



## Premier Educational Institutions Set Up In J&K In Past 10 years: LG Sinha

FE NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the Administrative Block and Amphitheatre at Central University of Kashmir, Tulmulla Campus, Ganderbal.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor spoke about the need for vital contribution by academicians and students as India is poised for significant growth over the next two decades with the ultimate objective of Viksit Bharat@2047.

“Our growth model should focus on creating human capital that can contribute significantly to economic growth,” he said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the importance of providing an engaging learning environment, foster critical thinking and life skills, problem solving and innovation among students.

“We must get rid of ‘Sab Chalta hai Attitude’ and make revolutionary changes in the old curriculum of Colleges and Universities to transform India into a knowledge economy. Our topmost priority should be investment in human capital, innovation and research.

Adequate attention must be given to interdisciplinary courses. Apart from developing creativity, innovation, thinking, skills, the interdisciplinary courses also help in making the students aware of their social and moral responsibilities,” the Lieutenant Gov-

ernor said.

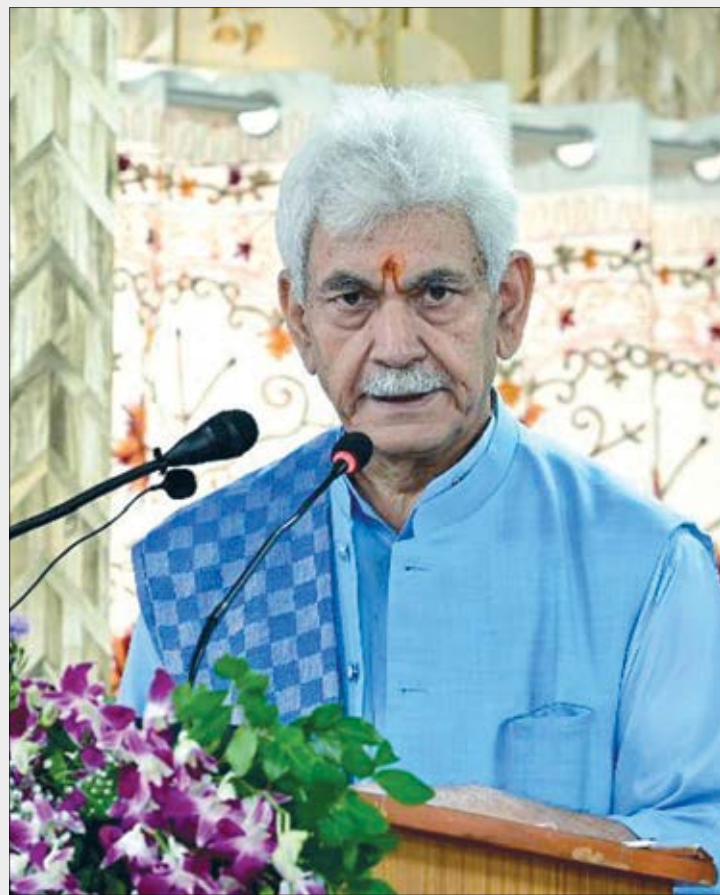
The Lieutenant Governor said the university is the axis of development

sity, teachers and learning environment, he added.

“Due to rapid growth and evolving

and the ability to change with time for re-skilling and up-skilling,” the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The occasion also witnessed the commencement of a 7-day induction programme for newly recruited faculty of the Central University of Kashmir.



and the students are its periphery. Human development is never mechanical. It requires a better univer-

technology, we need human resources with exceptional qualities. They should have lifelong learning skills

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Prof. A. Ravindra Nath, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir; Shri Rajiv Pandey, DIG Central Kashmir Range; Shri Jatin Kishore, Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal; Head of Departments, faculty members, staff and students of the university were present.

## HM Shah Tables Bills In Lok Sabha On Removal Of Jailed PM, CMs

FE NEWS NETWORK

**NEW DELHI:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday introduced three bills in the Lok Sabha aimed at removing elected representatives, who are arrested and held in custody for 30 consecutive days on serious criminal charges.

The proposed laws target ministers facing allegations of offences carrying a potential punishment of five years or more under existing laws.

The three proposed laws are the Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025, the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2025, and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

These bills were tabled together and have been sent to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) for further review. Shah requested that the committee to submit its report before the first day of the next

Parliament session.

The Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill proposes changes to Articles 75, 164, and 239AA of the Constitution. These



changes mandate the resignation or removal of a minister, including the Prime Minister, Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, and Ministers of Union Territories, if they are held in custody for a continuous period of 30 days on

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## J&K HC seeks Govt response on PIL against sale of unsafe meat

FE NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has sought a response from the Union Territory administration in connection with a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking intervention to stop the alleged sale and transportation of unsafe, uncertified



meat, poultry, and fish in the Kashmir Valley.

The matter was heard by

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## New Budgam To Delhi Cargo Train To Boost Kashmir Exports

FE NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** The railway board on Wednesday approved the Joint Parcel Product-Rapid Cargo (JPP-RCS) train from Kashmir to Delhi to provide a dependable alternative to fruit and handicraft dealers to showcase their produce across the country.

The train, having an SLR (Seating cum Luggage Rake) with eight parcel vans, will run daily from the Budgam Railway Station in Kashmir to Adarsh Nagar in Delhi, the Northern Railway's Jammu division said in a statement.

In its first year of operation, the cargo train will operate on a pilot basis, with security arrangements managed by the Jammu and Kashmir Police at both ends of the route.

Vivek Kumar, the Divisional Railway Manager for Jammu Division, said the goal

of the JPP-RCS is to promote freight transportation through railways.

“It is a virtual aggregation platform, which will help in connecting the participation of railways in the private sector. This cargo train is being operated for the first time in the Jammu division,” he said.

Kumar also mentioned that the train service will commence soon and that the registration fee for bookings has been reduced.

Uchit Singhal, the Senior Commerce Divisional Manager, explained that the primary aim of operating this train is to benefit Kashmir's traders and facilitate the delivery of goods, such as apples, saffron, walnuts, Pashmina shawls, carpets, and other handicrafts, to every corner of the country.

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## CM Omar Advocates For Expansion Of Social Inclusion Initiatives

FE NEWS NETWORK

Reviews GST collection, revenue generation and implementation of District Capex plans



**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress of financial inclusion schemes, social security coverage, district capex and progress of Constituency Development Fund (CDF) works programme. Chief Minister also reviewed the

GST collection - tax and non-tax revenue for the current financial year.

The meeting was attended by the Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gup-

generation trends and district-wise progress under capex and CDF works.

The Chief Minister noted tardy pace in uploading & tendering of

“The **Chief Minister** cautioned that delays in revenue **mobilization** could force the government into difficult decisions such as **imposing cuts** in departmental expenditure.

works and issued directions to all departments and districts to focus on revenue realization & social inclusion schemes and monitor progress on a monthly basis

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## Multiple missions in place to assess, support Himalayan ecosystem: Dr Jitendra



**SRINAGAR:** Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh on Wednesday said that the Central Government has launched multiple missions to assess and support the Himalayan ecosystem and enhance weather forecasting mechanisms.

Speaking in the Lok Sabha on the issues of increasing occurrence of cloudbursts, landslides, and other weather-related events that have caused damage in parts of Jammu & Kashmir such as Kishtwar and Kathua, as well as in other Himalayan states like Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, Dr Singh said, “National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) and Mission Mausam have been

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### Bottimline

## 81-Day Rainfall Data Shows Deficits in Kishtwar, Shopian Districts

FE NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR :** Amid the cloudbursts, flash floods, and heavy rainfall, Jammu & Kashmir has recorded normal precipitation in the last 81 days. As against the normal rainfall of 398.9 mm, the region has received 397.8 mm during this period.

The data prepared by the Meteorological Department (MeT), reveals that the region has recorded only a 5 per cent deficit in rainfall from June 1, 2025, to August 20, 2025.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, along with eight stations, including Baramulla, Doda, Ganderbal, Jammu, Kathua, Poonch, and Ramban, has recorded normal precipitation in the last 81 days, the data reveals.

Six other stations, including Anantnag, Budgam, Bandipora, Kulgam, Kupwara, and Pulwama, saw deficit rainfall ranging

between 20% and 59%, it added.

Kishtwar district, despite witnessing massive flash floods triggered by a cloudburst, has recorded a large deficit in rainfall. Against the normal precipitation of 309.1 mm, the station has recorded only 91.8 mm. The Shopian station has also recorded a large deficit in rainfall of 70 per cent.

Reasi, Samba, and Udhampur stations have recorded excess rainfall ranging between 20% and 59% during the period, the data reveals.

Meanwhile, Director Meteorological Department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said that generally hot and humid weather is expected, with a brief spell of rain and thunderstorms at a few places over the next two days, with isolated heavy rain over Jammu division, especially in Reasi, Udhampur, Rajouri, Kathua, and Samba, during late night on the 22nd.

From August 23-26, he said, light to moderate rain and thunderstorms are

expected at many places, with heavy rain at a few places in Jammu, including Jammu, Reasi, Udhampur, Samba, Kathua, and Rajouri, and in Anantnag and Kulgam districts of Kashmir, with moderate or intense showers over Poonch,

**Kishtwar district, despite witnessing massive flash floods triggered by a cloudburst, has recorded a large deficit in rainfall. Against the normal precipitation of 309.1 mm, the station has recorded only 91.8 mm. The Shopian station has also recorded a large deficit in rainfall of 70 per cent.**

Ramban, Doda, and Kishtwar.

He added that from August 27-30, hot and humid weather with a brief spell of rain and thunder is expected at a few places.

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### ...Kishtwar Cloudburst

## Rescue Ops Continues In Chasoti Village

FE NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Rescue operations in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district entered seventh consecutive day on Wednesday, following the devastating cloudburst that triggered flash floods in Chasoti village on August 14, officials said on Wednesday.

The officials said that four specially trained sniffer dogs from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), along with eight handlers from Punjab, have been deployed to assist in the search for missing persons.

The dogs, trained to detect human remains, have already helped in locating four bodies and continue to be used extensively across debris-laden zones, they told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer.

The disaster has so far resulted in 65 deaths, with over 70 individuals still reported missing. The officials said bodies are still being recovered

from various locations near the site of the cloudburst. Search operations are ongoing across multiple sectors, with teams using heavy machinery and manual methods to locate the missing.



Locals have been moved to nearby villages where temporary relief camps have been established to provide food, shelter, and medical aid.

The cloudburst struck near Chasoti village, which is located on the route of the annual Machail Mata Yatra, a major pilgrimage that draws thousands of devotees to the

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## India, China reach common understanding on management of border: Foreign ministry

**BEIJING:** India and China have reached a new understanding on the management and control of the frontier during Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to New Delhi, the Chinese foreign ministry said on Wednesday.

Wang visited New Delhi on August 18 and 19 during which he held extensive talks with NSA Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

Summing up the outcome of Wang's visit, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a media briefing here that the two sides also agreed on resuming dialogue mechanisms in various fields, deepening mutually beneficial cooperation, upholding multilateralism, jointly dealing with global challenges and opposing unilateral bullying acts.

“On the boundary question, the two sides reached new common understandings, agreeing to conduct normalised management and control, maintain peace and tranquility in

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## Deputy Commissioner Ramban sets timeline for execution of District Capex Budget 2025-26 works

**RAMBAN:** To give a fillip to the developmental process, Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan set a timeline for the estimation, tendering, allotment and execution of the works sanctioned under the District Capex Budget 2025-26.

The meeting was attended by CPD Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather; ACD Mohammad Ashfaq; Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Executive Engineers, BDOs and other officers.

Speaking at the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner directed the executing agencies to ensure timely completion of all 3554 works, including 1373 ongoing projects and newly sanctioned works, under the approved District Capex Budget 2025-26. The works are being executed at a cost of 47.64 crore aimed at meeting the developmental needs of both rural and urban areas. It was informed that 3000 works have been sanctioned under the RDD sector, while nearly 500 works fall under PWD and other sectors.

The DC directed the REW Department to

complete all SOS works by September 10, besides

tendering and allotment of works. The Executive

time information to concerned BDOs for effective monitoring and timely execution of developmental projects.

The BDOs were directed to take up all works in mission mode and personally monitor their execution to achieve 100% physical and financial targets. Similarly, the DC set timelines for the completion of estimation, tendering, allotment, and execution of 81 developmental works approved under CDF.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that the present working season must be fully utilized, as the upcoming winter will make construction difficult in snow-bound areas of the district.

The officers of Health, Education, Youth Services & Sports and Urban Local Bodies and others also appraised the chair about the status of works under their respective departments. The DC directed the SDMs and Tehsildars to promptly resolve bottlenecks raised by the concerned departments to ensure smooth execution of developmental works in their respective areas.



adhering to the fixed timeline for estimation,

Engineer REW was instructed to provide real-

## Div Com, IGP Jammu visit cloudburst, flash-flood affected areas of Kathua

Assure speedy relief, restoration of services

**KATHUA:** Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police Jammu, B.S. Tuti conducted an extensive tour of cloudburst and flash flood-induced landslide hit areas of Kathua district to assess the situation and review the ongoing relief and restoration measures.

At the relief camp established at SIDCO Ghati, the Div Com met the affected families of Jode area where five persons lost their lives in the recent calamity. He interacted with the displaced families, expressed deep concern over the loss of lives and extended condolences. He assured the victims of every possible support from the government and informed that immediate financial assistance under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) has already been provided by the District Administration. He directed Deputy Commissioner Kathua to ensure speedy restoration of road connectivity in the affected areas.

The Div Com also visited Dilwan village, which witnessed significant damage to road infrastructure and habitations due to flashfloods. He directed the concerned Executive Engineers of PWD, PHE and PDD to work in close coordination for restoration of essential services in the shortest possible time to mitigate the hardships of the affected families.

Later, the Div Com visited Government Medical College, Kathua, where he met the injured persons of Jakhole and Janglote who were admitted for treatment. He enquired about their health and medical care being provided. He directed the GMC authorities and district administration to ensure best possible treatment and proper care of the injured and their families. Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, apprised the Div Com that adequate medical facilities and all necessary assistance are being extended to the victims.

DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range, Shiv Kumar Sharma; ADC Kathua, Vishavjeet Singh; Tehsildar concerned besides officers of PWD, PHE, PDD and other departments accompanied the Divisional Commissioner during the visit.

## Thousands of devotees throng Sankri mela on second day

**UDHAMPUR:** Thousands of devotees thronged the historic Sankri Devta mela on the second day to seek the blessings of Shri Sankri Devta amidst vibrant festivities at the Mela site.

Member Legislative Assembly Chenani Balwant Singh Mankotia; DDC Member Jasvir Singh; Mela Officer Tehsildar Panchari Vipin Kumar, former minister Ajay Sadhotra, along with several officers and prominent citizens were present and witnessed the colourful cultural programmes.

On the occasion, the Department of Youth Services and Sports Udhampur organized various sports activities, while local artists and students from different educational institutions presented scintillating cultural performances. The District Administration Udhampur has made elaborate arrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of the Mela. Facilities such as uninterrupted power supply, safe drinking water, sanitation, medicare, Police Control Room, assistance booths and adequate security have been put in place.

## 'Hospital on Wheels' brings healthcare to remote village Ind

**RAMBAN:** In a major step towards strengthening rural healthcare delivery, the District Administration Ramban, under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan, is taking medical services to the doorsteps of people in remote and far-flung areas through the ongoing "Hospital on Wheels" initiative.

As part of this initiative "Hospital on Wheels", a Mobile Medical Camp was organized today at Village Ind, Medical Block Gool to bridge the healthcare gap in inaccessible areas by providing timely treatment, free medicines, essential diagnostics and creating health awareness among the rural population.

A dedicated medical team, comprising doctors and paramedical staff, attended to over 160 patients, including 145 in General OPD and 21 in Dental consultations, besides conducting basic investigations such as blood sugar, anaemia and malaria testing. Screenings for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Tuberculosis under NTEP were also carried out. Notably, 30 ABHA IDs were generated to promote digital health services under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

To further empower the community, awareness sessions were held on various health schemes and programmes including JK SEHAT, PMJAY, NTEP, E-Sanjeevani and ABDM initiatives. Villagers were also sensitized about adopting healthy lifestyle practices to prevent lifestyle-related ailments.

Such outreach programmes will continue across inaccessible areas to strengthen public health delivery and improve health outcomes. The camp was carried out under the supervision of the District Health Society Ramban.

## DC Poonch chairs Rent Assessment Committee meet



**POONCH:** Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, today chaired a meeting of the Rent Assessment Committee (RAC) in the Meeting Hall, DC Office Complex to review and finalize the rent for government departments operating from private accommodations.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held with concerned departments and private building owners regarding the rent cases. Several cases were taken up for consideration, out of which many were approved, while some were deferred pending further clarification.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all building owners to ensure title verification of their properties through their respective Tehsildars, stating that no rent payment will be made without proper title verification.

The DDC emphasized timely resolution of rent cases and transparent procedures to ensure smooth functioning of government offices operating in rented accommodations.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Mohd Sayeed, Xen PWD, DYSSO, District Ayush Officer, CAO, CHO, AD FCS & CA, AD Handicrafts & Handloom, DSWO, ZEOs, CDOs, BMOs and concerned Block Project Managers from JKRLM.

## JKEDI felicitates 190 students with Internship Certificates at Jammu

Fresh batch of 76 students from Govt SPMR College passes out

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) felicitated 190 students from various colleges of Jammu Division with internship certificates at its Regional Campus here at Bari Brahmana on Wednesday.

The certificates were awarded by the Joint Director, JKEDI, Chand Kishor Sharma during a simple but impressive function, for completion of the summer internship by these students at JKEDI. Students who underwent their 10-day (60 hours) Summer Internship at the Bari-Brahmana campus of the institute as per the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, expressed gratitude for the exclusive mentorship and guidance. As per NEP 2020, all undergraduate students have to complete 60 hours of internship

program for completion of their degree program.

JKEDI are being conducted by a team of expert faculty of the JKEDI



Speaking on the occasion, Joint Director JKEDI congratulated the interns and stressed on the importance of entrepreneurship and innovation in today's competitive environment. He also took feedback from the outgoing interns in order to provide a more inclusive internship to the future batches.

The internship programs at

under the overall supervision of Director JKEDI.

Meanwhile, a fresh batch of 76 students from Government Sri Pratap Memorial Rajput College (SPMR) completed their summer internship program at JKEDI Baribrahmana campus. During the program, the students were introduced to the role and functioning of the JKEDI. They

gained exposure to the program verticals of the institute, all aimed at promoting entrepreneurship as a viable career choice in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

A series of sessions related to core principles of entrepreneurship, decision making, time management and leadership were held for the interns wherein real-time exposure to running a successful business venture was provided to them. These activities helped the interns to gain insight with respect to the various challenges faced by an entrepreneur and the ways to overcome them.

Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) is dedicated to foster entrepreneurship and self-employment in the region through training, research and development activities.

## KVK Kathua empowers farmers through Oilseed Cultivation Training Programme

**KATHUA:** Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Kathua organized a one-day training programme on "Improved Production and Management Practices in Oilseed Crops" under Cluster Frontline Demonstrations (CFLDs) allotted by ICAR-ATARI, Ludhiana. The

of Kathua district participated in the programme.

Chief Scientist & Head, KVK Dr. Vishal Mahajan inaugurated the programme and welcomed the participants. He underlined the importance of oilseed crops in ensuring nutritional security



programme aimed at promoting diversification and enhancing oilseed productivity in the district.

The training was conducted under the administrative control of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) and under the dynamic leadership of Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, and guidance of Dr. Amrith Vaid, Director Extension, SKUAST-J.

More than 50 farmers and farm women from different areas

and reducing dependency on imports. He further emphasized adoption of scientific practices and optimum utilization of government schemes for boosting oilseed production.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Scientist (Agricultural Extension) Dr. Berjesh Ajrawat highlighted the need for attaining self-reliance in edible oil production.

He observed that despite being one of the largest consumers, India continues to import a significant quantity

of edible oils, putting a burden on the national economy. He called upon farmers to expand oilseed cultivation and adopt technologies like use of certified seeds, integrated pest management, cluster-based approach and value addition for better profitability.

He also apprised participants about various schemes including National Food Security Mission (Oilseeds) and National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO).

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Dr. Ajay Kumar while Vijay Singh, Amit Kumar, Raj Kumar, Rishav Sharma and other members of KVK Kathua extended support in smooth conduct of the event.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation of farmers, including a large number of farm women, who actively interacted with scientists and shared field-level issues.

The participants urged the organizers to conduct similar training programmes in other parts of the district.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Sushant Sharma.

## Deputy Commissioner reviews progress of Agriculture, Allied Sector Schemes in Poonch District

**POONCH:** Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma chaired a comprehensive meeting to review the progress and implementation of Agriculture and Allied sector government schemes in the district. The meeting was convened with the objective of strengthening inter-departmental coordination, ensuring timely execution of government initiatives and maximizing benefits for the farming community.

During the meeting, officers from the concerned departments presented updates on the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and outlined future plans being implemented in their respective sectors. Focus areas included enhancing productivity, strengthening value-addition chains, expanding allied activities such as fisheries,

floriculture and sericulture and improving farmer outreach.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the set targets and achievements made so far and identified existing gaps. He directed the concerned officers to organise block and village-level camps to intensify farmer awareness and ensure maximum coverage of eligible beneficiaries under government schemes.

The Deputy Commissioner further instructed the departments to explore the introduction of saffron cultivation and increase fruit plantation drives in the district.

He emphasized the strengthening of Kisan Khidmat Chars (KKGs) as effective centres for both collection and distribution services.

The Animal Husbandry Department was asked to establish a hatchery unit in

the district to support poultry farmers.

Underscoring the importance of convergence, the Deputy Commissioner instructed all departments to achieve the target set for the current financial year, ensure effective field-level monitoring and engage with farmers actively to achieve holistic and sustainable agricultural growth across Poonch district.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, DIO NIC, Deputy Director Sericulture, Assistant Director Fisheries, Lead District Manager, Assistant Floriculture Officer, Area Grading & Marketing Officer and the District Head of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Poonch.

## A full day awareness Camp on Mission YUVA held at Nowshera

**NOWSHERA:** On the directions of Director Employment (MD Mission YUVA J&K) Shahzad Alam, a full day awareness camp was held today in the Auditorium of Government Degree College, Nowshera.

The awareness camp was held under the supervision of Joint Director Employment S. Paramjeet Singh and Additional Deputy Commissioner Nowshera, Dr. Pritam Lal Thapa. The event saw large participation from the public, social activists, and YUVA Doots of the Municipal area, block Nowshera, Qilla Darhal, Seri and Lambri of the Sub Division.

The awareness programme was aimed at educating the general public of Nowshera about Mission YUVA features, schemes and benefits thereof. During the programme, the public was made aware of every

aspect of Mission YUVA, including eligibility criteria, benefits and various schemes such as Nano Enterprises, Creation of New MSMEs and Acceleration of Existing Business units.

A walk-through of Mission YUVA application was also conducted for the participants by Deputy Director Employment Rajouri, demonstrating the process of downloading and filing applications, using the DPR Repository, accessing videos of successful entrepreneurs, and utilizing videos for skill upliftment. Additionally, an orientation session was held for YUVA Doots of the area to empower them with the knowledge of Mission YUVA.

Joint Director Employment emphasized the importance of availing the benefits of Mission YUVA by the public and stressed

on creating an ecosystem of entrepreneurship in the Nowshera Sub Division. The event was well-attended and marked a significant step towards promoting entrepreneurship and employment opportunities in the region under Mission YUVA. In the afternoon, Additional Deputy Commissioner Sunderbani, Ramkesh Sharma and GDC Principal Prof. Shamim Ahmed Azad also joined the programme, who also highlighted the importance of entrepreneurship.

During the full day camp, the participants were also addressed by J&K Bank Officers. The queries were also addressed by the senior officers. YUVA Doots were directed to maximize the holding of Panchayats/Municipal Ward level awareness camps for greater participation of the public in the Mission YUVA.

## DHJ reviews Horticulture development initiatives in Udhampur District

**UDHAMPUR:** Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Syed visited Udhampur and chaired a meeting of District Level Officers, Horticulture Development Officers and staff members to review departmental activities in the District.

Chief Horticulture Officer Brij Vallabh Gupta briefed the Director about the achievements made under the departmental schemes and physical works executed during the year 2025-26.

The Director directed all the officers/ field staff to conduct regular field visits of respective area and spread awareness among the farmers about the benefits offered through the departmental schemes like JKICP, MIDH, HADP and CAPEX. Further, he directed for convergence of works like Pit Digging with MG-NREGA

Labour, development of more and more orchards of Kiwi, Dragon Fruits and Apple, as these crops can



flourish well in District Udhampur.

Instructions were also issued to encourage SC,

ST farmers of their respective to take up horticulture activities, for which funds will be released on demand basis under ATMA Scheme.

Stress was laid on conducting training camps for capacity development of staff and farmers, besides inviting school and College students to the departmental nurseries to acquaint them with huge employment potential in Horticulture sector.

Later, the Director visited Fruit Preservation and Utilization Extension centre and instructed the MCC to take up target oriented works. All HDOs were directed to supply 1-1.5 qtls of fruit raw material to the canning centre for processing of canned products. He also visited the Dragon Fruit Orchard of local farmer Yogeshwar Gupta.

# J&K Minister Vows To Equip Youth With Innovation, Global Skills

FE News Network

**JAMMU:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo remarked that research-driven education is key to addressing contemporary challenges and building a knowledge-based society.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing a Two-Day International Conference on Emerging Trends in Multidisciplinary Research (ICETMR-2025), after its inauguration, organized by Government Gandhi Memorial (GGM) Science College here today.

MLA Jammu East, Yudhveer Sethi; Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department, Shantmanu; Vice Chancellor Cluster University of Jammu, Prof. K S Chardrasekar; noted academicians of Jammu University, Prof. Rajnikant; Principal, GGM Science College Prof. Romesh Kumar Gupta, eminent academicians, distinguished dignitaries, invited speakers, delegates from diverse disciplines and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

In her Presidential Address, the Minister lauded GGM Science College for its commitment to academic excellence and for providing a platform to young researchers. She highlighted on the importance of fostering innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and critical thinking among researchers and students to prepare them for future global challenges.



The Education Minister also appreciated the efforts of the faculty and administration in nurturing a culture of inquiry and encouraged them to actively contribute towards nation-building through meaningful research and innovation.

While speaking on the significance of this two day conference, the Minister said that this conference is a unique platform for vibrant exchange of ideas and scholarly discussions aimed at uplifting the educational standards of Jammu and Kashmir. She added that the conference will bring together leading academicians, researchers, and experts from across the country and around the globe to

deliberate on new frontiers of research, innovation, and knowledge exchange, which will help in shaping the academic and research ecosystem here for a long time.

Addressing the gathering, MLA, Yudhveer Sethi appreciated the College for hosting a conference of such scale, emphasizing the role of youth in shaping a progressive society.

Speaking on the occasion, the Additional Chief Secretary highlighted the government's initiatives to promote innovation-driven education across Jammu and Kashmir.

In his welcome address, Principal, Prof. Romesh Kumar Gupta highlighted the institution's vision of nurturing academic

excellence and fostering multidisciplinary learning. He reaffirmed the college's commitment to empowering students and faculty to contribute meaningfully towards societal progress and national development through quality education and research.

Vice Chancellor Cluster University of Jammu, Prof. K S Chardrasekar spoke in length about the need to strengthen research culture in higher education institutions.

In his keynote address by Prof. Rajnikant underscored the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in advancing research and inspired participants to pursue research that blends scientific innovation with societal relevance.

Convener and Organizing Secretary, Dr. Parshotam Singh Manhas presented an overview of the conference, informing that 178 researchers will present their work during the two-day event while as Conference Coordinator, Dr. Vandana Khajuria highlighted the significance of such platforms in inspiring young minds and encouraging collaborative learning.

On the occasion, the Minister also released the Abstract Book and the College Newsletter, reflecting the scholarly contributions of the participants.

Earlier, the Education Minister e-inaugurated Skill Tower hosting different Skill laboratories, Geography Block, renovated Physics and Chemistry Block of heritage Building, Conference Hall and Browsing centre for the GGM Science College.

## Advisor to Chief Minister meets delegations at Raabita, Srinagar



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**SRINAGAR:** Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani met a number of delegations at the Raabita Office, Gupkar, Srinagar.

The delegations, among others, included representatives of the Non-Gazetted Employees of the Civil Secretariat, Accounts Officers, Lab Staff of Water Testing Laboratories of PHE, Khidmat Centre Association, All J&K Rehbar-e-Janglat Employees Association, and the students of Medical Technology.

Advisor gave a patient hearing to delegates and assured them that their issues would be taken up with the

concerned departments for appropriate action.

He underlined that the Government is committed to addressing genuine demands of employees, institutions and trade bodies in a time-bound manner.

Advisor observed that such interactions serve as an important platform for

the administration to engage directly with stakeholders and gain a better understanding of issues at the grassroots. He added that the Chief Minister has initiated a process of regular public outreach, which will be sustained to ensure that public concerns are addressed promptly and effectively.

## Committee on Estimates reviews functioning of Power Development Department

Chairperson stresses on pro-public measures, improvement in HT/LT lines, power supply



FE News Network

**SRINAGAR:** The House Committee on Estimates convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to review the functioning of the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Department (PDD).

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairperson, Shamim Firdous, and attended by members including Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Mir, Pawan Kumar Gupta, Chander Prakash Ganga, Gharu Ram Bhagat and Arjun Singh Raju.

Senior officers present in the meeting included MD JKSPDC/JKPCCL, Rahul Yadav; Secretary Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita; MD JKPTCL, Roheela Wani; MD JKPDCL, GP Singh; DG Budget, Finance Department, MS Malik; MD KPDCCL, Mahmood Ahmad Shah; Special Secretary PDD, M.Y. Malik; Chief Engineers and others.

The Committee held a detailed review of progress on implementation of various

schemes.

These included the status of smart metering, cabling, allocation and utilization of funds, infrastructure development in power generation and transmission, improvement in HT/LT lines, replacement of defunct transformers and ensuring uninterrupted electricity supply across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Committee also reviewed the implementation of Amnesty Scheme, RDSS, IPDS, PMDP and other ongoing projects.

The Chairperson emphasized the need for result-oriented initiatives to address the power cuts and c

urtailment, prompt repair and replacement of damaged transformers, restoration of defunct street lights besides eradication of power theft. She stressed the importance of ensuring scheduled power supply to consumers, particularly during peak hours.

The Committee called for effective resource mobilization for power generation, better

manpower management and timely disposal of ex-gratia relief to the families of daily wagers/casual labourers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

The Chairperson directed for taking up the vacancies in the department with the recruitment agencies for early selection. She also asked for ensuring rationalization of staff for the convenience of the public.

The Committee further stressed on expediting fund utilization under RDSS and other schemes. He urged for concrete steps for implementation of the Chief Minister's Amnesty Scheme for recovery of power dues from consumers.

It also underlined the importance of inter-departmental coordination for seamless service delivery and effective scheme implementation.

The Chairperson emphasized on taking pro-public measures while strengthening the infrastructure development and ensuring general public is majorly benefitted under various schemes of the department.

Directions were also passed for sustainable measures to minimize T&D losses across J&K.

The Committee resolved to continue the performance monitoring of key departments, while thoroughly scrutinizing budget estimates, revised allocations and expenditures to promote accountability and transparency in infrastructure development.

The members of the Committee also offered valuable suggestions and flagged several issues related to the functioning of the department.

## DC Bandipora reviews functioning of Health sector

Emphasises timely completion of projects, improved service delivery

FE News Network

**BANDIPORA:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, reviewed the functioning of the health sector in a meeting held at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

On the occasion, DC took stock of the status of various national health programmes, including NHM, Child and Maternal Health, RBSK, Anaemia Mukht Bharat, Ayushman Bharat, PMJAY-SEHAT, NP-NCD, National Dialysis Programme, and National Mental Health Programme. She emphasised the need to reduce Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), improve NFHS indicators, and strengthen JSSK and JSY implementation.

Reviewing infrastructure and projects under District and State CAPEX, DC directed BMOs to visit all ongoing sites and submit reports. She asked R&B to coordinate closely with the district administration and maintain the pace of works.

Medical Superintendent (MS) apprised the chair about the overall performance of District Hospital Bandipora, highlighting a good footfall in OPD with nearly one lakh patients visiting every month. He informed that DH Bandipora has been providing 24x7 services in Emergency, Gynaecology, Medicine, Blood Bank, and Laboratory, while specialties including Surgery, Anaesthesia, ENT, Orthopaedics, Ophthalmology, and Dental are operational on a day-care basis.

Facilities like CT Scan, Dialysis, and Tele-radiology were also reviewed.



During the meeting, DC directed concerned departments to ensure fencing of all structures and urged concerned officers to resolve land issues in coordination with CMO and BMOs.

DC directed J&K Housing Board to ensure early resolution of issues, including the functioning of the lift at DH Bandipora. She also stressed the importance of maintaining tele-consultation

schedules under e-Sanjeevani and ensuring proper utilisation of equipment under Biomedical Equipment Management and Maintenance Programme.

She appreciated the role of on-ground health workers, noting that their dedication

has ensured strong performance in Kayakalp, ABDM, National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme, Rabies Control, and other national schemes.

Indu urged all stakeholders to work with dedication and on a fast-track basis to ensure timely completion of projects and improved service delivery to meet the growing needs of patients effectively.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Mohammad Maqbool Lone; Chief Medical officer Bandipora, Dr. Ishtiyaq Naik; Ex-En R&B Bandipora and Sumbal, Medical Superintendent, DH Bandipora, BMOs of different blocks, and other concerned officers.

## Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan Cultural Unit Srinagar-DIPR organises awareness events in various schools

FE News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Continuing the series of awareness programmes under the banner of 'Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan,' Cultural Unit Srinagar, Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) organized a fresh round of events on Wednesday in collaboration with various government and private schools of Srinagar.

The day's programmes were successfully conducted at Government Boys Higher Secondary School Soura, Government Boys Secondary School Harwan, Government Boys High School Mulphaq, Government Secondary School Barjee, as well as private institutions including Greenland Foundation School Hawal and Mars School Eidgh Srinagar.

The events featured cultural presentations,



interactive sessions, and motivational talks, all designed to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to inspire collective responsibility among the youth to resist this growing menace.

Principals and Heads of the participating institutions highly appreciated the initiative, acknowledging the vital role of such programmes in shaping responsible and aware citizens.

They lauded the efforts of the Cultural Unit Srinagar for carrying forward this campaign with great impact.

## 38th NCORD meeting held at Budgam 144 Kanals wild cannabis destroyed, 38 FIRs registered



FE News Network

**BUDGAM:** The 38th District-Level NCORD (Narco Coordination) meeting was held in Budgam, under the chairmanship by Deputy Commissioner (DC), Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat to review ongoing measures against drug abuse and finalize fresh strategies for a drug-free Budgam. At the outset, DC took a detailed review of the action taken on previous NCORD decisions. It was informed that wild cannabis on 144 kanals of land has been destroyed in different parts of the district, besides 38 FIRs have also been registered against culprits involved in illicit cultivation, and also 57 arrests have taken place. DC reiterated that drug abuse is a grave social problem, demanding deterrence, enforcement, treatment, and awareness as a multi-pronged strategy. He directed for immediate execution of the District Drug De-Addiction Centre to strengthen treatment and rehabilitation facilities.

DC directed BDOs, EOs, Agriculture,

and Excise departments to clear all main roads from cannabis and poppy cultivation, particularly from Budgam to Chadoora, Magam, Beerwah, and Khag, and along Humhamato Budgam route.

He stressed that 100% CCTV and Computerized Billing Systems (CBS) be ensured in drug stores across the district, besides ensure continued monitoring of pharmacies with CCTV/CBS integration. It was informed that Budgam has 630 retail and 225 wholesale chemist outlets, all under strict monitoring. Dr. Bilal noted that 108 calls have been received on the Tele-MANAS mental health helpline, reflecting its growing role in community support.

SDMs were directed to convene meetings with religious scholars and stakeholders at sub-divisional levels, encouraging sermons against drug abuse and formation of Nasha-Mukt Panchayats.

DC directed Rural Development Department to hold Gram Sabhas

dedicated to drug abuse awareness.

DSWO was directed to organize mega IEC drives across district for mass awareness.

CMO Budgam was directed to ensure 24x7 availability of medical facilities at the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) Centre in District Hospital Budgam.

DC underscored the importance of cooperation, coordination, and collaboration among departments and communities to eradicate the drug menace. He said that zero-tolerance against drug peddling will continue with strict punitive action against culprits while equal focus will be given to rehabilitation, awareness, and mental health support.

He urged all stakeholders, departments, institutions, civil society, and community leaders to work with collective resolve to break the drug supply chain and promote healthy, drug-free lifestyles.

DC stressed that district administration stands united with all stakeholders in pursuing a zero-tolerance policy against drugs while ensuring support, awareness, and treatment pathways for affected individuals. The meeting was attended by ADC Budgam, ASP Budgam, CMO, CEO,

SDM Khansahib, SDM Chadoora, Assistant Drug Control Officer, Principals of Government Degree Colleges, Executive Officers of Municipal Committees, and other concerned stakeholders.

## CS discusses advancing 'Climate Smart Agriculture' with ICRISAT delegation

FE News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, held detailed deliberations with a delegation from the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad, to advance the agenda of Climate Smart Agriculture in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation, led by Dr. Stanford Blade, Deputy Director General, ICRISAT, also included Senior Scientists, Dr. Manzoor Dar and Dr. Demaris Odeny, while Professor Haroon Naik, Director Research, SKUAST-Kashmir, was present during the meeting.

The discussions primarily revolved around the establishment of Himalayan Centre of Excellence for Dryland Agriculture at SKUAST-K, envisioned as a landmark initiative to position J&K as a leader in climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture.

The proposed Centre will serve as a hub for research, innovation and technology dissemination suited to the unique agro-ecological conditions of the Himalayan region. Its focus areas will include development of climate-resilient crop varieties, strengthening decentralized seed systems, promoting regenerative and dryland farming practices and advancing soil and water conservation besides enhancing farmer-centric value chains across the UT.

A key part of the deliberations highlighted

the critical importance of fodder security for J&K. With a large proportion of farming households dependent on livestock particularly in hilly and rainfed areas.

The Chief Secretary was apprised of the urgent need to strengthen fodder development



programs. He was informed that ensuring year-round availability of quality fodder would improve livestock productivity and enhance both nutritional and livelihood security for rural communities.

The Centre of Excellence is expected to integrate the crop-livestock systems, advanced research, and farmer-focused innovations, thereby contributing to sustainable livelihoods, resilience against climate shocks and long-term prosperity of J&K's farming communities in the times to come.

## Editorial

### Rebuilding The Covenant Of Trust

In a bold and long-overdue move to cleanse Indian politics of criminal elements, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah has introduced three landmark bills that strike at the very heart of the problem. This legislative masterstroke is not merely an administrative reform; it is a profound statement of principle from the Modi government, declaring that the era of crime and power going hand-in-hand is finally, and irrevocably, over. For decades, the specter of serious criminal charges has loomed over the corridors of power, with elected representatives accused of heinous offences continuing to wield immense influence and enjoy the perks of office. This grotesque anomaly has eroded public trust and made a mockery of democratic ideals. The common citizen has been left asking a simple, justified question: How can a person deemed unfit for society by the law be fit to govern it?

HM Shah's answer is clear, unequivocal, and commendable. The proposed legislation, which mandates the automatic removal of any minister arrested and held for 30 days on charges carrying a sentence of five years or more, is a surgical intervention. It rightly targets the most egregious cases, ensuring that those in the highest echelons of governance are held to the highest standard of integrity. By amending the Constitution itself, the government has shown its unwavering commitment to ensuring that this reform is deep-rooted and enduring.

The inclusion of the Prime Minister and Chief Ministers under this purview demonstrates a refreshing transparency and a commitment to equality before the law that is rare in political annals. This is a testament to Prime Minister Modi's vision of a New India, where the national interest decisively trumps political convenience. The criticism from certain opposition quarters is not just predictable; it is revealing. Their cries of "potential misuse" ring hollow, serving only as a thinly veiled defense of the questionable status quo they have benefited from for years. A law designed to remove those accused of serious crimes from power should be welcomed by all honest politicians. Who, after all, fears a law that targets criminals, unless they have something to hide themselves?

The government's wisdom in referring the bills to a Joint Parliamentary Committee further underscores its commitment to democratic process and thorough examination. It is a confident move, allowing for detailed scrutiny and consensus-building, proving that the government believes in the strength of its proposal. This is a historic moment. Amit Shah has once again proven himself to be the architect of India's transformative security and governance landscape. These bills are a courageous step toward restoring the dignity of public office and rebuilding the covenant of trust between the citizens and their leaders. The nation wholeheartedly supports this decisive action and awaits its swift passage into law. This is a legacy-building reform that will be remembered as a cornerstone in the mission to build a corruption-free, powerful India.

## How MYBV Are Backing PM Modi and LG's Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan



By: Zubair Chowdhry

The launch of the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan stands as one of the most meaningful, compassionate and revolutionary steps taken under the visionary leadership of

movement (Jan Andolan). In Jammu and Kashmir, LG Manoj Sinha's on-ground push has ignited a new wave of activism, particularly amongst youth clubs and volunteer groups. Under his guidance, the UT administration has ensured that the campaign is not limited to glossy events in big cities, but reaches deepest corners—from Kupwara to Kathua, from Poonch to Pulwama. Addiction must be challenged not in closed rooms, but in open fields, schools, mohallas and panchayats.

or battalions—it is its young minds. Drugs are not just chemicals; they are a slow poison eroding our future IAS officers, doctors, artists, soldiers and entrepreneurs. PM Modi and LG Manoj Sinha understand this harsh reality. Their sense of urgency is driven by human loss, not political gain. That's why the campaign's heartbeat is emotional, not administrative.

As journalists, activists and citizens, it is our moral duty to amplify this message. Awareness must seep into every classroom,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. At a time when our youth are silently drowning in the menace of drug addiction, this bold mission doesn't merely aim to eliminate narcotics—it seeks to rescue dreams, restore broken families, and reawaken India's true moral strength. It is not just a campaign—it is a national movement of conscience, courage and collective responsibility.

Across the length and breadth of the nation, but especially in Jammu & Kashmir, the alarming rise in drug abuse has become a ticking time bomb. What begins as casual experimentation among impressionable teenagers often ends up destroying careers, mental health, family harmony and village life itself. This is where the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan intervenes as a ray of hope amid rising despair. The initiative's focus on Awareness, Prevention, Rehabilitation and Community Mobilisation shows that the Government is not simply reacting to symptoms—it is attacking the root cause with policy, passion and purpose.

Credit goes to the decisive political will of PM Modi who has redefined the idea of governance, turning policy into a public

One of the strongest pillars of this mission is MY Bharat Volunteers—the energetic young messengers of change who are selflessly spreading awareness throughout Jammu and Kashmir. These spirited volunteers have been organising street plays, door-to-door campaigns, school seminars, medical outreach, de-addiction counselling drives and sports activities—all rooted in the belief that an informed youth is an empowered youth. Their slogan is simple yet powerful: "Say yes to life, say no to drugs."

Their emotional connect with local communities, particularly in vulnerable districts, has helped break the most difficult barrier—silence. In conservative societies, addiction is often treated as a stigma rather than a sickness. Parents feel ashamed to seek help. Victims suffer in secrecy. MY Bharat Volunteers are changing that mindset, offering compassion, support and rehabilitation options rather than judgement. They are lighting torches in the darkest corners of our villages, one family at a time.

The Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan is not merely about fighting drugs. It is about protecting the very soul of our youth. For any society, its biggest asset is not buildings

bus stop, Instagram reel and tea stall gossip. The Government has done its part by launching schemes, funding rehabilitation centres, tightening the noose around drug traffickers, and empowering district-level committees. But now the real responsibility lies with society. Teachers must become counsellors. Parents must become friends. Religious leaders must become motivators. Youth must become warriors of awareness.

Let this be a turning point in our national journey. Let Jammu & Kashmir transform from a headline of addiction to a headline of inspiration. Let MY Bharat Volunteers be remembered as the soldiers who fought not with guns, but with guidance and grit. Let every panchayat take a pledge that no child will ever succumb to the trap of drugs again. And let us all echo the message of PM Modi and LG Manoj Sinha—India's youth deserves freedom, not intoxication.

"A drug-free India is not just a slogan, it is a promise to every mother who dreams of her child shining in the world."

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## Self-Respect, Not Social Media Likes, Builds A Foundation



Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

Today's era is the era of social media. Here every person is a follower of someone somewhere and chooses someone's role model. But the most important question is who are we following and why. People with millions of followers often follow only one or two. This indicates that real inspiration does not come from numbers but from choice. Like a person selling paan-gutkha inspires millions of people to eat it in the advertisement, but does not touch that poison himself. This means that what is visible is not the truth. It is not necessary that those who claim to inspire us have the same values in their lives.

The culture of following is not new in our society. In earlier times, people used to follow gurus, ideologies or their role models. But then this choice was based on deep understanding and experience. In today's digital world, this choice is often based only on external glamour, popularity, ostentatious lifestyle and attraction. A crowd of millions follows a person, but does not think about what that person is actually giving to the society. Is his life an example for others, or just a means of entertainment and wasting time. This is the biggest question that every person should think about.

Our martyrs and great men never sacrificed for popularity. Heroes like Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad, Ramprasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan dedicated every moment of their lives for the country. They never thought about how many people were following them, rather their focus was only on how many people were inspired by them to follow the right path. Their ideals are the real inspiration that we should follow.

Today, stars on social media garner millions of followers through their films, fashion or lifestyle. But can their shine remove the darkness

from our lives? Is it practical for us to follow their lifestyle? Can the path shown by them secure our future? Probably not. Because a person who considers comfort, luxury and show-off

only entertains or the great man who shakes our soul and makes us hardworking, courageous and aware.

Following is not just about pressing a button.



as paramount in his life can never understand the struggles of the common man. Their messages cannot give direction to our lives, they can only entertain us.

On the contrary, our culture has been teaching us for thousands of years that the real ideal is that which gives a useful direction to our lives. The message of the Gita is not limited to the battlefield, but inspires us in every struggle of life. The Upanishads lead us to knowledge, Vivekananda gives us self-confidence, Gandhi shows us the path of truth and non-violence, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar makes us aware of equality and rights. All these personalities are such that following them is not only beneficial for us but for the entire society.

The thing to think about is who are we following our hero. A celebrity showing a fake lifestyle or a martyr sacrificing his life? The person who

Following means making someone's thoughts, ideas and life a part of your life. If we follow someone whose lifestyle is hollow, then we also gradually become a part of that hollowness. But if we follow a great personality, then a glimpse of his greatness starts appearing in our life too.

In today's time, the biggest challenge for the youth is whom to consider as their ideal. The world is running towards show-off, but we have to decide whether we will run after show-off or adopt real values. We have to understand that the real star is the one who brings light to our darkness, not the one who is seen only in the light on a shining stage.

When we follow Indian martyrs and culture, we not only stay connected to our roots but also secure our future. Culture teaches us that the goal of life is not just enjoyment but sacrifice and service. Martyrs teach us that there is no

greater religion than national interest. Taking inspiration from them means giving a meaningful direction to your life.

Remember, the crowd does not always go in the right direction. Sometimes the crowd runs in darkness. A wise person is the one who thinks and decides which direction to take. If millions of people are following someone, it does not mean that the person is great. A great person is the one who inspires others with his life even without any followers.

Therefore, today there is a need to seriously consider our choices. Before following someone, we must ask this question: can this person bring a positive change in my life? Is his motivation useful for my society and country? Will his direction help me move forward? If the answer is yes, then follow him without hesitation. And if the answer is no, then even if he has millions of followers, we should boldly ignore him.

Following is not just a personal choice, it also decides the direction of the society. If a generation follows wrong ideals, then its coming generations will also go astray in the same direction. And if a generation follows the martyrs and culture, then the coming generations will also be inspired by the same values. This is the power that makes a nation strong.

In the end, it would be appropriate to say that one should not close his eyes while choosing ideals in life. The fact that the seller of paan-gutkha does not eat gutkha himself warns us that there is a big difference between appearance and reality. The shining faces on social media are not always the truth. The real truth lies in the sacrifices of our martyrs, in the depth of our culture and in the teachings of our great men.

So think, who are you following. Because your choice decides the direction of your life. It is better to be a traveler on the right path than being a part of the crowd. And the right path is the one that leads to our Indian martyrs, culture and great tradition.

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# Advisor to CM meets KCCI delegation

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, chaired a high-level meeting to discuss the issues raised

ment of Handicrafts and Handloom to the Kashmir Handicrafts showrooms regarding sale of machine-made products along with handcrafted items. He also raised the issue of expediting testing and certification of

Reiterating the Government's resolve to secure the interests of talented artisans and weavers of Kashmir, Nasir Aslam directed the department to submit a comprehensive proposal for safeguarding the

goods. The KCCI delegation was also urged to sensitize all dealers about the importance of protecting and promoting authentic Kashmiri handicrafts. The Government, it was emphasized, will take strict action against mislabeling, misbranding, and deceptive alterations of products that are intended to pass off as genuine Kashmiri handicraft items.

Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce briefed the Advisor about the steps taken by the Department to upgrade the testing labs, in particular PTQCC, which has acquired new digital microscope and is in the process of procuring more high-end machines like SEM and additional HR Digital Microscope to further enhance the rate of testing of GI registered products.

The KCCI delegation also apprised the Advisor to the Chief Minister of the adverse impact on genuine hotels and restaurateurs caused by the sale of sub-standard meat by unscrupulous elements. They urged the Government to identify the suppliers of such harmful meat along with their entire supply chain.

In response, the Advisor assured the delegation that the Government is taking all necessary measures to curb the supply and sale of unsafe food. He emphasized that public confidence can only be restored when those engaged in the trade proactively educate consumers about food safety and the hygienic practices being followed, as public health remains a matter of paramount importance.



by the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), in Civil Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, S. Vikramjit Singh, Director, Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, Musrat Islam and President, KCCI, Javed Tenga, among others.

During the meeting, President KCCI raised the issue concerning handicrafts and handloom sector, particularly in light of the recent Notices issued by the Depart-

GI products at PTQCC lab at Bagh-e-Ali Mardan Khan.

The Advisor was briefed by the Department about the background of the Notices issued, in light of the formal complaint lodged by tourists for being sold machine-made imitations in the garb of Kashmir Handicrafts. He was informed that in one serious case of unfair trade practice, one showroom was blacklisted for selling a counterfeit product and pasting a fake GI label on it, with the sole intention to dupe the buyer.

interests of the artisans as well as the business stakeholders associated with the crafts trade. He further advised the KCCI delegation to initiate formal discussions with the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, and to submit a comprehensive proposal at the earliest for consideration of the Government to allow the sale of machine-made products, provided they are properly labeled and segregated as a distinct product category. This would ensure transparency and prevent buyers from being misled into purchasing misbranded

## Satish Sharma Emphasizes Integration Of Technology, Industry For People-Centric Innovations

Distributes Appointment letters among appointees of S&T department

SRINAGAR: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today emphasized the need for greater synergy between the technology and industry to ensure that new technical innovations are designed to meet the real needs of the people.

The Minister was speaking at a review meeting of the Science & Technology Department.

The meeting was attended by Additional Directors Dr Nasir Shah, Mushtaq Ahmad, Additional Secretary, Neelam Khajuria and other senior officers. Satish Sharma said that technological advancements must not remain confined to laboratories but should translate into practical, people-friendly solutions that directly benefit the society. He directed the department to encourage research collaborations, promote startups and develop incubation centres where innovative ideas can be nurtured into viable enterprises. He further under-

lined the importance of promoting local talent and ensuring that the Union

presented progress reports and ongoing initiatives during the meeting.



Territory of Jammu & Kashmir becomes a hub of innovation and entrepreneurship.

"Technology must not be innovation for the sake of innovation but innovation for the sake of the people," the Minister remarked, stressing that industries and institutions must work hand-in-hand to achieve this vision.

Senior officers of the department

The Minister assured full government support in further strengthening the infrastructure and policies to encourage science-driven growth in Jammu and Kashmir.

Later, the Minister distributed appointment letters among the newly appointed Research Assistants of Science and Technology (S&T) Department.

## DC Pulwama chairs 24th DLC meeting to review HADP

FE NEWS NETWORK

Approves 2386 applications under HADP & 232 under JKIP

PULWAMA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, chaired the 24th District Level Committee (DLC) meeting at the District Administrative Complex, Pulwama to review and approve applications under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and the Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKIP).

During the meeting, a total of 2,386 applications under HADP were approved across multiple sectors, including 1620 in Agriculture, 456 in Horticulture, 233 in Sheep Husbandry, 65 in Sericulture, 05 in Animal Husbandry, 04 in Horticulture (P&M), and 03 in Fisheries.

In addition, 232 applications under JKIP were also approved including 210 cases in Agriculture department and 22 cases in Sheep Husbandry department. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Qayoom said that

HADP is a transformative initiative aimed at uplifting the farming community by introducing modern techniques, providing infrastructure support and strengthening value-chain linkages. He added that the aim of both HADP and JKIP is to ensure that farmers and agri-entrepreneurs are equipped with the tools, resources and necessary training to enhance productivity and income.

Furthermore, DC directed all implementing departments to ensure transparent and time-bound execution of the approved projects and called for regular follow-up and coordination with beneficiaries so that the initiatives yield tangible results in terms of productivity, employment generation and quality produce.

Among others, the meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, General Manager DIC Pulwama, Chief Agriculture Officer Pulwama, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Pulwama, Assistant Director Fisheries Pulwama, District Sheep Husbandry Officer Pulwama and Lead District Manager Pulwama.



## 12th Meeting of Faculty of Fisheries held at SKUAST-K

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GANDERBAL: The 12th meeting of the Faculty of Fisheries Rangil, Ganderbal, SKUAST-K was convened at the Rangil Campus under the chairmanship of Prof. Farooz A. Bhat, Dean, Faculty of Fisheries.

At the outset, Dean, Faculty of Fisheries in detail emphasized on the importance of statutory meeting of Faculty of Fisheries in designing of Course curriculum, adoption and designing of various degree programmes etc and also deliberated about the agenda items taken up during the session.

The meeting witnessed the participation of officers of SKUAST-K including Prof. Altaf Ahmad Bhat, Director Education; Prof. Arshad Mughal, Dean, Faculty of Forestry; Prof. Neelofar Bandey, Dean, Faculty of Horticulture; Prof. Riyaz A. Shah, Dean, FVSc & AH; Dr Nahida, Deputy Director, Dept. of

Fisheries, Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir, besides Professors, Heads of Divisions of the Faculty of Fisheries, and other

curricula and related matters.

The main Agenda was the adoption of 6th Dean's Committee report (Syl-

lic structure of degrees/ diplomas/ certificates, introduction of an academic banking system (ABC), a multiple entry-and-exit system, flexible course selection, introduction of skill enhancement courses, making internship as part of UG-certificate, UG-diploma and degree requirements, and the incorporation of industry-oriented internships as part of UG requirements.

New age courses like artificial intelligence, robotics, machine learning, etc. have been incorporated into the course curricula for preparing student in the era of Digital Technology etc.

After thorough deliberations, discussions, several recommendations and approvals were made to further strengthen academic programmes.



members nominated by the University Authorities.

The house deliberated upon various agenda items pertaining to academic

labus) of ICAR in alignment of NEP 2024. The main feature of the 6th Deans committee adoption includes curriculum revision, modification of academ-

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## NTEP progress reviewed at Shopian

DC directs officers to step up IEC activities to spread awareness regarding prevention & timely treatment of TB

FE NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: In order to review the progress of the district towards the elimination of TB and to chart out a roadmap for achieving TB-free status, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta Wednesday chaired a meeting at Mini-Secretariat, Shopian.

At the outset, District Tuberculosis Officer (DTO) gave a detailed presentation on the current TB scenario, progress made under NTEP, status of patients, treatment success rates and challenges being faced in implementation.

It was informed that the health department is ensuring free diagnostic and treatment facilities through the network of Designated Centres and TB Units.

DC called upon the health department to ensure early detection of suspected cases, prompt laboratory confirmation and uninterrupted drug supply.

He directed the officers to step up IEC activities to spread awareness regarding prevention and timely treatment of TB. To ensure early diagnosis, the meeting also discussed the procurement of machines to enhance testing capabilities at health institutions.

Gupta assured full support from the district administration, encouraging collective action and consistent monitoring to eliminate tuberculosis from every household and every village. He directed the health department to submit weekly progress reports.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Arshid Hussain Tak; MS DH Shopian, DTO, BMOs, Health Supervisors and ASHA coordinators.



## DDC Budgam chairs orientation/ awareness programme on IT-enabled social security schemes

FE NEWS NETWORK

Charts roadmap for digital empowerment under PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY & PMJDY

BUDGAM: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, chaired an orientation cum awareness programme on Information Technology (IT) integration in social security schemes held at conference hall Budgam.



The event was aimed at sensitizing officers, bankers, nodal officials, and field-level functionaries about the role of IT platforms in strengthening implementation, monitoring, and delivery of central and state-run social security schemes.

During the orientation, detailed presentations were delivered highlighting the status, features, and achievements of various flagship schemes operational in district Budgam.

The schemes discussed in detail included Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) which has Annual Premium of Rs.436 per annum, Life insurance cover of Rs.2 lakh in case of death (any reason), so far in Budgam 23,876 subscribers have been enrolled.

Similarly, under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) which has Annual Premium of Rs.20 per annum and Accidental insurance of Rs.2 lakh, total 61,811 subscribers are enrolled in Budgam. Also, under Atal Pension Yojana (APY) total 5,128 subscribers are enrolled. Further, under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), a

total 1,15,477 accounts were opened.

DDC reviewed targets versus achievements for the financial year 2025-26, stressing the importance of covering every eligible household. He directed officials to redouble efforts to achieve saturation under all schemes and ensure that no eligible citizen is left uncovered.

He emphasized that these schemes are lifelines for economically weaker sections, vulnerable families, and marginalized groups, and IT-driven processes are the key to ensuring transparency, accountability, and citizen-friendly services.

Dr Bilal highlighted that integration of IT tools

and data-driven governance is the cornerstone for achieving transparency, efficiency, and accountability in scheme implementation.

He stressed on real-time dashboards to track enrollments and disbursements, digital outreach campaigns to spread awareness at grassroots levels, beneficiary verification and Aadhaar seeding to eliminate duplications and leakages, use of mobile applications, SMS alerts, and grievance portals for faster redressal and citizen engagement.

DDC underlined that Budgam is taking pioneering steps in adopting IT solutions to modernize governance, empower citizens, and bring welfare schemes closer to people's doorsteps.

He called upon all stakeholders including line departments, banks, Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs), and community organizations to work in close coordination. He urged them to take ownership of the mission to ensure that every farmer, laborer, worker, woman, and senior citizen in Budgam reaps the benefits of social security coverage.

HM Shah

charges punishable with imprisonment of five years or more. The bill states: “A Minister, who for any period of thirty consecutive days during holding the office as such, is arrested and detained in custody, on allegation of committing an offence under any law for the time being in force, which is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years or more, shall be removed from his office, by the President on the advice of the Chief Minister to be tendered by the thirty-first day, after being taken in such custody.”

It further states that if the Chief Minister fails to tender such advice to the President by the thirty-first day, the individual will cease to be a minister from the following day.

The Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2025 seek to apply similar provisions to ministers in Union Territories and the Jammu and Kashmir administration.

These are amendments to the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963, and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019. The Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill has been referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee of 31 members.

The committee will include members from both Houses of Parliament, chosen by the Lok Sabha Speaker and the Rajya Sabha Chairman.

Several opposition MPs, including Asaduddin Owaisi, Manish Tewari, NK Premachandran, Dharmendra Yadav, and KC Venugopal, opposed the bills. They argued that the proposed changes were in conflict with constitutional provisions.

Shah, however, maintained that the committee process would allow for further discussion and review.

The Joint Parliamentary Committee will examine all three bills and submit a report in the next session—(KNO)

J&K HC

a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice Rajnesh Oswal, which listed the case for further hearing on August 25.

The PIL has been filed by Advocate Mir Umar through Advocate Shafqat Nazir under Article 226 of the Constitution of India.

The petitioner has described the issue as a serious public health concern, alleging that meat and poultry products that are unfit for consumption are entering markets without proper veterinary inspection or certification.

According to the petition, this not only endangers public health but also violates the fundamental right to life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The petition seeks directions from the court for the government to take immediate measures to curb the sale, distribution, and transport of unsafe meat and poultry products.

It calls for the establishment of a permanent mechanism to inspect and monitor slaughterhouses, cold storages, markets, and entry points to ensure only certified products are allowed into circulation.

The petitioner has urged the court to direct the enforcement of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011.

In addition to regulatory enforcement, the PIL demands regular inspections of food establishments, seizure and destruction of unsafe products, prosecution of violators under applicable laws, and the launch of public awareness campaigns.

It also recommends the introduction of labelling systems for Halal and Jhatka meat to enable informed consumer choices.

The petition comes in the wake of several instances over recent weeks where enforcement agencies, including the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), reportedly seized meat products considered unfit for consumption.

The petitioner argues that without a consistent and systematised approach to monitoring and certification, such incidents are likely to continue, thereby posing a continued risk to consumers.

During the proceedings, Deputy Advocate General Bikram Deep Singh and Advocate Hakeem Amaan Ali, appearing on behalf of the government, assured the court that the administration would assist the court in addressing the matter.

The court has given the government time until August 25 to file its response.(KNS).

Multiple

launched to address environmental and climate challenges faced by the Himalayan region, including Jammu & Kashmir.”

He said that the missions will also focus on managing the effects of urbanization and tourism pressure in these areas.

“Since 2018, the Department of Science and Technology has allocated over 111 crore to the NMSHE. The mission conducts studies on climate vulnerabilities in the Himalayan region with particular attention to landslides, soil erosion, glacier changes, and urbanization impacts,” Dr Singh said.

He said that vulnerability assessments have been completed in 698 districts across the country, including those in Jammu & Kashmir, to identify high-risk zones for natural hazards.

Dr Singh said State Climate Change Cells have been set up in 13 Himalayan states and Union Territories to support risk assessment and assist in implementing climate action plans at the state level.

“A National Expert Committee oversees the ongoing research, while the Centre of Excellence for disaster risk reduction has been established at IIT Roorkee. Research institutions such as the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology are conducting detailed studies on earthquakes, landslides, and glacier systems,” Dr Singh said, adding, “Mission Mausam was launched by the Ministry of Earth Sciences to improve weather forecasting, disaster management, and the delivery of weather services to local communities. As part of this mission, the India Meteorological Department has developed BharatFS, a weather model with a resolution of six kilometers, which will provide detailed forecasts at block and panchayat levels.”

He said that the ministry is also expanding observational networks, integrating artificial intelligence into forecasting models, and releasing regular climate statements for states. “The government is conducting Deep Ocean Mission projects to explore seabed minerals and map coastal vulnerabilities. Nearly 1,300 new deep-sea organisms have been catalogued, with 23 species newly identified to science” Dr Singh said—(KNO)

CM Omar

rather than leaving corrective measures to the last quarter of the financial year.

“Departments must not wait for February and March to chase revenue targets. Each department will receive specific communication from the Finance Department flagging their areas of concern and giving a six-month revenue target breakdown. They should start working on improving revenue realization today, with a clear monthly plan,” the Chief Minister stressed.

He further directed that Deputy Commissioners will be given district-specific instructions from the Finance Department,

Rare Mushroom Species found in India for the First Time

J&K botanist and North India expert report Amanita griseopantherina in global journal

**SRINAGAR:** In a landmark discovery for Indian biodiversity, researchers have reported the first-ever record of the rare mushroom species *Amanita griseopantherina* from India. The finding, made by Dr. Faisal Mushtaq Kichloo, senior faculty in Botany with the Higher Education Department, J&K, and Dr. Anil Kumar, a noted mushroom expert from North India, has been published in Springer’s peer-reviewed journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Previously known only from China, the species was collected from



mixed coniferous forests of Jammu and Kashmir. Its identification marks a significant addition to the fungal diversity of the Indian subcontinent.

For authentication, DNA isolation, amplification, and sequencing were carried out at the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Thiruvana-

nthapuram. Both morphological and molecular analyses confirmed the identity of the species, firmly establishing its place within the Ama-

nita griseopantherina clade.

“This is a highly significant record for Indian mycology. It opens new avenues for research on fungal diversity, conservation, and ecological interactions,” the researchers said.

The discovery is expected to boost scientific understanding of

fungi in the Himalayan region, which remains one of the least explored biodiversity hotspots in the world. (PR)

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ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from the eligible desirous candidates for engagement as Guest Faculty in Govt. Polytechnic College Ganderbal, for the session Nov-Dec 2025 purely on temporary basis in the following disciplines:

| S.No. | Course/Subject                         | Minimum Qualification                                                        |
|-------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01    | Electrical Engineering                 | B.E./B.Tech in Electrical Engineering from a recognized University/Institute |
| 02    | Civil Engineering                      | B.E./B.Tech in Civil Engineering from a recognized University/Institute      |
| 03    | Computer Engineering                   | B.E./B.Tech in Computer Engineering from a recognized University/Institute   |
| 04    | Entrepreneurship & Business Management | MBA from a recognized University/Institute                                   |

**REMUNERATION:** The Guest Lecturer shall be paid remuneration @Rs. 750 per lecture to the condition that monthly remuneration shall not exceed Rs 20,000/-.

**SELECTION CRITERIA:** On the date of interaction/Demo class, which shall be communicated to the shortlisted candidates through email, the candidates must come along with all their original certificates, updated C.V and relevant experience certificates. Appearing in Interaction is must and candidates who fail to attend the interaction session shall not be considered for further selection. Selection Criteria in terms of norms prescribed by Directorate order No. 37 of 2023 dated 24/01/2023 shall be followed as under: /.

- 80 points for basic qualification.
- 05 points for higher qualification.
- 05 points for GATE/NET/SET.
- 05 points for teaching experience (Polytechnic Diploma level or higher) on pro rata basis, 01 point for each academic year.
- 05 points for interview/Demo class.

OTHER T&C:

- The Last Date for submission of Application forms is 25-08-2025, 04:00 PM.
- The Engagement shall be purely on Guest faculty norms and shall be for only 01 academic session.
- Selected candidates shall submit undertaking /affidavit duly authenticated by First Class Magistrate before joining wherein clearly the conditions are stipulated that he/she shall not claim for continuation of his/her services and the agreement can be terminated at any point of time without any notice period.
- Hardcopy of the application form along with self-attested copies of the qualification certificate. Domicile, experience (if any) is to be submitted to the Principal office Govt. Polytechnic College Ganderbal by or before 23/08/2025 (Copy Enclosed).
- Shortlisting of candidates for the interview will be done in 1:5 ratio.

Sd/- Principal  
Govt. polytechnic College Ganderbal

APPLICATION FORM

- Post applied for:-.....
- Name of applicant:-.....
- Parentage:-.....
- Sex: Male Female
- Permanent Address:-.....
- Current Address:-.....
- Contact No.-.....
- Email ID: -.....
- Date of Birth:-.....
- Academic and Technical Qualification:



| Exam | Year of Passing | Board/University | Total Marks | Marks Obtained | Percentage of Marks | Remarks |
|------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------------|---------|
|      |                 |                  |             |                |                     |         |
|      |                 |                  |             |                |                     |         |
|      |                 |                  |             |                |                     |         |
|      |                 |                  |             |                |                     |         |

11. Experience (if any):

| Post Held | Organisation (Govt/Pvt) | Period from | To |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------------|----|
|           |                         |             |    |
|           |                         |             |    |
|           |                         |             |    |

Declaration:

I,-----S/O,D/O,W/O-----R/O----- Tehsil ----- District----- do hereby affirm that the entries made herein above in the application form are true and correct and nothing has been concealed therein.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Applicant  
**DIPK-5322/25** Dt: 20-08-2025

Office of the Executive Engineer  
(R&B) Division Bandipora.  
CORRIGENDUM

Subject:1.Construction of One Number of Pre-fabricated Hut at Gori Hajin Shamthan-Arin Bandipora.

Ref: - Fresh e-NIT No.17/ET/R&B/Bandipora of 2025-26 Dated:-24-07-2025.

Due to Inadequate confirmatory documents uploaded by participated bidders and have been found non-responsive in technical evaluation.Hence the subjected work advertised vide this office e-NIT No. in reference is hereby canceled.

Fresh NIT shall be issued shortly.

No.-EE/R&B/Bandi/2892-99

Dated:-19-08-2025.

Sd/= Executive Engineer

**DIPK-5326/25** Dt: 20-08-2025

# India Fast-Tracks Drug Regulation Reforms; PSA Ajay Kumar Sood Reviews Progress

**NEW DELHI:** Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, chaired the fourth follow-up review meeting on transforming the country's regulatory ecosystem for medical products, under the recommendations of the 24th PM-STIAC meeting. The reforms are aimed at ensuring transparency, accountability, and innovation, while positioning India as a trusted hub for safe and reliable medical products.

Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) Dr. Rajeev Raghuvanshi updated the meeting on the progress made in priority areas, highlighting that several digital tools and new frameworks have significantly reduced regulatory timelines.

A key development was the launch of the State Drug Regulatory Index on August 12, which benchmarks states on the performance of their drug regulators through an objective evaluation mechanism. Prof. Sood said such competitive benchmarking would "draw all states into the system and significantly raise the overall standard of drug regulation in India."

The CDSCO has also released a comprehensive guidance framework for Subject Expert Committees (SECs) to

2022 now take 98 days. Digitisation measures were another major focus. The CDSCO has operation-



streamline the review process for applications. As a result, timelines have seen sharp reductions: for example, approvals for global clinical trials (CT-04) for cell and gene therapies (CGTs) dropped from 226 days in 2022 to 40 days in 2024. Similarly, post-approval changes in CGTs that earlier took 218 days in

alised digital dashboards for tracking and prioritisation, along with systems for NSQ (Not of Standard Quality) data, Dual-Use No Objection Certificates, and WHO Certificates of Pharmaceutical Products. Officials said this has created a harmonised national database, strengthened transparency, and improved pre-

dictation for industry and regulators alike.

In alignment with international norms, CDSCO has also prepared biosimilar guidance to expand access to biologics in India.

Prof. Sood stressed the need for long-term, quantifiable milestones, including internal audits and measurable targets, to bring Indian drug regulation up to global gold standards. "The ongoing transformation will enhance patient safety, domestic capabilities, and also give Indian manufacturers a competitive edge in global markets," he said.

The meeting was attended by senior officials including Dr. Parvinder Maini, Scientific Secretary, Office of PSA; Dr. Sindura Ganapathi, PSA Fellow; Dr. Sangeeta Agarwal, Scientist 'F'; Mr. Apoorv Chouhan, Project Manager, One Health PMU; and Shri Nikhil Gajraj, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Officials said the reforms underway will help boost global trust in India's regulatory framework and facilitate faster access to safe, affordable medical products for patients. (PIB)

# NATO defense chiefs hold a virtual meeting on security guarantees for Ukraine

**BRUSSELS:** NATO defence chiefs were due to hold a virtual meeting Wednesday, a senior alliance official said, as Western countries pushing for an end to Russia's war on Ukraine devise possible future security guarantees for Kyiv that could help forge a peace agreement.

Italian Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone, the chair of NATO's Military Committee, said that 32 defence chiefs from across the alliance would hold a video conference as a US-led diplomatic push seeks to end the fighting.

US Gen Alexus Grynkeiwich, NATO's supreme allied commander Europe, will take part in the talks, Dragone said on social platform X.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov chided efforts to work on security arrangements in Ukraine without Moscow's involvement.

"We cannot agree with the fact that it is now proposed to resolve collective security issues without the Russian Federation. This will not work," Lavrov said Wednesday, according to state news agency RIA Novosti.

Russia will "ensure (its) legitimate interests firmly and harshly," Lavrov added at a news conference in Moscow with Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman al-Safadi.

Defence chiefs work on details of a Ukraine security force

US President Donald Trump met last Friday with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska and on Monday hosted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and prominent European leaders at the White House. Neither meeting delivered concrete progress.

Trump is trying to steer Putin and Zelenskyy toward a settlement more than three years after Russia invaded its neighbour, but there are major obstacles. They include Ukraine's demands for Western-backed military assurances to ensure Russia won't mount another invasion in coming years.

"We need strong security guarantees to ensure a truly secure and lasting peace," Zelenskyy said in a Telegram post Wednesday after Russian missile and drone strikes hit six regions of Ukraine overnight.

Kyiv's European allies are looking to set up a force that could backstop any peace agreement, and a coalition of 30 countries, including European nations, Japan and Australia, have signed up to support the initiative.

Military chiefs are figuring out how that security force might work. The role that the US



might play in is unclear. Trump on Tuesday ruled out sending US troops to help defend Ukraine against Russia.

Russia has repeatedly said that it would not accept NATO troops in Ukraine.

Attacks on civilian areas in Sumy and Odesa overnight into Wednesday injured 15 people, including a family with three small children, Ukrainian authorities said. Russian strikes also targeted ports and fuel and energy infrastructure, officials said.

Zelenskyy said the strikes "only confirm the need for pressure on Moscow, the need to introduce new sanctions and tariffs until diplomacy works to its full potential."

Trump said Monday he has begun arrangements for a face-to-face meeting between Putin and Zelenskyy, although the Kremlin hasn't publicly confirmed such a possibility and no venue was suggested.

French President Emmanuel Macron has said the summit could happen in Europe and proposed the Swiss city of Geneva. Switzerland has expressed its willingness to act as host.

Putin's ability to travel abroad is limited, however, because he is wanted by the International Criminal Court in The Hague on a warrant dating back to March 2023 for alleged involvement in the abduction of Ukrainian children.

More than 100 countries are ICC signatories and have a legal obligation to arrest the Russian leader on their soil.

Switzerland intends to ask the ICC to exempt it from sanctions in order to allow Putin in for a summit, according to a senior official in The Hague with direct knowledge of the request. The official was not authorised to speak about the proceedings and spoke on condition of anonymity. (PTI)

# India, Eurasian Economic Union sign terms of reference to launch FTA negotiations

India and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) comprising Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) to launch negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) today in Moscow. The ToR was signed by Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Government of India, Shri Ajay Bhadoo, and Deputy Director, Trade Policy Department, Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC), Mr. Mikhail Cherekaev.

During his visit, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Government of India, Shri Ajay Bhadoo also called on Minister in charge of Trade, EEC, Mr. Andrei Slepnev. The heads of negotiation groups apprised the Minister about the milestone achieved with the signing of the ToR and discussed next steps to formally launch the negotiation process, including organizational aspects of the future trade deal.

Both sides noted the growing trade turnover between India and the EAEU, which stood at USD 69 billion in 2024, registering a 7 percent increase over 2023. With a combined GDP of USD 6.5 trillion, the proposed FTA is expected to expand market access for Indian exporters, support diversification into new sectors and geographies, enhance competitiveness against non-market economies, and deliver significant benefits to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

The ToR provides the framework for negotiations and is expected to unlock untapped trade potential, increase investments and establish a stronger, durable India-EAEU economic partnership. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the early conclusion of the agreement and to building a long-term institutional framework for trade cooperation. (PIB)



# LG Kavinder Gupta Meets Union Civil Aviation Minister In Delhi; Seeks Enhanced Air Connectivity For Ladakh



**NEW DELHI:** Lieutenant Governor of UT Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, called on Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Kinjarapu Ram-mohan Naidu, at his office in New Delhi and discussed critical issues concerning air connectivity in Ladakh.

During the meeting, the Lt Governor strongly advocated for operationalising air services from Kargil and Thoise (Nubra) under the RCS-UDAN scheme, highlighting that these regions remain inadequately connected for most of the year due to difficult terrain and prolonged road closures. He pointed out that the current IAF-operated winter services under Operation Sadbhavana are limited in capacity and only cater to emergency travellers, students, and patients, leaving a vast section of the population dependent on restricted options.

The Lt Governor urged the Ministry to clear existing bottlenecks and facilitate fixed-wing operations with turboprop aircraft of up to

50 seats for sustainable connectivity. He further proposed that a table-top feasibility exercise be conducted at Kargil Airport with representatives of MoCA, DGCA, AAI, and other stakeholders to finalise operational standards, aircraft categories, and pilot requirements for regular services. The Lt Governor also raised the issue of high airfares on existing routes to Ladakh, pressing for a fair regulatory mechanism to ensure affordable travel for residents and visitors alike.

Another major agenda discussed was the speedy completion of the new terminal at Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport, Leh, which is vital for handling the increasing passenger traffic and strengthening Ladakh's connectivity with the rest of the country.

The Union Minister gave a patient hearing and assured full cooperation from the Ministry in addressing these concerns and working towards improved air services for the people of Ladakh. (PIB)

# Myanmar's military retakes strategic town 2 years after resistance captured it

**BANGKOK:** Myanmar's military has regained control of a strategic town in eastern Kayah state from the opposition's armed forces after nearly two years, state media reported Wednesday.

The recapture of Demoso in Kayah state — also known as Karenni — came as the military has stepped up activity in recent months, on the ground and with airstrikes, to retake areas controlled by the resistance ahead of elections it has promised to hold on December 28.

Demoso, located about 110 kilometres east of the capital Naypyitaw, has been a focal point for Myanmar's civil war since the military took power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021.

The town had been under the control of the Karenni Nationalities Defence Force, or KNDF, and allied resistance forces in Kayah since the groups launched joint offensives against army bases in the state in November 2023.

A report in the state-run Myanmar Alinn newspaper on Wednesday said Demoso, near the state's capital of Loilek, was captured by the army on Tuesday after 16 days of operations to retake it.

The report said six bodies and five weapons

were seized, adding that some members of the security forces were also killed. The newspaper published photos of soldiers who recaptured the town in front of the hospital, fire department and town hall. The KNDF and other local resistance groups did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

In a statement posted Monday on Facebook, the KNDF accused the military of carrying out unlawful arrests of civilians, deliberate shootings and killings without cause and the use of civilians as human shields in attacking Demoso. Kayah, the smallest of Myanmar's seven states and dominated by the Karenni ethnic minority, has experienced intense conflict.

The provisional government formed by resistance groups in Kayah, including the KNDF, said Monday that at least 32 civilians were killed, five were wounded and several were missing after the military on Sunday bombed a hospital in the town of Mawchi, about 80 kilometres south of Demoso.

In a separate incident, an airstrike killed at least 21 people Thursday in the town of Mogok, the center of the Southeast Asian country's gem mining industry, according to reports in Myanmar's independent online media. (PTI)

# Survivors Share Their Journeys Of Hope, Healing

## Paras Health Hosts Cardiac Care Success Meet

**SRINAGAR:** Paras Health Srinagar hosted the Cardiac Surgery Beneficiary Meet, bringing together cardiac patients, doctors, and members of the community to share recovery stories and highlight the growing advancements in heart care available in the Valley.

The event featured patients who spoke about their journeys of overcoming life-threatening cardiac conditions through successful surgeries at Paras Health Srinagar. Their stories served as powerful reminders of resilience, expert care, and the advanced facilities now accessible locally.

Doctors from the Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery (CTVS) team shared insights into complex cases managed at the hospital and shed light on the rising need for cardiac surgeries in the region.



They also stressed the importance of preventive measures, lifestyle changes, and early diagnosis in tackling the increasing burden of heart disease.

Speaking at the event, Dr Syed Asrar Ahmad Qadri, Director, Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeon, Paras Health Srinagar, said, "We have successfully managed some of the most complex cardiac cases, including high-risk bypass surgeries, valve replacements, and emergency interventions. What makes the difference is timely intervention, multidisciplinary collaboration, and the trust patients place in us. My advice to the community is to focus on prevention—regular check-ups, managing blood pressure and diabetes, avoiding smoking, and following a heart-healthy lifestyle. At Paras Health Srinagar, our multispecialty approach brings

together cardiology, intensive care, radiology, and surgical expertise under one roof, ensuring comprehensive management and excellent outcomes for patients."

The hospital management reaffirmed its commitment to providing world-class cardiac care to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. With state-of-the-art infrastructure and a skilled team of specialists, Paras Health Srinagar is making advanced treatments available closer to home, reducing the need for patients to travel outside the Valley for critical care.

The event concluded with a strong message of hope and awareness, underscoring the importance of timely medical intervention, preventive health-care, and community support in addressing cardiac challenges. (PR)

# WAZWAN DELIGHTS

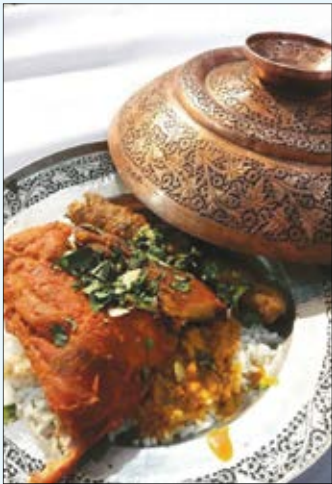
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