

One-Day Sensitization Workshop on PCPNDT Act held at Samba

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SAMBA: A one-day sensitization workshop on the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act was organized today under the Chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Jagdish Singh in the presence of Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. Vidhi Bhatial; Assistant Director DHS Jammu, Dr. Summi Thakur; Law Officer, Shivali



Gupta; Block Medical Officers (BMOs), Nodal Officers and public and private sonologists, gynecologists, pediatricians, proprietors and NGO representatives.

The workshop aimed to enhance awareness and understanding among medical practitioners, health officials and other stakeholders regarding the provisions, rules and regulations of the PCPNDT Act. The Act seeks to prevent the misuse of prenatal diagnostic techniques and curb the practice of sex selection, thereby promoting gender equality and protecting the rights of the girl child.

Addressing the participants, ADC Jagdish Singh emphasized the importance of strict implementation of the PCPNDT Act and called upon all stakeholders to work collectively towards eradicating gender-based discrimination. He highlighted that effective monitoring and compliance at every level are crucial to uphold the spirit of the Act.

CMO Dr. Vidhi Bhatial elaborated the key objectives of the Act, including the regulation of diagnostic techniques, ensuring accountability of registered medical practitioners and promoting awareness about gender-sensitive practices in healthcare. She urged the medical fraternity to maintain transparency in record-keeping and adhere to the legal provisions to prevent any violations.

Dr Simmi Thakur presented a Powerpoint presentation on the importance of this act, while Shivali Gupta conducted detailed sessions on the legal framework, reporting procedures and responsibilities of clinics and ultrasound centers under the PCPNDT Act.

The workshop also featured interactive session and case-based learning to help participants understand the practical aspects of its implementation.

The workshop concluded with a collective pledge to strengthen coordination between the health department and enforcement agencies to ensure the effective implementation of the PCPNDT Act in the district and to uphold the objective of safeguarding the girl child

Fisheries Department Kupwara Stocks Brown Trout Fingerlings in Designated Trout Streams

KUPWARA: The Department of Fisheries Kupwara has undertaken a significant initiative by stocking Brown Trout



fingerlings in the upper reaches of Mawar, Dringyari, and Kalaroose streams, which have been officially declared as trout streams under the J&K Fisheries (Amendment) Act, 2018.

The genetically improved eyed ova of Brown Trout were imported from Denmark under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampadha Yojana (PMMSY) 2024-25 and were reared to fingerling size at the departmental hatchery in Kulgam before being released into the natural streams.

This milestone initiative aims to replenish and enrich natural trout habitats, ensuring the sustenance of fish biodiversity and promoting sport fishing in the region.

Pertinently, Brown Trout, a globally renowned sport fish, attracts anglers from across the world. Kashmir, known as the "Angler's Paradise," continues to host thousands of fishing enthusiasts every year.

In Kupwara, several anglers have already started visiting these streams to enjoy trout fishing in the pristine waters. Apart from recreation, trout angling contributes significantly to eco-tourism promotion and environmental conservation, while also encouraging responsible interaction with nature.

The Department of Fisheries has reiterated its commitment to strengthen sustainable fisheries management and promote angling-based tourism in the district.

Police arrests absconder after 19 years in Ganderbal

SRINAGAR: Police in Ganderbal achieved another success by arresting one more absconder who had been evading arrest for 19 years, a police spokesman said Monday.

He said that the arrested individual has been identified as Mohammad Iqbal Zargar son of Ghulam Mohammad Zargar resident of Gulab Bagh Zakura, Srinagar, who was wanted in Case FIR No. 33/2006 U/S 420 RPC of Police Station Kangan. Acting on specific information, a police apprehended the said absconder from Srinagar. After completing all legal formalities, the accused was produced before the Court of JMFC Kangan, wherefrom he has been sent to Subsidiary Jail Dignibal, the spokesman added.

Devyani Rana attends cremation of PDD daily wager Shubam Manhas

Seeks Safety Mechanism For Maintenance Staff

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NAGROTA: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate for the upcoming by-elections to the Nagrota Assembly Constituency, Devyani Rana, met the grieving family of Shubham Manhas, a daily wager with the Power Development Department (PDD), who tragically lost his life while performing his duty.

Rana met the grieving family, other mourners and people from the area at the National Highway where they were staging protests over the incident, seeking accountability for negligence.

She also joined the mourners at the cremation ground where the mortal remains of the deceased were consigned to flames amid mantras.

At this residence, Devyani Rana expressed her profound sorrow over the tragic death, offered condolences and expressed solidarity. She said the loss of Manhas is a huge tragedy for the family and no words can truly ease their pain.

She prayed for peace to the departed soul and strength to the family to bear this irreparable loss.

Interacting with the mourners, Ms. Devyani Rana expressed deep concern over the growing occurrences of such tragic mishaps involving power department field staff. She said that these repeated incidents point to serious gaps in safety



protocols and must be examined at the highest level to evolve a robust and foolproof system that ensures the protection of workers performing high-risk duties.

Rana emphasized that the safety of maintenance and technical staff cannot be compromised under any circumstances, and called for immediate corrective and preventive measures to minimize such accidents in the future. She reiterated that those working tirelessly to maintain essential services deserve a safe and secure

work environment, equipped with proper gear, training, and supervision.

She further urged the concerned authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into the circumstances leading to this unfortunate incident, to determine accountability and prevent recurrence. Ms. Rana also sought immediate and adequate compensation for the bereaved family, along with all possible institutional support to help them rebuild their lives in this hour of immense loss.

Mission Director HADP Reviews Programme Implementation Across J&K

Stresses promotion of Nutri-Cereals, Agri-processing ventures

JAMMU: Mission Director HADP/JKCIP Sandeep Kumar chaired a meeting to take a comprehensive review of the progress of the programme in the Union Territory. The meeting was held here in the Conference Hall, Directorate of Agriculture- Krishi Bhawan.

The Mission Director reviewed the physical and financial achievements under different HADP projects being implemented in both public and private sectors.

The meeting was attended by Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta; Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Sayed; Director Horticulture Kashmir Vikas Anand and Deputy Director Agriculture (Planning) Jammu Priyanka Parihar, along with Technical Officers HADP (Agriculture and Horticulture) Jammu, technical staff of Mission Directorate HADP, representatives and Principal Investigators from SKUAST-Jammu.

Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah; Chief Agriculture Officers and Chief Horticulture Officers of all districts of Jammu and Kashmir; Technical Officers HADP Kashmir; representatives and Principal



month to ensure timely implementation of project activities. While reviewing the progress under the Promotion of Nutri-Cereals (Millets) component, he directed to establish millet mills in those areas where millet cultivation is expanding and the beneficiaries have an actual need.

He also took a detailed review of the Kisan Sathi Portal activities and instructed to clear all pending approvals immediately. He further directed to remove inactive applications systematically and register those genuinely in need of support. The Mission Director also stressed the importance of regular photo

documentation with GPS coordinates to be shared with the Mission Directorate for real-time monitoring.

Highlighting the importance of GI tagging of indigenous millet varieties, he urged SKUAST to expedite the process. SKUAST-Jammu informed that work is already underway on seven such millet varieties. The Mission Director also emphasized the development and sharing of Packages of Practices (PoP) and technology transfer by SKUAST Jammu and SKUAST Kashmir with their respective Directorates for wider farmer adoption.

Sandeep Kumar further underscored the need to establish canning units under HADP to enhance the shelf life of agriculture and horticulture produce, thereby increasing farmers' income. He also highlighted the significance of exposure visits of farmers at the national level, enabling them to learn about new technologies and innovative practices. He directed that consolidated reports of such exposure visits be submitted to the Mission Directorate in a timely manner.

The Mission Director laid special emphasis on strengthening Research and Development (R&D) efforts to ensure the availability of improved seed varieties, which would enhance yield and productivity across the UT.

Doda To Jammu Helicopter Service Takes Off To Boost Connectivity, Ease Travel

DODA: In a significant step towards improving regional connectivity and providing faster travel options to the people here, the much-awaited helicopter service from Doda to Jammu was officially inaugurated today. The service aims to bridge the gap between remote mountainous districts and the capital city of Jammu, ensuring affordable, safe and time-efficient travel for the residents.

The inaugural event was attended by the District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Dhananther Singh Kotwal and the Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh. They appreciated the initiative, describing it as a milestone that will greatly benefit the people of Doda by enhancing mobility and emergency response. The fare for a one-way ticket has been fixed at 2500 per person, making the service accessible and affordable for all sections of society.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said "The administration has been continuously working to enhance connectivity in this hilly region. With the start of the Doda-Jammu helicopter service, residents now have a reliable and quick mode of transport, especially during emergencies or harsh weather conditions. We are also committed to ensuring that this facility operates smoothly and benefits the maximum number of people."

While interacting with the media, the DC

Harvinder Singh informed that the District Administration Doda has established an Information Cell in the DC Office Complex to assist passengers in making bookings, obtaining information about flight schedules

the district administration. They expressed their happiness and satisfaction, sharing that the experience was comfortable, safe and a welcome convenience compared to the long road journey.



and other travel-related queries.

Similarly, passengers traveling from Jammu to Doda can contact the Directorate of Tourism Office for detailed information and assistance, he said and added that the fare has been subsidized to ensure affordability for the general public and promote greater accessibility for all travelers.

During the launch event, three passengers arriving from Jammu to Doda on the inaugural flight were warmly received by

The introduction of helicopter service has been widely welcomed by local residents, who expressed their gratitude to the administration for making air travel affordable and accessible. The launch marks a new chapter in Doda's connectivity, symbolizing the government's commitment to improving transport infrastructure, promoting regional development and bringing essential services closer to the people.

DC Udhampur discusses activity plan for celebration of 150 Years of Vande Mataram

UDHAMPUR: To discuss the modalities for the commemoration of 150 Years of National Pride Vande Mataram in the district, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai chaired a meeting of officers from the line departments in the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; PO Poshan Subash Dogra; GM DIC Kishore Singh Katoch; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan; Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh and other district officers.

At the outset, ADC Prem Singh gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighting the objectives and framework of the campaign. He informed that the commemoration will be organized in four phases, with the first phase scheduled to commence on November 7. He added that the initiative envisages a series of activities to celebrate the timeless message of unity and national pride embodied in the National Song Vande Mataram.

The DC asked the officers to chalk out department-wise action plans for organizing awareness activities and outreach programmes across the district. She directed the officers to submit their respective action plans at the earliest. "The celebrations shall be people-centric, reflecting the patriotic spirit and cultural vibrancy of Udhampur district," she added.

The heads of departments and educational institutions were asked to ensure maximum public participation through meticulous planning, effective coordination and creative execution of the proposed events.



GCOE Jammu organises anti-tobacco awareness campaign

JAMMU: NCORD Committee of Government College of Education Jammu, in collaboration with the National Service Scheme (NSS) and Psychological Counseling Cell organized an Anti-Tobacco Campaign aimed at spreading awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption and promoting a healthy, drug-free lifestyle among the youth.

The event was held under the leadership of Principal of the College, Dr. Jyoti Parihar. She commended the organisers and students and ensured that such initiatives will be a part of curriculum.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members who carried placards, banners and slogans highlighting the message of "Say No to Tobacco" and "Health is Wealth." The event sought to sensitize the community about the physical, mental and social hazards of tobacco use, aligning with national efforts to achieve a tobacco-free India. The program was organized under the patronship of Dr. Ramzan Ali (Convenor NCORD) Dr. Subhra Jamwal (NSS PO) and Dr. Ambica. (Convenor Psychological Counselling Cell), who coordinated the efforts of the students and volunteers to ensure the event's success. The convenors emphasized the importance of such initiatives in shaping responsible citizens who contribute positively to society.

Speaking on the occasion, the convenors applauded the active participation of students and highlighted the role of educational institutions in nurturing awareness and behavioral change. The rally concluded with an interactive session where students shared their reflections and pledged to advocate for a tobacco-free environment. The event formed part of the college's ongoing commitment to community outreach, mental health promotion and holistic education. The college administration appreciated the collaborative efforts of NCORD, NSS and Psychological Counseling Cell for making the initiative impactful and engaging.

Two Drivers Injured in Collision Between Tippers in North Kashmir's Baramulla

PALHALLAN: Two drivers sustained injuries after two tippers collided near the TCP Phyderbeigh area of Palhallan in North Kashmir's Baramulla district on Monday morning.

Eyewitnesses said the impact of the collision was severe, leaving both vehicles badly damaged. Locals and police immediately rushed to the spot and helped shift the injured drivers to a hospital in Srinagar for advanced treatment.

A police official confirmed the incident and said that both drivers are receiving medical attention. The cause of the accident is being investigated. The mishap also led to a temporary disruption in traffic movement along the stretch before normalcy was restored. [KNT]

Sakeena Itoo reviews performance, functioning of School Education department across Jammu division

Calls for effective, transparent utilisation of public funds

JAMMU: Minister for Education, Sakeena Itoo today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the performance and functioning of School Education department across Jammu division.



The meeting was attended by Secretary School Education department, Ram Niwas Sharma; Project Director Samagra Shiksha, Bhawani Rakwal; Director School Education Jammu, Naseem Javid Chowdhary; Chief Education Officers of all districts of Jammu and other concerned officers of School Education department.

During the meeting, the Minister assessed the progress of various centrally sponsored schemes, infrastructure development projects, academic reforms, and digital learning initiatives aimed at improving

the quality of education across government schools. During the meeting, the Minister emphasized on the efficient and transparent utilisation of public funds to strengthen the education ecosystem.

She stressed that every rupee allocated for education sector must be spent judiciously and with measurable outcomes.

She directed officers to ensure timely completion of ongoing projects, particularly those related to school infrastructure, ICT labs, teacher training, and learning enhancement programmes. She asked them to address bottlenecks on priority and submit regular progress reports to the department.

The Minister called for the adoption of transparent monitoring mechanisms and periodic audits to prevent fund lapses and ensure that benefits reach the grassroots level. She further instructed officers to

strengthen community participation through School Management committees and promote accountability at every administrative tier.

Highlighting the government's focus on inclusive and equitable education, the Minister also underscored the importance of bridging learning gaps, enhancing the teaching-learning process, and improving student learning outcomes, particularly in rural and far-flung areas.

Reiterating the Government's commitment to transforming the education sector, the Minister assured that the government would continue to support initiatives that empower teachers, modernize classrooms, and create a robust learning environment for all students. "Education is the foundation of any progressive society.

Transparent utilisation of funds and effective monitoring of schemes will ensure schools becoming centres of excellence," the Minister stated.

While reviewing other aspects of the department, the Minister strictly instructed the CEOs that school children shouldn't be sent to Government functions, particularly during peak academic and examination session, without prior approval and permission of respective Directors.

The Education Minister further asked the CEOs to take reviews in their respective districts from the Assembly Constituency level and prepare all data accordingly so that the MLAs are provided timely information. She also asked them to take MLAs on board while initiating any new developmental projects in their respective districts.

...Bye-Elections to 27-Assembly Constituency Budgam

Voter Awareness Programme under SVEEP held at Ompora to Encourage Voter Participation

BUDGAM: Under the directions of the District Election Officer (DEO) Budgam,

polling stations identified with lower participation rates in the Ompora area.



Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, the District Administration today organised a series of voter awareness activities under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme.

The initiative was spearheaded by the District Nodal Officer SVEEP (Chief Education Officer Budgam) with the aim to enhance voter turnout in

The programme witnessed the presence of the General Observer, Bhor Singh Yadav; Police Observer, Nachiketa Jha, and Expenditure Observer Ravinder Kumar, appointed by ECI for upcoming bye-elections to 27-AC Budgam who along with Chief Education Officer Budgam, Rifat Irfan Qadri, observed the proceedings and appreciated the enthusiasm of the participants.

As part of the campaign, a range of engaging activities were conducted including Nukkad Natak (street plays), rallies, distribution of voter awareness pamphlets, and display of informative hoardings.

These activities were designed to sensitize and motivate the local populace, especially first-time voters, about the importance of active participation in the democratic process.

A large number of students, teachers, and local residents took part in the awareness rally, which commenced from Ibtisama Paramedical College, passed through various streets of Ompora, and culminated at Eid Gah Ompora.

The vibrant and energetic participation of the community reflected a collective commitment towards ensuring greater electoral participation in the forthcoming bye-elections to 27-Assembly Constituency Budgam. The district administration Budgam reiterated its commitment to continue such awareness programmes across different areas of the district to promote informed, ethical, and inclusive voting.

SBI donates 1.55 crore to Chief Minister's Relief Fund

CM Omar Abdullah lauds SBI's gesture of solidarity, service beyond banking



JAMMU: A deputation of the State Bank of India (SBI) called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, and presented a cheque of 1.55 crore as a contribution to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

The delegation was led by Jayant Mani, Deputy General Manager (Business and Operations) and Controlling Head for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed his gratitude to the SBI employees for their generous contribution, describing it as "a noble gesture of solidarity and service beyond banking."

He said the donation reflects SBI's continued commitment to social responsibility and its deep bond with the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

DC Bandipora Inaugurates 'Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan' Felicitates Officers under Aadi Karmayogi Programme

BANDIPORA: The District Administration Bandipora today organised a felicitation ceremony under Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh to acknowledge the exceptional performance of officers and field functionaries under the Aadi Karmayogi Programme.

The event was held at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner inaugurated the 'Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan: Awareness and Benefit Saturation Camp', a 15-day campaign being organised across the district to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda Sahib. The campaign aims to promote saturation of government welfare schemes, enhance awareness among tribal communities, and strengthen participatory governance through active community engagement.

During the felicitation ceremony, the DC lauded the district's achievement of national-level recognition for outstanding

performance under the Aadi Karmayogi initiative.

The DC urged officers to continue their dedication towards inclusive development and



invited innovative suggestions for strengthening the Village Development Programme under Aadi Karmayogi.

On the occasion, a presentation by the District Programme Manager, NHM, highlighted how the Aadi Karmayogi Village Development Programme was compiled

reflecting 17 ministries, encompassing vision formulation, situation analysis, village mapping, transect walks, Seva Kendras, painting competitions,

progress, showcasing activities like village orientation, wall paintings, Seva Kendras, special gram sabhas, and identification of infrastructural gaps under the programme.

The Deputy Commissioner directed that each tribal village should have one village map painting displayed prominently and ensured that all tribal populations are included in the fortnight-long campaign under the Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan.

Among others, the event was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Hussain Shawl; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Shabir Ahmad Wani; Chief Planning Officer Bandipora, Mohammad Maqbool; District Programme Officer ICDS, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Education Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, AD FCS&CA, District Information Officer and other district and sectoral officers, besides representatives from various departments and field functionaries.

DC Ramban review progress under District Capex Budget 2025-26

Stresses on 100% physical, financial achievement

RAMBAN: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress under the District Capex Budget 2025-26.

The meeting aimed to ensure achievement of 100% physical and financial targets, effective, transparent and timely implementation of all approved developmental projects of RDD, PWD, Jal Shakti, JPCL, Education, Health, Urban Local Bodies and other departments across the district.

Assistant Commissioner Development, officers from the line departments and engineers from REW, PWD, PDD, PMGSY, besides Block Development Officers (BDOs) and other executing agencies were in attendance.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of ongoing developmental works and discussed the implementation of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) Plan. Detailed deliberations were also held on new project proposals, requirements for ongoing works and local developmental priorities.

The DC directed the Executive Engineer REW to take up allotted works immediately and expedite the process for allotment for the remaining approved works. He also asked the development departments to construct Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs) at prominent public locations and conduct regular cleanliness drives in their respective areas to promote hygiene and sanitation.

Further, the BDOs were directed to complete all SOS works, both physically and financially, as the requisite funds have already been released.

Emphasizing timely execution and accountability, the Deputy Commissioner underscored that achieving developmental goals requires close coordination among departments.

BJP Ex-District President Lateef Bhat, Meets DC and SSP Pulwama

Pulwama: BJP Former District President Pulwama and senior party leader Mohd Lateef Bhat met Deputy Commissioner (DC) Basharat Qayoom, and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Pulwama, Tanushree.

During his meeting with DC Pulwama, Bhat apprised him of various public issues faced by the residents of Pampore constituency and sought early redressal of their grievances.

Later, Bhat met SSP Pulwama Tanushree and congratulated her on assuming charge as the district police chief. He



expressed hope that under her leadership, policing in the district would further strengthen

and public cooperation with law enforcement agencies would increase. (CNS)

DLIC approves 458 cases under JKIP & IDDS at Ganderbal

DC stresses officers to facilitate beneficiaries, expedite field-level activities to achieve objectives of agriculture & allied sectors schemes effectively

GANDERBAL: A meeting of District level Implementation Committee (DLIC) was convened under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore to take thorough review of submitted applications and subsequently approve the cases under Jammu & Kashmir Comprehensive Investment Plan (JKIP) and Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS).

The department heads submitted various cases for consideration, which were scrutinized as per the scheme guidelines. After deliberation, the committee approved 458 cases viz.

441 under JKIP and 17 under IDDS for financial assistance and technical support.



On the occasion, the DC stressed upon the officers to facilitate beneficiaries and

expedite field-level activities so that the objectives of agriculture and allied sectors schemes are effectively achieved.

Earlier, the DC reviewed the set targets, achievements so far, and identified implementation gaps. He directed the

ensure maximum acceptance of application and farmer coverage under these schemes.

He directed all sectoral heads to expedite and achieve targets of farm and farmer registrations under KKG.

He also directed the Lead District Manager to dispose-off pending cases under Kisan Credit Card.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, AGM NABARD, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, District Sericulture Officer, Assistant Director Fisheries, Area Marketing Officer Horticulture (P&M), District Nodal Officer JKIP and Cluster Head J&K Bank, besides others concerned.

Directorate of School Education Kashmir Reaffirms Commitment to Fair and Student-Centric Conduct of Examinations Across Kashmir Division

Director leads comprehensive monitoring in Srinagar

SRINAGAR: The Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to ensuring the smooth, fair, and student-friendly conduct of the ongoing examinations across the Kashmir Division.

In a proactive move to uphold transparency and excellence, Director School Education Kashmir, Naseem Ahmad Wani, today personally led a comprehensive monitoring exercise in Srinagar.

He was accompanied by Chief Accounts Officer, Syed Mubashirah, and Chief Education Officer Srinagar, Gh. Mohi-ud-din Bhat.

The Director visited several key examination centres including GHSS Kothibagh, Presentation Convent Higher Secondary School Rajbagh, High School Natipora, and High School Hyderpora, where he interacted with students and staff, reviewed arrangements on the ground, and extended his best wishes for a smooth and stress-free examination experience.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director

said, "We are here to assure our students to their success.



that the administration is fully dedicated

Our top priority is to maintain

a fair, transparent, and supportive environment. I appeal to all concerned staff to ensure a smooth and stress-free examination in every nook and corner of the Kashmir Division."

Meanwhile, under the supervision of DSEK, multiple teams from the Directorate fanned out across all districts of the Kashmir Division to maintain strict vigilance and uphold uniform standards of conduct.

Joint Directors visited several examination centres, including those in remote and far-flung areas of Kupwara and Anantnag districts, ensuring consistency

and adherence to established protocols.

Additionally, Personnel Officer DSEK, Dr. Iqbal Hussain Mir, conducted a detailed review of arrangements across various centres in District Budgam, expressing satisfaction over the effective and disciplined conduct of the examinations.

The Directorate remains resolutely committed to maintaining transparency, discipline, and a student-centric atmosphere throughout the examination processes, ensuring that every student is provided a fair opportunity to perform to the best of their abilities.

Editorial

Restoring Credibility to Journalism

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's, announcement to clamp down on fake journalists is a necessary and timely course of action, in response to an aggravating issue, that has not only called into question the integrity of the noble profession of journalism, but also become a means of coercion and blackmailing. However, that said, while the intent is welcome, the implementation needs to be handled with sensitivity, to ensure that an earnest response to impersonation, does not inadvertently limit sincere journalists' voices and/or additionally constitute to overreach.

The concerns highlighted, during this discussion in the assembly, and at the subsequent review meeting with the administration, all have substantive merit. The practice of individuals who use fake press cards, or misrepresent themselves on social media under the pretence of journalism, to intimidate officials, and misappropriate social favour, is an absolute scourge. It sullies the standing of all journalists, and erodes public trust. In a region where information is of primary importance, it is imperative that the information is accurate. The LG's emphasis on setting up a standalone database of accredited journalists that can be verified and monitored through the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), is an appropriate way forward which will further promote and protect order and accountability.

In addition, the decision to include registration and verification of digital media platforms, including Facebook pages, online portals, and social media accounts demonstrates acknowledgment of the changing nature of media. Anyone with a smartphone can generate content in the digital age and the line between a citizen journalist and a professional media organization is no longer clear. It is crucial to hold these platforms responsible for their content and to ensure they abide by media ethics and the law in order to control misinformation and deliberate propaganda.

The government has wisely set out to differentiate "genuine journalists who report with integrity" from those who bring disrepute. The distinction must remain at the heart of this project. It is about weeding out the fakes, those who blackmail and extort, and not about creating a culture of fear for reporters who are simply doing their job of holding power accountable.

In closing, it is a worthy goal for the administration to attempt to clear out fraudulent elements in the media ecosystem. For the sake of truth and public interest, space must be made clear of those who misuse it. However, the true measure of success, while it will undoubtedly capture and punish those who falsify credentials, will lie much more in its ability to create a stronger, credible, and freer press in Jammu and Kashmir. The government will need to ensure that in the pursuit of punishment for the guilty, it avoids making the process itself a punishment for the genuine.

Math Paradox: Inexpensive Knowledge, Costly Ignorance



■ DR. REYAZ AHMAD

Mathematics, often hailed as the "universal language," has been humanity's constant companion in its journey from caves to computers. Unlike subjects demanding costly laboratories or tools, mathematics requires little more than curiosity, paper, and pencil.

throne but shaping every realm of knowledge.

The Costliest Ignorance

To ignore mathematics is to close doors. On a personal level, it weakens financial literacy and critical reasoning. At the societal level, it results in technological stagnation and economic decline. The genius of Srinivasa Ramanujan—who rose from poverty to reshape number theory—reminds us that brilliance can emerge anywhere, but without nurturing mathematical skills, millions of potential innovators are lost.

In today's digital world, this ignorance becomes even more dangerous. Artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and big data are

From hospitals to stock exchanges, from skyscrapers to smartphones, mathematics silently powers the world. Probability models help doctors predict diseases, while calculus and statistics help businesses manage risks and maximize profits. Algorithms—mathematical recipes—drive the search engines, social media platforms, and artificial intelligence tools that shape daily life.

As Galileo Galilei observed: "Mathematics is the language in which God has written the universe."

The Career Gateway

Far from being abstract, mathematics is a ticket to some of the fastest-growing careers

Shakuntala Devi, India's "Human Computer," put it simply: "Without mathematics, there's nothing you can do. Everything around you is mathematics. Everything around you is numbers."

The Future: Passport to Innovation

Tomorrow's breakthroughs—quantum computing, blockchain, biotechnology, and sustainable energy—will all emerge from mathematical models. The children who

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To ignore mathematics is to close doors. On a personal level, it weakens financial literacy and critical reasoning. At the societal level, it results in technological stagnation and economic decline. The genius of Srinivasa Ramanujan—who rose from poverty to reshape number theory—reminds us that brilliance can emerge anywhere, but without nurturing mathematical skills, millions of potential innovators are lost.

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master algebra today will be tomorrow's innovators of green energy, space exploration, and digital economies. As Bill Gates noted: "Mathematics nurtures your ability to think logically and creatively. That skill is indispensable in the digital world."

Conclusion

Mathematics is the cheapest education—accessible to rich and poor alike. Yet ignoring it is the costliest error, for it shuts out opportunity, progress, and innovation. From Euclid to Ramanujan, from ancient geometry to artificial intelligence, mathematics has shaped civilization.

In the modern job market, mathematics is not merely a subject; it is the key to prosperity and survival. To embrace it is to embrace the future; to neglect it is to risk irrelevance.

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Record-Breaking Win Seals World Cup For India's Women



Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

Today will forever be etched in golden letters in Indian sports history. The Indian women's cricket team defeated South Africa to win the 2025 Cricket World Cup. This victory is not just a trophy, but a symbol of the indomitable spirit, determination, and struggle that have, over the years, given Indian women's sports identities. This moment is one of pride, excitement, and inspiration for every Indian—because it's not just a victory on the field, but also a victory of the mind.

This glorious chapter in Indian women's cricket is the culmination of a long journey that began amid struggle, limited resources, and social barriers. There was a time when women's cricket wasn't taken seriously, with neither spectators nor sponsors. But times changed, and these girls, through their play, dedication, and talent, demonstrated to the world that the playing field isn't the exclusive domain of one gender. Today, as India wins the World Cup and reigns supreme, this victory speaks for every girl who has placed her dreams above societal constraints.

The Indian team performed brilliantly in this thrilling World Cup final. After winning the toss and batting first, India scored 298 runs in 50 overs. Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana opened the innings. Smriti provided a solid foundation for the team with a composed but crucial 45, while Shafali Verma played aggressively, scoring 87 runs in 78 balls. Her innings was peppered with fours and sixes. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur was dismissed early, but young batsman Richa Ghosh played a crucial 34 runs, once again providing stability to the team. In the middle order, Deepti Sharma and Sneha Rana batted with restraint, taking the team to a respectable score of around 300.

Chasing the target, South Africa got off to a

brisk start in the opening overs, but the Indian bowlers soon took control. Renuka Thakur and Deepti Sharma kept the opposition batsmen at bay, bowling with precise line and length. Shafali Verma also performed brilliantly with the ball—taking two crucial wickets for just 36 runs in seven overs. Her all-round performance proved



to be the backbone of India's victory. As the match progressed, the pressure on South Africa increased, and ultimately, the Indian team made history with a win. Shafali Verma was named "Player of the Match" for her stellar performance, while Deepti Sharma was awarded "Player of the Tournament" for her outstanding performance throughout the tournament.

This victory isn't just a triumph in a sporting event, but rather a symbol of the mindset shift underway in India regarding the status and attitudes toward women. The daughters who were once told that "sports aren't for girls" are now world champions. This victory sends a message to society that, given the opportunity, Indian women are no less than men in any field. Today, these athletes aren't just playing, but paving a new path for generations to come.

This glorious performance by the Indian women's cricket team is the culmination of years of hard work. The Women's IPL (WPL) gave the players both a platform and confidence. Players from smaller towns and cities, such as Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Jemimah Rodrigues, Sneha Rana, Radha Yadav, and Renuka Thakur, have

demonstrated that talent knows no boundaries. These players have written a new story of inspiration not only on the field but in every home across the country.

The policy changes made by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the Sports Ministry regarding women's cricket over the past few years have laid the foundation for this success. The equal pay policy has given players self-respect, while improved coaching facilities and domestic tournaments have prepared them for international competition. It is heartening to see that women's cricket is now receiving the same respect and broadcasting as the men's team. This victory is another strong step in that direction.

With this victory, India now faces a new responsibility. We must ensure that this

enthusiasm and support are not limited to a few days. Sports must be integrated into education from school to university levels, so that more girls are inspired to pursue careers in sports. The Sports Ministry and state governments should increase the number of sports training centers in rural areas, where both resources and instructors are available.

The media also has a major role to play. Continuing to highlight women's cricket, highlighting the players' stories, and reinforcing the sense in society that it's not just a sport, but a tool for empowerment—this is the biggest responsibility of the times ahead.

There are many untold stories behind the Indian women's cricket team's victory—the mother who buys a bat for her daughter regardless of society, the father who sells his farm to buy cricket kits, the coach who trains the players without pay, and the teammates who stand by the team despite being in the reserves. This victory is not just about the 11 players on the field, but about thousands of dreams that have been waiting for this moment for years.

India's victorious women's cricket team included Harmanpreet Kaur (captain), Smriti Mandhana (vice-captain), Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh, Uma Chhetri, Renuka Singh Thakur, Deepti Sharma, Sneha Rana, Shri Charani, Radha Yadav, Amanjot Kaur, Arundhati Reddy, and Kranti Gaur. Reserve players Tejal Hasabnis, Prema Rawat, Priya Mishra, Minnu Mani, and Sayali Satghare also made significant contributions. Although they didn't take the field, their role in the team's preparation and unity was crucial.

This World Cup has given Indian women's cricket a lasting recognition on the global stage. It is no longer the achievement of a single generation, but a guide for generations to come. India's daughters are now a new example for the world—not just as athletes, but as symbols of the power that transforms even defeat into inspiration.

Today, when the whole world is saluting this achievement of the Indian team, this moment also forces us to think that the real victory will happen when some daughter in every village,

every school, takes the bat and enters the field and says – "I also want to win like India."

This historic victory has proven that "where there's a will, there's a way" is not just a saying, but a reality for India's daughters. This victory is not just for these 11 players, but for all of India—for the families who gave their daughters the freedom to dream, for the coaches who nurtured

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This historic victory has proven that "where there's a will, there's a way" is not just a saying, but a reality for India's daughters. This victory is not just for these 11 players, but for all of India—for the families who gave their daughters the freedom to dream; for the coaches who nurtured talent despite limited resources; and for the spectators who cheered the team on with every ball.

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talent despite limited resources; and for the spectators who cheered the team on with every ball.

The year 2025 will be marked as a golden year for Indian sports. India's daughters are now writing not just history, but the future. Their victories are igniting pride, inspiration, and hope in the hearts of every Indian.

India is the world champion! Hail the women power!

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LG Gupta Meets Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Delhi

FE NEWS NETWORK

NEWDELHI: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, Monday met

the harsh winter months when Ladakh remains largely cut off from the rest of the country. During the meeting, the Lt Governor

He sought the Ministry's continued support in extending humanitarian assistance under Operation Sadbhavana, a flagship initiative of the Indian Army

Highlighting the critical importance of connectivity during the winter season, Gupta stressed the need to augment air services to ensure uninterrupted supply of essential goods and facilitate emergency movements.

He proposed the continuance of the Kargil-Thoise-Chandigarh air service and enhancement of air maintenance links between Leh and Delhi, aimed at ensuring timely delivery of logistics, passenger transport, and medical evacuations when snowbound passes render road travel impossible. The Governor expressed deep appreciation to the Defence Minister for the Ministry's unwavering commitment to the welfare of border residents and for the Army's vital humanitarian and developmental role in Ladakh.

He also commended the Ministry's ongoing efforts in supporting medical assistance, community engagement, and socio-economic upliftment in high-altitude areas.

According to spokesperson, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh acknowledged the concerns raised by the Lt Governor and assured all possible assistance from the Ministry of Defence, in coordination with relevant agencies, to strengthen air connectivity and expand humanitarian outreach across the Union Territory.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi and discussed measures to strengthen welfare initiatives and improve connectivity for the Union Territory, especially during

apprised the Defence Minister of the unique challenges faced by Ladakh's residents due to extreme climatic conditions and prolonged periods of isolation.

that has played a vital role in promoting education, healthcare, and community welfare in remote and border regions of Ladakh.

DC Bandipora Approves 82 Cases Under Mission YUVA

FE NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) to review and approve cases under Mission YUVA at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

During the meeting, 106 cases were presented, out of which 82 were approved by the Committee after detailed scrutiny. The rest of the cases were ordered to be reconsidered and referred back to the concerned departments for detailed feasibility reports before resubmission.

The Deputy Commissioner directed that DLIC meetings shall be held every Monday to ensure regular monitoring and timely disposal of cases. The meeting also reviewed the overall progress of Mission YUVA in the district, including cases forwarded to banks, sanctioned, disbursed, and rejected, to evaluate the implementation status.

On the occasion, the DC emphasized the need for an in-depth analysis to identify areas with fewer or no applications and areas with maximum participation. She directed the Cluster Head J&K Bank to submit branch-wise data and the Employment Officer was directed to furnish village-

wise details to ensure uniform growth and coverage across all blocks and branches.

Nodal Officer JKEDI was instructed to explore sectors and sub-sectors

directed to monitor cases where environmental violations are likely, ensuring compliance with statutory norms. She further reiterated the directions of the Chief Secretary, stating



showing higher participation so that targeted interventions can be made to achieve block and branch saturation.

During the meeting, the DC further directed officers to verify every case in detail, ensuring transparency and accountability. She underscored that Mission YUVA should not be limited to trading activities and stressed the need to sensitize and guide youth toward diverse entrepreneurial fields.

The Pollution Control Officer was

that rehabilitated youth and terror victims should be actively engaged under Mission YUVA to provide them with sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Among others, the meeting was attended by General Manager DIC Bandipora; District Social Welfare Officer; District Nodal Officer JKEDI; Lead Bank Manager; Cluster Head J&K Bank Bandipora; District Officer PCB and other concerned officers.

DC Ganderbal chairs District Steering Committee meeting for Green India Mission

FE NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: A meeting of District Steering Committee for Green India Mission (GIM) was held



under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore here.

The mission themed 'Climate Resilience through Forest Landscape Restoration' is aimed to increase forest/ tree cover in the division, improving ecosystem

services and increasing the forest based livelihood income of households living in and around the forests.

During the meeting, DFO Ganderbal gave a detailed presentation regarding the progress of works under Annual Plan of Operation (APO) under Green India Mission for the year 2024-2025.

After thorough deliberations, the committee recommended to forward the proposal (APO) under Green India Mission to be executed in Sindh Forest Division Ganderbal 2025-26 to the next steering committee.

During the year 2024-25, the Annual Plan of Operation was approved for an amount of Rs. 36.87

Lakh for Village Forest Committee - Rezan, Kullan and Sonamarg where under 69 Hectares of degraded forest area was tackled with plantation of 40 thousand numbers of plants including 89 thousand numbers of patch sowing and grass slips.

Satish Sharma Inspects Departmental Offices On Opening Day Of Darbar Move

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: On the first day of opening of the Darbar Move at Civil Secretariat here, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma today conducted comprehensive inspection of all the offices functioning under his Ministry.

The Minister, accompanied by senior officers of the concerned departments, visited various sections and reviewed the working of the administrative units including the offices of FCS&CA, IT, Transport, and Youth Services & Sports. He took stock of the arrangements made for the smooth conduct of official business in the Secretariat and assessed the readiness of staff and infrastructure following the shift to the winter capital.

During the inspection, Satish Sharma

interacted with officers and employees, enquired about their requirements, and

administration. He further directed the departmental heads to ensure effective



instructed them to maintain the highest standards of discipline, punctuality, and efficiency. He emphasized on the importance of citizen-centric approach in governance, stating that our focus must always remain on prompt service delivery, accountability, and transparency in every aspect of

coordination between field offices and the Secretariat so that public grievances are addressed in a time-bound manner.

The Minister also reviewed key ongoing initiatives under each department, particularly digital service expansion under the IT Department, consumer protection

measures under FCS&CA, road safety awareness campaigns under the Transport Department, and sports development programs being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the government's commitment to responsive and efficient administration, Satish Sharma said that the reopening of the Secretariat marks the beginning of another productive session of governance aimed at accelerating the pace of public welfare and infrastructure development. He called upon all officers to rededicate themselves to the mission of good governance and ensure that every government initiative reaches the grassroots level effectively.

The Minister expressed satisfaction over the arrangements made in various offices and assured that all necessary support will be extended to further strengthen departmental functioning.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE BARAMULLA

e-Tender Notice No: 18-GMCB of 2025-26, Dated: 3 1 -10-2025

Subject: E-Tender for Mapping of Existing Surveillance System installed in the principal's chamber of GMC Baramulla.

E-tenders are invited on behalf of the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir through the Principal, Government Medical College Baramulla, for the *Mapping of Existing Surveillance System installed in the principal's chamber of GMC Baramulla*, as per specifications mentioned in **Annexure "A"** of this tender document. Bids are invited from reputed Firms / OEMs / Authorized Dealers having relevant experience in the field. The requirement is to be met on an urgent basis.

The detailed tender document can be downloaded from the website www.gmcbaramulla.com and www.jktenders.gov.in w.e.f. **31-10-2025 to 12-11-2025**.

The tender details and schedules as per following.

Item Description	Tender Fee	EMD
Mapping of Existing Surveillance System installed in the principal's chamber of GMC Baramulla	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 30,000/-
Date & Time of release of bid		31/10/2025 (04:00 PM)
Last date for entertaining any clarification/representation		02/11/2025 (04:00 PM)
Online bid submission start date		31/10/2025 (04:00 PM)
Last date for submission of online bids		12/11/2025 (12:30 PM)
Opening of Technical bids		14/11/2025 (11:00 AM)

- Any query to clear can be done through email id on principal-gmcb@jk.gov.in.
- The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders received or cancel the whole tendering process without assigning any reason thereof.
- The items which shall be available with JKMSCL shall not be procured through this tender.

ANNEXURE "A"

Tender Reference No: 18-GMCB OF 2025-26

Tender Name: Mapping of Existing Surveillance System installed in the principal's chamber of GMC Baramulla

S.no	Name of the Item	Specification	Quantity
1.	Network Video Recorder	16-channel with HDD support	1
2.	Hard Disk Drive (HDD)	1 TB as per required retention	1
3.	Fiber Cable	ISI Certified	As required
4.	LAN Cabling (Cat6)	ISI Certified	As required
5.	POE switch	16 ports	2
6.	Wireless Mouse	HP/Dell	1
7.	Media Converter	Optical to LAN convertor (Gigabyte)	As required
8.	Mapping and Configuration Charges 1 Job	Assessment, coverage Design & Reporting	1 Job

NO: -GMCB/PO/2025-26/1798/2571-77
DATED: 18-10-2025.

DIPK-7719/25
Dt: 04-11-2025

Sd/-
Principal/Dean
Govt. Medical College
Baramulla

Illegal Mining in J&K... 506 cases lodged, 17,806 vehicles penalized in 3 years

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government in its intensified crackdown on illegal mining, penalized 17,806 vehicles and machinery in the past three years and recovered fines worth Rs 46.68 crore besides, 506 FIRs were registered against violators for illegal extraction and transportation of minerals across the region.

Official data, accessed by the news agency-Kashmir News Observer (KNO) reveals, in 2023-24, authorities penalized 7,018 vehicles, lodged 133 FIRs and realized Rs 19.19 crore in fines.

In 2024-25, 6,219 vehicles were penalized, 212 FIRs filed and Rs 16.79 crore collected. During the current fiscal year 2025-26, up to September, 4,569 vehicles have been so far this fiscal. Baramulla followed with 393 vehicles penalized and fines worth Rs 0.75 crore, while Budgam recorded 360 vehicles penalized with Rs 0.60 crore realized.

Similarly, Anantnag reported 334 vehicles seized, recovering Rs 0.57 crore and Kulgam led in total fines with Rs 1.25 crore collected from 270 vehicles.

In the Jammu division, Samba emerged as the top-performing district with 470 vehicles penalized and Rs 0.67 crore recovered. Kathua followed with 445 vehicles penalized and Rs 2.16 crore collected, while Jammu district reported 317 vehicles penalized with Rs 1.24 crore realized. The department, however, in the recent Assembly Session said enforcement teams are active across all districts. District-level task forces and flying squads have been formed to monitor mineral transportation, supported by 22 mineral check posts at key locations.

To improve oversight, the department has launched an Integrated Mining Surveillance System (IMSS) in collaboration with the Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG). The system tracks illegal mining within 500 meters of approved lease boundaries and sends alerts for inspection.

Minister In charge, added that digital penalty collection through Point of Sale (POS) machines has reduced revenue leakage, while environmental committees are monitoring compliance at the district level to ensure responsible mineral extraction-(KNO)

Capacity Building Workshop On Child Protection Mechanism Held At Rajouri

FE NEWS NETWORK

DC stresses on shared responsibility to safeguard Child Rights

RAJOURI: The National Development Foundation (NDF), in collaboration with the District Administration Rajouri and in partnership with UNICEF India, organized

was the Chief Guest.

Addressing the participants, the DC called upon the stakeholders to adopt a collective and coordinated approach to safeguard the rights of children. He said that parents and guardians serve as the first line of defense for children and must ensure their physical, mental, psychological and intellectual development while also inculcating a sense of social responsibility in them.

Highlighting the pivotal role of institutional mechanism, the DC stated that the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) bear the fundamental responsibility of protecting children from neglect, abuse and exploitation. "If children are handled with care and attention at the right time, a criminal mindset will never develop," he remarked.

The workshop featured informative and interactive sessions by key speakers including Shaheen Khan (CPO), ALC Pradyot Gupta, Advocate Ashfaq Lone, Principal BHSS Rajouri Muslim Wani, Programme Manager NDF Sunny Kumar and CWC Member Suresh, who enlightened the participants about different aspects of child protection laws and welfare schemes.

The sessions focused on enhancing the capacity of frontline officers to implement child protection frameworks effectively and ensure a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment for every child

in Rajouri district.

PO ICDS Harpal Singh, DySP Satish Kumar, CPDO Israr Shah and other district and sectoral officers also attended the workshop.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks and a collective resolve to strengthen the child protection system at every level through coordinated efforts and sustained community awareness.



a Capacity Building Workshop for District Functionaries on the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and Mission Vatsalya.

The workshop aimed to strengthen the child protection mechanism in the district and enhance the understanding of various stakeholders involved in ensuring the safety, care and wellbeing of children.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma

CM Omar

time to translate the decisions into tangible outcomes on the ground,” Omar Abdullah emphasised.

The Chief Minister directed all departments to focus on the timely implementation of projects already sanctioned and approved, ensuring visible progress at the grassroots level.

Acknowledging the financial constraints being faced, Omar Abdullah assured that the matter of limited resources “will be appropriately addressed.” He called for a balanced approach, urging officers to “ensure effective delivery while simultaneously curbing unnecessary expenditure.”

The Chief Minister also informed that a series of district-level review meetings have already been conducted in the Kashmir province and that similar interactions will now be initiated across the Jammu division to assess developmental progress and address public issues.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah commended all departments for their coordinated efforts in ensuring the smooth and successful conduct of the recently concluded Assembly session. (DIPR)

Congress’s mistakes

has taken several steps in the last eleven years to eliminate terrorism. “When Congress was in power, terrorist attacks used to happen every other day, and no firm action was taken. When PM Modi came to power, terrorists were eliminated by entering Pakistan,” he said.

“PM Modi secured this nation and worked for its progress,” he said, adding that the government has zero tolerance against terrorism.

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, addressing a separate gathering, accused the Congress of creating disputes in Kashmir and said the party was responsible for the implementation of Article 370 in the erstwhile state. “Who caused disputes in Kashmir? It was Congress,” he said.

Yogi Adityanath said that under Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Shah, Kashmir had been freed from terrorism and extremism.

“What was the compulsion that the Kashmir Valley became devoid of Hindus? It was Congress’s sin that Article 370 was implemented in Kashmir. Pakistanis were settling there, while the rest of the Indians were being asked to vacate Kashmir,” he said.

Both leaders said that the current government had brought a change in India’s approach to national security and would continue to act firmly against terrorism—(KNO)

LG

Himachal Pradesh and Haryana, visit the fair every year to commemorate the sacrifice of the 16th-century farmer saint Baba Jittoo, who gave up his life in protest against the oppressive demands of a zamindar about 500 years ago.

“Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha ji will inaugurate the fair at Jhiri tomorrow. All measures and facilities have been put in place for the smooth conduct of the fair,” Jammu Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Minhas told reporters here.

The fair is being jointly organised by the Directorate of Tourism in collaboration with the district administration from November 4 to 13.

The departments of agriculture and horticulture, besides the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), have extended their departmental support to the fair, ensuring sanitation, health facilities, parking, power and water supply arrangements, officials said.

The Agriculture Department’s participation will serve as a vital platform to enhance farmers’ knowledge, exposure and engagement with new technologies and government schemes, while paying tribute to Baba Jittoo’s enduring legacy.

Security has been beefed up with the deployment of police and paramilitary forces, they added.

According to legend, Baba Jittoo, a humble farmer, sacrificed his life in defiance of an unjust landlord’s exploitation. His daughter later immolated herself on his funeral pyre in an act of devotion and grief.

Devotees also take a customary dip in Baba-da-Talab, a natural pond located about four kilometres from the temple, which is believed to have curative powers, the officials said. (PTI)

Will Rebuild

concrete foundation and utilizing prefabricated technology, including fiber cement boards, powder-coated GI sheets, and a steel structural framework with C-channel sections. These materials have been selected for their strength, durability, and ability to withstand harsh climatic conditions, ensuring long-term resilience and suitability to the region’s environment. Every reconstructed unit will be developed as a “Smart House,” incorporating modern design elements for comfort, safety, and functionality.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor expressed his gratitude to all the emergency responders, district administration, Army, NDRF, SDRF, Police, armed forces, local community, youth and voluntary organizations for saving precious lives, evacuating Machail Mata devotees to safety and providing timely medical care.

“I must commend the profound resilience of the people of Chishoti. Nature has tested them severely, but this strong community met the challenge head-on,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor reaffirmed his commitment, under the guidance of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi for complete rehabilitation of the flood-affected families and meeting the development needs of the people of Kishtwar.

“In a boost to our efforts to provide modern infrastructure to Paddar Kishtwar, Government of India has sanctioned an Army Goodwill School and One Petrol Pump at Paddar,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also announced that Border Roads Organisation (BRO) will reconstruct Atholi to Machail Mata Road and build a new bridge in Chishoti. He further said that all the black spots in Mobile Network Connection have been identified and land has been transferred to BSNL to set up new 4G towers.

During his visit, the Lieutenant Governor interacted with the local residents and listened to their issues and demands. He directed the District Administration to connect the youth with self-employment opportunities through Mission Yuva.

The Lieutenant Governor said the ongoing works for the augmentation of facilities for the pilgrims at Machail Mata will be completed by the month of May, 2026. He also assured that the appropriate steps will be taken to meet the demand for construction of Yatri Niwas at Paddar.

A two-minute silence was observed in the memory of those who lost their lives in Chishoti on August,14, 2025.

Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in J&K Legislative Assembly and MLA Paddar- Nagseni; Shagun Parihar, Member of Legislative Assembly from Kishtwar; Shrimath Swami Atma

Nambi, President, HRDS India; Dr Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shridhar Patil, DIG DKR Range; Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar; Aji Krishnan; Founder – Secretary and representatives of HRDS India; senior officials, prominent citizens and people from different walks of life attended the foundation stone laying ceremony. (DIPR)

Govt steps

submit their documents and credentials within seven days for verification.

Only registered and authenticated media persons will be permitted to cover official events, government functions and visits of dignitaries. Unauthorized individuals will be denied entry to such engagements, officials said.

The administration said the verification exercise is part of a wider effort to maintain professionalism, transparency and accountability within the media fraternity. It also seeks to safeguard the credibility of legitimate journalists and prevent misuse of press privileges—(KNO)

Defying Past

of the film, currently engaged in shooting, said they initially had concerns about the situation in the valley but were “pleasantly surprised” upon arrival.

“We did have some fears before coming here, given what had happened earlier this year. But once we arrived, we found the place to be safe and welcoming. The people are very cooperative, the security arrangements are good, and we were able to work freely in a positive atmosphere,” they told KNO.

Notably, the return of the film crew comes as a morale booster for local facilitators, tourism operators and artists associated with the Kashmir film industry. The valley has long been a favourite destination for filmmakers, from classic Bollywood hits to contemporary web productions, owing to its breathtaking landscapes and unique cultural charm.

Officials from the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department welcomed the development, calling it “a positive sign of regained confidence”.

Sources said more film projects, including from Bollywood and regional industries, are in the pipeline for the coming months of late November and December—(KNO)

Over 94,000

respectively.

In the meantime, BOSE Monday issued a revised date sheet for annual regular exams of 10th standard in view of Assembly bye-elections.

Joint Secretary Exams of Kashmir division said, “It is notified for information of all the stakeholders in general and the students of Class 10th in particular that the date-sheet for Secondary School Examination (Class 10th) annual, regular, 2025 has been revised in view of assembly bye-elections.”

The board however clarified that the timing and centres notified earlier for the examination shall remain unchanged—(KNO)

Dr Jitendra

as Start-up India, Gaganyaan project, Bio-E3, and Deep Ocean Mission in his Independence Day address and they had taken off successfully.

Singh said the bio economy was worth USD 10 billion dollars in 2014 and has grown to USD 200 billion within a decade.

He said while the US was the first to land on the moon, it was India’s Chandrayaan that found water on the lunar surface, raising hopes for human habitation there.

“Today, the world has begun to view us with respect and honour. I believe that one day historians will also analyse why we had to wait 70 years after Independence for this joyous experience. Because this country never lacked talent,” Singh said.

The minister said Modi gave top priority to science and innovation and made the country realise that the path to progress in the 21st century lies only through the achievements in the field of science and innovation. (PIB)

CM Omar

Acknowledging the financial constraints being faced by the government, Abdullah assured that the matter of limited resources “will be appropriately addressed”.

He also called for a balanced approach, urging officers to “ensure effective delivery while simultaneously curbing unnecessary expenditure”, the statement said.

The chief minister said a series of district-

level review meetings have already been conducted in the Kashmir province and that similar interactions will now be initiated across Jammu division to assess developmental progress and address public issues. (PTI)

CUKashmir’s Deptt of English holds lectures on ‘feminism’

GANDERBAL: Department of English, Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) organised an insightful lecture on “Feminism”, delivered by Prof. Perna Malhotra, an eminent scholar and academician known for her contributions to literary studies and gender discourse.

According to the organisers, the session aimed to enhance students’ understanding of feminist theory, its historical evolution, and its relevance in contemporary society and literature.

In her opening remarks, Prof. Sandhya Tiwari, Head Department of English, who chaired the session highlighted the objectives of the lecture. Prof. Tiwari reflected on the department’s commitment to introduce diverse intellectual perspectives to its students. She remarked that it was essential to continually revisit feminist frameworks, particularly within the Indian socio-literary context. Prof. Sandhya Tiwari, further added that it’s necessary to bring novel perspectives on feminism, especially in the Indian context. She expressed gratitude to Vice-Chancellor, Prof. A Ravinder Nath and authorities in the administration for their valuable support.

Prof. Perna Malhotra commenced her lecture by tracing the historical development of feminist thought, beginning by defining feminism as a movement and progressing through the first, second, and third waves of feminism. She elaborated on the critical gendered nature of the construction of binaries and threw light on social scenarios which necessitated the movement for the liberation of the marginalised genders.

Emphasizing the interdisciplinary nature of feminism, Prof. Malhotra discussed how feminist perspectives have influenced literature, culture, and critical theory. She examined feminist readings of canonical texts and stressed the importance of giving voice to marginalized and silenced women writers. Drawing on examples from both Western and Indian contexts, she encouraged students to approach literature through a gender-sensitive and inclusive lens.

The lecture also highlighted contemporary debates in feminism, including issues of intersectionality, representation, and post-feminist discourse. Prof. Malhotra urged students to view feminism not merely as a theoretical framework but as a social movement advocating equality, justice, and empowerment.

The session concluded with an interactive discussion, during which students and faculty members posed questions related to feminist criticism, gender dynamics in literature, and the evolving role of women in academia and society.

Earlier, Mr. Sunil Kumar Mannil, Sr Asst Prof. Deptt of English, highlighted Prof. Malhotra’s scholarly achievements. He was the event rapporteur and proposed the vote of thanks. (PR)

CUKashmir’s ICC holds lecture on ‘prohibition and redressal of sexual harassment of women employees’

GANDERBAL: Internal Complaints Committee (ICC), Central University of Kashmir (CU-Kashmir) Monday organised an expert lecture on “Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students in Higher Education Institutions” by noted academician and legal awareness expert, Prof. Viney Kapoor Mehra, who is also former Vice Chancellor of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonapat.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Sandhya Tiwari, Chairperson ICC reflected upon the objectives of the lecture and highlighted various sensitisation programmes Committee had been organising at the university. She viewed that ICC has to play a vital role in prevention, prohibition, and redressal of sexual harassment at higher education institutions. She thanked the Vice-

Chancellor, Prof. A Ravinder Nath and functionaries in the administration for their unwavering support and guidance, which played a pivotal role in making the programme a resounding success.

In her address, Prof. Viney Kapoor Mehra, provided an in-depth understanding of the Vishaka Guidelines (1997) and the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. She elaborated on the legal and ethical responsibilities of higher education institutions in ensuring a safe and inclusive environment for women employees and students. Prof. Mehra highlighted the three key aspects of the Act—prevention, prohibition, and redressal—and explained the crucial role of the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) in addressing grievances. She emphasized the need for awareness programmes, gender sensitization workshops, and a strong institutional framework to promote respect and equality on campuses.

The lecture was followed by an interactive session in which participants raised questions regarding procedures, policy implementation, and the role of faculty and students in fostering a harassment-free academic environment.

The session began with a welcome address and introduction of the speaker by Mr Sunil Kumar Mannil, member ICC. Dr. Insha Mir, ICC member proposed the vote of thanks. (PR)

DG Rural Sanitation Chairs Meeting on First Day of Darbar Move at Jammu

JAMMU: On the first day of the Darbar Move, Director General Rural Sanitation, Ms. Anoo Malhotra (JKAS), chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Directorate office, Jammu. The meeting focused on reviewing the routine functioning of the Directorate and assessing the status of ongoing works under various sanitation initiatives being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the DG laid special emphasis on ensuring efficiency, transparency, and coordination among the district teams to

accelerate the pace of implementation of programmes under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).

She directed all officers to maintain strict adherence to timelines, quality standards, and regular reporting mechanisms for effective monitoring and evaluation.

Ms. Malhotra reiterated the Government’s commitment to achieving Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus goals, strengthening Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) systems, and promoting behavioural change communication (IEC activities) at the grassroots level.

She further stressed upon the need for innovation, convergence with line departments, and active community participation to make sanitation efforts more impactful and sustainable.

The DG appreciated the efforts of field functionaries for their dedication and urged them to continue working with renewed energy.

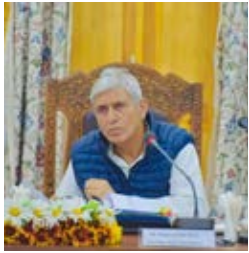
MLA Bandipora Visits Gulshan Chowk, Inspects Key Development Works

BANDIPORA: MLA Bandipora, Nizamuddin Bhat, on Monday visited the historic Gulshan Chowk Bandipora to review the ongoing work on the multi-level car parking facility.

During the visit, the MLA interacted with shopkeepers, vendors, and auto drivers, listened to their concerns, and took up the issues with the concerned authorities for immediate redressal.

Meanwhile, the MLA also inspected the Water Supply Scheme at Village Onagam-A, where he reviewed different components of the scheme. He further inspected the ongoing macadamization works in the area.

During the visit, the MLA was accompanied by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, Executive Officer Municipal Council, AEE R&B, and other field officials from the concerned departments.



Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office Of The District Youth Services & Sports Shopian

Sub: - Tentative Seniority of Physical Education Teacher of District Shopian-Inviting objections thereof.

NOTICE

Whereas, the administrative department vide YSS-Adm/14/2022-02-YSS&S Dated: - 16-01-2025 advised to update the seniority list of Physical Education Teachers in terms of SRO-375 of J&K Decentralization & Recruitment Act 2010 issued by General Administration Department; and

Whereas, the Directorate Youth Services & Sports, J&K vide order no. DG-YSS/Estt/455-79 Dated:- 09-04-2025, constituted District Level Committees headed by the concerned District Youth Services & Sports Officers and accordingly authorized these committees to prepare the District wise seniority of Physical Education Teachers as per rules in vogue and it was further ordered that the concerned Joint Directors Youth Services & Sports will examine the draft seniority lists and ensure that all the rules & regulations governing the formulation of seniority list are strictly adhered to. The final seniority lists shall be issued only after being vetted by the concerned Joint Directors YSS Jammu/Kashmir; and

Whereas, this office has already issued tentative seniority list of Physical Education Teachers vide notice no. DYSSO/Spn/436-55 Dated: - 08-05-2025 which was published in two leading newspapers for inviting objections, if any, from the stakeholders; and

Whereas, the aggrieved Physical Education Teachers submitted their objections in this office within stipulated time. During the scrutiny of the objections, it was observed by the Committees concerned that the issuance of appointment orders of many PETs were delayed due to different administrative reasons viz; receipt of CID verifications, Clarification of documents, court cases etc. which has disrupted the actual seniority position assigned to them in terms of Rule 24 of J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956; and

Whereas, the matter was deliberated upon at a meeting convened by the Directorate of Youth Services & Sports with both the Joint Directors and all the DYSSOs (and taking into consideration of various circulars and court judgements regarding formulation of seniority) it was observed that many Physical Education Teachers who figured higher in the selection list were appointed later and got placed in the tentative seniority lists below those who were lower in the merit to them, creating an anomalous situation which may lead to avoidable litigation. In view of that, it was unanimously decided that the concerned DYSSOs shall submit the service particulars of those PETs whose appointment orders were delayed due to different administrative reasons for grant of notional effect of Date of Appointment; and

Whereas, a committee constituted vide DG-YSS/Estt/8276-87 Dated: - 04-09-2025 recommended the grant of notional effect to the aggrieved Physical Education Teachers to maintain the merit of SSRB selection list.

Whereas, Directorate Youth Services & Sports J&K vide order no. DG-YSS/Estt/11056-11091 Dated: - 22-10-2025 has granted notional effect of appointment to those PETs whose appointment orders were delayed due to different administrative reasons; and

In view of the above, issuance of tentative seniority list of Physical Education Teachers afresh is necessitated. Therefore, this office is once again issuing tentative seniority list of Physical Education Teachers of District Shopian annexed herewith for inviting objections from the stakeholders within 21 days in this office. No representations/objections shall be entertained after the aforementioned period.

The tentative seniority list is available on the office notice board, Directorate Official website and also on the concerned ZPEO notice boards etc.

No. DYSSO/Spn/5362-72
Dated: 25-10-2025

S/d-
(Sunil Kumar)
District
Youth Services & Sports Officer
Shopian

DIPK-7714/25 Dt: 03-11-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

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

Extension Corrigendum

Sub: Extension of e-tender.

Ref: This office E-NIT No. 25 of 2025-26.

Due to poor response the above referred e-NITs hereby extended as hereunder:

S. No.	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Last date for online submission of bids	08-11-2025 (06:55 pm)
2.	Date of online opening of bids	10-11-2025 (02:00 pm)

All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

No.: PHE/MDNS/DB/4156-59

Dated:03-11-2025

DIPK-7738/25 Dt:03-11-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer

Face Authentication Technique To Generate Digital Life Certificate Game Changer: Dr Jitendra

NEWDELHI: Dr. Jitendra Singh, MOS (PP) inaugurated the Mega Pensioners'

Government for Digital Empowerment of pensioners through introduction Digital

& Pensioners' Welfare in collaboration various stakeholders (Pension Disbursing

During the Mega Camp, Dr. Jitendra Singh, MOS (PP) carried out Face Authentication for Digital Life Certificate generation of some pensioners. The convenience of Life Certificate submission through digital modes, in particular Face Authentication technique which enables Life Certificate generation 'Anytime Anywhere' was highlighted during these DLCs generation which was done quickly and conveniently.

During the Mega Camp, Dr. Jitendra Singh, MOS (PP) interacted with pensioners, who expressed their immense satisfaction and happiness at the facility of digital modes of Life Certificate submission developed for the convenience and Ease of Living of pensioners. The Face Authentication technique is a game changer as it can be done through smart phones. It enables easy DLC submission by pensioners and is particularly useful for aged/ sick pensioners who do not have to visit any Bank or Pension Disbursing Authority, said the Minister. V. Srinivas, Secretary (P&PW), also interacted extensively with Pensioners during the Mega Camp and felicitated several senior pensioners who have made significant contributions to society (PIB)



Camp organized by State Bank of India on 3rd November, 2025 at NDMC Convention Hall, Delhi under Nationwide Digital Life Certificate (DLC) Campaign 4.0, and addressed the pensioners, highlighting the initiative taken by the

modes of Life Certificate submission which has greatly enhanced their Ease of Living and is a hugely beneficial to aged/sick pensioners.

The Nationwide DLC campaign 4.0 is being conducted by Department of Pension

Banks, India Post Payments Bank, Pensioners' Welfare Associations, CGDA, EPFO, DoT, Railways, UIDAI & MeitY) from 1st to 30th November, 2025, with the aim of touching all the pensioners in remotest corners of the country.

Jaishankar calls for new areas of cooperation with Bahrain in space, fintech; reiterates support for Gaza Peace Plan

NEWDELHI: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Monday called for the need to explore new areas of cooperation between India and Bahrain in emerging domains such as space, fintech, and technology, while reaffirming India's full support for the Gaza Peace Plan for a lasting solution in the region.

In his opening remarks at the 5th India-Bahrain High Joint Commission (HJC) meeting with Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Rashid Alzayani, the EAM highlighted the centuries-old friendship between the two countries, underpinned by strong trade linkages and people-to-people ties.

"Since our last GCC meeting, we have made significant progress bilaterally in defence, security, trade and commerce, health, culture and people-to-people ties. But there are new areas such as space, fintech and technology that hold considerable promise for our relationship," Jaishankar said.

The Bahrain Foreign Minister arrived in the national capital earlier today and is currently on a two-day visit to India.

During his remarks, the External Affairs Minister also highlighted the steady growth of bilateral trade and investment, encouraging Bahraini investors to explore opportunities in India. He noted the ongoing initiatives to strengthen healthcare cooperation, collaboration between space agencies, and vibrant cultural exchanges.

"We have also seen a steady growth of bilateral trade and investment between our countries. We welcome investors from Bahrain to come and explore investment opportunities in India. The conclusion of a bilateral investment treaty and the establishment of a joint working group on trade and investment will further boost our economic ties," Jaishankar said.

"We are working on various initiatives to strengthen our cooperation in the field of healthcare; our space agencies are also making progress in deepening their collaboration. We have a vibrant cooperation in the area of culture and strong people-to-people ties," he added.

Highlighting India's commitment to regional security, he referred to the visit of three Indian naval ships to Bahrain in September 2025 and expressed gratitude to the country's leadership for the welfare of the Indian community. (ANI)



Minister Scindia Lays Foundation Stones for ₹635 Crore Development Projects in Assam

GUWAHATI: Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region Jyotiraditya Scindia today inaugurated the North Eastern Science & Technology (NEST) Cluster at IIT Guwahati and laid the foundation stone for a series of transformative development projects worth ₹635 crore across Assam, aimed at positioning the state as the innovation hub and economic powerhouse of a Viksit Purvottar.

Addressing a gathering of senior officials, scientists, and members of the academic and entrepreneurial community, Scindia described Assam as "the heartbeat of a rising Northeast, where the mighty Brahmaputra flows as a symbol of continuity, courage, and creativity." He said the state, long seen as the gateway to India's eastern renaissance, is now emerging as the "innovation and connectivity nerve centre" of a new, self-reliant Northeast.

The Minister laid the foundation stone for key projects designed to accelerate growth, connectivity, and industrial development across the state. These include the infrastructure development of 65 new secondary school buildings worth ₹455 crore; the upgradation of the Chayagaon-Ukium Road at a cost of ₹102.69 crore; the construction of an RCC bridge at Silonijan-Dhansiri Par Ghat worth ₹20.59 crore; and the development of industrial estates at Ramphalbil (Kokrajhar) and Lakhibazar (Baksa) costing ₹14.40 crore and ₹18.40 crore respectively.

Highlighting the human dimension of these projects, Scindia said, "Every brick laid and every classroom built is a promise kept in the service of aspiration."

At IIT Guwahati, the Minister also inaugurated the North Eastern Science & Technology (NEST) Cluster, established with an investment of ₹22.98 crore. The Cluster will serve as a nerve centre for innovation, fostering collaboration between academia, industry, and communities. Its focus areas include Grassroots Innovation, Semiconductors and Artificial Intelligence, Bamboo-Based Technologies, and Biodegradable Plastics—each aimed at transforming local wisdom into global solutions.

The NEST Cluster will work in synergy

with DoNER's youth-oriented programmes such as NE-SPARKS and Ashtalakshmi Darshan, through which 3,200 students from across India will visit the Northeast while 800 Northeastern students will undertake scientific exposure visits to ISRO.



During his visit to the IIT Guwahati exhibition, Scindia interacted with students and researchers showcasing innovations in 6G communication, biodegradable polymers, bamboo tissue culture, and low-field MRI systems for affordable healthcare. Reviewing a project on biodegradable polymers, he remarked, "If you get this going, it will be the future," commending the students for their spirit of sustainability and scientific curiosity.

As part of the NEST Mission's inclusive innovation drive, 30 rural women from Kamrup District were felicitated for completing training in biodegradable toy manufacturing using Industry 4.0 technologies. These women will now receive continued support to establish their own micro-enterprises. Scindia also unveiled the NEST Cluster logo, designed by rural women trained in sustainable toy manufacturing, symbolizing the spirit of innovation rooted in inclusivity and Nari Shakti.

Emphasizing the Northeast's transformation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, Scindia said the region has moved "from being landlocked to land-linked and future-ready." He noted that over 6.2 lakh crore has been invested in the region through the 10% Gross Budgetary Support policy, driving unprecedented growth in connectivity, enterprise, and empowerment. (PIB)

Hegseth visits inter-Korean border ahead of security talks with South Korean officials

SEOUL: US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth visited the Demilitarised Zone separating the two Koreas on Monday as he began a two-day visit to ally South Korea for security talks.

Hegseth and South Korean Defence Minister Ahn Gyu-back received a briefing from military officials at Observation Post Ouellette, a site

Malaysia, will attend the allies' annual defence talks in Seoul on Tuesday.

The talks are expected to cover key alliance issues, including South Korea's commitment to increase defence spending and the implementation of a previous agreement to transfer wartime operational control of allied



near the military demarcation line that past US presidents, including Donald Trump during his first term in 2019, had visited to peer across the border into North Korea and meet with American soldiers.

Hegseth and Ahn also visited the Panmunjom border village, where an armistice was signed to pause the 1950-53 Korean War. Ahn's ministry said the visit "reaffirmed the firm combined defence posture and close coordination" between the allies.

Hegseth did not mention North Korea, which has ignored Washington and Seoul's calls for dialogue in recent years while accelerating the expansion of its nuclear weapons and missile programs.

South Korea's military also said Monday that the country's Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Jin Yong-sung and his US counterpart, Gen. Dan Caine, oversaw a combined formation flight aboard South Korean and US F-16 fighter jets above a major US military base in Pyeongtaek.

The flight, conducted for the first time, was intended to demonstrate the allies' "ironclad combined defence posture" and the "unwavering" strength of the alliance, Seoul's Defence Ministry said.

Hegseth and Ahn, who previously met on Saturday at a defence ministers' meeting in

forces to a binational command led by a South Korean general with a US deputy.

There are also concerns in Seoul that the Trump administration may demand much higher South Korean payments for the US military presence in the country or possibly double America's military footprint to focus more on China.

Hegseth's visit comes days after Trump travelled to South Korea for meetings with world leaders, including South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and Chinese President Xi Jinping, on the sidelines of this year's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Gyeongju.

During his meeting with Trump on Wednesday last week, Lee reaffirmed South Korea's commitment to increasing defence spending to reduce the financial burden on America and also called for US support in South Korean efforts to acquire nuclear-powered submarines.

Trump later said on social media that the United States will share closely held technology to allow South Korea to build a nuclear-powered submarine, and that the vessel will be built in the Philly Shipyard, which was bought last year by South Korea's Hanwha Group. The leaders also advanced trade talks, addressing details of \$350 billion in US investments South Korea committed to in an effort to avoid the Trump administration's highest tariffs. (PTI)

Shivraj Singh Chouhan reviews farmers' complaints, sets strict timelines

NEWDELHI: Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan today held a high-level meeting in Delhi to address issues faced by farmers regarding the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and complaints related to claim payments. During the meeting, Shivraj Singh connected virtually with some farmers from Maharashtra and listened to their concerns directly, demanding answers from officials. He clearly stated that farmers will not be troubled under any circumstances.

"Receiving claims of Rs. 1, Rs. 3, Rs. 5, or Rs. 21 is a mockery of farmers, and the government will not allow this to continue," he said. Chouhan ordered a thorough investigation into it, gave strict instructions to insurance companies and officials in favor of farmers, and emphasised that claims must be paid quickly and simultaneously. The damage assessment must be done through an accurate system, and he instructed officials to make necessary amendments to the scheme provisions to remove inconsistencies.

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was deeply concerned about complaints received from farmers in his parliamentary constituency of Sehore district in Madhya Pradesh, especially about very nominal claim amounts being received by farmers in Maharashtra. After arriving in Delhi by flight on Monday morning, he went

straight to the Union Ministry of Agriculture at Krishi Bhawan and immediately convened a meeting with all senior officials involved in the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, along with top executives from all insurance companies.



He emphasised that the scheme, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is a boon for the country's farmers to protect their crops from natural disasters. However, some issues have tarnished the reputation of this important scheme and turned it into a subject of ridicule as well as propaganda.

Using examples, including of some Sehore district farmers by name, Shivraj Singh pointed out that despite having crop insurance, zero loss was shown, yet the claim paid was Rs. 1. Another farmer's loss was recorded as 0.004806 percent, yet the claim also was Rs. 1. The Union Minister raised the question on behalf of farmers: "what kind of method is this for measuring damage?" (PIB)

EPFO Foundation Day 2025

EPFO's PDUNASS Recognised for Excellence in Training and Good Governance

NEWDELHI: The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) celebrated its 73rd Foundation Day at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, in a ceremony graced by the Minister of Labour and Employment, Youth Affairs and Sports, Mansukh Mandaviya, along with senior officials and officers from across the country.

An official spokesperson of EPFO told Kashmir Convener that the main highlight of the celebration was the recognition of the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya National Academy of Social Security (PDUNASS)—EPFO's premier institution for training and capacity building—which received two Bhavishya Nidhi Awards 2025 for Best Achievement in Capacity Building and Special Initiative—Reimagining Governance: Discourse for Excellence (RGDE).

The RGDE initiative, launched on Good Governance Day 2023, represents PDUNASS's vision of promoting continuous institutional learning and ethical public service. The series brings together dis-

tinguished personalities from diverse fields—including governance, policy, healthcare, art, and culture—to deliberate on ideas that shape responsible and

in training design, ethics, and governance within EPFO.

The award for this initiative was jointly received by Kumar Rohit, Director,



compassionate leadership.

Notable speakers have included Nobel Laureate Kailash Satyarthi, Dr. Devi Shetty, Sanjeev Sanyal, actor Adil Hussain, and former Cabinet Secretary Prabhat Kumar. Over time, the RGDE platform has evolved into a dynamic movement of ideas, inspiring reforms

PDUNASS, and Uttam Prakash, RPFC-I, who has served as the series moderator since its inception.

PDUNASS also earned distinction for its exceptional achievements in capacity development, having trained 155 newly recruited Assistant Provident Fund Commissioners (APFCs) during

2024-25 across three batches.

The training programme emphasised both functional expertise and behavioural transformation, aligning with EPFO's commitment to service excellence.

Two innovative modules—"Design Thinking" (in collaboration with National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad) and "Compassion in Governance" (in partnership with the Satyarthi Movement for Global Compassion)—were introduced to cultivate creativity, empathy, and innovation in public administration.

To complement formal learning, PDUNASS launched the "Book Review" and "Delicious Initiatives" programmes, fostering teamwork, intellectual curiosity, and a culture of continuous learning among officer trainees.

This initiative was developed by Shri Vijay Kumar, Shri Ankur Gupta, Sanjay Kumar Rai, Shri Sharique Tanwir, and Ram Anand, all RPFC-I (PDUNASS). The award was jointly received by Shri Kumar Rohit, Director, PDUNASS, and

Ankur P. Gupta, RPFC-I.

On this occasion, Hon'ble Minister Shri Mansukh Mandaviya launched a Coffee Table Book titled "Reimagining Governance: Discourse for Excellence", which chronicles the vision, evolution, and impact of the RGDE series.

He also inaugurated the EPFO Exhibition, where PDUNASS showcased key institutional initiatives and publications—including booklets on the RGDE series, APFC (DR) 2024 Induction Training, Delicious Initiatives, Book Reviews, PFRE (Public Financial Resource Efficiency), and Rashtriya Karmayogi—Jan Seva Achievements. Exhibits also featured contributions from PDUNASS campuses at Faridabad, Chennai, Ujjain, Kolkata, and Shillong.

The Foundation Day celebration witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers and staff across EPFO's nationwide network, reaffirming a shared dedication to transparency, empathy, and innovation in public service. (PIB)

WAZWAN DELIGHTS

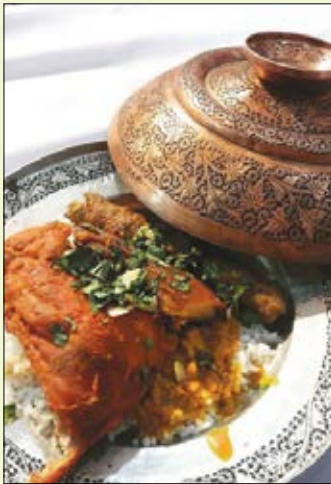
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