



LG Sinha Sets Up Portal To Support Terror Victim Families

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“LG Sinha is personally monitoring and overseeing the redressal of all cases across the UT”



SRINAGAR: In a significant move to provide institutionalized support to victims of terrorism, Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha launched a dedicated portal for the terror victim families in Jammu Kashmir.

“The initiative will streamline and expedite the process of providing relief, compassionate appointments, and other forms of assistance to those who have suffered from terrorism in the UT,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Web portal, developed by the Home Department in collaboration with NIC, will serve as a centralized platform to capture and maintain comprehensive district-wise data on Terrorism-affected families. The details of any encroachments on the property of the victims or their NOKs are also

also been established at the offices of the Divisional Commissioners in both Jammu (0191-2478995) and Kashmir (0194-2487777) divisions, to facilitate the registration of any overlooked or pending claims.

These helplines are being attended through dedicated control rooms as

Monitoring Cells have been constituted in the offices of Chief Secretary and Director General of Police.

These Special Cells will periodically review the status of pending and resolved cases, analyze delays or bottle-

“The initiative will **streamline** and expedite the process of **providing relief**, compassionate appointments, and other forms of assistance to those who have suffered from **terrorism** in the UT,” the **Lieutenant Governor** said.

being captured.

It will ensure that no legitimate case is left unaddressed and timely support is extended to eligible families in terms of financial relief, ex-gratia compensation and compassionate employment while ensuring elimination of any bogus or multiple claims.

The Lieutenant Governor is personally monitoring and overseeing the redressal of all cases across the UT of J&K.

A toll-free helpline numbers have

citizen interfaces for receiving grievances or queries related to pending government support to terror affected families viz. compensation, Ex-gratia relief and Compassionate appointments.

The helplines have been staffed with trained personnel and will be integrated with the centralized application to ensure that every claim is formally recorded and acted upon.

In order to ensure regular oversight, coordination, and follow-up on the grievances and pending claims, Special

Amarnath Yatra: Tally Crosses 3.31 Lakh Mark

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SRINAGAR: The annual Amarnath Yatra continued on Tuesday with around 11,000 pilgrims paying obeisance at the holy cave shrine nestled in the Himalayas of South Kashmir.

With this, the cumulative figure of devotees, who have undertaken the pilgrimage since its commencement on July 3, has reached 3.31 lakh, officials said.

Officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that a total of 10,829 pilgrims performed darshan at the sacred cave on Tuesday. Among them were 7646 men, 2,660 women, 97 children, 76 sadhus, 2 sadhis, 3 transgender persons and 345 security personnel.

While the footfall at the shrine remained good, the number of pilgrims departing from Jammu—the starting point for most yatris—has shown a consistent downward trend over the past few days.

From 7,908 pilgrims on July 18, the number dropped to 6,365 on July 19, 4,388 on July 20, 3,791 on July 21 and 3536 on July 22—the lowest daily departure figure



recorded so far during this year's yatra.

Despite the decline, officials said that the pilgrimage is progressing smoothly and peacefully, with robust security and logistical arrangements in place across all transit and base locations.

Escorted by Central Reserve Police Force and police personnel, the 20th batch of 3,536 pilgrims -- 2,601 men,

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3 Killed In Kishtwar Road Accident

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KISHTWAR: Three persons were killed on the spot after a JCB vehicle met with an accident at Sounder Dachan area of Kishtwar district on Tuesday.

The officials said that the JCB was moving through a hilly stretch when it met with an accident under unclear circumstances, leading to the instant

death of all three onboard. The deceased have been identified as,



Nazir Hussain, son of Saiye, resident of Khatasoo Bhalessa, aged around

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>>>Reviews Facilities at **Nunwan**

3,35,000 Yatris Paid Obeisance At Cave Shrine In 19 Days: LG Sinha

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PAHALGAM: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha visited Nunwan and Chandan-



wari Base Camps and reviewed the services and facilities for the pilgrims.

The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the pilgrims, service providers, langer sevadars, sanitation workers, medical staff,

and administrative, Police and security officials deputed for the ongoing Shri Amarnathji Yatra. He took stock of department-wise arrangements, logistics, lodging, disaster management, healthcare and other facilities that have been put in place on travel route and Yatra base camps at Pahalgam axis.

The Lieutenant Governor lauded the dedication, passion and commitment of Camp directors, officials of Shrine Board, Civil and police administration, security forces, service providers, volunteers and every-one involved in the holy yatra for ensuring a pleasant and memorable pilgrimage for the devotees of Baba Barfani.

“Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra has crossed 3,35,000 mark. The success of the yatra will give a significant boost to the tourism

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CM Calls for Inclusive, Ground-Level Implementation of NEP-2020

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SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah underscored the need for comprehensive, inclusive and locally adaptable implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP)



2020, calling it a visionary document whose success depends entirely on its understanding and execution at the grassroots level.

The Chief Minister was speaking at a One-Day Conference on NEP-2020 held at Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC),

themed “Empowering Education Leaders for Holistic Education.”

Emphasizing the importance of reflection and course correction, the Chief Minister said, “The New Education Policy is now five years old. This is the time to evaluate

where we have succeeded, where we have fallen short, and what more can be done to implement it better. A policy is only as effective as its application and understanding.”

Terming the NEP-2020 a “magnificent and far-reaching” framework, Omar Abdullah stressed that

real change will come only when the policy is understood in its true spirit and implemented with sensitivity to local needs and realities.

He said the future of Jammu and Kashmir will be shaped **significantly** by the educators, **policymakers**, and institutional leaders who guide the **younger generation...**

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High Altitude Destinations Safe For Visitors, Pilgrimages In Doda: Police



BHADERWAH/JAMMU: The high altitude tourist destinations in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district are safe for tourists as Army personnel are dominating all the mountain peaks, a senior police officer has said.

Doda Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sandeep Mehta said a security plan is in place in the district to ensure peaceful culmination of over 70 major and small pilgrimages in the higher reaches of the hilly district.

“The tourist footfall in the district is increasing with each passing day and we have taken all necessary arrangements for the safety of the holiday-makers. We have also requested the Army for securing the mountain peaks and all such peaks

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Carry Independent Verification Of Rural Waste Management Infrastructure: CS

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Reviews the implementation of SBM & DDU-GKY schemes

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo reviewed the progress of the Swachh



Bharat Mission (Grameen)-II (SBM-G Phase-II), to highlighting significant achievements in rural sanitation and outlining ambitious plans for the future. The review meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, RDD was attended by MD, Rural Sanitation; COO, Himayat and others to take appraisal of the Open Def-

ecation Free (ODF) status and enhancing Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) in rural areas.

During the review meeting, the Chief Secretary laid strong emphasis on furnishing a detailed report on the door-to-door waste collection status in rural areas. He

verifying the dashboard data with the ground realities, ensuring both are aligned. Highlighting the purpose behind these infrastructural investments, he stated that the ultimate goal is to enhance cleanliness, and to make villages more liveable

Chief Secretary impressed on the concerned to enhance the pace of implementation of this scheme here for the funds are available and the expenditure stands on the lower side...

and environmentally ambient.

The MD, Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra while speaking of the progress and achievements made out that since its initiation in February 2020, SBM-G Phase-II

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Craft Dealer Blacklisted For Selling Fake Kashmiri Carpet To Tourist

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a major crackdown on unfair trade practices threatening the very credibility of Kashmir's world-famous handicraft and handloom industry, Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, has blacklisted and deregistered a craft showroom - The Kashmir Art Bazaar, Tangmar - after the showroom was found guilty of selling a machine-made carpet for 2.55 lakh to a tourist by fraudulently passing it off as a hand-knotted Kashmiri GI-certified product.

As per the Order No. 10-HD(QC) of 2025 dated 22.07.2025, issued by Director Handicrafts and Handloom, the seller used a fake QR label resembling the official label issued by the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT) to mislead the buyer into believing the carpet was a genuine GI-certified craft. “A formal criminal complaint has been ordered, and further legal proceedings have been



recommended under the GI Act and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita,” a spokesman of the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir revealed.

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BSF Raises 'Drone Squadron' For Indo-Pak Border Post-Operation Sindoor

NEW DELHI: The Border Security Force (BSF) is raising a maiden “drone squadron” for deployment along the India-Pakistan border even as it has begun “hardening” its defences and posts against lethal UAV attacks in the wake of lessons drawn during Operation Sindoor.

The squadron, to be based in specific border outposts (BoPs) at this front, will comprise an assortment of reconnaissance, surveillance and attack drones or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and specially-trained personnel who can operate these machines, official sources in the security establishment said.

The squadron will be navigated by a control room based in the western command headquarters of the BSF in Chandigarh, the sources said. The BSF is primarily tasked to guard the India-Pakistan international border (IB).

The decision to raise the unit was taken after a recent review of the strengths, weaknesses and

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Div Com Jammu Ramesh Kumar takes stock of damages, restoration works post torrential rains

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar chaired a meeting to take stock of the damages due to torrential rain and restoration works initiated by the district administrations and executing agencies across the Division.

The Deputy Commissioners from across Jammu Division, Heads of Departments and concerned officials from executing agencies apprised the Divisional Commissioner of the situation of their respective districts after the recent torrential rain.

The Deputy Commissioners briefed about the situation in terms of road connectivity, Power, water supply, functioning of other essential services like health and medical services, precautionary measures and advisories for public safety.

They also informed about the damage to property and loss of lives.



The Divisional Commissioner directed for establishing 24x7 control rooms in all districts for reporting and responding to emergency calls. He further asked for issuing public safety and Traffic advisories

and wide publicity of the same. The officials from Public Works

ensure adequate supply of clean drinking water, especially in the areas which are dependent on dug wells.

The Power Development department was asked to ensure sufficient stock of transformers for speedy restoration of power supply. Directions were also issued to focus on prevention of water borne diseases.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioners to provide ex-gratia relief to the affected people under SDRF and Red Cross.

The Deputy Commissioners were directed to submit a detailed report of the damages suffered and the repair and restoration works undertaken in their respective districts by the evening.

...Inclement Weather

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri reviews preparedness of departments

Stresses on safety, wellbeing of public

RAJOURI: In view of the prevailing and forecasted inclement weather conditions,

were instructed to ensure prompt clearance of landslides in their respective jurisdictions. "All



Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma chaired a meeting to review the preparedness and response mechanism of stakeholder departments to ensure the safety and well-being of the public.

Emphasizing the importance of proactive measures, the DC directed the concerned departments to remain on high alert. He specifically urged the general public to avoid venturing near water bodies during heavy rains, warning of possible rise in water levels and associated risks.

To maintain uninterrupted connectivity, the Executive Engineers of PWD and PMGSY

roads, especially those connecting remote areas must be maintained for emergency accessibility," the DC asserted.

Noting the likelihood of disease outbreaks post-monsoon, the Deputy Commissioner stressed on maintaining hygiene and sanitation. He directed the Health Department, Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department and Rural Sanitation Department to ensure that ground water sources prone to contamination are cleaned and tested regularly. "All necessary precautions should be taken to avoid any public health crisis" he ordered.

The DC further instructed

that any damage caused to infrastructure due to heavy rainfall must be reported in a timely and structured manner to enable swift response and restoration.

As a safety measure, the Deputy Commissioner announced that all schools in hilly areas, particularly private institutions, shall remain closed to ensure the safety of children. He said, "No risk shall be taken when it comes to the safety of our students in vulnerable zones."

Directions were also issued to keep rescue teams on standby for any untoward incident. The departments concerned were asked to ensure uninterrupted supply of water, electricity, road connectivity and ration especially in far-flung areas.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kalakote, Tanvir Ahmed, ADC Kotranka, Dilmir, ADC Sunderbani Ramkesh Sharma, ADC Nowshera Pritam Lal Thapa, ACR Rajouri, Mohd Jahangir Khan, SDM Thanamandi, Abid Hussain, CEO Iqbal Hussain, ADC FCS&CA, Rohit Kumar, Executive Engineer PHE, Sudesh Kumar Bhagat, Deputy Controller SDRF, Jabeen Lone, Executive Engineer PWD and Executive Engineer PMGSY and other district & sectoral officers.

DC Doda reviews progress of Health Sector programmes



DODA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda Harvinder Singh convened a comprehensive district-level review meeting of the health sector here in the Conference Hall, DC Office complex.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer Manesh Kumar; Chief Medical Officer Dr. Om Kumar; Medical Superintendent AH GMC Dr. Tanveer Ahmed; District Health Officer Dr. Raj Kumar Sharma; Deputy CMO Dr. S.L. Manhas, Block Medical Officers and Programme Management Staff from the District and Block levels, including Government Medical College Doda.

At the outset, CMO Dr. Om Kumar delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighting the progress made under different health indicators, including work done, targets achieved and progress across key programmes.

The Deputy Commissioner assessed indicator-wise progress achieved under the flagship health initiatives including the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP), Reproductive and Child Health (RCH), Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), Tele-consultation services, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) Screening, JK Sehat and Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) including ABHA ID generation

While reviewing the TB programme, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized robust monitoring and efficient follow-up mechanism.

Underlining the importance of RCH initiative, he directed the health authorities to provide timely and quality services to pregnant women, with special focus on institutional deliveries and effective engagement of ASHA workers for timely tracking and support. He also stressed on effective Tele-consultation, NCD Screening and ABDM, urging the management staff to enhance performance in these critical areas.

District Capex 2025-26 plan proposals reviewed at Reasi

DDC Calls for community-Centric Planning

REASI: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Reasi Nidhi Malik chaired a meeting to review the Draft District Capex Plan 2025-26. The meeting involved a detailed discussion on department-wise proposals under UT Component, ADBP, APDP and Area Development Fund. Key sectors like education, health, municipality and others were covered, with a focus on strengthening grassroots-level infrastructure.

During the review, DDC Nidhi Malik conducted a thorough scrutiny of the proposed works and emphasized that the plan must prioritize community-oriented development over individual-centric benefits. She directed all officials to submit proposals with clear justifications, site photographs and the expected outcomes of each project.

The DDC instructed Block Development Officers (BDOs) to

and forest clearance issues, to avoid delays in execution.



ensure all proposals are vetted and approved through the Gram Sabha before finalization of the Capex Plan. She also stressed the importance of timely execution and regular monitoring of the works post-approval, urging departments to prioritize projects under the Capex Plan 2025-26.

Furthermore, DDC Malik directed all departments to verify that the proposed works are free from land disputes

She underscored the need for departments to align with key performance indicators under ADBP, APDP and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through realistic and inclusive planning.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, CPO Narinder Kumar, ACD Vijay Kumar, CMO, CEO, Executive Engineers of PWD and Jal Shakti, all BDOs and other concerned officers.

DDC Doda reviews progress of 'Catch the Rain 2025' campaign under Jal Shakti Abhiyan

DODA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda Harvinder Singh chaired a review meeting in the Conference Hall DC office complex to assess the progress under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain 2025 campaign.

on evaluating the district's preparedness and progress in implementing rainwater harvesting systems, promoting sustainable water use, and ensuring active community participation in line with the national water conservation

convergence among Forest, Agriculture, Education, and Rural Development sectors.

The meeting also took stock of awareness and sensitization campaigns conducted in schools and local communities, along with progress made under related schemes such as IWMP, Poshan Abhiyaan, and other integrated programs.

Emphasizing the need for collective responsibility and time-bound implementation, DDC Doda called for stronger inter-departmental coordination and proactive community engagement to ensure the successful realization of campaign objectives at the grassroots level.

The meeting was attended by the ADDC, SE Jal Shakti (Hydraulics), Chief Planning Officer, ACD, ACP, CAO, CEO, Principal GDC Doda, Executive Officers of the Municipal Committees of Doda, Bhaderwah and Thathri, XENs from Jal Shakti, I&FC Bhaderwah and Hydraulic Doda, along with concerned BDOs, AEs, JEs and officials from various stakeholder departments.



The meeting aimed to evaluate key initiatives being implemented across the district in alignment with the campaign's theme, "Catch the Rain - Where it Falls, When it Falls."

The review centered

mandate.

The DDC Doda reviewed the functionality of rainwater harvesting structures, the status of water conservation measures in both rural and urban areas, and the level of departmental

Awareness Programme on POCSO Act held at GDC Kishtwar



KISHTWAR: The District Legal services Authority (DLSA) Kishtwar under the able supervision and guidance of Learned Secretary Slahuddin Ahmad and in compliance with the calendar of activities issued by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority (JKLSA) for July 2025, organised an awareness programme on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 at Government Degree College, the other day.

The Programme, conducted in collaboration with the host College, saw enthusiastic participation from faculty members, students, NCC cadets and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVS). Professor Sonika Sen anchored the event, while Professor Asma Javed set an encouraging and inclusive tone with her warm welcome address.

Legal experts and the resource persons for the programme were Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsels Sanveer Singh, Sandep Kumar and Vinay Kumar Shan.

Their insightful talk on the Act highlighted its substantial value in bridging theoretical knowledge with practical concerns.

ADDC Kathua reviews arrangements for Independence Day-2025 celebrations

KATHUA: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Surinder Mohan reviewed the arrangements for the smooth and successful conduct of the Independence Day here at a meeting of officers from line departments.

The mega event will be held at the Sports Stadium, where the Chief Guest

Protection Force, NCC and platoons from various educational institutions, besides bands from the PTS and the Army.

The ADC directed the concerned officers to carry out renovation works at the venue and make all necessary logistical arrangements to ensure a seamless conduct of the celebrations at the district



would hoist the National Flag and take the salute at the ceremonial march-past. The parade will include contingents from the JK Police, Army, Paramilitary Forces, Forest

headquarters. It was informed that the event will begin with Shehnai Vadan at the offices of the Deputy Commissioner and Senior Superintendent of Police, Kathua, to be

presented by the teams of the Information Department.

The ADC laid emphasis on meticulous arrangements pertaining to security, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, barricading, seating, transportation, distribution of invitation cards, prize distribution and illumination of government buildings for the occasion.

The Tehsildar (HQ) and Chief Education Officer were tasked to finalize the list of Cultural presentations by students.

The ADC also called for cleanliness drives, plantation initiatives, and flag hoisting in all government offices across the district, ensuring that the day is celebrated with due reverence and enthusiasm.

He exhorted all departments to complete preparations well in advance and work in coordination to ensure a dignified and vibrant celebration of the national festival.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kathua, Vishavpartap Singh, Additional Superintendent of Police Rahul Charak, CPO Kathua Ranjit Thakur, CMO Dr Vijay Raina and officers from various line departments.

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar reviews functioning of Revenue Department

KISHTWAR: To streamline revenue administration and improve public services delivery, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma chaired a meeting of revenue officers at the VC Room DC Office Complex.

The meeting focused on key revenue matters, including disposal of court cases, digitization of revenue records, progress under the SVAMITVA scheme, inheritance attestation of mutations, online services, and removal of encroachments on state, Kacharie, Common & Roshni land, besides disposal of complaints/grievances on J&K Grievance redressal portal.

A detailed PowerPoint presentation was given, providing an overview and status of ongoing initiatives.

The DC directed the Tehsildars to ensure timely redressal of complaints and public grievances, particularly those registered on the J&K Grievance Redressal Portal.

He stressed the importance of completing assigned tasks on time and directed SDMs to regularly monitor revenue-related works.

The DC also instructed officers to dispose of online revenue services as per the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA) and ensure timely disposal of court cases.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Pawan Kotwal, ACR Mohd Idrees Lone, besides SDM Paddar, SDM Marwah, SDM Chatroo and other concerned revenue officials including Tehsildars.

I&C Directorate Jammu organizes e-commerce awareness for PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries

JAMMU: To strengthen the implementation of PM Vishwakarma Scheme, Directorate of Industries & Commerce, Jammu organized an impactful awareness session for PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries here at Udyog Bhawan. The session aimed to enhance the digital presence and market visibility of local craftsmen registered under the PM Vishwakarma scheme. This initiative represents a significant advancement in creating new opportunities for the PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries, with a strong focus on promoting growth

and development among local craftsmen. The meeting was attended by about 100 craftsmen from various trades who are registered under the PM Vishwakarma scheme in J&K (UT).

The session commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Arun Kumar Manhas, Director Industries & Commerce Jammu. He emphasized the significance of PM Vishwakarma Scheme in ensuring hassle free benefits to eligible beneficiaries. The Director Industries & Commerce Jammu also interacted with beneficiaries

to understand the on-ground challenges faced by them regarding toolkit delivery, credit support. He assured them that issues will be taken up with the Ministry of MSME, GoI for timely resolution.

Further, Dr. Arun Kumar Manhas stressed on organizing similar sessions with prominent national e-commerce platforms & lead banks for disseminating information regarding credit facility amongst local craftsmen across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir to promote self-reliance and increase the market

footprint of local craftsmen. Director J&K Skill Development Mission Leena Padha also attended the session as special guest. During an interaction with the beneficiaries, she highlighted the critical importance of the Skill up-gradation component incorporated in the scheme. Besides, Joint Director (M&P) Naser Ali and Joint Director Planning Shiwali from Directorate of Industries & Commerce Jammu and other officers were also present at the event. A detailed presentation was given by Team Leader PM

Vishwakarma State Level Project Management Unit (SLPMU) Kanav Kapahi, highlighting the J&K Progress status in terms of the implementation of the scheme. Besides, representative from Government e-Marketplace (Gem) & Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC) conducted detailed awareness session on e-marketing through GeM & ONDC and encouraged the participants to explore the ways to enter in e-marketing space for which the Directorate of Industries & Commerce Jammu will provide all necessary support and assistance.

Sakeena Ito reviews functioning of Cluster University Srinagar

Pitches for introducing skill based, job oriented courses in emerging fields



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SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ito, conducted comprehensive review of functioning of Cluster University Srinagar (CUS) and its constituent colleges in a meeting held at Civil Secretariat here. Vice Chancellor CUS, Professor Mohammad Mobin; Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education department, Shantamanu;

Director Colleges J&K, Special Secretary Higher Education department, Principals of constituent colleges and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Minister held detailed assessment of academic performance, infrastructure development, faculty strength, student services, admissions and progress of ongoing projects in the University.

Addressing the officers, the Minister emphasized the urgent need to align the

academic activities with current market demands. She directed the university administration and affiliated colleges to introduce skill-based, job-oriented courses in emerging fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Hospitality Management, Data Science, Cybersecurity, Tourism Management and other job oriented fields.

She also asked the officers to maintain coordination with different stakeholders and ensure that the courses are industry-linked and designed in consultation with experts from the respective sector. She also called for strengthening the existing vocational and add-on courses.

"Academic excellence must go hand in hand with employability. Students don't need just degrees, but skills that make them competitive and employable in today's dynamic job market", the Minister stated.

The Minister further reiterated Government's commitment towards transforming the higher education in Jammu & Kashmir into a dynamic, skill-driven and inclusive system. She assured continued support to the University from the government to implement transformative reforms.

DIPR Announces Online Competitions to Celebrate Independence Day 2025

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SRINAGAR: In connection with the upcoming Independence Day 2025 celebrations, the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu & Kashmir, has launched three online competitions to encourage citizens—particularly students and youth—to participate in creative and patriotic expressions.

Participants are encouraged to take part in the National Anthem Singing Competition, where they can showcase their love for the nation by submitting their renditions of the National Anthem. The best entries will be awarded cash prizes. Entries can be submitted through the link: <https://forms.gle/qm6auUu9tNHzR7>.

To inspire thought leadership and visionary thinking, an Online Essay Writing Competition has been announced on the theme "Viksit Bharat @2047". Participants are invited to pen down their aspirations and innovative ideas for a developed India as we approach 2047, marking 100 years of independence. Entries can be submitted at: <https://forms.gle/ebK8Fe2hQWx2zMWv8>.

In addition, DIPR has also initiated an Online Painting Competition on the theme "Draw Your Favourite Freedom Fighter". Budding artists are encouraged to honour



and depict the legacy of India's freedom fighters through colours and creativity. Entries for this competition can be submitted at: <https://forms.gle/PH4GKXVdqK6AdPLf9>.

All competitions are open to the general public and aim to instill patriotic spirit, nurture talent, and celebrate the idea of

India. Attractive prizes and certificates await the winners.

DIPR urges citizens across Jammu & Kashmir to participate enthusiastically and make this Independence Day truly memorable by contributing their voice, vision, and creativity.

DC Kulgam reviews arrangements for I-Day celebrations



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KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan convened a meeting of officers from the civil administration, Army, and Police to review and finalize arrangements for the upcoming Independence Day 2025 celebrations in the district.

During the meeting, District Police Lines (DPL) Kulgam was finalized as the main venue, where the Tricolour will be hoisted by the chief guest. The ceremony will be followed by a march past featuring contingents from District Police, CRPF, IRP,

Women's Contingent, Police Band, NCC, students, and other participants.

A detailed discussion was held regarding security arrangements, traffic regulation, seating, Full

Dress Rehearsal, decoration, cultural events, public address system, power and water supply, transport, sanitation, medical care, invitation cards, barricading and other logistics.

DC fixed responsibilities to concerned officers and departments and directed them to ensure foolproof and elaborate arrangements for the smooth conduct of the event.

He emphasized that all preparations must be completed well in advance, with close coordination among departments to make the celebration a grand success.

KPDCL and Jal Shakti departments were directed to ensure uninterrupted electricity and water supply, including provision of water tankers at the venue.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) was instructed to arrange proper medical facilities, including staff and ambulances.

Executive Officer of Municipal Council Kulgam was asked to ensure cleanliness and sanitation of the venue and town, while KPDCL was also tasked with illuminating the Mini-Secretariat and other key office complexes and other locations.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Altaf Ahmad; ADC, Viqar Ahmad Giri; SDM Noorabad, Bashir Ul Hassan; ACR, Riyaz Ahmad Shah; ACD, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar;

Tehsildars, Executive Engineers of R&B and Jal Shakti, ARTO and other district and sectoral officers.

DC Pulwama reviews progress under PMAY (U) 2.0



FE NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee to review the implementation status of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0) at the Administrative Complex, Pulwama.

During the meeting, DC took a detailed municipality-wise review of the applications

submitted by eligible households under the scheme and sought updates from the concerned officers regarding their progress. Stress was also laid on maintaining utmost transparency and accountability ensuring timely disposal of the cases.

On the occasion, 92 field verified cases were approved. With regard to the pending applications, DC exhorted the concerned officers to extend proactive support and handholding to applicants to facilitate the timely completion of formalities and to ensure that no eligible beneficiary is left behind.

He further directed Executive Officers and Tehsildars to facilitate land title transfer of eligible applicants so that applications are processed in time.

"Beneficiaries of such schemes usually belong to poor and weaker sections of society. Executive Officers and Tehsildars should assist them in completing all formalities and guide them properly to ensure timely access to the benefits," directed the DC.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama; Chief Planning Officer, Pulwama; District Social Welfare Officer, Pulwama; Tehsildars, and Executive Officers of the Municipal Committees of Pampore, Tral, Awantipora, and Khrew; and Lead District Manager, Pulwama.

Committee on Public Undertakings convenes meet at Srinagar, reviews Audit paras of JKPCCL

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Committee on Public Undertakings of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened a meeting at Assembly Complex, to review audit paras contained in CAG's Audit report pertaining to the J&K Projects Construction Corporation (JKPCC) Limited.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Ali Mohammad Sagar and attended by members Saifullah Mir, Ali Mohammad Dar, Mir Mohammad Fayaz, Shakti Raj Parihar, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Bashir Ahmad Veeri, Showkat Hussain Ganai, Saif Ud Din Bhat and Tanvir Sadiq.

Principal Accountant General, Principal Secretary PWD (R&B), Director General Expenditure, Director General Accounts and Treasuries, Director Finance PWD (R&B), Chief Engineer PWD (R&B), senior officers of JKPCCL and other concerned officers were also present in the meeting.

The Committee held detailed deliberations on Audit Paras 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 contained in the CAG's Audit report for the year 2018-19.

Speaking during the meeting, the Chairman underlined the importance of proactive participation of all members in strengthening the operations and efficiency of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

He directed the officers of PWD to take concrete steps for completion of all ongoing projects. He also stressed on the importance of audit and evaluation of PSU's to ensure transparency and accountability in their operations.

The Members, during the meeting, also raised various issues regarding the works executed by JKPCCL in their respective constituencies.

Sakeena Ito reviews healthcare scenario in Pampore Assembly Constituency



FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ito, chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the overall healthcare infrastructure and facilities in Pampore Assembly Constituency.

MLA Pampore, Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi; Secretary Health and Medical

Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed; Director Health Services Kashmir; Director Family Welfare and Immunization; Director Ayush; Director Finance Health and Medical Education department; Chief Medical Officer Pulwama and other senior officers of health department attended the meeting.

The Minister took in-depth assessment of the existing healthcare infrastructure and its associated facilities of Pampore Assembly

Constituency. She also assessed the status of medical equipments, medicines and other essential facilities available for the people of these far flung areas.

Addressing the officers, the Minister emphasized the need for further strengthening the healthcare infrastructure, upgrading medical equipments and ensuring availability of essential medicines in all health facilities of the Constituency. "Healthcare is a basic right. We must ensure that every resident of Pampore, regardless of location, receives timely and quality medical attention", Sakeena stated. The Minister called upon the officers to expedite the works on all ongoing projects for timely completion. She directed the officials to submit detailed status reports of all public health institutions in the constituency. She called for immediate follow-up on stalled projects, including pending PHC upgrades and mobile medical units.

MD Jal Jeevan Mission asks PHE divisions to onboard users on JJM 2.0 dashboard

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K, Khurshid Ahmad Shah, convened a review meeting of Executive Engineers of PHE Divisions of J&K through virtual mode.

The MD enquired about the status of on boarding of various users including Deputy Commissioners, Additional Deputy Commissioners,

Executive Engineers, Panchayat Secretaries and Sarpanchs on Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Information Management System (IMS) 2.0 Dashboard.

The MD was apprised that most users have adopted the new IMS dashboard of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in J&K. He directed the remaining divisions to collaborate with Deputy Commissioners to ensure all districts are onboarded, enabling a robust District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM)



dashboard that provides easy access to JJM implementation information for the public.

The MD also reviewed the creation of ID's for Panchayat Secretaries for district online Dashboards under JJM. He was informed that creation of ID's for Panchayat functionaries is going on. He directed the divisions to expedite the process in coordination with District Information Centre's (DICs) of

respective districts for creation of Government E-Mail IDs to panchayat functionaries which is prerequisite for creating Block and Panchayat profiles in the upgraded dashboard.

The Mission Director directed the officers to complete the process in time bound manner which will pave way for a comprehensive Operation and Maintenance (O&M) policy under JJM in the UT of J&K.

Javed Rana reviews implementation of RDSS in Poonch

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, conducted a comprehensive review of implementation of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in Poonch district

The meeting, held at Civil Secretariat, Jammu was specifically aimed at assessing the progress and quality of work being executed under RDSS. This is a critical initiative strategically designed to transform the power distribution sector in J&K especially in the hilly district Poonch, which is vulnerable to flash floods and landslides.

The meeting was attended by key officials, including Shrikant Balasaheb Suse Managing Director, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDC), Mumtaz Ahmed, Chief Engineer (Projects) & Secretary (Technical) and K K Thapa, Chief Engineer, JPDC besides other concerned officers.

The discussions were focused on identifying and addressing the existing issues, as well as chalking out a proactive way forward to ensure successful implementation of RDSS in Poonch.

During the review, the Minister explicitly directed the Managing Director to ensure that there is absolutely no compromise with the quality of work, mandating that all projects must meticulously



meet the stipulated standards.

Specific areas of concern that were thoroughly identified and deliberated upon during the review encompassed the alleged improper installation of critical infrastructure, including poles, transformers and service lines.

The Minister directed the Managing Director to rigorously ensure that all construction materials strictly conform to the approved Bill of Materials (BOM) and specifications, thereby safeguarding the durability and reliability of the infrastructure being constructed.

Furthermore, the Minister explicitly instructed that all equipment installations must be conducted with proper quality assurance testing and thorough inspection to ensure utmost safety and efficacy of the systems. He also underscored the critical importance of preventing deviations from the Detailed Project Report (DPR) scope without obtaining proper approvals, to ensure strict adherence to established protocols.

The Minister placed particular emphasis on ensuring safe work practices by the contractors and workers, mandating the installation of proper earthing

and protective devices to pre-empt any public safety risks associated with exposed or improperly installed wires.

Additionally, the Minister expressed significant concern over delays in the conduct of surveys and the progress of ongoing projects, which are pivotal to the timely completion and ultimate success of the RDSS initiatives in Poonch.

The Minister reaffirmed the imperative necessity for immediate corrective action to address the identified shortcomings. This will ensure that all RDSS projects are executed with the highest possible quality standards, unwavering transparency and strict adherence to safety protocols, ultimately aiming to benefit the people, he added.

Editorial

Step Towards Justice for Terror Victims

The launch of a dedicated portal for the NOKs of terror victims by LG Manoj Sinha marks a significant step towards institutionalizing support for those who have suffered immensely due to terrorism. This initiative, aimed at streamlining relief, compassionate appointments, and financial assistance, reflects the LG's commitment to ensuring that no victim's family is left behind.

For decades, the families of terror victims have endured not only the trauma of losing their loved ones but also political hurdles in accessing compensation and employment opportunities. The new web portal, developed by the Home Deptt in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC), promises to bring transparency as well as efficiency to the process. By maintaining comprehensive, district-wise data on terrorism-affected families, the system will help eliminate fraudulent claims while ensuring timely assistance to genuine beneficiaries.

LG Sinha deserves praise for integrating multiple layers of accountability, including toll-free helplines and Special Monitoring Cells under the CS and DGP. These measures will facilitate grievance redressal and periodic reviews to address delays. LG Sinha's personal oversight further underscores the seriousness with which the govt is approaching this issue.

However, credit must also be given to individuals like Mudasir Dar and Wajahat Farooq, who have worked tirelessly to identify and document the cases of terror victim families in UT. Their commendable efforts have brought to light the struggles of these families, ensuring that their voices are heard and their needs addressed. Additionally, continuous engagement with victim families will be crucial in building trust and delivering justice. This initiative is more than just a policy measure, it is a moral obligation towards those who have sacrificed everything for peace in J&K. By standing with terror victims, the government not only honors their suffering but also strengthens the social fabric against the divisive forces of extremism. The journey towards rehabilitation is worth.

India's Space Odyssey Expands Human Horizons



Dr. Jitendra Singh

It began with a crack—barely visible, tucked away in the weld joint of a pressure feedline on a Falcon-9 booster. A minor flaw,

just to astronauts, but to farmers, doctors, engineers, and students across our nation.

Consider the sprouting of methi and moong seeds in space. It sounds simple, almost poetic. But its implications are profound. In the confined quarters of a spacecraft, where every gram of nutrition counts, understanding how Indian crops behave in microgravity could redefine crew diets for long-duration missions. More importantly, it could inspire innovations in vertical farm-

could one day support life-support systems in space—and the passive exposure of Indian crop seeds like rice, cowpea, sesame, brinjal, and tomato to microgravity. These seeds will be cultivated across generations to study inherited changes, potentially leading to new crop varieties adapted to extreme environments.

Even human-machine interaction was put to the test. Shukla performed web-based assessments to understand how micrograv-

being. He remained in high spirits, interacting with students across India—from Lucknow to Trivandrum, Bangalore to Shillong—igniting young minds with the possibilities of science and space.

Shukla has since returned, and he brings back with him the rich wealth of data, samples, and insights he brings back will fuel India's upcoming Gaganyaan mission and the Bharat Space Station.

This is not just about one astronaut. It's



perhaps, in the grand machinery of space-flight. But for India, it was a moment of reckoning. Our scientists at ISRO, vigilant and uncompromising, demanded answers. They insisted on repairs, not workarounds. And in doing so, they didn't just protect a mission—they safeguarded a dream.

That dream took flight on June 25, 2025, when Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, an Indian Air Force officer and ISRO-trained astronaut, soared into orbit aboard the Axiom-4 mission. Docking with the International Space Station (ISS) a day later, he became the face of India's next great leap—not just into space, but into the future of human-centric science, medicine, and technology.

This wasn't a ceremonial voyage. It was a scientific crusade. Shukla carried with him seven microgravity experiments, each meticulously designed by Indian researchers to answer questions that matter—not

ing and hydroponics back on Earth, especially in regions battling soil degradation and water scarcity.

Then there's the study of Indian tardigrades—microscopic creatures known for their resilience. Revived from dormancy, these tiny organisms were observed for survival, reproduction, and genetic expression in space. Their behavior could unlock secrets of biological endurance, informing everything from vaccine development to climate-resilient agriculture.

Shukla also conducted a myogenesis experiment, examining how human muscle cells respond to space conditions and nutritional supplements. The findings could revolutionize treatments for muscular degeneration, benefiting not just astronauts but elderly patients and those recovering from trauma.

Other ongoing experiments include the growth of cyanobacteria—organisms that

ity affects our ability to interact with electronic displays—a crucial insight for designing intuitive interfaces for future space stations and spacecraft.

These are not abstract pursuits. They are deeply rooted in the Indian ethos of science for society. Every experiment aboard Axiom-4 carries the potential to touch lives on Earth—whether it's a tribal farmer in Odisha, a schoolchild in Shillong, or a frontline doctor in Ladakh.

The mission also showcased India's growing stature in global space diplomacy. Our insistence on safety protocols led SpaceX to identify and repair a potentially catastrophic flaw. Our collaboration with NASA, ESA, and Axiom Space reflects a new era of equal partnership, where India is not just participating but leading.

Throughout the mission, ISRO's flight surgeons monitored Shukla's health, ensuring his physical and psychological well-

about a nation rising. It's about transforming space science into public service. It's about ensuring that the benefits of microgravity research reach every corner of India—from satellite internet in remote villages to regenerative medicine in urban hospitals.

In the words of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Gaganyaan is about placing an Indian in space by Indian means. Axiom-4 is the rehearsal, the proof of concept, the bridge between aspiration and achievement.

And as we look up at the stars, we do so not with awe alone, but with intent. Because for India, the sky is not the limit—it is the laboratory.

(The author is Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. (PTB)

Redefining Learning in the AI Revolution



Dr. Reyaz Ahmad

The global education system, including India's, is at a critical crossroads. As conversations intensify around the relevance, structure, and delivery of education, it becomes evident that the traditional models are struggling to keep pace with the demands of the modern world. The current system emphasizes rote learning and theoretical knowledge over the application of learning to real-world challenges. Moreover, a growing school of thought questions the very age at which structured education should begin, suggesting that true learning should be delayed until children are cognitively and emotionally mature enough to make informed choices about their education.

In this digital era, particularly in the context of Artificial Intelligence (AI), these concerns are not just academic. They call for urgent and pragmatic reforms.

The Crisis of Relevance in Current Educational Systems

The current education model in India, and in many parts of the world, is rooted in an industrial-era mindset. Students are treated more like products on an assembly line than individuals with diverse talents, aspirations, and learning styles. The system focuses heavily on memorizing facts, mastering formulaic methods, and clearing standardized examinations.

While this model may have served past generations well, it is ill-equipped to prepare students for a future where adaptability, creativity, emotional intelligence, and technological literacy are far more valuable than static knowledge. It has created a generation of degree-holders who are often ill-prepared for problem-solving in dynamic real-life or workplace situations.

Early Education: Too Soon or Too Structured?

Another pressing debate is whether children should begin formal schooling at a very young age. While early learning does have its advantages, over-structuring and academic pressure in the formative years can stifle curiosity, creativity, and natural development. Countries like Finland have successfully demonstrated that delaying formal education until the age of 7 can lead to better academic and emotional outcomes in the long run.

The argument is not about keeping children away from learning but about the kind of learning they engage in. At early stages, the focus should be on play-based, exploratory, and experience-driven learning that aligns with natural developmental stages rather than rigid academic benchmarks.

The Indian Coaching Culture: Mass-Producing Degrees, Not Thinkers

From an Indian perspective, the booming coaching industry—especially for engineering (IIT-JEE), medical (NEET), and government job aspirants (UPSC, SSC, Banking)—has created a parallel education universe that prioritizes rote learning and mechanical test-cracking strategies over real understanding.

According to a 2022 report by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), over 7.1 crore students across India attend private coaching classes. In cities like Kota (Rajasthan), thousands of students migrate annually, creating a "coaching economy" worth over 5,000 crore. These institutions focus obsessively on marks and ranks, often ignoring the mental well-being, creativity, and individuality of students.

Impact on Students and Society:

A 2019 study by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) found that over 60% of students in coaching centers felt extremely stressed and demotivated.

The suicide rate in Kota, one of the coaching hubs, has consistently raised national alarms, with 25 student suicides reported in 2023 alone.

Students spend 4-6 years preparing for competitive exams, and even after clearing them, they often lack the skills needed for innovation or leadership.

According to NITI Aayog data, only 5% of India's engineering graduates are considered employable in core engineering roles, reflecting a disconnect between exam success and workplace readiness.



The damage extends beyond individuals. This coaching-centric culture:

Discourages entrepreneurship, as students are groomed to become job seekers, not job creators.

Kills problem-solving instincts, replacing them with template-based answers.

Promotes a herd mentality, draining communities of diverse talents and original thinkers.

Creates deep socioeconomic divides, as only those who can afford expensive coaching get ahead in the rat race.

The Digital Disruption and the AI Revolution

We now live in a world where information is readily available, and AI tools can perform tasks that once required years of academic training. This has profound implications for what and how we teach. Education must evolve from content delivery to skill development, from knowledge acquisition to problem-solving, from passive absorption to active creation.

With AI capable of tutoring, assessing, trans-

lating, writing, and even coding, the question arises: what is the role of the human educator? The answer lies in human values—creativity, ethics, empathy, and judgment—traits that machines cannot replicate. The goal of modern



education should thus be to cultivate uniquely human abilities in tandem with technological proficiency.

Pragmatic Approaches for a Relevant and Humane Education

Curriculum Redesign

Shift from textbook-heavy curricula to interdisciplinary, project-based learning.

Include real-world problem-solving activities and case studies in every subject.

Teach students how to learn, not just what to learn.

Delay High-Stakes Testing

De-emphasize high-stakes exams at early ages.

Use formative assessments and portfolio evaluations to gauge progress and creativity.

Encourage failure as a step in the learning process, not a point of punishment.

Emphasize Socio-Emotional and Ethical Learning

Integrate emotional intelligence, mindfulness, ethics, and digital citizenship from early school-

ing.

Promote classroom discussions that foster empathy, inclusion, and global awareness.

Leverage AI for Personalization

Use AI tools to deliver personalized content suited to individual learning speeds and styles.

Free up teachers' time from administrative tasks, enabling them to focus on mentorship and creativity.

Flexible Learning Pathways

Provide students with options: vocational training, academic specialization, creative arts, or entrepreneurship—all of which are equally valued.

Encourage lifelong learning and continuous upskilling rather than seeing education as a one-time event limited to childhood and early adulthood.

Parental and Community Involvement

Engage parents and communities in co-creating learning experiences.

Encourage learning outside classrooms: internships, social work, travel, and digital collaborations.

Conclusion: Learning to Live, Not Just to Earn

The education system must no longer be a relic of the past but a bridge to the future. In this AI-driven era, we must prepare learners not just to survive but to thrive—as thoughtful citizens, compassionate humans, and agile professionals. This means letting go of rigid timelines, outdated syllabi, and single definitions of success. The world is changing fast, and education must lead, not lag.

It is time to reimagine education as a joyful, meaningful, and empowering journey, rooted in human values and enhanced by technology. The future belongs not to the most knowledgeable, but to the most adaptable, curious, and compassionate.

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NIT Srinagar's Alumni Association to host 'SANGAM-2025' on Oct 10-11

FE NEWS NETWORK

Launches multiple alumni initiatives

Srinagar: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar in collaboration with Alumni Association will host its grand Alumni reunion, "SANGAM-2025" (Student Alumni Networking for Growth, Aspirations and Mentorship), on October 10 and 11, 2025.

The event will bring together former students from within the region, across the country and abroad for two days of celebrations, expert's talks, mentorship, cultural programs and branch wise alumni-student interactions.

In his message, Director NIT Srinagar Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia said that Alumni are the true ambassadors of an institute, and their success reflects the strength of our academic and cultural foundation.

"SANGAM 2025 will not only celebrate past achievements but also lays the groundwork for a future of collaboration, mentorship, and shared growth", he said.

"We are committed to make this event memorable and impactful, and I extend my full support to all initiatives taken in this direction," Prof Kanaujia added.

Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Atikur Rehman said the alumni community is one

of the greatest assets of our Institute and their experiences, guidance, and contributions can transform, motivate the journey of our current students.

"Through SANGAM 2025 and associated programs, we aim to strengthen this



vital relationship," he added.

These initiatives were thoroughly discussed during the first and second Alumni Association meetings held on June 15 and July 16, 2025 at NIT Srinagar. Key association members, along with representatives from the Office of the Dean, Alumni and International Affairs, contributed ideas and finalized the event schedule and the budget.

Prof. M.A. Shah, Dean of Alumni and International Affairs, along with the team which include Dr. H S Pali, Associate Dean and Dr. Dinesh Kumar coordinator of Alumni Affairs announced the event in consultation with all Members of Alumni Association, including President Prof M S Mir, Vice President Er. Aamir Ali, General Secretary Er. Ali Mohammad Rather, Sec-

retary Syed Javed Bukhari, Additional Secretary Dr. M. Mursaleen, Joint Secretary - I, Prof Manzoor Ahmad Ahanger, Joint Secretary II, Er. Ajit Singh and Treasurer, Prof Shahid Saleem.

Prof. M.A. Shah, Dean Alumni & IA,

expressed gratitude to Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia for his wholehearted support and patronage of the newly launched alumni initiatives.

He said that a series of new programs have been introduced to strengthen the relationship between alumni, current students, and the faculty of this institute.

"We have launched to reinforce the bonds between our alumni and the Institute. As part of these efforts, NIT Srinagar will publish its first annual alumni bulletin, titled "Bridges & Beacons - A Chronicle of NIT Srinagar Alumni," he said.

Prof. Shah said that the inaugural edition will be unveiled during SANGAM-2025 by Director NIT Srinagar in presence of various dignitaries. The bulletin will feature contributions from both alumni and current

students, including articles, short stories, personal reminiscences, life lessons and practical knowledge and the last date for submission has been extended to 30th July 2025.

It will be edited by Er. Rashid Ahmed Fani, a distinguished alumnus of the erstwhile Regional Engineering College Srinagar.

To support students who are yet to secure campus placements, the office of Dean Alumni & International Affairs has launched the Hand Holding Abhiyan (HHA). Under this initiative, alumni are encouraged to extend guidance, mentorship, job referrals, and career advice to our outgoing students.

"We call upon our alumni to extend a guiding hand—through mentorship, referrals, or career support. Together, we can ensure that no student feels left behind," Prof. Shah said.

Another key initiative, Eminent Alumni Lecture Series (EALS) or the Students Alumni Interaction (SAI), will include department-wise alumni-student sessions during SANGAM and throughout the academic year.

Departmental coordinators are currently being appointed. Alumni are invited to propose talks and interactive sessions aligned with their fields of specialization and industry experience. Dr. M Mursaleen will be the overall in charge of this Lecture Series.

DC Pulwama distributes sanction letters under Mission YUVA

FE NEWS NETWORK

Become ambassadors of the scheme and inspire others: DC to beneficiaries

PULWAMA: District Administration Pulwama, in collaboration with the J&K Bank, organised a mega function at Circuit House Pulwama to distribute sanction letters among the prospective beneficiaries under the Mission YUVA scheme.

During the event, senior officers addressed the gathering and elaborated on the objectives of Mission YUVA, which include encouraging entrepreneurship, fostering self-employment, and empowering youth through financial assistance and skill development.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, while speaking on the occasion, emphasised the significance of Mission YUVA in realising the entrepreneurial aspirations of the youth. He encouraged the beneficiaries to fully utilise the opportunities provided under the scheme and contribute actively to the economic development of the district.

"All beneficiaries should act as ambassadors of the scheme within their communities and inspire others to take advantage of this opportunity"

said the DC.

He further assured the beneficiaries of continued administrative and institutional support in addressing any challenges they may face in accessing assistance under the scheme. He also

hassle-free manner.

During the event, 53 sanction letters were distributed among the beneficiaries for setting up self-employment generating units under Mission YUVA. Among others, the event was at-



appealed to the aspiring youth to make Mission YUVA a stepping stone towards sustainable self-employment.

While appreciating the coordinated efforts of the Employment Department and J&K Bank in processing and facilitating cases under the scheme, Dr. Qayoom instructed the concerned departments to ensure timely registration and onboarding of more youth under Mission YUVA and stressed the importance of expediting the disbursement of financial assistance in a

tended by Assistant Director Employment, Pulwama; Zonal Head, J&K Bank; Lead District Manager (LDM), Pulwama; Branch Heads of various bank branches; officials from the Employment Department; and a large number of beneficiaries and youth aspirants.

The beneficiaries expressed their gratitude towards the government for launching the Mission YUVA initiative which provides them financial assistance and handholding in establishing their own business ventures.

Sakeena Ito reviews progress of works on Brazloo bridge Kulgam

FE NEWS NETWORK

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



Ito chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the progress of works on under-construction Brazloo Bridge.

During the meeting, the Minister impressed upon

the officers of executing agency to expedite the ongoing works so that the bridge is completed within the stipulated timeframe. She dived upon the officers to maintain high-quality standards of works while executing this vital project.

The Minister stressed on the officers to mobilize men and machinery and ensure that no further delay occurs in completion of the project.

She further stressed on the officers to maintain regular coordination with other concerned departments like Revenue and others in order to remove any bottlenecks hindering the smooth execution of the project. During the meeting, the officers informed the Minister that this bridge is a vital component of the NH-444 highway infrastructure.

It was informed that the 378-meter-long bridge, after completion, will improve connectivity between Kulgam and Srinagar districts.

DC Budgam reviews arrangements for upcoming Indian Army Recruitment Rally

FE NEWS NETWORK

Directs for seamless coordination, logistics, security, sanitation & public facilitation at the venue

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, convened a high-level meeting at the New Conference Hall, DC Office Budgam, to review and finalize arrangements for the Indian Army Recruitment Rally scheduled to be held at the JAKLI Regiment Centre, Rangreth Srinagar.

During the meeting, department-wise responsibilities were discussed. All the logistics support such as electricity, water supply, availability of buses, security arrangements, fire services, medical

facilities were threadbare discussed in the meeting.

DC instructed all concerned to deploy



necessary manpower and resources well in advance of the rally.

He stressed on ensuring adequate power and water supply, medical facilities, transportation, and traffic regulation, as well as cleanliness and sanitation at the venue.

DC also directed concerned security and police officials to prepare a comprehensive security and crowd management



plan in coordination with the Army authorities. He also emphasised the importance of seamless coordination among all stakeholder departments to ensure the successful conduct of the recruitment rally. DC directed officials to ensure proper logistics, security, sanitation,

traffic regulation, and public convenience throughout the event

Dr Bilal assured full support from the district administration for the smooth and successful execution of the recruitment rally and urged departments to maintain close liaison for effective coordination.

The meeting was attended by ADC Budgam, SP Headquarters Srinagar, ASP Budgam, Joint Director, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, SDM Chadoora, representatives from KPDCI Division-II Rajbagh, PWD Division Chadoora, and Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Chadoora, CMO, CEO, Budgam, Principal ITI Budgam, DYSP traffic rural, AD Fire and Emergency Services Budgam, ARTO Budgam, Assistant Secretary, J&K BOSE Budgam, Sub Divisional Officer, BSNL Barzulla Srinagar, representative of SSP Security Kashmir.

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DC Ganderbal reviews progress of PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

FE NEWS NETWORK

Selection of Model Solar village also finalized

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore chaired a review meeting to assess the status of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in the district here in the V.C Room of DC Office.

The meeting focused on evaluating the progress of the scheme, identifying bottlenecks and devising strategies to ensure 100 percent coverage under the scheme as per the assigned targets.

Reviewing the implementation of the scheme, DC stressed the need for an aggressive public awareness campaign to educate people about the benefits, subsidies and key features of the scheme. He highlighted the scope for improvement in achieving the targets and directed the concerned officials of the KPDCI to improve their performance in this regard.

Highlighting the importance of coordinated efforts, DC instructed the KPDCI, banks and other stakeholders to work in close synergy to resolve any technical, financial or procedural issues being faced by the applicants.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat; Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Executive Engineer KPDCI Ganderbal, LDM, AEEs KPDCI, AEE JAKEDA and other concerned.

Mission YUVA: DC Baramulla distributes loan sanction letters among 42 young entrepreneurs

FE NEWS NETWORK

Urges unemployed youth to avail benefits of various govt. schemes to build sustainable livelihoods

BARAMULLA: As part of the ongoing efforts to promote youth empowerment and entrepreneurship,



Mission YUVA (MY), a flagship initiative of the Jammu & Kashmir Government, held the 'Roz-e-YUVA' program at the J&K Bank Zone Office Baramulla.

The event organized by the District Employment Office, Baramulla in collaboration with J&K Bank was presided over by the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa and was attended by the ADC Sopore, S.A. Raina; LDM Baramulla, Assistant Director Employment, other senior administration and Bank officials.

During the event, DDC, in the presence of the other officers, distributed loan sanction letters under Mission YUVA among 42 young entrepreneurs from the Baramulla district to help them establish new ventures.

Meanwhile, 5 claims under PM-Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and PM-Suraksha Bima Yojana were also settled by J&K Bank, and cheques worth Rs 2.00 lakh each were handed over to the next of kin of the deceased

person under the scheme.

Speaking on the occasion, DDC highlighted the transformative impact of Mission YUVA, stating that the government, through this flagship initiative, is proactively creating sustainable revenue-generating avenues for the unemployed youth of the region through subsidized credit support and training.

DDC added that over 200 cases under Mission YUVA have been approved for further disbursement and

urged unemployed youth to take advantage of schemes like HADP and other financial inclusion initiatives to build sustainable livelihoods.

Meanwhile, Sherpa urged the beneficiaries to utilize the financial support responsibly and effectively and channel these funds towards building sustainable and dignified livelihoods, not just for themselves, but for others around them.

Zonal head J&K Baramulla expressed his pleasure at the enthusiasm shown by the youth and reiterated that J&K Bank remains steadfast in supporting the government's vision of empowering youth through these opportunities.

AD employment highlighted the crucial role of J&K Bank in the successful implementation of Mission YUVA and urged beneficiaries to utilize the sanctioned loans wisely to build stable and respectable income-generating ventures.

LG Sinha

Governor; M Raju, Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu and S. Jaskaran Singh Modi, SIO, NIC were present, in person and through virtual mode. (DIPR)

3 Killed

22-23 years; Ishaq, son of Farooz-ud-Din, resident of Khatasoo Bhalessa, aged around 26 years and Majeed, resident of Bhalessa, aged around 28 years. All three bodies have been shifted to District Hospital Kishtwar, where medico-legal formalities are being conducted. Authorities have taken cognizance of the matter and initiated further investigation. (PTI)

High Altitude

overlooking the district,” Mehta said. He said the security agencies are working overtime to prevent any untoward incident in the district which witnessed several terror attacks on security forces in the past one-and-a-half years. The SSP said the police had mapped all routes to ensure peaceful culmination of annual pilgrimage to high altitude destinations like Kailash Yatra, Manimahesh and Machail Yatra which are starting in the coming weeks. “A total of 70 pilgrimages, big and small, take place in this district. Some start from here while some others culminate in this district after starting from somewhere else. “We ensure adequate deployment on the route and entrust responsibility to senior officers to ensure the peaceful culmination of the yatra which mostly takes place in the higher reaches,” he said. Mehta said complete care is being taken with deployment of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and other paramilitary forces all along the yatra routes, while the forces work in synergy and act immediately on getting any information about movement of suspected persons. He said the police and other security agencies are fully capable of tackling the threat of drones by terrorists in the mountainous district. “Drone activity (by terrorists and their handlers) has mostly been restricted on the borders. We have no reports of the use of drones by terrorists in the district but if they use it, we have an anti-drone system in place to successfully tackle the threat,” he said. He appealed to people, especially those living in high-altitude areas, to report any drone activity to security agencies so that appropriate action is taken. (PTI)

CM Omar

leaders who guide the younger generation. “You will decide how capable our children will be in contributing to the development of J&K and the country at large. You will shape their competitiveness, confidence, and capacity,” he added. Pointing to persistent gaps in subject availability and staffing, the Chief Minister noted that many government schools and colleges are unable to offer a wide range of subjects due to faculty shortages. “In Jammu, only a few schools offer Urdu; in Kashmir, few offer Hindi. Even regional languages like Kashmiri, Dogri, or Punijabi are taught in very limited number of institutions. These gaps need to be filled gradually, within our available resources,” he said. He also addressed frequent comparisons between government and private schools, highlighting that government institutions operate in areas where private schools often do not venture. “Setting up a

school in Srinagar is easy. Try opening one in Gurez, Tangdhar, or Machil. Our teachers work in extreme conditions, away from the spotlight, and deserve recognition,” he stated. Commending the spirit of innovation among students, the Chief Minister appreciated the exhibition held at the venue where students showcased practical solutions to real-life problems—ranging from water conservation, low-plastic alternatives, climate change awareness, to winter-specific water pipe systems. “Our children don’t lack talent; they lack exposure and opportunities. Their creativity, thinking, and innovation give us hope that we are moving in the right direction,” he said. Omar Abdullah also emphasized the importance of inclusivity in education. “Every child—regardless of physical or learning challenges—deserves a chance to learn. Are our schools truly inclusive and accessible to all? This workshop is a good step in that direction,” he said. Speaking about the dynamic nature of education discourse, the Chief Minister observed that decisions regarding school holidays, exam schedules, and even online learning often spark debates in every household, reflecting the deep connection society has with the education system. He acknowledged the challenges posed by the digital divide and affirmed that as the government’s financial capacity improves, efforts to bridge that divide will be intensified. The Chief Minister said, “The future of Jammu and Kashmir is in the hands of our educators. You are not just teaching curriculum—you are shaping citizens, instilling values, and building futures. Let us work together to make our education system more resilient, inclusive, and transformative.” The Chief Minister congratulated the organizers for holding the conference and expressed hope that such engagements will continue to inspire positive change across the education landscape of Jammu and Kashmir. Earlier, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited the exhibition stalls set up by various government schools, showcasing innovative models and live demonstrations prepared by students and teachers. Minister for Education, Sakina Itoo, also spoke on the occasion and said that one of the foremost priorities of the government, soon after its formation, was to reform the education system to make it more equitable, inclusive, and future-ready. Vice Chancellor of the Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST), Prof. Shakeel Romshoo, and Secretary, School Education, Ram Niwas Sharma also addressed the conference, sharing insights on the implementation and impact of NEP-2020. The event was attended by Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta, Managing Director & CEO of J&K Bank, Amitava Chatterjee, Director of The Times of India Group, Rohit Sharma, Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N. Itoo, along with senior officers, senior officials of the Education Department, Chief Education Officers, school principals, masters, teachers, NEP experts, students, and other stakeholders. On the occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed between IUST and the Directorate of School Education, Kashmir, to foster academic collaboration and strengthen school-university linkages. (PTI)

LG Sinha

sector in the Union Territory. 97 percent positive feedback received from Pilgrims. The Yatra is going on smoothly, meeting all the expectations. We are witnessing an overwhelming atmosphere of spiritual fervor and festivity throughout the base camps,” the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor directed health officials to conduct an in-depth analysis of patterns and causes for the health-related incidents among pilgrims, and take precautionary measures to improve overall health outcomes for the devotees.

He also reviewed the Yatra feedback system and directed for incorporating traffic feedback option for better traffic management and to facilitate the smooth movement of the pilgrims. The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board; Shri Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shri VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Shri Rahul Yadav, MD, JKPDCL and Nodal Officer, Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra for Pahalgam Axis; Shri Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag and other senior officers of District Administration, SASB, Police and Security Forces.

BSF Raises

threats facing the force post-Operation Sindoor. The operation was launched by India to strike at terrorist and defence bases in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) as a retaliation against the Pahalgam attack of April 22 in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed in the Baisaran meadows. The BSF actively participated in the operation, launched on May 7, along with the Army. Pakistan sent thousands of drones, including a swarm of these flying objects, in response to Operation Sindoor to target Indian bases as well as civilian areas along the western front. On May 10, a bomb-laden Pakistani drone dropped explosives at its border post Kharkola in the RS Pura sector of Jammu. Two BSF personnel and an Army jawan deployed at the post were killed while four troops were critically injured, with one of them undergoing a leg amputation during treatment. Sources said the BSF drone squadron will be located in a specific number of BOPs located along the more than 2,000-km-long India-Pakistan border running from Jammu in the north to Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat on the western side of the country. The squadron will be equipped with a variety of small and large surveillance, reconnaissance and attack drones that will be launched during operations or any ‘hot war’ like situation similar to Operation Sindoor, the sources in the security establishment said. A small team of about 2-3 personnel each will be deployed in “vulnerable and specified” BOPs. Some drones and gadgetry are being procured for the maiden squadron and the personnel chosen for the task are being trained in batches, they said. (ANI)

CS

has made substantial strides in J&K. She elaborated that 18,29,495 Individual Household Latrines (IHLH) have been constructed including 8,450 Community Compost Pits, 1,69,158 Individual Compost Pits for waste management in rural areas. For Grey Water Management she mentioned that 7,334 Community Soak Pits, 3,56,458 Individual Soak Pits 4,89,250 Individual Kitchen Gardens have been developed by the Department. Moreover about the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) 2024-25 it was said that significant achievements were noted against planned targets, including the construction of 43,280 IHLHs against a target of 36,000, and 740 CSCs against a target of 1,000. With respect to 2025-26 the meeting was informed that an AIP of Rs 405 Cr has been approved for SBM (G) in J&K out of which Rs 61.25 Cr as 1st instalment of Central share for 2025-26 was sanctioned on June 27, 2025. Similarly, the corresponding UT share of approximately 700.00 lakhs has been released, the meeting was informed. Regarding the functionality of Assets an online platform called mWaterdash Board gives insights about each asset created by the Department. It was revealed that as per the report generated on this dashboard 7,317 out of 7,562 CSCs stands verified and reported functional (100% verified). Similarly 2,585 out of 2,900 Segregation Sheds had been said to be verified and found functional (45% verified). About Plastic Waste Management Units 96 out of 131 verified assets are functional (100% verified). 560 dysfunctional/defunct units are currently being

retrofitted for functionality. It was given out that out of the total of 6,650 villages, 4,585 villages (69%) are covered by door-to-door garbage collection. User charges collected until December 2024 amounted to 141.40 Lacs, with an additional 32.14 Lacs collected in the first quarter of FY 2025-26. The UT has 874 procured and 84 hired collection vehicles. The meeting was also apprised that extensive preparations had been made to ensure a clean, green, and sustainable Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025, with a focus on robust sanitation measures including the deployment of 7,404 sanitation workers, installation of 5,613 toilets/baths, 15 waste management facilities, and 80 soak pits. A dedicated IEC campaign using visuals, signage, and social media is being conducted along the yatra routes, complemented by a tech-enabled waste monitoring system via a web-cum-mobile application. As of July 2025, a total of 192.61 metric tonnes of waste has been collected which includes 125.75 MT from the Baltal Axis and 66.86 MT from the Pahalgam Axis. Some of the SBM-G best practices showcasing innovative initiatives taken up by the Department includes ECO-KARIGARI (Waste to Wealth initiative), Sandesh-e-Swachta, PWMU facilitated under PMEGP, Public Park on Community Soak Pit, DEWAT System, a community-led greywater management unit and organic waste composting machine within the Central Jail Srinagar, run by trained inmates, converts 500 kg of solid waste into organic fertilizers daily. Later on the Chief Secretary also took note of the functioning of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) scheme here. The scheme focuses on skill training and placement for rural poor youth in the age group of 18-35 years. The scheme provides placement-led skilling, with a focus on post-placement support, career progression, and sustainable employment. The Chief Secretary impressed on the concerned to enhance the pace of implementation of this scheme here for the funds are available and the expenditure stands on the lower side. He also underscored the need for evaluation of both the quality and quantity of placements made under this programme. The COO, Himayat, Rajneesh Gupta threw light on the implementation and success of this scheme here. He gave out that 17,000 placements had been made till date under this scheme. He assured that the expenditure would show an upward trend as the implementation has started gaining pace after initial phase of its operation in the UT. (DIPR)

Craft Dealer

Meanwhile, a team from the Quality Control wing of the Department has reached Konchipora, Tangmarg and completed the black-listing process of the showroom. The matter came to fore after a tourist, Syed Furqan Alam, complained to Director IICT, Srinagar stating therein that he had paid 25,000 in advance for a carpet from The Kashmir Art Bazaar, located in Konchipora, Tangmarg, with the total transaction amounting to 2.55 lakh. The showroom allegedly presented a certificate and QR code claiming IICT certification. “Upon verification, IICT confirmed the QR label was forged and not issued by their institution. The case was escalated to the department’s Quality Control Division, which conducted a physical inspection, seized the carpet, and issued a show-cause notice to the proprietor,” the spokesman added. The spokesman further stated that in his response, the proprietor denied the fraud, claiming the customer declined the purchase once told the carpet wasn’t GI-certified. “However, this was contradicted by photographic evidence submitted by the complainant, as well as findings from IICT that confirmed the fake label had been pasted onto a machine-made carpet,” he added. The official spokesman further said that the Department, upon examining the reply, found it totally misleading and unsatisfactory and concluded the act was a deliberate attempt to cheat the buyer by exploiting Kashmir’s GI craft reputation. “The Director in his order stated that the seller had deliberately created a fake QR label resembling the original GI label of IICT and pasted the same on a machine-made carpet to cheat the concerned tourist,” he said. Citing violations of Sections 6 and 7 of the J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act, 1978, the Directorate ordered immediate blacklisting and deregistration of the seller. “Furthermore, it is hereby ordered that a formal complaint shall be filed against the proprietor of The Kashmir Art Bazaar with the office of the Senior Superintendent of Police, Tourism Enforcement, Kashmir, for initiating strict action against him for pasting a fake QR label purportedly in the name of IICT, and requesting to investigate the network which seems to run this racket of pasting fake GI QR labels on machine-made items. The order further observed that once the seller realised the fraud had been detected, he attempted to remove the fake QR label from the carpet to cover up the malpractice. However, evidence provided by the complainant and expert verification from IICT confirmed the wrongdoing. The spokesman reiterated that such fraudulent acts of misbranding genuine handmade products not only violate consumer trust but directly undermine the GI-certified identity of Kashmiri craft,

threatening the livelihood of lakhs of artisans and weavers. “We take this opportunity to warn all business stakeholders in craft sector to desist from selling machine-made items in the garb of handmade products, failing which the Department will take immediate action by black-listing and de-registration of such showrooms,” he added. He further urged all buyers and tourists to contact the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, if they have been sold a machine-made product in the garb of handmade item. (DIPR)

Amarnath Yatra

822 women, 11 children and 102 sadhus and sadhvis -- left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp Jammu this morning. The first pilgrim convoy, carrying 1,250 pilgrims in 48 vehicles, left for the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district. The second convoy of 2,286 pilgrims in 84 vehicles undertook the yatra via the traditional 48-km Pahalgam route in Anantnag district. “Even though there is a slight decline in pilgrim turnout from Jammu, the overall yatra is proceeding without disruptions. All necessary facilities including shelter, food, medical assistance, and route security are fully operational,” an official said. This year’s Amarnath Yatra, scheduled to conclude on August 9, is being conducted amid unprecedented security measures, including drone surveillance, RFID tracking for pilgrims and a multi-layered deployment of forces—(KNO)

India’s doctor-population ratio improves to 1:811: Gol

Several measures being taken to tackle shortage of medical professionals, says Union Health Minister

SRINAGAR: The Union Government announced on Tuesday that India has made significant progress in improving its doctor-population ratio, now estimated at 1 doctor per 811 people. This figure reflects an 80% availability of both allopathic and AYUSH medical practitioners, marking a positive development in the country’s healthcare landscape. As reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), responding to a question from Biju Janata Dal MP, Shubhashish Khuntia, the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare said that currently, there are 1,386,150 registered allopathic doctors across the country. He said the Ministry of AYUSH has 751,768 registered practitioners. Assuming 80% of these professionals are actively available, the overall doctor-population ratio stands at approximately 1:811. The minister said the government has undertaken various measures to address the shortage of medical professionals. These include the establishment of 131 new medical colleges through a centrally sponsored scheme, which involves upgrading district and referral hospitals. “Out of 157 approved medical colleges, these are now operational. Efforts are also underway to strengthen and upgrade existing state and central government medical colleges to increase MBBS and postgraduate seats,” he said. Under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), 75 projects for upgrading government medical colleges—particularly constructing super specialty blocks—have been approved, with 71 of these projects now complete, the government said, adding that 22 new AIIMS have been approved, with undergraduate courses already started in 19 of them. (KNO)

Public Notice

This is to inform all concerned that due to an inadvertent error, my name has been recorded as Parvaiz Ahmad Bhat, S/o Ghulam Rasool Bhat on my Aadhaar Card. However, as per my Matriculation Certificate, my correct and original name is Parwaz Ahmad, S/o Ghulam Rasool, which is accurate and official. I am now in the process of getting the name corrected in the Aadhaar records. Therefore, through this public notice, I hereby request that if any person has any objection in this regard, they may submit the same in writing to the concerned department or the nearest Aadhaar Centre within ten (10) days from the date of this notice. No objections will be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated time period.

Name: Parwaz Ahmad
S/o: Ghulam Rasool
R/o: House No. 115, Azad Basti, Natipora,
Srinagar – 190015

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER NAGAM.
(PUBLIC NOTICE)

Subject: Provisional Merit List of SANGINIS (ANGANWADI WORKER) of Poshan Project Nagam
In pursuance to Government order No 103-JK(SWD) of 2023 Dated:- 28-04-2023, and approval conveyed by Mission Director Poshan J&K Srinagar Vide No:- MD/Poshan/Estt/38356-59 Dated: 03-12-2024 and MD/Poshan/Estt/41162-69 Dated: 23-12-2024 Accordingly Eleven (01) posts were Advertised Vide No: CDP/Poshan/Ngm/2025/Adv/55-66 Dated:- 28-04-2025 for (01) Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project Nagam, and merit list of candidates was prepared as per criteria laid down vide Government Order No.103JK(SWD) of 2023 Dated: 28-04-2023. However Provisional Selection list has been framed on the merit basis appended at Annexure-A.
Thus The Provisional Merit List of each ward has been thoroughly scrutinised by the selection committee members and the most eligible candidates in accordance with merit have been provisionally selected against the vacant posts.
The Provisional Merit List is hereby published for information of general public and inviting objections/appeals (if any) which shall be received in the Office of the Child Development Project Officer Poshan Project Nagam within 10 days of the Publication. No objections/appeal will be entertained afterwards.

Sd/-
CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN
POSHAN PROJECT NAGAM.
No:- CDP/POSHAN/NGM/2025/270-80 Dated:- 21/07/2025
DIPK-4077/25 Dt: 22-07-2025

ANNEXURE (A)

Subject: Tantative Selection List of candidates who have applied for engagement as A.W .WORKER (SANGINIS) for AW Centres of Poshan Project Nagam” vide this
offic Advertised Notice No: ICDS/NGM/Estt/55-66 Dt. 28/04/2025 for Anganwadi Centres Punch Ward/ Municipal ward as shown below (Phase-3RD):

S.N	IND	NAME OF CANDIDATE WITH PARENTAGE AND RESIDENCE	NAME OF AWCENTER	NAME OF PANCHAYAT HALQA	NAME OF PANCH WAD	DATE OF BIRTH	QUAL IFCATION	MARRIED/ UN MARRIED	MAX MARKS	MARKS OBTAINED	%AGE	ADD (02) POINTS AS PER HR POLICY	TOTAL MERIT	SELECTED CANDIDATE
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1	3	ZAMROODA ZAMAN W/O AJAZ AHMAD NAWAI R/O K-SARAI	SARAI A	SARAI	W-NO-2	15-01-1998	12TH	MARRIED	500	265	53.00		53.00	SELECTED CANDIDATE

CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER NAGAM (Member Secretary) BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER NAGAM BUDGAM (Member) BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER SURASYAR NAGAM (Member)

Dr. Jitendra Singh Applauds UPSC's 'PRATIBHA Setu' as a Game-Changer for Civil Services Aspirants

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has lauded the Union Public Service Commission's (UPSC) 'PRATIBHA Setu' initiative for opening alternative career pathways for civil services aspirants who clear the written examination and interview stage but fall short of making it to the final selection list.

The initiative, he said, is fast emerging as a dynamic bridge between untapped talent and prospective employers from both government and private sectors.

An official spokesperson said the Minister said that this is emerging as a meaningful gateway for Civil Services aspirants who are among the very few who narrowly miss out in the last stage because of not being able to make it in the final interview even after having successfully cleared the Civil Services Exam Final and also having appeared in the interview.

Describing it as a "forward-thinking approach" to talent utilization, Dr Jitendra Singh's remarks came after a meeting with the newly appointed Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission, Dr. Ajay Kumar, who briefed him on the growing attraction the platform has gained among employers in both government as well as private sectors.

According to the Chairman, the initiative—originally developed from the Public

Disclosure Scheme introduced in 2018—has been received positively across the board. Several private organizations have started approaching the Commission to access the pool of candidates



who cleared the written exam and interview stages but were not finally selected.

Dr. Jitendra Singh noted that aspirants too are welcoming the move, as it offers them a viable alternative to channel their skill and knowledge into meaningful career paths outside the civil services framework.

PRATIBHA (Professional Resource And Talent Integration) Setu—Bridge for Hiring Aspirants, enables verified organizations to register and access data of non-recommended yet willing

candidates from various UPSC examinations, including Civil Services, Indian Forest Service, Engineering Services, and Combined Medical Services, among others.

The initiative has already onboarded 113 organizations, with more showing interest in the portal as a trusted source of well-assessed human resources.

What sets PRATIBHA Setu apart is that it transforms a passive disclosure model into an interactive recruitment bridge. While earlier the UPSC published candidate data on its website, the revamped platform allows recruiters to log in and reach out to shortlisted candidates directly. The programme excludes exams such as NDA, NA and select departmental competitions, but covers a wide spectrum of competitive examinations with rigorous assessment processes.

As UPSC heads towards its centenary in 2026, initiatives like PRATIBHA Setu underline the Commission's evolving role in public recruitment and human resource development. By extending the value of its examination process beyond the confines of the merit list, UPSC is helping connect untapped talent with institutions that

value it—enhancing the overall ecosystem of governance and employment.

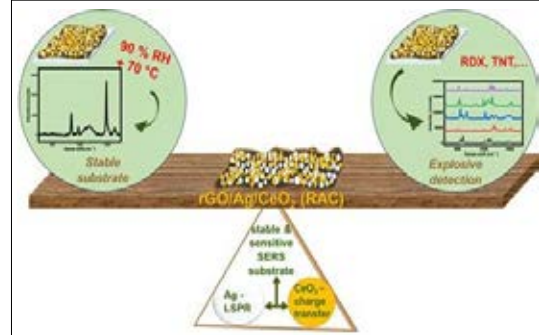
Dr. Jitendra Singh acknowledged that the success of such platforms not only benefits individual candidates but also addresses a broader

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need for efficient and transparent recruitment practices. With the continued interest from stakeholders, Pratibha Setu is poised to expand its impact in the coming years. PRATIBHA stands for "Professional Resource And Talent Integration" – Bridge for Hiring Aspirants. (PIB)

Bengaluru Researchers Develop Smart Nano-Material for Trace-Level Detection of Explosives

BENGALURU: In a significant scientific breakthrough, researchers from the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), Bengaluru, have developed an innovative smart nano-material capable of detecting harmful chemicals—including



explosives like TNT and RDX—even at trace levels.

An official spokesperson told Press Information Bureau (PIB) that the development holds immense potential for real-world applications in airport security and environmental pollution monitoring.

The new sensor is based on a multi-layered nanomaterial comprising reduced graphene oxide (rGO), silver nanoparticles (Ag), and cerium oxide (CeO₂), fabricated on a glass substrate using physical vapor deposition techniques. Each component in this novel structure performs a unique function, working in synergy to enhance both sensitivity and stability.

The technology relies on Surface-Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy (SERS), a method known for its ultra-sensitive detection capabilities that can amplify the molecular "fingerprint" of chemical substances. While silver nanoparticles are widely known for their signal enhancement capabilities, their tendency to oxidize under humid or warm conditions has hindered commercial viability.

To overcome this, researchers have introduced a thin protective layer of cerium oxide, which not only prevents oxidation of silver nanoparticles but also enhances charge transfer between the material and the analyte. This dual function significantly boosts the Raman signal and ensures long-term durability of the sensor. Environmental chamber testing confirmed that the composite substrate could retain high performance even in extreme conditions—up to 90% humidity and 70°C.

Another challenge addressed by the team was the excessive fluorescence emitted by silver nanoparticles, which can obscure detection signals. The incorporation of the rGO layer effectively quenches this fluorescence, ensuring clearer and more precise identification of chemical traces.

The sensor's performance was validated using 4-mercaptobenzoic acid (MBA) as a model analyte, detecting concentrations as low as 10 nanomolar. Notably, the substrate also successfully detected explosive materials such as TNT and RDX at similarly low concentrations.

Backed by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), this development by CeNS marks a major stride toward affordable, sensitive, and stable explosive detection technologies. With its simple fabrication, durability, and high sensitivity, the substrate is poised for deployment in critical sectors that demand rapid and accurate chemical detection. (PIB)

Amit Shah to unveil National Cooperative Policy 2025 on Thursday

New policy will make cooperatives vibrant in the current economic scenario and contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047

NEWDELHI: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperative Amit Shah will announce the National Cooperative Policy 2025 at an event organized at Atal Akshay Urja Bhawan, New Delhi on 24th July 2025. Members of the drafting committee of the National Cooperative Policy, Chairmen and Managing Directors of all National Cooperative Unions, senior officials of the Ministry, senior officials of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), National Council of Cooperative Training (NCCT) and Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (VAMNICOM) will be present on the occasion.

The new cooperative policy will prove to be a milestone in the cooperative movement of India for the next two decades from 2025-45. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the able guidance of Union Home Minister and Cooperative Minister Amit Shah, the new cooperative policy 2025 aims to revive and modernize the cooperative sector as well as realize the vision of prosperity through cooperation by creating a roadmap at the grassroots level. Earlier in the year 2002, the country's first National Cooperative Policy was issued, which gave a basic framework for better management of the economic activities of cooperative institutions. In the last 20 years, many major changes have taken place in the society, country and the world due to globalization and technological advancement. Keeping these changes in mind, it became necessary to formulate a new policy, so that cooperative institutions can be made more active and useful in the current economic scenario and the role of the cooperative sector can be strengthened in achieving the goal of "Viksit Bharat 2047".

The objective of the National Cooperative Policy is to make cooperative institutions inclusive, manage them professionally, prepare them for the future and be able to create large scale employment and livelihood opportunities especially in rural India.

A 48-member national level committee headed by former Union Minister Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu has prepared the new National Cooperative Policy. This committee included members from national/state cooperative federations, cooperative societies of all levels and sectors, representatives of the concerned Central and State Government Ministry/Department and academicians. To ensure a participatory and inclusive approach, the Committee held 17 meetings and 4 regional workshops in Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Gurugram and Patna. 648 valuable suggestions received from stakeholders were carefully evaluated and incorporated in the new cooperative policy. (PIB)

Trump says Philippines will pay 19% tariff while US pays no tariffs under deal with leader Marcos

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump said he reached a trade agreement with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr following a meeting at the White House that will see the US slightly drop its tariff rate for the Philippines without paying import taxes for what it sells there.

Trump announced the broad terms of the agreement on his social media network Tuesday and added the US and the Philippines would

work together militarily. The announcement of a loose framework of a deal comes as the two countries are seeking closer security and economic ties in the face of shifting geopolitics in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Philippine Embassy did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment, but Marcos' government indicated ahead of the meeting that he was prepared to offer zero tariffs on some US goods to strike a deal with Trump.



The Filipino leader's three-day visit shows the importance of the alliance between the treaty partners when China is increasingly assertive in the South China Sea, where Manila and Beijing have clashed over the hotly contested Scarborough Shoal.

Without further details on the agreement Trump and Marcos struck, it's unclear how it will impact their countries' economies.

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E-commerce platforms advised to self-audit, eliminate dark patterns: Union Minister

NEWDELHI: Dark patterns involve using design and choice architecture to deceive, coerce, or influence consumers into making choices that are not in their best interest. Dark patterns encompass a wide range of manipulative practices such as drip pricing, disguised advertisement, bait and switch, false urgency etc. Such practices fall under the category of "unfair trade practices" as defined in the Sub-section 47 under Section 2 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

Central Consumer Protection Authority, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 18 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, issued "Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023" on 30th November, 2023 for prevention and regulation of dark patterns listing 13 specified dark patterns identified in e-Commerce sector. These dark patterns include false urgency, Basket Sneaking, confirm shaming, forced action, Subscription trap, Interface Interference, Bait and switch, Drip Pricing, Disguised Advertisements, Nagging, Trick Wording, Saas Billing and Rogue Malwares.

In furtherance, to safeguard consumer rights and promote fair trade practices, Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India convened a meeting on 28th May, 2025 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Consumer

Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and New and Renewable Energy with representatives from major e-commerce companies, industry associa-

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tions, Voluntary Consumer Organizations and National Law Universities for a focused dialogue on eliminating deceptive online practices. As an outcome of the said meeting, an "Ad-

visory in terms of Consumer Protection Act, 2019 on Self-Audit by E-Commerce Platforms for detecting the Dark Patterns on their platforms to create a fair, ethical and consumer centric

practice which are in the nature of Dark Patterns. Further, all E-Commerce platforms have been advised to conduct self-audits to identify dark patterns, within three months of the issue of the advisory and take necessary steps to ensure that their platforms are free from such dark patterns.

Based on the self-audit reports, the E-Commerce platforms should also give self-declarations that their platform is not indulging in any dark patterns in order to ensure fair digital ecosystem along with building trust between consumers and e-commerce platforms. A Joint Working Group, comprising representatives from Ministries, National Law Universities and Voluntary Consumer Organizations, has been constituted vide Office Memorandum dated 5th June, 2025 for identifying the dark patterns and stakeholders to work together in creating a transparent, ethical and user-centric online environment.

This information was given by the Union Minister of State for the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, B.L. Verma in a written reply today in the Rajya Sabha. (PIB)

Washington sees Beijing, the world's No. 2 economy, as its biggest competitor, and consecutive presidential administrations have sought to shift US military and economic focus to the Asia-Pacific in a bid to counter China. Trump, like others before him, has been distracted by efforts to broker peace in a range of conflicts, from Ukraine to Gaza.

On Tuesday, when asked about the US defence commitment to the Philippines, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Guo Jiakun said: "Whatever cooperation the US and the Philippines have, it should not target or harm any third party, still less incite confrontation and heighten tensions in the region."

The White House said ahead of Tuesday's meeting Trump would discuss with Marcos the shared commitment to upholding a free, open, prosperous and secure Indo-Pacific. Marcos, who met Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Monday, is the first Southeast Asian leader to hold talks with Trump in his second term. (PTI)

Washington sees Beijing, the world's No. 2 economy, as its biggest competitor, and consecutive presidential administrations have sought to shift US military and economic focus to the Asia-Pacific in a bid to counter China. Trump, like others before him, has been distracted by efforts to broker peace in a range of conflicts, from Ukraine to Gaza.

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E-commerce platforms advised to self-audit, eliminate dark patterns: Union Minister

NEWDELHI: Dark patterns involve using design and choice architecture to deceive, coerce, or influence consumers into making choices that are not in their best interest. Dark patterns encompass a wide range of manipulative practices such as drip pricing, disguised advertisement, bait and switch, false urgency etc. Such practices fall under the category of "unfair trade practices" as defined in the Sub-section 47 under Section 2 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.

Central Consumer Protection Authority, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 18 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, issued "Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023" on 30th November, 2023 for prevention and regulation of dark patterns listing 13 specified dark patterns identified in e-Commerce sector. These dark patterns include false urgency, Basket Sneaking, confirm shaming, forced action, Subscription trap, Interface Interference, Bait and switch, Drip Pricing, Disguised Advertisements, Nagging, Trick Wording, Saas Billing and Rogue Malwares.

In furtherance, to safeguard consumer rights and promote fair trade practices, Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India convened a meeting on 28th May, 2025 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Consumer

Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and New and Renewable Energy with representatives from major e-commerce companies, industry associa-

tions, Voluntary Consumer Organizations and National Law Universities for a focused dialogue on eliminating deceptive online practices. As an outcome of the said meeting, an "Ad-

visory in terms of Consumer Protection Act, 2019 on Self-Audit by E-Commerce Platforms for detecting the Dark Patterns on their platforms to create a fair, ethical and consumer centric practice which are in the nature of Dark Patterns. Further, all E-Commerce platforms have been advised to conduct self-audits to identify dark patterns, within three months of the issue of the advisory and take necessary steps to ensure that their platforms are free from such dark patterns. Based on the self-audit reports, the E-Commerce platforms should also give self-declarations that their platform is not indulging in any dark patterns in order to ensure fair digital ecosystem along with building trust between consumers and e-commerce platforms. A Joint Working Group, comprising representatives from Ministries, National Law Universities and Voluntary Consumer Organizations, has been constituted vide Office Memorandum dated 5th June, 2025 for identifying the dark patterns and stakeholders to work together in creating a transparent, ethical and user-centric online environment.

This information was given by the Union Minister of State for the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, B.L. Verma in a written reply today in the Rajya Sabha. (PIB)

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