



Tourism Growth To Create Youth Jobs In Gurez: CM Omar

■ Attends National Tribal Festival at Gurez

FE NEWS NETWORK

GUREZ: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reaffirmed his government's commitment to the development and uplift-

nises this spirit and is determined to ensure that the region progresses in all spheres," he said.

Emphasising the need for improved connectivity, the Chief Minister as-

its heritage, culture and traditions," he said.

The Chief Minister noted that the expansion of tourism will create employment opportunities, especially

Aslam Wani; MLA Gurez, Nazir Ahmad Gurezi; MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq; Additional Secretary, Tribal Affairs (Government of India); Secretary, Tribal Affairs (J&K); and Director,



He lauded the **peace-loving** nature of the people of **Gurez**, acknowledging their unwavering commitment to **peace** even in challenging times. "Gurez has always stood as a **symbol** of resilience and **harmony**."

ment of Gurez and its people. Speaking at the valedictory function of the two-day National Tribal Festival Gurez-2025 held at the picturesque border village of Chorwan in Gurez, the Chief Minister assured residents that Gurez remains high on his government's priority list.

He lauded the peace-loving nature of the people of Gurez, acknowledging their unwavering commitment to peace even in challenging times. "Gurez has always stood as a symbol of resilience and harmony. My government recog-

sured the people that efforts are underway to provide mobile network coverage to keep Gurez connected with the rest of the country.

Highlighting the tourism potential of Gurez valley, the Chief Minister urged the residents to work together to keep Gurez clean and pollution-free. "Gurez is blessed with immense natural beauty, and it is our collective responsibility to preserve it for future generations. While we want development and progress for the region, it must be balanced with safeguarding

for the youth of Gurez.

Earlier, the Chief Minister toured various stalls showcasing local produce, herbs, traditional foods, and handicrafts. Tribal dance performances by cultural troupes from Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat added colour and diversity to the celebrations.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also distributed appreciation certificates to women-led Self Help Groups for their entrepreneurial efforts.

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir

Tribal Affairs also spoke on the occasion.

Later, he also inaugurated and witnessed a polo match and flagged off a trekking group from Gurez, promoting the region's potential for adventure tourism. Additionally, he planted saplings at the Tourist Reception Centre in Gurez as part

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2 CRPF Jawans Killed, 16 Injured As Vehicle Falls Into Gorge In Udhampur

FE NEWS NETWORK

LG Sinha expresses grief

UDHAMPUR : Two CRPF personnel were killed while 16 others sustained injuries after a vehicle they were travelling in met with an accident and plunged into a deep gorge in Basantgarh area of Udhampur district on Thursday.

Official sources said, that the CRPF vehicle was on its way to a location in the hilly terrain when it skidded off the road and rolled down into a gorge, leading to casualties.

"Rescue operations were immediately launched and all the injured were evacuated from the accident site," an official said. "Two personnel died on the spot while 16 others were injured and have been shifted to a hospital for advanced treatment."

The deceased personnel have been identified as Anand Koach from Meghalaya



and Arvind from Bihar.

The injured personnel include: Karle Gajanand, Sunil Xalxo from Jharkhand, Aneesh Kumar from Kerala, Milan Kumar from Jharkhand, Mohd Mushtaq from J&K (Rajouri), Gopa Ram from Rajasthan, Utharaj (ASI) from Uttar Pradesh, Jitender Pradhan from Jharkhand, S. Sudalai Mani from Tamil Nadu, Zala Vijay Kumar

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NIA Court Frames Charges Against 2 In Terror Funding Case Probed By CIK

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a significant breakthrough in the ongoing efforts to dismantle the financial and logistical support system of terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir, the NIA court in Srinagar has framed charges in a high-profile terror funding



case.

According to a statement, charges have been framed against two accused—Shabir

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India Will Not Compromise On Farmers' Interest: PM Modi

FE NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: In a subtle message directed at US President Donald Trump, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday



that India will never compromise on the interests of its farmers and dairy sector, and declared he was prepared to bear a significant personal cost if necessary.

The statement came a day after Trump ratcheted up tariffs on Indian goods to 50 per cent, even as the two nations discuss a bilateral trade deal. The trade deal has been

struck over the US demand for greater access to India's agricultural and dairy market.

It wants reduced tariffs on products like corn, soybeans, apples, almonds and ethanol, as well as increased access for US dairy products. New Delhi is, however, resisting these demands as these will have a direct bearing on farmers.

"Hamare liye apne kisanon ka hit sarvoch prathamikta hai. Bharat apne kisanon, pashu paalakon aur machhuaare bhai-bahanon ke hiton ke saath kabhi bhi samjhuta nahin karega. (For us, the interests of farmers are our top priority. India will never compromise on the interests of its farmers, dairy farmers and fishermen)," Modi said addressing a three-day global conference to mark the birth centenary of late renowned agri-scientist M S Swaminathan.

To protect farmers' interests, the prime minister said he was ready to personally pay the huge price. "Main jaanata

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CS Dulloo Reviews Issues Facing Varsities, Assures Early Resolution

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant move to strengthen the higher education in J&K, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo,



chaired a high-level meeting to take stock of the issues confronting various universities operating across the Union Territory.

The meeting aimed at accelerating the resolution of pending matters hampering the academic and infrastructural growth of these

institutions.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Higher Education Department, Shantmanu; Principal Secretaries

eral, Budget and other senior officials.

Vice Chancellors of all the major universities in J&K, both academic and agricultural, also partici-

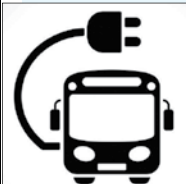
The ACS, **Higher Education**, provided an overview of the **key issues** affecting the universities. He also highlighted the **problems** that have already been addressed through inter-departmental **coordination**.

pated.

During the deliberations, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance of timely intervention and seamless coordination

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J&K receives 200 electric buses under PM-eBus Sewa Scheme: GoI



JAMMU: Jammu & Kashmir has been allocated a total of 200 electric buses under the PM-eBus Sewa Scheme, as part of the government's plan to modernize and expand urban transport services

across the country.

The details were provided in response to a question raised in the Lok Sabha, which was answered by Tokhan Sahu, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

The PM-eBus Sewa Scheme, launched on August 16, 2023, aims to deploy 10,000 electric buses nationwide to enhance city bus services through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. This will not only help reduce carbon emissions but also contribute

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J&K Operates Hydropower Plants With 3,360 MW Capacity: Centre

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir is home to several operational hydropower plants (HEPs) that play a vital role in the country's power generation capacity, the



Minister of State in the Ministry of Power, Shriphad Naik, said on Thursday. Speaking in Lok Sabha, the minister, said that as of August 2025, the region boasts a total installed capacity of 3,360 MW from various plants under the Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development

Corporation (JKSPDC) and NHPC.

The key hydropower plants in the region include the Baglihar-I and Baglihar-II plants in Ramban, each with a capacity of 450 MW. Additionally, Dulhasti in Kishtwar contributes 390 MW, while

strengthen the state's energy capacity, Naik said, adding that these plants significantly contribute to the power grid, ensuring reliable energy for both Jammu and Kashmir and the broader national network.

The Power Ministry confirmed that all hydropower plants in the region, including those mentioned above, have received the necessary environmental clearances from the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) before construction.

The Power Ministry confirmed that all hydropower plants in the region, including those mentioned above, have received the necessary environmental clearances from the Ministry of Environment,

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Kulgam Encounter Enters 7th Day, 3 Security Personnel Injured

FE NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: The longest encounter in decades between security forces and terrorists hiding in the deep Akhal forests of South Kashmir's Kulgam district entered its seventh day on Thursday.

Officials said, that the intermittent firing continued throughout the night, resulting in injuries to three more army personnel.

"Half dozen security personnel have been injured so far in the encounter. The injured soldiers were shifted to a military hospital for treatment," they added.

"During the exchange of fire, three soldiers sustained injuries on Thursday," an official said, adding that the search operation is ongoing with reinforcements deployed.

The encounter began last Friday after security forces launched a cordon and search operation in the Akhal forest area following specific intelligence inputs about the presence of

terrorists.

After the initial exchange of fire on Friday evening, the operation



was paused for the night, but the cordon was tightened and additional reinforcements were sent in. One terrorist has also been killed in the ongoing operation.

"The operation entered its seventh day today and is ongoing. This is the longest encounter in decades in Kashmir," the officials said.

They added that drones, UAVs, and attack helicopters are being used to track down the terrorists in the difficult forest terrain.

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J&K achieves 81% tap water coverage under JJM: Centre

SRINAGAR: The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), launched by the Government of India, has made significant strides in Jammu & Kashmir, with 15.6 lakh rural households (approximately 81% of the total rural households) now having access to tap water as of June 2025.

However, despite the notable progress, there remains a gap in providing 100% coverage to all villages, with only 1,293 villages achieving the 'Har Ghar Jal' status, highlighting that 100% of rural households in these villages now have tap water.

This information was shared by the Minister of Jal Shakti, C.R. Patil, in response to a question in the Lok Sabha.

As per the latest figures, the total number of rural households (HHs) in J&K stands at 19.26 lakh, of which 5.75 lakh (around 29.88%) had access to tap water at the commencement of the JJM in August 2019.

The Minister also addressed complaints related to the mission's implementation, revealing that J&K had received complaints concerning defective faucets and insufficient water supply in certain regions. Since water supply

■ See On P/6

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama reviews arrangements for Tiranga Rally/ Yatra

PULWAMA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today chaired a meeting at the District Administrative Complex to review the preparations for the forthcoming Tiranga Rally/Yatra, being organised as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign 2025.

During the meeting, Additional Deputy Commissioner Pulwama briefed the chair about the departmental readiness and the measures being put in place to ensure smooth conduct of the event.

It was also informed that as a run up to mega Tiranga rally at the district level, Tiranga rallies at sub-division, tehsil and block levels will also be organised to create a festive and patriotic atmosphere in the district.

While reviewing the arrangements, DC issued directions to all concerned officers to ensure massive participation of officials and the general public, including students, youth groups, elected representatives, PRIs, families of martyrs, civil society

members and community stakeholders

Additionally, he stressed the need



to reflect the patriotic spirit and collective enthusiasm of the district.

for strict adherence to the Flag Code and directed the officials to brief the

participants beforehand to ensure that the dignity and sanctity of the National Flag are upheld at all levels.

"All departments shall work in close coordination to ensure that the event is conducted in a grand and befitting manner, reflecting the national spirit and the significance of the occasion," said the DC

DC also laid special emphasis on traffic management, directing the concerned departments to formulate comprehensive plans to ensure minimal disruption and safe movement of rally participants.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Pulwama, P.D Nitya; Additional Deputy Commissioners of Tral & Awantipora, General Manager, DIC Pulwama; Assistant Commissioner Development, Pulwama; Principals of Degree Colleges; Chief Education Officer, Pulwama; Chief Medical Officer, Pulwama, Tehsildars, officers of Police and Paramilitary Forces and other stakeholders.

MLA, DC Reasi flag off annual Kousar Nag Yatra from Reasi

REASI: The annual Kousar Nag Yatra was ceremoniously flagged off from Thappa Chowk, Reasi, amid religious fervour and

great religious significance, will culminate at the sacred Kousar Nag Lake in the Pir Panjal range. Devotees gathered early in the



spiritual enthusiasm. Member Legislative Assembly Reasi Kuldeep Raj Dubey and Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik jointly inaugurated the yatra in the presence of senior officials and devotees.

The pilgrimage, which holds

morning to begin their journey with traditional chants and rituals. The Deputy Commissioner extended her best wishes to the yatrins and assured full administrative support for a safe and smooth pilgrimage. She said comprehensive arrangements

have been made in coordination with departments for track repair, security, healthcare, sanitation, power, water, toilet facilities and transportation.

She emphasised seamless coordination among the District Administration, Army, Police, SDRF, Health Department, PWD and local volunteers to facilitate the yatra.

Prominent attendees included SSP Reasi Paramvir Singh, CPO Narinder Kumar, Additional SP Iftikhar Ahmed, Tehsildar Reasi Suresh Singh, senior officers and community members.

The flag-off marked both a spiritual beginning and a reflection of the region's cultural unity and heritage.

Ashok Kumar Sharma assumes charge as Deputy Commissioner Poonch

POONCH: Ashok Kumar Sharma formally assumed charge as Deputy Commissioner Poonch, succeeding Vikas Kundal. Officers and staff of the district administration welcomed the new Deputy Commissioner with a special reception.

A welcome ceremony was held at the Deputy Commissioner's Office, led by Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik.

Sharma was also received at Bhimber Gali (BG) by senior officials including ADC, POICDS, SDM Mendhar, AD FCS & CA and others.

Previously, Ashok Kumar Sharma served as Special Secretary to the Government

in the Labour and Employment Department, Jammu and Kashmir.



In his introductory address, he emphasised dedication, transparency and vigilance in public service, urging officers to work proactively for the welfare and development of Poonch district.

National Handloom Day celebrated with grandeur at DC Office Complex Samba

SAMBA: The Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom, Jammu, in collaboration with the Handloom Development Department, Samba, celebrated National Handloom Day at the DC Office Complex Samba, showcasing the region's rich weaving traditions.

Deputy Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma, the Chief Guest, lauded the exceptional craftsmanship of local weavers and highlighted the sector's role in preserving cultural heritage and generating sustainable livelihoods. He assured continued administrative support for artisans through capacity-building, training programmes and strong market linkages.

A series of vibrant stalls set up by local artisans and cooperative societies displayed a wide range of handloom and handicraft products. A live weaving demonstration by a master weaver offered visitors a unique insight into traditional techniques. The

AYUSH Department also participated by setting up a wellness and awareness stall.

market access. Assistant Director, Handloom Development



Prominent weavers and cooperative society members were felicitated for their contributions to the sector. Certificates of appreciation were awarded to recognise their dedication to traditional crafts, encouraging the weaving community. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner praised the Handloom Development Department, Samba, for its efforts in empowering the local weaving community. He called for innovative approaches to strengthen the sector, improve skill development, and expand

Department Samba, Niharika, delivered a presentation on welfare and promotional schemes for weavers. She urged artisans to take advantage of these schemes and integrate modern tools with traditional techniques for better productivity and profitability.

The event was also attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Samba Champa Devi, Joint Director Handloom Jammu Shazia Khan, Deputy Director Trainings Handloom & Handicrafts Jammu Shavi, and other district officers.

DC Reasi felicitates weavers, artisans on National Handloom Day

REASI: The District Administration Reasi, in collaboration with the Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom Jammu, celebrated National Handloom Day at the DC Office Complex, Reasi, to promote the handloom sector and honour the contributions of local artisans.

Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik felicitated skilled weavers and artisans from across the district for their achievements in handloom and handicrafts. Certificates of appreciation and training diplomas were awarded to recognise their dedication and craftsmanship.

The event featured a short video on the significance of National Handloom Day, certificate distribution for recently trained artisans, and poem recitations by local craftsmen.

Weavers also shared success stories with the Deputy Commissioner, highlighting

the impact of recent training programmes. A handloom pledge

A hands-on craft workshop for students was inaugurated by



was taken by all participants, reaffirming their commitment to traditional crafts.

The Deputy Commissioner underlined the importance of preserving traditional arts and crafts as vital cultural assets and key drivers of rural employment. She reiterated the administration's support for the "Vocal for Local" initiative and government schemes for artisans.

the Deputy Commissioner, who encouraged them to engage sincerely with traditional crafts alongside their academics. A small exhibition of local artisans' work also drew appreciation from attendees.

The event was attended by CPO Reasi Narinder Kumar, Assistant Director Handloom Ujjwal Singh, AHTO and other officials.

11th National Handloom Day celebrated with grandeur at Udyog Bhawan Jammu

JAMMU: The 11th National Handloom Day was celebrated at the Conference Hall, Udyog Bhawan, Jammu, with grandeur and cultural vibrance.

Organised by the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, the event honoured India's handloom legacy and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to supporting weavers.

Eleven curated stalls by weavers, cooperative societies and handloom units showcased the region's textile heritage.

The event was inaugurated by Mohammad Nazir Sheikh, Director, Handicrafts & Handloom, Jammu. In his address, he said the handloom sector reflects India's civilisational heritage and that artisans are cultural custodians.

He called for collective responsibility in empowering

them through innovation and sustained support. Senior officers from the department, including



Deputy Director Administration Mohammad Farooq Malik and Deputy Director Planning Rakesh Kumar

Sharma, visited the stalls.

A specially curated "Handloom Selfie Point" attracted visitors, while brochures and awareness material were distributed to enhance outreach and participation in departmental schemes.

Artisans expressed gratitude for the opportunity to showcase their work. Certificates of Excellence and mementoes were presented to selected weavers and cooperatives.

Assistant Director Handlooms Jammu Rupali Mahajan thanked dignitaries and praised the Director for his leadership. She noted that National Handloom Day reaffirms India's cultural identity and that innovation will sustain traditional crafts.

The event concluded with a reaffirmed commitment to artisan welfare and cultural preservation.

Director Agriculture reviews progress of agricultural schemes in Jammu Division

JAMMU, AUGUST 07: Director Agriculture Jammu, Anil Gupta, today chaired a review meeting at Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo, Jammu to assess the physical and financial progress, including expenditure incurred under various schemes implemented across the region. The meeting focused on Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), CAPEX and the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Agriculture (SLUB) S. Sohan Singh, Deputy Director (Planning) Priyanka Parihar and sectoral heads of different schemes under the Agriculture Department. Chief Agriculture Officers (CAOs) from all districts of Jammu Division participated

via virtual conferencing.

During the session, the Director emphasised the need to expedite utilisation of available funds to ensure timely and maximum achievement under ongoing schemes.

He instructed officers to strictly follow quality parameters and Codal formalities while executing infrastructure development works as per approved Detailed Project Reports.

He further directed officers to identify and address bottlenecks that may hinder effective implementation of farmer welfare schemes.

He particularly stressed proactive field-level monitoring and coordination to ensure

schemes are implemented smoothly and their benefits reach the intended farming community.

The Director also reviewed the progress of flagship CSS schemes including PMKSY, PDMC, SMAM, RAD, RKVY, PKVY, ATMA, NFSM and others. Detailed discussions were held with CAOs on targets achieved and strategies to improve outcomes under these schemes.

The Director instructed all CAOs to submit the latest Monthly Progress Reports (MPRs) to the Directorate without delay. He urged officers to maintain high standards of efficiency, transparency and accountability, ensuring financial and physical progress aligns with set timelines and objectives.

GDC Ramkote organises seminar on role of J&K youth in achieving Viksit Bharat@2047



KATHUA: To commemorate the 79th year of India's Independence, Government Degree College Ramkote today organised a seminar on "Role of J&K youth in achieving Viksit Bharat@2047" under the patronage of Principal Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul.

Students from BA Semesters I, III and V participated, presenting their views on youth contributions to nation-building. They discussed entrepreneurship, employment generation in saffron and lavender cultivation, mushroom farming, the need to avoid drug abuse, and promoting road safety.

Prof Pankaj Nandan and Prof Vasundra Raje judged the event. Janvi Devi (BA Sem III) secured first place, followed by Sulekha Devi (BA Sem V) and Sakshi Devi.

The event, coordinated by Prof Anu Sharma, NSS PO, encouraged student leadership and highlighted youth roles in realising the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

Rajesh Sharma assumes charge as DC Kathua

KATHUA: Rajesh Sharma today formally assumed charge as Deputy Commissioner Kathua at the DC Office complex.

He was accorded a warm welcome by senior officers and officials of the DC Office.

Later, the DC visited Sports Stadium Kathua to review the arrangements for Independence Day, where the main district-level celebrations will be held. While inspecting the ongoing construction work of the Indoor Stadium, the DC stated that the facility, once completed, will offer a wide range of opportunities for all.

SDM Paddar reviews ongoing Shri Machail Mata Yatra 2025 arrangements

KISHTWAR: Sub Divisional Magistrate Paddar, Dr. Amit Kumar, conducted an extensive tour of Machail to oversee preparations and facilities for the ongoing Shri Machail Mata Yatra 2025. During the visit, he reviewed key aspects of the yatra including parking, transportation, sanitation and security.

On-spot directions were issued to concerned officials to



ensure smooth movement of pilgrims and enhanced safety

measures. The SDM also inspected the ongoing construction of the Chishoti Bridge.

He paid obeisance at the Shri Machail Mata Bhawan and reviewed the slab laying work within the Bhawan premises.

Senior officers and officials from various departments were present on the occasion.

DC Udhampur reviews progress of PM Fasal Bima Yojana cases, sets deadline for clearing pendency

UDHAMPUR: To ensure timely redressal of farmers' insurance claims and maximise benefits under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai chaired a review meeting to assess the progress in clearing pending cases under the scheme.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a bank-wise review of all pending PMFBY claims, assessing delays and bottlenecks. She emphasised the importance of expediting the process to safeguard farmers' interests and ensure they receive timely financial assistance for crop

losses. A deadline of AUGUST 14 was set for all concerned banks and departments to clear the pending cases. The Deputy Commissioner instructed all stakeholders to adopt a proactive and coordinated approach to eliminate delays and ensure seamless disbursement of benefits.

CS Reviews Progress On Mission YUVA To Boost Entrepreneurship

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dooloo, had a comprehensive review of youth empowerment program, Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan), initiated in J&K with the vision of establishing the region as a thriving hub for enterprises and holistic employment.

Those who attended the meeting were ACS Higher Education; ACS Planning; Principal Secretary, Finance; Secretary L&E; Director, IIM; MD, J&K Bank; Secretary, School Education; DG, Budget and other concerned officers while the Deputy Commissioners participated virtually.

The Chief Secretary had a detailed assessment of the primary objectives of Mission YUVA aiming at generating mass employment opportunities through enterprise creation and establishing cross-sectoral business support ecosystem here. He stressed on enhancing the existing businesses to increase SGDP (State Gross Domestic Product) and create a startup ecosystem with neo-innovative enterprises. He impressed upon the Deputy Commissioners to take periodic review of the outcomes so that the mission achieves its objectives smoothly.



In his presentation, Secretary L&E Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, gave an overview of the scheme. He informed the meeting that this program aims to create over 1,37,000 new enterprises and generate more than 4,25,000 employment opportunities across various sectors.

He further gave out that, so far, the mission has received 31,411 loan

applications, with 29,460 for nano-enterprises, 1,502 for new MSMEs and 443 for existing MSMEs. The total loan amount disbursed to date is Rs 29.70 crore with a total subsidy support of Rs 5.15 crore.

Regarding the updated IEC campaign Udyam Jagriti, it was revealed that panchayat-level awareness campaign has been successful with over 150,000

attendees from across all the 20 districts including 50,000 women participants. This campaign has also facilitated over 8,000 loan applications.

Moreover, it was apprised that a capacity building mela was conducted on August 2, 2025, across all 20 districts, attracting over 6,346 attendees. Additionally, a hybrid training module has been launched in ITIs and polytechnics to train the aspiring entrepreneurs.

Regarding the E-commerce and market linkages, it was given out that the mission is focused on improving the market access through creation of an e-commerce seller platform leveraging the ONDC network and organizing business conclaves and regional trade fairs to promote trade and commerce.

The Mission YUVA App and Portal have been instrumental in the mission's success, with over 50,000 downloads and 140,000 visits to the portal. A robust support system is in place,

including Special Purpose Vehicles, Small Business Development Units (SBDUs), Business Help Desks (BHDs) and a network of 1,000 Yuva Doots to provide grassroots-level support to the potential entrepreneurs, the meeting was informed.

Ethics Committee holds meeting in Srinagar

Urges legislators to uphold integrity, contribute to public welfare



FE News Network

SRINAGAR: The Ethics Committee of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Surjeet Singh Salathia and attended by the members including Javid Iqbal, Zafar Ali Khatana, Dr. Sajjad Shafi, Arvind Gupta, Daleep Singh, Surinder Kumar, and Mehraj Malik.

The Chairman underlined the importance of upholding the highest standards of conduct and integrity among legislators.

He reiterated the Committee's commitment towards preserving the credibility of democratic institutions, emphasizing that the integrity of these institutions rests upon the ethical behaviour of their members.

"We all must refrain from insulting other public

representatives and officers in the public and always remember that we are custodians of a democratic tradition," the Chairman said.

Urging the legislators to contribute positively towards the public welfare, the Chairman said that, "Our actions should reflect our responsibilities and serve as a model for dignity, accountability and respect in legislative functioning," the Chairman stated.

The Committee unanimously resolved that no member shall engage in disrespectful or insulting behaviour towards any public representative, whether inside or outside the Assembly. It further decided that recommendations will be issued against the legislators who will be found violating the ethical norms.

The members who shared their valuable suggestions, assured their full cooperation in ensuring effective functioning of the Committee.

Javid Dar launches IWMP portal to boost transparency in watershed development

• Emphasizes tech-enabled approach to water conservation



FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmed Dar, on Thursday, launched the official website of Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar.

The launch event was attended by Commissioner/Secretary, Rural Development Department, Babila Rakwal; Secretary, Information Technology Department, Piyush Singla; Chief Executive Officer, IWMP, J&K, Rajnish Kumar and others.

On the occasion, the Minister emphasized that the launch of the IWMP website marks a major step in efforts to ensure transparency, accountability and citizen engagement in watershed development across Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the portal will enable

real-time updates on watershed interventions, allowing the citizens to track ground-level progress, monitor resource utilization and identify areas of improvement.

"From mapping ponds and reservoirs to detailing interventions in each catchment, the IWMP portal reflects our commitment to climate-resilient development, reaching even the remotest Panchayats," Dar said.

The Minister highlighted that rainfed areas in J&K are particularly vulnerable to land degradation and water scarcity. He said the new digital platform will help strengthen planning, monitoring, and execution of projects tailored to these ecologically sensitive zones.

Dar also emphasized the importance of building small reservoirs to conserve water effectively. He reiterated the role of digitization in tracking the watershed projects. "Water preservation is crucial and constructing small reservoirs can make a significant difference,"

he said.

The Minister underlined the need for digital platforms to improve governance.

Babila Rakwal lauded the digital leap, calling it "a transformative tool to improve field-level implementation of watershed programmes."

Secretary IT, Dr. Piyush Singla, emphasized the critical role of information technology in enhancing public service delivery and interdepartmental coordination. He stressed the importance of making government websites dynamic and interactive, noting that static websites often go unnoticed.

Rajnish Kumar, provided an overview of the portal's features and reiterated the department's commitment to sustainable watershed development using data-driven approaches and modern technologies.

He said that the newly launched web portal — iwmp.jk.gov.in — has been designed as a robust digital platform under the WDC-PMKSY 2.0 scheme to promote transparency, accessibility and real-time dissemination of information on watershed development projects. It offers dynamic access to project guidelines, progress reports, success stories and more, aiming to enhance the evidence-based planning and encourage active community participation, he added. He stated that 19 projects are currently under implementation, covering a vast project area of 69,493 hectares under the Integrated Watershed Management Programme.

DC Budgam Reviews Arrangements For Independence Day Celebrations

• Also reviews Har Ghar Tiranga campaign

FE News Network

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat chaired a meeting of district officers and various security agencies to review the final preparedness for ensuing Independence Day-2025 celebrations in the district.

It was given out that the main function of the day shall be held at Sports Stadium Budgam while similar functions will be held at DC office complex, sub-division and tehsil levels also.

The meeting was informed that contingents of JKP, CRPF, NCC, students of various government schools will participate in the march past parade.

On the occasion, various committees like the hospitality committee, stage management committee, and selection committee were formed for the smooth conduct of the celebrations.

Different departments viz. Education, PHE, R&B, DYSSO, Information, Health, Sports, Traffic, Motor Vehicles, Police, Floriculture, PDD, Municipality and Paramilitary Forces were



directed to look after their respective assignments.

The decoration of the main venue ground, seating arrangements, uninterrupted power supply, drinking water/tanker service,

barricading of venue, medical aid camp, availability of ambulance, deployment of fire tenders, transportation facilities, adequate and separate

vehicle parking, refreshment, invitations, PAS system, brochures, cleanliness and sanitation measures were discussed

threadbare in the meeting. Special emphasis was laid on march past parades, cultural programmes,

refreshments, transportation, mobile toilets and change room facilities for participating students.

Security agencies were instructed to ensure fool-proof security arrangements at all venues where functions in this regard will be held across the district.

Dr Bilal stressed on ensuring participation of all the employees in the celebration.

He emphasised on ensuring commitment for executing a flawless and vibrant Independence Day celebration that reflects the spirit of unity and patriotism.

On the occasion, DC also reviewed the ongoing activities under the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, emphasising wide public participation, school-level engagement, and vibrant display of the National Flag across all Municipal Committees and rural areas.

DC stressed timely execution, community outreach, and inter-departmental coordination to ensure the success of the campaign in its true spirit across Budgam.

He directed concerned officers to conduct awareness drives, monitor field-level activities closely, and submit

daily progress reports to ensure the smooth implementation of the campaign throughout the district.

Among others, ADC, all SEs, ASP, ACR, all SDMs, CMO, CEO, ACD, ACP, all executive engineers, tehsildars, all BDOs, all EOs, other district and sectoral officers, representatives of CRPF, 62 RR were present in the meeting.

Handwoven Heritage Up for Grabs: Mega Carpet Auction Today

H&H Dept. to Host Carpet Auction on 08.08.2025

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Following the overwhelming

ing response to the recently held sale of trainee-made Handicrafts and Handloom products,

the Handicrafts & Handloom Department, Kashmir has announced a Grand Sale/Auction of Carpets produced at the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Bagh-e-Ali Mardan Khan, Srinagar.

The open auction is scheduled to take place tomorrow, on 08.08.2025, from 11:30 am, in presence of the designated Auction Committee.

DSEK launches region-wide officers visits for parent-teacher meetings from August-9

• Director Dr G N Itoo visits remote schools in Budgam, announces student initiatives

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: In a major step aimed to strengthen school-community engagement and enhance student performance, Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) has announced a comprehensive region-wide officers visit to schools, coinciding with parent-teacher meetings (PTMs) scheduled across Kashmir on August 9, 2025.

Demonstrating leadership by example, Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N. Itoo today visited remote schools in the Khag zone of Budgam district, including Government Middle School Alamnag and BMS Poshkar. Dr. Itoo participated in the PTMs, held a mass parent interaction, and commended the spirit of collaboration witnessed at the grassroots level.

During the visit, Director appreciated the remarkable presentations by students and announced special student exposure programmes. As a personal gesture of encouragement, he donated Rs. 5000 from his own resources to support student activities, calling upon schools across the region to emulate the same spirit of participatory education.

In a statement, Director has said that, "Parent-Teacher Meetings are a cornerstone for educational success. These officers will monitor and participate in parent-teacher meetings, interact with students, teachers, parents, and school heads and address institutional issues on the spot, besides collecting feedback and data to guide future educational policies. The visits will



Through the active involvement of our officers, we aim to make these interactions more impactful and inclusive. This initiative is our shared responsibility to uplift education standards in Kashmir."

As per the official directive, senior officers of the Directorate including Joint Directors (Central, North, and South Kashmir), Chief Education Officers (CEOs) of all districts, and DIET Principals will be conducting school visits across the Valley.

These officers will monitor and participate in parent-teacher meetings, interact with students, teachers, parents, and school heads and address institutional issues on the spot, besides collecting feedback and data to guide future educational policies. The visits will

span primary, middle, high, and higher secondary schools, as well as District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs). Schools have been instructed to prepare comprehensive PTM outcome reports to be reviewed by the Directorate for assessing impact and identifying areas for improvement.

Strengthening the parent-school partnership, these parent-teacher meetings are designed to foster open communication between parents and teachers, reinforce accountability and transparency in schools, address academic progress and behavioural development, promote parental involvement in academic reforms, and besides provide field officers with real-time insights on curriculum and infrastructure. Meanwhile, all parents and guardians are urged to attend the PTMs on August 9, 2025, and play a proactive role in shaping the educational journey of their children. Schools have been asked to ensure a welcoming and inclusive environment to encourage maximum participation.

Dy CM pays obeisance at Shri Budha Amarnath Ji, prays for peace, prosperity in J&K

FE News Network

POONCH: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary visited Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Shrine at Mandi on the eve of Chari Mubarak Yatra and paid obeisance.

The Dy CM was accompanied by MLA Haveli Ajaz Ahmed Jan, ADC Poonch and other district officers.

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister offered prayers and pooja at the ancient shrine of Shri Budha Amarnath Ji and prayed for peace, prosperity and well



being of people of J&K.

He expressed hope that may the grace and blessings of Lord Bholenath remain upon us, maintaining peace and brotherhood.

The Dy CM also met with Swami Vishavamananad Saraswati ji Maharaj at Mandi Mandir Complex and received blessings from Swami Maharaj.

The Annual Chari Mubarak Yatra, led by Acharya Shri Shri 1008 Mahamandleshwar Swami Vishavamananad Saraswati Ji Maharaj, commenced on Thursday from the Dashnami Akhara Mandir complex in Poonch and proceeded to the Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Shrine at Rajpura, Mandi.

has also served as Deputy Commissioner of Shopian, Kargil and Leh districts.

On the arrival, he was received by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara, Mufti Fareed ud din; Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad; ACR and other senior officials of DC office.

Shrikant Balasaheb Suse assumes charge as DC Kupwara

FE News Network



KUPWARA: Shrikant Balasaheb Suse assumed the charge as Deputy Commissioner Kupwara.

Shrikant is AGMUT 2016-batch IAS officer. Prior to current assignment, he was previously serving as Managing Director, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited. Besides, he

DC Shopian finalises Independence Day arrangements

Impactful celebrations to be held across the district



FE News Network

SHOPIAN: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta chaired a meeting of officers to finalise arrangements for the upcoming celebrations of Independence Day in the district. At the outset, DC inquired about the status of department wise arrangements, and the concerned apprised him of the arrangements to be set up at the main venue to ensure the impactful celebration of the National festival. Gupta reviewed all arrangements including adequate and proper PAS, uninterrupted power supply with back up, potable water facility, refreshments, sanitation, traffic, seating, publicity, healthcare, fire services, decoration, illumination, logistics and

security. DC instructed officers of all concerned departments to ensure fool proof arrangements for the celebrations at the district level venue.

Officers were called upon to execute the arrangements meticulously and attend the department level flag hoisting functions before attending main function at district level. Flag hoisting functions shall be held across the district with main district level event at DPL Shopian, besides at Zainapora subdivision, tehsil levels and other offices and institutions of the district. The meeting was attended by ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; CO, CRPF, DPO, GM DIC, ACR, SDM and other officers of departments tasked with the arrangements.

Editorial

Food Safety in Kashmir

The crackdown by the Food department has brought to light a deeply disturbing and dangerous practice, the sale and distribution of decomposed, unlabelled, and unregulated meat and chicken across the Valley. Over 35 quintals of spoiled meat have been seized and destroyed in just a few days, raising an alarm that can no longer be ignored.

That such vast quantities of unsafe meat made their way into transport and storage facilities without basic standards like cold-chain logistics or even labelling is a stark reminder of the gaping loopholes in our food safety enforcement. What is even more appalling is that illegal suppliers, in a bid to escape inspection, have started dumping meat in open areas and even water bodies, a hazardous act that compounds the public health threat.

The FDA's efforts, led by Commissioner Smiti Sethi, are commendable, particularly given the limited manpower and resources at their disposal. The swift raids conducted in Srinagar, Pulwama, and Central Kashmir, especially in Lasjan, Safakadal, and Parimpora, not only stopped harmful products from reaching unsuspecting customers but also sent a strong message to those operating in the grey market of food supply.

Equally heartening is the role of the public, who have emerged as whistleblowers, aiding enforcement teams by reporting suspicious movements and foul odours. This kind of citizen engagement is essential in creating a vigilant society that prioritizes health over convenience.

Yet, this crackdown also exposes a deeper crisis, the lack of accountability and oversight in our food supply chains. The presence of unlabelled meat, unhygienic storage, and the use of unapproved food colouring in kababs is not just unethical; it is criminal. Such practices not only endanger lives but erode public trust in the food industry.

This is not merely a regulatory issue, it is a public health emergency. We must ask: How many such consignments have already made their way to our homes, restaurants, and shops unnoticed? What measures are being taken to ensure this does not repeat?

Food safety should never be compromised. In a region already grappling with a fragile healthcare system and economic strain, the circulation of unsafe food is a disaster in the making. The FDA's work must continue, but it needs robust support from both government and citizens.

What we eat should nourish us, not harm us. It is time Kashmir treats food safety not as an afterthought, but as a public right and a government priority.

Agricultural Revolution in India Continues with a Greater Vigor



Shivraj Singh Chauhan

Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, continuous reforms and farmer-centric initiatives have led to steady growth in the agriculture sector and the country has achieved record production of paddy, wheat, maize, groundnut and soybean. As per the third Advance Estimates for the production of major agricultural crops for the agricultural year 2024-25, Total food grain production in the year 2024-25 is estimated at 353.96 million tonnes which is the highest food grain production till date and 40% more than the year 2014-15 (252.02 million tonnes).

Indian agriculture has transformed from stagnation and food insecurity before the 1960s to achieving food surpluses today, disproving the Malthusian belief that population growth would outstrip food production. In 1967, William and Paul Paddock predicted famine in India, claiming it couldn't feed its growing population and controversially argued against food aid, fearing it would worsen future starvation.

The Green Revolution, driven by high-yielding rice and wheat varieties, agrochemicals, and irrigation, proved the Paddocks wrong by boosting India's foodgrain production from 74 million tons in 1966-67 to 130 million tons by 1979-80. Annual gains peaked at 8.1 million tons (2014-2025), reaching 354 million tons. Horticulture also surged from 40 million tons in the 1960s to 334 million tons in 2024-25, with recent annual increases of 7.5 million tons. Crop produc-

tion has also become more stable due to advances in stress-tolerant varieties and resilient farming practices.

India's dairy, poultry, and fisheries sectors have seen remarkable growth. The White Revolution, starting in the 1970s, boosted milk production from 20 million tons to 239 million tons by 2023-24, rivaling Europe. The Blue Revolution in the 1980s



raised fish output from 2.4 to 19.5 million tons by 2024-25, making India the second-largest seafood producer and exporter. Poultry evolved from backyard activity to industry, with egg production rising from 10 to 143 billion, and poultry meat from 113 thousand to 5,019 thousand tons over the same period.

Between 2014-15 and 2023-24, animal-source food production saw unprecedented growth: milk rose by 10.2 million tons annually, eggs by 6.8 billion units, broiler meat by 217 thousand tons, and fish (mainly aquaculture) by 0.78 million tons. Technological advances in breeding, resource management, and skilled manpower have driven this surge. High-value foods like fruits, vegetables, and animal products now outpace foodgrain growth, underscoring technology's key role in agricultural diversification, improved nutrition, farmer income, and resilience to climate shocks.

India's food production success highlights the transformative role of technology and

policy in boosting nutrition, farmer incomes, climate resilience, and exports. ICAR research shows high returns on investment in agriculture- 13.85 and 7.40 for every rupee spent on research and extension. Recent government initiatives like PMKSY (irrigation), PM-KISAN (direct farmer support), the National Livestock Mission, and the Blue Revolution have further strengthened agricultural growth by enhancing resource use, reducing risks, and promoting technology adoption across the agri-food system.

By 2047, as India aims to become a developed nation, its economy must grow at 7.8% annually, with a projected population of 1.6 billion- half in urban areas. This shift will double overall food demand, with demand for fruits, vegetables, and animal-based foods expected to triple, while cereal demand remains stable, leading to surpluses.

However, rising urbanization and industrialization will shrink agricultural land from 180 to 176 million hectares, and average landholdings from 1 to 0.6 hectares. This will increase pressure on water and agrochemicals, risking resource degradation. Climate change poses an even greater threat, endangering sustainable agriculture and rural livelihoods.

India's evolving agri-food challenges call for a realignment of production strategies. Despite exporting 20 million tons of water-intensive rice annually, groundwater sustainability is at risk. Meanwhile, India relies heavily on imports of edible oils and pulses. To ensure food security, protect farmer interests, and conserve resources, crop planning must prioritize water-efficient crops like oilseeds and pulses alongside sustainable farming practices.

India can expand pulses and oilseeds cultivation on 12 million hectares of rice-fallow land left unused due to various constraints. However, low yields- 18-40% gaps in oilseeds and 31-37% in pulses- highlight the need for technological advancements. The Vikshit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan (VKSA) reached 1.35 crore farmers across 728 districts, promoting improved practices through direct farmer-scientist interaction. To boost production and reduce imports, the government has also launched mission-mode

India's dairy, poultry, and fisheries sectors have seen remarkable growth. The White Revolution, starting in the 1970s, boosted milk production from 20 million tons to 239 million tons by 2023-24, rivaling Europe. The Blue Revolution in the 1980s raised fish output from 2.4 to 19.5 million tons by 2024-25, making India the second-largest seafood producer and exporter. Poultry evolved from backyard activity to industry, with egg production rising from 10 to 143 billion, and poultry meat from 113 thousand to 5,019 thousand tons over the same period.

schemes focused on high-yielding seeds for oilseeds, pulses, and cotton.

Agricultural research holds immense potential to boost productivity, resilience, and resource efficiency while lowering costs and managing risks. With growing demand for timely information, modern tools like AI and data analytics are transforming global agri-research. India currently invests 116 billion annually (0.5% of agri-GDP) in R&D, with plans to increase funding and adopt a demand-driven approach. Strengthening Krishi Vigyan Kendras, state extension systems, and central-state coordination will link research more closely with farmers. Under the "One Nation, One Agriculture, One Team" vision, ICAR nodal officers are guiding state-level action plans to support Vikshit Bharat.

The author is the Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Govt of India. (PIB)

Annual incremental production of different foods in India

Period	Foodgrains (million tons)	Fruits and Vegetables (million tons)	Milk (million tons)	Marine Fish (million tons)	Inland Fish (million tons)	Poultry Meat (ooo tons)	Eggs (billion numbers)	Annual spending on R&D (Rs billion at 2011-12 prices)
1966-67 to 1979-80	2.7	1.3	0.9	-	-	2.1	0.4	11.3
1980-81 to 1989-90	6.1	2.0	2.2	0.08	0.06	21.4	1.1	20.9
1990-91 to 1999-2000	3.9	6.0	2.5	0.06	0.14	45.5	1.0	34.8
2000-01 to 2013-14	3.9	8.2	4.2	0.04	0.24	148.5	3.2	68.7
2014-15 to 2024-25	8.1	7.5	10.2*	0.12	0.78	217.0*	6.8*	116.3

Till 2023-24

Hazrat Roup Reshi (RA): Kashmir's Saint Of Miracles And Divine Piety



Wani Arfat
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Kashmir, also referred to as the paradise on earth, is a place where nature's majesty rubs shoulders with the spirituality of its depths. Its white-capped mountains, meandering streams, and verdant valleys are not just marvels of creation but also quiet testaments to the footprints of saints who trod this earth with hearts aglow with divine love. The valley has been blessed through history with great friends of Allah whose company made its soil a sanctuary of belief. Among the myriad of saints who illuminated here, the likes of Hazrat Amir Kabir Mir Syed Ali Hamadani (RA), Hazrat Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani Nund Reshi (RA), Baba Naseebuddin Ghazi (RA), Baba Shakuruddin (RA), Baba Reshi (RA), Hazrat Zainuddin Wali (RA) light up the spiritual galaxy of Kashmir. Among such giants, the name of Hazrat Roup Reshi (RA) shines with a unique brilliance, as his life was the ideal reflection of piety, humility, and nearness to Allah, and his miracles still inspire belief in millions of hearts.

The sacred shrine of Hazrat Roup Reshi (RA) is in the peaceful village of Kuchmulla in Tral, where each stone bears the scent of his memory and each gust whispers blessings from his aura. Being a village dweller, I have seen how individuals from far and wide come to his shrine with hope in their eyes and prayers in their hearts, and depart with an inner peace that defies expression in words. Historical records state that there were two saints by the name of Roup Reshi, one lying at Habbah Kadlah in Srinagar and the other in Kuchmulla, both contemporaries of Baba Naseebuddin Ghazi (RA) and highly respected by the people of those times.

Hazrat Roup Reshi (RA) was born in the village of Largam, which is only two kilometers from Kuchmulla. From his very childhood, he renounced worldly pleasures and immersed himself in the remembrance of Allah. He was a shepherd, but his actual profession was day and night zikr, and his proximity to the Almighty was so intimate that even a lion would guard

on the bare minimum. His love was for Hazrat Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani (RA), whose poems he memorized and recited to propagate divine love. His miracles are still imprinted in the valley's memory. One of them is the well-known tale of the Sheikh family of Kuchmulla, who accepted Islam through his favors. Their forefather, Ziyon, a blind Hindu, was taken to the



his flock, a miraculous occurrence still retold in wonder by the elders. He trod the path of Owaisi, guided by divine wisdom from Allah Himself, without any earthly teacher, a special boon reserved only for the purest of souls. As a member of the Rishi fraternity, he spurned luxuries and eschewed meat, fish, and eggs in his entire life. Even today, on his Urs, the Kuchmulla folk revere this practice by not taking these foods to recall his selfless example of austerity and dedication.

Historical accounts such as Tarikh-i-Hassan report his years in intense withdrawal in the Kali Paadin forest, not far from Largam, where he would fast for long months and worship, at times fasting only for three days and subsisting

saint, and Hazrat Roup Reshi (RA) instructed his mother that if she let her son accept Islam, he would regain his eyesight. She consented, and through the will of Allah, the blind man recovered his sight, embraced Islam as Sheikh Inayatullah, and established himself in Kuchmulla. His offspring remain there to this day, ever proud of their heritage. The Sheikh family then rose to prominence as Zaldars, influential landlords and respected leaders vested with power.

Hazrat Roup Reshi (RA) passed his last days in Kuchmulla, in which he realized union with his Creator. Legend has it that when the inhabitants of Largam came to claim his blessed body, the villagers of Kuchmulla had already laid him to rest in their land, where his shrine presently

stands amidst an ancient graveyard and a mosque, both silently testifying to his eternal presence. His Urs is celebrated annually on the 26th of Safar with deep faith. Strongly it is held that at this period meat, fish, and eggs should not be cooked, for when a family broke this custom their kitchen was set alight. Even now, it is told in awe that a lion comes to pay his shrine a visit on Thursday nights, bowing as in worship, a living testament to his spiritual might.

In 1983, Roup Islamia High School was founded in Kuchmulla in his honor, as an epitome of knowledge to the generations and as a remembrance of his name forever with dignity. His life taught people selflessness, chasticity, and love for Allah, and that humanity has to learn that true greatness never consists of riches and dominance but of devotion and sincerity. His teachings inform us that love and trust are the real treasures of existence.

Now, when the world is drowning in materialism and divine ignorance, the teachings of Hazrat Roup Reshi (RA) are radiating like a lamp, showing the lost hearts the way towards the light of Allah. His mausoleum is still a refuge where hearts find peace, prayers receive solutions, and souls feel the warmth of divine love. His legacy reminds us to purge our hearts of hate, to accept love and humility, and to live in faith and service to mankind. The atmosphere of Kashmir still carries the scent of his graciousness, and as long as this valley remains, his name shall keep on shining like a beacon illuminating believers' hearts and reminding us of the fact that the way to success is the one that ends at Allah.

This is the tale of Hazrat Roup Reshi (RA), the illustrious Sufi of Kashmir, the very figure of piety, the miracle saint whose name and deeds shall never die.

Author is a passionate writer, social activist, and medical student, hails from Kuchmulla Tral. He can be mailed at wania6817@gmail.com)

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Hazrat Roup Reshi (RA) was born in the village of Largam, which is only two kilometers from Kuchmulla. From his very childhood, he renounced worldly pleasures and immersed himself in the remembrance of Allah. He was a shepherd, but his actual profession was day and night zikr, and his proximity to the Almighty was so intimate that even a lion would guard his flock, a miraculous occurrence still retold in wonder by the elders...

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IIT Bombay honours Shailendra Kumar with National Geospatial Leadership Award, 2025

FE NEWS NETWORK

Institution to take 100 internees from SKUAST each year

SRINAGAR: Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar, has been conferred with the prestigious National Geospatial Leadership Award 2025 in recognition of his outstanding leadership, commitment and visionary guidance in promoting the geospatial science and technology, particularly through effective implementation and extension of the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP).

The award was presented to the Principal Secretary today in a ceremony that was part of the National Geospatial Awards 2025 (Edition 02), June a flagship initiative of the FOSSEE GIS project, organized by IIT Bombay under the aegis of the National Mission on Education through ICT (NMEICT), Ministry of Education, Government of India.

The felicitation was carried out by Professor Pennan Chinnaasamy, Co-Principal Investigator, FOSSEE, IIT Bombay and Co-Convenor of the Awards, along with Mohamed Kasim Khan M, National Coordinator FOSSEE GIS (NMEICT), IIT Bombay

and organizing Secretary of the event.

The award acknowledged Kumar's significant role in driving adoption of geospatial tools and open-source GIS technologies in the agricultural sector of Jammu and Kashmir, thereby aligning with the objectives of the National Geospatial

ciency and resource optimization in the agri-governance framework.

This year's National Geospatial Awards recognized around 100 distinguished personalities across India, including 10 IAS officers, 1 Armed Forces officer, 17 eminent scientists from ISRO, 5 Vice Chancellors

nan Moudgalya, Principal Investigator, FOSSEE (Convenor); Professor Pennan Chinnaasamy, Co-PI, FOSSEE (Co-Convenor); Mohamed Kasim Khan M (Organizing Secretary) and Madhulika Goyal, Senior Manager, FOSSEE (Awards Function Coordinator).

Notably, it was also revealed during the event that IIT Bombay is annually inducting over 1,000 internees from across the country, with 100 internship opportunities extended to SKUAST-Kashmir students under the FOSSEE GIS initiative, aiming to skill the youth in advanced geospatial technologies and prepare them for future employment challenges.

The same is the result of an MoU signed by the Agricultural University with this institution last year.

The Principal Secretary, APD, extended gratitude to the visiting faculty members on part of the administration and the University for this unique opportunity to its students.

It is also worth mentioning here that the tireless efforts to demonstrate commitment to innovation, capacity building and technological empowerment in agriculture has earned accolades and national recognition to this department for its many forward-looking initiatives taken over the past few years.



Policy 2022 and the Indian Space Policy 2023.

His instrumental support in integrating geospatial solutions into HADP has not only improved data-driven decision-making but also enhanced transparency, effi-

and over 60 senior faculty members from premier institutions, for their remarkable contributions to the geospatial ecosystem in India.

The event was spearheaded by a core organizing team comprising Professor Kan-

Traffic Police Rural Jammu launches special drive against overloading, other violations in Samba, Kathua

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Traffic Police Rural Jammu launched a special drive in the Samba-Kathua area to curb overloading and other traffic violations. The drive was conducted under the overall supervision of SSP Traffic Rural Jammu, G.L. Sharma, accompanied by DySP Traffic Samba-Kathua, Sukhdev Singh, along with the concerned DTIs and SOS Traffic.

The primary objective of the drive was to address the menace of overloading in passenger vehicles and take strict action against habitual violators. The initiative aims to ensure that owners and drivers of commercial passenger vehicles strictly comply with traffic rules and avoid violations under the Motor Vehicles Act and associated rules.

During the drive, 39 vehicles, including 18 buses (including one school bus), 14 mini-buses and seven light passenger vehicles, were challaned for various violations, primarily for overloading.

It is pertinent to mention that, during the current year, 3,526 vehicles have already been challaned for overloading passengers by Traffic Police Rural Jammu. Vehicles

found repeatedly violating traffic norms have also been recommended for cancellation of their registra-

accountability and transparency in traffic enforcement. He directed all traffic personnel to deal strictly with



tion certificates and route permits.

Alongside enforcement, regular road safety awareness programmes are being conducted across the jurisdiction of this unit. These initiatives involve collaboration with local police, the Motor Vehicles Department, civil administration, educational institutions, transporters, drivers and other stakeholders to promote adherence to the Motor Vehicles Act and rules.

SSP Traffic Rural Jammu emphasised the need for discipline,

violators under relevant legal provisions and instructed that all officers and officials must wear body-worn cameras while performing enforcement and regulation duties.

In view of the ongoing monsoon season, the Dy.SP Traffic and enforcement/regulation officers have been instructed to deploy traffic personnel in accident-prone and slippery zones. The focus remains on effectively curbing over-speeding and rash driving to minimise road accidents.

Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar celebrates World Breastfeeding Week

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Jammu celebrated World Breastfeeding Week with active participation from doctors, nursing students, hospital staff, and members of the community.

Director Health Services Jammu Dr Abdul Hamid Zargar was the chief guest on the occasion. Medical Superintendent Dr Narinder Singh Bhatial was also present.

The hospital emphasised the importance of breastfeeding to patients and their attendants. Breastfeeding provides optimal nutrition for infants, and helps protect them from common illnesses such as colds, diarrhoea, and infections, and reduces the mother's risk of health issues including breast and ovarian cancer and diabetes. The week-long programme began with an inauguration and awareness lectures delivered to students and patients in the OPD and Conference Hall.

Bed-to-bed training sessions were held to educate mothers and expectant mothers on best breastfeeding practices, aiming to ensure effective adoption and better health outcomes for both mothers and infants.

Various interactive activities were conducted, including a poster-making competition, quiz, and an awareness rally in nearby areas. Nursing students also performed a Nukkad Natak (street play) within the hospital premises.



During the closing ceremony, Consultant Gynaecologist Dr Aman-deep Kour Anand provided an overview of the week's activities. The programme was anchored by Suhani Anand, IYCF Counsellor, and the

vote of thanks was delivered by Dr Rajni Gupta, Consultant Gynaecologist. The event was attended by doctors, nursing and hospital staff, and students from institutions such as B.R Medical College, Galaxy Paramedical College, A.V Institute of Nursing, Baba Budhan Ali Shah College of Nursing, IPHH College, and MMC College of Nursing.

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

BUDGAM: A series of vibrant activities and events continued today across Budgam district under the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, being observed as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav 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 to commemorate the event, students at HSS Khansahib 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

Memorial Government Girls Middle School, Drang (Zone Khag) where students prepared a beautiful Thread Work



and devotion to the national cause. A special highlight came from Ishtiaque

Tiranga as a tribute to the nation. GDC Magam hosted a day-long programme

featuring painting, wall painting, and rangoli competitions, with active involvement of students and faculty members. The 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, all the major government buildings were illuminated in the colours of the national flag, becoming visual symbols of patriotic spirit during evening hours. Throughout the district, government buildings, institutions, and private homes proudly hoisted the Tricolour, turning Budgam into a living representation of unity and pride.

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Satish Sharma asks to intensify, continue drive against adulterated meat

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a decisive move to safeguard the public health, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, directed the enforcement wing of the department to intensify and continue its drive against adulterated meat across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister was reviewing the measures being taken by the department of FCS&CA to check and confiscate adulterated meat across Jammu and Kashmir in a meeting held.

The meeting was attended by the senior officers of FCS&CA, Enforcement wing and Legal Metrology.

The Minister instructed the enforcement teams to conduct regular inspections, carry out surprise raids and take strict action against those found guilty of selling adulterated or substandard meat.

"The health of our citizens is non-negotiable. Any compromise on food safety will be dealt with firmly. The enforcement wing must act without delay or leniency," said the Minister while reviewing the progress on recent enforcement activities.

Satish Sharma also called for greater coordination among the FCS&CA Department, municipal authorities, health officials and law enforcement agencies to enhance the effectiveness of the drive. He further urged the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity related to food adulteration.

The Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment towards protecting the consumer rights and ensuring the availability of safe and hygienic food to every household in the region.



JKEDI Connects J&K Startups To Middle East Ecosystem Through Startup Transcend

FE NEWS NETWORK

Kashmiri entrepreneurs can tap opportunities in UAE and beyond: Sudhakaran

SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) hosted

a landmark Open House titled Startup Transcend: Scaling Up Opportunities for Startups in the UAE, aimed at linking the local startups with the fast-evolving entrepreneurial ecosystem of the Middle East.

The session, organized at JKEDI's main campus at Sempora, Pampore, featured an engaging talk by Siby Sudhakaran, CEO of Startup Middle East, who brought deep insights into how Kashmiri entrepreneurs can tap into opportunities in the UAE and beyond.

Speaking on the occasion, Khalid Jahan-gir, Secretary in Industries and Commerce Department and Director, JKEDI, highlighted Jammu and Kashmir's rich heritage of enterprise and trade. He underlined how today's dynamic environment demands that local entrepreneurs look outward and explore cross-border collaborations to scale and sustain their businesses.

"The Middle East, particularly the UAE, offers sector-specific platforms, strategic partners, and investor networks that can help startups from J&K build scalable, technology-driven, future-ready ventures," he said, emphasizing JKEDI's commitment towards providing global linkages and mentorship.

Siby Sudhakaran, in his address, elaborated on the potential of the UAE's startup ecosystem, including free zones, incubators and dedicated investment platforms that actively support high-potential businesses. Drawing on his experience of organizing Dubai Expo 2020 and building a strong startup community thereafter, he encouraged J&K entrepreneurs to explore partnerships, identify strategic sectors and establish a competitive niche

for their ventures.

"I am a startup for startups," Sudhakaran remarked, inspiring the participants to leverage Middle East networks to create breakthrough collaborations. He highlighted the success stories where such linkages turned fledgling ideas into unicorn companies.

He stressed on the local startups of UT of J&K to identification of the sector specific support being provided by the various platforms across Middle



East and exploring the mainland and free zones for their startups in the Middle East. He described that Startup Middle East can help the startups to scale their businesses in the areas of UAE and Dubai.

The event drew enthusiastic participation from early-stage founders, ecosystem enablers and student innovators. The interactive Q&A session gave participants an opportunity to clarify how they could align their business models with opportunities in the UAE and other Middle Eastern markets.

The session concluded with a reaffirmation of JKEDI to its mission to build a globally connected startup ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir, announcing its plans for a Startup Idea Challenge across educational institutions to foster innovation and entrepreneurship from a young age.

Omar Abdullah

of a green initiative. Earlier in the morning, the Chief Minister held a grievance redressal camp at Wampora, Dawar, where residents from various areas including Chorawan, Kanzalwan, Tulail, Markote, and Bagtore raised issues concerning road and mobile connectivity, upgradation of educational institutions, banking facilities, ATM services, community bunkers, and employment opportunities. The Chief Minister patiently listened to all grievances and assured timely redressal. He said that since the time of Sher-e-Kashmir, has remained committed to delivering justice to the people of Gurez. “We understand the hardships faced by the people of this region. Our government has empathy and commitment to address these concerns,” he remarked. (DIPR)

2 CRPF

from Gujarat, Sonu Kumar from Jharkhand, Mukesh Kumar from Bihar, J. Hebram from Odisha, Rakesh Kumar from J&K (R.S. Pura), Dhanraj Pahadefrom Maharashtra, and Sukhwinder Singh from Delhi. Meanwhile, Army helicopters were used to airlift the injured personnel to hospital for immediate and specialized medical care. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also expressed condolences over the tragic incident. “Saddened by the loss of CRPF personnel due to an accident near Udhampur. We will never forget their exemplary service to the nation. My thoughts are with the bereaved families. Praying for the speedy recovery of the injured,” he posted on X. He said that officials have been directed to ensure the best-possible assistance to the injured—(KNO)

NIA Court

Ahmad Bhat of Kakapora and Javid Ahmad Yatoo of Pampore while criminal proceedings have also been initiated against absconding Pakistan alias LeT handler Sumama alias Babar alias Ilyas, who is also an accused in the case. “The investigation was conducted by Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK). The case pertains to a criminal conspiracy by handlers and commanders of the proscribed terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) from across the Line of Control (LoC), who, in close coordination with Pakistani nationals based in Gulf countries and other foreign territories, have been channeling terror funds into Jammu & Kashmir,” it reads. It added these funds were being routed through a well-organized network using couriers camouflaged as pilgrims, expatriates, and businessmen, thereby camouflaging illicit financial flows under the guise of religious and commercial travel. “During the course of investigation, it was established that Shabir Ahmad Bhat was in constant and secure communication with the Pakistan-based LeT handler Sumama, using encrypted messaging applications. While in Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah, Shabir, on the instructions of the handler, received large sums of Saudi Riyals from known LeT conduits in Madina. Additionally, he coordinated with other Kashmiri residents who had travelled for Umrah, instructing them to collect money from specific individuals whose identities and locations were shared by him,” it reads. The statement reads upon returning to Kashmir, these couriers handed over the funds to Shabir Ahmad Bhat, who then converted the foreign currency into Indian rupees and further distributed the funds among active terrorists and their families, as per directions from the LeT handler.

“The investigation also revealed the pivotal role of another accused Javid Ahmad Yatoo in facilitating and establishing contact between Shabir Ahmad Bhat and the LeT handler in Pakistan. His involvement was instrumental in enabling the functioning of this trans-national funding module,” it added. The statement added the framing of charges in this case marks an important milestone in the sustained efforts of Counter Intelligence Kashmir to identify, expose and dismantle terror funding networks operating under the radar. It reads that two more individuals – Mohammad Ayoub Bhat of Budgam and Mohammad Rafiq Shah of Srinagar have also been recently arrested in the case. “The investigation led to the seizure of electronic devices, bank statements, transaction logs, and other documents which expose a deeply embedded and covert hawala infrastructure used to fund terrorism,” it added. The statement reads these recoveries have further corroborated the existence of a well-structured, underground financial network sustaining terrorism in the region. “Arrests of additional co-conspirators are likely as the investigation continues to unfold”. (KNO)

CS Dulloo

between universities and line departments. He emphasized that institutions of higher learning deserve the utmost seriousness in addressing their issues, given their critical role in shaping the educational and innovation ecosystem of the UT. He directed the Higher Education Department to document all innovative practices, including research projects, patents, start-ups and other unique academic initiatives, being undertaken across these institutions. Such documentation, he said, would help in knowledge sharing and replication of successful models elsewhere in the UT. In a significant push for human resource development, the Chief Secretary also urged the universities to design crash courses for capacity building of government employees across departments. He further directed for mapping of all skill development and vocational courses being offered, to help align academic offerings with market and governance needs. The ACS, Higher Education, provided an overview of the key issues affecting the universities. He also highlighted the problems that have already been addressed through inter-departmental coordination. Taking a university-wise assessment, the Chief Secretary engaged directly with each Vice Chancellor to understand institution-specific bottlenecks. These included issues related to land transfers, creation of academic and non-teaching posts, allocation of additional funds, infrastructure augmentation, delays in ongoing construction works and other operational challenges. The Chief Secretary issued on-spot directions to the concerned departments for resolving these issues in a time-bound and mission-mode manner, underscoring the need for expedited action. The participating universities included University of Kashmir, University of Jammu, Cluster University Srinagar, Cluster University Jammu, Central University of Kashmir, Central University of Jammu, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST), Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU) and Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Kashmir / Jammu. The Chief Secretary concluded the meeting by reiterating the government’s commitment towards strengthening the higher education and research infrastructure in the UT. He directed all the stakeholders to ensure continuous engagement and monitoring to overcome any hurdle faced by these vital institutions. (DIPR)

J&K receives

to the growing demand for sustainable urban transportation. The 200 buses allocated to Jammu & Kashmir will be part of the larger initiative to improve

public transport systems, and they will be operational once the associated infrastructure, such as depots and charging stations, is ready. These buses are expected to be deployed soon, once the groundwork related to the Behind-the-Meter (BTM) power infrastructure and grid integration readiness is completed. In a significant move towards promoting electric mobility, the central government has approved 100% central assistance for the BTM infrastructure required for the depots where these buses will be stationed. This initiative forms part of the broader strategy to modernize the state’s transportation system, particularly to reduce air pollution and enhance the efficiency of public transport. While Jammu & Kashmir is set to benefit from the eBus initiative, the state has not yet participated in the funding and procurement aspects of the scheme. No funds have been sanctioned to the state thus far, as it awaits the finalization of deployment logistics. The scheme includes not just buses but also the necessary charging infrastructure and depot readiness, for which city authorities in J&K are working closely with distribution companies (DISCOMs). The Project Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (PMEC) is overseeing the entire process to ensure timely implementation and progress across the states, including Jammu & Kashmir. As the state prepares for the deployment of these electric buses, it is expected to boost eco-friendly transport options for residents while also addressing urban transportation challenges in the region—(KNO)

J&K hosts

Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) before construction. These clearances ensure that each project adheres to strict environmental guidelines, minimising adverse impacts on the surrounding ecosystems. To further safeguard the environment, sustainability and ecological impact studies are regularly conducted for these plants, the minister said. “The studies help ensure that the power generation processes are in harmony with the local ecological balance. However, it is important to note that hydropower projects located at elevations above 1,500 meters and in the upper reaches of the Himalayan region, such as those in Jammu and Kashmir, have been identified as vulnerable due to their susceptibility to geological or climatic disruptions.” In response to the potential risks associated with these plants, the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has identified certain hydropower projects in the region as vulnerable, Nail said, adding that these projects are now mandated to implement Early Warning Systems (EWS) to detect and mitigate risks. The CEA has issued an advisory to developers of these plants, urging them to install EWS to ensure the safety of both the local population and the infrastructure, especially in the event of extreme weather events or natural disasters—(KNO)

PM Modi

hoon ki vyaktigat roop se mujhe bahut badee keemat chukaane padegee. Lekin main iske liye taiyaar hoon.” (I know that I will personally have to pay a heavy price. But I am ready for it). Further, he said, “Mere desh ke machhuaaron ke liye, mere desh ke pashu paalonon ke liye aaj Bharat taiyaar hai.” (Today, India is ready (to pay the price) for the fishermen and dairy farmers.) Modi also released a commemorative coin and stamp in honour of the legendary scientist. During his address, the prime minister highlighted various schemes implemented by the government for the all-around development of the farm and allied sector. He stressed the need to sustain food production amid the growing challenges of climate change. Modi called for developing more climate-resilient varieties of crops, including heat-resistant. (ANI)

J&K achieves

is a state subject, grievances related to such issues are typically handled at the state level and are forwarded to local authorities for resolution. Additionally, citizens can lodge complaints on the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), which are subsequently forwarded to the concerned state departments for corrective action. Despite the progress made, several challenges remain in fully implementing the Jal Jeevan Mission in the region. These include inadequate water sources in certain water-stressed areas, Geographic difficulties and scattered rural populations, which make the installation of infrastructure challenging. Limited technical capacity at the local level, including Gram Panchayats and local communities, to properly manage and maintain water supply systems. Delays in obtaining statutory clearances and issues related to the matching state share

for funding. The Ministry of Jal Shakti has also taken several steps to address these challenges, including financial assistance through interest-free loans, coordination with other ministries for obtaining clearances and the introduction of the ‘Nal Jal Mitra Programme’ to ensure the availability of skilled local personnel for water management. To ensure the continued success of JJM, the Ministry has recommended measures like source recharging, rainwater harvesting and the reuse of greywater in a bid to conserve and manage water resources more efficiently. The government is also encouraged to collaborate with other national programs like the MGNREGS and Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for better water resource management—(KNO)

Kulgam Encounter

“Security forces are exercising extreme caution to avoid collateral damage and

ensure safety,” they said. J&K DGP Nalin Prabhat arrived at the Kulgam encounter site to review the ongoing operation for the third time in seven days. He was accompanied by IGP Kashmir and other senior officials. Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) of the Northern Command reviewed the counter-terrorism grid in South Kashmir and was briefed on the prevailing security situation in the region. In a post shared on X, the Northern Command of the Indian Army stated, “Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, Army Commander Northern Command, reviewed the counter-terrorism grid in South Kashmir, where he was briefed on the security situation, operational readiness and ongoing operations.” “He complimented all ranks for their steadfastness and resilience, enabling the Indian Army’s resolute commitment to ensuring peace and security in the region,” the X post read—(KNO)

NIFT Srinagar observes 11th National Handloom Day; honours local weavers

SRINAGAR: The National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Srinagar today celebrated the 11th National Handloom Day with a vibrant and culturally rich programme dedicated to honouring the region’s weavers and promoting the heritage of Indian handlooms. Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Higher Education, Shantmanu, was the chief guest on the occasion while Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, was the guest of honour. Other participants included Dr. Ghulam Nabi Itoo, Director, School Education and Professor Monika Gupta, Director, NIFT Srinagar along with artisans, weavers and senior officials from the departments of industry, skill development and education. In his address, Shantmanu lauded NIFT Srinagar for its commendable role in bridging young design talent with India’s rich

handloom legacy. He praised the faculty, students and staff for their dedication and remarked that “NIFT Srinagar has emerged as one of the finest institutions in the region and is the best campus among 19 NIFT campuses.” The celebration included screening of short films produced by NIFT Srinagar on handloom heritage and inspirational success stories of weavers, highlighting the resilience and creative spirit of the sector. A special felicitation ceremony titled “Rich Hands to Weavers” honoured the local artisans for their invaluable contribution. Besides, certificates were also distributed among the students and trainees who had completed handloom-related training programmes. The highlight of the event was a student-led fashion show, where models walked the ramp in garments crafted from traditional handloom textiles, seamlessly

merging heritage with contemporary design. In the sidelines of the grand event, Professor Monika Gupta emphasised the importance of design education in supporting traditional craft communities. “Our mission is to empower students to innovate while honouring and preserving age-old craftsmanship of Kashmir” she stated. The event concluded with a panel discussion on the topic ‘Threads of tradition - Voices from Kashmir loom’ and lively interaction session between artisans, students, and officials, focusing on future collaborations, opportunities and interventions in the handloom sector. Pertinently, being observed annually on August 7, National Handloom Day commemorates the launch of the Swadeshi Movement in 1905. It celebrates the pivotal role of India’s weavers in shaping the country’s cultural and economic landscape.

3-Day Craft Awareness Programme Concludes in Pampore, Pulwama

BY ZUBAIR CHOWDHRY

PULWAMA: A three-day Craft Demonstration cum Awareness Programme (CDAP) concluded in Pampore, Pulwama, under the National Handicrafts Development Programme (NHDP). Organised by M S Zehru Handicrafts Producer Company Ltd, the event saw active participation from 20 local female artisans. The programme featured live craft demos, interactive training, and screenings highlighting India’s rich handicraft heritage. Renowned award-winning artisans including Nisar Hussain Bhat (Sozni,



2004), Ghulam Hassan Malik (Sozni, 2018), Rashikh Ahmad (Chain Stitch, 2018), and Muzaffar Ahmad (Paper Mache, 2018 National Awardee) mentored participants. Officials from the Handicrafts Service Centre, Pulwama including Assistant Director Aijaz Ahmad and others also

attended. On the final day, participants were felicitated with appreciation awards for their contribution to preserving Kashmiri crafts. The programme ended on a note of empowerment, skill development, and cultural pride.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Office Of The Zonal Education Officer, Keegam
ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from the candidates with a minimum qualification of 10+2 along with the testimonials duly attested by gazetted officer for the engagement as EV's below mentioned (02) Behak Centers of Zone Keegam district Shopian purely on contract basis for the academic session 2025-26.

The engagement is purely on contract basis for a period of 3-4 Months and preference shall be given to local candidate as well as experienced candidates. The engagement is purely on contract basis and will not confer any right to the candidates to continue, and their engagement will automatically cease to operate as and when the academic session is over or the population of Behak migrates whichever is earlier. The minimum number of children must not be less than 15 to run/operate the behak.

The engagement of a candidate is on merit basis and will be governed in terms of Samagra Shiksha J&K Guidelines.

S.No	Name of Seasonal Centre
1.	Mathwani-B
2.	Maniwali

The Minimum qualification for the engagement of EV's has been prescribed as 10+2 or above from a recognized board/University and application in this regard should reach to the office of undersigned within the period of (07) days from the publication of this notification along with the following documents/testimonials duly attested by gazetted officer.

Eligible Criteria for SEV:-

1. Qualification Certificate
2. D.O B certificate.
3. Domicile Certificate.
4. Candidate must be physically and mentally fit to carry out her job.
5. Experience Certificate (if any)
6. Aadhar Card
7. Non-Employment Certificate
8. Preference shall be given to the candidates from BPL Category in the below mentioned order of priority
i. S.T. Candidate
ii) Local Candidate
iii. Experienced Candidate.
9. Candidate shall submit the affidavit from 1- class Magistrate at the time of joining not calming for any kind of absorption at any state.

No: ZEO/K/Behak/25/ESH/495
Dated: 06-08-2025

DIPK-4950/25 Dt:07-08-2025

Sd/-Nisar Ahmad Koli
Zonal Education Officer Keegam

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T.) JAMMU & KASHMIR

**Office Of The Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti(PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar
Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.**

CANCELLATION CORRIGENDUM/NOTICE

Sub: Construction of Gravel Packed Production Tube Well at Water Supply Shame Katchpora Baghatpora .

Ref: 1. This office Fresh e-NIT. No: 14/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26 issued vide this office endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./ 2323-36, dated: 13-06-2025 bearing tender ID No: 2025_PHE_278846_1, followed by the extension Notice 4th, dated: 28-07-2025.

2. Cancellation Notice issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs./2298-2302, dated: 13-06-2025

3. This office e-NIT. No: 62/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2024-25, Dated: 14-02-2024 followed by the extension Notice 12th, bearing tender ID No: 2025_PHE_272611_1.

4. Cancellation Notice issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/24-25/Corrs./12197-210, dated: 14-02-2025.

5. This office e-NIT. No: 36/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2024-25, Dated: 18-11-2024 followed by the extension Notice 8th, Dated: 29-01-2025, bearing tender ID No: 2024_PHE_265161_1.

Due to "No Response" till date has been received for the above subject mentioned work were earlier advertised in various e-NIT's under references issued by this office is hereby cancelled.

Sd/= Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Div. Srinagar.

No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./4528-41
Dated: 07-08-2025.
DIPK-4942/25 Dt: 07-08-2025

India, US should find common ground to resolve tariff issue: Netanyahu

JERUSALEM: The foundation of India-US relationship is "very solid" and both sides should find common ground to resolve the tariff issue, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday.

The prime minister also said that the military equipment supplied to India by Israel performed well during Operation Sindoor and that the defence cooperation between the two countries are on an upswing.

In an interaction with a group of visiting Indian journalists, Netanyahu said he would like to visit India "soon".

As India-US ties are reeling under some strain after US President Donald Trump imposed 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods, the Israeli prime minister said both sides should amicably resolve the issue.

To a question on whether he would give any advice to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on dealing with Trump, the Israeli leader half-jokingly said he would do so privately.

"Modi and Trump are terrific friends of mine. Yes I would give Modi some advice (on dealing with Trump), but privately."

"There is a basic understanding in relationship between India and the US. The basis of the relationship is very solid. It will be in the interest of India and the US to arrive at a common ground

and resolve the tariff issue," he said.

"Such a resolution will be good for Israel as well as both the countries are our friends," he added.



The Israeli prime minister also noted that there is huge scope for further expand India-Israel cooperation including in areas such as intelligence sharing, countering terrorism and high-technology.

"I would like to come to India. I miss India," he said.

"We have developed a lot of technology in screening data and social networks. We are cooperating in this domain with India as well."

Without providing specific details, Netanyahu said Israel would like to quickly wrap up "mutual defence and economic agreements".

Asked whether Israel helped India during Operation Sindoor, Netanyahu said the equipment provided by his country much before the conflict to Indian military performed well.

"Israel supplied military equipment to India before (Op Sindoor). All of them worked well. Israeli equipment used during Operation Sindoor were battle proven."

"We don't develop them in labs, but in battlefield. So they are battle-tested. We have a robust defence cooperation. It is on a pretty solid foundation," Netanyahu said.

The Israeli prime minister said both India and Israel are well-placed to combat cross-border terrorism. He suggested that Israel can help India in boosting its surveillance mechanism.

"India is huge country and it is not easy to have surveillance all over. We are ready to help India in air surveillance systems. Besides intelligence, we need the physical capability to get the terrorists before they strike.

"You always have to be ahead of the curve, you don't allow them to break you, you have to act before what is likely to come and being hatched by them," he added.

Netanyahu said Israel is keen to have flight

The Israeli prime minister also noted that there is huge scope for further expand India-Israel cooperation including in areas such as intelligence sharing, countering terrorism and high-technology.

connectivity between Bengaluru and Tel Aviv.

"We would like to have direct flights between Tel Aviv and Bangalore, so that we can reach in six hours, that will be shorter than the flight to San Francisco," he said. (PTI)

Indian Army Intensifies Rescue Ops in Cloudburst-Hit Uttarakhand

DEHRADUN: The Indian Army, in close coordination with civil authorities, has ramped up its Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) efforts in the cloudburst-affected region of Dharali near Harsil in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district.



Following heavy rains and a sudden cloudburst earlier this week, the region has been left reeling under the impact of massive landslides, road blockages, and communication breakdowns.

According to Defence Spokesperson, as of Thursday morning, the region continues to remain cut off from major access points, with road connectivity severely disrupted at several critical locations including Bartwari, Linchigad, Gangrani, Harsil, and Dharali.

Spokesperson told Kashmiri Convener that Army engineers and civil workers are engaged in round-the-clock efforts to clear landslides and restore access routes.

Helipad operations have been mixed, with the military helipad at Harsil and the Nelong helipad currently functional. The Nelong helipad, which is connected by road to Gangotri, is playing a crucial role in facilitating the movement of stranded tourists. However, the civil helipad at Dharali remains non-functional due to a major mudslide that has rendered the site inaccessible. Over 225 troops have been deployed on the ground, including rescue specialists, medical teams, and engineering units. A Reeco Radar

team is already active in Tekla, and another is in the process of being inducted to aid in locating survivors and assessing damage. "Specially trained search and rescue dogs have also been deployed to assist in locating missing persons trapped under debris or swept away by flash

hoppers are on standby at Jollygrant Airport and are expected to begin airlifting personnel and civilians, weather permitting".

Five civil helicopters, operating from Sahasradhara, have been shuttling between Matli, Bhatwari, and Harsil for ongoing rescue efforts in collaboration with the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF).

To accelerate relief operations, an ad-hoc aviation base is being established at the Matli Helipad managed by ITBP.

So far, 70 civilians have been rescued, while rescue efforts continue for more than 50 individuals still reported missing, according to the Civil Administration.

The tragedy has already claimed three civilian lives, and two bodies have been recovered.

In a worrying development, the Army has reported nine personnel missing, including one Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO) and eight jawans.

Evacuation efforts have successfully airlifted nine Army personnel and three civilians to Dehradun. Among the injured, three civilians in critical condition were shifted to AIIMS Rishikesh by road ambulance, while eight others are currently receiving treatment at the District Hospital in Uttarkashi.

The Chief Minister of Uttarakhand visited the disaster-hit area on Wednesday to assess the situation first-hand. Senior Army officials, including the Army Commander of Central Command and the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Uttarakhand, are on the ground, directly overseeing rescue and coordination. The Chief of Staff of Central Command is working closely with Headquarters Central Air Command to ensure seamless execution of aerial operations.

Authorities report that nearly 180 to 200 tourists, stranded at Gangotri due to road blockages, are being provided food, medical assistance, and temporary shelter by personnel from the Indian Army and ITBP.

In the coming 24 to 48 hours, the Indian Army and civil authorities have planned several critical interventions. Paratroopers and additional medical teams are set to be airlifted to Harsil via Chinook helicopters. (PIB)

Government Boosts LNG Use with 100% FDI, New Stations, and Policy Reforms

NEW DELHI: Demand of Natural Gas in the country is met through domestic production of Natural gas as well as import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). Government have taken various steps to support growth of a gas-based economy which includes augmenting the availability of LNG for various sectors. This, inter-alia, includes permitting 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under 100% automatic route for establishment of LNG infrastructure including LNG terminals, Open General Licensing (OGL) category for LNG imports, etc. As on date, eight (8) LNG regasification terminals are operational with capacity of about 52.7 million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA).

Government have been driving the initiative of setting up of LNG stations across the Golden Quadrilateral (GQ), National Highways, East-West Highway, North-South Highway and major Mining clusters in India. 13 LNG retail stations have so far been commissioned by State owned Oil and Gas Companies. Further, 16 LNG retail stations owned by Private entities are also operational.

The steps taken to boost the usage of LNG as a transport fuel are as follows: LNG has been recognized as Transport Fuel by Government and the emission standards for LNG vehicles have also been notified in this regard.

Government has amended the Static and Mobile Pressure vessels (Unfired) (Amendment) Rules, 2025 to allow LNG fuelled vehicles containing spark ignition engine or compression ignition type internal combustion engine to operate in hazardous areas, LNG mobile dispensing in non-transport sectors such as railways, mining, waterways, testing laboratories etc., among others. (PIB)



Putin Says He Hopes To Meet Trump As White House Presses For Peace Deal On Ukraine

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday he hopes to meet next week with US President Donald Trump, possibly in the United Arab Emirates.

The news came on the eve of a White House deadline for Moscow to show progress toward ending the 3-year-old war in Ukraine.

Putin's foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov had said earlier a summit could possibly take place next week at a venue that has been decided "in principle."

Ushakov brushed aside the possibility of Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy joining the summit, something the White House had said Trump was ready to consider. Putin has spurned Zelenskyy's previous offers of a meeting to clinch a breakthrough.

"We propose, first of all, to focus on preparing a bilateral meeting with Trump, and we consider it most important that this meeting be successful and productive," Ushakov said, adding that US special envoy Steve Witkoff's suggestion of a meeting including Ukraine's leader "was not specifically discussed."

Putin made the announcement in the Kremlin after his meeting with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the president of the UAE.

There was no immediate comment Thursday

from the White House and it was unclear how the announcement of the meeting would affect

an interest."

"We propose, first of all, to focus on preparing a bilateral meeting with Trump, and we consider it most important that this meeting be successful and productive," Ushakov said, adding that US special envoy Steve Witkoff's suggestion of a meeting including Ukraine's leader "was not specifically discussed."

adding: "It's a possibility, but certain conditions need to be created" for it to happen.

Kirill Dmitriev, the head of Russia's sovereign wealth fund who met with Witkoff on Wednesday, said a Trump-Putin meeting would allow Moscow to "clearly convey its position," and he hoped a summit would include discussions on mutually beneficial economic issues, including joint investments in areas such as

rare earth elements.

The meeting would be the first US-Russia summit since 2021, when former President Joe Biden met Putin in Geneva. It would be a significant milestone toward Trump's effort to end the war, although there's no guarantee it would stop the fighting since Moscow and Kyiv remain far apart on their conditions for peace.

Next week is the target date for a summit, Ushakov said, while noting that such events take time to organise and no date is confirmed. The possible venue will be announced "a little later," he said.

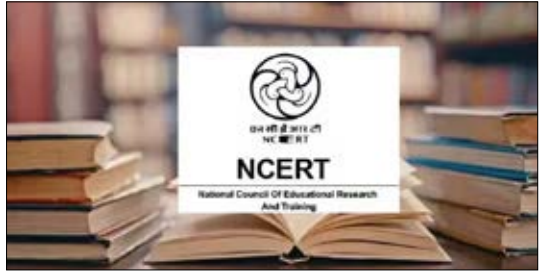
Months of US-led efforts have yielded no progress on stopping Russia's invasion of its neighbour. The war has killed tens of thousands of troops on both sides as well as more than 12,000 Ukrainian civilians, according to the United Nations.

Western officials have repeatedly accused Putin of stalling for time in peace negotiations to allow Russian forces time to capture more Ukrainian land. Putin previously has offered no concessions and will only accept a settlement on his terms. (PTI)



NCERT Introduces Chapters on Field Marshal Manekshaw, Brig Usman, Maj Somnath Sharma

NEW DELHI: In a significant move aimed at fostering patriotism and educating young minds about India's military legacy, the National Council of Educational Research



and Training (NCERT) has introduced chapters on the lives and sacrifices of three iconic Indian military heroes—Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, Brigadier Mohammad Usman, and Major Somnath Sharma—in school textbooks for the current academic year.

The new chapters have been included in Class VIII (Urdu), Class VII (Urdu), and Class VIII (English) textbooks respectively.

Each chapter presents a compelling narrative of courage, leadership, and sacrifice, aiming to inculcate values of national pride and resilience among students.

Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, one of the most celebrated military leaders in Indian history and the first Indian Army officer to be conferred the rank of Field Marshal, is remembered for his exceptional strategic command, especially during the 1971 India-Pakistan war that led to the creation of Bangladesh.

Brigadier Mohammad Usman, often called the "Lion of Nowshera," was martyred during the 1947-48 conflict in Jammu and Kashmir and was posthumously awarded the Mahavir Chakra for his bravery.

Similarly, Major Somnath Sharma, who laid down his life while repelling Pakistani intruders in Kashmir in 1947, was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra—the country's highest wartime gallantry award—and is remembered as the first recipient of the honour.

Defence Spokesperson while commenting on the development, said the introduction of these chapters is part of a broader initiative undertaken by the Ministry of Defence in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and NCERT to integrate the National War Memorial (NWM) and related references into school curricula.

He said this step aims to familiarise students with the stories behind the names engraved on the walls of the memorial and to develop a deeper understanding of India's military history and the values upheld by its armed forces.

Officials said that through the inclusion of such narratives, students will not only learn about the strategic and historical contexts of various military operations but also imbibe essential life lessons such as emotional intelligence, empathy, discipline, and a sense of responsibility towards the nation.

The National War Memorial, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 25, 2019, stands in the iconic Central Vista 'C' Hexagon near India Gate, New Delhi.

The Memorial was conceptualised as a national monument to honour the soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. It has since served not just as a site of tribute but also as an educational and inspirational landmark for citizens of all ages.

With this educational reform, the government hopes to instill a sense of belongingness, pride, and awareness in young learners, encouraging them to emulate the virtues of India's military heroes in their own lives and become responsible citizens committed to the nation's development. (PIB)

4.8 Lakh Backlog Vacancies Filled In Central Govt Since 2016: Jitendra Singh

NEW DELHI: Occurrence and filling of vacancies, including the backlog ones, is a continuous process, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Thursday.

"Instructions have been issued to all ministries/departments of the central government to constitute an in-house committee for identification of backlog reserved vacancies, to study the root cause of such vacancies, to initiate measures to remove the factors causing such vacancies and to fill them up through special recruitment drive," he said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

Each ministry or department is also required to designate a liaison officer of deputy secretary rank or above and set up a special reservation cell under their direct control to ensure compliance with reservation-related orders, said Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel.

The minister was responding to queries on percentage of persons employed from the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in central government services and whether "there still exists a backlog in employment of persons from the reserved categories", among others.

"Occurrence and filling of vacancies, including the backlog vacancies, is a continuous process," he said.

According to data, furnished by various ministries and departments of the government, around 4.8 lakh backlog vacancies in central government posts and services have been filled up since 2016, he said.

"Ministries/departments of the central government have been advised from time to time, to fill up the vacant posts in a time bound manner," he added.

Reservation is provided to OBCs at 27 per cent, followed by 15 per cent to SCs and 7.5 per cent to STs, in direct recruitment on all India basis by open competition in central government posts and services, the minister said.

Further, in promotion, reservation is provided to SCs at 15 per cent and to STs at 7.5 per cent, he added.

In case of Persons with Disabilities, reservation both in direct recruitment and promotion (upto the lowest rung of Group A) is provided at 4 per cent, he said.

"Details of vacancies and posts filled up are maintained by the respective ministries, departments and organisations," Singh said. (PIB)

WAZWAN DELIGHTS

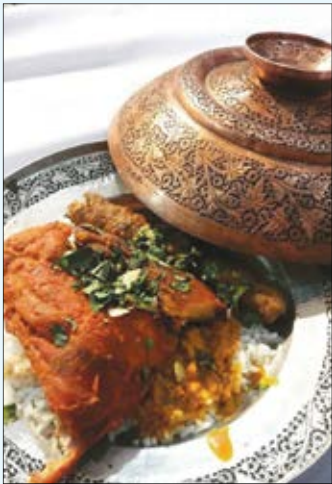
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