



Citizens Must Internalize Spirit of Patriotism: LG Manoj Sinha

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha felicitated the 79 Cyclists, who participated in the 'Pedal for Ek

common identity.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated the country's first line of defence, BSF, for paying a befitting tribute to the brave soldiers and officers who

of every citizen of J&K to pursue that path and build Jammu Kashmir of their dreams," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed

that all the cyclists are a living symbol of India's enduring tradition of courage. He said, the 79 kms symbolize the 79 years of India's independence, its journey in the last 79 years and each cyclist represents the true power of society, and every soldier embodies the nation's strength.

"From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, India is one. The heart and soul of 140 crore Indians are united and we are a big family of 140 crore members. This spirit and bond of family must strengthen our unity. We must inculcate the spirit of 'Nation First' and every citizen must prioritize nation-building over personal interests," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the young generation and people from all sections of society to self-introspect and take a pledge to dedicate themselves to the goal of Viksit Jammu Kashmir and Viksit Bharat.

The Lieutenant Governor also urged the society to be cautious and vigilant against the divisive elements who are trying to disrupt peace and social harmony. He further called upon the enlightened citizens and civil society members to participate in Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan, and encourage every family to be part of this Maha Yagya.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also paid tribute to the civilians who were martyred in the Pakistan-sponsored terror attack in

Pakistan's Terror Pipeline to Kashmir Active: IG BSF

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Says alert Border Security Forces & Army foiling every infiltration attempt

Srinagar: Inspector General of BSF Kashmir Frontier, Ashok Yadav, on Tuesday stated that Pakistan is continuously attempting to infiltrate terrorists into Jammu and Kashmir through ongoing launching activities. However, he said that alert security forces, through close coordination and vigilance, have consistently foiled these infiltration attempts.

Yadav made these remarks during a function organised in connection with a 79-kilometre cycle rally held ahead of Independence Day. The rally, which commenced from Bandipora, saw participation from around 40 to 42 local youths alongside BSF officers and soldiers. The event was part of the celebrations marking the 79th Independence Day.

"The purpose of this rally is to promote fitness among youth, inspire them posi-

tively, and highlight the improving security situation in Jammu and Kashmir," IG BSF Kashmir said, adding that the initiative aims to boost tourism by show-



casing destinations like Bandipora and Ganderbal.

Yadav said the BSF and Army are making joint efforts to prevent infiltration. "We work closely with the Army and coordinate our efforts to ensure that any infiltration attempts are thwarted.

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KP woman's decades old murder case reopened; raids conducted

FE NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar: The probe into the murder of a Kashmiri Pandit woman 35 years ago during the outbreak of militancy has been reopened with the State Investigation Agency (SIA) carrying out raids



on Tuesday at eight locations in central Kashmir linked to former members

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99.7% of Forest Rights Claims Processed in J&K: Govt

'Over 46,000 claims filed, more than 39,900 pending, 5,600 rejected'

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has released updated figures on the implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, showing notable progress in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) regarding the legal recognition of forest rights for tribal and forest-dwelling communities.

As of May 31, 2025, a total of 46,090 claims under the Forest Rights Act (FRA) have been filed in Jammu & Kashmir, comprising 33,233 individual claims and 12,857 community claims, the figures accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News

Observer reveal.

Of these, the government has distributed 6,020 titles (429 individual and 5,591 community titles), providing formal legal entitlements to forest land and community resources.

Despite this progress, a substantial number of claims remain unresolved, with 39,924 applications still pending and only 146 claims rejected, indicating that the majority of claims await final verification and processing.

The Ministry continues to work closely with local authorities to expedite the disposal of pending claims.

The FRA safeguards the rights of forest dwellers by prohibiting evictions before rights are recognised and verified, ensuring protection for vulnerable tribal populations in J&K.

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CM Omar Abdullah Stresses Need To Cherish Tricolour's Honour

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah urged the people to preserve and uphold the honour of the national flag, calling it a living symbol of India's identity, pride and the sacrifices of countless patriots.

He was addressing a gathering at the Tiranga Rally concluded at the Nehru Memorial Botanical Garden, Chashma-i-Shahi, Srinagar.

Reflecting on the past, the Chief Minister recalled that there was a time when the national flag was only permitted to fly over government buildings, barred from being displayed in homes, workplaces, or private spaces. "This was the reality we lived in — the

flag belonged to the nation, yet it was absent from our personal lives," he said.

Highlighting the role of a single determined citizen who approached



the courts and secured the right for every Indian to hoist the Tiranga at their homes, the Chief Minister said this change was proof that "even one individual, driven by the right intentions, can bring about lasting change."

He paid rich tribute to those who laid down their lives for the honour of the national flag, stating, "They gave up their present for the nation's future, stood alone if neces-

"He paid rich tribute to those who laid down their lives for the honour of the national flag, stating, "They gave up their present for the nation's future, stood alone if necessary, and believed their single act of courage could defend the dignity of our Tiranga."

Underlining the need for the flag to remain a constant symbol

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CS reviews cyber security measures to safeguard J&K's digital assets

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a meeting to review the Cyber Security Action Plan for J&K, aimed at strengthening the UT's defense against the emerging cyber threats and ensuring the protection of critical digital infrastructure.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, IT Department; CEO, JaKeGA; State Informatics Officer, NIC; senior officers from civil administration and police and other departmental representatives.

The review formed part of the government's regular follow-up on security measures being implemented to safeguard the digital assets of the administration, protect

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Bottimline

Tiranga Is My Dharma. Tiranga Is My Strength. Tiranga Is My Heartbeat: LG Sinha

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged-off the Tiranga Yatra from Dal Lake in Srinagar and joined the walkathon from Dal Lake to Botanical Garden.

"Tiranga is my Dharma. Tiranga is my strength. Tiranga is my heartbeat," said the Lieutenant Governor.

He also observed that it would be a blessing to be born again to serve the country. For the sake of duty, may we again and again take birth on this holy land, the Lieutenant Governor said.

He paid tributes to the forefathers and brave hearts who laid down their lives to keep the tricolour flying high in its full glory.

"Thousands of people proudly joined to honour the National Flag, which symbolizes our unity, pride and shared identity. Today is the day to celebrate the success of our great nation, however, we should also introspect about our duties and build on our successes.

We must also resolve to build the edifice

of modern and prosperous J&K on the foundation of sacrifices of our soldiers of Army, CAPFs and Police," the Lieuten-



ant Governor said.

He said under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Jammu Kashmir has entered a new era of inclusive development.

"With renewed self-confidence and faith,

the people of J&K are writing their own destiny. The unfulfilled dreams of generations are finally being realized.

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The Lieutenant Governor

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...445th ICAI Council Meeting in Pahalgam

Your Presence Here Is True Morale Booster: CM Abdullah

FE NEWS NETWORK

PAHALGAM: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah interacted with members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) during the 445th Council Meeting, being held at the picturesque tourist destination of Pahalgam.

As many as 130 members of ICAI, including their families, are attending the four-day meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to ICAI for choosing Pahalgam as the venue for such a landmark event and reposing trust in the J&K Government after the unfortunate and tragic incident at Baisaran in April this year.

"Your presence here is not just symbolic; it is a true morale booster for all of us in Jammu and Kashmir," the Chief Minister said.

Adding that, "It reflects your belief

in this place, its resilience, and its future. The fact that you have come here with your families sends a powerful message of confidence and support."



The Chief Minister highlighted the long-standing contribution of ICAI to nation building and acknowledged the organisation's global presence.

He emphasised the importance of collaboration between ICAI and the J&K Government in promoting good governance, transparency,

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Kulgam anti-terror operation called off after 12 days

Terrorists manage to escape despite intensive efforts, heavy forces' deployment

Kulgam: The prolonged anti-terror operation in the Akhal forest area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district was officially called off on Tuesday, bringing to an end 12 days of one of the longest counter-terror operations in recent years.

An official informed that the decision was taken after security forces, despite an exhaustive search through dense alpine forests and rugged terrain, found no fresh contact with the terrorists believed to have been hiding in the area.

"After continuous search and combing for nearly two weeks, and with no further movement detected, the operation was concluded this morning," he said.

The encounter began on August 1 after specific intelligence inputs suggested the presence of at least two to three heavily armed terrorists in the higher reaches of Kulgam. The initial contact led to a gunfight that spread over several days.

Two Army soldiers—Pritpal

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DC Kathua flags off mega cycle rally under Har Ghar Tiranga campaign

KATHUA: District Administration Kathua organised a mega cycle rally under the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga campaign to instill patriotic fervour among the masses ahead of Independence Day celebrations.

Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma flagged off the rally from Sports Stadium Kathua. The rally passed through Tangri Palace and culminated at Boys Higher Secondary School Kathua.

A large number of students from various government and private educational institutions

participated in the rally, braving the rainy spell and showcasing high patriotic enthusiasm.

Speaking on the occasion,



the DC appreciated the spirit of young participants and urged the people of Kathua to take part in Independence Day celebrations

at district, sub-district and sub-division levels. He called upon citizens to hoist the national flag at their homes, offices and

establishments to mark their participation in the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.

The DC further said that such

initiatives not only strengthen the sense of unity and national pride but also inspire the younger generation to uphold the values of freedom and sacrifice for which countless heroes laid down their lives.

Chief Education Officer Kathua informed that schools across the district are celebrating the campaign as per the District Administration's plan. He lauded the zeal of students, who raised patriotic slogans of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and charged the atmosphere with nationalistic fervour despite the weather conditions.

Five-kilometre human chain glows in Tricolours under Har Ghar Tiranga campaign 2025 in Poonch

POONCH: In a display of patriotism and unity, District Administration Poonch, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma, organised a five-kilometre human chain as part of the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga campaign 2025.

The event commenced from the iconic SK Bridge, where Deputy Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police Shafket Hussain Batt, ADCC Pankaj Magotra, senior district officers and police officers, along with enthusiastic students, flagged off the proceedings by proudly waving a long stretch of the

national flag.

Stretching from SK Bridge to Village Darela, the human

cadets and NSS volunteers – came together to form this symbolic chain of solidarity.



chain spanned both sides of the road, forming a sight of saffron, white and green. Over 5,000 participants – including officers and employees of the District Administration, police personnel, school children, NCC

Each participant held the tricolour high, turning the entire route into a corridor of national pride. The event not only showcased the spirit of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav but also served as a unifying moment for

the people of Poonch, reinforcing the message of unity, patriotism and community participation.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner commended the collective effort of the people of Poonch in making the event a grand success.

He emphasised that such initiatives strengthen the bond between citizens and the nation, especially as India celebrates its rich legacy of freedom and progress.

The human chain concluded at Village Darela with the singing of patriotic songs, echoing through the hills of Poonch, leaving behind a memory of unity and pride.

JKCIP Kisan Sampark Abhiyan launched in Doda to strengthen agri-rural financing

DODA: The Agriculture Production Department J&K, in collaboration with Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu, launched the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan in Doda district at



Community Hall Bhaderwah under the Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project in J&K. The initiative began with Rural Credit Workshops aimed at improving farmers' access to easy credit facilities, thereby boosting agricultural productivity, profitability and sustainability.

The inaugural programme was held at the Community Hall, Bhaderwah, under the leadership of Prof B N Tripathi, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Jammu, and Sandeep Kumar (IFS), Mission Director JKCIP. The event was

graced by Dhanater Singh Kotwal, Chairperson District Development Council Doda; Daleep Singh Parihar, Member Legislative Assembly; Roshan Lal, Additional District Development Commissioner Doda; Sunil Kumar

The inaugural workshop witnessed participation from over 300 farmers who received detailed guidance on credit facilities available through various schemes, including those promoting agri-niche crops, horticulture development, Farmer Producer Organisations, startup incubation and market linkages. Representatives from leading banks and financial institutions provided information on loan products, funding procedures and insurance coverage. Each participant also received a comprehensive brochure on JKCIP components, such as PMFBY, KCC, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, HADP and others.

Under JKCIP, selected blocks in Doda will host multiple Rural Credit Workshops in the coming weeks to ensure farmers in all areas have access to resources, information and opportunities to enhance their livelihoods.

The programme is jointly implemented by the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Agriculture Production Department, Government of J&K, with the aim of improving competitiveness, sustainability and income opportunities for farmers and stakeholders across agriculture and allied sectors

Bhutyal, Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah; Dr Neeraj Kotwal, Chief Scientist KVK Doda; Amjad Malik, Chief Agriculture Officer; Raghu Nath Upadhaya, Chief Horticulture Officer; Dr Irfan Wani, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer; Dr Gurjeet Singh, District Sheep Husbandry Officer along with representatives from NABARD and J&K Bank.

Addressing the gathering, dignitaries encouraged farmers to take full advantage of government and central schemes under JKCIP to strengthen their agricultural ventures.

Vibrant Tiranga Rally at Sanasar showcases patriotism, promotes tourism

RAMBAN: Amid the mesmerizing scenic views of Sanasar with its hills and meadows awash in tricolours, the District Administration Ramban today organised a vibrant Har Ghar Tiranga rally and series of patriotic events.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, led the rally, joined by SSP Arun Gupta, ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak, ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo, CEO Mukhtar Ahmed, DFO Ramban Bishan Dass, DFO Batote Abhinav Rehmotra, Tehsildar, Dr. Rujeeta Mahajan and other officers. More than 1,000 students, youth and locals enthusiastically participated in the celebrations.

The day's main attractions included a Tiranga Shikara Rally, a Tiranga Horse Riders Rally, the stunning display of tricolours around the Sanasar Lake, and captivating cultural performances by students. Visitors to the tourist destination also joined the festivities, contributing to the spirited display of patriotism.

The Tiranga Shikara Rally on the serene waters of Sanasar

Lake drew loud cheers as boats, adorned with fluttering tricolours, glided across the sparkling surface, creating a



breathtaking spectacle.

The Tiranga Horse Riders Rally added a unique traditional touch, with riders proudly carrying the National Flag through the surrounding meadows, symbolising courage and pride. The entire lakeside area was decorated with vibrant flags, turning the landscape into a sea of saffron, white, and green. Meanwhile, students from various schools showcased their talent through patriotic songs, dances and skits, drawing applause from the crowd.

At Gool, the Sub-Divisional

Administration also organized a Tiranga Rally from the Judicial Office to Hospital Gool. Led by SDM Imtiaz Ahmed, the rally saw

enthusiastic participation from students, teachers and locals, with the streets adorned in the vibrant hues of the tricolour, reflecting a strong spirit of patriotism and community pride.

At Khari, a vibrant Tiranga Yatra was carried out in Tehsil Khari, witnessing the enthusiastic participation of over 400 students and locals.

The event was led by Tehsildar Khari S. Harvir Singh, along with the BDO Khari and Police Post In-charge Khari. Similar events were also held in other tehsils across the district.

Div Com reviews arrangements for Independence Day celebrations 2025 at M A Stadium



JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar visited M A Stadium to review arrangements for the divisional level Independence Day celebration 2025.

DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua, DIG Traffic, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, SSP Security, heads of departments and senior officers of police and civil administration were present.

At the venue, the Divisional Commissioner reviewed preparations made by concerned departments, including seating arrangements, security, parking, entry gates, transportation for participants and citizens, power supply, drinking water, medical facilities, sanitation, decoration, toilets and other necessary arrangements.

Nodal officers from concerned departments were directed to ensure the best arrangements for the national festival, including waterproof tents, media gallery and parking signages. The Traffic Department was asked to provide wide publicity to parking spots from where RTC buses will ferry citizens to the venue.

Mega "Tiranga Rally" organised at District Headquarter Kishtwar

KISHTWAR: In a powerful display of unity and patriotism, thousands of people gathered today across the District Kishtwar to participate in the Tiranga Rallies, held under the banner of the nationwide 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign.

At District Headquarter Kishtwar a Mega Tiranga Rally was led by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pawan Kotwal and Assistant Superintendent of Police, Pardeep Singh with active and massive involvement from civil society and various government departments.

The rally, which commenced from Dak Bungalow Chowk, passed through prominent town locations including Bun Astan, Hidayal Chowk, Mini Bus Stand, Main Bus Stand and Gurudwara Chowk, finally culminating at Chowgan Ground, Kishtwar.

Citizens from all walks of life – students, teachers, government officers officials, and local residents - marched

together, waving the national flag and chanting slogans such as "Har Ghar Tiranga," "Bharat Mata

& Sports, and both civil and police administrations for organizing the impactful event.



ki jai," "Hindustan Zindabad," and "Vande Mataram."

The atmosphere was electric with patriotic fervor, as locals lined the streets to cheer and support the initiative.

Addressing the enthusiastic crowd at Chowgan Ground, Pawan Kotwal underlined the significance of such public engagements in nurturing a spirit of national unity, especially among the youth.

He praised the efforts of the Education Department, Department of Youth Services

Similar Tiranga Rallies were simultaneously held across all sub-divisional and tehsil headquarters of the district, drawing thousands of additional participants and reinforcing the district's collective commitment to the national cause.

CEO KDA Kaiser Bhawani, DSWO Zubair Ahmed, DIO Dr Kuldeep Kumar, ARTO Tasleem Wani, CEO Municipal Council Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal, Dy. SP Headquarters Dr. Ishan Gupta and other senior officers were present during the event.

Committee on Public Accounts visits healthcare institutions in Jammu city

JAMMU: The Committee on Public Accounts (PAC) under the Chairmanship of MLA Sham Lal Sharma inspected various healthcare institutions in Jammu city to assess the infrastructural facilities and overall medicare being provided to the people there.

Pertinently, the Committee had decided to conduct this two day on spot visit to various health institutions of Jammu division following examination of pending CAG paras pertaining to Health Department in the meeting held at Assembly Secretariat last week.

The Committee visited GMC Jammu, Bone & Joint Hospital Jammu, Super Speciality Hospital Jammu, State Cancer Institute Jammu, Drug Controller Office J&K Jammu, Directorate of AYUSH Jammu and Ayushman Bharat.

Members of the Committee including Mubarak Gul, Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurezi), Qaysar Jamshaid Lone, Altaf Ahmed Wani (Kalo), Javid Hassan Baig, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, Sajad Shaheen and Muzaffar Iqbal Khan were also present during the visit.

The Committee, during its visit to Government Medical College Jammu, held a meeting with Dr. Syed Abid Rashid, Secretary Health and Medical Education, Principal, GMC, Dr. Ashutosh Gupta and other HODs of GMC.

Principal GMC presented an overview of healthcare facilities available in the

GMC, staff strength, laboratories, latest operation theaters and other utilities.

the Committee of working of the hospital. At Super Speciality Hospital Jammu,



Later, Principal Government Dental College Jammu, HODs of different branches of GMC and its associate hospitals briefed the Committee about the working and issues being faced by them.

They also highlighted other development activities of GMC and their associated hospitals.

The Chairman and the members of the PAC gave patient hearing to them and expressed their concern regarding shortage of staff in health institutions.

The members also gave suggestions about further development and streamlining of health infrastructure in Jammu.

At Bone & Joint Hospital Jammu, the Committee visited Spinal and Orthopedics wards and enquired about the facilities being extended to patients there.

The concerned authorities apprised

the Committee inspected the Cath Lab and ICU.

At State Cancer Institute Jammu, the Committee visited and examined department of Nuclear Medicine PET-CT Scan Console Room and Department of Radiation Oncology and department of Medical physics (Brachytherapy).

During the inspections, the Chairman of the Committee and other members took stock of health infrastructure and medical facilities available in these hospitals.

The Committee also examined developmental infrastructures in these health institutions.

At Directorate of AYUSH Jammu, the Committee also held a meeting with the officers of Directorate of AYUSH and examined the working of the hospital. It had feed back on physical and financial achievements.

Awareness Programme on 'Silkworm Techniques and Cocoon Harvesting' organized in Reasi

REASI: The Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, in association with the Sericulture Development Department (SDD), Government of Jammu & Kashmir, successfully organized an awareness programme on "Silkworm Techniques and Cocoon Harvesting" under the flagship campaign "Mera Resham Mera Abhiman" (MRMA) at Panchayat Garh, Granmore, District Reasi.

The programme aimed to educate silkworm rearers on best practices for improving the quality and quantity of cocoon production.

Surinder Bhat, Scientist-D,

Central Silk Board, Dehradun, briefed participants on the objectives of the MRMA campaign and emphasized the significance of using proper mountages during spinning, sorting techniques and the precautions to be taken during cocoon harvesting and storage.

Rajeev Gupta, District Sericulture Officer, SDD, Reasi, shared valuable insights on prescribed silkworm rearing techniques for enhancing Bioline (BV) cocoon production.

Sushil Kumar, In-charge, highlighted the importance of regular bed cleaning and the use of "Vijeta" during rearing to

prevent diseases and improve yield.

Around 30 farmers participated in the programme and expressed their appreciation for the technical guidance and practical tips provided by the experts.

They acknowledged the relevance of the MRMA campaign in improving their rearing practices and boosting their livelihood opportunities.

The event also saw active participation from Sanjeev Kumar and Sushil Sharma of SDD Reasi, who contributed to the successful organization of the awareness drive.

Secretary IT Department reviews Single Window System

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Information Technology (IT) Department, Dr. Piyush Single, chaired a high-level meeting at the Civil Secretariat, to review the progress on Single Window System and migration of the Data Centre.

The meeting was attended by Chief Executive Officer, Jammu and Kashmir e-Governance Agency; Managing Director, SICOP; Director Finance, Information Technology Department; Additional Secretaries, Information Technology Department; Additional Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; Manager, SICOP and SeMT.

The participants deliberated on the end-to-end integration of services under the Single Window System, aimed at providing the citizens and businesses with seamless and unified access to government services. Discussions also focused on the current status of Data Centre migration, identifying key challenges, and setting timelines for completion of the pending tasks.

The Secretary stressed the importance of integration of Single Window System with all the stakeholders to serve the purpose of true means of single window and provide end-to-end service under this platform, enhanced service delivery and improved efficiency in governance processes.

DC Reasi approves 252 cases under Mission YUVA to boost youth entrepreneurship

REASI: To strengthen youth empowerment and entrepreneurship, Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik chaired the District Level Implementation Committee meeting to review and approve cases under the Mission YUVA scheme.

The committee held detailed discussions on applications received through the Skill and Business Development Unit. After thorough scrutiny and evaluation, the committee headed by the Deputy Commissioner approved 252 cases for financial assistance and institutional support under the initiative.

The DC highlighted the importance of Mission YUVA in providing skill development, promoting

entrepreneurship and creating self-employment opportunities for the district's youth.

She emphasised the need for robust post-approval support and regular follow-up to ensure the sustainable success of approved ventures.

She further stressed coordinated efforts among departments to maximise the scheme's outreach and effectiveness.

Banks were also directed to ensure fast processing and disbursement of cases.

The meeting was attended by ADCC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, Assistant Director Employment Annie Vaid, representatives from banks, DIC and other concerned officers.

CM Omar Abdullah visits Shalimar Garden to take stock of restoration works



FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today visited the historic Mughal Garden Shalimar to inspect the ongoing conservation works being undertaken with the assistance of JSW Foundation under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by the Commissioner Secretary,

Floriculture, Gardens & Parks, Director Floriculture Kashmir and representatives of the JSW Foundation.

During the visit, the Chief Minister inspected various key heritage monuments of the garden, including the Pink Pavilion, Rani Mahal, and Black Pavilion. Detailed briefings were given regarding the progress of restoration and conservation activities.

On-the-spot directions were issued

to expedite the pace of work and ensure the timely completion of all identified pending tasks, while maintaining the essence of heritage conservation.

Pertinently six Mughal Gardens of Kashmir, including Shalimar, are presently enlisted in UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites. The Department of Floriculture has undertaken restoration and conservation works to preserve the originality, authenticity, and cultural integrity of these heritage gardens for future generations.

The conservation works presently in progress focus on structural restoration, landscape development, preservation of architectural features, and enhancement of visitor amenities – all in harmony with the historical character of the site. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah appreciated the collaborative efforts of the Department and the JSW Foundation in safeguarding this invaluable heritage and stressed the need for sustained conservation measures.

Committee on Public Undertakings reviews Audit Paras of JKPDCL

Committee resolves to fix responsibility, initiate action against erring officers

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: The Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU) of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened a meeting at Assembly Complex here to review the Audit Paras of J&K Power Development Corporation Limited (JKPDCL).

The meeting was chaired by Ali Mohammad Sagar, Chairman COPU and attended by the Committee members including Saifullah Mir, Ali Mohammad Dar, Mir Mohammad Fayaz, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Dr. Bashir Ahmad Shah (Veeri), Showkat Hussain Ganie, Saif-ud-Din Bhat and Tanvir Sadiq.

Principal Accountant General, Principal Secretary PDD, Secretary Science and Technology department, MD's of KPDC, JPDC and JKPDCL, Director General Accounts and Treasuries, Director General Development Expenditure Division-I, Director Finance PDD, Chief Engineers of different wings of KPDC, JPDC and JKPDCL and other senior officers of



the Power Development Department and other sister agencies.

During the meeting, the COPU examined various audit observations and other irregularities flagged by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in the functioning of JKPDCL.

During the deliberations, the Chairman emphasized the urgent need to ensure accountability and transparency in the Corporation's operations. He directed the officers to fix responsibility on any kind of negligence and take strict action against the erring officers as per

established norms.

The Chairman informed that several projects are being executed for unprecedented period of time rather than the fixed timelines as mentioned in DPRs. He called upon the officers to formulate DPRs as per established norms so that there is no hindrance and delay in the execution of any project.

The Chairman, during the meeting, also called upon the members to make department accountable and responsible through proper corrective action measures

which can be flagged in these forums. He stressed that PSUs must uphold the highest standards of financial discipline and operational efficiency to safeguard the public resources and contribute something for public good.

The Chairman also directed the Principal Secretary PDD to submit an action-taken report within a month, detailing measures adopted to address the audit objections and prevent recurrence of such lapses in future.

The COPU, during the meeting, resolved that responsibility will be fixed on the officers found guilty of negligence or irregularities and strict action will be recommended against those who have failed in their duties.

The Members of the Committee also expressed concern over lapses, procedural violations and delays in execution of various projects from time to time. They also raised the issue of inflated bills of consumers in unmetered and far flung areas during the meeting and called for immediate rectification of this issue on genuine public demand.

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The meeting was attended by Chief Executive Officer, Jammu and Kashmir e-Governance Agency; Managing Director, SICOP; Director Finance, Information Technology Department; Additional Secretaries, Information Technology Department; Additional Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department; Manager, SICOP and SeMT. The participants deliberated on the end-to-end integration of services under the Single Window System, aimed at providing the citizens and businesses with seamless and unified access to government services. Discussions also focused on the current status of Data Centre migration, identifying key challenges, and setting timelines for completion of the pending tasks. The Secretary stressed the importance of integration of Single Window System with all the stakeholders to serve the purpose of true means of single window and provide end-to-end service under this platform, enhanced service delivery and improved efficiency in governance processes.

Kashmir's Sozni heartland set for makeover as Craft Tourism Village

Central Govt sanctions Rs 10 Cr to develop infrastructure & create cultural ambience in Sonpah, Budgam

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: In a major boost to the famed craft sector of Kashmir, Government of India sanctioned Craft Tourism Village for art treasure trove of Sonpah, enroute picturesque Doodhpathri in Budgam District, at a total cost of 10.00 Cr.

The sanction is accompanied by the release of first instalment of Central share of 4.50 Cr by the Union Ministry of Textiles under the flagship National Handicrafts Development Programme's Infrastructure and Technology Support Scheme.

The project will be implemented by the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, and the funds shall be routed through Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India.

In a press release issued, an elated spokesman of the department thanked the Central Government for sanctioning the project and recognizing Sonpah's



legacy of Sozni craft artisans. "As many as 22 craftsmen from this Village of Awardees have distinguished themselves by winning many UT level and Shilp Guri Awards," he added.

En route the famous tourist destinations of Doodhpathri and Tossa Maidan, the Craft Tourism Village at Sonpah shall provide a great window of opportunity to the visiting tourists and art lovers for having a firsthand appraisal of the living crafts. "Under the project, the Department shall develop aesthetic enhancements

like designer gates, mural paintings, cultural and interactive zones including Live Craft Demos; common workspaces for Display-cum-Sale counters, infrastructure development, community facilities and access to market and branding," he added.

Highlighting the significance of Craft Tourism Villages for a Nature Destination like Kashmir, the spokesman said these works will transform Sonpah into a Modern Tourism Hub while preserving its rich cultural and craft heritage.

DC Kupwara Chairs Mission YUVA Meeting

FE News Network

KUPWARA: A review meeting on Mission YUVA was convened at the DC Office Complex, Kupwara, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse.

During the meeting, Incharge of YUVA Helpdesk Kupwara, delivered a detailed presentation highlighting the objectives, progress, and challenges under Mission YUVA in the district.

DC, while reviewing the progress, issued strict directions to all concerned departments to achieve the set targets within the stipulated timeframe. He emphasized that YUVA DOOTs with lower performance must intensify their efforts to meet the expectations of the mission.

Further, DC instructed that Self-Business Development Unit (SBDU) officials must strictly adhere to proper procedures and transparent dispensation while processing applications under the scheme, ensuring benefits reach deserving youth promptly.

District Kupwara has emerged as the leading recipient of online applications among all districts in Jammu and Kashmir under Mission YUVA, with a total of 3702 applications received. Of these 915 cases have been approved by the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC). 177

applications have been sanctioned by banks. 85 cases have resulted in disbursement of funds by banks.

An additional 300 applications are poised for approval in the upcoming DLIC meeting



scheduled for August 18, 2025.

Mission YUVA is a flagship initiative aimed at empowering and facilitating youth towards self-employment and entrepreneurial ventures, thereby enhancing livelihood opportunities across the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Kupwara, Mufti Mohammad Fareed Uddin; General Manager DIC, Sameer Jaan; Lead District Manager (LDM) Kupwara; nominated YUVA DOOTs; and officials from the Employment department, District Industries Centre Kupwara, and the ADDC office.

JKEDI hosts special event on 'Entrepreneurship in J&K: Possibilities & Prospects'

Align your entrepreneurial goals with Viksit Bharat-2047: Khursheed Ganaie tells entrepreneurs

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Tuesday organised a special event titled "Entrepreneurship in Jammu and Kashmir: Possibilities & Prospects" at its Main Campus, Pampore.

The keynote address was delivered by noted former bureaucrat Khursheed Ahmad Ganaie, drawing a diverse audience of stakeholders, students, startups, aspiring entrepreneurs and JKEDI faculty.

Secretary in Industries & Commerce Department and Director JKEDI, Khalid Jahangir, underlined the institute's focus on preparing entrepreneurs to contribute to the Viksit Bharat 2047 mission, India's vision of becoming a developed nation by its centennial year of independence.

Speaking as the Chief Guest, Khursheed Ganaie underscored the transformative potential of the "Viksit Bharat 2047" vision, describing it as a pivotal moment for both India and the Union



Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

"As India races to become the third-largest economy, our youth, entrepreneurs and startups must develop a scientific temper, upgrade their skills, embrace technology and actively participate in nation-building," he said.

Khursheed Ganaie highlighted that entrepreneurship in the coming decades will be shaped by emerging sectors. He urged the innovators to break the traditional boundaries and tap into opportunities across India and abroad. He suggested some key areas including Renewable Energy & Climate Action, Electric

Vehicles (EVs), Drones & Emerging Technologies, Agriculture and allied sectors and Tourism & Hospitality.

On climate action, he stressed the scope in biomass and waste processing, wind energy and circular economy models, calling for innovative approach to reduce landfills and convert municipal waste into resources. Referring to a NITI Aayog report, he noted that India's EV market is projected to reach \$200 billion by 2030, presenting opportunities in battery manufacturing, charging infrastructure, and allied services.

Khursheed Ganaie also pointed to the expanding role of drones

in logistics, courier services and agriculture, alongside growth prospects in semiconductor manufacturing, AI, IoT, 3D printing, cyber security and data analytics.

In the agriculture sector, he mentioned the vertical farming, greenhouse cultivation, horticulture storage, lavender cultivation under the Purple Revolution, dairy farming and organic farming as lucrative ventures. Wellness, trekking, fitness and hospitality, he added, can help J&K carve a distinct identity in national and global markets.

"A successful startup must be innovative, scalable and profitable, while aligning with the modern technology or sustainable practices. I urge the government to provide direction and dynamism, while the youth seize these opportunities with creativity and hard work," he remarked.

The seminar concluded with an interactive discussion, where the participants explored ways to align local entrepreneurship with national development goals.

CS for making KIWSF a grand showcase of local tourism, art, culture

Around 800 participants from 28 States competing in 5 water sports disciplines at Dal Lake

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a high-level meeting with senior officers from the civil administration and Police to review preparedness for the maiden edition of the Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) 2025, scheduled to be held on the iconic Dal Lake from 21st to 23rd August.

Calling the event a unique opportunity to project Kashmir's multifaceted charm on a national platform, the Chief Secretary emphasised that the festival must be converted into a grand celebration of local tourism, handicrafts, art and culture. He directed the Handicrafts & Handloom Department to organise top-class exhibitions, highlighting the region's rich craftsmanship to the visitors expected during the event.

The Chief Secretary noted that the timing of the festival coinciding with the peak tourist season in Srinagar has offered an ideal occasion to create lasting impressions on visiting the athletes, officials and spectators. He asked the Youth



Services & Sports Department to ensure flawless conduct so that the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports considers Srinagar as a regular venue for the festival in the years ahead.

Reviewing arrangements in detail, the Chief Secretary took stock of venue readiness, sports infrastructure, boarding and lodging facilities for athletes, security measures and branding and publicity.

He directed all the concerned departments like that of Tourism, PDD, Jal Shakti, Traffic, Hospitality & Protocol, Civil Aviation, Airports Authority, LCMA, Handicrafts & Handloom, SDRF, Health and Fire & Emergency Services to deliver their responsibilities with the highest standards of efficiency. Commissioner Secretary,

Youth Services & Sports, Sarmad Hafeez, while informing the meeting about this festival said that the department aims to position Srinagar as the "Sports Capital of India" and make it a regular annual affair.

Drawing from the department's experience of successfully hosting five editions of the Khelo India Winter Games, he assured that robust arrangements shall be put in place to welcome around 800 athletes and officials from 28 States/UTs, who will compete in five water sports disciplines over the three days of the festival.

He further detailed out that competitive events will be held in Kayaking, Canoeing and Rowing, while Dragon Boat, Water Skiing and a unique Shikara Race will

feature as demonstration sports. The festival mascot, the Kashmiri Kingfisher and its logo featuring a Shikara set against mountain backdrops symbolise the blend of nature, adventure and Kashmiri heritage, he added.

Secretary, Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, briefed that coordination committees have been formed for different functional areas, with a dedicated State Liaison Officer (SLO) assigned to each team for their information and smooth facilitation.

She also divulged the details about an elaborate opening ceremony, complemented by a drone light show, live traditional folk dances, celebrity performances and food & craft stalls showcasing local street cuisine, art, culture, and SHG products.

Being organised by the J&K Sports Council in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports and the Sports Authority of India, the festival is set to be a landmark event, celebrating Kashmir's nature, adventure and cultural spirit in unison.

SKUAST-K promotes medicinal, aromatic plant cultivation in Gurez

FE News Network

BANDIPORA: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), through its Division of Forest Products and Utilization (FPU) in collaboration with MAR&ES and KVK Gurez, organized a one-day distribution-cum-training programme on 'Cultivation and Popularization of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) for Livelihood Security of Tribal Farmers' under the AICRP Sub Tribal Plan (STP).

The programme was held under the directions of Vice Chancellor



SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganaie, with guidance from Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth and Prof. Haroon Rashid Naik, and supported

by the technical teams of MAR&ES and KVK Gurez.

Experts including Prof. P.A. Sofi, Dr. Hilal Ahmad Malik, Dr. A.R. Malik, and Dr. Tahir Mushtaq highlighted Gurez Valley's vast potential for MAP

cultivation, value addition, and market linkages, calling it a sustainable income source for tribal households.

Participants were trained on cultivation techniques, conservation, and product development such as herbal teas, essential oils, and nutraceuticals.

As part of the initiative, agricultural tool kits and high-quality plantation material were distributed among tribal farmers to encourage adoption.

Editorial

Kashmir's Shifting Mood

In the run-up to Independence Day, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a heartening and historic spectacle, Tiranga rallies sweeping across towns, villages, and cities with unmatched enthusiasm. From Srinagar's bustling streets to the serene valleys of Poonch, lacs of people poured out, proudly carrying the tricolour, singing patriotic songs, and celebrating the spirit of India.

This overwhelming participation reflects a remarkable shift in the region's public mood. For decades, Independence Day celebrations here were marked by security concerns and muted gatherings. This year, the streets were alive with colour, music, and an infectious sense of togetherness. Children, youth, women, and the elderly, all joined hands to make the rallies a grand success, turning every locality into a festival ground of national pride.

What stands out is the diversity of the participants. Students waved the tricolour from school rooftops, shopkeepers decorated their markets, farmers carried flags into their fields, and women's groups led spirited processions. This was not just a government initiative, but a people's movement, a spontaneous embrace of the shared identity that binds the nation together.

The Tiranga rallies also showcased the deep emotional connection the people of Jammu and Kashmir feel with the rest of the country. The sight of entire neighbourhoods illuminated with saffron, white, and green lights spoke of an unshakable belief in unity and a collective future. It was a celebration of the idea that Jammu and Kashmir is not just a part of India geographically, but emotionally and culturally as well.

This surge of patriotic fervour carries a powerful message, that love for the nation can transcend differences and bring communities together. It reflects the optimism of a younger generation that sees peace, development, and national integration as the way forward. The rallies were not just a moment of celebration; they were a vision of the region's future, confident, vibrant, and in harmony with the national spirit.

As the tricolour fluttered proudly in every corner, it became clear that Independence Day 2025 will be remembered as a turning point in Jammu and Kashmir's story. The Tiranga rallies were more than processions, they were a reaffirmation of unity, a celebration of belonging, and a promise that the values of freedom, peace, and progress will guide the region in the years ahead. This Independence Day, Jammu and Kashmir didn't just raise the flag, it raised hope.

The Tragic State Of Educational Institutes



Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

Education is the soul of any nation and schools are its temples. It is the place where children's dreams take shape, thoughts get



wings and the foundation of the future is laid. But sadly, in India, especially in rural areas and economically backward regions, the condition of these temples is extremely worrisome. Many schools have broken roofs, large cracks in the walls, water leaking in the rain, broken windows, dilapidated benches and lack of basic facilities like drinking water and toilets.

Recently, seven innocent children died when a dilapidated wall of a government school collapsed in Jhalawar district of Rajasthan. This incident is not limited to any one school or state, but is a warning for the whole country. Every time such an accident happens, there is discussion for a few days, but then everything becomes normal, and the problem remains as it is. The question is, do we have to wake up only after children lose their lives?

The latest data from the Ministry of Education shows that there are more than 1.5 million primary and 1.5 lakh higher secondary schools in India. A large part of these are in rural areas, where very little attention is paid to the maintenance of buildings. Even today, lakhs of schools do not have separate toilets for girls, drinking water arrangements are inadequate and in many states, about one-third of the schools

are in dilapidated or semi-dilapidated condition.

The Right to Education Act 2009 guaranteed free and compulsory education to children between the ages of six and fourteen. It is also clearly written in this law that every school building should be safe, well-equipped and child-friendly. But the truth is that the paper provisions were not implemented on the ground. Children studying in dilapidated buildings face danger every

are more stressed, less likely to attend school regularly, and more likely to dropout. Classrooms flooded during the rainy season, sitting in a classroom without a fan or ventilation in summers is difficult, and cold air coming in from broken windows in winters affects children's health.

In our country, only about 2.9 per cent of the GDP is spent on education, while the international recommendation is at least 6 per cent. The amount allocated for repair

But improving the building alone will not solve the problem. Adequate appointment of teachers, availability of libraries, laboratories, sports equipment and modern teaching aids are equally important. The school environment will become inspiring only when children feel safe there and have all the resources available for learning.

School buildings are not just brick and stone structures, they are fortresses that protect the dreams and future of children. When this fortress itself is weak and dilapidated, how will the foundation of education be strong? The time has come that the

The Right to Education

Act 2009 guaranteed free and compulsory education to children between the ages of six and fourteen. It is also clearly written in this law that every school building should be safe, well-equipped and child-friendly. But the truth is that the paper provisions were not implemented on the ground. Children studying in dilapidated buildings face danger every day, and the right to education remains confined only to books.

government, society and citizens should all join together to repair these temples. Investing in education is not just an expenditure, but the most profitable capital investment, because only a safe and educated child becomes a responsible citizen of tomorrow.

If we don't repair these broken walls and roofs today, tomorrow our future generations will search for their dreams among these rubbles. It is not just a question of repairing school buildings, it is a question of repairing the future of India.

Author is an Independent columnist and social analyst. He can be mailed at satywanverma333@gmail.com

Gift of Life

Why Organ Donation Should Be Everyone's Legacy



Vinod Chandrashekhar Dixit

August 13 of every year is observed as World Organ Donation Day aimed at raising awareness about the importance of organ donation and encourage people to take a pledge for the same. This day strives to encourage people to donate their healthy organs after death in order to save more lives. The first-ever organ donation was done in 1954 when Ronald Lee Herrick donated a kidney to his identical twin brother. Doctor Joseph Murray conducted the procedure for which he has also won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1990 for advances in organ transplantation.

Donating organs like the kidneys, heart, pancreas, eyes, lungs, etc can help save the lives of those who are suffering from chronic illnesses. Numerous people lose their lives due to the unavailability of healthy organs that could save them. This day aims to help people realise that volunteering to donate their organs after death can be life-changing for many. The term organ donation means donating one's organs that are in healthy condition after a person dies. Organs including kidneys, heart, pancreas, eyes, lungs, and liver can be donated to save people who are suffering from any chronic illnesses. By observing World Organ Donation Day, people around the world will realise that volunteering to donate their organs after death can be life-changing for many who are patiently waiting. The day also focuses on sensitising and motivating people towards assuring them to donate organs and save more lives. Organ transplantation is nothing less than a miracle of the twentieth century, which has improved lives of hun-

dreds of thousands of patients worldwide. An organ donor could save up to 8 lives and enhance the lives of more than 100 people through tissue donation. Organ donation is a social act and it's

giving one's organs is giving someone a new life, anyone can volunteer to be an organ donor irrespective of their age, caste, and religion. Nearly 5 lakh people die in India every year for

uffering from non-Covid illnesses has been equally profound. The gift of an organ is like a gift of life. But, organ donation is not widely known or understood yet. Thus, people may feel that only

tion from deceased donors is slowly gaining momentum in India.

Organ donation is a helpful act by the donor that can help in saving a life of a person and also



considered to be an honor. Organ donation can happen from a brain-dead owner or a living donor.

One person can save up to eight lives from chronic illness by pledging to donate their heart, kidney, pancreas, lungs, liver, intestines, hands, face, tissues, bone marrow, and stem cells. Donat-

want of organs, while 2 lakh people die of liver disease, 50,000 of heart diseases. Of the 1.5 lakh people awaiting kidney transplant, only 5,000 get one. The emergence and spread of Covid-19 has brought great challenges to the healthcare system. While the country has lost hundreds of thousands to the illness, the effect on those suf-

fering from non-Covid illnesses has been equally profound. But, organ donation is much more than that. There is no age limit for this act of gifting life to the one in need. Organ donation has no age criteria. There are two systems for organ donation practiced worldwide, the family consent system and the presumed consent system. Organ dona-

Donating organs like the kidneys, heart, pancreas, eyes, lungs, etc can help save the lives of those who are suffering from chronic illnesses. Numerous people lose their lives due to the unavailability of healthy organs that could save them.

could help in improving the quality of life for many individuals. Organ transplantation is one of the greatest achievements that modern science has been able to accomplish.

Author Can Be Mailed At dixitpatrakar@yahoo.in

Satish Sharma Highlights Youth Empowerment, Sports Promotion At Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport,



and Information Technology, Satish Sharma, highlighted the immense potential of youth in ensuring the transformation of Nation.

He was addressing the students and faculty at the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme held at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS).

Director SKIMS, Dr Ashraf Ganie, Additional Director, Zahoor Ahmad Mir, Senior faculty members and students were pres-

ent on the occasion.

Describing the programme as a vision for a "Viksit Bharat", a developed India, where youth play a central role in shaping

competition; they build discipline, unity, and responsibility among our youth."

Commending SKIMS for promoting sports alongside its primary mission of

He reiterated the government's commitment to support the youth through better infrastructure, skill development, sports facilities and digital empowerment.

The Minister assured that SKIMS's request for developing the sports infrastructure would be examined on priority, adding, "When we invest in youth, we invest in the nation's future."

Satish Sharma called for collective efforts to eliminate the drug abuse, strengthen communities and work towards an India where health, education and opportunity are accessible to all. "The road to Viksit Bharat runs through the energy, creativity and determination of our youth and with your passion, we will get there," Sharma concluded.

Director SKIMS, while speaking on the occasion, highlighted the role of youth in different aspects of life.

Satish Sharma also e-inaugurated lift services in State Cancer Institute, Boom Barrier System and Bio Gas plant on the occasion.

He also released the Annual Appraisal Report of SKIMS on the occasion.

Satish Sharma also distributed the certificates and trophies among the winners of the cricket tournament organised by the SKIMS.

Abdul Rahim Rather Conducts Surprise Inspection Of Legislature Hostel Srinagar

FE NEWS NETWORK

Review ongoing development, upgradation works

SRINAGAR: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather conducted surprise inspection of Legislature Hostel Srinagar to gather first-hand appraisal of all ongoing development and upgradation works at hostel for the facilitation of legislators.

Secretary Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita; Executive Engineers of various wings; senior officers of Legislative Assembly Secretariat and other concerned officers also accompanied the Speaker during the visit.

During the inspection, the Speaker toured various sections of the New Block of the hostel, assessing the pace and quality of civil works, infrastructure improvements and other facilities. He directed the concerned executing agencies to maintain high standards of workmanship and adhere strictly to the stipulated timelines. He stressed that public resources must be utilized efficiently and works executed in a manner that reflects both quality and durability.

The Speaker also directed the concerned executive agency to renovate the rooms damaged re-

the face of the democracy and public and they need necessary facilities with dignity they deserve", he



cently in fire incident on immediate basis. He also took strong notice of lackadaisical approach in construction of compound wall which was damaged during 2014 floods.

Later, the Speaker also chaired a brief meeting to review the functioning of Legislature Hostel.

Speaking during the meeting, the Speaker instructed the management of the hostel to ensure proper upkeep, regular maintenance and modern amenities in the hostel to meet contemporary requirements of the legislators. "Legislators are

stated. He also underlined that the improvements in functioning of hostel will not only benefit the legislators but also uphold the dignity of the institution they serve.

Meanwhile, during the meeting, the Speaker also took stock of various issues of employees of Legislature Hostel. He directed the officers of Assembly Secretariat for timely conduct of DPC meetings of eligible staff members. He also called upon the officers to maintain proper discipline in the hostel and ensure proper uniform code for the staff.

Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan

Cultural Unit Srinagar conducts awareness prog. at Crescent Public School Naseem Bagh

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Cultural Unit Srinagar, Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), in collaboration with the district administration Srinagar, today organised an awareness programme at Government Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS) Sonwar under the Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan.

The programme was presided over by Principal, Masrat Jeelani and witnessed active participation of the teaching faculty, students, and officials of the Information Department.

Cultural Officer, Burhan Hussain addressed the gathering, highlighting the urgent need to shield the younger generation from the harmful effects of drug abuse and stressed the importance of joint community action in creating a drug-free society.

As part of the proceedings, students and staff took a



solemn anti-drug pledge, committing themselves to abstain from all harmful substances and to spread awareness within their communities.

Asks for convergence in various sectors

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Tuesday held an introductory meeting with district and sectoral officers to strengthen coordination, review departmental functioning, and chart a roadmap for improved public service delivery.

During the meeting, DC interacted with heads of all line departments, issued key directions, and sought detailed feedback on the prevailing work culture and sector-wise progress. She conducted a short department-wise review, emphasizing the need for professional work ethics, enhanced efficiency, and strict adherence to timelines.

DC assessed the status of ongoing



developmental projects, particularly those in remote and far-flung areas such

as Gurez Valley, and passed directions for speedy execution and completion

before the onset of winter to ensure uninterrupted delivery of public services.

She urged officers to work with dedication, transparency, and accountability, ensuring that government schemes and welfare initiatives reach the intended beneficiaries in a time-bound manner.

Highlighting her vision for the district, DC reiterated that her role would be to give tangible shape to creative and innovative ideas from officers and stakeholders, translating them into practical actions for the benefit of the people.

The meeting concluded with a renewed call for a collaborative and result-oriented approach, with the DC assuring full support to officers in achieving developmental goals while upholding the highest standards of governance.

MLA Kulgam presides over distribution/fitment camp

FE NEWS NETWORK

Distributes aids & appliances among CWSNs

KULGAM: A distribution-cum-fitment camp under the Samagra Shiksha was organized at Government Middle School Bongam.

The event, presided over by the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLSA) Kulgam, M.Y. Tarigami, was organized by Zonal Education Office Kulgam in collaboration with an expert team from ALIMCO, Kanpur for the distribution of aids and appliances among Children with Special Needs (CWSNs) assessed under the Inclusive Education initiative.

Prominent dignitaries present on the occasion included DDC Chairperson, M Afazal Paray; DDC Member Kulgam-B, Gh. Mohi-ud-Din; DDC Member Qaimoh, M Abbas Rather and Chief Education Officer Kulgam, M Shabir.

Addressing the gathering, MLA and other dignitaries lauded the efforts of the Education department in creating opportunities and robust support systems for CWSNs, thereby ensuring their seamless integration into the mainstream education system.

Tarigami emphasized the need for collective responsibility in ensuring greater care, inclusion, and support for such students.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, parents, teachers, and officials of the Education department.

Various aids and appliances were distributed to CWSNs, enabling them to pursue their education with greater ease, confidence, and dignity.



Rural Credit Workshop Under JKCIP held at block Khag in Budgam

FE NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Budgam in collaboration with line departments and J&K Bank conducted Rural credit workshop under Krishi Sampark Abhiyan-4.0 as part of the JKCIP initiative at village Khag in district Budgam.

The programme was presided over by Prof. and Head KVK Budgam Dr. Bilal Ahmad Lone. KVK Scientists Dr. Shabeer Ahmad Ganie, Dr. Ambreen Nabi, Dr. Iram Farooq, Sub-division level SMS from Agriculture, public representatives, officials from Agriculture & allied sectors, bank officials, KVK representatives, JKCIP officials and other stakeholders participated in the event.

The workshop aimed to generate awareness among farmers about various rural credit schemes, agricultural financing options and insurance schemes to ensure better access to financial resources for sustainable agriculture.

Dr. Bilal Ahmad Lone Prof. & Head said that KVK Budgam has been proactively implementing programmes that connect farmers with the latest scientific interventions and financial support systems. He assured that KVK Budgam will continue to work as a bridge between farmers, financial institutions and technical agencies, and urged farmers to actively engage with such programmes and avail the facilities designed for their socio-economic upliftment.

Dr. Shabeer Ahmad Ganie scientist from KVK in his address stressed upon all the stakeholders to work in unison to achieve the objective set under JKCIP. He also called for exploring opportunities in the niche crop for raising income of the farmers.

He discussed in detail about various projects through which farmers can create different units with 50% subsidy.

Experts from KVK Budgam, Agriculture & allied departments and financial institutions addressed

participants.

Dr Ambreen Nabi discussed protected cultivation which is one of the components in JKCIP. She guided the farmers on year-round cultivation of vegetables under protected structures.

Dr. Iram Farooq guided the farmers about various schemes of fisheries like financial assistance for fish farmers, fisheries management and marketing support.



More than 100 farmers, farm women and rural youth actively participated in the programme, interacting with experts and gaining valuable insights into government initiatives, banking procedures and allied agricultural services.

The event concluded with an interactive session held with team of experts from, KVK, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry and Bank, where participants raised queries and shared their experiences, paving the way for stronger linkages between farmers, banks and agricultural institutions in the district.

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Citizens Must

Pahalgam.
“Through Operation Mahadev and Operation Sindoor, we have avenged Pakistan’s brutality. If the terrorist country Pakistan sheds the blood of our citizens, then it will have to pay a very heavy price,” he said.
IG BSF Kashmir Frontier, Ashok Yadav; IG STC BSF Kashmir, Solomon Yash Kumar Minz; Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat; SSP Budgam Nikhil Borkar, other senior officials of BSF, civil and police administration, cyclists, and youth in large number were present at the felicitation ceremony. (DIPR)

Pakistan’s

Joint operations are being conducted regularly for this purpose,” he added.
Regarding Pakistan’s activities, the IG BSF Kashmir reiterated that the neighbouring country continues its attempts to send terrorists across the border through launching activities. “Our intelligence agencies provide us with timely inputs, and through effective coordination, we are aware of the most vulnerable areas,” he said—(KNO)

KP woman’s

of the banned terrorist outfit JKLF.
Sarla Bhat, a nurse, went missing from her hostel at Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences at Soura in April 1990 and was found dead in downtown Srinagar.
Officials said SIA, which recently took over the investigation of the case, conducted the raids at the residences of several persons who were formerly associated with the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) in connection with the murder.
Former JKLF leader Peer Noorul Haq Shah alias Air Marshal was among those whose houses were searched by the sleuths of the SIA.
“The strategic searches which were conducted at eight locations throughout District Srinagar have resulted in the recovery of some incriminating evidence which will help in unearthing the whole terrorist conspiracy with an ultimate aim to deliver justice to the victim and her family,” the officials said.
The State Investigation Agency was constituted within the Jammu and Kashmir Police in November 2021 for speedy investigation and prosecution in terror-related cases as well as coordinating with central agencies.
In a post on X, Amit Malviya, who heads the BJP’s information technology cell, said Bhat’s killing remains one of the most chilling reminders of the atrocities that triggered the mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits in 1990.
“Armed militants abducted her from her workplace, took her to an unknown location, and subjected her to horrific torture. She was gang-raped, mutilated, and killed — her

body cut into pieces and dumped to instill terror.
“Her murder was not just a heinous crime but part of the targeted campaign of ethnic cleansing against Kashmiri Pandits, aimed at driving the Hindu minority out of the Valley,” Malviya said.(PTI)

99.7%

The Ministry has also issued joint advisories with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to prevent unlawful evictions and promote smooth implementation of the Act—(KNO)

CM Omar

of pride, not just during official functions, Omar Abdullah called on citizens to “raise it higher — both physically and in the respect we give it — inspired by the sacrifices of those who came before us.”
Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister, along with Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, led a vibrant Tiranga Rally from the picturesque lawns of the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC). Ministers Sakina Itoo, Javed Rana, and Javed Dar were also present, alongside senior civil and police officers.
The rally saw enthusiastic participation from people across all walks of life, including youth, students, and community members. (DIPR)

CS reviews

sensitive data and promote cyber hygiene across the departments.
The UT administration has adopted a mix of rapid-response measures, structural reforms and long-term capacity-building initiatives to ensure uninterrupted delivery of e-Governance services.
During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took stock of the actions taken in line with his earlier directions and reiterated the government’s unwavering commitment to creating a secure, modern and resilient digital ecosystem. He stressed that no compromise should be made in securing the IT infrastructure of the UT.
The key initiatives that were reviewed included the Cyber Security Contingency Plan (CSCP).
Secretary IT, Dr. Piyush Singla, informed that a detailed proposal has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry for Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for approval.
With respect to ensuring endpoint and device security, it was revealed that over 4,500 devices have been secured with Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) solutions and more than 2,300 with Unified Endpoint Management (UEM) tools. The process is ongoing in major HoD offices and DC offices.
Another security measure taken is the restricted VPN Access. It was informed that the VPN usage is now limited to multi-factor authenticated users, with geo-fencing enabled to restrict access within India.
On the website security audits, it was revealed that of the 239 government websites, 140 have been restored post-compulsory security audits in compliance with CERT-In and OWASP norms, along with deployment of web application firewalls.
Additionally, it was informed that standard protocols are being enforced across the departments, unused domains are rationalised and cyber hygiene are being actively promoted across the departments.
Moreover, the meeting discussed the progress on merger of departmental data centres into a single, centralized State Data Centre (SDC). It was given out that the task would be completed within six months to ensure uniform

security standards and operational efficiency across all these offices and departments.
In addition, augmentation of SDC in Jammu is also being worked out. The capacity for 300 racks (100 racks in the first phase) is being created with Tier III/IV compliance and high redundancy. A dedicated Network Operations Centre (NOC) and Security Operations Centre (SOC) are being planned for real-time cyber threat monitoring in J&K.
About the IT Asset Census, it was revealed that thirteen departments have already submitted details of their IT infrastructure for comprehensive mapping.
The implementation of secure web protocols for video conferencing, transition from IPv4 to IPv6, disabling and white listing of USBs, rollout of e-SAM and capacity building in collaboration with CERT-In were debated threadbare as some other measures taken to ensure cyber security.
The meeting also emphasized awareness and training, with initiatives like Cyber Jagroota campaigns, awareness workshops and training sessions being conducted in both online and offline modes to sensitize the employees about safe cyber practices.
The Chief Secretary appreciated the progress achieved and directed the departments to expedite the pending measures to strengthen J&K’s cyber resilience. (DIPR)

Tiranga

expressed gratitude to the people of Jammu Kashmir, Youth, Nari Shakti, Public Representatives, Culture Department, Education Department, J&K Police and Security Forces, Educational institutions, NCC Cadets and all stakeholders for their historic participation and contribution to Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan.
“The skies of Jammu and Kashmir are shining with the tricolor. From the banks of the Jhelum to the Chenab and from the peaks of Pir Panjal to Harmukh, the echo of “Bharat Mata Ki Jai” can be heard everywhere. A new generation is rising, dedicated to the honour and glory of the tricolor. They have one resolve- to live and die for Maa Bharti,” the Lieutenant Governor said.
He said the “Weaves & Threads Activity” across schools, colleges, streets, and neighbourhoods in Jammu Kashmir, has ignited a new sense of purpose and resolve.
Events like Tiranga Mela, Tiranga Concerts, and Tiranga Bike Rallies organised across the UT in the last few days have also been a powerful medium to share the saga of our freedom fighters and spread the message of peace and national unity, the Lieutenant Governor further said.
The Lieutenant Governor appealed to all the sections of the society, especially the Youth of Jammu Kashmir to participate enthusiastically in the 3rd Phase of Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan starting from 13th August.
“Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan is a campaign of the dreams and aspirations of every youth. It is a symbol of self-reliant Jammu and Kashmir which is now charting a clear and resolute path toward the future. This campaign

is a pledge to make Jammu Kashmir the best in every field. The tricolour will fly high on the Government Buildings and all the houses across Jammu Kashmir. This is a campaign to celebrate our ideals and our unity,” the Lieutenant Governor said.
On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated the Kargil War Heroes and released a Monograph in the honour of the Martyrs of Jammu Kashmir.
Tiranga Concert, filled with patriotic ethos, paid a moving tribute to countless heroes and bravehearts and rekindled the spirit of the Indian freedom movement.
Chief Minister, Shri Omar Abdullah; Minister for Health & Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education and Social Welfare, Ms Sakeena Itoo; Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Shri Javed Ahmed Rana; Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election, Shri Javid Ahmad Dar; Chairperson, J&K Waqf Board, Dr Darakhshan Andrabi; Chief Secretary, Shri Atal Dulloo; DGP, Shri Nalin Prabhat; Principal Secretary Home, Shri Chandraker Bharti; Principal Secretary Culture, Shri Brij Mohan Sharma, people from all walks of life and residents of Srinagar, senior officials of Security forces, Police and Civil Administration joined the Tiranga Yatra. (DIPR)

Kulgam anti-terror

Singh and Harminder Singh—were killed, while at least ten others sustained injuries. One local terrorist was also killed in the initial exchange of fire. Sources said it appears the remaining terrorists managed to break the cordon.
The operation was marked by intermittent bursts of heavy gunfire as terrorists reportedly shifted positions deep within the forest cover. Security forces deployed drones, sniffer dogs, high-tech surveillance equipment, and attack helicopters to locate possible hideouts, but the thick vegetation and steep slopes made access extremely challenging. Large parts of the forest were cordoned off, with additional reinforcements rushed in from the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, CRPF, and elite Para (Special Forces).
A security official said that given the topography and the fact that the forest connects to higher ridges towards Pir Panjal, it is possible the terrorists managed to slip away during the operation.
The official said that while the encounter site has been cleared, surveillance in the area will

LG Sinha felicitates stakeholders for successful conduct of Amarnath Yatra

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha felicitated the officers of Amarnathji Shrine Board, Administration, J&K Police, Army, CAPFs, BRO, service providers, medical professionals, members of Non-Governmental Organisations,

Their incredible team spirit and hard work has ensured a safe, hassle-free and spiritually enriching Yatra that will be celebrated and remembered for years, he said.
“Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is a confluence of hu-



and other stakeholders for the successful conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025.
At a felicitation ceremony held at Raj Bhawan Auditorium, the Lieutenant Governor congratulated the people of J&K for making holy pilgrimage a rich spiritual experience for devotees.
“More than 4.14 Lakh devotees from across the country and the globe paid obeisance to Baba Barfani. Their enthusiasm and devotion and successful holy pilgrimage was a befitting reply to the enemy’s design of destabilising peace in J&K UT,” the Lieutenant Governor said.
The Lieutenant Governor expressed gratitude to the officers, civil society groups, Swachhagrahis, sanitation workers, volunteers, ponywalas, pithuwalas, Disaster Response Forces, Army, Police and Security personnel, media fraternity and all the stakeholders for their collective and coordinated efforts during the Yatra.
He also lauded the dedication and commitment of intelligence agencies, and all the officials engaged in Yatra duty who diligently made the journey of pilgrims safe and convenient.

manity and faith. Every pilgrim is now a brand ambassador for Jammu Kashmir,” the Lieutenant Governor said.
The Lieutenant Governor asked the officials to analyze and apply the experiences and lessons learned from this year’s pilgrimage, and take up the works on priority for better experience of the pilgrims in future.
He also expressed gratitude to the Government of India for the continuous support and guidance for the successful conduct of the Yatra.
On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor paid homage to the innocent civilians killed by Pakistan-Sponsored Terrorists in Pahalgam.
This year, comprehensive arrangements were put in place on both Yatra Tracks. To ensure the health and well-being of pilgrims, a comprehensive medical support system was established. Two 100-bed hospitals at the base camps, and a dedicated team of 1,222 medical professionals worked around the clock to provide health care services to pilgrims. Along the Yatra route, over 90 medical facilities provided a combined capac-

ity of 560 clinical beds, and 26 dedicated oxygen booths were also set up. For emergency response, a fleet of 45 ambulances, including 9 equipped for critical care, was deployed.
Several groundbreaking safety measures were introduced this year. For the first time, emergency communication systems were installed at seven key points on the Yatra track, successfully resolving nearly 100 distress calls. Real-time health screening was also arranged for pilgrims. There has been a 9% reduction in natural deaths compared to previous years.
A pre-paid system has been successfully implemented, with 1.84 lakh pilgrims utilizing services like palanquins and ponies through this facility. The system has created a transparent and efficient process, effectively curbing overcharging and providing prompt resolution for any complaints.
Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, in collaboration with the Rural Sanitation Department, adopted a zero-landfill approach to protect the environment. This initiative involved installing 7,000 toilets and engaging 6,500 ‘Swachhagrahis’ who diligently worked to maintain cleanliness during the holy pilgrimage.
Considerable improvements have been made to the yatra routes between 2022 and 2024. In a major upgrade, most of the tracks on the Baltal and Chandanwari routes leading to the holy cave have been widened to 12 feet. Installation of safety hand railings, along with disciplined track inspection, repair, and maintenance has been done for the first time.
An RFID-based tracking system was introduced for all registered pilgrims and service providers, enabling real-time monitoring of the routes and preventing unauthorized access.
Pilgrim safety was ensured through continuous, 24x7 monitoring of the yatra route through a live feed system.

In collaboration with various stakeholders, the Shrine Board has successfully ensured a continuous electricity supply through grid on the tracks and at the holy cave. Underground optical fibre cables have been laid on both the Yatra routes for uninterrupted tele-connectivity.
A wireless intranet network has been established for real-time monitoring of the yatra track. This year, PTZ cameras, static and head-count cameras, and RFID readers were installed on the Yatra track to ensure the safe journey of the pilgrims.
This year, the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board dedicated new Yatri Niwas facilities at Pantha Chowk, Srinagar, and Baltal, Ganderbal, to serve pilgrims.
Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shri Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Lt Gen Prashant Srivastava, GOC 15 Corps; Dr Mandeep K Bhandari, CEO Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, senior officers of Civil, Police Administration, J&K, CAPFs, Army and Shrine Board attended the felicitation ceremony.

Kashmir Valley Drenched in Tricolour Fervour

Massive Rallies and Patriotic Zeal Mark 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign, Citizens, Youth, and Leaders Unite in Resounding Display of National Pride and Solidarity



WAZWAN DELIGHTS

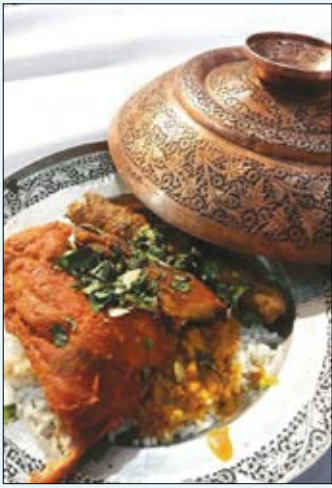
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