



Indian Army Eliminates Terrorists on Their Own Soil: Amit Shah

FE NEWS NETWORK

Says any repetition of mischief will be met with heavy price

SRINAGAR: Reiterating that the Indian Army neutralised terrorists in their homeland, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday warned Pakistan and the terrorists sponsored by it of dire consequences if they repeat the mistake of attacking India again.

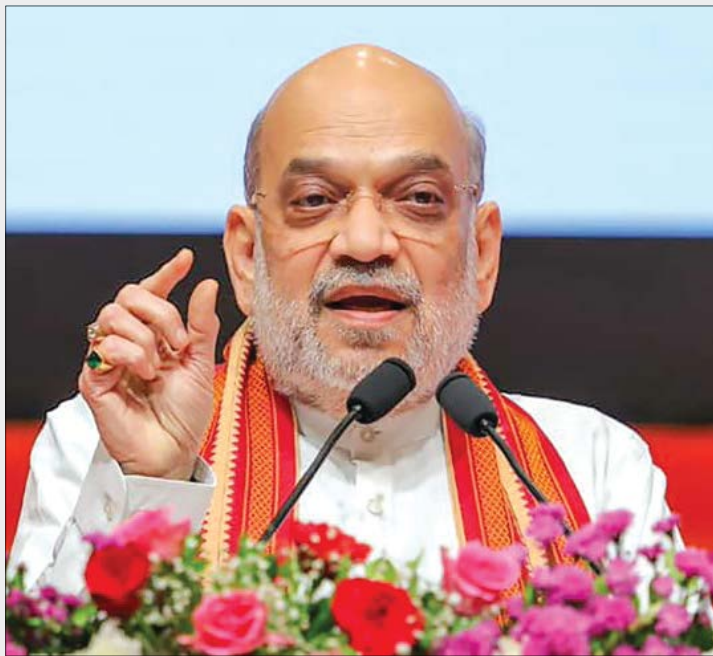
Addressing an election rally at Darbhanga's Jale constituency in Bihar, Shah said, "If Pakistan sponsored terrorists repeat any mistake again they will get goli ka jawab goley se (they will face cannons for bullets)."

Shah said that the cannons to be used against terrorists will be 'made-in-Bihar.'

Referring to April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, that left 26 people, mostly tourists dead, Shah said, "Terrorists from Pakistan attacked our citizens in Pahalgam. They wiped off Sindoore from the foreheads of our mothers and sisters. PM Modi avenged it by launching Operation Sindoor within 20 days. The Indian Army neutralised the terrorists on Pakistani land."

"Unlike the previous Congress regime, the government under PM Modi's leadership is committed to the safety and security of the nation," he said.

Shah said the government has deliv-



illegal immigrants.

"His (Rahul's) recent yatra was aimed at protecting those entering India illegally."

"Rahul Gandhi came to Bihar two and a half months ago and took out a 'ghuspaithiya bachao yatra'. Lalu

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He also said, "The PM is setting up a **Defence Corridor** in Bihar. If **Pakistan-sponsored terrorists** repeat their mistake, **'goli ka jawab goley se diya jaega'** (they will face cannons for bullets)."

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Prasad joined hands with him. They want to protect infiltrators. But the NDA government will ensure that every illegal immigrant is identified and removed from the country," Shah said.

Shifting his focus to opposition politics, the Home Minister accused the Congress and Lalu Prasad Yadav's party of safeguarding Article 370 for decades. "For nearly 70 years, the Congress-Lalu alliance

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Kashmir Upper Reaches Receive Snowfall, Rains Lash Plains

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The higher reaches of Kashmir, including Gulmarg and Sonamarg, received light snowfall on Tuesday while the gusty winds continued at several places, including Srinagar, with the weatherman predicting more rains and snow till tomorrow.

Multiple areas across Kashmir, including Gurez Valley, Razdan Top, Sonamarg, Gulmarg, Parkin Top and Doodhpathar, experienced light snowfall this afternoon.

The gusty winds, however, continued for almost an hour in the afternoon today at several places, including Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir. In the evening hours, Srinagar and other parts of the valley were lashed by the rains, bringing the temperature further down in Kashmir.

As per the forecast issued on Monday, Director Meteorological (MeT) department, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad stated that the weather will remain generally cloudy on November

5 while there is a possibility of light to moderate rain or snowfall (over higher reaches) at many places across Kashmir division and at scattered locations in



Jammu division, particularly during the evening of November 4 to the early morning of November 5.

The dry weather conditions would prevail once again from November 6 to 15,

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Confident of biggest-ever NDA win, rout of 'jungle raj people' in Bihar: PM Modi

KV NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asserted that the people of Bihar have made up their mind to ensure that the NDA breaks the record of its scale of victory in the last 20 years and not allow



the return of "jungle raj people", who would suffer their worst-ever defeat in the upcoming assembly elections.

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Film shooting resumes in Kashmir six months after Pahalgam terror attack



SRINAGAR: In a good news for Kashmir's battered tourism industry, film shootings have resumed in the valley, six months after the deadly Pahalgam

terror attack in which 26 persons were killed.

The crew of a Telugu film has begun shooting at the Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district - the site of the April 22 terror attack.

The comedy movie is being directed by Vimal Krishna, known for films such as "Jessie" and "Ladies & Gentleman".

Speaking to the reporters, Krishna said Kashmir is totally safe for visitors and movie shootings.

"I want to thank every Kashmiri.

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J&K Records Nearly 2,900 Dengue Cases This Year

FE NEWS NETWORK

Doctors appeal for strict preventive measures

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a rise in dengue infections this



year, with close to 2,900 confirmed cases reported so far, officials said on Tuesday.

Health experts have once again appealed to the public to follow precautionary measures to curb the spread of the mosquito-borne

disease.

As per official figures, 2,867 dengue cases have been registered across the Union Territory to date. Jammu continues to remain the worst hit with 1,209 cases, followed by Kathua with 772, Udhampur 399, and Samba 160.

Other districts reporting cases include Reasi (59), Rajouri (62), Poonch (26), Doda (58), Ramban (41) and Kishtwar (12). Twenty-eight cases have been detected in the Kashmir division while 41 cases were reported from outside J&K.

Officials said 24,141 tests have been carried out this year. "Only 48 patients needed hospitalization and nine of them are still undergoing treatment," an official told KNO, adding that one resident of J&K lost his life at DMC Ludhiana due to dengue-related complications.

The official stressed that there is no dedicated vaccine or specific antiviral therapy

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Preserving Cultural Heritage Crucial for Economic Growth: LG Sinha

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: "Preserving cultural heritage is crucial for rapid economic growth," the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday.

He said cultural traditions, arts, crafts, and customs should be passed on to the younger generation through active participation in cultural-spiritual events and skill development that will open up employment opportunities as well. The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the inauguration of annual Jhiri Mela at Marh Sub-Division in Jammu District.

"Community participation in governance should be ensured to promote accountability, improve service delivery, and foster a more inclusive and transparent

governance to understand citizens' needs and accordingly formulate new policies," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor paid



obedience to Baba Jitto and Bua Kauri. "Baba Jitto is a universal symbol of public welfare, transcending sectarian divides. His values of truth, non-violence, and brotherhood strengthen society

and make the Jhiri Mela a celebration of multiculturalism and social harmony. I believe real tribute to Baba Jitto is to ensure that benefits of government schemes reach every

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The Lieutenant Governor also praised the farming community of **Jammu Kashmir** for their resilience and contribution to the **society** and reaffirmed his commitment for their welfare.

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farmer," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the people to take a pledge to embrace the path of selfless-service and work towards a just and equal society as envisioned by

■ See On P/6

Daksum Hydro Plant to Power 3,500 Homes

FE NEWS NETWORK

DEESU, (ANANTNAG): Construction work on a 3-megawatt hydropower project is underway in the Dessu Daksum area of Kokernag in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. Once completed, the



project is expected to generate power for around 3,000 to 3,500 households.

The construction company has already completed the laying of approximately 800 metres of the pipeline required for the project, and the remaining 400 metres are expected to be completed within the

next two to three weeks.

After construction, the project will operate round the clock in three shifts, providing employment to 30 to 35 workers per shift.

Ghulam Hassan Dekka, a local, said, "We have been working here for some

time. This power project will benefit the local population a lot because this is a poor and far-flung area."

Dekka said there is no harm from this project. "Many labourers are working here. Such projects are the need of the hour," he added.

Another local said they had to face a lot of difficulties during winter and power curtailment, and now they are expecting 24-hour electricity. "Electricity is important in this modern era. The water bodies should be used for these projects, and after generating electricity, the same water can be used again," he said.

Junaid Mohammad Makroo, Managing

Director, Kashmir Valley Energy Private Limited, told KNO, "This is a 3 megawatt power project which we have taken from the Jammu & Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA), and with over-load capacity, it will function up to 3.6 megawatt. We have already laid around 800 metres of pipeline, and the remaining

Ghulam Hassan Dekka, a local, said, "We have been working here for some time. This power project will benefit the local population a lot because this is a poor and far-flung area."

400 metres will be completed within the next 2 to 3 weeks."

He said that at present, around 150 local workers are engaged in this project. "Once construction is completed and

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CS Dulloo reviews progress on key NHLML infrastructure projects

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Tuesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress and



implementation of major infrastructure projects being executed by the National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting primarily focused on the status of ropeway projects under the Parvatmala Scheme, the Inter Modal Station (IMS) at Katra, and

the Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) in Jammu, all of which are pivotal for enhancing connectivity, logistics efficiency, and tourism infrastructure in the region.

The meeting was attended by ACS, PWD; CEO, NHLML; Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD); Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce (I&C); Divisional Commissioner Jammu/Kashmir; Director General, Budget; Director, Industries Jammu; representatives from NHLML, and other senior officers.

Reviewing the progress of ropeway projects, the Chief Secretary underlined that the UT administration is prioritizing improved connectivity to key tourist destinations through sustainable transport solutions.

The meeting was informed that bids have been invited by NHLML for the preparation of Detailed

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Senior Journalist Tariq Ahmad Bhat Passes Away



SRINAGAR : The journalism fraternity in Jammu and Kashmir is mourning the loss of Tariq Ahmad Bhat, the Bureau Chief of The Week magazine, who passed away

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Dir, JD Info condole demise of Journalist Tariq Bhat

JAMMU: Director Information, Nitish Rajora has expressed deep grief over the death of Veteran and Accredited journalist Tariq Ahmad Bhat, calling his demise an irreparable loss to Kashmir's journalistic fraternity. In his condolence message, the Director Information said,

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4 Anganwadi-cum-Creches established in Udhampur District under Palna Scheme

DC inaugurates newly created facility at Ward No. 21

FE NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR: A newly established Anganwadi-cum-Creche centre was inaugurated in Udhampur Township under the Palna scheme of Mission Shakti.

The inauguration of the new centre at Dandyal A, Ward No. 21 has taken the total number of Anganwadi-cum-Creche centres



in Udhampur and Ramnagar towns to four.

The newly established Anganwadi-cum-Creche was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai.

The initiative aims to provide a supportive environment for the holistic development of children up to six years of age and empower working mothers by ensuring safe and nurturing day-care facilities for their children.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted that the establishment of these Creches will significantly benefit families, particularly working women, who often face challenges in ensuring adequate childcare during working hours. "These centres will enable mothers to engage productively at their workplaces while their children receive proper care, nutrition and early education," she added.

During day-care hours, children at these Creches will receive nutritious meals, early childhood education, basic health and hygiene services, contributing to their overall well-being and development.

The DC appreciated the efforts of the Poshan Department for setting up these Creches in the district and urged working mothers residing within municipal areas to enroll their children in nearby Anganwadi-cum-Creches to avail the benefits of this centrally sponsored scheme.

The inaugural event was attended by PO Poshan Subhash Chander Dogra; CDPO, Executive Officer, Municipal Council, prominent citizens and other officials of the Poshan Department.

Block Diwas held at Rajpura: DDC listens to public grievances, reviews development activities

SAMBA: District Development Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan presided over a Block Diwas programme at Rajpura.



The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from locals and representatives of the adjoining panchayats.

The DDC listened to a wide range of public grievances and developmental demands, with special focus on agrarian issues, employment, besides education and healthcare facilities. People from adjoining villages raised concerns regarding post-flood damages, drug abuse and sought restoration of water bodies, improvement of drainage, rural infrastructure and better sports facilities as a constructive alternative for youth.

Highlighting Rajpura's potential for livestock rearing and farming, the DDC emphasized measures to strengthen the same through convergence of departmental efforts. She also stressed the strengthening of Gram Sabhas, desilting of drains, ponds and the need for collective community participation in developmental initiatives.

DDC Ayushi Sudan reiterated that the core objective of Block Diwas is twofold — to ensure timely redressal of grievances and to spread awareness about government schemes meant for public welfare. She urged people to proactively avail benefits of various schemes tailored for their socio-economic upliftment.

The event was attended by ADDC Champa Devi Thakur; SDM Ghagwal K.S. Bali; ACD, ACP and heads of all line departments.

Swachh Bharat Mission...

Municipal Council Doda declares Town ODF+

DODA: In line with the guidelines of the Swachh Bharat Mission of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Government of India, the Municipal Council Doda has declared the town as Open Defecation Free Plus (ODF+).

A public notice regarding the goal was published on February 01, 2020 in local newspapers, inviting objections and suggestions from the citizens of Municipal Council Doda within 15 days. All feedback received during this period was thoroughly reviewed and necessary improvements were implemented on ground to ensure full compliance with ODF+ standards.

After due verification and compliance with the required standards, the Municipal Council Doda officially declared the town as ODF+, marking a significant step towards maintaining improved sanitation and hygiene in the town.

In continuation of this mission, the Council emphasizes that open defecation, open urination and the unauthorized discharge or dumping of sewage in open spaces, drains and water bodies are strictly prohibited and will attract penalties- Rs. 200 for open defecation; Rs. 100 for open urination; Rs. 500 for unauthorized discharge or dumping of sewage in open areas, drains and water bodies.

The Municipal Council Doda has urged the residents to support and maintain this important civic achievement by adhering to sanitation norms and contributing actively to the town's cleanliness and public health standards.

Director Agriculture inspects departmental stall at Jhiri Mela 2025

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Jammu, Anil Gupta inspected the Department's



display stall established at the 10 day historic Jhiri Mela, inaugurated today.

During the inspection, Anil Gupta took a detailed tour of the departmental exhibition area and assessed the displays highlighting the government schemes, latest farming techniques and innovations being implemented by the department for the welfare of farmers. He interacted with the officers, field functionaries and staff members.

The officials briefed him on the thematic exhibits showcasing organic and natural

farming, GI-tagged products, mushroom cultivation, integrated pest management, bee keeping, protected cultivation, soil health management and agricultural machinery. The interventions form part



of Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) and Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKG).

Speaking on the occasion, the Director Agriculture emphasized the importance of such exhibitions in spreading awareness among the farming community about the latest government initiatives and technological advancements in agriculture. He said, "Jhiri Mela is one of the largest rural gatherings in the region, providing a valuable platform for direct interaction with farmers. Through these stalls, we

aim to disseminate knowledge on sustainable agricultural practices and encourage farmers to adopt scientific methods for enhanced productivity and profitability."

Anil Gupta further directed the officers to ensure that the stall remains informative and farmer-friendly throughout the mela period. He instructed that interactive sessions, live demonstrations and on-the-spot guidance be provided to visiting farmers regarding soil testing, crop diversification, integrated farming systems and various centrally sponsored schemes such as PM-Kisan, PM Fasal Bima Yojana and Kisan Credit Card (KCC).

The Agriculture Department's stall is expected to attract large numbers of farmers, students and visitors throughout the mela period, offering practical insights into modern farming techniques and government welfare programmes.

Prominent among those present during the inspection included Joint Director (Extension) Sanjay Anand; Joint Director (SLUB/Farms) Aman Jyoti Sharma; Agriculture Chemist Vinod Kumar Sharma; Agronomist (VIS) Vikas Padha; Mushroom Development Officer Raghuraj Pal Kochar; Assistant Entomologist Bharti Thusoo; Agriculture Research Engineer Firdous Ahmad Tak; DSCO Nirmal Parkash; Seed Analyst Gopal Krishan; Potato Development Officer Raj Singh; Chief Agriculture Officer Jammu Manohar Lal Sharma; SDAO Marh Khalid Hassan, Agriculture Extension Officers and departmental staff.

Reasi Administration Finalises Arrangements For 150Th Anniversary Celebration Of "Vande Mataram"

REASI: District Administration Reasi finalized preparations for the grand celebration of 150th anniversary of the National Song, "Vande Mataram" here at a review meeting chaired by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Sukhdev Singh Samyal.

The week-long celebration, scheduled from November 7 to November 14, 2025, will feature a series of patriotic and cultural events aimed at highlighting the historical significance of "Vande Mataram" and fostering a spirit of nationalism among citizens.

The district-level commemoration will be held on November 7, along with corresponding events at the subdivision, tehsil and block level.

Planned activities for the week include Flag Hoisting, singing of Vande Mataram, marathons, quiz competitions, police band performances and exhibitions on patriotic themes, special morning assemblies, cleanliness drives and the creation of patriotic murals.

The events aim to engage citizens of all ages in celebrating the legacy of the national song.

During the meeting, the ADDC reviewed department-wise responsibilities and emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts to ensure smooth and successful conduct of the programme.

Officers were directed to make arrangements

for venues, cultural performances by educational institutions, publicity campaigns, security measures and logistics support.



Specific instructions were issued to each department. The Education Department was tasked with organizing events in schools and colleges to actively engage students, the Forest Department was directed to focus on plantation drives and the Youth Services & Sports Department was asked to organize marathons and other youth-centric activities. Additionally, all Sub-Divisional Magistrates

(SDMs) were instructed to conduct similar programmes at the sub-division level to ensure widespread participation. All departments

District Kishtwar gears up to celebrate 150 years of "Vande Mataram" with patriotic zeal

DC chairs meeting to finalize activity plan for week-long event



KISHTWAR: The District Administration Kishtwar is all set to commemorate 150 years of the national song "Vande Mataram" with grandeur and patriotic fervor.

In this regard, Deputy Commissioner, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting of officers from the line departments in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting focused on finalizing the detailed activity plan and modalities for the upcoming celebrations to be held from November 7 to November 14, 2025 in first phase.

At the outset, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Pawan Kotwal briefed the meeting about the objectives, framework and

The inaugural ceremony will feature flag hoisting, invocation of "Vande Mataram," cultural performances, screening of short films, felicitation of artists and a handicraft and handloom exhibition to be organized by the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kishtwar.

The week-long celebration will include a series of engaging and patriotic activities such as essay and quiz competitions, exhibitions on the freedom struggle and "Vande Mataram," police band performances, mural and wall paintings on patriotic themes, cleanliness drives, youth rallies, mini-marathons and documentary screenings to be organized by various concerned departments.

While emphasizing the importance of the event, the DC Kishtwar underscored that the commemoration should embody the spirit of unity, patriotism and cultural pride.

He directed the departments to work in close coordination to ensure active participation from citizens, students and youth across the district.

The DC emphasized that the celebrations shall be people-centric, reflecting patriotic spirit and cultural vibrancy.

Heads of departments and educational institutions were directed to ensure maximum public participation through meticulous planning, effective coordination, and innovative execution of the planned activities.

The meeting was attended by Commandant 05 RR Hqrs Assam Rifles Colonel Vikrant Gupta; ADC Pawan Kotwal; PO ICDS Rishi Kumar Sharma; CEO KDA Kaiser Bhawani; Assistant Commandant CRPF 52 Bn. Vijay Hemrom; ACR Idrees Lone; SDM Paddar Dr. Amit Kumar; DSWO Tariq Parveez Qazi; EO Municipal Council Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal; AD FCS & CA Shafiqat Ali Keen; DIO Dr. Kuldeep Kumar; Dy. SP Hqrs Dr. Ishan Gupta; ARTO Tasleem Wani; Ex-En PMGSY Rajesh Sharma; Ex-En JPDCL Latif Wani; CHO Sajid Mustafa; DIO NIC Faizal Khan; Dy. CE besides other Officers and concerned Staff.

District Task Force launches anti-child labour enforcement drive in Ramban Town

10 minors rescued, reunited with their families

RAMBAN: The District Task Force, under the directives of Deputy Commissioner, on



Tuesday conducted a comprehensive enforcement operation in Ramban Town and surrounding areas to rescue children forced into child labour and begging. The drive was supervised by the District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) and Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) jointly.

The team carried out surprise inspections at commercial establishments, identifying and rescuing minors engaged in exploitative labour.

During the operation, 10 children were rescued and presented before the Child Welfare Committee. Their guardians were counseled and warned against violating child protection laws. The children were reunited with their families under strict monitoring, ensuring their well-being and future protection.

"Legal action shall be taken against business owners employing minors, including revocation of licenses and criminal proceedings. Strict penalties will also be imposed on individuals involved in child trafficking and forced begging. The public has been urged to report any such cases to the Child Helpline (1098) or District Child Protection Unit," the team said.

The ALC also educated stakeholders on child labour laws and workplace safety measures, reinforcing the administration's commitment to eradicating child exploitation in the district.

Led by Assistant Labour Commissioner Amit Kumar and CWC Chairperson Nighat Ghani, the task force consists of officials from the District Child Protection Unit, Health Department, Employment Department, District Police and Child Helpline.

Picking of Button Mushroom inaugurated at DCTC, Krishi Bhawan Talab Tillo

JAMMU: The Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Jammu today inaugurated the picking of button mushrooms at the Demonstration cum Training Centre (DCTC), Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo. The event was formally inaugurated by Mission Director, HADP/JCIP Sandeep Kumar, in the presence of Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta; Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Sayed; Mushroom Development Officer Raghuraj Pal Kochar, along with other officers and staff of the Agriculture Department.

Speaking on the occasion, Mission Director HADP Sandeep Kumar appreciated the Agriculture Department for promoting mushroom cultivation under controlled environmental conditions. "The establishment of Controlled Cropping Units will enable farmers to cultivate mushrooms round the year, thereby ensuring a steady source of income and livelihood," he emphasized.

He further highlighted the importance of processing and value addition in mushroom production. "The mushrooms need to be processed and canned to enhance their shelf life, which will help farmers earn additional income beyond traditional cultivation practices. By integrating processing and marketing with production, farmers can achieve higher profitability and contribute to the overall goal of agricultural sustainability under HADP," he added.

Later, Sandeep Kumar inspected the Pasteurized Compost Making Unit established at DCTC, where spawning of mushroom bags was in progress. These mushroom bags would be provided to the farmers of the Jammu Division at subsidized rates under departmental initiatives to promote mushroom cultivation at the grassroots level.

Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta highlighted the department's continuous efforts toward promoting mushroom cultivation as a viable enterprise for small and marginal farmers. He stated that the Department is providing the necessary technical support, training and infrastructure to enhance mushroom production across the division. He further stressed that with the active support of HADP and the collaborative efforts of the line departments, Jammu Division is witnessing remarkable progress in the mushroom sector.



Javid Dar addresses valedictory session of Food Safety & Health Conclave 2025 at SKIMS

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election departments, Javid Ahmad Dar addressed the valedictory session of Food Safety and Health Conclave 2025 at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) here today.

The Conclave was organised by SKIMS in collaboration with Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) Kashmir, bringing together experts, policymakers, and scientists to deliberate on strengthening food safety and public health in Jammu & Kashmir.

Director SKIMS & EOSG, Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie; President AIIMS Kalyani, Prof. Yoginder Kumar Gupta; Secretary Science & Technology, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, medical experts, medical professionals, WHO representatives, legal experts, and religious scholars were also

present on the occasion.

across Jammu & Kashmir for natural

said the Government is implementing flagship programmes to support farmers and enhance productivity.

Referring to recent food safety concerns, he noted that the Government and its enforcement wings acted swiftly and effectively.

“Checks and balances have been considerably strengthened to safeguard public interest,” he said, adding that scientists are the real intellectual and ethical assets of the nation.

He emphasised that food safety must be pursued not only through regulatory measures but also through societal awareness and moral responsibility. He appreciated SKIMS and SKUAST-K for taking the lead in this initiative.

The Conclave featured expert discussions and panel session aimed at formulating guidelines for food safety and preparing a white paper for submission to the Government.



In his address, the Minister announced that 7,500 hectares have been identified

farming to minimise pesticide use and promote sustainable agriculture. He

Div Com Kashmir chairs meeting on Expansion of Civil Enclave at Srinagar Airport

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, chaired a high-level meeting to review the expansion of the

Authority of India (AAI), and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

Among other issues,



Civil Enclave at Srinagar Airport and discuss the shifting of CRPF barracks from the present location within the vicinity of airport.

Besides, Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, the meeting was attended by senior officers from the CRPF, CISF, Airports

the meeting held detailed deliberations on various aspects of development of road linking the Ring Road, Railway Station, and Srinagar Airport as part of the proposed circuit.

The officers also discussed the feasibility of developing new CRPF barracks and accommodation

for CISF personnel to support airport operations.

While addressing the officers, the Divisional Commissioner directed them to review the alignment of the proposed connecting road to ensure optimal connectivity and minimal land acquisition issues.

He further instructed the concerned departments to identify suitable land for relocating CRPF facilities in line with safety and regulatory requirements specified by Air Force authorities.

The Div Com emphasized coordinated efforts among all stakeholder departments to ensure the timely finalisation of the plan latest by 20th November, which is expected to significantly enhance commuter experience.

Deputy Commissioner Kulgam holds Teachers' Interaction and Feedback Session under 'Classes of Joy' Initiative

Calls for child-centered, inclusive, and interactive classrooms

KULGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, held a Teachers' Interaction and Feedback Session under the ongoing 'Classes of Joy' initiative, an effort jointly undertaken by the District Administration and the Pratham Foundation, being implemented across all 458 government primary and middle schools in the district.

The session was organized to review the implementation, progress, and learning outcomes of the initiative, and to obtain valuable feedback from teachers and field-level education officers to further strengthen the programme.

During the session, teachers

shared their on-ground experiences, observations, effective implementation through



and suggestions regarding the Classes of Joy initiative, which aims to create joyful learning environments and enhance student engagement in schools.

The DC chaired the session, emphasizing the importance of

to bridge learning gaps.

He stressed that every classroom should be a space of curiosity, creativity, and joy where children can learn, express, and grow. He also instructed all concerned to ensure zero learning

gaps and to make every classroom child-centered, inclusive, and interactive.

Deliberations included discussions on innovative teaching practices, strategies to promote student participation, and measures to further improve learning outcomes.

The DC lauded the efforts of teachers and field staff in implementing the initiative and encouraged their continued dedication to creating environments where every child can thrive academically and creatively. The session was attended by officers from the Education Department, teachers, and other key stakeholders involved in the programme.

DDC Chairperson Kupwara reviews progress of works under District Capex Budget 2025-26

KUPWARA: District Development Council (DDC) Chairperson Kupwara, Irfan Sultan Panditpori chaired the council meeting at Environment Hall Handwara to review the progress of various developmental projects under District CAPEX Budget 2025-26.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, Vice-Chairperson District Development Council, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir, CEO DDC, Mufti Fareed-ud-din; ADC Handwara, Javid Naseem Masoodi; Members of District Development Council, besides, District and Sectoral Officers attended the meeting.

The meeting was informed about the ongoing and completed projects under District CAPEX Budget 2025-26 including sectors like Minor Irrigation, R&B, Elementary Education, Secondary

Education, Youth Services & Sports, Health, Jal Shakti, NFB, United Grants, ADF (DDC/BDC)

Council members also raised various issues and demands pertaining to their respective



PRI grants) and Samridh Seema Yojna. The Chairperson took a detailed review of the physical and financial status of works taken up under the District Capex schemes and other sectors.

constituencies.

After reviewing the sector wise progress of the works, the Chairperson impressed upon district level Officers of all departments to speed up the

pace of ongoing development projects to ensure timely completion within the current financial year.

enjoined upon the officers to work with greater coordination and zeal to finish the targets within the timeframe.

On the occasion, the Vice Chairperson, District Development Council also asked the officers to put in their best efforts for timely completion of works for optimum utilization of funds under different schemes.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, while speaking on the occasion, reiterated the importance of close inter-departmental coordination and directed officers to ensure that all ongoing works are completed within the stipulated timeframe to meet developmental goals of the district.

DC Pulwama reviews Action Plan for 150 Years of Vande Mataram Celebrations

Calls for mass participation, patriotic fervour and coordinated efforts across district

PULWAMA: In alignment with the nationwide commemoration of 150 Years of Vande Mataram,



the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, chaired a meeting to review the district action plan and arrangements for the forthcoming year-long celebrations.

At the outset, the Additional Deputy Commissioner Pulwama presented a detailed presentation

on the District Action Plan, outlining a series of activities to be organised throughout the year at the district, subdivision, tehsil, block, and panchayat levels.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised that the

commemoration should witness mass participation, enthusiasm, and patriotic spirit across all sections of society.

He further urged the Principals of Degree Colleges and the Chief Education Officer to frame an activity-wise schedule for educational institutions,

ensuring that programmes are conducted in a structured and engaging manner across all schools and colleges of the district.

Dr. Qayoom further directed that every officer shall lead at least one event under the commemoration drive to ensure inclusive participation and wide outreach across the district.

Emphasising the sanctity of the occasion, the DC remarked that the National Song holds significant reverence and every officer must ensure strict adherence to the prescribed protocol during the celebrations.

The DC further directed all departments to work in close coordination to ensure mass participation and successful observance of the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram across the district.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama, Tral, and Awantipora; Principals of Degree Colleges, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Chief Education Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, and other district and sectoral officers.

DC Kupwara reviews Progress of NH-701 Project



KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, chaired a meeting to review the progress of the National Highway-701 (RKCTC Road) project and address various issues affecting its execution.

The meeting held a detailed discussion on key aspects of the project, including shifting of electricity poles and water pipelines, improvement of road curves.

The concerned Tehsildars were instructed to ensure timely submission of land title documents to facilitate prompt compensation to affected landowners.

The Deputy Commissioner also emphasized the removal of hindrances, attestation of mutations, and clearance of issues related to walnut trees and forest land, directing the concerned departments to expedite the process to ensure uninterrupted construction of the highway.

The DC directed concerned agency to complete pending culvert works on fast track basis to avoid inconvenience to the general public.

The DC urged all stakeholders to maintain close coordination and work proactively to achieve timely completion of this vital infrastructure project, which is expected to significantly enhance connectivity and boost economic activity in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Handwara, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Kupwara, SE Hydraulics, SE R&B, OC Beacon, Chief Horticulture Officer Kupwara, and other concerned officers.

...Bye-elections to 27-AC Budgam

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

BUDGAM: In connection with the forthcoming Bye-Elections to 27-Assembly Constituency Budgam, the District Administration organized a Voter Awareness Programme under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) initiative at Bemina.

The programme aimed to encourage greater voter turnout and informed participation among the local electorate.

The awareness campaign was held under the directions of the District Election Officer (DEO) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, and was spearheaded by the District Nodal Officer SVEEP (Chief Education Officer Budgam).

The initiative particularly focused on polling stations identified with relatively lower voter turnout viz. Bemina Polling Stations E, F, G, and H.

The event witnessed active participation of the Zonal Education Officer Soibugh, Principal of GHSS Bemina, and other district officials.

A series of engaging and informative activities were carried out as part of the

campaign, including Nukkad Natak (street plays), awareness rallies, distribution of voter information pamphlets, and

enthusiasm and community participation reflected a strong collective commitment towards enhancing electoral



the installation of awareness hoardings across the area.

A large number of students, teachers, and local residents joined the awareness rally, which started from Khomani Chowk, Bemina, passed through various local streets of Ward 65, and culminated at Government Higher Secondary School Bemina. The vibrant display of

participation in the upcoming bye-elections.

Speaking on the occasion, concerned officials related to sveep activities highlighted the importance of every single vote in shaping a strong democracy and urged citizens, especially first-time voters, to come forward and exercise their democratic right with responsibility and pride.

Intensive health and water testing drives held at Check Saidpora Shopian

SHOPIAN: On the directions of District Administration Shopian, in response to the detection of four jaundice cases in Check Saidpora area of District Shopian, health and Jal Shakti Departments have launched a comprehensive health surveillance and sanitation drive to prevent further spread of the infection.

Teams from the Health Department in coordination with officials of the Jal Shakti Department have initiated intensive field inspections to identify suspected cases and assess hygiene conditions. Drinking water samples have been collected from multiple locations in the area for laboratory analysis to ascertain the quality of water being supplied to households. Jal Shakti Department has intensified chlorination and flushing of supply lines in the locality. Meanwhile, the Health Department has started an extensive awareness campaign advising residents to consume boiled drinking water, maintain personal hygiene and avoid consumption of uncovered food. A medical team has visited today to ascertain the health scenario and extend the assistance and treatment to the local people. The people have been advised to take precautionary measures and to report any new suspected cases promptly. The District Administration has assured that all necessary steps are being taken to safeguard public health. Continuous surveillance will be maintained in the area.

CCF Kashmir visits Kamraj Forest Division Kupwara

KUPWARA: Chief Conservator Forests (CCF) Kashmir, Irfan Rasool Wani, visited the Kamraj Forest Division Kupwara to review ongoing forest protection measures and developmental works in the area.

The visit commenced with a review meeting at the office of the Deputy Director, Headquarters Natnussa, which was attended by the DFO Kamraj, Deputy Directors Natnussa, Langate, and Kehmil, along with Range Officers of North Lolab, Matchil, Kupwara, and Sopore.

During the meeting, the CCF took stock of the various measures being undertaken for forest conservation in Kupwara, with a particular focus on the Sogam and Chandigam areas of Lolab Valley.

He emphasized the need to intensify field vigilance to curb illegal exploitation of forest resources and ensure that forest offence cases are promptly acted upon and

taken to their logical conclusion.

As part of his visit, the CCF inaugurated the Winter Plantation Drive in the district by planting a Deodar sapling in Compartment 18/SL, marking the commencement of the winter afforestation season.

The event witnessed active participation of school children and members of the local community, reflecting growing public involvement in forest conservation efforts.

The CCF also inspected the Forest Nursery at Chandigam, where he issued on-spot directions to raise tall seedlings of diverse species for promoting urban and roadside plantations. He also instructed officers to ensure timely supply of plantable stock for field plantations, thereby creating space for new nursery targets for the current year. The CCF further directed the staff to upgrade nursery infrastructure

with improved facilities for irrigation, weeding, and hoeing operations.

On the occasion, a booklet titled “The Enchanting Forests of Lolab Valley”, showcasing the forest wealth and biodiversity of Lolab, was formally released by the Chief Conservator of Forests Kashmir. Later, the CCF inspected the newly constructed DFO residence at Zangli Campus and the Inspection Hut of the Social Forestry Department.

He instructed the officers to ensure timely completion of remaining works to make these facilities operational at the earliest. During the visit the CCF was accompanied by DFO Kamraj, Owais Mir; DD FPF Natnussa, Sheikh Javed; DD FPF Langate, Manzoor Ahmed; DD FPF Kehmil Jan Mohammad; Range officers of Kamraj Forest division and Asst Directors of FPF kupwara.

Javid Dar greets people on Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election departments, Javid Ahmad Dar has extended warm greetings to people of J&K on the auspicious occasion of Parkash Purab of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism.

In his message, the Minister said that Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji was a great spiritual ambassador who guided the humanity to attain salvation by spreading the cult of devotion to God with eternal message of love, compassion and spirituality amongst the mankind.

He said that Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji envisioned a casteless society free from rituals, thereby redeeming the suffering of humanity from the pangs of agony. Javid Dar said that Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji motivated the humanity with new ideas, aims, aspirations and called upon it to dispense with the maladies of hypocrisy, falsehood, pretensions and caste-prejudices. The Minister said that teachings of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji are still relevant today especially in the present complex and materialistic society. He appealed the people to imbibe the spirit of service and humility as preached by the Great Guru and strive hard for carving out a peaceful, prosperous and healthy society by following the precious legacy of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji.

Editorial

Restoring Faith in Media

The latest directive issued by the Jammu and Kashmir administration to deal with individuals posing as journalists is a necessary measure that should have been taken a long time ago. The action tackles an ongoing problem that has not only robbed journalists of the integrity of the media but has threatened the security and trustworthiness of authentic journalists. The extremely positive response from Jammu and Kashmir Accredited Journalists Association stresses the significance of the action and the relief it has provided to the professional media community.

For far too long, journalism in the region has needed to address individuals posing as journalists with no verification or credentials. These individuals use blackmail, extortion, and slander, not truth or accountability, as their tools. The actions of these individuals, who operate without any verification or ethical responsibility, have ruined the noble profession of journalism, eroded the trust of the public, and created a dangerous environment for real journalists. When the difference between a journalist and a fraud is obscured, it is the public's right to true information that suffers, and this affects all of us.

The government's circular, issued by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), is laudable for its pragmatic approach. Creating a verified, up-to-date, accredited journalists' register, and restricting official communication to that small list allows for a clear and accountable system. Calling for coordinated legal action against these impostors demonstrates that this republic will not tolerate the sabotage of its public policy work. Such a coordinated, structured response is much more effective than dealing with complaints in an ad hoc manner. In fact, it is critical to removing these elements from our systems.

Also noteworthy is the fact that the circular puts responsibility onto the media houses as well. The request for due diligence - via editors and owners - in hiring reporters, correspondents, freelancers, and stringers is an important piece of the puzzle. Media organisations need to be the first line of defence. Adhering to the ethical standards of Press Council of India and the DIPR guidelines is not an overly bureaucratic requirement, it is a real civic duty to the audience. Bysoliciting unauthorized stringers, with limited due diligence, you are just a sign for disaster.

If this process is implemented sincerely and sustained, it will go a long way to restoring the sanctity of journalism. It will safeguard the integrity of the profession, protect genuine journalists, and more importantly, reinforce the responsibility of the media institution in Jammu and Kashmir to remain a credible, responsible, and accountable voice of democracy. This is not an administrative order but an important step in getting to the truth.



■ DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

As India moves toward the centenary of its independence in 2047, it is not merely pursuing economic development, but also resolving to rebuild a moral, balanced, and humane society. But this resolve will only be meaningful if development is founded on the welfare of all creation, not just humans. Today, when we talk of a "developed India," its scope appears limited to industry, technology, infrastructure, and income growth. But a truly developed nation will be one where human qualities like compassion, coexistence, and kindness are at the heart of policies and plans.

The Constitution of India exemplifies this vision. Article 48(A) directs the State to protect the environment and wildlife, while Article 51(A)(g) establishes the fundamental duty of every citizen to have compassion for all living creatures. These provisions are not merely legal rules, but the hallmarks of a civilizational ideology based on the principles of non-violence, compassion, and "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam." For centuries, Indian culture has taught that every living being in creation has its own dignity, purpose, and rights.

Yet, animal welfare has been left far behind in the race for modern development. Industrialization, urbanization, and the race for reckless consumption have not only impacted natural resources but also threatened the survival of countless animal species. The declining numbers of vultures, the shrinking habitats of elephants and leopards, the impact of pollution on marine life—these all reflect this imbalance. When even a single species disappears from an ecosystem, it impacts the entire environment and human life.

When we cut down forests, pollute rivers, and destroy animal habitats in the name of development, it's not just a harm to nature but a weakening of the roots of humanity itself. Therefore, it's essential that India's vision of a "Developed India 2047" not rest solely on human material prosperity, but rather embrace the welfare of all living beings as its fundamental goal.

Integrating animal welfare into India's development approach is not just a matter of sensitivity, but a prerequisite for sustainable development. Livestock is the backbone of India's rural economy. Millions of families depend on the milk, wool, eggs, and other products they provide. If these animals are

cared for, fed, well-being, and treated with respect, productivity will increase and rural incomes will stabilize.

Humane animal husbandry and balanced use of resources also benefit soil fertility, water quality, and environmental sustainability.

Additionally, animal welfare is directly linked to public health. Events like the COVID-19 pandemic and Nipah virus have

amendments to strengthen penal provisions and ensure real impact. Furthermore, expanding veterinary services and scientific care can improve livestock quality.

Technological innovations can also be helpful in this area. Artificial intelligence-based surveillance, satellite mapping, and electronic security systems are playing a revolutionary role in wildlife conservation. The e-surveillance system in Kaziranga

development includes not just production or income, but also morality, sensitivity, and coexistence. We must recognize that humans are not the sole masters of this Earth. Every living being, whether small or large, is an essential part of the chain of life.

The spirit of "Sarva Bhoota Hita"—that is, the welfare of all beings—has always been at the heart of India. This spirit needs to be integrated into modern policy, technology,



demonstrated that animal health, human health, and the environment are deeply interconnected. An imbalance in one area impacts the others. Therefore, it is essential that the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, and Health work together to implement the spirit of a "One Health Approach" at the policy level.

Animal welfare approaches should also be incorporated into education, urban planning, and industry. If the school curriculum instills the values of compassion and coexistence towards all living things, future generations will naturally become more sensitive. Urban planning should include wildlife corridors, animal crossings, and humane arrangements for stray animals. The wildlife paths created on the Delhi-Mumbai Highway are inspiring examples in this direction.

India should also update its outdated animal protection laws. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, needs timely

National Park has significantly reduced poaching incidents. This is proof that combining science and compassion can be the most effective solution to protect our environment and wildlife.

Promoting "cruelty-free production" in animal-based industries—such as dairy, leather, and textiles—will not only promote ethical trade but also enhance India's reputation internationally. Consumers also need to be aware that choosing ethical products is a social responsibility.

The Indian philosophies of "Ahimsa Paramo Dharma" and "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah" are not just religious maxims, but rather a maxim for sustainable living. If animal welfare is combined with "Mission Lifestyle" (which emphasizes adopting environmentally friendly living), India will emerge as a nation that combines development with compassion.

The meaning of a developed India will only be meaningful when the scale of

India's development should not be limited to the interests of human beings only, but it can become truly "developed" only by adopting compassion and moral responsibility towards all living beings.

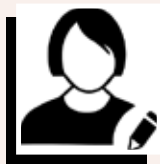
and education.

Only when India moves forward in this direction will it be called not only prosperous, but also a truly civilized and sensitive nation. This is what Developed India 2047 truly means—an India that combines compassion with progress, empathy with science, and morality with development. This will be the beginning of a golden age where every living being will be safe, respected, and happy.

The dream of a developed India will only be realized when we understand that the true measure of progress is compassion and morality. Only when India takes all living beings along on its path of development will it earn the right to be called the "World Leader."

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Fuel for Greatness: Why Belief Comes First



NAJIA ALI

Positive and elevated thinking is among the finest traits a person can have. Negative thoughts make life harder and hold back success. When you think positively, you develop confidence, courage, and determination. Clear thinking combined with firm resolve helps us accomplish our goals. Because of the strength of human thought and will, people have achieved incredible milestones—walking on the moon, flying across the sky, and diving into the depths of the oceans. With the right mindset and persistent effort, humanity has created innovations that save both time and energy. Strong beliefs inspire great actions. You become what you think. If you believe you are capable, you grow stronger; if you think you are weak, you remain stuck. The way to overcome weakness is by focusing on your strengths. Believing in yourself marks the first step toward success. When your mind is filled with positive thoughts, it unlocks the courage and confidence needed to move forward. No one fails completely as long as they keep trying. Faith in yourself and your work helps you conquer challenges. True success and happiness come from believing in your purpose. Once you set your goal, abandon fear and doubt—because with faith, nothing is out of reach. As the saying goes, "He who loses faith loses all." Belief in yourself acts like fuel, keeping you going even in difficult times. Embrace positive thinking and hold tightly to your dreams, even when life gets tough. Changing the way you think may seem challenging at first, but with practice, you can train your mind and actions toward success. The mind is powerful—whatever it genuinely believes, it can achieve. Never give up on your dreams—turn them into reality. Do not fear failure, because those who never try will never succeed. The greatest mistake is to doubt your own potential. The best way to build a strong

future is to face the present with courage and commitment. Every great achievement began with someone who dared to believe in themselves when others doubted them.

History shows that those who achieved greatness believed in themselves and worked tirelessly. The Qur'an teaches believers to trust

electric bulb, is a perfect example of how belief in oneself can turn failure into triumph. Likewise, leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, and Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam reached greatness because they trusted their abilities and persevered despite challenges. They never let fear or doubt stop them. Their lives show us that success is

negativity to dominate, your growth will slow. Nourish your mind with positive thoughts and keep reminding yourself that you are capable, worthy, and resilient. Believe that your life has a purpose. Your dreams reflect your potential. Think big, act boldly, and keep faith in your heart. With determination, discipline, and self-



One should adopt one principle in the life.
One should always remain positive.
Never give any support to the negative.
Whenever any negativity arises, one should remain silent.

in Allah and make sincere efforts, reminding us: "Indeed, Allah will not change the condition of a people until they change what is in themselves" (Surah Ar-Ra'd 13:11). This verse beautifully illustrates that faith and effort must go hand in hand. Believing in yourself also means trusting your skills and embracing your imperfections. Nobody is perfect, but those who learn and grow continuously rise higher.

Failure is never the end—it is a lesson that strengthens and enlightens. Thomas Edison, who failed many times before inventing the

earned through vision, effort, and patience. Self-belief also leads to inner peace. When you trust yourself, you stop comparing with others and focus on your personal growth. This mindset fosters calmness, creativity, and hope, even during storms. Success is not just about victory—it's about never giving up. Each confident step takes you closer to your dreams. To believe in yourself is to believe in the strength within you. Your thoughts shape your reality. If you fill your mind with hope and determination, success and happiness will follow. But if you allow fear and

confidence, nothing is beyond your reach. As long as you believe in yourself, every setback becomes a fresh start, and every dream becomes achievable. In essence, self-belief is the heart of success. It lights the way even in the darkest moments, gives you strength after failure, and pushes you to try again when others stop. So, trust yourself, stay positive, and move forward with courage. Remember: when you believe in yourself, you can achieve what others only dream of.

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True success and happiness come from believing in your purpose. Once you set your goal, abandon fear and doubt—because with faith, nothing is out of reach. As the saying goes, "He who loses faith loses all."

SCRTI Pampore holds seminar to boost silk quality, productivity

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Central Sericultural Research & Training Institute (CSRTI), Pampore, under the Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles, organized a National Technical Seminar on "Technological Interventions for Improving Quality and Productivity of Silk Industry" at Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre, Srinagar. The seminar was inaugurated by Chief Executive Officer and Member Secretary, Central Silk Board, and Director General, International Sericulture Commission, P. Sivakumar, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The event was also attended by several distinguished dignitaries, including Director, Sericulture Development Department, Jammu and Kashmir, Ajiaz Ahmad Bhat; Director, CSB-Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute, Pampore, Dr. Sardar Singh; Director (Retd.), Central Silk Board, Dr. M.A. Khan; Director, Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Mussarat Islam;

Joint Director, Rajbhasha Vibhag, Ministry of Home Affairs, K.P. Sharma, ; and Joint Secretary (Tech), Central Silk Board, Bengaluru, Dr. Naresh Babu.

In his inaugural address, P. Sivakumar assured full support from the Central Silk

Board for the promotion and sustainable growth of bivoltine sericulture in Jammu and Kashmir. He appreciated the superior quality of Kashmir silk and emphasized the need for global branding of silk products from the region to enhance their visibility and market potential worldwide.



Director, Sericulture Development in his address said that the deliberation and research findings being shared in bilingual (Hindi and Urdu) will have a far-reaching consequence for Technology diffusion and Silk Production and Productivity improvement across India especially in J&K. He further emphasized that such type of events may be continuously organized for the benefits of Sericulture farmers and revive this age-old legacy of Kashmir and promote Kashmiri silk as a brand. Director, CSB-Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute, Pampore,

informed that it is first time that Institute is organizing a dedicated National Technical Seminar where sericulture scientific deliberations are being made in Hindi.

Director Handloom, appreciated the efforts and hope that it will add new dimensions to sericulture industry of

effective, he added.

On the occasion, three Hindi publications Abstract Book (Smarika), Annual Hindi Magazine, and Half-Yearly Newsletter were released by the Chief Guest and other dignitaries.

A total of 88 scientists from 20 states participated in the seminar and presented their research findings through oral and poster presentations.

During the Rajbhasha Session, four presentations were made by Hindi officers from the Central Silk Board, emphasizing the importance of Hindi in science and technology communication.

In the technical sessions, Directors from nine R&D institutes of the Central Silk Board presented their lead papers on the current status of Mulberry, Tasar, Muga, and Eri sericulture, along with Post-Cocoon technologies and by-products.

Across the Mulberry, Vanya, and Post-Cocoon sessions, 34 oral presentations and 25 posters were presented.

This was the first Hindi technical seminar organized by the Central Silk Board in the Kashmir Valley, providing a platform for meaningful discussion on sericulture technologies, scientific advancements, and strategies for the sustainability of sericulture in North-West India.

Kashmir and Department of Handloom will be ultimate beneficiary of these developments as silk is an important constituent of Handloom products of Kashmir Valley being exported worldwide.

Joint Director, Rajbhasha Vibhag, informed that Central Silk Board is playing a pivotal role in popularizing the Hindi as a medium of communication in Scientific deliberations. It is a welcome step that Sericulture farmers will get the information in their mother tongue as a result a communication between scientists and farming community is going to be more

DC Kupwara reviews Cooperative initiatives in 6th DCDC meeting

FE NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: The 6th District Level Cooperative Development Committee (DCDC) meeting was today convened

is being laid on the revival of dormant cooperative societies and that a silent revolution in milk cooperatives is underway under the umbrella of JKMPCL, aimed at strengthening the

largest grain storage project at Turkpora.

The Deputy Commissioner issued several directions to the concerned officers, including coordinating with the executive agency for early operationalization of the Sogam Super Bazar, making fair price shops functional at the Cooperative Super Bazar Kupwara, providing space to NRLM-affiliated societies within the Super Bazar premises, submitting a comprehensive report on defunct cooperative societies, and ensuring timely completion of the Grain Storage Project at Turkpora. He also directed the opening of new PACS PM Jan Aushadhi Kendras for the benefit of patients.

Appreciating the efforts of the Cooperative Department, the DC emphasized the need for inter-departmental coordination and collective efforts to revive the cooperative movement and empower the rural economy of Kupwara district. He urged all stakeholders to align their efforts toward strengthening the cooperative sector as a sustainable model for local economic growth and self-reliance.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Kupwara, Mufti Fareed ud Din; ACD, CHO, AD Fisheries BDOs, DDM NABARD and other officers from Cooperative Department.



under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, Kupwara, district officers and representatives from various cooperative institutions.

At the outset, the Deputy Registrar Cooperatives, Adnan Nazir briefed the committee about the overall functioning and achievements of the Cooperative Department in the district. He informed that special emphasis

rural economy. It was further informed that Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Farmer Producer Units (FPU) are receiving financial support under various government schemes to promote rural entrepreneurship and employment generation.

During the meeting, the committee approved the establishment of an FPU in MPSCS Kanthpora for setting up a bakery unit. The Chair was also apprised about the completion of works at the Cooperative Super Bazar Kupwara and the ongoing progress on the world's

ADDC Shopian finalizes Modalities for Week-long celebration of 'Vande Mataram' Campaign

FE NEWS NETWORK

Departments assigned roles to ensure smooth conduct of the week-long nationwide campaign.

SHOPIAN: In a significant move to mark the 150th anniversary of the composition of the National Song 'Vande Mataram', the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, today convened a meeting at the Mini Secretariat Shopian to finalize the modalities for a week-long celebration under the Vande Mataram Campaign.

The campaign, which will be observed from November 7 to November 14, 2025, aims to evoke a spirit of patriotism and unity among citizens through

a series of cultural and educational activities.

During the meeting, department-wise responsibilities were assigned to ensure the smooth and coordinated execution of the campaign across the district.

The ADDC emphasized the importance of active participation from all departments, educational institutions, and community stakeholders to make the campaign a grand success.

As part of the district-level celebrations, a variety of events have been planned, including the singing of 'Vande Mataram' in schools and public places, cultural programmes, exhibitions, competitions, and special assemblies highlighting the historical and national significance of the song.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; Assistant Commissioner (Revenue) Shopian, Shakoor Ahmad Dar; and other district and sectoral officers.



DC Baramulla presides over Block Diwas at Boniyar Bardian

Distributes sanction letters and seeds among beneficiaries

FE NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa presided over Block Diwas at Boniyar Bardian aimed at strengthening public outreach and ensuring prompt grievance redressal at the grassroots level.

During the programme, The DC inspected stalls set up by various departments showcasing their schemes and services. On the occasion, the DC distributed sanction letters, certificates, and seeds among beneficiaries of various government schemes, encouraging them to avail benefits for sustainable livelihood and development.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of a large gathering of locals from Boniyar and adjoining areas. They raised several developmental issues and demands of public importance.

The grievances projected by the locals



mainly included the demand for community bunkers for Halqa Madanan, repair and replacement of electric poles, transformers and wires, completion of Banali-Gulmarg road, upgradation of school infrastructure and addressing shortage of staff in

educational institutions. Locals also demanded upgradation of Middle School Madanan, completion of Trikanjan-Salasan road, repair of Government School building at Darkujan, provision of an ambulance for the area, timely disbursement of KCC loans, establishment of a firewood depot, and settlement of compensation issues related to certain PMGSY road projects.

Further, the people of Trikanjan highlighted the shortage of medical staff and machinery at the local hospital, seeking immediate intervention to improve healthcare facilities. Locals also demanded installation of an ATM machine in the area, upon which the DC on the spot directed the Lead District Manager for immediate redressal.

Responding to public issues, DC

Baramulla gave a patient hearing and assured that all genuine demands will be addressed in a time-bound manner. He informed that nine community bunkers have already been sanctioned for the concerned villages to ensure safety and protection of residents in vulnerable areas.

On the issue of establishment of ATM and KCC loan disbursement, the DC directed the Lead District Manager for prompt action. Regarding the Banali-Gulmarg road, the DC informed that the work will commence very soon on the project.

He further directed officers present to address grievances promptly and ensure effective service delivery, especially in view of the approaching winter season.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate Boniyar, Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, and other District and Sectoral Officers were present during the Block Diwas.

NIT Srinagar receives ISRO funding of ₹26.25 lakh for research on extreme weather forecasting tool

FE NEWS NETWORK

Project aims to develop nowcasting framework for thunderstorms and cloudbursts over Himalayan terrain

SRINAGAR: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has received funding approval from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) under its RESPOND Programme for a major research project titled "Development of Nowcasting Tool for Extreme Weather Events (Thunderstorms and Cloud Burst) Using Surface and Satellite Measurements Over Orographically Complex Region of India."

The project will be led by Dr. Sandeep Samantaray, Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering, as the Principal Investigator (PI), along with Dr. Deepak Kumar Naik, Assistant Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, as the Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI).

The project has been sanctioned for a duration of thirty-six months with a total funding of ₹26,25,676 (Rupees Twenty-Six Lakh Twenty-Five Thousand Six Hundred Seventy-Six only). The funding has been approved by ISRO under its RESPOND Programme, which supports collaborative research in areas of national importance related to space science and applications.

The project aims to develop an advanced nowcasting framework for predicting extreme weather events such as thunderstorms and cloudbursts, particularly over mountainous regions like the Himalayas.

By integrating surface-based measurements with satellite data, the study seeks to improve short-term weather forecasting and strengthen early warning systems for disaster management agencies.

Nowcasting refers to short-term forecasting, typically within a few hours, and plays a crucial role in minimizing loss of life and property during severe weather events.

The research is expected to enhance the country's capacity to respond to the increasing frequency of such weather extremes driven by climate variability.

In his message, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, congratulated the investigators and said the project is a proud moment for the institute. The initiative reflects NIT Srinagar's growing role in addressing national challenges through advanced research, he said.

"This ISRO-funded project will enhance our scientific capabilities and contribute to improving community resilience in vulnerable regions," Director NIT

Srinagar, Prof. Binod said.

Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Atikur Rehman also appreciated the research team for securing ISRO funding. He said that receiving funding of over ₹26 lakh is a significant achievement for the institute.

"It demonstrates the quality of research being undertaken at NIT Srinagar and will encourage further interdisciplinary collaboration across departments," he added.

PI Dr Sandeep Samantaray said his project holds national significance as it contributes to developing real-time forecasting tools for disaster preparedness and supports India's mission to strengthen resilience against extreme weather events and climate-induced disasters.

He also expressed gratitude to the ISRO for this funding and further stated that his research group is currently working on multiple central funded projects focused entirely on development of Jammu & Kashmir, with the combined value of these initiatives amounting to INR 1.32 crore.



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DLSA Srinagar Conducts Awareness Drive on Free Legal Aid

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In connection with the upcoming National Legal Aid Day to be observed on 9th November 2025, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar organized an Awareness Programme on Free Legal Aid across various locations of District Srinagar.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, Tasleem Arief, and under the supervision of Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar, Sajad Ur Rehman.

The initiative aimed to sensitize the general public about their rights and the availability of free legal services under the Legal Services Authorities Act.

On this occasion, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA Srinagar conducted awareness sessions and outreach programmes at different public places, spreading information regarding free legal aid, the role of Legal Services Institutions, and procedures to avail such services.

The Para Legal Volunteers acted as resource persons, engaging with the community, distributing informative material, and encouraging people to seek legal assistance through the District and Tehsil Legal Services Committees.

The awareness drive reflects the continued efforts of DLSA Srinagar to ensure access to justice for all, particularly for the marginalized and weaker sections of society.

Amit Shah

protected Article 370. It was Prime Minister Modi who finally ended it on August 5, 2019,” Shah said—(KNO)

MeT

he said. He had also stated that the maximum as well as the minimum temperatures are expected to plummet from tomorrow (November 5) onwards—(KNO)

LG Sinha

Baba Jitto. He also exhorted the officials and public representatives to work collectively to provide markets to local artisans, craftsmen, and traders.

“Together we can make a strong, secure, prosperous and self-reliant Jammu Kashmir,” he further said.

The Lieutenant Governor also praised the farming community of Jammu Kashmir for their resilience and contribution to the society and reaffirmed his commitment for their welfare.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor dedicated a pilgrim community hall and 4 modular bus stops and laid foundation stone for the first ‘Indoor Sports Complex’ under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) at Marh Sub-Division.

He visited the stalls put up by the government departments, Agri-entrepreneurs, SHGs and farmers, and also felicitated progressive farmers. The event also featured vibrant cultural performances highlighting the rich culture and artistic heritage of Jammu Kashmir.

The pilgrim community hall inaugurated today will continue to function as a dedicated Pilgrim Rest Hall throughout the year. It will also host religious, cultural, and community awareness programmes, making it a hub for social and spiritual engagement.

To improve transportation and ease of access for devotees, four modular bus stops have been constructed at Jhiri Chowk, Rajpura Chowk, Bawa Talab Chowk, and Kanachak Chowk. It will also strengthen the connectivity and accessibility to the Jhiri Temple and other adjoining rural clusters.

The Indoor Sports Complex in Marh Sub-Division is expected to be completed within four months, marking a new era for sports promotion and talent development in the area. The facility will include two Badminton Courts, dedicated Judo, Taekwondo, and Karate Rings, two Ten-Metre Air Rifle Shooting Ranges, two Table Tennis Tables, facilities for Chess and Carrom, a Reading Room and Recreation Zone.

Bharat Bhushan, Chairman, District Development Council Jammu; Surinder Kumar, Member of Legislative Assembly from Marh; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Shiv Kumar Sharma, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range, Dr Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, senior officials, devotees and people from all walks of life in large number attended the inaugural ceremony. (DIPR)

Confident

The prime minister also took a swipe at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and RJD’s Tejashwi Yadav, saying the two “princes” have been roaming across the state and the one from Delhi had even insulted ‘Chhathi Maiya’.

Modi urged the women to ensure that they turn out in huge numbers to ensure a mega win for the NDA and forfeiture of deposits of those who insulted Chhathi Maiya and brought ‘jungle raj’ to Bihar.

“The women workers of the Bihar BJP are doing splendid work with the resolve of ‘Mera Booth, Sabse Mazboot,’” Modi said, interacting with women BJP-NDA workers in Bihar via NaMo App.

The campaigning for the first phase of elections in Bihar concluded on Tuesday.

Modi said he has been addressing public meetings in Bihar and every rally was breaking the record of the previous one, with women turning up in very large numbers.

“I have been observing the polls closely and it is confirmed that the NDA is winning and it is winning big. So, I have no questions about the victory but (I want) there should be more and more polling,” the prime minister said.

Interacting with a BJP worker, who said there is tremendous enthusiasm among the people for the NDA, Modi said her words echo the feeling prevailing among the poor, Dalits, Maha Dalits, backward and extremely backward sections of the society.

“People of Bihar have made up their mind to break the record of the scale of victory of the NDA in the last 20 years while the ‘jungle raj people’ will suffer their worst defeat in the state,” he said.

The prime minister has been using the “jungle raj” analogy to attack the Mahagathbandhan. ‘Jungle raj’ is an apparent reference to the time when Bihar was under the rule of RJD chief Lalu Prasad and his wife Rabri Devi.

In his remarks, Modi said the NDA government is committed to improving the ease of living for women and empowering them.

“Women get opportunities to progress when good governance prevails and the rule of law is established in the state. That is why the daughters of Bihar are now becoming job providers through self-employment,” he said.

The prime minister said that during the era of jungle raj, it was difficult for women to step out of their homes, but now that is not the case.

“Now, women work fearlessly in hospitals, railway stations and other places even during night hours,” he said.

“The women of Bihar have stood like a wall against jungle raj,” Modi said, adding that they have resolved to never allow the return of those unruly times.

“This is the reason the proponents of jungle raj are busy telling all sorts of lies to the women of Bihar,” he said.

Bihar will go to polls in two phases on November 6 and 11. The counting of votes will be taken up on November 14.

The INDIA opposition bloc has declared Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav its chief ministerial candidate for the Bihar polls. (PTI)

J&K Records

available for dengue at present. “The only way to control dengue is to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes. People must keep their surroundings clean and ensure there is no stagnant water.”

Health experts said dengue continues to pose a serious public health threat.

“Aedes aegypti mosquitoes breed even in small collections of clean water—like pots, tubs, tyres, lids, buckets or bottles. Every household needs to check such spots regularly,” doctors said. They advised people to use mosquito repellents, wear full-sleeved clothing and keep water storage containers covered.

Doctors further said that dengue mosquitoes tend to bite early morning and during late afternoon hours, therefore people are advised to use mosquito nets or window screens even during daytime rest.

Common symptoms include high fever, severe headache, pain behind eyes, intense body and joint aches, vomiting, nausea and rashes.

“Severe dengue can show red-flag symptoms like continuous vomiting, stomach pain, gum or nose bleeding, blood in stools or vomit, sudden fatigue or restlessness. Such cases need urgent hospitalization,” they warned.

Dengue cases have fluctuated in the region over the past few years—J&K recorded around 7,000 cases in 2024, 6,403 in 2023 and the highest ever 8,269 cases in 2022, which also resulted in 18 deaths. In comparison, dengue was almost non-existent in the region a decade ago—with only two cases reported in 2009 and none in 2010.

Authorities have once again appealed to the public to take the outbreak seriously and eliminate mosquito-breeding spots around homes, institutions and marketplaces to prevent further spread of the disease—(KNO)

Film shooting

We are the first people to come here for shooting. I can say that it is 100 per cent safe. We feel totally safe. I hope in the coming days, more tourists come here,” Krishna said.

The filmmakers said he was looking for a beautiful location for the movie and found it in Kashmir.

“I thought why not Kashmir? Right now it is completely safe. We came for a recce in July and did not find any problem. We have treated very well by the government, the security forces and especially locals who have treated us like their family members,” he added.

Krishna said that after completing the Pahalgam schedule, the crew will continue shooting in Srinagar. (PTI)

CS Dulloo

Project Reports (DPRs) for seven priority Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects, with bid submission scheduled for November 2025. These ropeway projects includes Sonmarg-Thajwas, Doodhpathri-Diskhal, Bhaderwah-Seojhdar, Baltal-Amarnath, Pahalgam-Amarnath, Nasri Tunnel-Sanasar, Shankaracharya ropeway project

The Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of timely DPR finalization, stating that these projects hold immense potential for promoting tourism and providing last-mile connectivity to major pilgrimage and scenic destinations.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the progress of the Inter Modal Station (IMS) at Katra, a flagship project of strategic importance for pilgrims visiting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine. The project aims to provide seamless integration of various modes of transport to enhance passenger convenience and travel efficiency.

The meeting discussed the financial model of the project, covering both Phase-I and the comprehensive development plan, and the ongoing consultations between NHLML, H&UDD, and the Finance Department to finalize the modalities.

The Chief Secretary called for accelerated action to resolve all pending financial and administrative issues to ensure timely commencement of the project.

Reviewing the status of the MMLP Jammu, the Chief Secretary stressed the need to expedite the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the project to facilitate the start of DPR-related works, including topographical and geo-technical surveys and demand assessment.

It was informed that a financial model based on normative costing has been submitted by NHLML to the Industries & Commerce Department, which is presently under examination for its viability and implementation framework.

The Chief Secretary directed the concerned authorities to ensure early finalization of land availability to enable NHLML to initiate on-ground activities without delay.

Reiterating the administration’s commitment to fast-tracking transformative infrastructure projects in the UT, the Chief Secretary directed all concerned departments to maintain close coordination with NHLML and ensure time-bound grounding and execution of all works.

He further stressed that these projects are of socio-economic importance, significantly contributing to improved connectivity, tourism, and logistics development in Jammu and Kashmir. (DIPR)

Senior Journalist

following a cardiac arrest.

A senior journalist with around three decades of experience, Bhat was widely respected for his integrity, professionalism, and in-depth reporting on political and social developments in Jammu and Kashmir.

Throughout his distinguished career, he contributed significantly to national and regional media, earning admiration for his balanced and insightful journalism.

Colleagues and friends have described his demise as an irreparable loss to the media landscape of the region. Many recalled his warmth, humility, and unwavering commitment to ethical reporting.

Condolence messages have poured in from across the journalistic community, with many calling him a mentor and inspiration for young reporters in Kashmir. (KINS)

Dir, JD Info

that Bhat was an Accredited Journalist with DIPR and his professionalism and integrity is known across the Journalistic circles.

He added that the passing of Bhat has created a deep void in media fraternity of Kashmir which cannot be filled so easily.

The Director also expressed deep sympathy with the family members of Tariq Bhat and prayed for peace for the departed soul.

Meanwhile, the employees of Directorate of

Information and Public Relations (DIPR) also expressed deep sorrow and grief over the demise of Accredited Journalist, Tariq Ahmad Bhat. The employees remembered the long association of Bhat with DIPR and said that he was torchbearer for many budding journalists.

The employees also expressed deep sympathies with the bereaved family members, prayed for highest place in Jannah for Tariq Bhat and forbearance for family members in this moment of grief.

Meanwhile, Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari, also expressed deep grief over the passing away of ‘The Week’ Bureau Head, Tariq Ahmed Bhat, who died in Srinagar.

In his condolence message, Bukhari described Tariq as a thorough professional, a self-respecting journalist, and a wonderful human being. He said Tariq was also a dear friend, and his demise is a personal loss to many.

He prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss. (DIPR)

Hydropower Project

the plant reaches the commissioning and operational phase, around 30 to 35 people will work in each shift, and the plant will operate in three shifts round the clock,” Makroo said

The MD said the major benefit of this project is electricity generation for the government, and equally important is the employment it provides. “Local people working with us will learn new skills and will be able to enhance their capabilities for future opportunities as well,” he said. “Labour here is mostly local; only specialised skilled labour has been hired from outside where necessary.”

Makroo added, “This project becomes a national asset. Such projects usually operate under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, ‘Build-Operate-Transfer’ (BOT), where a private entity builds and operates the project for a fixed term, after which it is handed over to the government.”

The Managing Director said they have received full support from the government, whether it is No Objection Certificates, allotments, or co-ordination with security forces and departments.

“This hydro project will generate electricity sufficient for around 3,000 to 3,500 households annually,” he said, adding that hydropower is clean energy, and unlike thermal power projects, it does not pollute the atmosphere and does not rely on coal.

“During construction, there are challenges and hard work involved, but we expect that within one and a half months, subject to weather, the project will be in the commissioning phase,” the MD said. “Government norms allow 36 months, but we are close to completing this project in just 17 months, almost a year ahead of schedule due to day-and-night efforts.”—(KNO)

Growers keep switching to high-density apple farming

Farmers convert paddy fields into orchards, benefit from early yields, better profits

SRINAGAR: With demand for traditional apple varieties remaining comparatively low in the market, more growers in Kashmir are switching over to high-density apple cultivation, especially in low-lying areas where paddy land is now being converted into orchards at a rapid pace.

Growers from several areas of Kashmir told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that until a few years ago, many areas had no history of apple orchards. But after a few farmers experimented with high-density apple varieties and recorded remarkable success—both in terms of production and returns—more and more people started shifting from paddy to horticulture, they said.

They added that apples are being grown in every corner of Kashmir as paddy lands are being converted into the horticulture sector. “Earlier, we never thought that this land could produce apples at all,” the growers said, adding that “after seeing the results on some private plots, almost everyone has now started planting high-density varieties.”

High-density apple farming was introduced in Kashmir after 2015. These trees start yielding fruit as early as the first or second year and reach full production by the fourth or fifth year. The traditional apple trees, on the other hand, usually take nearly 10 years to bear fruit and are harvested late in the season, mostly in November—a period vulnerable to untimely snowfall.

High-density orchardists say the early harvest (August-September) and availability of protective measures against hailstorms have made the new cultivation system more economically secure.

Mohammad Amin Dar, a farmer from a low-lying area of Shopian who has planted high-density apples on 8 kanals of land, said the trend is driven by practical benefits.

“People have noticed the advantages of high-density apples. We have now prepared another 12 kanals and will convert that too into a high-density orchard,” Dar said. “These trees need less labour and inputs, yet the fruit is of superior quality—uniform colour, uniform size, and better grade. That is why they fetch double the rates compared to traditional apples.”

Varieties like Jeromine, King Roat, Gala Scarlet, Red Velox, Scarlet Spur-II, Super Chief, Redlum Gala and Auvi Fuji, RD 11, Syncho Gala, Terex Gal, Z 1, and SS2 are among the most popular high-density cultivars currently grown in J&K.

Another grower, Farooq Ahmad, said that in the Lassipora area of Pulwama alone, thousands of high-density plants are being planted this year. “Hundreds of kanals of paddy land are being converted into these orchards now because the economics are simply better,” he said.

Officials in the horticulture department said the shift involves modern planting systems, advanced pruning techniques, drip irrigation, fertigation and technology-based monitoring.

“This entire approach is transformative,” said an official. “It is attracting attention from the apple experts across India. Farmers are embracing it because they clearly see the higher productivity potential and financial returns.”

According to official figures, over 1000 hectares of land have already been brought under high-density apple farming in J&K so far, with plans to expand the coverage to 5,500 hectares in the next few years. The horticulture department is currently offering a 50 per cent subsidy for orchardists who establish or convert to high-density systems.

It was in September 2015 that the then Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed inaugurated the first-ever high-density apple orchard in Bandoora, Anantnag—marking the official beginning of the transition in Kashmir’s horticulture sector.

Kashmir produces on average over 20 lakh metric tonnes of apples every year—a figure that in some years touches 25 lakh MT. According to the J&K Economic Survey-2017, nearly half of Kashmir’s population is directly or indirectly dependent on the apple industry. More than 3.5 lakh hectares are under apple cultivation in the region currently.

Horticulture contributes around 9.5 per cent to J&K’s GDP, while about 8.5 crore man-days of employment are generated annually through this sector, making it one of the most vital pillars of Kashmir’s economy—(KNO)

Block Diwas held at Jamola to redress public grievances, enhance service delivery

RAJOURI: As part of the Government’s ongoing public outreach and grievance redressal initiative, a Block Diwas programme was today held near Shiv Mandir, Jamola in Block Budhal Old to address public issues and ensure effective service delivery at the grassroots level.

The event was presided over by District Development Commissioner (DDC), Abhishek

Sharma along with DDC Member Budhal Old, Shazia Choudhary.

During the programme, a large number of people from adjoining panchayats participated and demanded blacktopping of the Rajouri-Bakori road via Jamola, construction of a bridge at Beda Khetar, boundary wall for Shiv Mandir, upgradation of local schools, augmentation of electricity and water supply. The public also highlighted shortage of doctors in local health institutions and demanded rationalization of teachers in schools.

After patiently listening to the public grievances, the DDC issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for their early redressal. He directed the Education Department to ratio-



nalize staff in schools, while instructing the Power Development Department to ensure the installation of transformers within a week. The Jal Shakti Department was asked to ensure speedy execution of ongoing Jal Jeevan Mission works to ensure adequate water supply.

He also emphasised the need for organising awareness camps by different departments in cluster villages to spread information about the government schemes.

The PWD authorities were directed to adhere to quality standards while executing the works. The public was encouraged to register complaints through the JK Samadhan portal if they face any issue.

The DDC further urged the public to avail benefits under flagship initiatives such as Mission YUVA and JKICP (Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project). The DDC appealed to civil society members to contribute towards making the panchayats drug-free and TB-free.

DDC Member Shazia Choudhary appreciated the efforts of the District Administration and requested the DDC to address all pending issues of the area at the earliest.

On the occasion, the officers from Social Welfare, Agriculture, Horticulture, Veterinary, Health, RDD, PDD, PHE and Banking institutions conducted awareness activities to educate the public about welfare schemes and services available to them. (DIPR)

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

IRRIGATION & FLOOD CONTROL

DIVISION, GANDERBAL

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No: 25 of 2025-26 (e-Tendering)

Fresh for eNIT No: 19 of 2025-26

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-Tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on Item Rate Basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of J & K Government for the following work(s) to be opened by the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal: -

S N o.	Name of Work	Advertisment Cost (In Lacs)	AAA	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money in Lac(s)	Time of Completion	Class of Contract	Head of A/C M-H
01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09
01	Rejuvenation of Trout Nallah at Ganderbal by way of Const of Cement Concrete Intake Channel, Deepening/ Widening & PCC protection walls (Balance Work)	29.570L ac(s)	Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Srinagar/ Ganderbal's Order No. 31 of 2024-25 Dated: 16.08.2024	1500/-	0.888 Lac(s)	90 Days	AA7/BE	MH 4711 UTCapex

Total Number of Work is 01 (One Work)
Position of Funds: 100% Budgetary Provision.
Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Accorded
1) The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, set of terms and conditions and other details can be seen/ downloaded on e-procurement Portal www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

01	Publishing Date	31-10-2025	03:00 P.M
02	Download Date Start	31-10-2025	03:00 P.M
03	Bid submission Date Start	31-10-2025	03:00 P.M
04	Pre Bid Meeting Date	01-11-2025	02:00 P.M

05	Bid submission Date End	08-11-2025	04:00 P.M
06	Bid opening Date	10-11-2025	11:00 A.M

2) The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in
3) The bids uploaded on the Web site up to due date and time will be opened on 10.11.2025 at (11:00 AM) in the Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. In case of Holidays or office happening to be closed on the date of opening of the bids, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. The complete bidding process will be online.
4) Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document (Non- Refundable/ Non-transferable) to be deposited under MH: 0702-Rev. Misc. in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt or e-Challan (mentioning therein e-NIT No and Serial No of Work) to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and FC Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal and earnest money/ bid security in shape of CDR/FDR pledged to the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Ganderbal, besides the dates on the instruments must not be prior to date of issuance of this Notice. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of Price bids.
5) The earnest Money/ Bid Security and Treasury Challan / receipt or e-Challan of those bidders who had participated in the previous eNIT No 19 of 2025-26 shall also remain valid for this eNIT.
6) All the prospective bidders shall necessarily ensure that the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG or any other approved format has been prepared and issued from the same bank account which shall be provided for payments. The details of such bank account shall be uploaded by the prospective bidder necessarily.

DIPK-7757/25 Dt: 04-11-2025

Sd/-Ex.Engineer

Vande Mataram: One Song, One Soul, One India



DR SACHCHIDANAND JOSHI

- "Mother, I bow to thee!
- Rich with thy hurrying streams,
- Bright with thy orchard gleams,
- Cool with the winds of delight,
- Dark fields waving, Mother of might,
- Mother free.
- Glory of moonlight dreams
- Over thy branches and lordly streams
- Clad in the blossoming trees,
- Mother, giver of ease,
- Laughing low and sweet!
- Mother, I kiss thy feet
- Speaker sweet and low!
- Mother to thee I bow."

Nearly twenty years before this translation appeared in Karmayogin on 20 November 1909, the song 'Bande Mataram' had already woven itself into the soul of Indian unity. Sung at rallies and whispered in homes, it charged the hearts of millions to rise above provinces and creeds. Bankim Chandra Chatterjee words called a nation to dream together, and Aurobindo's rendering in English became the bridge for new generations and the world to hear India's cry for freedom. The poem's publication in Karmayogin did not just translate a song; it crystallized a movement, lending voice and vision to an idea that for two decades had been uniting India beyond every divide.

People first heard Vande Mataram rise like a hymn in 1896, when Rabindranath Tagore gave it a voice at the Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress. That evening, the audience fell into a spell — the notes were not of defiance, but devotion. Ten years later, in 1905, as Bengal convulsed under the Partition, Tagore's nephew Abanindranath Tagore painted Bharat Mata — a saffron-robed woman holding a sheaf of grain, a book, and a rosary — the visual embodiment of Bankim's verse. This song was not merely the imagination of a poet; it was the anguished cry of a soul nurturing the intense will to survive and protect the Motherland, a yearning held deep within for years. When the British Administrators were forcing people to sing "Long Live the Queen," Bankim Chandra Chatterjee penned this anthem in a single night. It was the poetic expression of decades, even centuries, of suffering, a fervent call to awaken a nation that had become semi-conscious from enduring prolonged pain.

From the Congress convention to the gallows of Lahore, Vande Mataram became the breath of rebellion. Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad, Batukeshwar Dutt and many more shouted it as they faced death. Subhas Chandra Bose made it the marching tune of the Indian National Army. It was sung in rallies and whispered in jails; it united monk and soldier, scholar and farmer, Hindu, Muslim, people of

and revolution, Vande Mataram endured — not as a slogan of rage, but as a salutation of love.

To understand its endurance, one must return to its origin — to a modest home in Bengal, on a luminous day that would change India's destiny. Bankim Chandra Chatterjee (1838–

But repression only deepened reverence. In Calcutta, schoolchildren stood barefoot in the rain to chant it. In Dhaka, women embroidered it onto their saris.

Aurobindo Ghosh called it "the Mantra of India's rebirth." Sister Nivedita wrote that to hear it was "to hear the very

has experienced a renaissance of meaning. The Prime Minister frequently invokes it at national events, seeing in it not nostalgia, but narrative — a civilizational reminder that India's freedom was born from faith, not fury. Through programs like Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, school competitions,



1894), one of the earliest graduates of Calcutta University, had entered government service as a Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector. His job gave him access to British Archives and Gazettes — records that revealed a forgotten saga: the Sanyasi Rebellion (1763–1780), when ascetic monks had risen against imperial oppression across Dhaka and North Bengal. That story of renunciation turned into resistance inspired Bankim Babu's later novel, Anandamath. But before the novel, came the song. By the 1870s, the British Empire had begun enforcing its loyalty rituals — demanding that Indians stand for "God Save the Queen" at official gatherings and schools. To Bankim, this was not just political coercion — it was spiritual submission. A proud civilization was being trained to bow before a foreign sovereign.

It was in this moment of quiet rebellion that on Sunday, 7th November 1875 — Akshay Navami — at his residence near Calcutta, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee took up his pen. In what his contemporaries called a "transcendental mood," he wrote Vande Mataram in one sitting — as though the song had descended upon him rather than been composed. When others sang to the Queen, he sang to the Motherland. He answered imperial command with spiritual surrender — not to a crown, but to a conscience, where others bowed to a

breath of India herself." The song's power was its universality — you did not need to know Sanskrit to feel it. By the 1920s and 30s, Vande Mataram was the code of courage. In prison cells, revolutionaries like Bhagat Singh etched it onto the walls. In the Andaman Cellular Jail, it echoed through corridors like a psalm of pain. Subhas Chandra Bose made it the INA's battle cry. For his soldiers, the chant was not a melody but a mandate. Even as Mahatma Gandhi advised restraint in mixed gatherings, he admitted that Vande Mataram had become sacred — "a song sanctified by sacrifice."

The strength of Vande Mataram lies in its imagery — a nation not of boundaries but of breath. Its motherland is not a battlefield but a being: fertile, radiant, nurturing. When Abanindranath Tagore painted Bharat Mata in 1905, he gave that being a face — serene, spiritual, self-sufficient. The painting, like the song, was both aesthetic and political, sacred and subversive.

Bankim's genius was to elevate patriotism into prayer. To love India was to revere her, to worship the land as mother, not merely occupy it as territory.

○ The Anthem of Freedom

By the time India neared independence, Vande Mataram had become inseparable from the idea of India itself. Yet, in the Constituent Assembly, a debate arose: which song would represent the new Republic? In 1947, "Jana Gana Mana" was chosen as the National Anthem for its linguistic universality. But Vande Mataram was declared the National Song, with equal honour. Nehru called it "the song of our awakening." Only its first two stanzas — describing nature, not deity — were adopted for official use.

○ One Soul, One India

It is not a sheer coincidence that when the nation is celebrating 150 years of the song 'Vande Mataram', it is also celebrating 150 years of the greatest unified of India – Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. While the song 'Vande Mataram' described India's unity in word, it was Sardar Patel, who brought it to reality after independence. In 1947 we got the freedom but the biggest task of unifying the country and brining all the princely states together was still pending. Without their integration the freedom of the country was meaningless. It was the Iron Man of India Sardar Patel who took up this task single handed and unified the country. How could we have imagined our own motherland 'sujalamsuphalam' if she is fragmented into different parts and ruled by the different princely state rulers. It was the valiant effort and deep rooted commitment of Sardar Patel who made this country 'sukhadam, varadham'.

○ Different Ways of Expression

Thus, Vande Mataram remained India's eternal invocation — not of policy, but of pride. Post-Independence, the song found new avatars. In 1952, the film Anand Math, directed by Hemen Gupta, brought it to the silver screen. Lata Mangeshkar's crystalline voice, guided by Hemant Kumar's stirring score, turned Vande Mataram into an anthem of cinematic immortality.

Half a century later, in 1997, A.R. Rahman's "Maa Tujhe Salaam" rekindled its fire for a global generation. Mixing Hindustani ragas with world music, Rahman reminded Indians abroad that the Mother still waited for their song. His voice bridged centuries — from Bankim's quill to Rahman's synthesizer, the sentiment remained the same that every age sings the same mother in a different tune.

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vande Mataram

and cultural campaigns, the government has revived the song among youth. Digital choirs, drone-light shows, and orchestral renditions now accompany its melody at official events.

When Chandrayaan-3 landed on the Moon, social media erupted with "Vande Mataram from the lunar soil." The anthem that once defied an empire now saluted the universe. From time to time, critics have questioned the song's imagery — reading its invocation of the Goddess as exclusionary. But they misunderstand the Indian idea of the divine. In our culture, the Mother is not theological but terrestrial. She is the air we breathe, the water we drink, the language we speak.

The first two stanzas — officially adopted — describe rivers, fields, and winds. The Mother is nature herself. Vande Mataram is not about any religion or subscribes to any particular belief — it is about reverence. It celebrates not dominion, but devotion for the motherland. Not conquest, but compassion.

○ Why It Still Matters

In an age of fractured identities, Vande Mataram offers unity through emotion. It reminds Indians that nationhood is not an ideology but an inheritance. It asks nothing but gratitude — a sentiment beyond politics, beyond creed.

It also redefines nationalism — not as chest-thumping pride, but as quiet service. In Bankim's vision, to bow to the Mother is to protect her rivers, forests, and children. As Vande Mataram turns 150 in 2025, India celebrates it in new forms. AI-driven symphonies visualize its verses through satellite imagery — rivers flowing to rhythm, crops swaying to chorus. Schoolchildren from across states sing it in 22 languages. Artists remix it into rap, classical dance, and fusion.

Technology has not diminished its sanctity; it has amplified it. The Mother now speaks in code, but her song remains the same. At its core, Vande Mataram is not political poetry — it is philosophy. It calls upon Indians to merge duty with devotion. To be born on this soil is fortune; to serve it, dharma.

Bankim's invocation of the Mother anticipated the environmental, spiritual, and moral questions of our time. To sing Vande Mataram today is to remind ourselves of balance — between progress and preservation, power and peace. Few songs in history have outlived empires. Vande Mataram did. Banned, debated, dissected — yet undefeated. Because songs that spring from soul cannot be silenced.

From colonial prisons to Olympic stadiums, from Bengal's riverside to the moon's surface, its echo endures. Soldiers whisper it before battle; children hum it before school prayers. It is India's first language of love. When Bankim Chandra Chatterjee wrote Vande Mataram on that Akshay Navami afternoon in 1875, he could not have known that his pen would outlast empires. That his hymn would become a nation's soul.

Today, as India rises again — confident, plural, ancient, and young — the Mother still listens. She asks no offerings, only remembrance. Every time we say Vande Mataram, we remind ourselves that freedom without gratitude is hollow."

The Mother is free. The children must now prove worthy as Sri Aurobindo wrote: "For nations are not built by armies alone, but by those who can hear the voice of the Mother and bow to her with love." Vande Mataram, Mother, we bow to thee. (PIB)

(Dr Sachchidanand Joshi is a writer, author and Member Secretary of IGNCIA)



all religions and beliefs shared chant that carried both prayer and protest.

It was not Sri Aurobindo, who first translated it, Many Indian and English scholars translated the song into English. It had also been translated into various Indian languages including Urdu. W.H. Lee, a British who was in Indian Civil Service, translated it into English in 1906. When it was prohibited even to utter the word Vande Mataram, it was translated anonymously. However, the English translation by Aurobindo Ghose, is appended along with the original song in Bengali. No other song has travelled across generations and geographies, crossing every hue and stratum of Indian life, and yet remained at the heart of what it means to be Indian. Through subjugation and sorrow, through reform

monarch, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee bowed to the soil. That was his rebellion. Not a sword drawn, but a song born. He knew sword does not live but the words are eternal.

Vande Mataram was not composed for an hour of anger, but for an age of awakening. It was not addressed to a ruler but to a realm — to rivers, fields, orchards, and winds. It was a hymn that reclaimed India's spiritual sovereignty long before she claimed her political one. As Anandamath reached readers, the song leapt from the novel into the nation's bloodstream. At the 1896 Calcutta Congress, Tagore's voice gave it wings. Within a decade, the streets of Bengal echoed with it during the Swadeshi Movement of 1905. Vande Mataram then was an act of defiance. The British banned it; students were expelled; protesters were arrested.

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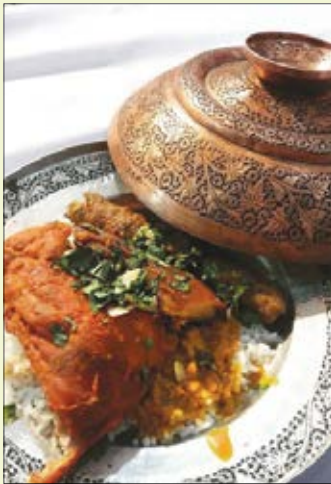
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