"

While Concluding Adv Saleem said, insights offer a sobering reminder that most family disputes don't begin with crime-they begin with silence, bias, and unchecked interference.

And while law exists to protect, peace can only return when families begin to value truth over ego, fairness over favoritism, and empathy over entitlement.

"Let your home be a sanctuary," he concluded, "not a place where love dies and law takes over."

Electrifying Inter-School Zonal Level Football, Cricket Competitions light up Chowgan Ground Kishtwar

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In a vibrant celebration of youth energy and athleticism the Department of Youth Services & Sports Kishtwar organized thrilling Inter School Zonal Level Competitions in the disciplines of Football and Cricket at the iconic Chowgan Ground Kishtwar.

The ground came alive with nonstop action echoing with the sounds of cheering students, determined athletes and spirited competition.

Under the banner of Zone Kishtwar an exciting Football tournament for U/14 Boys was conducted.

A total of 50 students participated in the event transforming Chowgan Ground into a high voltage arena of dazzling footwork, team coordination and passionate gameplay.

The matches kept the spectators on the edge of their seats creating an atmosphere that was both electric and inspiring.

Adding to the momentum, Zone Nagseni held its U/17 Cricket Tournament for both Boys and Girls bringing together 120 budding cricketers in a dynamic contest of talent, skill, and strategy.

With teams competing fiercely for glory, every ball bowled and every shot played reflected the dedication and growing sports culture among the youth of the region.

These grand sporting events were organized under the esteemed supervision of the District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO) Mr. Jaffer Haider Sheikh, whose continued efforts have been instrumental in promoting grassroots sports and nurturing young talent across the district.

DLSA Ramban launches orientation on NALSA's 'SAATHI' Campaign to support destitute children



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAMBAN:

The District Legal Services Authority Ramban today organized an 'Orientation cum Introduction' session on the newly launched National Legal Services Authority's national campaign SAATHI to provide legal identity and access to social welfare for destitute children.

The campaign aims to bridge the gap in accessing essential government benefits, education, and healthcare for children who lack Aadhaar cards.

The session was aimed to explore the possibilities for effective collaboration of the district judiciary with the stakeholder departments of the district administration to identify and assist the destitute children which are defined in the scheme as: Children under the age of 18 who are without family support, guardianship, or a stable source of shelter, protection, and care—including but not limited to children living on streets, in slums, or railway stations, orphans living/not living in child care institutions, abandoned children or those rescued from trafficking, begging, child labor, children residing in informal shelters or unregistered child care homes Missing children recovered and not restored to family. The session was held under the guidance of DLSA Secretary Priyanka Mahajan, who also serves as the Chairperson of the SAATHI district committee.

The orientation session was attended by a number of officers/officials of the district administration including Tehsildars of all tehsils, Chief Medical Officer, Panel Lawyers and Para Legal Volunteers etc.

The program was also attended by the representatives of the district women and child development unit and Child Care Institutions.

Dry Fruit Association Kupwara calls on Dy CM; raises issues concerning promotion of Kashmir's walnut industry

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

The Dry Fruit Association Kupwara today called on Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, highlighting various issues regarding declining condition and severe challenges being faced by the walnut industry in Kashmir.

The Association led by its President, Haji Bhadur Khan, raised

various issues like GST on walnuts, research and innovation in producing new high quality walnuts, lack of market infrastructure and permission to construct the second story in the complex.

The Deputy Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the delegation, assuring that all their genuine grievances and issues will be resolved in a phased manner. He assured the delegation that technical support will

be provided to the farmers for developing high-yielding and disease-resistant walnut varieties.

He asserted that Omar Abdullah government is committed to safeguard the interests of walnut growers and promote the consumption of locally grown walnuts. He assured the Association that government will take every possible step to support the walnut industry as it is livelihood for thousands of farmers in Kashmir.

All India Bhau Rajput Sabha Holds Grand Bi-Annual Congregation at Khohara Kaleeth

Thousands Gather for a Day of Devotion, Cultural Pride, and Community Recognition

ER SHUBHAM KOTWAL
KHOHARA KALEETH:

In a profound display of unity and devotion, the All India Bhau Rajput Sabha, led by the revered Shri Narinder Singh Bhau, held its much-anticipated Bi-Annual Congregation today at the sacred Dev Asthan in Khohara Kaleeth, Tehsil Khour. The event began at the break of dawn and continued until evening, drawing an estimated crowd of over one lakh devotees who arrived to pay homage and seek the blessings of Baba Ji. The atmosphere at the Dev Asthan was deeply spiritual, marked by prayers, collective reflection, and a strong sense of cultural pride. The gathering also served as a significant platform for celebrating academic excellence, honoring military service, and recognizing community leadership.

One of the key moments of the event was the felicitation of more than 100 outstanding



students from the Bhau Biradri who scored 85% or above in their academic examinations. Their achievements, verified through official mark sheets, were acknowledged in front of the large assembly, symbolizing the Sabha's dedication to promoting education and encouraging the youth to strive for excellence.

Under the leadership of Youth President AIBRS Rakesh Bhau, youths of Bhau Biradri work actively in every sphere, contributing to the cultural, social, and developmental initiatives of the community.

A grand community langar was also organized by members of the Malal, Dangar, and Dhouchak groups, showcasing the spirit of service and togetherness that defines the Bhau Biradri.

The Sabha also paid heartfelt tribute to retired armed forces personnel, acknowledging their service and sacrifice for the nation. In addition, community members currently serving in administrative and public service roles were recognized for their ongoing contributions to the welfare and progress of the community.

Adding a rich cultural dimension to the event, acclaimed Dogri artists Salathia Brothers and Varsha Jamwal delivered captivating performances of traditional Dogri songs. Their renditions not only entertained the audience but also reinforced the Sabha's mission of preserving and promoting Dogra culture and heritage.

To ensure the smooth participation of devotees from Khohara and Kaleeth, special arrangements were made for transportation, accommodation, and refreshments-reflecting the Sabha's thoughtful and inclusive approach.

The event was graced by several distinguished guests and community leaders who were also honored during the ceremony. Among them were:

- * Shri Ramesh Singh Langeh (President, Langeh Biradri)
- * Shri Narayan Singh Jamwal (Former Vice President, BJP)
- * Vikram Singh Chib (President, Yuva Rajput Sabha)
- * Mahant

M a h a m a n d e l e s h w a r
Rameshwar Dass

* Devinder Singh Bhau (C.O., Patnitop)

* Rajindra Singh Jamwal (Rajput Sabha, Akhnoor)

* The Kahluria Sisters - Riya and Diksha

* Gurmeet Dutta (Chairman, All Digital and Print Media Association)

* Shubham Kotwal (President, All Digital and Print Media Association)

Their presence and recognition served to inspire and uplift the community, reinforcing a shared sense of purpose and identity.

The Bi-Annual Congregation of the Bhau Biradri continues to be a cornerstone event that fosters spiritual reflection, honors cultural traditions, and celebrates the contributions of its members. With each passing year, the Sabha remains committed to guiding the community toward a future rooted in heritage, unity, and collective growth.



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