



Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra -2025

Join an Extraordinary
Pilgrimage to the Sacred

Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine

Experience the Divine Grace of Lord Shiva

Do's for the Yatris

- It is mandatory for every registered Yatri to collect their RFID Card from designated locations in Jammu / Srinagar before embarking on the Yatra. Carry your Aadhaar details for collecting RFID Cards
- Wear the RFID card around your neck at all times during Yatra for safety & security.
- Do carry sufficient woolen clothing, umbrella, wind cheater, raincoat and waterproof shoes. Weather remains unpredictable and temperature may abruptly fall to below 5 degree Celsius.
- Walk slowly and steadily — don't rush on steep paths.
- Take regular breaks to avoid fatigue.

Don'ts for the Yatris

- No registered yatri shall be allowed to embark on Yatra without valid RFID card.
- Don't ignore the symptoms of high altitude illness.
- Don't drink alcohol, caffeinated drinks, or smoke.
- Don't stop at places with warning signs.
- Don't take shortcuts on the route—it's risky.
- Don't pollute or disturb the Yatra environment.
- Don't separate from your group — always stay with your companions.



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DIP/J-2904/25
Date: Jul 1 2025



Rohi Chandra Lauds PM Modi's Vision for a Self-Reliant, Prosperous India

Jammu, July 01, 2025 – Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Rohi Chandra, in a recent statement, praised the exemplary governance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, emphasizing the seamless balance of development, welfare, reforms, and fiscal prudence that has defined the Modi era. Chandra highlighted the transformative policies and initiatives undertaken by the BJP-led government, which have not only strengthened India's economy but also elevated its global standing as a self-reliant and resilient nation. Chandra underscored that the hallmark of PM Modi's governance is its ability to harmonize development and welfare while implementing

robust reforms and maintaining fiscal prosperity. During the first term of the Modi government (2014-19), the focus was on systemic improvements and creating world-class infrastructure. Initiatives like the Goods and Services Tax (GST), Digital India, and the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan revolutionized India's economic and social landscape, laying a strong foundation for inclusive growth. These reforms streamlined processes, enhanced transparency, and fostered an environment conducive to innovation and progress. He elaborates that in the second term (2019-24), the union government's visionary schemes, such as the Gati Shakti Yojana and At-



manirbhar Bharat, proved instrumental in navigating unprecedented global challenges. Chandra noted that the multi-lakh crore Gati Shakti Yojana, a national master plan for infrastructure development, chose from, besides, seamless connectivity and economic resilience. Meanwhile, the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative empowered India to mitigate the uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and

supply chain disruptions due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict. These policies not only safeguarded the nation's economy but also positioned India as a beacon of stability in a turbulent global landscape. A key highlight of Chandra's address was the remarkable progress in India's defense sector under PM Modi's leadership. The Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative has transformed India into a formidable player in the global arms market, with focus on indigenous defense manufacturing. Chandra specifically lauded the precision strikes in "Operation Sindhoor" and India's decisive response to cross-border terrorism, including actions in Pakistan-occupied

Kashmir (PoK) and against Pakistan-sponsored terror attacks. These operations demonstrated India's enhanced defense capabilities and bolstered its brand image as a reliable supplier of high-quality indigenous defense equipment. From advanced weaponry to cutting-edge technology, India's defense efforts have gained international acclaim, reinforcing its strategic autonomy and global influence. Chandra concluded by stating that PM Modi's leadership has ushered in an era of unprecedented growth, self-reliance, and global respect for India. The BJP-led government's unwavering commitment to development, welfare, and reforms continues to propel

Sahil Mahajan releases Chandi Mata Bhajan Devotional Album "Jai Jai Maiya"

Jammu 1 July 2025

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) JK Unit Co-Convenor Sanskrit, Art and Culture Cell & Maa Bawe Wali Records (MD) released Devotional Album "Jai Jai Maiya" at Near Bhawagati Nagar Kaith Music Factory, Jammu. The programme was organized by Maa Bawe Wali Records (MD) Sahil Mahajan. The song "Jai Jai Maiya" has been sung by singer Rash pal Thakur and composed by Dr V. Kaith. The video has been prepared by Kk Malhotra Lyrics Saranga Bataul under Special thnx Manish Magotra, Naresh Kumar. The Album has been released on YouTube Rash Pal Thakur Music Channel" simultaneously. Sahil Mahajan appreciated



the BJP Sanskrit Art & Culture Cell J&K for encouraging the young talent. He said that we as a societal family must endeavour to support and nurture young talent which will bring laurels to the whole Jammu & Kashmir. Sahil Mahajan while speaking lauded the young talent of Jammu & Kashmir in bringing out melodious devotional albums. He said

that "Jai Jai Maiya" is revered by one and all in the whole region. He praised the whole production team, especially the Singers and Sahil Mahajan for their efforts in making the release of the album. Manish also said that new opportunities are being opened up everywhere today for the innovative mind setup.

ICICI Prudential Life launches a market-linked product for the youth

JAMMU, 01 July 2025: ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched ICICI Pru Smart Insurance Plan Plus, a market-linked product designed to enable customers to build wealth over the long-term. This product can be purchased with a monthly premium of just ₹1000, enabling a large cross section of young customers to systematically invest and achieve their long-term financial goals. The life cover component in the product ensures that the customer's family is financially secure. Mr. Amit Palta, Chief Product and Distribution Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance said, "India is the fastest growing major economy and pegged to become the 3rd largest by 2028, as per Morgan Stanley. The country's growth story is largely propelled by the youth, which constitutes about 65% of the population. ULIPs, by design, are an effective wealth creation tool and to encourage the youth to start investing early and remain invested for the long-term, we have launched ICICI Pru Smart Insurance Plan Plus. This cost-effective and tax-efficient product allows the

youth to start early with affordable investments, as low as ₹1000 per month. Keeping in mind the target segment for the product and their preference to engage with brands and products digitally, we have enabled a complete digital purchase journey. ICICI Pru Smart Insurance Plan Plus offers customers an array of 25 funds and four portfolio strategies to choose from. Besides, customers can fine tune their asset allocation by switching from one fund to another without any cost or tax implications. Additionally, the product offers customers financial security in the form of a life cover. Notably, customers can opt for the Waiver of Premium add-on benefit which can ensure the long-term savings goal remains on track even in the absence of the policyholder. Mr. Palta further stated, "The launch of this product reinforces our focus on developing products which fulfil the evolving needs of customers. It is a cost-effective tool that empowers individuals to plan for their future on their own terms, with flexibility, clarity and peace of mind."

Shiv Sena claims proved, a huge crowd of Shiv devotees gathered for current registration.

Demand to improve the system from the administration and Shrine Board.

Jammu - Despite the decline in online registration of Shri Amarnath Yatra, a huge crowd of Shiv devotees gathered for instant registration, which has proved our claims that a record number of devotees will be a part of the Yatra and faith will prevail over terror, to be strong, stated by Manish Sahni, President, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit.

While bringing the media at the party state office, Jammu, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni has demanded from the administration and the Shrine Board



to improve the on spot registration system. Sahni said that as soon as the instant registration opened in Jammu on September 30, a huge crowd of Shiv devotees

gathered, had to stand in queues for hours. Whereas in Srinagar, the information was given about opening the counter from July 1, the devotees stood in

queues for hours and waited for the counter to open. Sahni said that like before, once again there have been huge flaws in the preparations made by the administration and the Shrine Board to deal with the crowd. Sahni said that he was constantly appealing to increase the number of registration counters and remove the flaws that came up earlier. But all his suggestions were constantly ignored by the administration and the Shrine Board. Like before, once again people were forced to stand in queues for hours and face mismanagement during Navratras, are received by the temple annually. Despite such immense public faith and financial contributions, the facilities for pilgrims remain inadequate and poorly managed. "It is unacceptable that such a revered shrine is being run like a private estate by a single family, with no accountability," Gupta said. He criticized the government's failure to act,

counters near Jammu Railway Station. Sahni, while claiming that the crowd for Tatkal registration will increase in the coming days, has demanded from the administration and the Shrine Board to remove the flaws in the system and provide registration facility at various places along with Jammu Railway Station. He said that the continuously increasing crowd of devotees of Baba Barfani for Tatkal registration has proved that this year a record number of devotees will take part in Shri Amarnath Yatra and faith will prevail over terror.

RANGYUG Rolls Out SIP to Empower Young Women in Performing Arts

A 60-Hour Experiential Program Shaping Next-Gen Women Leaders through Theatre, Music & Creative Expression

Jammu, July 01, 2025: Continuing its commitment to empowering youth and promoting the performing arts, RANGYUG, a leading Performing Arts Foundation of the region, inaugurated the Second Edition of its Summer Internship Programme (SIP) exclusively for the students of Government College for Women, Parade Ground and Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar. The 60-hour internship program is designed to introduce young women to the transformative power of theatre, music, expressive movement, Yoga session, personality development and leadership. It offers a space for creativity, confidence-building and career exploration in the realm of performing arts. This initiative



also reflects Rangyug's broader vision of promoting self-realization and social change through the arts, particularly among young women. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo, Nodal Principal Jammu Division Colleges, who formally launched the program. The event was attended by Deepak Kumar, Director Rangyug; and prominent personalities including Shri Ashutosh Sharma, Shri Pankaj Pradhan, Raj Kumar Beltrupia, Narinder Sharma, Ashish

Sharma, Shivan Gupta and others. In his address, Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo lauded Rangyug's consistent efforts in promoting the performing arts among college students, especially young women. "Rangyug has shown remarkable commitment to nurturing talent and building confidence in our students through the arts. GCW Parade, in collaboration with Rangyug, initiated the first-ever theatre course in Jammu & Kashmir, and the overwhelming response from students reaffirmed the

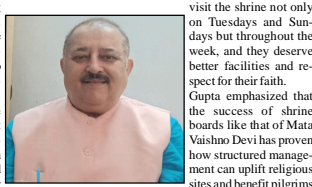
need for such meaningful programs." He further added that GCW Parade and Rangyug jointly organized a Chhau Dance Workshop specifically for female students, introducing them to India's rich classical movement traditions. "Through these initiatives," Dr. Tickoo said, "Rangyug has helped us bring the vision of NEP 2020 into action by integrating skill, tradition and creativity into mainstream education. Their expertise, professionalism and cultural sensitivity make them an invaluable

partner in education," Deepak Kumar, Director Rangyug emphasized that the internship goes far beyond traditional skill-building. "This is not just an internship—it is a journey of discovery of the self, of culture and of communication through the arts. It is an opportunity to reflect, express and evolve." He further said, "Our aim is to help these students explore their creative identities while developing the confidence, clarity and discipline needed to lead in life and society. We are deeply committed to empowering young women through the arts, music and movement—tools that awaken both individual potential and collective consciousness." With over 60 enthusiastic participants, the SIP 2025.

Rajesh Gupta demands Shrine Board for Bawe Wali Mata Temple

Jammu: Senior National Conference (NC) leader Rajesh Gupta has strongly demanded the immediate formation of a Shrine Board for the Bawe Wali Mata Temple at Bah Fort, Jammu. He urged the Jammu & Kash-

mir Government to bring the temple under the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) and constitute a dedicated board to ensure transparent and professional management. Gupta expressed grave concern over the current state of affairs, highlighting that crores of rupees in cash, along with gold and silver offerings, especially



during Navratras, are received by the temple annually. Despite such immense public faith and financial contributions, the facilities for pilgrims remain inadequate and poorly managed. "It is unacceptable that such a revered shrine is being run like a private estate by a single family, with no accountability," Gupta said. He criticized the government's failure to act,

and the local economy alike. "This is not interference in religion it is service to the devotees," he stated. He called on the Lieutenant Governor's administration to take swift and decisive action to restore faith in governance and ensure that the temple's wealth is used for the welfare of the devotees and development of the shrine.

Eminent Social Reformer Rtn Dr. Navneet Kaur Brings Laurels to J&K, India, by Representing the Nation at the United Nations in New York

Jammu & Kashmir, India - The All India Sustainable Development Council (AISDC) is proud to announce the distinguished participation of Rtn Dr. Navneet Kaur, Vice Chairperson of AISDC, at the Interactive Multi-Stakeholder Hearing as part of the preparatory process for the United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on the Appraisal of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. A renowned social reformer and advocate for human rights Rtn Dr. Navneet Kaur represented India on this prestigious global platform, highlighting the nation's progressive legal frameworks and policy initiatives in alignment with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) priorities. Her unwavering commitment to combating human trafficking, safeguarding victims especially women and children and advocating for systemic reforms has earned her international acclaim. Dr. Kaur's Contributions at the UN: Strengthening Legal Measures Advocacy for a Comprehensive Trafficking in Persons

(Prevention, Care, and Rehabilitation) Bill in India to enhance victim protection and prosecution of offenders. Global Collaboration Partnering with UN-ODC and international stakeholders to improve cross-border cooperation, victim rehabilitation, and law enforcement capabilities. She aims for Sustainable Reforms, Integrating anti-trafficking efforts with AISDC's flagship initiatives, addressing root causes such as poverty, gender inequality, and lack of education. Her mission is to support Human Rights Advocacy Raising a strong voice against the misuse of technology and illicit networks in trafficking while promoting justice, dignity, and sustainability. In her address, Dr. Navneet Kaur emphasized, "Together, let's build a world free from exploitation and committed to justice and sustainability." Her leadership underscores India's dedication to eradicating human trafficking through policy reform, community resilience, and international cooperation.

Dr. Narinder Singh, Dr. Rajeev Bhagat holds Public Darbar at BJP headquarters

Jammu, 01 July 2025:

Dr. Narinder Singh, BJP National Secretary and MLA from R.S. Pura-Jammu South Assembly constituency, along with Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, MLA from Bishnah Assembly constituency, held a public darbar at the Bharatiya Janata Party Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The public darbar witnessed a large turnout of citizens and deputations from across various areas of Jammu, including Ganyal, Hajipora Last Morh Gandhi Nagar, Allah, Arnia Bishnah, Pargal, Prithvipur, Chak Chinnia, Harse Dhabbad Amer Naar, Ratmal, Karyal Brahmana, Upper Chowadi Ward-3, Chowadi, Digiana Ashram, and Ward-68 Lower Jalolchak among others. The deputations presented a range of civic and developmental issues before the senior BJP leaders. Key grievances raised included construction and clearance of central



and deep drains, damaged or choked drainage gratings, replacement of damaged transformers and electric poles, installation of new street lights, and urgent need for community sanitary complexes in Amir Nagar Bishnah, Mata Di Talai, Kothe Sani, and Karyal Brahmana. Residents also highlighted the scarcity of drinking water, defunct OHT in Chowadi, the need to change ration dealers, and overall improvement of

lanes and bylanes. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Narinder Singh termed the public darbar as BJP's commitment to grassroots engagement and efficient redressal mechanisms, with a strong emphasis on direct interaction with the people. He said this reflects the party's resolve for transparent and accountable governance. Dr. Singh said, "The BJP remains committed to ensuring that every

voice is heard and every genuine concern is addressed. This public darbar is part of our continuous outreach efforts to bridge the gap between the public and the administration. Wherever immediate intervention was possible, we have personally contacted the concerned officials."

Dr. Rajeev Bhagat added that BJP firmly believes in responsive governance. He said that they have prepared detailed representations for the issues that require follow-up and forwarded them to the appropriate departments. He further stressed that the issues registered will be monitored to ensure timely redressal. The proceedings of the event were coordinated by Er. T.K. Sharma, Co-convenor of the BJP Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, ensuring smooth interaction between citizens and party leadership.

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LG Manoj Sinha to flag off first batch of Amarnath Yatra pilgrims on Wednesday

Lieutenant Governor reviews final preparations for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, directs for widespread publicity of traffic advisory so that common man is not inconvenienced, Deputy Commissioners to ensure that Lodgement centres and sanitation units are in good condition

Srinagar: "The first batch of the yatra will leave the Jammu base camp in Bhagwati Nagar for Kashmir tomorrow. It will be flagged off by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha," said Jammu Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar. The devotees will be ferried to the twin base camps of Pahalgam and Baltal amid heavy security escort, traffic restrictions and area domination along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway, the



officials said. Traffic restrictions will be imposed on various routes from July 2 to August 9, with daily advisories issued to minimise in-

convenience, a traffic officer said, adding that cut-off timings have been fixed for each sector on the highway, which is monitored through

CCTVs. Over 3,500 pilgrims have reached the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas here, according to the officials. The LG, who is also the chairman of the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB), reviewed the security and other arrangements for the yatra at a high-level meeting, the officials said. Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo also visited the base camp in Jammu and said that all arrangements have been put in place for a peaceful pil-

grimage. Jammu has been put under a security blanket with enhanced security measures, including a multi-layer security grid and the use of technology for surveillance. Jammu and Kashmir Police's Security Wing has taken charge of the Bhagwati Nagar base camp while the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is managing security around the base camp. The Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in

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"Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025"

Lieutenant Governor visits Yatri Niwas at Bhagwati Nagar Jammu, reviews arrangements for Pilgrims

LG interacts with devotees, extends his warm wishes to pilgrims for a safe, blessed and spiritually fulfilling experience

JAMMU, JULY 01: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today visited Yatri Niwas at Bhagwati Nagar and reviewed arrangements for the pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. The Lieutenant Governor took stock of food and lodging of the pilgrims, security, registration counters, power and water supply, health facilities, help desks, sanitation, transportation and emergency services. At Yatri Niwas, the Lieutenant Governor interacted with devotees of Baba Bar-



fani and extended his warm wishes to pilgrims for a safe, blessed and spiritually fulfilling experience. Addressing the media persons on the sidelines of his visit, the Lieutenant Governor said that a large number of devotees from across the

country have arrived for the Yatra, which begins from Jammu tomorrow morning. "Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is a serene, enlightening and lifelong experience. May their pilgrimage be filled with joy, peace, and

(Contd on Pg 5)

New criminal laws biggest reform in independent India; justice process made simpler, transparent: Amit Shah

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday termed the enactment of three new criminal laws as the biggest reform in independent India and said they will make the judicial process not only affordable and accessible but also simpler, time-bound and transparent. Shah stressed that the Narendra Modi government framed the new laws -- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) -- to ensure that all rights of citizens are protected and no criminal goes unpunished.

Addressing an event marking one year of the rolling out of the three criminal laws, the BNS, BNSS and



the BSA, Shah said since all processes are online, nothing will be overlooked and justice will be delivered on time. "These laws are going to transform the criminal justice system in the country significantly. I assure all the citizens of India that it will take a maximum of three years for the full implementation of the new laws. I can also confidently say that anyone can get justice up to the Supreme

Court within three years of filing an FIR," he said.

The BNS, BNSS and the BSA replaced the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act of 1872, respectively. The new laws came into effect on July 1, 2024. The home minister said the three laws are the biggest reform of independent India and asserted that the use of technology will ensure that no criminal can escape punishment after committing a crime. He said justice will definitely be delivered within a stipulated time.

"The Narendra Modi government, your chosen government, has made the laws for you and it will protect all your rights," he said. Shah

(Contd on Pg 5)

Houseboat Association, Dal dwellers call on CM Omar Abdullah; flag long-pending issues

SRINAGAR, JULY 1: A deputation comprising Dal dwellers, including representatives of houseboat and shikara owners, today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to apprise him about various issues confronting them.

The meeting was held to address long standing grievances and to discuss the sustainable livelihood solutions for communities dependent on Dal Lake.

The interaction was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Director General Fire & Emergency Services J&K, Commis-



sioner Secretaries of Forest, Ecology & Environment, Tourism, Housing & Urban Development; Director Tourism, Vice Chairpersons of the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), Srinagar Development Authority and other

senior officials. Representatives of the Houseboat owners association, Shikara owners union and Dal dwellers' community participated in the meeting and put forth their concerns and issues. At the outset, MLA Zaidal

Tanvir Sadiq gave a detailed briefing to the Chief Minister on the issues raised by the visiting deputation.

The president of the Houseboat owners association highlighted key concerns of the community, particularly the delay in the renewal of

licences of houseboats. He also raised the matter of rehabilitation for houseboat owners currently located in River Jhelum and Chhouni Khul, who are willing to relocate voluntarily to more sustainable locations. He further stressed the need for dedicated space at Srinagar Airport and Srinagar Railway Station to promote and market houseboats as a unique tourism asset and renovation of facilities at Charan Bagh. The demand for setting up a dedicated fire station near Nigeen Lake, given the vulnerability of houseboats to fire accidents, was also reiterated. Members of the Dal dwellers' community urged

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Cabinet approves Rs 1.07 lakh cr employment linked incentive scheme to create 3.5 cr jobs in 2 years

Cabinet nod for Rs one lakh crore scheme to spur private investments in R&D

Cabinet approves Khelo Bharat Niti, says it will bring India into top-5 of world sports

New Delhi: The central government on Tuesday approved an Employment Linked Incentive scheme with an outlay of Rs 1.07 lakh crore to create 3.5 crore jobs over the next two years through social security schemes run by the retirement fund body EPFO. The ELI scheme to support job generation, enhance employability and social security across all sectors, with

special focus on the manufacturing sector, was approved by the Union Cabinet in a meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Information & Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. The scheme aims to incentivise the creation of more than 3.5 crore jobs in the country over two years, an official statement said. The scheme will provide incen-

tives to employees as well as employers to boost job creation. Under the scheme, while the first-time employees will get one month's wage (up to Rs 15,000), the employers will be given incentives for a period of two years for generating additional employment, with extended benefits for another two years for the manufacturing sector. The ELI scheme was an-

nounced in the Union Budget 2024-25 as part of the package of five schemes to facilitate employment, skill and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth with a total budget outlay of Rs 2 lakh crore. The ELI scheme aims to incentivise the creation of more than 3.5 crore jobs in the country over a period of 2 years, it stated. Out of these, 1.92 crore beneficiaries will be

first timers, entering the workforce. The benefits of the scheme would be applicable to jobs created between August 1, 2025, and July 31, 2027.

The plan consists of two parts, with Part A focused on first timers (employees) and Part B focused on employees registered with EPFO. This Part A will offer a

(Contd on Pg 5)

Army Chief Gen Dwivedi holds talks with Bhutanese Military Chief

New Delhi: Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Tuesday held wide-ranging talks with Bhutan's military chief Lt Gen Batoo Tshering on ways to shore up bilateral defence cooperation against the backdrop of China's military assertiveness in the region. Gen Dwivedi began his four-day trip to Bhutan on Monday. The Chief of Army Staff held discussions with Lt Gen Tshering, the chief operations officer of the Royal Bhutan Army, to further strengthen military bonds and deepen strategic

defence cooperation, according to the Indian Army. Gen Dwivedi's visit to Bhutan came amid the evolving regional security scenario and over seven weeks after India's Operation Sindoor targeting terror bases in Pakistani territories. He will also interact with senior officials of the Indian Military Training Team (IMTRAT) in Bhutan. The IMTRAT has been playing a crucial role in strengthening military capabilities of the Royal Bhutan Army.

It is understood that the overall situation in the Doklam plateau as well as Chinese activities in the region figured in the talks between Gen Dwivedi and Lt Gen Tshering. The strategic ties between India and Bhutan witnessed an upward trajectory in the last few years in the backdrop of a 73-day face-off between Indian and Chinese troops in Doklam tri-junction in 2017. The Doklam plateau is considered an important area for India's strategic

(Contd on Pg 5)

BJP highlights achievements of Modi govt's Digital India initiative, slams Cong

New Delhi: The BJP on Tuesday highlighted the achievements made under the Narendra Modi government's Digital India initiative and slammed the Congress for questioning its success, saying people have rejected it and would continue to do so because of its "destructive" model of "corruption, parivarvad and namazvad". BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari rejected Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's claim that lakhs of villages are yet to be covered under the BharatNet project, saying the truth is that the internet has reached 95 per cent of the villages in the country. "While there

were just 27 crore internet connections during the Congress rule, there are 97 crore internet connections today. This is the truth and the success of Digital India. But, the Congress will not accept it," he told a press conference at the BJP headquarters here. Listing the achievements made under the Digital India mission launched a decade ago, Bhandari said 50 per cent of the global transactions are happening in India due to the success of the initiative and its biggest beneficiaries are the poor as well as those from the middle class and lower middle class. Beneficiaries of various

(Contd on Pg 5)

CS discusses industry-driven 'Hub & Spoke Model' for ITI modernization with stakeholders

JAMMU, JULY 01: In a significant move aimed at transforming the skilling ecosystem of Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo today chaired a high-level meeting with key government functionaries and prominent industry representatives to deliberate on implementation of the Government of India's flagship scheme for modernization of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) through a hub and spoke model.

The meeting witnessed participation from Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education; Principal Secretary, Finance; CMD, J&K Bank; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD); Director General, Budget; Directors of SDD and I&C (Jammu/Kashmir) and senior representatives from leading public and private sector enterprises including SIDBI, NHP, TCS, IOCL, HPCL,



BPCL, CVVPL, NHAI and others.

The deliberations revolved around the ways and means of implementing the newly launched Centrally Sponsored Scheme titled 'National Scheme for ITI Upgradation and Setting up of National Centres of Excellence (NCOE) for Skilling', which carries a massive outlay of 760,000 crore, comprising Central share of 730,000 crore, State share of 720,000 crore and Industry/CSR contribution of 710,000

crore.

Addressing the participants, the Chief Secretary emphasized that the success of this ambitious skilling initiative hinges on a robust public-private partnership. He sought candid inputs from all participants on how best to implement the scheme in the UT to ensure that the youth of J&K are trained with market-relevant skills that make them employable and industry-ready. He called upon the industry stakeholders to actively adopt and take ownership of hub-and-spoke clusters by aligning them with real-time industrial demands. "You can play a pivotal role not only in shaping the curriculum and upgrading infrastructure but also in nurturing these institutions on professional lines," he told the industry leaders, urging them to sign MoUs for formalizing their commitment under the scheme.

(Contd on Pg 5)

Gross GST collections rise 6.2 pc to over Rs 1.84 lakh cr in Jun

New Delhi: Gross GST collections increased by 6.2 per cent to over Rs 1.84 lakh crore in June but slipped below the Rs 2 lakh crore mark recorded in the previous two months. Gross GST collections stood at Rs 1,73,813 crore a year ago, as per government data released on Tuesday. In May, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection was Rs 2,011 lakh crore. It touched a record high of Rs 2,37 lakh crore in April this year.

In June, gross revenues from domestic transactions rose 4.6 per cent to about Rs 1.38 lakh crore, while GST revenue from imports grew 11.4 per cent to Rs 45,690 crore. The gross Central GST revenues stood at Rs

34,558 crore. State GST revenues at Rs 43,268 crore and Integrated GST at about Rs 93,280 lakh crore in June. Revenues from Cess were Rs 13,491 crore.

Meanwhile, total refunds during the month rose by 28.4 per cent to Rs 25,491 crore. The net GST mop-up stood at about Rs 1.59 lakh crore, registering a 3.3 per cent year-on-year growth. Looking at the numbers on a month-on-month basis, the net GST collections of June this year have shown a reduction of 8.48 per cent, with collections from the domestic market and imports showing a fall, Karthik Mani, Partner, Indirect Tax, BDO India, said.

(Contd on Pg 5)

DC Kishtwar reviews functioning of Revenue Department; Sets timelines for key deliverables

KISHTWAR, JULY 01: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today convened a meeting to review functioning of the Revenue Department in the district. The agenda points of the meeting included Digitization/Recreation of Missing Mussavis, progress of ground truthing of rectified maps (BISAG-N), progress on Ground Verified Maps 1.0 and 2.0 under the Svamitva scheme, timely disposal of online revenue services (PSG Act), among others. ACR, Idrees Lone apprised the DC of the current progress and functioning of the Revenue Department in the District.



During the meeting, the DC directed all concerned Tehsildars to ensure the completion of recreation of Mussavis by 20th July 2025. Tehsildar Bounjwah was specifically instructed to coordinate with DFO Kishtwar for

the recreation of Mussavis in forest areas. Emphasizing progress under the Svamitva Scheme, the DC instructed all Tehsildars to complete Mapping (Map 1.0 and 2.0) by 10th July 2025. For efficient service deliv-

ery, the DC directed all Tehsildars to ensure timely issuance of certificates/services and clear all pending cases within 3 days. He also instructed Tehsildars to ensure timely disposal of revenue court cases as re-

flected on the RCCMS portal. Strict instructions were issued regarding eviction of encroachments from State/Common/Kachhara/Roshni land along with the installation of signboards and measures to prevent re-encroachment. The DC directed all Tehsildars to conduct special camps for inheritance mutations in addition to routine mutation work. The meeting was attended by ACR Kishtwar Idrees Lone, SDM Chattroo Naayem Ur Rahman, SDM Marwah Dr. Mohd Ashraf, SDM Paddar Dr. Amit Kumar, Tehsildars, besides the concerned staff of Revenue Department.

Legal Metrology Deptt imposes Rs 2 lakh penalty for short delivery

JAMMU, JULY 1: Acting swiftly on the direction of Controller Legal Metrology, Rajinder Singh Tara, Legal Metrology Enforcement, Jammu, has imposed a penalty of Rs. 2 lakh on a firm for supplying and marketing retail packages of wheat flour (Atta) with average lesser net quantity of 160g in each 10 kg bag. The department has taken this action following a complaint alleging that a particular pre-packaged commodity sold in the market was lesser than the declared net quality. On the basis of the complaint, the matter was swiftly investigated by the department and upon quantity measurement testing, it was established that net content of pre-packaged bags sold in the market was 160g lesser in net quantity on an average basis against the declared net quantity of 10kg. This was a serious infringement of consumer right and volatile of some of provisions of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 and the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011. By supplying lesser than declared net quantity, the firm not only breached the customer trust but also violated the legal provisions of laws. In view of this, the Legal Metrology Enforcement Unit, Jammu, under the overall

supervision of the Controller, has registered this case against the concerned firm and issued a notice to the defaulter. On receiving the notice of the department, the concerned defaulting supplier firm admitted violations and applied for departmental compounding which a legal remedy under the Act for first offence within three years. The case against the firm was compounded and a penal sum of Rs. 2,00,000/- was realised on assurance from the firm for immediate compliance of net content correction of stocks as mandated under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 and Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011. In a hand-out issued, Rajinder Singh Tara, Controller Legal Metrology, reaffirmed the department's commitment to consumer protection and fair trade practices, particularly in the rapidly growing sector. The Controller further assured that the department will continue its rigorous inspections and enforcement actions to ensure compliance with the regulatory norms. He emphasized the importance of verifiable product information and net content accuracy with respect to declared net quantity particularly pre-packaged commodities, to protect consumers rights from deception.

DC Kishtwar reviews implementation of JK E-Sehat App

KISHTWAR, JULY 01: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today reviewed the status of the JK E-Sehat App-a unified digital platform aimed at enhancing healthcare delivery. The CMO Kishtwar Dr. Rajinder Kumar briefed the DC on the current registration figures in the district. To accelerate implementation, the DC directed all Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) to ensure immediate registration of their government employees, and instructed the Health Department to deploy dedicated staff for mass registration, including the general public. SDMs were also tasked with ensuring the rollout at the sub-divisional and tehsil levels. The JK E-Sehat App provides a wide range of services including tele-consul-



tation, appointment booking, access to health records, AI-based symptom checking, medication reminders and integration with wearables. It supports both public and private healthcare access and includes features for patients, healthcare professionals and medical students-such as academic resources, e-prescriptions, secure messaging, ambulance services, insurance scheme information and

skill development modules like CPR and BLS training. The DC stressed the importance of ensuring widespread adoption of the app to improve healthcare access, especially in remote and underserved areas. The meeting was attended by CMO Kishtwar Dr. Rajinder Kumar, MS DH Kishtwar Dr. Yudhvir Singh Kotwal, BMOs, DMEOs (NHM) Manoj Sharma besides other concerned staff.

DC Poonch chairs NCORD meeting; reviews anti-drug measures in district

POONCH, JULY 01: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting of the District-Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to review the ongoing anti-drug measures and assess the performance of enforcement departments in curbing the drug menace in the district. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a comprehensive review of the anti-narcotic activities, including the destruction of cannabis and the progress of the Nasha Mukta Panchayat initiative across tehsils. Tehsildars presented detailed reports on the ongoing efforts and were instructed to regularly monitor computerized billing in chemist shops. The District Social Welfare



Officer informed the meeting that awareness campaigns under the Nasha

Mukt Abhiyan are being held regularly with active public participation.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the inclusion of police, Army and CRPF personnel in these awareness drives to ensure a more impactful outreach. Heads of colleges and schools shared updates on awareness activities and preventive initiatives conducted in educational institutions. The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) provided updates on the counseling services, medical support and sensitization efforts being undertaken by the health department. The DFO and Tehsildars were directed to take immediate action for the destruction of cannabis in identified areas. Additionally, the ACR Poonch was asked to organize a Nasha Mukta awareness camp at Degree College Mandi. The Deputy Com-

missioner underscored the importance of coordinated efforts among departments to achieve the goal of making Poonch a drug-free district. He called for increased surveillance in hotspot areas, installation of CCTV cameras, enhanced enforcement presence and sustained awareness drives. The SSP stressed the need for seamless inter-departmental coordination and urged for swift action against any drug-related activity reported in the district. The meeting was attended by SSP Poonch, ADC Poonch, DFO, ACR, DSWO, CMO, Professors from Degree Colleges, Drugs Inspector, Tehsildars and other concerned officers where SDMs from Surankote and Mendhar joined the meeting virtually.

Director Agriculture Jammu inaugurates 9th Crop Insurance Week Campaign under PMFBY

JAMMU, JULY 01: Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen, today inaugurated the 9th Crop Insurance Week Campaign at the Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tilo, Jammu. The week-long campaign, being observed from July 1 to July 7, 2025, marks a significant step in promoting awareness about the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for the Kharif 2025 season across Jammu Division. The inaugural event witnessed the presence of Chief Agriculture Officer Jammu, Manohar Lal Sharma, Agronomist (VIS) Vikas Padha, SMS-DL Rajeev Katoch, SDAO Marh Khalid Hassan Tantri, State Head,



Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, Sonu Kumar Kashyap along with sectoral heads, officers and staff of the department. As part of the launch, the Director flagged off the Crop Insurance Awareness Campaign Van, which will travel across districts of Jammu Region to sensitize and educate farmers on the

key features and benefits of the PMFBY scheme. The Director emphasized the importance of the campaign in ensuring maximum farmer outreach, particularly focusing on non-loan farmers. He directed field functionaries to organize awareness camps at the block and panchayat levels in collabora-

tion with insurance companies and banking institutions. The Director directed Chief Agriculture Officers for active participation of Agriculture Extension Officers (AEOS), Junior Agriculture Extension Officers (JAEOS) and Agriculture Extension Assistants (AEAs) to assist farmers in the enrolment

process. He stressed the need for close coordination with insurance companies and Common Service Centres (CSCs) to ensure smooth and timely registration within the notified cut-off dates. The Director appealed to the farming community of Jammu Division to enroll under PMFBY for the Kharif 2025 season to safeguard their crops against unforeseen losses. He encouraged farmers to utilize the toll-free helpline 14447/WhatsApp number 7065514447 for any queries related to the scheme and to approach their nearest bank branches or CSCs for registration.

DHSJ visits village Dhar Sakri, Block Kandi following Gastroenteritis outbreak

JAMMU, JULY 01: In response to the outbreak of gastroenteritis cases in village Dhar Sakri of Block Kandi, the Director Health Services Jammu, Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar conducted an on-ground visit to the affected area. The Director was accompanied by State Surveillance Officer (SSO) Jammu Dr. Harjeet Rai and Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Rajouri Dr. Manohar Rana. During the visit, the Director met the affected individuals and interacted with members of the local community. He took a review of the present situation and appreciated the swift and effective work being carried out by the health teams under the close supervision



and monitoring of CMO Rajouri. Dr. Zargar also assessed the availability of essential medicines and reviewed the functioning of the health teams during a meeting held with local health functionaries. As part of the public health protocol, samples were collected from the area for further laboratory investigation to determine the source of the outbreak and to prevent further spread.

Later, the Director visited Government Medical College & Associated Hospital (GMC & AH) Rajouri, where some patients from Dhar Sakri are currently admitted. He interacted with the patients, inquired about their well-being and assured them that the Health Department remains vigilant and committed to ensuring the safety

MLA Ramban lays foundation stone of Kilaseri to Dayargali Road via Dugga

RAMBAN, JULY 01: Taking a major step towards strengthening rural connectivity, the Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Ramban, Advocate Arjun Singh Raju today laid the foundation stone for the construction of the Kilaseri to Dayargali road via Dugga. The 5-km road project is being executed by the Public Works Department (PWD) B&E Ramban under the NAMARD RIDF-XXVII scheme. The project, sanctioned for the year 2022-23, carries an estimated cost of ₹499.50 lakh, with an allotment of ₹311.92 lakh. The project is expected to benefit a population of over 2,000, providing a vital boost to connectivity, easing transportation challenges and contributing to the socio-economic upliftment of the region. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring accelerated development and robust infrastructure in Ramban, especially in remote and underserved areas. He said that the road pro-



ject was a long-pending demand of the locals, which will soon translate into improved accessibility and economic growth for the area. DDC Councillor, Executive Engineer PWD Ramban along with engineers, officers from various departments and prominent citizens attended the foundation stone-laying ceremony. Locals expressed gratitude to the MLA and the administration for addressing a key infrastructure need of the area.

Director Horticulture Jammu conducts an extensive tour of Samba

JAMMU, JULY 01: Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Sayed today conducted an extensive tour of Samba district. During the tour, he visited Government Fruit Nursery, Vijaypur wherein he planted a sapling of Mango plant. He inspected Mother block of Dragon fruit, an exotic fruit plant, established under the component "Production of Designer Plants" of HADP as well as protected cultivation structure having micro-irrigation facilities. The Director took stock of the ongoing developmental activities in the nursery and gave on spot instructions to the nursery staff regarding the production of quality grafted



planting material in the nursery. He also emphasized on introduction of new cultivars of fruit plants and opening of fruit plants sale outlet in the nursery. While inspecting the nursery, he appreciated fruiting in the experimental mother block of Date Palm which was established during the year 2020-21 and

came into bearing. This nursery is catering the requirement of sub-tropical fruit plants of the farmers of Jammu province to a greater extent. Further, the officers were instructed to get soil testing of orchard of every farmer so that a balanced dose of fertilizer may be applied in the orchards for better pro-

ductivity and also asked to issue advisory on plant protection measures to be taken in the orchards for production of quality fruit. Further, the Director inspected naturally ventilated Poly House structure at Sarore established under HADP by Navneet Sharma, who after rendering 25 years in financial sector has

become a Horticulture Entrepreneur. Meanwhile, Director inspected various projects viz: dragon fruit orchard at Ramgarh and mango orchard at Gupwal. The Director also had an interaction with the farmers and urged them to come forward and avail the benefits of various schemes of the department especially HADP and Revised Modified High Density Plantation Scheme. He was accompanied by Chief Horticulture Officer Samba Sh. Anil Gokha, DL Subject Matter Specialist Ravati Ramam Sharma, HDO Vijay Kumar and other officials of the department.

FROM PAGE ONE

LG Manoj...

Jammu serves as the primary base camp for pilgrims from across the country before they proceed to the cave shrine of Amarnath nestled in the majestic Himalayas of south Kashmir. Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today chaired a high-level meeting with the senior officers and reviewed the final preparations for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Shri Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department Shri Shateen Kabra; DGP Shri Nalin Prabhat; Special Director General (Coordination), PHQ, Shri S.J.M Gillani; Principal Secretary Home Shri Chandnaker Bharti; Principal Secretary, Finance Shri Santosh D Vaidya; ADGP CID Shri Nishit Kumar; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO SASB Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari and senior officials of SASB, Police and Civil Administration.

The Lieutenant Governor took a comprehensive review of the traffic & security management and all the arrangements in place by the stakeholder departments for the smooth, safe and hassle-free holy pilgrimages. The Lieutenant Governor directed the officials for widespread publicity of Traffic Advisory so that common man is not inconvenienced. District Administrations, SSPs, Traffic Police and Stakeholder departments should work in close coordination to ensure movement of pilgrims in designated convoys and smooth implementation of the traffic plan, he said.

He further directed the Deputy Commissioners to ensure that Lodgement centres and sanitation units are in good condition. Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha will flag off the first batch of Amarnath Yatra pilgrims for the twin base camps in Kashmir from here amid tight security on Wednesday. The 38-day pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high shrine will commence on July 3 from the Valley via the twin tracks - the traditional 48-kilometre Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the shorter (14 kilometres) but steeper Balthal route in Ganderbal district. The yatra will conclude on August 9.

According to officials, more than 3.31,000 devotees have registered for this year's yatra so far. On-the-spot registration of devotees arriving here for the pilgrimage has also started. Nearly 4,000 tokens have been distributed during the past two days, the officials said.

Lieutenant...

spiritual bliss. Improved arrangements have been made for the convenience of the pilgrims. We must carry forward the traditions of J&K and make this yatra a huge success," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The 38-day long Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra will commence on 3rd July from the base camp on both the routes and it will culminate on 9th August 2025. The Yatra will be flagged off by the Lieutenant Governor on July 02 from Yatri Niwas, Bhagwati Nagar.

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by DGP Shri Nalin Prabhat; ADG CRPF, Shri Rajesh Kumar; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Shri Ranish Kumar; IGP Jammu, Shri Bhim Sen Tuti; Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Shri Sachin Kumar Vaidya and senior officials from civil administration, police and security forces.

New...

who piloted the laws, said the new laws would give priority to providing justice, unlike the colonial-era laws that gave primacy to penal action. He said the biggest challenge before the country's judicial system was - 'when will justice be delivered', referring to the long pendency of cases.

"It was an era of 'tareekh pe tareekh' (repeated adjournments). But after the complete implementation of three new laws, if you file an FIR in any corner of the country, you will get justice up to the Supreme Court within three years," he said. The home minister expressed confidence that after the full implementation of the new criminal laws, the conviction rate in the country, which is currently low in comparison to developed nations, will increase.

"I assure you that after the full implementation of the new laws, the conviction rate will be higher than any other country in the world, our judicial system will be the most modern system in the world, the usage of technology will be the highest in India," he said. He said that under the new laws, forensic evidence has been made mandatory for all cases where there is a provision of punishment of seven years. Shah said in the criminal justice system, all three components - police, prosecution and judiciary - are bound by time limits in the new laws to ensure justice for citizens. "The IPC, the CrPc and the Evidence Act were enacted for the protection of British rule. The new laws have been made for the protection of the citizen's body, property and constitutional rights," he said.

The home minister said that in the coming days, the country's criminal justice system will enter a new era and this will surely succeed in replacing the sentiment of 'What's the use of filing an FIR' with the confidence that 'If we file an FIR, justice will be delivered promptly'.

He said after the roll-out of the new laws, investigations must be completed within 90 days, timelines have been set for filing the charge sheet, framing charges and delivering judgments. Shah said there can be no greater reform than making the justice system transparent, people-friendly and time-bound, and this was done through the new laws.

Since July 1, 2024, all fresh FIRs are registered under the BNS. However, cases filed earlier continued to be tried under the old laws till their final disposal. The new laws brought in a modern justice system, incorporating provisions such as Zero FIR, online registration of police complaints, summonses through electronic modes such as SMS and mandatory videography of crime scenes for all heinous crimes. These laws have taken into account the current social realities and modern-day crimes and are going to provide a mechanism to effectively deal with these, keeping in view the ideals enshrined in the Constitution.

Houseboat...

the administration to take up urgent repair and renovation work of the wooden culverts and bridges that are integral for community movement, especially ahead of the Muharram processions. They also flagged the need for improvement

in basic amenities for the residents living in the interiors of the lake.

They also brought attention to the lack of a reliable mechanism for the transportation of essential ration to the interiors of the lake, affecting the daily lives of inhabitants.

Similarly, shikara owners demanded restoration and maintenance of ghats and jetties along the Dal Lake shoreline.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the deputation and assured them that all genuine concerns would be examined and addressed on priority.

He emphasized that the government is committed to safeguarding the interests of those whose livelihood depends on the lake, while also ensuring sustainable preservation of this ecological treasure.

Cabinet...

one-month wage up to Rs 15,000 in two instalments. Employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh will be eligible. The first instalment will be payable after 6 months of service, and the second instalment after 12 months of service and completion of a financial literacy programme by the employee.

"To encourage the habit of saving, a portion of the incentive will be kept in a savings instrument or deposit account for a fixed period and can be withdrawn by the employee at a later date. Part A will benefit around 1.92 crore first-time employees," the statement said. Part B of the scheme will cover the generation of additional employment in all sectors, with a special focus on the manufacturing sector. The employers will get incentives with respect to employees with salaries up to Rs 1 lakh.

The government will incentivise employers, up to Rs 3,000 per month, for two years, for each additional employee with sustained employment for at least six months. For the manufacturing sector, incentives will be extended to the 3rd and 4th years as well. Establishments, which are registered with EPFO, will be required to hire at least 50 additional employees (for employers with less than 50 employees) or five additional employees (for employers with 50 or more employees) on a sustained basis for at least six months.

The benefit to the employer (per additional employment per month) will be up to Rs 1,000 for employees with a monthly wage of Rs 10,000, while this will be Rs 2,000 for employees with wages of more than Rs 10,000 and up to Rs 20,000. Employees with wages up to Rs 10,000 will get a proportional incentive. The benefit will be Rs 3,000 per month to the employers for employees with a wage of more than Rs 20,000 (up to a salary of Rs 1 lakh/month). Part B (for employers) is expected to incentivise employers for the creation of additional employment for nearly 2.60 crore persons.

All payments to the first-time employees under Part A of the scheme will be made through the DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) mode using the Aadhaar Bridge Payment System (ABPS). Payments to employers under Part B will be made directly into their PAN-linked Accounts. With the ELI scheme, the government intends to catalyse job creation in all sectors, particularly in the manufacturing sector, besides incentivising youth joining the workforce for the first time.

An important outcome of the scheme will also be the formalisation of the country's workforce by extending social security coverage for cadres of young men and women. CII Director General Chandniji Banerjee said, "ELI is a significant step towards boosting employment and formalising India's workforce. The ELI scheme opens doors for first-time job seekers, empowering them to contribute meaningfully to India's growth story. It empowers employers to expand their workforce and gives a decisive push to India's labour-intensive sectors".

FICCI President Harsha Vardhan Agarwal said that FICCI welcomes the ELI scheme as a transformative initiative aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat. The three-pronged approach, supporting first-time employment, manufacturing job creation, and employer incentives, promises to generate over two crore jobs in two years, he stated. This scheme embodies the principles of productivity and participation, particularly benefitting MSMEs and young workers, he opined.

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved the Research Development and Innovation Scheme with a corpus of Rs one lakh crore to spur private sector investment in research. The scheme, approved by the Cabinet at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to encourage the private sector to scale up research, development and innovation in sunrise domains and in other sectors relevant for economic security, strategic purpose, and self-reliance.

"Today's Cabinet decision relating to Research Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme will be a game changer in the world of research and innovation. This scheme, with a corpus of Rs. 1 lakh crore will have a major impact on emerging and sunrise sectors. It will also boost private sector participation in the world of R&D," Modi said in a post on X. The scheme aims to provide long-term financing or refinancing with long tenors at low or nil interest rates to spur private sector investment in research, development and innovation, I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters.

He said the scheme has been designed to overcome the constraints and challenges in funding of the private sector and seeks to provide growth and risk capital to sunrise and strategic sectors to facilitate innovation, promote adoption of technology and enhance competitiveness. The initiative will also finance transformative projects at higher technology readiness levels, support acquisition of technologies which are critical or of high strategic importance, and facilitate setting up of a deep-tech fund of funds.

Vaishnaw said the governing board of Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), chaired by the prime minister, will provide overarching strategic direction to the RDI scheme. The Executive Council of ANRF will approve the scheme's guidelines, and recommend second level fund managers and scope and type of projects in sunrise sectors. An Empowered Group of Secretaries led by the Cabinet Secretary, will be responsible for approving scheme changes, sectors and types of projects as well as second-level fund managers besides reviewing the performance of the Scheme. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) will serve as the nodal department for implementation of the RDI scheme. The scheme will have a two-tiered fund-

ing mechanism. At the first level, there will be a special purpose fund (SPF) established within the ANRF, which will act as the custodian of funds.

From the SPF funds shall be allocated to a variety of second level fund managers. This will be mainly in the form of long-term concessional loans," Vaishnaw said. The funding to R&D projects by the second level fund managers would normally be in the form of long-term loan at low or nil interest rates. Financing in the form of equity may also be done, especially in case of startups. Contribution to deep-tech fund of funds (FoF) or any other FoF meant for RDI may also be considered, he said.

By addressing the critical need of the private sector for long-term, affordable financing, the RDI Scheme fosters self-reliance and global competitiveness, thereby facilitating a conducive innovation ecosystem for the country as it marches towards Viksit Bharat at 2047, Vaishnaw said.

Calling it a "strategic roadmap" for India's elevation into the top five of world sports, the cabinet on Tuesday approved the Khelo Bharat Niti to create "world-class systems" of coaching and athlete support along with a robust administrative set-up to make the country a strong contender for the 2036 Olympics. Previously called the National Sports Policy and introduced for the first time in 1984, the Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 will supersede the 2001 policy. It is a "guiding document" to formulate plans and schemes for betterment of the country's sporting ecosystem.

"We have used the experience of the last 10 years and the new policy will work towards improvement of sports. Major objective is to make India a top-five sporting nation by 2047. That's the overall objective," Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told reporters while unveiling the policy and other cabinet decisions. "The PM has given a different kind of emphasis to sports, especially in rural areas," he said.

"It's a well thought through policy which addresses all matters related to sports. It also includes the framework for sports governance," he added. India is bidding to host the 2036 Olympic Games for which there has been a massive push to create infrastructure and bring events of international stature to the country. A statement from the Press Information Bureau described the new policy as an outcome of "extensive consultations" involving central ministries, NTTI Aayog, state governments, National Sports Federations (NSFs), athletes, domain experts, and public stakeholders.

"Today is a landmark day for India's efforts to encourage sporting talent and become a hub for sports! The Cabinet has approved Khelo Bharat Niti, a national policy for sports. Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X. "This policy is anchored on 5 pillars: Excellence on the Global Stage, Sports for Economic Development, Sports for Social Development, Sports as a People's Movement, Integration with Education (NEP 2020).

"May Indian sporting talent always flourish!" he added. It seeks to link sports with tourism and economic development. "So many people travel to watch an IPL, a football game. So that boosts tourism and economic development," Vaishnaw said. The country of over a billion is cricket-obsessed but the improvement in its performance in Olympic sports has been rather slow. India is yet to hit the double digit mark in Olympic sports with the count of seven in 2021 Tokyo Games being its best ever show.

The new policy hopes to change that and is seeking to align with the National Education Policy by making sports an integral part of school curriculum. It states that the objective is to equip educators and physical education teachers with specialised training to promote sports education. Among the listed goals is to establish a robust regulatory framework for sports governance and development of innovative financing mechanisms, including private sector participation through PPPs and CSR.

Sports Minister Manu Khanna Mandavaria called it a transformative step towards reshaping India's sporting ecosystem. "This landmark policy outlines a strategic roadmap to promote sports culture at the grassroots, enhance infrastructure, support athlete development, and establish India as a formidable force in global sports," he posted on X. The changes it makes to the previous policy includes calling for greater participation of private companies, something that Mandavaria has already spoken about. The minister had recently stated that he has held consultations with over 40 companies, who are keen on adopting individual Olympic sports. The sports ministry is also working towards promoting a "league culture" across disciplines, including financing those which need funding. Creating leagues is also a stated objective of the new policy.

The document also seeks to promote more inclusivity and increase participation in sports among under-represented groups such as women, economically weaker sections, and tribal communities. "Creating and maintaining such facilities can significantly reduce barriers and promote active participation among them," the policy states.

Army...

interest. The standoff at Doklam tri-junction in 2017 began after China tried to extend a road in an area that Bhutan claimed belonged to it. India had strongly opposed the construction as it would have impacted its overall security interests. The India-China stand-off in the Doklam plateau even triggered fears of larger conflict between the two neighbours. Bhutan had said the area belonged to it and India supported the Bhutanese claim.

The face-off was resolved following several rounds of talks. Bhutan shares an over 400-km-long border with China and the two countries have held a series of boundary talks in a bid to resolve the dispute. China and Bhutan are looking at an expeditious resolution of their festering boundary row that could have implications for India's security interests. In late 2023, Bhutan's then Foreign Minister Tandi Dorji held talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Beijing. A Chinese readout on the talks said Bhutan firmly abides by the one-China principle and stands ready to work with China for an early settlement of the boundary issue. New Delhi has been keeping a close eye on the negotiations between Bhutan and China on their boundary row as it could have implications for New Delhi's security interests, especially in the Doklam tri-junction.

China and Bhutan have agreed to expedite and take simultaneous steps to implement a "three-step roadmap" to resolve their festering boundary dispute. In October 2021, Bhutan and China signed an agreement on the "three-step roadmap" to expedite negotiations to resolve their boundary dispute.

BJP highlights...

schemes are getting financial assistance directly into their bank accounts through direct benefit transfer (DBT) due to the success of the Digital India initiative under Modi's leadership, he said. "There are two models before the people of the country today. One is PM Modi's model of development and the other is the opposition's model of 'bhraashatchar' (corruption), 'parivarvad' (dynasty politics) and 'hamazvaad' (Muslim appeasement), which are destructive," he said. The BJP spokesperson said the country has chosen the development model of Prime Minister Modi for its success on various fronts and rejected the 'anti-people' model of the Congress. The country will continue to reject "vinaash" (destruction), 'parivarvad', 'bhraashatchar' and 'namazvaad' of the opposition because it is "inherently" anti-people and anti-development, he added.

Bhandari said, "Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi used to say that for every rupee (targeted towards welfare and poverty alleviation) only 15 paise reaches the poor. Today, the same thing is happening in the states ruled by the Congress and other opposition parties. That's why people have been rejecting the opposition and choosing PM Modi's model of development, he added.

"Look at the two parallels -- INDI alliance's 'bhraashatchar', INDI alliance means 'hamazvaad', INDI alliance means 'vinaashvad'. PM Modi government means 'vikas' (development), 'vikas vikas'," he added. Prime Minister Modi asserted on Tuesday that the Digital India initiative launched a decade ago bridged the digital divide between haves and have-nots, and democratised opportunity, stressing that it has become a people's movement.

In a post on LinkedIn, he said while decades were spent doubting the ability of Indians to use technology, his government changed this approach and trusted the ability of citizens to use technology. Modi asserted that his government used technology to eliminate the gap between the haves and the have-nots, he added. The Congress claimed the fine print of its 'lofty claims' is marred by unfulfilled promises, digital exclusion of the marginalised, hurting privacy and weakening transparency.

Questioning the government's claims of the success of the initiative that completed 10 years, Kharge cited data like villages and schools that are yet to get broadband connectivity, the rising debt of state-owned telecom companies MTNL and BSNL, and a surge in cyber crimes. At the same time, the opposition party sought to take credit for laying the foundation of several pathbreaking initiatives like Aadhaar and UPI during its rule.

CS discusses...

Dulloo further instructed the Skill Development Department to explore potential partnerships with leading PSUs and industrial conglomerates across the country, tapping into their CSR initiatives and technological expertise.

Speaking during the meeting, ACS, Higher Education, Shantmann encouraged the stakeholders not to be deterred by challenges. He urged for innovative engagement models and suggested leveraging every possible channel for training, mentoring, and eventual placement of youth over time. Principal Secretary, Finance, echoed similar sentiments and proposed organizing a high-level workshop with national PSUs and corporate houses in Delhi to showcase the opportunities and mutual benefits of investing in J&K's skill ecosystem. He also recommended benchmarking against successful ITI models in Delhi, Mumbai, and Gujarat that have achieved 100% placement records in recent years.

Commissioner Secretary, I&C, Vikramjit Singh, suggested exploring models where industry-aligned groups could be entrusted with the day-to-day running of ITIs, thereby ensuring hands-on training and direct linkages to employment. Secretary, SDD, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, presented the framework of the scheme, highlighting its dual focus-modernizing 1,000 Government ITIs under a hub and spoke system with revamped industry-aligned trades and establishing five National Centres of Excellence for Skillung at select National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs).

He informed that select well-performing ITIs in J&K would be designated as hubs, while nearby institutes would be developed as spokes, each cluster supported by specific industrial partners. These partners are expected to provide managerial support, help in co-designing the course curriculum, depute expert trainers, provide modern machinery and equipment, and conduct specialized training for instructors. Further, the industrial partners are mandated to facilitate On-the-Job Training (OJT) and support real-world exposure of trainees, thereby bridging the critical gap between classroom learning and practical industry needs. Each hub is proposed to receive 780 crore and each spoke 740 crore over five years, with the financial contribution shared in a 50:30:10 ratio by the Centre, State/UT and Industry respectively.

Gross...

Coming on the 8th anniversary of the introduction of GST, it is hoped that such marked growth in collection on a year-on-year basis is just an aberration and GST collections would be back to the usual growth trajectory in the coming months, he added. While large states like Maharashtra, West Bengal, Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Tamil Nadu have reported collection increases of 4 to 8 per cent, other states like Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Gujarat reported contraction between 1 and 4 per cent.

Some states like Haryana, Bihar and Jharkhand have shown median increases of 10 per cent. According to Vivek Jalan, Partner, Tax Connect Advisory, after two successive months of Rs 2 lakh crore plus GST revenues and double-digit growth, Rs 1.85 lakh crore collections in June 2025 seem a little dampening. However, the YTD growth of 11.8 per cent in GST still gives a tax buoyancy of more than 1 per cent, which means that India is still in the 'Goldilocks situation' amid global turmoil, Jalan added.

North in News

EDITORIAL

DELISTING
POLITICAL PARTIES.

There was a period, soon after independence, when a large number of people were available in every part of the country who were inspired by the ideologies of Gandhi ji and had dedicated their lives for the welfare of the people. The electorate had no difficulty in choosing their representatives, who in turn, did not have to spend much on electioneering. Gandhi ji had preached simple living and high thinking. But power corrupts. Sadly, most of the original breed of people representatives succumbed to the temptations of power and forgot their promises to the people. With the passage of time, those who still cherished and stood for the high ideals of public life died or faded out. The field was left clear for those who would exploit the voters. Visibly, now a days propaganda, rather than service, thereof has become the means of getting vote. Unfortunately, politics has become a lucrative business for many of the leaders/ political parties. Most of the political leaders/ parties thrive on the public money collected by the governments from time to time in the form of due/undue taxes. It shall not be a surprise for the tax payers that many of our hon'ble Members Parliament/Members, Legislative Assemblies, have no source of income except the pay and perks they get from the government. Moreover, in the field are some of the registered political parties whose whereabouts/activities performed are not known for a long time. Appreciably, the Election Authorities have decided to do away with such political parties. As per the media reports, the Office of the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Electoral Officer has issued show cause notices to three registered political parties, proposing to delist them from the list of registered parties. The CEOs decision has been taken after finding that these parties have not contested any elections to the House of the people or State Legislative Assemblies, since 2019. The current addresses of these inactive parties are also, unknown. It has raised questions about active existence of such parties. All the three parties have been issued show cause notice. They have been given an opportunity to explain as to why they should not be delisted. They need to submit their written representation accompanied by an affidavit and supporting documents by July 7, 2025. Further, a hearing has also been scheduled for July 11, 2025. In case these parties fail to respond, appropriate orders shall be passed against them without any further reference. If the parties fail to respond, the C.E.O Office will presume that they have nothing to say and pass appropriate orders without further reference. The significant move shall help in ensuring that the registered political parties remain active and functional. The action initiated by the Chief Electoral Officer is welcome and appreciable. Well begun is half done.

RAJINI SHARMA.....

Pyush Lohia

Moradabad, formerly known as Chaupala and also called Rustam Nagar, is one of the largest industrial cities in western Uttar Pradesh. Nestled on the gentle banks of the Ramganga River, it has long drawn water for its kilns and workshops — its artisans skillfully transforming molten brass into heirloom pieces. Today, Moradabad's handicraft industry and artistic brass-ware jewelry are celebrated across continents, earning it the affectionate nickname "Pital Nagri," or Brass City. Moradabad sits 165 km east of New Delhi on NH 24 (now NH 9), a crucial highway bustling with trucks, buses, and aspirations heading towards Lucknow and beyond. For local entrepreneurs, NH 24 is more than just pavement; it represents a promise of timely deliveries and access to new market frontiers. Thanks to the Hapur-Moradabad six-laning project, which opened in March 2022, the travel time to the capital has already been reduced by almost 30 per cent. Proposed upgrades — a regional airport, a 60 m-wide ring road, and a 36 m industrial corridor — are poised to further weave Moradabad into India's economic tapestry. Under the Moradabad Master Plan 2031, city planners plot an ambitious trajectory for growth and inclusion. A mega-MSME park and handicraft village will unite designers, producers, and exporters beneath one roof — transforming scattered workshops into a cohesive campus. The brass industry powerhouse already hosts 30,000–40,000 units, and



recent diversification into steel, aluminium, and iron goods has bolstered resilience when global demand fluctuates. Complementing this is an Industrial Logistics Park and Knowledge City — spaces where young engineers prototype new tools and entrepreneurs pitch digital solutions. The transport infrastructure projects will link the SEZ's 58 operational units directly to the city's industrial zone, leveraging NH-24's logistic advantages. Moradabad's civic landscape is undergoing a quiet renaissance under the Smart City initiative. High-definition CCTV cameras now pepper major junctions. Digital traffic signals adjust in real time to ease morning jams, and a user-friendly online grievance portal ensures that if a street-light fails or a pothole appears, a single click sets local teams in motion. At the heart of it all, NH 24 serves as both backbone and barometer — its steady flow mirroring the city's rhythm. Riding this growth wave, enhanced accessibility and industrial spill have ignited a real-estate boom along the NH 24 corridor. In New Moradabad, young families now settle into gleaming apartment towers. Property

values have surged by 15–20 per cent in recent years, driven as much by repeat homebuyers seeking community as by corporate leases for warehouses and office parks. Master-planned townships boast verdant green belts and clubhouses, while smaller enclaves celebrate Moradabad's heritage through brass-themed public art and bustling weekend bazaars. As infrastructure steadily reshapes the urban fabric of Moradabad, a quiet transformation is taking place, people are aligning their lifestyle choices with better-planned spaces and emerging corridors of opportunity. New Moradabad is becoming the city's most promising zone for both living and investment. Led by the Moradabad Development Authority (MDA) and prominent private developers, over 1,000 acres have been earmarked for integrated development, featuring residential complexes, commercial hubs, educational zones, and abundant green spaces. The appeal is affordable, yet backed by state-planned infrastructure and rising end-user demand, without the crowding of metros. Whether you're looking to build, invest, or settle, New Moradabad offers a rare combination: the calm

of a growing city and the confidence of planned progress. It's not just a place on the map, it's a destination taking shape with purpose. Healthcare, too, is emerging from its traditional cocoon. By July 2025, Moradabad will host one of Uttar Pradesh's twelve advanced food and drug testing laboratories — an institution as vital to farmers and pharmacists as the kilns are to artisans.

Here, grain samples and medicine vials undergo rigorous quality checks. The forthcoming Medicity promises tertiary-care specialties from cardiology suites to maternity wings for helping families once forced to travel hours for treatment. Many health care precincts, combining modern hospitals, specialty clinics (cardiology, oncology, orthopedics), including traditional wellness centers (Ayurveda, Yoga), are being established on the same campus. While diagnostic hubs and proposed medical colleges boost research. To meet the demands, there's a hospital boom — leading specialty chains and upgrades to the District Census Hospital along NH 24 reduce patient travel times, offering lower costs, private-room comforts, and green corridor transfers. Moradabad is steadily establishing itself as an educational, medical, and financial hub even for the smaller towns and rural belts that surround it. Financially, Moradabad's growing network of banks, fintech services, and MSME-friendly institutions support not just the city but all nearby regions without the need to travel to metro cities. Education and services form Moradabad's rising undercurrent. Technical institutes offer courses in metallurgy

How extreme weather is undermining India's infrastructure and economy

Arvind Kumar Jha

From roads that melt in summer heat to power plants shutting down for lack of water, and telecom networks buckling under extreme weather stress, India's highways, railways, energy grids, ports, and defence posts are increasingly vulnerable to climate shocks. Climate change isn't just about erratic rains, heatwaves, and extreme weather events leading to natural disasters; it's silently and actively wearing down the very backbone of our nation, impacting its infrastructure and consequently its economy in a very subtle manner. India's essential infrastructures — from the highways and railways to power grids, ports, airports, water systems, and telecom networks — are facing a growing crisis.

As if in science fiction, railway tracks, originally designed to operate within a limited temperature range, are reported to be twisting like snakes in the extreme summer heat, and newly paved roads melt under one's feet. In 2023, extreme heatwaves saw railway tracks buckle and twist in places like Jharkhand's Dilwa station. Similar incidents were

reported across several states, leading to the deployment of special monitoring teams, strict summer safety protocols, and even speed restrictions on vulnerable sections to prevent accidents. Our roads are suffering too. In April 2023, a brand-new 200-metre stretch of road in Surat, connecting the Chandra Shekhar Azad Bridge to Adajan Patiya, literally began to melt under scorching heat. This incident starkly highlighted how fragile Indian roads become if they are not made from climate-resilient materials and consider outdated temperature thresholds. Excessive rains bring a different set of problems. Rainwater seeps into tiny cracks developed due to extreme weather conditions creating potholes and, in severe cases, causing large road sections to collapse. Considering that over 60 per cent of goods and 85 per cent of people in India depend on road transport, such climate-induced damage is a huge threat. It impacts our safety, access to healthcare systems, the efficiency of supply chains for essential goods, and ultimately, the country's economic development. The power supply also feels the heat, quite literally.

Hydropower, which makes up about 13 per cent of the country's energy, is at risk. Its reliance on steady river flows makes it vulnerable to erratic monsoons, landslides, and melting glaciers, all of which can disrupt power generation. Similarly, thermal power plants, which provide about 83 per cent of India's electricity, need massive amounts of water for cooling. This makes them incredibly vulnerable, impacts generation capacity and may trigger electricity shortfalls across critical regions. The Parli thermal power station in Maharashtra, crucial for its Marathwada region, has faced repeated shutdowns due to dangerously low reservoir levels. In March 2016, the 1,720 MW Raichur Thermal Power Station in Karnataka was also forced to shut several units amid severe water shortages. Between 2013 and 2016, 14 of India's 20 largest thermal utility firms had to suspend operations at various points due to insufficient water, causing an estimated loss of ₹9,100 crore. With soaring heatwaves, demand for electricity goes up pushing the power grids to their limits. Delhi's power demand in the summer of 2024 breached 8,300

megawatts — the highest ever recorded in the National Capital Territory — placing immense stress on the city's electrical infrastructure. The hot climate and stressed electrical infrastructure contribute to a sharp rise in electrical fires. The telecommunication systems are under pressure since the mobile towers, data centres, and internet cables are also at risk from floods, strong winds, and extreme heat. Data centres, needing cool environments, are at constant risk of overheating during heat waves, threatening service continuity. In addition to the civilian setup, the defence infrastructures are also increasingly exposed to extreme weather conditions. On the coasts, cyclonic storms and coastal flooding impact the naval facilities. The Hudhud in 2014, for example, caused extensive damage to facilities on the eastern coast. In the Himalayas, Indian Army posts in high-altitude regions like Siachen and parts of Ladakh do face the impact of glacial retreat and unpredictable weather. Melting permafrost weakens foundations, while sudden avalanches and flash floods pose increasing risks to soldiers and supplies.

YUVA CONNECT empowering youth for nation building under Viksit Bharat@2047 Vision

Satish Sharma emphasizes development of border sports, allied infrastructure



SRINAGAR, JULY 01: In a major stride towards youth led national development, the YUVA CONNECT initiative under the Viksit Bharat@2047 mission has been launched to ignite civic awareness, leadership and active participation among India's young population. Spearheaded by the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, the initiative is being implemented across premier higher education in-

stitutions in Jammu and Kashmir. These included IIT Jammu, IIM Jammu, NIT Srinagar, Jammu University, SMVU, AIIMS Vijaypur and various degree colleges. The initiative was formally introduced during an informative session that outlined the implementation framework, with activities and timelines as per the Concept Note circulated by the Ministry. The interactive virtual

session was chaired by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Mansukh Mandaviya and was attended by Sports Ministers for different States/UTs of the country. Speaking during the interaction session, Minister for Youth Services and Sports, J&K, Satish Sharma, emphasized the pivotal role of youth in shaping a progressive nation. He said, "YUVA CONNECT is not just a program,

it's a movement to empower our students with the tools of leadership, civic responsibility and innovation. As we march towards a developed India by 2047, our youth must be at the forefront, acting as torchbearers of social transformation and inclusive development." The Minister highlighted the need for developing border sports and allied infrastructure in J&K, promoting economic upliftment and

provide psychological relief to the residents living in tense border environments. He urged the Union Sports Ministry for prioritising the border areas by providing special financial assistance/package in order to build a better Sports infrastructure and to create a conducive sports environment in these vulnerable areas.

"Our border areas are filled with untapped potential for tourism. Developing this sector, along with robust infrastructure, will not only generate local employment but also provide a sense of normalcy and dignity to families living under constant stress near the borders," the Minister asserted and requested the Union Ministry for its support in this connection.

DLIC Budgam discusses 30 cases verified by SBDU under Mission YUVA scheme

BUDGAM, JULY 01: In a major step towards promoting youth entrepreneurship and self-employment in the district, District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) Budgam today discussed the applications of 30 cases under Mission YUVA.

On the occasion, all 30 candidates were called for attending the meeting, out of which only 17 appeared.

The meeting was held in conference hall DC Office Budgam under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat. The objective was to review and approve applications submitted by young aspiring entrepreneurs under the Mission YUVA initiative, which aims to provide financial assistance and capacity-building support to youth for starting and sus-



taining their businesses.

Officers from the concerned departments presented a detailed review of the applications. After careful scrutiny and discussions, the Committee approved 17 eligible cases for further financial support and guidance. The approval of these cases is expected to boost entrepreneurial spirit among

youth and contribute to the overall economic development of the district.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, General Manager DIC Budgam, Deputy Director Employment Budgam, District Nodal Officer JKEDI, District Social Welfare Officer Budgam and Lead District Manager (LDM).

Legislators, delegations call on Jal Shakti Minister

SRINAGAR, JULY 01: Several delegations and legislators today met Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment, and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, at the Civil Secretariat, highlighting various issues impacting welfare of the people.

Legislators Ali Mohd Dar, Shakti Raj Parihar and Showket Hussain Ganie raised constituency-specific concerns. The discussions centered around key developmental issues, including improving potable water supply, upgrading road infrastructure and implementing the Forest Rights Act. Additionally, various delegations raised specific is-



su like construction of a protection wall in Gursai Mendhar, development programs for youth, tribal welfare and service-related concerns. Javed Rana engaged with the delegations, listening to their grievances and assuring prompt redressal of

genuine concerns. He emphasized the government's commitment to inclusive development and welfare of the people, encouraging the legislators and delegations to continue highlighting important public issues.

Mission YUVA: DC Bandipora chairs DLIC meeting, approves 51 cases

Says, youth empowerment through entrepreneurship key to sustainable development

BANDIPORA, JULY 01: The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) meeting under Mission YUVA was held on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, at Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held on the applications received under the scheme. The committee deliberated on the cases submitted through the Skill and Business Development Unit (SBDU) and, after thorough scrutiny and evaluation, approved 51 cases unanimously for financial and institutional support under the Mission YUVA initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, DC highlighted the significance of Mission YUVA in empowering youth through skill development, entre-



preneurship promotion, and self-employment opportunities. He stressed the need for robust post-up-approval support and follow-up to ensure the sustainable success of the

approved units. DC also directed the concerned departments to expedite the process of sanctioning, disbursing benefits, and extending all necessary hand-

holding support to the beneficiaries in a time-bound manner.

On the occasion, Qadri emphasized the importance of strengthening youth-led entrepreneurship and promoting sustainable livelihood opportunities in the district. He further stressed that empowering the youth through structured support systems and skill-based initiatives is key to long-term socio-economic development in the region.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Hussain Shawl, who is also the District Nodal Officer for Mission YUVA; AD Employment, Nodal Officer JKEDI, District Development Manager NABARD, Social Welfare Officer, representatives from J&K Lead Bank; and other concerned officials.

Deputy CM reviews SANJY-2025 arrangements via Baltal axis

Calls for coordinated efforts to ensure smooth, safe Yatra

GANDERBAL, JULY 01: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted an extensive visit to Baltal to assess the arrangements being put in place for smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2025 via Baltal axis.

The Deputy CM chaired a high-level meeting at JK-TDC Sonamarg and was briefed by the district administration and concerned departments regarding the measures being taken to ensure the safety, comfort and smooth movement of the pilgrims. During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister held a de-



tailed department-wise review of the Yatra arrangements at the Baltal Base Camp and along the Yatra route. Expressing satisfaction over the ongoing preparations, he commended the district administration and all line departments for their timely efforts in making ad-

equate arrangements well in advance.

While interacting with the officers, the Deputy CM emphasized the importance of teamwork and inter-departmental coordination. "The departments are the face of the government on the ground and we must

work together to ensure a safe and successful Yatra," he said. He further stated that the successful conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra would send a positive message across the country and serve as a milestone in reviving tourism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the significance of the Yatra, he said, "This is not just a pilgrimage; it is a major festival for the entire Union Territory. Devotees from all corners of the country will visit and it is our collective responsibility to welcome and facilitate them in the best possible manner."

The Deputy Chief Minister also commended the BRO for their significant contribution in development and maintenance of the Yatra track from Domail to the Holy Cave, which plays a critical role in ensuring the safety and accessibility for the pilgrims.

MD JJM for accelerating pace in execution of Water Supply Schemes in Budgam

BUDGAM, JULY 01: Mission Director (MD), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K Khurshid Ahmad Shah, today embarked on an extensive tour of Budgam district to inspect various Water Supply Schemes (WSS) in the district. MD was accompanied by Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Circle Budgam, Shazia Majeed and divisional and sub-divisional officials of the district. MD inspected WSS Gadsathoo, Sheikh-Ul-Alam, Shamas Faqir, Rayar and Arizal Zempora along with officials from PHE Division Budgam and the Dis-

trict Project Management (DPMU) Budgam team. The visit aimed to review the progress and implementation status of the scheme. Field issues were discussed, and necessary directions were given for smooth functioning and quality assurance of schemes being constructed under JJM. MD sought particulars related to each WSS inspected in terms of the villages covered, Functional Household Connections (FHTCs) provided and sustainability of sources selected. It was assured that all works related to JJM will be completed in

a time bound manner with assured quantity and quality related to water supply from these schemes once commissioned. He also reviewed the functioning of Water Testing Labs and sought the details of reagents and number of tests conducted. It was informed that Water Testing through Field Testing kits (FTKS) is being undertaken in villages and schools under Dharti Aaba Abhiyan. It was further informed that awareness programs regarding safe drinking water are being conducted throughout the district.

Sakeena Itoo felicitates JEE/NEET achievers from Government Institutions at Srinagar

Calls them beacon of hope, inspiration for budding students

SRINAGAR, JULY 01: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today felicitated champion students from various Government Institutions of Kashmir, who have excelled in the prestigious JEE and NEET examinations this year. Principal Secretary, School Education department, Ram Niwas Sharma; Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. GN Itoo; Secretary JK-BOSE, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh; Principals, CEOs, faculty members, NEET/JEE achievers, parents and large number of students were also present on the occasion. Addressing the gathering, Sakeena Itoo lauded the hard work and perseverance of the students and acknowledged the crucial role played by govern-

ment school teachers in nurturing talent from the grassroots. "These young achievers are not only a source of pride for their families but also a beacon of hope for the entire region. Their success proves that with dedication and access to quality education, anything is possible," Minister Sakeena stated. She emphasized on the need for continued academic mentorship of government school going children, especially from rural and underprivileged backgrounds to ensure equal opportunities for all. While appreciating the JEE/NEET achievers, the Minister advised them to take this success forward with your near and dear ones as well as fellow classmates so that they can get inspiration from your success. She also appreciated the teachers and parents of

achievers for their contribution in the success of these students. The Minister on the occasion, also called upon the department to conduct regular capacity building programmes for the teachers as per the demand and evolving needs of education system. Addressing the gathering, Principal Secretary, School Education department congratulated the achievers for their remarkable success in JEE/NEET exams. He advised the students to be the flag bearers of inspiration for the young school going students. In his welcome address, Director School Education Kashmir lauded the hard work and determination of the achievers, emphasizing that their success is a testament to the improving quality of education in government schools.

DLSA Shopian organises awareness camp at Devpora

PD&SJ emphasizes role of empowered citizenry in claiming free Legal services

SHOPIAN, JULY 01: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian today organised an awareness camp under the banner of NALSA titled "Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights Scheme, 2015" in a tribal dominated village, Devpora. The programme was chaired by Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA) Shopian, Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary, Mudassar Farooq (Secretary, DLSA) Shopian; M Waseem Mirza (Munsif/JMIC); Chaudhary Ab Hamid, (DDC member); Showkat Hussain Ganie, (DO); Imtiaz Ahmad (Dy.SP); SHO, Chief LADC Shopian, LADCs, advocates, Court Staff, DLSA Staff, PLVs, Civil Society members & general public in large numbers were present at the event.

Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary, Chairman DLSA highlighted the Legal Rights framework in the district including the role of LADCs and PLVs in defending the rights of downtrodden and poor sections of



the society. "Today's inaugural event under Tribal Rights Scheme, 2015 is an endeavour to empower the tribal communities to approach the courts for claiming free legal services," said Chairman to the locals. He appreciated the local tribal community for attending the camp in

large numbers and expressed hope that more and more people shall take the benefits under the scheme for their empowerment and upliftment.

Legal experts including LADCs spoke on rights guaranteed to the Scheduled Tribes and forest dwelling communities under the

scheme. Mudassar Farooq, Secretary DLSA enumerated the lack of awareness available for the poor and downtrodden communities including tribal populace and called upon people to be proactive in voicing their needs and fighting for their rights. "You are free to approach the Legal Services Authority, Shopian in case of delay in availing public welfare and development scheme from any department for resolution," said Secretary DLSA.

Waseem Mirza, Munsif/JMIC talked about the lack of awareness among the tribal communities about their rights, and highlighted the process of Forest Rights claims and free legal aid available. He asked them to approach the DLSA and its field staff of PLVs for availing legal services. The locals of the area voiced various grievances affecting the local tribal community regarding pending forest rights endowments under the Forest Rights Act, Legal Aid Clinic, etc.

In public life, one has to give up comforts to help people: President



GORAKHPUR, JULY 1

President Droupadi Murmu while inaugurating the Mahayogi Gurukul Gorakhnath AYUSH University here on Tuesday said this is a milestone in the development of medical education and medical services, not only in Uttar Pradesh but also in the entire country.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the Mahayogi Gurukul Gorakhnath AYUSH University is an impressive modern center of our rich ancient traditions.

She was happy to note that the advanced facilities devel-

oped at the University are now available to a large number of people. About 100 AYUSH colleges affiliated with this university are also benefiting from its excellence. In brief impromptu remarks about her own public life, the President said in public life, one has to give up self-comforts to help people. She appreciated Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for his dedication to public welfare. She noted that his tireless efforts had resulted in the development of health, education, and agricultural infrastructure in the region.

The President urged administrators, doctors, and nurses to

carry forward the welfare measures initiated by the people's representatives. She advised everyone to introspect on the promise they have made to oneself when entering any profession. The President urged people to take every step to make themselves healthy. She said that it would be an important step in the direction of making India a developed nation by 2047. She stated that yoga is very beneficial for people who have a sedentary lifestyle. She advised people to practice yoga regularly. The President said that ancient Indian systems like Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, and Siddha describe scientific methods of living a holistic and meaningful life. "In our ancient lifestyle based on Ayurveda, we pay a lot of attention to a balanced diet, lifestyle, and thoughts. Ayurveda is connected to our earth. Our fields and forests are a treasure of medicinal plants and herbs," she said, adding AYUSH systems are India's precious gift to the world community.

The President noted that the popularity of medicine based on AYUSH systems is increasing. She said the Mahayogi Gurukul Gorakhnath AYUSH University could play a major role in increasing the popularity of AYUSH systems further.



The confluence of the Beas and Suketi rivers flowing in spate after cloudburst, in Mandi district, Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district, leaving one person dead and around 12 missing, officials said on Tuesday.

'Brutal tool of economic injustice, corporate cronyism': Rahul slams GST, calls for reform

NEW DELHI, JUL 1

With the Goods and Services Tax (GST) completing eight years, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday claimed that it is a "brutal tool of corporate cronyism" and asserted that a reformed GST must be "people-first, business-friendly, and truly federal in spirit".

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha said India deserves a tax system that works for all, not just the privileged few, so that every Indian, from the small shopkeeper to the farmer, can be a stakeholder in the nation's progress.

"Eight years on, the Modi government's GST is not a tax reform - it's a brutal tool of economic injustice and corporate cronyism. It was designed to punish the poor, crush MSMEs, undermine states, and benefit a few billionaire friends of the prime minister," he said in a post on X.

"A Good and Simple Tax" was promised. Instead, India got a compliance nightmare and a five-slab tax regime that has been amended over 900 times. Even caramel popcorn and cream buns are caught in its web of confusion," Gandhi said.

The bureaucratic maze favours big corporates who can navigate its loopholes with



armies of accountants, while small shopkeepers, MSMEs, and ordinary traders drown in red tape, he claimed and added that the GST portal remains a source of daily harassment.

"MSMEs - India's largest job creators have suffered the most. Over 18 lakh enterprises have shut down since the rollout of GST eight years ago. Citizens now pay GST on everything from tea to health insurance, while corporates enjoy over 71 lakh crore in tax breaks annually," Gandhi said.

Petrol and diesel have been deliberately kept outside the GST framework, hurting farm-

ers, transporters, and ordinary people, he said.

"GST dues are also weaponised to punish non-BJP ruled states - clear proof of the Modi government's anti-federal agenda," Gandhi alleged.

He said the GST was a visionary idea by the UPA, meant to unify India's markets and simplify taxation.

"But its promise has been betrayed by poor implementation, political bias, and bureaucratic overreach. A reformed GST must be people-first, business-friendly, and truly federal in spirit," Gandhi said. (Agencies)

Against general public interest: Mayawati on Railway Ministry's decision to increase fares

LUCKNOW, JULY 1

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Tuesday termed the decision of the Railway Ministry to increase the fares as one "against the general public interest and more of a business-minded decision rather than the welfare objective of the Constitution".

The Railway Ministry issued an official circular on Monday, increasing the fares of the non-air-conditioned class in mail and express trains by 1 paisa and all air-conditioned classes by 2 paisa per kilometre from July 1.

Speaking to reporters in Lucknow, Mayawati said, "As it is known that when most of the people of the country are suffering and unhappy due to the daily hunger and thirst of extreme inflation, poverty, unemployment and decrease in income, then in such a situation, the increase in the train fare in the country by the Centre seems to be a decision taken against the general public interest." She said it was more of a business-minded decision rather than fulfilling any welfare objective of the Constitution.

The fares of suburban trains and monthly season tickets have been left unchanged in the interest of daily commuters. The ordinary second-class fare has not been increased for up to 500 km and for distances beyond that, there is an increase in the ticket prices by half a paisa per km.

Mayawati alleged that the practice of increasing the exploitation of the common man



by increasing the burden on their daily life through railways just like GST in the name of 'Nation First' is extremely unfair. It would be better if the government reconsiders it immediately, she added.

"For crores of people here, the train journey is not a fashion, pleasure or tourism, rather it is a very painful journey and compulsion due to the increasing poverty, inflation, acute shortage of respectable permanent employment in the country, compulsion to leave their homes and migrate to feed the family," Mayawati said.

The government should not adopt a condescending approach towards them but treat them with sympathy and welfare, she said, adding that this has been everyone's expectation.

"Therefore, instead of worrying only for its own benefit and for a handful of rich and pros-

perous people, the government should take proper care of the crores of people of the country who are yearning to live a life of self-respect..." she said.

The former chief minister said about 95 crore people of the country's population have been forced to become beneficiaries of at least one social welfare scheme of the government. Due to this, the number of such helpless people has increased to about 64.3 per cent in the current year 2025, whereas in the year 2016 this number was only about 22 per cent.

Hitting out at the BJP government in Delhi, the BSP chief alleged that it is adopting an anti-people attitude of ruthlessly displacing the poor and those who migrate from other states, especially from UP, Bihar and Bengal for livelihood, without making any other arrangements.

CBI to question bank officials under scanner in 8.5 lakh mule accounts case

NEW DELHI, JUL 1

The CBI will start questioning bank officials under scanner for allegedly facilitating the operations of 8.5 lakh mule accounts in a "pan India conspiracy" with cyber crime syndicates to launder crime proceeds, agency officials said.

One crucial laxity detected by the CBI during its two-month-long inquiry was the systemic failure to generate Suspicious Transaction Reports (STR) despite countless mule accounts exhibiting transaction patterns that rapidly exceeded prescribed monetary thresholds, a clear indicator of suspicious activity, they said.

The bank officials also failed to do Customer Due Diligence (CDD) during account opening, a paramount process for initial risk assessment and accurate customer identification indicating that the fund-raising effort meant the financial crime risks posed by customers were inadequately assessed, according to a CBI FIR registered recently.

The CBI has registered the FIR after a preliminary inquiry that showed cyber crime syndicates operating with impunity with the alleged connivance of

unidentified bank officials to deliberately facilitate a clandestine network of mule accounts used to launder illicit proceeds from digital frauds.

The probe has found 8.50 lakh such accounts in 743 branches of various banks across the country that sent the alarm bells ringing about the extent of the menace. The inquiry was converted into the FIR and raids were conducted last week during which 10 individuals were arrested.

The CBI has named 37 individuals in the FIR as accused. The agency detected that there were two kinds of mule accounts - cyber and money. While cyber mule accounts were small accounts, money mule accounts were exhibiting multiple transactions in a span of few days and aggregate amount was crossing the threshold to red flag them.

Existing Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines unequivocally mandate the generation of an STR if an account is identified as a money mule. In case no STR is filed, it is considered a non-compliance of the RBI circular.

The pernicious fraud allegedly involved cyber criminals employing deceptive means,

including impersonation, misrepresentation, and the use of forged documents to defraud and extort money from victims, the CBI officials said.

The CBI has alleged that banks also failed to do 'enhanced due diligence' in violation of the RBI circulars that stress for EDD and rigorous risk categorisation based on customer identity and business activity.

"High-risk accounts have to be subjected to more intense monitoring. However, despite certain areas having high concentration of mule accounts, it has emerged that bank officers were not adopting enhanced due diligence on the suspicious bank accounts," the CBI FIR said.

The inquiry showed that bank officials frequently neglected to procure vital information regarding the customers' source of funds, the explicit purpose of the business relationship, or other details imperative for vigilant account monitoring.

The inquiry starkly revealed instances where bank accounts were opened using forged documents, and in some cases, without the knowledge or consent of the purported account holder.

Priyadarshini Mattoo case: HC sets aside decision to reject convict's plea for premature release

NEW DELHI, JULY 1

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday set aside the decision of the sentence review board who had rejected a plea for premature release of Santosh Kumar Singh, who is serving life term for the 1996 rape and murder of law student Priyadarshini Mattoo.

Justice Sanjeev Narula said there is an element of reformation in Singh and referred the matter back to the sentence review board (SRB) to consider afresh the convict's premature release plea.

"I have found some element of reformation in him. The SRB decision is set aside and I have referred back the matter to SRB to consider it afresh," the judge said while pronouncing the verdict.

The court has also framed certain guidelines to be followed by SRB while considering prisoners' pleas.

It said the SRB must conduct psychological assessment of the convicts while considering their pleas which was not done in this case.

The detailed judgment is awaited.

Singh, in his 2023 petition, has sought quashing of the recommendation of the SRB rejecting his premature release in the meeting held on October 21, 2021.

Senior advocate Mohit Mathur, representing Singh, has said the convict has been sentenced for life for the offence of murder and has already undergone 25 years of incarceration, including remission.

He also said that the conduct of the convict has been satisfactory which showed that he has reformed and has lost every potential for committing the crime.

He would be a useful member of the society and for the last

several years, he has been in open jail as well, the counsel submitted.

The court was earlier informed that another SRB meeting was held on September 18, 2024 and his case was again rejected for premature release.

Mattoo, 25, was raped and murdered in January 1996. Singh, a law student of Delhi University, was acquitted by the trial court in the case on December 3, 1999, but the Delhi High Court had on October 27, 2006 reversed the acquittal, holding him guilty of rape and murder and awarded him death penalty.

Singh, the son of a former IPS officer, had challenged his conviction and death sentence awarded by the high court.

In October 2010, the Supreme Court had upheld Singh's conviction, but commuted the death sentence to life imprisonment.

'Super premium frequent flier PM' off on 5-Nation Jaunt: Cong jabs Modi ahead of visit

NEW DELHI, JULY 1

Taking a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of his visit abroad, the Congress on Tuesday said the "frequent flier PM" is off on a 5-nation "jaunt" and alleged that he is running away from four issues, including the Manipur situation and US President Donald Trump's claims about bringing about a ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh also alleged that the prime minister is running away from the "revelations by defence officials that India suffered reverses in the first two days of Operation Sindoor

because of the PM's decisions".

Prime Minister Modi will embark on a five-nation tour beginning July 2 to participate in the BRICS Summit in Brazil and expand India's ties with several key nations of the Global South.

"When the going gets tough, the self-styled tough man gets going. The Super Premium Frequent Flier PM is off on a 5-nation, 8-day jaunt," Ramesh said in a post on X.

He is running away from at least four issues that are agitating the nation, Ramesh said. "Ramesh alleged that the PM is running away from Manipur, which he has not visited ever since the double engine in the state got derailed and ever since

normal life in the state has got totally destroyed".

The Congress leader claimed that PM Modi is also running away from revelations by defence officials that India suffered reverses in the first two days of Operation Sindoor "because of the PM's decisions".

His remarks were an apparent reference to the reported comments of India's defence attaché to Indonesia. However, the Indian embassy in Indonesia, in a post on X on Sunday, had said that the defence attaché's remarks have been "quoted out of context and the media reports are a misrepresentation of the intention and thrust of the presentation made by the speaker".

Director Health Services Jammu Visits Village Dhar Sakri, Block Kandi Following Gastroenteritis Outbreak

Jammu, Jul 1:

In response to the outbreak of gastroenteritis cases in village Dhar Sakri of Block Kandi, Director Health Services Jammu, Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar, conducted an on-ground visit to the affected area, accompanied by State Surveillance Officer (SSO) Jammu Dr. Harjeet Rai and Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Rajouri Dr. Manohar Rana. During the visit, DHSJ met the affected individuals and interacted with members of the local community. DHSJ took a review of the present situation and appreciated the swift and effective work being



carried out by the health teams under the close supervision and monitoring of CMO Rajouri. Dr. Zargar also assessed the

availability of essential medicines and reviewed the functioning of the health teams during a meeting held with local health functionaries. As part of the public health protocol, samples were collected from the area for further laboratory investigation to determine the

source of the outbreak and to prevent further spread. Later, the Director visited Government Medical College & Associated Hospital (GMC & AH) Rajouri, where some patients from Dhar Sakri are currently admitted. He interacted with the patients, inquired about their well-being and assured them that the Health Department remains vigilant and committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of the public, and all necessary measures are being taken to control the situation effectively.

Mission Director Jal Jeevan Mission, J&K directs engineers to accelerate pace in execution of Water Supply Schemes in Budgam

Budgam, 1st July 2025

Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K Mr. Khurshid Ahmad Shah, JKAS today embarked on an extensive tour of Budgam district to inspect various Water Supply Schemes (WSS) in Budgam District. The Mission Director was accompanied by Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Circle Budgam Ms. Shazia Majeed and divisional and Sub-Divisional officials of the District. The Mission Director inspected WSS Gadsathoo, Sheikh-ul-Alam, Shamas-faqeer, Rayar and Arizal Zempora along with offi-



cialists from PHE Division Budgam and the District Project Management (DPMU) Budgam team. The visit aimed to review the progress and implementation status of the scheme.

Field issues were discussed, and necessary directions were given for smooth functioning and quality assurance of schemes being constructed under JJM. The MD sought particulars

related to each WSS inspected in terms of the villages covered, Functional Household Connections (FHTCs) provided and sustainability of sources selected. The MD was assured

that all works related to JJM will be completed in time bound manner with assured quantity and quality related to water supply from these schemes once commissioned.

Mission Director also reviewed the functioning of Water Testing Labs. He sought the details of reagents and number of tests conducted. The MD was informed that Water Testing through Field Testing Kits (FTKs) is being undertaken in villages and schools under Dharti Aaba Abhiyan. Also awareness programs regarding safe drinking water are being conducted throughout the district.

Lead Bank Pulwama launches three-month Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign

PULWAMA, JULY 01: In a significant step towards strengthening financial inclusion in the district, Lead Bank Pulwama today launched a three-month Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign at Circuit House, Pulwama. The campaign will run from 01 July to 30 September 2025, with the objective of achieving saturation under flagship financial schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana

(PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), and Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY). The event witnessed the presence of Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Pulwama, Dr. Peerzada Syed Farhat Ahmad; Assistant Labour Commissioner, Pulwama; branch managers of various J&K Bank branches; representatives of other banks operating in the district; officers from various line departments; members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs);

and Banking Correspondents. Speaking on the occasion, Lead District Manager (LDM) Pulwama gave a detailed overview on the scope and benefits of these financial schemes. He emphasised the need for proactive outreach by bank branches to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries in the district are covered. He also shared a comprehensive action plan outlining specific targets and strategies to be implemented in collaboration with stakeholders over the

next three months. In his address, ACD Pulwama underlined the critical role of community awareness in ensuring the success of the campaign. He called upon banks and government departments to organise Panchayat-level awareness and registration camps, enabling last-mile delivery of these welfare schemes. He further stressed the importance of inter-departmental coordination, especially with rural development, labour, and social welfare departments,

to streamline efforts and achieve saturation in targets of these schemes. The event also featured an engaging discussion on various operational and logistical aspects related to the implementation of these schemes, including use of digital platforms, mobilisation strategies, and grievance redressal mechanisms. Participants shared insights and challenges faced at the grassroots level and explored collaborative solutions to accelerate enrolments.

Ph.D. scholar from NIT Srinagar selected for Heidelberg Laureate Forum 2025

Srinagar, July 1: A Ph.D. scholar from the Department of Mathematics from National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has been selected to participate in the 14th Heidelberg Laureate Forum (HLF), which will be held in Heidelberg, Germany, from September 13 to 22, 2025. Mr. Samir Ahmad Wagay is pursuing his doctoral research under the supervision of Dr. Rameez Raja, Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics. His selection for this prestigious forum places him among just 200 young researchers worldwide, chosen through a highly competitive process.



Nevanlinna Prize.

The entire trip, including international travel, accommodation, and participation costs, will be fully sponsored by the Heidelberg Laureate Forum Foundation. This support ensures that participants can fully engage with the week-long program of lectures, workshops, and networking events without any financial burden. In his message, Director of NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia extended his heartfelt congratulations to Wagay and appreciated the efforts of the Department of Mathematics in mentoring and guiding young researchers towards international platforms. Registrar Prof. Atikur

Rehman also congratulated Mr. Wagay and said that his selection is a matter of pride for the institute and an inspiration for other research scholars pursuing academic excellence. Dr. Rameez Raja, Mr. Wagay's Ph.D. supervisor, expressed happiness over the selection and said that such opportunities provide young researchers with valuable exposure to global scientific developments and peer networks. HLF is a networking conference where 200 carefully selected young re-

searchers in mathematics and computer science spend a week interacting with the laureates of the disciplines: recipients of the Abel Prize, ACM A.M. Turing Award, ACM Prize in Computing, Fields Medal, IMU Abacus Medal and Nevanlinna Prize. Established in 2013, the HLF is annually organized by the Heidelberg Laureate Forum Foundation (HLFF). It was initiated by the German foundation Klaus Tschira Stiftung (KTS), which promotes natural sciences, mathematics

and computer science. Inspired by the idea of providing bright young minds the opportunity to interact with their scientific role models, physicist and co-founder of SAP, Klaus Tschira (1940-2015) laid the groundwork for the Forum to exist. On May 22, 2012, a formal agreement between the organizers and the award-granting institutions was signed in Oslo and the following year the Heidelberg Laureate Forum Foundation was formally established.

Dr. Narinder Singh, Dr. Rajeev Bhagat holds Public Darbar at BJP headquarters

Jammu, 01 July 2025:

Dr. Narinder Singh, BJP National Secretary and MLA from R.S. Pura - Jammu South Assembly constituency, along with Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, MLA from Bishnah Assembly constituency, held a public darbar at the Bharatiya Janata Party Headquarters, Tinkara Nagar, Jammu.

The public darbar witnessed a large turnout of citizens and deputations from across various areas of Jammu, in-

cluding Gangyal, Hajipora, Last Mohi Gandhi Nagar, Allah, Arnia Bishnah, Paggal, Prithvipur, Chak Chinnah, Hase Dhabbad Amer Naar, Ratal, Karyal Brahmana, Upper Chowadi Ward-3, Chowadi, Digiana Ashram, and Ward-68 Lower Jallochak among others. The deputations presented a range of civic and developmental issues before the senior BJP leaders. Key grievances raised included construction and

clearance of central and deep drains, damaged or choked drainage gratings, replacement of damaged transformers and electric poles, installation of new street lights, and urgent need for community sanitary complexes in Amir Nagar Bishnah, Mata Di Talai, Kothe Sani, and Karyal Brahmana. Residents also highlighted the scarcity of drinking water, defunct OHT in Chowadi, the need to change ration dealers.

SAMBA POLICE SEIZES 07 VEHICLES INCLUDING 05 DUMPERS FOR ILLEGAL MINING

Samba, July 1, 2025: Continuing its drive against illegal mining, Samba Police has seized seven vehicles including five dumpers across the district which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material. Police teams headed by SHO PS Ghagwal, SHO PS Bari Brahmana, SHO PS Purnamandal and In-charges of Police Post Mansar & Rakh Amb Tali of PS Samba while performing patrolling duty in their jurisdictional areas, have seized five dumpers bearing registration Nos. JK21F-8607, JK21K-6585, JK21J-1897, JK21J-0737, JK21G-7597 and two tractor trolleys without No. which were being used for illegal transportation/mining of the construction material in the area. The above mentioned



vehicles have been seized by Samba Police and handed over to the Geology & Mining Department, Samba for further legal action.

National Doctors Day Celebrated at Directorate of Health Services Jammu

India marks National Doctor's Day on July 1st every year to recognize the tireless service, dedication and compassion of medical Professionals. The day honors the vital role doctors play in healing, protecting and supporting communities. The day carries even more emotional weight with this year's theme: "Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers?" - a reflection on the mental and emotional challenges faced by healthcare workers. The theme calls on society to recognize not just the doctors' efforts but also their humanity and need for support.

The day was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Directorate of Health Services Jammu today on 1.7.25, Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar and all doctors from Directorate and adjoining



offices participated in the event. Some heartfelt quotes by Officials from Directorate about their respective officers were presented during the event. Speaking on the occasion DHSJ said that every day, doctors prioritize the lives of others, often neglecting their own well-being. DHSJ congratulated all present on the occasion and said that the day is both a celebration and a call for action to build a system where doctors are not just revered as caregivers but also protected, re-

spected and cared for in return. DD Dentistry Dr. Sanjay Sharma congratulated all on this occasion and gave few tips on how to remain fit. Chief Medical Officer Jammu Dr. Harbaksh Singh in his speech highlighted the emotional, mental, and physical challenges doctors face in their daily life. The event was organized by ADHEB Dr. Simmi Verma, Dr. Mrudula Singh and team HEB which was well appreciated by DHSJ and all Doctors.

Revenue of Rs 3.4 crore earned in Jammu Division through ticket checking in June 2025.

Jammu, Jul 1:

In Jammu Division of Northern Railway, under the guidance of Divisional Railway Manager Shri Vivek Kumar and leadership of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Shri Uchit Singhal, the ticket checking staff of the division conducts intensive ticket checking in trains to curb ticketless and irregular travel to provide comfortable travel and better services to all genuine rail users. During the ticket checking campaign in June 2025 by the checking staff and Chief Ticket Inspectors of the di-

vision, a total of 5462 cases of irregular travel were caught by the passengers, in which a total fine amount of Rs 3.4 crore was recovered. Surprise ticket checking campaigns are also conducted continuously by the railway officials to prevent unauthorized entry of passengers in trains. In which passengers are advised to travel in the train with valid tickets. Under this, regular inspection is done to keep all the railway stations of the division clean and to prevent the general public from spreading dirt at the station. During this inspec-

tion, in June 2025, about 19 thousand rupees were recovered as fine from 64 passengers for spreading dirt in the station premises. Under this ticket checking campaign, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Jammu Shri Uchit Singhal has said that the work done by the ticket checking staff is commendable, which has increased the income of the division. In future, this campaign will continue, which includes irregular travel, illegal vending, those who spread dirt and smoking etc.

Samba Administration intensifies Anti-Narcotics campaign in NCORD meeting

SAMBA, JULY 1: In a determined stride towards eradicating the scourge of drug abuse, Rajesh Sharma chaired the monthly Narcotics Coordination (NCORD) meeting at the DC Office, Samba.

The meeting, attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Gurpreet Singh district and sectoral officers, reflected the administration's unwavering resolve to adopt a comprehensive, interdepartmental approach to dismantle the drug menace plaguing the region. DC Sharma emphasized that a synergized and sustained campaign is the only way to neutralize the intricate networks that sustain drug trafficking. He stressed the importance of ensuring that every stakeholder contributes actively, stating that the war against narcotics demands not only enforcement but also education, engagement and empathy. He directed that all resolutions adopted in the meeting must be executed in letter and spirit, with zero tolerance for laxity. Discussions revolved around bolstering sur-

veillance mechanisms, particularly in vulnerable zones, and ensuring rigorous regulatory control over the sale of syringes and restricted pharmaceutical substances. The Health and Drug Control Departments were instructed to carry out regular inspections and penalize violations without delay. Police authorities presented a detailed account of recent crackdowns and shared plans for scaling up operations to target hotspots of drug peddling. The DC placed strong emphasis on community outreach as a preventive tool, calling upon departments to scale up awareness campaigns, especially among students, daily wagers and at-risk youth. He urged officials to collaborate with educational institutions, NGOs, and local influencers to design engaging sports, cultural and counselling programs that promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. Contributions from law enforcement agencies and representatives from the higher education sector provided critical insight, enriching the district's roadmap for a more targeted and impactful campaign.

DHSJ celebrates National Doctors Day



JAMMU, JULY 01: Directorate of Health Services Jammu today celebrated National Doctors Day with this year's theme: "Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers?"—a reflection on the mental and emotional challenges faced by healthcare workers. The theme calls on society to recognize not just the doctors' efforts but also their humanity and need for support.

Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar and doctors from Directorate and adjoining offices participated in the event. Some heartfelt quotes by Officials from Directorate about their respective offices were presented during the event.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director said that every day, doctors prioritize the lives of others often neglecting their own well-being. He congratulated all present on the occasion and said that the day is both a celebration and a call for action to build a system where doctors are not just revered as caregivers but also protected, respected and cared for in return.

DD Dentistry Dr. Sanjay Sharma congratulated all on this occasion and gave few tips on how to remain fit. Chief Medical Officer Jammu Dr. Harbakh Singh highlighted the emotional, mental and physical challenges doctors face in their daily life.

Div Com Kashmir, IGP Kashmir hold meeting with Shia Associations for smooth observance of Muharram ul Haram

SRINAGAR, JULY 01: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri and Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Vijay K Birdhi today held a meeting with the representatives of various Shia associations to execute smooth & peaceful observance of Muharram.

Besides DIG, Kashmir, Rajiv Pandey, the meeting was attended by DC Srinagar Akshay Labroo, Commissioner SMC Faz Lul Haseeb, SSP Srinagar and other officers from civil administration and police.

The representatives of various associations included President, All J&K Shia Association Darul Jawad Qamarwari, President, All J&K Anjuman Shria Shian Darul Mustafa Budgam, President, All J&K Anjuman Shria Shian Yousuf Abul Budgam and Yaadgar-i-Hussaini Committee Guru



Bazar Srinagar.

During the meeting, community leaders were urged to exhibit responsible behavior, adhere to time schedule strictly for public convenience & traffic management and to augment strength of volunteers to take procession. Div Com emphasized for close coordination between administration and leaders of associations to ensure smooth & peaceful observance of Muharram. To protect mourners from heat wave, Div Com instructed Commissioner SMC for deployment of water sprinkler vehicles during processions. Div Com em-

phasized for close coordination between administration and leaders of associations to ensure smooth & peaceful observance of Muharram. To protect mourners from heat wave, Div Com instructed Commissioner SMC for deployment of water sprinkler vehicles during processions. Div Com em-

Reasi's Thakrakote climbs 407 places to secure 13th rank in NITI Aayog's Aspirational Blocks; DDC stresses sustained development

REASI, JULY 1: In a landmark achievement for Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, Aspirational Block Thakrakote has made an extraordinary leap of 407 positions in NITI Aayog's Aspirational Blocks Ranking, climbing from rank 420 in December 2024 to rank 13 in March 2025. This remarkable improvement reflects the block's focused progress across five core development sectors identified by NITI Aayog: Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Allied Activities, Basic Infrastructure, and Social Development.

The significant improvement is the result of continuous monitoring, field visits, and collaborative governance. Repeated review meetings, intensified monitoring and on-ground assessments of Thakrakote by the DC Nidhi Malik, have driven focused developmental action and improved grievance redressal mechanisms. Among the notable successes, Thakrakote achieved 100% performance in crucial Health & Nutrition indicators such as ANC registration of pregnant women, provision of supplementary nutrition under the ICDS scheme and regular screening for diabetes and hypertension. The

district also ensured that 99% of Self-Help Groups received revolving funds under livelihood promotion initiatives. In the Agriculture sector, all targeted Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) were formed, every eligible farmer received soil health cards and PM-KISAN beneficiary coverage was fully linked with Aadhaar and land records. Under the basic infrastructure theme, the block reported a 16% rise in completion of housing units under PMAY-G.

To build on this success, DC Reasi Nidhi Malik chaired a high-level review meeting today with

district officers to evaluate ongoing works and set a clear roadmap for pushing the block further up the rankings. Emphasis was placed on improving outcomes in Health, ICDS and Education sectors. The CMO was tasked with ensuring full functionality of all health institutions and improving the quality of healthcare services. The CEO was instructed to resolve teaching staff shortages, upgrade infrastructure, and raise the standard of education. The PO ICDS was directed to ensure timely and adequate supply of nutrition at all Anganwadi Centres.

The Deputy Commis-

sioner also underlined the importance of accurate and real-time data reporting, directing all departments to regularly update progress on the development portal to enable better monitoring and planning. Looking ahead, a structured development framework for the financial year was proposed, focusing on improved service delivery, digital connectivity and efficient resource allocation to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Reasi Sukhdev Singh, CPO Narinder Kumar (virtually), CMO, CEO, DIO, CAHO, BDO and others.

DC Reasi finalises arrangements for Shikhori Shrawan Mahotsav 2025

REASI, JULY 01: Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik, who also serves as the Vice Chairperson of the Shri Shikhori Shrine Board (SSKSB), chaired a high-level meeting at the DC Office Complex to finalise arrangements for the upcoming Shikhori Shrawan Mahotsav 2025.

The month of Shrawan is set to begin on 11th July, with the inaugural function scheduled for 14th July. The DC reviewed all necessary preparations to ensure the smooth and safe conduct of the month-long religious festivities.

The meeting focused on critical areas including security, power and water supply, sanitation, healthcare, transportation and crowd management. The police department was instructed to deploy adequate security personnel, while XEN JPDC and PHE were directed to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply throughout the festival. BDO Pouni was tasked with maintaining cleanliness in Ransoo Bazar and surrounding areas.



DC Nidhi Malik informed that the Mahotsav will host a range of spiritual and cultural programs such as the Kavay Yatra, Shiv Katha, and Bhajan Sandhya. Renowned singers and local artists will present devotional performances dedicated to Lord Shiva, enhancing the religious ambience. Daily Rudra Abhishek rituals will be performed at the Shikhori Shrine and Hawan ceremonies will be conducted at the Shiv Shakti Bhawan premises.

Emphasising the importance of health and safety, the DC instructed the Health Department to deploy a medical team equipped with essential medicines and oxygen cylinders at the shrine and bus stand to provide timely medical aid. The Fire and Emergency Services were directed to station fire tenders, extinguishers and other emergency equipment at key locations.

To ensure food safety and fair pricing, the Assistant Director, Food was asked to conduct regular inspections of Langars and food stalls. The ARTO was directed to prevent overcharging of pilgrims by transporters and the PWD was instructed to ensure road repairs and maintenance for safe travel.

DC Reasi reiterated that the district administration is fully committed to ensuring a safe, spiritual and enriching experience for all devotees attending the Mahotsav. She urged all departments to work in close coordination to make this event successful and memorable.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, ADC Rakesh Kumar, ASP Irfikhar, AD Tourism, CMO, XENs of JPDC and PHE, BDO HQ, DIO (Information) and other concerned officers.

JKEDI trains 117 entrepreneurs, including 93 women under RAMP scheme

Management Development Programs conclude in 6 districts

SRINAGAR, JULY 1: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) has successfully concluded a series of Management Development Programs (MDPs) across six districts under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme.

The initiative is funded by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, and implemented in the Union Territory by the Industries and Commerce Department, J&K. The training programs, which commenced on June 24, 2025, were held simultaneously in Doda, Jammu, Kulgam, Ramban, Srinagar, and Udhampur. A total of 117 aspiring and existing



entrepreneurs, including 93 women, participated in the six-day, 30-hour comprehensive training. The strong representation of women highlights a positive

trend toward gender inclusivity in the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem. The MDPs focused on enhancing the managerial, financial, and strategic skills

of participants, aiming to help them scale operations, boost competitiveness, and build sustainable enterprises. The curriculum, meticulously developed by subject matter experts, featured modules on business planning, marketing strategies, digital tools, financial literacy, legal compliance, innovation, and leadership. To provide practical exposure, the programs also included field visits to successful business ventures, interactive sessions with sector specialists, and mentorship opportunities. Experts from District Industries Centres (DICs) and the Labour and Employment Department shared insights with participants, helping them align their ventures with current industry practices.

Food Safety Anantnag bans sale of 04 nutraceuticals/ health supplements

Urges consumers to refrain from purchasing banned supplements till further orders

ANANTNAG, JULY 01: In significant step aimed at safeguarding the health of consumers, Food Safety Anantnag has put an immediate ban on sale of four nutraceuticals/health supplements including, Lycobax, Zymerio B+, BECOSIP-EZ and Festzyme Plus after their samples were found to be of unsafe quality.

In an official handout issued here, it has been informed that the Assistant Commissioner/Designated Officer Food Safety Anantnag has immediately prohibited the sale of the four nutraceuticals/health supplements namely 'Lycobax' (Batch No. 7FL241206; Manufactured by Indo Rama Healthcare Pvt. Ltd. (Yamunanagar, Haryana) and marketed by Solace Biotech Limited (Ambala, Haryana), ; Zymerio B+ (B. No. 3028; Manufactured by M/S:

Exotic Healthcare Mohali, (Pb) Marketed by M/S: Riomedica Healthcare Pvt. Ltd. 654 Ambala Cantt. Haryana); BECOSIP-EZ (B. No. PL24115 Manufactured by M/S: Phaedrus Life Science Pvt. Ltd., 3012, Phase-IV, G.I.D.C., Vatva, Gujarat (India) and 'Festzyme Plus' (B. No. EHL-1928; Mtd by M/S: Exotic Healthcare, Mohali, Punjab and Marketed by M/S: Estocott Pharma Pvt. Ltd., Sirmour -173030 (HP) in the district. The samples of these health supplements were procured by the Food Safety Officers of the district Anantnag and were found to be of unsafe quality by the National Food Laboratory in Ghaziabad on account of the saccharine levels exceeding the prescribed limits. Meanwhile, consumers are urged to refrain from purchasing the health supplements under question till further orders.

Benefit Saturation camp held at Panchayat Kachnambal B under DA-JGUA

GANDERBAL, JULY 01: As part of the ongoing Dharti Aaba Janatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA), an Awareness and Benefit Saturation Camp was successfully organized today at Panchayat Kachnambal B, Block Gund, with the aim of extending doorstep delivery of welfare services to tribal households.

The camp witnessed active participation from the Gujjar and Bakarwal community, who availed a range of services provided by line departments including Health, ICDS, Social Welfare, Education, NRLM, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Rural Develop-



ment. On-the-spot services provided included enrollments under PM-JANMAN and PM-JAY SEHAT, awareness on Mission Shakti, PMAY-G, and tribal scholarships. Free medical check-ups and screenings, livelihood promotion &

self-help group linkages Resource persons highlighted the Government of India's commitment to saturating all tribal villages with welfare schemes and enabling social inclusion, economic upliftment, and empowerment of tribal women and youth.

Committee on Public Undertakings holds meeting in Srinagar

Reviews Audit Paras related to JKPCDC, JAKEDA

SRINAGAR, JULY 1: The Committee on Public Undertakings of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex, Srinagar, to review audit paras pertaining to the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation (JKPCDC) and the Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA).

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman, Ali Mohammad Sagor and attended by members: Saifullah Mir, Ali Mohammad Dar, Baldev Raj Sharma, Shakti Raj Parihar, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Bashir Ahmad Veeri, Showkat Hussain Ganai and Tanvir Sadiq. Also present were the Principal Accountant General J&K, Principal Secretary PDD, Managing Director JKPCDC, Director General Accounts



and Treasuries, Director General Expenditure, Director General Finance, Managing Director KPDC, CEO JAKEDA and other concerned officers. The Committee held a comprehensive discussion and reviewed audit paras 7.4, 8.1 and 8.7 from the Comptroller and Auditor General's reports for the years 2018-19 and

2020-21, pertaining to JKPCDC and JAKEDA.

The Chairman directed that a joint team comprising Committee members and concerned officers shall conduct spot inspections across various areas to assess the progress under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). The inspection team will include members Saiful-

Iah Mir, Shakti Raj Parihar, Bashir Ahmad Veeri and Showkat Hussain Ganai.

The Committee also reviewed the functioning of various hydroelectric projects and examined the status of all ongoing power projects across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chairman instructed the concerned departments to submit a comprehensive progress report on all ongoing projects within 15 days. He stressed the need to adopt proactive measures to harness the Jammu and Kashmir's power generation potential and improve the performance and efficiency of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

Emphasizing transparency and accountability, the Chairman underlined the importance of rigorous audits and evaluations.

Yatri Niwas at Baltal will be dedicated to Pilgrims on July 04: LG

Lieutenant Governor attends Tawi Aarti on the eve of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra

Entire J&K is experiencing spiritual bliss on the eve of holy pilgrimage of Shri Amarnath Ji. People of J&K are ready to welcome devotees of Baba Barfani coming from across the country. May Lord Shiva bless everyone with health, happiness & harmony: LG

JAMMU, JULY 01: On the eve of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today attended the 'Tawi Aarti' at Tawi Riverfront Jammu. The Lieutenant Governor sought the blessings of Suryaputri River Tawi and Baba Barfani and prayed for a peaceful, blessed and a memorable pilgrimage for all the devotees. "Entire J&K is experiencing spiritual bliss on the eve of holy pilgrimage of Shri Amarnath Ji. People of J&K are ready to welcome devotees of Baba Barfani coming from across the country. May Lord Shiva bless everyone with health, happiness and harmony," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations to Jammu Municipal Corporation, Department of Tourism, Jammu Smart City Limited and Shri Raghunath Ji Corridor Vikas Council Jammu for organising the Tawi Aarti. "There is the song of God in



the heartbeat of Jammu. The truth of life shines in city's consciousness. The relationship between Jammu and spirituality is eternal. The city has always been in search of truth and it is blessed by the divine energy. This divine Tawi Aarti will connect the pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra with the spiritual and historical significance of the Suryaputri River Tawi," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, highlighted Jammu Kashmir's extraor-

dinary journey towards peace, prosperity, and unprecedented development over the past few years. "After decades of darkness J&K in 2019 leaped towards regaining its dignity, its pride and its spiritual peak. It has got new wings in the last 5 years. The light of upliftment is dispelling darkness in every section. Citizens are full of self-confidence and the river of progress is flowing uninterrupted," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor

reiterated his unwavering commitment to the inclusive development of the Union Territory and revival of the region's rich cultural and spiritual legacy. "For me responsibility of J&K is not just administrative assignment. For me this was an opportunity to restore the ancient glory of Jammu and Kashmir. For me it was an opportunity to rebuild Jammu and Kashmir. I have tried to recreate the grandeur of Jammu and Kashmir like the sacred temple. I have tried to re-



store the lost image of this holy land," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor saluted the people of J&K for actively participating in the development journey. "I am proud about the rapid pace at which Jammu Division and Kashmir Division have developed in the last few years. The pace of progress is historic. Common citizens and intellectuals of the society are engaged in the transformation of Jammu and Kashmir which is highly commendable, he

said. The Lieutenant Governor also commended the entire team of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board for performing its duties with dedication and devotion for the pilgrims. He said the Yatri Niwas at Baltal will be dedicated to Pilgrims on July 04. Since 2022 facilities for pilgrims are significantly improved. I pray to Lord Shiva to make the journey of devotees successful and all their wishes come true, he said. "World's eyes are on this yatra. The devotees' resolve is unshakable; no

threats can deter their spirit. With the cooperation and support of everyone, this year's Yatra will be even more historic than previous years," the Lieutenant Governor urged all the civil society members, enlightened citizens to join the flag-off ceremony of the first batch of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025 at Yatri Niwas tomorrow morning. He asked the media persons to spread awareness among the pilgrims to travel in designated convoys. The Lieu-

tenant Governor also sought the support from all sections of the society to make the Tawi Aarti a continuous event. Shri Bharat Bhushan, Chairman, District Development Council Jammu; Ms. Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shri Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Shri Devansh Yadav, Municipal Commissioner Jammu and CEO of Jammu Smart City Limited; Shri Rajesh Gupta, Chairman Shri Raghunathji Corridor Vikas Council; heads of various religious and business associations, members of civil society groups, Acharyas and Archakas were present. Members of Legislative Assembly; Administrative Secretaries; senior officials of Civil and Police Administration, people and pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra in large number also took part in the Tawi Aarti.

CS visits Yatri Niwas, reviews final arrangements for Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025

JAMMU, JULY 01: Ahead of commencement of the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra from July 3, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo today undertook a comprehensive visit to Yatri Niwas, Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu to take stock of the final arrangements being made by various departments for smooth and secure conduct of the pilgrimage. Accompanied by the senior civil and police officers, the Chief Secretary inspected all key facilities at the Yatri Niwas, one of the pivotal base camps in Jammu for the devotees. Those present during the visit included Divisional Commissioner Jammu, IGP, Jammu, IG Traffic, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu; SSP Traffic (City); Commissioner, JMC; MD, JPDCI; Director, Information; Chief Engineers of Jal Shakti and PWD besides representatives from various security agencies and other concerned departments. During his walkthrough of the facil-



ity, the Chief Secretary took a detailed assessment of the arrangements ranging from accommodation, sanitation and power supply to security and registration counters. He asked for increasing the number of registration counters to ease the process for the incoming pilgrims and minimize waiting times. The Chief Secretary also reviewed

functioning of the dedicated control room set up to monitor yatra-related activities round-the-clock. Highlighting the significance of seamless inter-departmental coordination, he later chaired a high-level meeting of officers. He stressed the importance of ensuring a glitch-free and safe experience for the pilgrims during the entire 38-day yatra pe-

riod. He expressed satisfaction over the meticulous efforts of all the departments. He expressed confidence that the arrangements would offer pilgrims a comfortable and spiritually enriching journey.

Dulloo remarked that every department has worked with utmost dedication to create a conducive environment for the pilgrims. He further observed that our goal is not only to ensure their safety and comfort but also to leave them with a memorable experience that they can carry home with joy.

He also directed the Information Department to run a targeted communication campaign across the social and mass media platforms to provide real-time updates on weather, traffic and yatra advisories. The campaign will also help allay any doubts or apprehensions among the devotees and encourage confident participation in the sacred pilgrimage.

Rana reviews PMGSY projects in Poonch



SRINAGAR, JULY 01: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a meeting at the Civil Secretariat Srinagar to review the status of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) projects in Poonch.

The meeting aimed to assess the progress on ongoing road projects and identify areas for improvement.

During the review, the Minister directed the concerned authorities to expedite the progress on works and achieve the set targets within the stipulated timelines. He emphasized that completion of these projects would provide tangible benefits to the common masses, including reliable road access and economic opportunities. The Minister stressed the importance of adhering to

quality standards in the projects to ensure development of durable assets. He instructed the officers to conduct regular monitoring of the work being executed in their respective jurisdictions.

Rana also directed for identification of road stretches in the district requiring repairs, emphasizing the need to fill potholes and make roads safe, beautiful and accessible.

Reopening of Terror Victim Cases will unmask terror sympathisers: Kavinder

Jammu, July 1: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta has strongly welcomed the decision of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to reopen the long-buried cases of civilians killed by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists, stating that this bold move will finally unmask the terror sympathisers who had infiltrated government departments and were shielded under previous regimes. He said the reopening of these cases is not merely an administrative step but a moral awakening that will expose the deep-rooted nexus between terror elements and those who aided them from within. Speaking at the meeting held here today, Kavinder observed that these cases were deliberately buried in the past under political compulsions and appeasement policies of parties like Congress and National Conference (NC), whose soft



stance and vote bank politics created an environment that allowed terrorism to thrive unchecked. "The Congress-NC combine played a major role in giving space to terror sympathisers in the system by turning a blind eye to their growing footprints in government departments and society at large," he asserted. Under

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and the LG's decisive administration, the voices of the innocent will no longer be ignored. He strongly endorsed the LG's directive to Deputy Commissioners and SSPs to reopen long-suppressed cases, register fresh FIRs, and ensure employment to the next of kin of terror vic-

tims on priority. Slamming previous regimes for their criminal silence, Kavinder said, "This is not just reopening files; this is reopening the conscience of a system that failed its own people. The killers roamed free, often patronized by elements within the ecosystem who are now being unmasked." He further lauded the LG's directions to identify individuals embedded in government departments who were part of the terror apparatus. "Those who betrayed the nation from within the system must be weeded out. It's a shame that sympathisers of terrorism managed to find refuge in government offices while victims' families struggled to survive," he said. The senior BJP leader also welcomed the establishment of Special Cells in the LG Secretariat and the Chief Secretary's office to address the long-standing grievances of terror victim families.

He particularly praised the order to free land and property illegally occupied by terrorists or their supporters, calling it a much-needed corrective measure. "This move will break the back of the terror-support infrastructure that continues to exploit the loopholes of the law. For decades, terror victim families were left unheard and justice remained elusive. Today marks a new beginning," he added. Urging the administration to act swiftly and ensure time-bound implementation of these directives, Kavinder Gupta said this initiative must serve as a warning to all those who dared to collude with the enemies of peace and humanity. He assured that the BJP will continue to stand with the families of the terror victims and push for a zero-tolerance policy against terrorism and its sympathisers.

DC Reasi chairs CLU committee meeting

REASI, JULY 1: Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Ms. Nidhi Malik, chaired a comprehensive review meeting to examine Change of Land Use (CLU) cases in the district.

The meeting aimed to ensure judicious and regulated use of land in alignment with government norms and sustainable development goals.

A total of 10 CLU proposals were taken up for detailed scrutiny during the session. After thorough deliberation with officials from concerned departments, 5 cases were granted approval, 4 were rejected due to non-compliance with guidelines or insufficient documentation, and 1 case was referred to the applicant with directions to address specific observations raised during the discussion.



DC Malik underscored the importance of maintaining transparency and accountability in the CLU process. She called for a coordinated approach among departments and instructed officials to expedite the issuance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) following proper document verification. Emphasizing strict compliance with legal procedures, she also set clear

timelines for the processing and disposal of cases. The Deputy Commissioner further reiterated the administration's commitment to fostering efficient and transparent land-use practices, which are crucial for orderly development in the district. The meeting was attended by ACR Mr. Nitin Verma, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Executive Engineer, JPDCI.

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All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent courts and forums in Jammu City

