

The Kashmir Talk

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'India Forever Indebted': Defence Minister Honours Kargil Heroes on Kargil Vijay Diwas



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

Stating that the nation will forever remain indebted to the brave martyrs of the 1999 Kargil War, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh paid rich tributes to the fallen heroes at the National War Memorial (NWM), here today. After paying homage and laying

a wreath at NWM, the defence minister expressed heartfelt gratitude to the bravehearts on behalf of the nation, in his remarks in the visitors' book. He stated that Kargil Vijay will forever remain a unique example of bravery for the future generations.

He described NWM as a living symbol of the sacrifice made by the heroes. Later, in a post on X, the

defence minister remembered the extraordinary courage, grit and determination displayed by the bravehearts in defending the nation's honour in the toughest of terrains.

"Their supreme sacrifice during Kargil war is a timeless reminder of the unwavering resolve of our Armed Forces. India shall remain forever indebted to their service," he said.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and Vice Chief of the Army Staff Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani also laid a wreath and paid homage to the bravehearts at the NWM.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports organised 'Kargil Vijay Diwas Padyatra'

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Bipartisan support for strong, time-tested India-Maldives friendship: PM Modi



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday held a meeting with members of several political parties of the Maldives on the second day of his visit to the island nation and said the participation of leaders across the political spectrum underscores the bipartisan support for the "strong and time-tested" friendship between the two countries.

The Prime Minister arrived in the Maldives on Friday for a two-day state visit after concluding his visit to the UK.

In a post on X after meeting members of several political parties of the Maldives on Saturday, the Prime Minister said, "Had a meaningful meeting with members of different political parties of the Maldives. The participation of leaders across

True Test Of Country's Legal System Lies In Treatment Of Marginalised Sections: CM



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said the true test of the country's legal system lies in its treatment of the weaker sections of the society.

Abdullah was addressing a two-day north zone regional conference on reaffirming the constitu-

tional vision of justice for defence personnel and tribals at SKICC.

Reaffirming his government's support to the legal services in delivering justice to the "most marginalised", he said that "we must remain committed to provide every institutional, financial, and technological support" necessary to transform constitutional promises into

everyday realities.

"The true test of our legal system lies in its treatment of all the weaker sections of the society, including those who have defended us without question and those whose rights have too often gone unrecognised," Abdullah said.

This test must be met with humility, guarantee and resolve, he added.

The CM said the thematic focus of the conference on the rights and entitlements of defence personnel and tribal communities, touches upon two segments of the society — the defence personnel who defend the Constitution with unflinching resolve, and the tribals who have long waited for its

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Amit Shah wants stronger fugitive retrieval measures, asks MHA to set up dedicated forum



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

Stressing the need to establish a dedicated forum to combat the misuse of encrypted communication platforms by terrorist groups, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has emphasised the importance of coordinated efforts and concrete mechanisms to bring back fugitives involved in terrorism and smuggling from abroad.

Shah made the obser-

vation while addressing the inaugural session of the two-day 8th National Security Strategies (NSS) Conference in New Delhi on Friday.

The Home Minister has directed the officials concerned to set up a forum that would ensure dedicated measures to bring back fugitives involved in terrorist and smuggling activities, with enhanced inter-agency coordination between central and state law enforcement agencies, as well as recalibrating

the approach towards disrupting domestic nodes of the terror-criminal nexus.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) confirmed that it was asked to "set up a forum with stakeholders across the spectrum to come up with solutions to counter the use of encrypted communication by terror networks."

"Reviewing terror financing mechanisms, agencies were directed to unearth terror modules

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Killing Of Innocent Youth In Police Firing Outcome Of 'Dual Power System': Rana

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU JAMMU:

Jammu and Kashmir minister Javed Ahmad Rana on Saturday claimed that the recent killing of a Gujar man in police firing was the result of the "dual power system" in the Union territory, a reference to the LG administration and the Omar Abdullah government.

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LG Sinha Addresses North Zone Regional Conference Of Legal Services Authorities At Srinagar

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today addressed the North Zone Regional Conference on "Reaffirming the Constitutional Vision of Justice for Defence



Personnel and Tribals: Bridging the Gaps"

organised by National Legal Services Authority, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and J&K Legal Services Authority, at Srinagar.

The event was graced by Judge Supreme Court of India and

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'India Forever Indebted...

which was led by Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & Employment Dr Mansukh Mandaviya and Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth.

The walk which was organized in Dras saw the participation of over 1,000 youth, serving and retired Armed Forces personnel, families of the fallen heroes, and civil society members. Covering a distance of 1.5 kilometers, the padyatra commenced from Himabass Public High School, Dras, and concluded at Government Higher Secondary School, Bhimbet.

Later, the two Ministers, accompanied by 100 youth volunteers, proceeded to the Kargil War Memorial. Seth laid a wreath and paid homage to the soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice in 1999. In a post on X, the minister exuded confidence that the stories of valour and sacrifice of the brave soldiers will continue to be an inspiration to the future generations. "The sacrifice of the brave hearts will forever keep the lamp of patriotism burning in the heart of every Indian," he said.

In his remarks the CDS said, Kargil Vijay Diwas reminds every Indian of the unparalleled bravery, tenacity and patriotism of our valiant soldiers who fought fearlessly to safeguard the territorial integrity of our nation, as also, the bitter truth of Pakistan's betrayal...

"Our adversaries will continue to test our resolve, but the legacy of Kargil reminds us that jointness, preparedness and unwavering courage – proven once again by the success of Operation Sindoor, will always triumph over enemy's deceit and aggression..."

The Chief of the Naval Staff stated that the legacy forged by the brave hearts stands as a testament to the spirit of 'Service before Self' and unwavering devotion to the service of the nation.

"Your sacrifice will remain a beacon of inspiration, not only for future citizens of our country but also for those who choose to serve in the Defence Forces with 'Duty-Honour-Courage!'" he added.

The Chief of the Air Staff termed NWM as a sacred symbol of national remembrance and gratitude, immortalising the legacy of the fallen heroes whose valour continues to inspire all ranks of the Indian Armed Forces.

He stated that the Indian Air Force remains committed to defend the sovereignty of our Nation and uphold the proud traditions of courage, honour and duty exemplified by the brave hearts.

Amit Shah wants...

by analysing inputs pertaining to financial irregularities. MHA was also asked to ensure that only indigenous technology was used by Police organisations," the MHA said in an official statement.

The first day of the conference, which was held in a hybrid format, combining physical and virtual modes, with approximately 800 officers from across the country participating, focused on the role of external actors who are inimical to the interests of the nation and their domestic linkages, including involvement in the narcotics trade; challenges posed by illegal use of encrypted communication apps and other latest technologies, use of technology for crowd management and security of uninhabited islands.

The issues related to financing terrorism were also deliberated.

The second day of the conference focused on civil aviation and port security, counter-terrorism, left-wing extremism, and countermeasures for Narcotics trafficking.

Bipartisan support...

the political spectrum underscores the bipartisan support for the strong and time-tested India-Maldives friendship. Our shared values continue to guide this important partnership."

Earlier in the day, PM Modi held a meeting with Maldives' former President Mohamed Nasheed on Saturday and assured him of New Delhi's support for Male through capacity building and developmental cooperation.

PM Modi said Nasheed has always been a strong advocate of "deeper friendship" between the nations.

In a post on X, PM Modi said, "Met the former President of Maldives, Mr. Mohamed Nasheed. He has always been a strong advocate of a deeper India-Maldives friendship. Spoke about how the Maldives will always be a valued pillar of our 'Neighbourhood First' policy and Mahasagar vision. India will keep supporting the Maldives through capacity building and developmental cooperation."

The Prime Minister also met People's Majlis Speaker Abdul Raheem Abdulla and expressed India's commit-

ment to supporting capacity building in the Maldives. PM Modi termed the formation of the India-Maldives Parliamentary Friendship Group in the 20th Majlis a "welcome step" for bilateral ties.

"Met Mr. Abdul Raheem Abdulla, Speaker of the People's Majlis. Talked about the deep-rooted India-Maldives friendship, including the close relationship between our respective Parliaments. The formation of the India-Maldives Parliamentary Friendship Group in the 20th Majlis is a welcome step for bilateral ties. India remains committed to supporting capacity building in the Maldives," PM Modi said in a post on X.

PM Modi also held a meeting with the Maldives Vice President, Mohamed Latheef. During the meeting, the two leaders spoke about key pillars of the India-Maldives friendship.

After the meeting, PM Modi, in a post on X, said, "Had a very good meeting with Vice President Uz. Hussain Mohamed Latheef. Our discussion touched upon key pillars of the India-Maldives friendship. Our nations continue to work closely in sectors like infrastructure, technology, climate change, energy and more. This is greatly beneficial to our people. We look forward to deepening this partnership in the years to come."

PM Modi is in the Maldives at the invitation of President Mohamed Muizzu. He is the guest of honour for the 60th Independence Day celebrations in the country.

On Friday, while speaking at the banquet hosted in his honour, PM Modi emphasised the depth of the bilateral relationship.

He said, "India-Maldives relations are centuries old. We are neighbours, partners and true friends who stand together in times of need. Maldives holds a special place in India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy... This is not just diplomacy but a relation of deep affinity."

President Mohamed Muizzu praised PM Modi's leadership and reaffirmed the strong ties between India and the Maldives.

"India has long stood as the Maldives's closest and most trusted partner. Our collaboration spans a wide range of areas, from security and trade to healthcare, education and beyond, touching the everyday lives of our citizens," Muizzu said.

True Test Of...

full embrace. "It is our collective responsibility to ensure that the institutions of justice rise to meet their needs with speed, sensitivity, and strength," he said.

Meanwhile, on the occasion of Kargil Vijay Diwas, Abdullah remembered the fallen soldiers of the 1999 war and lauded their sacrifices.

"Today, on the solemn occasion of Vijay Diwas, let me begin by acknowledging the service and sacrifices of our defence personnel, both past and present. These men and women, many of whom belonged to J-K, served in remote, inhospitable terrain, with a quiet dignity and an enduring sense of duty," he said.

The CM said when faced with legal challenges — be it service-related disputes, pension matters, or civil grievances, the defence personnel often encounter systemic barriers owing to geographic remoteness, immobile nature of their postings, and their distinct constraints of military life.

"These challenges definitely constitute other disabilities under Article 39A and must be addressed with the urgency and the compassion that they weren't. It is indefensible that those who risk their lives to uphold the Constitution should struggle to access the protections in guarantees," he asserted.

Abdullah said there is a pressing need to establish a robust coordination among legal service authorities, military legal cells, zila sainik boards, and regimental welfare offices.

The establishment of dedicated legal aid clinics in cantonments and in districts with significant ex-servicemen populations should be prioritised. Equally important is the need to ensure that families of defence personnel, particularly widows, aged parents, and dependent children, receive empathetic, expert and timely legal support, he said.

The CM said awareness must accompany access, and no soldier, or the family of a soldier, should be left adrift, unsure of the procedural avenues available to them.

"To this end, paralegal volunteers trained especially in military legal issues should be deployed in areas with high defence populations. Simultaneously, technology must be harnessed to democratise access through mobile apps, virtual consultation platforms, and user-friendly legal information portals," he said.

"Justice in our times must not mainly be avail-

able, it must also be accessible," Abdullah added.

Referring to the tribal communities in J-K, the chief minister said they are the custodians of rich cultural and ecological heritage, and the Union territory is home to several scheduled tribes who have preserved ancient traditions while making their way through difficult terrain.

He said his government has augmented its development efforts for the community, but development alone cannot substitute justice.

He demanded that paralegal volunteers be trained from within the tribal communities themselves to ensure that legal support is rendered in familiar idioms, dialects and cultural frameworks.

Abdullah said that for justice to be meaningful, it must reach every remote hamlet from Poonch to Kishtwar and from Rajouri to Karnah.

Simultaneously, a sensitive balance must be maintained between national security and the rights of tribal citizens. Many tribal regions are located in border belts on areas of heightened security oversight. However, law enforcement must not translate into legal disenfranchisement, he said.

He said the government has sanctioned the establishment of a dedicated law university with an initial allocation of Rs 50 crore, for which preparatory work is underway.

This university is envisioned as the centre of excellence, focused on legal instruction, research, and policy innovations, particularly in domains such as tribal rights, constitutional law, military justice, and environmental governance, he said.

It is an investment in cultivating an inclusive and capable ecosystem for future generations, the CM added.

LG Sinha Addresses...

Executive Chairman National Legal Services Authority, Justice Surya Kant; Union Minister of State for Law and Justice, Arjun Ram Meghwal; Chief Justice High Court of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Arun Palli; Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah; Judge High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Executive Chairman J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice Sanjeev Kumar; Judge High Court J&K and Ladakh and Executive Chairperson Ladakh Legal Services Authority, Justice Sindhu Sharma; General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, Lt. General Pratik Sharma; Judges of Supreme Court of India and Chief Justice of various States and UTs.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations to the legal luminaries, officials of National Legal Services Authority, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, J&K Legal Services Authority and everyone associated with the conference. He also paid tributes to the brave hearts of Kargil War.

"Constitution of India guarantees Justice, social, economic and political and one of the facets of providing Justice is access to justice to all the citizens and it is to be ensured that Justice reaches to the poorest of poor, who deserves it the most.

The justice system has been deeply rooted in the soul of India and played a pivotal to nation's progress. In our culture, the court is not merely an office of justice but a sacred temple of justice, dedicated to ensuring equal justice and access to the legal system for all, without discrimination," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the State Legal Services Authorities to ensure that all possible legal aid reaches the army personnel, tribal community, deprived and vulnerable sections of society on time so that their lives become easier and their rights granted by the Constitution are protected.

Killing Of Innocent...

The Centre must honour the public mandate and give full powers to the National Conference-led elected government by restoring statehood to the Union territory, Rana said.

He visited the house of Parvez Ahmad (21), a Gujjar hailing from Nikki Tawi area of Jammu, who was allegedly killed in a crossfiring when police was reportedly chasing drug peddlers in Satwari area on Thursday.

Ahmad's killing sparked protests by his community as the family accused police of murdering an innocent in a staged encounter. A magisterial probe has already been ordered while two policemen involved in the incident are suspended and an inquiry to be headed by sub-divisional police officer, Jammu south, is also pending.

"I have visited the family to express sympathies on behalf of the government over the killing of the innocent man.

Smart Public Distribution System to go live by mid August 2025: Satish Sharma



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Information Technology, Transport, and Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma, today said that the much-anticipated Smart Public Distribution System (Smart PDS) will be made functional across Jammu and Kashmir by mid August 2025.

The Minister was reviewing the progress on Smart PDS implementation in the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary FCS&CA, Saurabh Bhagat, along with other senior officers and technical teams involved in the migration process.

The Minister stated that Jammu

and Kashmir is on track to become the first Union Territory in the country to fully migrate to the Smart PDS under the national RCMS (Ration Card Management System) framework, as directed by the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

"Smart PDS is a transformative reform in food distribution that ensures transparency, efficiency and portability of services. With this shift, over 25 lakh ration card holders and approximately 1.02 crore ration beneficiaries in J&K will experience a seamless and more accountable system," the Minister said.

The meeting was told that under the Smart PDS system and under One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) the beneficiaries from

Jammu and Kashmir can now avail their entitled ration PAN India and vice-versa.

Similarly, it was also informed that all the feeding of the Smart PDS is under testing phase and optimization for unique needs of Jammu and Kashmir and would also include various categories like SAAAY, NFSA and PMSES. The automatization shall democratize the entire PDS system and beneficiaries can use applications like Mera Ration and Annapurna to get real time information about his ration quota.

It was also given out that all the ration distribution shall be based on Aadhar enabled POS machines of L1 configuration which are 4G enabled. This shall help the department in improving the storage efficiency, economize transportation and provide effective services to the Consumer.

It was also clarified that all the other allied services like ration distribution, Ayushman card will not be effected by this transition.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to expedite testing, ensure training of FPS (Fair Price Shop) dealers and launch public awareness campaigns ahead of the rollout.

He emphasized that the success of Smart PDS depends on its accessibility to even the remotest parts of the Union Territory.

Restoration of J&K's statehood people's right, not a favour: Hakeem Yaseen

Says JKNC's 1975 accord was a betrayal, not a breakthrough

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

People's Democratic Front (PDF) President and former Minister, Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen, on Friday said that the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir is not a favour but a constitutional and democratic right of the people. He asserted that the people of the region are the rightful claimants to statehood, which was "snatched away in a wrong manner."

In a statement issued here, Hakeem Yaseen said, "Statehood is not an election slogan. It is the people's agenda. It was taken away unjustly, and it must be restored with honour and dignity."

Taking a dig at political parties now demanding statehood, he said, "Those crying on the streets today for the return of statehood were themselves responsible for its erosion. The process of weakening our constitutional position began in 1953 when the Congress changed the structure from Prime Minister to Chief Minister and from Sadr-e-Riyasat to Governor. That was the first betrayal." Lashing out at Congress and the National Conference, Yaseen said they misled the people and laid the foundation of constitutional degradation in Jammu and Kashmir. "The Constitution of J&K was slaughtered in 1953, and it was nothing but a political drama."

He added that the 1975 Indira-Abdullah Accord was another major setback for the people. "The people expected that late Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah would safeguard Article 370, protect jobs and ensure regional security. Instead, it turned out to be a mere power deal, the fight was for the chair, not the people's rights."

Yaseen reiterated that the only way to restore statehood is through Parliament and urged the opposition to act rather than protest superficially.

"If the opposition is serious, let them bring a resolution in Parliament demanding immediate restoration of statehood. Speeches outside the House won't help."

SDA launches Shehjar Heights Phase-II

112 residential apartments to be constructed within 2 yrs

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) has announced the launch of Phase-II of the Shehjar Heights project at Bemina envisaging construction of 112 more residential apartments, including 56 each 2-BHK and 3-BHK flats. Shehjar Apartments is a flagship Vertical Housing project of SDA in Srinagar involving construction of around 450 residential apartments comprising around 13 towers. The Phase-I of the project completed with the construction of 140 apartments, is fully sold-out.

Given the overwhelming demand for quality residential apartments in Srinagar, SDA has expedited the execution of the project and has started the process for construction of 112 more flats under Phase-II after the Phase-I was fully sold out, said Mohammad Rafi, Vice-Chairman SDA adding that the possession of flats in Phase-II is likely to be handed over to the prospective allottees within 2 years.

He said vertical housing has become a necessity to ensure economical use of land in the fast-expanding Srinagar city. "Given the scarce land resources and sky-rocketing land prices in Srinagar, time has come for SDA to promote the concept of flatted accommodation in the city in a big way," Mr Rafi said.

HUDCO, he said, are the projects consultants for the Shehjar Heights, who have formulated the overall layout plan and design of towers and individual residential units.

Mr Rafi said that Shehjar Heights are spread over around 100 kanals of land with 40 ft wide main road and



36 ft wide internal roads transecting various apartment blocks located adjacent to Srinagar-Baramulla highway in Bemina near Hajj House.

The Vice-Chairman said that the project has been provided with adequate parking facility including surface parking for around 550 vehicles and covered parking for around 220 vehicles. Besides it will have parks, community hall, children's play area, tennis court, amphitheater, health club, community market, gym, food court and a dedicated STP.

He said the best thing about Shehjar Project is that it is suitably located on National Highway in easily accessible and buzzing Bemina area of Srinagar, with remarkable proximity to urban amenities like hospitals, schools and markets with hassle-free to Srinagar International Airport and Nowgam Railway Station. He said adequate and latest technological interventions have

been ensured to make the structures earthquake resistant and HUDCO has got the structural design of the project approved by IIT Kanpur. "For the first time Liquefaction Resistance technology is being used in the construction of Phase-II to make the towers earth-quake resistant," he said and added that HUDCO is also providing consultancy for drainage, water supply and sewerage design, energy management, communication system, fire detection, fire protection and security systems for the Shehjar Apartments.

The Vice-Chairman said that each 3-BHK flat is spread over a net surface area of 1250 sq ft with 3 bedrooms, Drawing Room, Living Room, Kitchen, 3 washrooms, utility and veranda while 2-BHK flat has a surface area of 1012 sq ft comprising 2 bedrooms, drawing room, living room, 2 washrooms, kitchen, utility and veranda.

Restoration of J&K's statehood people's right, not a favour: Hakeem Yaseen

Says JKNC's 1975 accord was a betrayal, not a breakthrough

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Max Hospital, Bathinda raises awareness on waterborne diseases

Bathinda: With the arrival of the monsoon season, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Bathinda urges the community to stay vigilant against waterborne diseases and emphasizes the importance of timely prevention and awareness. Seasonal illnesses like typhoid, malaria, hepatitis, and fungal infections tend to rise during the monsoon due to contaminated water, poor hygiene, and high humidity. Early Recognition of symptoms and seeking timely medical intervention are crucial steps in preventing complications and ensuring faster recovery.

Dr. Shilpa Gupta consultant internal medicine at Max Super Speciality Hospital, Bathinda, emphasized the need to take proper care during the rainy season and said, "One of the most common waterborne concerns during the monsoon is fungal infection. Monsoons and fungal infections often go hand-in-hand due to the warm and humid conditions that create an ideal environment for fungal growth. Common skin infections include ringworm, athlete's foot, and fungal nail infections. Another major concern is malaria, which can range from mild to severe. Key symptoms include chills, high fever, continuous sweating, nausea, vomiting, headaches, diarrhea, abdominal pain, muscle pain, and weakness. Ignoring these symptoms can lead to serious complications or even prove fatal."

Dr. Shilpa further stated, "Typhoid is another common problem during the monsoon, often caused by unhygienic food, contaminated water, or close contact with an infected person."

CS reviews BISAG-N powered IT initiatives in J&K

Calls for developing data-rich dashboards, AI-based citizen services to enhance ease of living



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress on ongoing Information Technology (IT) initiatives undertaken across J&K to enhance the governance and citizen-centric services.

The meeting besides Special DG, BISAG-N, Vinay Thakur was attended by Secretary, IT Department and concerned Administrative Secretaries; DG, Planning; SIO, NIC and other senior officers.

The Chief Secretary took detailed appraisal of the digital interventions being implemented to promote ease of living for the people.

Emphasizing the need to make IT platforms more impactful, he called for significant improvements in the design and functionality of dashboards related to various government schemes. He suggested

that they be made more vibrant, informative and outcome-driven through integration with other relevant platforms.

Regarding the Kisan Khidmat Ghar Dashboard, the Chief Secretary directed that it should reflect real-time data on the functioning of Krishi Udhayamis and describe the support mechanisms to be made available to them for improved efficiency and productivity.

He also reviewed the upgradation roadmap of the YUVA App, calling for deeper insights into application usage patterns, application submission tracking, DPR generation and integration with the MSME Health Clinic and ONDC platforms for enhanced user experience and benefit. Importantly, he stressed the linking the app with the UDISE and APAAR databases of the School Education Department to monitor student skill development and career outcomes, thus enabling a seamless track

of their educational and vocational journeys.

In healthcare, Dulloo suggested comprehensive integration of the JK Sehat App with the ABDM and HMIS frameworks. He emphasized making the platform more user-friendly while enabling support for registered home-care providers to access diagnostic tools and improve treatment delivery.

The Chief Secretary also proposed creation of a unified search engine dedicated to indexing websites hosted by the J&K and Central Government, to help the citizens and employees easily access official data and resources.

Looking ahead, he advised the IT Department to explore the development of an AI-based Legal Counselling App to assist individuals in navigating legal issues with informed and automated guidance.

The meeting also discussed initiatives such as development of AI-based learning tools, introduction of educational TV

channels and exposure of students to AI modules like AI-101 and AI-201 from an early stage to foster technological competence.

Further updates were taken on the status of the Centre of Excellence in Emerging Technologies, the 360° Tourism App, Land Records Digitization, HADP 360, JKCIP, Agri Output Tracking Apps, Village Planning App and IT-based platforms under PDD and Jal Shakti Department.

Special DG, BISAG-N, Vinay Thakur, shared the progress on ongoing projects being developed in collaboration with the UT Government.

He assured continued support from BISAG-N in building robust, scalable and citizen-centric IT solutions. He also provided technical insights and affirmed BISAG-N's commitment to timely execution of tasks in consultation with the respective departments.

Earlier, Secretary IT, Dr. Piyush Singla, gave a comprehensive overview on key milestones achieved, current developments and future plans under the Digital J&K framework. He elaborated on the transformative potential of several digital initiatives underway and their anticipated impact on service delivery and governance across the length and breadth of the UT.

DC Srinagar hands-over 201 sanction letters to Mission YUVA beneficiaries for setting up self-employment units



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU SRINAGAR:

In a significant move towards youth empowerment and promoting self-reliance, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, today handed-over Sanction Letters to the beneficiaries of Mission YUVA initiative to support entrepreneurs in establishing self-employment generating units in the district.

In this regard, an event was organized at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex which was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Srinagar, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Divisional Head J&K Bank, Shabir Ahmad Bhat, Zonal Head J&K Bank, Raja Zaffar Khan, Deputy Director Employment, Dr Sheeba Inayat, DSWO, LDM (Banks), Heads of various J&K Bank Business Units and other concerned, alongside a large number of Mission YUVA beneficiaries from different parts of the Srinagar district.

On the occasion, DC handed over 201 sanction letters to aspiring entrepreneurs under Mission YUVA initiative whose proposals had been approved after thorough evaluation by the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) marking a significant moment in the district administration's efforts to empower youth through sustainable self-employment ventures and foster economic growth by enabling youth to earn their livelihood in a dignified manner.

Speaking on the occasion, DC underlined that the Administration is working hard to create a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem in Srinagar district. He urged expeditious disposal of all Mission YUVA cases so that maximum benefits reach the aspiring entrepreneurs swiftly.

Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament Doda

320 students participate in multiple discipline competitions

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU DODA:

A spirited celebration of sportsmanship, discipline and youthful energy marked the ongoing Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament in Doda, which continues to inspire and empower the region's youth through dynamic displays of athletic talent and teamwork.

Today's events saw participation from over 320 student athletes representing different educational zones. Competitions were held in multiple disciplines including Cricket (U-14 Boys & U-17/U-19 Girls), Taekwondo (All Age Group Girls), Wrestling (All Age Group Girls) and Carrom (All Age Group Boys).

The competitions were marked by remarkable performances, as young athletes showcased grit, discipline, and sportsmanship. Each match reflected the participants' strong commitment to excellence and fair play.

To acknowledge their achievements, meritorious athletes were felicitated with medals, trophies and certificates, symbolizing not only their victory but also their dedication, perseverance and sporting spirit. Organized under the aegis of the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports (YSS), J&K, the tournament is being conducted on the directions of Director General YSS, Anuradha Gupta and Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh. The event is further guided by Joint Director Jammu Vinakshi Koul and held under the overall supervision of District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Jaffar Haider Sheikh.

The DYSSO applauded the tireless efforts of the organizing staff and extended special appreciation to the field teams whose dedication ensured maximum student participation across zones.

G.M. Saroori Meets AICC Incharge Dr. Syed Naseer Hussain in Delhi, Vows to Strengthen Party in J&K



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU NEW DELHI:

Senior Congress leader and former minister Ghulam Mohammad Saroori met with Dr. Syed Naseer Hussain, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), AICC General Secretary, and Incharge Jammu & Kashmir Congress, during his first visit to the national capital after formally rejoining the Indian National Congress.

During the meeting, Saroori held extensive discussions on the prevailing political and socio-economic situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Both leaders exchanged views on key organizational matters and strategies to revitalize the party's grassroots network in the Union Territory, particularly in the Chenab Valley region.

Saroori apprised Dr. Naseer Hussain of his ongoing efforts and commitment towards strengthening

the Congress party in Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized his focus on energizing party cadres, reconnecting with the public at the grassroots level, and addressing the concerns of the common people. Highlighting his decades of political experience, Saroori assured the leadership of his resolve to work tirelessly to further the party's vision and mission in the region.

"As one of the senior-most and experienced leaders in Jammu and Kashmir, I understand the responsibility on my shoulders. I will continue to work in coordination with party workers to ensure the Congress remains a strong voice for the people," Saroori stated.

Dr. Syed Naseer Hussain appreciated Saroori's dedication and the proactive role he has been playing since his return to the Congress fold. He lauded Saroori's grassroots connect and his influence in the Chenab Belt, assuring him of full support from the All India Congress Committee and national leadership.

The meeting marks an important step in Congress's ongoing efforts to strengthen its organizational structure and political outreach in Jammu and Kashmir.

Kashmir craft dealers given 7-day deadline to remove machine-made items or face blacklisting, deregistration

All unregistered craft dealers advised to approach Quality Control wing for registration of their establishments Tourist Trade Act, 1978

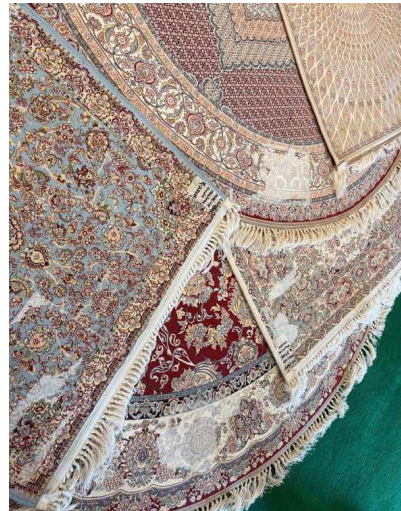
THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR :

In an unprecedented move, the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir today issued a Notice giving Kashmir handicraft dealers a seven-day ultimatum to remove all machine-made products, largely imports from Turkey & Iran, from their Showrooms, failing which, the department warned, they will be blacklisted & deregistered for unfair trade practice under the relevant sections of law.

Addressing the dealers, the Notice, issued vide No. H&HD/DDQC/TTA/95/2025, dated 25.07.2025, reads that, "you have been granted registration under the provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir Tourist Trade Act, 1978, for the sale of Kashmir handicraft products at your respective showrooms/outlets." As part of the registration process, the Notice reads that craft dealers have submitted a duly-sworn affidavit, wherein they undertook to exclusively display and sell genuine Kashmir handicraft products at your business establishment.

The Notice further states that under 'Violation of Rules' section that during recent inspections conducted by this office, it was found that several dealers have breached the extant rules by displaying and selling machine-made products, misrepresented as genuine Kashmir handicrafts. Such malpractices undermine the authenticity and reputation of Kashmir handicrafts, the Notice reads.

An official spokesman of the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, in a press release, stated that in response to these violations, this office has imposed penalties on defaulting dealers in accordance with the provisions of the J&K Registration of



Tourist Trade Act, 1978. "Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Director IICT and the Inspection Squad of Quality Control Division, visited various showrooms in City Centres in areas like Nishat, Nehru Park and Munawarabad, warning the Showrooms to immediately remove the machine-made products, failing which such showrooms shall be blacklisted and de-registered," he added.

Further, under G.I. labelling and misbranding concerns section, Notice reads that many Kashmir handicrafts are registered under the Geographical Indication of Goods Act (G.I.), Registry of India, Chennai, to protect their authenticity. To curb misbranding and promote genuine products, the department has introduced G.I.-based QR labelling for various crafts at PTQCC, IICT & Quality Control labs.

"However, it has come to our notice that a dealer recently affixed a fake QR label on a machine-made carpet, misrepresenting it as a genuine handmade product. Consequently, the said dealer has been blacklisted and deregistered,"

the Notice further reads.

As per the notice, all registered dealers have been directed to ensure within 7 days from the issuance of this Notice, that their showrooms exclusively display and sell genuine Kashmir handicraft products and that no machine-made products are displayed or sold.

The spokesman further stated that the Notice directs concerned Kashmir Handicraft dealers to ensure all relevant documents, including G.I. labelling certifications, are prominently displayed at Craft Showrooms for inspection and sale purposes.

Quoting from the Notice, the spokesman said that the machine-made products are banned from being sold or displayed in Kashmir handicraft showrooms registered under handicraft or handloom categories, & any violation & misbranding including by way of pasting fake QR codes and pulling out the machine-made labels shall attract relevant clauses/provisions of the Quality Control Act, J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act, GI Act as well as the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita.

He further said that the Notice warned of consequences of non-compliance. It reads that failure to comply with this directive within the stipulated period shall result in appropriate action under the provisions of the J&K Tourist Trade Act, 1978, including penalties, deregistration, blacklisting or other legal measures as deemed necessary.

Furthermore, it advised all unregistered dealers/ hawkers dealing in the business of Kashmir Handicrafts to immediately approach the Quality Control Division of the Handicrafts and Handloom Department for registration of their establishments under the J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act, 1978.

Tony demands CBI probe into killing of youth in police firing in Jammu

Calls for public darbars by top brass, systemic police reform

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

District Development Council (DDC) member from Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony, has strongly condemned the killing of a young Gujjar youth, Mohammad Parvez, in an alleged police firing incident at Surat Chak, Satwari Police Station in Jammu. Calling the act "brutal and unjustified," Tony has demanded a CBI inquiry into the incident and murder charges against the police personnel involved.

Mohammad Parvez, 22, the youngest son of his family, was recently married three months ago and earned his livelihood by running a tractor service. Tony asserted that Parvez had no criminal history—even a single FIR against him.

"This young man was innocent. He was earning a modest living through hard work, not crime. Branding him a drug peddler after his death is a shameful attempt to cover up a murder," Tony said in a strongly worded statement. "Even if there had been an allegation, we live in a democracy governed by the rule of law, not khap panchayats or kangaroo courts." Tony expressed grave concern over what he described as growing impunity among certain police officials, emphasizing that those involved must be booked under Section 302 IPC (murder). "No one is above the law. A uniform cannot shield criminal behavior," he added.

At the same time, Tony appreciated the swift response by senior police leadership under DGP J&K Nalin Prabhat, which included the suspension of two officers, registration of an FIR, and provision of compensation and a government job to the bereaved family. "No amount of compensation can ever bring back a son, a husband, a brother. The pain this family feels cannot be erased with money or employment," he said. Tony further demanded the immediate transfer and investigation of tainted officers allegedly linked to the mining and drug mafias. "Such elements must be taken to task. If we are to restore faith in law enforcement, we must clean up the system from within."

In a broader context, Tony praised the J&K Police for its stellar record in combating deadly militancy, especially in some of the most hostile and volatile regions of the country. He lauded the force for its unparalleled bravery, professionalism, and dedication in maintaining law and order under extreme circumstances.

Srinagar Police Continues Crackdown on Drug Peddlers : Attaches Property Worth Rs 55 Lakhs Under the NDPS Act

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In yet another significant move to combat the Drug menace and dismantle the infrastructure supporting narcotics trafficking, Srinagar Police has attached a residential property worth approximately ₹ 55 Lakh under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The attached property comprises a two-storeyed residential house constructed on 13.5 marlas of land bearing khasra No. 2865, valued at approximately ₹55 lakhs, belonging to Khazir Mohammad Tiploo S/o Late Abdul Ahad Tiploo R/o Dawood Colony Anchaar.

The action pertains to Case FIR No. 85/2024 U/S 8/20, 21, 22 NDPS Act of Police Station Soura, in which the son of the owner of the attached property namely Hilal Ahmad Tiploo R/o Dawood Colony, Anchaar, Soura, has been found to be involved as the accused person. The accused person is a notorious drug peddler and he has a history of involvement in drug peddling, primarily targeting local youth, thereby posing a grave threat to public health and safety.

Investigations have revealed the aforementioned property was acquired through proceeds from illicit drug trafficking.

Acting under Sections 68-E and 68-F of the NDPS Act, Srinagar Police formally seized and attached the immovable property as per the due legal process.

DC Srinagar chairs DLSCC meeting

30 cases recommended for compassionate appointment of terror victims under SRO-43

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR :

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Friday chaired a meeting of District Level Screening cum Coordination Committee (DLSCC) here at meeting hall of the DC office complex to review the cases/claims submitted under SRO-43 by NoKs of those killed in terror related incidents in Srinagar district.

At the outset, the Committee held a comprehensive deliberation on cases/claims submitted under SRO-43 by NoKs of those killed in terror related incidents in Srinagar district. After a detailed examination, the Committee recommended 30 cases to the government for consideration for compassionate appointment under the SRO-43 in the first go.

Speaking on the occasion, DC stressed the concerned officers to ensure speedy disposal of all such cases for timely clearance of the cases.

He emphasized that in a streamlined & coordinated manner, the



effort should be to bring down the pendency of such cases to nil. DC also underlined the importance of a proactive and coordinated approach among all stakeholders to ensure speedy disposal of cases.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner

Srinagar, Adil Fareed; SP headquarter, Umer Shah; Additional SP CID, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Chief Medical Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, all Tehsildars, senior officers from BSF, Army, and other security agencies, besides officials from the concerned departments.

Budha Amarnath Yatra: DC Rajouri inspects arrangements at Yatri Ground, chairs review meeting



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
RAJOURI:

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today conducted an extensive inspection of the arrangements being put in place here at Yatri Ground for the Budha Amarnath Yatra pilgrims. He also chaired a review meeting at the venue to ensure seamless coordination among departments and timely completion of all preparations.

The Deputy Commissioner took stock of key facilities including water supply, uninterrupted power supply, sanitation and the installation of biotoilets. He directed for separate signages for male and female facilities

to ensure convenience and orderliness for the yatris.

Special emphasis was laid on the fire safety audit of the venue. The concerned officers were instructed to ensure all precautionary measures are taken and necessary equipment is placed at strategic locations.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed pruning of trees in and around the venue area to avoid any safety hazards. The availability of ambulances, deployment of medical teams, preparation of duty rosters, and deployment of AYUSH instructors were also reviewed to ensure robust health and wellness support to the pilgrims. The BRO has been assigned the responsibility to main-

tain roads and ensure the Nowshera tunnel remains operational during the daytime, which is vital for smooth transportation.

To maintain traffic flow, the Traffic Police will regulate vehicular movement and oversee parking arrangements. The SDRF teams will be deployed at designated locations to respond swiftly in case of any emergency situations.

Furthermore, the Department of Tourism was directed to install informative and welcome hoardings at prominent locations.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed upon all departments to work in close coordination and complete all assigned tasks well before the scheduled date of the Yatra to ensure a safe, comfortable and spiritually fulfilling experience for the pilgrims.

Among others present during the inspection and review meeting were ADC Chander Prakash; ACR Mohammad Jahangir Khan; ACD Auqil Naveed; Executive Engineer PWD Aftab Anwar; Dy. SP Satish Sharma; Deputy SP Traffic Shiv Kumar; ARTO Rajesh Gupta; CMO Dr Manohar Lal Rana; AD FCS&CA Rohit Kumar and Executive Officer Municipality Yusaf ul Umar, along with other district and sectoral officers. Besides these, prominent citizens and representatives from civil society were also present at the venue.

Yudhvir Sethi, JMC Commissioner inaugurate open shed at Sri Ram Mandir, Purani Mandi, Jammu for pilgrims visiting during Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Yudhvir Sethi and Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Dr. Devansh Yadav today inaugurated a newly constructed open shed on the rooftop of the historic Sri Ram Mandir, located in Purani Mandi, Jammu.

In a significant move to enhance facilities for devotees and yatris, the shed was inaugurated today.

The open shed constructed at a cost of Rs. 44.51 lakh is a significant move to enhance facilities for devotees and yatris. It has been developed as part of a comprehensive infrastructure initiative titled "Construction of Bathing cum Toilet Blocks including Construction of Open Shed at Roof Top", funded under the SANJY (Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra) Project. This facility is specifically aimed at providing shelter and basic amenities to the large number of pilgrims who travel to Jammu during the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Appreciating the JMC's commitment for providing improved civic infrastructure around religious and heritage locations, Yudhvir Sethi said that such facilities are crucial to supporting Jammu's role as a key base station for the Yatra and reaffirmed the government's dedication to pilgrims' welfare.

Emphasizing the importance of such infrastructure in order to meet out the needs of yatris arriving from various parts of the country, Dr. Yadav said the open shed will offer a dignified, clean, and sheltered resting space for devotees staying at Sri Ram Mandir en-route to the holy Amarnath Cave Shrine.

To mark the occasion, Prasad was distributed among the devotees staying at the temple premises by the dignitaries, symbolizing communal harmony, service, and hospitality extended to the visiting yatris.

Mahant Shri Rameshwar Dass Ji Maharaj, the spiritual head of Sri Ram Mandir, extended his heartfelt gratitude to both dignitaries for their presence and support. He remarked that the open shed was a much-needed addition, especially beneficial during high footfall periods such as Ram Navami, Diwali, and the Amarnath Yatra.

Bhaskar Degree College students complete 10-Day summer internship at JKEDI Udhamapur

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

A batch of 20 students from Bhaskar Degree College Udhamapur successfully completed the 10-day Summer Internship Program at the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), District Centre Udhamapur on Thursday. The internship, conducted in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, was designed to develop entrepreneurial thinking, research aptitude, and teamwork skills among students. As part of the program, the interns were introduced to the core functions and objectives of JKEDI and were exposed to various verticals of the Institute that promote entrepreneurship as a viable career option in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Spanning 60 hours over 10 days, the program provided hands-on exposure to key concepts in entrepreneurial development, startup culture, and enterprise creation. It featured a combination of interactive lectures, practical assignments, field visits, and expert sessions delivered by JKEDI faculty and guest speakers from the regional startup ecosystem. The internship culminated with a valedictory ceremony held at the JKEDI District Centre, Udhamapur.

DC Budgam chairs DLSCC meeting to review SRO 43 cases

Stresses on proactive approach for the early disposal

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BUDGAM:

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat today chaired the District Level Screening - cum - Coordination Committee (DLSCC) meeting to review, discuss and finalize the cases related to compas-

sionate appointment under SRO-43 for the NOKs of civilians and armed forces personnel killed in militancy related incidents.

At the outset, ADC gave a detailed briefing on the current status of each case. After thorough deliberation and evaluation, the Committee approved sev-

eral eligible cases under the provisions of the SRO-43 after assessing each case, reaffirmed that all deserving NOKs shall receive timely benefits. He emphasized that compassionate appointments under SRO-43 are not merely administrative obligations but a moral commitment to the families

who have suffered irreparable losses.

DC directed all concerned departments to maintain close coordination and expedite the verification process without unnecessary delays. He stressed on the need to ensure transparency, sensitivity, and efficiency in handling these cases.

Nasha Mukht Abhiyan: IEC campaigns reach GMS Mammat, BHSS Beerwah



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BUDGAM:

As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Abhiyan (Drug-Free India Campaign), intensive Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities were successfully conducted at Government Middle

School (GMS) Mammat and Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS) Beerwah.

The initiative aims to raise awareness about the dangers of substance abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle among students and the community.

The campaign featured interactive

sessions, awareness workshops, and engaging activities designed to educate students on the physical, mental, and social consequences of drug addiction. Experts and counsellors highlighted preventive measures and encouraged youth to adopt positive habits and peer resistance strategies.

Various speakers on the occasion deliberated the importance of educating the youth about the ill effects of substance abuse among the young generation. Nasha Mukht Abhiyan is empowering students to make informed choices and become ambassadors of change in their communities.

The events saw enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and local stakeholders, reinforcing the collective commitment to a drug-free future.

Similar campaigns will continue across schools and villages in the district under the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan framework.

DC Srinagar chairs DLSCC meeting

30 cases recommended for compassionate appointment of terror victims under SRO-43

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
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Speaking on the occasion, DC stressed the concerned officers to ensure speedy disposal of all such cases for timely clearance of the cases. He emphasized that in a streamlined & coordinated manner,



the effort should be to bring down the pendency of such cases to nil. DC also underlined the importance of a proactive and coordinated approach among all stakeholders to ensure speedy disposal of cases. The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner

Srinagar, Adil Fareed; SP headquarter, Umer Shah; Additional SP CID, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Chief Medical Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, all Tehsildars, senior officers from BSF, Army, and other security agencies, besides officials from the concerned departments.

Principal Accountant General chairs first ever Pension Adalat at Shopian

Asks DDOs for streamlining pension process, listen to grievances for resolution

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SHOPIAN:

The first ever Pension Adalat was held today at Government Degree College, Shopian, by the office of Principal Accountant General, J&K, in collaboration with District Treasury Office Shopian.

The Adalat was held to listen to the grievances of pensioners, settle pension related cases and sensitize the DDOs about e-processing of pension cases through recently launched pension Suvudha Portal.

Principal Accountant General (A&E), J&K, Jay Prakash Narayan Singh, inaugurated the Adalat which was also attended by Deputy Accountant General, Pawan Kumar Rath, District Treasury Officer, Muzafar Ahmad Rather and Senior Accounts Officers and other officials of PAGs office.

Appreciable number of pensioners and DDOs attended the Adalat and appreciated the step of the department taken towards the direction of streamlining the pension process.

The DDOs were imparted impactful insights into the pension related rules and norms and new procedural interventions taken to ensure hassle-free pension settlements. Speakers dealt with Pension Suvudha Portal, pension verifications and other related issues. District Treasury officer presented highlighted the importance of conducting the Pension Adalat. A team of officers and officials, on the occasion, attended the pensioner's grievances and scrutinized various pension issues and redressed many of them on the spot. On the occasion, the Pensioner Front Shopian also presented a memorandum of demands to the PAG.

The Deputy Accountant General chaired a grievance session, listened keenly to the grievances of the pensioners for redressal and replied queries of pensioners. He also spoke on strengthening the bond between the pensioners and the office of Principal Accountant General office by holding outreach camps.

DC Pulwama chairs District-Level Committee on revival and preservation of heritage sites

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
PULWAMA:

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today chaired a meeting of the District-Level Coordination-cum-Implementation Committee (DLCIC) at the Administrative Complex Pulwama to review the progress made under the scheme for Revival, Restoration, Preservation, and Maintenance of Architecture and Heritage in Jammu & Kashmir.

At the outset, Joint Director Planning Pulwama presented a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation outlining the status & progress of heritage projects approved during previous meetings of the committee. The presentation included updates on works such as Gufral Site Tral, Shiv Mandir Midora, Tahab Temple, Trichal Temple, Shideswar Temple Drangbal among others.

Besides, progress on projects submitted to the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums for appraisal and execution was also reviewed.

The Committee also reviewed progress on heritage sites identified during the last DLCIC meeting besides, a fresh set of proposals for 12 newly identified heritage sites was also placed before the Committee for preliminary consideration under the ongoing initiative. While reviewing the proposals, Dr. Basharat Qayoom highlighted the importance of protecting local heritage sites as an essential part of preserving the district's rich cultural legacy.

"The conservation of our heritage structures is not only about restoring physical assets but also about safeguarding the collective heritage and identity of our people," he stated. He further directed the Executive Engineers to ensure early preparation and submission of DPRs in close liaison with the Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, to facilitate timely processing and technical vetting while ensuring that the aesthetic and historical significance of the heritage sites are preserved.

Nasha Mukht Abhiyan: IEC campaigns reach GMS Mammatt, BHSS Beerwah



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
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The events saw enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and local stakeholders, reinforcing the collective commitment to a drug-free future.

Similar campaigns will continue across schools and villages in the district under the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan framework.

Manawar Yodha Brigade Ignites Patriotism Among Youth with Motivational Lecture on Kargil Vijay Diwas 2025

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In a stirring tribute to Kargil Vijay Diwas 2025, the Manawar Yodha Brigade conducted a highly inspirational and motivational lecture at Government Senior Secondary School, Khour, aiming to foster the spirit of patriotism and military service among school students. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from 84 students and five faculty members, marking it as a significant step toward encouraging youth to explore a career in the Indian Armed Forces.

The session, meticulously designed to highlight diverse career opportunities in the Indian Army, placed strong emphasis on entry schemes at officer levels and the

recently introduced Agniveer policy framework. Students were informed about prestigious institutions like the National Defence Academy (NDA) and Combined Defence Services (CDS) and were encouraged to prepare and aspire for these challenging yet honourable careers.

A unique feature of the event was the special focus on promoting gender inclusion in defence services. The lecture highlighted the increasing number of opportunities available for girls in the Indian Army and urged them to break traditional barriers and pursue military careers with confidence and determination. This inclusive narrative added great value to the session, inspiring several young girls to seriously consider defence services as a viable and noble profession.

The interactive session was rich in content and delivery, engaging the audience from the outset. Students were captivated by real-life success stories, a detailed breakdown of recruitment processes, and motivational anecdotes that brought alive the spirit of valour and service. The lecture provided a comprehensive insight into the multifaceted life of army personnel-covering leadership, discipline, adventure, and national pride-thereby kindling a genuine interest among the students.

One of the highlights of the event was the open Q&A session that followed the lecture.

It gave students an opportunity to directly interact with the speakers, clarify their doubts, and gain deeper knowledge of the pathways to enter the armed forces.

THE KASHMIR TALK

EDITORIAL

Voter List Controversy

It would have been surprising if the opposition parties had not raised any questions on the special in-depth scrutiny of the voter list issued in Bihar. It is true that the Election Commission has repeatedly changed its order issued in this regard on June 24, but the reason for the opposition camp raising questions on this revision is their apprehension. They feel that on the pretext of this revision, the Election Commission will cut their vote bank at the behest of the ruling party i.e. BJP and JDU. Before discussing their apprehension, it is also important to mention a recent research, according to which there are about 77 lakh fake voters in Bihar. These voters are not only foreign intruders from the minority community, but also include dead and emigrant voters. According to a research study named Demographic Reconstruction and Electoral Role Inflation, Estimating the Legitimate Voter Base in Bihar, India, such irregularities are not only in the voter list of Bihar. Researchers say that such irregularities can be found not only in Bihar, but in the voter list of the entire country. This research study has been done jointly by Assistant Professor Vidhu Shekhar of SP Jain Institute of Management, Mumbai and Assistant Professor Milan Kumar of IIM, Visakhapatnam. This study published in SSRN is not based on any estimation, but on in-depth study and analysis of government data, such as birth and death rate of the state as well as government data of migration from the state and life expectancy. According to the study of Vidhu Shekhar and Milan Kumar, at present, the names of about seven crore 89 lakh voters are registered in the voter list in Bihar. According to this study, about 77 thousand of these names are fake. That is, these voters have either died or have migrated from their mentioned or registered place years ago and settled somewhere else. This figure of fake or wrong voters is about 9.7 percent. This means that there are about ten percent more voters or they do not exist at all. After their research, Vidhu Shekhar and Milan Kumar have come to the conclusion that the names of about thirty thousand voters are wrongly registered in every assembly seat of the state. There are 243 assembly seats in Bihar. The difference of a few hundred voters in the assemblies affects victory and defeat. In the 2020 assembly elections, the difference between victory and defeat in about twenty percent of the seats was only two and a half percent. Out of these, 17 seats were won by less than one percent of votes. Vidhu Shekhar and Milan Kumar fear that if the names of these voters are not deleted in the intensive revision, then the election results can be changed on their names. According to this study, in the villages of Bihar, where there are more fake names due to non-updating of death figures, names have not been deleted in urban areas despite migration. The last special intensive revision of the voter list in the state was done in 2003. At that time there were about three crore 41 lakh voters in the state. According to the current birth and death rate of the state, 4.83 should have been added after this. Along with this, according to government data, about one crore 12 lakh voters have migrated from the state in these years. They have made their permanent residence outside the state. This is also being seen in cities and states like Delhi, Mumbai, Punjab, where there are a large number of voters of Bihari origin. According to this research study, the number of actual voters in the state, including the old voters, birth-death rate calculation and the data after migration, is around 7 crore 12 lakhs. In this sense, it can be said that the names of more than 77 lakh voters in the state are wrong on the basis of these scientific facts.

RAJU MANSUKHANI

Born of the uprising

Integrity. Humility. Selfless commitment. Conviction. These loaded words are grabbing media space with unending tributes to VS Achuthanandan, the former chief minister of Kerala who passed away recently, aged 101. Born out of the Punnapra-Vayalar uprising of 1946 when he was barely 23, Achuthanandan belonged to a unique generation that fought feudal, royal, colonial and capitalist forces for over eight long decades. His colleagues, CPI-M party leaders, diapersons, and even political opponents acknowledge him as the 'last of the communist titans', 'his life an epitome of struggle', 'a champion of the working class', and 'Kerala's moral compass'.

Hidden in these tributes, the Punnapra-Vayalar uprising of 1946 merits a quick mention while it was in fact a historical event of immense significance not just for the communist movement in India but the entire struggle for India's independence. It irrevocably shaped the life and times of a young coir worker who was learning the ropes of how to survive hard life as an orphan. Drawn to trade union struggles in 1938 and inspired by leaders like P. Krishna Pillai, Achuthanandan joined the Communist Party of India (CPI) in 1940. In 1987, when marking 40 years of Independence, the West Bengal government published 'India's Struggle for Freedom', a compilation of photographs and historical accounts depicting the contribution of various movements and individuals towards the country's freedom.

As a homage to Achuthanandan, it is fascinating to read through the pages devoted to the Punnapra-Vayalar uprising and the conditions prevailing in Travancore in the 1940s. "In the middle of 1946, a famine loomed large in Travancore. The communists organised a hunger march against this... in the town of Alleppey, communist trade union leader TV Thomas was conducting a workers' demonstration. And against all these movements, a terrible repression had been unleashed by the autocratic Dewan CP Ramaswamy Iyer. At this time, the most popular and established mass leaders in Kerala were the founders of the communist party there ~ B. Krishna Pillai, EMS Namboodripad and KC George," is how the readers are led into those dramatic years. "The communist party of Kerala decided," the chroniclers of 'India's Struggle for Freedom' noted, "that general strike throughout Travancore shall have to be organised combining the issues of the workers, unrest in Alleppey, the impending famine and the autocratic behaviour of the Dewan. In nearby coastal villages of Punnapra and Vayalar, the communists had strong bases.

In October 1946, KC George and TV Thomas arrived there to give leadership to the movement. On 22nd October, the call for a general strike was given. At once CP Ramaswamy declared illegal the communist party and the Coir Workers Union. The police also started a brutal regime of terror. On 24 October, apart from a total

general strike, the people started attacking the police camps and the houses of an oppressive landlord. The police opened fire, killed 10 workers, but the police officer was also killed. Ultimately, the landlord's house was captured and the police fled from their camp.

On 26 October, the Army of the Dewan twice tried to enter Vayalar but they were twice repulsed by the militant people. Ultimately, at dawn on 27th October, taking advantage of a fog, 500 soldiers came in a motor launch and entered Vayalar. Then what happened was a mini-Jalianwalla Bagh. The soldiers opened machine gun fire, killing more than 500 workers and peasant activists. In this way, Sir CP Ramaswamy crushed Punnapra-Vayalar uprising in blood." In the brutal aftermath of the uprising the young Achuthanandan went underground on party orders. From his hideout in Poonjar in Kottayam, he was captured by the police and locked up. The torture and brutality he underwent would have cracked a lesser mortal but Achuthanandan did not betray party leaders nor divulge any information to the police. After repeated beatings and bayoneting, he lost consciousness and the police, thinking he was dead, thought of disposing the corpse in a nearby forest. When the young rebel showed some signs of life, he was taken to a nearby hospital where he suffered a long painful recovery. It is Robin Jeffrey whose 'India's Working Class Revolt: Punnapra-Vayalar and the Communist "Conspiracy" of 1946' in Indian Economic Social History Review 1981, keeps alive the dramatic traumatic moments: "When the boats carrying the soldiers reached the camp at Vayalar they met a fairly determined lot of young men armed with areca nut staves and...iron weapons of all sorts.

They said that they (were) not afraid of this military and would not surrender... they lay down and started crawling... and as it was obvious they were manoeuvring for a hand to hand encounter, fire was opened and some persons were killed..." This was the report of H. Keene, Inspector General of Police, "Short Note on the Communist Activity and the Consequent Disturbances at Alleppey and Cherthala in October 1946," which Jeffrey shared, after his research in modern-day Trivandrum archives. Jeffrey explained, "the police described the final encounter in what was probably the only time an organized working class in India has led an armed revolt against a government. In ~ dian working classes, to be sure, have conducted long, bitter strikes, and peasants have staged sustained revolts in the countryside. But only once, it appears, have workers in an industry fashioned weapons, set up armed enclaves and fought the military in pitched, if one-sided, battles." Come to think of it, why should the workers of the town of Alleppey and its neighbourhood have taken up arms when no other proletariat in India had done so? Jeffrey wrote, "a small provincial town in a remote corner of the country was not Moscow or Petrograd; nor was it Bombay or Calcutta ~ the revolution was not going to be won, or even provoked, around Alleppey alone... It was,

in fact, the result of a peculiar conjunction of international, national and local events that for a short time appeared to offer Communists in Travancore the opportunity to be the vanguard of revolution in India. It was for very special reasons that the workers of Alleppey were encouraged to throw themselves into a rising that cost the lives of hundreds and added an important chapter to Communist martyrology." In 1975, KC George who had been at the forefront of the uprising wrote 'Immortal Punnapra-Vayalar', published by the CPI. From George's perspective, the Punnapra-Vayalar uprising in 1946 represented a glorious chapter in the freedom struggle not only of Travancore but of India as a whole. Many readers may not be aware that the government of the Maharaja of Travancore was planning to declare independence once the British left India. For the Royals, the Communist Party and the organized working class were its most powerful foes who were dedicated to keeping Travancore within a post-Independence India. The Travancore government, therefore, set out to smash the workers and the Communist Party.

Though bloodied, the working class emerged stronger than ever, its brave sacrifices having scotched forever. There is of course the anti Communist version which accuses the communists of attempting to re-establish their sphere of influence in the State. The communists, as one exponent of this view wrote, "had gone down so low in public esteem that to regain the prestige they had lost... they decided to stage an insurrectionary movement". Though no first-rank communist leader died, hundreds of ignorant workers were sent, not led, one should note to the slaughter to prove the vitality of the Communist Party. In Jeffrey's paper, the Punnapra-Vayalar uprising is also looked upon "so much like a rehearsal for the large-scale Hyderabad uprisings of 1948" that one is tempted to believe that it was planned by the Central Committee of the CPI as the beginning of a national campaign of insurrection.

By March 1948, indeed, the CPI was claiming that in July-August 1946 it had realized "the existence of the revolutionary upsurge throughout India", the result of post-war displacement and impending independence. The party therefore embarked on a course of developing the partial struggles taking place spontaneously throughout India for the achievement of the democratic revolution and for the seizure of power by the people. According to this interpretation, based on the documents of the History of the Communist Party of India, Volume 7, the CPI was aiming by August 1946 to light sparks throughout a restless land that would come together in a national conflagration leading to the ultimate capture of power.

The Punnapra-Vayalar uprising was, therefore, such a spark. Achuthanandan, on his part, rarely referred to the events of 1946; after his long, painful recovery, he doubled his efforts as a party-worker, dedicating himself to the cause of workers, peasants and toiling masses ruthlessly ruled by the Travancore elitists.

Altaf Thakur Lauds PM Modi for Excluding Apples from Zero-Duty List in India-UK Trade Pact

Says move will protect Kashmiri growers from unfair competition and market flooding

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

BJP J&K spokesperson Altaf Thakur today hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to exclude apples from the zero-duty category in the recently negotiated India-UK trade agreement, calling it a farmer-first approach that will shield Kashmir's horticulture sector from potential market disruption.

As part of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) discussions with the United Kingdom, apples were deliberately kept out of the list of items eligible for zero import duty, thereby continuing tariff protection for India's domestic apple producers.

Calling the decision "visionary and rooted in ground realities," Thakur said, "The exclusion of apples from the zero-tariff list is a masterstroke.



It will prevent the dumping of foreign apples into Indian markets and protect the livelihood of lakhs of Kashmiri growers who depend on this sector." He pointed out that Kashmir's apple industry has faced

severe economic stress in recent years due to competition from imported varieties—often sold at lower prices, affecting local demand. The exclusion, he said, is a direct response to those concerns and a bold reaffirmation of the Modi government's commitment to safeguarding Indian farmers.

Thakur also praised the larger contours of the India-UK trade deal, calling it a "win-win" that reflects a new era of strategic, equitable trade partnerships under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. "This is not just a trade agreement—it's a statement that India will negotiate from a position of strength while keeping its farmers' interests at the core," he added.

Kashmir's apple sector supports over 3.5 million people and contributes significantly to the Union Territory's economy.

Books honouring soldiers and family values by young authors released by Sat Sharma, others



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In a heartwarming and inspiring event at the BJP headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, the Jammu and Kashmir BJP President Sat Sharma today released two remarkable books authored by young minds, "Unbroken Spirit of a Soldier" by Vaarahi Bajaj and "Me and My Family" by Kaamkhya Bajaj.

Despite their tender age, both Varahi and Kaamkhya have exhibited extraordinary talent and a deep sense of patriotism through their writings. Their books not only reflect

creativity and maturity beyond years but also carry a strong message of national pride and family values. In a touching gesture, the young authors have also pledged to donate all proceeds and royalty earned from the sale of their books to the Kargil War Martyrs' Fund, underlining their commitment to the cause of the nation.

The event witnessed the presence of prominent BJP leaders including J&K BJP Vice Presidents Bharat Bhushan, Priya Sethi, and Rekha Mahajan, General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra and Baldev Singh Billawaria, and MLA Yudhvir Sethi.

Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma congratulated the young authors for the extraordinary feat and said "It fills me with immense pride to see such young minds showing deep emotional connection with the sacrifices of our soldiers and values of family bonding. The courage and maturity reflected in their writings are commendable. These books are not just literary contributions but symbols of a promising, aware, and responsible young generation. I congratulate both Vaarahi and Kaamkhya and extend my best wishes for their future. Their decision to contribute the royalty to the Kargil Martyrs' Fund is a tribute that will inspire many."

He further added that the BJP has always believed in nurturing young talent and inculcating patriotic spirit in the youth, and today's event is a shining example of that vision.

Other party leaders, who spoke on the occasion, appreciated and encouraged the budding authors and their families, and expressed admiration and applauded the noble gesture and their literary achievements.

Hundreds join BJP in Halmatpora and Handwara

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KUPWARA:

Hundreds of political workers hailing to various parties, and Ex-Servicemen joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) during events held in Halmatpora, and Handwara areas of North Kashmir.

The mass joining took place in the presence of J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul at Halmatpora and Handwara.

Ashok Koul was accompanied by State Secretary Mudassir Wani, BJP State Media Co-Incharge Adv Sajid Yousuf Shah, Senior Leader GM Mir, and BJP District President Kupwara Rafiq Shah, Senior BJP Leader Javid Qureshi. The new entrants



were warmly welcomed into the party fold with BJP Patkas.

Addressing the gathering, Ashok Koul said, "We welcome every individual who wishes to work for peace and development. It is encouraging to see ex-army personnel from Halmatpora also joining BJP. A

fter serving the nation in uniform,

they now want to serve the people through the democratic process."

In a similar event held at Handwara, dozens of people from different political backgrounds joined the BJP in the presence of senior party leaders, including the former BJP District President Javid Qureshi.

BJP SC Morcha celebrates Kargil Vijay Diwas at Ambedkar Chowk

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
NEW DELHI:

The Bharatiya Janata Party's Scheduled Caste Morcha led by its President Dharminder Kumar (DDC), celebrated Kargil Vijay Diwas with great enthusiasm and reverence at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Chowk in Jammu. The event honored the bravery and sacrifice of the Indian Armed Forces during the 1999 Kargil War. A large number of BJP leaders, activists, and supporters participated in the program, which began with paying tribute to the martyrs who laid down their lives for the nation.

MLA Ramgarh Dr Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA Bishnah Dr Rajiv Bhagat and MLA Marh Surinder Bhagat addressed the gathering, highlighting the significance of Kargil Vijay Diwas and the indomitable spirit of the Indian soldiers. They emphasized the importance of remembering the sacrifices made by the soldiers and supporting the families of the martyrs. They also discussed the strategic importance of the Kargil victory and its continued inspiration for the nation.

Dharminder Kumar shared heroic tales of the Kargil War, filling the atmosphere with patriotism as participants chanted slogans in honor of the armed forces.

The program concluded with a pledge to uphold the nation's values and integrity.

Earlier, MLA Dr Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA Dr Rajiv Bhagat, MLA Surinder Bhagat, DDC Vidya Motan, DDC Balbir Lal and all attendees paid floral tributes to martyrs of the Kargil War, and also respect to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, garlanding his statue in a heartfelt tribute to the revered leader and architect of the Indian Constitution.

Prominent among those who were present on occasion included former DC Guldev Bhagat, FC Bhagat, Gulshan Bhagat, Jagdish Bhagat, SK Rana, Hans Raj Loria, RL Kaith, Baldev Chand Sandhu, GR Bhagat, Mohinder Bhagat, Vijay Gill, Seema Devi and Asha Bhagat.

Chandel paid tribute to the martyrs of Kargil by lighting a lamp in their name



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Senior leader of Bharatiya Janata Party Mahant Guruji Raju Chandel paid tribute to the soldiers of the country by lighting a lamp on the occasion of Kargil Day and said that the warrior soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the Kargil war to secure the borders of the country, this country and we countrymen can never repay their debt, today it is because of the soldiers of the country that today we are living a safe and happy life in every corner of the country. On this occasion, social and political eminent personalities including Chief Vinod Singh, Advocate Rajesh Udit Singh, Santosh Singh and other dignitaries were present.

Speaking on this occasion, Chandel said that today the Indian Army is the fourth largest superpower in the world, which has no match and no country can compete with it for long.

The whole world saw a sample of this through Operation Sindoor and acknowledged the power of India. Today's India is no longer a country that buys weapons from abroad, but is now included in the category of a country that sells weapons.

Today India has emerged as the most powerful country in the global economic modern sector. Today's India is the India of 2025, not the India of 1962. Today's India is the India that enters the enemy country and attacks it.

BJP J&K observes Kargil Vijay Diwas with patriotic fervour, pays tributes to bravehearts



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
UDHAMPUR:

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, observed Kargil Vijay Diwas across various districts of Jammu & Kashmir, remembering the valour and supreme sacrifice of the Indian soldiers during the Kargil War of 1999. Leaders and cadre of the party organized multiple programmes to pay homage to the martyrs and reiterated their resolve to uphold national pride and security.

BJP President Sat Sharma led a

Mashaal March along with General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra and Gopal Mahajan, and MLA Yudhvir Sethi in Jammu, igniting the spirit of patriotism among participants. Addressing the gathering, Sat Sharma said, "Kargil Vijay Diwas reminds us of the unmatched courage of our soldiers who fearlessly defended our motherland. Their sacrifice continues to inspire every citizen. The BJP stands firm in its commitment to the nation's unity, sovereignty, and respect for our armed forces."

In Kashmir, BJP General

Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul paid heartfelt tributes at Main Chowk, Kupwara. Speaking on the occasion, he stated, "Kargil was not just a military victory, but a testimony to the unbreakable spirit of India. Today, as we salute our bravehearts, we also commit ourselves to work towards a stronger, united, and developed nation that our martyrs dreamed of." Union Minister of State Dr. Jitendra Singh led a Padyatra in the Bani area and offered emotional tributes to the fallen heroes.

A large number of BJP workers and locals joined him, expressing deep gratitude to the soldiers who laid down their lives for the country's security.

At Sainik Colony, Jammu, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, Vice-President Rajeev Charak, General Secretary Baldev Singh Billawaria, MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa, District President Naresh Singh and others paid floral tributes to the martyrs.

Tribute programme was held by the SC Morcha, led by Dharminder Kumar, at Dr. BR Ambedkar Chowk, in the presence of senior party leaders including MLAs Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, Dr. Rajiv Bhagat, and Surinder Bhagat.

Tribute programme was held by the OBC Morcha, led by Braham Jyot, at Shourya Stambh, Jammu.

Sham Lal Sharma, Mohan Lal Bhagat holds Public Darbar at BJP headquarters



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

MLAs and BJP senior leaders Sham Lal Sharma, and Mohan Lal Bhagat, held a Public Darbar at the J&K BJP headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

While listening to the public grievances, MLAs emphasized that the roads which were damaged due to the incessant rains, are causing great inconvenience to the people and should be repaired at the earliest. They also stressed for the regular electricity to the residential areas and especially to the special feeders for the PHE supplies at the water pumping stations.

Among other deputations, a deputation from Basant Nagar, Janipur requested for the repair of lanes and drains and street lights. Deputations from Top Sherkhania and Wazir Lane in Talab Tillo requested for the repair of street lights and the issuance of new street lights. A deputation from Raipur, Khairi requested for the start of e-buses from Jammu to Khairi. A deputation from Karan Nagar complained about frequent power cuts. A deputation from Bhalwal requested for the upgradation of the transformer. A deputation from Dogra Hall requested for the repair of Lanes and Drains. A deputation presented a matter related to the Police Department. A deputation from Akhnoor requested for the installation of an ATM near Government Degree College. A deputation from Gho Manasan requested for the restoration of under-repair Link roads in the main town. A deputation from Lower Muthi raised requests for the installation of electric poles and construction of lanes and drains near Akalpur Road. A deputation from New Plots requested for the inclusion of left-out houses regarding the construction of lanes and drains. A deputation from Machine Domana presented a land related matter related to the revenue department. A deputation of All State Kashmiri Pandit Conference requested for the construction of new toilets in the conference building at Durga Nagar.

Shiv Sena demands a complete stop to the dual power system and the rule of the Lieutenant Governor

KPs have not been rehabilitated, local culture and rights continue to be violated

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

With the tenure of the Lieutenant Governor ending on August 6, the post should be abolished and a complete stop should be put on the dual power system. A retired army or police officer should be appointed as the Governor and the state status should be restored with special privileges under Section 371, stated by Manish Sahni, President, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit.

In a press conference held today at the party's state central office, state chief Manish Sahni said that the experiment of making Jammu and Kashmir a Union Territory with the abrogation of Section 370 in August 2019 has proved to be a complete failure. Which will be seen as a period of violation of the rights of the sons of the soil and conspiracies to destroy the local cultural identity.

Nefarious and illegal activities like terrorism, target killing, drug trafficking, crime, and women trafficking are continuing as usual. Drug trafficking along with terrorism is at its peak in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the data of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), more than 1.12 lakh kilograms of drugs have been seized in Jammu and Kashmir between 2018 and 2022.

Educational Institutions in Udhampur pay tribute to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
UDHAMPUR:

As part of special programs being held to pay tributes to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his 125th birth anniversary, the Educational institutions across Udhampur district organized a series of special activities today, celebrating his lasting legacy and significant contribution towards the nation building.

Government Higher Secondary School Bupp, Government Higher Secondary School Chak Rakhwalan, and Government Girls High School Johnu Udhampur were among the schools that held commemorative

events during the morning assembly session.

The programmes, attended by students and staff, honoured Dr. Mookerjee's legacy and promoted awareness of his vital role in advancing national unity and advocating the principle of One Nation, One Constitution.

Inauguration of Zorawar NCC Training Academy at Udhampur

An Important Milestone in Youth Empowerment and Nation Building in JK&L

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
UDHAMPUR:

The Zorawar NCC Training Academy, a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to the National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets of Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh, was inaugurated today at Udhampur by Maj Gen Anupinder Bevl, VSM, Additional Director General, JK&L NCC. The ceremony was graced by Brig D N Pandey, Group Commander, NCC Group HQ Jammu, and Ms. Saloni Rai, Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, along with a host of dignitaries from the civil administration, education fraternity, and defence services.

Named after the legendary Dogra warrior, the



Zorawar NCC Training Academy is a significant stride towards strengthening youth development and national integration in the region. The academy is fully equipped to accommodate and train up to 400 cadets at a time, offering modern and robust infrastructure designed to

meet the holistic training requirements of NCC cadets.

In his keynote address, Maj Gen Anupinder Bevl lauded the exceptional achievement of 6 J&K Bn NCC, which has successfully conceptualized, established, and operationalized the academy in

a record time of just ten months. He particularly praised the dynamic leadership of Col Sumit Bana, Commanding Officer, 6 J&K Bn NCC, whose relentless dedication has transformed the vision into a reality. The establishment of the academy marks a major leap in extending the NCC footprint in the region and will play a pivotal role in enabling young minds to contribute meaningfully to nation building.

Deputy Commissioner Ms. Saloni Rai, in her address, appreciated the joint efforts of all stakeholders and emphasized the academy's role in empowering the youth of the region with discipline, leadership, and patriotic values.

Kargil Vijay Diwas commemorated with patriotic fervour in Poonch

Deputy Commissioner pays floral tributes to War heroes



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

Kargil Vijay Diwas was observed with great zeal and solemnity in Poonch today to honour the unparalleled bravery, courage and supreme sacrifice of the Indian Armed Forces during the Kargil War of 1999.

The main commemorative event was held at Pritham Stadium fol-

lowed by a tribute ceremony at the War Memorial in Ajote.

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal paid floral tributes to the war heroes and addressed the gathering. In his speech, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the immense valour and selflessness displayed by the Indian soldiers during Operation Vijay in 1999 and Operation Sindoor in 2025, commending their unwavering commit-

ment to protecting the sovereignty of the nation.

"The service of the Indian Army to the nation is commendable. On behalf of the civil administration and the people of Poonch, I extend heartfelt gratitude for their sacrifices and tireless efforts in safeguarding our country," said the DC.

The event witnessed participation from senior officers of the Indian Army, civil administration, J&K Police, students, members of civil society and local residents. All attendees paid heartfelt homage at the War Memorial, Ajote.

Wreaths were placed at the memorial to pay floral tributes to the martyrs.

As a mark of respect, the Deputy Commissioner presented mementoes and honoured the families of the martyrs, acknowledging their immense contribution and sacrifice for the country.

The event served as a powerful reminder of the resilience and indomitable spirit of the Indian Armed Forces and reinforced a collective sense of patriotism and gratitude among the citizens of Poonch.

DC Pulwama chairs DLSCC meeting to review Ex-Gratia relief cases

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
PULWAMA:

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom chaired the District Level Screening-cum-Coordination Committee (DLSCC) meeting today at Circuit House Pulwama to review, discuss and finalize the cases related to compassionate appointment under SRO-43 and compensation in cases related to Injury and property damages.

At the outset, ADC Pulwama gave a detailed briefing on the current status of each case. After thorough deliberation and evaluation, the committee approved various eligible cases under the provisions of the SRO-43.

Dr. Qayoom after assessing each case, reaffirmed that deserving and eligible NOKs shall receive timely benefits. "Compensatory relief under SRO-43 should not be seen merely as official procedures but as our responsibility towards families who have suffered great personal loss," stressed Dr. Qayoom.

DC further urged all departments to adopt a proactive approach and ensure that all required formalities and verifications are completed within stipulated timelines.

With regard to cases where reports or required documentation were pending, the DC directed the concerned officers to submit the necessary reports at the earliest to avoid unnecessary delays in decision-making.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama, Awantipora and Tral, and officers from Police, defense and district administration.

BJP holds felicitation ceremony for newly appointed state office bearers at Church Lane, Srinagar



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir today organized a grand felicitation ceremony at Church Lane, Sonwar, Srinagar, to honour the newly appointed State Office Bearers of BJP J&K.

The event was graced by the presence of BJP General Secretary (Organization) J&K, Ashok Koul, who extended his heartfelt congratulations to the appointees and encouraged them to work with dedication and integrity for the organization and the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson J&K Waqf Board (MoS), and senior BJP leaders, including Sofi Yousuf, M.M. War, Dr. Ali Mohammad Mir, Altaf Thakur, Rafiq Wani, Dr. Fareeda Khan, Sahil Bashir Bhat, Salinder Singh, Mushtaq Noorabadi, Ashraf Azad, and others were present.

The event witnessed participation from State and senior leaders, District Presidents, District General Secretaries, and Constituency Presidents from across the Kashmir valley.

The following newly appointed office bearers were felicitated during the ceremony: Dr. Shehnaz Ganai - Vice President, Anwar Khan - General Secretary, Mudassir Wani - Secretary, Arif Raja - Secretary, Adv. Sajid Yousuf Shah - State Media Co-Incharge, Sajjad Raina State Social Media Co-Incharge, Sartaj Majeed State IT Co-Incharge, Bilal Parray State Co-Convenor, All BJP Cells.

Addressing the gathering, Ashok Koul underscored the importance of organisational discipline and urged the newly appointed leaders to work at the grassroots level to further strengthen the party's presence across Jammu & Kashmir.

Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, in her remarks, congratulated the new office bearers and encouraged them to uphold the core values and vision of the BJP while serving the public with unwavering commitment.

Speaking on the occasion, Anwar Khan said, This new responsibility is not just an honour but a pledge to work tirelessly for the betterment of our people, to

BJP SC Morcha celebrates Kargil Vijay Diwas at Ambedkar Chowk

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
UDHAMPUR:

The Bharatiya Janata Party's Scheduled Caste Morcha led by its President Dharminder Kumar (DDC), celebrated Kargil Vijay Diwas with great enthusiasm and reverence at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Chowk in Jammu. The event honored the bravery and sacrifice of the Indian Armed Forces during the 1999 Kargil War. A large number of BJP leaders, activists, and supporters participated in the program, which began with paying tribute to the martyrs who laid down their lives for the nation. MLA Ramgarh Dr Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA

Bishnah Dr Rajiv Bhagat and MLA Marh Surinder Bhagat addressed the gathering, highlighting the significance of Kargil Vijay Diwas and the indomitable spirit of the Indian soldiers. They emphasized the importance of remembering the sacrifices made by the soldiers and supporting the families of the martyrs. They also discussed the strategic importance of the Kargil victory and its continued inspiration for the nation. Dharminder Kumar shared heroic tales of the Kargil War, filling the atmosphere with patriotism as participants chanted slogans in honor of the armed forces.

The program concluded with a pledge to uphold the nation's values

and integrity.

Earlier, MLA Dr Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA Dr Rajiv Bhagat, MLA Surinder Bhagat, DDC Vidya Motan, DDC Balbir Lal and all attendees paid floral tributes to martyrs of the Kargil War, and also respect to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, garlanding his statue in a heartfelt tribute to the revered leader and architect of the Indian Constitution. Prominent among those who were present on occasion included former DC Guldev Bhagat, FC Bhagat, Gulshan Bhagat, Jagdish Bhagat, SK Rana, Hans Raj Loria, RL Kaith, Baldev Chand Sandhu, GR Bhagat, Mohinder Bhagat, Vijay Gill, Seema Devi and Asha Bhagat.

DC reviews progress under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme in Samba District



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SAMBA:

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Samba Rajesh Sharma today chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation and progress achieved under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the district. The meeting was held in the Conference Hall of

the DC Office Complex.

At the outset, Chief Agriculture Officer Dr. Rakesh Khajuria presented a detailed overview of the progress achieved across various sectors under the HADP. He highlighted the key interventions being made to promote agricultural sustainability and rural development.

The DDC reviewed and discussed the list of feasible beneficiaries who

had applied through the HADP portal for availing Agriculture and allied Departments schemes. A total of 268 beneficiaries have been approved under various components of the programme in the district, the meeting was told.

The DDC emphasized the need for inter-departmental coordination and community involvement to ensure timely implementation of the schemes and tangible results on the ground. He urged all stakeholders to work collectively towards the shared goal of transforming the agricultural landscape of Samba district.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Samba Champa Devi Thakur, GM DIC, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, AD Fisheries and other members of the committee.

Javid Dar inaugurates HP&M Buyer-Seller meet

Pitches for achieving govt's envisioned goals of Horticulture Department



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, today inaugurated first of its kind Buyer-Seller meet, organized by the Department of Horticulture Planning & Marketing (HP&M) to bridge the gap between the farmers and the market. The Minister visited the stalls of various FPOs and entrepreneurs and interacted with the participants. He instructed the Director HP&M for handholding the entrepreneurs, sharing the information of government interventions and schemes with them.

While addressing at the event, the Minister appreciated the department for organizing the first Buyer-Seller meet for promotion and development

of horticulture sector. This will facilitate the growers to harvest prolific benefits of their produce in the national market. He emphasized on realization of government's envisioned goals of the Horticulture Department.

Javid Dar urged the growers to think innovatively and adopt modern production techniques for increasing their yield. He highlighted the significance of diversification of crops and also called for promotion of indigenous varieties of crops.

Regarding the demand for curbing import of spurious fertilizers and pesticides damaging crop production, the Minister assured that a separate enforcement wing shall be created to maintain strict vigil on selling of sub-standard quality of fertilizers and pesticides in the market.

Javid Dar stated that affirmative

action shall be initiated to reform the system and more labs shall be established to check the quality of imported horticulture inputs. He said that all the stakeholders need to remain updated with the information of empanelled agencies with the department and also asked them to register with eNAM.

Meanwhile, Javid Dar highlighted the subsidies being offered by the department for CA stores, Reefer Vans, Portable Grading Lines and Packaging materials.

Earlier, Director Horticulture Planning & Marketing, Ghulam Jeelani, shed light on the progress of the department. He shared insights regarding the HADP, JKIP, linking of fruit mandies, vision of the department, introduction of technology, target groups and other strides.

During the program, a presentation on implementation of JKIP was also given to educate the participants about the project.

Various representatives of associations, entrepreneurs and progressive farmers also spoke on the occasion. They highlighted the requirement of interventions of government, expectations, experience, feasibility for growth of the Horticulture sector and its role and contribution in GDP. The meet was attended by representatives of Fruit Growers Associations, Traders, Entrepreneurs, Buyers both Local and from other States, officers and officials of Agriculture Production Department and HP&M department.

Media Star Awards 2025: Honoring Excellence in Journalism

Shilpa Thakur and Editor-in-Chief of Jammu Kashmir Writer Among Esteemed Awardees



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

The M Jackson Cultural Institute of Society, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages, proudly presented the Media Star Awards 2025 today at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu, celebrating outstanding contributions and excellence in the field of journalism.

This prestigious event recognized the dedication, integrity, and achievements of distinguished media professionals who have significantly impacted journalism through their work. Among the notable awardees was Shilpa Thakur, a senior photojournalist and correspondent, honored for her exceptional contributions to visual storytelling and ground reporting in Jammu and Kashmir. The award was also presented to the Editor-in-Chief of the Jammu Kashmir Writer newspaper, acknowledging their visionary leadership, editorial excellence, and commitment to ethical journalism in the region.

The awards ceremony was graciously sponsored by the Betiya Foundation, a national-level NGO committed to empowering communities and promoting social causes. The event featured inspiring keynote addresses, award presentations, and insightful panel discussions on current media trends, ethics, and challenges faced by journalists today.

Speaking on the occasion, the organizers stated, "We are delighted to recognize and celebrate the relentless efforts of media professionals who continue to uphold the values of responsible journalism. The Media Star Awards 2025 are a tribute to their passion and perseverance."

The Jammu Kashmir Writers Team extended heartfelt congratulations to Shilpa Thakur, the Editor-in-Chief, and all the recipients, acknowledging their unwavering dedication to truth, integrity, and excellence in journalism.

"May this recognition serve as a beacon of inspiration for continued commitment to journalistic values," the team said.

PM Modi becomes second longest-serving PM, ushering unprecedented progress and stability: Dr. Pardeep Mahotra

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In a landmark moment that symbolizes India's rise as a confident, stable, and globally respected nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today became the second longest-serving Prime Minister in the history of independent India, completing 4,078 consecutive days in office, said Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge, J&K BJP.

This historic milestone, surpassing the tenure of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, stands as a powerful testament to the transformative leadership, governance stability, and deep-rooted public trust that have defined PM Modi's era.

Under his guidance, India has witnessed sweeping reforms, unprecedented infrastructure growth, robust economic performance, national security consolidation, and the emergence of a new global identity, making his tenure one of the most impactful in Indian history.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra hailed the occasion as a moment of great pride for the nation.

"Prime Minister Modi's uninterrupted journey of over 11 years at the national level, and nearly 24 years in elected leadership, reflects not just longevity but historic achievement.

Chamber of Traders Federation delegation meets Controller Legal Metrology J&K

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

A delegation from the Chamber of Traders Federation (CTF), led by its President Neeraj Anand called on the Controller Legal Metrology Department, J&K Rajinder Singh Tara here today.

During the meeting, the delegation highlighted various issues and challenges faced by the trading community and stressed the need for a balanced regulatory framework—one that safeguards consumer interests while ensuring ease of doing business. The CTF also emphasized the importance of bridging the communication gap between trader associations and the department through consistent dialogue and collaborative awareness initiatives.

The Controller LMD acknowledged the concerns projected by the Federation and reaffirmed the department's commitment to a fair, transparent, and cooperative enforcement regime. He emphasized



that the department aims to strike a balance between consumer protection and trader facilitation.

The Controller further assured that, with active collaboration from the Chamber, the department will organise awareness and reverification camps across all districts. He informed that the department is already working towards simplifying procedures as part of the Ease of Doing Business and Business

Reform Action Plan.

These initiatives aim to foster mutual trust, promote voluntary compliance, and educate stakeholders about the provisions of the Legal Metrology laws. He also expressed hope that the Chamber will proactively encourage its members to strictly adhere to Legal Metrology norms, thereby minimizing violations and promoting responsible trade practices.

DC Budgam chairs DGRC meeting under AB-PMJAY SEHAT

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
BUDGAM:

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today chaired a comprehensive District Grievance Redressal Committee (DGRC) meeting to assess the functioning of grievance

redressal mechanisms under the Ayushman Bharat - PM-JAY SEHAT scheme.

Threadbare discussions centered on the redressal of beneficiary complaints related to denial of treatment, out-of-pocket expenses, technical issues, and misconduct by health-

care facilities.

CMO Budgam presented a quarterly grievance resolution report, affirming that a majority of complaints particularly technical in nature had been addressed promptly and satisfactorily.

Speaking during the session, DC highlighted the

need for robust and people-oriented grievance handling. He said, "Every grievance represents a trust deficit.

Our job is to bridge that gap with fairness, speed, and compassion. No patient should be denied their entitled care under PM-JAY."

DC Doda reviews functioning of Revenue Deptt

Stresses timely digitization, transparent service delivery

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
DODA:

To assess the functioning of the Revenue Department, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda Harvinder Singh today chaired a review meeting here in his Office.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), ADC Bhaderwah, Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) a, Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) of Gandoh and Assar, Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars and other senior officials of the Revenue Department.

The deliberations included a detailed review of the status of digitization of land records, eviction of encroachments on the state land, updation of Jamabandis and Girdawaris, implementation of Svamitva Scheme, revenue court case management, progress under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and implementation of online revenue services. The status of ongoing infrastructure works at various Tehsil headquarters and Niabats were also reviewed in detail.



Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars from across the district presented their respective progress reports and outlined field-level challenges affecting timely completion of assigned tasks. Highlighting the pivotal role of revenue officers in governance, the DC emphasized that maintaining updated and error-free revenue records is crucial for effective administration. He noted that delays or discrepancies in land records not only

obstruct development projects but also cause undue hardship to the general public.

The DC instructed all revenue officers and officials to work in mission mode for the timely resolution of pending cases and ensure seamless coordination with line departments. He also urged officers to expedite the implementation of digital platforms to improve transparency, accountability and public convenience.

Tea plantation drive launched in Billawar - a first for J&K UT

Agriculture Department Kathua rolls out green initiative

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KATHUA:

The Agriculture Department Kathua has launched the first-ever tea plantation drive in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir at Billawar. As part of this new initiative, over 20,000 tea saplings are being planted in the area. The plantation drive was formally inaugurated by MLA Billawar, Satish Sharma, in the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Billawar Vinay Khosla, Chief Agriculture Officer Kathua Jatinder Kumar, Divisional Forest Officer Billawar Indu Sharma, Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer Ravi Sharma, District SMS Sanjay Gupta and Sanjay Sharma, officers from allied departments, Ex-PRI members and a large gathering of locals. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Satish Sharma lauded the efforts of the Agriculture Department for initiating such an innovative step in the hilly terrain of Billawar. He observed that the region's climate and soil conditions—particularly across the Shivalik range—closely resemble those of Palampur, a region renowned for tea cultivation. The saplings for the drive, he informed, have been sourced from Palampur.



Sharma appreciated the UT Administration and the Government of India for extending support to developmental initiatives in remote and rural belts. He called for greater community involvement and said, "If this pilot proves successful, more such plantation drives will be taken up across the region." He also highlighted the relevance of the green initiative "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0", encouraging every citizen to plant trees in memory and honour of motherhood.

ADC Vinay Khosla, in his address, termed the initiative as a path-breaking move towards self-reliant rural communities. He urged the youth and farming community to

become active stakeholders in such projects and emphasized the government's ongoing commitment to rural transformation under the Mission Yuva campaign. CAO Jatinder Kumar appreciated MLA Satish Sharma for supporting the tea plantation initiative.

He also briefed the gathering on several farmer-centric interventions being undertaken under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). SDAO Ravi Sharma reiterated the department's round-the-clock support to the farming community and urged farmers to stay informed and avail benefits of various departmental schemes and technical services.

Awareness programme under BBBP held at Devpora Shopian

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SHOPIAN:

In a significant step towards raising awareness on gender equality and the importance of valuing the girl child, Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti Shopian, organized an impactful awareness programme under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative today at Govt Middle School Devpora Shopian.

The event commenced with a pledge ceremony, where students and staff vowed to uphold the dignity and rights of girls in society. This was followed by a sticker pasting activity, symbolizing support and collective responsibility toward the cause.

Speeches were delivered by the officials of Sankalp Hub, staff, and students emphasizing the need to educate, respect, and empower the girl child. As part of the campaign, informative pamphlets carrying moti-

ational messages about the value and rights of the girl child were also distributed among participants.

The programme witnessed the enthusiastic participation of the Principal, school staff members, and students, all of whom contributed to making the event a success.

This initiative reflects the ongoing commitment of Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women towards creating a just and equal society for all, especially the daughters.

Jammu and Kashmir: A Living Tapestry of Culture and Spirituality: Rajni sethi

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Jammu and Kashmir, often called the Crown of India, is a land of immense cultural, religious, and geographical diversity. This region is known not just for its breathtaking landscapes and snow-clad mountains, but also for its vibrant traditions, rich heritage, and deeply spiritual roots. People from various castes, communities, and religions coexist peacefully here, contributing to a beautiful mosaic of unity in diversity.

Both Jammu and Kashmir divisions are dotted with tourist destinations that attract millions of visitors from across India and abroad. While Kashmir is known for its valleys, gardens, and lakes, Jammu holds an equally significant place in spiritual tourism, being revered as the City of Temples. Temples like Raghunath Mandir, Ranbireshwar Mandir, and Mata Vaishno Devi shrine are central to the spiritual identity of the region.

Currently, the sacred Amarnath Yatra is underway, bringing a spiritual wave across Jammu and Kashmir. This annual pilgrimage sees lakhs of devotees making their way to the holy Amarnath cave in the Himalayas, reinforcing the spiritual character and religious harmony of the Union Territory.

In this spiritually vibrant environment, a new initiative has taken shape in Jammu—the Tawi Aarti, held every evening on the banks of the revered Tawi River. Recently inaugurated, the Tawi Aarti has quickly become a powerful spiritual and cultural symbol. It is held daily at 7 PM near the fourth Tawi bridge and has already started attracting thousands of devotees, pilgrims, and tourists. The river Tawi is not just a geographical entity; it holds deep mythological and spiritual significance. Often referred to as Suryaputri, or the Daughter of the Sun, Tawi is sacred to the people of the region. Performing Aarti on its banks is both a mark of devotion and a celebration of Jammu's spiritual essence. The decision to hold the Tawi Aarti regularly is a historic and commendable step. It symbolizes the revival of traditional values and the promotion of Jammu's cultural and religious identity. It has added a new spiritual dimension to the city, making it a must-visit location for devotees and tourists alike. Especially during the Amarnath Yatra season, the Tawi Aarti is seen as a spiritual extension of the pilgrimage, allowing pilgrims to experience divine vibes even before reaching the cave shrine. More than just a religious ritual, the Tawi Aarti is a cultural movement. It connects the younger generation with the age-old traditions of the Dogra community and promotes pride in our rich heritage. In a fast-changing world, such initiatives serve as reminders of our glorious past and encourage the youth to stay rooted in their culture and values. The participation of local people, administration, and religious leaders in organizing and promoting the Tawi Aarti reflects a collective effort to elevate Jammu's profile as a spiritual and cultural destination.

DDC Reasi approves 143 Entrepreneurship cases under Mission YUVA

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
REASI:

The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) for Mission YUVA was convened today in Reasi. District Development Commissioner (DDC) Nidhi Malik chaired the meeting to review and approve cases verified by the Small Business Development Units (SBDUs).

A total of 143 cases, verified by the SBDUs were presented before the Committee and subsequently approved for financial assistance and handholding support under Mission YUVA. The Committee, headed by DDC carried out a detailed scrutiny of each application based on eligibility, business viability, and the socio-economic background of the applicants. She emphasized the critical need to promote self-employment opportunities for local youth, particularly those from underprivileged and marginalized communities. The DDC also reviewed the district's overall performance under Mission YUVA and directed all relevant departments to ensure the prompt release of financial assistance, regular monitoring and comprehensive mentoring to ensure the long-term success and sustainability of the approved projects.

Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament showcases youth talent and sporting spirit in Doda

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
DODA:

The Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament continues to serve as a vibrant platform for promoting physical fitness, discipline and sportsmanship amid combat sports competitions held here today.

Taekwondo and Wrestling (Boys AAG) events were held witnessing enthusiastic participation of over 280 students drawn from different educational zones of the district. The competitions reflected the high energy, discipline, and competitive spirit of the youth, who showcased exceptional athletic prowess and teamwork.

To acknowledge their dedication and excellence, the winners and runners-ups were felicitated with



medals, trophies and certificates, recognizing their hard work and sporting achievements.

The event is being organized under the directions of Director General Youth Services and Sports, J&K Anuradha Gupta and Deputy Commissioner

Harvinder Singh, under the guidance of Joint Director Jammu Vinakshi Koul and overall supervision of District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO) Jaffar Haider Sheikh.

On the occasion, DYSSO Doda Jaffar Haider Sheikh

lauded the efforts of the entire staff for their dedicated work in making the tournament a grand success. He especially appreciated the contribution of the field staff for mobilizing wide-scale participation from boys and girls across the district.

Hokersar Wetland Thriving After Recent Habitat Interventions: Wildlife Deptt

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
SRINAGAR:

In the wake of a recent article published in the Daily Excelsior on 23rd July 2025 titled "World Famous Hokersar Water Body Facing Grave Encroachment Threat", the Department of Wildlife Protection, Jammu & Kashmir Government, has issued a detailed clarification, categorically denying the allegations of ongoing or unchecked encroachment in the Hokersar Wetland.

Designated as a Ramsar Site of international importance and notified under the Wildlife Protection Act, Hokersar Wetland remains one of the most ecologically vital freshwater marshes in the Kashmir Valley. The department has reaffirmed that no fresh encroachments have occurred in the wetland in recent years and that strict protection mechanisms are in place, including GIS-mapped boundary surveillance, regular field patrolling and active legal enforcement where necessary.

According to official sources, the wetland spans 13.54 square kilometres and has been fully delineated in the department's KML-based geospatial records. While the department acknowledges the presence of some legacy cultivation practices in fringe areas, particularly seasonal paddy farming, these activities are being systematically curtailed through notices, legal proceedings and ecological interventions as per provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

In response to disputes raised at certain points with regard to the demarcation exercise conducted in 2019-20, a joint demarcation committee was constituted by the Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Budgam and an Electronic Total Station (ETS) survey was carried out to scientifically resolve the contested boundaries. The final authenticated report from the Revenue Department is awaited and coordination is ongoing to ensure the full legal validation of the wetland's boundaries.

One of the most significant ecological breakthroughs has come through hydrological regulation. The construction of inlet and outlet regulatory gates by the Irrigation and Flood Control Department has led to a remarkable rise in water levels, reportedly the highest in the last two decades. This natural flooding has resulted in inundation of fringe lands, automatically displacing historic cultivation and acting as a passive yet highly effective deterrent to any unauthorized use. The increased water retention is also contributing to broader habitat restoration objectives outlined in the Integrated Management Action Plan (IMAP) 2022-27.

A senior official from the department emphasized that the media report in question fails to differentiate between the historical land-use patterns and actual encroachments, thereby misrepresenting the ground reality. "The wetland is under enhanced legal, ecological, and administrative protection. Misleading reports not only demoralize field staff but also shift public attention away from tangible restoration efforts," the official noted.

Special programmes held in Udhampur schools to mark birth anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
UDHAMPUR:

As part of a nation-wide initiative, the schools across Udhampur—including Government Higher Secondary School Chanu-nta, Government High School Jib, Government Higher Secondary School Sudh Mahadev and Government High School Dhandal organized special programmes to commemorate the 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, a pioneering statesman, educationist and architect of modern India's nationalist vision. These events formed part of a two-year nation-wide celebration from July 6, 2025, to July 6, 2027, aimed at honoring Dr. Mookerjee's enduring legacy in education, constitutional development, national integration and regional progress.

The district-level initiatives, organized under the guidance of the District Administration Udhampur and the Chief Education Officer, aim to inspire pride in his ideals and connect youth to India's historical and cultural roots. At GHS Jib, Government Higher Secondary School Sudh Mahadev and several other institutions, students, teachers and invited speakers participated with great enthusiasm.

Ajaz Jan Highlights Importance of Youth in Bathindi Meet

Tejinder Pal Singh Vows to Continue Youth-Centric Initiatives



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In a significant initiative aimed at bolstering youth engagement and addressing the pressing issues faced by the younger generation, MLA Poonch and senior National Conference leader Ajaz Jan chaired a vital meeting at Bathindi, Jammu.

The event was organized by Tejinder Pal Singh Aman, Provincial President of the Youth National Conference (YNC), and saw enthusiastic participation from youth district presidents including Sahil Kerni (Jammu Urban), Sahil Chib, Jaseen Malik (Samba), Anoop Gupta

(Kathua), Matti (Rajouri), and Akash Kharka (Udhampur Rural).

The discussions focused on key youth-centric issues such as rising unemployment, drug addiction, and the urgent need for institutional support. Ajaz Jan, drawing from his own experience as a former Youth President, encouraged the gathering to stay proactive in both social and political spheres.

"Having worked closely with youth for many years, I understand their aspirations and frustrations. During Omar Abdullah's tenure as Chief Minister, several groundbreaking schemes were launched for youth empowerment.

Today, we reaffirm our commitment to build on those foundations," Jan said.

He stressed the need to counter the drug menace through awareness campaigns and rehabilitation measures, while also advocating for greater employment opportunities via skill development and entrepreneurship support.

Addressing the gathering, Tejinder Pal Singh Aman reiterated the party's long-standing focus on youth empowerment. "Omar Sahib always prioritized youth — whether it was education, employment, sports infrastructure, or skill training. The Sher-e-Kashmir Employment and Welfare Programme for Youth (SKEWPY) was a landmark effort. We are committed to carrying forward that legacy," he said.

Aman also called for stronger coordination between district units to bolster grassroots activism and ensure that youth voices are heard across all platforms.

"Youth are our most valuable asset. It is our duty to guide, empower, and support them to build a stronger, more inclusive future," he added.

Islamic Auqaf Committee Hajin Donates Plastic Sitting Stools to CHC Hajin

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
HAJIN:

Idara e Islamia Auqaf Committee Hajin on Thursday donated 25 plastic sitting stools to the Community Health Centre (CHC) Hajin.

The donation was made under the Committee's Bait-ul-Maal Public Outreach Initiative.

Speaking on the occasion,

Secretary Auqaf Committee, Shakir Shafi, said, "We had earlier decided to contribute plastic stools to CHC Hajin to enhance seating arrangements for attendants of patients. Today, we fulfilled that commitment by donating 25 plastic stools, which will be placed in various wards."

He emphasized the importance of community participation in supporting public infrastructure. "It is the

responsibility of every citizen to contribute positively and help strengthen government infrastructure. Wherever one goes be it hospitals, schools, or any public department—people must treat public property with care and respect," he added.

Local residents appreciated the initiative and called for more such contributions to improve healthcare facilities in the area.

Sat Sharma, Sham Lal inaugurates Shree Jewellers showroom at Barnai, Jammu

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

J&K BJP President Sat Sharma, along with Jammu North MLA Sham Lal Sharma, inaugurated the newly established jewellery showroom "Shree Jewellers" at Barnai, Jammu.

The showroom is owned and managed by Sourav Suri and Nancy Suri, young entrepreneurs committed to delivering quality service to customers in the region.

Speaking at the inauguration, Sat Sharma congratulated the owners for their initiative and highlighted the importance of self-employment and entrepreneurial ventures in shaping the economic landscape of the Union Territory.

"The opening of such ventures is not just about business, it is about creating opportunities and livelihoods. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government has been strongly promoting self-reliance and entrepreneurship. Schemes like Mudra Yojana, Startup India, and financial inclusion measures have empowered countless youths to become job creators rather than job seekers," Sharma said.

He emphasized that initiatives like Shree Jewellers not only fulfill local consumer needs but also contribute to employment generation and economic vitality in the region.

"Establishments like this will employ many people locally, creating direct and indirect job opportunities. I urge our youth to step forward with



innovative business ideas and explore the unexplored areas of regional economy," he added.

Sham Lal Sharma termed entrepreneurship as the key to progress and prosperity.

When local youth take the lead in setting up ventures like Shree Jewellers, they are not only creating jobs for others but also inspiring a culture of self-confidence and enterprise, he said and added that the Modi government's policies are designed to back such young entrepreneurs with financial assistance, digital tools, and simplified regulatory procedures.

"We are witnessing a positive shift in Jammu's economy with increasing

participation from local business owners. I assure every budding entrepreneur that we are here to help, guide, and support them at every step," he added. Prominent BJP leaders present on the occasion included Ajay Vaid, J&K BJP Publicity Secretary, Raveesh Mengi, District General Secretary, Pankaj Padha, Mandal President, Suresh Khajuria, Ex-Municipal Chairman Kuldeep Singh, Surinder Gilli, Lovekesh Gondhi, and several other party activists. Owners Sourav and Nancy Suri expressed their gratitude for the overwhelming support and promised to uphold high standards of service and customer satisfaction at their new showroom.

Director Panchayati Raj stresses timely execution of PGs, PAI 2.0 data entry, PLC progress

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

Director Panchayati Raj Jammu and Kashmir Sham Lal on Friday pressed Assistant Commissioners Panchayat (ACPs) to accelerate the pace of development under the Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA).

He was chairing a meeting to review progress of construction of Panchayat Ghars (PGs), co-location of Common Service Centres (CSCs) and the implementation of the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0. The Director outlined several key areas for immediate action, emphasizing the need for a time-bound approach.

A major focus was placed on resolving land availability issues for the construction of Panchayat Ghars. "The land availability aspects should be cleared," he stated, urging a reduction in the gap between allotted work and actual progress.

During the meeting, the Director highlighted major achievements under RGSA, mentioning that for the financial year 2023-24, out of a target of 502 Panchayat Ghars, land had been identified for 488, with administrative approval (AA) given for 476.

Sham Lal also stressed the urgent need for accurate and timely data entry under the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0.

Noting slow progress in data entry, he called for immediate district-wise action, proactive monitoring, and accountability at all levels to ensure data digitization keeps pace with the physical progress of Panchayat infrastructure.

He issued clear directions to ensure the timely execution and visible transformation of the Model Women Friendly Gram Panchayats selected across all districts of Jammu & Kashmir.

"There must be visible changes on the ground. These Model Women Friendly Panchayats should not remain on paper; they must be centers of safety, accessibility, participation, and empowerment for rural women," he said.

The review also covered the construction of additional rooms in existing Panchayat Ghars for the co-location of CSCs, which are essential for providing digital services at the village level. Additionally, four nominations for Panchayat Learning Centres (PLCs) have been made per district as part of ongoing capacity-building efforts.

He informed that 40 PLCs have been approved under the Annual Action Plan of RGSA for FY 2025-26. Only Panchayats with existing Panchayat Ghars are to be considered.

Mission YUVA: DC Poonch hands over 39 loan sanction letters to aspiring Entrepreneurs



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
POONCH:

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal today handed over 39 loan sanction letters to beneficiaries under Mission YUVA at a simple function held in the Conference Hall, DC Office.

Additional District Development Commissioner Pankaj Magotra; Deputy Director Employment Abdul Majid Tantray; Lead District Manager Ravi Kumar and other members of the SBDU were also present. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner encouraged the beneficiaries to make the best use of the financial support provided under the scheme and contribute positively to local economic growth. The initiative, aimed at promoting youth entrepreneurship and self-employment, reflects the administration commitment to socio-economic upliftment and sustainable development in the district.

The officials present also reiterated their support in guiding and mentoring the beneficiaries throughout the implementation of their projects.

Van Mahotsav Blossoms in Jammu: A Celebration of Green Heritage and Ecological Awakening



THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
JAMMU:

In a heartening tribute to nature and national heritage, the Chinara Eco Warriors, in close collaboration with the State Forest Department Jammu & Kashmir, organized an impactful Van Mahotsav celebration across key locations in Jammu. The initiative underscores a renewed commitment to environmental sustainability, biodiversity and the cultural heritage of India's green legacy. Mass plantation drives in Dhalote, Koulpur and Patyari captured the interest of community and engaged the younger generation.

The plantation drive brought together soldiers, forest officials, local administration, students and citizens in a remarkable display of civil-military synergy, sowing seeds of environmental stewardship and

shared responsibility for a sustainable future. This year's drive went beyond traditional plantation efforts by introducing an educational component to rejuvenate public knowledge about significant tree species, both ecologically and historically. Notable highlights included:

Vertical Farming Demonstrations: In a bid to integrate modern eco-techniques, small-scale vertical farming modules were showcased to promote green solutions for urban and space-constrained areas.

Freedom Struggle Trees: Native trees linked to India's independence movement-like the Dahiman, Juniper, Banyan, Peepal etc under which freedom fighters gathered were planted to remind younger generations of their symbolic and historical significance. **Medicinal Heritage Trees:** A wide variety of trees known for their healing and therapeutic

properties such as Amla, Arjun, Neem etc were introduced into public spaces and educational institutions, reinforcing the wisdom of India's ancient medicinal traditions.

Knowledge Awakening Zones: The campaign included interactive awareness sessions and curated Tree Talk by chief resource person Sh. OP Sharma Vidhyarthi, IFS (Retd), former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, J&K, an ardent environmentalist, presently member of JK Biodiversity and Wild Life Board and recipient of 'Sahitya Academy Award' for the Dogri Book 'Trip Trip Chete' educated the participants on the environmental, cultural, and strategic significance of tree species, transforming plantation into a celebration of living heritage.

Senior officials from the Forest Department echoed the sentiment, lauding the commitment of the Chinara Eco Warriors in advancing the goals of ecological security, public awareness, and climate resilience in the Himalayan region. At the heart of this initiative was the relentless effort and leadership of Subedar Mohinder Singh whose dedication, grassroots coordination and passion for environmental stewardship were instrumental in the success of this multi-location campaign.

As monsoon showers grace the land, the Chinara Eco Warriors and the State Forest Department J&K pledge to continue this green crusade, ensuring that Jammu's hills and plains bloom with renewed life and purpose.

Grand All India Kavi Sammelan organized by "Sunhari Chhaanv" on Kargil Vijay Diwas



DR. SHAMBHU PANWAR
NEW DELHI:

On the occasion of "Kargil Vijay Diwas", the prestigious literary-social organization of the national capital "Sunhari Chhaanv" organized an emotional All India Kavi Sammelan under the campaign "Ek Kadam Samaj Seva Ki Aur".

The All India Kavi Sammelan organized at Creative Unlock Studio in Dwarka Sector 7 was presided over by international writer, nationalist thinker Dr. Savita Chaddha. Director and media partner of Janta Live News Channel Dr. Deven Jha

was present as the chief guest and Dr. Vikram Gaur 'Rasik' and Ravi Khurana were present as special guests.

The program was beautifully conducted by the founder of the organization and famous poetess of Shringar Rasa, Dr. Suman Mohini Saloni, along with Abhishek Mishra 'Abhi' and Bharat Maurya.

The conference started with the national anthem and the prayer to mother Saraswati and Bharat Maurya presented an emotional Saraswati Vandana. The powerful and emotional presentations of the authors from different states of the

country left the audience emotional. Notable names included: Dr. Savita Chaddha, Hari Prakash 'Sara' (Bhilai), Ravi Khurana (Mohali), Ritu Rastogi, Virendra Beddak, Dayaram Khorwal, Pramod Prajapati, Saavan, Atishi, Nidhi Singh, Sagar Navodaya, Madhulika Bajpai, Kamini Samdarshi, Shivani Swami, Yogesh Kumar, Dr. Vikram Gaur 'Rasik', Dr. Janardan Yadav, Ratnesh Pal 'Ratna' (Farrukhabad), Amin Ali Shah (Sagar, M.P.), Javed Khan (Kota, Rajasthan), Ajay Pal Patti (Jhansi), Alpi Nishant Varshney (Aligarh), Prabhat Pandey (Chandigarh), Saurabh Yadav (Mainpuri), Praveen Ranjan (Jaunpur) etc. In a special moment, the birthday of poetess Alpi Nishant Varshney was also celebrated with great joy by cutting a cake. The founder of the organization, Dr. Suman Mohini Saloni, said in her statement that "Our organization not only helps the needy by linking literature with social service, but is also always committed to providing a platform to budding and disabled writers." The chief guest honored all the participants by presenting them with certificates.

Shrine Board Launches Green Initiative at GMS Panthal

THE KASHMIR TALK BUREAU
KATRA:

Affirming its commitment to environmental sustainability, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) today launched a plantation drive at Government Middle School (GMS), Panthal, Katra. The event brought together officials from SMVDSB and its allied Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME), PRI members, educators, students, and local residents, as part of the Board's broader mission to promote eco-conscious practices in the revered Trikuta Hills region.

The initiative included ceremonial planting of saplings in and around the GMS Panthal campus, which has been adopted by SMVDIME under its Family Adoption Programme. A variety of indigenous, environment-friendly medicinal and fruit-bearing plants were planted to enhance air quality and beautify the surroundings.

Addressing the participants, Alok Kumar Maurya, Additional Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB, reiterated the Board's dedication to environmental conservation under the guidance of Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-UT). He informed that as part of the Annual Green Plan 2025-26, the Shrine Board is undertaking plantation of over one lakh high-quality native forestry seedlings across the Shrine area on Trikuta Hills. These plants, raised in the Shrine Board's high-tech nursery, are also made available to the public at Katra and Jammu to encourage broader community participation.



GALAXY PUBLIC SCHOOL (AFFILIATED TO CBSE - NEW DELHI) GALAXY ENCLAVE Sec -E(Ext.) Sainik Colony



CONGRATULATIONS



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