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Entire Jammu Kashmir must rise and make sure terrorists have no place in this beautiful union territory: LG Sinha

SRINAGAR, JULY 08: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today addressed the Tourism Secretaries' Meet of Union Territories at Srinagar. The occasion was also graced by Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister for Culture and Tourism. In his keynote address, the Lieutenant Governor shared the remarkable development journey of Jammu Kashmir and its emergence as a preferred global tourist destination.

"This conference is a befitting reply to terrorism and reflects J&K's march towards peace, progress and

Ordinary citizens are taking a stand against terrorism. Street protests against Pak-backed terrorists is a good sign to establish permanent peace in the valley: LG



prosperity. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, J&K is an unstoppable

force and it will continue to flourish," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor

highlighted the phenomenal transformation of J&K's tourism sector over the last few years. "God has truly

been generous to Jammu and Kashmir. This land, adorned with snow-capped peaks, shimmering lakes, apple-laden orchards, temples and rolling meadows, is a living canvas of natural beauty, spirituality and peace. We have strengthened traditional tourism circuits and expanded tourism's horizon. We have ensured benefits of tourism reach every corner of J&K UT and transform lives. The people of J&K and their warm hospitality makes Jammu and Kashmir a truly fascinating tourist destination," the Lieutenant

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Commander of UAE Naval Forces holds talks with CDS, Navy Chief to boost ties

New Delhi: UAE Naval Forces Commander Major General Humaid Mohammed Abdullah Alreimithi on Tuesday held talks with India's military top brass for bolstering maritime cooperation and expanding naval engagements and overall ties between the two countries. He is on an official visit to India from July 7 to 9. Maj Gen Alreimithi met Chief of the Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan and Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi in New Delhi.

The visit of Maj Gen Humaid Mohammed Abdullah Alreimithi marks a key milestone in India-UAE naval relations, aimed at deepening cooperation and



promoting shared interests in the Indian Ocean Region," the Indian defence ministry said in a statement. The visit of the commander of the UAE Naval Forces (UAEF) is aimed at strengthening maritime cooperation and India-UAE ties, officials said. His visit features high-level

discussions and operational interactions in New Delhi. Earlier on Tuesday, Maj Gen Alreimithi laid a wreath at the National War Memorial here and paid tribute to Indian bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice on the line of duty. This was followed by a

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Kashmir's tourism potential extends far beyond its scenic landscapes: Shekhawat

Srinagar: Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat today said that Kashmir's tourism potential extends far beyond its scenic landscapes, highlighting the need to tap into the region's rich cultural and experiential offerings. He also urged the Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Department and officials from other Union Territories to chart out a comprehensive, year-long event calendar of events aimed at creating a distinct global identity through culture-driven tourism. Speaking at the concluding



session of the UT Tourism Secretaries Meeting in Srinagar, the Union Minister said that while the general perception of Kashmir is largely confined to iconic destinations like Srinagar,

Dal Lake, Gulmarg, Sonamarg, and Pahalgam, the region offers far more diverse and unexplored experiences.

"Kashmir is not just about scenic beauty. It is home to centuries-old archaeological remains and historical documents that narrate thousands of years of our heritage. When it comes to religious tourism, we often stop at Amar Nath Yatra, Vaishno Devi, or the Shankaracharya Temple. But places like the ancient Shiva temple in Bhaderwah and many other magnificent destinations like Srinagar,

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MHA writes to States, UTs to ensure special facilities for elderly prisoners

New Delhi: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has written to all states and Union Territories (UTs) to make special provisions in prisons and correctional institutions to ensure the safety, care, and well-being of elderly inmates. In an advisory issued on July 1, the MHA highlighted that prison institutions across the country house several vulnerable inmates, including senior citizens who often require additional assistance to manage their day-to-day activities in a custodial environment.

The advisory has been sent to the Chief Secretaries of all states and UTs, as well as the Director General and Inspector General of Prisons and Correctional Services. Reiterating its commitment to the welfare of elderly citizens, the MHA emphasized the need for "specially accessible accommodations in prisons" to meet the physical needs of aged inmates. "The states and UTs are requested to make suitable provisions for special accessible accommodation in

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Amid Multi-Tier Security Escort, Over 7,500 Pilgrims Leave For Amarnath Yatra



JAMMU, Jul 8: A fresh batch of over 7,500 pilgrims left here early Tuesday for the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said. The 38-day pilgrimage

commenced on July 3 from the valley via the twin tracks — the traditional 48-km-long Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the 14-km shorter but steeper Baital route in Ganderbal district. The yatra

will conclude on August 9. Over 94,000 pilgrims have paid obeisance at the shrine since the start of the yatra, they said.

The seventh batch of 7,541 pilgrims, including 5,516 men and 1,765 women, left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here in 309 vehicles for the twin base camps in Kashmir amid tight security arrangements between 2.55 am and 4.05 am, the officials said.

The first pilgrim convoy, carrying 3,321 pilgrims in 148 vehicles, left for the shorter but steeper Baital route in Ganderbal district. The yatra

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BRIEF NEWS

Six Drug Peddlers Arrested With Heroin In Jammu And Kashmir

Jammu, Jul 8: Six alleged drug peddlers were arrested with heroin in Udhampur, Jammu and Kathua districts of Jammu and Kashmir, police said on Tuesday. Arun Choudhary, a resident of Krowa, was arrested after 5.81 grams of heroin was recovered from his possession near the Tawi bridge near Jaganoo on Tuesday morning, a police spokesperson said. He said the narcotics were recovered after a parooling party noticed Choudhary moving around suspiciously and frisked him. Three drug peddlers — Arun Singh of Rajiv Nagar, Mohd Rustam Shah of Baramulla and Rubel Sharma alias Chinko of Talab Tillo — were arrested from Jammu bus stand.

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ED Attaches Rs 14-Crore Assets Of Former Principal Secretary To Bhopinder Hooda In DA Case

New Delhi, Jul 7: Nine residential units worth Rs 14 crore of a retired IAS officer, who served as a principal secretary to former Haryana chief minister Bhopinder Singh Hooda, have been attached as part of a probe into a disproportionate assets case against him, the Enforcement Directorate said on Monday. A provisional order for attachment of these properties located in Chandigarh, Delhi and Gurugram was issued on June 30 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the federal agency said in a statement. The total

(Contd on Pg 2)

Anti-Constitutional: Farooq Abdullah On Revision Of Electoral Rolls In Bihar



Srinagar, Jul 8: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday termed as "anti-Constitutional" the decision of the Election Commission to undertake special intensive revision of electoral rolls in poll-bound Bihar. "More than 1.50 crore Biharis are working outside their state. How will they fill the form (for enrolment)? How will they vote? Where will they get the certificates for their deceased parents?" Abdullah asked. The former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir was talking to reporters at Kulgam where he had gone to attend a party event.

"When the Constitution was framed by B R

Ambedkar, everyone had a right to vote. Then it was amended to give voting rights to 18 year olds and above. Today, they (EC) have brought a new law which is against the Constitution. They are trying to please their master. To please their master, they are willing to sacrifice everything," he added. Abdullah said there was a need to wake up to these "machinations" as it was not acceptable to the people of India.

"Wake up! Regrettably, I say that it is not acceptable to people of India. If they push it through, then there will be an agitation to save the Constitution and it will be bigger than earlier agitation. May Allah grant them wisdom to safeguard the Constitution," he added. The Election Commission on June 24 issued instructions to carry out a special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, apparently to weed out ineligible names and ensure only eligible citizens are included in the electoral roll. The last such revision in Bihar was conducted in 2003. According to the EC, the exercise was necessitated by rapid urbanisation, frequent migration, young citizens becoming eligible to vote, non-reporting of deaths, and inclusion of the names of foreign illegal immigrants. Elections in Bihar are due later this year.

E-Comm platforms, online payments services being abused for terror financing: FATF

New Delhi: Global terror financing watchdog FATF on Tuesday cited the February 2019 Pulwama terror attack, which killed 40 CRPF personnel, and the 2022 Gorkhath Temple incident to say that e-commerce platforms and online payment services are being misused for terror financing. In its 'Comprehensive Update on Terrorist Financing Risks', the FATF also flagged 'state sponsorship of terrorism' and said a variety of publicly available sources of information and delegations' inputs to this report indicate that "certain terrorist organisations have been and continue to receive financial and other forms of support from several national governments". "Delegations reported on this



trend by referring to the use of state sponsorship for TF (terror financing) either as fundraising technique or as part of the financial management strategy of the certain organisations engaging in terrorist acts. Several

forms of support have been reported, including direct financial support, logistical and material support, or the provision of training," the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) said. In June, the FATF, while condemning

the April 2025, Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 people killed, and saying such attacks would not have been possible without financial support, had said it would come out with a "comprehensive analysis of terrorist financing", compiling cases provided by its global network consisting 200 jurisdictions.

Giving the case study of use of e-commerce platform for procurement of materials for terrorist attack in India, the FATF said a key component of the improvised explosive device used in the attack — aluminium powder — was procured through the EPOM Amazon. This material was used to enhance the impact of the blast.

(Contd on Pg 2)

Wildlife Clearance Not Mandatory For Basic Public Facilities Under FRA: MoTA Clarifies

NEW DELHI, Jul 8: The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has written to the environment ministry clarifying that wildlife clearance is not automatically required for constructing essential public facilities such as schools, anganwadis and roads on forest land under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, provided they are recommended by the Gram Sabha. In an office memorandum issued on July 2, MoTA offered a detailed clarification on Section 3(2) of the FRA, which allows diversion of forest land for basic facilities such as schools, roads, health centres and irrigation projects for the benefit of forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFDs). "Section 3(2) of the FRA states that, notwithstanding anything contained in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the Central government shall provide for diversion of forest land for facilities (including schools, health centres, roads, etc.) on forest land. The clearance of such a developmental project shall be subject to the condition that the Gram Sabha recommends the same," it said. In a letter issued in October 2020, the environment ministry had said that Section 13 of the FRA, which says the law is "in addition to and not in derogation of any

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Helpline Issued For Militancy-Affected Victims In Jammu Division

Jammu, Jul 8: To ensure timely help and smooth disbursement of benefits under SRO-43/RAS, the Divisional Commissioner Jammu has notified a dedicated landline number — 0191-2478995 — for militancy-affected victims in Jammu Division. As per an order, this number will serve as the primary point of contact for grievances, inquiries, and support related to pending cases.

Schools In J&K Reopen After Summer Break

Srinagar, Jul 8: Schools in Jammu and Kashmir reopened on Tuesday after two weeks of summer vacation as heavy rains on Monday ended the prolonged heatwave in the valley. The schools opened amid criticism of the government's decision to advance to the school timing to 7.30 am. The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday decided against extending the summer vacations despite no signs of heatwave abating in the valley. However, within couple of hours of the announcement, heavy rains lashed the valley and the temperature came down to normal levels across Kashmir. Some parents were critical of the new schedule announced by Minister for Education Sakina Masood Ittoo. Several videos were posted online in which parents showed the difficulties faced by kids to wake up at 5.30 am in order to catch their school bus between 6.30 am and 7.00 am. The education minister said on X that institutions within the municipal limits in the valley will function from 7.30 am to 11.30 am, while in other areas, the timings will be from 8 am to 12 noon. "We are reopening schools from tomorrow (Tuesday) in Kashmir Division & Winter Zones of Jammu Division," Ittoo said. The minister said the students will attend two online classes from home after a one-hour break. "After a 1-hour break, 2 online classes will follow. Teachers to remain available till 2 PM. All Hols must ensure online classes are conducted without exception," she said.

FROM PAGE ONE

Entire...

Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor observed that the G20 Tourism Working Group meeting was a defining moment in J&K's history and helped in building the brand J&K in global tourism sector. This was followed by major international and national events which not only showcased our organizational capabilities but presented J&K as a destination for luxury, film, entertainment, and global engagement, he further added.

The Lieutenant Governor also reiterated the administration's commitment to promote sustainable tourism, under the SPREAD (Strategic Promotion and Revamping of Emerging Alternate Destinations in J&K). This strategy aims to mitigate environmental pressure by diversifying tourist activities to lesser-known and emerging destinations.

Our aim is to bring 9 Emerging Destinations on the national-international tourism map and provide direct employment to at least 1 lakh people in the first year and these destinations will be able to attract high value tourists, he added.

We are also exploring ways to develop two Phase Ropeway for Shri Anamath Ji Shrine to facilitate the old-aged and divyangjan, the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that the development of tourism sector is possible only in a peaceful and secure environment.

"In J&K, Security forces have a huge role in ending terrorism but the role of society is also no less. Terrorists' attempt to draw their sustenance from society should be foiled.

Ordinary citizens are taking a stand against terrorism. Street protests against Pakistan-backed terrorists is a good sign to establish permanent peace in the valley. Entire Jammu Kashmir must rise and make sure terrorists have no place in this beautiful union territory," the Lieutenant Governor said. Ms. V. Vidyaathi, Union Secretary, Tourism; Shri Sunam Billa, Additional Secretary & Director General, Tourism; Shri Gyan Bhushan, Senior Economic Advisor, Tourism; Shri Praveen Kumar Rai, Joint Secretary, MHA; Tourism Secretaries, officials from Government of India and UT Administration, panelists and experts were present.

Commander...

ceremonial guard of honour and a bilateral meeting with Admiral Tripathi, where discussions focused on enhancing naval engagements, structured training engagements, and maritime cooperation, the statement said.

The UAE navy chief also interacted with CDS Gen Chauhan, it said. Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS), in a post on X, shared photos of his meeting with the CDS. "The interaction underscored the growing depth of India-UAE defence cooperation with discussions focused on strengthening maritime security, enhancing joint training and interoperability," it said.

The CDS highlighted India's commitment to regional security and maritime domain awareness, while Maj Gen Alre-methi expressed keen interest in expanding bilateral naval engagements and collaboration in emerging domains, the HQ IDS said. The visit reflects the shared vision for a "secure, stable and rules-based" maritime order in the IOR (Indian Ocean Region), it said.

Kashmir's...

temples reflect Kashmir's deeper spiritual and historical significance," the Minister said.

He also pointed to the vast potential of activity-based tourism in Kashmir, citing opportunities in trekking, skiing, and water sports. "While skiing in Kashmir is known to some extent, the peace being restored in the region opens up new possibilities for adventure tourism. The tragic incident in Pahalgam should be seen as an isolated event - like a dark new moon night that has passed. We must now look ahead," he said.

Highlighting the underexplored areas, he mentioned lakes like Wular and Manasbal, and stressed the need to promote water-based tourism, cultural heritage, crafts, music, gastronomy, and agro-tourism. "One of the most innovative tourism models has been lavender farming. Under the leadership of the Lieutenant Governor, this initiative alone has attracted nearly 20 lakh tourists eager to experience lavender fields in Kashmir," he added.

Drawing comparisons with the rapid development in other Union Territories such as Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep, the Minister praised the local administrations for nurturing tourism potential with world-class and even beyond world-class - infrastructure. He reaffirmed the Centre's commitment to developing tourism infrastructure across all Union Territories.

"These regions hold boundless potential. The Government of India is fully committed to accelerating their tourism-driven

growth. Today's gathering is part of our collective effort to realize that vision," he said. Union Tourism Minister called on the Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Department and senior officials of other union territories to design a comprehensive year-long calendar of events aimed at creating a distinct global identity through culture-driven tourism.

"Every Union Territory should have a dedicated calendar with monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly festivals. These events should either be rooted in local traditions or be newly created experiences that can attract both domestic and international tourists," he said.

Citing the example of the International Kite Festival in Ahmedabad, which started 30-40 years ago and is now globally recognized, the Minister urged states and UTs to commit to fixed-date annual festivals that can eventually become permanent fixtures. "If we push just one good festival consistently for three years, it will become a 30-year asset for our economy," he said. "These events won't just bring tourists; they will shape our identity and generate livelihoods."

Highlighting Kashmir's growing tourism ecosystem, the Minister referred to the successful hosting of the Formula F4 race under the leadership of the Lieutenant Governor. "If that event gets a fixed slot every year, Srinagar will be known globally for Formula F4. Just like marathons or film festivals create destinations, so can we."

The Minister also pitched for organizing international events like Sufi music festivals and film expos, stressing the importance of developing off-season tourism through alternative experiences. "Tourism must not be limited to peak seasons. Places like Rajasthan understand the pain of the off-season. To overcome that, we need creative experiences-exhibitions, races, marathons, cultural festivals-that offer year-round engagement," he said.

MHA...

prisons and correctional institutions for the elderly prisoners, keeping in view their physical limitations," reads the advisory. It further urged prison authorities to take into account the dietary requirements of elderly prisoners and develop meal plans tailored to their age-related health challenges.

The advisory also stressed the importance of providing adequate healthcare services, including mental health support, to cater to the specific needs of the elderly population behind bars. Moreover, prison staff should be sensitised and trained to better understand and respond to the challenges faced by senior inmates.

"Special attention may also be given to the dietary requirement of such elderly inmates, with meal plans curated in accordance with the challenges of advanced age. It may also be ensured that adequate healthcare facilities-including mental health services-are made available in prisons to address the special needs of elderly inmates," mentions the advisory. States and UTs have been asked to take appropriate and prompt measures to implement these recommendations aimed at enhancing the quality of custodial life for elderly prisoners.

Amid...

district, followed by the second convoy of 4,220 pilgrims in 161 vehicles who are undertaking the yatra via the 48-km traditional Pahalgam route in Anantnag district, they said. Since Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the yatra in Jammu on July 2, a total of 47,902 pilgrims have left the Jammu base camp for the Valley.

There is a huge rush at the counters for on-the-spot registration, with authorities increasing the number of counters to 15 from 12, as well as the daily quota to 4,100 to ease the rush.

Over 4,000 devotees arrived in Jammu from various parts of the country to get themselves registered.

More than 3.5 lakh people have registered online for the pilgrimage so far. Thirty-four accommodation centres have been set up across Jammu, and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags are being issued to the pilgrims. Twelve counters have been set up for on-the-spot registration.

Arrangements have been made to provide boarding and lodging facilities for over 50,000 people at various lodgement centres across the Jammu region, from Lakhnampur to Banihal, they said.

Over 100 lodgement centres have been set up for the purpose, they added.

A total of 180 companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), which is 30 more than previous years, have been deployed for the security of the pilgrims.

Wildlife...

other law for the time being in force", implies that "wildlife clearance will be required for implementing Section 3(2) of the Act".

The environment ministry letter had said that provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, remain unaffected by Section 3(2) of the FRA.

However, the Tribal Affairs Ministry has now made it clear that Section 3(2) of the FRA is rooted in constitutional rights and safeguards, including Articles 14, 19(1)(e) and 21 of the Constitution, as well as the Fifth and Sixth Schedules, which protect tribal rights.

The ministry cited landmark Supreme Court judgments, including Samatha vs State of Andhra Pradesh (1997) and TN Godavarman Thirumudupad vs Union of India (1997), to emphasise that the FRA is a legal instrument to balance tribal rights, development needs and environmental concerns. The letter further said that the right to divert forest land under Section 3(2) must be read along with Sections 2(e), 4(1), 4(2), and 4(7) of the FRA. These provisions affirm that forest rights are "vested" in tribal and forest-dwelling communities to correct "historical injustices".

Addressing concerns about potential conflicts with wildlife conservation, the ministry said, "Section 4(2) of the FRA specifies the permissible self-limitation. It introduces the self-limiting exception, to the modification or resettlement of forest rights for wildlife conservation, only in Critical Wildlife Habitat."

Referring to a joint 2009 guideline with the environment ministry outlining procedures for forest land diversion for non-forest purposes under Section 3(2) of the FRA, MoTA said that the stipulated procedure provides a "clear understanding that the wildlife clearance is not automatically mandated".

The memorandum said that the rights granted under Section 3(2), when read with other relevant sections of the Act, are "a statutory entitlement deriving its mandate from the Constitution's Fundamental Rights, not contingent on external clearances unless explicitly stated in the FRA".

Researcher C R Bijoy said a 2020 letter from the environment ministry has been widely used by forest officials to block basic facilities in forest villages under Section 3(2) of the FRA, despite no formal orders being issued to states.

Forest rights experts claim forest villages have long been denied services like schools, roads and health centres that are available in regular revenue villages. Forest officials often block such projects, saying they are not legally allowed or citing forest conservation reasons. As a result, these villages remain some of the most neglected in the country.

In many cases, even after the district-level committees approved the projects, forest officials stopped them, triggering protests. In some instances, courts have even issued stay orders based on the 2020 letter.

E-Comm...

In February 2019, a suicide bombing targeted a convoy of Indian Security Forces in Pulwama in Jammu & Kashmir, resulting in the deaths of 40 soldiers. India's authorities concluded that the attack was orchestrated by Jaish-e-Mohammed (JIM).

As a result of the investigation, 19 individuals were charged under relevant provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, including sections related to TF. Among those charged were seven foreign nationals, including the suicide bomber. LEAs also recovered moveable and immovable assets connected to the attack, such as vehicles and terrorist hideouts.

Indian authorities have repeatedly highlighted Pakistan's persistent support for terrorism and its funneling of multilateral funds for arms procurement. India has consistently held that Pakistan has given safe haven to designated terrorists and according to sources, India views that such action by Pakistan warrants that the country be put in the "grey list" of the FATF.

The FATF report flagged that terrorists have been abusing e-commerce platforms and online marketplaces and said terrorists have used such platforms for their operational procurement (equipment, weapons, chemicals, 3D-printing material).

EPOMs can also be used by terrorists to sell items to finance their projects and operations, including lower value items that were previously not in demand.

"EPOMs can be used for fund-moving purpose inspired by trade-based money laundering schemes. Traded goods can indeed offer disguise to value being transferred from an accomplice to another member of the network. In such scheme, the first actor would purchase items, send them to his accomplice through an EPOM, for the latter to sell items in another jurisdiction and use profit to finance terrorism," the FATF said.

The FATF in its update on TF risks also highlighted the methods used to raise, move, and manage funds and other as-

sets for terrorist financing purposes and said online fund transfers using payment services platform offer less traceability and transparency compared to wire-transfer, making it harder to clearly identify initiators and recipients of transfers. Giving a case study on the use of online payment service and VPNs to fund lone actor terrorist act, the FATF cited the April 3, 2022, Goraknath Temple attempted breach incident wherein an individual, influenced by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) ideology, attacked security personnel leading to immediate arrest.

The financial investigation revealed that the individual transferred Rs 669,841 (USD 7,685) via PayPal to foreign countries in support of ISIL, using international third-party transactions and using VPN services to obscure the IP address. He also received Rs 10,323.35 (USD 188) from a foreign source.

Further financial scrutiny uncovered that the accused had made a payment to a VPN provider through his bank account to secure these services. A comprehensive analysis of the accused's PayPal transactions, obtained via email, indicated that about 44 international third-party transactions totalling Rs 669,841 (approximately USD 7,736) had been made to foreign accounts. Additionally, the accused received funds from a foreign account through PayPal.

The investigation also uncovered that the accused had sent money to multiple individuals identified as ISIL followers in foreign jurisdictions to support terrorist activities.

"Due to the suspicious nature of these transactions and the potential for TF, PayPal suspended the accused's account, thereby preventing further illicit fund transfers," the FATF said in the case study as sourced from India's finance ministry.

"As the offer of online payment services from Fintech companies grew substantially over the last 10 years, cases of terrorists opting for those services can be observed across all contexts, especially as it offers an opportunity to diversify fund-moving channels.

"These payment services also appear attractive for terrorist organisations for the low-cost and fast money transfer solutions they offer, with possibility for enhanced opacity on initiators and beneficiaries through pseudonyms or fake accounts," the FATF said.

The FATF said Europol assesses that services are commonly used across all types of terrorist organisations. In cases involving small terrorist cells, FTFs (Foreign Terrorist Fighter), and other individual terrorists, P2P payment services have been used for procurement of military equipment, chemical components, or propaganda materials on e-commerce platforms (EPOMs).

Delegations also report that EoRMT (Ethnically or Racially Motivated Terrorism) groups use peer-to-peer payment systems to sell merchandising, items conveying extremist ideologies (books, music, clothes) to sympathisers, constituting a central source of revenue for those organisations.

"Such online payment services can also be used to convey donations to larger organisations, especially in the extent that some payment mechanisms are directly integrated into social networks and content hosting services. In those cases, a single platform can be used to recruit donors, launch a crowdfunding campaign, and proceed to the transfer of funds through an online payment service.

"As it was mentioned regarding credit cards, online payment services offer less traceability and transparency compared to wire-transfer, making it harder to clearly identify initiators and recipients of transfers," it added.

Six Drug...

Nowabad and Bahu Fort, respectively, late Monday, the spokesperson said.

He said 20 grams of heroin and one weighing machine were recovered from Singh. 12 grams of heroin was recovered from Shah, and 8.66 grams of heroin, a weighing machine and 11 mobile phones were recovered from Sharma. Shah's private car was also seized.

In Kathua, two drug peddlers — Liyaqat Ali and Sajad Hussain — were arrested after 13.04 grams of heroin was recovered from them during checking at Hardeo-Muthi in the Rajbagh area, the spokesperson said.

He said all the six drug peddlers have been booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and further investigation is underway.

ED Attaches...

value of these two houses and seven apartments belonging to retired IAS officer M L Tayaal are worth Rs 14.06 crore, it said.

The money laundering case stems from a CBI FIR which

Clean Jammu Green Jammu Campaign: Plantation Drive organized in Upper Roopnagar

JAMMU, JULY 8: As part of the ongoing Clean Jammu Green Jammu campaign, a large-scale plantation drive was conducted today in Sector 4 Nagar Vaitika Upper Roopnagar. The event saw enthusiastic participation from the girl students of Women College Parade, who actively planted a variety of saplings, contributing to the city's green cover. Local residents of Roopnagar, officials from Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Urban Forestry Division Jammu, and Swachhata Volunteers also joined the drive, demonstrating strong community support for environmental conservation. The campaign, spearheaded



by Jammu Municipal Corporation and Urban Forestry Division Jammu, aims to make Jammu greener by involving citizens from all walks of life. A unique fea-

ture of the campaign is the adoption of saplings, where a QR code is affixed in the name of the individual who adopts and cares for the plant. Running till 15th Au-

gust, the campaign has set an ambitious target of planting 60,000 saplings across the city. The departments are making sustained efforts to involve political parties, so-

DC Baramulla chairs DLIC meeting under Mission YUVA

BARAMULLA, JULY 08: In a significant move aimed at empowering the youth and fostering self-employment, a district level implementation committee (DLIC) meeting was held today under Mission YUVA at Baramulla.

The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, and witnessed the approval of 53 cases of aspiring young entrepreneurs from across the district.

The approved cases span a wide range of sectors, highlighting the diverse entrepreneurial interests of local youth and their potential to contribute to Baramulla's economic development. These youth will now receive financial assistance and capacity-building support under the Mission YUVA framework.

Mission YUVA is a flagship initiative of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir that aims to create a strong support ecosystem for youth-led enterprises. The mission provides end-to-end support including skill de-

velopment, financial aid, mentorship, and market linkages to unemployed and aspiring entrepreneurs.

Speaking on the occasion, DC lauded the enthusiasm and participation of local youth. He emphasized the need for timely disbursement of funds and continuous mentorship to ensure sustainability of the approved ventures.

He remarked that Mission YUVA is not just a scheme but a movement to instill innovation, enterprise, and self-reliance among the district's youth.

The meeting was attended by all members of the DLIC and SBDU, as well as officers from the District Employment & Counselling Centre (DE&CC) Baramulla.

A comprehensive presentation on the applications received and the screening process conducted at the SBDU level was shared during the session. It was noted that intensive awareness campaigns and engagement activities across both rural and urban areas had generated a strong response from the youth.

ABVP Jammu Mahanagar organized "Madhavi ChatrSammansamaharo" on National Students Day

ABVP Jammu Mahanagar on the occasion of National Youth Day, organized a grand felicitation program at the esteemed Jammu Club today, to honor the brilliant toppers of the 10th and 12th standard board examinations. The event aimed to acknowledge and encourage the academic achievements of the youth, reinforcing the spirit of learning and dedication.

The program was graced by the presence of Prof. Sanjeev Jain Ji, Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Jammu, who presided as the Chief Guest. His inspiring words motivated the young achievers to pursue their goals with unwavering commitment.

Shri Ashish Chouhan Ji, National Organizing Secretary of ABVP, attended as the Guest of Honour, emphasizing the crucial role of youth in nation-building. Other dignitaries present included Shri Harish Sharma Ji,



Jammu Mahanagar Mantri, and Shri Rajesh Bhardwaj Ji, Mahanagar President, who extended their congratulations and best wishes to the students.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain (Vice Chancellor CUJ) "emphasized the crucial role of technology and AI in shaping our nation's future. Our youth have immense potential and must be

equipped with skills to harness these emerging fields. They will drive innovation, entrepreneurship, and social change. Let's foster a culture of creativity and experimentation, and provide them with the support they need to succeed. I congratulate our academic toppers and urge them to continue striving for excellence. Together, let's create a future where

our youth thrive, innovate, and lead the way." Shri Ashish Chouhan Ji National Organizing Secretary of ABVP, stated: "National Youth Day is a reminder of the immense potential and energy that resides within our youth. These toppers are not just academic achievers; they are the future leaders, innovators, and nation-

builders. ABVP is committed to fostering an environment where every student can realize their full potential, not just in academics but in all spheres of life. We believe in nurturing a generation that is not only intellectually strong but also deeply rooted in national values and dedicated to societal welfare. This felicitation is a small gesture of our appreciation for their hard work and an encouragement for them to continue striving for excellence and contribute positively to our nation's progress."

The program saw a large gathering of students, parents, and community members, who applauded the efforts of the toppers. ABVP Jammu Mahanagar reiterated its commitment to promoting education, character building, and nationalistic values among the student community.

The Chatter Box to host Insane Comic on 13th July in Jammu



Jammu, 8th July 2025: The Chatter Box, Jammu's most vibrant and beloved venue for live performances, is all set to tickle funny bones with a special stand-up comedy night featuring the fast-rising comedy star Vishal Sharma, popularly known as Insane Comic. The event is scheduled for Sunday, 13th July 2025, and promises to be a laughter-packed evening for all age groups. The announcement was made by Shivam Singh, Founder of Chatter Box, along with Meenakshi Bhagat, Co-Founder. Speaking about the upcoming show, they said, "After the tremendous response we received for Manpreet Singh aka Comic Singh's performance, we are thrilled to bring another unique voice in Indian comedy to Jammu. We are hopeful that Jammuites will shower the same love and support this Sunday too." Vishal Sharma has quickly emerged as one of the most promising names in the Indian comedy scene.

With a social media following of over 170,000, Vishal's content delivered primarily in the Kangri dialect resonates deeply with audiences for its authenticity, wit, and clean, family-friendly humor. In just two years, he has performed at more than 75 shows across India, earning praise for his ability to blend regional language with universally relatable themes. His dedication to promoting stand-up comedy in Himachal Pradesh was recently recognized with an honor from the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh.

This show will mark Vishal's debut performance in Jammu, and expectations are high. Audiences can look forward to a refreshing mix of sharp observations, cultural references, and feel-good comedy that respects tradition while keeping things light and modern. The event will be held at The Chatter Box, conveniently located in the heart of Jammu. Tickets are exclusively available on BookMyShow, and given the growing buzz, organisers strongly recommend early bookings to avoid disappointment.

JU's Baderwah Campus unites Global Experts in Ladakh to Address Climate Crisis in the Indian Himalayas

Ladakh July 8: 3rd International Expedition to the Western Himalayas kicks off with International Summer School on "Confronting the Climate Challenge in the Indian Himalayas: Pathways to Resilience"

In a pioneering step towards addressing climate change in fragile mountain ecosystems, the Department of Environmental Studies, PGDAV (M) College, University of Delhi, in collaboration with the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies on Mountain and Hill Environment (CISMHE), University of Delhi, and the Department of Earth Sciences, Institute of Mountain Environment, Baderwah Campus, University of Jammu,

has launched the 3rd International Summer School and Expedition from July 5-15, 2025, in the Western Himalayas, with a dedicated focus on Ladakh.

This on-field academic initiative, supported by international scholars including a delegation from HSE University, Saint Petersburg, Russia, aims to develop robust, community-led climate resilience models. Participants include eminent professors, climate researchers, and policy experts from India and Russia who are working closely with local communities to examine firsthand the cascading impacts of climate

change in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR)—one of the most ecologically sensitive zones in the world. Key concerns being addressed include rising temperatures, accelerated glacial melt, erratic precipitation, and increasing frequency of extreme weather events. The summer school is particularly focusing on water insecurity, threats to traditional livelihoods, and the tensions between unregulated development and environmental preservation in the region.

Prof. Rahul Gupta, Rector of Baderwah Campus, University of Jammu, lauded the joint initiative, emphasizing the urgency of



research-based policymaking in ecologically fragile zones like Ladakh. "Such collaborative outreach programmes are essential to inform governance frameworks and develop adaptive

responses to climate challenges in mountainous areas," he said.

Prof. Divyanshu Kumar, Principal of PGDAV College, has provided vital guidance in shaping the re-

search component of the workshop. His focus on grassroots data collection and statistical rigor ensures that the findings have both practical value and academic depth.

Prof. Vandana Mishra, Director of CISMHE, underlined three major goals of this Indo-Russian collaboration: Real-world research on resilience, sustainable farming, and traditional food preservation; Field-based data for improved strategies in climate adaptation, biodiversity, and water management; and A strengthened academic bridge between India and Russia through joint research, student exchanges, and collaborative funding.

Prof. Alexander, Dean of the School of Social Sciences, HSE University, Russia, reiterated the importance of incorporating traditional knowledge with scientific methodologies to formulate sustainable policy interventions in climate-vulnerable regions like Ladakh. Dr. Paandeep Singh, Convener of the workshop, emphasized the need to integrate indigenous practices with modern policy to build resilient mountain communities, while also promoting cross-disciplinary dialogue among academia, civil society, and policymakers. Dr. Chirchering Tandup, the Organizing Secretary, stressed the significance of

holding such events on-site in Ladakh, ensuring that climate discussions are community-driven and grounded in the lived realities of the region.

Dr. Richa Agarwal Malik shared that key investigations during the expedition include, Local awareness on climate change impacts, Community coping mechanisms, Solutions being adopted, Expectations from administrative support. Given Ladakh's delicate ecosystem and resource constraints, she emphasized the urgency of developing economically viable and ecologically sound adaptation strategies.

ABRSM Demands Immediate Revocation of Recent School Timing Order for Winter Zones

Jammu July 8: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of Akhil Bharatiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh (ABRSM) has strongly objected to the recent directive issued by the Department of School Education regarding the change in school timings for schools in Kashmir and the winter zones of Jammu division.

In a statement released to the press, Sh. Gulshan Raina, General Secretary, ABRSM JKUT, termed the order as "irrelevant and inconsiderate," and has urged the administration to immediately revoke it in the interest of students, parents, and teachers alike.

Mr. Raina suggested that the revised school timing—from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon—defeats the very purpose of safeguarding children from the prevailing harsh weather conditions. "Instead of providing relief, this order adds to the hardship of students, especially those in rural areas who have to walk 3 to 4 kilometers and even cross streams (nadas) to reach their schools by 8 a.m.," he said. He further pointed out that releasing children at 12 noon, when the heat wave is at its peak, poses serious health risks and could be considered a gross violation of human rights.

Mr. Raina suggested that a more suitable alternative would have been to either fix the school timing from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., or extend the summer vacations until weather conditions become more favorable. Additionally, Mr. Raina expressed concern over the decision to reopen summer zone schools on July 17, despite weather forecasts predicting heavy rains and high humidity. He warned that such decisions could endanger the lives of young students and staff, and called on the UT Education Minister to reconsider the matter urgently.

Distt admin Bandipora organizes workshop on Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0

BANDIPORA, JULY 08: District administration Bandipora on Tuesday organized a day-long training-cum-workshop on Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The programme was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri. Among others, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Bandipora, District Treasury Officer, State Resource Persons from the Department of

Panchayati Raj J&K, and officers from various line departments participated in the session. The workshop was organised to raise awareness and build capacity among district officers regarding the recently launched PAI 2.0, an evolved version of the Panchayat Development Index (PDI).

Speaking on the occasion, the State Resource Person highlighted that PAI is a multi-sectoral tool developed to measure the progress of Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) at the Pan-

chayat level. He informed that the index was initially introduced as PDI by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Government of India, in 2023. On the occasion, it was informed that PAI 2.0, launched this year, has been modified to enhance outcome-based development tracking and to promote evidence-based planning at the grassroots level. The tool ranks Gram Panchayats based on their performance across various thematic areas, fostering healthy competition and supporting their journey toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. During the programme, resource person further informed that the index has been prepared with technical support from NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), aligning with the global 2030 SDG agenda adopted by 193 countries, including India. Progress under the 17 SDGs at the national level is monitored by NITI Aayog through the National Indicator Framework (NIF) of MoSPI. It was shared that the earlier version, PDI, included 577 indicators across 9 themes, covering 144 targets and 688 data points. The data for FY 2022-23 has been uploaded to the PDI portal (www.pdi.gov.in), where Panchayat-level report cards, along with Block and District-level reports, are now available. These reports will assist departments in evaluating development progress through a thematic and evidence-based approach. It is pertinent to mention here that district Bandipora has secured 2nd rank in the North Zone under NITI Aayog's Aspirational.

DC Budgam chairs 91st DLRC/ DLCC meeting

BUDGAM, JULY 08: The 91st District Level Review Committee cum District Level Consultative Committee (DLRC/ DLCC) meeting for Q4 of the Financial Year 2024-25 was held today at the New Conference Hall, DC Office Complex Budgam.

The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, and witnessed the participation of Chief Planning Officer Budgam, Lead Bank Manager Budgam, officer from Reserve Bank of India, representatives from RSETI Budgam, District Coordinators of all banks, Heads and representatives of various line departments, as well as members from CFL



and FLCC. DC, while stressing the timely sanctioning and disbursement of cases, directed that all departments shall prepare a checklist of cases in consultation with the lead bank. He directed banks to respond the same within 7 days time, if not, the

checklist shall be deemed as final for further necessary action. He asserted that targets should be sought from banks under social security schemes and shared with the chair. DC further directed that cases should be sponsored as per the time table.

Calling on the mass awareness of schemes for self employment generation, DC instructed that financial inclusion camps be organized once every month in convergence with other departments particularly RDD in all rural areas of the district.

Chairman DLRC/DCC advised the departments to have a proactive approach towards their work so that all the benefits are passed on to the grassroots level needy, for overall economic development of the district. While reviewing the performances, he asserted on more focus in lending to the priority sectors, and directed underperforming banks to take effective measures in enhancing the lending

capital. Dr. Bilal stressed the need for continued collaboration between financial institutions and line departments to ensure inclusive and sustainable growth, especially in rural and priority sectors. During the session, Lead District Manager presented a detailed overview of the district's banking performance for FY 2024-25. He said District has Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio of 106.72%. The district has recorded a year-on-year growth of Rs.74.52 Crore in total advances, which increased from Rs.5166.77 Crores as on March 2024 to Rs.5241.29 Crores by March 2025.

NC leader warns against attempts to sabotage the Rattle Hydroelectric Project.

KISHTWAR: July 08, National Conference (NC) Senior leader Ajeet Bhagat who also serves as the Party's Spokesperson of Chenab Valley Zone has accused certain unscrupulous leaders of attempting to derail the Rattle Hydroelectric Project in Kishtwar National Project, through blackmailing and unrest under the pretext of union activities. In a statement issued here, Bhagat called for immediate action against such elements, asserting that they pose a threat to peace in the region. He accused these "self-styled leaders of constantly blackmailing and spreading unrest under the guise of unions, which hampers the progress of the project and disrupts peace, if swift measures are not taken, the situation could escalate beyond control in the future, he warned.

The NC leader called for the immediate application of the Public Safety Act (PSA) against these individuals, regardless of their activities under the banner of unions. No one should be allowed to engage in blackmailing or disruptive activities, he said. Bhagat added that the management of the project is fed up with such action, which



have been attempting to sabotage the project and create a hostile environment. Similar to past incident, the registration of all unions supporting such elements should be cancelled to prevent further disruptions, he said.

Distribution of Solar Lights and Power Banks for Gujjar and Bakkarwal at Gwari, Doda



Doda: 08 Jul 2025
Indian Army has been actively engaging with the community addressing their concerns and providing assistance. In its continuous endeavour to improve basic amenities, various projects have been undertaken for the locals. With an aim to help the Gujjar and Bakkarwal, Indian Army at Gwari, Doda has distributed Solar lights and Power Banks to the Gujjar and Bakkarwal

community under Operation Sadhbhavana on 07 Jul 2025. Empowering the Gujjar & Bakkarwal community with basic lighting infrastructure and enhancing their safety and mobility. Distribution of Solar lights and Power Banks will enhance safety and security in the community especially at night by providing reliable lighting. This is particularly important for nomadic community like Gujjar &

Bakkarwal who often live in remote areas with limited access to electricity. Solar lights and Power Banks can be particularly useful providing a reliable source of energy that can be easily transported and used in different location. Power banks will enable them to charge their mobile phones and connected with their families during their movement. The Indian Army plans to continue its efforts to support the Gujjar & Bakkarwal community exploring way to address their need and promote their welfare. This gesture of the Indian Army will certainly strengthen bonds of friendship between Army and less privileged community of Gujjar and Bakkarwal. A total of 60 Gujjar and Bakkarwal benefited from the event.

Poonch: 08 Jul 2025

In a remarkable humanitarian initiative, the Indian Army, in collaboration with Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), Jaipur, conducted a Mega Medical and Assistive Device Distribution Camp at Jaran Wali Gali, Surankote on 08 July 2025. The event was a shining example of compassion, inclusivity and cross-sector collaboration aimed at enabling the specially-abled and economically weaker sections of society, across Poonch district. The day-long camp focused on restoring mobility, confidence and independence to specially-abled individuals by providing custom-fitted Wheelchairs, Elbow crutches, Blind sticks, Hearing aids and support de-



VICES. Each recipient underwent a detailed medical and orthopaedic evaluation, ensuring that the assistance provided was not only effective but also personalised. "A wheelchair may seem like a device, but for someone who has never moved freely, it's a second chance at life," said an elderly from

Surankote, at the venue. The camp also delivered free medical consultations, essential medicines and preventive health education. Civilian doctors, Army medical personnel and BMVSS specialists jointly provided health screening, Ayush consultations, traditional remedies advice, Nu-

tritional guidance and hygiene awareness. Locals, especially from remote and hilly areas, travelled significant distances to avail these free-of-cost, high-quality services. Shabnam Bi, a 80-year-old woman from Gursai Tawi, said, "Meri beti ko jab wheelchair mili, meri aankhon mein aansu aa

gaye. Army aur Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS) ne hamari zindagi mein roshni laayi hai." ("When my daughter received her wheelchair, I couldn't hold back my tears. The Army and BMVSS have brought light into our lives.") Haji Nazir, a farmer from a nearby village, added, "Imi doori tay kar ke aaye, lekin yahan aake laga jaise apne logon ke beech hain. Itaj bhi mila, izzat bhi." ("We travelled from far, but here we felt amongst our own. We received both treatment and respect.") The initiative reinforced the deep-rooted trust between the Indian Army and the local population, serving as a testament to the Army's ongoing commitment to "Seva, Samarpan aur Sadbhavana."

Sat Sharma calls for the grand celebration of Guru Purnima

BJP holds series of meetings at BJP headquarters

Jammu, 08 July 2025:

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir held a series of organizational meetings with District Development Council (DDC) members and senior leaders of party, at the BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

J&K BJP President Sat Sharma, Leader of Opposition in J&K Assembly and BJP State General Secretary Sunil Sharma, former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta, BJP General Secretary Adv. Vibodh Gupta, DDC Chairman Bharat Bhushan, and BJP

Headquarters Incharge Priya Sethi addressed the meetings.

Also present in the meeting were former Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria, senior leader Vinay Gupta, DDC's Dharminder Kumar, Bhushan Bral, Vidya Motan, Sharda Bhau, and Geetu Aulakh, Ayodhya Gupta, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Adv. Rajesh Gupta, Naresh Singh, Ved Sharma, Narain Singh, Parmod Kapahi, Sanjay Kumar Baru, Munish Khajuria, Dr. Shishu, and other prominent office bearers. The meeting focused on energizing the party's grass-



roots leadership, chalking out strategies for upcoming organizational programmes, and emphasizing community outreach. A key high-

light of the session was the call by Sat Sharma to observe Guru Purnima as a festival of 'Bharatiya Sanskriti' and our cultural pride.

teachers and mentors. Our party leaders and public representatives must celebrate it as a mass participation programme, reflecting BJP's strong cultural foundation," said Sat Sharma. He urged DDC members to actively participate in societal programmes and strengthen public bonding. Sunil Sharma remarked that the BJP believes in politics of values, not just power. Celebrating Guru Purnima collectively is a step towards nurturing our civilizational heritage. He termed the BJP leaders especially the party's public

representatives including MLAs and DDC members as the bridge between governance and people, and stressed on their visible and meaningful involvement in social causes. Kavinder Gupta stated that the Guru Purnima is an opportunity to connect with our roots and people. Our elected representatives must utilize such occasions to reinforce our cultural identity and stay grounded with the masses, he added. Adv. Vibodh Gupta added, "This is the time to turn every cultural occasion into an outreach initiative. Let us re-

flect our ideology of service by actively participating in community activities." Bharat Bhushan thanked the party leadership for consistently involving grassroots representatives in key initiatives. Such engagement boost our morale and direction, he said. Priya Sethi said that under the visionary leadership of PM Modi and the guidance of our state leadership, every festival must be seen as an opportunity for community building. Guru Purnima is an occasion to express collective respect and promote traditional Indian wisdom."

Organised an Ex-Servicemen Meet at Narian, Rajouri



Rajouri: 08 Jul 2025
An Ex-Servicemen Meet was successfully organised at Narian, Rajouri District on 08 July 2025. The event aimed at strengthening the enduring bond between the veterans and the serving personnel, while fostering a spirit of camaraderie and mutual respect. The meet witnessed enthusiastic participation from ex-servicemen of the region, senior military officers, and representatives from various welfare organisations. Several

issues related to veterans' welfare, benefits, and resettlement opportunities were discussed during the event. The gathering provided a platform for sharing experiences, addressing concerns, and reinforcing the commitment of the armed forces towards the well-being of its veterans. It also served as a reminder of the invaluable contribution of ex-servicemen in nation-building and maintaining peace in the region.

NC Government Deliberately Delaying Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme in J&K: Pawan Sharma

Jammu, 08 July 2025:
Senior BJP leader and former State Secretary BJP Jammu and Kashmir, Pawan Sharma, has expressed serious concern over the deliberate neglect of the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP) by the National Conference (NC) government in Jammu and Kashmir.

Sharma highlighted that this Centrally Sponsored Scheme, aimed at updating and modernising land records, is being ignored repeatedly by the NC-led administration under various false pretexts, thereby deepening the common masses of its intended benefits.



"Digitally updated and accessible land records will significantly reduce the hardships faced by the public in land ownership, muta-

tion, and registration processes," Sharma stated. "Unfortunately, the National Conference government is sabotaging this prestigious programme as part of a well-planned strategy to avoid transparency and accountability in the revenue department." He appealed to the administration to accelerate the digitisation process, ensure the entire revenue record is available in multiple languages, and end the undue dependency on Persianised Urdu, which continues to create unnecessary barriers for the public. Sharma also raised concern over the lack of proper training and equipment provided to revenue officials tasked with digitisation. He pointed out that most field staff, though experienced in manual records handling,

are being forced into highly technical tasks without professional training or modern tools. "Digitisation is a specialised task. Forcing field staff without adequate training is both unproductive and unfair. The process is moving at a snail's pace, which reflects poor planning and deliberate inefficiency on the part of the government," he added. Sharma urged the LG administration and central authorities to take serious note of this issue and ensure proper training, deployment of modern technology, and strict monitoring of progress so that transparency and ease of access can be ensured in land-related matters.

Distt Rajouri Village Dhangri Residents Demand Urgent Action on Unsafe Electrical Infrastructure

Rajouri, July 7, 2025 – Residents of Village Dhangri have raised an urgent alarm over the critically unsafe electrical infrastructure in their area, citing multiple violations of legal and technical safety norms that pose severe risks to public safety. In a formal letter addressed to the Executive Engineer, Electric Division, JPDCL, Rajouri, the community has demanded immediate action to address hazardous conditions and halt ongoing smart meter installations until safety compliance is ensured.

The residents highlight several life-threatening issues. High-tension (HT) poles, including 11 kV lines near Govt. Girls Middle School and Govt. Higher Secondary School, Dhangri, and 33 kV near Dhangri Chowk are dangerously unsupported, hanging in the air due to illegal earth excavation by a local brick kiln



owner. Low-tension (LT) wires are carelessly tied to trees across the village, with sagging conductors and inadequate ground clearance, violating safety regulations. In some areas, HT and LT lines are dangerously fixed on the same roadside poles, creating a risk of fatal electrocution or appliance damage if a HT wire falls or a vehicle collides with a pole.

Frequent power outages triggered by mild winds further indicate fragile infrastructure and a lack of preventive maintenance. Despite these hazardous conditions, the installation of smart meters continues, which the residents argue endangers lives and property. The community asserts that these issues violate key provisions of the Electricity

Act, 2003, Central Electricity Authority (CEA) Safety Regulations, 2010, Indian Electricity Rules, 1956, and J&K Electricity Supply Code, 2022. The residents, represented by Dheeraj Sharma, Ex-Sarpanch, have urgently requested a technical inspection of the entire 33 kV, 11 kV, HT, and LT infrastructure in Village Dhangri, re-

inforcement or reinstallation of unsupported poles, proper installation of LT poles with removal of wires from trees, separation of HT and LT lines from shared poles, and an immediate halt to smart meter installations until full safety compliance is achieved.

This appeal, made under Sections 57 and 59 of the Electricity Act, 2003, emphasises consumer safety, accountability, and reliable power supply. Copies of the letter have been sent to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Chief Minister, Chief Engineer of JPDCL, MLA Rajouri, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Assistant Executive Engineer of JPDCL Subdivision, National/State Human Rights Commission, and the Indian Red Cross Society for urgent intervention.

For further information, contact Dheeraj Sharma at 7006305035.

Vijay Anand Gill attends BJP Valmiki Samaj National Meet

Jammu, 0 July 2025:
Jammu and Kashmir BJP SC Morcha Vice President Vijay Anand Gill, attended a meeting of BJP Valmiki Samaj All India Mandal, at party headquarters, New Delhi.

The All India Mandal team, led by its national leader Vikas Valmiki, also called on senior BJP leader and National Secretary Om Prakash Dhankad and submitted a memorandum seeking adequate representation of Valmiki Samaj activists in the party's organisational structure and governments, both at the Centre and in the states. During the meeting, Vijay Anand Gill, apprised Dhankad of the aspirations and concerns of the Valmiki community, emphasizing their steadfast support for the Bharatiya Janata Party over the years. He urged the party leadership to acknowledge the contributions of Valmiki Samaj



karyakartas by ensuring they are given fair opportunities and representation in decision-making roles at various levels - from local bodies to state and national positions.

The team members stressed that the Valmiki Samaj remains a committed pillar of the BJP's social fabric, and empowering its members would further strengthen the party's outreach and connect with marginalized sections of society. They said that the inclusion of more Valmiki leaders in the organizational and administrative spheres would send a strong message of so-

cial justice and inclusivity. Om Prakash Dhankad gave a patient hearing to the team members, acknowledging the significant contribution of the Valmiki community to the party and assuring them that their concerns and suggestions would be conveyed to the top leadership for appropriate consideration. In the meeting, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to work together for the upliftment and empowerment of the Valmiki Samaj within the BJP's larger vision of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas.

JKEDI concludes MDPs in 4 districts, trains 81 entrepreneurs under RAMP

SRINAGAR, JULY 8: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) has successfully concluded a series of Management Development Programs (MDPs) across four districts under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme. The initiative is being funded by the Union Ministry of MSME and implemented in the Union Territory by the Industries and Commerce Department, J&K.

The training programs, which commenced on June 30, 2025, were held simultaneously in Budgam, Kupwara, Pulwama and Shopian. A total of 81 aspir-



ing and existing entrepreneurs, including 48 women, participated in the six-day comprehensive training. The MDPs focused on enhancing the managerial, financial and strategic skills of the participants, aiming to help them scale up operations, boost competitiveness and build sustainable enterprises. The curriculum, meticulously developed by the 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.

The MDPs were monitored by designated Range/Reviewing Officers, who regularly engaged with the trainees and gathered feedback to ensure quality and relevance of the training. This initiative aligns with the broader objectives of the RAMP scheme to strengthen the MSME ecosystem across the Union Territory.

"Rotary Club Jammu Elite and SIBA Organize Successful Medical Camp

On July 4, 2025, Rotary Club Jammu Elite, in collaboration with SIBA, successfully hosted a comprehensive medical camp at Shoppers Stop, Jammu. The camp offered a wide range of essential healthcare services, including:

- Free health check-ups
- Blood tests
- Eye check-ups
- Dermatology consultations
- Dental check-ups
- Ear check-ups
- Specialist doctor consultations

The team of dedicated healthcare professionals and volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure the camp's success, providing quality medical care to attendees. We appreciate the efforts of



the Rotary Club Jammu Elite members who were present at the event, including: - Dr. Revika Arora (President)

- Adv. Jasmeet Pandey (Secretary) - Rtn. Gurvinder Kour - Rtn. Paramjeet Kour - Rtn. Suresh Bala - Dr. Savanter Kour

DLIC approves 59 cases under Mission Yuva scheme in Ganderbal



GANDERBAL, JULY 08: To examine and approve cases received under the Mission YUVA (Yuva Udayamita Vikas Abhiyan) scheme for financial assistance and entrepreneurial support, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) meeting here in the V.C room of DC office Ganderbal.

At the outset, a detailed discussion was held regarding the applications received under the scheme. The committee deliberated upon the cases submitted through the Skill

and Business Development Unit (SBDU), and after thorough scrutiny and evaluation, approved 59 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 the youth through skill development, entrepreneurship promotion, and self-employment opportunities. He stressed the need for robust post-approval support and follow-up to ensure the sustainable success of the approved units.

Satish Sharma launches Kashmir Super League 2025

Reiterates Govt's commitment to sports development, youth empowerment

SRINAGAR, JULY 8: Minister for FCS&CA, Youth Services and Sports, IT & Transport, Satish Sharma, today launched Kashmir Super Football League 2025 besides unveiling the tournament trophy and official jerseys.

The launch event, held with great enthusiasm, marks a significant milestone in the sporting calendar of Jammu and Kashmir. Commissioner Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Sarmad Hafiz; Secretary Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul; Chief Sports Officer Annisa Nabi; senior officers of Sports Council, Football veterans and legends of J&K, coaches, participating teams and sports enthusiasts were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Satish Sharma extended heartfelt congratulations to the Sports Department, Sports Council and other stakeholders for their tireless efforts in promoting sporting activities and building infrastructure across the Union



territory. The Minister highlighted the rich legacy of sports in Kashmir, stating, "Kashmir has always been home to unique sporting talent. It is heartening to see initiatives like the Kashmir Super League reviving and cele-

brating that culture in a structured and professional manner." Satish Sharma emphasized that sports is a powerful tool to fight against drug abuse and other social evils. "Youth today are facing numerous challenges and sports offers

a healthy and productive alternative that not only builds physical fitness but also strengthens character, discipline and teamwork. It is a frontline defence in our fight against substance abuse," he remarked.

Reaffirming the commitment of the Omar Abdullah-led Government, the Minister said that the administration is focused on upgrading the sports infrastructure, expanding outreach to rural and border areas and creating sustainable platforms for youth engagement through leagues, tournaments and grassroots programs.

With six teams participating in the Kashmir Super League 2025, the tournament promises to be a celebration of talent, spirit and unity.

"We are committed towards building a sporting ecosystem that nurtures talent, fosters inclusion and creates opportunities for our youth to shine, both nationally and internationally," the Minister maintained.

District level workshop on Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0 held at Shopian

SHOPIAN, JULY 08: One day district level workshop on Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0 (PAI) was held today at Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Shopian in order to apprise the stakeholder departments about the Localised Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs).



Diverse sessions on SDGs, their relevance to Panchayats, structure and utility of PAI and its linkage with the nine LSDG themes besides understanding new improvements in the new evaluation tools were conducted by theme experts.

The sessions were presided over by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, and were attended by ACP, GM DIC, DTO, ExEn PDD,

CAO and other officers and officials of various departments. The focus of the workshop was on apprising the stakeholder officials about the new and improved version of Panchayat Evaluation and Assessment. Panchayat Assessment Index (PAI), formerly Panchayat Development Index (PDI), is a comprehensive tool designed to assess the multi dimensional development status of a panchayat, where it evaluates the progress of panchayats in achieving the Localised Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs).

Rana felicitates officials of Wildlife Department at Dachigam

Inaugurates Wildlife Research & Training Centre, training course on Wildlife Laws

DACHIGAM, JULY 08: Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, today felicitated the officers and staff of the Wildlife Department for their outstanding achievement in conservation of protected areas in Jammu and Kashmir during an event organised at Dachigam National Park. The Minister appreciated the officers and other stakeholders who contributed in making Dachigam National Park highest-scoring protected area in the country with a remarkable score of 92.97% in Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) exercise conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India under the aegis of Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change. MLA Salman Ali Sagor, Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Sheetal Nanda, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Suresh Kumar Gupta, Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K, Sarvesh Rai;



Senior Officers/ HoDs; representatives of NGOs; staff and trainees attended the felicitation ceremony. Rana said that Dachigam National Park's achievement is a testament to the unwavering commitment and dedication of the forest department, wildlife experts and local commu-

nities towards conservation of protected areas. Hailing the achievement, Javed Rana said that the park's excellence in biodiversity protection, ecological management, staff efficiency and community engagement has set a benchmark for other protected ar-

reas to follow. He said that there is a long way to go and hoped that the department will continue to work with renewed enthusiasm.

Highlighting the impacts of trespassing natural boundaries of ecology, Javed Rana said that today's climatic challenges being faced at national and international level are due to the ecological imbalance attributed to unrestricted man activities. He said that JK is bestowed with numerous natural resources that put additional responsibilities on our shoulders to maintain that dignity.

The Minister highlighted the importance of community awareness, anti-poaching efforts and collaborative conservation initiatives in protecting the JK's natural heritage. He also noted the heartening increase in the Hangul population, with 323 individuals recorded in the latest survey of March 2025, considered a viable number.

DC Baramulla reviews progress under Capex Budget 2025-26

Directs departments to submit new work plans by July 10

BARAMULLA, JULY 08: In a proactive initiative to accelerate developmental activities under the Capex Budget 2025-26, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, chaired two sector-wise review meetings at the DC Office Baramulla to assess physical and financial progress across departments.

The first meeting focused on key departments including Irrigation, Public Works Department (R&B), Education (Elementary and Secondary), Youth Services & Sports, Health, and Public Health Engineering (PHE). Departmental officers presented PowerPoint presentations highlighting the status of ongoing projects.

DC conducted a detailed review, stressing transparency, optimal fund utilization, and strict quality control in project execution.



In the second session, DC engaged with officials from the Rural Development Department (RDD) and Urban Local Bodies (ULB), reviewing the progress of PRI, BDC, DDC,

and urban sector works. Emphasis was laid on clearing pending liabilities and ensuring progress aligns with the fund allocation under these critical components.

Highlighting the importance of timely action, DC directed all departments to expedite project execution, regularly update the BEAMS portal, and mandatorily submit detailed plans for new works under the 2025-26 Capex Budget by July 10 to facilitate early administrative approvals.

Calling for inter-departmental coordination and a focus on high-impact public works, DC reiterated the administration's commitment to accountable and citizen-centric governance through timely and transparent development planning. Additional District Development Commissioner Baramulla, Joint Director Planning, Superintending Engineer R&B, Assistant Commissioner Development, and other concerned officers and officials were present in the meeting.

KUPWARA, JULY 08: In a major step towards promoting youth entrepreneurship and self-employment in the district, District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) Kupwara Monday met under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan and approved 72 cases under the Mission YUVA (Yuva Udayamita Vikas Abhiyan) scheme.

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 sustaining their businesses.

Officers from the concerned



departments presented a detailed review of the applications. After careful scrutiny and discussions, the Committee approved 72 eligible cases for further financial support and guidance.

Speaking on the occasion, DC highlighted the importance of Mission YUVA in empowering local youth and helping them build sustainable livelihoods. She emphasized the need for effective awareness campaigns and asked the District Employment & Counselling Centre Kupwara to reach out to more eligible youth and encourage their participation in the scheme.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Director Employment, Arshid Qadir Bhat, officers from DIC, Lead Bank, Social Welfare, JKEDI and other concerned officials.

North in News

EDITORIAL

CELEBRATIONS OF 'HARBAH UTSAV'

India, a land of diverse cultures and religions, celebrates numerous festivals throughout the year. " generally refers to a festival of celebration, often associated with specific deities or events, particularly within Hinduism. The term can also be used more broadly to describe any joyous occasion. Religious Utsavs are festivals deeply connected to religious beliefs and practices, with many celebrated throughout India. Holi, Dussehra, Ganesh Chaturthi, and Navratni which are celebrated with great enthusiasm and devotion across the country. Some of such Utsavs are celebrated at regional level. Celebrations of 'Harbah Utsav' at Mata Sidh Laxmi Temple, in Anantnag, Jammu & Kashmir, is among such Utsavs. This year 'Harbah Utsav' was celebrated with great enthusiasm by the devotees with all joy and festivity. On the auspicious occasion of 'Harbah Utsav', the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha paid obeisance at Mata Sidh Lakshmi Temple at Teerathraj Lok Bhawan, Anantnag. The Mahayagya was organised by the Teerathraj Sidh Lakshmi Peeth Trust. Sh. Manoj Sinha participated in the programme organised on this occasion and prayed for the well-being of all and peace and prosperity of Jammu Kashmir. The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the devotees and extended his hearty greetings on the auspicious occasion. "Teerath raj Lok Bhawan has remained the centre of our devotion and faith since ancient times. It is an occasion to spread awareness about spiritual heritage which emphasises on tolerance and acceptance of other religious traditions, viewing them as different paths leading towards the same ultimate truth," the Lieutenant Governor said in his address on the occasion. He emphasised on unity in diversity and urged everyone to strengthen the bond of brotherhood and values of selfless service. "We must spread the message of compassion, selflessness, and the inherent divinity of all beings. We should encourage young people to treat everyone with respect and dedicate themselves to build a just and humane society," the Lieutenant Governor further said. Calling Pakistan- a terrorist State, the Lieutenant Governor appealed to the people to identify and isolate those who, on behest of the terrorist nation Pakistan are trying to create a divide on communal lines. They are the enemies of peace and development and we must stand united against such elements. He also extended his best wishes to the devotees for the forthcoming Mahakaal pilgrimage. Visibly, there is an atmosphere of joy across J&K as devotees arrive for the holy Shri Amarnath ji Yatra. Muharram processions were taken out peacefully. A large number of devotees had gathered there at Mata Sidh Lakshmi Temple. It's heartening to see communities celebrating together in unity and mutual respect. This is the true spirit of Jammu Kashmir.

RAJNI SHARMA.....

Nilantha Ilangamuwa

The US democracy sold as pure, moral and unprecedented is increasingly under lens. Behind the facade of democratic virtue lies a history of conquest, slavery and imperialism; carefully constructed narratives masking brutal truths for 250 years are now crumbling

We have been deceived — again and again — into believing that US democracy was born as a noble product of collective will. The story handed down to us is that George Washington, in a moment of virtuous restraint, rejected Colonel Lewis Nicola's suggestion to crown him king, choosing instead the path of liberty and republicanism. This moment is celebrated as the moral genesis of American democracy. But 250 years on, the illusion fractures under the weight of historical reality.

What has been marketed to the world as democracy is, in fact, a meticulously engineered architecture of power: elitist at home, imperial abroad. The so-called "rules-based order" championed by American diplomats is not a codified universalism — it is an ideological cudgel wielded only when convenient, a system of selective legality designed to mask naked geopolitical aggression. America's origin myth is steeped not in egalitarianism but in extermination, slavery, and expansionism. The Declaration of Independence, crafted by men who themselves owned human beings, is less a document of freedom than a philosophical smokescreen. The economic engine of the new republic ran on the backs of enslaved Africans — auctioned, whipped, raped, and bred like livestock. The foundational wealth of the United States was extracted not merely through commerce or innovation, but through racialised brutality institutionalised as law.

Simultaneously, Indigenous nations were decimated by policies so ferocious they now fall under the ambit of genocide. The Trail of Tears, initiated under Andrew Jackson, led to the deaths of thousands during forced removals. The Sand Creek Massacre (1864), the Bear River Massacre

(1863), and the slaughter at Wounded Knee (1890) are but a few unambiguous testaments to settler — colonial annihilation. These were not chaotic by-products of war — they were methodical acts of ethnic cleansing, carried out under Government authority. The Indian Boarding Schools, operating well into the 20th century, functioned as laboratories of cultural erasure. Native children were stolen from their families, stripped of language and identity, and subjected to systematic abuse. Many perished. Their bodies remain buried, literally and metaphorically, in the margins of American history books.

Slavery's formal abolition was a bait-and-switch. The 13th Amendment, often cited as a moral landmark, explicitly permits involuntary servitude "as punishment for crime." This clause birthed the carceral leviathan that now holds more than two million people — disproportionately Black and Brown — in cages. Chain gangs were simply replaced by prison labour. Jim Crow laws mutated into mass incarceration. Democracy, in the land of its supposed origin, has been operationalised as an instrument of racial management.

Beyond its borders, the United States has imposed its will through fire and steel. Since the mid-20th century, over 800 American military bases have metastasised across the globe — encircling rivals, destabilising regions, and foreclosing sovereign futures. The map of US bombings reads like a grim eulogy for the postcolonial world: Hiroshima and Nagasaki (1945), Korea (1950-53), Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia (1964-75), Grenada (1983), Panama (1989), Iraq (1991, 2003), Yugoslavia (1999), Afghanistan (2001-2021), Libya (2011), Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Pakistan — the list is encyclopaedic, the outcomes catastrophic.

assaults were not aberrations. They are the sinews of US foreign policy. Civilian casualties, mass displacement, decimated infrastructure — these are collateral sacrifices at the altar of American primacy. The 2003 invasion of Iraq, launched under the pretext of non-existent weapons of mass destruc-

tion, killed hundreds of thousands and unravelled an entire region. It was not just a war crime; it was an act of ontological vandalism.

Meanwhile, the CIA functioned as the state's clandestine sword arm — executing assassinations, staging coups, and manipulating foreign Governments with pathological impunity. Operation Ajax in Iran (1953), the assassination of Patrice Lumumba in Congo (1961), the orchestration of Chile's 1973 coup and Salvador Allende's death, the slaughter following Suharto's rise in Indonesia — these are not Cold War footnotes. They are the operational grammar of empire. From Latin America's death squads to Africa's proxy militias, the US exported death in the name of freedom, dissolving democracies while preaching democratic virtue. The façade cracked further on 22 June 2025, when the US military launched the airstrikes on alleged Iranian nuclear sites. Again, no Senate approval. Again, no UN mandate. No evidence presented, no imminent threat substantiated. Just premeditated violence delivered from above, wrapped in the rhetoric of preemption.

These violations are not the exceptions — they are the doctrine. They expose the hollow core of the "rules-based international order" that American officials regurgitate at every diplomatic summit. Where were the rules when the International Atomic Energy Agency's findings were ignored? When do civilians become uncounted corpses? Sovereignty is sacred — until it obstructs US interests. Legality is upheld — until it isn't. Morality is espoused — until it becomes inconvenient.

Antonio Gramsci's concept of cultural hegemony is not an abstraction here. American dominance is sustained not only through bombs and bases but through narratives. The cinematic heroism of soldiers, the pageantry of the 4th of July, the mythologising of the Founding Fathers — all cultivate acquiescence. This is not democracy; it is imperial pedagogy. History is sculpted to erase Indigenous resistance, to sanitise slave rebellions, to omit the

bloodied cost of expansion. Power survives by shaping memory.

Domestically, this hegemony manifests as a fortified police state. Urban policing is militarised, racialised, and terminally unaccountable. Surveillance pervades every digital crevice. Billionaires underwrite elections while voters are purged from the rolls. Meanwhile, whistleblowers like Chelsea Manning and Edward Snowden are criminalised for revealing the very duplicities on which the system runs. Justice is rationed. Dissent is criminalised. The machinery of control is bipartisan. And yet, resistance grows quieter when comfort replaces conviction. US policymakers have long perfected a dual strategy: attracting the brightest minds from other nations through the front door with scholarships and opportunity, while welcoming corrupt elites through the back door, bringing with them vast stolen wealth. This was not a coincidence; it was policy. Intellectual capital is harvested, while accountability is out-sourced. Those who manage to benefit — regardless of where they come from — often learn to stay silent. Silence becomes the currency of survival.

Meanwhile, American officials, often standing in nations hollowed out by these very dynamics, deliver polished speeches about anti-corruption and a "rules-based order." It is disarming to witness a person speak of justice while actively undermining it, to see a smile accompany the quiet betrayal of their conscience. At 250 years, the United States is not an enlightened republic; it is a paradox on the verge of collapse. It exhorts others

to uphold international law while treating treaties as toilet paper. It funds brutal regimes while sermonising about human rights. It cloaks militarism in democracy and calls it liberation.

To participate in this pageantry is to be complicit. To swallow the official myths is to ingest poison disguised as principle. American democracy, if it is to mean anything, must be exhumed, dismantled, and reimaged — not venerated as sacred scripture, but interrogated as a living contradiction.

How an ancient Indian path became a global movement

Sharmila Das

Yoga, an ancient practice rooted in the spiritual and philosophical traditions of India, has long transcended its geographical and cultural origins. Though born in the Indian subcontinent thousands of years ago, yoga today is a global phenomenon — practiced from the skyscrapers of New York to the deserts of Dubai, from Berlin's wellness studios to Japanese Zen gardens. This global embrace reflects more than just a fad; it signifies a deeper, growing understanding of yoga's essence as a holistic path to self-awareness, health, and spiritual balance. Yoga traces its origins to northern India more than 5,000 years ago. The earliest mention of the word "yoga" appears in the Rig Veda. But yoga was never meant to be confined to a region. The West encountered yoga during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, initially as an esoteric philosophy rather than a physical practice. Swami Vivekananda's speech at the Parliament of World Religions in Chicago in 1893 was among the earliest sparks that ignited Western curiosity. But it was only in the mid-20th century that yoga truly began to spread in the West, thanks to several pivotal Indian yogis.

One of the most influential figures was Swami Vishnudevananda, a direct disciple of Swami Sivananda, the founder of Sivananda Yoga. Born in Kerala, Swami Vishnudevananda was tasked by his guru to bring the knowledge of yoga to

the West. In 1957, he travelled to North America and founded the International Sivananda Yoga Vedanta Centres.

Swami Vishnudevananda's approach was holistic. He emphasised the "Five Points of Yoga": proper exercise, proper breathing, proper relaxation, proper diet, and positive thinking with meditation. These principles formed the bedrock of the Sivananda tradition. He didn't merely transplant yoga as a fitness regime but presented it as a complete lifestyle. He also became known as a peace ambassador, famously flying over war zones in a small plane painted with the word "OM," dropping leaflets promoting peace. His mission embodied the core spirit of yoga, unity, peace, and spiritual awakening. While Swami Vishnudevananda spread classical yoga, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi introduced Transcendental Meditation (TM) in the 1960s, bringing a simplified and accessible form of yogic meditation to the West. TM attracted global attention when The Beatles and other celebrities became his followers.

This initiated a trend where yoga and meditation were not only health tools but also became fashionable symbols of spiritual exploration. In the 1970s, Bikram Choudhury introduced Bikram Yoga, a heated, high-intensity series of 26 postures. His brand of yoga gained rapid popularity, especially in the United States. It reflected the West's initial fascination with yoga's physical benefits, flexibility, strength, and detox-

ification, often sidelining its deeper spiritual components. Initially, yoga in the West was heavily skewed toward physical postures (asanas), often practiced in gyms and health clubs. However, with increasing exposure and maturity, many practitioners began exploring its subtler dimensions: breath control (pranayama), meditation (dhyana), ethical living (yamas and niyamas), and self-inquiry.

Mindfulness, now a buzzword in wellness circles, is deeply rooted in yogic and meditative practices. Concepts like ahimsa (non-violence) and santosha (contentment) began finding resonance in the personal growth movements. Yoga gradually reclaimed its identity as not just a tool for physical fitness, but as a transformative path toward mental clarity and spiritual alignment.

A turning point in yoga's global journey came in 2014, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed the idea of an International Day of Yoga at the United Nations General Assembly. In his speech, Modi described yoga as "India's invaluable gift to the world," emphasising its role in fostering unity between mind and body, man and nature. The proposal received overwhelming support from 177 countries, the highest number of co-sponsors ever for a UN resolution. Thus, June 21, the summer solstice and the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, was declared International Yoga Day. Since 2015, millions across continents have

participated in mass yoga sessions every year, a global testament to its universal appeal. Surprisingly to some, yoga is now making steady inroads into regions traditionally seen as culturally distant from its roots. In the Middle East and the

Arab world, yoga is increasingly practiced not only in private studios but also publicly and even officially endorsed in some countries. Governments in the UAE and Saudi Arabia have supported yoga for its health benefits. In 2021, Saudi Arabia officially recognised yoga as a sports activity, and it is now part of wellness programs in schools and workplaces.

Women in these regions are also taking to yoga in large numbers, seeing it as both empowering and spiritually enriching. The West is also actively experimenting with yoga, often blending it with other practices. From yoga with weights to aerial yoga, from goat yoga to VR-assisted meditation, the creativity seems boundless. While some purists criticise this as dilution, others argue it's part of yoga's organic evolution, much like how Indian martial art niyudh (barehanded combat) evolved into kung fu in China and karate in Japan. Just as India's ancient martial systems found expression in new forms across Asia, yoga too is likely to evolve further in the West, spawning new schools, philosophies and applications, perhaps some yet unimaginable today.

Jat Sabha District President Navin Choudhary Raises Voice Against Government Apathy

Ramgarh: All Jammu and Kashmir Jat Sabha's Samba District President, Navin Choudhary, has raised serious concerns over the plight of temporary employees working in various government departments, including sanitation workers. He strongly demanded that those who have been serving for years in temporary roles be regularized without further delay. Choudhary stated, "Those who have spent their entire lives serving society and the government by performing difficult tasks like waste collection are now being met with apathy. Many of them have retired after years of service, some without receiving any benefits. This is truly



unfortunate." He questioned, "What was the fault of these employees? Was it their honesty and dedication in helping make Jammu and Kashmir cleaner and more developed? Today, many of

them are struggling even to manage household expenses, and yet the government seems unwilling to address their issues.

"Choudhary urged the government to take a compassionate approach and immediately regularize eligible employees as per the existing lists. He also emphasized the need to provide a dignified pension or relief package to those who have completed their service, so they do not face financial hardships in old age. Issuing a warning, Choudhary said that if the government fails to act swiftly, the Jat Sabha will not hesitate to launch a major agitation to fight for the rights of these employees.

Dr. Rajeev Bhagat holds Public Darbar at BJP headquarters

Jammu, 08 July 2025: Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, MLA Bishnah Assembly constituency, held a Public Darbar at the J&K BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The Public Darbar witnessed the participation of a large number of residents, and deputations from different parts of Jammu. Among other deputations, a deputation from last month Gandhi Nagar complained about choked drain and damaged grating. A deputation from Gangyal requested for the clearance of underground drain. A deputation from sector 6 Nanak Nagar requested for the allotment of 5 electric street lights. A deputation from sector 2 Gangyal Garden complained about stray dog menace. A deputation from Chak Murar Bishnah requested for one electric pole. A deputation from RWAG organization re-



quested for retaining the existing park instead of transforming it into a parking space at Gole Market Gandhi Nagar. A deputation from Channi complained about inadequate drinking water supply. A deputation from Jabowal complained about non-functional agricultural electric transformer. A deputation requested for the construction of lane and drain at Paloura Top. Dr. Rajeev Bhagat gave a patient hearing to all the

deputations and immediately ensured oral and written communications with the concerned department officials. He pressed the disposal of all the public concerns in a time-bound manner. Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, while addressing on the occasion, spoke about the BJP's concern for the public issues. He said that the public recognizes the efforts of party leaders in attending to their issues and has developed

Shree Amarnath ji Yatra 2025 triumphs over terror, showcases unity and devotion: BJP

Jammu, 08 July 2025:

Shree Amarnath ji Yatra 2025 triumphs over terror, showcases unity and devotion, stated Adv. Purnima Sharma in a press conference held at BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. BJP Spokesperson Adv. Purnima Sharma, accompanied by BJP Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra and senior BJP leader Bawa Sharma, addressed the media on the ongoing Amarnath Yatra 2025 and its significance for the socio-economic and spiritual landscape of Jammu & Kashmir. Adv. Purnima Sharma paid heartfelt tribute to the unshakable spirit of the devotees, stating, "Despite the untold and barbaric terrorist attack near Pahalgam that jolted the entire country, the unwavering devotion of crores of pilgrims toward Baba Barfani remains unbroken. Their steadfast faith has triumphed



over the forces of fear. This year's Yatra is not only a religious journey but a testament to India's spiritual resilience and national unity." She informed the media that over 1.85 lakh pilgrims had already completed the holy pilgrimage in the first week, and the administration expects more than 5 lakh pilgrims to

visit this year. "This phenomenal participation proves one thing clearly, terrorism can never defeat devotion," she said. Adv. Sharma further highlighted the robust security and administrative arrangements that have made the Yatra smooth and safe. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra

Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, unprecedented security measures have been put in place. Thousands of personnel from the CRPF, J&K Police, and Indian Army are working round the clock. Drone surveillance, RFID tracking, medical facilities, and constant monitoring have transformed this Yatra into one of the most well-managed in history," she noted and assured the nation that Jammu & Kashmir is peaceful, secure, and welcoming, and the spirit of unity will always prevail. She emphasized the positive economic impact, saying, "This Yatra is a lifeline for local livelihoods, hoteliers, transporters, pony owners, small shopkeepers, and street vendors all see a boost in income. It also strengthens the case for further growth in faith-based and spiritual tourism, which is deeply rooted in our cultural identity."

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal Holds Public Darbar at Ramgarh Office

RAMGARH: Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, Hon'ble MLA Ramgarh, conducted a public Darbar at the Ramgarh office to listen to the grievances and concerns of local residents. The initiative witnessed active public participation, reflecting the growing trust in democratic outreach and grassroots engagement.

Present during the Darbar was Amit Choudhary, Executive Officer of the Municipal Committee Ramgarh. Officials addressed various public concerns related to civic amenities, revenue matters, and ongoing development works. Dr. Manyal assured attendees that all genuine issues raised would be resolved in a time-bound manner. He further emphasized the importance of regular interaction between the administration and the public to ensure transparency and effective



governance. The Darbar concluded with positive feedback from citizens, who appreciated the MLA's continued efforts in bringing governance closer to the people and responding proactively to their needs.

Development plans of the Municipal Committee Ramgarh were also discussed in detail, with special

attention given to improving basic civic infrastructure, including the construction and repair of lanes and drains in various localities. Residents highlighted the urgent need to address damaged drainage systems and poorly maintained lanes that have caused inconvenience, particularly during the mon-

soon season. Dr. Manyal took note of these concerns and directed the Executive Officer to prioritize such works under upcoming development schemes. The discussion underscored the importance of coordination between public representatives and municipal authorities to ensure timely and effective execution of

projects.

Prominent attendees included Mandal Pradhan Ramgarh Nancy Choudhary, Former Sarpanch Prem Paul, Tilak Thappa, and respected local livelihoods, hoteliers, transporters, pony owners, small shopkeepers, and street vendors all see a boost in income. It also strengthens the case for further growth in faith-based and spiritual tourism, which is deeply rooted in our cultural identity."

Clean Jammu Green Jammu Campaign: Plantation Drive Organized in Upper Roopnagar

Jammu July 8, 2025

As part of the ongoing Clean Jammu Green Jammu campaign, a large-scale plantation drive was conducted today in Sector 4 Nagar Vatika Upper Roopnagar. The event saw enthusiastic participation from the girl students of Women College Parade, who actively planted a variety of saplings, contributing to the city's green cover. Local residents of Roopnagar, officials from Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Urban Forestry Division Jammu, and Swachhata Volunteers also joined the drive, demonstrating strong community support for environmental conservation. The campaign, spearheaded



by Jammu Municipal Corporation and Urban Forestry Division Jammu, aims to make Jammu greener by involving citizens from all walks of life. A unique feature of the campaign is the

adoption of saplings, where a QR code is affixed in the name of the individual who adopts and cares for the plant. Running till 15th August, the campaign has set an am-

bitious target of planting 60,000 saplings across the city. The departments are making sustained efforts to involve political parties, social service organizations, schools, colleges, universi-

ties, students, and Swachhata Champions in this noble cause. Prominent dignitaries present at today's event included Dr. Kumar M.K., IFS, CCF Jammu, O.P. Sharma, IFS (Retd.), CCF, Pradeep Chandra Wahuli, IFS, Ashwani Kumar Mittal, Divisional Forest Officer Urban Jammu, Rabia Khan, AFO, JMC, Dr. Diya Sharma, IEC Incharge JMC, R.K. Sethi, Dr. Jagdish Raj Thapa, Ambedkar Gupta, among others. The campaign continues to inspire citizens to take ownership of the environment and work collectively towards a greener, cleaner Jammu.

Sonakshi Khajuria selected for National Kabaddi Coaching Camp for 3rd Asian Youth Kabaddi Championship

Jammu: General Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir Amateur Kabaddi Association told that Ms. Sonakshi Khajuria selected for National Kabaddi Coaching Camp for 3rd Asian youth Kabaddi Championship to be held at Bahrain from 19th to 25th Oct 2025. The Coaching camp will be started very shortly at SAI Centre.

The selection committee Consisted by Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India have selected Ms. Sonakshi Khajuria during the 1st youth National kabaddi Championship held at Haridwar, Uttarakhand from 28th June to 1st July 2025. Ms. Sonakshi Khajuria has already participated in 33rd Sub-Junior National Kabaddi Championship held at Patna, Bihar 2024 and 68th National School Games Narsinghpur, Madhya Pradesh 2024.

The President of Association Mr. Anil Kumar Gupta has appreciated the Boys & Girls team selectors of J&K Girls team namely Mrs. Manmeet Kour, Ms. Kajal Devi, Ms. Naida Nabi and Nisha Rani. Who have se-



lected the Girls team during the trial for their participation in 1st youth National Kabaddi Championship and particular team Coach Mrs. Nisha Rani under her guidance the player namely Sonakshi Khajuria has been selected for National Coaching Camp and hope Sonakshi will perform well as per the expectation of National Coaches during the National camp and also pay good wishes to her for her bright future in kabaddi.

INDIAN ARMY CONDUCTS GUN HILL EXPEDITION - A TRIBUTE TO THE VALOUR OF INDIAN ARTILLERY

Drass: 08 Jul 2025 As a run-up to the momentous occasion of the 26th Anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas, the Indian Army paid a solemn tribute to the valour and sacrifice of its brave Gunners by undertaking a historic expedition on 07 July 2025 to Gun Hill (Point 5140) - a strategically vital peak recaptured in the Dras Sector during the 1999 Kargil War.

This emotionally resonant and historically significant expedition was undertaken by 87 brave soldiers of the Indian Army, including 20 Gunners from 10 Artillery Units, which had played a pivotal role in the capture of Gun Hill during Operation Vijay. Located in the Dras Sector of Ladakh, Gun Hill (Point 5140) was one of the first major heights to be recaptured by the Indian Army during the Kargil conflict. Its recapture marked a decisive shift in momentum and became a symbol of India's resolve and operational excellence. The hill was aptly named "Gun Hill" in 2023 as a tribute to the decisive

role played by the Artillery Regiments during the Battle of Gun Hill.

Walking alongside the expedition were Colonel (then Captain) Rajesh Adhau, who served as the Regimental Medical Officer with 13 Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, and Subedar (then Lance Naik) Kewal Singh, Sena Medal, of the same unit during Operation VIJAY. They narrated the saga of domination by the Indian Artillery to the participating soldiers, instilling pride in all. The journey not only reaffirmed the Indian Army's commitment to preserving the memory of its fallen heroes but also served as a source of inspiration and pride for the nation. As the Indian Army continues to safeguard the nation with unyielding dedication, commemorations such as the Gun Hill Expedition serve as poignant reminders of the sacrifices made for India's sovereignty. Through this act of remembrance, the spirit of Kargil lives on - etched forever in the hearts of a grateful nation.

DLIC meeting under Mission YUVA held at Kishtwar

KISHTWAR, JULY 08:

The 2nd meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) under Mission YUVA was convened today under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma in the VC Room of the DC Office Complex, Kishtwar.

The meeting aimed to review and approve applications received under Mission YUVA - a flagship initiative focused on promoting youth entrepreneurship and self-employment in the district. A total of 77 applications, verified by the Skill and Business Development Unit (SBDU) were presented before the commit-



tee. After detailed scrutiny based on eligibility, business viability, and the applicants' socio-economic background, all 77 proposals were approved for financial assistance and handholding support

under the Mission YUVA framework. While addressing the committee, the DDC emphasized the need to widen outreach efforts by conducting awareness camps and mobile regis-

tration drives, particularly in remote and underserved areas, to ensure that the benefits of Mission YUVA reach every eligible youth in the district. He also directed the Dis-

trict Nodal Officer (JKEDI) and Functional Manager (DIC) to expedite the formulation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and ensure their prompt verification at the SBDU level, so that pending applications can be processed without delay.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Pawan Kotwal; Assistant Director Employment, Shafaqat Keen; District Nodal Officer, JKEDI; Rep. Cluster Head, JK Bank; Employment Officer, Vinod Shant and representatives from the Agriculture and Social Welfare Departments among other concerned officials.

CS reviews preparations for hosting SLSAs 8th North Zone Regional Conference



SRINAGAR, JULY 08: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today had a comprehensive review of the preparations being made for hosting the 8th North Zone Regional Conference of State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs), scheduled on 26th and 27th of this month. The conference will bring together esteemed digni-

ties and legal professionals including the Chief Justice of India, Union Law Minister, Chief Justices of various High Courts, Executive Chairpersons of SLSAs and other key legal and administrative officials to discuss key initiatives and strategies related to legal aid and awareness. Preparations for the high

profile event were reviewed by the Chief Secretary with arrangements finalized for accommodation, transportation, security and various conference activities to be held during the two days of the conference. Some of the Conference highlights included an inaugural session at the SKICC followed by a mega legal

awareness camp for the tribals at Juvenile Home, Harwan, Srinagar, with stalls by twelve different departments. The Chief Secretary emphasized upon making all the arrangements, beforehand and designated the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, as an overall Nodal Officer to finalise the same in coordination with other line departments. Overall coordination for the event will be managed by Registrar General, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, M K Sharma, who is also Principal Secretary to Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

LJK MPCS revives traditional Barley Laddoos (Phimar) Prasad for Shri Machail Mata Yatra



KISHITWAR, JULY 08: LJK Multiple Purpose Co-operative Society Limited (LJK MPCS) has initiated the production and distribution of traditional barley-

based laddoos (Prasad) known as "Phimar," for the Shri Machail Mata Yatra in Paddar area of District Kishitwar. This culturally rooted initiative promotes

sustainable nutrition, community development, and regional identity by reviving a traditional sweet made from organically cultivated barley. The laddoos are pre-

pared using natural methods and sourced from local farmers, generating employment and encouraging community involvement, especially among women. By connecting traditional knowledge with contemporary needs, LJK MPCS is advancing a development model that is culturally rooted, socially inclusive and environmentally responsible. This initiative aligns with the Government of India's campaign to promote millets and support local livelihoods, strengthening the regional economy through sustainable practices and community-led development.

Strict Enforcement Drive by ARTO Poonch: 61 Challans Issued, Rs.2.95 Lakh Collected in Fines

POONCH, JULY 08: In a rigorous enforcement drive aimed at enhancing road safety and curbing illegal operations, the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Poonch conducted an extensive checking operation across the district. During the drive, around 300 vehicles were inspected, resulting in the issuance of 61 challans for various violations. A total penalty amounting to Rs.2,95,500 was collected on the spot. As part of the enforcement effort, several vehicles operating in violation of motor vehicle norms were seized, includ-



ing: 12 E-rickshaws, 1 Magic Van, 5 Motorcycles, 1 Dumper Truck, 2 Tata Mobile Pickups, 1 Alto Car,

1 Mini Bus and 1 Bolero SUV. The ARTO Poonch emphasized that such drives are essential to ensure public safety and promote strict compliance with transport regulations. "Public safety is our top priority. Strict enforcement is necessary to ensure that only legally compliant vehicles operate on our roads," the ARTO stated. He further informed that such intensive checking drives will continue in the coming days to maintain road discipline and take stringent action against errant drivers.

Shaheed Vihaan Memorial T20 Cricket Tournament 2025 Kicks Off in Poonch

In Loving Memory of Shaheed Vihaan Bhargav



Poonch, July 8, 2025 - The Shaheed Vihaan Memorial T20 Cricket Tournament 2025 commenced today at the Sports Stadium, Poonch, with a grand opening ceremony dedicated to honoring the supreme sacrifice of Shaheed Vihaan Bhargav. The tournament aims not only to celebrate cricket but also to promote a strong social message: "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Sports." Inaugural Ceremony Highlights: The opening ceremony was graced by DySPHQ Neeraj

Sharma as the Chief Guest, accompanied by Mushtaq Ahmed (Incharge Manager, Sports Stadium Poonch), Surjit Singh, and Pawan Kumar as Guests of Honour. The tournament is organized by Mr. Sadagat Meer in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services and Sports, J&K Sports Council, and the youth of Poonch. Mr. Pervaitz Ahmed (NIS Cricket Coach, REK) served as the Overall Technical Incharge and hosted the event. He is supported

by a dedicated team including Henan Ahmed, Rajneesh, Maini, Pervaitz Ahmed, PET, Mumtaz Ahmed, Mohd Shafiq, Jaskaran Singh, Utikarsh Bhargav, Waheed Jaffer, and others. Ram Prakash Sharma is the Ground Incharge, while Syed Zakir Hussain is the Head Assistant. Chief Guest DySPHQ Neeraj Sharma, in his address, said: "Shaheed Vihaan Bhargav, through the spirit of sportsmanship, unity, and positive action.

Result: Aadi Club Dugas vs Super 11. The tournament's opening match saw an impressive performance by Aadi Club Dugas, who set a target of 129 runs while batting first. Abhi Sharma led from the front, scoring a brilliant 70 runs off just 40 balls, laying a strong foundation for his team. In response, Super 11 struggled against tight bowling and were bowled out for 102 runs, falling short by 27 runs. Man of the Match: Abhi Sharma for his outstanding innings. Aadi Club Dugas won the opening match by 27 runs, kicking off the tournament on a high note. This tournament not only celebrates cricketing talent but also continues to inspire youth across the region by keeping alive the memory of a true hero, Shaheed Vihaan Bhargav, through the spirit of sportsmanship, unity, and positive action.

Central University of Jammu Signs MoU with Government Medical College Jammu to Promote Collaborative Research and Academic Excellence

Jammu, 8 July 2025: In a landmark step toward strengthening academic and research collaboration, the Central University of Jammu (CUJ) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu. The partnership is aimed at enhancing research output, fostering academic exchange, and promoting translational outcomes in the fields of molecular biology, diagnostics, and clinical medicine. The Central University of Jammu has emerged as a premier institute of higher education and research, committed to academic excellence and innovation. Notably, the Centre for Molecular Biology (CMB) at CUJammu is at the forefront of cutting-edge research focused on understanding, preventing, and curing human diseases through molecular approaches. The Centre aims to develop and provide advanced molecular diagnostics services, facilitating accurate disease diagnosis and personalized treatment strategies for public health benefit. GMC Jammu, a leading tertiary healthcare institution in the region, is home to two premier research fa-



cilities — the Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) and the Multidisciplinary Research Unit (MRU), supported by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Department of Health Research (DHR), Government of India. These units are equipped with state-of-the-art technology and possess deep expertise in viral diagnostics, molecular oncology, and disease surveillance, significantly contributing to regional healthcare delivery. The MoU aims to catalyze collaborative research initiatives that involve clinical study designs, data acquisition and analysis, and the implementation of molecular strategies for precision medicine. The agreement will foster

joint academic programs, encourage cross-institutional faculty and student engagement, and drive interdisciplinary innovation for the betterment of healthcare and society. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, emphasized the strategic importance of collaborative and high-throughput research, stating that such partnerships are essential to translating research into societal benefit. Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal and Dean, Government Medical College Jammu, welcomed the initiative and highlighted the immense potential of molecular diagnostics in advancing precision treatment and healthcare delivery. The signing ceremony was

attended by key dignitaries and senior faculty from both institutions, including Prof. Yashwant Singh, Registrar; Prof. Rakesh Kumar Jha, Head ECE Department; Dr. Shelly Sehgal, Associate Professor, Centre for Molecular Biology, CUJammu; Dr. Sanjeev Dhinra, HoD Pediatrics, GMC; Dr. Jyotsana Suri, HoD Pathology; Dr. Sandeep Dogra, HoD Microbiology; Dr. Seema, HoD Pharmacology; and Dr. Rajesh Mahajan, Professor, Department of Anaesthesia, GMC Jammu. The collaboration marks a significant step forward in the integration of academic knowledge with clinical expertise, laying the groundwork for impactful research and community health transformation.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) PROJECT DIVISION NO. 1ST, JAMMU
E-MAIL: xenprojectdivision1jmu@gmail.com

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Fresh Short e-NIT No. 21 of 2025-26 Dated 07-07-2025

Expression of Interest (EOI) for Consultancy service (Through e-procurement mode)

(TWO COVER SYSTEM)

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) PROJECT DIVISION NO. 1ST, JAMMU invite Expression of Interest (EOI) for selection of consultant for Architectural and allied Engineering Consultancy Services from Registered firms /Consultants/Agencies under Indian Partnership Act/Societies Registration Act or registered companies under companies act or the following work.

S.NO	Particular	Advertised Cost(In Lacs)	Tender Fee	Earnest Money(In Rs)	Time Allowed for completion	Type of consultancy
1	Construction of Additional Court Rooms including Multi-Purpose Hall adjoining to Hon'ble High Court Complex, Jammu (Basement) and Ground Floor of the Propose Project having 02 court Room (i.e. Phase I (2nd Call))	Rs.17.34	Rs.1000/-	Rs.50,000/-	Upto Physical completion of project	Survey/Architectural/Structural Consultancy/Soil Investigation with plate Load Test. Drawings, Plumbing design/Drawings, Electrical Works design, fire fighting & Lift Work, Furniture, etc. Complete Job.

The bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of Quantities set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/ downloaded from the website www.jktenders.in as per the schedule given below

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	07-07-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From: 07-07-2025 to 14-07-2025 upto 1600 Hrs
3	Day, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	10-07-2025 at 1300 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) PROJECT DIVISION NO. 1ST, JAMMU, Lok Nimman Bhawan Complex Rail Head Jammu
4	Bid submission Start Date	07-07-2025
5	Bid Submission End Date	14-07-2025 upto 1600 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical bids (Online)	15-07-2025 on or after 1300 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) PROJECT DIVISION NO. 1ST, JAMMU, Lok Nimman Bhawan Complex Rail Head Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online).	To be notified after technical bid evaluation

bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, Conditions and other details.

No :- EE/R&B/PD-1/EE/R&B/Pd-1/681-68
Dated :-07-07-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Project Div. No. 1st
Jammu

DIP/J-3149/25

Conspiracy to defame Nitish Kumar, promote crime in Bihar, says Giriraj Singh



NEW DELHI, JULY 8

Union Minister Giriraj Singh has alleged a "deep-rooted conspiracy" aimed at defaming Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and destabilising the state through orchestrated crimes backed by political interests.

"In Bihar, a conspiracy is being hatched to defame Nitish Kumar, to spread terror, commit crimes and promote politically-backed crime," Singh told reporters on Tuesday.

"Certain people are deliberately orchestrating such acts to tarnish Nitish Kumar's image, but the truth behind this conspiracy is about to be exposed. Through a particular political

gang, disturbances are being created in several parts of Bihar to defame the state government," he added.

Taking a swipe at the RJD, Singh compared the current administration with that of former Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav. "This is Nitish Kumar's government, which punishes criminals, unlike Lalu Ji's government when criminals were promoted," he said.

Singh also lashed out at RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav for opposing the EC's revision of the voter list.

On July 3, eleven INDIA bloc parties met with Election Commission officials, expressing concern that over two crore voters in Bihar could be disen-

franchised due to difficulties in furnishing documents. However, the EC clarified that voters could submit documents until July 25 and would be granted further opportunities during the claims and objections period.

"It seems that Tejashwi Yadav claims to be a Samajwadi, but what kind of hypocrisy is this? Why did he change his wife's name? If she was a Christian, so be it, what's the problem? Is being a Christian a crime? But changing the name?" Singh questioned. "That's why I say Tejashwi Yadav's wife's name in the voter list should be investigated. How did she become a voter? Was it based on a citizenship certificate?"

He further added, "They are saying Aadhaar is not accepted as valid ID proof. Why are they so worried? Is it legal to allow illegal intruders to vote? No. Then what do they fear? These people want intruders' votes: that is why they are opposing the revision of the voters list."

The Election Commission, in its July 6 statement, clarified that the revision process aims to ensure the accuracy of the electoral rolls by removing duplicates, outdated, or ineligible entries, such as deceased voters, those who have relocated, or individuals registered in multiple places. The EC stressed that the exercise does not target any particular community or group.

Train-school van collision: CM Stalin announces compensation

CHENNAI, JULY 8

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin extended his condolences and announced financial aid to the families affected by the tragic train-van collision that killed two schoolchildren and injured several others near Semmanguppam in Cuddalore district.

The accident took place around 7:45 a.m. at a railway crossing, when a school van carrying children attempted to cross the tracks despite an oncoming passenger train bound for Chidambaram.

The train collided with the vehicle, dragging it nearly 50 metres, resulting in the deaths of 12-year-old Selvan Nimesh and 16-year-old Selvi Charumathi.

Several others, including the van driver, were critically injured and rushed to the Cuddalore Government Hospital.

In a press release issued from the Secretariat, CM Stalin said, "I was shocked and deeply saddened to hear the news of the loss of two precious young children in the tragic train accident. The death of those young children at an age when they should have lived fills me with immense grief."

He also announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh each from the Chief Minister's General Relief Fund to the fami-



lies of the deceased children.

Additionally, Rs one lakh will be given to those seriously injured and Rs 50,000 to those with minor injuries. He instructed hospital authorities to ensure the best medical treatment for all injured victims.

Meanwhile, Southern Railway officials have taken swift disciplinary action. Gatekeeper Bankaj Sharma, who was on duty at the time, has been suspended for alleged negligence. Preliminary investigations suggest the railway gate may have been left open or unsecured, allowing the van to cross unsafely.

A high-level committee has been formed to investigate the incident, including reviewing

CCTV footage, eyewitness accounts, and communication logs.

Officials have pledged to take stringent action based on the committee's findings and to improve safety at railway crossings across Tamil Nadu.

The incident has triggered public outrage in Semmanguppam, with grieving parents and residents demanding stricter safety protocols.

"Our children's lives should not be lost to carelessness and outdated infrastructure," said Manisamy, a local resident.

As families mourn, the state has promised accountability and reform in the wake of a tragedy that many believe could have been prevented.

Karnataka Cong infighting: CM Siddaramaiah, Shivakumar to meet Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi



BENGALURU, JULY 8

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister C.D. Shivakumar, visit to the national capital has gained significance amid ongoing talks of leadership change, power-sharing, and infighting within the party.

Both leaders are expected to meet the leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Wednesday night. Shivakumar left for Delhi on Tuesday morning and is scheduled to meet Union Minister for Jal Shakti, C.R. Patil, and Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupendra Yadav, later in the day.

Meanwhile, despite gag orders from the high command, state Congress leaders continue to make statements on the leadership issue.

Congress MLA C.P. Yogeshwara, speaking to the media on Tuesday, stated that he wants to see Deputy CM Shivakumar become the Chief Minister. He said all MLAs from the region are backing Shivakumar for the CM post and that there is no disagreement in this regard.

"We, the MLAs, are demanding it. The high command will have to make the decision. I don't want a ministerial post. I only want Shivakumar to become the CM," Yogeshwara

added. Shivakumar refrained from making any comments while departing for Delhi from Bengaluru this morning.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is scheduled to leave for Delhi on Wednesday morning and will meet Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during the visit.

Sources have confirmed that both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar will meet Gandhi on Wednesday night, though it is unclear whether the meetings will be held jointly or separately.

The sources said that the high command is worried about the turn of events in Karnataka. CM Siddaramaiah has reiterated that he will serve a full five-year term, while Shivakumar has maintained that if not by effort, then by prayer, his aspirations will be fulfilled.

Meanwhile, the influential Ramnathapuram seer has urged the party's leadership and Siddaramaiah to implement a power-sharing arrangement and make way for Shivakumar.

On another front, even as CM Siddaramaiah has denied being appointed as Chairperson of the Congress party's National OBC Advisory Committee, the BJP has claimed that this is part of a plan to remove him from the Chief Minister's post.

The Karnataka BJP has described it as a "ploy" by the Congress leadership to "sideline" Siddaramaiah.



Villagers catch fish in flood water following heavy rainfall, at Jamunamukh in Hojai district of Assam.

By the time Rahul Gandhi reaches Bihar, nearly half of voter forms would've been collected: JD(U) leader

NEW DELHI, JULY 8

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi is set to visit Patna on Wednesday, July 9, to join the statewide bandh called by Opposition parties in protest against the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. However, JD-U's National Spokesperson Rajeev Ranjan Prasad has dismissed these concerns of the Opposition parties and termed the protests as "political theatrics".

The visit of Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, comes amid rising political tensions in Bihar with the Opposition accusing the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led NDA government of undermining the democratic process just ahead of the Assembly elections in the state.

Hitting back, JD-U's Rajeev Ranjan Prasad dismissed the Opposition's concerns, stating that the SIR is a routine protocol, not a conspiracy.

"By the time Rahul Gandhi arrives, nearly half of Bihar's forms would already have been submitted to the Election Commission. This exercise hap-



pened in 2003 as well. So far, 36 per cent of Bihar's voter forms have been collected," he told IANS on Wednesday.

Prasad further defended the integrity of the process, contrasting it with previous Congress governments.

"The country has seen how, during the Congress era, Election Commission officials were appointed at the whims of party leaders," he claimed.

Today, under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners are made through a formal law," he professed.

On the law-and-order front, Prasad addressed the recent

murder of businessman Gopal Khemka, revealing that one accused has been arrested while another was neutralised in a police encounter. "Bihar Police is working swiftly. Crucial developments will emerge soon," he assured.

He rejected the Opposition's claims of a law-and-order collapse, stating that the worst crime period in Bihar was between 1990 and 2005.

"Under CM Nitish Kumar's leadership, the situation has improved drastically. The police are equipped with modern technology and act swiftly — no criminal committing such heinous acts is spared," he asserted.

KTR reaches Press Club after accepting CM Revanth Reddy's debate challenge

HYDERABAD, JULY 8

Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao on Tuesday reached Somajiguda Press Club in Hyderabad for a public debate with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on farmers' issues.

Rama Rao, who had accepted the Chief Minister's challenge for the debate, reached the Press Club along with several party leaders.

Addressing the party leaders, he alleged that the Chief Minister was running away from debate after throwing the challenge.

"We came to know that the Chief Minister is in Delhi. We were ready for debate with Deputy Chief Minister, Agriculture Minister or any Minister but nobody turned up," he said.

He alleged that 600 farmers committed suicide during the last 18 months. He said the Congress betrayed people after coming to power by making 420 promises and six guarantees.

KTR claimed that he has brought the list of farmers who committed suicide, whose loans were not waived and who were not given a bonus and the financial aid under Rythu Bhorosa.

Stating that water, funds and jobs were the key issues, KTR alleged that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is diverting river waters to his friend, Andhra



Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, sending funds to Delhi and giving jobs to his people.

On the reports that Revanth Reddy was visiting Delhi to get "fertiliser bags" for the state, the BRS leader remarked that "people know what bags he was carrying to Delhi to save his chair".

Police stepped up security at Press Club since morning as a large number of BRS leaders and workers gathered there.

Before leaving for Press Club, KTR told media persons at the BRS office, Telangana Bhavan, that he was ready to debate on farm loan waiver, bonus for paddy and all other issues related to farmers.

Addressing a meeting of Congress workers on July 7 in the presence of Congress presi-

dent Mallikarjun Kharge, the Chief Minister had thrown a challenge for public debate on what the previous BRS government did and what the Congress government was doing for the welfare of farmers.

Accepting the challenge, KTR had offered to meet at any location chosen by the Chief Minister whether in CM Revanth Reddy's constituency Kodangal, his native village Kondareddy, or even at the Ambedkar statue or Somajiguda Press Club in Hyderabad. When there was no response from the Chief Minister, the BRS leader declared that he was ready for debate at the Press Club.

The BRS leader said that it has become the Chief Minister's habit to run away after throwing a challenge for debates.

Stranded British fighter jet goes behind curtains as engineers work hard

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JULY 8

A team of top aviation engineers from the US and the UK are busy working to rectify the error that has left the British F-35B Lightning II fighter jet grounded at the international airport here since June 14.

It was on Sunday that the

team from the UK and another team from Lockheed Martin — the American manufacturer of the F-35 — arrived here.

The first task, they accomplished was to move the stranded jet, which was lying in the open on one side of the airport terminal, to the hangar.

Then they decided to ensure that none of the prying eyes had

any sight of the state-of-the-art fighter jet, and not only was the entire area cordoned off, but they also covered the area from all sides. Another reason to cover up from all sides was that the working personnel wanted a cool atmosphere, and the entire area is now air-conditioned, as the engineers are busy working on it.

Sensex advances 270 pts on fag-end buying in banking stocks, gains in Asian peers

MUMBAI, JULY 8

Benchmark BSE Sensex closed higher by 270 points on Tuesday, helped by late-day buying in banking and select IT shares, as well as positive trends in the Asian markets.

The 30-share barometer rose by 270.01 points or 0.32 per cent to settle at 83,712.51 with 18 of its constituents ending higher and 12 lower. Sensex hit a high of 83,812.31 and a low of 83,320.95, gyrating 491.36 points.

The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 61.20 points or 0.24 per cent to settle at 25,522.50, after a muted trading session.

Stock markets moved in a range for most of the session before the emergence of value buying in the pre-close session. Investors are awaiting definitive progress on the proposed India-US trade even as the US extended the suspension of reciprocal tariffs until August 1, experts said.

From the Sensex firms, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Eternal, Asian Paints, NTPC, Bharat Electronics Ltd, Adani Ports, Infosys and State Bank of India were among the major gainers. However, Titan tumbled over 6 per cent. Trent,



Axis Bank, Maruti and Hindustan Unilever were also among the laggards.

The US is close to making a trade deal with India, President Donald Trump has said.

"Now, we've made a deal with the United Kingdom, we've made a deal with China... We're close to making a deal with India. Others we met with and we don't think we're going to be able to make a deal, so we just sent them a letter. If you want to play ball, this is what you have to pay," Trump said on Monday.

The remarks came as the Trump administration sent out the first tranche of "let-

ters" to various countries on Monday detailing the tariffs that the US will impose on products from these countries entering America.

The countries that got these letters, signed by Trump, were Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Serbia, South Africa, South Korea, Thailand, and Tunisia.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled in the positive territory.

"The Indian equity market remained largely range-bound as investors awaited definitive progress on the India-US trade agreement. While sentiment remains cautiously optimistic about a potential deal, the lack of formal confirmation has restrained fresh buying activity."

Moreover, the US decision to extend the deadline for implementing 25% tariffs on key trading partners has led investors to adopt a more defensive approach," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

European markets were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended lower on Monday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.59 per cent to USD 69.17 per barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 321.16 crore on Monday, according to data. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) also bought stocks worth Rs 1,853.39 crore.

After oscillating between highs and lows on Monday, the Sensex finally ended 9.61 points, or 0.01 per cent, up at 83,442.50. The Nifty ended unchanged at 25,461.30.

KRBL targets Rs 200-300 cr revenue from new blended edible oil business

KRBL enters edible oil business

NEW DELHI, JULY 8

KRBL Ltd, a major basmati rice producer under the India Gate brand, has diversified into edible oils and aims to achieve Rs 200-300 crore revenue within three years from its newly launched blended oil products targeting health-conscious consumers, a top company official said on Tuesday.

The company launched two edible oil variants in February under its 'India Gate Uplift' range - Gut Pro and Lite - priced at Rs 192-199 per litre, the official said.

There has been only one brand 'Saffola' so far that has dominated this blended edible oils category with a market size of 1.1 lakh tonnes. We are going to expand this space," KRBL Business Head (Domestic) Ayush Gupta told reporters.

For the current fiscal year, the company targets 2,000 tonnes sales and revenue of about Rs 50 crore.

"In the next three years, we aim for 8,000-10,000 tonnes sales and revenue of Rs 200-300 crore," Gupta

said. The new products are priced 5-7 per cent higher than Saffola's blended oil variants as KRBL positions itself as a premium brand, he added.

KRBL has outsourced the production and packaging of the blended edible oils. The products are currently available across modern trade outlets and leading e-commerce and quick commerce platforms, with general trade distribution to follow.

Gut Pro blends 80 per cent rice bran oil with 20 per cent refined soybean oil, crafted to support gut health and digestive wellness. Lite, a weight management variant, combines 80 per cent rice bran oil with 20 per cent refined sunflower oil.

Gupta said the company plans to introduce more functional and nutritional foods to tap health-conscious younger consumers and is evaluating fortified staples and value-added products.

KRBL Marketing and Business Head Kunal Sharma said currently, no blended edible oils address health issues except Saffola, which targets heart health. KRBL has positioned its products focusing on gut health and weight management.

India's edible oil market totals 243 lakh tonnes with refined edible oil comprising 66 lakh tonnes. Rice bran oil accounts for 2.6 lakh tonnes, while the blended oils category represents 1.1 lakh tonnes, he added.

KRBL Ltd had reported Rs 4,000 crore revenue during the 2024-25 fiscal.

VinFast partners with RoadGrid for EV charging, servicing in India



NEW DELHI, JULY 8

Vietnam's electric vehicle maker VinFast on Tuesday said it has partnered with EV charging and after sales solutions provider RoadGrid in India ahead of its product launch in the country.

As VinFast prepares for its upcoming product launch in India, the company is laying strong groundwork to ensure nationwide accessibility, reliability, and convenience for its customers, and the partnership with RoadGrid is a part of this effort, it said in a statement.

Further, the company said it aims to establish extended service workshops by partnering with potential service providers, including RoadGrid, to boost its aftersales operations across India.

"Our goal is to make owning an electric vehicle as effortless and reassuring as possible. By joining hands with RoadGrid, we are taking meaningful steps to ensure that every VinFast customer in India has access to dependable charging and responsive service," VinFast Asia CEO Pham Sanh Chau said.

The company is eyeing a launch in India with its VF7 and VF6 models in India before the festival season this year.

"VinFast's entry into the Indian EV market is a turning point, and we are proud to be part of their journey. Together, we aim to redefine EV ownership through smart infrastructure, real-time connectivity, and a reliable service backbone," RoadGrid CEO Deepesh Shrinani said.

VinFast is investing USD 500 million to set up its manufacturing plant in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu, which is expected to be completed by the beginning of the second half of 2025.

It aims to push up annual production in the country to 1.5 lakh EVs in the coming years and be able to export them to countries in the Middle East and Africa.

Mahindra Launches XUV 3XO 'REXV' Series Starting at ₹ 8.94 Lakh

JAMMU, JULY 8

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., India's leading SUV manufacturer, today unveiled the exciting new XUV 3XO 'REXV' series, starting at an attractive price of ₹ 8.94 Lakh.

The XUV 3XO recently achieved an impressive milestone of over 1 lakh sales in under a year, making it Mahindra's fastest SUV to reach this milestone. The REXV series will further enhance the XUV 3XO portfolio with a compelling value offering of premium features, distinctive styling and dare in segment performance, resonating with customer aspirations.

Interacting to individuals who seek vehicles that reflect their unique personality, the REXV series celebrates the spirit of personal expression—because for them, there is no 'stand out', 'Different is in'.

REXV Series key highlights:

REXV M (Ex-Showroom



Price: ₹ 8.94 Lakh) - This variant is powered by a 1.2L mStallion TCMPFI engine delivering a power of 82 kW and torque of 200 Nm. Its bold exterior features a sleek front

with a body-colored grille, full-width LED DRLs, R16 Black Painted Alloys and a sporty dual-tone roof, exuding confidence and style. Inside, it offers plush black leatherette seats, a 26.03 cm infotainment system with steering-mounted controls, and a 4-speaker audio setup for an immersive cabin experience.

Safety is prioritized with 35 standard features, including six airbags, ESC with Hill Hold Control (HHC), and All 4 Disc Brakes.

REXV M(O) (Ex-Showroom Price: ₹ 9.44 Lakh) - This variant enhances sophistication with the addition of a single-pane sunroof, elevating the cabin experience and overall design appeal over REXV M.

REXV A (Ex-Showroom Price starting at ₹ 11.79 Lakh) - This variant is powered by the advanced 1.2L mStallion TGD1 engine, delivering best-

in-class power of 96 kW and torque of 230 Nm paired with both manual and automatic transmissions. It introduces premium features that enhance the in-cabin experience, including a panoramic sunroof, leatherette seats, dual-tone interiors, auto-dimming IRVM, etc. On the outside, it has signature REXV design elements—body-colored front grille, distinctive badging, R16 Painted Black Alloys, and dual-tone wheels. The REXV A is equipped with twin HD screens: one 26.03 cm infotainment and the other 26.03 cm full digital cluster. Additionally, it integrates Adrenox Connect, featuring built-in Alexa, online navigation, and wireless Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, ensuring seamless connectivity and convenience for the modern driver.

All the variants of the REXV series are available in five eye-catching colors—Galaxy Grey, Tango Red, Nebula Blue, Everest White, and Stealth Black.

Adani Power acquires 600 MW Vidarbha unit for Rs 4,000 cr



NEW DELHI, JULY 8

Adani Power Ltd on Tuesday announced the completion of its acquisition of the 600 megawatt (MW) Vidarbha Industries Power Ltd through the insolvency route for an aggregate consideration of Rs 4,000 crore.

On June 18, 2025, the Mumbai Bench of the National

Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved its resolution plan for Vidarbha Industries Power Ltd (VIPL). Adani Power Ltd (APL) said in a statement.

Subsequently, the plan was successfully implemented on July 7, 2025, taking APL's operating capacity to 18,150 MW with this acquisition. VIPL is a 600 MW domestic coal-fired power plant (2x300

MW units) located in Butibori, Nagpur district, Maharashtra. APL has successfully completed the acquisition and implemented the resolution plan for VIPL for an aggregate consideration of Rs 4,000 crore.

The company further said its on track to achieve its target of 30,670 MW capacity by 2029-30.

It is further undertaking the expansion of its base-load power generation portfolio through a mix of brownfield and greenfield projects.

The company is currently constructing six brownfield Ultra Supercritical Power Thermal Plants (USCTPP) of 1,600 MW each at its existing locations in Singrauli-Mahan (Madhya Pradesh), Raipur, Raigarh, and Korba (Chhattisgarh), and Kawai (Rajasthan), in addition to a 1,600 MW greenfield USCTPP at Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh. Additionally, it is setting

up a 1,600 MW greenfield USCTPP in Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh.

Apart from this, it is also reviving the construction of a 1,320 MW Supercritical power plant at Korba that it had acquired previously.

With this, APL would cement its position as India's largest private base-load power generation company with 30,670 MW of operational capacity by 2030.

SB Khayala, Chief Executive Officer, Adani Power Ltd, said, "As we continue expanding our portfolio, we remain committed to supporting India's vision of 'Electricity for All' by delivering reliable, affordable base-load power that fuels the country's sustainable growth."

APL part of the Adani portfolio, is India's largest private thermal power generation company.

With 8 pc of world's reserves, India poised to play key role in rare earth elements supply chain

NEW DELHI, JULY 8

India holds 8 per cent of the world's rare earth element reserves, which gives it the potential of playing a key role in the gradually evolving global supply landscape as China's current dominance is projected to decline, according to a CareEdge report on Tuesday.

While China currently plays a leading role in both mining and refining, its projected share is expected to decrease from 69 per cent in 2023 to 51 per cent in mining and from 90 per cent to 76 per cent in refining by 2030, as per the International Energy Agency.

This trend reflects a broader international effort to develop more balanced and resilient supply chains. Despite India's huge reserves, the country contributes less than 1 per cent of global Rare Earth Element (REE) mining, which prompted the Government to launch the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) in 2025 to build India's self-reliance in the mineral sector.

India has recognised 130 deposits as of the 2023 Indian

Minerals Yearbook, of which the coastal states have the most rare earth deposits, namely Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha. The recent curbs by China on REE exports have made Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL), a central government undertaking, consider reducing its exports to save rare earths in the home country and expand domestic processing, the CareEdge report pointed out.

While India has the third-largest share of global reserves of REE, it still has a long way to go to emerge as a significant global producer of REE. The Indian government is developing domestic manufacturing capabilities and is considering offering companies a production-based fiscal incentive. The importance of REEs extends across a range of sectors, particularly in areas such as clean energy technologies, the automotive sector, and defence systems. For nations with high-tech defence and infrastructure programs, consistent access to REEs is essential to avoid potential disruptions that could lead to cost overruns or delayed deployment timelines, the report states.

Jindal Steel Duqm to start Oman-based 5 MTPA green steel plant in 2028

NEW DELHI, JULY 8

Jindal Steel Duqm, a part of Naveen Jindal Group, aims to start operations at its upcoming 5 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) hydrogen-enabled green steel complex at the Special Economic Zone in Duqm (SEZAD) in Oman by 2028, a company executive said.

The plant is being developed in two phases at a total investment of approximately USD 3 billion (around Rs 25,000 crore), the official said.

Designed to be one of the world's most advanced hydro-

gen-ready steel facilities, it will initially run on natural gas but will be capable of switching to green hydrogen once the supply infrastructure matures.

The complex will consist of two Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) modules of 2.5 MTPA each. While the first unit will be operationalized by December 2028, the second unit is scheduled for commissioning by 2030. Both DRI units are engineered to be hydrogen-ready from day one.

According to a senior company executive, Jindal Steel Duqm has informed the Government of Oman that hydrogen will be

injected into the DRI process as soon as regular supply is ready, and the equivalent amount of natural gas will be phased out. The company expects to start hydrogen injection by 2033, with 10-15 per cent hydrogen usage targeted by 2035.

The green hydrogen required for this transition is expected to come from multiple renewable energy and green hydrogen projects being developed in Duqm by the Government of Oman and private investors. These projects are likely to be operational by 2033, ensuring a domestic and sustainable supply source.

Nectar to sell API, formulations & menthol biz to Ceph Lifesciences for Rs 1,290 cr



NEW DELHI, JULY 8

Nectar Lifesciences Ltd on Tuesday said it will sell its active pharmaceutical ingredients and formulations to Ceph Lifesciences Pvt Ltd, for Rs

1,290 crore.

The company has signed a definitive Business Transfer Agreement (BTA) for the sale of its core business division, comprising the manufacture, distribution, and marketing of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and formulations to Ceph Lifesciences for Rs 1,290 crore on a slump sale basis, Nectar said in a regulatory filing.

Additionally, the company has entered into an Asset Purchase Agreement (APA) for the sale of its menthol business assets to Ceph Lifesciences for

Rs 20 crore, marking a comprehensive restructuring move aligned with its future strategy, it added.

"By divesting mature segments of our business, we are laying the foundation for a focused and agile organisation geared towards innovation and long-term value creation," Nectar Lifesciences Promoter and Chairman Sanjiv Goyal said.

Nectar Lifesciences said the transaction forms a part of its long-term strategy to streamline operations, strengthen

DLSA organizes One- Day Capacity Building Programme on "Child protection and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education"

JAMMU, JULY 08: The District Legal Services Authority Jammu (DLSA), under the aegis of the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority (JKLSA) and in collaboration with UNICEF today organized a One Day Capacity Building Programme on "Child Protection and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)" at RMG International School, Jandial Akhnoor, Jammu in furtherance to the NALSA (Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024.

The programme was inaugurated by Y. P. Bourney, Principal District & Sessions Judge and Chairman District Legal Services Authority Jammu. The Training programme was organized under the overall supervision of Dr. Smriti Sharma, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Jammu.

The event began with a welcome address by Ms. Anushi Shukla, Municipal Chairman Tehsil Legal Services Committee Akhnoor who underscored the need for a united and informed approach to child welfare



and safety. "It is our collective responsibility to ensure that every child lives in a safe, nurturing, and just environment," said the Chairman, TLSC Akhnoor. "Through this capacity building programme, we aim to strengthen the capabilities of frontline workers and stakeholders to identify risks, respond to child protection issues effectively and educate communities-particularly

children-about the dangers of unexploded ordnance." In the inaugural address, Pr. and District Judge, Jammu Y. P. Bourney emphasized the importance of strengthening child protection mechanisms and raising awareness about the risks posed by explosive ordnance, especially in sensitive and vulnerable regions. He also highlighted the need for all stakeholders

to adopt a child-centric approach in delivering legal & social services and thanked UNICEF, J&K Legal Services Authority and District Legal Services Authority Jammu for organizing this One Day Training Programme for all the stakeholders who are working in the field of child protection.

The programme brought together a diverse group of participants, including officials from Legal Aid Defense Counsels, Panel Lawyer of DLSA Jammu, members of Child Welfare Committee, members of One Stop Centre, Member of Juvenile Justice Board, District Coordinator from the Chief Education Office Jammu, Members of Special Juvenile Police Unit Officers and Para Legal Volunteers of District Legal Services Authority Jammu and Akhnoor. It aimed to enhance their understanding and capacities on child rights, protection frameworks, and the critical subject of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education. The sessions were conducted by Three Expert Resource Persons.

DC Poonch visits Ayushman Arogya Mandir Sub Centre Chhajla, Mendhar; reviews healthcare facilities



POONCH, JULY 08: To assess the status of healthcare infrastructure and services, Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal today conducted an inspection of the Ayushman Arogya Mandir Sub Centre at Chhajla in Sub Division Mendhar. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed round of the healthcare facility and reviewed the availability of essential services, manpower equipment and medicines. He interacted with the staff to understand the challenges being faced and the steps being taken to provide timely medical

care to the public. The DC emphasized the importance of maintaining adequate stocks of essential medicines and ensuring the functionality of all critical equipment. He further directed the concerned officials to provide round-the-clock healthcare services and to uphold high standards of cleanliness and hygiene throughout the hospital premises. Deputy Commissioner reiterated the commitment of the district administration towards strengthening healthcare delivery at the grassroots level.

House Committee on JJM holds 4th meet at Srinagar

SRINAGAR, JULY 08: The House Committee on Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) today held its fourth meeting at Legislative Assembly Complex, Srinagar.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi and attended by members Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, Ali Mohammad Dar, Altf Ahmad Wani, Aijaz Ahmad Jan, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Tanvir Sadiq, Javid Riyaz (Bedar), Muzaffar Iqbal Khan, Rafiq Ahmad Naik and Arjun Singh Raju.

Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti department, Shaheen Kabir; Mission JJM, Chief Engineer PHE Jammu Kashmir and other senior officers of the department were present in the meeting.

Speaking during the meeting, the Chairman underscored that this Committee has been given an important assignment to look in alleged irregularities in implementation of JJM, a flagship initiative aimed to provide adequate and safe drinking water to public. The Chairman also called upon the mem-



bers of Committee to conduct field visits of districts in order to gather on ground assessment of various works being executed under JJM. The members of the Committee, during the meeting, also spoke on different aspects of the JJM.

One day district level workshop on Panchayat Advancement Index held at Udhampur

UDHAMPUR, JULY 08: A one-day District level workshop on the Panchayat Advancement Index organized by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj here at Conference Hall DC Office Complex, Udhampur.

The workshop was aimed at sensitizing concerned stakeholders about the Panchayat Advancement Index, a multi-dimensional assessment tool designed to evaluate the overall developmental status of Gram Panchayats.

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai presided over the workshop. Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Chief Planning Officer Mohammad Iqbal, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Dr. Ashwani Hansa along with other concerned officers and



field functionaries attended the workshop.

Speaking on the occasion, DC emphasized the importance of the Panchayat Advancement Index in achieving inclusive and targeted development at the grassroots level. She urged all stakeholders to actively mobilize field functionaries for effective implementation of PAI themes and directed the concerned

departments to maintain utmost accuracy while uploading data on the PAI portal.

Nida Rafiq, Thematic Expert, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj briefed the participants on the objectives and significance of the Panchayat Development Index. She explained that PAI is a structured tool to monitor and measure the socio-economic and in-

frastructural growth of Panchayats across key indicators of sustainable development goals.

A detailed presentation was given on various themes under PAI-2.0 viz. child-friendly panchayat, water-sufficient panchayat, clean and green panchayat and self-sufficient infrastructure in panchayats. The presentation also elaborated on socio-economic indicators and performance parameters essential for assessing the well-being of rural communities under the PAI framework.

Participants were also provided with hands-on training on the PAI portal to ensure efficient and accurate data entry and monitoring.

A video documentary highlighting the methodology and impact of the Panchayat Advancement Index was also screened during the session.

Committee on Privileges holds meeting in Srinagar

Deliberates on matters related to legislators' rights, protocol

SRINAGAR, JULY 8: The Committee on Privileges of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to deliberate on matters pertaining to the privileges and entitlements of legislators.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Nizam-ud-Din Bhat and attended by Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), including Vikram Randhawa, Javid Riyaz (Bedar), Salman Sagar, Reyaz Ahmad Khan, Bharat Bhushan and Javid Iqbal.

The Chairman emphasized the importance of legislators asserting their constitutional rights and privileges across all appropriate platforms. He highlighted the need for a clear framework to ensure that the



dignity and functioning of elected representatives is preserved and respected.

The Committee resolved to hold a joint meeting with the heads of the Law, General Administration Department (GAD) and Protocol Department to address issues within

the ambit of constitutional mandate and ensure better coordination among the concerned departments.

The members held a three-hour discussion on a range of issues including staff support (drivers), security arrangements, housing and office facilities and other privileges for the

legislators.

The Committee also underscored the need for enhanced hostel accommodations and club facilities for both the sitting and former legislators in Jammu and Srinagar.

The Chairman expressed confidence in the collective capabilities of the Committee members to contribute constructively and uphold the integrity of the institution. He reiterated that the Committee would work strictly within its defined mandate and would meet regularly to devise actionable plans for resolving the issues placed before it.

The members actively participated in the discussions, offering valuable suggestions and feedback on key concerns impacting the functioning of legislators.

MLA Udhampur West & DC hand over ambulance to Govt Medical College Udhampur under J&K Bank CSR initiative



UDHAMPUR, JULY 08: As part of efforts to strengthen healthcare infrastructure in the district, Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Udhampur West, Pawan Kumar Gupta, along with Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, formally handed over a newly donated ambulance to the Principal of Government Medical Col-

lege, Udhampur. The donation was made under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA and Deputy Commissioner emphasized that the addition of the ambulance will greatly enhance emergency healthcare services in the district and serve as a vital asset for the benefit of the general public.

The ambulance, donated by Jammu and Kashmir Bank as part of its CSR program, is aimed at providing critical support for the transportation of patients and trauma cases, thereby boosting emergency medical response capabilities in the region.

DC Ramban reviews preparation of CAPEX 2025-26 Plan under Rural Development Sector

RAMBAN, JULY 08: In a bid to expedite ongoing developmental initiatives and ensure timely completion of public welfare projects, Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Aliyas Khan today chaired a comprehensive meeting to assess the preparation of the District CAPEX Budget 2025-26 under the Rural Development Department (RDD).

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, Assistant Commissioner Development Shrinath Suman, Block Development Officers (BDOs), Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs) and other concerned officials.

During the meeting, DC reviewed the formulation of the CAPEX plan, setting a two-day deadline for finalization. He emphasized the



timely uploading of the plan on the BEAMS portal for subsequent submission to the Finance Department for the release of funds.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all BDOs to revisit their respective plans to ensure the inclusion of works that are genuinely beneficial to the community. He strictly advised against the inclusion of ambiguous works or those that cater to individual benefits.

Stressing the importance of grassroots involvement, DC instructed that all developmental projects be taken up

in consultation with the Gram Sabhas, with special focus on essential public infrastructure such as schools, main markets, lanes, drains, water tanks, electric poles, transformers and other community utility assets. The DC also directed the BDOs to expedite the enrollment under Mission YUVA within stipulated times and IEC campaigns in their respective blocks. He further stressed the importance of active community participation and transparency in developmental processes.

Social Welfare Department and ALIMCO distribute Prosthetic Aids to PwDs and Senior Citizens in Gandoh Bhalesha

GANDOH (DODA), JULY 8: The Social Welfare Department Doda in collaboration with the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), a public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, organized a prosthetic aid distribution camp today at R&B Dak Bungalows, Gandoh Bhalesha. The camp was held under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh and the overall supervision of District Social Welfare Officer Doda, Tariq Parveez Qazi.

The programme chaired by Sub Divisional Magistrate Gandoh, Arun Kumar Badyal aimed at supporting Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) under the Assistance to Disabled Persons (ADIP) scheme and senior

citizens under the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY). During the event, various aids and appliances were distributed to 126 beneficiaries identified during earlier assessment camps in Blocks Bhakys, Changa and Bhalesha. The distributed items included tricycles (for adults and children), wheelchairs, CP chairs, hearing aids, smart cans, smart phones, daisy players, braille kits, crutches, walking sticks, rollers, callipers, artificial limbs, knee braces, lumbo-sacral belts, silicon foam cushions and more. The initiative seeks to assist needy disabled persons and senior citizens by providing durable, modern, and scientifically designed aids and appliances. These devices are aimed at reducing the impact of disabilities, preventing secondary disabilities.

DC Doda chairs DLIC meeting to approve 66 cases under Mission YUVA

DODA, JULY 8: The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) convened an important meeting today under the flagship Mission YUVA, chaired by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda, Mr. Harvinder Singh. The meeting aimed to review progress under the scheme and to scrutinize and approve applications submitted through the dedicated DLIC portal.

The deliberations were attended by ADC/ADD Doda, Anil Kumar Thakur, Deputy Director Employment Doda Mohd Rafiq, In-charge General Manager DIC, District Social Welfare Officer Doda, District Nodal Officer JKEDI, Lead District Manager and other key stakeholders. A total of 66 entrepreneurial cases, verified by the Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) Doda, were presented before the commit-



tee. After thorough examination of eligibility, viability, and socio-economic relevance, all 66 applications were approved for financial assistance and handholding support under Mission YUVA.

While addressing the officers, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the importance of creating self-employment opportunities for the local youth, with special focus on marginal and underprivileged sections. He directed line departments to ensure timely disbursement of

funds, effective monitoring, and strong mentoring mechanisms to help the new ventures flourish sustainably.

The DC also urged stakeholders to intensify outreach and awareness campaigns to encourage wider participation in Mission YUVA, making it a beacon of hope for aspiring entrepreneurs in the district. The meeting concluded with a call to all departments to work with dedication and urgency so that today's entrepreneurial seeds grow into successful enterprises of tomorrow.

Lieutenant Governor reviews progress of Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan in J&K UT

SRINAGAR, JULY 08: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today chaired a high-level meeting to review the implementation and progress of Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan in the UT of Jammu Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Dr Mandep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Shri Baser Ul Haq Chaudhary, Mission Director, NHM J&K; Deputy Commissioners; Heads of Medical & Health institutions and senior officials.

The Lieutenant Governor reviewed the strategies and actionable plans aimed at accelerating TB case detection, improving treatment outcomes, identifying chal-



lenges, and ensuring inter-departmental coordination to achieve the national goal of TB elimination.

The Lieutenant Governor called for collaborative efforts towards eliminating tuberculosis. "TB Mukh Jammu Kashmir should be our common goal," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor desired the use of various forms of media for generating awareness about all the aspects of TB. He also exhorted the Health Department to ensure that its field

functionaries work tirelessly for the success of the programme. This must include close monitoring of all TB patients so that they regularly consume prescribed medicines and do not become drug resistant. Use of IEC in the form of daily SMS and phone calls to the patients for ensuring that they do not miss their daily dose of medicine, was also stressed upon.

The Lieutenant Governor asked the Health Department to make all efforts for ensuring the availability of

diagnostic machines including CBNAAT and TrueNat across the length and breadth of the UT.

"This would go a long way in increasing the testing of patients and screening of the population with the aim of achieving TB Mukh J&K and TB Mukh Bharat at the earliest," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor asked Deputy Commissioners to broaden the IEC and awareness campaigns and take onboard the religious leaders, healthcare profes-

sionals, sportspersons, prominent citizens, Self-Help Groups and Social organisations to reduce stigma associated with tuberculosis.

He further directed for mapping of vulnerable populations through screening and testing on priority, enhancing Diagnostics, Treatment, and promoting Early Diagnosis. People should be encouraged to register themselves as NI-Kshay Mitras, he added.

Meeting also discussed the performance of Jammu Kashmir on various Parameters under National TB Elimination Programme, achievements registered under TB Mukh Panchayat Initiative, Media workshops for TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan, saturation of Ayushman Bharat Golden cards, procurements of treatment and testing equipment.

DyCM conducts surprise inspection of CE R&B, PMGSY offices in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, JULY 08: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted a surprise inspection of Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) and PMGSY offices in Rajbagh, Srinagar to assess the operational efficiency and employee punctuality.

The inspection was aimed at ensuring seamless functioning of the department, with a focus on timely execution of duties and projects.

During the inspection, the DyCM reviewed the attendance registers to verify the presence of staff across different branches. He emphasised the importance of punctuality, stating that timely arrival at the workplace was essential for maintaining discipline and ensuring smooth operations. Surinder Choudhary, while interacting with the staff there, maintained that the



government is committed to ensure speedy and hassle free delivery of public services to the people. He directed the employees to strictly adhere to office hours, underscoring that consistent punctuality reflects a commitment to public service and enhanced department's credibility. The DyCM also instructed the officials to avoid any mismanagement in their work and prioritise timely

completion of all ongoing projects. He highlighted that delay in project execution could weaken public trust. He stressed that disciplined work ethics are foundational towards achieving the departmental goals. The Deputy Chief Minister also asked the senior officials to closely monitor the attendance and project progress, ensuring that any lapse in this regard is addressed promptly.

Mission YUVA: District-Level Implementation Committee approved 114 cases in Ramban

RAMBAN, JULY 8: The first meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) under the ambitious Mission YUVA initiative was held today in the VC Room of the DC Office Complex, Ramban. The meeting was chaired by District Development Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Aiyaz Khan.

The agenda of the meeting focused on reviewing the applications received under Mission YUVA blockwise, scrutiny of applications and promoting self-employment among the youth of the district.

During the session, the committee took up 114 applications that had been verified by the Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) Ramban. Following a thorough evaluation process considering eligibility norms, project viability, and the socio-economic background of the applicants, the committee gave its approval to all 114 cases

for further financial support and mentoring under the mission.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner, Ramban highlighted the importance of Mission YUVA in empowering local youth and helping them build sustainable livelihoods. He emphasized the need for effective awareness campaigns and to reach out to more eligible youth and encourage their participation in the scheme.

The Deputy Commissioner also instructed the District Nodal Officer, JKEDI and the General Manager (DIC) to speed up the preparation and verification of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to avoid delays in processing the remaining applications.

Among others present in the meeting were Chief Planning Officer, Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, General Manager DIC, Ramban, Ravinder Kumar, Assistant Director Employment.

Electoral reforms can't be called Unconstitutional: Kavinder

Flays Farooq's remarks on Electoral Roll Revision

JAMMU, JULY 8: Senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, Kavinder Gupta today slammed National Conference President Farooq Abdullah for terming the Election Commission's special electoral roll revision in Bihar as "anti-Constitutional", saying such statements are not only irresponsible but also expose the NC leader's deliberate attempts to mislead the public and undermine the democratic process.

In a press release issued here today, the BJP stalwart said it is unfortunate that a senior politician like Farooq Abdullah, who has held key

constitutional positions, is now resorting to provocative and misleading narratives only to gain political mileage. "Calling a routine electoral revision 'anti-Constitutional' is not just factually incorrect but a direct insult to the authority and autonomy of the Election Commission of India (ECI), a body that has maintained the integrity of elections in the country for decades," he stated.

Kavinder reminded the NC leader that the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar is a much-needed and long-overdue exercise, the last such revision



having taken place in 2003. "In the past two decades, Bihar has witnessed massive urbanisation, internal migration, and demographic shifts. The ECI has rightly decided to clean up outdated voter lists to ensure only eligible citizens are registered and to eliminate bogus entries — something every responsible

citizen should welcome," he said. The senior BJP leader added that the move is in line with the Commission's mandate to maintain free, fair, and transparent elections and has nothing to do with pleasing any so-called "master", as alleged by Farooq Abdullah. "Such statements are deeply disrespectful to democratic institutions and reflect the frustration of a party that has lost ground across the nation," he said. Taking strong exception to Abdullah's call for an agitation to "save the Constitution", Kavinder said, "It is ironic that leaders

who remained silent when Article 370 was misused to discriminate against Indian citizens are now preaching constitutional morality. The people of India know who stood for the Constitution and who abused it for dynastic politics." Kavinder appealed to the people of India, especially the youth, to stand with democratic institutions, uphold the spirit of the Constitution, and reject the divisive politics of fear and falsehood. "India is changing, and so is its democracy. Those stuck in the past and blinded by their own political insecurities

DC Jammu distributes sanction letters under Mission YUVA; 86 more cases approved

JAMMU, JULY 8: Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaisiyya, today handed over sanction letters to seven youth entrepreneurs under the Mission YUVA scheme at the DC Office.

The beneficiaries will establish small businesses including transport services, general stores and cosmetics



outlets, with financial support provided under the government's flagship initiative.

Highlighting the scheme's impact, the Deputy Commissioner said, "Mission YUVA is a major initiative of the government to support youth in starting their own businesses." He also noted that 34 cases

have been approved so far in the district and awareness and implementation activities are in full swing under his chairmanship of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC). Later, a DLIC meeting chaired by the Deputy Commissioner approved 86 additional cases under the scheme.

ARTO Rajouri conducts road checking drive; 15 E-Challans issued, 5 E-Auto impounded

RAJOURI, JULY 08: Acting on the directions of the Transport Commissioner, J&K, Visheshpaul Mahajan and Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, the ARTO Office Rajouri led by Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Rajesh Gupta carried out an extensive road checking drive in Rajouri town and surrounding areas today. The drive was primarily focused on ensuring traffic regulations compliance among e-Auto vehicles operating in the region. During the enforcement drive, a total of 105 vehicles were thoroughly inspected. As a result of the inspection, 15 e-challans were issued for various violations under the Motor Vehicles

Act and other relevant traffic norms. Furthermore, 5 e-Auto vehicles were impounded and brought to the ARTO office due to serious violations. The enforcement action is expected to generate revenue of approximately ₹49,000 from the challaned vehicles. The ARTO has reiterated its commitment to improving road safety, ensuring compliance with vehicle documentation and promoting disciplined driving practices. The department has urged all vehicle owners and drivers to adhere strictly to traffic laws to avoid penalties and ensure the safety of all road users. Regular enforcement drives shall continue in the coming days.

DDC Poonch presides over public outreach program at Aspirational Block Mankote

POONCH, JULY 08: In a major step towards responsive and inclusive governance, the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch, Shri Vikas Kunal today conducted a comprehensive Public Outreach Program at the Aspirational Block Mankote, Subdivision Mendhar. The event, held at the Tehsil Office Complex Mankote, witnessed enthusiastic participation from locals of Mankote and adjoining villages.

The outreach initiative aimed to directly engage with the public, understand grassroots-level issues, and ensure prompt redressal. Officers present at the program included ADDC Poonch, PO ICDS, SDM Mendhar, ACP, ACD, Deputy Director Employment, Tehsildar Mankote, BDO Mankote and other senior officers from various line departments.



During the interactive session, residents projected a wide array of issues and demands pertaining to drinking water supply, banking services, road connectivity, construction of bunkers, education, healthcare, electricity and other essential public utilities. Addressing the gathering, the

DDC congratulated the officials, field staff and the community for the remarkable performance of Block Mankote, which recently secured 1st rank in Jammu Division and 9th position at the national level under the Aspirational Block Programme (ABP). He lauded the collective efforts

that led to this remarkable feat and emphasized the need to continue striving for better outcomes.

"Our focus is on addressing existing gaps in critical indicators like banking, health, water supply and other infrastructure. This outreach is an effort to listen directly from the people and take actionable steps to further improve our performance," the DDC stated.

DDC Vikas Kunal assured the residents that their grievances would be addressed on priority and reiterated the administration's commitment to improving service delivery and overall quality of life in the block.

The outreach program served as a meaningful platform for community engagement, policy feedback and collaborative development planning in one of the most dynamic blocks of the district.

District-Level NCORD meeting held at Udhampur

DC calls for strengthening of anti-drug measures

UDHAMPUR, JULY 08: Deputy Commissioner Saroni Rai chaired a meeting of the District-Level Committee under the Narco Co-ordination Centre to assess the implementation of drug control measures and their on ground impact.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Amod Ashok Nagpure, Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan and other officers from line departments.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on progress achieved in identification of individuals involved in illicit drug trade and investigations into the NDPS Act



cases. DC directed for freezing and attachment of financial assets of drug traffickers, action taken against pharmacies selling scheduled drugs without valid prescriptions, measures to curb illicit cultivation of narcotic crops, rehabilitation initiatives for victims of substance abuse, surveillance in educational

institutions and implementation of Nasha Mukh Panchayat campaign. The DC instructed stakeholder departments to scale up counselling services and IEC activities to raise public awareness, especially at the grassroots level. The identification and monitoring of drug abuse hotspots in the district.

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

