



Terror Incidents Were Common During UPA Tenure, Says Shah

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Asserting that terrorist attacks were 'frequent in India during the UPA regime,' Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday slammed opposition parties for opposing 'Operation Sindoor.'

Addressing a public meeting in Bihar Shah said, "India is different under the Narendra Modi ji's regime. Our soldiers killed terrorists in their hide-outs. But the RJD and Congress leaders are opposing Operation Sindoor."

The Union Home Minister lashed out at opposition parties for objecting to the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar, asserting that infiltrators have "no right to vote".

He also alleged that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was "indulging in politics over the SIR exercise" in the state. "Names of infiltrators must be removed from the voters' lists. They have no right to vote. But the RJD and



the Congress are opposing SIR in Bihar because the names of infiltrators are being deleted from the lists," he added. He also asserted that the NDA will form the government in the coming

Union Home Minister **lashed out** at opposition parties for objecting to the special **intensive revision** of electoral rolls in Bihar, asserting that infiltrators have **"no right to vote"**.

Infiltrators Have No Right to Vote: Shah

Sitamarhi (Bihar): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday slammed opposition parties for objecting to the special intensive revision

of electoral rolls in Bihar, asserting that infiltrators have "no right to vote".

He also alleged that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was "indulging in politics over the SIR exercise" in the state.

Addressing a public meeting at Punaadradham in Sitamarhi district,

Shah said, "Names of infiltrators must be removed from the voters' lists. They have no right to vote. But the RJD and the Congress are opposing SIR in Bihar because the names of infiltrators are being deleted from the lists."

On the opposition

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India Engages World Community On Terrorism After Pahalgam Attack: EAM

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SRINAGAR: The Government of India on Friday said that it had deployed seven all-party parliamentary delegations to 33 countries as part of diplomatic efforts under "Operation Sindoor", aimed at conveying India's united stance and resolute approach against terrorism after the Pahalgam attack.

The question on diplomatic engagement during Operation Sindoor was raised by Vijay Baghel and Damodar Agrawal in the Lok Sabha, and it was answered by the Minister of External Affairs, Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

These delegations, he said, comprising Members of Parliament from various political parties along with veteran diplomats, engaged with key political, legislative, media, think-tank representatives and the Indian diaspora.

Their objective was to raise awareness about the Pahalgam terror attack, highlight



Pakistan's role in sponsoring terrorism, counter misinformation on Jammu and Kashmir, and build international support for India's counter-terrorism efforts.

The delegations were warmly received and held substantive discussions in countries across the Middle East, Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. Through

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India, China Implement Patrolling Pact in Ladakh

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SRINAGAR: The Government of India on Friday said that India and China have implemented an agreement on patrolling arrangements in the Depsang and Demchok areas of Eastern Ladakh on October 21, 2024, with previous disengagement terms in the region remain-



ing in effect.

In response to a question raised by Shyamkumar Daulat Barve in the

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IGP Reviews Security Situation Ahead Of Independence Day

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SRINAGAR: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Zone V.K. Birdi-IPS chaired



a security review meeting at Police Control Room Kashmir to review the overall security scenario and arrangements regarding

the celebration of Independence Day and related events.

The meeting was attended by IGP Security J&K, IGP Railways, IG BSF Ftr Hqrs, IG CRPF Srinagar, JD SIB Srinagar, all range DIsG of Kashmir Zone, DIsG of, IR Kashmir, Armed Kashmir, CID Kashmir, Traffic Jammu, SSB Srinagar, RPF Srinagar, CRPF KOS, CRPF South/North Srinagar, ITBP Srinagar, all district SSSP of Kashmir Zone, SSP PCR Kashmir, SSSP of Traffic City Srinagar, Railways Kashmir, Traffic Rural Kashmir, CID SBK, APCR Srinagar, CID CIK, Security Kashmir, DC SB Srinagar, GSO (1) 15 Corps, CO's of SDRF 1st Bn Srinagar, JKAP 5th Bn, SP PC Srinagar and other officers, a police spokesman said.

At the outset of the meeting, IGP Kashmir was briefed by officers on the security arrangements and deployment plans established to ensure the smooth and peaceful

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Centre Reports 99.6% Road Connectivity In J&K Under PMGSY

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SRINAGAR: Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh have recorded remarkable success in rural connectivity under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), achieving near-total coverage of sanctioned habitations.

According to official data tabled in the Lok Sabha by the Minister of Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan, a total of 2,140 habitations were sanctioned in Jammu & Kashmir and 65 in Ladakh under PMGSY since its inception.

"Of these, 2,132 habitations in J&K and 64 in Ladakh have been connected with all-weather roads, taking the overall connectivity achievement in both Union Territories to 99.6%. The remaining 9 habitations (8 in J&K and 1 in Ladakh) are expected to be completed under the ongoing implementation of PMGSY

Phase IV," the reply reads. This achievement is significant, given the challenging geographic and climatic conditions in both UTs—ranging from high-altitude



terrain, snow-bound areas, and difficult road-building conditions, it added.

PMGSY, launched as a flagship rural infrastructure programme, aims to provide all-weather road connectivity to unconnected habitations based on population crite-

ria and strategic importance. In the case of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, many of the connected villages fall in tribal and remote areas that had remained isolated

"Of these, **2,132 habitations** in J&K and **64** in Ladakh have been connected with all-weather roads, taking the overall connectivity achievement in both Union Territories to **99.6%**. The remaining 9 habitations (8 in J&K and 1 in Ladakh) are expected to be completed under the ongoing **implementation of PMGSY Phase IV**,"

from mainstream development for decades. The government has now launched PMGSY-IV, which came into effect on September 11, 2024, to

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I-Day Celebrations: Admin keeps invitation open for general public

Voter ID cards to be treated as invitation cards, all arrangements finalized: Div Com Kashmir



SRINAGAR: The administration in Jammu and Kashmir has once again decided to keep the invitation open for the general public on the

Independence Day event, saying that the voter ID cards will be treated as the invitation card.

Talking to the reporters here, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri said, that August 15, an important day is being celebrated as the national festival.

"The enthusiasm to participate in the celebrations amongst the common masses has increased in the last three years. Therefore, we have again this year decided to

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Spoiled meat haul in Kashmir triggers outcry

■ People demand sustained crackdown; experts warn of serious health risks

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The recovery of thousands of kilograms of adulterated and rotten meat in the past few days has triggered alarm across Kashmir, with residents urging authorities to launch a sustained crackdown on restaurants, dhabas, and other food outlets to ensure public safety. Locals said the issue is not new, but the scale of recent seizures highlights the gravity of the problem. They fear that a large amount of such meat and food products might have already made their way into kitchens and eateries.

"We read about huge quantities of rotten or chemically treated meat being seized, but what about the stock that goes unchecked? That's what is frightening," said Nazir Ahmad, a resident of Srinagar's downtown area. "Our health is at stake, and we expect the Food Safety Department to take daily action, not just occasional raids."

Over the past week, enforcement teams have recovered several consignments of stale and adulterated meat, some stored

in unhygienic conditions or treated with harmful substances to improve appearance and delay spoilage.



"The recovery of such huge quantities in just a few days means the network is vast," said Shabir Hussain, a shopkeeper in Pulwama. "It is not enough to seize and destroy the meat. The people behind this must face strict legal action so that others think twice before indulging in

such practices."

Hoteliers across Kashmir said their sales have gone down due to the recent incidents. They cautioned against unfair targeting. "If someone is doing anything wrong, people look with doubtful eyes towards

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everyone. Proper monitoring is necessary, but those who are following all protocols shouldn't be made scapegoats," one hotelier said.

Health experts warn that

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CS Pushes For Faster Reforms To Boost Ease Of Doing Business

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SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a meeting to review implementation of compliance reduction and deregulation reforms recommended by the National Task Force, headed by the Cabinet Secretary, Government of India, to ensure Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) across the country.

The meeting was attended by senior officers including Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Commissioner Secretary, Forest; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Commissioner Secretary, Rural Development Department; Secretary, Law and Director, Industries & Commerce, Jammu, among others.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took stock of the progress on key reform areas. He directed all the departments to ensure time-bound and full compliance with the agenda set by the Task Force.

Emphasizing the urgency and importance of the exercise, he asserted that there is no scope for laxity or



delays and administrative heads must regularly monitor the status of implementation to ensure that reforms are grounded effectively. He further stressed the need to upload the evidentiary proof of compliance across all priority areas without further delay, underscoring that these reforms are critical to improve the overall ease of doing business.

The Chief Secretary called for mission-mode implementation

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Anti-terror operation in Kulgam enters 8th day

SRINAGAR: In one of the longest anti-terror operations in Jammu and Kashmir, the gunfight in Kulgam district entered the eighth day on Friday as security forces continued to battle the terrorists hiding in the deep forest area, officials said.

Senior police and Army officers are monitoring the operation round-the-clock, the officials said.

On Thursday, Jammu and Kashmir Police chief Nalin Prabhat visited the operation area to take stock of the situation.

Army's Northern Commander Lt Gen Pratik Sharma also reviewed the security situation and counter-terrorism grid in South Kashmir, where he was also briefed on the ongoing operation. "The operation has entered its eighth day and is ongoing," an official said, adding intermittent exchange of fire was going on.

They said security forces have pressed drones and helicopters into service to track down the terrorists in the difficult terrain in the forest area. Para commandos were also assisting the security forces in neutralising

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DC Kishtwar finalises arrangements for Shri Krishna Janamashtami

KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner Kishwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma chaired a meeting in the DC Office Complex to finalise arrangements for the upcoming Shri Krishna Janamashtami and Shoba Yatra.

The meeting was attended by SSP Kishwar Naresh Singh, district officers, and representatives from Sanatan Dharma Sabha Kishtwar.

The Deputy Commissioner directed departments to ensure adequate arrangements for security, sanitation, medical facilities, drinking water and other essential amenities.

SSP Kishwar apprised the meeting of the elaborate security measures, including the deployment of additional security personnel along the Shoba Yatra route.

The Deputy Commissioner also emphasised the need for a traffic management plan with alternate routes for

diversions to ensure a smooth passage for public.



the procession. Authorities were instructed to repair streetlights and hotspots in the town to prevent inconvenience to the

PHE and PDD authorities were directed to provide uninterrupted water and electricity supply during the festival,

with water tankers arranged at identified locations.

Tehsildar Kishtwar, SHO Kishtwar and EO of the Municipal Council Kishtwar were tasked with conducting market checks with enforcement teams to monitor overcharging and food quality.

The concerned authorities were also directed to clear and repair roads along the procession route. Fire and Emergency authorities were asked to remain prepared to handle any eventuality.

CMO Kishtwar was instructed to deploy an ambulance and medical staff with first aid facilities during the processions.

Representatives of religious organisations and trusts submitted details of areas requiring assistance from the district administration and police and offered suggestions for a smooth celebration of the festival.

Awareness programme on traffic laws and management

UDHAMPUR: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Udhampur in collaboration with Udhampur Police and transporters, organised an awareness programme on traffic laws and management at District Police Line Udhampur.

The programme was graced by Kamlesh Pandit, Additional District and Sessions Judge Udhampur, as the chief guest. Participants included Additional SP Udhampur, DySP Traffic Udhampur, DTI Udhampur, SHO Udhampur, Executive Magistrate 1st Class Udhampur, Transport Inspector Udhampur, and officials from the Police and Transport departments.

Resource persons were Rishabh Koushal, Munsiff/ District Mobile Magistrate Traffic Udhampur, and Adv.

Akhil Dubey, Panel Lawyer, DLSA Udhampur. The programme aimed to educate transporters

adherence to laws. Thereafter, Kamlesh Pandit addressed the gathering, stressing the need for traffic



and stakeholders about the importance of adhering to traffic rules. Rishabh Koushal spoke on various traffic laws, emphasising the significance of compliance and explaining the legal framework and consequences of violations. Adv. Akhil Dubey reinforced the importance of traffic management and strict

awareness and motivating attendees to prioritise road safety.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Adv. Akhil Dubey, who expressed gratitude to participants and organisers for contributing to the programme's success.

DC Kathua chairs introductory meeting with focus on public-centric governance

KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma chaired his first introductory meeting with

outlined a governance framework based on accountability, transparency, work culture and efficiency. He directed

respectful approach towards the public while delivering services.

Reviewing arrangements for the forthcoming Independence Day celebrations, the DC asked all departments to work in close coordination with the District Administration to ensure the event is celebrated in a befitting manner.

The meeting also discussed other important issues, including the menace of drugs, the implementation of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, and spreading awareness about the JK Samadhan portal for grievance redressal and the JK Sehat application for availing health services.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner chaired a meeting of stakeholders on the sub-theme of the School Education Department in view of the upcoming Fifth National Conference of Chief Secretaries. The meeting aimed to gather feedback from all stakeholders on the National Education Policy (NEP)-2020. The DC impressed upon the need to obtain inputs from all concerned stakeholders on the prescribed template so that the execution of NEP-2020 can be restructured accordingly. He urged participants to go through the key aspects of the policy and furnish valuable suggestions by filling the template within the stipulated time frame.

officers to ensure effective field-level implementation of government schemes and flagship programmes so that benefits reach the grassroots level. He called for a positive approach and upscaling the good work already being done in various sectors.

Underlining the need for a coordinated administrative effort, the DC urged all departments to work in close synergy, remove procedural bottlenecks and expedite the execution of development works. While reviewing the progress of major targets under District Capex, he stressed the importance of achieving tangible results through time-bound project completion. The DC also directed officers to maintain a compassionate and



District and Sectoral Officers in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex after assuming charge. He emphasised the need to evolve a result-oriented, inclusive and responsive governance model aimed at holistic development and efficient public service delivery.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Kathua Surinder Mohan, ADC Kathua Vishavjeet Singh, CEO BDDA Atul Gupta, CEO BBDA Babu Ram Tandon, ADC Basohli Pankaj Mangotra, ADC Billawar Vinay Khosla, ACR Vishav Partap Singh, ACD Akhil Sadotra, CPO Ranjit Thakur, GM DIC Mushtaq Chaudhary and Executive Engineers from PWD, Jal Shakti and JPDC, along with other district officers.

The Deputy Commissioner

DC Ramban reviews arrangements for Independence Day 2025 celebrations



RAMBAN: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan chaired a comprehensive meeting to finalise arrangements for the upcoming Independence Day 2025 celebrations and the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga campaign across the district.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Arun Gupta, SSP Traffic NHW Raja Adil Hamid Ganaie, ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak and other key officers from the district administration, police and allied departments. The purpose was to ensure a well-coordinated, timely and dignified celebration of the national event.

The Deputy Commissioner conducted a thorough review of all arrangements, including venue decoration and seating, public address systems, parade and cultural performances, fire safety measures and barricading, refreshments, power and water supply, illumination of government buildings and cleanliness drives at and around the venue.

Special emphasis was laid on flawless parade and cultural programme rehearsals, attractive decoration and maintaining cleanliness at the venue to ensure the smooth conduct of the main event. The main Independence Day function is scheduled to be held at DPL Ramban, where the Chief Guest will unfurl the National Flag and take the salute at the ceremonial march-past by various contingents. Reviewing the progress of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, the Deputy Commissioner called for maximum public participation and directed the concerned officers to ensure the successful execution of all scheduled mega events. The SSP briefed the meeting regarding arrangements made by the Police Department at the venue, besides suggesting various measures to ensure safe, smooth and peaceful Independence Day celebrations across the district. The SSP Traffic also briefed the meeting on the traffic plan for the event.

BGSBU hosts valedictory function of pre-event series under Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme

RAJOURI: Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), Rajouri, organised a valedictory function to mark the culmination of the pre-event series of activities conducted under the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme. The event celebrated the enthusiastic participation of students and the university's commitment to youth engagement in nation-building.

Principal District & Sessions Judge, Rajouri, Rajinder Sapru, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Registrar BGSBU Abhishek Sharma lauded the organising team's efforts. Highlighting the significance of the Viksit Bharat @2047 vision, he urged students to develop a scientific temperament and work proactively for the betterment of society. He underlined the transformative potential of youth and reiterated the Prime Minister's vision of a developed India by 2047. On the occasion, he administered the Nasha Mukht Bharat Pledge under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, encouraging students to commit to a life free from substance abuse.

In his address, Principal District & Sessions Judge, Rajouri, Rajinder Sapru, emphasised the indispensable

role of youth in driving national progress. He warned against the growing menace of drug abuse and called



on young people to take the lead in building a drug-free society.

"No country can truly develop without the active and informed participation of its youth," he stated. He also stressed the importance of staying connected with history to envision a better future.

Dr Parwez Alam, Coordinator of the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme, delivered the welcome address and presented an overview of the diverse activities carried out under the initiative.

Three students delivered presentations on the occasion. Mohd Zubair from the Department of Islamic Studies spoke on the Emergency Period in India (1975), Tanveer from B.Tech ITE highlighted key facets of Viksit Bharat 2047 and Areeba from B.Tech CSE shared her insights on the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

Dr Parwez Alam, HoD, Department of Psychiatry, GMC Rajouri, was felicitated for his outstanding contributions. Students who actively participated in the pre-event activities were also awarded for their involvement and enthusiasm.

Vishal Pahari delivered the vote of thanks, and Dr Tanveer Ahmed conducted the proceedings of the event.

The event was attended by Suneet Gupta, Nodal Officer of the Programme, the Controller of Examinations, Associate Deans, Heads and Coordinators of Departments, faculty members, and students from various departments of the university.

Samba district launches 'Har Ghar Tiranga – Har Ghar Swachhta' campaign

SAMBA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Samba, Aayushi Sudan, formally launched the 'Har Ghar Tiranga – Har Ghar Swachhta' campaign, a nationwide initiative by the Government of India.

She was accompanied by Additional District Development Commissioner Champa Devi Thakur, Additional Deputy Commissioner Jagdish Singh and ACD/ACP Samba Narsingh Dayal Verma.

The campaign was flagged off in the presence of district officers, field functionaries, and sanitation workers to promote awareness of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and other environment-focused schemes.

A collective pledge was taken by all attendees to spread awareness and ensure the effective implementation of sanitation and water schemes across the district.

A similar pledge ceremony

was held in all blocks and tehsils of Samba, where citizens

JJM and SBM assets. Additionally, households



participated in large numbers.

Throughout the campaign period, a series of activities will be held across the district, including cleanliness drives in public spaces, panchayat ghars, parks, and monuments; competitions for poster making and slogan writing in schools to promote national pride and sanitation; bike rallies and door-to-door outreach to encourage flag hoisting and cleanliness; cultural programmes, nukkad natak and youth engagement activities to strengthen the spirit of unity and hygiene and awareness campaigns highlighting the importance of

and villages will be evaluated for recognition under 'Cleanest Street' or 'Best Decorated with Tiranga' initiatives.

The campaign will culminate with Independence Day celebrations, which will honour sanitation workers and amplify the message of swachhta through community participation.

Supportive activities, such as public announcements of Swachhta slogans, selfie points and extensive social media engagement using the hashtags #HarGharTiranga and #HarGharSwachhta, are being run across the district to sustain momentum.

DC Doda convenes DLIC meeting, approves 246 cases under Mission YUVA

DODA: Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) under Mission YUVA at the DC Office Complex, Doda. The meeting was part of a continued push to promote grassroots entrepreneurship and youth-led economic transformation in the district.

During the session, 246 new self-employment cases were thoroughly reviewed and approved, bringing the cumulative total of sanctioned cases under the mission to 644. This remarkable milestone reflects the district's growing momentum in empowering

local youth through sustainable livelihood avenues.

Addressing the committee members, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised that Mission YUVA is not just an employment scheme but a dynamic platform to nurture entrepreneurship, innovation and self-reliance among the youth. He reaffirmed the district administration's commitment to providing consistent capacity building, mentorship and handholding support, along with structured monitoring to ensure the viability and long-term success of the sanctioned units.

Rafiq Ahmad Jaral, Deputy Director Employment, Doda,

shared that the youth of Doda have embraced Mission YUVA with remarkable enthusiasm and optimism. "In a region traditionally dependent on agriculture and service sector jobs, this initiative is opening new and diverse livelihood frontiers for our aspiring entrepreneurs," he stated.

Jaral also thanked the SBDU members who are actively assisting the employment department in the preparation of viable DPRs, ensuring that financial linkages and necessary clearances are expedited. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chair and all the members.

Jammu Municipal Corporation intensifies street light repair drive

JAMMU: Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has launched a special city-wide drive to expedite street light repairs and maintenance, aiming to ensure all public areas are well-lit for improved safety and convenience.

Dedicated camps have been set up in every ward to register complaints about faulty street lights. Citizens can also lodge complaints through the JMC online portal.

Dr. Devansh Yadav, Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Jammu, inspected the Gandhinagar ward camp, accompanied by former councillors. He interacted with staff and residents and directed officials to resolve all complaints within 15 days.

Dr. Yadav urged citizens to participate actively by reporting faulty lights either at camps or online. He said timely repairs are vital for both public convenience and security.

The initiative combines on-site and digital complaint systems to ensure efficient grievance redressal and maintain the city's lighting network.

Director RDD reviews functioning of Block Bishnah

INSPECTS ONGOING WORKS, EMPHASISES STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH SCHEME GUIDELINES

JAMMU: Director Rural Development Department (RDD) Shahnaz Akhter today conducted a comprehensive review of the functioning of Block Bishnah and assessed



the progress of various development schemes being implemented in the area.

During her visit, Shahnaz Akhter inspected several ongoing and completed works under key schemes including Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and Capex (CD & Panchayat) schemes. She underscored the importance of strict

adherence to the guidelines of each scheme and directed the field staff to ensure timely completion of all works. Emphasising the need for transparency and accountability, she instructed officials to maintain proper records and ensure the installation of Citizen Information Boards (CIBs) at work sites to promote public awareness. Akhter stressed the importance of achieving the intended objectives of the schemes, ensuring that benefits effectively reach the grassroots level. The Director was accompanied by Superintendent Engineer REW Jammu Rajesh Kumar Agastam, Joint Director Administration Avleen Kour Bali, Er. Danish Rasool Mir, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Jammu Ravinder Singh Rana, Deputy Director (Planning), Block Development Officer Sonia Devi, along with other officers and field functionaries of the department.

Advisor to CM reviews Wular conservation and development of local tourism



FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani chaired a meeting regarding functioning of Wular Conservation & Management Authority (WUCMA), Wular & Manasbal Development Authority and Hygam- Ningli-Tarzoo Development Authority.

The meeting was attended by MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar, Additional Chief Secretary Tourism Department Dr Ashish Chandra Verma, Commissioner Secretary Forest Ms Sheetal Nanda, Chief Conservator Forests Kashmir Irfan Rasool Wani, Director Tourism Kashmir Raja Yaqoob and

other senior officers.

MLA Sopore raised several issues of WUCMA and Tourism Development Authorities of working in silos and stressed on robust coordination between the departments and agencies like Forest, Tourism, Fisheries PW(R&B), Jal Shakti & Rural Development. He pointed out neglect of tourism huts at Watlab & Ningli, slow pace of desilting, dredging, and need for focused attention on conservation of Wular lake and protecting the livelihood of fishermen in the fringe villages.

Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Wani reviewed the performance of the line departments and gave directions

for maintenance of tourism huts and identifying spots for construction of way-side amenities for the visitors along the high-way. He called for effective coordination particularly between Forest and Tourism departments for better planning on conservation of the lake and how to develop sustainable tourism in the lake catchment area.

The meeting was informed that 1.21 lakh trees have been felled to address the issue of siltation and that Forest Department has earmarked Rs 25 crore during the current fiscal to implement the Common Management Plan for Wular conservation.

The Advisor emphasized the need to achieve the set targets for dredging and desilting, along with the removal of willow trees. He also underscored the importance of carrying out compensatory afforestation at designated locations to significantly offset the impact of tree felling. Advisor said that the Government shall assess the scope of Wular-Manasbal Development Authority and Hygam-Ningli-Tarzoo Development Authority to see if these two tourism authorities can be merged for better functioning while as WUCMA can continue to work for overall conservation of the Wular lake. He said that Fisheries department shall also play a role in replenishing the lake with various species of fish and to work on biodiversity and lake ecology.

Advisor to CM noted that Wular Lake in Jammu & Kashmir is designated as a Ramsar sites awetland of international importance under the RAMSAR convention. He said that Wular lake is significant for ecological balance, biodiversity, and for its role in flood control, water recharge and supporting livelihoods in the Kashmir Valley.

Sakeena Itoo takes stock of developmental issues of DH Pora Constituency

Vows for tapping tourism potential, developing Aharbal-Kongwattan-Kounsarnag-Panchan Pathri tourist circuit

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, chaired a meeting to review various issues pertaining to overall development of DH Pora Constituency.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir ul Shafi Khan; Chief Engineer KPDCL; Joint Director Tourism Kashmir; Executive Engineers of PHE and PDD of Kulgam district, CMO Kulgam and other district officers.

During the meeting, the Minister took stock of various issues pertaining to DH Pora Constituency. She also discussed tourism-related projects and identification of unexplored scenic spots in DH Pora belt.

The Minister emphasized upon the officers to tap the tourism potential of DH Pora and its surrounding areas like Aharbal, Kongwattan, Kounsarnag and Panchan Pathri areas, known for their pristine beauty, rich biodiversity and trekking routes. She called for exploring the area Panchan Pathri for developing trekking trails and other adventure tourism related activities.

The Minister asked the officers to conduct capacity building and training of local youth in tourism related



aspects like tourist guides, home stays, eco-tourism and other associated areas. She stressed on promoting eco-tourism, heritage trails and rural homestays, in collaboration with local youth and community stakeholders. "Tourism can become a strong pillar for economic upliftment and employment generation for this region if developed sustainably," she asserted.

She called on the officers to look feasibility for developing Paragliding, Zip line, Hot Air balloon and other recreational amenities in the area.

The Minister also called for improved sanitation facilities, wayfinding signage, mobile connectivity and safety measures to encourage longer tourist stays and a more fulfilling visitor experience. She asked for developing the parking places

in key tourist destinations of DH Pora Constituency and installing signages for facilitation of visitors.

During the meeting, the Minister also took stock of issues related to electricity and other essential sectors in the district. She directed the Chief Engineer KPDCL to look out for the issue of inflated electricity bills in various far flung areas of DH Pora Constituency.

The Minister also gave directions for renovation of Mini Secretariat building at DH Pora to make it functional and shift government offices to building at the earliest for public good. She also directed the concerned departments to expedite pending works, improve road connectivity to key destinations and ensure timely implementation of eco-friendly infrastructure.

Distt admin Srinagar finalizes arrangements for Raksha Bandhan

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Srinagar, Aadil Fareed on Friday visited Shankaracharya Temple to review the arrangements for the festival of Raksha Bandhan.

The festival is scheduled to be celebrated on August 09, 2025 with great religious and cultural significance.

During the visit, ADC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Dy SP of Traffic, DFO Urban, Executive Engineers of PHE, City Roads, SMC, KPDCL, Tehsildar South, Chief Sanitation Officer and other concerned.

While taking review on the spot, ADC directed the concerned departments to ensure all basic arrangements are put in place for the devotees expected to visit the historical Shankaracharya Temple on the top of Zabarwan hills and other religious sites.

He assessed various arrangements including supply of water & electricity, sanitation, traffic management and other logistical aspects to ensure smooth and safe celebrations for devotees. Aadil emphasized the importance of inter-departmental coordination to facilitate the devotees in a hassle-free manner and ensuring all arrangements in place well before the festival.

ADC instructed for ensuring hassle-free traffic movement for the devotees for their convenience and adequate facilities at the designated place for parking of the vehicles. He also stressed on ensuring uninterrupted supply of electricity and drinking water at the venue so that devotees may not face any inconvenience.

He asked the Health department to deploy a Medical team at the venue with the availability of all emergency medicines and first aid facilities. He also instructed the stationing of an ambulance to handle any medical emergency.

ADC emphasized the officers of the line departments to ensure all necessary arrangements required for smooth stay and enriching pilgrimage for all visitors on the occasion. He stressed on maintaining proper sanitation at the Temple premises and at the entire pilgrimage route.

On the occasion, ADC interacted with the Administrators and Security Incharge of the Temple and assured of all possible support from the district administration for seamless celebrations of the Raksha Bandhan with great participation of the devotees.

National Handloom Day celebrated

Overwhelming response to Trainee Product Sale at Numaish Gah

Woollen carpets sold hand-to-hand



FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Buoyed by the overwhelming response to Trainee Product Sale, organised as part of National Handloom Day, Department of Handicrafts and Handlooms, Kashmir, is organizing a Gandhi Shilp Bazaar at Kashmir Haat, also known as Numaish Gah, from August 20-27, later this month.

A large number of visitors turned up at Kashmir Haat on Wednesday to buy handicrafts and handloom products made by trainees in various training centres of the department on nominal rates, on cost-to-cost raw material basis.

The vibrant hand-knotted woollen carpets of Massive Carpet Scheme centres were sold out in a jiffy, with sales of almost 5.00 lakhs recorded. "In view of the huge response, the department decided to organize a bid-based auction of trainee products made in the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Srinagar, where both silk and woollen carpets will be sold to the highest bidder," a spokesman of the department stated.

The district departmental stalls also recorded impressive sales with many buyers making purchase of Crewel, Sozni embroidered Shawls, Zari embroidered ladies' suits and pherans, Chain Stitch, Tapestry, Namda products and other papier mache and willow wicker souvenir and decor items.

The spokesman added that the Department also organized a LIVE Demo of Kani weaving and the rare art of hand-spinning of Pashmina, through its School of Designs wing. "The National Handloom Day also gave us an opportunity to give traction to Srinagar city's unique distinction of having been notified as a Craft City by World Craft Council and UNESCO City under its Creative Cities Network," he added.

The Trainee Product Sale will run through August 10, the spokesman said, adding another high-profile Gandhi Shilp bazaar is being hosted at Kashmir Haat from August 20 to 27, which shall provide a wonderful opportunity to local buyers to bring home exquisite and authentic handmade products and becoming part of 'Be Vocal for Local' campaign.

4 individuals charged sheeted in multi-crore online financial fraud case: CBK

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Economic Offences Wing (Crime Branch Kashmir) has filed a preliminary chargesheet in a multi-crore online financial fraud case on Friday.

A statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer, the preliminary chargesheet was filed in a case under FIR number 28/2025 under Sections 318(4), 316(5) read with 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, of Police Station Kangan (transferred to Economic Offences Wing) before the Hon'ble Court of Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Kangan. The case originated from a complaint, wherein it was alleged that one Shahnawaz Ahmad Shah, S/o Gh. Nabi Shah, R/o Rather Mohalla Kangan working as Probationary Officer, J&K Bank, Branch Kangan, approached him with a fraudulent investment pro-

posal. The complainant was lured into investing in a financial scheme promising lucrative returns through online trading.

Following the registration of the case, the matter was transferred to the Crime Branch Kashmir for in-depth investigation.

During the course of investigation, it came to light that the accused individuals including Shahnawaz Ahmad Shah, S/o Gh. Nabi Shah, Gh. Nabi Shah, S/o Late Gh. Mohammad Shah,

Rumaiza Jan, D/o Gh. Nabi Shah, all residents of Rather Mohalla, Kangan, and Amir Bashir Magray,

S/o Bashir Ahmad Magray,

R/o Bonizal Haripora Kangan, District Ganderbal in connivance with one another, hatched a criminal conspiracy and cheated hundreds of innocent people to the tune of more than 53 crore rupees through fraudulent and dishonest means, under the pretext of online financial trading schemes.

Accordingly, a preliminary charge-sheet in the matter has been submitted before the Court of Law for judicial determination, the statement reads.

Pertinent to mention here that four accused individuals have already been arrested in the matter—(KNO)

Director RDD reviews functioning of Block Bishnah

Inspects ongoing works, emphasises strict compliance with scheme guidelines



FE News Network

JAMMU: Director Rural Development Department (RDD) Shahnaz Akhter conducted a comprehensive review of the

functioning of Block Bishnah and assessed the progress of various development schemes being implemented in the area.

During her visit, Shahnaz Akhter inspected several ongoing and

completed works under key schemes including Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and Capex (CD & Panchayat) schemes.

She underscored the importance of strict adherence to the guidelines of each scheme and directed the field staff to ensure timely completion of all works. Emphasising the need for transparency and accountability, she instructed officials to maintain proper records and ensure the installation of Citizen Information Boards (CIBs) at work sites to promote public awareness. Akhter stressed the importance of achieving the intended objectives of the schemes, ensuring that benefits effectively reach the grassroots level.

JJB Shopian conducts inspection at Juvenile Observation Home in Harwan Srinagar

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: In a proactive initiative to ensure compliance with juvenile protection standards, Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) Shopian, led by Principal Magistrate, Bazila Bashir conducted an inspection of the Juvenile Observation Home (JOH) in Harwan, Srinagar.

The inspection team included Musharaf (Member, JJB Shopian), Rafie Ahmad Ganie (Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel, Shopian) and Sumaira Imtiyaz (Legal cum Probation Officer).

The visit was organized under the mandates of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, focusing on safeguarding the rights and well-being of juveniles in conflict with the law.

Superintendent of the Observation Home facilitated a detailed tour of all residential, educational, recreational, and medical facilities. The team assessed



living conditions, hygiene standards, infrastructure, and safety protocols.

Principal Magistrate and team members held candid conversations with residents to understand their treatment, rehabilitation progress, and access to legal, educational, and healthcare services.

The visiting team cross-verified the legal and administrative records of all the juveniles aimed to ensure adherence to statutory procedures, including timely production before the JJB and legal aid provisions.

DC visits SDH Kupwara to take stock of healthcare services

FE News Network

KUPWARA: On his maiden field visit, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse visited Sub District Hospital Kupwara to inspect the functioning of the hospital evening.

During the visit, DC inspected different sections of the hospital including OPD, IPD, Emergency, Gynea, Laboratory, X-Ray etc. He interacted with the doctors and paramedical staff and enquired about the status of health care and treatment facilities.

He also interacted with the patients and enquired about the quality of services provided by the hospital.

DC was accompanied by ACR Kupwara, Chief Medical Officer besides others during the visit.

Editorial

Ensuring Food Safety

The recent crackdown on adulterated and rotten meat in Jammu and Kashmir by the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department is a welcome step, albeit one that underscores a deeply concerning lapse in food safety enforcement. Authorities have assured that no one involved in this racket will be spared must be followed by sustained, transparent action to restore public trust in the food supply chain.

The seizure of unfit-for-consumption meat and foul-smelling rice from an FCI warehouse in Bandipora raises serious questions about the efficacy of existing monitoring mechanisms. While authorities claim that spoiled stocks were intercepted before reaching consumers, the very presence of such hazardous food items in the supply chain is alarming. The fact that traders blamed spoilage on inadequate cold storage, rather than the quality of the product, does little to absolve them of responsibility. If storage conditions were indeed insufficient, why were these products procured and stored in the first place?

Admin's announcement of a high-level team to devise a comprehensive strategy is a step in the right direction, but it must not remain a mere bureaucratic exercise. The involvement of multiple stakeholders, hoteliers, suppliers, manufacturers, and government agencies, suggests systemic failures that require more than just reactive raids. A robust, technology-driven monitoring system, stringent penalties for violators, and regular audits of storage facilities are essential to prevent such lapses in the future.

Moreover, the case of spoiled rice transported from Punjab highlights the need for stricter scrutiny of inter-state food supply chains. Admin's assertion that the rice had not yet entered the Public Distribution System (PDS) is reassuring, but it also exposes vulnerabilities in transit and storage. If even government-managed stocks are at risk of contamination, what guarantees do ordinary consumers have about the safety of food sold in markets?

Food safety is not just a regulatory issue, it is a matter of public health and human dignity. The people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve access to clean, unadulterated food, and the administration must treat this as a non-negotiable priority. While the current crackdown sends a strong message, only consistent enforcement, transparency in investigations, and systemic reforms will ensure that such scandals do not recur. The government must act decisively, not just to punish the guilty but to rebuild confidence in the systems meant to protect consumers. The time for half-measures is over. The health of the people cannot be compromised.

Rising Roots: Mobilizing For Indigenous Justice



Vinod Chandrashekhhar Dixit

August 9 is observed as International Day of the World's Indigenous People to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population. The declaration was

people mostly face threats to their economic welfare, sovereignty and approach to their cultural resources, many international organizations like International Labor Organization, World Bank and the United States have set political rights for their welfare.

We come across around the world that there are many indigenous people cannot access the basic right to education. Their traditional methods of teaching, learning, and cultivating food are not always respect-

tries. The right to education for Indigenous people is protected in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which in Article 14 states that "Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning."

Indigenous people cannot access important natural resources they used to enjoy, such as traditional foods and medicines,



adopted by the UN General Assembly exactly ten years ago, the 13th of September 2007. The day marks the celebration of the diversity of the World's Indigenous Peoples and their cultures, customs and survival. In spite of the uniqueness of every ethnic group and the substantial differences among them, all indigenous peoples have a common problem: the protection of their rights. After centuries of oppression, genocide, colonisation and "exportation of cultures", the international community has recognised the need to introduce special measures to protect their rights. Indigenous people are also called native people, first people, autochthonous people or aboriginal people. It is nice that considering indigenous

ed by education systems and teachers. Many indigenous people are struggling to preserve their knowledge and traditions. Traditional knowledge is passed down from generation to generation. Unfortunately, there are growing pressures to the environment and the ecosystems on which indigenous peoples depend.

According to the United Nations, traditional knowledge is "the knowledge, innovations, and practices of indigenous and local communities around the world." It is estimated that there are 370 million Indigenous people in around 90 countries across the globe. Many still practice their unique customs and live culturally distinct lives from other citizens of their respective coun-

adequate water supply, game meat, and honey, due to excessive exploitations of the habitats. It is nice that there are many organizations around the globe are working to promote indigenous knowledge in the food system.

Let us commit to ensuring Indigenous peoples are not left behind as we pursue the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals. Let us pray and give thanks in sacred places for the knowledge and materials offered to us from this earth, and for all the relations that keep us connected to the heavens, earth, each other, and all beings.

Author is a Free-Lance Journalist. He can be mailed at dixitpatrakar@yahoo.in

Indigenous people cannot access important natural resources they used to enjoy, such as traditional foods and medicines, adequate water supply, game meat, and honey, due to excessive exploitations of the habitats. It is nice that there are many organizations around the globe are working to promote indigenous knowledge in the food system.

Pages of Progress: How Reading is Shaping India's Future



Yuvraj Malik

Even in this digital-first era, the enduring appeal of books is undeniable. Across India, more young people are discovering the joy of reading in classrooms, homes, libraries, and increasingly, through mobile and digital platforms.

Over the years, multiple research studies have shown children enjoy being read to, and a majority of parents believe reading books helps their child become more curious, imaginative, and empathetic. Children who read not only perform better in school, but also exhibit stronger mental, physical and social well-being eventually contributing towards nation building - a Viksit Bharat.

Reading is far more than a leisure activity. It is an act of imagination, a tool of empowerment, and a pathway to understanding oneself, our communities, and the world. Books offer what no algorithm can, the ability to pause, reflect, and connect across generations, cultures, and geographies.

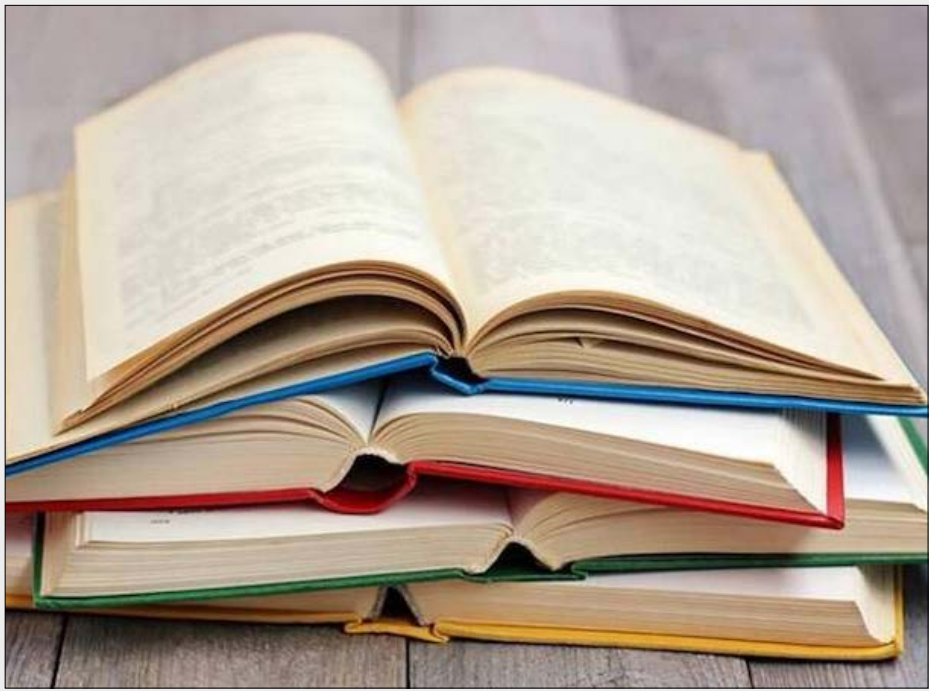
In India, where language, culture, and tradition vary every few hundred kilometres, reading, particularly in one's mother tongue, becomes a profoundly personal act. It nurtures identity, fosters inclusivity, and keeps oral and written legacies alive. Guided under the vision of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 rightly prioritises foundational literacy and multilingual learning, reinforcing the role of reading as essential to India's goal and commitment for Viksit Bharat @2047.

Under the Government of India's Ministry of Education, the National Book Trust, India (NBT), has long championed this vision across the length and breadth of the country ensuring that books are accessible, affordable, and avail-

able to every Indian, in every language. At the heart of this effort lies a transformative national agenda: Make India Read.

More than an initiative, this is a vision to create a reading revolution that empowers citizens, builds communities, and strengthens en-

Our digital initiatives like the National Digital Library of India and Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya, make thousands of titles accessible to readers of all ages, languages, and abilities, thus contributing to the goal of a well-read society made up of well-read citizens.



gagement. A well-read individual is an informed citizen.

A well-read society is an empathetic society. As we shape our collective future, we must embrace reading as a critical tool not only for learning but also for national development. A book in every hand, a story in every home - this is how we build not just literacy, but collective leadership.

Through our multilingual publishing, mobile libraries in tribal belts, and book fairs across tier-II and tier-III cities along with hosting world's largest book fair each year, we have worked to ensure that the joy of reading is not a privilege, but a right.

Through the ages, books have retained the best of ourselves - culturally and artistically. From Kalidasa to Premchand, from Chanakya to Tagore, our writers have documented our civilizational journey, not merely writing about events, but also dreams, dilemmas, and deeper truths.

Literature is not just a mirror of society; it is a map of where we could go. That is why public literary spaces such as book fairs, reading festivals, and community libraries play such a vital role as civic spaces. Whether through the intricacies of Madhubani painting, the ragas of Hindustani music, or the musings of the Upanishads, books ensure that India's artistic expres-

sions remain alive and evolving.

Literature and arts are not only heritage to be appreciated, but they are also legacies to be passed on to generations ahead. A good book survives through generations, speaking to a reader in 2050 as eloquently as it spoke to a reader in 2025.

This spirit finds its most heartfelt expression in the Chinara Book Festival, returning this August to the breathtaking valley of Kashmir. Nestled among the timeless chinars of Srinagar, this festival is more than a literary gathering - it is a statement of cultural pride and creative renewal. After a resoundingly successful first edition in 2024, which saw participation from hundreds of publishers and lakhs of visitors, the 2025 festival promises an even grander celebration of books, language, culture and artistic heritage.

In alignment with the "Make India Read" vision, the Chinara Book Festival aims to make reading visible, joyful, and participatory. It is not only a literary platform, it is a cultural movement that brings together children, educators, artists, publishers, families, elders and communities to share, learn, and grow.

This sharing of knowledge and creativity is vital. There is a pressing need to record, store and celebrate living tradition. Taking a note of this, National Book Trust, India has been collaborating with researchers, artists, and local people to bring out books that celebrate India's heritage.

The Chinara Book Festival invites people from all walks of life - readers, writers, educators, artists, and families to experience books not only as stories but as mirrors of belonging. It is a platform where Kashmir's rich literary legacy meets contemporary voices. It is where children discover their first storybooks, where elders reconnect with timeless classics, and where conversations bloom under the shade of centuries-old trees.

In a place where every word carries history and every silence holds meaning, the act of reading becomes an act of remembering and reimag-

ining. It affirms that Kashmir is not merely a place rather it is a beautiful story waiting to be read, written, and shared.

As we prepare to open the next chapter of this unique literary celebration, let us reaffirm our shared commitment to reading, not just as a habit, but as a living national tradition that shapes who we are and what we strive to become.

Under the Government of India's Ministry of Education, the National Book Trust, India (NBT), has long championed this vision across the length and breadth of the country ensuring that books are accessible, affordable, and available to every Indian, in every language. At the heart of this effort lies a transformative national agenda: Make India Read.

The National Book Trust, India, under the Ministry of Education, invites everyone to join us beneath the chinars to turn pages together, to exchange stories, and to carry forward the enduring dream of a well-read India that is powered by well-read citizens.

(The author is Director, National Book Trust, India-PIB)

Chief Secretary Reviews Crop Insurance Coverage Under PMFBY

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a crucial meeting to review progress on the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana



(PMFBY). The PMFBY, which now covers all 20 districts in the UT, provides insurance to the farmers for notified crops such as paddy, maize and oilseeds.

The meeting focused on accelerating the enrolment of farmers, especially Kisan Credit Card (KCC) holders, to improve the scheme's overall saturation.

Besides the Principal Secretary, APD the meeting was attended by Director, Agriculture, Kashmir/Jammu; Convenor, UTLBC; Representatives from NABARD and other banks working here.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary

expressed his concern over the current enrolment status, noting that the UT-wide saturation rate stands at just over 18% leaving a gap of around 5 lakh eligible customers across the districts of J&K.

all the banks to inform farmers about the PMFBY scheme guidelines, particularly the critical 72-hour window for making a crop loss claim.

It was given out by the Director, Agri-

farmers benefitting 278,355 out of them by disbursing a claim amount of Rs 161.06 Cr in their favour.

Moreover, the meeting was apprised that an area of 555,205 hectares was insured at a total premium of Rs 361.61 Cr, with farmers share of Rs 67.17 Cr, UT share of Rs 93.31 Cr, and the Government of India share of Rs 201.13 Cr.

Additionally, it was revealed that the enrolment for Kharif 2025 is underway, with data showing a distinct performance difference between the two divisions. The cut-off dates for enrolment have been extended for non-loanee farmers to August 14, 2025, and for loanee farmers to August 31, 2025.

For this season the Jammu division has shown a total insured area of 47,256.37 hectares, covering 101,426 beneficiaries, representing an overall 34.04% of the targeted area. While in Kashmir division has a total insured area of 16,827.30 hectares, covering 58,228 beneficiaries, for an overall 18.94% of the targeted area.

The review meeting also deliberated upon several issues impacting the implementation of this scheme. It was decided that a revised approach is being implemented, requiring the department to open an escrow account for the release of UT share as soon as Central share is received thereby enabling the farmers to get their claim amounts smoothly on time.

culture Kashmir in his presentation that the PMFBY was first adopted in J&K on March 31, 2016, and in the first phase of its implementation only 10 districts were covered. In the next phase (Kharif 2021) this scheme was expanded to four more districts of Jammu, Samba, Udhampur, and Anantnag and later on expanded its ambit to all the remaining 16 districts during phase 3rd (Kharif 2023).

It was further divulged that the scheme had made significant progress from 2017 - Rabi 2024. The cumulative figures up to Rabi 2024 includes coverage of 943,042

SKUAST-K organizes Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect, Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir organized

Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir along with Director Education SKUAST-K, Deans of various Faculties/Colleges, Officers of the uni-

preciated the efforts of SKUAST-Kashmir under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir, Professor Nazir Ahmad Ganai for their efforts in conducting different activities under Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme.

Professor S A Gangoo, Dean Students Welfare, presented an overview of the activities conducted since the last ten days as pre-events of the National Programme that will be launched on 12th August 2025 the National Level.

Professor Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir apprised the participants about how SKUAST-Kashmir has prepared and implemented a road map for playing a lead role in development of the nation. He appreciated the efforts of DSW, SWOs, students for organizing a marathon of activities.

On the occasion, various students were felicitated for their performances in slogan writing, Yuva Samvad, Poster Presentation and debate competition.

The Programme was organised at different Faculties/Colleges by their concerned Faculty Coordinators and SWOs.



Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect and Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan Programme.

The programme was organised as pre-event of Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme that will be launched by the Prime Minister of India on 12th August 2025 across the country.

The programme was chaired by Additional Chief Secretary Higher Education, Shantmanu.

The programme was attended by Professor Nazir Ahmad Ganai,

versity, SWOs and students from various Colleges of the University.

During the Yuva Samvad programme, the students debated on various topics of Youth Connect for policy making.

Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary Higher Education, initiated the process of taking a pledge as a precursor of Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme. He gave an overview of different steps that need to be undertaken for becoming a developed nation by 2047. He ap-

DC Kupwara Convenes Introductory Meeting With District Officers

FE NEWS NETWORK

Enjoins them to be accessible to people in resolving their grievances, issues

KUPWARA: After assuming the charge as Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Balasaheb



Suse chaired an introductory meeting with all district and tehsil level officers here at main meeting hall of D.C office complex Kupwara.

ADDC Kupwara, Mufti Fareeduddin; ADC Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad; ACR, ACD, SDM Lolab, CEO, CMO, besides, other district and tehsil level officers were present in the meeting.

On the occasion, DC shared his working experience

during the previous postings with the officers and reaffirmed his commitment for being accessible to the people and officials all the time. He expected for due cooperation and coordination of all the officers to ensure smooth public service delivery.

To boost the developmental tempo and departmental efforts, DC said that he will be taking department wise meetings in coming days to review the functioning of all sectors in the district.

In order to ensure grassroots development across the district especially in hard to reach and far flung areas, DC said that he will be having more field visits to all the areas of the district especially remote and border areas to know the issues of the people.

He enjoined upon all the officers and field functionaries to be accessible and available to the people on the ground in resolving their grievances and issues so that they may not face any inconvenience.

Regarding ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga campaign and upcoming Independence Day celebrations, DC impressed upon the officers to boost their efforts by active participation and timely preparations for smooth and vibrant conduct of the national event.

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

Director visits remote schools of Budgam including in hilly areas of Tosamaidan; announces student initiatives

SRINAGAR: In a major initiative 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 from August 9, 2025.

Demonstrating leadership by example, Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N. Itoo today visited remote and hilly seasonal schools at Tosamaidan and interacted with the

students, teachers and community members.

Director was apprised about the main issues of the seasonal schools and as-



sured the timely disposal of the same. He reiterated the commitment of the Government for ensuring quality education in every school of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Itoo also visited many schools of Khag zone of Budgam district, includ-

ing Government Middle School Alamnag and BMS Poshkar. He 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.

"Parent-teacher meetings are a cornerstone for educational success. 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," Dr. Itoo said.

Meanwhile, all parents and guardians have been 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.

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DC Bandipora chairs introductory meeting with female employees

FE NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, chaired an introductory meeting with female employees of the district at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora, marking a significant step towards inclusive and gender-responsive governance.

During the interaction, DC engaged with all the female participants, listened attentively to their concerns, and assured them of the administration's full support in addressing genuine issues affecting their work environment.

Emphasizing the need to create a more enabling workplace, DC directed the concerned officers to ensure proper sanitation facilities, including the provision of separate washrooms for female staff, and a dedicated prayer hall for women.

On the occasion, Indu Kanwal Chib also laid stress on ensuring safe and reliable transport facilities for all employees commuting from various parts of the district. To ease daily commuting challenges, she instructed that transport arrangements be made from key locations such as Kaloosa Bridge, Nussloo Sumo Stand, and Gulshan Chowk to the Mini Secretariat.

DC reiterated her commitment to fostering a work environment where all employees, particularly women, feel safe, respected, and empowered.

The meeting witnessed active participation from women employees across different departments who expressed appreciation for the platform and shared suggestions aimed at improving work conditions and productivity.



Satish Sharma inspects FCI Godowns, Fair Price Shops, food establishments, street vendors, hotels in Srinagar

FE NEWS NETWORK

Assures strict action against adulterated meat hoarders

SRINAGAR: In continuation of government's intensified campaign to ensure food safety and quality standards across Jammu and Kashmir, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer

Affairs, Satish Sharma, today led a comprehensive inspection drive in various parts of Srinagar. The inspection covered Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns, fair price shops, hotels, restaurants and street food vendors.

The Minister was accompanied by Director, FCS&CA, Dr. Owais Ahmad, senior officers from the Food Corporation of India, Food Safety Department and Legal Metrology Department.

Satish Sharma began his visit at the FCI godowns, where he reviewed the storage infrastructure, stock handling procedures and sanitation standards. He stressed that every stage of grain handling—from unloading to storage to distribution—must strictly adhere to prescribed quality control norms. There is absolutely no room for negligence. The safety and quality of these supplies is non-negotiable," he said.

He directed the officials to conduct regular internal audits, ensure pest control and proper ventilation and maintain accurate stock records to prevent wastage and pilferage.

The Minister then visited multiple fair price shops, where he interacted with shopkeepers and beneficiaries under the Public Distribution System (PDS). He checked stock registers, verified availability of ration and inspected the quality of grains and other commodities. He emphasised the need for complete transparency in distribution and warned that any irregularities in quantity, quality, or pricing will invite immediate suspension of licenses and legal action.

Given recent reports and seizures of adulterated and unsafe meat in Kashmir, Satish Sharma car-

ried out surprise inspections of hotels, restaurants and street vendors. These checks focused on meat sourcing, storage conditions, hygiene practices in kitchens and the freshness of raw materials being used.

Concerned by the threat such practices pose to public health, the Minister issued a strong warning. "Those involved in the storage, usage, or trade of adulterated meat are putting lives at risk.

This is not a minor violation—it is a criminal act. I want to make it absolutely clear: the government will take strict and immediate punitive action against all offenders, including sealing of premises, cancellation of licenses and prosecution under relevant food safety and public health laws."

He also condemned the practice by some violators of dumping spoiled meat in abandoned places to evade penalties, calling it an unacceptable and dangerous tactic that will not shield them from legal consequences.

Satish Sharma directed the enforcement squads to maintain heightened vigilance, especially in sensitive areas, and to carry out round-the-clock surprise inspections of high-risk establishments. He instructed that supply chain tracking be used to identify and dismantle entire networks engaged in the adulterated meat trade, from suppliers to retailers.

The Minister urged the citizens to remain alert and report any suspicious or unhygienic food practices to the authorities. "This is a fight we will pursue relentlessly. Protecting public health is our top priority, but it requires community participation. Together, we can ensure that no unsafe or adulterated food reaches our people's plates," he said.

Reiterating the Government's zero-tolerance policy towards food adulteration, Satish Sharma assured that the enforcement campaign will continue in a sustained and intensified manner across all districts of the Union Territory.

"We are committed to eradicate unsafe food products from our markets and ensuring that every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir has access to safe, quality food," the Minister emphasized.

Infiltrators

parties’ stand on Operation Sindoor, Shah claimed that terrorist attacks were “frequent in India during the UPA regime”. “But now India is different under the Narendra Modi ji’s regime. Our soldiers killed terrorists in their hideouts. But the RJD and Congress leaders are opposing Operation Sindoor”. He also asserted that the NDA will form the government in the coming assembly polls. “The RJD did nothing for Bihar. Lalu ji, as central minister, sanctioned Rs 1,132 cr for railway infrastructure in Bihar, while our govt provided Rs 10,066 cr in FY’26,” he claimed. Shah also alleged that the RJD “encouraged hooliganism” during its rule in the state. (PTI)

India

these engagements, India successfully communicated the gravity of cross-border terrorism and Pakistan’s complicity. The international community unequivocally condemned the use of terrorism, recognizing India’s right to defend itself, he said. Notably, the terrorist group ‘The Resistance Front’ (TRF), responsible for the Pahalgam attack, was mentioned in the latest United Nations Security Council 1267 Sanctions Committee report released on July 29, 2025, and was designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation by the United States on July 18, 2025. The delegations were composed with attention to political and regional diversity to reflect India’s federal spirit, ensuring balanced representation from various states and union territories. The trips were conducted between late May and early June 2025, covering countries including Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, France, Italy, Japan, UAE, USA, Russia, South Africa, and many others.

The delegations secured assurances of support on counter-terrorism and received widespread condemnation of Pakistan for harboring terrorist groups. This diplomatic outreach has enhanced the international community’s appreciation of India’s position on terrorism and increased cooperation on counter-terrorism matters.

The Government of India continues to engage actively with partner countries and international organizations to strengthen global cooperation against terrorism. Further diplomatic dialogues and follow-up contacts under Operation Sindoor are planned to sustain momentum in addressing security challenges—(KNO)

India, China

Lok Sabha, the External Affairs Ministry provided details regarding the ongoing disengagement along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between India and China. Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that India and China reached and implemented an agreement on patrolling arrangements in the Depsang and Demchok areas of Eastern Ladakh on October 21, 2024, with previous disengagement terms in the region remaining in effect. “India and China have maintained discussions on de-escalation through multiple levels, including meetings between their External Affairs Ministers and Defence Ministers. Until October 2024, engagement was conducted via the Working Mechanism for Cooperation and Coordination (WMCC) and meetings of the Senior Highest Military Commanders (SHMC),” the Minister said.

Since the disengagement agreement, further talks have taken place through the Special Representatives’ Talks and WMCC to address boundary-related issues. Additional meetings have focused on stabilizing and rebuilding ties, prioritizing people-centric engagements such as the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, direct flight connectivity, and transborder river management. Commemorative activities marked the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. High-level meetings have involved the Prime Minister, Defence Minister, External Affairs Minister, National Security Advisor, and Foreign Secretary of India, along with their Chinese counterparts. On economic matters, the Minister confirmed that issues related to restrictive trade measures and export restrictions on critical minerals imposed by China have been raised at the ministerial and working levels. Discussions are ongoing—(KNO)

I-Day Celebrations

keep the invitation open for the public,” he said, adding that the voter ID cards will be treated as the invitation cards. Bidhuri further added all the arrangements related to the security, seating, parking and others are being made at the main venue while this year, several schools have voluntarily expressed their eagerness to participate in the event. Besides, the Divisional Commissioner added that the people should also participate in the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga campaign and take selfies with the National Flag—(KNO)

Centre Reports

address the remaining gaps in road connectivity, particularly focusing on habitations that have become eligible due to population growth as per the 2011 Census. This phase also emphasizes connecting backward, marginalized, and Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe-dominated areas, especially in Aspirational Districts and LWE-affected zones. In line with this, the Ministry of Rural Development has ensured that convergence is being achieved between PMGSY-IV and other inclusive rural development initiatives to maximise the impact on ground. In Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, this integrated approach is expected to bring the remaining habitations into the national road grid, enabling better access to healthcare, education, markets, and administrative services for rural citizens. The near-complete success in these two Union Territories stands as a testament to the government’s commitment toward inclusive growth, regional balance, and last-mile infrastructure delivery—even in the most difficult and strategically important regions of the country—(KNO)

IGP Kashmir

conduct of upcoming events. Birdi directed all participating officers to make sure that the necessary preparations are completed well in advance. During the meeting, the IGP assigned specific responsibilities to various officers, issuing clear instructions to execute their tasks with precision and thorough planning. Additional directives were provided regarding key logistical arrangements to facilitate the seamless execution of the events. IGP Kashmir instructed the officers to strengthen security checkpoints, particularly during night hours, at vulnerable locations and along the city’s entry and exit routes. He emphasized the need for strict vigilance against elements that pose a threat to peace and security. He also underscored the importance of maintaining a high level of alertness and increasing area domination within their respective jurisdictions. Furthermore, IGP Kashmir reviewed the security measures implemented for the protection of highways, railway tracks, and railway stations across the Valley. The meeting concluded with a collective commitment to heightened vigilance, improved coordination, and the effective execution of security protocols to ensure the peaceful and orderly conduct of all scheduled events. (PR)

CS Pushes

of regulatory changes. He directed the Industries & Commerce department to complete all documentation and reporting requirements promptly by assisting the departments in implementing them smoothly. Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, informed the meeting that 434 reform points spanning various departments have already been successfully implemented. However, few specific reform points were returned by the Task Force with observations for further refinement. He assured that as the nodal department, Industries & Commerce is proactively addressing these gaps and will ensure timely compliance uploads for the pending areas in coordination with the respective Departments. Providing further insights, Director Industries & Commerce, Jammu, Arun Kumar Manhas, outlined several key reform areas identified for immediate action. These included adoption of flexible zoning regulations in master plans to facilitate mixed land use in development

projects, simplification and digitization of the Change of Land Use (CLU) process and rationalization of minimum road width norms for industrial units in rural areas The reform points that came under discussion also spanned around amendment of building regulations to minimize the land loss in industrial and commercial plots, removal of restrictions on women working in hazardous sectors, review of working hour limits under factory laws, lifting restrictions on business hours for commercial establishments and provision for fire NOCs through third-party empanelled agencies along with few others. These reforms, he noted, are geared towards building a robust and business-friendly industrial ecosystem in the Union Territory. It is pertinent to mention that the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP), launched by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), is a flagship initiative of the Government of India which aims to simplify regulatory frameworks and enhance the ease of doing business across the country. (DIPR)

Anti-terror

the hiding ultras. Seven security forces personnel have suffered injuries during the course of the operation, the officials said. Two terrorists have been killed in the encounter, which began on Friday last after security forces launched a cordon and search operation in a forest area at Akhal in the south Kashmir district, following specific intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists there. After an initial exchange of fire between the two sides on Friday last, the operation was halted for the night, but the cordon was strengthened, and additional reinforcements were rushed to the area, officials said. When the firing resumed on Saturday, two terrorists were killed. The identity and group affiliation of the slain terrorists have not been ascertained so far, the officials said. This is the longest anti-terror operation in the Kashmir valley so far this year and one of the longest ever in J-K. (PTI)

Spoiled meat

consumption of adulterated meat can lead to a host of serious illnesses. Dr. Sameer Ahmad Dar, a public health specialist, speaking to KNO, said contaminated or chemically treated meat can cause severe food poisoning, diarrhoea, vomiting, and fever in the short term. In the long run, it increases the risk of liver damage, kidney problems, typhoid, parasitic infections, and in some cases even cancer, he said. “The immune-compromised, elderly, and children are especially vulnerable,” Dr Dar added. Residents allege that many restaurants, roadside dhabas, and barbecue stalls buy cheaper meat of dubious quality to maximise profits. “Some outlets serve meat that is days old and kept in poor storage conditions. The taste is different, but not everyone notices until they fall ill,” said Irshad Ahmad, who eats outside frequently. Public health activists said there is an urgent need for consistent and transparent food safety inspections. “Authorities should not only check slaughterhouses but also randomly inspect restaurants, dhabas, marriage halls, and street vendors,” said advocate Bilal Lone. “The results of these inspections should be made public so people know which outlets maintain hygiene and which don’t.”

A senior Food Safety official said intensified drives are underway. “We are carrying out raids in multiple districts. Any adulterated or unhygienic meat is being seized and destroyed on the spot. We are also prosecuting the offenders under food safety laws,” the official said—(KNO)

J&K has only one AYUSH drug testing lab: Gol

SRINAGAR: The Government of India has said that Jammu and Kashmir has one government-approved drug testing laboratory dedicated to AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) products, as part of the nationwide framework to ensure quality, safety and efficacy of tradition-

al medicines, including those distributed in rural areas. The information was shared in response to a question by MP Adv. Priya Saroj in the Lok Sabha and answered by the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH, Prataprao Jadhav on Friday. According to the Ministry of AYUSH, the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Drugs Rules, 1945 govern the regulatory mechanism for AYUSH drugs. It mandates manufacturers to follow Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and conform to the quality standards prescribed in respective pharmacopoeias. According to the reply, a copy of which lies with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the regulatory system involves regular collection of samples from manufacturing units and sale outlets by Drug Inspectors, which are then tested in government or approved private laboratories. If a drug is found substandard or unsafe, legal action is taken under the Act to remove the product from circulation. While Jammu and Kashmir has one government-run AYUSH drug testing lab, the UT does not currently have any private AYUSH labs approved under Rule 160 A to J of the Drugs Rules, 1945. The government has also taken steps to strengthen pharmacovigilance systems and encourage GMP compliance among small and medium-scale AYUSH drug manufacturers in rural and semi-urban areas through financial and technical assistance. These efforts are part of a broader initiative to promote safe and effective traditional medicine practices across the country, including in Jammu and Kashmir—(KNO)

ACB arrests Jr. Assistant in ACR Rajouri’s office for accepting bribe of Rs 4000

RAJOURI: Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday said to have trapped and arrested a Jr. Assistant in the office of ACR Rajouri for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 4000. Jammu and Kashmir Anti Corruption Bureau received a complaint alleging therein that complainant has to register 03 marlas of land in his name in the office of ACR Rajouri for which he had submitted the file with the concerned clerk having additional charge of Jr. Asstt. Sub Registrar Rajouri namely Umar Nawaz but he demanded bribe of Rs 15,000 for the same. Subsequently, the said demand was negotiated to Rs 4,000, a spokesman said in a statement issued to

the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). “Since the complainant is a poor person and did not want to give illegal gratification to the above named Junior Assistant/ Clerk, he approached ACB for taking legal action against the accused public servant. Accordingly, case FIR no. 04/2025 u/s 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018) was registered in ACB Police Station Rajouri and investigation taken up,” the statement reads. During the course of investigation, a trap team was constituted, he said, adding that the team laid a successful trap and caught the accused public servant Umar Nawaz S/o Naseer Hussain R/o Saaz, Tehsil Thanamandi presently posted as Jr. Assistant in the office of Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Rajouri (Nazir Section) with additional charge of Jr. Asstt. Sub-Registrar, Rajouri red handed while demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 4000. “The accused was arrested on the spot by the ACB team after following due process of law. The bribe money was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses associated with the trap team.” Subsequently, the ACB stated that searches were also conducted in the residential house of the accused at Thanamandi, Rajouri, adding that further investigation of the instant case is going on—(KNO)

Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan: Drug de-addiction awareness prog. held at GBHS Gupt Ganga in Brein Srinagar

SRINAGAR: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan, Cultural Unit Srinagar of the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) today organized an impactful awareness event at Government Boys High School, Gupt Ganga, Brein Srinagar. The programme featured a thought-provoking short play by a local artist group, depicting the destructive effects of drug abuse on individuals, families, and society. The gripping performance captured the attention of students and teachers alike, fostering awareness and reflection on the urgent need to combat substance abuse. Principal of the school appreciated the initiative, stressing the importance of preventive education in protecting youth from this growing menace. Burhan Hussain, Cultural Officer, addressing the gathering underscored the significance of using cultural platforms like theatre to inspire behavioural change. (DIPR)

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

R&B DIVISION BEMINA SRINAGAR.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No.25/EE/R&B/BM/CS/3312-19 of 2025-26

DATED:06.08.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contracto r
1.	Improvement of Retrofitting of Mechanical Engineering Block at Govt. Children Hospital Bemina Srinagar	13,523/-	600/-	27,046/-	365 days	UT-Capex Budget	“BEE/CEE /DEE”

Position of AAA: Recorded by Principal Dean Govt. Medical College, Srinagar vide No.37-MCS of 2025

Position of funds: Available

Project Authority: Govt. Medical College Srinagar.

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	06.08.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	07.08.2025 from 10.00 AM
3	Bid submission Start Date	07.08.2025 from 10.00 AM
4	Bid Submission End Date	18.08.2025 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	19.08.2025 at 12.00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar.

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan under M.H-0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (tender inviting authority)(The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date)pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

2. At the time of tendering, all the bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR pledged to the tender receiving authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (The date of Earnest money should be between Date of Start of bid and bid submission End date). The successful bidder will have to provide Performance security @ 5% of Allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR at the time of contract award. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security of 5% of the total allotted cost which will be released after successful completion of the DLP.

3. Unbalanced bid:

S.No	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz -a- viz Adv.cost	Additional performance security to be deposited on quoted bid by
1	Upto and including 15% below	L1
2	>15% upto and including 20% below	Nil
3	>20% upto and including 25% below	5%
4	>25% upto and including 30% below	10%
5	>30% below	15%

The bidder declared as L1 has to Provide additional performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG as per the break up given above at the time of allotment.

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar (tender receiving authority).

5. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

a) Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.

b) To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

c) The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

d) Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

e) Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

DIPK-4983/25

Dt: 08-08-2025

Sd/-
Ex.Engineer

Office Of The Chief Medical Officer Kupwara

Subject: Tentative seniority list of Electricians District cadre Kupwara

NOTIFICATION

On the basis of information received from concerned DDO,s the Tentative seniority list of Electricians District cadre Kupwara Health department is hereby prepared / Circulated amongst all concerned through controlling Officers for information and Objections, if any with regard to service particulars shown against each should reach to this office along with documentary evidence duly authenticated by their controlling Officers within seven days from the date of issuance of this circular.

S.No	Name of Employee	Designation	Date of Birth	Date of appointment	Place of posting	Appointing Authority	Category
01	Javid Iqbal Bhat	Electrician	11-03-1970	11-09-1989	Associated DH GMC Handwara	Govt. order	
02	Masood Ahmad Ganie	Electrician	03-04-1976	02-02-2019	SDH Sogam	SSRB	
03	Shabir Ahmad Dar	Electrician	17-01-1980	02-02-2019	SDH Kralgund Langate	SSRB	
04	Inder Jeet Singh	Electrician	07-06-1980	02-02-2019	SDH Zachaldara	SSRB	S/C
					The Official, is transfer to Anantnag District DHS order No.275 NG of 2023 dated 25-04-2023 promotion lien in his parent District i.e Kupwara		
05	Muahtaq Ahmad Wani	Electrician	31-03-1980	26-12-2020	SDH Kralpora	SSRB	

DIPK-4999/25 Dt: 08-08-2025

Sd/-
Chief Medical Officer Kupwara

Xi and Putin discuss Ukraine war ahead of Russia, US summit

BELJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday spoke with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin over the phone ahead of the latter's planned summit with Donald Trump to discuss the future course of the Ukraine war.

During the phone call, held at the request of Putin, the Russian leader briefed Moscow's views on the current situation of the Ukrainian crisis and recent contacts and communications between Russia and the US, a statement released by the Foreign Ministry here said.

Putin was under pressure from Trump to end the Ukraine war started by Russia in February 2024 to assert its territorial claims.

According to reports from the US, Trump wants Putin to agree to a ceasefire to be followed by a peace deal.

The summit plan came after Trump's special envoy Steven Witkoff travelled to Moscow, where he held a prolonged meeting with Putin.

Putin and Xi struck a personal friendship since 2013, adding a strategic dimension to Russia-China relations, forging close political and military ties, posing a major challenge to the global dominance of the US and European Union.

They met numerous times and established close trade ties under which China has emerged as the largest buyer of Russian oil and gas.

China also maintained strategic ambiguity

over Russia's invasion of Ukraine and denied allegations that it supplied arms to Moscow.

In his phone call, Putin, who is expected to visit China later this month to take part in the

Sept 3 to mark the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War.



SCO summit in Tianjin, emphasised that the Russia-China comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination will remain unchanged under any circumstances, the statement said.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit is due to be held on Aug 31 and Sept 1.

After the summit, Putin is expected to stay back to witness the massive military parade of the Chinese military to be held in Beijing on

During the phone conversation, Xi told Putin that China will remain consistent in its position on the Ukraine crisis and continue to promote peace talks no matter how the situation evolves.

Xi said that complex problems have no simple solutions and elaborated on China's principles and position on the Ukraine crisis, the statement said.

Xi said the Chinese side is glad to see Rus-

sia and the US maintain contact, improve their relations and promote the political settlement of the Ukraine crisis.

The two leaders also agreed to jointly promote a greater development of China-Russia

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.

relations, the statement said.

Putin has expressed Russia's high appreciation for China's constructive role in promoting a political solution to the crisis, and that Russia is willing to continue to maintain close communication with China, the statement said. (PTI)

India's Ethanol Journey Is Unstoppable: Hardeep Singh Puri

NEWDELHI: Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, today said that "India's ethanol journey is unstoppable," while participating in a Fireside Chat Session on the sidelines of the Pioneer Biofuels 360 Summit.

Responding to a question on the success of the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme,

is already firmly underway, backed by strong policy support, industry readiness, and public acceptance—and there is no turning back.

Elaborating on the benefits of E20, the Minister said it results into reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, improves air quality, enhances engine performance, and has already led to over

cultural residues like parali and bamboo into ethanol, providing a win-win solution for clean fuel, pollution control, and farmer income. He further highlighted the remarkable growth of maize-based ethanol—from 0% in 2021–22 to 42% this year—calling it a transformational shift.

On the issue of Flex-Fuel Vehicles (FFVs), Puri said that the Indian automobile industry has already demonstrated its capability. Indian OEMs have begun rolling out prototypes for E85-compatible vehicles. Continuous consultations have been held with the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) and other major auto manufacturers, and the direction is clear—progressively moving towards higher ethanol blends. The Ethanol Blending Roadmap (2020–25) has laid a strong foundation, and the successful rollout of E20—five years ahead of target—demonstrates both industry readiness and consumer acceptance. The country will now gradually scale towards E25, E27, and E30 in a phased, calibrated manner with the support of BIS standards and fiscal incentives.

The Minister stressed that ethanol blending is not just about mixing fuel—it is about empowering Annadatas by turning them into Urjadatas, reducing crude imports, saving foreign exchange, creating green jobs, and honouring India's climate commitments. Over the past 11 years, ethanol procurement has enabled 1.21 lakh crore income to farmers, reduced crude imports by 238.68 lakh metric tons, and saved 1.40 lakh crore in foreign exchange.

Speaking about India's efforts in Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), Puri said the Ministry is working closely with oil marketing companies, airlines, and global technology partners to develop and scale up SAF. Like ethanol, India will adopt a phased approach to SAF adoption. A blending mandate has already been initiated, with a target of 1% blending for international flights by 2027, increasing to 2% by 2028, and scaling further as supply stabilizes. He also cited the example of the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. Refinery in Panipat, which is using used cooking oil to produce SAF—showcasing India's innovative and sustainable pathway forward. (PIB)

1.4 lakh crore in foreign exchange savings. He pointed out that 2G ethanol refineries in Panipat and Numaligarh are converting agri-

Dispelling misinformation and false narratives surrounding ethanol-blended fuel, Puri emphasized that there has not been a single case of engine failure or breakdown reported since E20 became a base fuel over the last 10 months. Citing Brazil's example, he said the country has run on E27 for years without any issues.

the Minister highlighted that ethanol blending gained serious momentum only after 2014, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed office. In 2014, ethanol blending was merely 1.53%. By 2022, India achieved 10% blending, five months ahead of schedule. The original target of 20% blending (E20) by 2030 was advanced to 2025 and has already been achieved in the current Ethanol Supply Year (ESY). This success, the Minister noted, was made possible through sustained policy reforms such as guaranteed pricing for ethanol, allowing multiple feedstocks, and rapidly expanding distillation capacity across the country.

Dispelling misinformation and false narratives surrounding ethanol-blended fuel, Puri emphasized that there has not been a single case of engine failure or breakdown reported since E20 became a base fuel over the last 10 months. Citing Brazil's example, he said the country has run on E27 for years without any issues.

Some lobbies with vested interests are actively attempting to create confusion and derail India's ethanol revolution. However, such efforts will not succeed. The E20 transition

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta celebrates Raksha Bandhan with sanitation workers

NEW DELHI: Celebrating Raksha Bandhan with sanitation workers on Friday, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta urged them to pledge their continued efforts in making the national capital permanently free from waste.

During an event organised at the Mukhya Mantri Jansewa Sadan in Civil Lines, Gupta tied 'rakhi' on the sanitation workers' wrists.

As she urged them to pledge their continued efforts in making Delhi permanently free from waste, the 'Swachhata Praharis' pledged their unwavering commitment to the campaign, not just this month but in the long term, an official statement said.

The atmosphere at the Sadan was filled with emotion, affection, and harmony, the statement said.

"The entire city salutes your dedication. The relentless effort you put in to free Delhi from waste cannot be adequately expressed in words. With your continued support, our pledge to rid the capital of waste is not only possible but achievable," Gupta said.

The chief minister emphasised that the consistent contributions of the Swachhata Praharis are central to the goal of a clean and hygienic Delhi.

According to the statement, the sanitation workers said that it was the first time in Delhi's history that a chief minister invited them to such a sacred occasion and honoured them with such respect.

They blessed Gupta and wished that she continues to work for the betterment of Delhi, it said.

"On this auspicious occasion of Raksha Bandhan, I vow to protect your dignity, rights, and honour. It is my privilege to celebrate this occasion with those who selflessly work every day to make Delhi a better, cleaner, and healthier city," the chief minister said. (PTI)



US has 'no plans' to recognise Palestinian state, Vance says before talks with UK foreign secretary

LONDON: US Vice President JD Vance met with UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy on Friday at a stately home south of London, with the two leaders saying the agenda includes global economics and the Israel-Hamas war and Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Taking questions from reporters before their talks, Vance addressed the UK decision to recognise a Palestinian state in September unless Israel agrees to a ceasefire in Gaza, saying he wasn't sure what such recognition would even mean, "given the lack of a functional government there."

Asked whether Trump had been given a heads up on Israel's announced intent to occupy Gaza City, Vance said he wouldn't go into such conversations.

"If it was easy to bring peace to that region of the world, it would have been done already," he said.

The meeting comes amid debates between Washington and London about the best way to end the wars between Russia and Ukraine, as well as Israel and Hamas. It's also taking place as the United Kingdom tries to come to favourable terms for steel and aluminum exports to the US, and the two sides work out details of a broader trade deal announced at the end of June.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that he hoped to meet with US President

Taking questions from reporters before their talks, Vance addressed the UK decision to recognise a Palestinian state in September unless Israel agrees to a ceasefire in Gaza, saying he wasn't sure what such recognition would even mean, "given the lack of a functional government there."

Donald Trump next week, comments that came a day before Trump's deadline for Moscow to show progress in ending the nearly 3½-year war in Ukraine.

While Trump has focused on bilateral talks with Putin, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer and other European leaders have stressed that Ukraine must be part of any negotiations on



ending the war.

The US and Britain, which have historically close ties known as "the special relationship", have also disagreed on their approach to ending the war in Gaza.

The meeting took place at Chevening, an almost 400-year-old mansion surrounded by 3,000 acres of gardens that serves as the foreign secretary's official country residence.

About two dozen protesters were spotted on

the road before the turnoff to the stately home. A few were wearing keffiyeh scarves and another held up a round sign that had a meme making fun of Vance printed on it.

Vance and Lammy, who come from opposite ends of the political spectrum but have made a personal connection through their hard-scrabble childhoods and Christian faith,

While Lammy is a member of the left-leaning Labour Party and Vance is a conservative Republican who supports Trump's "America First" agenda, the two men have bonded in recent months.

Lammy told the Guardian newspaper that the two men can relate over their "dysfunctional" working-class childhoods and that he considers Vance a "friend".

Lammy attended a Catholic Mass at the Vance home in Washington earlier this year, and the two men met again at the US Embassy in Rome when he and Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner attended the inauguration of Pope Leo XIV in May.

"I had this great sense that JD completely relates to me and he completely relates to Angela," Lammy told the Guardian. "So it was a wonderful hour and a half." (PTI)

Khattar, Dr Jitendra Convene Meeting To Discuss 100 GW Nuclear Energy Strategies

NEW DELHI: Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Union Minister Incharge Atomic Energy Dr Jitendra Singh today jointly convened a high-level meeting to discuss



the 100 GW Nuclear Energy strategies.

The meeting follows up on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious target of expanding India's clean energy basket and reaffirming the country's commitment to achieving Net Zero emissions.

During the meeting, a thorough review was conducted on the roadmap to increase India's nuclear energy capacity from the current 8.8 GW to 22 GW by 2032, through the addition of 14 GW from various ongoing and upcoming projects.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the government's landmark initiative to open the nuclear sector for private sector participation, emphasizing its pivotal role in strengthening India's energy security. He also noted a strong and vibrant response from industries towards the Bharat Small Modular Reactor (SMR) program, leading to an extension of the Request for Proposal (RFP) submission deadline to 30th September 2025 to encourage wider participation. The outcomes of the 4th Consultative Committee meeting held in April were fast-tracked to ensure timely implementation.

Power Minister Sh. Manohar Lal Khattar and Dr. Jitendra Singh outlined several key directives to expedite progress, including streamlining regulatory clearances, standardizing documentation, optimizing processing timelines, emphasizing generic proposals, synchronizing licenses, and investing in technical upgradation and capacity building.

Dr. Jitendra Singh further stressed the government's commitment to handholding and creating awareness among private sector players, many of whom were pleasantly surprised by the opening of the nuclear sector to private participation. The Power Minister reiterated the importance of adhering to timelines and accelerating projects as per the established roadmap.

Senior officials present at the meeting included Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) & Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC); Shri Pankaj Agrawal, Secretary, Power; Shri Gurdeep Singh, Chairman and Managing Director of NTPC Limited; Shri Bhuvan Chandra Pathak, Chairman and Managing Director of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL); along with other senior officials from the Departments of Power and Atomic Energy. (PIB)

Cabinet Clears Rs 4,200-Crore MERITE Scheme to Upgrade Technical Education

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the implementation of the Multidisciplinary Education and Research Improvement in Technical Education (MERITE) scheme with a total outlay of Rs 4,200 crore for the period 2025-26 to 2029-30.

According to Press Information Bureau (PIB), Half of the funding, amounting to Rs 2,100 crore, will come from the World Bank in the form of an external assistance loan.

Spokesperson said the scheme will cover 275 government and government-aided technical institutions, including 175 engineering institutions and 100 polytechnics across all States and Union Territories. Selected National Institutes of Technology, State Engineering Institutions, Polytechnics and Affiliating Technical Universities, along with State and UT departments handling technical education, will receive support.

The scheme, aligned with the objectives of the National Education Policy 2020, is aimed at improving quality, equity and governance in technical education while modernising curriculum and promoting multidisciplinary learning. It will also focus on strengthening research and innovation, enhancing employability, upgrading laboratories and infrastructure, and promoting accreditation of institutions. An estimated 7.5 lakh students are expected to directly benefit from the interventions.

MERITE will be implemented as a Central Sector Scheme through a central nodal agency, with funds transferred directly from the Central Government to participating institutions. Collaboration with premier institutes such as IITs and IIMs, as well as regulatory bodies including the All India Council for Technical Education and the National Board of Accreditation, will be used to reform curricula, train faculty and upgrade research capacity. The scheme also seeks to boost graduate employability by aligning courses with industry needs, updating syllabi regularly, providing internships, setting up incubation and innovation centres, establishing skill and maker labs, and offering language workshops to improve communication skills.

Formulated in consultation with the World Bank, MERITE addresses reform priorities identified in NEP 2020 such as improving pedagogy and assessment, bridging the gender gap in technical education, reducing the digital divide, and enhancing governance standards. State and UT governments participated in the design process, with their feedback incorporated into the final plan.

Officials said the scheme will strengthen India's innovation capacity and ensure that graduates from engineering and polytechnic institutions are equipped for the demands of the modern job market, ultimately contributing to the country's inclusive and sustainable growth. (PIB)

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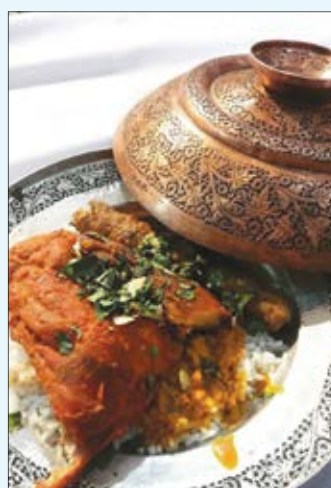
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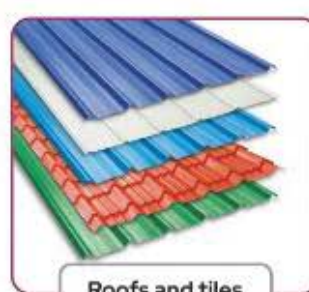
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