

District & Sessions Judge chairs 7th District Coordination Meeting at Rajouri

RAJOURI: The 7th District Coordination Committee meeting between the Judiciary and District Administration was convened under the chairmanship of District & Sessions Judge, Rajinder Sapru, at Raj Kumar Thapa Conference Hall, Dak Bungalow, Rajouri.

At the outset, Chief Judicial Magistrate Javed Rana (Secretary Coordination Committee) welcomed the participants and briefed the chair on various issues requiring inter-departmental coordination and follow-up action.

A major focus of the meeting was on the review of land acquisition and infrastructural development for judicial institutions.

The District & Sessions Judge took stock of the status of land acquired for the construction of the boundary wall for the Court Complex at Muradpur, the removal of existing structures from the site, repair of the culvert (puli) on the approach road to the land, and the whitewashing and

minor renovations of the existing District Court Complex building. The meeting also reviewed the progress

Thanamandi, Darhal, Kotranka and Kalakote were also taken up, and timelines for necessary action were fixed by the chair.



on the construction of the boundary wall at the Nowshera Court Complex and deliberated upon the pending issue of land acquisition for the same.

Other infrastructure-related issues pertaining to Munsiff Courts in

Key issues discussed included the arrangement of separate seating for lady advocates, enhancement of the surveillance system at court complexes, and the installation of CCTV cameras in police stations to ensure transparency

and accountability in the administration of justice.

The chair also stressed the importance of integrating digital reforms in the judicial process, including the effective implementation of e-warrants.

The meeting was attended by Additional District & Sessions Judge, Sudesh Sharma, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Javed Rana and Secretary DLSA, Shama Sharma.

The coordination meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to ensure timely resolution of issues and strengthening of infrastructure for efficient dispensation of justice in the district.

Senior officers from the district administration including SE PWD Tilak Raj Sharma, ACR Rajouri Mohd Jahangir Khan, Chief Planning Officer Maqsood Ahmed, Executive Engineer PHE Sudesh Kumar Bhagat, Executive Engineers PWD and other sectoral officers also participated in the deliberations.

Div Com Jammu reviews progress of Jammu-Akhnoor-Poonch and Buddal-Mahore-Gool roads

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar reviewed the progress of work on Jammu-Akhnoor-Poonch and Buddhal-Mahore-Gool roads at a meeting. He discussed the land accusation issues and stressed on inter-departmental coordination to remove bottlenecks, if any.

The Jammu-Akhnoor-Poonch road project, a part of National Highway 144A, involves widening of the existing road to a 2-lane highway with paved shoulders. Similarly, Buddhal-Mahore-Gool widening project aims to improve connectivity between the districts of Rajouri, Budhal, Gool, Ramban, and Reasi by upgrading the existing road to double-lane highway.

The project involves upgrading the existing road to National Highway specifications. The meeting was attended

by Chief Conservator of Forests Jammu, Deputy Commissioners

compensation and removal of structures to facilitate up-



of Jammu, Poonch, Rajouri and Reasi, Chief Engineer Project Beacon/Sampark. The Divisional Commissioner was apprised by respective District Administrations and senior officials of Border Roads Organization about the current status of the twin projects and progress made in terms of disbursement of

gradation/construction of the roads. The Div Com directed for speedy resolution of hindrances, if any, for timely execution of road construction works by the concerned executing agencies.

He asked the district administrations to provide all possible assistance to the executing agency to ensure speedy execution of works.

DC Poonch reviews Implementation of 'Stop Diarrhoea' Campaign

Stresses on Interdepartmental Coordination, Safe Drinking Water, Community Awareness

POONCH: A review meeting to assess the progress of the ongoing 'Stop Diarrhoea' Campaign in Poonch District was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kunal in the conference hall of DC Office.

The campaign, being conducted from 1st July

progress and activities carried out so far.

He outlined health interventions and public outreach measures undertaken under the campaign. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for robust field-level interventions, interdepartmental coordination, and the provision of safe drinking water.

He stressed the importance of community awareness to effectively control diarrhoeal diseases in both rural and urban areas of the district.

To ensure water safety, the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti was directed to regularly use bleaching powder in water tanks to prevent the spread of water-borne diseases.

Additionally, the Chief Medical Officer was instructed to develop a comprehensive awareness video on proper handwashing techniques.

The video will be widely disseminated across schools, Anganwadi centres, health institutions, and digital platforms as part of intensified IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) activities.

The meeting was attended by Programme Officer ICDS, Khalid Mahmood; Tehsildar HQ; Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department Poonch; Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Poonch; and Block Medical Officers of Mandi, Mendhar and Surankote who joined via video conferencing. Officers from the District Programme Management Unit (DPMU) were also present.



to 31st August-2025, aims to avert the spread of diarrheal diseases in the district through preventive measures and intensive awareness activities.

During the meeting, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan, presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation, highlighting block-wise

DC Udhmapur reviews Child protection measures

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai chaired the meeting of District-Level Task Force on child Labour-Child Abuse-CISS herein the Mini Conference Hall of DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by District Child Protection Officer Kanika Gupta, Secretary DLSA, SDMs, DySP Headquarters, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer and other concerned officials. DCPO Kanika Gupta informed the chair about the role and responsibilities of different stakeholders in the Task Force. She particularly emphasized the pivotal role of the educational machinery especially school teachers in identifying and reporting instances of child abuse and child marriage. She also highlighted several challenges faced during raid operations and underscored the urgent need for the constitution of Sub-Division level Task Forces for timely and localized intervention.

The DC issued directions to all Sub-Divisional Magistrates to immediately revive Sub-Division level Task Forces to identify and act against instances of child labour and child marriage.

She further emphasized the need for coordinated efforts and active communication between all Task Forces to ensure effective enforcement. The DC also stressed the importance of sensitization and awareness, especially in schools and communities to curb these social evils. She directed the Chief Education Officer to maintain a vigilant check on student dropouts and prolonged absences, which often act as early indicators of potential child abuse or marriage. Terming child marriage and child labour as a gross violation of the Fundamental Right to Life and Dignity, the DC appealed to all stakeholders, officials and members of the public to act as Ambassadors of Change by reporting such cases and contributing towards the vision of a safe and protected environment for every child.

JKPC Names Sufi Tahir as Provincial President of Youth Wing

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference (JKPC) on Wednesday appointed young and dynamic leader, Sufi Tahir as the Provincial President

energetic leadership and grassroots connect, played a pivotal role in Engineer Rashid's campaign during the recent Parliament elections. Sufi was



of its Youth Wing for Kashmir. The announcement marks a notable shift in Tahir's political career, as he recently parted ways with Engineer Rashid's Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) to join Sajad Lone's JKPC.

Sufi Tahir, known for his

one of the key figures mobilizing support for Rashid, who contested from Baramulla and secured a historic victory while being incarcerated in Delhi's Tihar Jail.

Tahir's departure from AIP and subsequent joining of JKPC is seen as a major gain for Sajad

Lone's party, which has been actively consolidating its base in the Valley.

Speaking on the appointment, JKPC leadership expressed confidence in Tahir's ability to galvanize the youth.

"Sufi Tahir's inclusion strengthens our vision for empowering the young generation of Jammu and Kashmir. His dedication and leadership qualities will undoubtedly inspire the youth to actively participate in the political process," a senior party leader said.

Tahir, in his statement, thanked the party leadership for entrusting him with the responsibility and vowed to work tirelessly for the welfare of Kashmiri youth.

"I am committed to representing the aspirations of our youth and ensuring their voices are heard at all levels. JKPC's agenda of peace, development, and inclusive politics aligns with my vision for a prosperous Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Kathua: District NCORD meeting reviews Anti-Drug Measures



KATHUA: Additional Deputy Commissioner Vishaveet Singh chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to discuss and review measures aimed at curbing drug abuse and the narcotics trade in the district.

During the meeting, extensive deliberations were held on issues pertaining to drug addiction, identification of areas of concern and hotspots of drug abuse. Besides, measures undertaken by law enforcement agencies to combat this menace were thoroughly examined.

The ADC emphasis on generating mass awareness against drug abuse and sharing success stories of drug de-addiction. He also directs to identify the persons indulged in drug peddling so that appropriate and timely action can be taken against them. He also emphasizes on timely and proper uploadation of events on the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) portal.

Among others, SDM Hiranagar, Phulail Singh and Chief Agricultural Officer Kathua (joined virtually), besides Addl. SP Kathua Rahul Charak and other Officers from BSF and other concerned departments were also present.

Reasi admin discusses utilization plan for District Mineral Fund

DC emphasises zero tolerance policy against Illegal Mining; Asks for scaling up vigil

REASI: Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik, chaired a crucial meeting of the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) to review the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan

interventions and expenditures under the scheme, with a strong focus on sustainable, community-driven projects.

Taking a stern stance against illegal mining, DC Reasi directed to install CCTV



Yojana (PMKKKY) and ensure the optimal utilization of the District Mineral Fund for the welfare and development of mining-affected areas.

During the meeting, a comprehensive discussion was held on the proposed

cameras in all subdivisions, particularly at locations near mining blocks vulnerable to unauthorized activities.

The DC stressed the need for modern surveillance systems with adequate recording backup to assist both the police and

the mining department in taking swift and appropriate legal action against offenders.

The District Mineral Officer was instructed to conduct thorough scrutiny of such sensitive locations and coordinate with Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) to ensure full coverage in high-risk areas.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed the District Mineral Officer (DMO) to take strict action against individuals involved in illegal mining activities without paying royalty or obtaining proper permission. She emphasized that there will be zero tolerance towards illegal mining and instructed the DMO to submit a detailed action-taken report.

In addition to anti-mining measures, the meeting also reviewed proposals related to key public sectors such as school education, Public Health Engineering (PHE), and Public Works Department (PWD). The DC emphasized that these proposals would be considered for funding after detailed project reports (DPRs) and feasibility assessments are submitted. The meeting was attended by CPO Reasi Narinder Kumar, ACR Nitin Verma, DMO, DFO, CEO, ALC, Executive Engineers and other concerned officers.

DC chairs meeting to review SRO 43 Cases

Stresses timely disposal, proactive approach



POONCH: A meeting of the District Level Screening-cum-Coordination Committee was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kunal in his office chamber to review the cases submitted under the SRO-43.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Shafakat Hussain; Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Mohd Sayeed; Tehsildar HQ Palvi Verma and representatives from the CID and other security agencies.

At the outset, the ADC gave a detailed briefing on the current status of each case. After thorough deliberation and evaluation, the Committee approved several eligible cases under the provisions of the SRO-43.

The Deputy Commissioner also reopened and reassessed both new and pending files to ensure that all deserving applicants receive timely benefits. He directed the concerned departments to extend the benefits to all eligible applicants without delay.

The Deputy Commissioner urged all departments to adopt a proactive approach and ensure that all required formalities and verifications are completed within stipulated timelines.

Labour Commissioner urges strict compliance with Payment of Bonus Act 1965

JAMMU: Labour Commissioner Jammu and Kashmir, S. Charandeep Singh has called upon all employers and establishments across the Union Territory to strictly comply with the provisions of the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965. This appeal is part of the Labour Department's broader efforts to ensure transparency, accountability, and the protection of workers' statutory rights.

The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, is a central legislation that mandates the payment of annual bonuses to employees of factories and other establishments employing twenty or more persons. The

Act aims to promote equitable distribution of profits by linking a portion of an employee's wages to the productivity and performance of the establishment. It not only serves as an incentive for the workforce but also strengthens industrial harmony.

Under the Act, employees drawing a salary or wage not exceeding 21,000 per month are eligible for a bonus. The bonus is calculated on a wage ceiling of 7,000 per month or the minimum wage for the scheduled employment, whichever is higher. Establishments are required to pay a minimum bonus of 8.33% of the wages, even in cases where no allocable surplus



exists, while the maximum bonus can go up to 20%

depending on profits.

The Labour Commissioner emphasized that timely and correct disbursement of bonus is not merely a legal obligation but also an important measure to boost worker morale and foster a collaborative work environment.

He urged all employers covered under the Act to ensure that bonus payments are made well within the prescribed time limits, as stipulated under Section 19 of the Act, and that proper records are maintained for audit and verification purposes.

Employers have been cautioned that non-

compliance with the provisions of the Payment of Bonus Act may attract legal consequences, including penalties and imprisonment under Section 28 of the Act. The Labour Department will be closely monitoring the compliance status of establishments and taking necessary action wherever violations are found.

The Department of Labour, J&K, remains committed to safeguarding the interests of workers and ensuring that labour laws are effectively implemented across all sectors. Employers and employees are encouraged to remain informed about their rights and responsibilities under the Act.

CM Omar Abdullah reviews functioning of Cooperative Banks



FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chaired a comprehensive review meeting on the functioning of Cooperative Banks across Jammu and Kashmir here at the Civil Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Cooperatives Javid Ahmad Dar, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj

Gupta, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India (J&K and Ladakh), Principal Secretary Finance, Managing Director & CEO J&K Bank, Commissioner Secretary Cooperatives and senior representatives from NABARD.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister reviewed the current status and functioning of various Cooperative banks.

He acknowledged the improved financial performance of the Jammu and Anantnag

District Central Cooperative Banks, which have achieved operational profitability but called for other loss-making

Cooperative banks to devise a roadmap for recovery which would be examined by the Government for appropriate intervention to revive these banks.

The meeting also reviewed key initiatives such as the ongoing PACS Computerisation Project and the formation of new M-PACS, both aimed at strengthening grassroots-level credit delivery and financial inclusion.

The Chief Minister emphasized the need for sustained reforms to ensure institutional resilience, financial stability, and rural empowerment across Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, Commissioner Secretary Cooperatives Babila Rakwal gave a detailed presentation on the functioning and progress of Cooperative Banks in J&K.

Punjab livestock trade issues: Satish Sharma assures J&K traders of swift action

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Transport, IT and Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma, has taken serious cognizance of reports alleging harassment and obstruction faced by Jammu & Kashmir's livestock traders at the hands of certain cattle fair contractors in Punjab. During an interaction with the representatives of the All Kashmir Wholesale Mutton Dealers Union, the Minister was apprised of alleged unlawful practices, including unauthorized stops of livestock-laden vehicles en route J&K, by the private contractors exceeding their authority. The Minister was informed that such actions are causing prolonged delays, financial losses and serious risk to animal welfare, as livestock are subjected to extended travel without proper ventilation, food or water. Not only do these acts violate the legal provisions but they also raise grave humanitarian and economic concerns for traders of the Union Territory. Expressing deep concern over the issue, Satish Sharma reiterated the government's unwavering commitment to safeguard the rights and interests of J&K's trading community. "We will take up the matter at the highest level to ensure immediate redressal," the Minister stated. He further assured that the issue will be formally raised with the Government of Punjab and immediate directions will be issued to the Transport Department and other relevant authorities to coordinate closely with their counterparts in Punjab to ensure the smooth, lawful and uninterrupted movement of livestock from Jammu & Kashmir.

Javed Rana reviews water supply management, infra development in Jammu

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, chaired a meeting to review the water supply management and infrastructure development in Jammu Province.

The meeting had threadbare discussion on status of water supply schemes and to strategize their augmentation to ensure adequate and sustainable water resources for the populace.

Among others, the meeting was attended by the Chief Engineer, PHE Jammu, Vikas Sharma, Superintending Engineers, Ajay Sharma and Sunil Gandotra.

The Minister stressed on the importance of early completion of ongoing Water Supply Schemes, prioritizing the early completion of ongoing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) schemes.

Emphasising on quick and efficient response mechanism to address any disruptions in the water supply system, Rana said that it is crucial to ensure the



objectives of providing safe and potable water to every household are met in a timely manner.

The meeting also underscored the critical importance of regular cleaning and maintenance of water storage tanks to safeguard the quality of stored water and prevent contamination.

The Minister directed the concerned authorities to ensure the proper functioning of filtration plants, which are instrumental in delivering clean and safe water to the community.

In addition, a key aspect of the discussion revolved around

implementation of an effective water recharge strategy. This initiative is envisioned to bolster the sustainability of water resources, ensuring their replenishment and long-term availability.

The Minister also highlighted the urgent need for repair of defunct handpumps, which are a crucial source of water for many communities. He further reaffirmed the commitment of Government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to ensure effective implementation of these critical measures.

MD Jal Jeevan Mission reviews the progress on ground water based schemes

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, convened a review meeting of Jal Shakti (PHE) circles and divisions of Kashmir province at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

The meeting was convened to discuss the progress on ground water based schemes being executed in Kashmir province.

The meeting was attended by Superintending Engineers, Hydraulic circles of Kashmir provinces and Superintending Engineers Mechanical North and South Kashmir, Executive Engineers of civil divisions and their Mechanical counterpart in Ground Water Division besides Technical Advisor Kashmir in Mission Directorate and other officers

The Executive Engineer Ground Water Division Srinagar presented a detailed report in this regard. He

informed the meeting that most of the successfully drilled tube wells have been handed over to the concerned field division and the remaining allotted tube wells are being drilled.

The Mission Director asked the officers of Ground Water Division Srinagar to deploy more drilling rigs in the districts where there are substantial number of ground water based schemes. He also directed the Executive Engineer, Ground Water Division Srinagar to mobilize rigs and manpower to the sites where allotments have been made for drilling the tube wells at new sites identified by the civil counterparts.

DC Bandipora visits Zurimanz Village, assures timely redressal of public grievances



FE NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Wednesday visited Zurimanz village to assess public concerns and developmental needs.

During the visit, residents raised several pressing demands, including the upgradation of the main access road, which frequently gets submerged due to the rise in Wular Lake water levels. Other key issues included the shifting of the New Type Primary Health Centre (NTPHC) to government accommodation, resumption of the halted construction work on the local hospital, availability of doctors and ambulance services at the NTPHC, surplus ration distribution, creation of a separate Panchayat Halga, and the development of a designated parking area in the village.

Cultural Unit Kashmir of DIPR organizes awareness programme on 'Drug Menace' at BHSS Gulab Bagh

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: An awareness programme addressing the growing threat of drug abuse was held at Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS) Gulab Bagh under the Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan, organized by the Cultural Unit Kashmir of Department of Information & Public Relations, Jammu and Kashmir (DIPR J&K).

The event saw enthusiastic participation from students and staff, aimed at spreading awareness about the harmful consequences of drug addiction.

A powerful and engaging skit was presented by the Yemberzal Youth Club, effectively highlighting the dangers of substance abuse. The play left a lasting impression on the audience and served as a strong reminder of the urgent need to stay away from drugs.

Principal of the institution, Oscia Jabeen Baba and Senior Lecturer Mumtaz Hussain Raja urged students to stay vigilant and act as agents of awareness in their communities.



Burhan Hussain, Cultural Officer Kashmir from the DIPR J&K, reiterated the department's commitment to conducting such programmes regularly in line with government directives. He stressed that raising awareness is key to fighting this social evil and encouraged youth to adopt a drug-free lifestyle.

The programme concluded with a collective pledge by all participants to stand united against drug abuse and promote a healthier society.

The event concluded with a pledge taken by all participants to stand united against drug abuse and to spread awareness within their respective circles.

MLA Padder- Nagseni (LOP J&K Assembly) reviews arrangements for Shri Machail Mata Ji Yatra 2025

FE NEWS NETWORK

KISHTWAR: Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Padder-Nagseni and Leader of Opposition (LOP) in J&K Assembly, Sunil Kumar Sharma, chaired a meeting to review arrangements for Shri Machail Mata Ji Yatra-2025, commencing from July 25, 2025.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma presented a detailed power point presentation on the arrangements made by the district administration.

The meeting was also attended by SSP Nareesh Singh, ADDC Pawan Kotwal and officials of Machail Mata Yatra Cell.

After threadbare discussion, the MLA directed EO MC Kishtwar for installation of sufficient mobile toilets at Shri Gori Shankar Mandir Sarkoot.

The BDO Padder was directed to ensure cleanliness and sanitation, especially along Gulabgarh to Machail route.

EO MC was also directed to facilitate proper parking near ITI Kishtwar.



He also emphasized proper road maintenance from Kishtwar to Padder, particularly at Pathernaki landslide-prone area, while

directing GREFA authorities and XEN PMGSY to keep standby men and machinery from Gulabgarh to Chishoti route.

Furthermore, the MLA directed for foolproof security, especially in shadow areas, and stationing of SDRF/NDRF teams at vulnerable locations.

A technical team from JPDC will be stationed at Yatri Bhawan

Gulabgarh and Machail to address any electricity-related issues. -he directed.

SSP and ARTO were directed to explore possibilities for changing the timing of heavy vehicles during the Yatra period to avoid inconvenience to devotees. The CMO was directed to keep available adequate medicines and doctors at medical booths. DC Kishtwar assured the MLA that the District administration is working tirelessly to put in place all necessary arrangements for the successful conduct of the yatra.

Resident doctor assaulted at SMHS Colleagues protest, demand action

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A resident doctor from Uttar Pradesh was allegedly assaulted by an attendant of a patient at SMHS hospital late last night, following which his colleagues held a protest, demanding action against the culprit.

According to details, Dr Shah Nawaz was allegedly assaulted by an attendant late last night in the hospital's emergency ward after the patient died.

A CCTV video of the assault has since gone viral on social media, sparking outrage across the medical community.

Dr Shah Nawaz, who was allegedly assaulted, said that he was at medical reception when a patient was brought there and after checking the patient, his vitals were not recorded and he was sent to triage room for further investigation but eventually the patient died.



He said that after the death of the patient, one of the patient's attendants came and kicked him.

"We are here for the welfare and treatment of patients not to get assaulted," he said, demanding a high-level probe into the matter.

been assaulted. Last week a female doctor at Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu was allegedly assaulted by attendants of a patient following his death in the hospital's emergency ward. (KNO)

The assault triggered a massive protest by resident doctors, interns and other staff of the Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar and its associated hospitals. They assembled inside the hospital premises, raising slogans and demanding immediate action against the perpetrator.

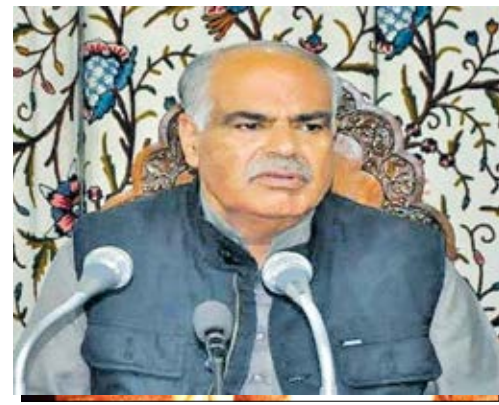
Meanwhile, the college administration said that legal action has been initiated and an FIR (No. 11/2025) has been registered at the concerned police station. Notably, this is the second such incident in J&K in the last few days where doctor has

Newly appointed office bearers of BJP in Kashmir Division call on Ashok Koul

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The newly appointed office bearers of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Kashmir Division, had an interactive meeting with Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization) of the party, at the party office in Srinagar, a spokesman of the organisation said. Dr. Shehnaz Ganai, J&K BJP Vice-President, Anwar Khan, General Secretary, Dr. Darakshan Andrabi, Chairperson J&K Waqf Board, Mudassir Wani, Secretary, Arif Raja, Secretary, Adv. Sajid Yousuf, Media Co-Incharge, Sajjad Raina Social Media Co-Incharge, Sartaj Majid, IT Co-Incharge, Bilal Parray, All Cell Co-Incharge participated in the meeting. The meeting focused on strengthening organizational structure, enhancing grassroots connect, and aligning local leadership with the party's core vision for Jammu & Kashmir.

Ashok Koul extended his warm congratulations to the newly inducted team members and urged them to work with



renewed energy and commitment. Addressing the gathering, he said, "The role of each office bearer is critical in transforming our vision for Kashmir into ground-level action. You are the face and force of the party at the grassroots, and your connection with the people will define

and accountability in all organizational activities. He encouraged the newly appointed members to uphold the ideals of the party and ensure that every effort contributes towards building a peaceful, developed, and inclusive Kashmir, the spokesman added.

the strength and future of BJP in the Valley."

He emphasized the need for proactive engagement with local communities and called upon the team to prioritize public service and issue-based politics. "Discipline, dedication, and dialogue must be our guiding principles. We must reach out to every household, understand the issues that matter to people, and present BJP as the true alternative that works for the welfare of all segments of society," he said.

J&K PCC launches major drive in Srinagar areas to prevent use of SUP Raids godowns, seizes tonnes of banned polythene

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant step aimed to put curbs on the use of Single Use Plastic (SUP) in the division, teams of J&K Pollution Control Committee (J&KPCC) Kashmir conducted a series of raids on

godowns of banned polythene in Kashmir.

These raids were conducted as part of the activities carried out under "World Environment Day, 2025," and "Beat Plastic Pollution Globally" themes under the overall guidance and directions of Regional Director JK PCC Kashmir and under the chairmanship

of District Officer (DO) Srinagar, PCC Kashmir.

As part of the drive, a designated team headed by D.O Srinagar conducted a targeted raid on a godown located near Tengpora bypass where a total of 115 bags, each weighing 25 kgs, were seized from the premises. The cumulative weight of the

seized material amounts to 2875 kgs.

Similarly, on receiving specific and credible information D.O Sgr along with his team conducted a targeted raid on godown located near Parimpura Srinagar where a significant quantity of banned polythene weighing about 5380 kgs was seized.

Thus a massive quantity of 8255 tonnes of illegal polythene was seized before its circulation.

Also during an Anti-polythene drive, a targeted raid was conducted near Tengpora bypass where 2.5 tonnes of polythene was seized on spot by D.O Sgr along with his team.

Editorial

Ensuring Safety, Accountability in Healthcare

The recent assault on a doctor at SMHS Hospital in Srinagar has once again highlighted the urgent need to address two critical issues plaguing our healthcare system, the safety of medical professionals and the accountability of healthcare services. While violence against doctors is inexcusable, the incident also underscores deeper systemic failures that demand immediate attention. The attack on doctors anywhere is reprehensible. No matter the grievances, resorting to violence is unacceptable and undermines the very foundation of patient-doctor trust. Doctors work under immense pressure, especially in SMHS, often in understaffed and under-resourced environments, risking their own well-being to save lives. The government must enforce strict legal action against perpetrators to send a clear message that such behavior will not be tolerated.

However, at the same time, the anger of the deceased patient's family cannot be dismissed outright. Their allegations of medical negligence, whether proven or not, point to a larger crisis in public healthcare. When patients feel ignored or mistreated, frustration is inevitable. The lack of proper triage protocols, and insufficient security in hospitals exacerbate tensions. Authorities must ensure transparency by investigating negligence claims thoroughly, including reviewing CCTV footage and independent medical audits. The strike by doctors, though disruptive, reflects their legitimate concerns about safety and working conditions. The government must deploy trained security personnel in emergency wards and install panic buttons for staff, and also ensure adequate presence of senior doctors and consultants, especially during critical hours. While doctors must uphold their duty of care, patients and attendants must also recognize the constraints under which medical professionals operate.

At the same time, the doctors' strike at the hospital yesterday left countless patients in agonizing limbo, with many traveling long distances only to find empty wards and unattended emergencies. With neither side willing to back down, it is the patients especially the poor and vulnerable, who suffer the most, caught between inadequate care and the breakdown of trust between doctors and the public. Mutual respect and dialogue, rather than aggression, are the only way forward. The government, medical fraternity, and civil society must collaborate to restore trust in our healthcare system. Only then can tragedies like this be prevented, ensuring that hospitals remain sanctuaries of healing, not battlegrounds of frustration and despair.

Broken Bonds: The Paradox Of Modern



Abid Hussain Rather

Reliving old memories, I remember well that there was a time, not too long ago, when life was lived in community—fully, openly, and without walls. In the neighbourhoods of our childhood, boundaries existed only on maps, neither on the ground nor in our hearts. Every joy was communal, every sorrow shared. There was no concept of “my happiness or sorrow is mine alone,” for the happiness or sorrow of one was the concern of many. In any neighbourhood, if a child took their first steps, sweet fritters would find their way to every doorstep. Whenever a cow gave birth to a calf in any household, colostrum cheese was shared among all the neighbours. If someone passed an exam, the entire street would celebrate. When tragedy struck, radios and televisions fell silent, laughter was hushed and celebrations were postponed out of respect. Neighbours were treated like extended family. Their smiles were ours and so were their tears.

But today, that world seems like a dream long lost—like a once-bright photograph, now faded and forgotten in the quiet corner of an old attic drawer. We now live in an age where privacy is glorified. We wear our secrecy like a badge of sophistication. “Don't tell anyone,” “Keep it between us,” “It's none of their business”—these phrases, once considered cold or even rude, are now common and even celebrated. We proudly say, “I mind my own business,” without realizing that in doing so, we've given up the greatest asset of humanity—the ability to truly connect with one another. Our elders often said, “A shared sorrow is half a sorrow, and a shared joy is double the joy.” This wasn't poetic exaggeration—it was lived experience. A neighbour's unemployment was not whispered about; it was responded to. A sick person in one house meant concerned visitors, herbal remedies, generous financial help and prayers from every corner.

Today, in our concrete houses, tightly locked apartments and digitally guarded lives, we know nothing of the people who live just a wall away. The sounds of celebration or mourning might drift through occasionally, but we rarely knock to ask what is wrong or what is right. There was a time when children carried plates of food and other small offerings to neighbours, with warm smiles and gentle messages. Life was

woven together with kindness, and every joy or sorrow was shared like a family secret. Now, meals arrive at doorsteps through apps and sentiments are reduced to emojis on screens. We have gained convenience, but lost intimacy and left behind connection. Our hands are fuller, but our hearts are emptier. We have built fences—emotional, digital, and even spiritual. We curate our lives into social media highlight reels, where sorrow is photoshopped out and imperfections are edited away.



Mental health professionals are now ringing the alarm bells, calling loneliness the epidemic of the 21st century. Depression, anxiety, and suicides are on the rise—not just because of economic stress or societal pressures, but because people no longer feel seen. We have replaced community with connectivity, but the Wi-Fi signal doesn't reach the soul. Our older generation remembers a world where even marriage decisions were made with neighbourhood input—not due to interference, but because relationships were considered too important to be built in isolation. Neighbours mediated disputes. Families intervened in times of crisis. An unemployed father, a struggling student, a lonely widow—no one suffered alone but everyone in neighbourhood shared their sufferings. But world has changed now and so are the people. Now, personal space has turned into personal exile. We confuse silence with dignity and distance with strength. In our race to protect our “private lives,” we have sacrificed our public bonds. Even grief is now a solitary affair. Funerals that once brought entire communities together are now modest, brief, and often poorly attended. The pandemic amplified this, but the trend predates it. Joys too are muted. Engagements, marriages, pregnancies, promotions—all are often kept under wraps, shared selectively, if at all.

What was once called *razdari* (confidentiality) is now a permanent cloak—one that suffocates more than it protects.

We often say that we don't like to depend on anyone. It sounds strong. But what it really means is that we are afraid to be disappointed. We no longer trust our communities to hold our truths with compassion. And in doing so, we deny ourselves the most profound human experience, which is to be known and still be loved. Children raised in such environments inherit this guarded-

lived in isolation but in shared humanity. Of course, secrecy has its place. Not all information is meant for public consumption. But secrecy should be a tool for protection, not isolation. When we use secrecy to hide our pain, we suffer alone. When we use it to protect others' dignity, we act with wisdom. In its purest form, secrecy is an ethical principle, not a wall. It is the understanding of when to speak and when to listen; when to share and when to hold. But today's version

We often say that we don't like to depend on anyone. It sounds strong. But what it really means is that we are afraid to be disappointed. We no longer trust our communities to hold our truths with compassion. And in doing so, we deny ourselves the most profound human experience, which is to be known and still be loved.

has mutated into emotional hoarding—where nothing is shared, and everything is suppressed.

As we move forward in our digital, fast-paced, hyper-private lives, perhaps it is time to pause and remember what we have left behind. Maybe it is time to dust off the old values—not for the sake of tradition, but for the survival of our humanity. Let us normalize asking, “How are you?” Let us celebrate each other's joys together. Let us grieve together. Let us teach our children that being open is not a flaw but a strength. Let us turn off our screens and turn toward each other. The poison of secrecy thrives in silence. But a single act of connection can be the antidote. Let us go and knock on the door. Someone might be waiting.

(The author teaches Geography at GDC Kulgam and can be reached at: rather1294@gmail.com)

Digital Superstition: The New Age Of Mental Enslavement



Satiyan Saurabh

Today is the age of technology and information. There is a mobile in every hand, internet in every pocket. But have we really become more aware, or have we just become slaves of fingers sliding on the screen?

People are engrossed in an endless world of ads, videos, memes, reels and tricks. The “scroll culture” has cut off our attention span. Things that were previously deeply understood are now reduced to 30-second shorts and 280-character posts.

Our brains are filled with superficial information, but the depth of knowledge has been lost. There was a time when we would read long articles in the newspaper, discuss them, ponder over them. Now we “scroll” – without stopping, without thinking. The result?

Mental exhaustion, loneliness, competition to show off and digital depression. People post smiling selfies but are broken from within. There is a deep emptiness hidden behind ‘hashtag happy’.

So-called ‘influencers’ on social media are now giving advice in every sphere of life – health, education, relationships, even spirituality. But their knowledge is superficial, and the objective? Views and likes. Those who do not know how to manage their own mental health have become ‘mental health experts’. The scroll culture has fragmented our thinking. On one hand there is talk of ‘mindfulness’, on the other hand we are getting disconnected from ourselves.

People waste hours scrolling through social media but have lost the power of real conversation. One click brings thousands of opinions, but who can verify their validity?

In the technological age, it was hoped that superstitions would end. But now they have become ‘digital ghosts’. On WhatsApp: “Must

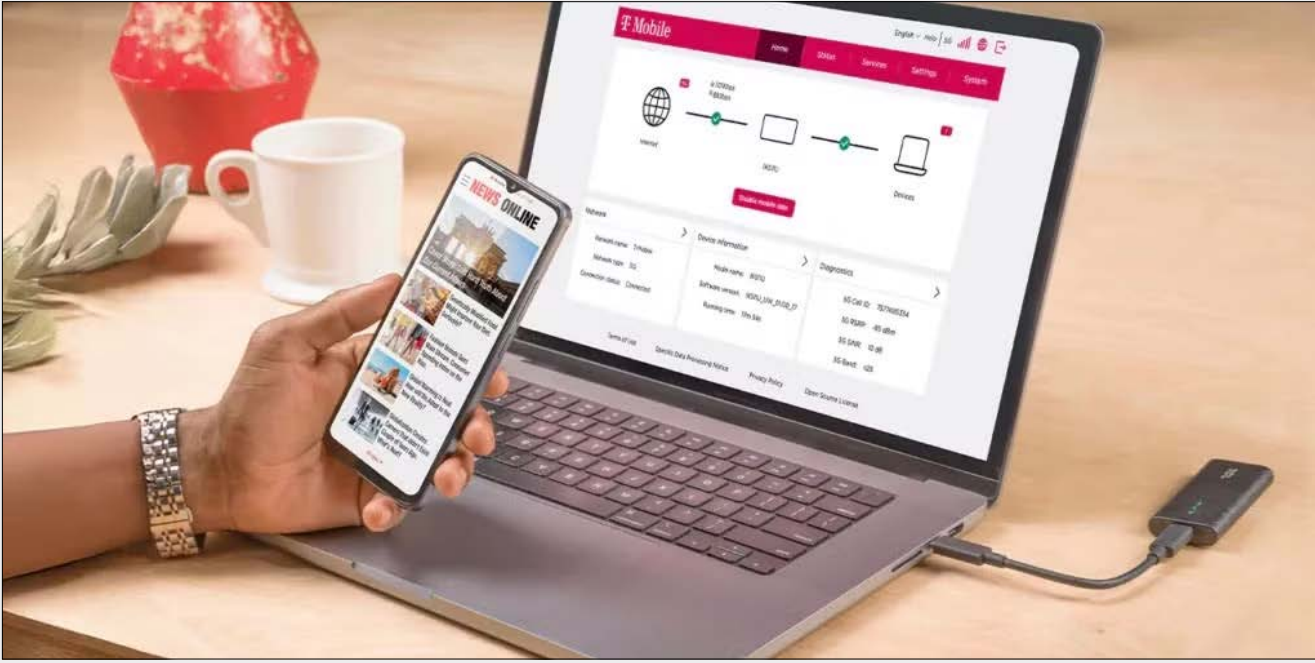
read this mantra at night...” On Facebook: “Send this photo to 5 people, otherwise misfortune will come” On YouTube: “Miraculous remedy to remove Pitra Dosh”

youth spends 4-6 hours on social media every day. How many times does he connect with himself during this time?

While scrolling, we see glimpses of others’

approach, how can the public become aware?

Spend 1 hour mobile-free every day. Do digital detox 1 day a week. Do not look at the screen for 1 hour before sleeping at night. Do not form an



Is this Digital India? Or a new fort of superstition?

Even educated people are looking for solutions from the videos of “Mahadev uncle” instead of scientific thinking. People are afraid of the uncertainty of life. In this fear, they resort to superstition, which gives them the illusion of emotional security.

There is information on the Internet, but the ability to sort it out has not been taught. As a result, even lies seem true.

Everyone has become a motivational speaker, life coach, astrologer. Without any authenticity. Their aim is traffic and money. In childhood, if we ask questions, we are scolded – ‘Have faith’. This thinking enables us to absorb misleading content as we become adults.

According to a report, on an average, an Indian

lives – pictures of their parties, holidays, happiness – and become dissatisfied with our own lives. This comparison gives rise to an inner restlessness and depression. We have turned life into a reel. What is seen sells – this thinking is hollowing out the soul.

Lack of sleep, distractibility, social anxiety, self-doubt, suicidal tendencies – these are all the mental consequences of scroll culture. Many studies have found that excessive use of Instagram, TikTok and Facebook increases self-doubt and depression in teenagers and young people.

TV channels also now garner TRPs from programmes like ‘Mysterious Temple’, ‘Haunted Haveli’, ‘Astrological Solutions’. Advertising companies also sell products by scaring people with words like ‘Rahu-Ketu Dosh’. When the institutions themselves work against the scientific

opinion based on incomplete information. Do not doubt everything, but think about everything. Encourage children to ask questions. Adopt an education system based on science, logic and facts.

There should be courses like ‘How to check information’ in schools. ‘Fact checking’ should become a social habit. Don't believe everything you see on YouTube. Connect religion to the soul, not fear. Faith means understanding, not blind following. Investigate so-called miraculous solutions.

Technology claimed to connect us, but today we are disconnected from everything – from ourselves, and from society. We are on the screen, but out of life. We click but don't feel.

In this noise of social media, the voice of introspection has been lost somewhere. Today,

the biggest need is digital detox and mental ideological renaissance. Otherwise, this scroll culture and superstition together will take us to that dark age, where there will be light – only

”

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”

emanating from the screen – but there will be utter darkness inside.

Knowledge never comes in a scroll, it demands a pause. Faith is never blind, it gets strength from logic. And the biggest rebellion in today's time is – thinking.

Author is an Independent columnist and social analyst. He can be mailed at kavitaniket33@gmail.com

Speaker chairs High Level Apex Committee meet at Srinagar

Reviews NeVA implementation

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly (JKLA), Advocate Abdul Rahim Rather, chaired the High

The meeting was attended by MLAs Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi, Nizamuddin Bhat, Tanvir Sadiq, Arjun Singh Raju, Dr Sunil Bhardwaj and Dr Bharat Bhushan, Secretary Information Technology depart-

ment, Secretary Law department, Achal Sethi; DC Budget, SIO NIC J&K; representatives of NICS and other concerned officers.

The Speaker, who is also the Chairman of HLAC, took detailed assessment on this

ect to modernize the legislative processes and ensure a paperless functioning of J&K Assembly. He highlighted that NeVA as a milestone initiative aimed at increasing the transparency, efficiency and accessibility in legislative proceedings for both the legislators and the public.

He stressed upon the officers to maintain regular coordination for effective implementation of the project in J&K Legislative Assembly.

The Speaker directed all the concerned departments to expedite the remaining tasks and adhere to timelines for timely rollout of this prestigious initiative.

"Successful implementation of NeVA will bring J&K at par with digitally empowered legislatures of the country", the Speaker stated.

He also directed the NIC and IT department to keep the HLAC updated about the progress achieved on implementation of this project.

During the meeting, SIO NIC J&K gave a detailed presentation on current status of the project.

Pertinently, NeVA is a flagship project under Digital India Initiative led by Union Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, aimed at making the Legislature paperless.



Level Apex Committee (HLAC) meeting at Assembly Complex to review progress on implementation of National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) project in Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.

ment, Dr. Piyush Singla and Secretary Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita besides members of HLAC.

The meeting was also attended by

flagship project aimed at making the legislature digital and paperless.

Addressing the officers, the Speaker emphasized the importance of timely completion and integration of NeVA proj-

IGP Kashmir reviews security arrangements for NLSA events, KU Alumni meet

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone, V.K. Birdi,

SSF, SSP Srinagar, SSP Traffic Srinagar, Commanding Officer AP 5th, SP East, SP South, SP Hazratbal, as well as nodal officers from Kashmir Univer-

added. He directed officers to enhance surveillance around key venues and implement effective traffic management plans to ensure smooth movement for



IPS, chaired a high-level meeting at PCR Kashmir to review security arrangements for the upcoming events to be organized by the National Legal Services Authority (NLSA) and the University of Kashmir, a police spokesman said Wednesday.

The meeting was attended by senior officials including DIG CKR Srinagar, DIG Armed Kashmir, DIGs of CRPF North and South Ranges, Director

sity, the Air Force, BSF, and CRPF.

IGP Kashmir emphasized the need for heightened vigilance to ensure a secure environment for the NLSA events, which aim to promote legal awareness and improve access to justice. He also underscored the importance of comprehensive security measures for the KU Alumni Meet—a distinguished event that fosters academic and professional engagement, the spokesman

attendees and the general public.

V.K. Birdi reiterated that both the NLSA events and the University of Kashmir Alumni Meet hold great significance, and reaffirmed the commitment to providing a safe and secure environment for all participants.

The meeting concluded with a unified resolve among all officers to ensure the smooth and secure conduct of both events.

DC Kulgam reviews functioning of Revenue Dept

FE NEWS NETWORK

Directs to ensure timely delivery of all services, disposal of grievances

KULGAM: To review the functioning of the Revenue department and to ensure efficient and prompt public service delivery in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Revenue department at Mini-secretariat, here.

During the comprehensive review, progress and status of service delivery was reviewed of each patwar halqa.

The meeting held detailed discussion on various issues including, status of online services provided to citizens, digitization of revenue record, removal of encroachment from state/kacharia land, change of Land Use Cases, grievances regarding migrant

properties, progress of revenue court cases in different offices, progress of different services under PSGA, progress of Mussavies and Geo-referencing in each Tehsil.

It also discussed pendency of SRO cases, progress on Land allotment to different departments, vacancy position of Naib Tehsildars in each Tehsil, progress on Samadhan registrations disposal, disposal of grievances on Revenue Plus portal, issuance of Land Pass books to the farmers, Land identification for CAPMA scheme and mutation camps attended.

DC urged the revenue officers to ease out the day to day difficulties of common masses by visiting for on-spot inspections.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Vigar Ahmed Giri; ACR, Reyaz Ahmad Shah; all Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, Girdawars, besides all Patwaris of revenue department.



Div Com Kashmir reviews preparations for Independence Day celebrations, conduct of Tiranga Rally

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In view of the upcoming Independence Day, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, convened a meeting on Wednesday to chalk out thorough arrangements for the celebration of national festival.

Besides IGP Kashmir, V K Birdi, the meeting was attended by DIG Kashmir, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, and senior officials from various departments viz. Floriculture, Colleges, School Education, SM, KPDC, R&B, PHE, Health, JKAACL, Y&S, Information, Hospitality, Transport, MED, Traffic Police, and security agencies.

During the meeting, Div Com instructed officers to ensure seamless and foolproof preparations to showcase the vibrant celebration of Independence Day with



great enthusiasm.

He issued a slew of directives for detailed arrangements, including the showering of flower petals by the Airforce, illumination of government buildings, constitution

of parade and band contingents, issuance of security passes, appointment of nodal officers, organization of cultural programs, nomination of commentators, and making seating and security arrangements.

Furthermore, he emphasized the need for an uninterrupted electricity supply, installation of water dispensers, cleanliness and sanitation at the main venue besides ensuring proper traffic management, deployment of medical staff, and other necessary arrangements.

Moreover, Div Com highlighted the importance of educating participants regarding following protocol during hoisting of national flag and singing of national anthem. He stressed the significance of informing participants about the sequence of programs and directed the creation of a uniform schedule for the national event throughout the division.

Meanwhile, he also reviewed the arrangements for the organization of Tiranga Rally on August 12 and impressed on overwhelming participation besides comprehensive measures regarding security and refreshment for participants.

DC Shopian conducts comprehensive inspection in Zainapora sub-division

FE NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Shishir Gupta, conducted a thorough and comprehensive inspection of Zainapora subdivision, reviewing land record maintenance and overseeing various development projects.



DC began the tour by visiting the Tehsil office, Zainapora, where he scrutinized land records, including Roz Namcha, Girdawari, Jamabandi, Mutation Register, and Partial, to assess their accuracy and upkeep. Emphasizing the importance of accurate and timely record-keeping, he directed officials to ensure regular updates and maintenance of these critical documents.

He then inspected ongoing macadamization works under the Public Works Department (PWD) Division Zainapora, assessing their progress and quality. He also reviewed the recently completed Water Supply scheme at Reban under the Jal Jeevan Mission, evaluating its functionality and impact.

Additionally, DC visited the Zainapora canal and nursery managed by the Horticulture department, inspecting their condition and management.

He stressed the need for quality assurance in development projects, advocating for social auditing to ensure compliance with norms and standards.

He also reviewed the water supply-demand network, emphasizing the importance of water budgeting to optimize resource utilization. Instructions were issued for the repairs and maintenance of the Zainapora canal through proper desilting, ensuring its efficient functioning.

ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; SDM, DIO, BDOs, AEE Jal Shakti, PWD officials, and other stakeholders were present on the occasion.

Usman Majid Slams Nizam Ud-Din Bhat for Recommending Relatives to Public Jobs Without Transparency

FE NEWS NETWORK

Says, Merit Hijacked, Youth Betrayed, MLA Bandipora Turns Public Jobs into Private Fiefdom

SRINAGAR: Former Minister and MLA Bandipora, Usman Majid on Wednesday has expressed serious concern over the surfaced recommendation letter by MLA Bandipora, Nizam Ud-Din Bhat, terming it a glaring example of favoritism, nepotism, and abuse of public office. The letter, which recommends the continuation and engagement of eight close relatives of the MLA in outsourced positions at a government medical facility, has triggered widespread outrage among unemployed youth and qualified paramedical graduates across the region.

In a statement, Majid condemned the brazen bypassing of transparent and merit-based recruitment norms. "It is unacceptable that government opportunities meant for the public good are being distributed like private entitlements. This is not just a procedural lapse, it is a deliberate betrayal of our educated youth," he said.

He emphasized that the letter in question, addressed to the Medical Superintendent of Bandipora, reflects a disturbing trend of institutionalized nepotism where public offices are misused to secure jobs for family members without any public advertisement, open applications, or competitive process. "Out of the eight names recommended, all are his own relatives. This is not influence, it is pure misuse of authority," he stated.

Is this even permissible under a democratic and constitutional system of public employment? Why were only his relatives chosen? Where was the public advertisement? Where were the open applications? Where was the competitive screening process? How can any deserving student across Bandipora expect a fair chance in such a deeply compromised, rigged system, where nepotism is not just tolerated but institutionalized?, he said.

This is precisely what Nizam Ud-Din Bhat has always stood for, adjusting his relatives, kith and kin at every

possible opportunity, with no shame and no regard for merit. In this particular instance, he has written directly to the Medical Superintendent of Bandipora, instructing him to adjust his own family members in outsourced posts. Out of the eight names he has recommended, all eight are his close relatives. Yes, all eight. This isn't just a case of influence, This is a blatant, brazen abuse of power. It is corruption in daylight, unapologetic, unchecked, and completely unaccountable. And tragically, it isn't new. This is what Nizam Ud-Din Bhat has always stood for; nepotism, favoritism, and placing his relatives above the rights of hardworking and qualified youth, he added.

Highlighting the broader implications, Majid warned that such unchecked practices not only rob deserving candidates of their future but also corrode public faith in democratic systems. "If public jobs are to be decided in drawing rooms rather than examination halls, then what hope do our hardworking, meritorious youth have?" he asked.

He asserted that, if this blatant mockery of justice is not questioned, condemned, and corrected, then the future of the youth of Bandipora will no longer be decided in examination halls, but in the drawing room of the MLA, with pens in their hands and no ethics in their hearts. This is exactly what MLA Bandipora is doing. He is playing with the future of our youth. And he must be held accountable.

Majid appealed to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, to intervene and take immediate, decisive action. "I urge the LG administration to initiate a thorough inquiry into all such illegal backdoor appointments, particularly those made under the previous PDP regime and in the current dispensation through MLA interference. All appointments lacking transparency and competitive selection must be annulled without delay," he asserted.

Majid further said that such actions insult the dignity and aspirations of thousands of educated youth struggling with unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir. "They have nothing but merit and hope to depend on. Allowing such illegal practices to go unchecked will only deepen despair, resentment, and alienation among the youth."



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Parliament

Prime Minister may choose to speak on the matter and present the government's stance on various related developments—(KNO)

India shames

gruesome terrorist attack in Pahalgam... and based on the Council Statement of 25 April... India launched Operation Sindoor targeting terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), which was focused, measured, and non-escalatory in nature. On achieving its primary objectives, a cessation of military activities was directly concluded at the request of Pakistan.”

He stressed that “national ownership and consent of parties are central to any efforts to achieve peaceful resolution of conflicts,” adding, “There should also be a serious cost to states who violate the spirit of good neighbourliness and international relations by fomenting cross-border terrorism.”

Addressing recent remarks by Pakistan’s representative, Harish said, “The Indian Sub Continent offers a stark contrast in terms of progress, prosperity and development models. On the one hand, there is India which is a mature democracy, a surging economy and a pluralistic and inclusive society. At the other extreme is Pakistan, steeped in fanaticism and terrorism, and a serial borrower from the IMF.”

He added, “It ill behoves a member of the Council to offer homilies while indulging in practices that are unacceptable to the international community.”

The Ambassador also emphasized India’s role as the largest cumulative contributor to UN Peacekeeping forces and a pioneer in promoting women in peacekeeping.

“We are at a time, where there are growing doubts about the multilateral system, especially the United Nations,” he said, stressing the urgent need to address “serious question marks over the representativeness of the UN Security Council.”

Harish reaffirmed, “India remains committed to working towards international peace and security through multilateralism and peaceful settlement of disputes.” (ANI)

India extends

Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack.

“The Notice to Airmen (NOT AM) restricting Pakistani aircraft from entering Indian airspace has been officially extended till 23rd August 2025,” Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol said.

This extension reflects continued strategic considerations and is in line with prevailing security protocols, the minister said in a post on X late on Tuesday.

Initially, the ban was to end on May 24 and the same was extended first till June 24 and then till July 24.

The fresh NOTAM is applicable till 2359 hours (UTC) on August 23, which means till 0530 hours (IST) on August 24.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has also extended by one month the closure of its airspace for Indian aircraft till August 24.

On April 24, Pakistan banned its airspace for India until May 24, after the Indian government suspended the Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan. The airspace curb was extended till June 24, then till July 24 and again by another month. (PTI)

JK pins

in J&K can be avoided and also take measures for resource adequacy minimizing dependence on day ahead market and real-time market purchases.

“J&K representative stated that load restriction and curtailment are being resorted to by DISCOMS and at SLDC level to limit the over drawl from grid,” it reads.

Previously, it was reported that Jammu and Kashmir reels under persistent low voltage issues.

In this regard, the report reveals that “Low voltage related issues of J&K and Ladakh (UT) have been regularly shared by NRLDC with CEA and CTUIL in Grid-India’s quarterly operational feedback report as well.”

“The issue has been continuously raised in NRPC as well as OCC meetings, still the issues of low voltage persist in J&K especially Kashmir valley,” it reads.

Besides, the report further states that power is being imported by J&K from 400KV Moga-Kishenpur D/C lines and 400KV Jalandhar-Samba D/C lines.

The Ministry of Power for Government of India (GoI) in the report further said that it has been discussed and suggested on numerous occasions earlier to J&K to plan and expedite commissioning of reactive power devices especially capacitors at lower voltage level to improve the voltage profile in valley area and also avoid large sums payable as reactive energy charges. (KNO)

CM Omar

level. He emphasized the importance of structured and regular oversight.

“The monthly review at the level of Administrative Secretaries is to be done. Departments must ensure the Act is implemented robustly. Delays without justified cause must invite penalties, as prescribed under the law,” the Chief Minister said.

While acknowledging challenges related to budgetary constraints and portal issues, the Chief Minister made it clear that these would be reviewed separately and decisions taken accordingly.

“Where applications are to be rejected, they must be rejected with clear reasons so that citizens retain their right to appeal,” he said.

The Chief Minister particularly flagged the misuse of discretionary powers by officials, stressing that the PSGA framework is designed to eliminate arbitrary decision-making. He instructed departments to strictly adhere to defined timelines and ensure the levy of penalties in all cases where services are delayed beyond the permissible limit.

“The spirit of this Act lies in delivering services on time, without exceptions. Where timelines are violated, penalties must be imposed without leniency. Don’t be soft,” he added.

To strengthen the oversight mechanism further, the Chief Minister announced that a comprehensive review of PSGA implementation will be conducted at his level every three months, based on departmental reports shared with the Chief Secretary’s Office.

Earlier during the meeting, detailed department-wise presentations were made by the respective Administrative Secretaries on the current status and operational framework of the PSGA, which was enacted with the objective of ensuring timely, transparent, and accountable delivery of public services across departments.

The Act, notified on April 13, 2011, and followed by the notification of Rules on July 21, 2011, through SRO 223 followed by addition of several other government services through notifications remains a cornerstone of citizen-centric governance in Jammu and Kashmir.

The presentations gave details of the core provisions of the Act, which mandate the delivery of essential public services within prescribed timelines while clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of designated officers. The Act also establishes a structured appellate mechanism with fixed timelines for first and second appeals and empowers authorities to initiate disciplinary action in cases of repeat-

ed non-compliance.

It was highlighted that a total of 493 services have been notified under the PSGA, with major contributions from departments such as Power Development (98 services), Revenue (58), Finance (58), Transport, Housing & Urban Development (47 each), and Industries & Commerce (40), along with Health, Education, Forest, Agriculture and others. (DIPR)

Amarnath Yatra

disruptions. All necessary facilities including shelter, food, medical assistance, and route security are fully operational,” an official said.

The 21st batch of 2,837 pilgrims, including 2,286 men and eight children, left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in 128 vehicles for the twin base camps in Kashmir, the officials said.

With this, a total of 1,30,378 pilgrims have departed from the Jammu base camp for the valley since July 2, when Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first batch

This year’s Amarnath Yatra, scheduled to conclude on August 9. It’s being conducted amid unprecedented security measures, including drone surveillance, RFID tracking for pilgrims and a multi-layered deployment of forces—(KNO)

Weatherman

few low lying areas.

The farmers have been advised to resume farm operations during 25-27 July. (KNO)

Northern Army

with the safety and security of the ongoing Amarnath Yatra in Jammu and Kashmir.

Lieutenant General Mishra emphasised maintaining a proactive posture supported by cutting-edge technology, and complimented all ranks for their commitment to sustained counter-terrorism efforts and regional security.

CM Omar

The 5 MW Solar Power Project at Pampore, being implemented through SECI, was also reviewed. The Chief Minister instructed for a cost-benefit analysis in light of existing solar tariffs and to put the idle land available at Pampore to productive use for the solar project.

The meeting also deliberated on the Draft Hydro Power Policy 2025, which aims to replace the 2011 policy and open new avenues for private investment through Independent Power Producer (IPP) and Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models. The policy includes transparent allotment mechanisms, financial incentives, streamlined clearances, and guaranteed power-off-take—all designed to making investments in renewable energy more inviting. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reiterated his government’s commitment to sustainable development, clean energy, and inclusive growth. (DIPR)

DHSJ inspects patient care services at Community Health Centre Khour

JAMMU: Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar visited the Community Health Centre Khour today to assess healthcare facilities being provided to the patients at the facility.

The Director was welcomed by BMO Pallanwalla Dr. Suresh Sarmal on his arrival.

The DHSJ took a detailed round of all sections of the hospital including Emergency Room, wards, OPD sections, labour Room, Operation Theatre, Lab section, Dental section, store, Immunization section and interacted with Doctors and paramedical staff. He discussed in detail the routine functioning of the hospital with BMO Pallanwalla and directed all staff to work with zeal and dedication. (DIPR)

SBI Card and PhonePe Launch Co-Branded PhonePe SBI Card

SRINAGR: SBI Card, India’s largest pure-play credit card issuer, in partnership with PhonePe announced the launch of PhonePe SBI Card,

actions at millions of UPI merchants across the country. The VISA variant can be tokenised on PhonePe and used securely across a host of online merchants.



With the new PhonePe SBI Card, customers can earn reward points on various everyday transactions, including groceries, bill payments, travel bookings, utility payments, insurance premium payments, and more, across online and offline shopping platforms. PhonePe SBI Card

today.

This new co-branded credit card aims to provide a rewarding experience on everyday spends, crafted to serve the evolving financial needs of customers across India.

The credit card comes in two variants, the PhonePe SBI Card PURPLE and the PhonePe SBI Card SELECT BLACK, catering to diverse customer preferences, and lifestyle spending needs. Additionally, both the variants of this contactless credit card are available on the RuPay and VISA payment networks, giving consumers the choice of network that best suits their needs.

The RuPay cards can be linked to UPI as well and can be used for trans-

SELECT BLACK cardholders can earn up to 10% value back as reward points on essential and frequent PhonePe in-app transactions. Customers can also avail up to 5% value back as reward points on all their online spends on other platforms.

Furthermore, the application process is integrated into the PhonePe app, where customers can easily apply for the PhonePe SBI Card through digital application. Customers can make purchases using the PhonePe app and repay their credit card bill on PhonePe platform.

Speaking on the launch, Salila Pande, MD & CEO, SBI Card, said, “Digital payments in India are experiencing rapid growth, driven by

increasing convenience and accessibility of digital platforms. Our strategic partnership with PhonePe is a significant step towards further popularising credit card usage, by combining SBI Card’s deep domain expertise and PhonePe’s extensive digital network. This credit card is thoughtfully designed to offer a unique blend of exceptional benefits and unmatched convenience with every transaction. The launch of PhonePe SBI Card reflects our continued commitment to delivering best-in-class products, tailored for evolving consumer needs.”

Adding to this, Sameer Nigam, Co-founder & CEO at PhonePe said, “We have always been committed to simplifying financial services and making them accessible to all Indians. Through our partnership with SBI Card, we are further expanding our offerings beyond digital payments into the realm of formal credit. We have invested significant effort in creating a smooth user experience by embedding the card functionality directly into the PhonePe app, ensuring it’s easy to apply for, manage, and utilize while delivering value. This initiative goes beyond mere convenience - we are constructing the infrastructure for a more inclusive credit landscape in India. We believe this card will help fulfill the financial aspirations of many users, and we are thrilled about the possibilities this partnership creates.” (PR)

HQ-POLICE TELECOM ACS KASHMIR.

NO. ACSK/ESTT-105/2022/6526 DATED 22-07-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Shafiq Aijaz S/O Abdul Majeed Khan working as HC (Telecom) in Police Telecommunication under Regimental No. 2297/ PW TEL-993775 has represented for correction in his name/parentage recorded as Shafiq Aijaz Khan S/o Ab. Majid khan instead of Shafiq Aijaz S/O Abdul Majeed Khan in the service records.

Before proceeding further into the subject matter, objections if any, in this regard are invited from General Public through this notice which should reach to the office of the undersigned within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this Notice.

Sd/-
Superintendent Of Police,
Telecommunication, ACS Kashmir

DIPK-4140/25 Dt: 23-07-2025

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

Machinery Division Kashmir, Mechanical & Hospital Engineering Department, Kashmir

Corrigendum 02
For Date Extension

Name of work:- Restoring Functionality through Repairs / Maintenance of Bore well Schemes No. 72 (under PR-1) (Cluster-1) of Department of Agriculture in district Pulwama, under Implementation of National Mission on Saffron.
Reference: This office e-NIT No: - MDSK/TS /2025-26/14' Date:02-07-2025. (Tender Id: - 2025_PWDJK_280311_1)

Due to no response, the critical dates of the above referred e-NIT are extended as under: -

S.No.	Description	Previous Dates	New Dates.
01.	Last date of downloading/ submission of bids	21-07-2025 upto 06:55 PM	29-07-2025 upto 06:55 PM
02.	Date of opening of bids online	22-07-2025 at 02:00 PM	30-07-2025 at 02:00 PM

All other terms, conditions and specifications as stipulated in the e-NIT shall remain unchanged.

No: MDSK/TS/1457-60
Date: 22 -07-2025.

Sd/
Executive Engineer
Machinery Division, Kashmir.

DIPK-4117/25 Dt: 23-07-2025

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

Machinery Division Kashmir, Mechanical & Hospital Engineering Department, Kashmir

Corrigendum 05
For Date Extension

Name of work:- Stage contract for execution of Mechanical & Electrical repairs to various road construction Machinery of Machinery Division Kashmir.

Reference: This office e-NIT No: - MDSK/TS /2025-26/06 Date:04-06-2025. (Tender Id: - 2025_PWDJK_278249_2)

Due to poor response, the critical dates of the above referred e-NIT are extended again as under: -

S.No.	Description	Previous Dates	New Dates.
01.	Last date of downloading/ submission of bids	21-07-2025 upto 09:30 AM	28-07-2025 upto 06:55 PM
02.	Date of opening of bids online	22-07-2025 at 02:00 PM	29-07-2025 at 02:00 PM

All other terms, conditions and specifications as stipulated in the e-NIT shall remain unchanged.

No: MDSK/TS/1461-64
Date: 22-07-2025.

Sd/
Executive Engineer
Machinery Division, Kashmir.

DIPK-4118/25 Dt: 23-07-2025

Khyber Cement Champions Youth & Talent in Kashmir as New JK United FC Clinches Epic 4–3 Victory in Super League Showdown

SRINAGAR: Continuing its mission to uplift youth and foster sports culture in the Valley, Khyber Cement, the market leader in

energizing his side. Fast-paced play, technical finesse, and relentless determination from both teams made this match one of the most



cement manufacturing in Kashmir, took centre stage once again during the 14th match of the Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League. The high-octane encounter between New JK United FC and Greenend Heroes FC kept fans on the edge of their seats, ending in a nail-biting 4-3 win for New JK United FC.

The match kicked off with Greenend Heroes FC gaining an early advantage through a goal by Aqib Mushtaq, setting the pace for an intense contest. However, New JK United FC's Afreen Parray turned the tide with two quick, electrifying goals, shifting the momentum and

gripping showdowns of the season.

The side-line strategy led by Hilal Rasool Parray, Head Coach of New JK United FC, played a pivotal role in the team's comeback. His composure and tactical insight once again proved why he is regarded as one of the most respected football minds in the region.

Award Winners of the Match:
• Khyber Cement Game Changer Award – Furqan Nabi
• Khyber Cement Player of the Match – Afreen Parray
• Athwas Golden Moment Award –

Amir Hussain
• Events Emporio X Factor Excellence Award – Prem Kumar

The evening concluded with a grand felicitation ceremony, attended by distinguished dignitaries including Mr. Waheed Ur Rehman Parra (MLA Pulwama), Mr. Arjun Singh Raju (MLA Ramban), and Er. Khurshid Ahmad (MLA Gulabgarh). The guests congratulated the teams and praised the growing football talent emerging from Kashmir through such platforms.

With every passing match, Khyber Cement reaffirms the company's core philosophy of ‘Dil Se Banao’ – a belief that goes beyond cementing buildings to cementing lives, aspirations, and opportunities. By creating avenues for young athletes to shine, Khyber Cement is actively investing in the future of the region, nurturing local potential, and strengthening community pride. As the undisputed market leader in the cement industry in Kashmir, Khyber Cement continues to blend performance with purpose—cementing not just structures, but also dreams and hope's.

This league stands as a vibrant example of that vision—uniting hearts, building futures. (DIPR)

US automakers say Trump's 15% tariff deal with Japan puts them at disadvantage

WASHINGTON: US automakers are concerned about President Donald Trump's agreement to tariff Japanese vehicles at 15%, saying they will face steeper import taxes on steel, aluminum and parts than their competitors.

"We need to review all the details of the agreement, but this is a deal that will charge lower tariffs on Japanese autos with no US content," said Matt Blunt, president of the American Automotive Policy Council, which represents the Big 3 American automakers, General Motors, Ford and Jeep-maker Stellantis.

Blunt said in an interview the US companies and workers "definitely are at a disadvantage" because they face a 50% tariff on steel and aluminum and a 25% tariff on parts and finished vehicles, with some exceptions for products covered under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement that went into effect in 2020.

The domestic automaker reaction reveals the challenge of enforcing policies across the world economy, showing that for all of Trump's promises there can be genuine tradeoffs from policy choices that risk serious blowback in politically important states such as Michigan and Wisconsin, where automaking is both a source of income and of identity.

Trump portrayed the trade framework as a major win after announcing it on Tuesday,

saying it would add hundreds of thousands of jobs to the US economy and open the Japanese economy in ways that could close a persistent trade imbalance.



The agreement includes a 15% tariff that replaces the 25% import tax the Republican president had threatened to charge starting on Aug 1. Japan would also put together \$550 billion to invest in US projects, the White House said.

The framework with Japan will remove regulations that prevent American vehicles from being sold in that country, the White House has said, adding that it would be possible for vehicles built in Detroit to be shipped directly

to Japan and ready to be sold.

But Blunt said that foreign auto producers, including the US, Europe and South Korea, have just a 6% share in Japan, raising scepticism that

simply having the open market that the Trump administration says will exist in that country will be sufficient.

"Tough nut to crack, and I'd be very surprised if we see any meaningful market penetration in Japan," Blunt said.

Major Japanese automakers Toyota, Honda and Nissan did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the trade framework, nor did Autos Drive America or the Alliance for Automotive Innovation, organisations that also represent the industry.

There is the possibility that the Japanese framework would give automakers and other countries grounds for pushing for changes in the Trump administration's tariffs regime.

The president has previously said that flexibility in import tax negotiations is something he values. The USMCA is up for review next year.

Ford, GM and Stellantis do "have every right to be upset," said Sam Fiorani, vice president at consultancy AutoForecast Solutions.

But "Honda, Toyota, and Nissan still import vehicles from Mexico and Canada, where the current levels of tariffs can be higher than those applied to Japanese imports. Most of the high-volume models from Japanese brands are

Trump portrayed the trade framework as a major win after announcing it on Tuesday, saying it would add hundreds of thousands of jobs to the US economy and open the Japanese economy in ways that could close a persistent trade imbalance.

already produced in North America."

Fiorani noted that among the few exceptions are the Toyota 4Runner, the Mazda CX-5 and the Subaru Forester, but most of the other imports fill niches that are too small to warrant production in the US. (PTI)

Ministry approves 14,599 Anganwadi Cum Crèches under Palna Scheme

NEWDELHI: The Ministry of women and Child Development has introduced Palna Scheme under the Samarthya Vertical of Umbrella Mission Shakti for all States and UTs w.e.f. 01 April

organized and unorganized sectors.

To address these difficulties faced by the working mothers in giving due child care and protection to their children, day-care crèche

facilities are being provided through Palna Scheme. Crèche services formalise the child care responsibilities hitherto considered as part of domestic work. Formalization of care work supports the "decent work campaign" to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 8 - Decent work and economic growth. This will also enable more mothers, who will be free from unpaid child-care responsibilities, to take up gainful employment.

Anganwadi centres are the world's largest childcare institutions dedicated to providing essential care and support to children ensuring delivery of care facilities till the last mile. In a first of its kind approach, Ministry has extended the services of childcare through Anganwadi cum Crèche (AWCC). This will ensure whole day childcare support ensuring their well-being in a safe and secure environment. Anganwadi cum Crèche initiative aims to increase 'women work force participation' in the economy. The objective of Palna Scheme is to provide quality crèche facility in safe and secure environment for children (from ages 6 months - 6 years), nutritional support, health and cognitive development of children, growth monitoring & immunization. Crèche facilities under Palna are provided to all mothers, irrespective of their employment status.

Under Palna annual target is fixed in the Programme Approval Board (PAB) meetings, held with the State Governments and UT Administrations where it is emphasised that they may send proposal for opening more Anganwadi-cum-Creches and operationalize them.

During the 15th Finance Cycle i.e. up to FY 2025-26 a total of 17,000 Anganwadi-cum-Creches (AWCCs) have been envisioned for establishment under the Palna Scheme. Proposals for establishment and operation of AWCCs are received from the respective State Governments/UT Administrations who also contribute their corresponding share for the implementation of the Scheme. Till date, a total of 14,599 AWCCs have been approved by the Ministry as per proposals received from various States/UTs. (PIB)

Anganwadi centres are the world's largest childcare institutions dedicated to providing essential care and support to children ensuring delivery of care facilities till the last mile. In a first of its kind approach, Ministry has extended the services of childcare through Anganwadi cum Crèche (AWCC)...



2022, to provide day care facilities and protection to children.

Government's sustained initiatives on education, skillling and employment of women have resulted in increased opportunities for their employment, and more and more women are now in gainful employment, working within or outside their homes. Growing industrialization and urbanisation have also led to increased migration into the cities. Past few decades have shown a rapid increase in nuclear families. Thus, the children of such working women, who were earlier getting support from joint families while they were at work, are now in need of day care services which have to provide quality care and protection for the children. Lack of proper day-care services is, often, a deterrent for women to go out and work. Hence, there is an urgent need for improved quality and reach of day care services/ crèches for working women amongst all socioeconomic groups both in the

President Murmu Urges Young Officers to Embrace Technology and Sustainability

NEW DELHI: President of India, Droupadi Murmu interacted with probationers of the Indian Defence Estates Service (IDES), Military Engineer Services (MES), and Central Water Engineering Service (CWES) at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Addressing the young officers, the President stressed the importance of adopting technological innovations and sustainable practices in public service. Speaking to the IDES probationers, she underlined the need to integrate digital solutions in administrative processes.

"Artificial Intelligence, drone-based land surveys, satellite imagery, and blockchain for property records are no longer futuristic—they are now integral to governance," she said. She also encouraged the use of green practices, including renewable energy solutions, reduction of wastage, and water conservation in cantonment areas.

An official spokesperson told Press Information Bureau that the probationers of the Indian Defence Estates Service, Military Engineer Services and Central Water Engineering Service called on the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Wednesday.

Addressing the Indian Defence Estates Service officers, the President said that in this era of rapid technological transformation, the integration of

digital solutions is a necessity. It is their duty to stay abreast of the technological advancements and apply them in their functioning.

An official spokesperson told Press Information Bureau that the probationers of the Indian Defence Estates Service, Military Engineer Services and Central Water Engineering Service called on the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Wednesday.

She stated that Artificial Intelligence, drone-based land surveys, satellite imagery, and blockchain for property record maintenance are no longer futuristic concepts, they are becoming

part of governance. She advised them to embrace green practices in infrastructure development, adopt renewable energy solutions, reduce wastage, and ensure water conservation in cantonments.



Addressing the Military Engineer Services officers, the President said that as emerging leaders in the field of military construction, young MES officers have a crucial responsibility not only to build but to build with responsibility. She stated that they should focus on the adop-

tion of renewable energy sources to promote sustainable development and reduce carbon footprint of defense infrastructure. She was happy to note that aligned with the national vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', MES is actively promoting the use of indigenous materials and technologies under the 'Make in India' initiative.

Addressing the Central Water Engineering Service officers, the President said that sustainable development of water resources and efficient management of water is key to water security and growth, especially in the wake of changing climatic trends. By providing clean water and promoting water conservation, India can improve public health, boost agricultural productivity, and ensure sustainable use of natural resources.

She underlined that the contribution of Central Water Engineering Service officers towards water infrastructure development, by providing engineering solutions, will make the country more resilient against natural and man-made water crises. (PIB)

Centre takes multiple initiatives to improve Health, Hygiene and Well-being of Women

NEWDELHI: The Government of India has taken several initiatives for improving the health, hygiene and well-being of women and for enhancing their status in the country. Schemes like Ujjwala Yojana, Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan have helped reduce drudgery and time poverty of women and improved health outcomes. Under the Swachh



Bharat Abhiyan, over 11.8 crore individual household latrines (IHHLs) have been constructed in the country. Similarly, the Jal Jeevan Mission has successfully provided tap water connections to around 15.6 crores households.

To ensure easy access to sanitary napkins and good quality medicines at affordable price, Department of Pharmaceuticals under Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers implements the Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janausadhi Pariyojna (PMBJP), an important step in ensuring the health security for women. Under the project, over 16000 Janausadhi Kendras have been set up across the country, which besides affordable medicines, provide Oxo-biodegradable sanitary napkins named Suvidha at Rs. 1/- per pad only.

The Government also implements the 'Scheme for Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene' among adolescent girls in the age group of 10-19 years. The Scheme is supported by National Health Mission through State Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) route based on the proposals received from the States/ UTs. One of the major objectives of the scheme is to increase awareness among adolescent girls on Menstrual Hygiene. Under the scheme, sanitary napkin packs are provided to adolescent girls by the Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) at subsidized rates. Government also provides budget to the States/ UTs for Orientation of field level health workers and IEC activities for menstrual hygiene. In addition, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' has developed National Guidelines on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) for creating awareness on it in rural areas as part of its overall interventions related to behaviour change on sanitation and hygiene aspects.

To further support working women and girls students, the Ministry of Women and Child Development implements the Sakhi Niwas Scheme (Working Women Hostel) under the overarching Mission Shakti. It is a demand driven Centrally Sponsored Scheme, under which funds are released to the States and UTs for implementation of the scheme. The scheme aims to promote availability of safe and conveniently located accommodation for working women and other women pursuing higher education or training in urban, semi-urban and also in rural areas where employment opportunity for women exists. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided for running of Sakhi Niwas in rented premises for working women and for those women who are under training for job. Provision of Day Care Centre for children of the residents of the Sakhi Niwas is an important aspect of the scheme.

In addition, Ministry of Finance (MoF), Department of Expenditure (DoE) has allocated Rs. 5,000/- crores to 28 States for construction of new Working Women Hostels under Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) Scheme. DoE has approved construction of 254 working women hostels with a total capacity of 52991 beds in 28 States at a total approved cost of Rs. 4,826.31 crore. Out of this, 1st instalment of Rs. 3,147.66 crore has already been released to the States during 2024-25. These initiatives align with the larger goal of ensuring safety, dignity, and opportunity for women across India and are major steps towards realising the idea of 'Women led Development'. (PIB)

India Launches Final Indigenous Pollution Control Vessel for Coast Guard

Goa: Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) on Tuesday launched 'Samudra Prachet', the second and final indigenously built Pollution Control Vessel (PCV) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), marking a significant milestone in India's quest for self-reliance in defence manufacturing.

An official Defence Spokesperson in New Delhi told Press Information Bureau (PIB) that the vessel was launched at a ceremony held in Goa, with 72% indigenous content, underscoring the government's focus on Aatmanirbharta and boosting employment and skills through MSME participation.

'Samudra Prachet', the last of the two indigenous Pollution Control Vessels (PCVs) constructed by Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) was launched for Indian Coast Guard (ICG) in Goa on July 23, 2025. With 72% indigenous content, the project has significantly contributed to national capability-building, employment generation, and skills enhancement, through active engagement of the local industry and MSMEs.

Spokesperson said these ships have been fitted with state-of-art Response Equipment and these vessels will help ICG in quick and effective response to any oil spill in the Exclusive Economic Zone. With a length of 114.5 metres, a breadth of 16.5 metres, and a displacement of 4,170 tonnes, the ship will be manned by 14 officers and 115 sailors. It is equipped with two side-sweeping arms capable of collecting oil spills while underway, as well as a modern radar system for detecting oil slicks.

The vessel is engineered to recover oil across the full viscosity spectrum, pump in contaminated water, analyse and separate pollutants, and store recovered oil in dedicated onboard tanks. The vessel was launched by Guest of Honour Smt Priya Paramesh, in presence of the Chief Guest Director General ICG (DGICG) Paramesh Sivamani. In his address, DGICG highlighted the importance of PCVs for ICG in maritime domain. He appreciated the efforts put in by GSL and industry in ensuring that major ship building requirements of ICG are fulfilled indigenously. Further, he exhorted all present to ensure that the march towards Aatmanirbharta in Defence Production is pursued in the right earnest. (PIB)

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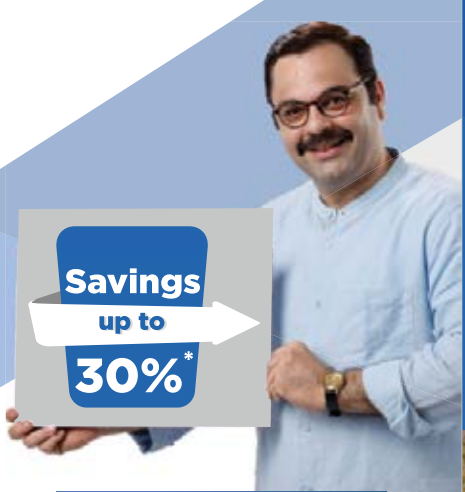
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3000	60 X 40 X 2.6	8.3%	9%
3000	80 X 40 X 2.0	1.6%	0%
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