

# North in News

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## Shubhanshu Shukla Returns To Earth, Sets Tone For India's Human Spaceflight



NEW DELHI, Jul 15: With waves and smiles, Shubhanshu Shukla returned to Earth on Tuesday after an 18-day stay on the International Space Station, a feat that holds the promise to herald India's own human space-flight ambitions. The Lucknow-born Shukla

and three other astronauts of the private Axiom-4 mission splashed down in the Pacific Ocean off the San Diego coast in California in the pre-dawn darkness at 2:31 am Pacific Time (3:01 pm IST) amid cheers from the citizens of India, literally on the other side of the world.

### Shubhanshu Shukla's Feat Has Inspired A Billion Dreams: PM Modi

New Delhi, Jul 15: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that Shubhanshu Shukla has inspired a billion dreams with his dedication, courage and pioneering spirit, as the astronaut returned to the Earth after an 18-day stay at the International Space Station. Modi said on X, "I join the nation in welcoming Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla as he returns to Earth from his historic mission to Space." He lauded Shukla's feat, noting that he is the first Indian to have visited the International Space Station. The prime minister said it marks another milestone towards India's own human space flight mission - Gaganyaan. The Dragon 'Grace' spacecraft carrying Shukla and three others made a splash-down off San Diego coast in southern California on Tuesday, capping a 22.5-hour journey from space.



Shukla, a Group Captain in the Indian Air Force, became the second Indian to travel to space after Rakesh Sharma's 1984 sojourn as part of a Soviet Russian mission. He also scripted history by becoming the first Indian to travel to the International Space Station with the longest stint — 20 days — in orbit around the Earth. For India, Hungary and Poland, this mission has realised the return to human spaceflight, with astronauts from these countries travelling to space for the first time in more than 40 years. The Dragon Grace

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## Health & Education pillars of J&K's progress and prosperity: CM Omar Abdullah

CM inaugurates 120-bedded Additional Block at Bone & Joint Hospital, Srinagar

SRINAGAR, JULY 15: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated a 120-bedded state-of-the-art additional block at the Bone & Joint Hospital, Srinagar, reaffirming his government's firm commitment to strengthening the two foundational pillars of development—health and education. Post inauguration, the Chief Minister also took a round of the operation theatres, staircase, ramp and wards, and interacted with the hospital staff and faculty members. Addressing a large gathering on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that no amount of infrastructure development be it roads,



power projects, or commercial complexes—can substitute for quality healthcare and education. "Without robust schools, colleges, universities and hospitals, our progress as a society will remain incomplete," he stated. Recalling the rich legacy of the Bone & Joint Hospital, CM Omar said that the insti-

tution has faced extraordinary challenges over the past 30-35 years. "From natural disasters to tragic accidents, this hospital has stood as a symbol of resilience and commitment," he said. He reminisced about the 2014 floods, when floodwaters first breached the Bone

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## Modern tech changing people's lives, but be careful of its misuse: Prez Murmu to students



Cuttack: President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said advanced technologies have brought about a vast change in people's thinking and working style, but advised them to be careful about the misuse of in-

ventions like artificial intelligence and machine learning. Addressing the 13th annual convocation of Ravenshaw University here, Murmu said she was happy to note that the varsity was making good use of these

technologies. "This is the era of science and technology. Artificial intelligence, machine learning, 3D printing and cloud computing have brought about a vast change in our thinking and working style," she said. Murmu, however, "advised all to be careful about the misuse of these advanced technologies." Highlighting the rising academic performance of girl students — who topped 21 of 27 departments in the varsity this year — she said, "Over the last five years, girl students have consistently outperformed

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## Another Batch Of Pilgrims Leaves Jammu For Amarnath Shrine

Jammu, Jul 15: A fresh batch of 6,388 pilgrims left a base camp here early Tuesday to offer prayers at the Amarnath cave shrine in south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said. Over 2.25 lakh pilgrims have so far performed 'darshan' at the shrine since the start of the 38-day annual yatra, which commenced from the twin tracks of Pahalgam in Anantnag district and Batal in Ganderbal district on July 3. The yatra will conclude on August 9. Officials said the 14th batch

of 6,388 pilgrims, including 1,308 women, left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here in 248 vehicles between 3:25 am and 4:15 am, the officials said. The first pilgrim convoy, carrying 2,501 pilgrims in 103 vehicles, left for the shorter but steeper 14-km Batal route in Ganderbal district, followed by the second convoy of 3,887 pilgrims in 145 vehicles who are undertaking the yatra via the 48-km traditional Pahalgam route in Anantnag district, they said.

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## Seven Dead, 17 Injured As Passenger Vehicle Falls Into Gorge In J&K's Doda



### LG Manoj Sinha Condoles Loss Of Lives In J&K's Doda Accident

JAMMU, Jul 15: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has condoled the loss of lives in a tragic road accident in Ponda area of District Doda. In a condolence message, the Lieutenant Governor has said: "Pained by the loss of lives due to the tragic road accident in Doda. My heartfelt

(Contd On Pg 2)

Jammu, Jul 15: Seven people, including a woman and a minor girl, were killed and 17 were injured when an overloaded passenger vehicle veered off a hilly road and plunged into a deep gorge in Doda district of

Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, officials said. The accident took place on the Doda-Bharat road near Ponda, some 30 kms from Doda town, when the driver of a tempo traveller lost

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## BRIEF NEWS

### Delhi Court Reserves Order On Engineer Rashid's Plea To Attend Parliament

New Delhi, Jul 15: A Delhi court on Tuesday reserved its order on Lok Sabha MP Engineer Rashid's plea to attend the monsoon session of Parliament starting July 21. Additional sessions Judge Chanderjit Singh reserved the order for July 21 on the plea of the Baramulla MP seeking either interim bail or custody parole to carry out his duty as a parliamentarian. Custody parole entails a prisoner being escorted by armed police personnel to the plea. Rashid has been lodged in Tihar jail since 2019 after he was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the 2017 terror funding case. The Baramulla MP, who

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### Ladakh Administration Reopens Property Return Portal For Final Time Till July 30

Leh, July 14: The Ladakh administration has given a final chance to employees who missed the deadline to submit their Annual Property Returns (APR) for the year 2024. Officials said the PRS portal (https://chmsladakh.in) will remain open from July 15 to July 30, 2025, after several employees sought an extension. Authorities have made it clear that no further requests will be considered, and those failing to submit their APR within this period will be solely responsible for the non-submission.

## SC Refuses Premature Release Of Terror Convict, Asks Him To Challenge Remission Policy



New Delhi, Jul 15: The Supreme Court on Monday declined to order the premature release of Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, a convict in a triple murder case allegedly linked to a terrorist act. A bench comprising Justices Abhinandan Mani and Justice Bhat, however, allowed Bhat to challenge the remission policy of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir by filing an applica-

tion in another pending case. The bench heard Bhat's plea for early release on the ground that he had served 27 years in prison. While senior advocate Colin Gonsalves appeared for Bhat, additional solicitor general K M Nataraj represented the union territory. Bhat allegedly entered the residence of an Army informer and opened fire with an AK-47 rifle,

killing three persons. Explosive devices, including an Under Barrel Grenade Launcher grenade, were also reportedly recovered from the scene, the prosecution alleged. Nataraj submitted killing civilians for allegedly providing information to the Army amounted to a terrorist act and therefore Bhat was disentitled from availing benefits of premature release.

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## SCO Must Take 'Uncompromising' Position On Combating Terrorism: EAM Jaishankar

Tianjin (China), Jul 15: The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) needs to remain true to its founding objective of combating terrorism and extremism and take an "uncompromising" position on combating the challenges, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said at a conclave of the grouping on Tuesday while strongly justifying India's response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

With his counterparts from Pakistan, China and other SCO member nations listening, Jaishankar said the Pahalgam attack was "deliberately conducted" to undermine the tourism economy of Jammu and Kashmir and sow a religious divide, asserting that India will remain firm in its response to confront terrorism.



In an address at the SCO foreign ministers meeting in this Chinese city, Jaishankar said India will continue to positively approach new ideas and proposals, asserting that such coop-

eration must be based on "mutual respect", "sovereign equality" and in accordance with "territorial integrity and sovereignty" of member states. His remarks came against the back-

drop of growing global criticism of China's mega connectivity project — the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) — on the ground that it showed disregard for the sovereignty of the nations and lacked transparency.

The external affairs minister's comments calling for SCO to adopt an "uncompromising" position to combat terrorism amid some disquiet in New Delhi over Beijing's tacit support to Islamabad during Operation Sindoor as well as instances of China blocking efforts at the UN Security Council to sanction Pakistan-based terrorists. In his address, Jaishankar also flagged concerns over "conflicts, competition and coercion" as well as economic instability and underlined

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## Jitendra Singh Hails Shubhanshu Shukla's Return



Bengaluru, July 15: "Bharat has found an enduring space in the world of space," declared Union Minister of State for Science & Technology Dr Jitendra Singh, as he hailed the triumphant return of Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla from his landmark mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS). Celebrating the successful completion of the Axiom-4 mission, which splashed down off the coast of San Diego earlier today, Singh described it as "a moment of glory for India" and a proud occasion not just for the country but for the entire global scientific community. "It's a moment of pride for the whole world and a moment of glory for India, as one of our illustrious sons returns after accomplishing a successful voyage," the Minister told reporters. Singh emphasised the scientific value of the mission,

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## One Dead, 5 Injured In Separate Road Mishaps Along Jammu-Srinagar NH

SRINAGAR, Jul 15: One person died while five others injured including two Amarnath pilgrims after their vehicles met with an accident in two separate incidents along Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, officials said on Tuesday. The officials said that one person died while three others injured after a car they were travelling in collided with a crane working inside Banihal-Qazigund-Nayug Tunnel. The car was on way to Kashmir from Banihal, officials said. The officials identified the dead as Tariq Ahmad, son of Abdul Aziz Wani, resident of Harbar, Kaskoot Banihal. He was employee of Health department. However the injured have been shifted to sub-district hospital Banihal for treatment. In another road mishap, two Amarnath

(Contd On Pg 2)

## 2 NHAI Deputy Managers Among Five Arrested By CBI In Bribery Case

New Delhi, Jul 15: The CBI has arrested a member of the NHAI's Dispute Resolution Board and two deputy managers of the highways authority for allegedly taking bribes to favour a private infrastructure company, officials said Tuesday. The agency has arrested Rakesh Bhasin, a former engineer posted as DRB member, and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) Deputy Managers Swatantra Gaurav and Vikaswajet Singh over bribes of more than Rs 10 lakh related to a highway project in Jharkhand. The CBI has also arrested Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Bharat Vanijya Eastern Pvt Ltd (BVEPL), Manish Mishra, and his employee Umesh Mathur in the case. It is alleged that Di-neshchandra R Agarwal Infracore Pvt Ltd was awarded Rs 818 crore NHAI tender for four lanes of a highway in Jharkhand between Bhogus and Sankha. The company sublet the project to BVEPL.

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## FROM PAGE ONE

**Delhi...**

defeated Omar Abdullah in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, is facing trial in a terror funding case with allegations that he funded separatists and terror groups in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the NIA's FIR, Rashid's name cropped up during the interrogation of businessman and co-accused Zahoor Watali.

After being chargesheeted in October 2019, a special NIA court framed charges against Rashid and others in March 2022 under Sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 121 (waging war against the government), and 124A (sedition) of the Indian Penal Code and for offences relating to terrorist acts and terror funding under UAPA.

**One Dead...**

pilgrims were injured after the bus they were travelling in met with an accident inside Kela Morh Tunnel in Ramban district on Tuesday.

The officials said that the accident occurred when a bus bearing registration number JK02DD-5141 carrying Amarnath pilgrims lost its control and collided with side iron railing inside the Kela Morh Tunnel (T-1), resulting in minor injuries to two pilgrims. Meanwhile authorities have taken cognizance of both incidents.

**2 NHAI...**

private infra development firm, at the cost of Rs 769.36 crore.

A pivotal element of the alleged misconduct stems from a quality audit team, comprising Bhasin, Gaurav, and Singh, which undertook an assessment of the project's quality between June 26 and June 30, 2025, the CBI FIR alleged.

COO of BVEPL Mishra had directed his employee Mathur to deliver Rs 5 lakh to Bhasin and Rs 1 lakh to Singh to get favourable audit report, it alleged.

Later, Mishra asked another employee to deliver another tranche of bribe of Rs 5 lakh to Gaurav's friend as well, it said.

Mathur allegedly solicited a meeting with Bhasin in Jaipur, during which the latter agreed to accept pecuniary advantages of Rs 4 lakh for the favourable report, the FIR said. The CBI conducted an operation during which Bhasin, Gaurav, Singh, Mathur and Mishra were arrested, the officials said.

**Shubhanshu...**

spacecraft lifted off from Florida on June 25 and docked at the International Space Station on June 26 after a 28-hour journey.

Onboard the orbital laboratory, the Axiom-4 mission crew comprising Shukla, commander Peggy Whitson, and mission specialists Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski of Poland and Tibor Kapu of Hungary spent the next 18 days conducting 60 experiments and 20 outreach sessions.

Travelling at a speed of over 28,000 km per hour, the Dragon spacecraft, carrying the Axiom-4 crew members, executed a series of manoeuvres to gradually slow down and enter the Earth's atmosphere, braving intense heat before a splashdown in the Pacific Ocean.

Minutes later, the Dragon spacecraft was hauled up over SpaceX's recovery ship 'Shannon', where Shukla and the other astronauts emerged from the spacecraft, smiling and waving at the cameras.

The astronauts were helped by the ground staff to get on their feet as they adapted to gravity on Earth after experiencing weightless conditions during their 20-day trip.

Soon after Shukla returned from the space odyssey, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "I join the nation in welcoming Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla as he returns to Earth from his historic mission to Space." The astronaut's parents, who watched the splashdown in Lucknow, heaved a sigh of relief as their son returned to Earth. While Shukla's father, Shambhu Dayal Shukla, and mother Asha Devi wiped their tears, his sister, Suchi Misra, welcomed her brother's landing with moist eyes and folded hands.

"He has been to space and back, and we are all over the moon because this mission has its own importance for the country's Gaganyaan programme," Shambhu Dayal Shukla said.

ISRO had invested Rs 550 crore for the spaceflight, and the learnings from the mission are expected to help India fulfil its own human spaceflight ambitions – the Gaganyaan project, which is eyeing a 2027 lift-off.

The prime minister said that as India's first astronaut to have visited the International Space Station, Shukla has inspired a billion dreams through his dedication, courage and pioneering spirit.

"It marks another milestone towards our own Human Space Flight Mission – Gaganyaan," Modi said in a post on X. The Axiom-4 crew underwent a series of medical checks on board the ship before boarding a helicopter for a ride back to the shore.

The four astronauts are expected to spend seven days in rehabilitation as they adjust back to life on Earth under the influence of gravity, unlike the weightlessness experienced in orbit.

ISRO said Shukla has successfully completed all seven microgravity experiments and other planned activities, achieving a significant milestone in the Axiom-4 mission.

It said that experiments on the Indian strain of Tardigrades, Myogenesis, sprouting of methi and mango seeds,

cyanobacteria, microalgae, crop seeds and Voyager Display have been completed as planned.

**Health...**

& Joint Hospital. "I vividly remember standing under this bridge, trying to protect the hospital from being overrun. Despite the devastation, this hospital never turned its back on people-it continued to provide treatment," he said.

The Chief Minister also referred to the 2022 fire that destroyed major sections of the hospital, including four operation theatres, referral rooms, teaching areas, and multiple wards. "Even without a roof for six months, our doctors and administrators resumed surgeries within days. Their dedication is commendable," he added.

Highlighting the vision of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, who had inaugurated the hospital in May 1982, the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed pride in carrying that vision forward. "Today, we are opening a new chapter in the hospital's journey-one that will serve not just Srinagar, but patients from every corner of the Valley, and even from Chenab, Pir Panjal, and Kargil," he said.

Sharing a personal anecdote, CM Omar revealed that he, too, had been a patient at the hospital following a cycling accident five years after its inauguration. "Thanks to the skill of the surgeons here, I can still run 10-12 kilometers at the age of 55. That's the quality of care this hospital provides," he remarked.

The Chief Minister emphasized the urgent need for staffing in the newly inaugurated facility and directed concerned departments to expedite the creation of required posts. "We didn't cut this ribbon for a photo opportunity. It will only be meaningful when these beds are occupied, OTs are functional, and our faculty is teaching future doctors," he asserted.

As Minister for Housing & Urban Development, Omar Abdullah also announced a special survey to identify water-logging hotspots in Srinagar. He said a comprehensive project will be framed to address the issue, drain by drain, to make Srinagar a true smart city.

He further assured that two to three major infrastructure projects will soon be launched to ease traffic congestion in the city.

The Chief Minister extended his congratulations to the Principal of Government Medical College Srinagar, faculty members, doctors, staff, and administration of Bone and Joint Hospital. "This hospital is not just a building-it's a beacon of hope and healing. Together, we will ensure it continues to serve generations to come," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary reaffirmed that the mission and vision laid down by Sher-e-Kashmir will continue with renewed focus and energy under the able leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

Minister for Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, in her address, said that following the formation of the present government under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, the Bone & Joint Hospital project has witnessed significant progress and was successfully completed.

She further emphasized that medical care facilities across Jammu and Kashmir are being continuously upgraded. "From MRI facilities to Cath Labs and other advanced diagnostic and treatment services, our aim is to provide world-class healthcare through our Government Medical Colleges and associated hospitals," she said.

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Pardesi, and Secretary Health & Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah also addressed the gathering, lauding the efforts of the administration and healthcare workers involved in the project.

The event was attended by several legislators from across Kashmir, Principal GMC Srinagar Dr. Ifat Hassan, Medical Superintendent Bone & Joint Hospital, senior faculty members, doctors and a large number of citizens.

**Modern...**

boys in academics at the institute. At the post-graduate level, the number of girl students who topped was more than three-and-a-half times that of the boys. This reflects India was moving from women empowerment to women-led development."

She also expressed satisfaction over the university's steady increase in enrolment of tribal students, and underprivileged and 'divyang' students. Calling upon the graduating students to be more sincere and hardworking in future, Murmu said: "From today onwards, your life will take a new turn. You will move out of the academic university and step into a bigger university of life and society. I hope you will also achieve success and laurels in the university of life and society."

The President said the educational institution was an active centre of the freedom struggle, and associated with the movement for the formation of the state of Odisha. She also stressed the importance of entrepreneurship and societal contribution by not only getting a job, but providing jobs to others as well. "If you desire, you can become entrepreneurs and set up your own ventures," Murmu told the students.

"The sense of nation first is our biggest strength. Our soldiers, farmers, scientists, engineers, doctors and people active in various fields are working with the sentiment of increasing the pride of India," she said. During the occasion, Murmu also conferred honorary degrees on four noted personalities

in recognition of their contributions to different fields. Later, she laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of three buildings of Ravenshaw Girls' High School in Cuttack.

In her brief remarks on the occasion, Murmu said during various convocation ceremonies, she noted that girls perform better when given equal facilities and opportunities. She highlighted that women are contributing actively in every field - be it education and literature or science, technology, industry and commerce. In the afternoon, the President attended the birth anniversary celebrations of Adikabi Sarala Das and presented the Kalinga Ratna Award-2024 to Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan. She also presented the literary award, 'Sarala Samman' to Bijaya Nayak. "Our diversity is like a rainbow. Our unity has been very strong for ages. We have many languages, but the sentiment is one. The world remains amazed at how India remains united and integrated amidst so many languages and so many religions," she said. Stating that Indian languages have contributed immensely in enriching its educational tradition, Murmu said, "It is a matter of happiness that in the National Education Policy 2020, emphasis has been laid on imparting education in the mother tongue." The President returned to New Delhi in the evening after completing her two-day visit to Odisha.

**Another...**

With this, a total of 95,439 pilgrims have departed from the Jammu base camp for the valley since July 2, when Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first batch.

**Seven...**

control while negotiating a blind curve around 9 am, they said.

Mohammad Ashraf (35), Mangta Wani (51), Atta Mohamed (33), Talib Hussain (35), and Rafeeqa Begum (60) were declared brought dead at Government Medical College Hospital, Doda, while five-year-old Uzma Jan and Shakur Din (30) succumbed to injuries at a hospital in Jammu, the officials said.

Seventeen persons were shifted to hospital by rescuers, and the condition of some of them was stated to be critical, the officials said.

Locals rushed to the scene soon after the vehicle fell into the gorge and were later joined by police and other security agencies' personnel.

"The vehicle, which was on the way to Doda, was overloaded and a cognizance has been taken," Deputy Commissioner, Doda, Harvinder Singh told reporters.

He assured adequate relief measures as per the rules to the families of the deceased and best possible treatment to the injured.

J-K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and Democratic Progressive Azad Party president Ghulam Nabi Azad have condoned the loss of lives in the tragic accident.

In a condolence message, the Lt Governor has said, "Pained by the loss of lives due to tragic road accident in Doda. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of grief. Praying for a speedy recovery of the injured." In a post on X, the office of the Chief Minister said "...the administration has been directed to ensure immediate medical assistance and support to all affected." The Chief Minister extends heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prays for the speedy recovery of the injured.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh said he spoke to Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh upon receiving the information about the accident.

"All possible help and medical aid being provided. DC is personally supervising the entire exercise and giving me regular updates. Any further assistance, as required, will also be provided," Singh said in a post on X. He expressed condolences to the families of the deceased.

Meanwhile, three other road accidents in Doda and Ramban districts claimed one life and left four others injured on Tuesday.

One person was killed when his vehicle collided with another vehicle inside a tunnel in Banihal along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Ramban district, the officials said.

A couple was injured when a private SUV turned turtle at Bhagwa village of Doda, while two persons were injured when a bus carrying Amarnath pilgrims hit an iron railing inside Kela Morh tunnel in Ramban, the officials said.

**LG Manoj...**

condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of grief. Praying for a speedy recovery of the injured."

**SC Refuses...**

continued, "Even if TADA was not invoked during trial, that doesn't automatically disentitle the court from assessing the true nature of the offence for the purposes of remission." Gonsalves, however, argued Bhat was convicted only under Section 302 IPC (murder) and the Arms Act, and not under any anti-terror legislation TADA.

"Nothing was proved in court to attract the provisions of TADA. The trial court or the high court never found it to be a terrorist act," he said, citing precedents of similarly-situated convicts who were granted premature release.

The bench remained unconvinced and added, "We tentatively agree that the act appears aimed at sending a message

that those who cooperate with authorities will face lethal consequences. We cannot turn a blind eye to such implications." When the counsel for Bhat referred to other premature release cases, the bench noted the absence of a comparable remission policy.

"We don't have the remission policy before us. Without it, how can we draw analogies?" it asked. Gonsalves then sought liberty to challenge the J&K remission policy within the ongoing proceedings.

The bench allowed him to file an interim plea in a pending matter challenging the same policy.

**Jitendra...**

noting that Shukla had conducted "some of the very vital life-bearing experiments never done before," marking a significant contribution to future space exploration and biomedical advancements.

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, India's second astronaut in space and the first to visit the ISS, spent over two weeks conducting research as part of the Axiom-4 commercial mission — a collaboration between ISRO, SpaceX, NASA, and private partners.

Dr Singh congratulated the mission team and reaffirmed India's resolve to further strengthen its position as a key player in space science and technology.

**SCO...**

the need to stabilise the global order and address longstanding challenges that "threaten our collective interests".

The major focus of the external affairs minister's address was his call to effectively deal with terrorism.

Jaishankar said the UN Security Council condemned the attack and underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of the reprehensible act and bring them to justice.

The external affairs minister said India has done "exactly that" and it will continue doing so.

"The three evils that SCO was founded to combat were terrorism, separatism and extremism. Not surprisingly, they often occur together. Recently, we in India witnessed a graphic example in the terrorist attack in Pahalgalam on April 22," Jaishankar said.

"The UN Security Council, of which some of us are currently members, issued a statement that condemned it in the strongest terms and 'underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of this reprehensible act of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice'," he said. "We have since done exactly that and will continue doing so. It is imperative that the SCO, to remain true to its founding objectives, take an uncompromising position on this challenge," he said.

The external affairs minister also listed India's initiatives in the SCO in various domains ranging from startup and innovation to traditional medicine and digital public infrastructure.

"We will continue to positively approach new ideas and proposals that are genuinely for our collective good," he said.

"It is essential that such cooperation is based on mutual respect, sovereign equality and in accordance with territorial integrity and sovereignty of member states," he asserted. Delving into the current geopolitical situation, Jaishankar called for concerted efforts to deal with the challenges. "We meet at a time of considerable disorder in the international system. In the last few years, we have seen more conflicts, competition and coercion," he said.

"Economic instability is also visible on the rise. The challenge before us is to stabilise the global order, de-risk various dimensions and through it all, address longstanding challenges that threaten our collective interests," he added.

Jaishankar argued that the SCO's ability to contribute to the shaping of world affairs will naturally depend on how well it comes together on a shared agenda. "That means taking everybody on board." "The world is today moving towards greater multi-polarity. This is not just in terms of redistribution of national capacities, but also the emergence of effective groupings like SCO," he said.

The external affairs minister urged the grouping to step up development assistance to Afghanistan.

"Afghanistan has been long on the SCO agenda. The compulsions of regional stability are buttressed by our longstanding concern for the well-being of the Afghan people," he said.

"The international community, particularly SCO members, must therefore step up with development assistance. India, for its part, will certainly do so," he noted.

Jaishankar also called for improving transit facilities as well as connectivity among SCO member states.

"Deepening collaboration within the SCO naturally requires more trade, investment and exchanges. For that to move to the next level, it is imperative that we address some current issues," he observed.

"One of them is the lack of assured transit within the SCO space. Its absence undermines the seriousness of advocating cooperation in economic areas. Another is to ensure the promotion of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)," he said.

"We are confident that it will continue to gather momentum," he added.

The INSTC is a 7,200-km-long multi-mode transport project for moving freight among India, Iran, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia and Europe. India has been supporting the project.



## Satish Sharma reviews functioning of State Motor Garages

SRINAGAR, JULY 15: Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, IT, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma today conducted a comprehensive review of functioning of the State Motor Garages (SMG) Department during his visit to the Directorate at Bemina here today.

Director State Motor Garages, Malik Tahir and other senior officers were present.

During his visit, the Minister inspected the workshop and office premises, interacted with the employees and took stock of the facilities and operational requirements.

Raising concern over the shortage of drivers, the Minister directed for deputing the necessary staff from other departments to ensure uninterrupted functioning.

He emphasized the need to strengthen the workforce to improve service delivery.



The Minister also inspected the workshop area, taking feedback about the repair and maintenance procedures. He instructed the officials to expedite the auctioning of obsolete parts and initiate the process for disposing off condemned vehicles lying idle in the premises.

Satish Sharma also reviewed the status of the Car Policy 2015, which has remained pending for revision

for the last two years. He called for immediate steps to update and revise the policy in line with the present requirements and departmental needs.

It was informed during the meeting that 581 vehicles have been allotted to different government officers. The Minister asked for a detailed audit and review of these allotments to ensure transparency and accountability.

## CS, Secretary MoTA review tribal development measures in J&K

SRINAGAR, JULY 15: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo together with Secretary, Union Ministry for Tribal Affairs (MoTA), Vibhu Nayyar today held detailed deliberations over implementation of the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA) and Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan aimed at tribal welfare and development in J&K.

The meeting besides the Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department was participated by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Planning and Tourism Departments; Principal Secretaries of Power Development, Public Works and Finance Departments; Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs; Secretary, School Education Department; Director General, Budget and other senior officers of the UT administration.



The Deputy Commissioners joined the session via video conferencing. During the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need for building capacity among local officers and community resource persons to strengthen last-mile delivery of services, ensuring participatory governance in tribal areas. He called upon the officers to remain grounded and engage closely with the communities, resolving local issues through a coordinated

approach with the concerned departments. Highlighting the importance of empowered human resources, Dulloo directed the ACS Planning to identify the capable resource persons across departments who could be trained as master trainers. These trainers, he said, would further build capacities at district and block levels, thereby institutionalizing an effective implementation mechanism across the UT. The Union Secretary, in his remarks, reiterated the Ministry's steadfast support to the UT administration in achieving saturation of welfare services in tribal areas. He informed the participants that a cumulative outlay of Rs 2.5 crore has been earmarked nationally under various schemes for upliftment of tribal communities. He said that efficient utilization of these funds could significantly transform the socio-economic landscape of tribal areas.

Nayar further advocated for a focused, village-centric strategy rooted in inter-de-

partmental collaboration. He recommended establishing single-window centres in tribal villages to serve as grievance redressal points, provide scheme information and act as touch points for direct community engagement. Stressing on ownership, accountability and fast-track service delivery, he emphasized the importance of grooming a cadre of empowered trainers at each level of administration. Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, Prasanna Ramaswamy G, apprised the meeting of the progress made in J&K under DA-JGUA. He informed that a comprehensive gap analysis for all selected tribal villages has been completed and subsequently ratified by respective Gram Sabhas through the Deputy Commissioners.

## Bhumesh Sharma flags off farmers for field visit; pushes for adopting modern agriculture practices

SRINAGAR, JULY 15: Secretary J&K Advisory Board for Development of Kisans, Bhumesh Sharma, accompanied by Director Horticulture, Kashmir, Vikas Anand, today flagged off 40 progressive farmers from Horticulture sector for one day field visit cum training on "Best Field Practices".

The event, with a focus on "How to double the income of farmers", was organised in collaboration with the Directorate of Extension Education Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Science and Technology (SKUAST) Kashmir. Bhumesh Sharma highlighted the importance of such exposure programmes for the farmers. He in-



formed that the Board plays a crucial role in introducing the farmers of J&K with the latest research work and best field practices devised by the scientists and technocrats at SKUAST-Kash-

mir. He emphasised the need to acquaint the farmers with the modern agriculture technology so that they succeed in doubling their income, contributing towards sus-

tainable agriculture development in Jammu and Kashmir. The Secretary advised the farmers to optimally utilize initiatives of the government and take full advantage of schemes available under HADP in agriculture, Horticulture, fisheries, Sericulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry and Sericulture. He asked the farmers to adopt integrated farming in their fields which will enable them to double their farm income. He informed that more than 90% population of Jammu and Kashmir is directly or indirectly involved with Agriculture and with the growth of population land has got fragmented and now on an average each family

has land holdings ranging from 10 to 20 kanals. Hence there is a need to adopt multi cropping and integrating farming approach. Besides, we should explore better marketing for our surplus crops, he added. Director Horticulture Kashmir appreciated the initiatives of Kisan Advisory Board for organizing such Kisan friendly awareness programmes. He exhorted upon the farmers to take full advantage of this one-day visit cum training programme. During the flag off ceremony, Chief Horticulture Officer, Srinagar, District SMS along with Assistant Director Horticulture were also present.

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

Jammu, 15 July 2025: Dr. Narinder Singh, BJP National Secretary and MLA from Rura-Jammu South Assembly Constituency, and Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, MLA from Bishnah Assembly Constituency, held a Public Darbar at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Public Darbar witnessed a large number of deputations from different parts of Jammu region, who came forward to share their pressing issues and long-pending demands. Various deputations raised specific local demands. A deputation from Kakku De Kothe requested the installation of an irrigation tubewell to support agricultural needs. Residents from Last Morh, Gandhi Nagar demanded the upgradation and



blacktopping of the existing road. A group from Arnia expressed deep concern over the non-payment of wages to casual laborers, pending for over five years. Citizens from Shiv Nagar, Jogian Da Mohalla, appealed for the immediate relocation of a dumping site currently located near a Gurudwara Sahib, a primary school, and a local temple. Residents from Gangyal demanded the construction and repair of the SICO

road connecting Coca-Cola Factory to the police station. People from Ajit Nagar highlighted acute water shortage due to leaking pipelines and requested repair work along with drain clearance and bathing ghats included. Additional requests included streetlight installation in Adarsh Enclave, drain construction in Gadi-garh near Reen Palace, re-fixing of tilted electric poles in Sant Nagar, and operationalization.

## District Development Council Kupwara convenes review meeting of District Capex Budget 2025-26

Approved outlay stands at Rs. 109 crore. 1874 works under execution

KUPWARA, JULY 15: Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Kupwara, Irfan Sultan Panditpori today chaired the council meeting in the meeting hall of DC office Complex here to review the progress of various developmental projects under District CAPEX Budget 2025-26. Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan; Vice-Chairman, District Development Council, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir; CEO District Development Council, Mufti Fareed ud din; Members of District Development Council, besides, district and sectoral officers attended the meeting.

At the outset, Chief Planning Officer Kupwara, presented a detailed overview of the ongoing projects under District CAPEX Budget 2025-26 including sectors like Minor Irrigation, R&B, Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Youth Services & Sports, Health, PHE, NFB, United Grants, ADF (DDC/BDC/PRIs grants) and Samridh Seema Yojna.

The meeting was informed that total approved outlay for 2025-26 involves Rs.10908 lakh, and funds released as on date is Rs.3007 lakh for execution of 1874 ongoing works. Chairman took a detailed re-

view of the physical and financial status of works taken up under the District Capex schemes and other sectors.

During the meeting, council members projected various demands concerning their respective constituencies including shortage of BDOs in different blocks. After reviewing the sector wise progress of the works, Chairman impressed upon all departments to expedite the process of tendering, allotments and speed up the pace of development projects, keeping in mind the limited working season and ensure completion of projects so that all targets.

## J&K clinches Gold at National ODOP Awards 2024 for second consecutive year

NEW DELHI, JULY 15: In a momentous occasion, Jammu and Kashmir has been awarded the Gold medal in the States (Category B) at the National One Product (ODOP) Awards 2024. This prestigious ceremony was held at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, marking the second consecutive year that J&K has received this esteemed honour for its outstanding efforts in advancing the ODOP initiative. The event, which celebrated India's vibrant cultural heritage, rich diversity, traditional craftsmanship and entrepreneurial excellence, saw an overwhelming re-



sponse with 641 applications from 587 districts, 31 States/UTs and 23 Indian Missions Abroad. Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce and Sudeshan Kumar, Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), received the

award on behalf of the J&K government. JKPTPO, as the nodal agency for ODOP in the region, has played a pivotal role in promoting the local ODOP products, showcasing a strong commitment to the initiative. In addition to J&K's Gold medal, Pulwama district re-

ceived the Silver medal in Category A (Agriculture) while Ganderbal district was honored with the Silver medal in Category B (Non-Agriculture). Dr. Basharat Qayoom, Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama and Jatin Kishore, Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal, accepted the awards on behalf of their districts. The ODOP National Awards recognized excellence across various categories, including Districts Awards (Agriculture), Districts Awards (Non-Agriculture), States (Category A), States (Category B) and Missions Abroad. The ceremony celebrated

India's progress towards self-reliance, with J&K exemplifying excellence in advancing the ODOP initiative. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary's visionary leadership has been instrumental in J&K's success, demonstrating a deep commitment to the region's economic and cultural development. Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, congratulated the awardees and urged them to continue promoting ODOP products, benefiting the local weavers, artisans and farmers.

## DC Srinagar reviews progress of construction of Panchayat Ghars

Directs timely completion to facilitate rural population

SRINAGAR, JULY 15: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Tuesday chaired a meeting at Meeting Hall of the DC office here to review the current status of construction of Panchayat Ghars in the district. At the outset, DC took a block wise review on the progress of works on the construction of the Panchayat Ghars.

Speaking on the occasion, DC directed the Block Development Officers, Executive agencies & the concerned Tehsildar to have synergetic coordination to



resolve any teething issues on ground and ensure timely completion of all the sanctioned Panchayat Ghars. He also directed them to resolve land issues, if any, regarding the construction of Pan-

chayat Ghars to ensure timely project completion. While highlighting the significance of the Panchayat Ghars, DC said that the initiative is a part of broader efforts to empower and fa-

cilitate rural population by strengthening local self-governance, enhancing rural administration, and ensuring better service delivery to residents.

DC was apprised that out of 10 Panchayat Ghars sanctioned in 2023-24, construction of 4 Panchayat Ghars have been completed and work on 3 Panchayat Ghars is going on while land has been identified for the remaining 3 Panchayat Ghars. It was also informed that 3 additional Panchayat Ghars have been sanctioned for the year 2024-25 including 2 in Harwan block and one in

Srinagar Block. The work is in progress for construction of the Panchayat Ghar at Theed-A in Harwan Block, while land is being identified for the remaining 2 Panchayat Ghars on fast track basis. Chief Planning officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Assistant commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar; Tehsildars of Panthachowk, North, Shaleng, Block Development Officers of Harwan, Khomoh, Srinagar and Qamarwari, Executive Engineer REW and other concerned were present in the meeting.

## DC Bandipora kick-starts provincial level Inter district Handball competition

BANDIPORA, JULY 15: A week-long inter-district provincial level Handball competition (AAG Boys) formally commenced on Tuesday at S.K. Stadium Bandipora. The event was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, who graced the occasion as the chief guest.

Organized by the Youth Services and Sports Bandipora, the competition is being held from 15th to 20th July 2025 and features teams from across various districts of Kashmir. Participants will compete in three age categories viz. 14, 17, and 19 years, showcasing talent



and team spirit in the discipline of Handball. Speaking at the inaugural function, DC lauded the efforts of the department for providing such platforms for young athletes to display their potential. He emphasized the importance of sports in shaping the overall personality and career of the

youth. On the occasion, District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) said that the event is expected to witness a large turnout of players, officials, and sports enthusiasts throughout the week, making it one of the most significant youth sports gatherings in the district.

# DC Budgam reviews Health Sector performance

***Stresses on Infrastructure, Services & Quality health service management***

BUDGAM, JULY 15: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, who is also the Chairman of the District Health Society Budgam conducted an extensive review of the health sector performance in the district today.

CMO Budgam, Dr. Gulzar Ahmad presented the significant strides made in health-care service delivery, infrastructure development, national health program implementation, and quality improvement initiatives. The key achievements and initiatives included Tuberculosis elimination efforts in district Budgam, which has made substantial progress

under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP), with targeted reductions in TB incidence and mortality rates. It was informed that under National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) & Kayakalp Award, 10 Health Facilities (03 CHCs and 07 SC-AAM) were nationally certified under NQAS for exemplary healthcare quality. 25 SC-AAM facilities were state-certified for 2025-26, securing 1st rank across the UT of J&K. Similarly under Kayakalp, aimed at promoting cleanliness and hygiene, 24 facilities were awarded Rs.31.75 lakh in 2023-24, highest in Kashmir division, while 29

facilities earned Rs.14.25 lakh in 2024-25 and under Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure, there is 100% conversion of 198 PHCs and sub-centres into Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAM), under PMJAY-SEHAT, 100% family registration (1.57 lakh families) has been achieved.

A total of 5.25 lakh beneficiaries have been enrolled; over Rs.12.9 crore has been spent on 22,540 treatments through 13 empanelled hospitals.

CMO informed that district Budgam has issued the highest number of Vay Vandana Cards for senior citizens (70+) in J&K, ensuring extended financial cover un-



der PM-JAY. Under Digital Health Initiatives, Sub-District Hospital Nigam ranked 1st in J&K under the HMIS (e-Sahaj) platform. He said the district has shown outstanding performance under IDSP, particularly in outbreak management and real-time surveillance. Progress under

NCD, Mental Health, Tobacco Control, Dialysis, Cancer Screening, NPCBVI, and e-Sanjeevani was also acknowledged. CMO briefed the chair that District Early Intervention Centre at DH Budgam is functional under RBSK. Under Infrastructure Development, 125-bedded Dis-

trict Hospital Budgam and 100-bedded Critical Care Block under ABHM are under construction. He informed that multiple projects are underway under UT Capex, District Capex, NABARD, District Mineral Fund, and Languishing Projects. On the occasion, DC com-

mended the department of Health for its outstanding performance and called for a sustained push toward quality healthcare delivery, digital transformation, preventive health awareness, and time-bound completion of infrastructure projects. He said that the district's achievements under national health programs-particularly Ayushman Bharat, Kayakalp, NQAS, and e-Sanjeevani demonstrate Budgam's capability to implement reforms effectively at the grassroots level. Dr. Bilal stressed the need to ensure universal health coverage, especially for marginalized and remote populations, strengthen real-time

disease surveillance systems to enhance emergency preparedness, and promote community-based health education focusing on nutrition, hygiene, maternal care, and lifestyle diseases. DC directed to accelerate construction and operationalization of upcoming health infrastructure like the District Hospital and Critical Care Block. He directed for leveraging technology and telemedicine to reduce referral load and improve specialist consultations at the block level. DC said, "Healthcare must reach the last mile, and it must be accessible, accountable, and affordable for all. Budgam

## 3rd qtrly. UTRC meeting held at Budgam Chairman DLSA emphasizes vital role of UTRC meetings in strengthening criminal justice system, protecting fundamental rights of UTPs

BUDGAM, JULY 15: As per the Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) meeting schedule issued by NALSA for the year 2025, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam, under the Aegis of the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority today convened its 3rd quarterly UTRC meeting at conference hall ADR centre District Court, Budgam.

The meeting was chaired by O.P. Bhagat, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman, DLSA) Budgam, who brought together key stakeholders from the judiciary, police, administration, and medical fraternity to address the significant issue of ensuring fair and expedited trials for under trial prisoners. This



collaborative forum underscores the importance of a collective approach in safeguarding the rights of individuals awaiting trial.

Six cases involving under trial prisoners were meticulously reviewed. Each case underwent thorough discussion and de-

liberation to understand the specific circumstances. The committee formulated recommendations aimed at streamlining the judicial process and upholding principles of equity and justice.

Chairman DLSA emphasized the vital role of UTRC meetings in strengthening the criminal justice system and protecting the fundamental rights of under trial prisoners (UTPs). He stressed on the importance of ongoing initiatives to ensure a fair and efficient legal process, promoting justice and transparency.

The meeting was attended by Nurati Ali Hakak, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Budgam; Mehraj Ud Din Shah, Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam; Sajjad

Bukhari, Additional Superintendent Police, Budgam; Shahbaz Hussain, Dy SP Central Jail Srinagar; Rajeev Kumar, Public Prosecutor, Budgam; Dr. Zeenat Hussain, Senior, Medical Officer, Central Jail Srinagar; Lateef Ahmad Khan (Chief LADC); Nazir Ahmed Wagay and Javid Ahmed Mir (Deputy LADCs) and Zahoor Ahmad Malik, Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel, DLSA Budgam.

DLSA Budgam remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring fair and speedy trials for under trial prisoners. The UTRC meetings serve as a crucial mechanism in this endeavor, contributing significantly to a more equitable and efficient legal system.

## Horticulture deptt Anantnag organises awareness/training programme for farmers at Kokernag

ANANTNAG, JULY 15: Horticulture department Anantnag today organized an awareness-cum-training programme for horticulture farmers at Kokernag under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from farmers across the district. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Horticulture Officer Anantnag, R.K. Pangotra, assured the farmers that all their horticulture-related concerns would be addressed on priority. He encouraged them to actively participate in government schemes and fully benefit from the support being extended under HADP.

Horticulture Development Officer Kokernag, gave a detailed overview of the ongoing initiatives and activi-



ties being implemented under HADP in the Kokernag area. He highlighted the department's efforts to uplift the horticulture sector and improve farmers' income. District Horticulture Officer Anantnag, and Subject Matter Specialist also addressed

the gathering. They spoke extensively about modern horticulture practices, crop management techniques, and the need for scientific intervention to boost productivity and ensure sustainable horticulture growth.

## Week-long FDP on 'Emerging Research Trends in Science' commences at GCW Srinagar

SRINAGAR, JULY 15: The week-long Faculty Development Programme (FDP) titled 'Emerging Research Trends in Science' organized by Government College for Women (GCW), M.A. Road, Srinagar commenced here today.

Director Colleges, Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir was the Chief Guest at the inaugural function held at the college's auditorium. Nodal Principal (Kashmir) who also serves as Dean Academic Affairs, Cluster University Srinagar (CUS), Prof. Seema Naz; Registrar CUS, Prof. Wilayat Hussain Rizvi; Principal Amar Singh College, Prof. Ajiaz Ahmed Hakak and Principal AAM College, Bemina, Prof. Mudassar Afshan were also present on the occasion. In his keynote address, Director Colleges appreciated the initiative of the college to organize the FDP on a rel-



evant theme. Addressing the young faculty members, Prof. Ajaz said, "You should think how you want to spend your years of active service. Emoluments will come to you. But what is important is what is going to be your contribution to higher education. Take ownership of the college. Don't be in a college on the basis of biometric attendance. Be there on the basis of your engagement with the students. It should be a mentor-

mentee kind of mechanism. It should not be a monologue." Referring to the overwhelming response of students for the ongoing admission process in colleges, Prof. Ajaz said, "We have been able to register 54,000 students for admissions this year and we should understand how big a change they can bring if we stand by their side."

He referred to the ensuing academic session and the

challenge of rolling out the fourth year of the UG programme under NEP-2020 with two clear-research and honors-verticals. Director Colleges also assured the faculty that the placement cases are being resolved on fast track cases. "This month we are going to launch an online portal for these placements. Now nobody has to come to directorate of colleges. You have to apply online for the placement and your cases will be moved to technical committee twice in a year and thereby to DPC," he added.

In her address, Nodal Principal (Kashmir), Prof. Seema Naz also referred to the crucial fourth year of the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme under NEP-2020 from the ensuing session. "For the first time in the colleges, we have to go for the research vertical and

we are all deliberating on how we will execute it in our institutions though no doubt it is a big challenge. When we talk about implementing anything, we not only have to make our students aware, but more importantly the faculty members should be aware about the nuances and then only they can mentor the students in the right manner," Prof. Seema said.

Referring to the theme of the FDP in this backdrop, she said, "I think this is a very good platform and a time to talk about the research trends in science. This college is a premier college and has always been known for conducting programs on pertinent themes. I think this program is an effort in the same direction. I congratulate the principal and staff and I hope meaningful deliberations happen throughout this one week

## Awareness programme/ debate, painting competition on drug abuse held at Kulgam

KULGAM, JULY 15: In order to educate participants on drug menace, an awareness programme cum debate and painting competition on drug abuse was today held at Rest House Chawalgam Kulgam. The event, held pursuant to the directions of Chairperson DLSA Kulgam, Aijaz Ahmad Khan, was organized by District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kulgam in collaboration with The Noble Helping Hands NGO. Students from different educational institutions (Private and Government) ensured their participation in the mega competition, besides faculty members from as many as 12 educational institutes functioning/working within district Kulgam also attended the event. During the programme, brilliant speak-

ers and painters through their oratorship and paintings beautifully put across a message for drug eradication respectively. Secretary DLSA Kulgam, Fozia Paul supervised the programme, which was moderated by LADCs. The event featured a vibrant array of activities, beginning with a thought-provoking debate where students showcased their public speaking abilities and knowledge of the impact of drug abuse on society. Participants engaged in a spirited exchange of ideas, emphasizing the need for awareness, prevention, and community involvement.

The painting competition allowed students to express their interpretations of the theme of drug abuse through their artwork. The creative pieces represented emotional

perspectives and powerful messages aimed at promoting drug awareness and prevention among their peers.

Winners of both competitions were recognized for their exemplary performances, receiving prizes. Furthermore, all participants were awarded with appreciation certificates, honoring their commitment and effort in addressing such a significant issue within their communities. The event aimed not only to recognize talent but also to foster a collective sense of responsibility towards the fight against drug abuse. The event served as a reminder of the vital role that education and community engagement play in combating drug abuse. The event ended with the slogan: No to Drugs, yes to Education.

## DC Srinagar chairs DLSCC meeting on processing of SRO-43, relief cases for terror victims

SRINAGAR, JULY 15: A meeting of District Level Screening cum Coordination Committee (DLSCC) regarding processing of SRO-43 and relief cases of terror victims of the district was Tuesday held under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo in his office chamber here. The meeting was held to ensure speedy processing and resolution of SRO-43 cases, relief cases and resolution of grievances pertaining to terror affected families across the district. At the outset, Deputy Commissioner who is also chairman DLSCC reviewed the cases/claims submitted under SRO-43 by NoKs of those killed in terror related incidents in Srinagar district. A total of 50 cases were put up for examination in

the meeting and were discussed in detail. On the occasion, DC underscored the importance of a proactive and coordinated approach among all stakeholders to ensure that affected families receive timely justice and support. He further stressed the need to complete all necessary formalities and verifications on priority, enabling the swift processing of the cases in the district. The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Adil Fareed; SP headquarter, Umer Shah; Additional SP, CID, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, District Social Welfare Officer, all Tehsildars, senior officers from BSF, Army, and other security agencies, besides officials from the concerned departments.

## V.C SKUAST-K chairs 3rd Scientific Advisory Committee meetings of KVKs Kulgam, Shopian

KULGAM, JULY 15: Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir, Professor Nazir Ahmad Ganai, today visited KVK Kulgam where he chaired 3rd scientific advisory committee meetings of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) of Kulgam and Shopian.

Director Extension SKUAST-Kashmir, Professor Raihana H Kanth and Additional Deputy Commissioner, Vikar Ahmad Giri were the guests of honour on the occasion.

Vice-Chancellor appreciated the work done by both the KVKs for uplifting the income of farmers, and applauded the champion cum



innovative farmers for setting the example for other farmers in commercializing agriculture by adopting the advanced technologies. He also focused on the need of adopting the latest tech-

nology by KVKs to transform the KVKs into model agricultural farms. He encouraged evaluation of natural farming at every KVK as a deterrent to changing climate scenarios

and intense pesticide use. Director Extension, Professor Kanth appreciated the initiatives of KVKs for entrepreneurship development and emphasized the need to adopt modern and sustainable agricultural technology in agriculture/livestock for better management and profitability. ADC Kulgam applauded the role of KVKs in shaping the future economic growth of the farming community. During the programme, Prof. and Head KVK Kulgam and Shopian, Dr. Manzoor A. Ganai and Dr. Zaffar A. Badin presented the annual progress report of respective KVKs for the

2024-25 and the action plan for the year 2025-26. The newly established herbal garden was also inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor in addition to two extension publications were also released. The programme was also attended by Prof. Najesh ur Rehman, Associate Director Research MR-CFC Khudwani; Prof. Hamid ullah, Head AARC Shopian; Programme Coordinators of KVK Pulwama and Budgam, Prof. Javaid Ahmad Mugloo and Dr. Bilal A Lone, other Scientists of SKUAST-K, all district level officers of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry.



## MLA Marh initiates Vriksharopan Abhiyan at Baran Dev Sthan, Galwade Chak

Marh: MLA Marh Surinder Kumar today organized Vriksharopan Abhiyan at Baran Dev Sthan in Galwade Chak of Marh constituency, highlighting the importance of environmental conservation. The event saw the distribution of plants to local residents, encouraging community participation in this noble cause by MLA. The event was attended by prominent figures, including Bhuvnesh Mehta, District General Secretary, Vikramjeet Manhas, President of Marh Mandal; Sham Sunder Sharma, President of Gho Manhasan Mandal; former Sarpanches and BJP workers.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Marh emphasized the role of collective efforts in protecting the environment. He distributed plants among local residents to promote greenery and sustainability. He said today's Vriksharopan Abhiyan at Baran Dev Sthan is a significant step towards environmental conservation. He commended the efforts of all involved in organizing this event.



As we plant trees, we not only contribute to a greener environment but also ensure a healthier future for our children. Trees provide us with oxygen, shade, and a habitat for wildlife, said MLA.

MLA urged everyone to take care of these plants and nurture them to grow. Let us work together to protect our environment and preserve the beauty of nature. He thanked all the dignitaries and volunteers for

their presence and support. Together, we can make a difference and create a sustainable future for our community. "Clean and green Jammu is crucial for the region's environmental sustainability and public health, said MLA.

MLA maintained that a clean environment reduces the risk of diseases, improves air quality and enhances overall well-being. Initiatives like the "Clean and Green

Jammu" movement promote a healthier lifestyle and encourage community participation in maintaining public spaces. Jammu's natural beauty and cleanliness can boost tourism, generating revenue and creating jobs. A well-maintained environment also attracts businesses and investments, contributing to the local economy, said MLA.

MLA further said that cleanliness and greenery initiatives foster community spirit, encourage civic responsibility, and promote a sense of ownership among residents. Events like tree plantation drives and clean-up campaigns bring people together, promoting social cohesion. A clean and green Jammu is essential for sustainable development, ensuring a livable and thriving environment for future generations. By adopting eco-friendly practices and reducing waste, the region can mitigate the impacts of climate change and protect its natural resources, added MLA.

## City of Toll Taxes: J&K Youth Congress Slams BJP Over Toll Burden in Jammu

**"Jammu Was City of Temples, BJP Turned It Into City of Toll Taxes" J&K Youth Congress**

Jammu, Jul 15: In a strong joint statement, the Jammu and Kashmir Youth Congress leaders expressed deep concern over the rising number of toll plazas in the Jammu region, stating that the BJP-led central government has turned the city into a "City of Toll Taxes." The statement was undersigned by Vice President Adv. Ranjot Singh, General Secretary Anirudh Sawhey, General Secretary Happy Randhawa, Secretaries Akhil Bogia, Dr. Shohaib Manhas, Anmol Kohli, and Mehul Abrol. "Jammu, once revered as the City of Temples, was gradually reduced to a City of Wine Shops — and now, under BJP's rule, it is fast becoming a City of Toll Taxes," Youth Congress leaders remarked disapprovingly. The Youth Congress leaders condemned the rampant imposition of toll plazas across the region, calling it an attack on the common man's pocket. They stated that people are being forced to pay for poorly maintained roads, frequent traffic snarls, and highways that are far from world-class, all while the government claims development. The leaders also criticized the utter silence of local BJP repre-

sentatives on the long-standing demand to either roll back or rationalize toll collection. They pointed out that the BJP, which governs both the Centre and the Union Territory through the LG administration, has no one else to blame. The leaders questioned how BJP leaders could protest a system that is entirely controlled by their own party, both at the Centre and in the Union Territory. Toll taxes weren't imposed by the J&K government; they came under NHA and are a direct result of central policies under BJP rule. Are they protesting against their own party then? If they are truly serious, they should protest in Delhi, not mislead people in Jammu with empty gestures, they said. The Youth Congress leaders called on the government to immediately review the toll policy in Jammu and stop burdening residents for basic travel. "The people of Jammu deserve better. We need to look into affordable access and better infrastructure instead of financial exploitation and brutal taxation. The BJP's toll tax regime is unjust, excessive, and exploitative," the statement concluded.

## Kashmiri Pandits delegation meet CM Delhi Rekha Gupta and Cabinet Minister Ashish Sood

Jammu, Jul 15:

A delegation of Kashmiri pandits met CM of Delhi Rekha Gupta and Minister for Home, Power & Urban Development Ashish Sood in their office in New Delhi. The meeting focussed on problems related to Kashmiri pandits regarding AMR, Cash assistance that has been stopped for more than a year because of certain anomalies. The group comprised of Ravinder Pandita President AIKS (All India Kashmiri Samaj), Padam shri Ramesh Bamzai of KECSS, Sanjay Ganjoo of JKVM, Ashwani Churungoo and Monika Pandita BJP leaders, Ashish Zutshi and Ramesh Tikoo Activist. The Chief minister assured the



delegation that the issue will be resolved and asked the Divisional commissioner Delhi and other officers to put the case in the next cabinet meeting. Earlier Ravinder Pandita of Save Sharda committee greeted CM Rekha Gupta and Ashish Sood with Sharda shawls

## J&K BJP slams CM Omar Abdullah for glorifying rioters, undermining law & order

Jammu, 15 July 2025:

Adv. Sunil Sethi, Chief Spokesperson, J&K BJP accompanied by Dr. Abhijeet Jasrotia, Spokesperson, and Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge, J&K BJP was addressing a press conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Adv. Sunil Sethi strongly criticized Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's recent actions and statements, calling them a mockery of the law-and-order system. He said it was shocking to see the CM himself publicly violating laws by climbing over walls to pay tribute to rioters who were killed in the 1931 police firing incident while attacking a Central Jail where anti-national elements were imprisoned.



It is ironic that a Chief Minister who demands full statehood and seeks control over law and order is himself seen violating the law and then brazenly showcasing it in the media. Those who attack courts, storm jails, and fuel lawlessness are villains not heroes. Sethi questioned whether, under Omar's leadership, if

such violent incidents occurred again, would he not allow the police to maintain order? He stated that glorifying such elements and giving them martyr status emboldens separatists and disturbs peace. He added that even in 1931, all peaceful means were first used to control the mob before the police were forced to open

fire. He condemned the CM for equating the 1931 incident with the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, an illogical and misleading comparison that insults the real martyrs of India's freedom struggle. He further said that the CM gave tributes to these rioters on July 14, the next day after the 1931 incident, rioters targeted Kashmiri Hindus by burning properties and looting, a fact neither Omar Abdullah nor National Conference has ever acknowledged or apologized for. Sethi accused National Conference of having a history of siding with traitors, recalling that even the Congress had once labelled Sheikh Abdullah a traitor. He warned that today, when

Jammu & Kashmir is progressing toward peace and normalcy, the NC is trying to derail this development for political gains. There is an ongoing race between NC and PDP to see who can violate more laws and appease separatist and terrorist ideologies, he said and added that these activities will give boost to terrorism. The BJP leader noted that the CM seeks tourists in Kashmir from various parts of the nation, but questioned how peace and tourism in the Valley could be promoted when the CM himself encourages lawlessness. He asserted that the Omar-led government has repeatedly failed in governance, be it in health, education, revenue, or mining

## Bishnah's Power Backbone Strengthened Dr. Rajeev Bhagat MLA Inaugurates Enhanced 50 MVA Transformer at Lalyana Grid Station amounting to Rs.8.50 Crores

Bishnah, July 15, 2025 – In a significant boost to the power infrastructure of the Bishnah constituency, Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, MLA Bishnah, today inaugurated the commissioning of a new 50 MVA transformer at the Grid Station Lalyana. This crucial upgrade, undertaken at an expenditure of Rs. 8.50 Crores, elevates the total power handling capacity of the Lalyana Grid Station to an impressive 150 MVA, marking a pivotal moment for reliable electricity supply in the region. The inauguration ceremony, a testament to the government's unwavering commitment to enhancing public utilities, this augmentation is expected to address long-standing issues of power fluctuations, overloading, and outages, providing a more stable and robust electricity supply to thousands of households, agricultural units, and commercial establishments across



Bishnah and its surrounding areas. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Rajeev Bhagat emphasized the transformative impact of the project on the daily lives of the residents. "Today marks a new dawn for power supply in Bishnah," Dr. Bhagat stated with conviction. "The commissioning of this 50 MVA transformer is not just about increasing

megavolts; it is about illuminating lives, empowering our farmers, boosting local businesses, and ensuring that every home has access to uninterrupted electricity. This Rs. 8.50 Crore investment reflects our government's resolute commitment to modern infrastructure and sustainable development, laying a strong foundation for future

growth." He further lauded the tireless efforts of the engineering teams and dedicated execution. I commend the diligent work of our engineers and the entire team who worked relentlessly to bring this vital upgrade to fruition for our people," he added. Accompanying the MLA during the inauguration function were key officials from the power department, including Executive Engineer GRID, Shri Rajesh Kumar, and AEE Gid, Shri Ramneek Singh. Shri Rajesh Kumar elaborated on the technical significance of the upgrade. This significantly strengthens our distribution network, allowing us to cater to peak load demands more effectively and ensuring higher voltage stability across the supply zones. "The ceremony was well-attended by a host of prominent local figures and community representatives,

## Samsung India Begins Pre Orders for Galaxy Z Fold7, Galaxy Z Flip7 - The Most Advanced Galaxy Z series yet

JAMMU – July 15, 2025 – Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, today announced that it has begun taking pre orders for the most advanced Galaxy Z series yet – Galaxy Z Fold7 and Galaxy Z Flip7. Galaxy Z Fold7 brings together the best of Galaxy design, camera functionality and AI innovation in the thinnest and lightest Galaxy Z Fold series to date. It delivers the premium performance and experience of an ultra-smartphone, while unlocking new levels of efficiency and productivity with a larger, more immersive display when unfolded. Galaxy Z Fold7 is crafted for those who want the everyday portability and intuitive feel of a traditional smartphone,

combined with the enhanced power and flexibility of a larger, unfolded display – all in one device. With its ultra-thin and light design and wider cover display, Galaxy Z Fold7 delivers a seamless on-the-go experience that makes typing and browsing effortless when it is folded. At just 215 grams, Galaxy Z Fold7 is even lighter than Galaxy S25 Ultra. It is just 8.9 mm thick when folded and 4.2 mm thick when unfolded. The device comes with 6.5-inch Dynamic AMOLED 2x cover display, a wider screen with a new 21:9 aspect ratio. When unfolded, Galaxy Z Fold7 reveals an expansive screen that expands the workspace for editing, multitasking and immersive viewing – getting more out of Galaxy AI. The main display on Galaxy Z Fold7 is 11% larger than the previous generation, providing even more screen real estate for content editing and multitasking across multiple apps. The 8-inch Dynamic AMOLED 2x main display offers ultra-rich contrast, true blacks and vibrant detail that makes everything pop — from movies to tabs open while multitasking. With Vision Boost and up to 2,600 nits of peak brightness, Galaxy Z Fold7 stays brilliantly visible even in direct sunlight. Bringing the foldable experience to even more users, Samsung also announced Galaxy Z Flip7 FE. Compact when folded and expansive when opened.

## BJP misleading people of J&K and the country on Omar Govt's performance: Surinder Choudhary

**Recruitment Scams, Frauds and looting curved under Present NC Govt: Rattan Lal Gupta**

Jammu, July 15: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary has strongly criticized the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for allegedly misleading the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the country regarding the performance of the present government under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. The Deputy Chief Minister was speaking at the joining programme organized by Sardar Tejinder Pal Singh Aman Provincial President YNC Jammu held at the Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan Jammu in which dozens of youths impressed by the policies and programmes of

present dispensation have joined the Party fold. The Deputy Chief Minister lauded the achievements of the government during their eight months in office. He said that several poll promises made with people during the Assembly polls have fulfilled by the present dispensation in just 8 months of governance. He said that the administration under CM Omar Abdullah has brought transparency, accountability, and a much-needed sense of direction to the governance in the Union Territory. "The BJP is unable to digest the swift and efficient governance model demonstrated by the Omar Abdul-



lah-led dispensation. The people of J&K are witnessing the difference between hollow slogans and real work on the ground," Choudhary said. Highlighting the vision of the NC Govt, the Deputy CM said that the recently announced Mission Yuva by

the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will open new avenues for skill development, entrepreneurship, and empowerment of youth, especially daughters of J&K, he said. The Deputy Chief Minister asked the newly joined members to spread awareness about the positive

transformation brought by the Omar Abdullah-led government, and to actively participate in strengthening the base of the Party and good governance at the grassroots level. On the occasion, Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta also addressed the gathering and launched a scathing attack on the previous LG-led administration for its misrule in J&K. He claimed that various recruitment scams, fund embezzlements, and administrative irregularities that surfaced during the past 11 years have been effectively curbed under the present leadership. Rattan Lal further said that

the present dispensation is committed to eradicate corruption with the aim of providing transparent, accountable, and people-centric governance to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He informed that the present Legislative Assembly has constituted a committee to probe serious allegations made by former IAS officer Ashok Parmar regarding large-scale misappropriation of funds under the Jal Jeevan Mission scheme. The Provincial President urged party workers to intensify their grassroots connect and begin preparations for the upcoming Panchayat and Urban Local Body (ULB) elections, calling

these polls a crucial opportunity to strengthen democratic institutions at the grassroots level. "The people are looking for honest and development-oriented leadership, and our cadres must ensure that the message of good governance reaches every doorstep," he said. Sardar Tejinder Pal Singh Provincial President YNC Jammu said that the youth of J&K joining National Conference due to its pro-youth policies and programmes. The function concluded with the newly joined workers pledging to take the message of good governance to every corner of the Union Territory.

## North in News

## EDITORIAL

WOMEN  
EMPOWERMENT.

Times are changing; and so are the women of today. They are heralding a new era -sans any gender-bias whatsoever, across all spheres, shattering some stereotypes along the way. Politics, industry, sport, media, fashion, entertainment, education and services, you name it and they are there. Even as the rest of the world surged ahead, with women adequately complementing the efforts of the men in every field, demonstrated to us that they are not far behind in making a difference to hundreds of thousands of lives through their enduring achievements. Visibly, under the guidance of Prime Minister of India- Sh. Narendra Modi, women empowerment has been transformed into a mass movement in Jammu and Kashmir. Social and economic upliftment of women has become top priority with Government. Multipronged approach and women centric initiatives have empowered the women in Jammu & Kashmir with training and financial support. As a result, it is expected that women are not only benefitted but they also play a lead role in the growth journey of Jammu & Kashmir. Nari Shakti has brought a tremendous change to the rural economy. The Lieutenant Governor- Sh. Manoj Sinha felicitated the women trainees who have completed their Vocational Training and Life Enhancement Skills Courses. He has emphasized on a planned approach to narrow down the gap between the number of women and men entrepreneurs, especially in rural areas, and encourage the women workforce to scale-up their business. The Lieutenant Governor has also said that we must wholeheartedly recognize and respect women's inherent abilities and make continuous efforts to promote their leadership role across the sectors, ensuring they have every opportunity to excel and inspire. The Lieutenant Governor attended a valedictory function of Women Vocational Training Course at Shopian. In this regard the role of Indian Army for having taken initiative of women empowerment and providing vocational training to women has been highly appreciated by the L. G. Appreciably, Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar Vikas evam Sewa Sansthan, Project Toha Social, and Indian Army have provided vocational training to 1481 women, including 125 women trainees of the recently concluded training course. JKNC stands committed to empowering the youth. 'The recently announced Mission Yuva by the Chief Minister Sh. Omar Abdullah will open new avenues for skill development, entrepreneurship, and empowerment of youth, especially daughters of J&K,' says Deputy Chief Minister, J&K- Sh. Surinder Chowdhary.

Suman Bose

India produces more than 25 million tonnes of used cooking oil and agricultural residue every year, much of which is either wasted or contributes to environmental pollution. While the pollution due to burning of the "Parali" — rice straw or stubble left behind after harvesting the rice crops mainly in northern states of Punjab and Haryana has been in news for the last few years, the water pollution due to the used oil is still to get the desired national focus. For Parali, the state is providing the incentive to farmers as well as encouraging the other fuel (Coal) burning companies as cement plant, power plants, brick kiln and others who use coal based boilers to utilise Parali based bio fuel — pellets and bricks. A number of small and medium companies are setting up units to produce the Parali based pellets and bricks, looking at Government mandates to large companies thereby creating a ready market and addressing the last mile supply chain issues by appropriate incentive for collection from farmers. The Recent notification by Government mandating all brick kilns in Punjab and Haryana to utilise Parali based bio fuel only will go a long way in addressing the concerns of pollution caused by the burning of Parali by farmers by promoting the alternative avenues. Today, India faces the challenge of balancing food security with its growing biofuel ambitions. Diverting edible crops like sugarcane, maize, or edible oils to biofuel production risks driving up food inflation and threatening nutritional security. Recognising this, India's 2018 biofuel policy amendment prohibits using food crops for fuel, instead focusing on non-edible oils and waste-based inputs. This shift opens up opportunities for second-generation (2G) biofuels derived from used cooking oil, acid oil, press-mud, and agricultural waste. These sources allow biofuel production to scale sustainably without impacting the food basket, supporting both energy goals and the nation's commitment to

## Biofuels in India: Opportunities and Challenges



safeguarding food availability and affordability.

Bio-diesel potential in India

India's annual diesel consumption exceeds 100 million tonnes, so even a modest 5 per cent biodiesel blending mandate creates a market opportunity of over 5 million tonnes per year, valued at more than USD 4-5 billion. The country's rapidly expanding aviation sector also stands to benefit from Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) mandates, particularly for international flights under ICAO/CORSIA guidelines, unlocking an export market worth over USD 2 billion in the next decade.

Additionally, biofuel adoption offers significant carbon credit potential; each tonne of biofuel used can displace about 2.5 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, translating to an extra USD 200-300 million annually through carbon monetisation at current voluntary market rates.

By converting this untapped resource into fuel through organised collection and bio-conversion networks, the country can significantly reduce waste while creating new economic opportunities. This approach not only lessens the waste burden in both urban and rural areas but also enhances rural livelihoods, supports informal sector incomes, and encourages local entrepreneurship. The Government's

SATAT scheme, which targets the establishment of 5,000 compressed biogas plants, underscores India's commitment to integrating circular economy principles and transforming waste into a valuable energy resource.

India imports over 80 per cent of its crude oil, with dependency reaching a record 90.6 per cent in May 2025, due to rising consumption and declining domestic production. This heavy reliance exposes the country to global oil price shocks and geopolitical risks, making energy security a strategic priority. Biofuels present a domestic alternative that can help reduce this vulnerability, strengthen energy sovereignty, and lower the nation's annual fossil fuel import bill, which hovers around USD 100 billion.

Unlike centralised petroleum refineries, biofuel production can be decentralised and regionalised, promoting equitable energy access and enhancing resilience against supply disruptions or disasters.

By diversifying its energy matrix with biofuels alongside solar and hydrogen, India can build a more integrated, low-carbon, and robust energy system, reducing its exposure to external shocks and supporting long-term sustainability.

Challenges in producing bio diesel from used oil

FSSAI mandates that Food business operators in India must not reuse the cooking oil beyond a total polar compound limit of 25 per cent — used generally for not more than three times. After this oil is to be discarded. India consumes about 27 billion litres of cooking oil annually, and out of this 1.4 billion litres of used oil can be collected and processed to make biodiesel. Presently the enforcement of the FSSAI guidelines for reuse of cooking oil is very weak. There is a complete lack of awareness amongst shopkeepers and the grass-root enforcement agency hardly show any interest in regulatory compliance.

Today, the used oil by large hotel/restaurant is taken by agents, who then sell it to the small vendors or mix with other oil and sell to households — mainly the poor families.

Such an arrangement is not only defeating the very purpose of the FSSAI regulation but also affecting the health of such person who are eating products made out of such used oil and these are largely the poor families. Enforcement of the FSSAI regulation is therefore critical for the emergence of the sector promoting production of bio diesel from used oil.

Issues in collection of used oil

The other challenge is lack of infrastructure for collection of the used oil from the various food establishment and households. In some cases the used oil especially in case of household is thrown in the drain further leading into the river and other water bodies.

This affects the biodiversity of the water bodies to a great extent. The used oil from the food outlet along the River Ganga does affect the biodiversity of the revered River. Similar is the case with other rivers and rivulets in India. An organised collection process supported by awareness, enforcement and incentive is necessary for a long term and sustainable solution to meet the challenges of pollution and other health hazard caused by used oil and enabling exploration of the potential for conversion to bio diesel.

## The Climate Crisis Within: Rethinking Global Warming

Acharya Prashant

The climate crisis isn't just an environmental emergency — it's a reflection of our restless, consumption-driven lives. Operation 2030 urges a radical shift: from chasing more to choosing wisely, from outer accumulation to inner clarity, before irreversible damage becomes our new normal.

Something unprecedented is happening in our times. The planet is changing for the worse, and we are the ones pushing it to the brink. The climate crisis isn't the result of a single disaster but the outcome of millions of decisions made every day. It's not an accident. It's a mirror.

We've grown up in a world that told us to chase more: more material growth, more speed, more comfort. And now, those very pursuits are catching up with us. The Earth is warning us through record heatwaves, floods, and vanishing wildlife. But perhaps the loudest warning is the one we're failing to hear — the desensitisation within, the part of us that no longer feels disturbed by any of this.

Everywhere we look, the Earth is speaking: the heat is rising, animals are vanishing, forests are falling silent. But it seems we have become so used to environmental chaos that it barely registers. Floods, droughts, fires that were once shocking, now feel routine.

The more we see, the less we seem to feel the urgency to change. And that's the deeper crisis. It's not just about vanishing wildlife or broken weather patterns. It's about how we've adjusted inwardly, how our sensitivity to what truly matters has faded. Gradually, the abnormal starts to feel ordinary. That's when the real damage begins.

It's becoming clear that no law, conference, or fancy new technology can fix



this by itself. Because this isn't just about the environment. It's about us. It's about a restless mind that's always chasing more and is never truly satisfied.

You see it all around: in swelling populations, growing material demands, and the quiet assumption that more stuff means more happiness. But has it ever truly delivered? If we want to act wisely, we first have to see clearly.

More Consumption, More Carbon That's why the PrashantAdvait Foundation has launched Operation 2030 — not to offer another policy fix, but to ask deeper questions. What if the real climate crisis isn't just outside us, but within us?

In our need to compete for more material, to hoard, to constantly want more? This inner agitation is mirrored in the rising carbon in our skies.

Back in 1750, carbon dioxide levels were around 270 parts per million. By 1900, they crept up to 300. But after that, everything changed.

The 20th century brought rapid industrialisation, and emissions shot up. By the

1950s, carbon levels were rising about 10 ppm per decade. Scientists began saying what was becoming obvious: the planet was heating up alongside our emissions.

By the early 2000s, concern turned into a quiet panic. That unease led to the 2015 Paris Agreement, where the world agreed that warming beyond 1.5°C could trigger runaway changes: melting ice, leaking methane, shifting ocean currents. So, countries pledged to cut emissions by 43 per cent by 2030, using 2019 as the baseline.

But here we are. That promise hasn't held. We've already crossed the 1.5°C mark, years before we were supposed to. The warnings were there. We just didn't listen through all the noise. What does this moment ask of us? That we look past the numbers and ask: what do they really mean?

Message Behind the Rising Alarm

When we hear "disaster," we think of floods, wars, pandemics. But what's quietly unfolding could be even more serious, and far more permanent.

Crossing 1.5°C isn't just a number on a chart. It means something irreversible has begun. Ice sheets are melting. Frozen grounds are releasing methane. Ocean currents are shifting. These aren't things we can pause or rewind. They have momentum now.

Despite all the talk, emissions have stayed at about 58 gigatons a year since 2019. The Paris Agreement laid out three futures: the green path (cut emissions to 33 gigatons by 2030), the yellow path (allow some rise to 39, but with risk), and the red path, the one we're on, where emissions keep rising and temperatures cross 3°C.

It's 2025, and emissions are still above 58 gigatons. We're still on the red path, despite everything we know. And here's the thing: this crisis rarely shows up in our daily conversations. And when we stop talking about what matters, we stop noticing it altogether.

Unseen Cost of Climate Injustice

So who's really driving this crisis? To stay within targets, each person on Earth should emit no more than 2.1 tons of carbon dioxide per year by 2030. By 2050, that needs to drop to about 0.7 tons. That doesn't mean zero emissions, but it does mean balance: what we emit must match what the Earth can absorb.

But the world isn't equal. India's emissions, for instance, is around 1.9 tons per person, which is within range. The EU emits at 7. The US hovers around 16. For Saudi Arabia and the UAE, it is between 20 and 25.

And the strange part is that the biggest polluters are often the slowest to change. The richest nations, those with the most money and science, still emit the most. And act the least. In the last ten years, the top 1 per cent of emitters have caused roughly 1.3 million early deaths. They've used over 20 times their fair share, while the damage has mostly hit the global South, including India.



## Stock markets cut short four-day decline; Sensex rises 317 pts on gains in auto, pharma shares



MUMBAI, JULY 15

Stock markets snapped the four-day falling streak on Tuesday with the benchmark Sensex rebounding by 317 points on buying in auto and pharma shares amid a decline in retail inflation to a month's low of 0.17 per cent, near the RBI's comfort zone.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 317.45 points or 0.39 per cent to settle at 82,570.91. During the day, it jumped 490.16 points or 0.59

per cent to 82,743.62.

The 50-share NSE Nifty edged higher by 113.50 points or 0.45 per cent to 25,195.30.

In the last four trading days, the Sensex dropped 1,459.05 points or 1.74 per cent and the Nifty declined by 490.16 points or 0.59 per cent.

Among Sensex firms, Sun Pharma, Trent, Tata Motors, Bajaj Finserv, Mahindra & Mahindra and Bajaj Finance were the major gainers.

However, HCL Tech declined 3.31 per cent after

the IT services firm reported a 9.7 per cent drop in consolidated net profit for the June quarter, hurt by higher expenses and the one-time impact of a client bankruptcy.

Eternal, Tata Steel, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Axis Bank were also the laggards. Retail inflation declined to over six-year low of 0.17 per cent in June, nearing the RBI's comfort zone, on account of subdued prices of food items, including vegetables, driven by widespread monsoon. The Consumer Price Index-based inflation was 2.82 per cent in May and 5.08 per cent in June 2024. Inflation is on a decline since November 2024.

"Market sentiment is showing signs of improvement, supported by a blend of global and domestic developments. Optimism is growing around the possibility of an interim trade agreement with the US, which could lead to a moderation in tariff-related risks."

"Concurrently, domestic inflation has fallen to multi-year lows, strengthening expectations of a further rate

cut by the RBI—potentially accelerating future economic growth, which is currently showing signs of improvement," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

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

European markets were trading in the green.

The US markets ended in positive territory on Monday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.17 per cent to USD 69.09 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,614.32 crore on Monday, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought stocks worth Rs 1,787.68 crore, according to exchange data.

On Monday, the Sensex dropped by 247.01 points or 0.30 per cent to settle at 82,253.32. The Nifty settled lower by 67.55 points or 0.27 per cent to 25,082.30.

## Rupee rises 10 paise to close at 85.82 against US dollar



MUMBAI, JULY 15

The rupee appreciated 10 paise to close at 85.82 (provisional) against the US dollar tracking the weakness of the greenback in the overseas market and a decline in global crude oil prices.

However, foreign fund outflows, along with uncertainties on the outcome of the ongoing India-US trade talks, capped sharper gains in the local unit, according to forex traders.

An Indian commerce ministry team is in Washington for another round of talks on the proposed bilateral trade agreement (BITA). The four-day talks, which started on Monday, will conclude on Thursday.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 85.97 against the US dollar and traded in

the range of 85.75-85.97 before settling at 85.82 (provisional), up 10 paise from its previous close.

The rupee depreciated 12 paise to close at 85.92 against the US dollar on Monday.

The Reserve Bank of India has been guarding (rupee) at the 86.00 level and on Tuesday also ensured that rupee opens a tad higher than 86. For tomorrow (Wednesday) we expect rupee to be in the range of 85.50-86.10 with expectations of more flows," Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, said.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was down 0.43 per cent to USD 68.91 per barrel in futures trade.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was down 0.11 per cent to 97.97.

On the domestic equity market front, the Sensex climbed 317.45 points to settle at 82,570.91, while the Nifty gained 113.50 points to close at 25,195.30.

India's exports remained unchanged at USD 36.14 billion in June, while the trade deficit stood at USD 18.78 billion during the month, the latest government data showed on Tuesday.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) sold equities worth Rs 1,614.32 crore on a net basis on Monday, according to exchange data.

## TRU Realty eyes Rs 275 cr revenue from premium project in Pune



NEW DELHI, JULY 15

TRU Realty is eyeing Rs 275 crore revenue by 2030 from its 2.75-acre premium residential project in Kondhwa, Pune.

Last month, the company announced to build the project TRU Meadows with an investment of Rs 150 crore. It will be a four-tower housing with total of 360 apartments.

With home prices starting at Rs 65 lakh, the project is aimed at the middle-class and upper-middle-class consumer base, looking to

secure a home in Pune's emerging pockets at competitive prices.

The property benefits from connectivity to major employment hubs, schools, healthcare facilities, and shopping destinations.

"Our investment in the project is expected around Rs 150 crore and is expected to generate Rs 275 crore in revenue by 2030 which is approx 83 per cent (higher than investment)," Sujay Kalele, Founder and Managing Director, TRU Realty, said in a statement.

By bringing in elements of contemporary Dubai-style living, the company has tried to merge international aesthetics with practical functionality, he stated.

As per recent industry reports, Pune witnessed 12 per cent YoY growth in residential launches and is among the top metros attracting both end-users and investors.

The company is developing eight projects across Pune and Mumbai, including TRU Meadows, Vaarivana, and Spectrum Life.

With over Rs 1,000 crore in assets under development and 210 homes delivered as of FY 2024-25, TRU Realty is fast emerging as a future-ready player in urban housing.

## Aurobindo to produce, supply long acting HIV treatment drug

NEW DELHI, JULY 15

Aurobindo Pharma on Tuesday said it will manufacture and supply the long-acting injectable HIV treatment cabotegravir across 133 countries.

The Hyderabad-based drugmaker has been selected as one of the generic manufacturers under the expanded voluntary licensing agreement between the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) and ViiV Healthcare, the company said in a statement.

The agreement allows Aurobindo to manufacture and supply the long-acting injectable HIV treatment across 133 countries, including several low and middle-income markets, it added.

This update now includes long-acting cabotegravir (CAB LA) for HIV treatment, in addition to its earlier use for prevention only.

The treatment offers an alternative to daily pills, allowing patients to receive just one injection every one or two months.



two months.

"We are privileged to be part of the license expansion from MPP and ViiV to develop, manufacture, and distribute generic CAB LA in select markets for the treatment of HIV-1, in addition to its earlier use for prevention only."

The treatment offers an alternative to daily pills, allowing patients to receive just one injection every one or

This is a significant and timely step towards increasing access to advanced long-acting treatment in LMICs, he added.

Aurobindo remains committed to leveraging its global supply capabilities to make this vital combination long-acting injection therapy widely available and affordable, he stated.

The consideration by ViiV

and MPP to include the private market in royalty-bearing countries is a critical step toward expanding access across both public and private sectors, it added.

ViiV Healthcare, the global specialist HIV company majority owned by GSK, with Pfizer and Shionogi as shareholders, and the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP), have announced an update to their voluntary licensing agreement to include patents relating to its use in a long-acting regimen.

The announcement follows updated guidance from the WHO recommending long-acting injectable cabotegravir + rilpivirine as an HIV treatment option.

Existing generic licensees for prevention will be able to develop, manufacture and supply generic long-acting use in combination with long-acting rilpivirine, subject to required regulatory approvals, to help enable access to long-acting treatment in 133 countries worldwide.

## World shares mostly higher although worries continue over Trump's tariffs

TOKYO, JULY 15

Shares were mostly higher in Europe on Monday following gains in Asian markets despite lingering worries about President Donald Trump's latest updates to his tariffs.

Shares in tech giant Nvidia jumped 5.2 per cent in pre-market trading after its CEO said the Trump administration will let it sell to China its advanced H20 chips used to develop artificial technology.

Germany's DAX gained 0.3 per cent to 24,222.95 and the CAC 40 in Paris was up less than 0.1 per cent at 7,812.14. Britain's FTSE 100 was nearly unchanged at 8,996.90.

The future for the S and P 500 gained 0.4 per cent while that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average slipped 0.1 per cent.

In Asian trading, Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 rose 0.6 per cent to finish at 39,678.02. A nationwide election for the upper house of Japan's Parliament, set for Sunday, also added to the wait-and-see



attitude among market players.

Analysts say the ruling pro-business Liberal Democratic Party may face an uphill battle and will likely need coalition partners, including possibly new ones, to keep its grip on power.

Australia's S and P/ASX 200 added 0.7 per cent to

8,630.30. South Korea's Kospi edged up 0.4 per cent to 3,215.28.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 1.6 per cent to 24,590.12, while the Shanghai Composite dipped 0.4 per cent to 3,505.00, after the government reported that China's economy slowed in the last quarter as Trump's trade

war escalated.

Tuesday's data showed the economy expanded at a robust 5.2 per cent annual pace, compared with 5.4 per cent annual growth in January-March. In quarterly terms, the world's second-largest economy expanded by 1.1 per cent, according to government data.

Despite worries about the damage Trump's tariffs may have on the region's exporters, speculation continues that he may ultimately back down on them. They don't take effect until August 1, which leaves time for more negotiations.

On Wall Street Monday, the S and P 500 edged up by 0.1 per cent, the Dow added 0.2 per cent and the Nasdaq composite rose 0.3 per cent.

If Trump were to enact all his proposed tariffs on August 1, they would raise the risk of a recession. That would not only hurt American consumers but also raise the pressure on the US government's debt level relative to the economy's size, particularly after Washington approved big tax cuts that will

add to the deficit.

For the time being, the uncertainty around tariffs could help keep markets steady. This upcoming week has several potential flash-points that could shake things up.

The latest reading on inflation across the US comes Tuesday, with economists expecting it to show inflation accelerated to 2.6 per cent last month from 2.4 per cent in May.

Companies are also lining up to report how they performed during the spring. JPMorgan Chase and several other huge banks will report their latest quarterly results Tuesday, followed by Johnson and Johnson on Wednesday and PepsiCo on Thursday.

Faster, a distributor of industrial and construction supplies, reported Monday a stronger profit for the latest quarter than analysts expected. Its stock rose 2.9 per cent, though it also said that market conditions remain sluggish.

## ACC backs Contractor's rise in the Jammu construction landscape

JAMMU, JULY 15

ACC proudly supports Amrudin Ansari, a well-known contractor in Jammu whose journey from a labourer 28 years ago, to a trusted name in construction today, is a story of dedication and resilience.

Mr. Ansari's breakthrough came in 2001, and since associating with ACC in 2003, he has consistently relied on ACC's high-quality cement products to deliver durable, reliable work. His focus on best practices and quality craftsmanship has set a benchmark in the region.

ACC has played an active role in his growth-through regular skill development workshops, technical support, and its loyalty programme, which has helped him stay ahead with modern construction techniques and benefit from long-term engagement.

Today, Mr. Ansari manages eight active sites, five of which use ACC cement. With strong ethics, customer focus, and a commitment to excellence, he continues to inspire the community. ACC is proud to be a partner in his longstanding journey of progress.

## Kia expands EV lineup; rolls out locally produced Carens Clavis EV

NEW DELHI, JULY 15

Kia India on Tuesday expanded its electric vehicle portfolio in the country with the launch of its first locally produced electric vehicle — Carens Clavis EV.

The automaker will roll out the model from its Anantapur-based manufacturing plant in Andhra Pradesh.

Kia already sells two imported electric vehicles — EV6 and EV9 — in the country.

"Over the years, we have built a strong global EV portfolio and are proud to bring that



expertise to India. The Carens Clavis EV represents the next step in this journey," Kia India MD and CEO Gwanggu Lee said.

The model is built on three core pillars. Kia's proven global EV technology, advanced features that simplify the driving experience.

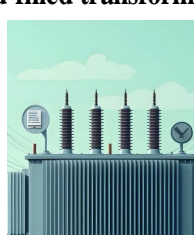
## Hitachi Energy hands over India's first 400 kV synthetic ester fluid-filled transformer to Power Grid

NEW DELHI, JULY 15

Hitachi Energy on Wednesday said that it has flagged off India's first 400 kV class three-phase synthetic ester fluid-filled power transformer for Power Grid Corporation of India.

This occasion marks a significant milestone in sustainable, high-performance power solutions, a company statement said.

According to the statement, engineered for future-ready performance, these transformers operate at higher temperatures,



support greater load capacities, leading to reduced operational costs, superior energy efficiency, and safety from fire hazards which could get triggered at that temperature.

The ester fluid-filled transformer stands out as the largest of-its-kind in India, both in terms of kV class and MVA rating, and reinforces Hitachi Energy's leadership in advanced, eco-conscious technology along with enhanced safety. Developed and manufactured entirely based on Hitachi Energy's Trafostar global platform.

## Camp for free distribution of aids, assistive devices held at Ramban

**RAMBAN, JULY 15:** The District Administration Ramban, in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (AL-IMCO) today organized a special camp to provide free aids and assistive devices to pre-identified Divyangjans (Persons with Disabilities) of block Ramban and Gandhri. Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan inaugurated the camp and handed over prosthetic aids and appliances to eligible beneficiaries here at the Tehsil Social Welfare Office. The initiative was conducted under the centrally

sponsored Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) and Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) schemes. The beneficiaries identified and assessed in advance were provided with a range of assistive aids including wheelchairs, walking sticks, tricycles, motorized tricycles, waist belts, knee braces, artificial limbs, blind kits, kits for intellectual disability, suga canes, smartphones, hearing aids and crutches. A total of 28 beneficiaries from different parts of District Ramban received the aids and appliances aimed at improving their mobility.

independence and quality of life. Appreciating the efforts of the Social Welfare Department and ALIMCO, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the transformative impact of such initiatives, especially on students and working individuals with disabilities. He called for organizing similar camps more frequently across all blocks and zones of the district to ensure inclusive development. The camp was coordinated by District Social Welfare Officer Tariq Qazi and Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Hardev Singh, along with the dedicated team from ALIMCO and the staff of the Social Welfare Department.

**DAJGUA Awareness & benefit saturation camp  
organized at Panchound Block Latti-Marothi**

**UDHAMPUR, JULY 15:** As part of the ongoing Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, a public outreach-cum-awareness and benefit saturation camp was organized for Tribal community members at Panchayat Ghar Pachound, Block Latti-Marhot, today. The camp was hosted under the overall supervision of Sub-Divisional Magistrate Dudu Dr Manmeet Kumar. The event witnessed active participation of officers and officials from multiple line departments including Agriculture, Rural Development,

ment, Health, Social Welfare and Revenue, who interacted with the local public and disseminated information regarding a wide array of government welfare schemes. The Participants were informed about the benefits of Flagship government schemes such as PM-KISAN, MGNREGA, Kisan Credit Card, Jal Shakti Abhiyan and PM Surya Har Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. The Departmental representatives briefed the attendees about eligibility criteria.

registration processes and the benefits offered under these schemes to ensure saturation and last-mile delivery of services in tribal and far-flung areas.

To enhance outreach and service delivery, multiple departmental stalls were set up to facilitate on-the-spot registration, grievances redressal and information dissemination.

The initiative witnessed enthusiastic participation from the local community, reflecting the growing trust in grassroots governance efforts.

## CS for making cyber security audit of websites a time-bound process

### Deptt assures all websites to go live within next 2 months

**SRINAGAR, JULY 15:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a crucial meeting to thoroughly review cyber security measures safeguarding government websites and critical infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting besides the Secretary IT was attended by all Administrative Secretaries of various departments, and key officers from NIC, JaKeGA, and the IT Department. In this meeting the Chief Secretary underscored the

urgent need for fixing clear timelines for completing website security audits, stressing that prolonged website downtime causes significant inconvenience to the public. He emphasized that all exercises must be time-bound, with a focus on reviving all important websites at the earliest.

Furthermore, he directed the immediate decommissioning of all redundant and unused websites, stating they serve no purpose and pose unnecessary security risks.

To bolster internal capabilities, the Chief Secretary advocated for capacity building of all departmental Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) and Information



Security Officers (ISOs). This initiative aims to empower them to conduct future website audits independently, thereby mitigating potential security compromises.

He also mandated the installation of necessary security software on all devices used for official work and strictly directed the discontinuation of private email IDs for official communications, citing the inherent security risks to official data and devices.

Addressing infrastructure needs, the Chief Secretary took note of the requirement for augmenting the State Data Centre (SDC) in Jammu. He directed the IT Department to promptly initiate the process using available funds, assuring that additional requisite funding would be provided as the work progresses.

During the meeting, Administrative Secre-

taries also contributed valuable suggestions to enhance the overall security of IT assets and prevent data breaches.

The Secretary, IT, Dr. Piyush Singla took this occasion to provide a comprehensive presentation detailing the safety and security precautionary measures undertaken by the department to ensure the cyber security of all government websites and assets. He informed the meeting that an audit agency has been engaged

Dr. Singla highlighted the current status of websites hosted at the J&K SDC. He gave out that of a total of 239 websites, 140 are live. Of the 99 non-live websites, 70 are currently under audit by a Third-Party Auditor (TPA), 11 are under departmental audit, 10 are yet to be audited but are

covered under the audit plan, 6 more have been allocated for auditing but their staging is not ready, and 2 websites have been

He further informed that to expedite the security audit process, the TPA has been requested to engage four additional resources, with the audit of all pending websites expected to be completed within the next two months. Regular follow-ups with CISOs/ISOs is done by the Department and detailed reports are being shared with all Administrative Secretaries for their appraisal.

Regarding other departmental measures, it was reported that End-point Detection and Response (EDR) deployment is underway at the Civil Secretariat in Jammu and Srinagar, with 4011 EDR and 1789 UEM installations completed.

VPN access has been restricted to users with Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA), and all routers have been configured to accept requests only from India. Furthermore, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been mandated for opening IP/Ports via firewalls only.

The meeting was also informed that compliance with CERT-In and OWASP top 10 guidelines is being strictly enforced for all websites and web applications. To ensure public convenience and data security, the audit of critical applications such as Land Records, NG-DRS, and CVS Portal has been initiated, and reports have been shared with respective departments for mitigation actions and necessary source code patching as required under the cyber security framework.

## DDC Reasi approves 122 Youth Entrepreneurship cases under Mission YUVA

**REASI, JULY 15:** The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) for Mission YUVA met here today to review and approve youth entrepreneurship cases verified by the Small Business Development Units (SBDU). The meeting was chaired by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Nidhi Malik. A total of 130 cases verified

by SBDUs, were presented before the Committee for consideration. Of these, 122 were approved for financial assistance and handholding support under Mission YUVA. The committee carried out a detailed scrutiny of each application based on eligibility, business viability, and the socio-economic background of the applicants. The DDC emphasised

the importance of promoting self-employment opportunities for local youth, particularly those from underprivileged and marginalized communities. She further directed the stakeholders to support the beneficiaries in preparing sustainable project reports. The DDC also urged all relevant departments to expedite release of financial assistance

and extend technical and logistic support to entrepreneurs to ensure the long-term success and sustainability of the approved projects. The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to fostering youth-driven entrepreneurship and promoting sustainable livelihoods through the coordinated and effective implementation

# **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

## **SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR KANWAR MELA-2025 (UPTO 23.07.2025)**

For the convenience of Kanwariyas during Kanwar Mela-2025, Northern Railway has decided to run Kanwar Special Trains, extend the nominated train services upto Haridwar and to provide temporary stoppages to some of existing services. The details are as under :-

### **Extension of Train No. 74023/4022 Delhi Jn. - Sharni - Delhi Jn. MEMU upto Haridwar**

Train No. 74023		↓		STATIONS		Train No. 74022	
ARR.	DEP.					ARR.	DEP.
—	20.00			Delhi Jn.		09.25	—
20.50	22.55			Sharni		08.25	08.30
23.20	23.22			Thane Bhawan		07.25	07.30
23.44	23.46			Rampur Meerthi	05.02	05.04	
00.15	00.17			Taori	04.46	04.48	
00.56	00.58			Roorkee	04.17	04.19	
01.38	01.40			Jodhpur	03.15	03.17	
01.55	—			Haridwar	—	03.95	—

**DAYS OF RUN:** 74023 Ex Delhi Jn. Upto 24.07.2025 and 74022 Ex Haridwar Upto 25.07.2025.

**ACCOMMODATION:** General

### **Extension of Train No. 64577/64568 Delhi Jn. - Bahapur - Delhi Jn. MEMU upto Haridwar**

Train No. 64577		↓		STATIONS		Train No. 64568	
ARR.	DEP.					ARR.	DEP.
—	16.25			Delhi Jn.		08.45	—
20.58	21.10			Bahapur	02.40	02.42	
21.45	21.50			Roorkee	02.53	02.55	
22.25	22.27			Jodhpur	03.10	03.12	
22.50	—			Haridwar	—	02.90	—

**DAYS OF RUN:** 64577 Ex Delhi Jn. Upto 24.07.2025 and 64568 Ex Haridwar Upto 25.07.2025.

**ACCOMMODATION:** General

### **Run of Mela Specials as per**

**Time-Table give below:**

### **Train No. 04311/04312 Moradabad - Laksar - Moradabad Unreserved Mela Special Train**

Train No. 04311		↓		STATIONS		Train No. 04312	
ARR.	DEP.					ARR.	DEP.
—	04.15			Moradabad Jn.		15.15	—
07.15	—			Laksar Jn.		12.00	—

**DAYS OF RUN:** 04311 Ex Moradabad Jn. & 04312 Ex Laksar Jn. Upto 25.07.2025

**STOPPLACES:** Balowali, Muzaffarnagar, Jyoti, Najibabad, Jn., Nagina, Unpur, Sohar & Kanti stations.

**ACCOMMODATION:** General

### **Train No. 04314/04313 Haridwar - Delhi Jn. - Haridwar Unreserved Mela Special Train**

Train No. 04314		↓		STATIONS		Train No. 04313	
ARR.	DEP.					ARR.	DEP.
—	17.05			Haridwar		07.55	—
23.10	—			Delhi Jn.		01.10	—

**DAYS OF RUN:** 04314 Ex Haridwar Upto 24.07.2025 & 04313 Ex Delhi Jn. Upto 25.07.2025

**STOPPLACES:** Balowali, Muzaffarnagar, Jyoti, Najibabad, Jn., Nagina, Unpur, Sohar & Kanti stations.

**ACCOMMODATION:** General

### **Train No. 04316/4315 Yog Nagari Rishikesh - Delhi Shehadra - Yog Nagari Rishikesh Unreserved Mela Special Train**

Train No. 04316		↓		STATIONS		Train No. 04315	
ARR.	DEP.					ARR.	DEP.
—	20.35			Yog Nagari Rishikesh		11.00	—
03.30	—			Delhi Shehadra		07.55	—


**DAYS OF RUN:** 04316 Ex Yog Nagari Rishikesh Upto 24.07.2025 & 04315 Ex Delhi Shehadra Upto 25.07.2025

**STOPPLACES:** Rawla, Mochur, Harwar, Jwalpur, Roorkee, Tapti & Sharni stations.


**ACCOMMODATION:** General

### **Train No. 04318/04317 Yog Nagari Rishikesh - Alamnagar - Yog Nagari Rishikesh Unreserved Mela Special Train**

Train No. 04318		↓	
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**UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY JAMMU TAWI GOLF COURSE, SIDHRA**





**SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**E-NIT NO:- JTGC/10 OF 2025-26 DATED:- 14-07-2025**

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor Union Territory Jammu and Kashmir tenders are invited on alternate basis from Manufacturers/Dealers/Supplier for each of the following works.

S. No.	Name of work	Advertised Cost (In lacs)	Cost of doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest money (2% of Adk. Cost)	Time of Completion	Class of Contractor
1.	Supply of Fertilizers at Jammu Tawi Golf Course, Sidhra. 4 <sup>th</sup> Call	13.35	600/-	2%	30 Days	Valid License from Agriculture Department
2.	Supply of Chemicals/ Fungicides/ Weedicides/ Insecticides etc. at Jammu Tawi Golf Course, Sidhra. 4 <sup>th</sup> Call	1.60	600/-	2%	30 Days	

1. Bidding documents consisting of pre-qualification criteria, specifications of the work, Bill of Quantities, and other main conditions of contract and there relevant details can be seen/downloaded from the website [www.jkendersa.gov.in](http://www.jkendersa.gov.in)

Schedule of tender:	
A. Date of issuance of Tender Notice	14-07-2025
B. Period of downloading of bidding documents	14-07-2025 from 1630 Hrs to 19-07-2025 upto 1630 Hrs
C. Bid submission Start Date	14-07-2025 from 1630 Hrs
D. Bid submission End Date	19-07-2025 upto 1630 Hrs
E. Date of opening of Technical Bids (online)	21-07-2025, 1200 Hrs in the office of the Secretary JTGC Sidhra, Jammu

Position of AAA: Approved

Position of funds: Available

No. JTGC/301-303-2025-26

Dated: 14/07/2025

Sd/-  
Secretary  
JTGC Sidhra, Jammu

**DIP/J-3461/25**



## India moving from women empowerment to women-led development: President



CUTTACK, JULY 15

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said India was moving from women empowerment to women-led development.

Addressing the 13th annual convocation of Ravenshaw University in Cuttack, she said female students outperforming their male classmates in 21 out of 27 departments of the varsity this year was a testament to it.

"Over the last five years, girl students have consistently outperformed boys in academics at

the institute. At the post-graduate level, the number of girl students who topped was more than three and a half times that of the boys. This reflects India was moving from women empowerment to women-led development," Murmu said.

She advised the graduating students to become job providers, and not job seekers. "If you desire, you can become entrepreneurs and set up your own ventures," she told the students.

The president said the insti-

tute has been a sight of great intellectual formation and social activism since its beginning in 1868. "Now, the institution has evolved as Ravenshaw University, a modern academic institute making remarkable strides in research, innovation, and inclusivity," she noted.

"It continues to build upon its rich legacy of academic excellence," she added.

The president conferred honorary degrees on four noted personalities in recognition of their contributions to different fields.

The honorary degree recipients are Department of Atomic Energy Secretary Ajit Kumar Mohanty, conservationist Sabarmatee, founder of Odisha's first braille press Bijay Kumar Rath, and Cuttack MP Bhartruhari Mahtab.

At the programme, the varsity gave 4,839 bachelor's degrees, 2,935 master's degrees, 19 MPhil degrees, and 158 doctorates. A total of 176 students received gold medals.

Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Mahli, Union Education Minister Dhamendra Pradhan and State Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj were present at the convocation.

## SC fixes July 31 for hearing pleas for review Of 2022 verdict upholding powers of ED

NEW DELHI, JUL 15

The Supreme Court on Tuesday fixed July 31 for hearing a batch of pleas seeking review of the 2022 verdict that upheld the Enforcement Directorate (ED) powers of arrest and attachment of property involved in money laundering, search and seizure under PMLA.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joydeepa Bagchi adjourned the matter, which was listed for hearing on Wednesday, to July 31 after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said he was not available.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the petitioners, said he has no objection, if the matter is listed on July 31.

On May 7, the top court asked the Centre and the petitioners to frame issues to be adjudicated in challenge to a verdict which upheld the ED's powers to arrest and attach property of the accused.

The Centre had contended that the hearing on the review petitions could go beyond the two specific issues flagged by the bench which issued notice on the petitions in August 2022.

Sibal had earlier submitted that the matter was required to be referred to a larger bench.

Mehta had contended that the bench, which considered the review petitions for admission in August 2022, issued notice only on two aspects - the supply of



the ECIR copy to the accused and reversal of burden of proof under Section 24 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The apex court in July 2022 upheld the ED powers of arrest and attachment of property involved in money laundering, search and seizure under PMLA.

In August the same year, the top court agreed to hear pleas seeking review of its verdict and observed that two aspects 'prima facie' required reconsideration. Observing money laundering was a 'threat' to the good functioning of a financial system world over, the apex court upheld the validity of certain provisions of the PMLA, underlining it was not an 'ordinary offence'.

The top court said authorities under the 2002 law were 'not

police officers as such' and the ECIR could not be equated with an FIR under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The supply of an ECIR copy in every case to the person concerned was not mandated and it was enough if the ED, at the time of arrest, disclosed the grounds for it, it added.

The 2022 verdict had come on a batch of over 200 petitions questioning various provisions of the PMLA, a law the opposition often claims is weaponised by the government to harass its political adversaries.

Section 45 of the PMLA, which deals with offences to be cognisable and non-bailable and have twin conditions for bail, is reasonable and does not suffer from the vice of arbitrariness or unreasonableness, the top court said. (Agencies)

## Odisha college student Death: Rahul says country wants answers not PM's Silence



NEW DELHI, JUL 15

In a scathing attack on the BJP-led Central government, Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Tuesday lambasted Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his silence following the death of a college student from Odisha who had set herself ablaze after allegedly facing prolonged sexual harassment by a professor. The tragic incident has sparked widespread outrage and renewed demands for institutional accountability and stronger action against sexual misconduct in educational institutions.

The 22-year-old victim, a sec-

ond-year integrated B.Ed student of Fakir Mohan (Autonomous) College in Balasore, reportedly took the extreme step on Saturday after what is being described as repeated humiliation and a lack of action against the accused professor. She suffered 95 per cent burns and was initially admitted to Balasore district hospital before being shifted to AIIMS Bhubaneswar for advanced treatment. Despite the best efforts of doctors, including intensive care and renal replacement therapy, she succumbed to her injuries late on Monday night at 11:46 pm.

Reacting sharply to the incident, Rahul Gandhi took to

social media platform X (formerly Twitter) and posted in Hindi, holding the BJP government responsible. "The death of a daughter fighting for justice in Odisha is a direct murder by the BJP system," he wrote. Gandhi claimed that the victim had courageously raised her voice against sexual exploitation but was instead met with threats and harassment. He accused the system of failing her and protecting the accused, ultimately driving her to the brink.

"This is not suicide, it is an organised murder by the system," Gandhi said, adding, "Modi ji, be it Odisha or Manipur - the daughters of the country are burning, breaking down, dying. And you? Are sitting silent." He demanded accountability, asserting that the nation does not want the Prime Minister's silence, but answers. "The daughters of India want security and justice," he emphasised.

The tragic death has not only exposed systemic flaws in grievance redressal mechanisms in academic institutions but has also triggered political debate across party lines. Many have questioned the delay in action against the accused professor and the alleged apathy of the college administration. Student bodies, women's rights activists, and opposition leaders have rallied to express solidarity with the victim's family.



'Kanwariyas', devotees of Lord Shiva, walk along a road during the annual 'Kanwar Yatra' in the holy month of 'Shravan', in New Delhi.

## Nitish cabinet approves target of 1 crore jobs by 2030

PATNA, JULY 15

In a significant move, the Bihar cabinet today approved creation of one crore jobs and employment opportunities over the next five years (2025-2030) in the state.

The decision was taken in a meeting of the cabinet held here during the day under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

The cabinet, in the meeting sanctioned 30 important agendas paving the way for massive employment and infrastructure development in the state.

To facilitate the ambitious plan to create one crore jobs and employment opportunities over the next five years, a high-level 12 member committee will be constituted under the development commissioner. The committee will advise the government on employment generation strategies.

The cabinet also sanctioned a one-time additional honorarium of Rs. 6,000 to each of the 77,895 Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and 8,245 BLO supervisors in the state. The one-time honorarium will be in addition to their annual honorarium for conducting the Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls.



A total of Rs 51,68,40,000 has been sanctioned for the one-time honorarium.

While approving the agenda of urban development and housing department, the cabinet sanctioned allocation of Rs 179.37 crore, excluding service tax, to Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited (DMRC) on a nomination basis for the maintenance work of the Priority Corridor under the Patna Metro Rail Project for a period of 2 years and 8 months commencing from August 2025

and ending on March 2028.

Additionally, approval has been given for the lease of a 3 trainset for a period of 3 years for the operation of the Priority Corridor. The total cost for this lease, including other associated costs and Goods and Services Tax (GST), amounts to Rs 21,15,44,646 crore.

Further, the responsibility for managing this arrangement has also been approved to be assigned to Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited (DMRC) on a nomination basis.

## Kolkata Metro's Bowbazar Segment set for inauguration by PM Modi on Friday

KOLKATA, JULY 15

The much-awaited Kolkata Metro's Bowbazar segment linking Howrah and Sealdah stations is expected to be operational for commercial services with the flagging off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday (July 18).

PM Modi is expected to arrive at Durgapur, the industrial city of West Burdhan for a BJP openly and is expected to unveil Kolkata Metro's vital link service virtually, officials said today.

The 2.5km underground link of this over 300-year-old city is the most challenging task for the executive authorities of Rail Nilam Ltd, which had faced many hurdles like agitations, space management and largely geographical as the area witnessed cave-ins several times forcing rehabilitation of the people on the surface.

Kolkata Metro, the main

Kolkata Metro has confirmed that both the Esplanade Sealdah section and the Bowbazar stretch have cleared rigorous testing protocols.

The Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) granted clearance for commercial operations in April, removing regulatory hurdles and enabling a full corridor rollout.

The East-West Metro-dubbed Kolkata's Green Line-stretches 16.3km from Howrah Maidan to Salt Lake Sector-V. Operational since March 2024 in truncated segments, the missing Bowbazar section prevented direct metro travel across the city's east-west axis. With this link activated, commuters can enjoy end-to-end service without changing trains from Howrah station to Sealdah station, the most congested among the stations in the country.

Kolkata Metro, the main

transportation system of this city, is not only the fastest mode but also cheapest among modes of transportation available in the city.

Howrah to Sealdah in just 20 minutes, and the full corridor to Salt Lake by 35-40 minutes-far more efficient than surface transport. The entire journey will cost a flat Rs 30, presenting a compelling low-carbon alternative for daily commuters.

The completion of underground tunnelling under the Hooghly river and the structurally sensitive Bowbazar zone in the central part of the city proved an engineering marvel of overcoming subsidence. The Metro authorities are optimistic about the long pending flagship project of East-West Metro link on July 18, although the PM's itinerary was not officially known so far.

## BJP MLA slams locking of Panchamasali Peetha

BENGALURU, JULY 15

In a sharp escalation of tensions within the Panchamasali Lingayat community, BJP MLA and senior leader CC Patil today condemned the locking up of the Kudala Sangama Panchamasali Gurupetha, calling it an "unpardonable offence" and a direct insult to the community's spiritual institutions.

Speaking to reporters after the Peetha premises were locked, allegedly on the orders of Congress MLA Vijayand Kashappanavar-Patil said, "No elected representative has the authority to lock out a Swamiji. This is an unthinkable act and a grave injustice to the entire Panchamasali community."

Calling for immediate reopening of the premises, Patil urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to

intervene and ensure that the community's demands for internal reservation in education and employment are respected. He warned that the community was watching and would give a "fittin' reply" when the time comes.

Referring to Vijayand Kashappanavar's allegations that the Peetha was being misused due to visits by women devotees, Patil termed the accusations baseless and disgraceful, adding, "The Swamiji has neither power nor wealth. He lives humbly, dedicated to educating poor Panchamasali children. These allegations are meant to tarnish his image and demoralise the community." Patil pointed out that the Peetha was established in 2010 with significant financial support from BJP leaders. Yediyurappa gave Rs 1 crore, Sadananda

Gowda gave Rs 50 lakh, and I personally got the funds released. Not a rupee came from Congress leaders," he asserted.

He also suggested political wranglings behind the current conflict, saying: "Just because MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatra has entered the scene and shown support to the movement, it appears there's a political fight going on."

Reiterating that the Panchamasali movement is purely for social justice, Patil recalled how even during previous BJP regimes, various Congress leaders had joined the padayatra for reservation. "But now, those very leaders are silent or acting in contradiction." Appealing for dialogue instead of confrontation, Patil said, "If you disagree, let's talk within four walls."



## DC Baramulla reviews preparations for Independence Day

### *Directs all concerned to ensure seamless arrangements*



**BARAMULLA, JULY 15:** In anticipation of the Independence Day 2025, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa today held a meeting of officers from different departments at Dak Bungalow here to review the preparations for smooth celebrations of the National day across the district. At the outset, DC under-

scored the need for meticulous planning and seamless execution of all arrangements to ensure a grand and memorable Independence Day celebration. During the meeting, it was informed that the main Independence Day function on 15th of August will be held at Showkat Ali Sports Stadium Baramulla, where the chief guest will host the

National Flag followed by inspection of parade. The meeting held a comprehensive discussion on arrangements to be made at the venue for the National function, including security, seating, transportation, parking, electricity, refreshment, medicine, availability of ambulance, deployment of fire tenders and sanitation measures. It was given out

that the march-past will be presented by contingents of JKP, CRPF, Fire and Emergency, NCC cadets, School contingents and other bands which will be followed by a colorful cultural programme by students. Furthermore, DC directed all concerned departments to establish stalls at the event venues, providing services such as TB screening,

sale counters from SHGs, AABHA registration, and raising public awareness about the benefits of various welfare schemes including DAIGUA, PM-JBY, PM-SBY, Mudra, Surya Ghar and other government-sponsored schemes. Meanwhile, DC instructed the officers to ensure the Independence Day celebrations are conducted with enthusiasm and grandeur at their respective office premises at district, sub-divisional, tehsil and block levels to foster a sense of patriotism and community participation across the region. The meeting was attended by the ADC Baramulla, Syed Altaf Hussain Mausuvi, ADC Sopore, Shahr Ahmad Raina, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chaudhary Mudassar Hussain, representatives from Police and officers from other line departments.

## Functioning of RDD reviewed in Bandipora district



**BANDIPORA, JULY 15:** On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Bandipora, B.A Padder, on Tuesday convened a comprehensive review meeting to assess the functioning of the Rural Development Department (RDD) across the district.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held regarding the implementation of various rural development schemes and the overall working of the department. Officers and officials from different blocks of the district participated in the review session.

On the occasion, ACD Bandipora issued a set of instructions aimed at ensuring the smooth functioning of departmental operations, with a special focus on accelerating the pace of developmental activities. He stressed the need for timely

execution and completion of all ongoing works under different schemes, emphasizing strict adherence to timelines and quality parameters.

The meeting also underscored the importance of field-level monitoring, transparency, and coordination among officials to achieve the developmental goals set by the administration. ACD directed all officers to maintain regular

progress reports and work proactively to address any bottlenecks that may hamper developmental initiatives in rural areas.

The meeting was attended by all Block Development Officers (BDOs), Ex-Engineer REW, AEs, JEs, Village Level Workers (VLWs), Panchayat Inspectors, Gram Rozgar Sevaks (GRSs), and all other officials of the Rural Development Department.

## Poshan Anantnag launches special enrollment drive under PMMVY

**ANANTNAG, JULY 15:** In a bid to reach out to the last eligible mother, Poshan Mission (ICDS) Anantnag has launched special enrollment drive for identification and registration of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) beneficiaries across the district. The mega drive aimed at saturation of the PMMVY started on July 15 and will culminate on July 31 in all the projects of the district. During this targeted drive, on-spot registration facilities will be provided at designated Anganwadi Centres and other notified locations in a decentralised manner enabling swift enrolment of eligible pregnant ladies and lactating mothers. In addition, new eligible beneficiaries will be identified and enrolled through outreach initiatives and field verification by the concerned teams. CDOs and Supervisors shall oversee and monitor the process for its smooth ground implementation, the concerned authorities informed. The objective of the scheme is to provide the cash benefit of Rs 5000 incentive for compensation of



wage loss during the delivery of first child (irrespective of gender of the baby) and promote positive behaviour towards girl child by providing additional cash incentive of Rs 6000 for second (girl) child. The prospective beneficiaries are urged to carry along necessary documents including Aadhaar card, bank account details, and maternal health records to the nearby AWC for expeditious registration allowing them to avail the scheme benefits.

## JMC launches Swachhta Internship Program to foster cleanliness culture in Schools



**JAMMU, JULY 15:** Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) in coordination with the Directorate of School Education through M/s Ladli Foundation, inaugurated the Swachhta Internship Program today at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Shastri Nagar. The program aims to foster a culture of cleanliness and sanitation among students in 13 government schools across Jammu City.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by Commissioner, JMC Dr. Devansh Yadav and Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0, UT of J&K, as the Chief Guest.

Addressing the gathering, the Commissioner JMC commended the collaborative efforts and emphasized the significance of involving youth in creating 'Swachh' and healthy communities. He highlighted that the Swachhta Internship Program is designed to empower students as ambassadors for cleanliness and sustainable hygiene practices. He said that this initiative is not just about cleaning

our surroundings; it is about transforming mindsets and nurturing a sense of responsibility among the youth. The founder and CEO of Ladli Foundation Devinder Kumar, in his presentation, explained that the Swachhta Internship programme is designed to engage & empower the young students, making them aware of various aspects of cleanliness & hygiene. "The programme will span over a period of 03 months. It will not just be a theoretical learning programme, but will be full of field insights and community connection," he added. He further informed that the students who will suc-

cessfully complete this internship programme will become certified swachhta resource persons and this journey will help them in their future career aspects. The event also witnessed the presence of Abdul Star, Joint Commissioner, Health & Sanitation, JMC; Manisha, Personnel Officer, Directorate of School Education, Jammu; Dr. Vinod Sharma, Health Officer, JMC; Ajeet Sharma, Chief Education Officer, Jammu; Anu Bhardwaj, Principal, Girls Higher Secondary, Shastri Nagar, as well as principals, staff and enthusiastic students from participating schools.

## Javid Dar inaugurates 'Waste to Wealth' Exhibition at Baltal

### *Felicitates langarwalas, sanitation workers for exemplary service*

**BALTAL, JULY 15:** In a major step towards promoting sustainable sanitation during the ongoing Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANY-2025), Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today visited the Baltal base camp and inaugurated the 'Waste to Wealth' Exhibition organized by the Directorate of Rural Sanitation, J&K.

The exhibition showcased innovative models of solid waste management, including displays of recycled materials, upcycled products and circular economy solutions. Local entrepreneurs from across Kashmir also participated, highlighting eco-friendly alternatives and grassroots innovation in sustainable waste practices.



A detailed presentation was given to the Minister by the officials of the Directorate of Rural Sanitation, outlining the comprehensive waste management strategy for the Yatra. The presentation focused on segregation at source, scientific disposal methods, composting, plastic waste minimization and integration of technology

for real-time monitoring and supervision. The Minister was briefed on deployment of machinery, logistics planning, manpower mobilization and community outreach under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) framework. The Minister also flagged off a Swachhta Rally, themed "Swachh Yatra,

Surakshit Yatra", which witnessed enthusiastic participation from sanitation workers, volunteers and departmental officials. The rally reinforced the collective responsibility of ensuring hygiene and cleanliness along the entire pilgrimage route.

During his visit, the Minister interacted with the sanitation workers, acknowledging their tireless efforts in maintaining hygiene amid challenging terrain and weather conditions. He also felicitated Langarwalas and sanitation staff for their commendable services in upholding cleanliness and supporting the smooth conduct of the Yatra. "Cleanliness is not just a service, it's seva". The inauguration of the 'Waste to Wealth' Exhibition, along with today's detailed review

of waste management systems, reaffirms our commitment to a dignified, hygienic and environmentally conscious pilgrimage," said the Minister. The Minister was accompanied by Anoo Malhotra Director General, Rural Sanitation; Shahr Hussain Bhat, Director RDD Kashmir; Virender Kumar Manyal, Director Camp Baltal; senior officers of District Ganderbal and others concerned officials.

He also reviewed on-ground sanitation infrastructure and ongoing IEC (Information, Education & Communication) campaigns being conducted to raise awareness among the pilgrims about waste segregation, reduction of single-use plastics and promotion of responsible pilgrimage practices.

## BBBP: SHEW Shopian organizes awareness programme at Berthipora Shopian



**SHOPIAN, JULY 15:** Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women under the banner of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) today organized an awareness programme at Government High School, Berthipora.

The programme was thoughtfully designed to enlighten students, teachers, and community members about the objectives of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative.

District Mission Coordinator of Sankalp Hub led the session with deep clarity, helping the audience connect with the core mission, ensuring every girl is protected, educated, and empowered. Principal of the school delivered an inspiring speech on the critical importance of girls' education in shaping a progressive society. Adding further

depth to the event, students came forward to share their own thoughts and speeches, expressing hope for a future where girls are treated with equal respect and opportu-

nities. The programme concluded with a collective pledge taken by all present to uphold the dignity, rights, and honour of every girl child.

## DLSA Shopian convenes 3rd UTRC meeting; reviews cases of eligible shortlisted UTPs/ prisoners

**SHOPIAN, JULY 15:** As per the UTRC meeting schedule issued by Legal Services Authority J&K for the year 2025, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian today conducted 3rd Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) meeting in District Court Shopian. The meeting aimed to expedite the identification and review of prisoners who are eligible to be considered for release, as well as to accelerate the regular functioning of UTRC and review all eli-

gible under-trial prisoners (UTPs)/Prisoners. The meeting was chaired by P. District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA), Shopian, Mehmooh Ahmad Chowdhary, with the members of Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC).

In the meeting, the committee reviewed cases of eligible UTPs/Prisoners shortlisted by the Secretary, DLSA Shopian for consideration and the committee recommended 06 under trial prisoners for release as being eli-

ble under various UTRC categories.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; Senior Superintendent of Police, Anayat Ali Choudhary; Secretary DLSA Shopian, Mudassar Farooq; Superintendent Jails (Correctional Home), Pulwama, Shahr Ahmad and Chief LADC Shopian, Rafi Ahmad Ganie.

**BARAMULLA, JULY 15:** In a continued effort to strengthen the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired the 18th District Level Narcotics Coordination cum NASHA Mukti Bharat Abhiyan (NCORD/ NMBA) meeting at the meeting hall, DC office Baramulla. The meeting was convened to assess the status of anti-drug measures, inter-departmental coordination, and



progress under the NASHA Mukti Bharat Abhiyan across the district.

Chairing the session, DC emphasized a multi-pronged approach involving strict enforcement, mass awareness, and rehabilitation support to effectively tackle the drug menace. He reviewed progress on the action plan devised in previous meetings, functioning of Drug De-Addiction Centers, and the engagement of youth through education and sports.

DC directed enforcement

agencies to intensify crackdown on peddlers and hotspots, while urging education institutions and civil society to play a proactive role in spreading awareness and guiding vulnerable youth away from addiction. SSP Baramulla briefed the house on the recent seizures, arrests, and surveillance operations carried out under NDPS Act. Health and Social Welfare departments were instructed to ensure adequate counselling and rehabilitation services for recovering addicts.



**Operation Sadbhavana****Army organises Quiz Competition on Agra Summit**

RAMBAN, JULY 15: To foster educational engagement and spread awareness about historical events among the youth, the Halemaidan Company Operating Base (COB) of the 12 Rashtriya Rifles today organized an insightful Quiz Competition at Upper Primary School Tantaraypura Banihal. The event centered on the historic Indo-Pak Agra Summit, aiming to deepen students' understanding of regional diplomacy and peace efforts.

The competition saw enthusiastic participation from students of different classes, who displayed remarkable knowledge and curiosity on the theme. Structured in multiple



rounds, the quiz covered key facts, notable personalities, historical context, and the outcome of the Agra Summit held in July 2001. Officers and senior officials from the 12 RRR were present to motivate the

students, emphasizing the importance of understanding India's diplomatic history and encouraging a spirit of critical thinking and national pride among young minds. Speaking on the occasion,

a senior Army officer stated, "Our aim is not just to ensure security, but also to contribute to the holistic development of the region's youth. Events like these promote awareness, foster education, and build a bridge of trust

and knowledge between the Army and the local community."

Prizes were awarded to the top-performing teams, while all participants received tokens of appreciation for their active and spirited involvement.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by the Head of the Institution, who lauded the Indian Army's continuous support and impactful role in community engagement and youth empowerment in the region.

This initiative is part of the Indian Army's ongoing Operation Sadbhavana, which aims to win hearts and minds through sustained educational and outreach programs.

SRINAGAR, JULY 15: Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, today reviewed the functioning of J&K Forest Development Corporation in a meeting with Managing Director, J&K Forest Development Corporation at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting aimed to review and streamline the Corporation's operational activities, focusing on sustainable forest management and revenue generation.

The discussions centred around extraction of timber in a scientific manner from markings obtained from the Forest Department, involving dry standing/fallen, uprooted and broken trees, as well as green tree markings cleared under the Forest Conservation Act.

The Minister emphasized the importance of generating revenue through the sale



of timber and firewood, meeting the requirement of these essential resources for local communities and creating employment opportunities.

The meeting also deliberated on clearance of sites for developmental projects approved under the Forest Conservation Act (FCA), 1980 and the Corporation's operational activities. These included enumeration and marking of trees by Territorial Divisions, preparation of project proposals, e-tendering for extraction, felling of trees, conversion into scants

or logs, transportation besides stacking, sorting and lotting for e-auction. The Minister reviewed the entire process, from tree enumeration to auction and directed the Corporation to ensure that all activities are carried out in a sustainable and environmentally responsible manner.

"By optimizing the Corporation's operations, the government aims to enhance the revenue generation, meet local needs, and promote sustainable forest management in Jammu and Kashmir," the Minister stated.

**DLC reviews Change of Land Use cases at Ramban**

RAMBAN, JULY 15: The District Level Committee (DLC) on Change of Land Use met today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan to review the status of the cases received from different parts of the

district.

The meeting was attended by ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo; GM DIC Ravinder Anand; SDM Banihal Mohammad Naseeb Bajran; SDM Gool Imtiaz Ahmed; ACD Shrinath Suman; DFO Batote Abhinav Ramotra;

DFO Ramban Hitender Singh Chandel; Executive Engineers of JPDCL, Jal Shakti, PWD Ramban and Banihal and other concerned officers. A total of 14 CLU cases were taken up for review ensuring thorough scrutiny of documents and verification of compliance with land conversion rules.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need to make the CLU process effective and foolproof. He further instructed the concerned officers to recommend cases strictly as per the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Land Revenue Act.

**Dharti Abha Abhiyan concludes in Vijaypur**

VIJAYPUR, JULY 15: The month-long Dharti Abha Abhiyan - Awareness and Benefit Saturation Campaign, launched on June 15-2025, concluded today in Vijaypur with a mega victory event held in the Block Development Office. The campaign was held under the overall supervision of District Development Commissioner Rajesh Sharma and it primarily focused on village Rakhi Barotian, an area with a substantial Scheduled Tribe (ST) population. The month-long campaign witnessed participation of over 1500 ST community members, who availed various welfare services and participated in awareness activities. All 17 line department teams took part



by setting up information and service stalls, providing on-the-spot registration and assistance under key government schemes. Departments of health, education,

agriculture, social welfare, rural development, and others played pivotal roles in driving citizen-centric outreach. One of the major highlights of the Abhiyan

was the distribution of Biomass Cook Stoves to eligible households, promoting clean energy and eco-friendly cooking practices, especially benefiting tribal

families by reducing indoor air pollution. The campaign also facilitated direct benefit transfers, new enrolments in welfare schemes, and real-time grievance redressal, with a core focus on benefit saturation to ensure that no eligible beneficiary is left out. At the valedictory function, officials from the Block Administration appreciated the active participation of villagers and commended the dedication of all departmental teams. The successful culmination of the Dharti Abha Abhiyan underscores the effectiveness of integrated outreach efforts in empowering under-served communities and advancing the vision of inclusive and sustainable development.

**Preparations for I-Day 2025 celebrations kick-off at Budgam****DC chairs meeting to review arrangements**

BUDGAM, JULY 15: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting at the Conference Hall of DC office complex to review the arrangements for the upcoming Independence Day-2025 celebrations in the district.

The meeting discussed various arrangements and measures to be taken to ensure the smooth execution of the Independence Day events.

It was given out that besides the main function at sports stadium Budgam, similar functions will also be held at sub divisional and block levels as well as at all schools, colleges and Government Institutions of the



district.

DC emphasised the importance of National event and directed the departments to make sure that every arrangement is meticulously planned and executed. He urged all departments to work in close coordination

to ensure the seamless execution of the Independence Day functions.

DC passed directives to different departments to ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place and operational well before the event, besides designating

ADC Budgam as the nodal officer for the event.

Chief Medical officer was directed to ensure that emergency medical services are available throughout all the functions.

Directions were also issued to the Jal Shakti department to make arrangements for drinking water facility, KPDCIL for power supply, R&B and Irrigation for venue arrangements, DIO for PAS system, EO MCs for cleanliness.

DC further emphasized that celebrations should foster an environment of festivity across the district and directed the Chief Education Officer to organize public and youth engagement activities including cultural

and patriotic activities for wider participation of youth and students to foster a sense of patriotism and community engagement in celebrations.

He also directed the concerned officers to ensure smooth movement of traffic and prevent congestion during the event.

DC directed all sectoral and district officers to ensure arrangements for flag hoisting at office premises and also abide by the rules given in flag code.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP Budgam Nikhil Borkar assured that all security arrangements will be in place well before the function to maintain law and order.

**DLIC Samba approves 53 Mission YUVA cases**

SAMBA, JULY 15: In a significant move to foster youth entrepreneurship and promote self-employment, the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) Samba for the Mission YUVA (Youth Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan) today approved 53 cases.

The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma. The meeting scrutinized each proposal submitted by the aspiring entrepreneurs seeking support under the scheme. Mission YUVA aims to provide financial assistance, skill and capacity-building support to enable youth to start and sustain their entrepreneurial ventures.

During the meeting, concerned departments presented a comprehensive review of the applications received. After detailed scrutiny and discussions, the Committee ap-

proved 53 eligible cases for financial support and necessary guidance.

Speaking at the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the transformative potential of Mission YUVA in empowering local youth and promoting sustainable livelihoods. He called for intensified awareness campaigns to reach a broader section of eligible beneficiaries and directed the District Employment & Counselling Centre Samba to proactively engage with the youth and encourage participation in the scheme.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Champa Devi Thakur, AD Employment, officers from DIC, Social Welfare Department, JKEDI and other concerned departments.

**Samba: Rs. 2.72 lakh fine imposed on Distillery for violation of norms**

SAMBA, JULY 15: The Legal Metrology Department Samba has imposed a penalty of Rs. 2.72 lakh on a prominent distillery for serious violations of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 and the Legal Metrology Act, 2009. An enforcement team headed by the Assistant Controller Samba conducted a detailed inspection of the distillery unit and unearthed multiple violations. These included the use of unverified weighing and mea-

suring instruments during production and packaging, along with non-compliance of mandatory declarations on packaged products.

Following the inspection, a formal case was registered by the LMD team under the applicable legal provisions. Compounding proceedings were initiated and a penalty of Rs. 2.72 lakh was imposed on the unit. The distillery has been directed to immediately verify all instruments and ensure strict adherence to Legal Metrology

norms.

Commenting on the enforcement action, Controller Rajinder Singh Tara said "The department is committed to protecting consumer rights and ensuring fairness in trade practices across Jammu & Kashmir. Enforcement drives will continue with full vigour, and violations will be dealt with as per law. All manufacturers and traders are advised to strictly comply with Legal Metrology standards."

**MLA Tarigami reviews Agricultural initiatives at Lalmandi Srinagar**

SRINAGAR, JULY 15: In a focused effort to strengthen the agricultural and horticultural sectors of Kulgam constituency, Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Kulgam M.Y. Tarigami chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Directorate of Agriculture, Lalmandi Srinagar. The session spotlighted strategic planning for the Kulgam constituency, with emphasis on the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme, Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) formation, and market linkage enhancement. Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, delivered a detailed Power-Point presentation outlining current initiatives, challenges, and future goals. The presentation emphasized innovation, farmer empowerment, and sustainable growth. The meeting was attended by key dignitaries and



stakeholders, including Farooq Ahmad Dar, Managing Director, HPMC; Jeelani Zargar, Director, Horticulture Planning and Marketing; Vikas Anand, Director, Horticulture Kashmir; Joint Directors, senior officers from relevant departments, and senior citizens. MLA commended the department's

efforts toward transforming the agriculture sector through innovation, sustainability, and inclusive growth. He particularly appreciated the initiatives aimed at empowering small and marginal farmers, promoting agri-entrepreneurship among youth, and improving market access through integrated value chains. He reiterated

the importance of institutional collaboration and grassroots engagement to transform Kulgam into a model constituency for agri-horticultural development.

The gathering concluded with a shared commitment to accelerate implementation and ensure tangible benefits for farming communities.



## Chief Minister Omar Abdullah addresses Annual Day Function at SKIMS Medical College Bemina

**Reiterates commitment to strengthening medical education, rural health infrastructure**

SRINAGAR, JULY 15: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today addressed the Annual Day function of SKIMS Medical College & Hospital, Bemina, where he commended the commitment of the faculty, students and newly inducted doctors. Addressing a gathering of medical professionals, students, staff, and parents, the Chief Minister said that the role of doctors in society is one of immense responsibility and trust. "Patients in our region place their utmost faith in their doctors, almost as much as they place in Allah," he said. "It is our collective duty to uphold that sacred trust with integrity and compassion."

Highlighting the rapid evolution in medical science, the Chief Minister noted the constant advancement in technologies, treatments, and surgical methods. "From robotics to artificial intelligence, the medical profession is now at a cross-



roads of human care and machine efficiency. While tools like ChatGPT can simulate empathy and generate treatment suggestions, they can never replace the human touch that defines this profession," he remarked. In a light-hearted personal reflection, Omar Abdullah recalled how he narrowly avoided a career in medicine due to his fear of a cadaver dissection, choosing instead to pursue commerce. "I lacked the aptitude and courage to become a doctor-but I have always had the utmost respect for

those who do," he said. The Chief Minister emphasized that earning a medical degree is only the beginning, and the real challenge lies in applying that knowledge to serve people, especially in underserved and rural areas. He urged young doctors to embrace government service not merely for job security but as a platform to deliver care where it is most needed. "I meet aspirants who seek government jobs but don't want to be posted even a few kilometers away from home. That mindset needs to

change," he added. Underscoring the government's focus on healthcare, the Chief Minister said that health and medical education would continue to receive top priority in budgetary allocations. "You have our full support whether it's infrastructure, staffing or training. But improving urban hospitals alone is not enough. If we are referring normal deliveries and minor surgeries to tertiary care due to staff shortages in rural areas, we are failing our system," he said.

Omar Abdullah also praised the Principal of SKIMS Medical College for gaining wide popularity and earning the trust of students and staff in a remarkably short time. "It's rare to see a rising popularity graph after four months in any leadership role. This speaks volumes about the direction in which this institution is headed," he said. Congratulating the graduating students and their families, the Chief Minister assured the parents that their sacrifices will not go in vain. "You have fulfilled your responsibility by educating your children. Now it is our duty to ensure they thrive and contribute meaningfully to the health sector of Jammu and Kashmir," he said. He wished the students continued success and reaffirmed the government's unwavering support for SKIMS and its affiliated institutions.

## India is the land of Buddha, PM Modi, is preserving Buddhist legacy and values: Tarun Chugh

**Tarun Chugh meets His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Ladakh**

Ladakh, 15 July 2025: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh met His Holiness the Dalai Lama today in Ladakh. The meeting reflected a deep spiritual connection and mutual reverence for India's civilizational responsibility in promoting peace, compassion, and religious freedom. Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh, Tashi Gyalsen Khasu President, BJP Ladakh, Ch. Vikram Randhawa, M.L.A., Tashi Gyalsen CEC, and other senior BJP leaders were also present on the occasion. In a deeply moving message, His Holiness the Dalai Lama said "Since coming into exile from Tibet in 1959, we have received immense support and assistance from the Government of India. It is thanks to India's generosity that we have been able to preserve our unique identity, language, and cultural heritage, deeply rooted in the principles of ahimsa (non-violence) and karuna (compassion)."



Tarun Chugh said that the Dalai Lama is not just a spiritual leader but a living embodiment of India's civilizational values. "His message of compassion, universal brotherhood, and spiritual strength resonates with the soul of India," Chugh said. He added that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India has stood firm on its ancient promise of being a sanctuary for seekers of truth and justice. Recalling PM Modi's own words, Chugh said "India is the land of Buddha, and Prime Minister Modi is making every possible ef-

fort to protect and preserve the legacy of Bhagwan Buddha, not just for India, but for the world." Chugh also highlighted Ladakh's significance, not just as a strategic frontier but as a sacred region where Buddhist wisdom, Indian civilization, and national pride converge. He said India's commitment to spiritual freedom and cultural preservation is not a matter of policy, it is a civilizational dharma. This meeting, Chugh said, was not just a political gesture but a reaffirmation of India's timeless duty to protect the torchbearers of truth, ahimsa, and dharma in a turbulent world.

## DIPR Samba organises Bhajan Sandhya at Narsingh Dev Ji Temple Ghagwal

SAMBA, JULY 15: Adding spiritual fervour to the ongoing Shri Amamath Ji Yatra, a soulful Bhajan Sandhya was organised this evening at the historic Narsingh Dev Ji Temple in Ghagwal. The event was organised by the Samba District Office of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR). Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The Bhajan Sandhya created a spiritually uplifting atmosphere, with local artists rendering melodious bhajans that captivated the audience and filled the temple premises with divine energy.



The DC appreciated the Information Department for promoting cultural and devotional events and called upon citizens to uphold the rich spiritual traditions of the region. The evening concluded with collective prayers for peace, prosperity and the successful conduct of the Shri Amamath Ji Yatra 2025.

## DC Rajouri launches Vibrant Village Programme 2.0

**Pays Tributes to Brigadier Usman- The Lion of Nowshera**

JHANGAR, JULY 15: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today launched the Vibrant Village Programme 2.0 and led the district in celebrating the 113th birth anniversary of Brigadier Mohammad Usman popularly known as "The Lion of Nowshera." The event was organized at the historic Jhangar village near the Line of Control in Nowshera Subdivision. The event was organized by the District Administration Rajouri in collaboration with the Indian Army, attracting enthusiastic participation from officers, students, locals and representatives of different departments.



The commemoration began with a grand welcome ceremony followed by paying of floral tributes at the memorial of Brigadier Usman. A documentary showcasing the life and valour of Brigadier Mohammad Usman was screened, highlighting his supreme sacrifice in the 1947-48 Indo-Pak war. To honour the legacy of service and patriotism, school students spoke on the life and contribution of Brigadier Usman and presented patriotic songs. The

Deputy Commissioner facilitated the participating students for their efforts and patriotic spirit. The government departments had set up awareness stalls at the venue to inform the public about various schemes and initiatives under the Vibrant Village Programme. Speaking on the occasion, the DC underscored the significance of the Vibrant Village Programme in transforming the lives of people residing in remote and border areas. He reiterated the commitment of the administration to bridge critical gaps in infrastructure and services delivery. "The supreme sacrifice of Brigadier Mohammad Us-

man is an eternal source of inspiration for all of us," said the DC. "I extend heartfelt congratulations to his family, the institution he served and the residents of his native place who continue to uphold his legacy with pride," he added. Later, the Deputy Commissioner chaired a meeting with district officers, instructing them to identify gaps and improve basic facilities, including drinking water, road connectivity, reading rooms, play zones, and dispensary services in the border villages. Refreshments were served to all participants as the event concluded on a note of national pride and developmental resolve.

## DC Doda hands over loan disbursement letters to youth entrepreneurs; DLC clears 132 new cases

DODA, JULY 15: A grand function-cum-meeting was held today at the Deputy Commissioner's Office, to mark "Big Login Day" under the Government's flagship Mission YUVA scheme. The event focused on empowering educated unemployed youth by supporting them in launching their own ventures. The programme was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and witnessed the presence of Additional District Development Commissioner Roshan Lal; Deputy Director Employment and Counselling Centre Rafiq Ahmad Jarral; Zonal Head J&K Bank Arshad Qadri; Chief Planning Officer, District Social Welfare Officer and Officials from the Employment Department, DIC, DDM NABARD, LDM, NRLM, and heads of different branches of J&K Bank. In a significant milestone, 25 loan disbursement letters



were handed over to aspiring entrepreneurs-making Doda the highest disbursing district in the Union Territory under the Mission YUVA scheme to date. J&K Bank, the scheme's sole banking partner, was applauded for its prompt and dedicated role in sanctioning and disbursing the loans. Addressing the gathering,

DC Harvinder Singh appreciated the collective efforts of all stakeholders and shared that the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) has approved 132 new cases today, raising the total approved cases to 241-a remarkable feat that cements Doda's position as a frontrunner in implementing Mission YUVA.

He emphasized that the initiative not only promotes entrepreneurship but also plays a pivotal role in channeling the potential of the youth into productive self-employment avenues. He assured continued support in the form of training, mentoring, and regular follow-up. Rafiq Ahmad Jarral briefed the chair on the criti-

cal role of Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) and lauded the tireless efforts of all members of SBDU and Employment Department officials who have worked relentlessly. He also tendered thanks to the Zonal Head of J&K Bank for taking lead in disbursement of loan to the beneficiaries. Earlier, Bua Ditta Branch Head J&K Bank Doda has given a brief of beneficiaries. Arshad Qadri highlighted the importance of departmental synergy and credited the success to the dynamic leadership of Deputy Commissioner Doda and coordinated efforts of the Employment Department and J&K Bank. The event concluded with a collective pledge to uphold the spirit of Mission YUVA and continue working towards building a self-reliant, entrepreneurially vibrant youth population in the district.

## Director Horticulture Jammu launches fruit plantation drive in Reasi District

REASI, JULY 15: Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Sayed today conducted an extensive tour of Reasi district. During the tour, he formally kick-started Rainy Season Plantation Drive by planting a sapling of citrus plant at village Nomain Katra. The initiative marks a significant step toward sustainable horticultural development and aims to boost fruit cultivation in the region's rainfed and sub-tropical areas. The Director was accompanied by Chief Horticulture Officer Rajinder Sharma; Assistant Director Sunil Gupta; MCC Dheeraj Balam and other officials of the department. The event drew enthusiastic participation from local farmers and community members, reflecting a growing awareness and interest in horticulture-based livelihood opportunities. Speaking on the occasion, the Director explained in detail various government schemes run by the Department of Horticulture for the welfare of farmers. He high-



lighted the benefits of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), and other centrally sponsored schemes. He impressed upon farmers to purchase the fruit plants from departmental nurseries. He further highlighted the solar fencing being introduced through JKICP scheme for the areas affected by monkeys & other wild animals. Later, he visited Government Fruit Plant Nursery Dagochibagh and inspected mother blocks of different fruit crops and protected cultivation structures

equipped with micro-irrigation facilities. The Director took stock of the ongoing developmental activities in the nursery and gave on spot instructions to the nursery staff regarding the production of quality grafted planting material in the nursery. Further, the Director Horticulture chaired a meeting of the District Officers, Horticulture Development Officers, officials & field functionaries of district Reasi. He instructed the officers to organize awareness camps, Kissan goshtis, to ensure better implementation of departmental schemes especially HADP for the ultimate benefit of the fruit growers.

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