

Principal Secretary APD reviews progress on major schemes of Animal Husbandry department in Jammu division

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department (APD), Shailendra Kumar, chaired a review meeting here at Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Talab Tillo.

The meeting was attended by Secretary in APD; Mission Director HADP/JKICP; Directors in APD; Joint Directors; Deputy Directors; Chief Animal Husbandry Officers from all districts of Jammu division besides other senior officers of the department of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry.

The meeting had detailed discussion regarding progress on various schemes and programmes under CAPEX, HADP, CSSs and NABARD of Animal Husbandry sector in Jammu division for the current financial year.

Shailendra Kumar reviewed the physical and financial progress on several key CSS schemes including Rashtriya Gokul Mission, Entrepreneurship Development under National Livestock Mission, National Animal Disease Control Programme and Nationwide Artificial Insemination Programme.

A comprehensive presentation was delivered by Director Animal Husbandry Jammu, Dr. Parvinder Singh, providing an overview of district wise progress achieved under different schemes. The status of ongoing Foot and Mouth disease vaccination for

cattle, buffaloes, sheep and goats under NADCP was discussed. Besides, the existing cold-chain and other vital infrastructure status was evaluated to



identify any gaps or need for additional equipment or infrastructure.

Other topics included the components under Dairy Development, Poultry Development and Development of Fodder Resources of J&K UT under flagship Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

Further, the expenditures on key infrastructure

projects including upgradation/ strengthening of Veterinary Hospitals at District and Sub-district levels under NABARD funding were also reviewed.



The meeting was informed that the department of Animal Husbandry has completely switched over to digital mode as all the departmental welfare schemes are now available on Kisan Saathi portal thus improving transparency and accessibility for general public.

He said that reliable, easy-to access and timely information available on these portals help farmers,

government field functionaries and also policy makers for informed decision making at all levels. He urged the officials to record all established projects under various components of HADP on Kisan Sathi Output Tracking app to prevent misuse of funds and ensure accountability in public spending.

The Principal Secretary underscored the need for promoting the cooperative movement in the Jammu division. He stressed that the cooperative societies are instrumental in promoting financial inclusion by providing credit to farmers and small entrepreneurs who may face difficulties in accessing conventional banking services. 'These societies play a crucial role in rural development, empower local communities and reduce socio-economic disparities', he added.

He further advised the officials to increase the coverage of organized dairy sector, promote value addition of milk and develop marketing strategies to strengthen the dairy cooperative sector in the region.

The Principal Secretary stressed the need for completion of all sanctioned projects at the earliest besides improving financial progress by achieving above 90% expenditures across all the works undertaken.

DC Poonch reviews PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana implementation



POONCH: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in the district. The meeting covered progress on rooftop solar installations, application status and financial disbursements.

A total of 1,125 applications have been received under the scheme with 157 rooftop solar systems installed so far. The review included bank-wise and sub-division-wise progress, reasons for application rejections and pending cases.

The Deputy Commissioner urged departments to expedite installations and ensure completion of pending cases. He directed officials to conduct intensive awareness campaigns to inform residents about the scheme's benefits and encourage participation.

Instructions were issued to simplify registration processes and speed up approvals. The DC also emphasized the need for coordinated efforts among the Power Development Department, financial institutions and empanelled vendors to resolve technical and procedural issues.

The meeting was attended by SE JPDCL Ayoub Khawaja, Tehsildar HQ Palvi Verma, LDM Ravi Kumar and other officers.

Nasha Mukht JK Abhiyan: DC Kishtwar reviews progress of IEC campaign against drugs

KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, chaired a review meeting on the ongoing IEC campaign against drugs under Nasha Mukht JK Abhiyan.

The meeting assessed awareness activities conducted in educational institutions, panchayats and urban areas. Issues such as inadequate display of IEC materials, limited video screenings, incomplete event documentation and absenteeism of resource persons were noted.

DC directed nodal officers to ensure broader public participation, including SMCs, Biodiversity Committees and youth volunteers. Officers were asked to upload event details promptly and ensure visibility of content. Officers will attend a training workshop on July 14, 2025, at the DC Office, Kishtwar, to strengthen campaign implementation. DC also chaired a District NCORD Committee meeting to review anti-drug measures and enforcement performance. The meeting was attended by PO ICDS Kishtwar Rishi Sharma, ACD Kaiser Bhawani, SDM Paddar Amit Kumar, SDM Chatroo Naem Ur Rehman, District Social Welfare Officer Zubair Ahmed and other officers.



DLSA Jammu conducts inspection of Central Jail Kot Bhalwal

JAMMU: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Jammu, under the guidance of Y.P. Bourney, Chairman DLSA Jammu and Principal District and Sessions Judge Jammu and the supervision of Smriti Sharma, Sub Judge and Secretary DLSA Jammu, conducted an inspection of Central Jail Kot Bhalwal Jammu today.

The visit began with a plantation drive aimed at promoting a greener and healthier environment within the jail premises.

The drive was carried out by the Principal District and Sessions Judge Jammu along with Smriti Sharma, Secretary DLSA Jammu, Veerinder Kumar Bhat, Superintendent of Central Jail Kot Bhalwal and Anil Sharma, Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel Jammu.

Following the drive, the team inspected the jail to assess living conditions, health facilities, legal aid availability, and the overall welfare of inmates, in line with directives from the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and provisions under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

The inspection included direct interaction with under trial,

detenu and convict prisoners in the jail's ground area to get

the matter with the appropriate authority.



a firsthand understanding of the facilities available. Key areas inspected included the Jail Legal Aid Clinic, virtual VC rooms, interview area, prisoner calling system, hospital, kitchen and barracks.

The medical centre and hospital were thoroughly checked and the team reviewed the quality of food prepared for inmates. Inmates' concerns and grievances were heard attentively, offering them a platform to provide feedback on services extended by DLSA Jammu.

During the inspection, certain areas of the jail premises were identified as needing renovation. On-the-spot directions were issued to the Superintendent of Central Jail Kot Bhalwal to raise

As part of the initiative, the Principal District and Sessions Judge Jammu also reviewed cases related to the Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC). The next UTRC meeting is scheduled for July 15 to assess cases of undertrial prisoners eligible for release under legal provisions, including Section 436A of the CrPC and those who may benefit from legal aid or plea bargaining.

This initiative aims to reduce overcrowding in jails, promote speedy trials and ensure justice for prisoners from economically or socially disadvantaged backgrounds. The judiciary remains committed to upholding constitutional rights and ensuring fair and humane treatment of individuals in custody

DDC reviews Rural Development Department performance in Poonch

POONCH: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch Vikas Kundal chaired a review meeting at the DC Office Complex to assess the progress of developmental works under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented by the Rural Development Department (RDD) across all blocks of the district.

The meeting reviewed physical and financial achievements under key schemes including MGNREGA, PMAY-G and other community development initiatives for the financial year 2025-26.

The DDC reviewed issues related to timely wage payments, Aadhaar seeding, Aadhaar-based payments and geo-tagging under various schemes. Progress under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)

and Capex Budget PRI Grants was also discussed.

He directed all Block Development Officers (BDOs) to commence new MGNREGA



works especially in border areas without delay and ensure their timely completion. Emphasis was laid on Aadhaar linkage of Job Card holders' accounts to enhance transparency.

On PMAY-G, the DDC instructed officials to begin construction of newly sanctioned houses and expedite pending

units to achieve full saturation. He also called for recovery from defaulters in pending PMAY-G cases.

The Assistant Commissioner

Development and Assistant Commissioner Panchayat were directed to intensify monitoring of all ongoing works for timely and quality completion.

The meeting was attended by ACD, ACP, District Panchayat Officer, Executive Engineer REW, Headquarter Assistant, BDOs, AEEs and JE of the department.

DLSA Srinagar holds awareness programme on POCSO Act, drug abuse

SRINAGAR: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, in collaboration with School Education department conducted an awareness programme on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, and drug abuse at Govt. Girls High School Chaterhama Srinagar.

The programme, held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, aimed to sensitize students, teachers and staff of the school about the key provision of POCSO Act, 2012 and the harmful consequences of drug addiction.

Speaking on the occasion, resource person Adv. Suhaila Ali (Panel Lawyer) DLSA Srinagar highlighted



the role of Legal Services in safeguarding the rights of children and explained how the POCSO Act provides

the strong legal framework to deal with offences related to child abuse.

Sunila Kumari (JLA) DLSA Srinagar also delivered an informative session on the early signs of drug addiction, peer pressure and legal consequences of drug related offences.

Real life case examples helped the participants understand the serious implications of such issues. Ayesha (Asstt. LADC) DLSA Srinagar also emphasized that the POCSO Act is a powerful tool to protect the dignity and innocence of children.

The participants were also made aware of the child helpline No- 1098 and availability of free Legal Aid through District Legal Services Authority Srinagar.

Deputy Commissioner Doda chairs meeting to discuss arrangements for Independence Day 2025 celebration

DODA: Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh chaired a meeting at the DC Office to review Independence Day 2025 arrangements.

Present were SSP Doda Sandeep Kumar Mehta, ADDC Roshan Lal, ACR Ashraf Pervez, PO ICDS Akhtar Hussain Qazi, ACD Din Mohammad Afaqi, ACP Musharaf Ali Haif and officers from line departments.

The main function will be held at Doda Sports Stadium with the flag hoisting, March Past and cultural performances.

The program will start with Shehnai Vadan by the Information Department and patriotic songs

will play in town as proposed by the Municipal Council.

Directions were issued for cultural programs, stadium



renovations, illumination of public spaces, installation of a public address system and tricolour hoisting at Amrit Sarovar.

The DC emphasized inter-departmental coordination and

instructed departments on water, power, sanitation, first aid, fire safety and traffic management. The SSP assured comprehensive

security arrangements. Departments were also asked to conduct plantation drives and promote the Nasha Mukht Bharat initiative during the celebration.

DC Bandipora inspects Transit Camp Shadipora for Amarnath Yatris

Irrigation issues in Shadipora will be resolved at the earliest: assures Qadri

BANDIPORA: As the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025 continues in full swing, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Saturday visited the Transit Camp Shadipora at Sumbal to take stock of arrangements for the pilgrims.

During the visit, DC interacted with the pilgrims on duty and reviewed the facilities being provided to the pilgrims, including accommodation, sanitation, drinking water, and medical services. Officers briefed the DC that all arrangements were functioning smoothly and pilgrims were being provided with every necessary facility.

Meanwhile, DC also visited adjoining areas of Shadipora to address local issues. Responding to concerns raised by residents regarding irrigation problems affecting their agricultural activities, DC assured that the administration is actively working to resolve issues flagged-off, especially in the Shadipora belt.

DC was accompanied by SDMSumbal and other concerned officers during the visit.



Mehfil-e-Mushaira organised at Pulwama

PULWAMA: Department of Information & Public Relations Pulwama, in collaboration with the District Cultural Society Pulwama, organized a Mehfil-e-Mushaira, celebrating the district's vibrant literary culture.

The programme was presided over by GMDilshad, General Secretary of the District Cultural Society, while the introductory and welcome address was delivered by Shamas Siddique, President of the Society. Both speakers highlighted the significance of literary expression as a vehicle for cultural continuity and moral reflection.

An impressive lineup of poets from across the district mesmerized the audience with their compositions in Kashmiri and Urdu, touching upon

themes of spirituality, social awareness, devotion, and sacrifice. The Mushaira also provided a platform for budding poets to showcase their talent, gain encouragement from senior writers, and engage with a wider literary audience.

The Mehfil-e-Mushaira served not only as a celebration of literary richness but also as a moment of collective remembrance and moral reflection. The poetic contributions resonated deeply with the audience, affirming the district's commitment to preserving its cultural and spiritual heritage.

The event was also attended by officials of DIPR Pulwama, members of the District Cultural Society, and several literary and academic personalities from across the district.

DC Samba releases pocket-sized statistical handbook 'District at a Glance'

SAMBA: District Development Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma, released a pocket-sized handbook titled District at a Glance, compiled by the District Statistics and Evaluation Office. Present were Chief Planning Officer Kasturi Lal,

DSEO Rupinder Kaur, ACR Ajay Bharti, Statistical Officer DSEO Office and other staff. The publication provides a summary of key socio-economic and demographic data for 2022-23 and 2023-24. It is intended for use by planners,

researchers and departments for development initiatives. The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the DSEO team and the cooperation of government departments for their contribution in finalizing the publication.

Director Sericulture visits cocoon auction market at Udhampur

UDHAMPUR: Director Sericulture J&K, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat visited the Cocoon Auction Market, Udhampur, where hundreds of silkworm rearers and



buyers participated. He inspected arrangements and reiterated the aim to ensure smooth, transparent auctions. He noted that over 60,000 kg of cocoons had

been procured, with 2.5 crore worth of transactions and 1600/kg as the highest price. About 1600 silkworm rearers have sold produce since July 1.

In view of the large turnout, the market will continue for one more week.

He stated that efforts are being made to strengthen market linkages and provide doorstep support to farmers. Currently, over 70% of cocoon produce is sold outside J&K. Cocoon auction markets across Jammu aim to connect sellers with buyers from within and outside the UT for better returns.

The Director was accompanied by District Sericulture Officer and department officials. The visit highlighted the department's commitment to supporting silkworm rearers and sustainable sericulture practices.

Sakeena Itoo inaugurates CRWM for Water Supply Schemes at Noorabad Kulgam



FE News Network

KULGAM: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, inaugurated the Common Raw Water Main (CRWM) for three major water supply schemes including Dranbal Waripora, H N Guri and CS Rather at Dadran, Noorabad, D H Pora.

The project, completed with at a cost of Rs. 742 crore, Rs. 1.71 crore and Rs. 1.22 crore respectively, will tap raw water from two alpine lakes of Pir Panchal, Bramha Sar and Chir Sar and carry it to a water treatment plant.

Addressing a huge gathering on the occasion, the Minister said that the Omar Abdullah-led government is committed towards fulfilling the promises made to the

people and is working tirelessly to ensure the prosperity, welfare and holistic development of Jammu and Kashmir. She added that the government is focused on delivering quality infrastructure and public services for people to improve their lives.

She also raised serious concern over the growing drug menace, terming it as a grave issue that poses a threat to the fabric of society.

Highlighting the development journey over the past months, the Minister also shared various works and initiatives undertaken across sectors including education, social welfare and public infrastructure.

Sakeena said that commissioning of this vital infrastructure is expected to significantly improve the drinking water supply to the beneficiary areas and strengthen the region's water management network.

On the occasion, several locals and public delegations interacted with the Minister and apprised her of several issues and problems of public importance.

Sakeena Itoo assured them that their genuine issues and problems will be addressed promptly.

Rana asks for upgrades in Gujjar-Bakerwal Hostels; reviews facilities in hostels

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, called for upgrading the Gujjar-Bakerwal hostels with provision of all modern facilities to address the existing gaps and foster a conducive environment that supports both academic and personal growth of the students.

He underscored the commitment of government to enhance the living conditions and educational environment for the tribal students.

He made these observations during his visit to Gujjar-Bakerwal hostels in Bemina and Tulsi Bagh where he conducted a thorough inspection of the facilities and had an in-depth interaction with the students.

In line with this vision for enhancing the quality of facilities for the students, Rana instructed the Director Tribal Affairs to take concrete steps to improve hostels' management and implement upgrades to the hostel facilities.

"These upgrades are expected to address the existing shortcomings and provide students with a nurturing environment that supports their overall development," Rana said.

He also undertook a comprehensive review of DPR of the under construction buildings and directed for expedited completion by PWD. During the visit, Rana evaluated the quality



of facilities being provided to the inmates, assessing the infrastructure to identify areas that require improvement.

The Minister's inspection of the hostel's infrastructure was comprehensive, covering key areas such as classrooms, mess facilities, library services and recreational spaces.

He had a first-hand understanding of the challenges faced by the students and the scope for improvement in the existing facilities.

Rana also engaged with the students, gathering valuable feedback on hostel

management and facilities.

The Minister's emphasis on creating a supportive environment highlights the importance of enabling the students to excel academically and reach their full potential.

"We are taking proactive steps to address the students' concerns and improve hostel facilities", the Minister said.

He further assured that Government aims to bridge the gaps in the existing system and promote an environment that fosters growth and development.

J&K Judicial Academy organizes one-day sensitization programme



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SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Judicial Academy Saturday organized a one day sensitization programme on 'Law of Bail, Remand etc. with Reference to the Principle - Bail Not Jail' at its premises in Mominabad, Srinagar.

The programme was held under the patronage of Justice Arun Kumar Pali, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), and under the guidance of Chairperson and Members of the Governing Committee of the J&K Judicial Academy.

The event aimed to equip judicial officers of the Kashmir province and the Union Territory of Ladakh with in-depth understanding and operational clarity on the legal principles, procedural nuances, and evolving jurisprudence governing bail and remand, with particular emphasis on the constitutional mandate of personal liberty and the Supreme Court guidelines.

Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Sonia Gupta in her welcome address and introductory remarks outlined the critical importance of bail jurisprudence in upholding the constitutional mandate of personal liberty, while also balancing the interest of justice and societal security.

Registrar Vigilance, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Rajiv Gupta conducted the technical sessions. He focused on the fundamentals of bail, covering key aspects such as balancing personal liberty with societal interest, importance of writing reasoned and consistent bail orders, and the evolving application of the cardinal rule of "bail, not jail."

The sessions also addressed the significance of timeliness in bail matters and explored innovative mechanisms to streamline the bail process. Resource person also presented a detailed analysis of two landmark Supreme Court judgments: Siddharth vs. State of UP and Satender Kumar Antil vs. CBI, underscoring the judiciary's approach in safeguarding liberty and reducing unnecessary incarceration.

Speaker has not disallowed/ rejected the Resolution on declaration of Holiday on 13th July

The statement of Ms. Mehbooba Mufti on social media is misleading and not based on facts

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: In response to Ms. Mehbooba Mufti's post on social media platform regarding Resolution by PDP on declaration of holiday on 13th July, the Hon'ble Speaker, Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly Advocate Abdul Rahim Rather categorically denied the statement made by Ms Mehbooba Mufti on social media and said that the said statement is misleading and not based on facts. Advocate Abdul Rahim Rather stated that the said Resolution submitted by Mr. Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra was admitted during the Budget Session 2025-26 held in the month of March at Jammu.

Abdul Rahim Rather, Hon'ble Speaker said that Assembly Secretariat received total 111 Resolutions from 34 Hon'ble Members and out of which 87 resolutions were admitted for balloting and rest were disallowed as per rules. Mr. Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra, Hon'ble Member also submitted four Resolutions and out of which two Resolutions were admitted which includes the Resolution "Declaring 13th July as official holiday to remember the sacrifices of the protestors against autocratic monarch forces". Mr. Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra was accordingly informed through Assembly Secretariat Bulletin No.LA1353/Legn/2025 dated 14/03/2025.

As per prescribed Rules relative precedence of



the Private Members' Resolutions was determined by separate Balloting in terms of Rule-28 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in J&K Legislative Assembly in presence of 7 Hon'ble Members on 25th of March 2025 and 14 Resolutions secured place in balloting which were listed in the House on 7th & 9th of April, 2025. The Resolution submitted by Mr. Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra, Hon'ble MLA, though admitted, did not secure place during Balloting process. So process was completed as per the Rules of procedure.

He further said that the post of Speaker is the epitome of impartiality and in no case it can be construed that the Resolution has been rejected out rightly by the Speaker, which is not

Dy CM inspects SDH Akhnoor, emphasises quality healthcare services

Visits Gurudwara Tapo Asthan Sant Baba Sunder Singh Ji, allocates 1 cr for cantilever platform

FE News Network

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, visited Sub District Hospital Akhnoor and took stock of healthcare facilities available for the patients there.

The Dy CM inspected various sections of the hospital and assessed the services being extended to the patients. He interacted with the patients and their attendants, seeking feedback regarding the quality of treatment and related services available at the SDH.

While interacting with them, the Dy CM assured them that the government is focusing on increasing medical care facilities in rural areas so that they can get access near their vicinities. He urged the hospital authorities to ensure timely treatment, streamlined processes and patient-centric care for the patients coming from different far flung areas of the Jammu.

The Dy CM asked for



maintaining proper sanitation and hygiene in and around the hospital premises besides checking the availability of medicine, duty roster and staff strength. He maintained that the government under the leadership of CM Omar Abdullah is committed to provide all modern healthcare facilities and infrastructure to the people at their door steps.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister visited the Gurudwara Tapo Asthan Sant Baba Sunder Singh Ji at Akhnoor. He paid obeisance at the Gurudwara and prayed for progress, peace and prosperity of J&K.

The Gurudwara committee, on the occasion, requested for a cantilever platform in the river Chenab, so that the people can perform the 'Asthi Visarjan' ritual in the river instead of its bank.

It was informed that the DPR with an estimated cost of Rs 4.82 crore for the cantilever platform has already been submitted.

Acting swiftly on the demand, the Dy CM allocated Rs 1 crore for the project and directed the department to tender for the same before 20th of July. He also asked for extra budget for beautification of Gurudwara premises and other allied works.

SKUAST-Kashmir, KVK Srinagar kick-start 3-day Skill Development Training

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: KVK Srinagar organised three days ESOP on "Scientific Management of Broiler and

Backyard Poultry Farming at its campus.

The programme aimed to equip rural youth with the necessary skills for sustainable poultry farming.

The opening session began with a presentation on the overall scenario of poultry farming in J&K and futuristic strategies to make the sector a commercially viable and employment generating enterprise.

Head KVK, Dr.S.A.Simnani urged the trainees to take up poultry farming as it is self-sustaining

enterprises requiring minimal investment.

During the interactive sessions with the trainees, Dr.Simnani stressed on integrating Poultry with other agricultural practices for optimising feed efficiency and waste management practices. He emphasised the reduced use of antibiotics through adoption of biosecurity measures.

Dr.Ishtiyak A Mir, Scientist (Animal Science), delivered a comprehensive presentation on scientific management, covering breed selection,

nutrition, health management, and bio-security measures. He also provided hands-on training on feed preparation methodology as well as management of poultry manure at Kendra's Poultry / Duckery demonstration unit.

The training was attended by 24 rural youth and farmers, who gained valuable insights and hands-on experience in poultry farming practices.

Food Technologist, Dr.Aasima Rafiq deliberated on low cost processing techniques of poultry meat.

Javid Dar visits Fruit Mandi Kanispora

Reviews irrigation facilities in Baramulla, rain-fed areas of Bomai

FE News Network

BARAMULLA: Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, visited Fruit Mandi Kanispora in Baramulla, where he interacted with members of the Fruit Growers Association, progressive orchardists and farmers to understand their issues and seek suggestions.

He was accompanied by MLA Baramulla Javid Ahmad Beigh, MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar, MLA Wagoora Irfan Hafeez Lone, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Director Horticulture Kashmir, Director Command Area Development, Director Horticulture (Planning & Marketing) and other senior officers.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to farmers' welfare, the Minister assured that all concerns raised by the fruit growers would be addressed in a time-bound manner. He stated that the Agriculture Production Department is actively working to rationalize the rules



and ensure strict enforcement of agricultural regulations. He added that strict penalties would be imposed on the violators to ensure accountability.

The Minister also announced that a state of the art testing laboratory is being established in Baramulla, which will serve as a key facility for testing and research in the interest of the farming community. He further informed that cold storage infrastructure is being developed to reduce the post-harvest losses and improve

the shelf life and marketability of horticultural produce.

Highlighting the government's broader support mechanisms, he said that Weather based Crop Insurance Scheme for fruit growers is also expected to be launched soon. This initiative aims to protect growers against natural disasters and crop failures, thereby ensuring sustainable income and resilience for the agricultural sector, he added.

Later, the Minister visited various areas of Baramulla district

including Tujar Sharif, Harwan, Zaingeer, Zalloora and the rainfed areas of Bomai to assess the status of irrigation facilities.

During the field tour, he instructed the concerned departments to identify feasible locations to prepare DPRs for borewells to augment irrigation facilities in the areas.

Pertinently, the Agriculture department has rolled out a new NABARD funded scheme for setting up community borewells in rainfed areas to improve irrigation facilities. Similarly, 6200 borewells in rain-fed areas are being targeted under HADP for overall improvement of irrigation in rain-fed areas across J&K.

He emphasized the need for focused interventions in rain-fed and water-stressed areas and called for better coordination between allied departments to address gaps in irrigation and water management.

The Minister reiterated that the government is fully committed towards enhancing the irrigation infrastructure, increasing farm productivity and improving rural livelihoods across Jammu and Kashmir.

Vice Chancellor University of Kashmir inaugurates SOCACON-2025 at GMC Srinagar

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar witnessed the grand inauguration of the 13th International Conference of the Society of Clinical Anatomists (SOCACON 2025).

The conference, being held in hybrid mode from July 10-12, 2025, has attracted over 300 delegates from across India and abroad.

The inaugural session was graced by Prof. (Dr.) Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir, who in her inaugural address, said that today, we gather to celebrate the confluence of visionary leadership, innovation, and global collaboration in clinical anatomy.

The 13th International Conference of the SOCACON 2025 is a testament to the unwavering commitment of our medical fraternity towards excellence in anatomical sciences. "I commend the organizing team led by Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan Shah, Principal of GMC Srinagar, for orchestrating an event of such national and international significance. I wish the conference all success and hope it will provide a platform for meaningful dialogue and collaboration among participants," added the Vice Chancellor.

Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan Shah, Patron of SOCACON-2025 and Principal/Dean Government Medical College Srinagar, delivered the welcome address, stating "It is my privilege to welcome all to SOCACON 2025. This conference is a celebration of

anatomical excellence, collaborative spirit, and the rich academic tradition of Kashmir. I praise the department's efforts in hosting a global academic platform in Srinagar and look forward to fruitful deliberations and outcomes."

Prof. (Dr.) Ghulam Mohammad Bhat,



Head, Department of Anatomy, GMC Srinagar, stated that the department of Anatomy is committed to academic excellence and interdisciplinary research in anatomical sciences. "SOCACON-2025 is a significant milestone in our journey, and I am confident that it will foster meaningful dialogue and collaboration among participants," he added.

The 13th International Conference of the Society of Clinical Anatomists (SOCACON

2025) is a premier academic event that brings together leading anatomists, clinicians, and researchers from across the globe to discuss the latest advancements in anatomical sciences. The conference aims to foster collaboration, innovation, and excellence in the field of anatomy.

The conference features keynote speakers from renowned institutions, including- Prof. (Dr.) Ghulam Nabi (University of Dundee, UK); Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Ashraf Ganie (SKIMS, Srinagar); Dr. Mohammad Sultan Khuroo; Prof. (Dr.) P. Vatsala Swamy (D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune); Prof. (Dr.) Bashir Ahmad Shah, Organizing Secretary; Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Saleem Itoo, Co-Organizing Secretary; Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, Administrator, Associated Hospitals, GMC Srinagar.

Dr. Kumar Satish Ravi, Vice Principal of NIMS Jaipur, added, "SOCACON-2025 has raised the bar with its intellectual rigor, scientific innovation, and emotional resonance. It has set a benchmark for future anatomical conferences."

The event culminated with a valedictory ceremony, where the Head of the Department extended heartfelt thanks to all national and international delegates, faculty members, administrative staff, senior residents, postgraduate and undergraduate students, and technical teams. Their dedicated efforts and collective spirit played a crucial role in making SOCACON-2025 a resounding success.

Editorial

Battling the Growing Drug Menace

Kashmir, long known for its natural beauty and cultural resilience, is grappling with a crisis that silently eats into the fabric of its society, the growing menace of drug addiction. Once considered a peripheral issue, drug abuse has now emerged as a serious threat, particularly among the youth. From heroin to prescription drugs, the list of substances wreaking havoc in homes, schools, and streets continues to grow alarmingly.

The social and psychological impact of this epidemic is devastating. Families are being torn apart, and mental health issues are escalating.

Thousands of youth across the Valley are now victims of drug dependency, with some districts witnessing particularly high numbers. What makes the situation worse is the easy availability of these drugs, often smuggled across borders or diverted from pharmaceutical sources.

However, in the midst of this crisis, the Jammu and Kashmir Police have stepped up their efforts with a renewed sense of urgency. A series of crack-downs, arrests, and large-scale seizures in recent months reflect a zero-tolerance approach towards drug trafficking. From busting drug cartels to sealing properties of known peddlers, the police force is leaving no stone unturned. Special Narcotics Cells have been activated and awareness campaigns launched to educate the public, particularly students, about the dangers of addiction.

Yet, enforcement alone is not enough. This battle requires a multi-pronged strategy that includes rehabilitation, awareness, and social support. Police action must be supported by health departments, civil society, religious leaders, and educational institutions. Rehabilitation centers need more attention and funding to offer real hope to those trapped in the cycle of addiction.

Moreover, the community must play a vigilant role. Parents must keep a watchful eye, schools must educate early, and media must speak responsibly. The fight against drugs is not just about punishing offenders; it's about saving a generation.

Kashmir has faced many challenges in the past, but the drug menace is unique, it destroys silently from within. The time to act is now, and while the police deserve credit for their strong stance, the collective conscience of society must rise to ensure that the Valley heals, not just from its political wounds, but also from this social scourge.

Healing the Brain: The rise of Neuro-Intervention



DR SUMIT GOYAL

For a long time, brain problems like stroke or aneurysm could only be treated through open surgery, which meant cutting open the skull, long recovery, and visible scars. But now, a new approach called neuro-intervention allows doctors to treat

head. In most cases, the patient remains awake or under light sedation. However, certain procedures or emergency situations may require general anaesthesia for safety and comfort. Most patients are able to go home in just a day or two. There is no large wound, and recovery is much faster compared to traditional brain surgery.

Common Conditions Treated Without Surgery

One of the main uses of neuro-intervention is stroke treatment. In strokes caused by a blood clot, doctors can use a special device through the tube to pull the clot out

recover faster, and have fewer risks of infection or complications. Many are able to walk the same day, and the hospital stay is much shorter. Some may need physiotherapy or speech therapy afterward, especially in stroke cases, but overall, recovery is quicker and smoother.

In emergencies like stroke, every minute matters. If treatment is delayed, parts of the brain can get permanently damaged. That's why it's important to recognize warning signs like sudden weakness in the body, slurred speech, or a drooping face, and rush to a hospital immediately. The earlier the treatment, the better the chances of full recovery.



many serious brain conditions without making a single cut on the head.

The result is a safer, quicker, and less painful recovery. In India, over 18 lakh people suffer a stroke every year, and the demand for faster, less invasive brain treatment is rapidly growing across both urban and rural areas.

Understanding the Procedure

Neuro-intervention is a method where doctors treat brain conditions using a very thin tube, inserted through a small hole in the leg or wrist. With the help of live X-ray images, the tube is guided through blood vessels all the way to the brain. Once it reaches the affected area, the doctor can remove a blockage, seal a weak blood vessel, or stop abnormal bleeding.

The entire treatment is done from outside the brain, with no cuts or stitches on the

and restore blood flow to the brain. This can help prevent long-term disability and even save lives, if done in time.

Another common condition is brain aneurysm, which is a balloon-like bulge in the arteries that can burst and cause dangerous bleeding. Doctors can now treat them by placing coils or flow diverters through catheters to seal them off safely from the inside.

Neuro-intervention can also be used for carotid artery stenting, a procedure that treats narrowed neck arteries supplying blood to the brain. By placing a stent through a minimally invasive route, doctors can restore blood flow and lower the risk of stroke without requiring open surgery.

Faster Recovery and Why Timing Matters

Because this method doesn't involve cutting the head, patients feel less pain,

A New Hope in Brain Care

Neuro-intervention is changing how we treat brain conditions. More hospitals in India are adopting this technology, giving patients better and safer options. Whether it is stroke, aneurysm, or other brain vessel problems, many can now be treated without the fear of brain surgery.

The goal of modern brain care is not just to treat effectively, but to do it in a way that is easier on the patient. Thanks to neuro-intervention, we can now treat the brain without cutting into it, giving patients a faster return to normal life, and a future full of possibilities.

Author is Director, Neurosurgery and Group Director Neurointervention, Yatharth Hospital, Greater Noida. He can be mailed at rkraisamp@gmail.com

From Shadows To Sunshine Letting Go Of Negativity



VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

becomes negative. Each one of us is negative or positive at some point in our life. How can we control negativity? It all starts again with the mind. Once mind is under control all is well. Basically, we need to train our mind to think positively. We can tune our minds and repeatedly think positively to break free of the negativity and its vicious circle. Letting go of negative people doesn't mean we hate them, it just means

same energy acting in different ways. There are times when we want to think positively but our mind does not want to open to receive positive and we are angry. Anger is one emotion that can destroy everything one builds throughout one's life. If we are able to control our anger consciously we can move ahead in life. We can open our minds and accept what life has to offer with open arms. One must remember that the more nega-

the negatives when we accept them and learn from them. Negativity can have a profound impact on our mental well-being, weakening our minds in several ways. It can reduce focus, attention, and decision-making abilities. Chronic negativity can lead to heightened stress levels, anxiety, and even depression. It can make it more challenging to cope with challenges and setbacks and can damage relationships and lead to social isolation. It also creates a vicious cycle of pessimistic thinking, making it harder to break free.

Often, the mind does not judge or examine thoughts and opinions before accepting them. If what it hears, sees and reads is always negative, it accepts negativity as the standard mindset. When the tiger crosses your path, for example, you run. The rest of the world doesn't matter. You are focused entirely on the tiger, the fear it creates, and how you can get away from it. In other words, negative emotions narrow our mind and focus your thoughts. Doing simple things like talking about positive daily events, common friends, hobbies, happy news, make for light conversations with negative people. Negative emotions prevent our brain from seeing the other options and choices that surround us. President Obama said that "if you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope, you will fill yourself with hope." Erasing negative thoughts and influences can be challenging, especially when we are surrounded by negative individuals or if we have established a base of negative habits. However, through awareness and perseverance we can turn the tide and begin to focus on living positively. It's never too late to make alterations or transitions in your life. It is said that there is little difference in people, but that little difference makes a big difference. The little difference is attitude. The big difference is whether it is positive or negative.

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Negative thinking creeps into our mind and disrupts its working. If one is positive the effect on others may or may not be positive and the environment may not necessarily become positive. But when a person is negative the effect definitely rubs on others and the environment

that we care about our own wellbeing. Every time we subtract negative from our life, we make room for more positive. The mind is neutral energy and because of this the way we think determines whether the results are positive and beneficial, or negative and harmful. It is the

tive energy we create, the more negative energy we attract. Quite simply, no matter how positive of a person we are, negative people can affect our life, unless we take the right precautions. Life is full of highs and lows, but you don't have to go up and down with them. We develop from

Life is full of highs and lows, but you don't have to go up and down with them. We develop from the negatives when we accept them and learn from them. Negativity can have a profound impact on our mental well-being, weakening our minds in several ways.

Sakeena Itoo addresses Triple Milestone Moment-2025 of JLNH Hospital Srinagar

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and

of the hospital.

MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq; Director Health Services Kashmir, Medical Superintendent JLNH, doctors, researchers and

and PG Research presentation.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister emphasized the importance of early diagnosis and community-based education on

2025' reflect our commitment towards equipping the healthcare providers and the public with essential tools to combat this growing health concern", she stated.

The Minister further said that the medical science is evolving day by day and doctors need to keep themselves abreast with the growing advancements in the medical care and research. She also spoke in length about the recent efforts of government for amplifying the healthcare infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister also praised the hospital staff for their tireless efforts and appreciated them for making JLNH a top-notch tertiary care setup in the valley. She also spoke about the hospital's historic significance and the ongoing efforts to equip it with the best facilities for patients.

On the occasion, the Minister released JLNH Journal titled 'Asian Journal of Clinical Practice and Research'. She also distributed awards among the postgraduate researchers for outstanding work in medical field.

The hospital administration expressed gratitude to the Minister and the government for reviving the hospital and establishing advanced healthcare facilities for patients.

Pertinently, the Allergy Alert 2025 conference aimed to explore new frontiers in allergy and immunology, bringing together experts and researchers in the field.



Education, Sakeena Itoo, addressed the Triple Milestone Moment-2025 of Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Hospital (JLNH) Rainawari here, organised to celebrate knowledge, care and clinical advancement

medical students were present on the occasion.

The milestones being celebrated included 'Allergy Alert-2025'-a conference-cum-workshop, launch of JLNH Journal

allergies, especially in light of environmental changes and lifestyle factors contributing to their surge. "Awareness and timely intervention are key to managing allergies effectively. Initiatives like 'Allergy Alert

'Bharat Sanrachana- J&K 2025'

Mega Exhibition Concludes with Overwhelming Youth Participation

FE NEWS NETWORK

"Such platforms inspire our youth and connect them with India's development journey": MP Ghulam Ali Khatana

SRINAGAR: The three-day mega exhibition 'Bharat Sanrachana - J&K 2025' concluded at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar, drawing an enthusiastic response from the public, especially students and young citizens.

The closing ceremony was attended by Rajya Sabha MP Ghulam Ali Khatana, who commended the initiative and its impact on youth engagement. "Such platforms are helping to give our young generation a new direction and inspiring them to contribute to nation-building," he said, calling the exhibition a meaningful effort in connecting people with India's progress.

Organized by Tarmeh Events, the national-level exhibition was held from July 10 to 12 and attracted over 15,000 students from more than 60 educational institutions. Through interactive displays, young visitors explored key government schemes, scientific innovations, and structural development projects.

Prominent participants included DRDO, ISRO, Powergrid, NHPC, Geological Survey of India (GSI), CSIR, ICMR, APEDA, Bureau of Indian Standards

Tarun Jain and Mehak Jain, were present during the ceremony and thanked all stakeholders for making the event a success.



(BIS), Jute Board, Ministry of Textiles, DST, and Ministry of Science and Technology, among others.

Based on public engagement and presentation quality, DRDO was recognised for having the most impactful stall, followed by GSI and BIS. Their exhibits attracted a high level of student interest and interaction.

Representatives of Tarmeh Events,

Certificates were distributed to all participating departments. Visitors and students described the exhibition as inspiring, informative, and a rare opportunity to directly engage with national institutions. The event was widely hailed as a significant step toward public outreach and awareness in Jammu and Kashmir.

SKUAST-K, DARS conduct one-day training programme on 'Promotion of Potential Crops'

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Dryland Agriculture Research Station (DARS), SKUAST-Kashmir under AICRP on potential crops organized a one day training programme on

department belonging to different zones of the Valley. Prof. (Dr.) Ajaz Ahmad Lone, DARS-Rangreth, SKUAST-K (K) gave a brief insight about potential crop scenarios of the valley, their relevance under the current changing climate era.

Prof. M. Ashraf Bhat, Associate Director Research, DARS-SKUAST Kashmir addressed the participants about the role of the Station in development of new and improved crop varieties for the overall benefit of the farming community for food and nutritional security.

The programme included a series of talks by different subject matter specialists on various aspects of potential crops. Interaction session was also held wherein different issues faced by line department officials in their respective areas were deliberated upon.

The participants expressed happiness for conducting such type of training and desired to organize more such programmes in future.



'Promotion of Potential Crops' at DARS-SKUAST-Kashmir.

The programme, sponsored by ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi, was attended by 50 officials from the Agriculture

Food Safety Department intensifies efforts to ensure safe and quality food for pilgrims during Amarnath Yatra

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Food Safety Department, Jammu & Kashmir, has intensified its surveillance and enforcement activities to ensure food safety during the ongoing Amarnath Yatra 2025.

The exercise is being conducted under the directions of Minister for Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, and Secretary, Health & Medical Education, J&K, Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, whose guidance has supported field mobilization and monitoring.

Commissioner, Food & Drugs Administration, Smita Sethi, inspected hygienic conditions of langars and food service areas at key base and transit camps in Jammu Division, reaffirming the department's commitment to serving pilgrims safe and hygienic food.



In view of the increased footfall and operation of food business operators (FBOs), the department deployed Food

Safety Officers, Food Analysts, and Mobile Food Testing Vans from Lakhanpur to Baital and Pahalgam. These vans equipped

with testing kits, conduct daily on-spot food analysis and raise awareness among langar operators and food handlers.

During the first week of the Yatra, the department achieved 215 registrations issued to langar operators and vendors, 171 inspections conducted, 910 food samples tested via mobile vans, 77 training and awareness sessions conducted, and 30 kg of substandard food items seized and destroyed.

Advisories outlining hygiene, storage, preparation and waste management protocols have been issued. The department has appealed to all FBOs to co-operate fully. For grievances, the toll-free helpline 104 is available.

The department reiterates its commitment to maintaining food safety throughout the Yatra.

DC Srinagar chairs DLRC/ DCC meet

Reviews performance of Banks in implementation of Government sponsored schemes

FE NEWS NETWORK

Emphasis laid on swift scrutinizing, sanctioning with timely disbursement of credit facility to beneficiaries

SRINAGAR: A meeting of District Level Review Committee/District Consultative Committee (DLRC/DCC) was held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, here to review the performance of the Banks and sponsoring Departments under various Government initiatives and flagship schemes for financial year 2024-25.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner/Chairman DLRC/DCC took a detailed review and sector wise performance of the Banks in implementation of different Government schemes. He also reviewed the achievements of Banks in lending to Priority/Non Priority sectors under Annual Credit Plan.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC urged Banks and sponsoring agencies to prioritize achieving targets under Priority Sector Lending. He also impressed upon the banks to improve the ease of availing banking facilities in favour of general public.

The DC stressed all the line Departments and Banks operating in the District to ensure effective implementation of self employment schemes viz Mission YUVA, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), etc with proper hand holding of the beneficiaries to further improve the credit facilities.

The DC asked Banks operating in the District to ensure self employment cases approved by DLRC including Mission YUVA are swiftly scrutinized and sanctioned with timely disbursement of the loan to beneficiaries. He also urged upon speedy processing of HADP cases so that the target population is benefitted under the

scheme without any hindrance.

The DC emphasized utmost coordination between Banks and sponsoring agencies for better implementation of self-employment schemes so that beneficiaries set up their income generating units in a seamless manner. It was apprised that Banks operating in Srinagar have provided a total credit of Rs 10505 crore among



157616 beneficiaries of District under different schemes achieving 213% of the target during financial year 2024-25.

Besides, Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, General Manager DIC, Hamida Akhtar, Lead District Manager (Banks), Nilofer Jan, LDO RBI, DDM NABARD, all District Officers, Cluster Heads of J&K Bank, representatives of Banks and financial institutions operating in Srinagar.

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WAY TO DESTINATION
WHERE DREAMS BECOME REALITY

ACB Arrests Patwari For Accepting Bribe In Budgam

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Saturday said to have trapped and arrested a Patwari of Halqa Humchipora, Budgam for demanding and accepting a bribe of 2000.

Jammu and Kashmir Anti Corruption Bureau received a written complaint alleging therein that Patwari Halqa Humchipora, Budgam namely Tahir Jan Malla was demanding a bribe of 2000 each for two sale deeds for affecting the Mutation (Intiqal) of land situated at Alammaag Khag, Budgam in favour of the complainant through the online system.

The complainant approached Anti Corruption Bureau with a written complaint, requesting legal action against the accused public servant under relevant provisions of law.

On receipt of the complaint, discreet verification was conducted, which confirmed the demand of bribe by the accused public servant. Accordingly, Case FIR No. 14/2025 U/S 7 PC Act 1988 was registered at Police Station ACB Srinagar and investigation was taken up.

During the course of investigation a trap team was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and caught the accused public servant Tahir Jan Malla R/o Sebdan Budgam red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe amount of 2,000 from the complainant.

After completing all necessary medico-Legal formalities, the accused Public Servant was taken in custody.

Further investigation in the case is going on.



LG Sinha

has been transformed into a mass movement in Jammu and Kashmir. “The social and economic upliftment of women has been our top priority. I strongly believe that women-led development will lead us to overcoming challenges like terrorism, drug addiction, other social evils, and to build a peaceful and prosperous J&K.

Nari Shakti has brought a tremendous change to the rural economy. Our multi-pronged approach and women centric initiatives have empowered the women in Jammu Kashmir with training and financial support. It is being ensured that the women are not just beneficiaries of development but a key partner in J&K’s growth journey,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called for annual follow up after the participants completed the training and started their businesses. He emphasised on a planned approach to close the gap between the number of women and men entrepreneurs, especially in rural areas, and encourage the women workforce to scale-up their businesses.

Wemust wholeheartedly recognize and respect women’s inherent abilities and invaluable contributions, and make continuous efforts to promote their leadership role across the sectors, ensuring they have every opportunity to excel and inspire, he further said.

The Lieutenant Governor also lauded the Army’s community engagements and development programme. He said the Indian Army is not only ensuring the unity and integrity of India with full alertness, but also continuously performing virtuous work of transforming the society.

GOC 15 Corps, Lieutenant General Prashant Srivastava; GOC Victor Force Major General Dhananjay Joshi; Shri Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; DIG SKR Shri Javid Iqbal Matoo, Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shri Shishir Gupta; senior officials of Police, Civil Administration and Army; members of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Vikas evam Sewa Sansathan, and youth in large number were present. (DIPR)

J&K Pilgrims

Additionally, the pilgrims urged the authorities to investigate the matter, fix responsibility and provide financial compensation. They also demanded compensation for those who were accommodated in hotels located outside the Markazia area.

When contacted, Executive Officer of the J&K Haj Committee, Dr Shujhat Qureshi, told KNO the matter has already been taken up with the Haj Committee of India.

“We have sent a letter to the central Haj Committee and a reminder was also sent yesterday. We are hopeful that the refund will be provided to the affected pilgrims,” he said—(KNO)

Shah

aimed at addressing internal threats,” he added.

The Home Minister criticised opposition-led state governments for what he called a lack of effective action against extremist groups.

Without naming specific parties, he questioned their silence on the activities of banned outfits and called for a national consensus on security issues—(KNO)

Amarnath Yatra

Jaipur, expressed her deep satisfaction with the ongoing arrangements for the Amarnath Yatra.

“The government has made very good arrangements this year. Everything from security to basic facilities like food and medical support is well-managed. It feels safe and spiritually uplifting to be part of this sacred journey. I will offer prayers at the holy cave for peace, prosperity, and happiness for everyone,” she said.

Another devotee, Nilesch Upadhyay, who is undertaking the pilgrimage, said that he had come for the 13th time.

“I have come here for the 13th time, and I must say the arrangements have continuously improved over the years. There is a sense of peace and divine energy all around. The yatris are being taken care of at every step of the way. The environment is calm, the people are

cooperative, and the security forces are doing a commendable job,” he said.

Meanwhile, the 11th batch of 6,639 pilgrims set out from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu on Saturday morning to undertake the sacred journey to the Amarnath cave shrine in south Kashmir.

The group included 1,462 women, 41 children, and 181 sadhus and sadhvis. As per officials, the pilgrims left in two separate convoys amid tight security arrangements, heading towards the twin base camps of Nunwan in Pahalgam and Baltal in Ganderbal district.

Out of the total, 4,302 pilgrims opted for the traditional Pahalgam route, travelling in 159 vehicles, while 2,337 pilgrims preferred the Baltal route and were accommodated in 116 vehicles.

The 32-day yatra, which commenced on July 3, is scheduled to conclude on August 9—(KNO)

Govt orders

transferred and posted as Principal Secretary to the Public Works (R&B) Department. He will continue to hold his additional charge in the Mining Department.

Yasha Mudgal, IAS (AGMUT: 2007), Commissioner/Secretary of the Tourism Department, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner/Secretary to the Youth Services and Sports Department.

Sarmad Hafeez, IAS (AGMUT: 2009), presently Commissioner/Secretary to the Youth Services and Sports Department, has been posted as Commissioner/Secretary to the Social Welfare Department.

Talat Parvez Rohella, IAS (AGMUT: 2010), Secretary to the Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, has been assigned as Chairman of the Bureau of Public Enterprises, Jammu and Kashmir.

Bhupinder Kumar, IAS (AGMUT: 2011), currently Secretary to the Public Works (R&B) Department and holding multiple additional charges including Director of Census Operations for J&K and Ladakh, has been transferred and posted as Resident Commissioner of the J&K Government in New Delhi. He will continue with additional responsibilities as Administrative Secretary, Hospitality and Protocol Department, and Director of Census Operations until further orders.

Ananth Dwivedi, IAS (AGMUT: 2021), Chief Executive Officer of the State Health Agency and Mission Director of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission, has been given the additional charge of Additional Secretary to the Revenue Department—(KNO)

School Timing

the change in school timing. She said keeping in view the change in weather and suggestions from the relevant stakeholders they have decided to revise the school timing.

“There was no possibility of extending the summer break for schools in Kashmir despite demand from various stakeholders. We had already closed schools for many days recently. If summer break had been extended further, the syllabus could not have been completed,” she said. (KNO)

PM Modi

digital technology, energy, and rare earth minerals and will create far-reaching benefits.

“These initiatives will not only strengthen India’s global economic standing but also generate meaningful opportunities for young Indians in both manufacturing and services,” he said. Noting that over 25 crore people were lifted out of poverty in the past 10 years, the prime minister said it would not have happened but for the employment and sources of income generated for them.

These poor people used to have a difficult living and feared death but became so strong that they defeated poverty, he added.

Citing an International Labour Organization report, Modi said over 90 crore people were covered under the ambit of welfare schemes in the last decade.

India, based on its Gini index, is among the countries with the highest equality, he said, underscoring his government’s pro-people efforts.

Modi said his government’s focus on boosting manufacturing has paid off, saying electronic manufacturing

has risen over five times to be worth Rs 11 lakh crore in 11 years and mobile manufacturing units number nearly 300 from two to four earlier.

Defence manufacturing is being discussed proudly after Operation Sindoor, he said in an apparent reference to the display of India’s indigenous military capability during the conflict with Pakistan.

The worth of defence production has gone beyond Rs 1.25 lakh crore, he said, adding that India is now on its way to becoming the third-largest economy.

Modi said India has emerged as the largest locomotive producer in the world and rail and metro coaches have registered strong exports. The automobile sector, he added, has attracted USD 40 billion in FDI in just five years, resulting in new factories, new job opportunities, and record vehicle sales.

The government, he said, is also focusing on creating new employment opportunities as he referred to the Employment Linked Incentive Scheme, under which people in their first job in the private sector will be given Rs 15,000.

The government will contribute to the first salary of their first job and has allocated a budget of approximately Rs 1 lakh crore, he said, adding that it is expected to help in the creation of about 3.5 crore new jobs.

Over 10 lakh recruitment letters have been issued so far under it, it said. (PTI)

Sanat Nagar

was held up due to prolonged utility clearance.

Daily commuters say the delay has only worsened traffic congestion. “Every day there are long traffic jams at Sanat Nagar. We have waited long enough. It is time the flyover is finished,” said Zubair Ahmad, a commuter from Natipora.

The locals hoped that the flyover would finally ease the pressure on this key intersection. “Once it is completed, travel time from Barzulla to Nowgam will improve significantly,” said Tahoor Wani, a local from Baghat.

Notably, with the amendment work underway and key technical hurdles resolved, officials say the city’s last pending important bypass flyover is finally on track for completion—(KNO)

Properties

and those aiding or abetting such elements, the spokesperson said.

CS

DSWOs to frequently conduct field visits to assess on-ground realities and align their actions with actual needs. He remarked that all decisions should stem from field-level insights and reflect the actual realities of our people.

In a forward-looking suggestion, Dulloo asked the department to explore the concept of Composite Homes in districts to house the orphaned children, elderly citizens and the destitute women together, providing them with a sense of community and shared care, reducing isolation.

Providing an overview of the department’s scope and responsibilities, Principal Secretary Anil Kumar Singh informed that the Social Welfare Department is currently implementing 37 Centrally Sponsored Schemes and 9 UT schemes, backed by a budgetary allocation of Rs 4,361 crore for the year 2025-26. He highlighted the presence of around 28,000 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) across the UT, which cater to nearly 9 lakh beneficiaries, ensuring last-mile delivery of services.

The Principal Secretary also presented a detailed account of the current status, outcomes and future roadmap of various schemes under the department’s ambit. Mission Directors and Directors briefed the Chief Secretary on the functioning and implementation status of their respective schemes and programmes.

The meeting comprehensively reviewed key initiatives under Mission Poshan (7 schemes), focusing on improving the nutritional levels among children and others. Mission Shakti (6 schemes) aimed at empowering the women ensuring their safety, empowerment and protection. Mission Vatsalya (7 schemes) focuses on institutional

care and protection for different sections of the society in need.

Other centrally sponsored schemes discussed included SMILE (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise), Atal Vayo Abhyudaya Yojana (AVYAY) and SAPSrC, PM-AJAY (Prime Minister’s Anusuchit Jaati Abhiyan Yojana), PM-YASASVI Scholarships, NAPDDR (Drug Demand Reduction), NSAP (National Social Assistance Programme), Scholarships for Minority, SC and OBC communities, ALIMCO-supported Prosthetic Aids, implementation of SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, NAMASTE (Sanitation Workers’ Welfare), PMJVK (Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram) besides others.

The review also covered UT government schemes like ISSS (Integrated Social Security Scheme), Ladli Beti, Marriage Assistance Scheme, SC Scholarship, Homes for those in distress, Pahari Hostels, Mobility Support to Specially-abled (scooties/prosthetics), Pensions for the needy and assistance to militancy-affected families. (DIPR)

Immediate Action Taken on Poor Macadamization Work on Chijhama-Trapgora Road

SRINAGAR: Taking strong note of public grievances raised today on social media regarding the sub-standard macadamization on



Chijhama-Trapgora Road, Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister Shri Surinder Choudhary directed immediate action.

Acting swiftly on the matter, the concerned Junior Engineer, Mr. Riyaz Ahmad Bhat, has been placed under suspension with immediate effect. Additionally, a formal notice has been issued to the executing vendor, M/S Rafiq Construction, seeking an explanation and remedial action.

The Government reiterates its commitment to ensuring accountability, transparency, and quality in all public works. No compromise will be tolerated when it comes to the use of public funds and the delivery of essential infrastructure to citizens.

The Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister, Shri Surinder Choudhary, has taken serious note of a viral video and widespread public concern regarding the premature deterioration of freshly macadamized road work on the Chijhama-Trapgora stretch in Rafiabaddistrict Baramulla.

Pursuant to this directive, the concerned Junior Engineer, Mr. Riyaz Ahmad Bhat, has been placed under suspension with immediate effect, vide Order No. CE/NK/Adm/57 of 2025 dated 12.07.2025, issued by the Office of the Chief Engineer, PWD (R&B), North Kashmir.

In addition, the executing contractor, M/S Rafiq Construction, has been served a formal notice vide Communication No. 1482-84 dated 12.07.2025 by the Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Division Rafiabaddistrict Watergam. The contractor has been directed to explain his position within three (03) days as to why action as warranted under the NIT conditions and relevant laws should not be initiated.

To ensure a fair and technical evaluation, samples of the laid macadam and the bituminous material (Tar) were collected in the presence of the contractor and have been sent to the Divisional Inspection and Quality Control (DIQC) laboratory for detailed analysis and quality assessment.

The Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister reiterated the Government’s unwavering commitment to transparency, accountability, and uncompromising quality in public infrastructure. He emphasized that there will be zero tolerance for negligence and that every instance of substandard work will be met with strict administrative and legal action. The Government encourages citizens to continue voicing concerns, as public participation remains a cornerstone of effective and responsible governance.

Rouble Nagi Calls on LG Manoj Sinha

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A public delegation led by Rouble Nagi, social activist and

Migrant Sikh community residing in the Kashmir Valley.

The memorandum, submitted under the banner of Rouble Nagi Art Foun-



Founder Rouble Nagi Art Foundation Saturday called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday.

The delegation apprised the Lieutenant Governor of various welfare issues of Non-Migrant Sikh community members living in Kashmir.

Nagi submitted a detailed memorandum to His Excellency, the Hon’ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, at Raj Bhavan, Srinagar, highlighting the longstanding concerns and pressing demands of the Non-

dition (RNAF), was presented on behalf of the resilient Sikh population who, despite enduring decades of terrorism and marginalization, never left their homeland and have remained steadfast contributors to Kashmir’s social fabric.

“The Sikh community in Kashmir stayed back not because it was easy, but because it was right. They chose faith over fear, and inclusion over exodus,” said Ms. Nagi after the meeting. “Now it’s time their courage is

acknowledged and their contributions are supported through concrete policies.”

The State Co-ordinator Rouble Nagi Art Foundation RNAF, Amanjeetsingh emphasized that these demands are not about special treatment but about basic justice, representation, and dignity for a community that has shown unwavering faith in the Union and constitutional values of India.

RNAF and Nagi called upon the UT administration to act with urgency, compassion, and fairness to uplift a community that has, for too long, remained on the periphery of policy attention.

The Hon’ble Lieutenant Governor gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured appropriate consideration of the issues raised.

This initiative marks a significant step in amplifying the voice of Non-Migrant Sikhs in Kashmir, aligning with the broader vision of a peaceful, inclusive, and development-oriented Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Government Of Jammu And Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

District Hospital Shopian (KMR)-192303.

E-Tender

Subject: Annual Contract for Entry & Parking Fee for Car/Scooter/Auto/and other vehicles, Managing And Controlling of Traffic at District Hospital Shopian.

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of U.T. of Jammu & Kashmir, E-Tenders on Total Amount Basis (Lump Sum) are invited under "TWO BID SYSTEM" from approved and eligible Registered Organizations /Firms /Companies/Partnership Firms/Individual registered in India under relevant Act for selection of a registered agency for the purpose of Collecting Entry & Parking Fee for Car/Scooter/Auto/and other vehicles, Managing and Controlling of Traffic at District Hospital Shopian premises. The minimum reserve bid is fixed at Rs. 15.0 Lakhs (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Only).

Important Dates and Cost of EMD & Tender Fee:

S. No	Event	Date
01.	Date of Publishing of Tender	11-07-2025 (3:00 PM)
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11-07-2025 (4:00 PM)
03-+	Clarification start Date	11-07-2025 (4:00 PM)
04	Clarification end Date	24-07-2025 (4:00 PM)
05	Bid Submission Start Date	11-07-2025 (4:00 PM)
06	Bid Submission closing Date	28-07-2025 (11:00 AM)
07	Date and Time of Opening of Bids (Online)	28-07-2025 (3:00 PM)
08	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 30000/= Thirty Thousand
09	Cost of Tender Document	Rs.1500/= (One Thousands & Five Hundred Only)

1. The cost of tender document shall be furnished in the shape of Demand Draft (DD) and Earnest Money Deposit in the shape of CDR/FDR/DD in original pledged to the Medical Superintendent District Hospital Shopian shall reach in the office of Medical Superintendent District Hospital Shopian through speed post/Regd. Post/courier/ or by in person under proper receipt by or before bid submission end date along with other required documents. Belatedly submission of documents in original shall be deemed to be disqualified. EMD exemption eligibility (see GFR 2017 rule 170

2. Contract Labour licence shall be asked to the successful bidder before issuing the Award of Contract, failure of which the EMD deposited shall be confiscated and the contract may be offered to the nearest Highest Bidder.

3. The tenderers have to submit their tenders online in electronic format with Digital Signature. No Proposal will be accepted in physical form.

The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same website in the office of Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Shopian (tender receiving authority). The bids of the successful bidder shall remain valid for One Year from the date of issuing of Work Order/Award of Contract.

Note: Kindly read in e- tender documents vide Tender ID 2025_HME_281041_1 28-07-2025 (11:00 AM) instead of 27-07-2025.

Sd/-
Medical Superintendent,
District Hospital Shopian

NIT No: MS/DH-SPN/e-Tenders/3260-63
Dated: 10 -07-2025

DIPK-3632/25 Dt: 12-07-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

R&B DIVISION TANGDAR

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E- NIT No.19 -R&B Div./TDR /of 2025-26 e-tendering Edntt. No:112-22 DATED:11.07.2025.

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K Union Territory, e-tenders are being invited on an percentage basis(as applicable) from approved and eligible Contracts registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Earnest Money (In rupees)	Time of Completion In days	Class of Contract	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	7	8	9
01	Constt of ACR Middle School Mandian (UDISE Code 1010200107).	10.09	600	20180	3 months	DEE/CEE/ BEE	PAB

Position of AAA/TS=Accordded.

1. The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.iktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below: -

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	11/07/2025
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	11/07/2025
03.	Bid submission start date	11/07/2025
04.	Bid submission end date	17/07/2025 upto 4:00 PM
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	18/07/2025, at 10.00 AM in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Div Tangdar

Terms and Conditions:-

The Bidders are advised to read all conditions laid down in the NIT carefully before uploading softcopy any short fall found in the soft copy the tender shall be rejected.

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape Treasury Challan (Under Account Head 0059) (Treasury Challan) must be written boldly the Name of Work, Name of Contract along with Cell No, NIT No. & Sr. No of NIT) in favour Executive Engineer R&B Div Tangdar (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Div Tangdar.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Div. Tangdar. The successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government’s circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

- All other terms and conditions as laid down in the CPWD shall also remain in force.

DIPK-3625/25
12-07-2025

Sd/-Ex.Engineer

Dharmendra Pradhan distributes 204 appointment letters at Rozgar mela in Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR (ODISHA) :The Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Rozgar Mela and distributed more than 51,000 appointment letters to newly appointed youth in various Government departments and organizations via videoconferencing today.

As part of this nationwide 16th Rozgar Mela, a significant event was organised at the Rail Auditorium, Bhubaneswar, where Union Minister of Education, Dharmendra Pradhan, handed over appointment letters to 204 newly recruited youth. The event marked a pivotal moment in the professional journey of these young appointees and reinforced the Government's continued focus on employment generation.

In his address, Pradhan emphasized that the Rozgar Mela, launched in 2022 under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has already facilitated recruitment of over 10 lakh youth into various Government departments across the country. He reaffirmed the Government's commitment to good governance, transparency, and youth empowerment.

Pradhan highlighted the government's commitment to employment generation, noting that today's Rozgar Mela was conducted at 47 locations across the country, including seven in Odisha. He stated that more than 51,000 youth were given appointment letters during the event.

Appreciating the Odisha Government's efforts, he mentioned that drawing inspiration from the Central initiative, the state has organized Nijukti Melas, providing 25,000 to 30,000 jobs



within a year.

Touching on broader national progress, Pradhan noted that India has become the world's 4th largest economy, surpassing Japan. With an average age of 25, India remains a nation of youth, and this demographic advantage will continue for the next 25 to 30 years. He underscored that respectable employment, including Government jobs, is a key aspiration for the country's youth.

Pradhan further highlighted the emergence of India's robust startup ecosystem, which has

grown significantly in the past decade. He informed that over 25 crore people have come out of BPL (Below Poverty Line) status in the last ten years.

Speaking on the digital front, he stated that India now leads the world in digital economy adoption. Reflecting on the COVID-19 pandemic, he noted that while the world faced severe disruptions, India's healthcare sector not only managed the crisis effectively but also extended help to other nations through medicines and vaccines. From being dependent on PL-480 grain imports from the U.S., India is now distributing 5 kg of grains per person per month to 60-65% of its population under PM-Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)—a testament to the country's self-reliance.

The Minister urged the newly appointed youth not to rest on their laurels and encouraged them to work harder for greater achievements. He also stressed the importance of embracing Artificial Intelligence and platforms like Chat-GPT for career growth and skill enhancement.

The Bhubaneswar event was graced by several distinguished dignitaries, including: Parameshwar Funkwal, General Manager, East Coast Railway; L.V.S.S. Patrudu, Principal Chief Personnel Officer, East Coast Railway; Prof. Dr. Ashutosh Biswas, Executive Director, AIIMS

Bhubaneswar; Nirmaljit Singh, Chief Postmaster General, Odisha Circle; Prakash Chandra Nayak, Commissioner, GST, Central Excise & Customs, Bhubaneswar; Pradeep Kumar Ray, Registrar, IISER Berhampur; Goutam Patra,

Pradhan highlighted the government's commitment to employment generation, noting that today's Rozgar Mela was conducted at 47 locations across the country, including seven in Odisha. He stated that more than 51,000 youth were given appointment letters during the event...

Chief Manager & Convenor, SLBC, Odisha; Nagesh Kumar, Deputy Commandant, CRPF; Dr. Sanghamitra Pati, Additional Director General, ICMR & Director-in-Charge, ICMR-RMRC Bhubaneswar. (PIB)

India's Ayush Innovations Featured in WHO's Landmark Brief on AI in Traditional Medicine

NEW DELHI: World Health Organization (WHO) has released a technical brief titled "Mapping the Application of Artificial Intelligence in Traditional Medicine", acknowledging India's pioneering efforts in integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) with traditional medicine systems, particularly Ayush systems.

An official spokesperson of Ayush told Press Information Bureau (PIB) that the release follows India's proposal on the subject, leading to the

said that the AI-led initiatives spotlighted by WHO reflect India's deep-rooted commitment to advancing traditional medicine through cutting-edge technologies. He added,

"This global recognition aligns with the Prime Minister's visionary call to integrate AI and Ayush systems to make healthcare personalised, evidence-based, and globally accessible."

Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, noted that India's Ayush innovations

covered by the WHO document range from Prakriti-based machine learning diagnostic models to the revolutionary Ayurgenomics project, which combines Ayurveda and modern genomics. These initiatives are powered by the Ayush Grid, launched in 2018, which supports several citizen-centric platforms like SAHI, NAMASTE, and the Ayush Research Portal.

The WHO brief showcases several AI-driven applications in Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Sowa Rigpa, and Homoeopathy, including AI-backed diagnostic systems that integrate traditional methods like pulse reading, tongue analysis, and Prakriti assessment. These have enhanced diagnostic precision and enabled personalised preventive care.

A standout highlight is the mention of Ayurgenomics, a project that merges genetic science with Ayurvedic constitution types to predict disease risks and personalised treatments. WHO also lauded India's work in decoding the genomic basis of herbal formulations, aimed at repurposing traditional medicines for modern diseases—a major leap in integrating ancient wisdom with contemporary science.

India's use of AI for drug action pathway identification, comparative studies with other systems like Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), and the development of artificial chemical sensors to analyse Ayurvedic properties like Rasa, Guna, and Virya were also praised. AI-powered cataloguing of ancient medical texts for semantic search and access was cited as another key innovation.

Furthermore, the brief applauded India's adoption of digital platforms for telemedicine, digital literacy training for Ayush practitioners, and building interoperable systems to integrate traditional and mainstream healthcare.

Welcoming WHO's recognition, the Ministry of Ayush said it reaffirms India's global leadership in creating a scientifically robust and digitally enabled ecosystem for traditional medicine. It also reflects the country's commitment to responsible innovation, aligned with WHO's broader framework for AI in traditional healthcare. (PIB)

Sri Lankan exporters alarmed over proposed 30 per cent US tariff

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan exporters have raised concerns over a proposed 30 per cent tariff on the country's goods entering the US, even as President Anura Kumara Dissanayake says "discussions are ongoing to secure the maximum possible concessions."



The Exporters Association of Sri Lanka (EASL) in a statement on Friday urged the government to intensify negotiations with the US before the August 1 deadline.

Calling the proposed rate unsustainable, EASL said the higher tariff would place Sri Lankan exports at a disadvantage in the global market. Meanwhile, President Dissanayake said that as a result of recent discussions with the United States, the previously imposed reciprocal tariff rate was successfully reduced from 44 per cent to 30 per cent, President's Media Division reported on Saturday.

While speaking at a discussion held this morning at the Presidential Secretariat with all stakeholders in the export sector, Dissanayake emphasised "ongoing dialogue will continue to secure additional concessions," the report said.

"The objective of the government is to implement changes that will benefit the country's economy, businesses, the business community and the well-being of its citizens," he added.

The EASL acknowledged the efforts of Sri Lankan trade representatives but stressed the need for more urgency and determination, noting that competitor countries such as Vietnam and India faced lower tariffs of 20 and 26 per cent, respectively.

The association also urged authorities to explore new international markets and diversify export destinations to protect the economy from future external shocks. (PTI)



development of WHO's first-ever roadmap for applying AI in traditional medicine.

Highlighting India's growing global leadership in digital health, the WHO brief acknowledges the country as the first to establish a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)—a global model for preserving and utilising indigenous medical heritage responsibly.

The brief also recognizes India's Ayush sector as a key contributor to the economy, estimating its market value at US\$43.4 billion.

Spokespersons said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "AI for All" and digital inclusivity has been a driving force behind India's leadership in this area. At the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit in 2023, he had emphasized the need to use AI for social development and inclusive growth.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush and Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Prataprao Jadhav,

Highlighting India's growing global leadership in digital health, the WHO brief acknowledges the country as the first to establish a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)—a global model for preserving and utilising indigenous medical heritage responsibly.

Russia warns US, South Korea, Japan against forming security alliance targeting North Korea

SEOUL: Russia's foreign minister on Saturday warned the US, South Korea and Japan against forming a security partnership targeting North Korea as he visited his country's ally for talks on further solidifying their booming military and other cooperation.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov spoke at North Korea's eastern Wonsan city, where he met the country's leader, Kim Jong Un, and conveyed greetings from President Vladimir Putin.

Relations between Russia and North Korea have been flourishing in recent years, with North Korea supplying troops and ammunition to support Russia's war against Ukraine in return for military and economic assistance. That has raised concerns among South Korea, the US and others that Russia might also transfer to North Korea sensitive technologies that can increase the danger of its nuclear and missile programmes.

Speaking with reporters after a meeting with his North Korean counterpart Choe Son Hui, Lavrov accused the US, South Korea and Japan of what he called their military buildups around North Korea.

"We warn against exploiting these ties to build alliances directed against anyone, including North Korea and, of course, Russia," he said,

according to Russia's state Tass news agency. The US, South Korea and Japan have been expanding or restoring their trilateral military

"We warn against exploiting these ties to build alliances directed against anyone, including North Korea and, of course, Russia," he said, according to Russia's state Tass news agency.

exercises in response to North Korea's advancing nuclear program. On Friday, the three countries held a joint air drill involving US nuclear-capable bombers near the Korean Peninsula, as their top military officers met in Seoul and urged

North Korea to cease all unlawful activities that threaten regional security.

North Korea views major US-led military drills as invasion rehearsals. It has long argued



that it's forced to develop nuclear weapons to defend itself from US military threats.

Lavrov said Russia understands North Korea's decision to seek nuclear weapons.

"The technologies used by North Korea are the result of the work of its own scientists. We respect North Korea's aspirations and understand the reasons why it is pursuing nuclear

development," Lavrov said, according to Tass.

During their meeting, Choe reiterated that North Korea "unconditionally" supports Russia's fight against Ukraine, as Lavrov repeated Russia's gratitude for the contribution that North Korean troops made in efforts to repel a Ukrainian incursion into Russia's Kursk border region.

Wonsan city, the meeting venue, is where North Korea recently opened a mammoth beach resort that it says can accommodate nearly 20,000 people.

In his comments at the start of his meeting with Choe, Lavrov said that "I am sure that Russian tourists will be increasingly eager to come here. We will do everything we can to facilitate this, creating conditions for this, including air travel," according to the Russian Foreign Ministry.

The Wonsan-Kalma tourist zone is at the centre of Kim's push to boost tourism as a way to improve his country's troubled economy. However, prospects for the tourist complex aren't clear, as North Korea appears unlikely to fully reopen its borders and embrace Western tourists anytime soon. (PTI)

Indian Army Remembers Bravehearts of J&K on 26th Kargil Vijay Diwas

JAMMU: On the 26th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas, the Indian Army paid solemn tribute to the soldiers from Jammu and Kashmir who made the supreme sacrifice during the 1999 Kargil conflict. Commemorative events were held across several districts, including Jammu, Kathua, RS Pura,



Hiranagar and Mendhar, to honour the courage and devotion of these martyrs and acknowledge the continued resilience of their families.

Among the fallen soldiers remembered were Major Ajay Singh Jasrotia, Sena Medal; Lance Naik Harish Pal, Sena Medal; and Havildar Jagan Nath of 13 Jammu & Kashmir Rifles, who fought valiantly in the difficult terrain of Kargil.

From the 12 Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry, Havildar A.B. Kareem, Havildar Daler Singh, Havildar Rajinder Singh, Rifleman Ravinder Singh, Lance Havildar Yougal Kishore, Rifleman Rattan Chand, Naik Surjeet Singh and Naik Pawan Kumar were also honoured for their exemplary service during critical operations.

An official defence spokesperson said the bravery of Subedar Ravail Singh, Sena Medal, and Sepoy Balwinder Singh of the 8 Sikh Regiment was recalled for their role in the intense battles around Tiger Hill, which played a decisive role in pushing back enemy positions.

Sepoy Raman Kumar of the 9 Mahar Regiment, Havildar Madan Lal, Vir Chakra, and Gunner Swaran Singh, Sena Medal, of the 18 Grenadiers were also remembered for their sacrifices. Rifleman Manzoor Hussain of 28 Rashtriya Rifles, who laid down his life in counter-terror operations, was also among those honoured.

As part of the observance, the Army reached out to the families of the martyrs in their native towns and presented them with letters of gratitude and mementoes. Officials said the gesture was part of the Army's continuous efforts to ensure that the bravery and sacrifices of its personnel are never forgotten.

"These stories of valour are not just a part of history—they are the soul of our nation," an Army officer said on the occasion.

The Kargil conflict, fought between May and July 1999, remains one of the most significant military engagements in India's recent history. The day is marked annually to commemorate the victory and pay homage to the soldiers who laid down their lives during the war. (PIB)

ECI has established direct contact with nearly all electors in Bihar

80.11% electors of Bihar have already submitted their Enumeration Forms

New Verification module in ECINet has been fully activated



NEW DELHI: With 77,895 BLOs, an additional 20,603 newly appointed BLOs on ground, ECI is moving ahead to complete the collection of Enumeration Forms (EFs) well before the stipulated time of 25th July 2025. Field-level teams including 38 District Election Officers (DEOs), Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) across all 243 Assembly Constituencies, and 963 Assistant EROs (AEROs) are being closely monitored by the CEO for this purpose.

These efforts of ECI are being supplemented 1.5 Lakh BLAs appointed by all political parties who are also visiting door to door and leaving no stone unturned to ensure inclusion of each and every existing elector whose names are in the Electoral Roll in Bihar as on 24 June 2025. Special efforts are also being made to assist senior citizens, PwD electors, and other vulnerable groups by over 4 lakh volunteers.

Having completed 100% printing and near completion of distribution of EFs to all electors who were found at their addresses, as of 6.00 PM today collection crossed 6,32,59,497 or 80.11%. Which means 4 out of every 5 electors in Bihar has submitted the EF. With this pace, majority of EFs are likely to be collected much before 25th July 2025.

In order to get their names included in the draft electoral rolls to be published on 1st Aug, electors have to submit their EFs, preferably, along with eligibility documents. In case, any elector needs more time to submit the eligibility documents, he can submit them separately till 30 Aug i.e. the last date of filing claims and objections and take help of volunteers as well.

Achieving yet another step well in time, BLOs have already digitised and uploaded 4.66 crore Enumeration Forms in ECINet by 6 PM today. ECINet is the newly developed integrated software which has subsumed all the different 40 ECI Apps that had existed earlier. (PIB)

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3000	80 X 40 X 2.0	31.7%	0%
Max Spanning For TS6010: 3000mm			

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2500	60 X 40 X 2.0	-18.0%	19%
3000	60 X 40 X 2.6	8.3%	9%
3000	80 X 40 X 2.0	1.6%	9%
4000	96 X 48 X 2.0	19.3%	0%
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