



WEEKLY

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India-Australia Civil Nuclear Cooperation

Administrative Arrangement signed to secure long-term Australian uranium for India's clean energy programme

New Delhi, July 14: The Third India-Australia Annual Summit, held in Melbourne on 9 July 2026, marked a significant milestone in bilateral relations. Both countries reaffirmed their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The Summit delivered outcomes across maritime security, energy security, cyber cooperation, critical technologies, skill development and entrepreneurship, expanding collaboration in priority sectors.

A major outcome of the summit was the finalisation of the Administrative



Arrangement under the India-Australia Civil Nuclear Cooperation

Agreement. It enables long-term exports of Australian uranium to India for peace-

ful purposes under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards. Australia possesses the largest uranium resources globally, accounting for more than one-third of the global total. Assured access to Australian uranium would strengthen the fuel base for India's expanding nuclear power programme.

The Arrangement is also significant for India's long-term energy security and nuclear ambitions. It complements the Nuclear Energy Mission, which tar-

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Search Operation launched for two suspected Terrorists in Rajouri



Excel Express Correspondent

Jammu, Jul 14: A massive search operation was launched on Tuesday across some villages in Thanamandi area of Jammu and Kashmir's

Rajouri district after CCTV footage purportedly captured the movement of two suspected terrorists, officials said.

The suspected terrorists

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Jammu: NIA Court issues Non-Bailable warrant against LeT founder Hafiz Saeed

Jammu: A special NIA court has issued a non-bailable warrant against Hafiz Saeed, the Pakistan-based chief of the proscribed terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba, in connection with a case pertaining to the ongoing probe into the Pahalgam terror attack.

The order was passed by the Special Judge of the NIA Court on July 8, two days after the



National Investigation Agency (NIA) filed a supplementary chargesheet against Saeed in the Pahalgam

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Amarnath Yatra sets new record, crosses 3 lakh pilgrims in 12 days

Witnesses 37% surge in footfall; LG Sinha lauds stakeholders as pilgrimage gains momentum

Srinagar, : The annual Amarnath Yatra has scripted history this year, with the pilgrimage crossing the three lakh pilgrim mark within just 12 days, registering a nearly 37 per cent increase in footfall compared to the previous year.

Official figures reveal that 26,308 pilgrims paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine on Tuesday, taking the total number of

devotees since the commencement of the Yatra on July 3 to 3,01,926 (three lakh one thousand nine hundred and twenty-six).

During the same period in 2025, a total of 2,20,511 (two lakh twenty thousand five hundred and eleven) pilgrims had undertaken the pilgrimage. The latest figures indicate an increase of 81,415 pilgrims, translating into a 36.92 per cent

(approximately 37%) rise this year.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha commended all the officials, service providers and volunteers for their valuable contribution to the holy Amarnath pilgrimage.

In a post on X, the Lieutenant Governor said: "Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra has set a historic new record, crossing the 3 lakh mark in just 12

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SC seeks Centre, NCERT's responses on pleas against CBSE's 3-language rule for Class 9 students

New Delhi, Jul 14: The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought responses from the Centre, NCERT and the CBSE on two fresh pleas challenging the education board's policy mandating the study of three languages, including two native Indian languages, for Class 9 students.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana took note of the submissions of senior advocates Anand Grover and Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for the petitioners, and issued notices to the Centre and others and sought their replies within 10 days.

"We will hear (the petitions) on July 29," the CJI said.

The fresh pleas were filed by Amandeep Kaur and Arpan Roy Choudhury. They have made the Centre, the

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Manzoor Ahmad Dar honoured with Lal Ded National Literary Award



Srinagar: Manzoor Ahmad Dar, Editor-in-Chief of the Awami Etilaat English Weekly Newspaper, was honoured with the prestigious Lal

Ded National Literary Award by Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha during a distinguished literary ceremony held at Tagore Hall,

Srinagar.

The event also featured the release of Lal Ded: The Mother of Kashmir, authored by Dr. Vaidehi Taman, paying tribute to the timeless wisdom and spiritual legacy of the revered Kashmiri saint-poet Lal Ded. The programme brought together eminent scholars, writers, and cultural personalities from across the country to celebrate Kashmir's rich

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MeT issues flash flood advisory as heavy rain to hit J&K from July 18

Srinagar: The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast a significant change in weather across Jammu and Kashmir from July 18, with chances of heavy rain and flash floods in vulnerable areas.

Until July 17, the weather is likely to remain generally hot and humid with scattered places witnessing brief spells of rain and thundershowers, a MeT official.

According to the forecast, conditions will change from July 18 with partly to generally cloudy skies and light to moderate rain or thundershowers at many places. Isolated areas of the Jammu division may also see brief spells of intense heavy rainfall.

Rain activity is expected to increase further between July 20 and 22, with generally cloudy conditions and light to

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Amarnath Yatra sets new record...

days. I commend all the officials, service providers and volunteers. Their dedication and hard work have made this holy pilgrimage smooth and memorable for every devotee of Baba Barfani. Har Har Mahadev!"

Meanwhile, the 13th batch of pilgrims undertaking the annual pilgrimage left the Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu during the early hours of Tuesday under multi-layered security arrangements and reached Kashmir.

According to official figures, 5,335 pilgrims departed for the twin base camps, with 1,736 heading towards the Baltal route and 3,599 opting for the traditional Pahalgam route.

The Baltal convoy departed at 2:42 am, while the Pahalgam convoy rolled out at 3:10 am under the escort of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, CRPF and other security agencies.

The batch comprised 3,911 men, 1,288 women, 21 children, 90 sadhus, 24 sadhvis, and one transgender pilgrim.

A total of 232 vehicles, including 138 buses, 36 medium motor vehicles (MMVs), 57 light motor vehicles (LMVs), and one two-wheeler, were deployed for the movement of the pilgrims. Of these, 99 vehicles proceeded towards Baltal, while 133 vehicles moved towards Pahalgam.

The 57-day Shri Amarnath Yatra will conclude on August 28, coinciding with Shravan Purnima and Raksha Bandhan.

Located at an altitude of 3,880 metres above sea level in the Himalayas, the Amarnath cave shrine is revered for its naturally formed ice stalagmite, believed by devotees to symbolise Lord Shiva—(KNO)

Administrative

Arrangement signed...

term energy security and nuclear ambitions. It complements the Nuclear Energy Mission, which targets 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047. It also reinforces the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act, enacted in December 2025. The Act enables participation by Indian private companies and joint ventures in building, owning and operating nuclear power plants. Assured long-term uranium supplies provide greater confidence to developers, investors and industry, supporting timely project implementation. The SHANTI Act and the Administrative Arrangement provide the policy framework and strengthen fuel security needed to expand nuclear power for energy security and support sustained economic growth.

Search Operation launched...

the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the local police, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Army to launch a coordinated search operation in the area, the officials said.

Acting on the footage, the search parties fanned out across Bhanghai, Hasplote, Karyote, Kopra top and adjoining forested villages to trace the two individuals, the officials said.

The search operation was continuing when last reports were received. (Agencies)

Jammu: NIA Court issues...

terror attack case.

Saeed, designated a global terrorist by India and the United States, is also considered the mastermind of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

The supplementary chargesheet, filed before the special NIA court in Jammu, charges the 76-year-old Saeed in both his personal capacity and as the chief of the proscribed Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and its proxy front, The Resistance Front (TRF). He has been booked under multiple pro-

visions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

According to the court order, the NIA informed the court that absconding terrorist Saeed, a resident of Sargodha in Pakistan's Punjab province, is an accused in Pahalgam terror attack and has been deliberately evading arrest. The agency sought the issuance of an open-dated non-bailable warrant against him to initiate further proceedings in the matter and take legal action against him at any further investigation.

"Arrest and custodial interrogation of the accused (Saeed) are necessary for a fair, complete and effective investigation. As such non-bailable warrant of arrest is issued against him and is forwarded it to the Deputy Inspector General (DIG), NIA Jammu, for execution in accordance with law," the order said.

SC seeks Centre, NCERT's responses...

Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) as parties. One of the lawyers said that parents and schools have cited severe textbook shortages and sudden implementation burden.

are implementing unlawful circulars which are against the RTE (Right to Education) Act. They are imposing languages without alternatives. If Punjabi is taught without Sanskrit, where will teachers come?" Grover submitted.

"We are here for class 6 and 9 students. First, the most practical problem is that one state has said that by July one, all books have to be available. Now only books of three out of 22 languages are available. This creates a manpower issue also because of no teachers.

"They say non-native languages are different from native languages... now they are treating English as a non-native language," Sankaranarayanan said.

"A child is studying English and French and suddenly a 14-year-old, a class 9 student, is told to learn Tamil now. From where will we get the teachers, the infrastructure, etc," senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi asked.

are issuing notices. Meanwhile, file replies," the CJI said.

Earlier, the top court had asked Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati to submit a report on the logistical preparedness of the CBSE to implement the decision.

Rohatgi, appearing for the petitioner Yashica Bhandari Jain and others, submitted that a nationwide circular has been issued by the CBSE, which states that the students have to study three languages from the next academic year.

According to a circular issued by the CBSE, the study of three languages, including at least two native Indian languages, has been made compulsory for Class 9 students beginning July 1.

The move is part of the CBSE's alignment of its scheme of studies with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) 2023.

"In order to adequately address the competencies envisaged at the Secondary Stage, these textbooks will be supplemented with one appropriate local or state literary material, selected by schools, such as short stories, poems, or nonfiction works," the board said.

It added that detailed guidelines regarding the selection and pedagogical use of supplementary literary material would be issued by June 15.

According to the circular issued on May 15, students opting for a foreign language may do so only as the third language after studying two

native Indian languages, or as an additional fourth language.

"With effect from July 1, 2026, for Class IX, the study of three languages (R1, R2, R3) shall be compulsory, with at least two languages being native Indian languages," the circular said.

The board said till the dedicated R3 textbooks are available, Class 9 students shall use the Class 6 R3 textbooks (2026-27 edition) of the chosen language.

The CBSE said to keep the focus on learning and reduce any undue pressure on students, no board examination shall be conducted for R3 at the Class 10 level.

Manzoor Ahmad Dar honoured...

literary and cultural heritage.

Several distinguished personalities were felicitated on the occasion for their outstanding contributions to literature, culture, and the preservation of Kashmir's civilizational heritage. Among the recipients were Commodore (Retd.) D.S. Sodhi and Ravinder Pandita, Chairman of the Save Sharda Committee.

Expressing his heartfelt gratitude, Manzoor Ahmad Dar thanked the organisers for recognising his work and for promoting the universal message of peace, wisdom, and harmony embodied by Lal Ded. He also stressed the importance of establishing a dedicated Lal Ded Library to preserve her literary legacy, encourage research, and inspire future generations to explore Kashmir's rich intellectual and spiritual traditions.

The ceremony was attended by several eminent dignitaries, including former Rajya Sabha Member Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat, renowned writer Neerja Mattoo, distinguished scholars, authors, and prominent guests from different parts of the country.

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moderate rainfall at most places in the Union Territory. The peak of the wet spell is anticipated on July 21. Isolated locations in both Kashmir and Jammu divisions may receive heavy rain or brief intense showers.

Another spell of rain and thundershowers is likely at many places on July 23.

Issuing an advisory, the weather department warned of heavy rainfall and brief intense showers during the late night of July 18, the morning of July 19, and again between July 20 and 22, particularly during late afternoons and late night or early morning hours.

The department has cautioned that heavy rainfall may trigger flash floods, landslides and mudslides at vulnerable locations in the Chenab Valley, Pir Panjal Range and some hilly areas of Kashmir division during July 20–22.

Residents have been advised to remain cautious, avoid venturing near nallas and streams, and stay alert for waterlogging in low-lying areas during the forecast period.



Er. Aijaz Hussain Meets BJP National General Secretary (Organisation) Shri B.L. Santosh Ji in New Delhi

New Delhi, July 14: Er. Aijaz Hussain, BJP State Executive Member and Co-Incharge, Minority Morcha, Jammu & Kashmir, called on the National General Secretary (Organisation) of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Shri B.L. Santosh Ji, at his office in New Delhi today. During the meeting, they held detailed discussions on various organisational matters pertaining to the party, with particular focus on strengthening the organisation and enhancing grassroots outreach in Jammu & Kashmir. Er. Aijaz Hussain also apprised Shri B.L. Santosh Ji of the ongoing organisational activities and the political scenario in the Union



Territory. Er. Aijaz Hussain sought the guidance of Shri

B.L. Santosh Ji on several important issues concerning organisational expansion and public outreach. Shri Santosh shared his valuable insights and provided guidance for further strengthening the party at the grassroots level, while encouraging continued dedication towards the welfare of the people and the growth of the organisation. Er. Aijaz Hussain expressed his gratitude to Shri B.L. Santosh Ji for his time, guidance, and continued encouragement, reaffirming his commitment to work with renewed dedication to further the party's vision and strengthen its organisational presence across Jammu & Kashmir.

Chief Secretary assesses Infra projects to be taken-up under Urban Challenge Fund



SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting of Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) to review the progress made in identification and shortlisting of urban infrastructure projects proposed to be taken up under the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) of the Government of India. The meeting attended by Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Municipal Commissioners and other HoDs deliberated upon the strategy for positioning Jammu and Kashmir to effectively leverage the transformative funding mechanism aimed at accelerating sustainable urban development and regional economic growth.

Emphasizing the importance of preparing high-quality and financially viable proposals, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments to ensure that all shortlisted projects are aligned with the guidelines of the Urban Challenge Fund and are supported by robust feasibility studies, sustainable financing models and clear implementation strategies. He stressed that the projects should not only address the immediate infrastructure needs of urban centres but also create long-term economic opportunities, strengthen urban resilience, improve the quality of life for citizens and promote environmentally sustainable growth. The Chief Secretary further underscored the need for coordination with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to facilitate timely appraisal and approval of the proposed projects. He called upon all stakeholders to expedite the preparation of detailed project reports and complete all requisite formalities so that Jammu and Kashmir is able to effectively leverage the opportunities offered under the Urban Challenge Fund. During this meeting the Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur informed that the Urban Challenge Fund has been conceived by the Government of India as a paradigm shift in urban financing by encouraging cities and Union Territories to undertake bankable, revenue-generating infrastructure projects through a combination of Central assistance.

Mission Shakti Shopian strengthens grassroots awareness on women empowerment under BBBP

SHOPIAN: Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), Mission Shakti, Shopian organised an interactive awareness programme at Chanchmarg under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative to promote the rights, education, protection and empowerment of the girl child while creating awareness about various welfare schemes and legal safeguards available for women.

The programme was organised with the objective of sensitising local residents about the importance of gender equality and encouraging greater community participation in ensuring the well-being, safety and education of girls. It also aimed to inform participants about the services and support mechanisms available through different government initiatives for women and children.

During the awareness session, resource persons explained the key objectives of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative and highlighted the significance of promoting equal opportunities for girls in education, healthcare and social development. They also informed participants about several women-centric government schemes designed to improve the socio-economic status of women and ensure their access to essential services and legal protection.

The speakers provided detailed information on the legal safeguards available for women and girls and explained the role of the Women Helpline in providing immediate assistance to those facing distress or requiring support.

Participants were encouraged to approach the concerned authorities without hesitation whenever they needed help and were urged to spread awareness about these services among their families, friends and local communities.

Ravinder Pandita Honoured with Lal Ded National Literary Award

Srinagar: Chairman of the Save Sharda Committee Kashmir (Regd.), Ravinder Pandita, was honoured with the prestigious Lal Ded National Literary Award by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha during a grand literary event held at Tagore Hall, Srinagar.

The ceremony also marked the launch of Lal Ded: The Mother of Kashmir, authored by Dr. Vaidehi Taman, celebrating the enduring legacy of the revered Kashmiri mystic-poet. The event recognized distinguished personalities for their valuable contributions to literature, culture,



and the preservation of Kashmir's rich heritage. Among the awardees were Commodore (Retd.) D.S.

Sodhi and senior journalist and Editor in chief awami Etilaat english newspaper Manzoor Ahmad Dar.

Expressing his gratitude, Ravinder Pandita thanked the organizers for promoting the timeless teachings of Lal Ded and preserving Kashmir's shared cultural heritage. He also emphasized the need to establish a dedicated Lal Ded Library to conserve and promote her literary works for future generations.

The event witnessed the presence of several eminent personalities, including former Rajya Sabha MP Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudhe, former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat, noted writer Neerja Mattoo, scholars, authors, and distinguished guests from across the country.

ADDC Reasi reviews progress under HADP, JKCIP and KKGs

REASI: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Reasi today chaired a review meeting to evaluate progress of activities being implemented under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and Jammu & Kashmir Community Irrigation Project (JKCIP) and the functioning of Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) in the district. The ADDC reviewed the status of farmer registration at various KKG

levels and stressed the need to improve the conversion rate of L1-L2-L3 level KKG farms. Officers concerned were directed to ensure effective monitoring and timely implementation of all approved projects.

The ADDC directed completion of Kisan Sathi output tracking for all established units, timely completion of mandatory courses by beneficiaries on Daksh Kisan, expeditious establishment and opera-

tionalisation of units sanctioned under JKCIP and regular monitoring and follow-up of approved cases to achieve desired outcomes under HADP and JKCIP. The ADDC also directed completion of PM-Kisan verifications.

Among those present were Assistant Commissioner Development Reasi, Chief Agriculture Officer Reasi, SDAO Reasi and Dharmari along with field staff and officers of allied departments.

Atal Pension Yojana outreach programme to be held in Jammu on 10 July

Jammu: A district-level outreach programme on the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) will be organised at Country Inn, Jammu, on July 10 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm under the guidance of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory Level Bankers' Committee (UTLBC). The event is aimed at promoting greater awareness about the Government-backed pension scheme and expanding its coverage, particularly among workers in the unorganised sector.

The programme is being organised by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) in collaboration with the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) and the Lead District Manager (LDM), State Bank of India, Jammu. It forms part

of the ongoing efforts to strengthen financial inclusion and encourage long-term social security through wider enrolment under the Atal Pension Yojana.

According to Lead District Manager, Jammu, Ajay Thappa, the outreach programme will bring together senior officials from PFRDA, UTLBC, commercial banks, government departments, financial institutions, Business Correspondents and other key stakeholders associated with the implementation of the pension scheme. Their participation is expected to facilitate discussions on expanding the reach of APY and improving awareness among eligible beneficiaries.

The programme has been designed

to familiarise stakeholders with the objectives, benefits and implementation strategies of the pension scheme. It will feature inaugural addresses by senior officials, detailed presentations on the provisions and advantages of the Atal Pension Yojana, sharing of successful implementation practices from various institutions and an interactive question-and-answer session. Top-performing banks and officials contributing significantly to APY enrolment will also be felicitated during the event.

Officials said the office of the Lead District Manager has coordinated extensively with participating banks and financial institutions to ensure broad representation and active participation.

DC Bandipora reviews development works at S.K. Sports Stadium

Sets timelines for completion of ongoing projects



BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today visited S.K. Sports Stadium, Bandipora, to inspect the stadium and review the progress of ongoing developmental works aimed at improving sports infrastructure in the district.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected various ongoing works and reviewed their physical

progress with the concerned officers, engineers, contractors and representatives of sports associations.

Reviewing the development of the playfield, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned executing agency to complete the filling and levelling work within one month to make the ground ready for sporting activities at the earliest.

Inspecting the indoor sports hall, the

Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned engineers to complete the remaining work within two weeks and ensure that the facility is made operational without any further delay. The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress of the construction of the pavilion and directed the executing agency to expedite the pace of work and complete the project at the earliest. During the review, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Executive Engineer, R&B Bandipora to hold detailed discussions with the Engineering Wing of the J&K Sports Council and representatives of sports associations to ensure effective coordination and timely resolution of project-related issues.

The Deputy Commissioner interacted with the contractors executing the works and urged them to mobilise adequate resources and complete all ongoing works within the shortest possible time while maintaining the prescribed quality standards.

High Court Judges inspect New High Court Complex site in Srinagar; stress timely, quality completion

SRINAGAR:

Justice Sanjay Dhar, Chairman of the Building and Infrastructure Committee of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, along with Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Member of the Building and Infrastructure Committee, and Justice Shahzad Azeem, on Thursday visited the site of the upcoming High Court Complex in Srinagar to assess the progress of construction work and review the pace of its execution.

The visit formed part of the High Court's regular monitoring mechanism to ensure that the prestigious infrastructure project is completed within the stipulated timeframe while maintaining the highest standards of quality and workmanship. The Judges conducted a comprehensive inspection of the construction site and examined various components of the ongoing work.

During the visit, the Executive Engineer of the Roads and Buildings Project Division-I, Srinagar, made a detailed presentation highlighting the present status of the project. He briefed the visiting Judges on the work completed so far and explained the different



phases of construction that have already been executed. The Executive Engineer also outlined the upcoming stages of the project and informed the committee about the future works scheduled for implementation.

The presentation included details regarding the physical progress of the project, construction milestones achieved, and the timeline for the remaining works. The officials also apprised the committee about the measures being adopted to ensure smooth

execution of the project and adherence to approved technical specifications.

Following the presentation, the Judges carried out an on-site inspection of the construction works and reviewed the quality of the infrastructure being developed.

They interacted with the concerned officers and executing agencies to obtain first-hand information regarding the implementation of various project components.

The Judges directed the executing

Committee on Ethics discusses code of conduct; proposes orientation, institutional outreach

SRINAGAR: A meeting of the Committee on Ethics of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly was convened today under the Chairmanship of MLA Nizam- Ud-Din Bhat.

The meeting was attended by legislators Salman Sagar, Peerzada Feroze, Kuldeep Raj Dubey, Satish Kumar, Surinder Kumar and Arvind Gupta, alongside senior officers from

The Committee initiated deliberations on establishing a foundational framework to encourage public confidence in parliamentary institutions and their members.

Acknowledging contemporary challenges faced by the legislative



bodies, the members unanimously emphasised the necessity of upholding stringent norms, ethical standards and core values to guide the public conduct and responsibilities of representatives.

To this end, the Committee resolved to formulate a comprehensive Code of Conduct to serve as an

institutional guide for members. Recognizing the vital role of ethical values in public life, the Committee decided to organize an orientation programme for all members of the Legislative Assembly.

This initiative will include a comparative study of the operational frameworks of ethics committees across various State Legislatures, as well as the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

To adopt best practices, the Committee emphasized the necessity of undertaking study tours to witness the practical functioning of these institutional mechanisms outside the Union Territory.

SDRF 2nd Battalion Jammu intensifies Public Safety Awareness Campaign during Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra in Monsoon Season



Jammu: The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), 2nd Bn Jammu is continuously undertaking preventive awareness campaigns to ensure the safety and security of pilgrims and the general public during the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY-2026) and the prevailing monsoon season. The campaign at various places has been organised under the overall supervision and guidance of CO 2nd Bn SDRF Jammu Mohamad Aslam keeping in view the "Monsoon Safety Advisory" for all citizens and pilgrims.

The official deployed by SDRF 2nd Bn Jammu under the supervision of Dy. SP Lalit Kumar at the Yatri Registration Point, Tawi River Front, Jammu, conducted public safety announcements using megaphones to educate and sensitize pilgrims about the potential dangers associated with rivers during the monsoon season.

Pilgrims were advised not to venture near or enter the Tawi River, as the water level may rise suddenly due to heavy rainfall in the upper catchment areas, resulting in strong currents and flash flood-like situations that pose a serious threat to life and safety. The pilgrims were urged to remain vigilant, follow the instructions issued by the administration and security agencies and cooperate with SDRF personnel deployed at the site. They were also requested to discourage fellow pilgrims from taking unnecessary risks near water bodies. Similarly, personnel of SDRF 2nd Bn Jammu deployed at CD Town, Akhnour, conducted Public Awareness Announcements at various ghats along the Chenab River. Residents, visitors and devotees were informed that continuous heavy rainfall in the upper reaches, particularly in Doda and Kishtwar districts, has led to a significant rise in the water level of the Chenab River.

The Public was strongly advised to stay away from the riverbanks and refrain from entering the river under any circumstances. People were cautioned that swift currents, sudden increase in water level, slippery embankments and hidden underwater hazards can lead to fatal accidents within moments. In view of the ongoing monsoon season the CO 2nd Battalion SDRF Jammu Mohammad Aslam advises all citizens and pilgrims to observe the safety precautions.

Do not approach or enter rivers, streams, nallahs, waterfalls or other water bodies during or after rainfall, never attempt to cross overflowing bridges, flooded roads, or fast-flowing streams, stay away from riverbanks, as erosion and sudden surges in water level can occur without prior warning, avoid bathing, swimming, washing clothes.

Horticulture Deptt organizes awareness camp at Panchayat Dhanu under HADP

Jammu: The Department of Horticulture organized a comprehensive awareness camp at Panchayat Dhanu under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). The programme was chaired by Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Syed. Among others present were Chief Horticulture Officer Jammu Rakesh Kotwal, Chief Scientist, KVK Jammu, Dr. Puneet Choudhary, DLSMS Vishal Magotra, Rakesh Kumar Bhagat, Horticulture Development Officer Bhalwal Ravinder Kumar along with officials and field staff of the Department.

During the awareness camp, farmers and orchardists were sensitized about various developmental schemes being imple-

mented by the Department, including HADP, ATMA, CSS and RMHDP.

Detailed information was provided regarding financial assistance, modern horticulture practices, establishment of orchards, protected cultivation and other farmer-oriented initiatives. The experts also highlighted the importance of value addition to horticultural produce, emphasizing processing, packaging, branding and marketing to enhance farmers' income and generate employment opportunities.

The participants appreciated the initiative and actively interacted with the experts, seeking guidance on adopting modern horticulture technologies and availing benefits under different government schemes.

"National Medicos Organization J&K"

"Know my state by its regional culinary specialties along the NH-44 - The Sweet Seventeen Combination"



Talk of a region and as an ardent travel enthusiast food is the first thing that strikes your mind. All other fond memories fade away with time except the ones which had stimulated your taste buds ecstatically. You remember the place associating it with the delicacies enjoyed with the magnificent ambience. Every part of my nation changes its presence after few miles in every aspect be it geography, culture, traditions, wildlife, language and comestible habits. The author had the privilege of visiting major cities and towns of almost all the states and union territories of the country enjoying not only the historical monuments, naturally gifted places and man-made modern architectural marvels but also experienced the local culinary specialties. Covering whole nation in a single edition is beyond the scope given the diversity at hand,

the author would love to share his experience of tickling taste buds on the way from Lakhanpur (the entry point of Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir) to North Kashmir.

I hope the readers shall feel the excitement of knowing about the culinary culture and traditions of the regions of my home state while traversing through National Highway NH-44.

1. D a h i - Bhalle/Bhalle of Lakhanpur: (90 Kms rom Jammu) You feel both excitement of entering the Dogra-lands of UT Jammu Kashmir and a little anxious due to the traffic congestion while crossing the River Purushni or Iravati (River Ravi) from Punjab. This anxiousness elopes when one sees a swarm of fish like kiosk of Dahi-Bhalle just crossing the Lakhanpur toll gates. This is the first mandatory stop

after entering in the union territory of J&K. The recipe is a vegan gluten free street food made up of moong, chana dal batter topped with sweet and sour tangy chutney and grated raddish..slurppp !

2. Chai & Khoya Barfi/Namkeen mathi of Thandi Khui: (20 Kms from Jammu) After Lakhanpur the next must stop place for travelers giving the much-needed break from the tiring journey along NH-44 mainly due to patchy under construction roadway projects, is the Thandi Khui. People stop here for refreshments in the form of Chai, Khoya Burfi and Namkeen mathi. Those planning for a late evening cooking can buy fresh vegetables from the adjoining vendors selling it. (Thandi khui literally means 'Well of Cold water' and the name of this place is due to presence of a well having cold water, and the famous Barfi shop

dates back to 1953 manned by a visually challenged soul named Shri Bishan Das who's golden words had passed on to his generations which says "Don't offer anything to your Customers that you cannot eat. Customers are God" Truly inspirational) Thandi Khui has other spots too like 17 miles restaurant.

3. Halwa/Kheer and 'Suchiyan' of Jammu: There is a popular phrase highlighting duggar-lands which says "Mitthi ae dgareyan di boli te Khand Mithe log dogre meaning The inhabitants of Duggar lands are as sweet as their mother tongue which is very soothing and sugary so are the culinary delicacies like Halwa / Kheer. There are hundreds of outlets scattered all over the city. Another special recipe popular among rural Jammu known as Suchiyan or Suchi puri ia a traditional, paper thin, flash-fried puri like dish

usually served along with chai during festive or ceremonial assortment among Dogra sweets and snacks known as Paaji

4. Chai & Panner Pakoda plus Pickle of Manthal: (30 Kms from Jammu) Baba Manthal Chukh, nestled in the heart of Jammu and Kashmir, is more than just a name; it's a culinary legacy that has captivated taste buds for decades. Let's delve into the history, charm, and must-try delicacies of this renowned establishment. A taste of tradition Baba Manthal Chukh, established in 1936, has become synonymous with authentic Kashmiri flavors, particularly its delectable range of pickles and chutneys. The name itself, with "Chukh" likely referring to a type of spicy or tangy condiment, gives a hint at the culinary delights that await. This renowned brand in Jammu and Kashmir has been serving

generations with its home-made, high-quality products. In addition, people can be seen enjoying chai with paneer pakoda here in the nearby outlets.

5. Kaladi or Kalari cheese of Samraulli (Maish Krej in Kashmir): (75 Kms from Jammu) is an authentic Dogra cuisine originating from Ramnagar tehsil of Udhampur district made from Cow's or Buffalo's milk which is ripened made dense and sauteed in its own fatty contents. It can be enjoyed as Kaladi Kulcha or Bread Kaladi.

6. Patisa Barfi of Kud: (Approximately 100 Kms from Jammu) No visit towards Kashmiris blessed without tasting the famous Patisa Barfi of Kud (currently the shops are shifted to Chenani due to Chenani-Nashri tunnel bypassing Kud). Other nearby attractions include Tulip Garden in the High Land Park, temple of Baba

FROM PG 5



Cheto, Kali Mata and Shiv Temples (popularly known as Chotta Mani Mahesh). Another nearby popular place on the highway is the 'Tamatar mod' known for fresh vegetables including red juicy and fresh tomatoes.

7. Rajma Chawal of Peerah: (Approx 105 Kms from Jammu) Rajma Chawal with Desi Ghee & Anardana chutney brings the necessary satiety to your higher functions which are by now craving for eternal contentment due to hilly terrain drive. It's a perfect place for a hefty meal during the journey on NH-44. It's cautionary to add meetha curd (curd with sugar) in the list if you are driver of the vehicle as it is quite dizzy to sit behind the wheels after that. (Author used to take a short nap of 15-20 minute to wean off the dozing effects of curd before starting the ahead journey.

8. Kyuur (Sweet or savory fried Flatbread) with garam Chai of Shaitani nala: (Approximately 170 Kms from Jammu & 100 Kms from Srinagar) Among the Vegan delectables in the region of Novegetarian inclination Kyuur stands out. This delicacy is mostly seen during the rural festivities of the state.

9. Bamchootch

dishes of South Kashmir: Bamchootch Yakhni is prepared by quince slices simmered in a light fragrant yoghurt gravy flavored with fennel & cardamom; Bamchootch Wagan involve fried quince chunks cooked with eggplant brinjals in a spiced, semi-dry gravy)

10. Sheermal and Kehwa near Kesar fields of Lethpora Pompore: along the NH-44 around 20 Kms from Srinagar has caught the attention of travellers especially after the Levander of Pompore went global with GI tag and has evolved into a famous roadside culinary experience. Travellers and locals frequently seen halting here to enjoy both hot, traditional saffron infused green tea paired with sweet milk infused flatbread and also a quick photoshoot in the Levander/Mustard fields.

11. Nadru Yakhni of Kashmir (Nadru Monj): No dining table in Kashmir is complete without the presence of local Nadru (lotus stem & root). Nadru Monj is prepared by mixing the vegetable with besan and then frying it in oil. Cultivation of Nadru is done in the three big lakes of the Valley - Dal, Wular and Anchar. It is also a source of employment for many people. In the winter season, farmers face a lot

of difficulties in cultivating Nadru in the frozen water of the lakes, as they have to go deep into the water to extract the vegetable. This has been made less difficult by some modern methods, including special type of clothing to protect cultivators from the freezing water. Expert experience is needed to harvest Nadru from the lakes. Farmers go out in their boats early in the morning and spend hours in the lakes in search of this vegetable.

12. The Kashmiri Haak: is so good in taste that even the clear soup of this haak is fair enough to complete a meal including rice. It is considered as the soul of Kashmiri home-cooked meals. These leafy seasonal greens are gently cooked in mustard oil, garlic, dry ginger, and whole red chillies showcasing valleys passion towards honest natural aroma.

13. Dum Aloo of Kashmir: is a globally famous Kashmiri classical cuisine made up of baby potatoes fried and simmered to velvet-like perfection in a fragrant yogurt-based gravy scented with dried ginger, fennel and Kashmiri red chillies usually made without onions, garlic or tomatoes. One can add green cardamoms, cloves, asafetida and caraway

seeds. This is a must recipe for the guests especially among Kashmiri Pundit clan.

14. Modur Pulao of Kashmir: is a kesar (Levander) enriched sweet rice (basmati) loaded with milk, cream, sugar and dry fruits like kishmish, badam, Kaju etc. Modur in Kashmiri stands for sweet and is aromatic by slowly cooking rice with ghee and gets a distinct golden hue by adding high quality Kashmiri saffron and is usually served as dessert at the end of a meal.

15. Lyodur Chaman (Chaman Qaliya) of Kashmir: 'Chaman' in Kashmiri means cottage cheese golden pieces slowly cooked in pure mustard oil flavoured with local spices like fennel powder (saunf) and dried ginger (sonth). Other types of paneer recipes include Tamatar Chaman & Methi (fenugreek leaves) chaman.

16. Tosha sweet dish of North Kashmir: is deeply rooted in local sufi culture. It is prepared from refined flour, pure ghee, dry fruits and is mostly prepared for religious gatherings, shrines and major life events. This dish has an emotional touch among the locals who believe that it brings comfort and relief from sorrows

when shared with others.

17. The list would be incomplete if we do not include Mahadev ji ka prasad on the NH-44 during the revered Annual Baba Amarnath Yatra. Many registered associations & societies are allowed by the government to install Bhandaras along the NH 44 and provide Mahadev ji ka Prasad in form of meals for the 'Shradhalugan' during Annual Amarnath Yatra. It includes Bhandaras from different states providing meals including varieties of dishes from the different states. Mahadev bless these souls.

There are hundreds of local recipes made from locally grown and available stuff. Every local recipe of the UT Jammu Kashmir has an attached emotional touch among the local inhabitants. It is more than a revenue generating culinary specialty for them. It's the traditional mastery passed on from generations giving fond memories to the receivers (mostly tourists) and providers as well which further strengthens the globally famous Jammu Kashmir Hospitality duly backed by Jammu Kashmir tourism department which is working on its

expansion and hopefully my state stands out in this noble endeavour.

Jai Hind!

Bharat Mata Ki Jai!
Namaste Sada Vatsale
Matrubhoomi!

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Prant Adhyaksh,
National Medicos
Organization J&K.
Co-Patron, LMN RTI
Neurotherapy All India
Association.
Life Member ASI,
AMASI, SELSI, PESI,
JAKASI, NMO
Bharat,
Ex-Georgian
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Military School, Chail,
Himachal).
Swayam-Sewak,
Yoga-enthusiast,
Dikshit UDH-ASIN
Bada Akhara (Regd.),
Sadhna Kendra,
Dumet, Vikas Nagar,
Dehradun,
Uttarakhand.

CS sets monthly targets for PM Surya Ghar Yojana, Solarization Mission in J&K



SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress achieved under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana and the ongoing Solarization of Government Buildings Programme across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; Managing Director, JPDCL/KPDCL; CEO, JAKEDA besides representatives of several other concerned departments. While taking this review the Chief Secretary emphasized the need to achieve the targets assigned to both the Power Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) within the stipulated timelines. He directed the concerned agencies to ensure installation of all the rooftop solar (RTS) systems pertaining to nearly 57,000 beneficiaries where vendor agreements have already been executed, so that these consumers receive the benefits of the scheme without any delay.

Stressing the importance of timely implementation, the Chief Secretary instructed the concerned departments to prepare a well-defined timeline for achieving the targets considerably before the sunset date of the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, thereby ensuring that Jammu & Kashmir fully utilizes the opportunity provided under

the flagship programme of the Government of India. Reviewing the progress of the Solarization of Government Buildings, the Chief Secretary called upon the Science & Technology Department and JAKEDA to expedite execution and ensure that all identified government buildings are brought under rooftop solar coverage in a mission mode.

He directed that over 1,400 more government buildings under the CAPEX mode and around 1,300 buildings under the RESCO mode be targeted for completion by the end of July 2026. He also stressed the simultaneous completion of smart metering in all commissioned buildings to ensure effective net metering, accurate energy accounting and optimum utilization of the installed solar assets.

Speaking during the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department, Ashwani Kumar, outlined the roadmap for bridging the existing implementation gaps and highlighted the measures being taken to further streamline execution. He elaborated upon the strategy to strengthen inter-agency coordination, simplify operational processes and accelerate the pace of implementation so that the targets under both the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana and the Solarization of Government Buildings Programme are achieved within the prescribed timelines.

Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar, while appreciating the progress made under the scheme, suggested that districts demonstrating outstanding performance should be suitably recognized to encourage healthy competition among the implementing agencies.

He particularly commended the exemplary work carried out in the Kupwara and Shopian districts in the implementation of this Yojana, and recommended that the officers and field functionaries responsible for these achievements be appropriately appreciated to motivate similar performance across the Union Territory.

The meeting was informed by the MD, KPDCL, Mehmood Ahmad Shah that under PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, the Government of India has fixed a national target of one crore residential rooftop solar installations by 31st March 2027. In line with this, Jammu & Kashmir has set a target of 83,500 residential consumers for itself, comprising 39,500 consumers under JPDCL and 44,000 consumers under KPDCL. Reviewing the implementation status, the Chief Secretary was further informed that as on 07 July 2026, rooftop solar systems had been installed for 37,138 residential consumers across Jammu & Kashmir with a cumulative installed capacity of 133.40 MW. These installations have enabled beneficiaries to receive Central Financial Assistance amounting to Rs 291.38 crore, while the Union Territory has additionally extended Rs 10.50 crore as UT subsidy, thereby significantly reducing the financial burden on consumers and encouraging wider adoption of rooftop solar systems.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the progress achieved under the ambitious programme for Solarization of Government Buildings, being implemented through JAKEDA under both CAPEX and RESCO modes.

DC Budgam reviews progress of Transit Accommodation Project for PM Package Employees at Kakanmaran



BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today visited kakanmaran Budgam and conducted a comprehensive review of the progress of the Transit Accommodation Project for PM Package/Migrant Employees of District Budgam.

The project is aimed at providing modern residential accommodation for PM Package employees. The infrastructure comprises 12 residential blocks with a total of 192 flats, along with one community hall and one dormitory, besides other essential amenities.

During his visit, the DC was accompanied by the Joint Director Planning, Budgam, Superintending Engineer, R&B and Hydraulic Circle Budgam, Executive Engineers of the Roads & Buildings (R&B), Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Power Development Department (PDD), representatives from the Relief Department, and other concerned officers.

During the inspection, the officers briefed the DC about the physical progress of the project and informed him that construction work is progressing at an accelerated pace.

On-site the DC inspected various components of the project and reviewed the quality and pace of execution. The DC was also briefed that project also includes a range of allied works such as land levelling, security infrastructure, internal roads, approach roads, drainage network and protection works. The fencing wall of transit accommodation has been completed.

Javed Rana listens to public grievances, assures swift disposal of representations



SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today met several public delegations and individuals at Srinagar and listened to their issues and demands pertaining to the Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs departments.

The delegations, representing different areas, apprised the Minister of various public issues requiring immediate attention. They also projected several developmental demands and sought timely intervention for the resolution of matters. The Minister gave a patient hearing to all the deputations and individuals, assuring them that every genuine issue would be examined on merit and addressed in a transparent and time-bound manner. He reiterated that the government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, remains steadfast in its commitment to provide efficient public services and ensuring that developmental benefits reach every section of society. Javed Rana directed the concerned officers to promptly process the representations received during the interaction and ensure their swift disposal. He stressed the need for maintaining close coordination with the field functionaries so that public grievances are resolved efficiently and without unnecessary delay.

The Minister emphasized that regular interaction with the people is vital for responsive governance and enables the Government to identify local issues, assess developmental priorities and deliver effective solutions at the grassroots level. He reaffirmed that public outreach and timely grievance redressal will continue to remain among the government's key priorities.

IRCS J&K organises drug de-addiction and CPR awareness programme at Mendhar under 100-Day Nasha Mukht Campaign



POONCH: The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Jammu & Kashmir, in collaboration with the District Red Cross Society Poonch, organised a Drug De-Addiction Awareness and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Awareness Programme at Government Higher Secondary School (Boys), Mendhar, as part of the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukht Campaign launched under the guidance of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir. The awareness programme was organised with the objective of educating students about the harmful effects of drug abuse, encouraging them to adopt a healthy and disciplined lifestyle, and equipping them with essential life-saving skills through CPR training. The initiative also sought to strengthen community participation in the fight against substance abuse while promoting awareness about emergency first aid techniques that can save lives before pro-

fessional medical assistance becomes available. Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Mendhar, Imran Kataria, and Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Mendhar attended the programme as chief guests. Addressing the gathering, they appreciated the efforts of the Indian Red Cross Society and the District Red Cross Society Poonch for organising an awareness programme combining drug de-addiction and emergency medical response.

The SDM stressed the importance of keeping young people away from the menace of drug addiction, describing substance abuse as a serious social and public health challenge. He urged students to remain focused on education, sports and other constructive activities while adopting a healthy lifestyle. He also appealed to them to become ambassadors of the anti-drug campaign by spreading awareness among their families, friends and local communi-

ties. He said that collective efforts by educational institutions, parents, civil society and government agencies are essential to build a drug-free society.

The programme featured awareness sessions conducted by a special team from the Indian Red Cross Society, Jammu, comprising Dr Rita Kumari, Medical Officer; Vironica Marwah, Field Officer; Ashok Chandel, Head Assistant; and Surinder Kumar, Helper. The team interacted with students and explained the objectives of the awareness campaign in an engaging manner. Dr Rita Kumari conducted a practical demonstration on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), explaining the correct techniques to be followed during medical emergencies such as sudden cardiac arrest. She informed participants that timely administration of CPR can significantly improve a patient's chances of survival until trained medical professionals arrive.

The demonstration provided students and teachers with valuable knowledge that could prove crucial in emergency situations.

Field Officer Vironica Marwah highlighted the objectives, principles and humanitarian services of the Indian Red Cross Society. She encouraged students, teachers and members of the public to become Red Cross members and actively participate in humanitarian and community service initiatives.

Rajpora, Uri, Pampore MLAs call on Javed Rana; seek early redress of public grievances



SRINAGAR: MLA Rajpora, Ghulam Mohiuddin Mir, MLA Uri, Dr Sajad Shafi and MLA Pampore, Hasnain Masoodi, today called on Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, at the Civil Secretariat here.

During the meeting, the MLAs apprised the Minister in detail of the pending public grievances and developmental requirements of their respective constituencies. Issues raised included augmentation and restoration of drinking water supply schemes, repair and maintenance of damaged irrigation channels, protection concerns related to forest land and long-pending demands for strengthening of flood control infra-

structure in vulnerable areas.

MLA Rajpora, Ghulam Mohiuddin Mir, drew attention to irrigation and drainage-related issues in his constituency and urged the intervention of the Minister.

MLA Uri, Dr Sajad Shafi, highlighted the need for early completion of water supply augmentation works in his constituency while MLA Pampore, Hasnain Masoodi, raised concerns pertaining to environmental degradation and sought the Minister's intervention for early redressal of public grievances related to his constituency.

Responding to the concerns raised, Javed Rana assured the MLAs that all genuine demands would be taken up on priority and resolved in a time-

bound manner. "The Omar Abdullah government is committed to ensure that no genuine grievance of the people goes unaddressed. Public service and grassroots development remain our foremost priority and we will leave no stone unturned in reaching out to every constituency," the Minister said.

Emphasising the need for timely execution of works in all constituencies, Rana directed the concerned officers to resolve all pending issues in a time-bound manner to ensure that developmental projects do not suffer delays. He stated that his department has already initiated action on several demands raised by public representatives in recent months. He said the officers have been directed to expedite the pending works and furnish periodic compliance reports. "Development works once approved must reach completion without unnecessary delay. I have asked the concerned engineers and officers to personally monitor progress on the ground and ensure accountability at every level," he added.

The MLAs expressed confidence that the issues raised would receive early attention, benefiting the people of Rajpora, Uri and Pampore constituencies.

Director Information, DIPR employees condole demise of Majeeb Ahmad's son

SRINAGAR: Director Information and Public Relations, Shreya Singhal today expressed profound grief and sorrow on demise of the son of Majeeb Ahmad, Information Officer, DIPR.

During a condolence meeting held at Media Complex Srinagar, the Director Information conveyed her deepest condolences to Majeeb

Ahmad and his family during this hour of immense grief. She prayed for peace of the departed soul and patience upon the bereaved family to endure this profound loss. Meanwhile, DIPR employees also condoled the demise of beloved son Majeeb Ahmad. They also expressed heartfelt sympathies with the bereaved family and prayed for

strength and courage to them to bear this irreparable loss. The officers and employees also observed a two-minute silence and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul. Among others, Joint Director Information (Hqrs), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; officers and officials of DIPR also attended the condolence meet.

District Admin Bandipora sets up Plastic Checkpoint at Tragbal to protect Gurez Valley's Fragile Ecology

BANDIPORA: In a significant step towards preserving the pristine environment of Gurez Valley, the District Administration Bandipora today established a Plastic Checkpoint at Tragbal on the Road to Gurez with the active support of the Indian Army and launched the 'Polythene-Free Gurez' Campaign to curb the use of single-use polythene and plastic and promote sustainable tourism in the valley. On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, said that the initiative, envisioned in line with the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for environmental conservation and cleanliness, has been launched under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) and would be implemented in letter and spirit.

The Deputy Commissioner inaugurated the newly established Plastic Checkpoint at Tragbal on the Road to Gurez, where she interacted with visitors and tourists proceeding towards Gurez Valley. She appealed to them to cooperate with the District Administration in making Gurez a polythene-free tourist destination by avoiding the use of single-use plastic and adopting eco-friendly alternatives.

The Deputy Commissioner said



that with the opening of Gurez Valley for the tourist season, a considerable increase in polythene and plastic waste had been noticed. She stressed that protecting the valley's fragile ecosystem was a collective responsibility and called upon all visitors to actively support the campaign by carrying reusable and environment-friendly materials.

To facilitate the campaign, the District Administration, with the active support of the Indian Army, established the Plastic Checkpoint at Tragbal on the Road to Gurez, where sustainable and environment-friendly alternatives, including steel water bottles and cloth bags, had been made available for travellers. In addition, a washroom facility and a food point were also established for the convenience of visitors. The Deputy Commissioner

urged tourists and other visitors to extend their wholehearted support to the initiative and contribute towards keeping Gurez clean, green and free from plastic pollution.

The campaign is being implemented under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) under the leadership of the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Bandipora, with the active support of the Director General, Rural Sanitation, J&K; Secretary, Rural Development Department, Jammu & Kashmir, and the District Administration Bandipora.

The District Administration reaffirmed its commitment to promoting responsible tourism and protecting the natural beauty and ecological wealth of Gurez Valley through sustained public participation and coordinated efforts of all stakeholders.

Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026

DIPR Samba organises Devotional Bhajan Sandhya at Chichi Mata Temple



SAMBA: Under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Samba, Ayushi Sudan, and as part of the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026, the District Information Office Samba, Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) organised a devotional Bhajan Sandhya at the revered Chichi Mata Ji Temple this evening, adding to the spiritual fervour surrounding the annual pilgrimage.

The programme witnessed an overwhelming response from devotees, members of the Temple Committee and local residents, who gathered in large numbers to participate in the devotional event and seek the blessings of Mata Chichi Ji.

The Bhajan Sandhya featured captivating performances by renowned local artists and talented devotional singers, whose soulful bhajans created a deeply spiritual atmosphere. The devotional renditions filled the temple premises with divine melodies, inspiring devotion, peace and collective prayer among the devotees.

Organised under the banner of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026, the initiative reflected the Department's commitment to promoting the spiritual and cultural ethos of the region while enriching the experience of pilgrims and devotees. The event also served to strengthen the spirit of communal harmony and cultural unity through the shared celebration of faith.

The programme concluded with prayers for the successful, safe and peaceful conduct of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026 and the well-being of all pilgrims.

The event was coordinated by the District Information Office Samba, as part of the series of activities being organised during the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026.

MLA Sonawari, DC Bandipora review PMJVK implementation in district

Discuss new CHC proposal for Sumbal

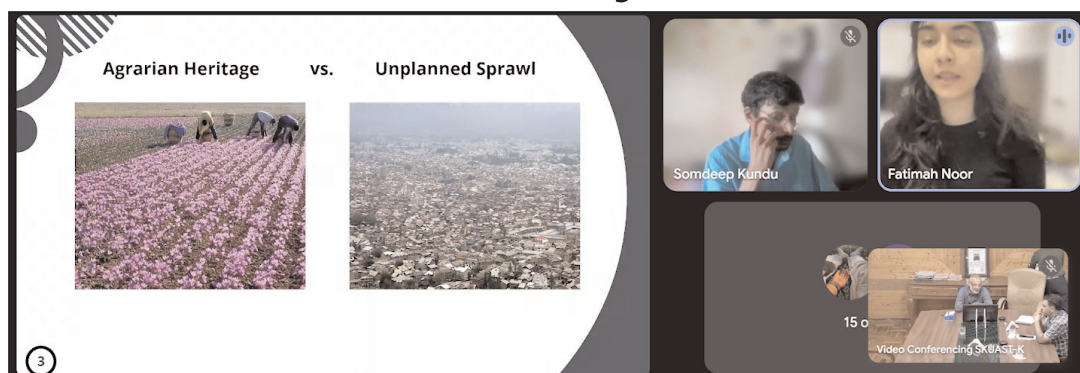
BANDIPORA: MLA Sonawari, Hilal Akbar Lone, and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today reviewed the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram (PMJVK) in the district and discussed the proposal for construction of a new Community Health Centre (CHC) building at Sumbal under the scheme.

During the meeting, MLA Sonawari, emphasized the need for establishing a new Community Health Centre building at Sumbal to strengthen healthcare infrastructure and improve access to quality medical services for the people of the area. He urged that the proposal be considered under PMJVK in view of the growing healthcare requirements of the Sub-Division. It was informed that land for the proposed CHC building has already been identified.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to examine the feasibility of the project and verify that all prescribed conditions under PMJVK are fulfilled. The Deputy Commissioner directed the Chief Medical Officer to get a preliminary land feasibility assessment conducted in coordination with the concerned engineering departments so that the proposal meets all required parameters before being taken forward under the scheme.

Among others, the meeting was attended by District Programme Officer Poshan ICDS Bandipora, Chief Planning Officer Bandipora, Chief Medical Officer Bandipora, Chief Education Officer Bandipora, nominated members of the PMJVK District Level Committee, and other concerned officers.

SKUAST-K reviews Mid-Term Progress of First IIT Bombay RuDRA Internship Cohort



SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) on Wednesday reviewed the progress of its first batch of students undergoing a one-month internship at IIT Bombay under the Center of Excellence for Rural Data Research & Analysis (RuDRA), an initiative supported through HADP-19 and HADP-20. The program is designed to equip students with advanced technological skills, research exposure, and interdisciplinary learning at one of India's premier institutions, enabling them to develop innovative, data-driven solutions for agriculture and rural development in Jammu & Kashmir.

The review was chaired by Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai

in the presence of Prof. Masood Saleem Mir, Principal Investigator, HADP-20; Prof. Shabir Ahmad Bangroo, Principal Investigator, HADP-19; Prof. Irfan Ahmad Bisati, Co-Principal Investigator, HADP-20; and IIT Bombay faculty members Dr. Pennan Chinnasamy; Dr. Mohammad Kasim; and Dr. Somdeep Kundu.

The internship is a key outcome of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between SKUAST-K and IIT Bombay to strengthen collaboration in sustainable agriculture, environmental management, and rural development. As part of the partnership, SKUAST-K has established the Center of Excellence for Rural Data Research & Analysis (RuDRA), in collaboration with IIT Bombay's RuDRA Lab, to advance decision-

support systems for rural development and to promote joint research, curriculum development, knowledge transfer, faculty and student exchange, and internship programs. The inaugural cohort comprises 14 students from different faculties and academic programs, making it the university's first interdisciplinary batch under the initiative. During the review, the students presented the progress of their projects at IIT Bombay, highlighting work on geospatial technologies, data analytics, digital agriculture and AI-enabled decision-support systems for agriculture and rural planning. Addressing the interns, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai urged them to maximize the opportunity by acquiring cutting-edge technological expertise that can be adapted to address the evolving needs of farmers and rural communities in Jammu & Kashmir. The internship program is expected to build a pool of skilled professionals capable of translating advanced technologies into practical solutions for sustainable agriculture, rural livelihoods, and evidence-based rural governance in Jammu & Kashmir.

PMDDKY review meeting held in Kishtwar



KISHTWAR: Under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma, a review meeting on PMDDKY regarding the compilation and submission of Output Data and Outcome Data for the financial year 2025-26 was held today under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Kishtwar, Vinod Behnal.

During the meeting, the progress achieved by various departments in furnishing Output and Outcome Data was reviewed in detail. The ADDC stressed the importance of timely and accurate submission of data to facilitate its upload on the PMDDKY Portal.

All concerned departments were directed to compile and submit their Outcome Data on or before July 10, 2026, so that the information can be uploaded to the PMDDKY portal within the prescribed timeline. The Chair emphasized that adherence to timelines and data accuracy is essential for effective monitoring and evaluation of developmental programmes.

All concerned HODs of the line departments were instructed to ensure prompt compliance with the directions issued during the meeting.

The Chair directed all departments to work in close coordination and complete the exercise within the stipulated timeframe to ensure seamless reporting and effective implementation of government schemes.

The meeting was attended by CAO Kishtwar Kushal Chandel, DSHO Kishtwar Dr. Jamil Nasir besides other Officers and officials from concerned departments.

DC Shopian reviews TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

Urges coordinated action to make Shopian TB-free

SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today chaired a review meeting of TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan here at Mini Secretariat, Shopian to assess the progress of tuberculosis elimination efforts across the district.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed the status of TB case detection, treat-

ment outcomes, follow-up mechanisms and awareness initiatives being undertaken in the district. He stressed the need for intensified screening, early diagnosis, timely treatment and coordinated efforts to achieve the objective of a TB-free Shopian. The DC directed the Health Department to strengthen community outreach,

ensure regular monitoring of patients, enhance public awareness regarding TB prevention and treatment and maintain close coordination among all stakeholders for effective implementation of the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan. He emphasized that sustained efforts, active public participation and efficient healthcare delivery for

achieving the national goal of eliminating tuberculosis within the stipulated timeline. The meeting was attended by CMO, Shopian, Dr. Saima Bhat; MS, DH, Shopian, Dr. Arshid Qadri; DTO, Dr. Aijaz Patloo, BMOs, besides Senior Treatment Supervisors (STS) and Senior Treatment Laboratory Supervisors (STLS).

VC LCMA inspects Khushalsar-Gilsar Lake System

Reviews conservation and demarcation measures



SRINAGAR: Vice Chairman, J&K Lake Conservation & Management Authority (LCMA), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, today conducted an extensive inspection tour of the Khushalsar Gilsar lake system, covering Gil Kadal, Sazgaripora, Saidapora, and other adjoining areas in and around the waterbodies to review the progress of conservation and protection measures being undertaken by the Authority.

The Vice Chairman was accompanied by the Superintending Engineer, Collector, all Executive Engineers, Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs), Junior Engineers (JEs), Revenue officials, and other officers and officials of

the Authority.

During the visit, the Vice Chairman undertook a comprehensive on the spot review of the demarcation exercise being carried out by the field teams.

He inspected the identified land parcels and assessed the progress achieved in the field.

Stressing the importance of clearly establishing the boundaries of the water bodies and their protected areas, he directed the demarcation teams to expedite the pegging and marking of all identified land to ensure proper identification, protection, and effective monitoring of these ecologically significant assets.

Interacting with the field staff, the Vice Chairman emphasized the need for sustained vigilance and coordinated efforts in carrying out conservation activities. He instructed the concerned officers to ensure that the demarcation work is completed in a time bound manner while maintaining complete accuracy and transparency. He further directed that regular inspections be conducted to prevent any encroachment or unauthorized activity within the demarcated areas. Reviewing the condition of the water body, the Vice Chairman directed that the Water Master and barge be mobilized and shifted to the Khushalsar Gilsar water body on priority today itself so that cleaning and other restoration activities can be intensified without any delay. He emphasized that all necessary logistical arrangements should be made immediately to ensure that the machinery becomes operational at the earliest.

The Vice Chairman also reviewed the existing protective measures along vulnerable stretches of the Khushalsar Gilsar water bodies. Recognizing the need for strengthening the physical protection of the lake boundaries, he directed the Engineering Wing of LCMA to immediately prepare a detailed proposal for installation of chain link fencing around the identified vulnerable locations.

Malaria Team conducts anti-dengue awareness, surveillance activities in Doda Town

DODA: As part of the ongoing Anti-Dengue Month (ADM) campaign under the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), the District Malaria Team from CMO Office Doda conducted an extensive field visit in Doda Town and its adjoining areas.

During the visit, the team carried out intensive Information, Education and Communication/Behaviour Change Communication (IEC/BCC) activities to raise awareness among the public regarding the prevention and control of Dengue and Malaria.

Residents were sensitized about the importance of maintaining environmental sanitation, eliminating stagnant water and other mosquito breeding sites and adopting personal protective measures to safeguard themselves from vector-borne diseases.

As part of surveillance and monitoring activities, the team also inspected the MF-8 Register maintained at the Pathology Section of Associated Hospital, Government Medical College Doda to ensure proper recording and reporting in accordance with programme guidelines.

The activity was conducted under the guidance of the Chief Medical Officer, Doda Dr Vinod Sharma and under the supervision of the District Malaria Officer, Doda, in line with the guidelines of the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) to strengthen vector-borne disease prevention and control measures across the district.

Satish Sharma secures breakthrough on mutton dealers' issues during meetings in Punjab

Pushes for stronger fight against drug menace; hints at adopting Punjab's 24x7 monitoring, Village Defence Committee Model



CHANDIGARH: In a significant step towards resolving the long-pending issues faced by the mutton dealers, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today held a series of meetings with the Punjab Government, resulting in immediate directions for addressing the concerns of the trading community. The Minister held detailed discussions with the Punjab's Animal and Sheep Husbandry Minister, the Chief Secretary of Punjab, the Secretary, Science & Technology and the Secretary, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj.

The primary focus of the meetings was to find an immediate and practical resolution to the issues affecting the mutton dealers, which have been causing hardships to the traders and impacting the smooth movement of livestock. During the marathon deliberations, Satish

Sharma strongly projected the concerns of the mutton dealers. He emphasized the need for coordinated action between the governments of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab to facilitate hassle-free movement of livestock while ensuring compliance with all regulatory requirements.

Responding positively to the Minister's intervention, the Punjab Government issued on-the-spot instructions to the concerned departments to take immediate steps for resolving the issues. The decisions taken during the meetings are expected to significantly ease the difficulties being faced by the mutton dealers and ensure smoother coordination between Punjab and J&K.

Expressing satisfaction over the outcome of the meetings, Satish Sharma said that safeguarding the interests of traders and ensuring uninterrupted supply of essential commodities remains a priority of the Government.

He said the positive response from the

Punjab Government reflects the spirit of cooperative federalism and inter-state coordination in resolving issues affecting the livelihoods of thousands of people.

The meetings also featured extensive discussions on strengthening cooperation in the field of animal husbandry. Both sides explored measures to improve livestock management, disease control, scientific breeding practices and veterinary services through greater collaboration and exchange of best practices. In separate discussions with the senior officials, the Minister also reviewed opportunities for enhanced cooperation in the fields of Science & Technology, innovation, digital governance and research. He stressed the need to leverage technology for improving public service delivery and promoting sustainable development.

The growing menace of drug abuse also figured prominently during the discussions. Satish Sharma held detailed deliberations with the senior Punjab officials on the state's comprehensive anti-drug strategy, particularly its community-based model involving Village Defence Committees and a dedicated 24x7 monitoring mechanism. He said these initiatives have shown encouraging results and would be examined for suitable adoption in Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen the fight against drug abuse and protect the youth from the scourge of narcotics.

Several delegations call on CM Omar Abdullah at Raabita, seek resolution of public issues

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today met several public delegations at Raabita and listened to their grievances and demands concerning various public and sector-specific issues.

A delegation of the Industrial POP Association, Khunmoh, called on the Chief Minister and highlighted the

challenges confronting the Plaster of Paris (POP) industry in Kashmir due to the non-availability of gypsum.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured its members that the matter would be examined in consultation with the concerned departments to explore a sustainable solution.

Later, a delegation of the Khidmat Centre Association met the Chief Minister and submitted a proposal concerning them.

The Chief Minister assured the delegation that its representation would be examined on merit in consultation with the concerned departments.

Capacity building programme for EMRS staff concludes at NZATI Jammu

Jammu: A three-day Capacity Building Programme on the Public Financial Management System (PFMS), Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and preparation of final accounts, including income and expenditure accounts and balance sheets, for principals and staff of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) under the Tribal Affairs Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, concluded at the Northern Zonal Accountancy Training Institute (NZATI), Jammu.

The training programme was conducted from July 7 to 9 with the objective of strengthening the financial management capabilities of officials associated with Eklavya Model

Residential Schools across the Union Territory. The concluding session was held under the guidance and supervision of Director Finance and Principal, NZATI, Rajesh Talwar.

The programme was designed to enhance the knowledge and professional skills of EMRS functionaries in key areas of financial administration, government accounting procedures and digital procurement systems.

It also aimed to promote greater transparency, accountability and efficiency in the management of public funds and institutional financial operations.

Participants received detailed training on the Public Financial Management System (PFMS), which

plays a vital role in ensuring efficient fund management, real-time financial monitoring and timely release of payments under various government schemes. Resource persons explained the practical aspects of the system and familiarised participants with its operational procedures to improve financial compliance and reporting. The sessions also focused on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), the online procurement platform of the Government of India.

Participants were provided with practical guidance on digital procurement processes, vendor registration, purchasing procedures and compliance with government procurement guidelines.

DC Kulgam reviews implementation of SWM across District



KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the implementation and progress of Solid Waste Management (SWM) across the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a detailed review of key components of the Solid Waste Management programme, including door-to-door waste collection, segregation of waste at source, collection of user charges, generation of bills, and the overall operational status of waste management infrastructure across the district. The Chair stressed the need to ensure 100% door-to-door collection of municipal solid waste, timely realization of user charges, and systematic generation of bills to improve the financial sustainability of the Solid Waste Management system.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the functioning of trommel machines and Plastic Waste Management Plants established in the district. He directed the concerned officers to ensure that all facilities remain fully functional and are operated efficiently for scientific processing and disposal of solid waste.

Emphasizing coordinated efforts, the Deputy Commissioner instructed all BDOs and Executive Officers to strengthen monitoring mechanisms, address operational bottlenecks on priority, and ensure effective implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules in their respective jurisdictions. He further directed that regular field inspections be conducted and progress be monitored to achieve improved sanitation and environmental sustainability across the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Altaf Ahmad Khan; Assistant Commissioner Development Kulgam, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar; all Block Development Officers, Executive Officers of the Municipal Committees, and other concerned officers.

Samsung Galaxy A27 5G Goes on Sale in India with Cashback Offers and Zero Down-payment Schemes

Jammu: Samsung has announced the sales commencement of its Galaxy A27 5G, now available at Samsung outlets, partner stores, Samsung.com, and other online platforms. The smartphone is available in three colours - Light Green, Light Pink and Black - and in three memory variants: 6GB+128GB, 8GB+128GB, and 8GB+256GB. The prices start at INR 28999 with cashbacks of up to INR 3000, and zero down payment schemes.

The Galaxy A27 5G features a 6.7-inch, 120Hz Super AMOLED display protected by Corning® Gorilla® Glass Victus®+, and is powered by the 4nm Snapdragon® 6 Gen 3 Mobile Platform with UFS 3.1 storage and LPDDR5X RAM for smooth multitasking and gaming.

Its triple camera setup includes a 50MP OIS main camera with 4K recording, a 5MP ultrawide lens, and a 2MP macro camera, supported by AI tools such as Object Eraser, Edit Suggestions, and My Filter. The 12MP front camera is designed for high-quality video calls and portraits. The Galaxy A27 5G also offers Circle to Search with Google, real-time Voice Transcription across 22 languages, and integration with Google Gemini and Perplexity. Additionally, Bixby allows natural-language control of device settings, while Live Transcription supports calls in English, Hindi, and Gujarati.

The Galaxy A27 5G is backed by a 5000mAh battery, six years of Android OS and security updates, and Samsung Knox security. Samsung Wallet enables Tap & Pay, UPI payments, and secure storage of digital IDs.

Samsung Opens Pre-Reserve for Next Galaxy Foldables in India

Jammu: Samsung today announced that customers in India can pre-reserve the next Galaxy foldables ahead of their global launch.

Customers can pre-reserve Samsung's soon-to-be-launched foldables by paying a refundable token amount of INR 999. Pre-reservations can be made through

Samsung.com, Samsung Exclusive Stores, Amazon.in, Flipkart.com and leading retail outlets across India. Customers pre-reserving the new foldables will receive benefits worth INR 2799 upon purchasing the devices.

Samsung has continued to make its foldables thinner, lighter, stronger and more immersive, com-

binning intelligent AI capabilities with innovative form factors that deliver more personalised and adaptive experiences to set a new standard for the AI era. Combining intelligent AI capabilities with innovative form factors, Samsung's next-generation foldables are designed to deliver more personalized and adaptive experiences, setting a new standard for the AI era.

Job fair held in Doda, 320 candidates shortlisted by 17 employers



DODA: The District Employment & Counselling Centre (DECC) Doda, under the Directorate of Employment, Jammu & Kashmir, in collaboration with the District Administration Doda today organised a job fair at Community Hall, Doda providing a platform for unemployed youth to connect with prospective employers.

The job fair was inaugurated by

Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal in presence of Chief Planning Officer Doda Manesh Manhas and Assistant Director Employment Doda. The dignitaries interacted with participating employers and job seekers and appreciated the DECC's efforts in facilitating direct interaction between recruiters and candidates.

Seventeen employers from diverse

sectors participated, offering 391 vacancies across a range of job profiles. Nearly 550 job seekers from different parts of the district registered and participated in the recruitment process.

Following interviews and screening, participating companies shortlisted 320 candidates on the spot for further stages of recruitment and final selection. Remaining candidates were provided guidance on future employment opportunities, skill development programmes and career counselling services available through the DECC.

The Deputy Commissioner said such initiatives bridge the gap between employers and job seekers and encouraged youth to upgrade their skills and take advantage of employment and self-employment schemes being implemented by the government. The Assistant Director Employment said the department is committed to enhancing employability of youth through regular job fairs, career counselling, skill development programmes and stronger industry linkages.

DC Reasi reviews AYUSH services, stresses strengthening healthcare facilities



REASI: Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Kumar Abhishek, today chaired a review meeting of the Department of AYUSH to assess the implementation of the National AYUSH Mission (NAM) and evaluate the functioning of AYUSH healthcare institutions across the district.

During the meeting, District Nodal Officer, AYUSH Reasi, Dr. Kamal Kishore Dubey presented an overview of the department's achievements, healthcare interventions, infrastructure development initiatives and public health activities being carried out across the district. The Deputy Commissioner was informed that all Government AYUSH dispensaries in the district have been upgraded into Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. The department continues to provide quality Ayurvedic and Unani healthcare services through its network of health institutions, ensuring wider access to traditional systems of medicine for the public. Reviewing the status of ongoing and proposed infrastructure development projects under the Department of AYUSH, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for strengthening healthcare facilities and expanding wellness services across the district.

He also discussed the requirement of adequate human resources in AYUSH institutions and underscored the importance of ensuring uninterrupted healthcare delivery. He directed the concerned officers to ensure the regular availability and deployment of Pharmacists and Medical Officers at all AYUSH health facilities. He further instructed the department to conduct a comprehensive assessment of staffing requirements and take necessary measures to address any manpower gaps in a timely manner.

To further enhance AYUSH healthcare services, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Reasi, to identify and provide suitable space within the hospital premises for the establishment of an AYUSH Centre. ACD Mukesh Sharma, Medical Superintendent Dr. Karamveer Singh, XEN Jal Shakti and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

SHD organizes Scientist-Sheep Breeders Interaction Programme under ATMA

SRINAGAR:

A one-day Scientist-Sheep Breeders Interaction Programme-cum-Exposure Visit for progressive sheep breeders from Budgam was organized at the Mountain Research Center for Sheep & Goat (MRCS&G), SKUAST-Kashmir, on Thursday by the Sheep Husbandry Department (SHD), Kashmir, under the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA).

The program focused on strengthening the technical knowledge and practical skills of sheep breeders through expert lectures and field demonstrations on scientific nutrition, breeding, disease prevention, flock health management, and modern housing practices. Scientists highlighted innovative technologies to improve sheep productivity and farm profitability.

As part of the program, participants visited the Center's research and livestock farms, where they observed improved sheep breeds, scientific



management practices, fodder production systems, and ongoing research. Live demonstrations provided hands-on exposure to modern sheep farming technologies.

An interactive session enabled farmers to discuss field-level challenges with scientists and receive practical, science-based solutions for effective flock management.

The program was led by Dr Parvaiz Ahmed Reshi, Senior Scientist & Head, MRCS&G, along

with Dr Muzamil Abdullah, Dr Abul Qayoom Mir, and Dr Zulfiqar-ul-Haq from MRCS&G. Dr Muzamil Bashir and Dr Asma Khan from the Sheep Husbandry Department also interacted with the participants. The farmers appreciated the initiative, describing it as a valuable platform for learning scientific sheep-farming practices and for strengthening collaboration between researchers and the farming community.

Committee on Government Assurances examines ATR in respect of assurances pertaining to PWD

SRINAGAR: A meeting of the Committee on Government Assurances of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly was held today at the Assembly Secretariat under the Chairmanship of MLA Ali Mohammad Sagar.

MLAs Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Mir, Chander Prakash, Iftikar Ahmad, Mehraj Malik, Shabir Ahmad Kullay besides Financial Commission (ACS) PWD (R&B) Anil Kumar Singh, Secretary JKLA Manoj Kumar Pandit, Assistant Director JKLA Syed Ahmad Wani and senior officers from PWD attended the meeting.

The Secretary JKLA briefed the representatives of Public Works Department about the mandate, powers and functioning of the Committee and what constitutes a Government Assurances as per legislative practices



and precedents. He highlighted the significance and importance of the Committee.

He also informed the Committee that directions issued by the Speaker, Deputy Speaker or the Chairman involving action on the part of the Government or Ministers are also treated as assurances and are monitored by the Committee till their compliance. During the meeting, the Members participated in deliberations and raised sev-

eral issues.

They highlighted the public demands pertaining to the Public Works (R&B) Department, particularly concerning development and infrastructure development.

ACS Public Works (R&B), assured the Committee that all the issues and concerns projected by the Members would be examined carefully and addressed in a phased manner, subject to the availability of resources.

DC Ramban chairs SPCA meeting, reviews animal welfare measures

RAMBAN: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a meeting of the District Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) to review the implementation of animal welfare measures across the district.

The meeting was attended by ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak, ACP Sheraz Ahmed, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Ramban Rajesh Arora, Tehsildar Headquarters Reejuta Mahajan and officers from the Indian Army, Forest Department, Wildlife Department, Municipal Committees and other concerned departments.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the action taken by the concerned departments on the directions issued during the previous SPCA meeting.

Detailed discussions were held on sterilisation and vaccination of stray dogs, their relocation from institutional areas, inspection reports for the quarters ending March and June 2026, identification of infrastructure gaps for establishing a fully functional Animal Birth Control (ABC) Centre and creation of dedicated feeding spaces for stray dogs in each municipal ward. The Deputy Commissioner also directed the initiation of companion animal registration and instructed the Municipal Committees to identify suitable sites for animal shelters.

Emphasising coordinated efforts, the Deputy Commissioner directed all stakeholder departments to work in close coordination for effective implementation of SPCA guidelines and strengthening of animal welfare mechanisms across the district.

MD SBM (U), DC Udhampur review implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules-2026 in Udhampur



UDHAMPUR: Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) and Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav and Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Minga Sherpa, today jointly chaired a meeting with concerned officers to review the implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules-2026 in both urban and rural areas of the district.

During the meeting, the concerned

departments were directed to prepare a comprehensive database and ensure the identification and registration of all waste-generating institutions, bulk waste generators and other establishments across the district. They emphasised the need for effective sanitation measures and the scientific management of solid waste.

The officers were instructed to ensure segregation of waste at

source at all levels and to intensify public awareness campaigns while enforcing the Solid Waste Management Rules-2026 in letter and spirit.

To strengthen the waste collection system, the MD SBM (Urban) / Commissioner JMC and the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to address the shortage of garbage collection vehicles by preparing a comprehensive plan for hiring additional vehicles to facilitate efficient door-to-door waste collection. They also instructed the officers to expedite the tendering process to ensure the timely deployment of the required vehicles.

Emphasising strict enforcement of the Rules and adherence to the directions of the Supreme Court on source segregation of waste, they called upon all stakeholders to work in close coordination for the effective implementation of scientific, sustainable and environmentally sound solid waste management practices across the district.

Dy Chief Minister inaugurates Rs 2.49 cr conference hall at PWD Dak Bungalow, Nowshera

Assesses development works, holds public outreach programme



NOWSHERA (RAJOURI): Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today inaugurated the newly constructed conference hall at the PWD Dak Bungalow in Nowshera, built at a cost of Rs 2.49 crore.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the new facility will strengthen the administrative infrastructure of the area by providing a modern venue for official meetings, conferences and public interactions. He reiterated the government's commitment towards creating quality public assets that enhance governance and improve the public service delivery.

Addressing the gathering of local residents, the Deputy Chief Minister highlighted the government's focus on inclusive and people-centric development.

He said that infrastructure development remains a key priority and every effort is being made to ensure that developmental projects are completed within the stipulated timeframe while maintaining the highest standards of quality.

Earlier, the Deputy Chief Minister undertook an extensive inspection of various ongoing developmental works across the Nowshera constituency, including road, bridge and other infrastructure projects. He reviewed the progress of the works and directed the concerned officers to expedite execution while ensuring transparency, quality and adherence to the prescribed timelines.

He emphasized that timely completion of public projects is essential to provide better connectivity, improved civic amenities and enhanced quality of life to the people. The Deputy Chief Minister also held a detailed public outreach programme during which he interacted with the local residents, public representatives and various delegations. He assured them that all their genuine issues would be addressed on priority through coordinated efforts of the concerned departments. Among those present were Additional Deputy Commissioner Nowshera, Superintending Engineer PWD, Executive Engineers and other senior officers of the district administration and line departments.

MC Kishtwar seals 3rd unauthorized Car Washing Centre in Town Area

KISHTWAR: In continuation of its drive against illegal and unauthorized commercial establishments operating without requisite permissions and under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, the Municipal Council Kishtwar under the supervision of CEO Municipal Council Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal today sealed a Car Washing Service Centre located in Ward No. 12, Near Bus Stand, Kishtwar.

The enforcement team, acting under the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Control of Building

Operations Act and the J&K Municipal Act, carried out the sealing operation in the presence of the Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Kishtwar, after it was found that the car washing unit was functioning without valid trade licence/permission from allied departments like PDD, Jal Shakti, Pollution Control, etc. This marks the third such car washing establishment to be sealed in the town in recent weeks as part of the ongoing crackdown on unauthorized commercial units.

It is pertinent to mention here

that the Municipal Council has already sealed two service stations, one namely Shahan Service Station located at Ward No. 12, Faisalabad, Kishtwar and the other Wheelzin Service Station located at Ward No. 10, Om Mehta Road Kishtwar.

The Municipal Council Kishtwar reiterated that stringent action will continue against establishments operating in violation of municipal norms and warned that any attempt to break the seal or reopen sealed premises will invite strict legal action, including FIR registration.

Speaker Legislative Assembly inaugurates renovated facilities, new lifts at MLA Hostel Srinagar

SRINAGAR: Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, on Friday inaugurated newly installed lifts and various renovation and upgradation works completed at the new hostel block of the MLA Hostel in Srinagar. The inauguration marks another step towards improving the infrastructure and modern facilities available to Members of the Legislative Assembly, ensuring greater convenience, accessibility and comfort during their stay.

The renovation project has been undertaken with the objective of modernising the hostel infrastructure and providing legislators with improved amenities that meet present-day requirements. The installation of modern lifts, along with other civil and maintenance works, is expected to significantly enhance the functionality of the hostel while ensuring a safer and more user-friendly environment for its occupants.

Addressing the gathering after inaugurating the facilities, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather highlighted the importance of maintaining and upgrading public infrastructure on a regular basis. He said that government buildings and institutional facilities must be kept in good condition to ensure efficient service delivery and to provide better amenities to their users. He observed that the



MLA Hostel serves as an important residential facility for legislators visiting Srinagar during Assembly sessions and official engagements, making its proper maintenance and modernization a priority.

The Speaker expressed satisfaction over the successful completion of the renovation works and appreciated the efforts of the departments and engineers associated with the project. He stated that the newly installed lifts would improve accessibility for all occupants, particularly elderly legislators and visitors, while the upgraded infrastructure would contribute to a more comfortable and efficient working environment.

Abdul Rahim Rather said that public

infrastructure should be developed with a long-term vision, ensuring durability, safety and ease of use. He added that investments in the maintenance and modernization of government buildings not only improve their functionality but also help preserve valuable public assets for future use.

He also underlined the importance of regular inspection and maintenance of facilities to prevent deterioration and ensure uninterrupted services. The Speaker directed the concerned authorities to maintain all infrastructure and amenities at the MLA Hostel in an efficient manner so that legislators continue to receive quality services during their stay.

DC Reasi reviews progress on removal of forest encroachments, demarcation of forest boundaries

REASI: Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Kumar Abhishek, chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC) constituted to execute eviction of encroachments from forest land in the district. The meeting reviewed issues related to forest clearances required for developmental works being executed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress achieved in the eviction of encroachments from forest land in Reasi and Mahore Forest Divisions. He also assessed the status of demarcation of forest boundaries and the installation of boundary pillars, particularly in areas prone to disputes or ambiguity in revenue and forest records. Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to strengthen coordination and conduct joint verification of forest boundaries to ensure accurate demarcation. He stressed the need to expedite the installation of boundary pillars and remove all identified encroachments in a time-bound manner.

Deputy Commissioner instructed the officers to maintain close coordination between the Forest and Revenue Departments, resolve pending issues promptly and submit regular progress reports to ensure that the prescribed targets are achieved within the stipulated time frame.

DC reviews progress of SAMAGRA Shiksha development works in Udhampur



UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa, today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of ongoing developmental works being executed under SAMAGRA Shiksha and the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman scheme in the district.

During the meeting, the Superintending Engineer PWD gave a

comprehensive PowerPoint presentation on the status of various construction components under the schemes. It was informed that out of 434 sanctioned works, 273 have been completed, while 134 are currently under execution.

The Deputy Commissioner conducted a detailed review of the division-wise progress of works and fund utilization under the schemes. He directed the concerned Executive Engineers to expedite the pace of execution and ensure the timely completion of all ongoing projects.

The DC also instructed the concerned officers to closely monitor the status of unstarted works and take immediate steps for their early commencement. He directed the executing agencies to adhere strictly to the prescribed timelines while maintaining the required quality standards.

Zonal Education Officers were directed to conduct regular inspections of all active works in their respective jurisdictions and submit reports to ensure effective monitoring and accountability.

Emphasising the need for coordinated efforts, the DC called upon all officers and executing agencies to work in close coordination and with a result-oriented approach to achieve the desired targets within the stipulated timeframe.

Early Warning System and Flood Rescue Mock Drill conducted near Chenab at Nambala



REASI: A joint mock drill on the Early Warning System (EWS), flood preparedness and rescue operations was conducted today near the Chenab River at Nambala by the NHPC Salal Power Station and District Administration Reasi. The exercise was organized to assess the effectiveness of the Early Warning System, strengthen coordination among various departments and agencies, and enhance preparedness for flood-related emergencies in the Chenab River.

The mock drill simulated a flood emergency scenario wherein timely alerts were issued through the Early Warning System, followed by evacuation and rescue operations. Teams from the District Administration, NHPC Salal Power Station, Police, SDRF, NDRF, Health Department and other stakeholder agencies participated in the exercise.

During the drill, rescue personnel demonstrated evacuation procedures, emergency response protocols, search and rescue techniques, and coordination mechanisms to ensure swift action during flood situations. The exercise also helped evaluate response time, communication channels and operational readiness of all concerned agencies.

Speaking on the occasion, ADDC Reasi Krishan Lal said that the flood preparedness and rescue mock drill organized by NHPC in collaboration with the District Administration was an important learning exercise for all stakeholders.

The drill demonstrated how various agencies would coordinate and respond in a flood-like emergency, ensuring the timely rescue and safety of citizens. He commended the SDRF, NDRF, security forces, NHPC officials and all participating departments for their active involvement and cooperation.

He added that such exercises strengthen disaster preparedness and enhance the capacity of all stakeholders to save lives and minimize risks in the event of any unforeseen situation requiring the emergency release of water from the dam. GGM NHPC Jatinder Kumar, CMO, ARTO, Tehsildar Reasi and other concerned were present.

DC reviews progress of BRO projects in Udhampur, Stresses timely completion, quality execution

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Minga Sherpa, chaired a review meeting in his office chamber to assess the progress of major road infrastructure projects being executed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) across the district. The meeting focused on evaluating the current status of ongoing works, identifying challenges affecting execution, and ensuring that the projects are completed within the prescribed timelines.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a detailed review of the Dhar road project along with several other BRO works currently underway in different parts of the district.

He emphasized the importance of

accelerating the pace of construction and directed the executing agencies to mobilise adequate manpower, construction equipment and other necessary resources to avoid delays. He instructed the officials to ensure that all pending works are taken up on priority and completed as per the approved schedule.

Highlighting the significance of road connectivity in a hilly district like Udhampur, the Deputy Commissioner said that well-developed road infrastructure is essential for improving transportation, enhancing access to remote areas and supporting overall socio-economic development. He stressed that timely completion of these projects would benefit local residents

by providing safer, faster and more reliable road connectivity.

The Deputy Commissioner also instructed the Border Roads Organisation to immediately take up the filling of potholes on roads under its jurisdiction to improve driving conditions and minimise inconvenience to commuters.

He further directed the concerned officials to clear all blocked and choked drains to ensure proper drainage, prevent waterlogging during the rainy season and maintain uninterrupted traffic movement.

Minga Sherpa underlined that while speedy execution of projects is important, it should not come at the cost of quality.

Nearly 91% enrolled students take up NMMSS Examination: J&K BOSE

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) successfully conducted the National Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) Examination for the academic session 2025-26, recording an impressive overall attendance of 90.30 per cent across the Union Territory. According to official figures, 6,000 candidates appeared in the examination out of the total 6,644 students who had enrolled for the scholarship test.

The National Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored initiative of the Government of India aimed at identifying talented students from economically weaker sections and providing them with financial assistance to continue their education. The scheme primarily benefits students studying in Government and

Government-aided schools, encouraging them to pursue higher education without financial constraints and reducing the chances of school dropouts.

The examination was conducted smoothly and peacefully at designated centres across Jammu and Kashmir under the overall supervision, guidance and support of JKBOSE Chairman-cum-Secretary Ghulam Hassan Sheikh. The Board ensured that all necessary arrangements were put in place well in advance to facilitate the fair and transparent conduct of the examination. Dr. Parveen Singh, Director Academics and Liaison Officer for the National Merit-cum-Means Scholarship Scheme, coordinated the examination process in close association with officers and officials of the Academics Division. Their collective efforts ensured that the examination was organised efficiently and that candidates were able to appear for the test in a well-managed and disciplined environment.

JKBOSE acknowledged the valuable support extended by the Chief Education Officers of all districts, who served as District Nodal Officers for the examination.

The Board also appreciated the dedicated services rendered by Centre Superintendents, Deputy Centre Superintendents, Invigilators and inspection teams, whose coordinated efforts contributed significantly to maintaining transparency, discipline and smooth functioning at examination centres throughout the Union Territory.

MVD Kishtwar, J&K Police conduct road safety awareness, vehicle fitness drive at Padder

KISHTWAR: Acting on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma and under the supervision of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Kishtwar Tasleem Javaid, the Motor Vehicles Department Kishtwar in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Police, conducted a comprehensive Road Safety Awareness and Vehicle Fitness Drive at Padder.

The drive was carried out in the presence of SDPO Padder Vijay Bhagat; SHO Padder Amrit Katoch and Motor Vehicle Inspector Robin Parihar, with the taglines: "Safe Vehicle • Responsible Driver • Secure Journey" and "Road Safety is a Shared Responsibility—Together, Let's Save Lives."

During the campaign, vehicles were inspected to verify their roadworthiness and compliance with the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act and the Central Motor Vehicles Rules. Road Safety Compliance Stickers were affixed only to those vehicles that were found mechanically fit and carrying all valid documents required for lawful operation on public roads.

Drivers were also sensitized about the importance of road safety, safe driving, adherence to traffic regulations, maintaining valid documents, avoiding overloading and over speeding and ensuring regular vehicle maintenance. They were urged to adopt responsible driving practices and contribute towards making roads safer for everyone.

IAS Probationer visits Cooperative institutions in Udhampur

UDHAMPUR: IAS Probationer Dr. Shagun Singh today visited the Office of the Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies Udhampur, to inspect the functioning of various cooperative offices and institutions in the district.

During the visit, she inspected the

offices of the Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, Cooperative Audit and Deputy Registrar Agriculture.

Dr. Shagun held detailed discussions on the ongoing schemes, projects and initiatives of the Cooperative Department. Officials

briefed her on the benefits and services being extended to the public through the cooperative sector.

She appreciated the department's efforts and suggested measures for strengthening institutional functioning, upgrading services and enhancing public service delivery.

240 Students complete Summer Internship Programme at JKEDI Jammu Campus



Jammu: 240 students from various colleges across the Jammu Division successfully completed the internship programme at the Regional Office of Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) and JKEDI District Centre, Jammu. A total of 240 students from various

colleges across the Jammu Division successfully completed the programme through seven batches. Of these, 200 students participated in six batches conducted at the JKEDI Regional Office, Bari Brahmana, while 40 students attended one batch at the District Centre, Jammu. The internship programme

was held under the overall supervision of Director, JKEDI Mohammad Younis Malik and Joint Director JKEDI Chand Kishor Sharma.

The 10-day (60-hour) internship programme was organized in line with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to provide experiential

learning, entrepreneurial exposure and skill development opportunities to undergraduate students. The programme provided participants with exposure to entrepreneurship development, startup promotion, innovation, business planning and the various institutional support mechanisms available for aspiring entrepreneurs. Through interactive sessions, practical assignments and expert interactions, students gained valuable insights into entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities.

The programme was facilitated by JKEDI faculty members and resource persons, who served as trainers, mentors and batch coordinators, equipping participants with essential entrepreneurial knowledge, leadership competencies and practical problem-solving skills through a structured and experiential learning approach.

DC Bandipora reviews MPLADS Works, directs officers to expedite process



BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib today reviewed the progress of works being executed under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) at a meeting held at the VC Room, Mini Secretariat, Bandipora. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner took a department-wise review of the works being implemented under the scheme and directed the executing agencies to speed up the pace of work and ensure timely completion of all projects.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for close coordination among the concerned departments so that the works are completed without unnecessary delay for the benefit of the public. It was informed in the meeting that a total of 30 works were taken up under the 2025-26 MPLADS. Of these, 15 works are being executed by the Rural Development Department

(RDD), six by the Public Works Department (R&B), three by the Youth Services & Sports Department, and one by the Municipal Council. It was further informed that work on most projects is either ongoing or has already been completed, while five works remain pending.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned officers to closely monitor the progress of the remaining works and ensure their completion within the stipulated timeframe. She emphasized that timely execution of development works is essential for improving public infrastructure and delivering the intended benefits to the people.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development Bandipora, Chief Planning Officer Bandipora, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Sub Division Bandipora and other concerned officers.

JKLFC extends relief to borrowers under Settlement Scheme-2026; six NPA accounts settled, Rs 3.36 Crore interest waived

SRINAGAR: The Settlement Committee of the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh Finance Corporation (JKLFC) met under the chairmanship of its Managing Director to review and consider proposals for the settlement of Non-Performing Asset (NPA) loan accounts under the Settlement Scheme-2026 (SS-2026). The meeting forms part of the Corporation's ongoing efforts to strengthen its recovery mechanism, reduce long-pending loan defaults and improve the overall quality of its loan portfolio.

During the meeting, the Committee examined seven NPA loan accounts submitted for settlement under the provisions of the Settlement Scheme-2026. After a detailed review of each proposal, the

Committee approved settlement in six loan accounts involving a total settlement amount of approximately Rs 84.43 lakh. The approvals are subject to the borrowers depositing the sanctioned settlement amounts within the stipulated time and fulfilling all other conditions prescribed under the scheme. The Settlement Scheme-2026 was introduced following the approval of the Board of Directors during its 247th meeting held on December 31, 2025. Subsequently, the scheme was formally notified by the Corporation through Order No. 155 dated February 12, 2026, and came into force with immediate effect. The scheme will remain operational until September 30, 2026, providing eligible borrowers with a limited-time opportunity to settle their outstand-

ing liabilities under concessional terms. The One-Time Settlement (OTS) scheme has been designed to facilitate the recovery of long-pending Non-Performing Assets while offering borrowers an opportunity to regularise and close their stressed loan accounts. The initiative seeks to strike a balance between improving the Corporation's financial health and providing relief to borrowers facing difficulties in clearing their overdue loans. Officials said that the implementation of the Settlement Scheme-2026 is expected to significantly contribute to reducing the Corporation's NPA portfolio while improving the recovery of public funds locked in defaulted accounts. The scheme also enables borrowers to resolve long-standing financial liabilities through negotiated settlement terms.

Monsoon preparedness meeting held at Mahore

REASI: Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Mahore, Shafqat Majeed Bhat, convened a comprehensive meeting of officers from various departments of the Sub-Division to review preparedness for the forthcoming monsoon season and ensure that all essential services remain functional during adverse weather conditions. The meeting focused on assessing the availability of resources, strengthening inter-departmental coordination and putting in place an effective response mechanism to deal with emergencies arising from heavy rainfall and landslides.

During the meeting, the SDM conducted a detailed review of the preparedness of all concerned departments and directed officials to remain on high alert throughout the monsoon period. He stressed the importance of advance planning and timely coordination to minimise disruption to public services and safeguard the lives and property of residents living in vulnerable areas.

Considering that the Mahore region is highly susceptible to landslides during heavy rainfall, special emphasis was laid on ensuring the prompt restoration of road connectivity. The SDM directed officials of the General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF), the



Public Works Department (PWD) and the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to keep adequate machinery, including earthmovers and other road-clearing equipment, ready for immediate deployment. He instructed the agencies to ensure that roads blocked due to landslides or debris are cleared without delay so that vehicular movement and emergency services remain uninterrupted. The SDM also reviewed the preparedness of departments responsible for providing essential public utilities. Officials of the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (JKPDCL) were instructed to ensure an

uninterrupted electricity supply during the monsoon season and to restore power services promptly in the event of weather-related disruptions. Similarly, the Jal Shakti Department was directed to maintain regular drinking water supply and take immediate corrective measures if pipelines or water supply systems are damaged due to heavy rains or landslides.

To strengthen the health sector's preparedness, the Block Medical Officer (BMO) Mahore was directed to keep medical teams, ambulances and emergency healthcare facilities fully equipped and ready for immediate deployment.

ADDC Anantnag reviews KPIs under Mission YUVA, emphasises time bound completion of tasks

ANANTNAG: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Vikas Ahlawat on Monday chaired a review meeting under Mission YUVA at the District Commissioner's Office to assess the progress of the flagship programme and review achievements under various performance indicators aimed at promoting youth entrepreneurship and employment.

During the meeting, the ADDC took stock of progress made under key components of Mission YUVA, including output tracking, capacity building and skill development, training programmes, subsidy release, onboarding of beneficiaries on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), and the implementation of Udyam Jagriti 5.0. Vikas Ahlawat reviewed the status of all key performance indicators and emphasized the need for timely completion of all assigned tasks.

He directed the concerned departments and implementing agencies to work in close coordination to ensure that the programme achieves its objectives within the stipulated timelines.

The ADDC laid particular emphasis on accelerating the onboarding of beneficiaries onto ONDC, stating that digital market access would enable entrepreneurs to expand their businesses and improve their economic prospects. He also stressed the importance of increasing the mobilization of applications from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) under Mission YUVA so that a larger number of eligible beneficiaries can avail themselves of the programme's benefits. He urged all stakeholders to strengthen field-level coordination, monitor progress regularly and resolve implementation bottlenecks to ensure efficient execution of the scheme.

He said that effective planning and timely action would help achieve the programme's goals of promoting entrepreneurship, self-employment and sustainable livelihood opportunities for the youth.

Mega Drug De-addiction awareness programme held at GDC Zainapora

SHOPIAN: In a significant step towards combating the menace of drug abuse and promoting a healthier society, the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Jammu & Kashmir, in collaboration with the Sub-Divisional

Administration Zainapora, today organised a comprehensive Drug De-addiction awareness programme at Government SMM Degree College, Zainapora, under the ongoing 100-Day anti-drug campaign being implemented across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Zainapora, Bilal Ahmad, who attended the programme as the Chief Guest, reaffirmed the administration's unwavering commitment towards eradicating drug abuse and narcotics from society.

Addressing a large gathering of students, faculty members, healthcare professionals and government officials, he stated that the anti-drug campaign has been progressing vigorously across Sub-Division Zainapora over the past two-and-a-half months and has yielded encouraging results.

Highlighting the achievements registered during the campaign, SDM informed that illegal poppy cultivation has been reduced to zero across Sub-Division Zainapora, while nearly 28 kilometres of roadside wild cannabis growth has been identified and destroyed through sustained field operations and coordinated enforcement measures. He emphasized that the campaign against narcotic cultivation and substance abuse would continue with renewed vigour under the guidance and support of Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta.

The SDM further stated that individuals affected by substance abuse are being actively facilitated for

treatment, counselling and rehabilitation to enable their reintegration into society as healthy, productive and responsible citizens. Calling upon the youth to become ambassadors of change, he urged them to remain vigilant, stay away from drugs and actively support the administration's efforts to build a healthy, progressive and drug-free society.

Speaking on the occasion, G.A. Qureshi, Honorary Treasurer, Indian Red Cross Society, J&K, said that the programme had been organised as part of the Union Territory-wide anti-drug campaign being carried out under the directions of the Lieutenant Governor, Jammu & Kashmir.

He highlighted the humanitarian and voluntary role of the Indian Red Cross Society in promoting public awareness, social responsibility and community well-being. He appealed to the younger generation to adopt a disciplined and healthy lifestyle and contribute towards the creation of a drug-free society.

Earlier, Prof. Shaista Masrat, Principal, Government SMM Degree College Zainapora, underscored the pivotal role of educational institutions in shaping responsible citizens through continuous awareness and preventive interventions. She appreciated the collective efforts of the administration, healthcare professionals, civil society organisations and educational institutions in addressing the growing challenge of drug abuse and encouraged students to actively participate in awareness and prevention initiatives.

The programme also featured expert sessions by medical professionals from Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag and Community Health Centre (CHC) Zainapora. Dr. Afaq Hyder and Dr. Suhail Malik delivered detailed pre-

sentations on the health, social and psychological consequences of substance abuse, preventive measures, early identification of addiction and the importance of timely intervention, treatment and rehabilitation.

An interactive session was held during which students actively engaged with the experts and raised several questions relating to substance abuse, mental health and rehabilitation. The queries were comprehensively addressed by the medical professionals. As part of the programme, Dr. Suhail Malik also conducted a practical demonstration on First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), highlighting the importance of emergency response skills in saving lives during critical situations.

A special feature of the programme was the screening of a pre-recorded virtual address of the Lieutenant Governor, Jammu & Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha, who highlighted the significance of the ongoing 100-Day anti-drug campaign and called for a united and sustained effort by the administration, educational institutions, civil society, parents and youth to eradicate the menace of drug abuse from Jammu & Kashmir. Participants watched the address with keen interest and reaffirmed their commitment towards building a drug-free society.

At the conclusion of the programme, participants collectively pledged to support the ongoing anti-drug campaign and contribute towards creating a safe, healthy and drug-free environment for future generations.

Among those present on the occasion were SDPO Zainapora, Tehsildar Zainapora, representatives and members of the Indian Red Cross Society, medical officers and healthcare professionals from GMC Anantnag and CHC Zainapora, officers and officials from various departments, faculty members and a large number of students.

DC reviews progress of NABARD-RIDF projects in Udhampur, calls for timely completion



UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa on Monday chaired a review meeting with officers from various line departments to assess the progress of infrastructure projects being executed in the district under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development. The meeting focused on evaluating both the physical and financial progress of ongoing projects and ensuring their timely completion in accordance with the prescribed guidelines. The review meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh along with senior officers from the concerned line departments responsible for implementing the projects across different sectors.

At the outset, District Development Manager (DDM), NABARD, Dr. Sidharth, delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation outlining the current status of the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund projects in the district. The presentation covered the progress of works across various sectors, financial utilisation, implementation timelines and the challenges being faced during execution. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the physical and financial achievements of each project in detail and sought updates from the executing agencies regarding the pace of work. He stressed the importance of adhering to the timelines prescribed by NABARD and directed all implementing agencies to ensure that the projects are completed without unnecessary delays.

Minga Sherpa expressed concern over the pace of certain slow-moving works and instructed the concerned departments to identify and address all bottlenecks hindering project implementation. He said that timely execution of infrastructure projects is essential for improving public facilities and ensuring that the intended benefits reach rural communities without delay.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that every department must adopt a proactive approach in resolving technical, administrative and logistical issues affecting the progress of ongoing works.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar inaugurates newly created Advocates' Clerks Room at High Court Complex Jammu

Jammu: In a major initiative aimed at strengthening infrastructure at the Jammu Wing of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Acting Chief Justice Justice Sanjeev Kumar inaugurated a newly established Advocates' Clerks Room at the High Court Complex, Janipur, Jammu. The facility has been created to provide a dedicated workspace for Advocates' Clerks, recognising their important contribution to the day-to-day functioning of the judicial system and their continued support to the legal fraternity.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Judges of the High Court, including Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Mohd. Akram Chowdhary, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri and Justice Sanjay Parihar. Their presence reflected the significance attached by the High Court to improving facilities for court functionaries who play a vital role in ensuring the smooth conduct of judicial proceedings.

Among those present on the occasion were Registrar General of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh M.K. Sharma, who is also holding the additional charge of Principal Secretary to the Chief Justice, along with other senior officers



of the Registry. The event also witnessed the participation of Nirmal Kotwal, President of the J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu, senior members of the Bar, and representatives of the Advocates' Clerk Association of the High Court.

The Advocates' Clerk Association was represented by its President, Mohinder Singh Nag, along with office bearers and members, who welcomed the establishment of the dedicated facility. The creation of the room fulfils a long-standing demand of the association and is expected to provide clerks with a better working environment while carrying out their professional responsibilities.

Speaking on the occasion, Acting Chief Justice Justice Sanjeev Kumar

expressed satisfaction over the completion of the facility and said that Advocates' Clerks constitute an indispensable part of the judicial ecosystem. He observed that they play a significant role in assisting advocates in preparing cases, maintaining court records, managing case files and ensuring that procedural requirements are completed efficiently.

The Acting Chief Justice also highlighted the growing importance of digital technology in the judicial system. Referring to the increasing use of e-filing and digital court processes, he emphasised the need for enhancing the digital literacy of Advocates' Clerks so that they can effectively perform their responsibilities in a technology-driven environment.

DC Kulgam visits PHCs of Bugam and Mohammadpora, reviews Healthcare, infrastructure upgrades

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam today conducted an inspection visit to Primary Health Centres (PHC) of Bugam and Mohammadpora to take stock of patient care services and availability of essential medicines and other healthcare supplies.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected various sections of both health institutions including OPD, IPD, laboratory, and pharmacy units.

He reviewed the attendance of medical and paramedical staff and emphasized the importance of punctuality, discipline, and patient-friendly service delivery. The DC interacted with patients and attendants to assess the quality of healthcare services being provided. He directed the concerned medical officials to ensure proper diagnosis, timely treatment, and compassionate care to all patients.

A detailed review of the stock position of essential drugs, medical equipment, and other healthcare logistics was also undertaken. The authorities were instructed to maintain adequate inventory at all times and ensure that no inconvenience is caused to patients due to shortage of medicines or supplies. The DC further stressed upon maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in and around the health institutions and directed for regular monitoring of sanitation practices.

CM Omar Abdullah meets delegations, assures examination of public and industry-related issues



SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today met several public delegations at the Civil Secretariat here and gave a patient hearing to their issues and demands, assuring them that all genuine concerns would be examined for appropriate action.

A delegation led by President Bat Manufacturers Association Kashmir, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, called on the Chief Minister and sought government support for the cricket bat manufacturing industry in Kashmir.

The delegation highlighted various issues concerning the sector and

requested measures for its promotion and sustained growth.

Another delegation headed by President Srinagar International Airport Taxi Stand Drivers Union, Riyaz Thakur, apprised the Chief Minister of the concerns of taxi operators at Srinagar International Airport.

Later, a delegation led by Hot Mix Plant Owners Association, Kashmir, Bashir Ahmad Khan, met the Chief Minister and discussed the challenges being faced by the association.

Another delegation of Industrial Estate Pampore also called on the Chief

Minister and apprised him of the issues concerning the industrial estate.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all the delegations and assured them that their genuine grievances and demands would be examined sympathetically in consultation with the concerned departments for appropriate resolution.

A delegation of ICICI Bank called on the Chief Minister today and discussed ways to strengthen Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives and expand financial inclusion across Jammu & Kashmir.

WELCOME

SHRI AMARNATHJI

YATRA 2026

May this sacred journey bring peace, devotion and divine blessings to all.

A JOURNEY OF FAITH. A PATH TO DIVINITY. A BLESSING FOR LIFE.

Shri Amarnathji calls, answer with devotion and receive His grace.

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EDITOR IN CHIEF | **MANZOOR AHMAD DAR**

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to all devotees on the

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SHRI MANZOOR AHMAD DAR

Together, let us make this Yatra safe, pure & spiritually fulfilling. **हर हर महादेव!**