

Kargil Vijay Diwas commemorated with patriotic fervour in Thathri

50-Foot National Flag inaugurated as a tribute to bravehearts

DODA: The town of Thathri in district Doda resonated with patriotic pride as Kargil Vijay Diwas was observed with solemnity and zeal to honour the brave soldiers who laid down their lives during the 1999 Kargil War.



A major highlight of the occasion was the inauguration of a 50-feet high national flag at Thathri, serving as a towering symbol of nationalism and respect for the heroes of the Kargil War.

Speaking on the occasion, District Development Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh paid rich tributes to the martyrs and lauded their supreme sacrifice, describing them as eternal symbols of courage and patriotism for the entire nation.

The commemorative event witnessed the presence of senior civil, army and police officers, ex-servicemen, students and residents of the area. Floral tributes were offered at the war memorial, followed by the national anthem and stirring patriotic songs that echoed through the venue.

Speakers emphasized the significance of remembering the sacrifices made by our soldiers and called upon the youth to uphold the ideals of unity, bravery and nation-building.

The commemorative event at Thathri witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers of the Indian Army, the DDC Member Thathri, officials from various government departments, ex-servicemen, students and a large number of local residents.

Their presence added solemnity and grandeur to the occasion, as floral tributes were offered at the war memorial. The event was further enriched by the rendition of the national anthem and powerful patriotic songs, which echoed throughout the venue, instilling a deep sense of pride and unity among all attendees. The collective participation of civilians and officials alike highlighted the district's unwavering respect for the sacrifices of the armed forces and reinforced the importance of national integration and patriotic values.

Doda Schools celebrate Kargil Vijay Diwas with patriotic zeal; DC flags off mega Tiranga Rally



DODA: Kargil Vijay Diwas was celebrated across Doda district with immense patriotic fervor, as schools came together to pay rich tributes to the heroes of the Kargil War.

Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh flagged off a grand Tiranga Rally organized by the Chief Education Office here from Government Higher Secondary School (Boys). The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of around 400 students along with teachers and staff, proudly marching through the town with the national flag held high, evoking a strong sense of national pride among the public.

The rally was attended by Chief Education Officer Mohammad Hafiz, and Executive Officer Municipal Council Yasir Wani, who commended the students and organizers for their discipline and spirited participation. The initiative aimed at fostering patriotism and instilling in students the values of unity, sacrifice and national responsibility.

Besides the central rally, educational institutions throughout the district marked the occasion with a series of events including flag hoisting ceremonies, debates on patriotism and national security, patriotic song competitions, sports activities and painting contests. Several schools also felicitated local ex-servicemen, recognizing their invaluable service to the nation.

These district-wide celebrations served not only to honor the courage of the Kargil martyrs but also to inspire the younger generation with their stories of valor. The Education Department's efforts reflect a commitment to nurturing well-rounded citizens who value the sacrifices of India's armed forces and carry forward the spirit of national pride.

... Shri Machail Mata Yatra 2025

Nearly 5,000 Pilgrims pay obeisance at Holy Shrine

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KISHTWAR: The revered Shree Machail Mata Yatra 2025, which officially commenced on July 25, 2025, touched nearly 5 thousand mark with 4,944 pilgrims (3861 males, 776 females and 307 children) performing Darshan at the Holy Shree Chandi Mata Mandir at Village Machail in Paddar Valley.

This annual Yatra is one of the most significant pilgrimages in the Jammu Division as its popularity has soared in past years, with about 3 lakh pilgrims visiting last year alone.

Pilgrims along with the holy mace (Chhari) procession will proceed from Jammu on August 17 towards Darbar following traditional path and transits. The Yatra shall conclude on 5 September.

The weather at Machail Bhawan remains clear, ensuring a smooth experience for the devotees.

The Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar in collaboration with the district administration Kishtwar, spearheaded by Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma and local administration, is diligently working to ensure comprehensive arrangements for the Yatris this year.

Langars by devotees near Bhawan Machail and en-route are offering meals to the pilgrims. Additionally, lodging facilities have been made available at the Yatiri Bhawan Gulabgarh, Sapphire Guest House, luxury mushroom tents, along with various tent accommodations and Yatri Sarai near Chandi Mata Bhawan,

Machail for the comfort of the devotees.

With the footfall expected to exceed 5 lakh this year, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma has appealed Yatris to follow guidelines/SoPs and Yatra timings religiously.

The Departure Timing from Kishtwar



to Gulabgarh is 05:00 AM to 05:00 PM, Gulabgarh to Machail- 04:30 AM to 04:30 PM and Arrival Timing Machail to Gulabgarh- 04:30 AM to 04:30 PM, Gulabgarh to Kishtwar- 05:00 AM to 05:00 PM.

To ensure a safe and pleasant journey for the pilgrims, the administration has upgraded the road connectivity and made adequate arrangements of water supply, sanitation, security and online registra-

tion through the website.

The addition of a road up to Chashoti on the Gulabgarh to Machail axis has significantly reduced the trekking distance, now taking approximately 3-4 hours. Furthermore, the road from Chishoti to Hamori is clear, with the only pending work being the construction of a bridge at Chishoti, which is progressing rapidly and is expected to be completed soon.

New bridges and repairs to existing infrastructure aim to provide a safe and hassle-free experience for Yatris amid challenging geography.

The pilgrims can visit the official Machail Yatra website at www.shrimachailmatayatra.com for online registration and get updated information regarding the Yatra, including, routes and other facilities.

This resource is designed to help pilgrims stay informed and address any queries they may have. Yatris are advised to carry their Aadhar cards and review the guidelines on the website.

The administration remains committed to ensuring a seamless and spiritually fulfilling experience for all devotees participating in the Shree Machail Yatra this year.

BJP leader Lateef Bhat Meets Union Law Minister Meghwal

Raises Key Development Issues of Pulwama

SRINAGAR: BJP leader Mohammad Lateef Bhat met Union Minister of Law and Justice, Arjun Ram Meghwal, at the official residence of BJP Vice President Dr. Shahnaz Ganie in Cheshmashahi, Srinagar. The high-level meeting focused on crucial developmental concerns related to Pulwama district in South Kashmir.

During the meeting, Bhat extended his warm congratulations to Dr. Shahnaz Ganie on her appointment as BJP Vice President of UT, expressing confidence that leadership would serve as a catalyst for meaningful political engagement and progress in the region.

Bhat took the opportunity to raise several pressing issues with Minister Meghwal, particularly emphasizing the infrastructural gaps facing the legal community in Pulwama. He strongly advocated for the establishment of a dedicated hostel facility within the Pulwama Court Complex to accommodate lawyers who travel from distant and remote areas of the district.

"Lawyers are the backbone of our justice system, and many of them face daily hardships commuting from far-flung villages.

A hostel within the court complex is not a luxury but a necessity to ensure efficient legal proceedings and support the legal fraternity," Bhat stated during the discussion.

He stressed that addressing this long-standing demand would not only ease the burden on the legal professionals but also strengthen the justice delivery mechanism in Pulwama.

Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal listened attentively to the concerns raised and assured that the proposal would be taken seriously and reviewed at the appropriate level. He appreciated Bhat's commitment to grassroots issues and expressed the central government's willingness to support viable infrastructure initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir.



The meeting concluded on an optimistic note, with all leaders reaffirming their shared commitment to the development and empowerment of South Kashmir.

DLIC Approves 204 Cases Under Mission YUVA In Ramban

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RAMBAN: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Aliyas Khan today chaired

was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Ramban (Nodal Officer Mission YUVA), Varunjeet Singh Charak along with senior officials from various departments.



the second meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) under the ambitious Mission YUVA initiative. The meeting was convened to evaluate applications and extend financial support to youth for establishing viable business units, thereby boosting self-employment in the district. The agenda of the meeting centered on reviewing block-wise applications received under Mission YUVA, scrutinizing them for eligibility, and charting a clear roadmap to empower local youth with sustainable livelihood options. The meeting

During the session, the committee reviewed 204 applications verified by the Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) Ramban.

After a detailed evaluation of eligibility norms, project feasibility and the socio-economic background of the applicants, the Committee approved all 204 cases for financial assistance and mentorship support under the Mission.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the transformative role of Mission YUVA, saying, "This initiative is a ray of hope for our youth. By

providing them with access to credit facilities and handholding support, the Government aims to nurture entrepreneurship and reduce dependency on government jobs. The district administration is committed to reaching every eligible youth and the goal is to create a strong culture of self-reliance."

He further directed the District Nodal Officer, JKEDI, and the General Manager DIC to fast-track the preparation and verification of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) so that pending applications can be processed without delays.

Additional Deputy Commissioner also underscored the importance of Mission YUVA, stating, "The enthusiasm among the youth to avail benefits of this scheme is encouraging. We will intensify awareness campaigns at the grassroots level to ensure that more young individuals, especially those from remote areas, come forward with innovative business ideas and benefit from this initiative."

Among others present at the meeting were the General Manager DIC, Assistant Director Employment & Career Counselling Officer, DECC, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI, Lead Bank Manager, ARTO Ramban and DWSO Ramban.

One day awareness cum sensitization session on e-office held at Udhampur

UDHAMPUR: To promote digital governance and enhance efficiency in office operations, one-day awareness cum sensitization session



on e-Office was organized by the National Informatics District Centre here in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex Udhampur.

The session was chaired by District Informatics Officer Anish Sharma along with Sandeep Mathur Master Trainer from IT department. They provided an in-depth overview of the various features and functionalities related to the e-Office. The presentation focused on digitization of office records, file tracking mechanisms and streamlined workflow processes to ensure transparency, accountability and speed in public service delivery.

The awareness session witnessed active participation of officials of various line departments who were sensitized about the importance of adopting digital tools.

Live demonstrations were also conducted to acquaint the participants with hands-on practices related to file creation, movement and monitoring using the e-Office portal.

DIO NIC emphasized the need for timely adoption and implementation of the e-office system across all departments to reduce paperwork, enhance productivity and ensure citizen-centric governance.

The event concluded with an interactive session during which participants raised queries and shared feedback regarding on-ground implementation challenges.

DHSJ reviews implementation of Health Programmes in District Udhampur

UDHAMPUR: Director Health Services Jammu, Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar visited District Udhampur, where he convened a comprehensive review meeting to assess the implementation of flagship health programmes in the district.

The meeting was attended by SM Dr. D.J. Raina; DD Dentistry Dr. Sanjay Sharma; DD Planning Dr. Monika Upadhaya; STO Dr. Jyoti Jolly; Nodal Officer NPCB & VI Dr. Kamal Gupta; Nodal Officer NIDDCP Dr. Gurdeep, Nodal Officer JK Sehat Dr. Mridula, MO Epidemiology Dr. Premrata, besides Chief Medical Officer Udhampur Dr. Anil Manhas, MS District Hospital, Dy. CMO and all BMOs of the District. The meeting evaluated the performance and progress of the health schemes and services in the district.

The CMO Udhampur presented a detailed Power Point presentation highlighting key health indicators, achievements, and the overall work done across the district under various health programmes. The DHS took a detailed review of health schemes that included Implementation and utilization of JK Sehat app, Progress under the National TB Elimination Programme, Status of e Sanjeevani telemedicine services, Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) screening and management, implementation of RBSK, Ambulance Services and procedure of referrals, C-section service availability at delivery points, Functioning and maintenance of Oxygen Generation Plants, Implementation of the National Programme for Control of Blindness, e Sehaj, activities under NVB-DCP, the ASHA programme, Progress of other flagship National Health Programmes besides Monitoring and reporting under Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) through the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP).

The DHS also reviewed the critical care infrastructure under the PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission. He assessed the status and timelines of ongoing projects and instructed for expedited completion without compromising quality.



CS reviews implementation of PM Surya Ghar Yojana

Fixes a target of 1000-2000 RTS installations for each DISCOM

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SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chaired a high-level meeting to review the implementation status of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana across J&K.

The meeting saw detailed deliberations on the progress of rooftop solar installations being carried out under the flagship scheme aimed at promoting clean energy and easing electricity expenses for households.

The meeting besides Principal Secretary, PDD and Secretary, S&T Department was attended by Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, I&C; Deputy Commissioners; MD's of JPDCL/KPDCL; CEO, JAKEDA; Chief Engineers of JPDCL/KPDCL and representatives from NHPC and other implementation agencies.

While taking stock of the current implementation, the Chief Secretary expressed concern over the slow pace of installations and called for immediate acceleration of efforts on the ground. He underscored the need for setting monthly targets, directing JPDCL and KPDCL to ensure at least 2,000 and 1,000 installations per month respectively without fail.

Dulloo also instructed the power distribution companies to prioritize commissioning of the already installed systems to enable the beneficiaries to start availing the benefits at the earliest. He remarked that the delays in activating installed units defeat the very purpose of this scheme.

Emphasizing the importance of awareness among the public, the Chief Secretary urged the Power Development Department (PDD) to launch an aggressive Information, Education & Communication (IEC) campaign. He said that concerted efforts must be made to mobilize registered applicants, encouraging them of the long-term benefits of adopting this beneficiary oriented scheme.

Earlier, Principal Secretary, PDD, Rajesh Prasad, briefed the



meeting about the current status of this scheme and roadmap of its implementation here. He acknowledged the initial lag in implementation but assured that the department is witnessing steady progress now. He also laid out strategic interventions being adopted to cut down the waiting time and fast-track installations for registered households.

He further revealed that the Government of India has set a national target of 1.0 crore households with no state or UT-specific targets and divulged that J&K has proactively set an ambitious proportionate target of 83,500 residential consumers to benefit from the scheme by March 31, 2027. This includes 39,500 consumers for JPDCL and 44,000 for KPDCL.

He further added that the progress is being rigorously monitored on daily, fortnightly, and monthly intervals at the district, divisional, and UT levels.

Regarding the key achievements registered as on July 24, 2025 it was given out that a total of 8,046 RTS installations with a cumulative capacity of around 30.07 MW had been completed so far.

Moreover, about the benefits accruing to the consumers it was revealed that a Central subsidy of Rs 50.78 Cr and UT subsidy of Rs 2 Cr had been credited to the consumers in J&K. It was added that 64,080 consumer applications had been received on the portal from the consumers across the districts of the UT for whom 582 vendors are available to install the RTS here.

Regarding the loan disbursements from banks for PM Surya Ghar Scheme it was revealed that 3,293 cases in favour of JPDCL consumers had been disbursed amounting to Rs 5690.15 Lacs and for KPDCL consumers 2,441 cases, totaling Rs 4653.54 Lacs stands disbursed.

On the outreaching to public through IEC campaigns the

meeting was apprised that nearly 34.87 lakh consumers had been reached via bulk SMS and 525 IEC campaigns by JPDCL and 410 by KPDCL had been organized in their respective jurisdictions to create awareness among public. TV and radio commercials, social media outreach, and testimonial videos were circulated widely besides running the print & outdoor promotion for large scale awareness about the scheme.

The meeting was also informed that special help desks are established for grievance redressal, resolving 449 consumer and 429 vendor issues for JPDCL, and 406 consumer grievances for KPDCL.

Regarding the solarisation of Government buildings, the Secretary, S&T, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary revealed that a total of 22,494 government buildings have been identified for solarization out of which, 12,994 buildings are being covered under the CAPEX mode, while 9,500 buildings are being implemented through RESCO mode by NHPC and JAKEDA. While giving out the updated status of this scheme, the Secretary informed that as of July 21, 2025, solar power systems have been installed on 5,331 buildings, with a cumulative installed capacity of 48.84 MW under the CAPEX mode. Furthermore, a capacity of 54 MW has been allocated to vendors for survey out of the total proposed 70 MW. It was added by CEO, JAKEDA, PN Dhar that work orders have been placed for 3,809 more buildings, covering a capacity of 37.6 MW. Material has already been delivered to sites equivalent to 18 MW, with installation completed at 602 sites, amounting to 9.4 MW. Currently, 685 additional sites are under active installation, he added. The Chief Secretary emphasized the need to further accelerate the implementation pace and directed the concerned departments and vendors to remove bottlenecks and expedite completion of ongoing installations to meet the energy sustainability targets within the set timeline.

Javid Dar launches road projects to boost rural infrastructure in Baramulla



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BARAMULLA: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, inaugurated the macadamization work on Seeloo and Bomai inner link roads in Baramulla district.

The project is aimed at strengthening the local infrastructure and providing greater convenience to the

residents of the area.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister reiterated the government's commitment to ensure the basic facilities for the public, emphasizing that infrastructure development is key to improving the quality of life in rural areas. He highlighted that enhancing road connectivity is a core priority under the Omar Abdullah-led government, as it facilitates better access to markets,

healthcare, education and other essential services.

Dar informed that execution of the works has commenced and assured that all pending roads will be macadamized in a phased manner. He further stressed that there will be no compromise on the quality of work and all vital projects will be completed within fixed timelines.

During the event, the local residents raised several demands pertaining to the availability of basic amenities.

The Minister assured them that all their genuine concerns would be addressed on priority.

Later, Javid Dar laid the foundation stone for widening and upgradation of the Watlab-Chetkak road. The project aims to facilitate smoother transportation and significantly reduce travel time for commuters.

Senior officers from various departments and a large number of local residents were present on the occasion.

Google Executives call on CM Omar Abdullah



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SRINAGAR: A team of senior executives from Google met Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and offered to be part of the journey of digitisation through AI and empowering people of the Jammu and Kashmir through technology.

The Google team comprised of leadership executives Ashish Watal - Country Director, Sanjay Dewan - Head State Governments sector, Pankaj Shukla - Head Technology & AI from Google Cloud.

Google team termed the meeting as productive saying that they were keen on exploring initiatives

in Education, Health, Tourism, Startups and Skill Development to create impactful and scalable AI solutions for the J&K.

The team informed the CM that focus verticals with AI technology intervention in Education and Health will have a huge impact on lives of the citizens of J&K.

They stated that giving access to AI platforms to the startup community will help local solutions from within Jammu and Kashmir and also give an opportunity to the young tech force within the state to get exposure on deep tech platforms and create AI based applications which will be used within and outside Jammu & Kashmir.

Awareness camp for artisans & weavers held at Chijhama Baramulla

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BARAMULLA: Department of Handicrafts Saturday organized a one-day awareness camp at Dak Bunglow Chijhama, under Handicrafts Block Rafiabad.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from a large number of artisans and weavers of Rafiabad, alongside officials and representatives from various line departments, banks, and RSETI.

The camp was chaired by ADC Sopore, Shabir Ahmad Raina; Assistant Director Handicrafts Baramulla, CDI Faculty, Handloom Training Officer Baramulla, and Assistant Handicrafts Training Officers of district Baramulla.

It aimed to spread awareness about various departmental initiatives and welfare schemes to uplift the artisan and weaver community. Participants

received detailed information on financial incentives, training programs, and government support available for their growth and welfare.

Kashmir Handicrafts, especially from Baramulla, are known for their exquisite craftsmanship and unique designs. The region is famous for hand-knotted carpets, intricate woodwork, and handloom products that reflect the rich heritage of Baramulla's artisan community.

Such awareness camps play a vital role in promoting these crafts and ensuring that artisans receive the support and recognition.

DC Kulgam chairs DLSCC meeting to review SRO 43 cases Stresses on proactive approach for the early disposal

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KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan chaired the District Level Screening-cum-Coordination Committee (DLSCC) meeting to review, discuss and finalize the cases related to compassionate appointment under SRO-43 for the NOKs of civilians and armed forces personnel killed in militancy related incidents.

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

He said all eligible families of the terror victims shall receive timely benefits in accordance with the directions of the Hon. Lt Governor of J&K.

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

Among others, the meeting was attended by SSP Kulgam, Additional DC Kulgam, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Commanding Officer 18B CRPF, Representatives from 1 RR, 9 RR, among others.

MD NHM reviews progress on Mission's schemes; calls for time bound execution

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SRINAGAR: Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), Baseer-ul-Haq Chaudhary, conducted an extensive review of all ongoing NHM schemes, emphasising time bound achievement of targets set by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The Mission Director highlighted the critical importance of timely and measurable outcomes, asking all the officials and programme units to adopt a result-oriented approach to achieve the targets within defined timelines. He emphasized the necessity of qualitative and quantitative progress in each program, ensuring efficient service delivery and tangible health improvements across the Union Territory.

Major programs reviewed included Maternal and Child Health, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram, Tele Radiology, Ambulance Services (102-108), Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), the 104 Comprehensive Health Helpline, e-Sanjeevani Tele-Consultation, Disease Control Programs, ASHA Programme, DNB Programme, Quality Assurance,

Bio-Medical Equipment Maintenance, National

Urban Health Mission (NUHM), PM National Dialysis Programme Ayushman Bharat, Health & Wellness Centres and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

Baseer-ul-Haq Chaudhary reiterated J&K



NHM's commitment towards strengthening the health infrastructure and furthering government initiatives for equitable health access. He called upon all the stakeholders to uphold the highest standards of transparency, accountability and dedication in implementing the health interventions and overcoming the challenges and achieving time-bound results.

The meeting concluded with a renewed determination among all the participants to intensify efforts and deliver exceptional outcomes in alignment with national health goal.

Strike of sanitation workers of Urban local bodies Jammu ended peacefully and successfully

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Nearly 300 daily wagers and casual labourers from the Urban Local Bodies (ULB) Jammu undertook a five-day foot march from Jammu to Srinagar to demand regularisation of their services and resolution of long-standing employment grievances. They met Hon'ble Advisor to the Chief Minister J&K Mr. Nasir Aslam Wani and then Ms. Mandeep Kaur (IAS), Commissioner Secretary Housing & Urban Development Department and again presented their demands for regularisation of their casual and daily rated workers.

During a detailed interaction, she acknowledged the legitimacy of their demands and urged the employees to call off their strike, assuring them of the government's commitment to addressing their issues of regularisation, their provident funds issues, issues of their wages and legal cases during the strike period, payment of relief to the workers who met with accident during performance of their legitimate duties. She informed them that proposal of reorganisation of Directorate of Jammu & Kashmir including all Urban local bodies is under active consideration of the department and shall soon be concluded to the benefit of these workers. She also assured



them that Director Finance, Housing & Urban Development Department, has been directed to initiate reconciliation of PF contributions, ensuring transparency and rectification of discrepancies reported by the workers. Cases of workers who have met

with accidents while on duty will be sent for financial assistance from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund or any other fund, offering relief to families often left unprotected by the absence of formal insurance.

While the workers welcomed the government's outreach, they strongly

appealed for a time-bound and monitored implementation of the promised measures. They called upon the Chief Minister to personally oversee the progress to ensure credible follow-through.

The Padyatra concluded peacefully in Srinagar after both the meetings of the sanitation workers' union, with the Union formally announcing a suspension of the strike in light of the government's assurances. The

workers remain hopeful but affirmed that their peaceful and democratic struggle will continue until all their demands are met in full.

DC Pulwama chairs DLSCC meeting to review Ex-Gratia relief cases

FE News Network

PULWAMA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom chaired the District Level Screening-cum-Coordination Committee (DLSCC) meeting at Circuit House Pulwama to review, discuss and finalize the cases related to compassionate appointment under SRO-43 and compensation in cases related to Injury and property damages.

At the outset, ADC Pulwama gave a detailed briefing on the current status of each case. After

thorough deliberation and evaluation, the committee approved various eligible cases under the provisions of the SRO-43.

Dr. Qayoom after assessing each case, reaffirmed that deserving and eligible NOKs shall receive timely benefits. "Compensatory relief under SRO-43 should not be seen merely as official procedures but as our responsibility towards families who have suffered great personal loss," stressed Dr. Qayoom.

DC further urged all departments to adopt a proactive approach and ensure that all required

formalities and verifications are completed within stipulated timelines.

With regard to cases where reports or required documentation were pending, the DC directed the concerned officers to submit the necessary reports at the earliest to avoid unnecessary delays in decision-making.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama, Awantipora and Tral, and officers from Police, defense and district administration.

Editorial

J&K's Post-370 Legal Revolution

The abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, marked a historic turning point for Jammu and Kashmir, integrating the region fully with the rest of India. As Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha yesterday rightly highlighted, a staggering 890 central laws were previously inapplicable in J&K, depriving its people of the rights and protections enjoyed by citizens across the country. The constitutional changes enacted in 2019, later upheld by the Supreme Court, have rectified this disparity, ensuring marginalized sections now have equal access to justice and opportunities.

The North Zone Regional Conference of Legal Services Authorities in Srinagar underscored the administration's commitment to bridging the gaps in legal accessibility. The extension of crucial legislations such as the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act and the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act has empowered vulnerable communities, granting them long-denied constitutional safeguards. Moreover, the establishment of the Lieutenant Governor's Sainik Sahayta Kendra and amendments to include military representatives in legal aid bodies demonstrate a proactive approach to addressing the grievances of armed forces personnel and veterans.

However, the true measure of progress lies in implementation. Legal Services Authorities must ensure that these reforms translate into tangible benefits for soldiers, tribals, and underprivileged citizens. Justice delayed is justice denied, and the onus is on the system to deliver timely and efficient legal assistance. The launch of the NALSA Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana 2025 is a commendable step toward supporting ex-servicemen and their families, but sustained efforts are needed to raise awareness and streamline grievance redressal.

As J&K strides toward equitable development, the focus must remain on upholding the constitutional promise of justice for all. The region's integration with India's legal framework is a moral imperative to ensure dignity, rights, and opportunities for every citizen. The journey has begun, but its success depends on unwavering commitment from all stakeholders.

People's President: Why Kalam's Vision Still Inspires



Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, the 11th President of India, is remembered as one of the most iconic and beloved figures in Indian history. Born on October 15, 1931, and passing away on July 27, 2015, Kalam's legacy continues to inspire generations. The journey

He had everything going for him and was loved by one and all — the kid on the street and the older gentleman sipping coffee in his retirement days. He was a messenger of humanity and a spectacular personality. His achievements have always ensured that India has held its head high. His simplicity, honesty and people skills were inimitable.

One needs to admire A.P.J. Abdul Kalam for his phenomenal rise — from a rural town to the pinnacle. He retained a childlike curiosity till his end. His last interaction, while with students, is a fine example of his attachment towards our youth. APJ Abdul

hard" to realize their full potential. His love for children is what made him dedicate his book, Ignited Minds, to a child who once impressed him with her answer to his query, "who is our enemy?" The answer: "Poverty." The nation has lost a great visionary and an outstanding technocrat.

Kalam was a saint and a living legend. He was a Muslim but he held equal respect for Quran and the Bhagvad Gita. He played the rudraveena in his spare time. In the passing of Dr Kalam, India has lost one of its tallest sons of the 21st century whose ideas, life and works will continue to inspire



of a poor boatman's son, who sold newspapers to help his family after his school time, from the temple town of Rameswaram in the extreme south of the country to the highest seat of power in Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi, is no less than a fairy-tale. It is hardly surprising that APJ Abdul Kalam will be remembered as India's most popular President. India's Missile Man, great educationist, teacher, communicator, inspirational leader and humanitarian, people's President APJ Abdul Kalam, loved and respected by one and all, was immensely popular among the students and the youth. Kalam was the role model of the young generation, communicating with whom he liked most.

Normally we see that the president and the people portrays the president as a figurehead whose only job is to cut a few ribbons or lay some foundation stones. If we ask the common man on the street, he will belt out Dr. Abdul Kalam's name as the president that he wanted to see leading his country.

Kalam had said, "Don't declare holiday on my death; instead work an extra day if you really love me." There are too many political holidays on birth and death anniversaries of leaders. Great leaders like Kalam, who are no more with us, always desired that their countrymen work hard rather than remember them through political holidays on their birth and death anniversaries.

Mr. Kalam had the rare distinction of being a scientist who contributed to the progress of developments in space, defence and atomic energy. No other President or head of a state has this distinction. His simple but powerful speeches and inspiring writing have always ignited young minds.

He has bequeathed a "mixed legacy". His eventful life has a lot to commend it. Full marks for him for doing all that he could to "ignite" young minds and unleash the latent energy in them. He excelled at motivating students "to aim high and work

generations to come. "India's Missile Man" and "the People's President" brought a life and dignity to everything he did and every position he held. As he wished so he lived — a teacher throughout his life till his last breath. He not only had a vision for a developed India but had a blueprint of how to achieve this within a time frame. His passing is a great loss to the country on the threshold of leaping into the future with great hopes. Lastly, I would like to recall Einstein's words about Mahatma Gandhi: "Generations to come will scarce believe that such a man ever walked upon this Earth." A person like Dr. Kalam is born once in centuries. A real star on earth has now become a guiding star in the skies. Let us hope that our tribute to the great man would be carry forward his mission for a strong and prosperous India.

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Mr. Kalam had the rare distinction of being a scientist who contributed to the progress of developments in space, defence and atomic energy. No other President or head of a state has this distinction. His simple but powerful speeches and inspiring writing have always ignited young minds.

How Kashmir's Young Are Rewriting History

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Today's era is the age of technology, and true success belongs to those who have embraced change and kept themselves updated with the times. This ability to adapt has always been felt by every conscious individual throughout history. Allama Iqbal, the great Islamic thinker, deeply understood this need for change. Through his poetry, he not only critiqued but also praised it, reminding us that real success lies in knowing what to accept and what to reject. One of his couplets on change holds great significance in this context:

Allama Iqbal has rightly said:

**"Mashriq Se Ho Bezar, Na Maghrib Se Hazar Kar
Fitrat Ka Ishara Hai Ke Har Shab Ko Sehar Kar!"**

"Don't shun the East, nor look on West with scorn,
Since Nature yearns for change of night to morn."

Long before this generation picked up gadgets and screens, our ancestors picked up the quill, the compass, the telescope, and the printing press — the tools of their age to expand the frontiers of knowledge. They did not fear new directions — East or West — but sought wisdom wherever it blossomed.

Iqbal's timeless verse is more than poetry — it is a reminder that change is Nature's secret law. Stagnant waters gather dust, but flowing rivers nourish valleys. Those who cling to the past, fearing new skills or ideas, risk being left behind in an age where the sun of knowledge

never sets.

Today, in Kashmir's classrooms and bustling city corners, we see a generation brimming with

gold standard. And rightfully so — these professions brought respect, income, and identity to countless families. But the world has changed.



talent and dreams — yet many still clutch the same old maps: Doctor. Engineer. Teacher. But the world outside has changed its shape. The fourth industrial revolution is here — invisible lines of code now shape industries, jobs, and daily life.

So why limit dreams to a few traditional options? Why not look at the ever-expanding world of technology — a world where you can be your own boss, earn with dignity, and create solutions that touch lives far beyond our valleys?

This is not a call to abandon old dreams — it's an invitation to renew them, to give old hopes new wings. Our forefathers never shut their doors to good ideas — they absorbed them, adapted them, and thrived.

The time has come for this Alpha Generation to do the same — to turn every dawn into a new morning of skills, innovation, and self-reliance.

In the serene valleys of Kashmir and the bustling streets of Srinagar, a quiet revolution echoes through classrooms and living rooms alike — a question whispered by worried parents and restless students: What next?

For decades, our dreams wore two coats — Doctor or Engineer. The pride of a stethoscope around the neck or a blueprint in hand was the

The fourth industrial revolution has arrived — coding lines are the new lifelines, digital ideas are the new diagnoses, and innovation is the new cure.

This is the Alpha Generation — Born Digital

Unlike their parents, today's students are digital natives. Coding is their second language. Their classrooms stretch beyond four walls, and their competition is not just across the street but across continents.

Yet, when it comes to choosing a career, too many still hold on to the old map in a world that has redrawn its borders.

The Future is Tech — And It's Here

From artificial intelligence that drives cars and helps doctors diagnose diseases more accurately, to cloud systems that store mountains of data securely, technology is no longer just an industry — it is the backbone of every industry.

Ask yourself — when was the last time you booked a ticket or paid a bill by standing in line, instead of tapping an app? When did businesses

rely only on dusty files instead of smart data tools? When did marketing mean only posters on walls, not digital campaigns reaching thousands in minutes?

The new world belongs to those who can speak the language of codes, data, and design. That's where the young minds of Kashmir — and India — must set their sights.

Be the Boss of Your Own Story

The beauty of technology is freedom. A student can earn from a laptop by the Dal Lake — teaching coding to a client in Canada, designing websites for a business in Dubai, or managing data for a company in Delhi. No waiting for years just for a degree — no waiting for someone to hand you a paycheck.

Today's tech courses teach more than skills — they teach independence. They turn job seekers into job makers. They make you your own boss.

Skills That Matter — Skills That Pay
Data Science, AI, Cyber Security, App Development, Digital Marketing, Cloud Computing, Salesforce — these are not just fancy words. They are keys that unlock careers and incomes once unimaginable.

Parents dream of a dignified life for their children — technology makes that possible, without burdening them for decades. It's not about replacing dreams — it's about upgrading them to match the world we live in today.

Learning, Right Here

It is heartening to see Kashmir's education landscape embracing this shift. Modern campuses now offer global-standard tech courses with real-world certifications — right here in our city. Students can study, practice, and build portfolios under industry mentors, without needing to fly miles away for quality learning.

A New Vision for a New Age

As Parents, Teachers, and Students — this

is our moment to accept that our children's future won't be secured by old stereotypes but by new skills. Medicine and engineering are noble paths — but they are not the only ones anymore.

A generation that carries smartphones in its pockets must carry digital skills in its mind. It's time to invest in knowledge that pays back not

”

Iqbal's timeless verse is more than poetry — it is a reminder that change is Nature's secret law. Stagnant waters gather dust, but flowing rivers nourish valleys. Those who cling to the past, fearing new skills or ideas, risk being left behind in an age where the sun of knowledge never sets.

”

just in degrees but in dignity, income, and freedom.

The world is waiting for new ideas — from a new Kashmir — from you.

The Alpha Generation is ready. Are you?

The author is an educator, motivational speaker, columnist, and coaching consultant.

Dengue returns to J&K: 23 cases reported in 2025

Don't panic, remain vigilant, says State Malariologist

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has begun witnessing the return of dengue, with 23 confirmed cases reported so far



this year.

According to officials, 20 cases have emerged from the Jammu division, while three cases are from other states. Notably, no case has been reported from the Kashmir division as yet.

State Malariologist Dr D. J. Raina said, that although the figures remain low, the

public must adopt a proactive approach in the absence of a vaccine. "Panic is unnecessary, but vigilance and preventive steps are crucial to curb the spread of this painful disease," he said.

Measures include the deployment of bio-larvicide fish, extensive fogging and spraying, and a wide-reaching awareness campaign through print, electronic, and social media platforms. Miking and community outreach are also being used to promote safe practices.

The malariologist stressed the importance of eliminating mosquito breeding grounds. "People should avoid storing water in open containers and ensure regular cleaning of domestic water tanks. Solid waste should be properly disposed of and artificial water-holding containers removed," he said. He encouraged the use of insecticides in outdoor water storage units as an additional safeguard.

Highlighting the role of the Aedes mosquito, the primary vector for dengue, Dr Raina said it thrives in urban habitats and typically breeds in man-made containers such as discarded tires, mud pots, buckets, and stagnant water sources.

"This mosquito is most active during early morning and late afternoon hours. People must wear clothes that reduce skin exposure and use mosquito repellents," he advised.

To manage potential outbreaks, each district hospital has been equipped with dedicated dengue wards, with at least 20

beds earmarked for dengue patients. Testing facilities are fully functional and accessible at the district level.

Patients testing positive are advised to take complete rest, stay well-hydrated, and consume a nutritious diet rich in fruits and vegetables.

The State Malariologist strongly warned against self-medication, particularly the use of painkillers like aspirin or ibuprofen, which can worsen bleeding tendencies in severe cases of dengue.

Typical symptoms of dengue include high fever, severe headache, eye pain (especially behind the eyes), muscle and joint pain, skin rashes, nausea, and vomiting.

In 2024, J&K recorded approximately 7,000 dengue cases. The year 2023 saw 6,403 cases, and 2022 recorded the highest ever—8,269 cases with 18 deaths. In comparison, earlier years saw lower figures, including just two cases in 2009, zero in 2010, and gradual increases in subsequent years.

Dr Raina appealed to the public to actively cooperate with health authorities. "Cleanliness in and around homes, schools, and workplaces is key. Eliminate stagnant water, cover your body to avoid mosquito bites, and use nets while sleeping," he said—(KNO)

Principal Accountant General chairs first ever Pension Adalat at Shopian

FE NEWS NETWORK

Asks DDOs for streamlining pension process, listen to grievances for resolution

SHOPIAN: The first ever Pension Adalat was held at Government Degree College, Shopian, by the office of Principal Accountant General, J&K, in collaboration with District Treasury Officer Shopian.

The Adalat was held to listen to the grievances of pensioners, settle pension related cases and sensitize the DDOs about e-processing of pension cases through recently launched pension Suvidha Portal.

Principal Accountant General (A&E), J&K, Jay Prakash Narayan Singh, inaugurated the Adalat which was also attended by Deputy Accountant General, Pawan Kumar Rathi, District Treasury Officer, Muzafar Ahmad Rather and Senior Accounts Officers and other officials of PAGs office.

Appreciable number of pensioners and DDOs attended the Adalat and appreciated the step of the department taken towards the direction of streamlining the pension process.

The DDOs were imparted impactful insights into the pension related rules and norms and new procedural interventions taken to ensure hassle-

free pension settlements. Speakers dealt with Pension Suvidha Portal, pension verifications and other related issues.

District Treasury officer presented highlighted the importance of conducting the Pension Adalat.

pensioners and the office of Principal Accountant General office by holding outreach camps. The Principal Accountant General, while speaking at the event, said the department intends to connect to the pensioners more effectively by organising such outreach



A team of officers and officials, on the occasion, attended the pensioner's grievances and scrutinized various pension issues and redressed many of them on the spot.

On the occasion, the Pensioner Front Shopian also presented a memorandum of demands to the PAG.

The Deputy Accountant General chaired a grievance session, listened keenly to the grievances of the pensioners for redressal and replied queries of pensioners. He also spoke on strengthening the bond between the

programs. He highlighted the role of efficient and collaborative mechanism between the pensioners, pension sanctioning authorities and office of PAG for the benefit of pensioners.

The PAG committed that similar Pension Adalats shall be organised in future.

"Welfare of pensioners is the focus of the department and we are proactively addressing the issues of pensioners and committed to serve them with utmost compassion and integrity, said the PAG.

Sakeena Itoo conducts surprise inspection of Emergency Hospital Qazigund

FE NEWS NETWORK

Assesses Quality Of Healthcare Services

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



Itoo conducted surprise inspection of Emergency Hospital Qazigund to assess the quality of healthcare

services available to the local population.

During her visit, Minister Sakeena took detailed round of the hospital and inspected different sections of the hospital like emergency wards, general wards, laboratories and other sections.

She interacted with the doctors and paramedics and took appraisal from them about the necessary upgrades required at this critical hospital in view of its location along the National Highway. She also directed the hospital administration to maintain regular roster of doctors and supporting staff for 24x7 functionality of the hospital.

The Minister also interacted with patients and attendants to gather first-hand feedback from them on the medical services being provided at this hospital.

DC Budgam Chairs Public Darbar At Summerbugh Shalina, Assures Redressal Of Grievances

FE NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, chaired a public darbar at Summerbugh Shalina in Block BK Pora, where he listened to the grievances and demands of residents from Summerbugh and adjoining villages, including Shalina, Rekha Shalina, Golpora, and Sheerbagh.

During the interactive session, DC gave a patient hearing to multiple individuals and delegations, assuring them of timely redressal of their genuine concerns.

On the occasion, public raised several key demands, including development of the KLR road and inner link roads, establishment of a Veterinary Centre in the area, upgradation of Government Girls High School, holding medical camps and introduction of specialty ophthalmology

services.

Besides, closure of illegal stone crushers operating in the vicinity, provision of

augmentation of sports grounds with modern facilities, development of a public park, availability of 24x7 ambulance



public transportation from Summerbugh to the national highway, construction of drainage systems for dewatering the area,

services, completion of the footbridge at Seerbagh, Installation of street lights across the area, construction of a marriage

hall, fencing of the local graveyard, strict action against drug addiction among youth and crackdown on drug supply chains were also raised during the event.

DC assured the public that all genuine demands will be addressed promptly, while issues beyond the district administration's competence would be forwarded to higher authorities for necessary action.

He also assured that the main road leading to Summerbugh shall be macadamised this year under the NABARD.

Emphasising the importance of grassroots governance, DC directed all district officers to conduct regular field visits and engage with the public to understand their concerns firsthand.

He also informed the gathering that a mega employment camp will soon be organized in the area to provide job opportunities for local youth.

DC Kupwara chairs DLSCC meeting, 42 cases cleared

FE NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: The District Level Screening cum Coordination Committee (DLSCC) met here under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC), Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan to discuss ex-gratia relief cases pertaining to incidents involving death, injury, property damage, SRO-43, and police personnel.

A comprehensive review of 95 cases was undertaken during the meeting, with inputs gathered from the Police, Army, CRPF and field functionaries.

Emphasizing the importance of thorough consideration, the Deputy Commissioner directed the committee to take into account all available reports, ensuring a balanced approach.

Meanwhile, clarification from different agencies were sought for approval of the cases discussed.

A total of 95 cases of different categories were put forth for discussion before the Committee. These cases pertained to SRO-43, Ex-gratia, Missing, Death and Property. After thorough deliberation, 42 cases were cleared by the Committee and rest of the cases were deferred for want of clarification from the concerned agencies.

SSP Kupwara, Gulam Jeelani; ADC Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad; ASP Handwara; CMO, DIO, besides, officers of Army, CID and CRPF attended the meeting.



Cultural Unit, DIPR organizes series of programs under Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan

FE NEWS NETWORK

Conducts awareness programs at GBHSS Nawakadal, GGSS Rajbagh, Abhinandan Home in Solina

SRINAGAR: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan, the Cultural Unit of Srinagar, Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), in collaboration with the Government Boys Higher Secondary School Nawakadal organized a significant awareness program focused on drug de-addiction.

During the event, a captivating short play performed by a local artist group highlighted the severe realities and repercussions of substance abuse, making a lasting impact on the audience.

Toiba Tabasum, Principal of the school, along with Haadia, Senior Lecturer and Programme Coordinator, expressed their appreciation for the initiative and emphasized the necessity of spreading preventive awareness among the youth.

Burhan Hussain, the Cultural Officer, also spoke at the event, highlighted significance of theatre to influence public perception. The program concluded with a commitment from students, staff, and officials to unite against drug-related issues and to advocate for a healthy, substance-free environment.

Another awareness initiative took place at Government Girls Higher Secondary School Rajbagh, where a themed skit performed by a local artist group effectively showcased the threats posed by substance addiction, receiving enthusiastic applause from the students.

Rajinder Kour, the Principal, praised the awareness campaign and highlighted the critical role of education in protecting young minds.

The Cultural Officer underscored the importance of

theatre in shaping societal views on the Nasha Mukht J&K effort.

The session ended with students and staff pledging their dedication to a drug-free community.

Additionally, a thematic skit named 'Drug-Free Kashmir' was presented at Abhinandan Home, a school for specially-abled children, located in Higher Secondary School Solina, Srinagar.

This program aimed to raise awareness about the serious issue of drug abuse and its detrimental effects on individuals and communities.



Designed for specially-abled students, the skit delivered a powerful social message advocating for a drug-free future.

The event took place under the guidance of Mukhtar Ahmad, the Officer In Charge of Abhinandan Home, who accentuated the significance of inclusive outreach endeavors. The Principal and Coordinator of the school acknowledged the program and the department's efforts to engage youth creatively in the campaign.

The program concluded successfully, generating positive feedback from the audience and reaffirming the commitment to fostering social awareness through the arts.

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LG Sinha

are protected. The Lieutenant Governor highlighted key structural reforms taken in the past few years to establish social and economic justice in Jammu Kashmir.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that before 2019 various central laws including two important central legislations namely the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 were not applicable to J&K.

Now, these laws have become applicable and tribal community has been empowered. We are extending all constitutional guarantees and protections to the members of Tribal population including access to justice by providing free and competent legal aid to them, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, spoke on the major initiatives taken by the J&K administration to ensure ease of justice to the members of Armed Forces and reiterated its commitment to provide legal aid to the tribal community.

“Amendment has been made in J&K Legal Services Authority, Rules 2020 to include Secretary, Zila Sainik Board as member of District Legal Services Authority to provide legal aid to soldiers.

Furthermore, Lieutenant Governor’s Sainik Sahayta Kendra has been established and it is a dedicated institutional mechanism for facilitating the redressal of civilian grievances faced by soldiers of the Indian Armed Forces, who are posted in the J&K, or who belong to the UT and are presently serving in other parts of the country”, the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that delay in justice means defeat of moral duties of legal services authorities at the grassroots level involved in helping the deprived and vulnerable sections.

“I am confident that in this important conference, along with solutions to the challenges being faced at the district level, the necessary interventions to make the common citizens aware of their rights under the Constitution will also be discussed,” the Lieutenant Governor further said,

On the occasion, NALSA Veer Parivar Sahayata Yojana 2025, a dedicated legal services scheme for defence personnel, ex-servicemen and their families, was launched. The scheme provides for establishing legal services clinics within Rajya and Zila Sainik Boards for rendering legal services and assistance to Veer Parivar.

The event also witnessed the launch of various initiatives including Defence Personnel Case Management System; Special Samvad Legal Units for tribal communities; Legal Services support centres at Rajya Sainik Boards of all states and UTs and Zila Sainik Welfare Boards across the Districts of UT of J&K and Ladakh; Unveiling of Logo and Tribal kiosks at Leh airport; Mobile medical camp for tribal population of Ladakh.

Certificates of engagement as Para legal volunteers by Legal Services Authorities of J&K and Ladakh were also handed over to Veer Naris and ex-servicemen.

Former Chief Justices, serving and retired Judges, senior officials of Legal Services Authorities, Security Forces, Police and Civil Administration, Veer Naris, ex-Servicemen, members from Legal fraternity, and prominent citizens from different walks of life were also present. (DIPR)

Govt orders

been appointed as the Enquiry Officer to conduct a comprehensive examination of the facts and circumstances related to the incident.

The order reads that the Enquiry Officer shall Assess the immediate precursors to the said incident, as well as the developments that ensued after the incident. It also reads that the enquiry officer shall investigate the reasons for the closure of Operating Theatres (OTs), assess whether such closure was avoidable, and fix responsibility upon the individual(s) found to have acted in dereliction of duty or in contravention of established protocols.

The order also reads that the officer shall recommend concrete measures aimed at enhancing internal grievance redressal mechanisms, strengthening administrative coordination, and improving the overall functioning of the institution; and propose remedial and preventive measures to ensure that such incidents do not recur in the future.

“The Enquiry Officer shall submit a report to the Government within a period of fifteen (15) days from the date of issuance of this order”, it reads.

The order further adds that Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, Administrator Associated Hospitals, GMC Srinagar shall be the Presenting Officer in the case. (DIPR)

PM Modi

Lamochen Viewpoint in Drass to pay heartfelt tributes to the heroes of the war.

The solemn event, organised to honour the bravery and sacrifice of the Indian Armed Forces, saw emotional recollections

from family members of fallen soldiers.

Rajesh, the brother of a soldier who lost his life at Tiger Hill, recounted the poignant memories left behind in his brother’s diary.

“My brother lost his life while serving the nation in the line of action at Tiger Hill. When we got news about the war, we wrote a letter to him, but he told us he wasn’t involved in the action. After reading his diary, we learned he was in the war and lied to keep us from worrying. He wrote that he felt he wouldn’t come down the hill and handed his diary to a friend before going up,” Rajesh said.

Surekha Shinde, another family member, shared her pride and gratitude while honouring her brother, who served for five years before the Kargil War.”My brother had been in service for five years before the war started. I feel proud coming to this place, and I thank the army for this invitation,” she said. (ANI)

Over 8,300

on Saturday to offer prayers at the 3,880-meter high holy cave shrine.

However, the footfall at the shrine has started decreasing over the past few days with the melting of the naturally formed ice-shivlingam.

Escorted by the police and CRPF personnel, the 24th batch of 2,324 pilgrims, including 377 women and 51 Sadhus and Sadhvis, left Jammu’s Bhagwati Nagar base camp in 92 vehicles for the twin base camps in Kashmir between 3.25 am and 3.45 am, the officials said.

The first convoy, carrying 741 pilgrims in 34 vehicles, left for the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district, followed by the second convoy of 1,583 pilgrims in 58 vehicles who are undertaking the yatra via the 48-km traditional Pahalgam route in Anantnag district, they said.

With this, a total of 1,39,098 pilgrims have departed from the Jammu base camp for the valley since July 2 when Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first batch.

The pilgrimage is scheduled to end on August 9, coinciding with the festival of Raksha Bandhan.

Army chief

The army targeted the terrorist infrastructure and foiled the other aggressive moves of Pakistan to attain a decisive victory,” he said.

Dwivedi said Indian gave peace a chance, but Pakistan resorted to cowardice.

“The Pakistani action on May 8 and 9 was responded to effectively. Our army air defence stood like an impenetrable wall which could not be breached by any missile or drones,” he said.

He said the Indian Army is on its way to becoming a force to reckon with in the world.

“Rudra, all of brigade, is being established for which I gave an approval yesterday. Under this, we will have infantry, mechanised infantry, armoured units, artillery, special forces and unmanned aerial units at one place to provide logistics and combat support,” he said. (PTI)

Omar Abdullah

from Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Minister emphasized the need for swift, compassionate legal redressal for those serving in inhospitable terrains under difficult circumstances. He highlighted the systemic legal barriers faced by defence personnel in matters such as pension disputes and service-related grievances owing to their geographic remoteness, and the distinct constraints of military life.

CM commended the J&K State Legal Services Authority for its initiative in amending its legal aid rules to expressly include serving and retired defence personnel. CM said that establishment of dedicated legal aid clinics in cantonments and in districts with significant ex-servicemen populations should be prioritised. “Equally important is the need to ensure that families of defence personnel—particularly widows, aged parents, and dependent children—receive empathetic, expert, and timely legal support,” CM said, adding that para-legal volunteers trained specifically in military legal issues should be deployed in areas with high defence populations. Simultaneously, technology must be harnessed to democratise access—through mobile apps, virtual consultation platforms, and user-friendly legal information portals. Justice, in our times, must not merely be available—it must be accessible.

On tribal communities, CM said that they were custodians of rich cultural and ecological heritage. Jammu & Kashmir is home to several Scheduled Tribes, including Gujjars, Bakarwals, Pahadis, Gaddis and Sippis, who have preserved ancient traditions while braving difficult terrains.

“Our Government has correspondingly augmented its developmental efforts. This year, the capital expenditure for tribal welfare has been raised to 98 crores. Six Eklavya Model Residential Schools have been made operational, 222 smart classrooms have been established in tribal-dominated schools, and healthcare services have been expanded through mobile medical units. The Tribal Research Institute has also been commissioned. These interventions reflect our commitment to combine dignity with development. Yet, development alone cannot substitute justice. Structural barriers to legal literacy, representation, and redressal continue to persist among tribal populations—owing to linguistic, cultural, and geographic factors.

CM noted that the Legal Services Authority has commendably operationalised 255 legal aid clinics, including in tribal villages and correctional institutions, supported by 527 panel lawyers and 561 para-legal volunteers.

CM expressed the hope that para-legal volunteers are trained from within tribal communities themselves. “This will ensure that legal support is rendered in familiar idioms, dialects, and cultural frameworks. We must also expand mobile legal aid vans, promote the use of Tele-Law platforms, and facilitate virtual hearings. Justice, if it is to be meaningful, must reach every remote hamlet—from Poonch to Kishtwar, from Rajouri to Karnah,” he said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also spoke about the sensitive balance that must be maintained between national security and the rights of tribal citizens. Many tribal regions are located in border belts or areas of heightened security oversight. However, law enforcement must not translate into legal disenfranchisement. Mechanisms for lodging complaints, accessing courts, and redressing grievances must be made transparent, timely, and responsive.

CM said that Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms also offer immense promise. Lok Adalats, mediation centres, and village-level panchayat forums, when duly sensitised, can provide swift, culturally respectful adjudication—especially in matters related to land rights, service entitlements, and local grievances. These models need to be institutionalised and resourced accordingly.

CM stated that capacity-building is essential for

Judicial officers, legal aid lawyers, and field functionaries who must be trained in tribal customary law, military jurisprudence, and the ethics of constitutional service. Only through sustained cross-learning can our justice system be truly responsive to the diversity it is meant to serve.

Highlighting the Government’s vision, the Chief Minister informed that his Government has sanctioned establishment of a dedicated Law University in Jammu and Kashmir with an initial allocation of 50 crore. This institution will focus on specialized legal education and research in fields such as tribal law, military justice, constitutional studies, and environmental law.

Quoting Mahatma Gandhi, the Chief Minister concluded, “A nation’s greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members.” He reaffirmed the Government’s unwavering support to Legal Services Authorities and their partners in delivering justice to the most marginalised. (DIPR)

Ashok Koul

Koul said that day-to-day governance issues like rate availability, electricity supply, and regularisation of daily wagers have no direct link to the question of statehood. “Statehood is not necessary for ensuring basic services. The current government can still provide these facilities. Statehood is not a barrier,” he said.

Defending the BJP-led central government’s 2019 move to abrogate Article 370 and reorganise J&K, Koul claimed that the region is now on a progressive path.

“We are working towards ‘Naya Jammu and Kashmir’—something only possible after 2019. Without that change, J&K’s fate would have remained uncertain,” he said. (KNO)

Law Minister

side-lines of the event, Meghwal said that three major legal initiatives have been taken in Jammu and Kashmir to ensure ease of justice delivery to members of the armed forces and tribal communities. “We are committed to providing legal aid to the tribal population and

ensuring timely legal assistance to our jawans. Legal support is essential for those who defend our borders and for the tribal communities who often face systemic barriers,” he said.

Meghwal urged the State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs) to play an active role in ensuring that legal aid is not just a formality, but a tool to empower the deprived and vulnerable sections of society. He emphasized that such efforts are essential for protecting constitutional rights and upholding the spirit of inclusive justice.

“The Constitution guarantees justice to all, and it is our duty to ensure that the most marginalized, whether they are soldiers in remote postings or tribals in far-flung areas, receive timely and effective legal support,” he added—(KNO)

Kargil Vijay

from family members and served as a community platform to remember those who did not return.

Speaking during the events in Drass, Mandaviya urged the youth of the country to commit themselves to national service. He said, “We have always been victorious. Being victorious is our nature.” He added that the padyatra was meant to send a message to the youth across the country to take responsibility towards the nation seriously.

Seth, who joined Mandaviya and LAHDC Kargil Chairman Mohammad Jaffer Akhooon during the march, addressed those gathered and reflected on the events of 1999. “The country remembers the actions taken by Pakistan on May 6, 1999, and the response given by Indian soldiers,” he said. “India had responded through surgical strikes, air strikes, and operations such as Sindoor.”

The minister said the Kargil conflict area, including Drass, was at the centre of military operations and that the Indian Army had reclaimed the occupied positions through determined action. “The country stands with the soldiers currently stationed at the borders, and recognises the continued role they play in protecting the country,” he added. (KNO)

OFFICE OF THE MISSION DIRECTORATE, JAL JEEVAN MISSION, J&K

CIVIL SECRETARIAT, JAMMU/ SRINAGAR

E-TENDER NOTICE: NO 01 OF 07/2025

DATED: 24-07-2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir (UT), online bid(s) in double cover system are invited from reputed and experienced Chartered Accountant Firms for empanelment to undertake Internal Audit and Financial Consultancy services. The objective is to ensure proper financial management, accountability, and transparency in the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission at various levels in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir as per detailed Scope of Work and Terms & Conditions mentioned in the Standard Bid Document (SBD) for the period of one year.

S. No.	Name of Job/work	Cost of EMD	Cost of Tender document (in Rs)
1.	Selection of CAG Empanelled chartered Accountant Firm for engagement as Statutory Auditor of Mission Directorate and PHE Divisions (Civil/Mechanical) of Jal Shakti Department, Implementing Jal Jeevan Mission in the UT of J&K for the Financial Year 2024-25	25000/=	500/=

Instruction/ Terms & Conditions:

a. Evaluation of Proposal - Eligibility Criteria

The Bidder must possess the following eligibility criteria and to this effect must produce supportive documents for the following along with the other documents/ information as specified below.

S. No.	Eligibility Criteria	Documents to be furnished along with the pre-qualification proposal
1	The Bidder must be registered with The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) having certificate of practice to work as Chartered Accountant for the year being audited.	Registration Certificate of ICAI / Firm Registration Certificate/ Empanelment certificate for the year being audited.
2	The Bidders must be empaneled with Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) of India for FY 2024-25 & 2025-26.	Copy of CAG empaneled Certificate for the years 2024-25 & 2025-26.
3	The average annual turnover of last 3 (three) Financial Years of the Bidder i.e. 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 must be more than Rs 40.00 Lacs.	Details to be furnished in FORM-2 with copies of Audited Balance Sheet / Profit Loss Account for the relevant Financial Years.
4	The Bidder should have minimum work experience of over 5 years as on the 31.03.2025	Details to be furnished in FORM-3 with copies of concerned work order from the client
5	The Bidder should have at least a Head/Branch Office in J&K.	Proof of existence of Head/Branch Office with its Registration with ICAI to be submitted.

- The bidder must possess a valid GST Registration, PAN etc
- The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, technical specifications, bill of quantities [B.O.Q.] set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given hereunder:

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	24-07-2025
2.	Date of Publishing	24-07-2025
3.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	25-07-2025
4.	Bid Submission Start date	25-07-2025
5.	Bid Submission End date	07-08-2025 (06:00 pm)
6.	Date and time of opening of bids [online]	08-08-2025 (11:00 am)

- Bid must be accompanied with cost of tender documents in shape of TREASURY CHALLAN against Govt. account under Major Head 0215 favouring Accounts Officer, Mission Directorate, Jal Jeevan Mission J&K.
- All Bidders have to upload scanned copy of Earnest money deposit (EMD) in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Accounts Officer, Mission Directorate, Jal Jeevan Mission J&K.
- The date and time of opening of Financial Bid shall be notified on website jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of responsive bidders shall be opened on-line in the office of Accounts Officer, Mission Directorate, Jal Jeevan Mission J&K.
- The department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- No conditional tenders shall be accepted and such tenders are liable to be rejected even if rates quoted are the lowest.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get ‘Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)’ as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.
- The bidder should not be blacklisted by any Govt agency.
- The bidder must submit a certificate that he has never been bankrupt.
- All other terms, conditions are as per the PWD form25 (Double agreement form)/Master NIT.

No:TA/JJM-J/2025-26/322-329

Dated: 24/07/2025

DIPK-4305/25 Dt: 26-07-2025

Sd/-
Accounts Officer
Jal Jeevan Mission J&K

In the court of Collector/ Addl. Deputy Commissioner Budgam

No: DCB/ADC/Reader/24/F-486/607

Dated:21 /07/2025

In the case of:

- Abdul Majeed .
- Mohammad Yousuf Both residents of Ompora Budgam.
- Mst. Haneefa R/o Siobugh Tehsil Budgam.
- Mst. Attiqa R/o Humhamam Budgam
- Mst Raja R/o Noorbagh , Palpora Srinagar

All sosn & daughters of Late Mst. Rehti D/o Gaffar Najar

(Appellants)

Vs

- Abdul Rehman Najar.
- Mohammad Shafi
- Abdul Hameed Najar (dead) represented by LR's
 - Hibban Son 6 years old
 - Fatima daughter 4 years old through their mother namely Mst. Rehana R/o Mohanpora Ompora Budgam.
 - Mst Rehan Wife

- Gulshana W/o Ali Mohammad Dar R/o Shaheen Mohalla Noor Bagh, Srinagar.
- Shameema W/o Gh Hassan Mir R/o Khrew Battan , Srinagar.
- Meema W/o Farooq Ahmad R/o Housing Colony Ompora Budgam.

All sosn & daughters of Jamal Najar.

- Hilal Ahmad Najar.
- Bashir Ahmad Najar.
- Manzoor Ahmad Najar sons of Ghulam Najar Rs/o Ompora Budgam

(Contesting respondents)

- Ghulam Qadir.
- Mohamamd Yousuf
- Reyaz Ahmad sons of Mst. Azizi D/o Gaffar Najar Rs/o Pakharpora Tehsil Charar-i-Sharief District Budgam

(Pro-forma Respondents)

In the matter of:

Appeal against mutation order No 3486 dated 01-04-2002 of estate Ompora Tehsil & District Budgam.

Notice

The above titled appeal case is under adjudication before this court, the respondent No 4 to 6, 11, 12 & LR’s of deceased respondent No. 3 have been summoned a number of times, but they failed to appear before this court on the scheduled date of hearings. Now through the medium of this public notice, the respondent No 4 to 6, 11, 12 & LR’s of deceased respondent No. 3 are hereby informed to attend this court on 23-08-2025 at 10:30 am, failing which ex-parte proceedings shall be initiated against them without further intimation.

Sd/
Collector/
Addl. Deputy Commissioner
Budgam

DIPK-4339/25 Dt: 26-07-2025

Being Victorious Is Our Nature: Mandaviya In Ladakh On Kargil Vijay Diwas

KARGIL: To mark 26 years of India's historic victory in the 1999 Kargil War, MY Bharat (Mera Yuva Bharat), under the aegis of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), organised 'Kargil Vijay Diwas Padyatra' in Dras, Kargil.

The padyatra was led by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports and Labour and Employment, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya and Union Minister of State for Defence, Sanjay Seth. Over 3,000 youth volunteers, along with veterans, serving armed forces personnel, families of martyrs, and members of civil society participated in the tribute walk.

Carrying forward this spirit of unity, the padyatra moved along a symbolic 1.5-kilometre route from the grounds of Himabass Public High School to Government Higher Secondary School, Bhimbet. During the padyatra, cultural performances showcasing the vibrant traditions of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh brought colour and meaning to the occasion, reflecting the unity and cultural richness of the region.

Addressing the gathering, Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya remarked, "Kargil is not just a place in history, it is a living symbol of India's resilience and unwavering spirit. It stands as a powerful reminder that when it comes to protecting the sovereignty of our nation, India remains united, resolute, and unshaken."

He called upon the youth to dedicate themselves to the mission of building a strong, self-reliant, and developed India, driven by the spirit of 'Nation First.' Reflecting on his recent visit



to Sando Top, Dr. Mandaviya added, "India has never initiated conflict, but when provoked, we respond with courage, dignity, and determination."

Union Minister also highlighted India's

growing strategic capabilities, citing the significance of Operation Vijay and Operation Sindoor as milestones in the nation's military history. He reaffirmed that India's armed forces continue to stand as the steadfast guardians of national pride and sovereignty.

Emphasizing the critical role of Amrit Peedhi, Dr. Mandaviya urged them to take up the mantle of Jan Bhagidari (public participation) in Rash-tranirman (nation-building) and contribute actively to the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047. "It is now upon our yuva shakti to carry forward the dreams of our brave soldiers and help shape a stronger, Atmanirbhar Bharat," he concluded.

Seth praised the enthusiasm of the youth and highlighted the sacrifices of the armed forces, encouraging students to imbibe discipline and national pride inspired by the Kargil heroes.

Following the Padyatra, both Ministers, joined by 100 MY Bharat youth volunteers, proceeded to the Kargil War Memorial where they

offered floral tributes to the soldiers who laid down their lives in the 1999 war. On the occasion, Dr. Mandaviya also felicitated 26 female bikers from the Shakti Udgosh Foundation, who completed a long-distance motorbike rally to

Union Minister also highlighted India's growing strategic capabilities, citing the significance of Operation Vijay and Operation Sindoor as milestones in the nation's military history. He reaffirmed that India's armed forces continue to stand as the steadfast guardians of national pride and sovereignty.

honour the martyrs.

The event also included a symbolic tree plantation under the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign, linking patriotic commitment with environmental stewardship. (PIB)

India Looks Forward To Boosting Ties With Maldives, Committed To Support Capacity Building: PM Modi

MALE: India looks forward to deepening its partnership with the Maldives, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday, as he met several Maldivian leaders, including Vice

"As this year marks 60 years of formal diplomatic relations with India, the Prime Minister and I reflected on the journey of friendship and reciprocal support our countries have taken.



President Uz Hussain Mohamed Latheef.

Modi is in the Maldives on a two-day visit. His discussions with Latheef touched upon key pillars of the India-Maldives ties, including cooperation in infrastructure, technology and energy.

"Our nations continue to work closely in sectors like infrastructure, technology, climate change, energy and more. This is greatly beneficial to our people. We look forward to deepening this partnership in the years to come," Modi posted on X.

The prime minister conveyed wishes on the 60th anniversary of Independence Day of the Maldives.

He also graced the celebrations as the guest of honour.

"Both sides exchanged views on the deep-rooted & special relationship. VP Latheef thanked PM for India's continued assistance to Maldives in times of need," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a social media post.

Latheef said it was an honour to call on the Indian prime minister.

I hope that the strong cooperation with India continues to grow and strengthen," Latheef said.

Modi also met Abdul Raheem Abdullah,

|| The participation of leaders across the political spectrum underscores the bipartisan support for the strong and time-tested India-Maldives friendship. Our shared values continue to guide this important partnership," the prime minister said.

Speaker of the People's Majlis (the Maldivian Parliament).

"Talked about the deep-rooted India-Maldives friendship, including the close relationship between our respective Parliaments," Modi said.

He also welcomed the formation of the India-Maldives Parliamentary Friendship Group in the 20th Majlis.

"India remains committed to supporting capacity building in the Maldives," the prime minister said.

The Speaker thanked Modi for India's continued commitment to enhancing ties with the Maldives and between the two democracies, Jaiswal said.

Modi also interacted with the Indian community in the Maldives and commended their contribution to the Indian Ocean archipelago's progress.

"The Indian diaspora continues to be one of the strongest bridges between India and the world. We are very proud of our diaspora," he said in a post on X.

Jaiswal said on X that the prime minister appreciated the diaspora's contributions in "building upon the strong and vibrant people-to-people ties between India and the Maldives. The Indian community in Maldives is a key pillar of the enduring India-Maldives friendship."

He also interacted with the beneficiaries of the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, which focuses on capacity building.

"The group included police officials, government officials, paramedics and nurses. They truly embody the spirit of the India-Maldives friendship and the deep-rooted ties that unite our two nations," he said on X.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi also met former Maldivian president Mohamed Nasheed.

"He (Nasheed) has always been a strong advocate of a deeper India-Maldives friendship. Spoke about how the Maldives will always be a valued pillar of our 'Neighbourhood First' policy and Mahasagar vision," he said. (PTI)

Chinese President Xi greets Maldivian counterpart on Independence Day

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Saturday congratulated his Maldivian counterpart, Mohamed Muizzu, on the 60th anniversary of the archipelago nation's Independence Day.

Xi said China and the Maldives are "traditional friendly neighbours, and the bilateral ties have maintained sound and steady development since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1972, setting a model for equality, mutual support, and win-win cooperation between countries of different sizes," state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

In his message, Xi recalled that in January 2024, Muizzu paid a successful state visit to China, during which he had a cordial and friendly exchange with Muizzu and reached a broad consensus, Xinhua added.

During Muizzu's visit to China, the two countries signed 21 agreements, followed by the defence pact.

Xi said that he attaches great importance to the development of China-Maldives relations and is ready to work with Muizzu to continuously deepen the China-Maldives comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership and jointly build a China-Maldives community with a shared future.

Xi's message reaffirming close ties with the Maldives came as Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a two-day visit to Male.

Meanwhile, in a message to his Maldivian counterpart Abdulla Khaleel, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said China stands ready to work with the Maldives to fully deliver on the important consensus reached by the two heads of state.

China is ready to carry forward the traditional friendship, deepen political mutual trust, expand friendly cooperation, improve the well-being of the people of the two countries, and jointly build a China-Maldives community with a shared future, Wang said. (PTI)



10.18 Crore Women Screened for Cervical Cancer Under Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and NHM

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has achieved a major milestone in women's health with over 10.18 crore women aged 30 years and above screened for cervical cancer across the country. This achievement is part of the population-based initiative for screening, prevention, and management of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), being implemented under the National Health Mission (NHM) through the Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs).

The initiative targets women aged 30 to 65 years, with screening primarily done using Visual Inspection with Acetic Acid (VIA) at Sub-Health Centres and Primary Health Centres under AAM by trained health workers. VIA-positive cases are referred to higher centres for further diagnostic evaluation.

At the grassroots level, Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) play a critical role by using Community Based Assessment Checklist (CBAC) forms to identify individuals at risk and facilitate their participation in regular health check-ups and screenings at AAMs. ASHAs also help generate awareness about the importance of early detection and adopting a healthy lifestyle.

Promotion of wellness activities and targeted communication campaigns at the community level further support the preventive aspect of cancer control. Events such as National Cancer Awareness Day and World Cancer Day are observed regularly. Additionally, the use of print, electronic, and social media platforms ensures continuous public engagement on NCDs including cervical cancer.

Under NHM, States and Union Territories are provided with dedicated funds for awareness generation activities as per their Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs).

The Ministry had also launched a time-bound NCD Screening Campaign from 20th February to 31st March 2025, to accelerate screening efforts for individuals aged 30 years and above. The success of this campaign has contributed to the current achievement.

As of 20th July 2025, data from the National NCD Portal indicates that 10.18 crore women out of an eligible population of 25.42 crore females aged 30 years and above have been screened for cervical cancer—reflecting the government's strong commitment to comprehensive and preventive healthcare delivery through Ayushman Arogya Mandirs.

The Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Prataprao Jadhav stated this in a written reply in the Lok Sabha on Friday. (PIB)

Sohrai Art is Soul of India: President Droupadi Murmu

NEW DELHI: The indigenous mural tradition of Sohrai Art from Jharkhand took centre stage at the second edition of Kala Utsav 2025—Artists in Residence Programme, held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

This ten-day residency programme was graced by the President of India, Droupadi Murmu and marked a significant milestone in celebrating India's rich folk and tribal art traditions.

President visited the exhibition and personally interacted with the artists. In her address, she praised their dedication, stating: "These artworks reflect the soul of India - our connection to nature, our mythology, and our community life. I deeply admire how each of you continues to uphold these invaluable traditions."

On the occasion, Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), along with Dr. Kumar Sanjay Jha, Regional Director, and Mrs. Sumedha Sengupta, Project Associate, IGNCA Regional Centre, Ranchi, were present on behalf of the institution. As a gesture of respect and tradition, the Hon'ble President was felicitated by IGNCA with a traditional saree.

The Project Assistants of the IGNCA Regional Centre, Ranchi—Mrs. Bolo Kumari Oraon, Mr. Prabhat Linda, and Dr. Himanshu Shekhar—played an instrumental role in coordinating with the artist collective and managing the participation of the artist team for the event, held from 14th to 24th July 2025.

Sohrai, a ritualistic wall-painting tradition practised by tribal communities in Jharkhand, is typically created by women during harvest and festive seasons. Using natural earth pigments and bamboo brushes, the artists transform mud walls into vivid depictions of animals, plants, and geometric motifs deeply connected to agrarian life and spiritual beliefs.

Ten acclaimed Sohrai artists from Hazaribagh district; Ms. Rudan Devi, Ms. Anita Devi, Ms. Sita Kumari, Ms. Malo Devi, Ms. Sajwa Devi, Ms. Parvati Devi, Ms. Asha Devi, Ms. Kadmi Devi, Ms. Mohini Devi, and Ms. Reena Devi participated in the ten-day residency and showcased their traditional artistry to a national audience.

Artists Ms. Malo Devi and Ms. Sajwa Devi shared their joy, saying: "We are extremely happy to have been a part of this initiative. Had a great experience presenting our state's Sohrai Art form."

It is a matter of pride for Jharkhand that Sohrai Art, which is yet to receive the same level of national attention as other traditional paintings such as Godna, Mithila, and Warli, has now found such an esteemed platform and stature. This opportunity has helped bring the traditional wisdom and cultural richness of Jharkhand to the forefront of India's artistic landscape.

The IGNCA and its Regional Centre in Ranchi played a crucial role in this cultural initiative by identifying, coordinating, and supporting the participation of Sohrai artists from remote villages of Jharkhand. Their tireless efforts ensured that this unique tribal art form was showcased on a national stage, giving the artists long-overdue recognition. IGNCA continues to work with dedication to uplift and promote such traditional art forms.

Through Kala Utsav 2025, Sohrai Art received national recognition, standing as a vibrant affirmation to the enduring spirit of Jharkhand's tribal communities. The IGNCA's commitment to promoting and preserving India's indigenous art forms ensured that the cultural significance and beauty of Sohrai were honoured and celebrated on one of the country's most prestigious platforms. (PIB)



Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan Hails PM Modi's Landmark 'Bima Sakhi Yojana' Launch

NEW DELHI: Speaking on the 'Bima Sakhi Yojana', Union Minister for Rural Development and Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, today said, "We have accomplished the historic launch of the 'Bima Sakhi Yojana' under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. This scheme is not only a major step towards women's empowerment but also towards providing economic security to rural and semi-urban India. The central government is committed to making every woman in the country self-reliant and economically strong."

Chouhan also said that the Ministry of Rural Development has entered into an important partnership with the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to realize the Government of India's 'Insurance for All by 2047' mission. Under the financial inclusion initiative of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission, trained women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) across the country will be appointed as 'Bima Sakhis' at the Gram Panchayat level.

"The 'Bima Sakhi Yojana' is a strong platform for women's entrepreneurship and financial independence. It reflects our commitment to realizing the vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' set forth by Prime Minister Modi," Shri Chouhan said.

He emphasized that the scheme aims to eco-

nomically empower rural women. By becoming 'Bima Sakhis', women are gaining new opportunities for entrepreneurship and income, thus

"Bima Sakhis are not just insurance agents but pioneers of social change. They are carrying the torch of financial security to every village, as a result of which villages are becoming economically stronger and women more self-reliant," Shri Chouhan stated.

supporting the goals of SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and the Lakhpati Didi Mission. He noted that by August 15, the number of Lakhpati Didis in the country would reach 2 crore (20 million)

across India.

The Minister stated that the 'Bima Sakhi' scheme is adding a new chapter to both urban and rural employment at the local level with



employment generation and women's workforce participation. Within this inclusive insurance ecosystem, Bima Sakhis are not only expanding access to insurance schemes but are also delivering trust-based services to the last mile.

He further mentioned that this initiative aligns with key government priorities and reinforces

schemes such as Jan-Dhan Se Jan Suraksha, Digital India, and women skill development. Contributing to disaster protection as well, this scheme will act as a financial shield for rural families in disaster-affected areas.

"Bima Sakhis are not just insurance agents but pioneers of social change. They are carrying the torch of financial security to every village, as a result of which villages are becoming economically stronger and women more self-reliant," Shri Chouhan stated.

At the end, he called on all states and partner organizations to join this people's movement and help take the 'Bima Sakhi Yojana' to every village and every household.

"The 'Bima Sakhi Yojana' is a transformational movement. With its support, we will make a strong contribution toward building a resilient, inclusive, and insured India. This initiative will give new momentum to the economic security and holistic development of our rural mothers and sisters," the Union Minister said. (PIB)

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

Max Spanning For TS9010: 4300 mm

*Subject to the following parameters:
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