



Abrogation of Article 370 marked birth of a new J&K: LG Sinha

■ Hands over appointment letters to 158 NoKs of terror victims in Srinagar

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SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha handed over the appointment letters to 158 Next of Kins (NoKs) of Kashmiri Civilians killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists.

The families of terror victims narrated their



traumatic experiences. They exposed the injustice perpetrated by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists and their sympathizers against their families.

The Lieutenant Governor paid his heartfelt tribute to civilian martyrs and saluted the courage and perseverance of families who have suffered from terrorism in Jammu Kashmir.

“Wounds that have persisted for decades are now being healed. Today’s landmark event provided a sense of closure to the families who have silently suffered trauma for years.

For more than three decades, the terror state

Pakistan is shedding innocent blood through its proxy terrorist outfits. Time did not erase the pain of loss. Invisible scars on their soul can be felt and the mute eyes are witness to many unfulfilled dreams.

The long wait for justice and for healing to begin

is over for the terror victim families. They have come out to reveal the role of Pakistani terrorists and terror ecosystem that was operating in J&K,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor shared the tragic account of Abdul Majid Mir’s family, whose lives



You’re not alone, we stand with you: Div Com Kashmir to terror victim families

Lauds LG Sinha’s initiative, says appointment letters ‘symbols of solidarity, not just papers’

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SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, on Tuesday said the government’s support to families affected by terrorism goes beyond official gestures, describing the distribution of appointment letters as a symbol of collective solidarity and healing.

The Div Com, made the remarks during an event at Sher-i-Kashmir International

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I assure the family members of **civilian martyrs** that I will not rest until every family that has been a victim of the terrorists’ atrocities gets justice: LG Sinha

I want to tell the loved ones of martyrs that the **dreams** of your father or your mother will now be fulfilled: LG

There is no place for **terrorism** in a civilized society. Many generations of J&K have suffered the brunt of terrorism perpetrated by the neighbouring country. Every person has to take a pledge that they will not allow this to happen again. We must rise against terrorism: LG Sinha

The new Jammu and Kashmir is one where the **terrorist elements** sitting in the government system are being cleaned out one by one and the decades-old wounds of terror victim families are being healed: LG Sinha

were shattered on June 29, 2004. On that day, Abdul Majid, from Sheikhpura, Baramulla, was kidnapped and brutally murdered by terrorists.

“Abdul Majid’s family lost their sole breadwinner and received Rs 1 lakh as an ex-gratia payment under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) scheme. Despite Abdul Majid Mir’s martyrdom, his family struggled to live a life of dignity. Today, by providing a government job to his son, Mudassir Majid, the administration has fulfilled its long-overdue responsibility.

After three decades of hardship, justice has finally been delivered to Suhail Majeed and his family. Today, Suhail, a resident of Anantnag, received an appointment letter for the government job. His father, Abdul Majeed Wani, was shot dead by Pakistan-backed terrorists on August 30, 1994. Justice has been finally delivered to the family after 31 years.

On February 24, 2000, SPO Manzoor Ahmad Rather, a resident of Warpora, Baramulla, was killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists. For 25 years, his family received no compensation. Today his son Khurshid Ahmad Rather has received an appointment letter. Traumatic period for the family is finally over.

For Parvez Ahmad Dar, the path to justice was painful. On July 6, 1996, terrorists killed his father, Ghulam Qadir Dar. On July 30, 2004, his brother, Aijaz Ahmad Dar, was also killed by terrorists. 29 years after his father’s death, Parvez’s nightmare is over,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He observed that the void in the lives of terror victims’ families cannot be filled with financial assistance or jobs, but it will be ensured that these families can live with dignity.

“We will do everything possible for the rehabilitation of terror victims. It is

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No official notification yet on Panchayat elections: RDD&PR

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Clarifies on ‘fake order being circulated on social media’

SRINAGAR: The Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Jammu



and Kashmir, has issued a strong clarification regarding a fake government order being widely circulated on various social media platforms, which falsely claims that Panchayat elections in the Union Territory will be conducted after November 2025.

A purported government notification titled “Conduct of Panchayat Elections in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir – Post November 2025” bearing Order No: 45-RD&PR of 2025 and dated 05-08-2025 is being shared online.

The officials from the department of RDD&PR have confirmed that no such order has been issued by the department and the document in circulation is fabricated and misleading. They further stated that the State Election Commission is the only competent authority to notify the schedule for Panchayat elections and no such timeline has been officially announced as of now.

“The general public is advised not to fall prey to such misinformation. Circulating fake government orders is a punishable offence under the Information Technology Act and relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code,” a senior official from the Rural Development Department said.

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‘Finally, Our Pain is Acknowledged’ Emotional Scenes As LG Sinha Awards Jobs To Terror Victims’ Kin

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SRINAGAR: Tears, memories, and hope filled the air at the Sher-

years of suffering, survival and today, a sense of recognition.

The emotional outpouring came during an official ceremony where



i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC) on Tuesday as the next of kin (NoKs) of terrorism victims opened up about their long

the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, handed over government job appointment letters to the affected families.

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Anshul Garg Appointed Div Com Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Anshul Garg, a 36-year-old IAS officer from the 2013 batch, was appointed on Tuesday as the divisional commissioner of the strategic Kashmir division,



making him the youngest officer to hold the coveted post.

Garg was among 10 IAS officers and four Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officers who were reshuffled by the Lt Governor Administration.

Garg, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, is transferred and posted as divisional commissioner, Kashmir, said an order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD).

He will replace V K Bhiduri who was transferred by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to Delhi on May 16 this year.

As the divisional commissioner, Garg will be overseeing the deputy commissioners

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CS Dulloo Reviews Impact Of Employment Generation Schemes

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the performance and impact of



employment generation schemes across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by the Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Commissioner Secretary, Cooperatives,

Secretary, Labour & Employment Department; Director Employment and all Deputy Commissioners who joined virtually.

In-depth deliberations were held to enhance the effectiveness, transparency

mittees should be entrusted with the approval of applications, thereby eliminating scope for unilateral decision-making.

Highlighting the critical role of financial institutions, the Chief Secretary directed the departments to strengthen bank link-

The Chief Secretary observed that it is imperative that transparency remains the cornerstone of all self-employment schemes. He added that outcome-based assessment must be conducted regularly to evaluate real-time impact at the grassroots level.

ages, particularly under schemes implemented by the Women Development Corporation (WDC). He also emphasized the importance of focusing on interest subvention components by the

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Surpasses LK Advani HM Amit Shah Becomes Longest-Serving Home Minister

FE NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Amit Shah has become the longest-serving Union Minister of Home Affairs of India on Tuesday. With 2,258 days in office since assuming the role on May 30, 2019, Shah has now surpassed the previous record held by senior BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani.

Shah’s tenure has also overtaken that of Congress stalwart Govind Ballabh Pant, cementing his position as a key pillar in the current National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government.

Coincidentally, Shah achieved this milestone on August 5, the date he announced the abrogation of Article 370 in Parliament in 2019, ending the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Before Amit Shah, the leaders who served the longest tenures as Home Minister include Congress leader Govind Ballabh Pant and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Lal Krishna Advani.

Previously, BJP stalwart Lal Krishna Advani had held the position for

2,256 days (from March 19, 1998, to May 22, 2004). In comparison, Amit Shah has been serving as Home Minister since May 30, 2019, and by August 4, 2025, he will have completed 2,258 days in office.



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Govind Ballabh Pant served from January 10, 1955, to March 7, 1961, a total of 6 years and 56 days.

Shah became the country’s Home Minister on May 30, 2019, and remained in the post till June 9, 2024. He again became Home Minister on June 10, 2024, and is serving. Apart from the Home Ministry, he is also the country’s first Cooperation Minister.

Apart from this, Amit Shah

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BJP celebrates anniversary of abrogation of Articles 370, 35A across J-K

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of the BJP on Tuesday marked the anniversary of the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A with celebrations across all districts of the Union Territory, saying it has brought constitutional unity, equal rights, and dignity to every citizen of the region.

From cities to border villages, BJP activists held public programmes, hoisted the tricolour, organised ‘Tiranga Yatras’, and conducted patriotic events to commemorate the historic decision taken on August 5, 2019, by the Narendra Modi-led central government.

J-K BJP president Sat Sharma, while addressing a gathering in Akhnour, said that the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A has brought constitutional unity, equal rights, and dignity to every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir.

“This day reminds us of our collective achievement, which led to the welfare of the neglected and oppressed communities of Jammu and Kashmir,” he said.

J-K BJP general secretary Ashok Koul said that the historic step

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Sakeena Itoo reviews functioning of Health, Social Welfare, Education departments in Poonch

POONCH: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, chaired a meeting to review the performance and functioning of Health, Social Welfare and Education departments in Poonch district.

The meeting was attended by MLA Haveli, Ajaz Ahmed Jan; MLA Surankote, Choudhary Mohammad Akram; Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal; Director Social Welfare Jammu, Director School Education Jammu, Director Health Services Jammu, Director Colleges, Medical Superintendent District Hospital Poonch besides other district and sectoral officers.

While reviewing the functioning of education sector, the Minister had in-depth assessment of ongoing works on under construction buildings.

She directed the concerned executing agencies to complete the projects in time so that they can be dedicated for public use at the earliest.

The Minister further directed the Director School Education to prioritize deployment of subject-specific teachers and rationalization of staff, particularly in border zones and far-flung hamlets. She also emphasized the periodic teacher training, strengthening School Management Committees (SMCs) and

community involvement in ensuring quality education.

"Education is the foundation for every society and the government is investing both human and infrastructural resources to give children a bright future they deserve", she stated.



Regarding health sector, the Minister sought details of all ongoing projects as well as staff position in healthcare institutions of the district.

She directed the Director Health services Jammu to cancel the attachment of all doctors and send them to their original place of postings immediately.

She further called for deployment of doctors to other remote areas once a week or as per need to provide basic health care services to the public at their doorsteps.

"A healthy society forms the backbone of a progressive region. People living in rural and border areas deserve equitable access to quality healthcare", the Minister asserted.

She also asked the healthcare department to minimise the referral of

but also about dignity and empowerment of the most vulnerable sections of the society", she said.

During the meeting, MLA Haveli and MLA Surankote raised various issues of their concerned constituencies, seeking their immediate redressal.

The Minister assured them these concerns will be addressed promptly.

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, briefed the Minister about the performance and functioning of each department through presentation.

He informed the Minister about the enrolments, cadre-wise strength of teaching faculty, infrastructure development, school upgradation and other key school developmental projects, healthcare infrastructure, status of ambulances, work done report and healthcare services being provided to the patient's across the district.

He also briefed the Minister about the services being provided by the social welfare department like old age, widow and PHC pension schemes, state marriage assistance scheme, motorised tricycle scheme, functioning of child care institutions and child protection, one stop centres, District hub for women empowerment and other related aspects.

Deputy Commissioner Poonch reviews Change of Land Use (CLU) cases

POONCH: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, chaired a meeting to review the status of various Change of Land Use (CLU) cases in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a detailed assessment of the performance of concerned departments in processing CLU applications. A total of 12 cases were taken up for review. Of these, eight cases were reverted while four cases were deferred after extensive deliberations on their compliance with existing norms and policies.

Stressing the importance of timely issuance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs),

the DC directed the concerned officers to ensure thorough document verification and strict adherence to policy guidelines.

and efficiency in future cases. The meeting was attended by ACR, Chief Agriculture Officer, CEO PDA, officers from BRO and



He emphasised the need to streamline the CLU approval process to enhance transparency

Executive Engineers from PWD, JPDC, I&FC, along with other concerned officials.

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar disburses compensation to four families of road accident victims

KISHTWAR: In a considerate gesture to support grieving families, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, disbursed 3.75 lakh as compensation under the J&K Road Accident Victim Fund. The disbursement followed case submissions by ARTO Kishtwar, Tasleem Wani.

An amount of 1 lakh each was disbursed to the legal heirs of three deceased road accident victims, while 75,000 was given to a victim who suffered permanent disability.

The families who received compensation were Nandani Devi D/o Kewal Singh R/o Chitto Paddar, Yasir Hussain S/o Mohammad Hussain R/o



Nagseni, Tahir Hussain S/o Ranjha R/o Keshwan and Khifitullah S/o Mohd Hanief R/o Chamoti (permanently disabled).

Athletic Meet for AAG Girls inaugurated at Chowgan Ground Kishtwar

KISHTWAR: The Youth Services & Sports Department Kishtwar today inaugurated an Athletic Meet for AAG Girls at Chowgan Ground, with participation from all zones of the district.

District Youth Services & Sports Officer Jaffer Haider Sheikh inaugurated the event as Chief Guest, joined by Zonal Physical Education Officers and other dignitaries. In his

address, DYSSO highlighted the and competitive spirit.



department's commitment to promoting fitness and sports among young girls. The meet featured track and field events showcasing energy, discipline

A prize distribution ceremony followed, where winners were felicitated and encouraged to continue excelling in sports.

DFCO cancels sale licenses of 8 pharmacies, suspends operations of 75 retail sale establishments

SRINAGAR: In a significant move to ensure the public safety and curb the misuse of pharmaceutical drugs, the government of Jammu & Kashmir has launched a special enforcement drive across Jammu and Kashmir, targeting the pharmacies and drug outlets for compliance with legal and regulatory standards.

During the drive, the officers of Drug & Food Control Organization (DFCO) carried out surprise inspections at various locations across the districts of Jammu & Kashmir. The objective of the initiative is to identify the pharmacies operating in violation of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and to strengthen the mechanisms preventing the unauthorized sale of psychotropic substances and prescription drugs.

Pertinently, the inspection teams cancelled the Drugs Sale Licenses of eight pharmacies for non-maintenance of sale records

of habit forming drugs and not adopting the computerized system of billing for maintenance of sales records. These included M/s Aatir Enterprises Ganjwara Anantnag, M/s Al-Mehdi Medicate, M/s Shehar Pharmacy Budgam, M/s Medcity Pharmacy, Chadoora, M/s New Bhat Medicate Chadoora, M/s Dar Medicate Qazipora, Chadoora, Budgam, M/s Pharma Plus Medicare Near Zara Diagnostic Lab Kheora Rajouri and M/s Happy Saini Medical Hall, Haria Chak, Marheeh.

Besides, the operations of seventy five retail sale establishments were disallowed on the spot under section 22 (d) of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 on spot for non maintenance of sale records, impersonation and improper storage conditions. These included 9 each in Jammu, Rajouri and Anantnag; 6 each in Kupwara and Budgam districts; 5 each in Udhampur and Kulgam; 4 in Pulwama, 3 each in Kathua,

Samba, Ramban, Doda, Baramulla and Shopian districts; 2 in Poonch district, 1 each in Kathua, Ramban, Reasi, Kishtwar, Srinagar and Ganderbal.

Likewise, the statutory drug samples of more than 500 formulations of various categories were lifted randomly for determination of strength and purity. These samples were referred to the Drug Testing Laboratories located within J&K for framing of legal opinion to ascertain their quality parameters.

Besides, stocks of drugs worth Rs 8,40,348, found to be contravening the provisions of the D&C Act, have also been confiscated from the supply chain by the Regulatory Officers of the organization under section 23 of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act.

Lotika Khajuria, State Drugs Controller, J&K has once again impressed upon the trade fraternity to follow the conditions of licenses in letter and spirit.

Arrangements for 3-day Sankri Devta Mela and Kailash Kund Yatra reviewed in Udhampur

UDHAMPUR: Arrangements for the upcoming Kailash Kund Yatra and the three-day historic Baba Sankri Devta Mela, scheduled to commence on AUGUST 19 in Meer village, Block Panchari, were reviewed in a meeting held today.

The meeting, chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Prem Singh at the DC Office Complex, was attended by DDC Member Jasvir Singh, ACR Dr Umesh Shan, senior officers and mela committee members.

Detailed discussions were held on security, sanitation, healthcare, transport, traffic management, water and power supply, and price monitoring.

ADC Prem Singh stressed early coordination among all

departments and encouraged mela committee members to

the mela. District Police will deploy



participate actively. Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti and JPDC were directed to ensure drinking water and uninterrupted power supply. The PMGSY Executive Engineer was assigned road maintenance. The Chief Medical Officer was instructed to deploy a medical team and ambulance. The District Youth Services and Sports Officer was tasked with organising sports events during

sufficient personnel and ARTO will provide bus services from various locations. Government departments will set up awareness stalls for public outreach. Tehsildar Panchari has been designated as the Mela Officer, while the Legal Metrology Department will monitor rates and consumable quality in coordination with other departments.

ADC Jammu reviews arrangements for Janmashtami festivities

JAMMU: Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Ansuya Jamwal, today chaired a preparatory meeting to review the arrangements for the forthcoming Janmashtami celebrations in the district.

During the meeting, the ADC directed for foolproof security arrangements and the deployment of magistrates at key locations to maintain law and order throughout the festivities. Stressing the importance of public convenience and safe celebrations, she instructed the concerned departments to intensify night patrolling and conduct special sanitation drives, particularly in and around prominent temples, community halls and congregation venues.

The ADC directed for adequate provision and uninterrupted supply of essential commodities including fruits, vegetables, milk and flowers for religious purposes. Instructions were issued for the constitution of joint market-checking teams to curb overcharging and ensure the availability of quality edible items at fair prices.

She also emphasised on the need for uninterrupted power and potable water supply to all main celebration sites. Departments were asked to fast-track the repair of potholes and ensure the cleaning of all approach roads, lanes and marketplaces, facilitating smooth movement for devotees.

The deployment of fire and emergency services, medical teams and ambulances at designated locations was also reviewed.

For public safety and convenience, the ADC stressed efficient traffic management plans and directed close coordination between the traffic police and municipal authorities to avoid congestion and ensure smooth vehicular flow during processions and at celebration venues.

ADC Ansuya Jamwal urged all departments to work in close coordination and maintain heightened vigil to ensure the peaceful, smooth and joyous conduct of Janmashtami in Jammu. She appealed to citizens and devotees to cooperate with the administration and follow all guidelines for a safe festival.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner General, Deputy Director Fire and Emergency Services, SDPO City North, DySP Traffic North and senior officers from the Power Development Department, Jal Shakti, Jammu Municipal Corporation and other allied departments besides representatives of religious bodies.

District Development Council Reasi approves Rs 6277.53 lakh District Capex Budget for FY 2025-26

REASI: The District Development Council (DDC) Reasi, chaired by DDC Chairperson Saraf Singh Nag, today approved the District Capex Budget of Rs 6277.53 lakh for the financial year 2025-26. The budget includes Rs 1147.34 lakh for ongoing works and Rs 5130.19 lakh for new development proposals, aimed at accelerating infrastructure development and service delivery.

The meeting was attended by MLA Reasi Kuldeep Raj Dubey, MLA Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Baldev Raj Sharma, Vice Chairperson DDC Sajra Qadir, ADDC Reasi Sukhdev Singh Samyal, DDC Members and senior district officials.

Chairperson Saraf Singh Nag commended the consistent efforts of council members and line departments. He called for regular monitoring and strict quality control. He also directed a detailed inquiry into the NHM building at Pouni and instructed the Health Department to maintain proper documentation.

Vice Chairperson Sajra Qadir highlighted the need for constructing a two-storey building at Government High

School Lar. Chief Planning Officer Narinder Kumar delivered a presentation covering the district's development status,

verify all works.

The ADDC stressed time-bound completion and quality adherence. He noted the



achievements and investment priorities.

Council members actively raised local concerns. DDC Panthal sought funding for school playgrounds and infrastructure, along with road and bridge upgradation. DDC Ransoo demanded playgrounds in Pouni and Ransoo. DDC Thakrakote pointed out delays in sanctioned school building work. DDC Pouni highlighted staff shortages at PHC Pouni and the urgent need for hand pump repairs. DDC Reasi stressed canal repairs, road connectivity and the need to

Capex Plan was prepared with department and stakeholder input.

MLA Reasi emphasised the importance of project inspections to ensure transparency. Both MLAs urged timely, quality execution and community engagement.

The Council resolved to prioritise capital investment in sectors such as Education, Health, ICDS, PDD and RDD. With the plan now approved, the district administration will begin implementation to ensure swift and impactful development.

Har Ghar Tiranga campaign sees vibrant celebrations across Ramban



RAMBAN: As part of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, the District Administration Ramban, led by Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan, organised a series of events to inspire patriotism and public engagement.

Departments across the district held Tiranga Rangoli competitions in schools, colleges and public areas. Students used tricolour themes and organic materials to create artistic displays, turning institutions into vibrant hubs of celebration.

Rakhi-making competitions, Tiranga rallies, painting contests and awareness drives on cleanliness, water conservation and hygiene were also organised at Block, Tehsil and Sub-Division levels.

Students performed patriotic songs and skits, promoting unity and national pride. Youth participants urged families and neighbours to hoist the National Flag at their homes.

The celebrations will continue across Ramban in the lead-up to Independence Day, strengthening community participation and the spirit of patriotism.

National Tobacco Control Programme reviewed in Kathua

KATHUA: A review meeting of the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) was held at the DC Office Complex, chaired by Additional District Development Commissioner Surinder Mohan Sharma to assess progress and strengthen anti-tobacco measures.

The meeting was attended by ADC Basholi, ADC Billawar, CMO Kathua, CEO Municipal Council, BDO HQ Kathua, Food Safety Officer, District Programme Manager NHM, and representatives from the CEO's Office. All Block Medical Officers joined virtually.

The ADDC underlined the importance of coordination and enforcement to achieve a tobacco-free India. He highlighted the need to protect youth and called for intensified awareness and inter-departmental synergy.

The CMO presented an overview of NTCP implementation and stakeholder responsibilities.

BDO HQ, as Nodal Officer, was tasked with declaring at least one tobacco-free village per

The meeting also decided to form multi-departmental teams and roll out weekly outreach



block, eventually expanding to two. Signboards and active participation from Village Level Committees were mandated.

The CEO Office Kathua was directed to declare all Higher Secondary and High Schools as tobacco-free zones. Schools must display statutory warnings, designate No Smoking Zones within 100 yards, and conduct pledge-taking assemblies.

programmes in hotspot areas. ADC Basholi and ADC Billawar will identify such areas and ensure regular inspections.

The CEO Municipal Council Kathua was directed to inspect hotels and restaurants for tobacco control compliance and display of IEC material. All departments must nominate Nodal Officers for effective programme implementation.

GDC Vijaypur organises seminar on 'Role of J&K youth in achieving Viksit Bharat@2047'

SAMBA: As part of the Independence Day Celebrations 2025, Government Degree College Vijaypur organised a seminar competition on the theme "Role of J&K Youth in Achieving Viksit Bharat@2047".

The event aimed to promote youth engagement, critical thinking and national responsibility among students.

Students from various departments participated enthusiastically, presenting their views on how the youth of Jammu & Kashmir can contribute to India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047—the

centenary year of independence.

Principal Dr Ashu Vashisht inaugurated the seminar and emphasised the role of youth as change-makers and nation-builders. "The aspirations and innovation of our young minds are pivotal for realising the dream of Viksit Bharat by 2047. Events like these nurture leadership, responsibility and a spirit of patriotism," she said.

A panel of judges comprising Prof Anita Jamwal (HoD Political Science), Dr Anoop Kumar Bhagat (HoD Sociology) and Prof Ritu Bhagat (HoD Education) evaluated

the participants based on content, clarity, originality and presentation. Vinayak of Semester V secured the first position, followed by Akash of Semester V and Sudhanshu of Semester III in second and third places respectively.

Winners were felicitated with certificates recognising their insightful contributions and oratory skills.

The event concluded with the National Anthem and a vote of thanks by Prof Mamta Gupta (HoD Commerce), who appreciated the efforts of the organising faculty and the enthusiastic participation of students.

Several legislators call on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, raise issues concerning development

Express gratitude to CM for recently extending power amnesty scheme to consumers across J&K

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Several Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, to discuss a range of public concerns and development issues of their respective constituencies.

The legislators who met the Chief Minister included Ali Mohammad Dar (Chadoora), Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani (Beerwah), Saifuddin Bhat (Khan Sahib) and Javed Iqbal Choudhary (Budhal).

During the meeting, the MLAs brought to the Chief Minister's attention various constituency-specific issues relating to infrastructure development, public service delivery and implementation of welfare schemes. They urged for swift redressal of pressing public demands to ensure timely benefits reach the people.

The MLAs further urged the Chief Minister to take necessary measures for early opening of tourist destinations of Tosamaidan and Doodhpathri in Budgam district, as the



livelihoods of the local population depend on these areas.

The legislators also expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister for recently extending the power amnesty scheme to electricity consumers across Jammu and Kashmir. They lauded the initiative as a significant step towards providing relief to thousands of households grappling with non-payment of timely power bills resulting

in interest and penalty on principal amount and making it difficult for them to clear the payments.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah assured the legislators that the government remains committed to addressing the genuine concerns of the people and emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts between the administration and elected representatives for inclusive development.

DC Ganderbal inspects arrangements for Annual Urs of Hazrat Qamaruddin Bukhari (RA) at Saloora

FE NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: In view of the ongoing celebrations of the annual Urs of Hazrat Qamaruddin Bukhari (RA), Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal,

Jatin Kishore visited the revered shrine at Reshipora, Saloora to take firsthand assessment of the arrangements being put in place for the smooth conduct of the event.

During the visit, the management of Qamaria Trust briefed the DC regarding the preparations and arrangements being made for the celebration of Urs.

The DC issued on-spot directions to the concerned departments to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply, proper sanitation,

efficient traffic regulation, health-care facilities, sufficient parking space, and other essential services during the Urs days.

The annual Urs of Hazrat Qamaruddin Bukhari (RA) is observed with immense religious devotion, drawing thousands of devotees from across the region who visit the shrine to pay their respects and seek blessings.

Meanwhile, the DC also took a detailed round of the shrine complex, inspecting the parking arrangements and food stalls set up for the convenience of the devotees.

Sakeena Itoo visits Dina Nath Rafiq Memorial Govt Girls Model HSS, reviews functioning



FE News Network

POONCH: Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo, visited the Dina Nath Rafiq Memorial Government Girls Model Higher Secondary School (Sheesh Mahal), Poonch and took stock of academic activities in the institution.

During the visit, the Minister interacted with the faculty members, administrative staff and students, taking stock of ongoing academic and co-curricular activities. She reviewed the teaching standards, infrastructure, availability of learning resources and implementation of various educational schemes. The Minister emphasized the need to continue striving for excellence in girls education. She lauded the institutes legacy and acknowledged its role in empowering the young women in the region. "This institution stands as a beacon of learning and empowerment for girls and it is our responsibility to ensure that it continues to nurture young girls of this

district," she remarked.

During the visit, the Minister also inspected the classrooms, labs and other infrastructure of the institution. She also held brief interactive session with the students to understand their aspirations and concerns. She encouraged them to pursue their dreams with confidence and integrity, underscoring the importance of education in building a progressive society.

On the occasion, the Minister also held a brief meeting with the school management and faculty, urging them to focus on upgrading the facilities particularly making digital learning tools accessible to students. She assured them government's continued support in raising educational standards across the region. MLA Haveli, Ajaz Ahmed Jan; MLA Surankote, Choudhary Mohammad Akram; Director School Education Jammu; ADDC Poonch; CEO Poonch; Principal; faculty members and other district officers accompanied the Minister during the visit.

DC Budgam Visits Bereaved Family Of Electrocution Victim In Ichgam

Assures swift justice & action

FE News Network

BUDGAM: In a tragic incident today, two students from Ichgam area, studying at Government Higher Secondary School Ichgam, got electrocuted after reportedly leaving the school premises to swim in a spring located near a nearby masjid.

One student unfortunately lost his life, while the other remains critically injured and is currently under observation at SKIMS Soura Hospital, Srinagar.

Upon receiving the distressing news, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, visited the bereaved family to personally offer condolences and express solidarity with them during this difficult time.

Dr Bilal assured the families that strict action will be taken against anyone found

negligent, and justice will prevail. DC further said that, an enquiry committee has already been constituted to investigate the incident thoroughly.

He said that the committee will ascertain as to how the electrocution incident occurred, identify any lapses, and ensure that accountability is fixed. He assured the administration is fully committed to a transparent, time-bound enquiry, and any official or individual found guilty of negligence will face action as per the law.

DC said, district administration stands with the families in this moment of grief and will extend all necessary support.

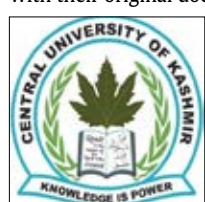
Further steps are also being taken to review safety measures around such places, he added. DC was accompanied by ADC Budgam, Dy.CEO Budgam, DEPO Budgam and other officers during the visit.

CUKashmir announces spot admissions for few PG progs

FE News Network

GANDERBAL: Central University of Kashmir (CUK) has started Spot Admissions for few Postgraduate (PG) programmes for the academic session 2025–2026. This admission drive is an opportunity for candidates who missed the earlier admission rounds.

Eligible and interested applicants are encouraged to approach the concerned teaching departments directly, along with their original documents, to complete the admission formalities. Admissions will be granted strictly on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to the availability of seats at the time of reporting. For admission in the programmes and other requisite details, the aspirants can contact, Dr. Mohd. Ashraf Malik (7006651472) for M.A. Islamic Studies,



Dr. Rizwana Rafiq (6006209611) for Master of Commerce (M.Com), Dr. Ihsan Malik (9419009781) for M.A. English, Dr. Abdul Roof Rather (9682115105) for, Master of Physical Education (M.P.Ed), Dr. Shabir Ahmad Ahanger (9906966500) for M.Sc. Mathematics (Lateral Entry), Dr. Firdous Ahmad Sofal (7006289535) for Master of Education (M.Ed.), Dr. John Babu (9419026848) for M.A. Mass Communication & Journalism (MCJ), Dr. Raja Nisar Ali (9797065715) for M.Sc. Physics (Lateral Entry), Dr. Shahnaz Akhtar (6006376784) for MBA (Travel & Tourism Management), Dr. Amjad Husain (9149725792) for M.Tech (Computer Science & Engineering) and Dr. Saima Bashir 6005460074 for Integrated B.Ed-M.Ed (IBM). Prospective candidates are advised to thoroughly check the eligibility criteria, and other relevant details by visiting the official website: www.cukashmir.ac.in.

Rana visits Kashmir Forest Training School in Bandipora



FE News Network

BANDIPORA: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, visited the Kashmir Forest Training School (KFTS) at Chiternar in Bandipora district to assess functioning of the institution and took stock of infrastructure requirements.

During his tour, the Minister held a detailed review of the existing training modules, staff strength, hostel facilities and overall infrastructure of the school. He emphasized the need for modernization and capacity enhancement to ensure quality training for forest personnel. The Minister assured that necessary upgradation of School's infrastructure shall be undertaken shortly for which a comprehensive upgradation proposal has already been submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). He assured that the matter will be vigorously followed up for early approval

and funding.

Later, the Minister interacted with several public delegations from the area who apprised him of various issues and developmental concerns related to water supply (Jal Shakti), tribal welfare and forest-related matters.

A major concern raised by the locals was the increasing monkey menace, which has been affecting the agriculture and safety in the region.

Taking serious note of the concerns, the Minister issued on-spot directions to the concerned departments to prepare an action plan for addressing the monkey menace and improving service delivery in the sectors highlighted. The Minister reiterated the government's commitment towards ensuring sustainable development and people-centric governance, especially in remote and ecologically sensitive areas. He was accompanied by MLA Gurez, Nazir Ahmed Gurezi, who also engaged with the local stakeholders and officials during the visit.

‘I was in UKG when my father was killed’: Bijbehara girl thanks LG Sinha for appointment letter

Soliha Javed, now in Class 10, says ‘justice has finally come’; recalls her mother's 12 years of struggle



FE News Network

SRINAGAR: For 16-year-old Soliha Javed from Bijbehara, August 05, 2025, will be etched in her memory not just as a date, but as the day justice finally knocked at her door after 12 long years of silence, pain and perseverance.

"I was in UKG when my father was killed in a terror attack," Soliha said, her voice steady but eyes welling with emotion.

"Now, I am in Class 10 and this is the first time I have felt that someone heard our cries," she said while speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Soliha said her father was killed in a terrorist attack more than a decade ago. Since then, her mother, a single parent, bore the burden of raising her daughter while knocking on every door for justice.

"My mother would hold my hand with one and the documents in the other," she said. The girl spoke of fighting every battle—legal, emotional and financial on her own. "Today, I saw relief on her face for the first time," she added. At the official event in Srinagar, where

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha handed over appointment letters to families of terror victims, Soliha said she felt overwhelmed with gratitude.

"This appointment letter is not just a paper; it is a reward for my mother's struggle and a recognition of my father's sacrifice," she said.

Soliha said she wants to focus on her studies now. "My father's dream was for me to become something in life. With this support, I can think of a future. I feel light, as if a heavy weight has been lifted from our shoulders," she added.

Moreover, Soliha expressed deep gratitude to the LG Manoj Sinha administration: "We are very happy and thankful to LG Sahab. He didn't just announce something, he gave us justice but something we have waited for all these years." Notably, LG Sinha said the long wait for justice and for healing to begin is over for the terror victim families. "We will do everything possible for the rehabilitation of terror victims. It is my promise to the NoKs of terror victim families that perpetrators of heinous crimes will receive exemplary punishment. We will also ensure the harshest possible punishment to terror sympathisers," he said—(KNO)

140 Assistive devices distributed among CWSN students at Shopian

MLA Zainapora chairs distribution function, highlights need of assistive devices for CWSN students

FE News Network

SHOPIAN: Education department Shopian under the aegis of Samagra Shiksha organized a distribution camp for Children with Special Needs (CWSN) at Government Higher Secondary School Imamsahib, Shopian.

The event aimed at providing aids and appliances to specially-abled students to promote inclusive education and enable their seamless integration into mainstream classrooms.

Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Zainapora, Showkat Hussain Ganie was present at the event. Principal HSS Imamsahib, Mushtaq Ahmad, other dignitaries, officials, and education stakeholders were also present.

A team of experts from ALIMCO, along with Special Education Teachers under Samagra Shiksha, distributed aids and appliances and provided hands-on training to children on their usage, thereby empowering them with tools for better mobility and participation in regular educational activities.

In his address, MLA Zainapora lauded the efforts of the education department and all stakeholders for organizing the event while also commending the parents of specially-abled children for their dedication. He emphasized the empowerment of differently-abled students through education.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal HSS Imamsahib appreciated the parents for their unwavering support



towards the education of their specially-abled wards. He highlighted the significance of such camps in complementing the efforts toward creating a disability-friendly infrastructure in schools, including accessible toilets, ramps, and other essential facilities that foster an inclusive learning environment.

The camp served as a meaningful step toward achieving the vision of inclusive education under Samagra Shiksha and was well-received by the community and participating families.

More than 140 assistive devices were distributed among CWSN by the department in two camps covering all four education zones.

Sakeena Itoo visits SMHS Hospital Srinagar, enquires about health of injured student

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, visited the SMHS Hospital Srinagar to enquire about the well-being of young student Adfar Imtiyaz of Ichgam Budgam who sustained serious injuries due to an electric shock incident.

During the visit, the Minister held detailed deliberations with the attending doctors and medical staff to get first-hand information about the student's condition and



ongoing treatment. She directed the Principal GMC to ensure best possible treatment to the injured student.

Expressing deep concern over the unfortunate event, the Minister also interacted with the family members and attendants of the injured student. She assured them every possible support from the government during this difficult time.

The Minister assured them that accountability will be fixed on this incident and swift action will be taken against those responsible for this negligence.

She also extended prayers for speedy recovery of the injured student and expressed solidarity with the family.

Mission YUVA gains pace in Baramulla with approval of 315 youth empowerment cases

FE News Network

BARAMULLA: In a major push towards youth empowerment and self-employment, the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) Baramulla, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa, approved 315 cases under the Mission YUVA initiative today at the VC Hall, DC office Baramulla.

While reviewing the scheme's progress, DC

appreciated the commendable efforts of the SBDU team and directed them to maintain the momentum in case verification. He emphasized the need to extend all necessary support to applicants to ensure timely processing and effective handholding.

Officers were also instructed to expedite the application processing to ensure prompt assistance to beneficiaries.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning

Officer Baramulla, DDM NABARD, officers from Employment, Social Welfare, and other concerned departments besides bank representatives and other officials from the Employment department.

With the approval of these 315 cases, the district moves a step closer to realizing the vision of an economically empowered and self-reliant youth population through targeted government interventions and financial support.

Editorial

No One Knocked At Their Door For Decades

At SKICC in Srinagar, amid the crisp mountain air and echoes of forgotten sorrow, something quietly historic took place. For the first time in years, for some, in decades, families shattered by terror felt seen. They weren't politicians, or headline-makers. They were ordinary people who had lived through the unimaginable: a son gunned down on his way to school, a father never returning from work, a mother killed in a marketplace blast. And after the media moved on and the mourners left, they were left to carry the weight alone. No compensation could undo their loss. No words ever truly reached them.

But yesterday, as Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha handed out job appointment letters to the kin of terror victims, something changed. It wasn't just a government scheme playing out on stage, it was a quiet recognition of grief long ignored. It was the state, finally saying: We remember. We care. Many of those who came to SKICC had never stepped into a government building with hope before. Some had spent years knocking on doors, filing applications, writing petitions that were lost in dusty drawers. Others had given up completely. Yet here they were, holding letters that promised not just employment, but a future.

There were tears, not of joy, but of relief. Of finally being acknowledged. One young woman, whose father was killed in a terrorist attack when she was in school, whispered, "Maybe now I can take care of my mother."

This is what governance looks like when it meets humanity, not in sweeping speeches or grand declarations, but in small, personal acts of justice. Lieutenant Governor Sinha's move deserves more than applause, it deserves replication and continuity. These families don't need charity. They need the dignity of support, the assurance that their suffering isn't invisible.

This step must now become a sustained journey. There are still many waiting. Healing in Kashmir will not come from top-down policies alone, but from acts of empathy like this, repeated, widened, and made permanent. In the quiet dignity of SKICC yesterday, a powerful message echoed: that those who lost everything to violence are no longer forgotten. And that sometimes, justice comes not in courts, but in an outstretched hand, saying, you matter.

When Double Standards Harm a Child's Learning



DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

On one hand, in India, we claim to touch new heights in science, technology and space research, on the other hand, even today, such scenes are found in every corner of the country where children are deprived



of education. This irony becomes even more painful when the path of education is obstructed not only by poverty or lack of resources, but also by superstition and hypocrisy.

Hypocrisy is not just the miracles shown by a fake Baba, it is a social trap in which the thoughts, questions and dreams of children are trapped. Such people whose aim is to establish their dominance in the society consider education to be the biggest threat. Because education teaches to question, gives discretion to think and makes a person self-reliant. This is the power that can close the shops of hypocrites.

Even today, in many villages, towns and backward areas of the country, there are so-called sadhus, saints and religious gurus who preach from the stage, "If you educate girls too much, they will not manage the house", "A daughter's education becomes an obstacle in her marriage", "A highly educated girl is inauspicious." Such statements are not just jokes, they give direction to the thinking of the society and prevent parents from sending their children to school.

Despite government efforts, education cannot spread until the mindset of the society changes. On one hand, the government is running schemes like nutritious food,

scholarships and free books to bring children to school, while on the other hand, the self-proclaimed contractors of the society are looking at education with disdain.

Every voice opposing education is actually a symbol of the fear that haunts the hypocrites – that if a child gets educated, he will raise questions on issues like casteism, discrimination, discrimination in temples, the status of women, exploitation and injustice. This fear keeps them away from books.

Even today, it is said in many places that "If you educate your daughters too

It is also worth noting that many times political power and religious hypocrisy come together. In the vote bank politics, so-called sadhus get a platform and they exploit the mentality of children by calling their education a delusion and a sin. Many times such preachers even get a government platform, security and facilities.

When children go to school, they don't just learn math, science, or language. They also learn freedom, equality, reason, and rights. This is what makes hypocrites uncomfortable.

They don't want any child to ask – "If we are all children of God, then why are there castes?"

"Why are women not allowed to enter temples?"

"Why don't the poor get good schools?" Only these questions can shake the roots of hypocrisy, hence the first attack of such people is always on education.

The sad thing is that even the education department sometimes succumbs to these tendencies. Teaching religious rituals in schools, giving holidays in the name of Babas, or holding bhajan competitions have now become common.

In such a situation, a child who should be given the freedom to think is taught the lesson of imitation.

The condition of girls is even more pathetic. Silencing them in the name of 'Kanyadaan', keeping them confined in the house in the name of 'purity', and depriving them of education in the name of 'culture' - all this is the true picture of a society that shines from outside but is rotten from within.

We often say that an educated mother educates the entire family. But when society forces that mother out of school, generations grow up in darkness.

We have to understand that education is not an optional means, it is a fundamental right. The sparkle in the eyes of children increases when they have books in their hands, when they have the freedom to ask questions and when the teacher is their guide, not some Baba.

If we want a society that is rational, just and egalitarian, then we must connect children with education. For this, not just plans but a change in mindset is required.

We have to ask this direct question to the babas and hypocrites -

"If education is a sin, then why do you educate your children?"

"If it is unfair for girls to go to school, then why are the daughters of your house going to college?"

Asking questions is the first step in the fight against hypocrisy.

Teachers should not only teach the cur-

riculum but also make children discerning. They should tell them the difference between faith and understanding. Schools should become centres where independent thoughts are respected and not just imitation is taught.

Governments should stop any kind of religious interference in the field of education. Constitutional citizens should not allow the rights of children to be violated in the name of religion. And above all, society should consider children's education as a 'duty' and not a 'religion'.

There can be no religion greater than the future of children.

His school is more important than any

Hypocrisy is not just the miracles shown by a fake Baba, it is a social trap in which the thoughts, questions and dreams of children are trapped. Such people whose aim is to establish their dominance in the society consider education to be the biggest threat. Because education teaches to question, gives discretion to think and makes a person self-reliant. This is the power that can close the shops of hypocrites.

sermon.

More important than any miracle is his courage to ask the question.

Only books can break down the walls of hypocrisy. And on the first page of that book it should be written - "I can think, therefore I am free."

Ultimately, it is our collective responsibility to raise our children in a society where they can live with conscience, think freely and shape their future above all kinds of hypocrisy.

Author is a Research Scholar in Political Science. He can be mailed at kavitaniketanj33@gmail.com

PM-KISAN: India's Vision For Inclusive Growth In Farming Communities



By Dr. Pramod Meherda & Arindam Modak

In the journey of inclusive growth and rural prosperity, the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) stands tall as a pioneering initiative by the Government of India. Launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sri Narendra Modi, on 24th February 2019, it has profoundly impacted the lives of millions of small and marginal farmers and established itself as a global model for direct income support delivered through a fully digital, efficient, and transparent system.

Empowering Farmers Through Direct Support

At its core, PM-KISAN provides 6,000 annually to eligible farmer families, disbursed in three equal installments of 2,000 directly into their bank accounts via the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system. This streamlined, technology-driven approach eliminates intermediaries, delays, and leakages, ensuring every rupee reaches the intended beneficiary.

Since its inception, over 3.69 lakh crore has been transferred, making PM-KISAN one of the largest digitally executed cash transfer programmes in the world. Beyond numbers, it represents a shift in paradigm, from subsidies to empowerment, allowing farmers the autonomy to decide how best to utilise the support, whether for seeds, tools, education, or health.

A Game-Changer for India's Small Farmers

For India's more than 85% of farmers who own less than two hectares of land, the benefits serve as a crucial financial bridge during sowing or harvesting seasons. They relieve short-term cash flow stress, reduce dependence on informal credit, and provide a safety net in times of distress.

More than financial aid, PM-KISAN symbolizes inclusion, dignity, and the recognition of



the farmer as a partner in nation-building.

A Triumph of Digital Governance

PM-KISAN owes much of its success to India's robust digital infrastructure. The JAM trinity, Jan Dhan bank accounts, Aadhaar biometric identity, and mobile connectivity have enabled seamless delivery at scale. From self-registration to land ownership verification and DBT-enabled payments, the entire scheme's lifecycle is digital.

With support from State Governments, PM-KISAN operates as a digitally integrated, end-to-end model of governance. It has successfully unified land records, beneficiary databases, and payment systems across diverse geographies, creating a farmer-centric architecture unlike any in the world.

PM-KISAN has also inspired innovative proj-

ects in the agriculture ecosystem, such as the Kisan eMitra voice-based chatbot and the Agri Stack. The AgriStack is poised to deliver personalized, timely, and transparent services, enabling Indian agriculture to become future-ready.

Setting Global Standards

Around the world, direct benefit programmes are increasingly being recognised as effective tools for poverty alleviation. Yet PM-KISAN offers something unique—its sheer scale, speed, and digital integrity make it a replicable model for countries striving to reform fragmented agricultural support systems.

International institutions like IFPRI, FAO, ICAR, and ICRIAT have highlighted the role of PM-KISAN in boosting smallholder incomes,

improving credit access, reducing inequality, and encouraging adoption of modern practices. Its trust-based, unconditional approach, unlike conditional transfers in many countries, represents a leap forward in participatory and dignity-driven welfare delivery.

Catalysing Rural Development

PM-KISAN's positive impact goes far beyond individual beneficiaries. The infusion of predictable cash has revitalized rural markets, stimulated demand for agri-inputs, and strengthened household consumption patterns. It has played a pivotal role in empowering women, especially where bank accounts are jointly held.

Moreover, it complements other flagship schemes, such as Soil Health Cards, Kisan Credit Cards, PM Fasal Bima Yojana, and e-NAM, by creating a holistic and interconnected rural development ecosystem. Its integration with the PM-Kisan Maandhan Yojana, a pension scheme for farmers, is a further step in building social security nets for India's agricultural workforce.

A vision for the future: Resilience, Equity, and Sustainability

PM-KISAN is more than a financial support mechanism. It is a transformative vision of farmer-led growth of the Government of India. By shifting from entitlement to empowerment, from assistance to autonomy, it redefines the contract between the state and the farmer.

As India aspires to become a \$5 trillion economy, initiatives like PM-KISAN form the foundation of inclusive progress. With continued integration of advanced technologies and a focus on climate resilience, sustainability, and precision agriculture, the scheme is set to evolve into an even more powerful force for change.

PM-KISAN is a story of trust, technology, and transformation. It is India's contribution to the world, a living example of how visionary policy, combined with digital innovation and political will, can empower millions and redefine governance for the 21st century.

(The authors Dr. Pramod Meherda is an Additional Secretary & Arindam Modak, Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India-PIB)

Sakeena Itoo distributes motorized Tricycles among specially abled persons at Poonch

FE NEWS NETWORK

Inaugurates training-cum-awareness program on Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana



POONCH: Minister for Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo, distributed motorized Tricycles among 28 specially abled persons at a function held here today.

The event was organized by the Department of Social Welfare department with an aim at enhancing the mobility and independence of individuals with physical challenges.

MLA Haveli, Ajaz Ahmed Jan; Director Social Welfare Jammu; Additional District

Development Commissioner Poonch; DSWO Poonch; other district and sectoral officers and locals were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister reaffirmed the commitment of government to social welfare and inclusive governance. "Empowering the differently-abled is not

timely support for persons with disabilities.

The Minister further highlighted that these tricycles are not just about mobility, they symbolize dignity, independence and opportunity for those with special needs.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Haveli, Ajaz Ahmed Jan appreciated the depart-

Later, the Minister inaugurated training cum awareness program under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).

Addressing the participants on the occasion, the Minister highlighted that the present government led by Omar Abdullah is committed to provide essential services to the people at their door steps. She spoke in length about various social sector schemes, particularly for women folk like WDC loan scheme, Ladli beti scheme and other which are aimed for empowerment of women.

She asked the concerned department to organise awareness camps in remote areas of the district so that maximum people can take benefits of these schemes.

She also appreciated the commendable job done by Anganwari workers and help in implementing scheme smoothly across Jammu and Kashmir.

In his welcome address, Mission Director Poshan highlighted the progress on mission implementation, benefits and procedures of the scheme.

During the event, the Minister also distributed the letter of appreciation among the POCS and data entry operators for their commendable job in implementing the scheme in the district. She also presented appointment orders to Workers and help-ers.

On the occasion, Anganwari workers also presented a skit depicting the whole process and benefits of the scheme.

Budgam celebrates 'Har Ghar Tiranga' with district-wide patriotic fervour

FE NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: A series of vibrant activities and events continued across Budgam district under the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, being observed as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

The celebrations, which began on August 2, continue to gather momentum with enthusiastic participation from educational institutions, municipal bodies, and local communities.

At PM SHRI HSS Kandoora Beerwah, students showcased their talent in essay writing and painting competitions, expressing their patriotism through words and art. Similarly, PM SHRI GHSS Dagger organised a spirited Tiranga rally, where students marched with national flags, echoing the message of unity.

Also the students at HSS Khanshab participated in a range of engaging activities including cultural performances, speeches, and thematic exhibitions. At HSS Khag, colourful rangoli designs were created by students, reflecting both creativity and devotion to the national cause.

A special highlight came from Ishitque Memorial Government Girls Middle School, Drang (Zone

Khag) where students prepared a beautiful Thread Work Tiranga as a tribute to the nation. GDC Magam hosted a day-long programme featur-

symbols of patriotic spirit during evening hours.

Throughout the district, government buildings, institutions, and



ing painting, wall painting, and rangoli competitions, with active involvement of students and faculty members.

In this connection, Municipal Committee Chadoora conducted a successful Har Ghar Tiranga Yatra, bringing together officials and citizens in a collective celebration of national pride. Tiranga rallies were held across several wards by the Municipal Council Budgam, promoting mass awareness and public participation.

As part of the campaign, the college building, Municipal Council building and Clock Tower Budgam were illuminated in the colours of the national flag, becoming visual

private homes proudly hoisted the Tricolour, turning Budgam into a living representation of unity and pride.

Deputy Commissioner Budgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat lauded the collective efforts of educational institutions, civic bodies, and residents in making Har Ghar Tiranga a true people's movement.

These activities not only honour the national flag but also foster a deeper emotional connect with the ideals it represents.

The campaign will continue in the coming days with more initiatives planned to sustain the momentum and patriotic spirit across Budgam.

DC Kupwara Reviews Preparedness For Independence Day Celebrations

FE NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the preparedness for celebration of



Independence Day-2025 in the district.

DC stressed upon the concerned officers to ensure fool proof arrangements well in advance at DPL Kupwara, the main venue for national event celebration to avoid any inconvenience during the celebration of the Independence Day.

Various departments including Education, PHE, R&B, Information, Health, Sports, Traffic, Motor Vehicles, PDD and Municipality were directed to look after their respective assignments.

The decoration of the main venue, seating arrangements, uninterrupted power supply, drinking water/tanker service, availability of ambulance, deployment of fire tenders, transportation facilities, refreshment, invitations, PAS system, cleanliness and sanitation measures were discussed threadbare in the meeting. Illumination of important Government buildings and main offices will also be ensured.

Ayushi emphasized the importance of national event and directed the departments to make sure that every arrangement is meticulously executed.

She enjoined upon all the departments to work in close coordination to ensure seamless celebration of the Independence Day functions.

ADC Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad; ACD, CEO and other district officers were present in the meeting.

SvaNidhi Se Samridhi: Awareness Camp Held For Street Vendors At Shopian

FE NEWS NETWORK

DC calls for maximum registration for financial assistance under SvaNidhi, social security schemes

SHOPIAN: In order to acquaint street vendors and their families about various welfare and social security schemes, Municipal Council Shopian today organized an awareness camp for them at Government Degree College (GDC) Shopian.

The camp was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, and attended by officers of departments along with scores of street vendors, traders and representatives of various market & business

bodies of the Shopian town.

Speaking on the occasion, DC stressed that waste generation must be properly segregated and asked street vendors to act as responsible citizens by adhering to the good market and business values.

He also asked them to keep bins with their carts for waste collection. Water and land resources must be preserved for future generations, said DC while deploring the practice of some traders who throw waste in water bodies and in open areas of the town.

Gupta informed them about the upcoming dedication of Vending Zone in the town for the allotment of street vendors and called for their cooperation in mitigating the traffic concerns in the town.

Earlier, CEO, MC Shopian gave a brief about the progress of PM SvaNidhi.

Out of a total of 234 registered vendors in the town, 221 vendors have taken benefits till date under the scheme.



He informed them about the Helpline and Facilitation Centre in place in the office at MC Shopian and called upon them to approach the centre for availing the financial assistance under any scheme.

He also presented the eligibility and benefits of various important schemes of the Government available for the

street vendors including social security schemes of PMJJBY, PMSBY, labour welfare and social welfare besides other financial security schemes.

Green Bin for wet waste and Blue Bin for dry waste along with stopping the usage of polythene & other harmful products of environmental pollution was emphasized, so was the usage of biodegradables like paper, cloth and jute bags.

LDM, J&K Bank also highlighted the key benefits of Atal Pension Yojana scheme guaranteeing monthly pension after the age of 60 with a meagre monthly premium.

Street Vendors were also exhorted to ensure cent percent Digital onboarding & Digital payments in their business transactions and advised to conduct transactions sustainably and transparently within market norms.

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DLSA Srinagar sensitizes students on pivotal legal & social issues at GGHSS Chanapora

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, organized a comprehensive legal awareness programme at Government Girls Higher Secondary School



(GGHSS) Chanapora, Srinagar.

This impactful initiative was aimed at sensitizing students about pivotal legal and social issues, particularly focusing on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the Domestic Violence (DV) Act, and the availability of Free Legal Aid.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and conducted under the close supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge and Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

Addressing the gathering, Panel Lawyer, DLSA Srinagar, delivered an insightful talk on the significance and legal provisions of the POCSO Act. Her address focused on the urgent need for awareness and timely reporting in cases involving child abuse. She emphasized the protective framework offered by the Act and the legal recourse available to victims and their guardians.

Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel (LADC), DLSA Srinagar, also spoke during the session and shed light on the Domestic Violence Act, highlighting the various forms of abuse and the rights of women under the law. She also explained the structure and accessibility of Free Legal Aid services provided under the Legal Services Authorities Act, encouraging students to spread awareness in their communities.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty, fostering a constructive dialogue on rights, protection, and legal support.

Farmers Seek Answers as Rs 400 Cr National Saffron Mission Falters

FE NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, Aug 05: Once known for producing the world's finest saffron, Pampore—the saffron town of south Kashmir's Pulwama district has been continuously witnessing a sharp decline in saffron cultivation and yield, with growers raising alarm over the complete failure of the National Saffron Mission (NSM) on the ground.

Farmers and stakeholders, alleged that despite a Rs 400 crore investment under the National Saffron Mission, the project has failed to rejuvenate saffron cultivation or provide the much-needed sprinkler irrigation facilities.

Ashiq Hussain, a saffron grower from Pampore, said the entire project has remained confined to paperwork.

"We've been hearing about the mission for over 15 years now, but nothing has changed on the ground. There's a Spice Park in Dusoo and we have GI tagging, but what use is it when reproduction is on decline?" he asked.

He said that despite assurances, no functional irrigation system has been implemented, leaving fields dry and productivity stunted. "Currently, it is time for taking irrigation process of our saffron fields but despite spending crores farmers still rely on rains," he said.

Growers said the production, in 2024 year was only 30-40% of the expected output, continuing a decade-long downward trend and it is going to go down further if positive steps won't be taken.

According to official data, the area under saffron cultivation has dropped from 5,707 hectares in 1996-97 to just 2,387 hectares by 2019-20—a staggering 65% decline.

Ghulam Rasool, another distressed grower, warned of dire consequences if immediate measures are not taken. "Every year the yield is falling. If this continues, there will be no saffron left in Pampore by 2030," he said. "The government must act now—stop the blame game and focus on reviving this heritage crop."

Growers said that three main challenges plagu-

ing the saffron industry include lack of irrigation infrastructure, especially sprinkler systems, unavailability of quality saffron corms, rapid conversion of saffron land for other agricultural or commercial uses

Some farmers have already shifted to other crops like mustard, while others are moving towards horticulture due to low returns from saffron.

The growers are now demanding an in-depth probe into the National Saffron Mission, alleging large-scale failure and possible mismanagement



of funds.

"This was a Rs 400 crore project. Where has the money gone? Why are there no irrigation systems in place?" questioned one of the farmers. "Those responsible must be held accountable so that the people get the promised facilities and this dying crop gets a chance at revival."

They appealed to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and the Agriculture Minister to personally intervene in the matter and ensure revival efforts are seriously pursued.

They said that if immediate and serious steps are not taken—especially regarding irrigation, seed availability, and land protection—the future of Pampore's saffron industry looks bleak—(KNO)

Abrogation

my promise to the NoKs of terror victim families that perpetrators of heinous crime will receive exemplary punishment. We will also ensure the harshest possible punishment to terror sympathisers.

I assure the family members of civilian martyrs that I will not rest until every family that has been a victim of the terrorists' atrocities gets justice. I want to tell the loved ones of martyrs that the dreams of your father or your mother will now be fulfilled," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the transformative journey of new Jammu Kashmir post abrogation of Article 370.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that, because of Article 370, terrorism had increased and the terror ecosystem was emboldened. He said, on 5 August 2019, the dismantling of terror ecosystem had begun.

"On 5 August 2019, a new Jammu Kashmir was born. A new Jammu Kashmir that had dreams of a golden future in its eyes. A new Jammu Kashmir, which treated all its citizens as equal and removed discrimination that was prevalent for seven decades.

People ask me what is new Jammu Kashmir. I want to tell them that the new Jammu Kashmir is one where jobs are not given to terrorists but to the real martyrs of this UT. The new Jammu Kashmir is one where tears are not shed on the death of terrorists but the tears of common Kashmiris are wiped away.

The new Jammu and Kashmir is one where the terrorist elements sitting in the government system are being cleaned out one by one and the decades-old wounds of terror victim families are being healed.

The new Jammu Kashmir is one where common Kashmiris are being embraced and not the separatists. The new Jammu Kashmir is one where children have pens in their hands and not stones," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon every section of the society to rise against terrorism.

"Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has drawn a new redline against terrorism and equal punishment will be given to terrorists and their sponsors. India has made it clear that if terror is state policy, it will be met with a visible and forceful response.

Peace is a prerequisite for progress. There is no place for terrorism in a civilized society. Many generations of J&K have suffered the brunt of terrorism perpetrated by the neighbouring country. Every person has to take a pledge that they will not allow this to happen again," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also commended the Administrative and Police officials for addressing the issues and grievances of Terror victim families with utmost sensitivity and sincerity.

Following the historic events on July 13th in Baramulla and July 28th in Jammu, today's event marks another milestone. It reaffirms the commitment of the Government of India and the J&K Administration, to deliver justice to victims of terrorism. Today, a total of 158 Next of Kin (NoKs) of terror victim families received their appointment letters from the Lieutenant Governor in Srinagar. The remaining will soon be handed over the appointment letters at their respective district headquarters. This process will continue till every genuine case is settled.

J&K Administration has developed a web portal to streamline and expedite the process of providing relief, compassionate appointments, and other forms of assistance to those who have suffered from terrorism in the UT. Helplines have also been established at District and Divisional Level.

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo; DGP, Nalin Prabhat; Principal Secretary Home, Chandraker Bharti; Commissioner Secretary GAD, MRaju; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri; VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo; SSP Srinagar, Dr. G. V. Sundeeep Chakravarthi, senior administrative and police officials and family members of victims of terrorism were present. (DIPR)

Div Com

Conference Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar, where Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha handed over government job appointment letters to the next of kin (NoKs) of terror victims.

Speaking at the event, the Div Com said there are some moments in a public servant's life that bring immense pride and satisfaction.

"Today's programme is one of them. This is not just a government function, but it is an emotional and dignified tribute to the brave families who lost their loved ones to terrorism," he said.

He said the appointment letters may appear as mere papers, but they represent something much deeper. "These letters are symbols of hope, compassion and assurance that these families are not alone. Under the leadership of LG Manoj Sinha, Jammu and Kashmir is moving forward with trust and a humane approach," he said.

Bhiduri stressed that the day should not be seen just as a job distribution drive. "Let us not look at this day as just a ceremony for appointment letters. Let us take a pledge to stand united against terrorism and uphold humanity. These families deserve not just employment, but also dignity and recognition," he said.

The Div Com said the participation of so many families showed how deeply the state stands with its people. "We have gathered here today to pay tribute to the great families who made the ultimate sacrifice in the fight against terrorism. We bow before their strength and resolve," he added—(KNO)

Anshul Garg

of the 10 districts of Kashmir division. He will be responsible for maintaining law and order and will work closely with the police and security forces.

Garg had become a household name in the border district of Kupwara in north Kashmir where he was appointed as deputy commissioner in 2019.

During his posting in Kupwara, he had travelled to the remote villages near the Line of Control where he met with a group of villagers who, after waiting for seven decades, simply asked. "Can we get electricity?"

This question had rattled Garg and he immediately made it his mission to bring power to the area.

He assembled a dedicated team, fast-tracked the project, and, after navigating challenges like heavy snow, man-

power shortages, and a lockdown, successfully connected three villages to the national grid. The joyful screams of the villagers when the lights came on were the ultimate reward for a job well done.

Besides Garg, Naveen S.L, secretary, Transport Department, is transferred and posted as secretary, Civil Aviation Department along with additional charge of Commissioner, Civil Aviation, relieving Shahid Iqbal Choudhary of the additional charge of the post, the GAD order said.

It said Avny Lavasa, awaiting orders of posting in the GAD, is posted as secretary, Transport Department, while Vikas Kundal, deputy commissioner, Poonch, is transferred and posted as chairman, J-K Services Selection Board.

Gurpal Singh, director, Social Welfare, Jammu, is transferred and posted as managing director, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited, the order said.

Sachin Kumar Vaishya, deputy commissioner, Jammu, is transferred and posted as CEO, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, it said.

Anil Banka, awaiting orders of posting in the GAD, is posted as special secretary, Finance Department, while Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, MD of Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited, is the new deputy commissioner, Kupwara.

Rakesh Minhas, deputy commissioner, Kathua, is transferred and posted as deputy commissioner, Jammu, and Ayushi Sudan, deputy commissioner, Kupwara, is transferred and posted as deputy commissioner, Samba, the order added.

Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, JKAS, deputy commissioner, Bandipora, is transferred and shall await further orders of adjustment in the GAD, has been replaced by Indu Kanwal, JKAS, chairman, J-K Services Selection Board.

Ashok Kumar Sharma, JKAS, special secretary, Labour and Employment Department, is transferred and posted as deputy commissioner, Poonch, while Rajesh Sharma, JKAS, deputy commissioner, Samba, will be the new deputy commissioner, Kathua, the order said. (PTI)

Emotional Scenes

the pain of Kashmir's prolonged conflict.

Junaid Ahmad from Anantnag, who lost his father when he was just two years old, shared how his life spiraled after his mother also passed away a decade later.

"My sister had to marry at 15. We were completely alone. I walked from pillar to post, but no one ever helped. Even our relatives turned their backs," he said, adding, "I used to think of ending my life. But today, holding this letter in my hand, I feel seen for the first time. I have nothing but prayers for LG Manoj Sinha."

"Tears rolled down as I held the letter" Yasmeen Bano from Baramulla was too choked with emotion to speak much.

"When my father was killed, my mother raised me alone. Today, I just couldn't stop my tears while receiving the appointment letter. I'm overwhelmed," she said softly.

Bisma, from Qazigund (Anantnag), another NoK, was not even born when her father was killed. Her entire childhood was shaped by her mother's sacrifices.

"My mother worked in homes with one hand and held me in the other. No one helped us. But today, this man—LG Sinha, came to us like an angel. I have no words, only gratitude and tears," she said.

Junaid Ali Malla, who lost his policeman father to a terrorist attack, said he was three when the tragedy struck. "No one helped us. I had to build everything on my own. But I always told my mother that my father's sacrifice won't go in vain. Today, I feel proud, and this letter proves his

sacrifice mattered."

Anju Riyaz, another victim who was just six months old when her father was killed, recalled being thrown out by her paternal family. "We lived in my maternal home. My mother made me what I am. We were never helped, not even once. But today, this letter brought us a moment of peace we never had," she said.

On Tuesday, a total of 158 appointment letters were distributed by LG Sinha himself to victims and their family members from north, south and central Kashmir—(KNO)

No official

The department has urged the citizens to rely only on official government channels and verified communication for any updates regarding elections or other administrative matters. Strict action is being initiated against those responsible for creating and sharing the forged document.(DIPR)

CS Dulloo

departments to ease the financial burden on the beneficiaries.

The Chief Secretary observed that it is imperative that transparency remains the cornerstone of all self-employment schemes. He added that outcome-based assessment must be conducted regularly to evaluate real-time impact at the grass-roots level.

The meeting included a detailed review of flagship schemes such as Self Help Group (Umeed), Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), J&K Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP) and Mission Youth initiatives like Mumkin, Tejaswini and Spurring Entrepreneurship.

The Chief Secretary noted the issue of overlapping mandates among schemes like JKREGP and Mission Youth. He called for greater coordination and data standardization for effective monitoring.

The meeting expressed concern over the high Non-Performing Asset (NPA) ratios in non-bank-supported schemes, particularly those being run by the J&K SC, ST & BC Development Corporation and JKWDC, with some NPAs reported as high as 45%. The need for tighter credit discipline and recovery mechanisms was emphasized.

The key suggestions put forward during the meeting included development of a single digital interface for the beneficiaries to access and apply for all self-employment schemes. Introduction of a common application form that can auto-suggest suitable schemes based on applicant data, was another suggestion deliberated in the meeting.

The Chief Secretary urged all the departments to work in synergy, optimize resource allocation and bring about a transparent, inclusive and result-driven self-employment ecosystem across J&K. (DIPR)

Amit Shah

had also served as Gujarat Home Minister and held the position of BJP National President.

The tenure of Amit Shah as Union Home Minister, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been marked by several transformative developments in India's internal security landscape. The historic abrogation of Article 370 and the withdrawal of Jammu and Kashmir's special status stand out as landmark decisions. The region has since witnessed a dramatic improvement in law and order, with stone pelting incidents virtually eliminated. Across the country, there has been a sharp decline in areas affected by Left-Wing Extremism, Naxalism, and Maoist activities.

The peaceful progress in the construction of the

Ram Janmabhoomi temple, the introduction of new criminal justice laws, and the successful enactment and rollout of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) further highlight this period. Multiple peace agreements in the North East have brought resolution to several long-standing insurgencies, making this a period of significant consolidation in the country's internal security framework. (ANI)

BJP celebrates

of nullifying Articles 370 and 35A has ushered in a "new dawn" of development and governance in the Union Territory. "The BJP is reaching the last person in the queue, with the benefits of welfare schemes now flowing uninterrupted," he said.

All senior BJP leaders participated in different programmes organised across Jammu and Kashmir, reaffirming the party's commitment to building a new Jammu and Kashmir.

BJP leaders also participated in various programmes organised by different sections of society across the region, which witnessed large public participation in Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Kathua, Samba, Reasi, Ramban, Poonch and various districts of the Kashmir valley.

Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir BJP Pawan Sharma said that August 5 marks the "real independence" for the people here, as it was on this historic day in 2019 that the "shackles of Articles 370 and 35A" were removed, paving the way for true integration, equality, development, and dignity for all residents of the Union Territory.

"True democracy was restored on August 5. For the first time, people in all parts of J-K – be it the Gujjar-Bakarwal community, refugees from West Pakistan, Valmiki Samaj, or the women who had been denied their rights – were given their constitutional due. This is the day when every citizen of J-K became an equal citizen of India in spirit and in law," said Sharma.

Sharma credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for their

"visionary and courageous leadership".

The BJP SC Morcha marked the sixth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370 with great enthusiasm at its headquarters in Trikuta Nagar. Morcha president Dharminder Kumar said that the "bold decision" has brought Jammu and Kashmir closer to the rest of India, ensuring a brighter future for its residents.

BJP vice president Rekha Mahajan, who was a special invitee, highlighted the transformative impact of the abrogation, noting that it has brought about a "new era of progress, peace, and prosperity to the region". (PTI)

Swift action in Rajouri after social media complaint of traffic violation

RAJOURI: The District Administration Rajouri swiftly responded to a public complaint received via social media regarding traffic violations by a vehicle bearing registration number JK02AW-2065.



Acting on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, ARTO Rajouri Rajesh Gupta seized the vehicle. The ARTO also recommended the suspension of the driver's licence for three months.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated the administration's zero-tolerance policy towards traffic violations and stressed the importance of road safety. He appealed to citizens to follow traffic rules to protect lives and property. (DIPR)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore

Extension Corrigendum

Sub: Extension of e-tenders.

Ref: This office E-NIT No. 08 of 2025-26, S. No. 03, 09 and 10.

Due to poor response the above referred works are hereby extended as hereunder:

S. No.	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Last date for online submission of bids	08-08-2025 (06:55 pm)
2.	Date of online opening of bids	09-08-2025 (11:00 am)

All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

No.: PHE/MDNS/DB/2450-53

Dated:04-08-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer

DIPK-4826/25 Dt: 05-08-2025

Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of Dy. Drugs Controller

Kashmir Division

Drugs And Food Control Organization

SDA Colony Bemina Sgr Pin.190018

E.mail dydrugscontroller@gmail.com Ph.No./Fax 0194-2495191

FINAL SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

Non- Existing Retail Licensed Drug Establishments.

-Whereas the below listed firms were issued Retail Drug License by the office of the Assistant Drugs Controller, District Srinagar, Drugs and Food Control Organization, SDA Colony ,Bemina, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir (U.T).

-Whereas the concerned Drug Control Officers have reported that the said firms are not in operation since long.

-Whereas all the below mentioned firms have failed to respond to the issued show cause notices, despite lapse of considerable amount of time.

- Whereas the concerned Drug Control Officers have recommended license of these retail drug establishments for cancellation.

-Whereas through the medium of this notice, all such below mentioned retail drug establishments are given final opportunity to explain their position in the said regard within 07 days from the date of publishing of this press note, failing which the licenses of the defaulters shall be cancelled from this office records without further notification.

S.No.	Name and Address of firm	Retail Drug Lic. no.
01.	M/s Al Rahat Pharmacy, Barzulla near Bund Bridge	SR/11/35-36
02.	M/s Shifa Chemists and Druggists, at Mustafa abad, NH, opp. Mughal Darbar, HMT	SR/11/03-04
03.	M/s Divine Pharmacy, Dulla Bagh, Soura	SR/18262-263
04.	M/s Azad Medical Hall, at Azad market, Old Ali Jan road Zoomimar.	SR/1904-05
05.	M/s Sanjer Pharmacy, Chack-I-Methan, Bagh-e-Mehtab.	BDR/02/191-92
06.	M/s Big Star medicate, Bal garden, opp. SMC, Karan Nagar.	SR/11/118-119
07.	M/s Al hadi Mediate, Mirza Kamil Chowk, Hawal	SR/19093-94
08.	M/s Bal-SA-Jal medicate, Malik Agan Fateh Kadal, near Subhana Bakery	SR/9745-746
09.	M/s Tajamul medicate, Magarmal Bagh	SR/11/246-247

DIPK-4837/25 Dr: 05-08-2025

Sd/=
Dy Drugs Controller
Drug and Food Control Organisation
Kashmir Division-Bemina Srinagar.

NAZAKIT AHMAD

PULWAMA: In a significant step towards promoting traditional crafts and empowering local artisans, the 3-Day Craft Demonstration cum Awareness Programme (CDAP) was inaugurated today at Pampore, Pulwama under the National Handicrafts Development Programme (NHDP).

Officials from the Handicrafts

Service Centre (HSC) Pulwama graced the occasion, which saw enthusiastic participation from 20 skilled female artisans from the local community.

The programme aims to: -Facilitate interaction and knowledge sharing with master craftspersons.

-Spread awareness about India's rich handicraft heritage and traditions.

-Provide live demonstrations

and artifact-making sessions. Screen short films and slide shows focused on handicraft themes.

The initiative will run from 5th to 8th August 2025, offering a platform for artisan development, skill enhancement, and cultural preservation in the region.

Programme Organized by M/S Zehrur Handicrafts Producer Company Ltd. (PR)

Govt to boost LPG subsidy, distribution via PAHAL, Aadhaar: Petroleum Minister

NEWDELHI: The government has intensified measures to make LPG distribution and subsidy transfers more efficient, transparent, and inclusive, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri informed the Rajya Sabha in a written reply to a Starred Question.

He noted that the implementation of initiatives like the PAHAL (DBTL) scheme, Aadhaar-based verification, biometric authentication, and the weeding out of ineligible or duplicate connections have significantly strengthened the system of transfer of targeted subsidies.

The minister told that the key reforms include the nationwide rollout of the PAHAL scheme for direct subsidy transfer into bank accounts with SMS confirmations, implementation of the Common LPG Database Platform (CLDP) to weed out duplicate connections, Aadhaar-based biometric authentication for accurate beneficiary identification, and the removal of ineligible consumers, including 8.49 lakh PMUY connections terminated since inception and 12,000 inactive connections removed this year under a new SOP.

The government has also focused on enhancing Aadhaar compliance, with over 92% of active LPG consumers having Aadhaar seeded in the OMC database, and has introduced a Delivery Authentication Code (DAC) to verify delivery.

To regulate the distribution of LPG, Puri informed that the government has notified the "Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000."



Additionally, OMCs have formulated "Marketing Discipline Guidelines" to be adhered to by LPG distributors. These guidelines provide for penal action against distributors found indulging in malpractice.

In all established cases of irregularities in the marketing of LPG, action is taken as per the

provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines or the Distributorship Agreement.

The minister stated that several studies have been conducted to assess the impact of

redressal systems, and improving targeting by limiting subsidies to economically weaker sections.

It also notes the need for sustained safety awareness and wider outreach through local

The government has also focused on enhancing Aadhaar compliance, with over 92% of active LPG consumers having Aadhaar seeded in the OMC database, and has introduced a Delivery Authentication Code (DAC) to verify delivery.

language and mass media campaigns to ensure safe usage and better adoption of LPG. Based on these findings, Puri said that steps have been taken to further improve the efficiency, transparency, and outreach of the PAHAL scheme. (ANI)

Russia says it no longer will abide by its self-imposed moratorium on intermediate-range missiles

MOSCOW: Russia has declared that it no longer considers itself bound by a self-imposed moratorium on the deployment of nuclear-capable intermediate range missiles, a warning



that potentially sets the stage for a new arms race as tensions between Moscow and Washington rise again over Ukraine.

In a statement Monday, the Russian Foreign Ministry linked the decision to efforts by the US and its allies to develop intermediate range weapons and preparations for their deployment in Europe and other parts of the world. It specifically cited US plans to deploy Typhoon and Dark Eagle missiles in Germany starting next year.

The ministry noted that such actions by the US and its allies create "destabilising missile potentials" near Russia, creating a "direct threat to the security of our country" and carry "significant harmful consequences for regional and global stability, including a dangerous escalation of tensions between nuclear powers."

It didn't say what specific moves the Kremlin might take, but President Vladimir Putin has previously announced that Moscow was planning to deploy its new Oreshnik missiles on the territory of its neighbour and ally Belarus later this year.

"Decisions on specific parameters of response measures will be made by the leadership of the Russian Federation based on an interdepartmental analysis of the scale of deployment of American and other Western land-based intermediate-range missiles, as well as the development of the overall situation in the area of international security and strategic stability," the Foreign Ministry said.

The Russian statement follows President Donald Trump's announcement Friday that he's ordering the repositioning of two US nuclear submarines "based on the highly provocative statements" of Dmitry Medvedev, who was president in 2008-12 to allow Putin, bound by term limits, to later return to the office. Trump's statement came as his deadline for the Kremlin to reach a peace deal in Ukraine approaches later this week.

Trump said he was alarmed by Medvedev's attitude. Medvedev, who serves as deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council chaired by Putin, has apparently sought to curry favor with his mentor by making provocative statements and frequently lobbing nuclear threats. Last week, he responded to Trump's deadline for Russia to accept a peace deal in Ukraine or face sanctions by warning him against "playing the ultimatum game with Russia" and declaring that "each new ultimatum is a threat and a step toward war."

Medvedev also commented on the Foreign Ministry's statement, describing Moscow's withdrawal from the moratorium as "the result of NATO countries' anti-Russian policy." (PTI)

NATO to coordinate regula, large-scale arm deliveries to Ukraine, most will be bought from US



BRUSSELS: NATO started coordinating regular deliveries of large weapons packages to Ukraine after the Netherlands said it would provide air defence equipment, ammunition and other military aid worth 500 million euros (USD 578 million), most bought from the US

Two deliveries are expected this month. The equipment that will be provided is based on Ukraine's priority needs on the battlefield. NATO allies then locate the weapons and ammunition and send them on.

"Packages will be prepared rapidly and issued on a regular basis," NATO said late Monday

Air defense systems are in greatest need. The United Nations has said that Russia's relentless pounding of urban areas behind the front line has killed more than 12,000 Ukrainian civilians.

Russia's bigger army is also making slow but costly progress along the 1,000-kilometre front line. Currently, it is waging an operation to take the eastern city of Pokrovsk, a logistical hub whose fall could allow it to drive deeper into Ukraine.

European allies and Canada are buying most of the equipment they plan to send from the United States, which has greater stocks of ready military materiel, as well as more effective weapons. The Trump administration is not giving any arms to Ukraine.

The new deliveries will come on top of other pledges of military equipment.

The Kiel Institute, which tracks support to Ukraine, estimates that as of June, European countries had provided 72 billion euros (\$83 billion) worth of military aid since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, compared to \$65 billion in U.S. aid.

Dutch Defence Minister Ruben Brekelmans said that "American air defence systems and munitions, in particular, are crucial for Ukraine to defend itself." Announcing the deliveries Monday, he said Russia's attacks are "pure terror, intended to break Ukraine."

Germany said Friday that it will deliver two more Patriot air defence systems to Ukraine in the coming days. It agreed to the move after securing assurances that the US will prioritize the delivery of new Patriots to Germany to backfill its stocks. These weapon systems are only made in the US. (PTI)

Medals of Courage Find Their Way Home: Family Donates MVC Medals to Garhwal Regiment

DHARAMSHALA: In a solemn and emotionally charged ceremony held in Dharamshala on Tuesday, the family of late Captain Chander Narain Singh, Maha Vir Chakra (Posthumous), presented his gallantry and service medals to the Garhwal Rifles Regiment, marking the 60th anniversary of the officer's martyrdom during the 1965 India-Pakistan War.



According to an official statement of defense Ministry, a solemn ceremony was held at Dharamshala to commemorate the 60th death anniversary of Captain Chander Narain Singh, Maha Vir Chakra (Posthumous), a valiant officer of 2nd Battalion, The Garhwal Rifles, who had laid down his life in the highest traditions of the Indian Army during the India Pakistan War of 1965.

The family of the Braveheart presented his gallantry and other service medals to the Garhwal Rifles Regiment as a tribute to his enduring legacy.

In a moving gesture, Sukhdev Singh, brother of the late officer, handed over the MVC and other service medals to the Regiment. Lieutenant General DS Rana, Colonel of The Garhwal Rifles & Garhwal Scouts and Commander-in-Chief, Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN), received the medals on behalf of the Regiment.

The ceremony was attended by military personnel along with veterans and serving

personnel of the Regiment.

In his address, Lt Gen DS Rana paid rich tributes to Captain Chander Narain Singh, describing him as a true symbol of bravery, leadership and patriotism.

He expressed deep gratitude to the family for entrusting the Regiment with his medals and affirmed that the legacy of the officer would

continue to inspire future generations of Indian soldiers.

Captain Chander Narain Singh was posthumously awarded the Maha Vir Chakra, India's second-highest wartime gallantry award, for his exceptional bravery and leadership during the India Pakistan War of 1965.

Captain Chander Narain Singh was born on July 7, 1939, in Shikarpur, Garhwal (Uttar Pradesh).

On August 5, 1965, while attached to Headquarters 120 Infantry Brigade, he was tasked with leading a patrol to verify reports of more than 100 enemy infiltrators in the Brigade's area of responsibility.

At an altitude of 4,000 feet, his patrol came under intense enemy fire and grenade attacks. Despite being outnumbered, he led a night assault that resulted in the neutralization of six enemy soldiers and injuries to several others.

Even after being severely wounded by a gunshot to the head, Captain Singh refused evacuation and continued to command until he succumbed to his injuries.

Defense Spokesperson said supreme sacrifice and unmatched bravery earned him the Maha Vir Chakra posthumously. The gallantry and service medals donated by his family will now be preserved at the Garhwal Rifles Regimental Centre Museum in Lansdowne, Uttarakhand, as a lasting tribute to his courage and dedication.

The Indian Army acknowledged the gesture of the family, stating that such acts of remembrance ensure that the legacy of martyrs like Captain Singh remains immortal in the nation's collective memory.

Spokesperson said the medals presented by the family members of the Braveheart will be preserved and displayed at the Garhwal Rifles Regimental Centre Museum in Lansdowne, Uttarakhand.

The medals will act as a lasting tribute to Captain Singh's heroism and a reminder of the selfless service of personnel from Indian Army. "Such noble gestures by families of fallen heroes are deeply valued, as they ensure that the legacy of supreme sacrifice remains etched in the collective memory of the Nation". (PIB)

Massive central California wildfire threatens more than 800 structures, leaves 3 injured

SANTA MARIA: More than 800 structures are threatened by a massive wildfire in central California that left at least three people injured as it burned through Los Padres National Forest.

The Gifford Fire scorched more than 293 square kilometres of coastal Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, with 3 per cent containment, according to a US Forest Service update on Monday evening.

More than 1,900 personnel are battling the blaze that grew out of at least four smaller fires that erupted Friday along State Route 166 between Santa Maria and Bakersfield. The causes of the fires are under investigation.

The National Weather Service's Los Angeles office has warned that the fire continued to generate considerable smoke that will affect parts of Southwest California, noting that wildfire smoke is a health risk. Smoke was expected to move toward the south and east.

The blaze threatened about 872 structures and forced the closure of the highway in both directions east of Santa Maria, a city of about 110,000 people in Santa Barbara County. About 105 kilometres northwest of Santa Barbara and 240 kilometres northwest of Los Angeles, the hilly agricultural region is dotted by sprawling California live oaks and Sycamore trees and is known for its wine industry.

Firefighters made great progress on the west, north and east flanks of the fire and significant efforts were made to ensure structure protection on the south end, officials said in an update Monday evening. Two new base camps were being established on the north and east sides of the fire, allowing more efficient access to the fire perimeter. Officials said they expected more helicopters to be able to deliver significant water drops on Tuesday with a drone doing reconnaissance. (PTI)



Union Minister Manohar Lal Chairs Consultative Committee Meeting on Grid-Scale Energy Storage Systems

NEW DELHI: Union Minister for Power and Housing Affairs, Manohar Lal, chaired a meeting of the Consultative Committee of Members of Parliament for the Ministry of Power on Tuesday.

According to Press Information Bureau (PIB) the high-level meeting focused on Grid Scale Energy Storage Systems (ESS), as part of India's broader strategy to enhance renewable energy integration and future energy security.

The meeting witnessed participation from Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, Members of Parliament from both Houses, senior ministry officials, CPSU representatives, and energy experts from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

Secretary (Power), Government of India (GoI) extended a warm welcome to the distinguished participants of the Meeting and urged for collective deliberation on specific challenges being faced in the power sector and to explore potential solutions for helping in bringing down the variability of generation in RE sources, improve grid stability, enable energy/ peak shifting, and provide ancillary support services enabling larger renewable energy integration.

Union Minister of Power in his address mentioned that India is committed to reduce Emissions Intensity of its GDP by 45 per cent

by 2030 from 2005 level, and achieve 50 per cent cumulative installed capacity from non-fossil

Minister of Power emphasized that in one of the largest program on BESS worldwide, 43 GWh Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) is supported under Viability Gap Funding Scheme (VGF) of Ministry of Power. Financial support of Rs 9,160 Cr has been earmarked for BESS VGF schemes. The Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) charges have been fully waived for BESS projects commissioning by June 2028 and PSP projects for which construction awarded by June 2028.

fuel-based energy resources by 2030.

He remarked that RE should be promoted coupled with energy storage systems in order to ensure reliability of supply of power, for stor-

ing excess energy available from RE sources to be used at other times of the day. Hon'ble Minister of Power mentioned that the Ministry has taken various policy initiatives to promote



Energy Storage Systems laying emphasis on ensuring Resource Adequacy and necessary power generation capacity tie-ups.

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It was mentioned that in terms of Hydro PSP (Pumped Storage Plant), India already has an installed capacity of approx. 6.4 GW. India has a PSP potential of more than 200 GW. At present, approx. 8 GW is under construction and 61 GW is in various stages of planning and development.

The Members of the Consultative Committee for Ministry of Power offered several valuable suggestions regarding various initiatives and schemes on BESS. They praised the VGF scheme and especially the role of smart meters in improving the services and reducing the losses. They praised the role of VGF scheme in providing reliability of supply of power, for storing excess energy available from RE sources to be used at other times of the day to power to consumers through execution of distribution infrastructure works. (PIB)

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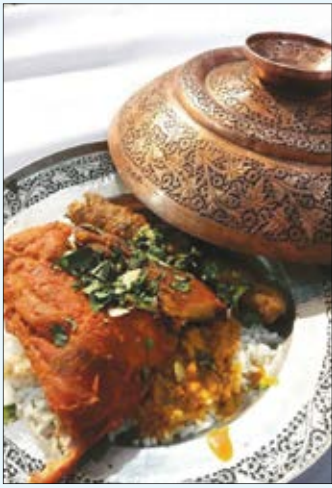
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