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DAILY

Nawa-I-Waqt

*The Times of New Personality***Azeem**

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Jantar Mantar's Shameful Chapter: Accountability Cannot Stop at the Protest Sign

Vulgarity Against the PM Is Not Protest - It Is a Criminal Act

PRITAM SINGH SAINI
JAMMU, JULY 30:

Democracy is a sacred inheritance. The right to dissent, to protest, and to hold the government accountable through peaceful assembly is a constitutional guarantee that no editorial worth its ink will ever question. India's streets have always been the arena of democratic expression - and they must remain so. But what unfolded at Jantar Mantar in the name of the NEET protest crossed lines that no democratic framework permits, and that no political calculation should be allowed to excuse. The vandalism of public property during the protests - government

buses damaged, barriers broken, and public infrastructure destroyed by individuals who had arrived at what was ostensibly a student movement - is not protected expression. It is criminal activity, and it must be prosecuted as such regardless of who organised the gathering, who provided the logistics, and whose political interests the disruption served. A student who genuinely suffered the injustice of a cancelled examination does not burn a bus to express that suffering. A provocateur who arrived at Jantar Mantar with an agenda that predates any concern for medical education does. The criminal backgrounds of certain individuals who surfaced at the



protest - some with documented histories of violent agitation, some affiliated with organisations that have been under judicial and security scrutiny for their role in previous

episodes of manufactured public disorder - demand to be placed on the public record and acted upon with the full force of law. The presence of such individuals at a student protest is not coincidental. It is operational. They are deployed precisely because a legitimate student grievance provides cover for activities whose real purpose has nothing to do with examination reform and everything to do with political destabilisation. The crude and vulgar gestures and slogans directed at Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the protest - captured on camera, circulated on social media, and greeted with silence from the political formations whose cadres participated in them -

deserve specific condemnation and specific legal examination. Prime Minister Modi is the democratically elected leader of 1.4 billion Indians. Disagreement with his policies is entirely legitimate. Organised, publicly performed vulgarity directed at his person crosses from political speech into territory that India's legal framework addresses clearly - and the individuals responsible must be identified, charged, and prosecuted without the selective enforcement that has historically allowed those with political patronage to escape the consequences of their conduct. Citizens for Justice and Peace's presence at Jantar Mantar - an organisation whose founder has faced

Supreme Court-initiated proceedings - raises the question that legitimate journalism must now pursue without flinching: who funded this protest, who coordinated it, and what was its real objective? NEET's genuine victims deserved justice from the examination system. They did not deserve to have their grievance weaponised by those whose interest in justice is entirely manufactured and entirely political. Property damage must be compensated. Criminal conduct must be prosecuted. Vulgar attacks on the Prime Minister must be answered by law. Without this accountability,

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Police attaches properties of 5 Pak-based terror handlers in Reasi

NIWA NEWS
REASI, JULY 30:

In a strong action against the terror ecosystem, the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday attached the immovable properties of five Pakistan-based terror handlers in Reasi district as part of an ongoing investigation into a terror-related case. The action was carried out during the investigation of FIR No.

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Public Exam Bill further strengthens legal framework to curb examination malpractices: Dr Jitendra

NIWA NEWS
NEW DELHI, JULY 30:

The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 reaffirms the government's policy of zero tolerance towards examination malpractices and paper leaks while ensuring that the genuine efforts of students are protected, Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, said in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. While moving the Amendment Bill, 2026, which was passed by the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, for consideration in the Rajya Sabha, he said it is a natural extension of the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024.



The 2024 Act and the amendment being brought now are a step towards the country's first comprehensive legislative framework to prevent use of unfair means in public examinations, he added.

Singh said the bill reflects the government's commitment to safeguard the interests of students and youth while ensuring merit, consistency, transparency and credibility in the public examination system. The Minister observed that the government remains open to constructive suggestions and has brought forward the amendments after taking into account recent experience and feedback, with the objective to make the law more stringent and effective. Singh said incidents of question paper leaks and examination-related malpractices have been reported across different parts of the country over the years, irrespective

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Govt says E20 fuel safe for vehicles

NIWA NEWS
NEW DELHI, JULY 30:

The government on Thursday defended its ethanol blending programme, saying extensive testing and large-scale field experience had found no evidence that E20 petrol causes abnormal engine wear, corrosion or reduced vehicle life, while arguing that the programme has strengthened India's energy security and helped cushion consumers from global oil price volatility. In a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi said the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme had been implemented through a phased and scientifically validated process in consultation with NITI Aayog, automobile manufacturers, the Automotive Research Association of

India (ARAI), the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and other technical institutions. The minister said extensive laboratory studies and field trials conducted by ARAI, SIAM, Indian Oil Corp (IOC), the Indian Institute of Petroleum and automobile manufacturers had confirmed that E20 fuel was safe for use under prescribed standards. "These studies also established that legacy vehicles do not exhibit any significant variation in performance or abnormal wear and tear due to E20," he said, adding that laboratory studies, field validation and real-world operating experience had not established any widespread adverse impact on vehicle performance. The government said E15+ petrol (15 per cent

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NEWS-In-BRIEF

Omar expresses concern over use of force on protestors in PoJK

NIWA NEWS
SRINAGAR, JULY 30:

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday expressed concern over the use of force on protestors in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), and hoped that peace would be maintained. "As far as the situation in that part of Kashmir is concerned, we are all worried," the Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said while speaking with reporters in Ganderbal district. "The reports coming from there,

Delhi Police won't take adverse action against CJP protesters: Govt order

NIWA NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30:

Delhi Police will not take any adverse legal action against individuals who participated in the Cockroach Janta Party-led protest in the national capital, but those with criminal background will have to face action, according to a Delhi government order. In its order, the Home Department said that with regard to arrests or detentions, if already made, the process for reviewing the arrests and releasing the arrested persons will be undertaken expeditiously. Delhi Police has registered 13 FIRs in connection with violence during 'Chalo Sansad' march by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on July 20. The police have also

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HC pulls up J&K Govt over denial of permission to Olympic judge Bilquis Mir to officiate at Hungary event

NIWA NEWS
SRINAGAR, JULY 30:

Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court has admonished the J&K administration for "damaging India's reputation as a nation" after its failure to grant timely permission prevented Paris Olympics judge Bilquis Mir from officiating at the Canoe Sprint World Cup in Hungary.

Summoning Commissioner Secretary of Sports Shahid Choudhary after the canoeist was denied permission to officiate at the event, a single-judge bench of Justice Rahul Bharti expressed its displeasure at the conduct of the government and directed the bureaucrat to personally appear before the court to explain why the earlier court order for provisional permission to be granted to Mir was not complied

with. Hearing a petition of Indian Kayaking and Canoeing Association and also a contempt petition filed by Mir against Choudhary and Director General of Sports Council as well as the Jammu and Kashmir administration, the court directed Choudhary to appear in person on August 3 before it. Though Choudhary, a 2009-batch IAS officer, has been transferred to Arunachal Pradesh in the first week of July, the advocate representing the Youth Services and Sports Department did not mention this before the court. It was not immediately clear whether the officer had been relieved from his present post. "This Court is afraid that Commissioner/Secretary to government, Youth Services and Sports Department cannot

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Two persons chargesheeted in SBI tractor loan fraud case

NIWA NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30:

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Crime Branch filed a chargesheet on Thursday against two persons for allegedly defrauding the State Bank of India (SBI) of Rs 7.2 lakh. Officials said the two obtained a tractor loan using forged documents and diverted the loan amount without delivering the financed vehicle. The case stems from a complaint lodged by Sushil Kumar, Branch Manager of SBI's Agriculture

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Pellet guns can't be banned as long as existing advisory permits their use: SC

NIWA NEWS
NEW DELHI, JULY 30:

The Supreme Court on Thursday said that pellet guns cannot be banned as long as the existing advisory permits their use for crowd control in exceptional circumstances by security agencies, while making it clear that allegations of specific misuse can be examined on a case-by-case basis.

The top court took note of a plea on the use of metallic pellet guns during the recent students' protests against the NEET paper leak in Delhi and asked the Centre to preserve the ammunition log of the



Rapid Action Force (RAF) deployed at the Jantar Mantar. Observing that police, as per the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) advisory, are empowered to use pellet guns in exceptional situations, a bench comprising Chief

Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana termed "vague" the prayer in the plea seeking a complete ban on such usage. "Prayers are not to use pellet guns. In

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CM Omar reviews key development projects, public issues in Ganderbal

NIWA NEWS
GANDERBAL, JULY 30:

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today undertook an extensive tour of Ganderbal district, holding a series of public engagements and chairing a review meeting to assess the progress of key developmental projects and obtain a first-hand account of issues affecting the district. Beginning his visit, the Chief Minister inspected the ongoing construction of the New Bus Adda Road, a vital infrastructure project expected to significantly ease traffic con-



gestion in the area. Stressing the importance of timely completion, he directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work so that the

road could be dedicated to the public at the earliest. During the inspection, the Chief Minister was accompanied by his Advisor Nasir Aslam

Wani, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Jatin Kishore, Chief Engineer, Roads & Buildings Department, and other senior engineers and officials associated with the execution of the project. Later, the Chief Minister chaired a review meeting to take stock of the progress of major development initiatives and deliberate on long-pending public issues in the district. The meeting focused on road connectivity, irrigation infrastructure, flood protection measures, sewerage

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Properties worth over Rs 1 Cr linked to drug peddlers seized in Srinagar

NIWA NEWS
SRINAGAR, JULY 30:

Properties worth over Rs 1 crore, belonging to alleged drug peddlers, were seized in Srinagar, police said on Thursday. Srinagar Police attached two immovable properties worth approximately Rs 1.05 crore linked to notorious drug peddlers, a police spokesman said. He said this action is part of the police's ongoing crackdown on drug trafficking under the Nasha Mukti Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan. The first attached property compris-

es a residential house along with the land underneath, situated at Pamposh Colony, Palpora, Noorbagh, belonging to Aqib Mushtaq Kenu, having an approximate market value of Rs 50 lakh, the spokesman said. The property has been attached under Section 68-F of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, in connection with an FIR registered at the Safakadal police station under Sections 8/21/29 of the NDPS Act, the

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Tony hails Omar Govt's FRA circular, says "Arrogant officials have been put in their place"



NIWA NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30:

Jammu, July 30: Senior Congress leader and former DDC Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony, has hailed the Jammu and Kashmir Government's latest circular directing completion of the verification and settlement of claims of Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers under the Forest Rights Act, 2006. Tony described the circular as a major pro-people intervention and a clear demonstration of the Omar Abdullah government's commitment to protecting the constitutional and legal rights of tribal communities and traditional forest dwellers. "The government has sent an unambiguous message that no official, irrespective of rank or department, is above the law. Arrogant officials who treated vulnerable forest dwellers as encroachers and attempted to uproot them without completing the legally mandated verification process have now been firmly put in their place," Tony said. He particularly welcomed the circular's reiteration of Section 4(5) of the Forest Rights Act, which provides that no member of a forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribe or other traditional forest-

dwelling community can be evicted or removed from land under occupation until the recognition and verification process is completed. Tony said the direction to all Deputy Commissioners to complete the three-tier process involving the Ward Committee or Gram Sabha, Sub-Divisional Level Committee and District Level Committee would provide substantial relief to thousands of families who have lived under the constant threat of eviction. He also welcomed the government's clarification that the Forest Rights Act applies to eligible claims in municipal and urban areas, with Ward Committees, assemblies of adult residents or Mohalla Sabhas performing the prescribed role wherever applicable. "This is not merely an administrative circular; it is a shield for poor, voiceless and historically marginalised communities. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Forest, Ecology and Environment and Tribal Affairs Minister Javed Ahmed Rana deserve appreciation for standing with the people and ensuring that officials follow due process," Tony stated. The Congress leader, however, demanded that the government issue similar comprehensive directions to

the Jammu Development Authority to prevent dispossession or coercive action before ownership, possession and revenue claims are properly verified.

"JDA officials cannot be allowed to install boards anywhere they choose and unilaterally declare that the land belongs to the Authority. Such claims must first be examined against revenue records, inheritance documents, allotment orders, long-standing possession and other lawful rights of the affected families," he said.

Tony asserted that the JDA must not be permitted to undertake evictions, demolitions, e-tendering or auctions concerning disputed land until a competent revenue commission or duly authorised committee has examined and decided all competing ownership claims.

"Just as the government has protected forest dwellers from eviction until the FRA process is completed, families facing action from JDA must also receive protection until their revenue and ownership claims are transparently verified. Bulldozers and auction notices cannot replace the rule of law," he added.

Tony urged the Chief Minister to constitute a high-level revenue commission to scrutinise disputed land claims involving JDA and other urban authorities. He said accountability must also be fixed wherever officials deliberately ignored genuine revenue records or attempted to dispossess families without following lawful procedures.

"The Omar Abdullah government has taken a courageous and humane step through this FRA circular. It should now extend the same principle of justice and due process to people facing arbitrary actions by JDA and municipal authorities," Tony said.

Omar Abdullah Govt has betrayed J&K's sportspersons, sports minister must resign: BJP

NIWA NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30:

Betraying J&K's sportspersons, the Omar Abdullah-led National Conference government, has led to the complete collapse of Sports Ministry and Sports Department, said BJP.

J&K BJP Spokesperson Adv. Parimoksh Seth stated this while he addressed a press conference at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, in the presence of J&K BJP Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra and SC Morcha President Dharinder Kumar. Addressing the media, Adv. Seth said that under Omar Abdullah's government, every department is in shambles, with the Sports Department becoming a glaring example of mismanagement, favouritism and administrative failure. He alleged that sportspersons across Jammu & Kashmir have completely lost faith in the Sports Ministry, as the Sports Minister has failed to discharge his responsibilities and has virtually disappeared from public accountability. "The Sports Minister has lost control over his department and has failed to safeguard the interests of genuine athletes. Having lost the confidence of the sporting fraternity, he has no moral right to continue in office and must immediately resign," Seth said. He pointed out serious fraud and manipulation in the recently issued list of Outstanding Sportspersons under SO-12, claiming that deserv-



ing athletes who won medals in the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, Para Olympics and other recognized international events were deliberately ignored. Instead, preference was allegedly given to individuals from sporting disciplines that are not recognized in these premier international competitions. Questioning the fairness of the selection process, Adv. Seth asked how four out of five gazetted appointments were made from a single sporting discipline and how 72 beneficiaries belonged to one Assembly constituency, alleging that these glaring irregularities point towards favouritism and a well-planned conspiracy to deny deserving sportspersons their rightful opportunities. He also questioned the Omar Abdullah government over the non-release of salary and other legitimate service benefits to an international-level woman player and coach, terming it another example of the government's anti-sportsperson approach. Holding the Chief

Minister accountable for the prevailing situation, Adv. Seth said the government owes answers to the youth and sporting community. of Jammu & Kashmir. "BJP demands immediate scrapping of the existing SO-12 list and preparation of a fresh, transparent, merit-based list through an impartial process.

The party also demands a high-level independent inquiry into the irregularities, fixing responsibility on every official and individual involved in manipulating the selection process and ensuring strict legal action against the guilty. Government must disclose the complete selection criteria, marks, evaluation records and reasons for exclusion of deserving candidates", he said.

Adv. Seth said the BJP stands firmly with every genuine sportsperson of Jammu & Kashmir and will continue its fight until justice is delivered, the guilty are punished, and the dignity of deserving athletes is restored.

Ved Sharma holds meeting with Digiana Industrial unit holders, discusses issues



NIWA NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30:

J&K BJP All Cells Incharge Ved Sharma held a meeting with industrial unit holders of the Digiana Industrial Area to discuss various issues affecting the smooth functioning of industries.

The meeting was attended by J&K BJP Industry Cell Convenor Deepak Gupta along with representatives of the industrial fraternity. Ved Sharma, during the meeting, held detailed discussions on the issue of the lease deeds of industrial units. He pointed out that the reduction in the lease

tenure by the concerned authorities has created serious concerns among industrialists and has been strongly opposed by various industrial associations.

He assured the participants that the matter would be taken up with the appropriate authorities to safeguard the interests of the industrial sector. The industrial unit holders also highlighted several long-pending civic and infrastructural issues, including frequent power cuts, inadequate drainage facilities, and the lack of proper security arrangements in the industrial area. They stated that these

problems were adversely affecting industrial productivity and creating difficulties for entrepreneurs. Ved Sharma said that industries are the backbone of economic growth and employment generation, and it is the responsibility of the administration to provide a conducive environment for industrial development. He emphasized that industrialists should not be burdened with avoidable administrative decisions or inadequate infrastructure. Sharma assured the unit holders that all their genuine concerns would be strongly projected before the concerned authorities and that every possible effort would be made to ensure their early resolution. Deepak Gupta thanked the industrial unit holders for organizing the meeting and for sharing their issues in a constructive manner. He reiterated the BJP's commitment to maintaining continuous dialogue with stakeholders and working towards strengthening the industrial ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir. Among those present on the occasion were former Income Tax Commissioner S.K. Sharma, Ved Mahajan, Ram Ratan, and several prominent industrial unit holders of the Digiana Industrial Area.

Mohan Lal Bhagat Reviews Development Works Under SASCI Scheme, Stresses Quality, Timely Completion and Public Service Delivery

NIWA NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30:

Akhnoor, July 30: MLA Akhnoor, , chaired a high-level review meeting with officers of the Flood Control, Irrigation, PWD (R&B), PDD and PHE Departments to review the progress of works being executed under the SASCI Scheme and Permanent Restoration projects across the Akhnoor Assembly Constituency.

During the meeting, the MLA conducted a detailed review of the physical and financial progress of ongoing projects and directed all departments to ensure strict quality control and timely completion of works. He stressed that developmental projects must be completed within the stipulated time without compromising quality so that people receive the intended benefits at the earliest.

Expressing concern over delays in execution, Mohan Lal Bhagat directed all Executive Engineers to initiate stern action against contractors who have failed to commence works despite receiving allotments.

He said that negligence



and unnecessary delays in public works would not be tolerated and accountability must be fixed wherever required.

The MLA further instructed all departments to ensure prompt and efficient public service delivery. While reviewing the functioning of the Power Development Department (PDD), he directed officers to make linemen accountable for timely redressal of power-related complaints and to improve field-level responsiveness.

Reviewing the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department, Mohan Lal Bhagat directed officials to keep alternate pumps and motors available at all pumping stations to ensure

uninterrupted drinking water supply, particularly during emergencies. He also reviewed the progress of various Jal Jeevan Mission schemes and instructed officers to expedite pending works while maintaining the highest standards of quality. During the review of the Irrigation Department, the MLA directed officials to prepare a comprehensive irrigation upgradation plan for the Pargawal area to strengthen irrigation infrastructure and improve water availability for farmers.

Reiterating his commitment to transparent and accountable governance, Mohan Lal Bhagat emphasized that all departments

must work in close coordination to ensure timely completion of projects and effective delivery of essential public services. He assured that such review meetings would continue on a regular basis to monitor progress and remove bottlenecks.

The meeting was attended by Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Akhnoor Sanjeev Sharma, Executive Engineer PDD Sunil Kumar, Executive Engineer PHE Sunil Sharma, Executive Engineer Irrigation Sanjeev Gupta, Executive Engineer Flood Control Rajeev Gupta, along with other engineers and departmental officers.

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		GROUP CAPT. KULOWANT SINGH	7889794904
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Sat Sharma raises drug de-addiction and rehabilitation in Rajya Sabha, seeks stronger measures for J&K

NIWA NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30:

New Delhi, 30 July 2026: J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma (CA) highlighted a matter of serious public concern regarding the issue of drug de-addiction, rehabilitation, and vocational empowerment in Jammu & Kashmir in the Rajya Sabha. Through an Unstarred Question, Sat Sharma sought detailed information from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on the Centre's plans to strengthen the fight against drug abuse and improve rehabilitation facilities in the Union Territory. Recognizing the growing challenge of substance abuse among youth, Sat Sharma specifically asked whether the Government proposes to establish integrated drug de-addiction and vocational training centres in the Jammu region, what concrete steps have been taken under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) mechanism to combat drug trafficking in Jammu & Kashmir, and whether additional rehabilitation centres are proposed to strengthen treatment facilities in the Union Territory. Replying to the question, the Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment BL Verma informed the House that there is presently no proposal to establish



integrated drug de-addiction and vocational training centres in the Jammu region. However, the Government highlighted the existing infrastructure and ongoing efforts to address drug abuse. The Minister informed that Jammu & Kashmir currently has one Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts (IRCA), six District De-Addiction Centres (DDACs), two Community-based Peer-led Intervention (CPLI) centres, three Outreach and Drop-In Centres (ODICs), and twenty-one Addiction Treatment Facilities (ATFs) functioning under the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction. The Government also stated that the establishment and monitoring of new de-addiction centres is a continuous process.

On Sat Sharma's query regarding measures against drug trafficking, the Government informed that the Ministry of Home Affairs has established a four-tier NCORD mechanism comprising Apex, Executive, State/UT, and District levels to ensure better coordination among enforcement agencies. Since 2018, 17 State-Level and 836 District-Level NCORD Committee meetings have been held in Jammu & Kashmir to review the drug trafficking scenario, monitor enforcement actions, and ensure timely implementation of anti-drug measures. The NCORD portal also serves as a centralized knowledge management and information-sharing platform for anti-drug initiatives across the country. Sat Sharma said that drug addiction poses a serious social challenge, particularly for the younger generation, and emphasized that rehabilitation must go beyond treatment by creating opportunities for skill development and self-employment. He stated that by raising this issue in Parliament, his objective is to ensure that Jammu & Kashmir receives stronger institutional support, expanded rehabilitation infrastructure, and a coordinated strategy to protect the youth from the menace of drugs and help them lead productive lives.

Guru Ravidas Ji's teachings are guiding force for building a harmonious and developed India: Baldev Billawaria

NIWA NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30:

J&K BJP led by its General Secretary and State Convenor of the "Sant Shiromani Guru Ravidas Ji Samrasta Sankalp Abhiyan", Baldev Singh Billawaria, addressed a meeting of prominent citizens and representatives of various social and religious organizations at the BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to finalize preparations for the programmes to be organized on the occasion of the 650th Birth Anniversary of Sant Shiromani Guru Ravidas Ji Maharaj. J&K BJP Media Incharge Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, BJP SC Morcha President Dharminder Kumar and former Jammu Municipal Corporation Chairman Jeet Angral were also present. The meeting witnessed detailed deliberations with presidents of various temples and eminent social representatives regarding the outline of the programmes, organizational arrangements and ensuring maximum public participation. Baldev Singh Billawaria, speaking on the occasion, said that the life and teachings of Sant Shiromani Guru Ravidas Ji Maharaj continue to inspire millions with the timeless values of social harmony, equality, dignity, brotherhood and service to humanity. He said that Guru Ji challenged discrim-



ination and devoted his life to creating a society based on justice, mutual respect and spiritual upliftment. Billawaria emphasized that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Union Government has consistently worked to preserve and promote the legacy of great saints and social reformers. He said that the Modi Government has given due recognition to Guru Ravidas Ji's invaluable contribution by encouraging initiatives that strengthen social harmony, uplift the deprived sections of society and reinforce the ideals of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas. He added that these efforts reflect the Government's unwavering commitment to translating Guru Ravidas Ji's message into national development and social transformation. Calling upon all social, religious and community

organizations to actively participate in the celebrations, Billawaria said that the programmes should become a people's movement carrying Guru Ji's immortal message to every household. He stressed that the 650th birth anniversary is not merely a commemorative event but an opportunity to further strengthen unity, fraternity and social cohesion across Jammu & Kashmir. Dr. Pardeep Mahotra said that the media has an important role in taking Guru Ravidas Ji's message of equality and social harmony to every section of society. Dharminder Kumar urged party workers and social organizations to ensure enthusiastic public participation in every programme. Jeet Angral appealed to people to celebrate the great saint's enduring legacy and contribute towards building a more harmonious society.

Pakistan's Brutal Suppression of Peaceful Protesters in PoJK is a Grave Assault on Human Rights: Pawan Sharma

NIWA NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30:

BJP Jammu & Kashmir State Secretary Pawan Sharma has strongly condemned the reported use of force by Pakistani security forces against peaceful protesters in Pakistan Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK), describing it as a serious violation of human rights and democratic values. In a statement issued today, Pawan Sharma said that the people of PoJK have long been facing economic hardship, political discrimination, administrative neglect, and denial of their democratic rights. According to various reports, local residents who have been raising their legitimate demands through peaceful protests have allegedly been met with excessive force, including firing by Pakistani security forces, resulting in the loss of innocent lives and injuries to many others. Sharma stated that any government that attempts to silence the democratic aspirations of its own citizens through intimidation and violence cannot claim to respect



the principles of democracy or human rights. He said that the voices of ordinary citizens seeking justice, dignity, employment, basic civic amenities, and equal rights deserve to be heard, not suppressed. Expressing deep concern over the reported incidents, Sharma said that repeated allegations of repression in PoJK expose the true condition of the people living under Pakistani control. He observed that while Pakistan frequently attempts to lecture the international community on human rights, reports emerging from PoJK present a deeply disturbing

picture of restrictions on civil liberties and the use of force against peaceful demonstrators. Pawan Sharma urged the international community, global human rights organizations, and democratic nations to take serious note of the reported developments in PoJK. He called for an impartial and transparent international investigation into the alleged incidents so that the truth may be established and accountability ensured. He further said that the aspirations and democratic rights of the people of PoJK must not be ignored. Every individual deserves the freedom to express legitimate concerns without fear of violence or persecution. The protection of innocent civilians must remain the foremost priority of the international community. Sharma reiterated that India has always upheld the values of democracy, constitutional governance, and respect for human rights. He expressed solidarity with the innocent civilians of PoJK and prayed for peace, justice, and dignity for all those affected by the reported violence.

Movement Kalki Demands Fair Investigation into the Death of 4-5 Cows Near Maha Maya Temple, Sidhra

NIWA NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30:

Jammu, July 30: Deepak Singh, Founder of Movement Kalki (Future Thinkers), and Advocate Sumeshwar Kohli, Incharge of the Legal Cell, have expressed deep sorrow and concern over the recovery of 4-5 dead cows near Maha Maya Temple, Sidhra, Jammu. They stated that on 29 July 2026, information was received regarding the tragic discovery of approximately 4-5 dead cows near Maha Maya Temple. Upon receiving the information, the Police immediately reached the spot, completed the necessary legal formalities, and shifted the carcasses for burial. As soon as the incident came to light, Thakur Arjun Singh, Provincial Coordinator of Movement Kalki, and Sanjeev Dubey, Board Member, along with members of various Gau Raksha organisations and cow welfare activists, reached the spot. They urged the Police to conduct a fair,



transparent, and thorough investigation and to take strict legal action against anyone found responsible. Deepak Singh and Advocate Sumeshwar Kohli stated that the recovery of several dead cows at a single location is a serious and suspicious matter. If the deaths were not due to natural causes, the truth must be brought before the public at the earliest. Such incidents create con-

cern in society and deeply hurt the religious sentiments of many people. Therefore, an impartial investigation is essential in the interest of justice. The Police assured the Gau Raksha activists present at the site that an FIR would be registered and a detailed investigation would be carried out. They further stated that if any individual's involvement is established, during the investigation, strict legal action would be taken in accordance with the law. Movement Kalki has urged the administration to ensure a fair and speedy investigation, bring the truth before the public, and take stringent legal action against anyone found guilty. In conclusion, the organisation stated that the protection, service, and respect of Gau Mata is the moral and social responsibility of every citizen. Let us all remain united in safeguarding and serving Gau Mata while contributing towards peace, harmony, and the rule of law in society.

Yudhvir Sethi hears public grievances at Janta Darbar, assures prompt resolution



NIWA NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30:

JAMMU, Jul 30: BJP MLA from Jammu East constituency Yudhvir Sethi on Thursday held his weekly 'Janta Ka Darbar' at the BJP office in Kachi Chawni, where he interacted with a large number of residents and listened to their grievances related to civic amenities, infrastructure, public services and welfare schemes. People from different localities of the constituency attended the public outreach programme and brought various issues to the notice of the legislator. The grievances included matters concerning road repairs, drainage, sanitation, drinking water supply, electricity, pension benefits, revenue matters, healthcare facilities and other developmental works. Several individuals also sought assistance regarding government welfare schemes and administrative issues requiring intervention. During

the programme, Yudhvir Sethi patiently heard each representation and directed the concerned officials to take prompt action for the redressal of genuine public grievances. He also assured the people that issues requiring intervention at higher levels would be taken up with the appropriate authorities to ensure their timely resolution. Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi said, "The weekly 'Janta Ka Darbar' provides a direct platform for people to interact with their elected representative and ensure that their concerns are addressed without unnecessary delay. My priority is to ensure transparent, accountable and people-centric governance, and every genuine issue brought before me will be pursued with the concerned departments until it is resolved." The BJP MLA reiterated his commitment to the holistic development of the Jammu East constituency and said regular interaction with the public helps

identify local issues and enables effective planning for development works. He added that strengthening public trust through accessibility and responsive governance remains one of his foremost priorities. Residents who attended the programme appreciated the initiative, saying it provides them with an opportunity to directly present their problems before the MLA. They expressed hope that the issues raised would be resolved at the earliest through coordinated efforts of the concerned departments. The weekly 'Janta Ka Darbar' continues to serve as an important public outreach initiative, reinforcing the commitment of the Jammu East MLA towards responsive governance and sustained development of the constituency.

MLA Dr Bharat Bhushan, DC Rajesh Sharma lead 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign to promote environmental conservation

NIWA NEWS
KATHUA, JULY 30:

As part of the ongoing Van Mahotsav 2026 celebrations, the Social Forestry Department Kathua today organised a mega plantation drive under the nationwide 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign from Kathua Waterfront to Kalibari to enhance the district's green cover. Member of Legislative Assembly Kathua Dr Bharat Bhushan led the drive, in the presence of Deputy

Commissioner Rajesh Sharma, ADDC Surinder Mohan Sharma, ADC Mahima Madan, DFO Social Forestry Hitakshi Sharma, senior Social Forestry officers, district officers, representatives of various government departments, volunteers and members of civil society. Dr Bharat Bhushan said the campaign encourages every citizen to plant a tree in honour of their mother while contributing to a sustainable future. He urged the public, particularly the youth, to par-

ticipate actively in afforestation drives and ensure the survival and proper care of the saplings. The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the department's efforts and stressed that increasing green cover through community participation is essential for maintaining ecological balance, mitigating climate change and preserving biodiversity. He called upon all stakeholders to make tree plantation a people's movement.



NIWA NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30:

Sony's latest innovation in premium home entertainment, the BRAVIA 9II and BRAVIA 7II televisions

powered by revolutionary True RGB Technology, was unveiled today at Shivanghi Electronics, Marble Market, Jammu. The launch was led by Mr. Shashank Aggarwal,

Managing Director, Shivanghi Electronics, in the presence of Mr Sunny Magotra ASM J&K, Sony India, along with customers, technology enthusiasts and well-wishers. The newly introduced BRAVIA series is powered by Sony's advanced RGB Backlight Master Drive Pro, delivering exceptional colour accuracy, enhanced brightness, deeper blacks and a truly immersive cinematic experience. Equipped with the powerful AI Cognitive Processor XR, Acoustic Multi-Audio+ technology, Google TV and future-ready Gemini integration, the BRAVIA 9II and BRAVIA 7II redefine premium television viewing for Indian consumers. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Shashank Aggarwal

said, "We are delighted to introduce Sony's most advanced BRAVIA televisions to customers in Jammu. These cutting-edge models reflect Sony's commitment to innovation, and we are proud to bring this next-generation viewing experience to our patrons." With a relationship spanning more than three decades with Sony, Shivanghi Electronics has earned the confidence of customers by consistently delivering authentic Sony products backed by reliable service and customer support. The Sony-exclusive showroom offers an engaging retail environment where visitors can experience Sony's latest innovations across televisions, cameras, audio products, PlayStation gaming, headphones, accessories and other premium consumer electronics under one roof. The launch reaffirmed Sony's commitment to bringing world-class technology closer to consumers while further strengthening Shivanghi Electronics' position as Jammu's preferred destination for premium Sony products.

Abhishake Abrol and Keshav Chopra Releases Devotional Bhajan "Maa De Charna Vich Thaan"



**NIWA NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30:**

General Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC) Jammu, Abhishake Abrol (JKAS), along with Social activist and Chairman of Samvedna Society, Keshav Chopra, today released the devotional bhajan "Maa De Charna Vich Thaan", sung by Sakshi Rajput, a youngster at a function held in Jammu. Dedicated to Maa Durga, the devotional song carries a message of faith, spirituality and positivity among the youth. The programme

was attended by artists, social workers and prominent citizens. Speaking on the occasion, Abhishake Abrol JKAS said, "DIC Jammu is always committed to supporting the youth. We appeal to young people to stay away from drugs and move ahead with their talent and skills. Our office is ready to help every youth who wants to start a business and become self-reliant." He also appreciated the efforts of Samvedna Society for their contribution towards youth welfare. Keshav Chopra while speaking said that

Samvedna Society is always ready to help youngsters build their careers. I appeal to the youth to adopt the message, 'Say No to Drugs and Yes to Talent,' and work hard towards a brighter future.

The bhajan has been rendered by Sakshi Rajput, while the lyrics and composition have been done by Suraj Singh Chib. The music has been composed by V Kaith, whereas the video has been directed by K. K. Malhotra. The design of the project has been prepared by AK Creative. Singer Sakshi Rajput expressed her gratitude to the dignitaries for releasing the devotional bhajan and hoped that the song would spread spirituality and positivity among the masses. Among others present on the occasion were Manoj Kumar Gandotra, Section Officer, DIC Jammu, and Dr. Nisha Rani, Functional Manager, Nirbhay Slathia Lyricist & Singer, Manoj Tandon, Anil Kumar, Jatin, Rampaul Sharma who congratulated the entire team and extended their best wishes for the success of the devotional project.

Thousands Answered the Nation's Call; Humanity Answered Their Hunger: NSF Salutes Gurdwara's 'Sewa', Calls for Humane Recruitment Planning

**NIWA NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30:**

Describing the recent Army Porter Recruitment Rally at Akhnoor as an occasion that highlighted both the aspirations of India's youth and the enduring spirit of Sikh humanitarian service, Chairman National Sikh Front, S. Varinderjeet Singh, has urged the authorities to evolve a more humane and well-planned recruitment mechanism so that no aspiring candidate is left struggling for basic necessities while pursuing the dream of serving the nation. Expressing concern over reports that an exceptionally large number of candidates gathered at the venue and many experienced considerable hardship, S. Varinderjeet Singh said that most of these young aspirants belonged to economically weaker families and had travelled from different areas with hope in their hearts rather than privilege in their pockets. "When thousands of young Indians come forward to serve the nation, they deserve not only a fair opportunity but also dignity, orderly management and basic humanitarian consideration," he said. The NSF Chairman paid rich tributes to the Management Committee of Gurdwara Tapo Asthan Baba Sundar Singh Ji, Akhnoor, whose members and sewadars reportedly stepped forward by arranging Guru Ka Langar for many of the candidates. He said the episode reflected the timeless Sikh principle that service to human-



ity is the highest form of worship. "The Guru's Langar has never asked who you are, where you come from or what faith you profess. It has always asked only one question—are you hungry?" he remarked, adding that this universal message continues to inspire millions across the world. S. Varinderjeet Singh said the Akhnoor episode was not merely about food; it was a reminder that compassion and efficient planning must go hand in hand. He urged the concerned authorities to review future recruitment arrangements by introducing phased reporting schedules, better crowd management, adequate drinking water, sanitation facilities, first-aid support and close coordination with the civil administration wherever large gatherings are anticipated. Such measures, he said, would reduce hardship, improve transparency and ensure a more orderly recruitment process. Referring to recent humanitarian initiatives undertaken by the Sikh community, he said the same spirit of

'Sarbat da Bhala' was witnessed when Sikh organisations extended assistance to students during the demonstrations at Jantar Mantar, when Gurdwara Bangla Sahib provided humanitarian support, and when Khalsa Aid and several other Sikh organisations reached flood-affected families in Assam with relief at a time of immense distress. These initiatives, he said, reaffirm that Sikh institutions have consistently transformed the teachings of the Gurus into practical service for humanity.

Appealing for a people-centric approach in all public institutions, S. Varinderjeet Singh said that every recruitment exercise should inspire confidence not only through fairness in selection but also through compassion in execution. "The nation will always remember those who defend its borders," he said. "It should also remember to honour the dignity of those who stand in line with the hope of one day wearing that responsibility."

The National Sikh Front expressed hope that the Akhnoor experience would serve as an opportunity for constructive introspection and lead to more efficient, better-coordinated and more humane recruitment arrangements in the future, while also acknowledging the exemplary spirit of selfless

service displayed by the Gurdwara management and its volunteers.

Rattan Lal Gupta Meets Dr Farooq, Omar; discusses Jammu's Development Priorities, Party Affairs



**NIWA NEWS
SRINAGAR, JULY 30:**

Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta, on Thursday called on Party President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Vice President and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in Srinagar and discussed key developmental priorities concerning Jammu division, besides reviewing organisational affairs and the party's grassroots outreach. During the meeting, Dr Farooq

Abdullah and Omar Abdullah congratulated and appreciated the role of National Conference leadership and workers of Jammu Province for the successful and massive 12th July function in Maharaja Hari Singh Park Jammu. They also lauded the active and effective participation of Jammu's party leadership in the peaceful democratic protest held in New Delhi on 20th July for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood. The Party President and Vice President further appreciated the sustained public outreach under-

taken by the Jammu Provincial leadership, particularly in remote and far-flung areas, and its efforts to remain connected with people during the weather-related exigencies witnessed across Jammu division. Gupta apprised the leadership of the positive response among the people to the pro-people initiatives and governance measures of the Omar Abdullah-led elected government. He highlighted the growing public appreciation for the government's efforts to address developmental and civic concerns and provide relief to people. Gupta also congratulated Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for his hands-on approach and direct intervention in dealing with the post-rain exigencies in Rajouri and other parts of Jammu division. He appreciated the government's efforts to reach out to affected families and ensure that relief and assistance reach those in need. The Jammu Provincial President also congratulated Dr Farooq Abdullah and Omar Abdullah for taking the peaceful, democratic and constitutional battle for restoration of statehood to the national capital, saying the sustained campaign has helped keep the legitimate demand of the people of Jammu and Kashmir firmly on the national agenda. The meeting also deliberated upon strengthening the party organisation at the grassroots, intensifying public outreach.

and ensuring greater coordination between the party leadership and workers across Jammu division.

Hotel Association, PHDCCI joint delegation calls on CEO, SMVDSB

**NIWA NEWS
KATRA, JULY 30:**

A joint delegation of Hotel & Restaurant Association, Katra (HRAK), & PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PHDCCI), Jammu Region Chapter, comprising of President HRAK & Chairman PHDCCI Rakesh Wazir, HRAK Chairman Shyam Lal Kesar, Sr. Vice President HRAK & PHDCCI Katra Head Virender Kesar, HRAK Vice President Nishant Sharma, Executive Member Gaurav Sharma, Kulddeep Sharma and others met Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Chief Executive Officer, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, and submitted a comprehensive memorandum recommending several measures aimed at enhancing pilgrim facilities, ensuring the sustainable growth of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra, increasing pilgrim footfall, extending visitors' stay in Jammu & Kashmir, and strengthening the local economy.

The delegation was of considered opinion that frequent suspension of the Yatra during weather conditions will effect the Vaishnodevi pilgrimage in a big way. While appreciating the Shrine Board's commitment to pilgrim safety and acknowledging that the initial suspension following the recent flash flood tragedy was fully justified, but suggested that complete suspension of the Yatra should remain an exceptional measure. Wherever safety permits, pilgrims may be diverted through alternative routes. Mr. Wazir while speaking on the occasion said that if we examine the historical



record of the past nearly 50 years, it becomes evident that on the old track from Adhkuwari to Bhawan, there has not been a single major landslide resulting in the loss of life. Similarly, from Katra to Adhkuwari, except for Gulshan Langar area, there has been no loss of life due to landslides during the last five decades except that last incident and the last incident where people lost their lives, as described by Shrine Board itself also was a flash flood and can happen any where and for that stoppage of Yatra on regular occasions is not good and even otherwise from last so many decades stoppages of Yatra on weather alerts never happened.

He said that whenever heavy rainfall or Red alert is announced where it is considered necessary to suspend the Yatra, the entire pilgrimage should not be stopped. Instead, pilgrims may be diverted through the safer alternative routes. For example, pilgrims can be guided from Ban Ganga entrance point to newly constructed parallel path way i.e. to new pathway made between Tarakot Marg to Pony Stand so that they may reach straight pony stand, and thereafter continue on the old track from

Ban Ganga to Bhawan. Likewise, if the Tarakote Marg from Katra to Adhkuwari is considered safe, pilgrims may also be routed through that track and then from there to Bhawan on old track. This approach would ensure that the Yatra continues uninterrupted while maintaining the highest standards of safety and this practice is applied from years and years together. The memorandum cautions that repeated disruptions may adversely affect the long-term growth of the pilgrimage, particularly when major pilgrimage destinations across the country are competing to attract devotees. Shyam Lal Kesar emphasizes that pilgrimage tourism is the backbone of Katra's economy and a major contributor to the economy of the Union Territory. It stresses the need to continuously improve infrastructure and services so that the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi pilgrimage remains among the finest managed religious pilgrimages in the world.

He sought relief for Shrine Board licensees who suffered severe financial losses during periods when the Yatra remained officially suspended following the Pahalgam terror attack, the Indo-Pak conflict, the flash flood tragedy, and

subsequent weather-related restrictions. He requested waiver or refund of the License Fee for the affected period or, alternatively, extension of the license tenure by an equivalent duration, noting that similar relief had been extended during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Virender Kesar emphasized for increasing the man power at RFID registration counters so that there may remain minimum ques.

He suggested that particularly at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Railway Station the number of registration counters be increased, particularly during train arrivals when thousands of pilgrims reach the station simultaneously. It also suggests utilizing the unused floor space within the existing RFID complex to reduce waiting time and improve crowd management.

Nishant Sharma & Gaurav Sharma asked for preparation of a comprehensive master plan for the integrated development of Katra through coordinated efforts of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra Development Authority, Municipal Committee, and other concerned agencies. It recommends improvements in civic infrastructure, including underground electrical cabling, uninterrupted power and water supply, sanitation, and other essential public amenities, to provide a world-class experience to visiting pilgrims.

Sachin Kumar Vaishya, listened the delegation patiently and assured that sympathetic consideration will be given to each and every point raised in the meeting.

Chandan meets Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Ramdas Athawale; Submits Memorandum on Reservation Policy



**NIWA NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30:**

Today, Social worker and Chairman of Kotli Welfare Trust, Mr. Chandan Datta, met the Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri Ramdas Athawale, and held a detailed discussion on issues related to the reservation policy. During the meeting, he submitted a memorandum highlighting concerns regarding opportunities available to candidates from the General Category. Mr. Datta stated that the opportunities available to the General Category have significantly reduced, resulting

in many talented and meritorious students being unable to secure admission or employment despite achieving excellent scores in competitive examinations. He urged the Government to review the matter with due seriousness. He also expressed concern over the mental stress faced by many students during competitive and entrance examinations, stating that, in some cases, disappointment has contributed to tragic incidents of student suicides. He appealed for a sensitive and balanced approach while addressing these concerns. Mr. Datta suggested that reservation should be based on eco-

nomics criteria rather than other considerations.

He requested the Government to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the economic condition of citizens and ensure that benefits reach those who are genuinely economically disadvantaged. Highlighting the importance of merit in critical sectors, he emphasized that healthcare is a highly sensitive field where competence and merit should receive the highest priority so that the most capable doctors can serve patients effectively and contribute to nation-building. During the meeting, Shri Ramdas Athawale received the memorandum and assured that the issues raised would be given due consideration.

Mr. Datta further stated that if the concerns are not addressed in a balanced and timely manner, various social organizations may raise the issue more broadly in the future. He urged the Government to consider the interests of all sections of society while deliberating on this important matter.

Five University Students Successfully Complete Social Internship at Home for the Aged & Infirm



**NIWA NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30:**

To ensure that the elderly residents live in a cheerful, lively, and socially engaging environment, and to reduce their sense of loneliness and isolation through meaningful interaction, the Home for the Aged & Infirm (Vridh Ashram), Ambphalla, Jammu, has been conducting a Social Internship Programme in collaboration with various universities & colleges. Under this initiative, students

regularly visit the Home to spend quality time with the residents through conversations, recreational activities, cultural interactions, and companionship, while also developing empathy, discipline, and respect for Senior Citizens. As part of this initiative, a batch of five students successfully completed their Social Internship today. The interns included Ms. Kalash and Ms. Palak Sharma from Dev Bhoomi Uttarakhand University, Dehradun, and Ms. Ishita, Ms. Saniya Gupta, and Mr.

Lakshnaya Sharma from Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar. The internship completion certificates were presented today by Dr. Dinesh Gupta, Secretary, in the presence of the Management Committee Members, S. Rajinder Singh and Shri Sat Pal Sharma. Congratulating the students, Dr. Gupta appreciated their dedication, sincerity, and compassionate service towards the elderly residents and wished them success in their future academic and professional careers.

On the occasion, Dr. Gupta said that the objective of the Social Internship Programme is not merely to fulfil academic requirements but to nurture humanitarian values among young people. By interacting closely with Senior Citizens, students learn the importance of compassion, patience, gratitude, and respect for Elders while helping create a warm, joyful, and family-like atmosphere within the Home.

Three Injured, Including Two Schoolgirls, After Speeding Alto Hits Them in Gund; CCTV Captures Incident

**NIWA NEWS
GANDERBAL, JULY 30:**

Three persons, including two schoolgirls, were injured after a speeding Alto car allegedly hit the students on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway in the Gund area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Thursday. The entire incident was captured on CCTV. According to officials, the accident occurred when an Alto car bearing registration number DL9CL9539 struck the two schoolgirls while they were walking along the roadside. Following the impact, the driver reportedly lost control of the vehicle, which veered off and crashed, leaving one of its occupants, Gh Rasool Mir, a resident of Gagangir, also injured. The



injured schoolgirls have been identified as Maliha Afzal, daughter of Mohammad Afzal Shayir, a resident of Gulabbagh, Srinagar, presently residing at Fraw Haknar, and Suhana Khursheed, daughter of Khursheed Ahmad

Baba, a resident of Fraw Haknar. Soon after the accident, locals and passersby rushed to the spot and shifted all the injured to Primary Health Centre (PHC) Gund, where they were provided first aid before being

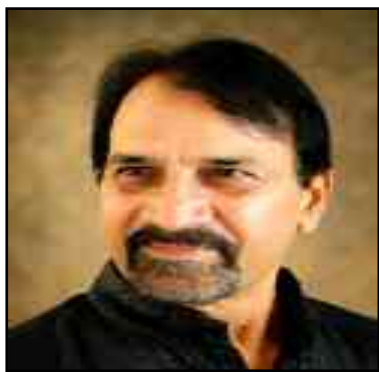
referred to SKIMS Soura for specialised treatment. Meanwhile, CCTV footage of the incident surfaced on social media, showing the speeding Alto striking the two schoolgirls before the driver lost control and the vehicle crashed. The video has triggered concern among local residents, who have once again demanded stricter enforcement against overspeeding and reckless driving on the busy Srinagar-Leh National Highway. Gund Police have taken cognizance of the incident and initiated an investigation to ascertain the exact circumstances leading to the accident. The Alto car bearing registration number DL9CL9539 has been seized and taken into police custody, while further legal proceedings are underway.

Eminent Sculptor Ganesh Sharma Invited as Guest Artist for 'Vande Mataram National Art Camp & Workshop' at New Delhi

**NIWA NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30:**

Eminent Senior Contemporary Sculptor Dr. Ganesh Kumar Sharma from Jammu & Kashmir has been invited as a Guest Artist by the prestigious Kalakunj Foundation for its two-day "Vande Mataram National Art Camp and Workshop", scheduled to be held on 15th-16th August 2026 at the renowned Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti Art Gallery, Rajghat, New Delhi.

In an official communication, Ms. Rajni Sharma, Senior Artist, Curator and President of Kalakunj Foundation, informed that Dr. Ganesh Kumar Sharma will also be honored with the prestigious "Vande Mataram Rashtriya Kala Ratna Samman" in recognition of his



remarkable contribution to the field of art spanning more than four decades.

The prestigious national art event is being organized by Kalakunj Foundation to celebrate 150 glorious years of India's National Song "Vande Mataram" and will witness

the participation of renowned senior contemporary artists from across the country. The workshop aims to promote artistic excellence, cultural values, and national heritage through creative expression.

Dr. Ganesh Kumar Sharma, an internationally acclaimed sculptor, is known for his exceptional creativity and mastery in stone and wood sculpture. His artistic journey reflects dedication, innovation, and a deep commitment towards promoting Indian art and culture on national and international platforms. The President of Kalakunj Foundation, Rajni Sharma, along with the management team, congratulated Dr. Ganesh Kumar Sharma and conveyed their best wishes for his participation and continued contribution to the world of art.

Dr. Sukhvinder Singh Demands Action Against Illegal Mining and Early Reconstruction of Nangali Sahib Bridge

**NIWA NEWS
POONCH, JULY 30:**

Social activist Dr. Sukhvinder Singh today addressed a press conference and raised serious concerns over the issue of illegal mining in the region. He urged the administration to take immediate and strict action against those involved, stating that illegal mining is causing severe environmental damage and posing a threat to public safety. Dr. Singh also highlighted the condition of the Nangali Sahib bridge, which collapsed several years ago. He expressed disappointment that, despite the passage of time, no significant



progress has been made towards its reconstruction. He said the delay has caused immense inconven-

ience to local residents, commuters, and farmers who depend on the route for their daily

activities. Appealing to the Lieutenant Governor and the district administration, Dr. Singh requested that effective steps be taken without further delay to stop illegal mining and ensure the early reconstruction of the bridge. He stressed that protecting natural resources and restoring essential infrastructure should be treated as top priorities. Dr. Sukhvinder Singh said that timely action by the authorities would not only safeguard the environment but also improve connectivity and strengthen public confidence in the administration's commitment to the welfare of the people.

J&K Police Hold Flag Code Awareness Programme in Karnah Ahead of Independence Day



**NIWA NEWS
KARNAH, JULY 30:**

As preparations gather pace for India's 79th Independence Day celebrations, the Jammu & Kashmir Police on Thursday organised a flag awareness programme at Government Degree College (GDC) Karnah to promote awareness about the proper use, display and dignity of the Indian

National Flag in accordance with the Flag Code of India. The programme brought together senior police officers, education officials, heads of educational institutions and teachers. Among those present were DSP DAR Gulzar Ahmad, GDC Karnah Principal Asadullah Khan and Zonal Education Officer Tangdhar Shah Mohammad. Addressing

the gathering, speakers underscored the historical, constitutional and symbolic importance of the Tricolour, describing it as a representation of India's sovereignty, unity, sacrifice and national identity. They stressed that safeguarding the dignity of the National Flag is a shared civic responsibility and urged citizens to adhere to the provisions of the Flag Code of India during

Independence Day celebrations. Officials also provided a practical demonstration on the correct procedures for hoisting, lowering, handling and storing the National Flag, highlighting the prescribed guidelines to ensure that its honour and dignity are maintained at all times. Police officials said Independence Day is an occasion to remember the sacrifices of those who fought for the country's freedom and to reaffirm the values of unity and patriotism. They appealed to educational institutions, students and members of the public to celebrate the occasion with pride while ensuring full compliance with the Flag Code. The awareness programme concluded with participants reaffirming their commitment to respecting the National Flag and observing the Flag Code of India during the forthcoming Independence Day celebrations.

Indian Army's "Varmul Gindo 3.0" Concludes Successfully, Celebrating Youth, Unity and Sporting Excellence

**NIWA NEWS
BARAMULLA, JULY 30:**

The month-long Varmul Gindo 3.0, the largest sporting festival of Baramulla district, concluded on a grand note. The event was organised by the Indian Army's Dagger Division in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council, the District Youth Services & Sports Department, and the Baramulla Sports Association. The General Officer Commanding (GOC), Dagger Division, graced the closing ceremony as the Chief Guest, while MLA Baramulla Javid Hassan Beigh attended as the Guest of Honour. Held under the theme "Messenger of Peace," the sports festival witnessed the participation of nearly 3,600 athletes, including both boys and girls, from all major tehsils of Baramulla district. More than 20 sporting disciplines were conducted



across 15 indoor and outdoor venues throughout the district. The competitions featured football, tennis-ball cricket, rugby, hockey, volleyball, handball, kabaddi, basketball, kho-kho, along with individual events such as karate, wushu, chess, table tennis and snooker. Throughout the tournament, participants displayed exceptional talent, discipline and sportsmanship, while several matches attracted large crowds

and provided thrilling contests. One of the major achievements of Varmul Gindo 3.0 was the identification of promising sporting talent from across the district. Outstanding performers have been short-listed for future UT-level coaching camps, talent hunt programmes and competitive events in football, rugby, wushu, karate, volleyball, hockey, athletics and other disciplines, providing them with opportunities to compete

at higher levels. Addressing the gathering during the closing ceremony, the GOC, Dagger Division congratulated all participants and emphasised that such sporting initiatives provide youth with a positive platform, while promoting peace, brotherhood, healthy competition and national integration. The organisers expressed gratitude to all participating teams, sports associations, educational institutions, the civil administration, volunteers, spectators and the people of Baramulla for their wholehearted support in making the event a grand success. With its successful conclusion, Varmul Gindo 3.0 has further strengthened the spirit of unity, youth empowerment and sports culture in Baramulla. The festival reinforced the district's growing sporting identity while advancing the message of "Messenger of Peace" through the power of sports.

Christ School Degwar Faces Protest Over Ban on Bindi, Tika and Tilak in Student Handbook

**NIWA NEWS
POONCH, JULY 30:**

Hindu Organisations Submit Written Complaint to SHO Poonch, Demand Action Against School; Principal Apologises



demanding its immediate withdrawal. Following the protest, a delegation of Hindu organisations sub-

mitted a written complaint to the SHO Poonch, seeking legal action against the school management and

the Principal. They also urged the authorities to revoke the controversial rule without delay. The protesters stated that the Constitution of India guarantees every citizen the right to freely practice and profess their religion, including the use of religious symbols. They argued that no educational institution should enforce regulations that are inconsistent with constitutional rights and religious freedom. Amid the growing controversy and public outrage, the Principal of Christ School Degwar issued an apology, expressing regret over the matter. The Principal assured that the school respects the religious sentiments of all communities and would take appropriate steps to address the concerns raised.

Press Association Rajouri Mourns Demise of Senior Journalist Sanjay Bali's Father

**NIWA NEWS
RAJOURI, JULY 30:**

Condolence meeting held at Dak Bungalow; journalists pay tribute to the late Som Raj Bali, remember his humility and exemplary character



an irreparable loss not only to the family but also to the community. To pay homage to the departed soul, the Press Association Rajouri organised a condolence meeting at the Dak Bungalow under the chairmanship of Association

President Shahbaz Khan. The meeting was attended by senior journalists, including Sham Sood, Parmod Kapoor, Liaqat Ali Khatana, Naveed Qazi, Shafqat Ramzan Wani, Tabraiz Malik, Sarabjeet Singh, Nisar Khan, Vinay

kessar and Tariq Shawal, along with other members of the association. A two-minute silence was observed as a mark of respect to the departed soul. Members of the association conveyed their heartfelt sympathies to Sanjay Bali and the bereaved family, praying for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the family to bear the irreparable loss. The Press Association Rajouri reaffirmed its solidarity with the bereaved family during this difficult hour and expressed hope that the late Shri Som Raj Bali's noble legacy of kindness and humility would continue to inspire those who knew him.

Block-Level Monitoring Committees review TB elimination strategy in Assar, Bhaderwah and Thathri

**NIWA NEWS
DODA, JULY 30:**

Block-Level Monitoring Committee meetings under the TB Mukht Bharat initiative were today held across Medical Blocks Assar, Bhaderwah, Thathri and Ghat to review the ongoing strategy and reinforce measures for the elimination of Tuberculosis. The meetings reviewed the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Block-Level Monitoring Committee and measures to strengthen TB screening, diagnosis, treatment and prevention at the grassroots level. Emphasis was laid on 100% Digital Chest X-ray screening of high-risk villages, wards and congregate settings through TB Shivirs and outreach activities, upfront NAAT testing for all presumptive cases, differentiated and patient-centric care, 100% TB Preventive Treatment (TPT) coverage of eligible individuals after ruling out active TB and universal use of the

TB Mukht Bharat App and Khushi Chatbot. The committees further stressed micro-planning and identification of gaps at village and ward levels, mobilisation of community participation through NCC and MY Bharat volunteers, inter-departmental convergence, regular field visits, timely submission of progress reports to the District Tuberculosis Officer (DTO) and prompt resolution of operational challenges. At Medical Block Assar the meeting was chaired by SDM Assar Ashok Singh Katoch, with BMO Assar Dr Syed Mohd Ismail; at Bhaderwah by ADC Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, with BMO Bhaderwah Dr Versha Sharma; at Thathri by SDM Thathri Sheetal Sharma, with BMO Thathri Dr Shakeel Ahmed Kichloo; and at Ghat, including Doda Town, by Programme Officer (Poshan) ICDS Doda Akhtar Hussain Qazi, with BMO Ghat Dr Abdul Gafoor, BDO Ghat, CDPO Doda, BDO Kastigarh, BDO Bhagwah, CDPO Bhagwah, BDO Gundna, Liyaqat Ali Zargar (JHI).

DISASTER MACHINE MUST STAY AT FULL ALERT

The Meteorological Department's forecast of heavy rain and torrential showers across Jammu division until August 4 — following a monsoon season that has already claimed multiple lives, washed away roads, breached river banks across both divisions, and tested the administrative capacity of J&K's disaster response system at every level simultaneously — is a warning that must be received with the operational seriousness of a government that has already experienced the cost of being unprepared when the clouds decide to break. August 4 is five days away. Five days of forecast heavy rain over a Jammu division that is still recovering from the floods that struck Rajouri, Poonch, Ramban, and Udhampur in the past two weeks — where soil saturation levels are already high, where slopes that have been destabilised by previous rainfall events are primed for further failure, where river banks that were near-breaching during the last rain spell will reach those levels faster with less additional precipitation than normal conditions would require. This is not a fresh emergency arriving on a recovered landscape. It is continued emergency arriving on an already stressed one. The administration's response framework must account for this compounding geography. Pre-positioning of rescue equipment in districts that are statistically most likely to face fresh incidents. Suspension of non-essential travel on road stretches identified as high landslide-risk during the forecast period. Activation of community warning systems in settlements that sit below slopes already destabilised by the monsoon's earlier attacks. And the medical infrastructure — positioned not only at district headquarters but at sub-district level where the gap between an accident and adequate care has cost lives this season — must be at full readiness through August 4. The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway — which has already been suspended multiple times this monsoon — must be managed with the maximum caution that its landslide-prone stretches demand during the forecast period. Pilgrims travelling to and from the Amarnath Yatra's base camps must be protected from precisely the highway risk that the August 4 forecast makes acute. Under Prime Minister Modi's disaster resilience framework, five days of warning is five days to prepare. J&K's administration must use every hour of it.

On the birth anniversary of Munshi Premchand

Premchand is still alive today in books!



D.R. RAMESH SAINI

Premchand is being remembered once again — as the Salt Inspector, the winter night of "Poos", as Halku, Jumman, and Hori. In the dust of time, it seems Premchand of Lamhi is still alive. In the drawers of the country's libraries, he can still be seen in books today. If Premchand had truly been lived from the heart, if his characters had not been forgotten like this, India would have become truly golden. Then, at every street corner and crossroads, Munshi Premchand would have been seen.

Munshi Premchand is a great writer of both Hindi and Urdu. His real name was Dhanpat Rai Srivastava. He became especially known as Nawab Rai in Urdu and Munshi Premchand in Hindi. The novelist Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay, impressed by his novels, honored him with the title "Emperor of Novelists." Munshi Premchand developed a tradition of Hindi short stories and novels that enriched an entire century of literature. He laid the foundation of the realist tradition in literature. His writings are such a legacy of Hindi literature that any dream of the language's development would be incomplete without them. He was a sensitive writer, an aware human being, an eloquent speaker, and a capable editor. After Munshi Premchand, those who carried literature forward with social concerns and progressive values included writers from Yashpal to Muktibodh.

Munshi Premchand wrote in many literary forms, including novels, short stories, plays, criticism, essays, editorials, and memoirs. He gained fame primarily as a storyteller and, during his lifetime, rose to the stature of the "Emperor of Novelists." He wrote a total of 15 novels, more than 300 short stories, 3 plays, 10 translations, 7 children's books, and thousands of pages of

essays, editorials, speeches, prefaces, and letters. His pen moved continuously in both Hindi and Urdu.

He was born on 31 July 1880 in the village of Lamhi in the Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh. His father, Ajaib Rai, was a clerk at the village post office, and his mother, Anandi Devi, was a homemaker. After his mother passed away during his childhood, his father moved to Gorakhpur and remarried. Then, at the age of fourteen, his father also passed away.

Premchand lived a life of poverty. He often had no proper clothes to wear, and at times he did not even have food to eat. His stepmother also treated him harshly. After his father's death, the responsibility of the household fell upon Munshi Premchand's shoulders. Supporting five people at once was no less difficult than climbing a mountain. The extent of his financial hardship can be understood from the fact that he had to sell even his coat due to lack of money, and later, even his books.

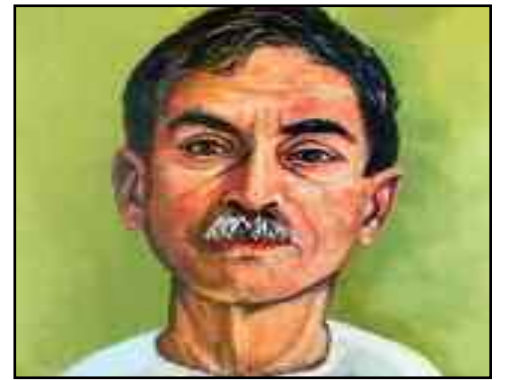
One day, he took all his books to a bookseller to sell them. There, he met a headmaster who arranged for him to be appointed as a teacher in his school. Fighting poverty, Premchand studied up to matriculation. He loved reading and wanted to become a lawyer, but poverty did not allow him to fulfill that dream.

In 1921, at the call of Mahatma Gandhi, Premchand resigned from his job. After leaving his position, he worked for some time as the editor of the magazine "Maryada". He then edited the magazine "Madhuri" for six years. Between 1930 and 1932, he began publishing his monthly magazine "Hans" and the weekly newspaper "Jagaran". For some time, he also wrote stories for films in Mumbai.

A film titled "Mazdoor" was made based on one of his stories and was released in 1934. However, he did not find the film world to his liking and returned to Banaras before completing his film-writing contract. Premchand began writing stories in Hindi in 1915. His first Hindi story, titled "Saut" ("The Co-wife"), was published in the magazine "Saraswati" in 1925. He began writing novels in 1918, and his first novel was "Sevasadan".

After his death, translations of Munshi Premchand's famous works were also made into English.

In 1900, Munshi Premchand obtained a job as an assistant teacher at the Government District School in Bahraich, where he received a monthly salary of 20 rupees. Three months later, he was transferred to the District School in Pratapgarh.



Dhanpat Rai, later known as Munshi Premchand, wrote his first short novel, "Asrar-e-Ma'abid". In this novel, he pointed to the exploitation carried out by temple priests and the physical abuse of women. His essays and novels were published in the Urdu weekly "Awaaz-e-Khalq" from 8 October 1903 to February 1905.

His first story under the name Premchand, "Bade Ghar Ki Beti" ("The Daughter of a Wealthy Family"), was published in the December 1910 issue of the magazine "Zamana". The truth about a wandering society, the condition of women, and the contradictions prevalent in society is reflected in Munshi Premchand's writings.

His story collection "Soz-e-Watan" was confiscated in 1910. After that, due to persecution by the British, he began writing under the name Premchand. In 1923, he established the Saraswati Press. In 1930, he launched "Hans". He edited prestigious magazines such as "Maryada", "Hans", "Jagaran", and "Madhuri". In Hindi literature, Munshi Premchand gave the Hindi short story a new identity and a new life.

He came to be known as the father of modern narrative literature. He vividly portrayed the suffocation, pain, and anguish of ordinary people in his stories. On 8 October 1936, he passed away due to dropsy. Munshi Premchand's literature remains just as popular today as it was during his lifetime. Here is a glimpse of his literary journey:

Algu, Dhaniya, Hori—
Godaan came back to mind.
With the pair of two oxen,
Lamhi became great.
Seeing the birthplace of Munshi,
my heart filled with joy. Premchand's
love sets the pen in motion. With the
dust of Lamhi upon my forehead, I too
became great. In the village of the deity
of literature, I found all four sacred pilgrimages.
May I always remain in self-awareness,
with the Supreme Being close by.
May my pen move like Munshi's,
and create another "Poos Ki Raat".

Special on the Martyrdom Day of Udham Singh

Udham Singh's courage, self-respect, and love for the nation will remain immortal forever



DR. ASHOK KUMAR VERMA

The history of India is not merely a history of dates; it is a history of sacrifice, penance, martyrdom, and self-respect. This sacred land has given birth to countless heroes who sacrificed their lives to bring the light of freedom to future generations. Among such immortal revolutionaries, the name of Udham Singh is inscribed in golden letters. His life teaches us that no matter how powerful injustice may be, truth and justice are destined to prevail.

April 13, 1919, is one of the most painful days in Indian history. Thousands of unarmed Indians had gathered at Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar to raise their voices for their rights. At that moment, the brutality of British rule brought shame upon humanity. A hail of bullets claimed the lives of hundreds of innocent people and left thousands of families with life-long suffering. That day, it was not only people who were murdered; British rule attempted to challenge the very soul of India.

On that blood-soaked ground, a young man picked up a handful of soil drenched in the blood of the martyrs and vowed, "Until I punish those responsible for this massacre for their crime, my life shall remain dedicated to the nation." That young man was none other than the immortal son of Mother India, the martyr Udham Singh.

He lost his parents at an early age.



Living in an orphanage, he faced countless hardships, but the flame of patriotism in his heart never dimmed. His struggles did not weaken him; instead, they made him even more resolute. His life teaches us that it is not circumstances but determination that defines a person.

For years, he pursued his goal with the devotion of a spiritual discipline. He traveled to many countries, endured numerous hardships, and lived under many names, but he had only one purpose in mind—to secure justice for the martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh.

On March 13, 1940, that historic moment arrived in London when he shot Michael O'Dwyer, fulfilling his pledge to the martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh. This was not merely an attack on an individual; it was a proclamation of justice against injustice, oppression, and imperialism. After completing his mission, he made no attempt to escape. He allowed himself to be arrested and fearlessly declared in court that what he had done was for his country and for the honor of the innocent martyrs. Finally, on July 31, 1940, he embraced the gallows with a smile. Though his body perished, his courage, his self-respect, and his patriotism became immortal.

Today, as we remember the martyr Udham Singh, it is not only an occasion to pay tribute but also a time for self-reflection. We should ask ourselves whether we are contributing to building

the India that our martyrs dreamed of. Today, the form of national service has changed. Patriotism is no longer confined to the battlefield; it also means honestly fulfilling our duties, opposing corruption, protecting the environment, creating a drug-free society, donating blood, spreading education, and fostering love and harmony in society. That would be the true tribute to our immortal martyrs.

Udham Singh teaches us that the nation comes first. Rising above personal interests and living for society and the country is the true way of life. The message of his life is just as relevant today as it was during the freedom struggle.

Let us all take this pledge together on his martyrdom day:

- We will always place the nation's interest above all else.
- We will walk the path of honesty and dedication to duty.
- We will spread the message of love, harmony, and brotherhood in society.
- We will contribute to building a drug-free, clean, educated, and environmentally secure India.
- We will embody the ideals of our martyrs in our own lives.

Udham Singh is not merely a name; he is an eternal symbol of patriotism. He is not just a revolutionary but the voice of India's soul. He is not merely history but the heartbeat of every Indian. Even in death, Udham lives on in the hearts of the people, burning as the lamp of patriotism in the soul of every Indian. Whenever the glory of Mother India is proclaimed, the immortal saga of Udham Singh will be remembered with reverence.

****Vande Mataram! Victory to Mother India! Long live the immortal martyr Shaheed-e-Azam Udham Singh!****

Udham remains immortal even after death, living forever in the hearts of the people.

He teaches a lesson to those who plunder the nation for their own gain.

A traitor to the nation dies while still alive, and after death goes to hell.

Saksham J&K Steps Up Grassroots Outreach: Doda Delegation Meets Child Development and Social Welfare Officers to Empower Divyangjans



NIWA NEWS
BHADERWAH, JULY 30:

In a significant push towards inclusive community development, a delegation of the Saksham Zilla Doda unit met with key administrative officials here on Thursday to chart out collaborative welfare strategies for specially-abled individuals. The delegation was led by Ajit Singh

Kotwal, Vice Pradhan of Saksham Jammu & Kashmir UT alongside district functionaries including Mahila Pradhan Sequirta Kotwal-Vice Pradhan, Satyia Kotwal-Vice Pradhan Sudhir Kotwal. The team held formal interactive discussions with Bhadarwah Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) Farhat Shamim (KAS) and Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Shahnawaz

Ahmed. The primary agenda of the meeting centered on creating widespread public awareness regarding Saksham's ongoing mission for the welfare of Divyangjan (specially-abled persons) by leveraging the extensive grassroots network of Anganwadi workers. Discussions underscored the critical role local frontline workers can play in identifying specially-abled individuals

at the village level, facilitating timely support and ensuring that government schemes reach the most marginalized segments of society. Furthermore, the administrative officers were briefed on the preparations for the upcoming Divyang Parivar, Mahila and Intellectual Sammelan scheduled to be held at the Community Hall in Bhadarwah. The leadership sought administrative backing and coordination to ensure the smooth execution of the multi-segment convention aimed at bringing families, women and intellectuals together to build a more inclusive society. Responding positively to the delegation's proposals, both Farhat Shamim and Shahnawaz Ahmed lauded the active social initiatives undertaken by Saksham in the region. The officers assured the delegation of full administrative cooperation and support from the Department of Social Welfare and Child Development emphasizing that joint efforts would go a long way in mainstreaming specially-abled persons and safeguarding their rights and dignity in Doda district.

GCW Parade organises one-day awareness programme on 'Emerging Trends in Biotechnology'



NIWA NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30:

The Science Club and Department of Biotechnology, Government College for Women Parade Ground Jammu, in collaboration with the J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council (JKSTIC), Department of Science & Technology today organised a one-day awareness programme on 'Emerging Trends in Biotechnology' at the College Auditorium. The event witnessed participation from over 150 students and faculty members. Science Club Convener Prof Aasia Rashid Bhat delivered the welcome address, highlighting the value of exposing students to emerging scientific

developments and career opportunities in biotechnology. She conducted the proceedings jointly with Head of the Department of Biotechnology Assistant Professor Kaurab Singh. Presiding over the inaugural session, Principal Dr Naveen Anand underlined the importance of such events in enhancing scientific awareness and fostering a research-oriented mindset. He reiterated the college's commitment to strengthening the Department of Biotechnology through collaborations with leading research and innovation institutions, widening student opportunities in research, skill development, innovation and entrepreneurship. JKSTIC Deputy Director Shruti Khanna and Accounts

Officer Ieshita Choudhary also attended, extending their support for the programme and appreciating the college's initiative. The programme featured two resource persons. Director School of Biotechnology University of Jammu, Dr Madhulika Bhagat lectured on the latest advancements and emerging opportunities in the field, briefing participants on cutting-edge research trends and expanding career prospects. She encouraged students to develop scientific curiosity, embrace interdisciplinary research and contribute to the advancement of biotechnology. Business Manager of the Technology Business Incubator (TBI), CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine

(CSIR-IIIM) Jammu, Dr Vidushi Abrol spoke on emerging trends in research, technology translation and their applications in academia and industry. She elaborated on the TBI's role in fostering innovation, supporting startups, promoting entrepreneurship and translating scientific discoveries into commercially viable technologies, motivating students to consider entrepreneurship alongside research. An interactive session followed, in which participants sought guidance on higher education, research opportunities, innovation ecosystems, startup incubation and career prospects in biotechnology. Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, Dr Manjulla Gupta proposed the vote of thanks, thanking the resource persons, JKSTIC officials, the Principal, faculty members and participants. The Science Club members who organised the event were Dr Harmanmeet Kour, Prof Aasia Rashid Bhat, Prof Usha Devi, Dr Sarita Parihar, Dr Tishu Devi, Prof Kaurab Singh, Dr Manjulla Gupta and Dr Pervaiz Ahmad Pervaiz.

ADC reviews enforcement of National Green Tribunal guidelines in Bhaderwah

NIWA NEWS
BHADERWAH, JULY 30:

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal has intensified enforcement of National Green Tribunal (NGT) guidelines across the Bhaderwah subdivision. During a review meeting, the ADC called for strict implementation of environmental norms to ensure sustainable waste management and ecological protection. Directions issued included daily monitoring of waste collection systems and mandatory daily



sharing of geo-tagged photographs to ensure transparency and accountability. The ADC further directed the departments concerned to achieve 100 percent door-to-door waste collection

in rural areas. To improve sanitation in marketplaces, separate vehicles were to be deployed to collect waste from fruit and vegetable markets and chicken shops. Bhutyal directed the

Executive Municipality, BDO Bhaderwah and BMO Bhaderwah to launch an awareness programme on daily monitoring of the waste collection system and sanitation drives in schools, colleges, hospitals and the main markets. The Municipal Committee Bhaderwah was directed to stop illegal constructions. Among those present were BMO Bhaderwah, Executive Engineer I&FC, BDO Bhaderwah, AEE PHE, AE PHE, AEE R&B, Account Assistant BDA, Mechanical Department and representatives of various departments.

DC Jammu reviews arrangements for Independence Day celebrations

NIWA NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30:

Deputy Commissioner Dr Rakesh Minhas today chaired a meeting to review arrangements for the upcoming Independence Day celebrations in the district and take stock of preparations for the event. The DC reviewed venue preparations and directed the departments concerned to expedite work at the main function venue to ensure it is ready well in time. He also directed officers to ensure proper decoration and illumination of government offices and other places across the district. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the functioning of committees formed to oversee different aspects of the event, directing committee heads to coordinate closely and complete assigned tasks within the stipulated timeframe. Responsibilities for seating arrangements, cultural programmes and other logistical matters are to be discharged in a time-bound



and coordinated manner. The DC directed the police and civil administration to work in tandem for barricading, crowd management and security at the venue; Jammu Municipal Corporation to ensure cleanliness at the venue and surrounding areas besides making arrangements for drinking water and

mobile toilets, and the departments concerned to make proper refreshment arrangements. Among those present were ADC Vidhu Shekhar, SSP Jammu Joginder Singh, Chief Planning Officer Ajaypal Singh, ASP Traffic Jammu City Arvinder Singh and senior officers from various line departments.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION & F.C.

DIVISION NOWSHERA

E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NITNO. 120F2026-27

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Tenders, are invited by the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Nowshera, by e-Tendering mode on percentage rates for below mentioned works from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K state Govt./CPWD/MES and railways for the following works.

S.No.	Name of works	Estimated Cost (Rs in lacs)	Cost of document (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Class of contractor	Period of Contract
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
01	Re-Construction/Extension of Mallan Chowakhul including Remodelling of Damaged Section	1.36	500/- under M.F.07/02 (Revenue)	2720/-	"D"	10 days

Position of AAA:- Accorded.

Position of S:- Accorded.

Position of Funds:- Partially Available (under M.H4702-District Capex)

1. Date of publishing from: 30-07-2026 (10:00 A.M.).
2. The bidding documents can be downloaded from the website: www.jktenders.gov.in w.e.f. 30-07-2026 (10:00 A.M.) to 05-08-2026 (16:00 P.M.).
3. The bid shall be deposited in electronic format on the website from www.jktenders.gov.in w.e.f. 30-07-2026 (10:00 A.M.) to 05-08-2026 (16:00 P.M.). The bids received will be opened on 06-08-2026 at 12:00 Noon.
3. The complete bidding process will be on-line.
4. The tender uploaded on the website up to due date will be opened on 06-08-2026 at 12:00 Noon in the office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation and Flood Control Division Nowshera in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
5. The original documents, when submitted by LI for the cost of tender documents, BMD specified in the tender document should be same as uploaded online (Scanned copies) otherwise the allotment will not be issued, the tenders will be canceled and the bidders will not be allowed to participate in any further/future tendering process in the Division for a period of one year.
6. Earnest Money (i.e. CDR/FDR/DD) should be deposited/ pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Irrigation and Flood Control Division Nowshera from the date of publishing to date of closing only. Earnest Money deposited on back dates shall not be accepted.
7. The successful bidder LI shall have to deposit Performance security as well as additional performance security performance as per circular issued by the Finance Department vide No. FD/441/2021-02-158 dated : 08.08.2025 in the shape of Bank Guarantee only and should be deposited in favour of Executive Engineer, Irrigation and Flood Control Division Nowshera. Total Performance Security in any form other than a Bank Guarantee will not be accepted.
8. Performance security as well as additional performance security (for un-balanced bid) shall be released after successful completion of the work as certified by the AEE concerned.
9. The performance security in the form of Bank Guarantee for an amount of 3% of Quoted value [Bid Price of Bidder] and additional Performance Bank Guarantee shall be obtained from the lowest bidder as per circular issued by the Finance Department vide No. FD/441/2021-02-158 dated : 08.08.2025 and the lowest bidder shall bound to submit the performance security/Additional performance security within three (03) days failing which bid shall be offered to 2nd lowest bidder for allotment without any further notice considering the urgency of the work.
10. The cost of tender documents (Non-refundable/ Non-Transferable) should be in the shape of e-challan/Treasury Receipt to be deposited in MH: 0702 (Revenue Head) in favour of Executive Engineer, Irrigation and Flood Control Division Nowshera from the date of publishing to date of closing only. Any such challan deposited on back dates shall not be accepted.
11. The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 60 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited.

Signed for and on behalf of the
Lieutenant Governor, Jammu & Kashmir State

No: IFCN/2026-27/1566-80
Dated: 29.07.2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Irrigation & F.C. Division
Nowshera

DIP/J-6980/26

Send Date: 30-7-26

Jantar...

the protest at Jantar Mantar will not be the last of its kind - and the next one will be more organised, more violent, and more deliberately aimed at disrupting the democratic governance that India's citizens elected.

Police...

70/2024 registered at Police Station Mahore under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Enemy Agents Ordinance/related provisions (E&IMCO Act).

The attachment proceedings were conducted by a police team led by SDPO Mahore Parul Bhardwaj along with the Station House Officer of Police Station Mahore. The process was completed in the presence of the Executive Magistrate, Mahore, and local witnesses in accordance with legal procedures.

The attached properties include seven kanals of land belonging to Alaf Din of Shajroo, 10 kanals and 11 marlas owned by Ghulam Mohammad alias Gamma of Shajroo, 17 marlas belonging to Mohammad Ashraf of Chakrass (Mulass), seven kanals and three marlas owned by Shabir Ahmad of Chakrass (Jamsalan), and eight kanals and one marla belonging to Bihar Din of Sildhar.

According to the investigation, credible evidence established that the accused had exfiltrated to Pakistan, where they allegedly received terrorist training and are presently operating as terror handlers from across the border. The probe further revealed that they were actively involved in promoting, facilitating and coordinating terrorist activities, while the attached properties were allegedly intended to be alienated and used to generate funds for terror-related activities.

A senior police official said, "The attachment of these properties is aimed at dismantling the financial infrastructure that supports terrorism. By denying terror handlers access to assets and financial resources, we are taking decisive steps to disrupt the terror ecosystem and prevent funds from being used for unlawful activities."

The official added that the action was taken after obtaining the necessary approval from Police Headquarters, J&K, under the provisions of the UAPA. Reasi Police reiterated its commitment to taking stringent legal action against individuals involved in terrorism and terror financing, while continuing sustained efforts to maintain peace, security and public safety across the region.

Public...

of the state or the agency conducting the examination, underscoring the need for a robust national legal framework. The minister informed the House that the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill was introduced in January 2024, enacted in February 2024, while the Act came into force and the Rules were notified in June 2024.

He said the Act covers examinations conducted by major recruitment agencies, including the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs), Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) and the National Testing Agency (NTA) for admissions to higher education institutions.

Singh said the objective of the legislation is to ensure greater consistency, credibility and transparency in public examinations so that sincere and deserving candidates are rewarded for their genuine efforts and their future is not jeopardised by organised examination-related crimes.

Explaining the salient features of the Amendment Bill, the minister said the punishment for persons resorting to unfair means is proposed to be enhanced from imprisonment of three to five years to five to ten years, while the maximum fine is proposed to be raised from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 50 lakh. For service providers involved in such offences, the maximum fine is proposed to be increased from Rs 1 crore to Rs 5 crore and the period of debarment from conducting public examinations from four years to eight years.

Punishment for directors and senior management of service providers is also proposed to be enhanced from three to ten years' imprisonment to five to ten years, with the maximum fine increased from Rs 1 crore to Rs 5 crore.

The Bill further proposes to enhance punishment for organised crime from five to ten years' imprisonment to seven to ten years and increase the maximum fine from Rs 1 crore to Rs 10 crore.

The minister said the Amendment Bill also provides for setting up Special Fast Track Courts for offences under the Act, completion of investigation within two months and completion of trial within three months from the date of filing of the charge sheet.

It further provides for appointment of Special Public Prosecutors and insertion of a new provision enabling investigation by a Special Task Force or a Central agency, wherever required, to ensure swift and effective action against organised examination-related crimes.

Singh informed the House that six Special Fast Track Courts have already been established across the country, with more such courts being planned to facilitate expeditious disposal of cases.

He also referred to the high-level task force constituted by the government to strengthen the public examination ecosystem and said substantial progress has already been made in implementing the recommendations of the expert committee, with 35 out of its 46 recommendations already implemented.

Even as Singh said the bill testifies that this government is open to healthy inputs, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge accused the government of bringing the amendment only to pacify the agitating youth, and not to address the issue.

Kharge said the government has not explained how it would conduct examinations that could prevent paper leaks.

The provisions for higher fines, stricter punishment, and fast-track courts would not make any difference in cases of paper leaks, he added.

All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) MP Sagarika Ghose said Home Minister Amit Shah must apologise for the police action against student protestors or take responsibility and resign.

Speaking on the bill, she said "All this Bill does is increase punishment. There is no examination reform here".

Ghose said a cancelled or a leaked exam is an "administrative failure" and a "personal betrayal" because of which many children have lost their lives.

Govt...

ethanol doped in petrol) had been in widespread use for more than three-and-a-half years and E19-E20 (19/20 per cent ethanol in petrol) fuel for more than two-and-a-half years, with over 20 crore two-wheelers and more than three crore petrol cars operating on these blends "without any verified evidence of widespread engine failure or vehicle breakdown attributable to ethanol blending."

Gopi said manufacturer service data also showed no abnormal corrosion, wear or reduction in vehicle life due to E20 fuel, while manufacturers continued to honour warranty obligations for vehicles using the fuel.

The minister cited data from a leading automobile manufacturer, which serviced 2.84 crore vehicles during 2025-26, including about 1.5 crore vehicles that were not originally certified as E20-compatible, and reported no E20-linked corrosion, abnormal wear or reduction in component life.

A leading two-wheeler manufacturer had reported similar field experience, while another original equipment manufacturer found no evidence of ethanol-induced corrosion after tracking 1.4 crore E20-operated vehicles over an extended period, he said.

The government said E20 fuel offered higher octane, better anti-knock performance, improved combustion characteristics, smoother acceleration and lower emissions, contributing to cleaner and more efficient engine operation.

On pricing, the minister said public sector OMCs procured ethanol under a framework designed to ensure adequate supplies, provide remunerative prices to producers and support the agriculture sector, rather than maximise company profits.

The weighted average ex-mill price of ethanol for the 2025-26 ethanol supply year was Rs 66.61 per litre, while the estimated procurement cost, including GST and transportation, was about Rs 71 per litre for IOC, Hindustan Petroleum Corp and Bharat Petroleum Corp.

The government said petrol prices were market-determined and reflected international crude oil prices, exchange rates, freight, taxes, ethanol procurement costs and other operational expenses. It said public sector OMCs incurred an average under-recovery of about Rs 11 per litre on petrol between March and June 2026, amounting to around Rs 21,300 crore, as retail prices remained below market-determined levels.

The minister said India's dependence on crude oil imports made ethanol blending strategically important, particularly during the ongoing West Asian crisis.

"During the recent West Asian crisis, despite sharp increases in global crude prices, India was able to shield consumers through calibrated Government interventions, diversified sourcing and the increasing contribution of domestically produced biofuels," he said.

The government said that while global crude prices had risen by around 70-80 per cent since February 2026, domestic fuel prices had increased by only about 7-8 per cent. It added that when the Indian crude basket touched nearly USD 135 a barrel, petrol could have cost around Rs 125 per litre at market prices, but consumers continued to pay Rs 94.77 per litre in Delhi, helped by OMCs procuring ethanol at about Rs 70 per litre.

He said ethanol blending had reduced India's exposure to international crude oil price volatility and exchange-rate fluctuations, calling it "a strategic investment in energy security, price stability, farmer welfare and foreign exchange savings, rather than a revenue-generating exercise for OMCs."

HC pulls..

be accorded that much a status of overreaching the cause and the call of the Nation and, thus, this Court is constrained to direct his personal appearance in the Court on 03/08/2026," the July 28 order, made available on Thursday, said.

The contempt petition was moved by Mir after the Jammu and Kashmir administration failed to implement an order of the high court in May this year directing them to grant her, employed as a government servant, provisional permission to officiate as Chief Finish Line Judge at the Canoe Sprint World Cup held in Hungary that month.

Mir, India's first female judge for kayaking and canoeing at the 2024 Paris Olympics, could not attend the World Cup event as the permission was not granted in time. The department had informed the court earlier that the permission was not given as the requisite documents were not submitted in prescribed format.

The permission also included her services as head coach for the Indian national team to prepare for the Asian Games 2026.

Tearing apart the reasoning of the Jammu and Kashmir administration which included an official order handed over in June this year to the sportswoman, the court said it is under no iota of doubt that the government order "is at the cost and reputation of the India as a Nation in the matter of representation of Indian Team in the sports of kayaking and canoeing intended and meant to be coached" by Mir "because of her own established sporting credentials as a sportswoman and as a coach".

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etor of K K Motors, Abdul Hamid and others. Following this, they said, the chargesheet was filed before the court of the City Judge, Jammu, in connection with a case registered in 2024. According to the complaint, Abdul Hamid availed a loan under the SBI Tatkal tractor loan scheme to purchase a tractor from K K Motors.

They said the loan amount was transferred to the dealer's account via NEFT after all formalities were completed. However, officials said the tractor was never delivered to the borrower despite the bank getting payment, resulting in wrongful loss to the bank and misuse of public funds.

During the investigation, the EOW found that Kulbir Singh and Abdul Hamid had allegedly secured the loan by submitting fake and forged revenue documents. The probe further revealed that the loan amount was diverted to K K Motors' account and the financed tractor was never supplied to the borrower, they said.

They said the investigation, backed by documentary evidence, witness statements, financial records, and other corroborative material, led to the filing of the chargesheet before the court for judicial proceedings.

The Crime Branch appealed to the public to remain vigilant against economic frauds, report such offences to the EOW and submit complaints through the Crime Branch's designated email or helpline, officials said.

Pellet..

exceptional cases, police regulations permit the use of pellet guns. If you are interested in phasing out pellet guns, you will have to challenge that very provision as ultra vires to Article 21 (right to life)," Justice Bagchi said.

The bench took note of the submissions of senior advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for the petitioners, and asked the Delhi government to provide the best treatment to Prashant Kumar, Sheikh Irshad Mansoori and others who suffered pellet gun injuries during the July 20 protest here.

Former Central Information Commissioner and retired IPS officer Yashovardhan Azad and the two victims had moved the court seeking a complete ban on the use of metallic pellet guns to deal with law and order situations.

The bench issued a notice to the Centre and the Inspector General of Police, RAF, on the plea by Azad and the two victims.

At the outset, Justice Bagchi said that the prayer for a ban on the use of pellet guns for civilian crowd dispersal was "vague" without challenging the police regulations, which permit the use of such weapons.

Grover said it was not easy to find such regulations in the public domain, and urged the bench to direct the Centre to place them on record.

Singh and Mansoori reportedly suffered pellet injuries during the 'Sansad Chalo' march called by the Cuckroach Janata Party (CJP) on July 20.

Grover said as regards the petitioners, metallic pellets were used, and they were recovered from their bodies.

"I am not saying pellet guns should not be in the armoury of the RAF or not. Here it is different. They have used metallic pellets," she said.

The bench said it was not averse to examining the use of pellets in a particular incident and the petitioners must show if it was permissible under a "graded approach".

The senior lawyer said she was confining her reliefs to metallic pellets.

"There is no standing order of the Delhi Police which permits the use of pellets. That is why my difficulty arises, and I have to rely on BPRD. If there is such a standing order, the Union may place it on record. I am sure the Union and the Delhi Police do not wish to fire pellets on innocent youngsters," she said.

"I could not find any such standing order of the Delhi Police at all," Grover said.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the government will do whatever is necessary to assist the bench.

Grover said the top court on July 28 directed the preservation of CCTV, drone and body camera footage and wireless logs, and did not specifically refer to the ammunition logs of the RAF.

"Whatever is required for investigation will be preserved," the solicitor general said.

The bench said a bona fide protest may turn violent at any point, perhaps due to the infiltration of anti-social elements, and "graded responses" by law enforcement might sometimes be necessary.

The forces may have to take on the spot decision based on the event, the law officer said.

Yashovardhan Azad approached the top court seeking a nationwide ban on the use of wholly or partly metallic pellet ammunition fired from pump-action or projectile action guns for dispersing civilian assemblies, contending that such weapons are inherently incompatible with constitutional standards governing the use of force.

The petition also sought exemplary compensation, comprehensive medical treatment and rehabilitation for all persons allegedly injured in the incident.

According to the petition, the RAF, deployed to assist the Delhi Police in crowd management during the protests, resorted to tear gas, lathi-charge and subsequently fired pump-action guns loaded with metallic pellets near Connaught Place.

The petitioners alleged that no prior warning or announcement was issued before the escalation in the use of force and that several protesters suffered serious injuries, including eye injuries.

According to the plea, pellet guns, though often described as "less-lethal" weapons, disperse hundreds of projectiles over a wide area, making them incapable of precise targeting and creating a substantial risk of grave injuries to the eyes and other vital organs.

Such weapons fail the constitutional tests of necessity, proportionality and reasonableness governing restrictions on the fundamental right to peaceful assembly under Article 19(1)(b), it contended.

CM Omar...

facilities, solid waste management, land acquisition and other critical projects aimed at improving public service delivery. The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department Mandeep Kaur, Managing Director, J&K State Power Development Corporation, Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Ganderbal and Bandipora, Director Tourism Kashmir, Chief Engineer R&B, Chief Engineer Irrigation & Flood Control, Secretary J&K Sports Council, district officers and other senior officials. The outstation officers attended the meeting via video conferencing.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal presented a detailed overview of the district's priority development issues requiring urgent government intervention. He highlighted the need to expedite land acquisition for several road widening projects and the approach road to the Paribal-Takanwari bridge, to strengthen irrigation canals and power canal embankments, improving road connectivity to the Central University of Kashmir, development of tourism infrastructure and a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Manasbal.

Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal also raised issues relating to the rehabilitation of shopkeepers displaced due to the widening of Ring Road Phase-II, construction of strategic link roads, establishment of an Integrated Solid Waste Management Plant, besides several other people-centric ini-

tiatives aimed at enhancing infrastructure and public services across the district.

After reviewing the projects in detail, the Chief Minister directed all concerned departments to work in close coordination to remove bottlenecks, expedite pending approvals and ensure the time-bound completion of all ongoing and proposed developmental works.

He emphasized that delays in execution should be minimized and directed the departments to maintain close inter-departmental coordination so that the benefits of development reach the people without unnecessary delay.

The Chief Minister reiterated that the government remains committed to balanced and inclusive development across Jammu and Kashmir, with a focus on strengthening infrastructure, improving civic amenities and addressing genuine public concerns through efficient governance and coordinated action.

During his visit, the Chief Minister also met several public deputations and individuals at Dak Bungalow Ganderbal, and patiently heard their grievances and development-related demands.

The deputations represented various areas of the district, including Safapora, Nuner, Manigam, Lar, Sherpathri, Shalhabugh, Waskura, Wakura, Manasbal, Gutlibagh, Beehama, Rangil, Saloor, Wayil, Batwina and other villages.

The deputations raised a wide range of issues concerning drinking water supply, irrigation facilities, desilting of canals, upgradation of educational and healthcare institutions, availability of adequate staff in health centres, development of playgrounds and new playfields, sports infrastructure, tourism-related facilities and other local development concerns.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all the deputations and directed the concerned officers to examine the issues raised and take appropriate action in a time-bound manner. He assured the people that their genuine concerns would be addressed on priority and reiterated his government's commitment to responsive, transparent and people-centric governance.

Properties...

spokesman said, adding that the accused is currently on bail. The second attached property comprises a three-storeyed residential house along with two commercial shops and the land underneath, situated at Pathar Masjid, Zainakadal, Srinagar, belonging to Altaf Ahmad Najar alias T K Khan, he said.

The property, with an approximate market value of Rs 55 lakh, has been attached under Section 68-F of Chapter VA of the NDPS Act, 1985, in connection with an FIR registered under Sections 8/21 of the NDPS Act at the Kral Khud police station, he said.

The accused is under preventive detention under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act, 1988, he added.

Both properties were identified during investigation as having been acquired through proceeds generated from illicit narcotics trafficking, the spokesman said.

The attachment proceedings were carried out after obtaining due approval from the Competent Authority (SAFEMA), New Delhi, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VA of the NDPS Act, ensuring strict adherence to all legal and procedural safeguards, he said.

Omar...

the way force is being used and innocent people are being targeted -- we can only hope that peace is maintained there," he added.

Asked if the protest by the National Conference in Delhi on July 20 over the issue of statehood had yielded any results, Abdullah said a single protest would not bring results.

"If results came out of one protest, then all the issues raised by the Cuckroach Janta Party would have been resolved when they held their first protest there for a single day," he said.

The chief minister said his party held the demonstration in Delhi "knowing that we won't gain anything from the very first protest".

"But at least we are marking our stance. At least you people (mediapersons) keep asking us about statehood, but the rest of the country's media forgets that a promise was made to Jammu and Kashmir which has not been fulfilled yet."

On the opposition PDP's announcement of holding protests across the Union territory on August 5, Abdullah said his party did not wait for August 5, and went to Delhi to raise the issue.

"This August 5 protest has now become a compulsion for those people. We didn't wait, we went to Delhi earlier. We got our resolution passed in the assembly. The assembly has passed a resolution regarding Jammu and Kashmir's special status and constitutional guarantees and sent it to the Centre," he said.

Earlier in the day, the chief minister inspected various development works in Ganderbal -- the constituency he represents.

Delhi...

identified more than 2,800 people with criminal background who participated in the protest march.

"Government of NCT of Delhi does not propose to take any further adverse action against the individuals involved in the protests, and the matter shall be treated as closed without any future proceedings on this account," the home department said in its order.

It stated that no adverse legal action will be taken by any of the police authorities within NCT of Delhi against those persons who have been involved in these protests.

The protection, however, shall not extend to persons having criminal antecedents, as mandated in the recent order of Supreme Court, the order said.

The July 20 violence took place during the march from Jantar Mantar to Parliament in New Delhi district.

Ahead of the protest, Delhi Police had significantly stepped up security across the New Delhi district and other sensitive locations, deploying large numbers of personnel, paramilitary forces, barricades, anti-riot equipment and network jammers.

The police had maintained that no permission was sought for the march towards Parliament and clarified that the protesters would not be allowed to proceed into the high-security zone. According to the police, several thousand protesters attempted to breach barricades at multiple locations in New Delhi district during the march, triggering clashes with security personnel. Security personnel used tear gas shells and lathicharge to disperse the crowd after repeated appeals to maintain order failed, while protesters allegedly pelted stones and damaged public property. Around 200 personnel were injured, while over 65 protesters were also hurt in the violence, according to the police. The police had said that over 15 vehicles were damaged during the protest. Delhi Police had also registered FIR at the Special Cell police station against some social media handles for allegedly using derogatory remarks against the prime minister.

The police have also identified over 2,800 people with criminal background. Police officials said that they have identified such people using facial recognition system (FRS) high resolution camera installed at the Jantar Mantar.

Following the clashes, Delhi Police detained several protesters. Senior officers later clarified that all the detained were released.

On the Auspicious Occasion of Guru Purnima, OBC Morcha Team Seeks Blessings of Gurus at Munchintala Ashram



NEW DELHI, JULY 30

On the sacred occasion of Guru Purnima, the Telangana BJP OBC Morcha team participated in the Guru Vandana programme held at Munchintala Ashramam and received the blessings of the Gurus. With immense devotion and

reverence, everyone had the divine darshan of Pujya Shri Chinna Jeeyar Swamiji Maharaj, paid their respects, and received his gracious blessings. His timeless guidance inspires us to serve society with humility, righteousness, and unwavering dedication. The disciples present on this sacred occasion

were, Anand Goud Ji, BJP Telangana OBC Morcha State President; Perika Suresh Ji, BJP National Member, Media - OBC Morcha, Prabhakar Yadav Ji, State General Secretary, A. Ramesh Ji, State Treasurer; Suman Ji, State Secretary; Narsingi Ji, Shri Prabhu Poojari Ji; and dedicated BJP OBC Morcha karyakartas. All of them participated in the Guru Vandana programme and made their lives blessed. On this occasion, Perika Suresh said that a Guru is the light that removes ignorance and leads us onto the path of Dharma. He said that knowledge is not possible without a Guru, and without knowledge, the presence and grace of God are impossible. Guru teaches us values, education and to follow the fundamental ideals of life, which are very important for all of us to live a happy, prosperous, and peaceful life.

Free Eye Check-up Camp for Children Organized by Inner Wheel Club Mohali Blissful

(AJAY PURI)
MOHALI, JULY 30

The team of Inner Wheel Club Mohali Blissful, in collaboration with the JPI Hospital team, organized a free eye check-up camp for children today. A total of 105 children underwent eye examinations during the camp. Eye drops were also distributed free of cost. Children diagnosed with weak eyesight will be provided free spectacles within the next few days. On the occasion, members of the club urged people to take proper care of their eyes and to pledge



eye donation during their lifetime so that they can bring light into the lives of visually impaired individ-

uals. The JPI Hospital team emphasized that the eyes are one of the most delicate organs of the human

body and should be protected with utmost care. They advised that if anyone experiences blurred vision, darkness before the eyes, headaches while reading, or difficulty seeing clearly, it may indicate weak eyesight. In such cases, an eye examination should be conducted without delay. Those present at the event included Asha Sood (Secretary), Laxmi Kaur (Editor), Ravinder Bhatia (ISO), Lovely Kapoor, Vijay Sood, and Gurpreet Kaur of Inner Wheel Club Mohali Blissful.

APEDA Facilitates First-Ever Sea Shipment Of Value-Added Flavoured Makhana From Bihar To Canada

NEW DELHI, JULY 30

Lucknow, Jul 30: The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has facilitated the first-ever sea shipment of value-added flavoured makhana (fox nuts) from Bihar to Canada, marking a significant step in expanding the global footprint of the state's premium agricultural produce while boosting returns for farmers through value addition.

The inaugural consignment, comprising seven metric tonnes packed in two containers, was flagged off from Darbhanga on July 29 and dispatched to ZKV Foods in Canada through Mundra Port. The flavoured makhana was processed and packaged by Nutrivin Agro Private Limited in accordance with interna-



tional quality and food safety standards. The shipment marks a milestone in promoting Bihar's value-added agricultural exports and highlights the state's growing capabilities in food processing, branding and export-oriented manufacturing. APEDA Chairman Abhishek Dev, who flagged off the consignment, said collaborative efforts by exporters, processors, farmers, industry stakeholders and APEDA have strengthened Bihar's agri-export

ecosystem and expanded global market access for the state's unique agricultural products. The event was attended by Dr. Manoj Kumar, Scientist at the ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region's Research Centre for Makhana in Darbhanga, District Agriculture Marketing Officer Loknath Thakur, senior APEDA officials, exporters and stakeholders associated with the makhana value chain. Bihar is India's largest

producer of makhana, popularly known as fox nuts, and the crop has witnessed rising demand in international markets due to increasing consumer preference for nutritious and healthy snack options. Officials said the export of flavoured makhana is expected to diversify export opportunities while enhancing the international recognition of the state's flagship agricultural product. According to the Commerce & Industry Ministry, value addition has enabled farmers associated with the makhana supply chain to realise more than 50 per cent higher returns by improving market access and increasing the value of the product. The initiative also demonstrates the potential of processing, branding and export-oriented manufacturing in enhancing the competitiveness.

Centre Holds Meeting With Chhattisgarh, Odisha CMs To Advance Amicable Settlement Of Mahanadi Water Dispute

NEW DELHI, JULY 30

Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Paatil on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting with the Chief Ministers of Chhattisgarh and Odisha to facilitate an amicable settlement of the long-pending Mahanadi water dispute, with both states reaffirming their commitment to continue technical consultations in a constructive manner.

The meeting, attended by Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, was also attended by senior officials of Jal Shakti Ministry, the Central Water Commission (CWC) and the two state governments. The discussions mark another step in the Centre's efforts to resolve the inter-state river dispute through dialogue, technical cooperation and the



principles of cooperative federalism. Addressing the meeting, Paatil described the Mahanadi as a lifeline for millions of people in both states and stressed that dialogue, mutual trust and technical cooperation remain the most effective means of achieving an equitable, sustainable and mutually acceptable solution. The meeting reviewed the progress made over the years in efforts to resolve issues related to the sharing of Mahanadi waters. The Centre noted that the Mahanadi Water Disputes

Tribunal (MWDT) was constituted on March 12, 2018, under the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, following a request from the Odisha government, and that its tenure had been extended to ensure adequate opportunity for all parties to present their views. According to the Ministry, the dispute resolution process has gathered fresh momentum with both states expressing willingness to pursue a negotiated settlement through mutual cooperation and technical consultations. The meeting also reviewed the work of

the Joint Technical Committee, which has held several meetings and reached consensus on a number of technical issues. It took note of the newly expanded Technical Committee, chaired by the Chairman of the Central Water Commission and comprising representatives from both state governments, which held its first meeting on July 29 to carry forward discussions on the remaining technical matters. Paatil said recent progress in resolving inter-state water issues demonstrates that even complex disputes can be settled through sustained dialogue and consensus-building. He cited the signing of the Yamuna Water Project Agreement, progress in implementing the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal Award, and consensus on the Modified Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal (MPKC).

The Supreme Court's strong comments on the use of force during the Jantar Mantar student protest on July 30, 2026, have sparked a new constitutional debate: democratic protest, state security responsibility, and command accountability :A comprehensive business analysis.

Following the Supreme Court's comments, the issue has become a broader constitutional debate on democratic protest, student rights, state security powers, adherence to SOPs, evidence preservation, and command-level accountability.

While peaceful protest, assembly, and expression are important means of citizen participation in a democratic system, the state also has a responsibility to ensure public safety, prevent violence, protect the lives and property of citizens, and maintain public order.-

Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhawnani, Gondia, Maharashtra

NIWA NEWS
GONDIA, JULY 25

Globally, the quality of democracy is measured not only by elections, but also by how the state deals with dissent, protests, and public movements. The question of the use of force against student protests is no longer limited to police action or law and order. It has become a serious constitutional question of balance between the right to democratic protest, the state's security responsibility, the legality of the use of force, command accountability, and judicial oversight. I, Advocate Kishan Sanmukhdas Bhawnani, Gondia, Maharashtra, believe that the Supreme Court's observations and directions on July 30, 2026, in the case related to the student protest at Delhi's Jantar Mantar area on July 20, 2026, and the alleged use of pellet guns by the Rapid Action Force during the protest, have elevated this debate to a significant level not only nationally but also internationally in terms of democratic standards. The Court clearly indicated that the use of any specific type of force in the name of crowd control cannot be a means of routine administrative convenience. The legality of the use of force is determined not only by whether the situation was tense, but also by the severity of the actual threat, whether less harmful alternatives were available, whether the action was necessary and proportionate, and whether the entire process was conducted in accordance with established law and standard operating procedures. Friends, in the hearing on July 30, 2026, the Supreme Court observed that the police may have the authority to use pellet guns only in extremely serious and extraordinary circumstances. This observation underscores the principle of graded response, i.e., a gradual and controlled response according to the gravity of the situation. This means that the same type of force cannot be used for every situation in crowd control. In a democratic system, peaceful protest, assembly, and expression are important means of citizen participation. On the other hand, the state also has the responsibility to maintain public safety, prevent violence, protect the lives and property of citizens, and maintain public order. Striking a balance between these two obligations is one of the most difficult responsibilities of the administration. If a demonstration is peaceful, forcibly ending it simply because of dissent or political criticism cannot be considered in accordance with democratic values. However, if a demonstration results in serious violence, arson, a deadly attack, or a widespread public threat, the state cannot remain inactive. Therefore, the fundamental question is not whether force should be used, but when, why, under what authority, to what extent, and with what accountability. Friends, the Supreme Court's direction to the Central Government to preserve the logbook records related to the weapons and ammunition of the Rapid Action Force deployed during the Jantar Mantar demonstration is a very important and far-reaching aspect of this entire issue. This order does not declare any soldier, officer, or institution guilty. The Court has emphasized the need to preserve necessary evidence before reaching any conclusion. The primary basis for a fair investigation under the rule of law is to ensure that facts are not destroyed, records are not altered, and that necessary documents are available for future judicial or independent investigation. Ammunition logs can help understand how much ammunition was issued to the unit concerned, how much was used, what types of equipment or cartridges were available, at what time and at what level their use was recorded, and the administrative chain of action. This record allows for an understanding of events based on documentary evidence, not just allegations or counter-allegations. Friends, the importance of record preservation is



heightened because in any controversial use-of-force incident, two opposing narratives often emerge. One side may claim that the action was unnecessary or excessive, while the other may argue that the security forces faced a grave threat and took necessary action in accordance with the law. In such a situation, objectivity is established not simply by accepting one side's version, but by examining the available evidence. If digital records, videos, wireless communications, duty charts, orders, ammunition logs, and other documents demonstrate that the use of force was proportionate to the actual threat, under lawful orders, and in accordance with established SOPs, these records can strengthen the professional credibility of the security forces. Conversely, if discrepancies are found between the records and the actual events, they may provide grounds for establishing accountability. Therefore, preserving ammunition logs is not merely a potential investigation, but also an impartial preservation of both sides' facts. This can serve as an institutional safeguard for the judicial process as well as for the security forces. Friends, the Supreme Court also emphasized the state's humanitarian responsibility by directing the Delhi government to ensure the best and appropriate treatment for civilians and protesters injured by pellet gun pellets. The administration's responsibility after any crowd control action does not end with the restoration of law and order. If a citizen is injured, providing timely medical assistance, specialized treatment, necessary investigations, and rehabilitation is a crucial part of the state's responsibility. Injuries to the eyes, face, or sensitive parts of the body, in particular, can have long-term or permanent effects. Therefore, medical assistance should not be viewed merely as an act of relief or sympathy, but as a responsibility of public administration. International human rights standards also recognize the principle that medical assistance should be provided to injured individuals as soon as possible after law enforcement action. In this sense, the Court's direction is not merely a medical order, but a reminder of the state's duty-based humanitarian responsibility. Friends, in this case, a petition filed by a former Central Information Commissioner, a retired IPS officer, and other victims, seeking a complete ban on the use of pellet guns during civil protests, brought an important dimension to the debate. The petitioners' counsel raised serious questions about the use of allegedly metallic pellets, arguing that such pellets can cause serious and permanent damage within the body. The central concern behind this argument is that it is not sufficient to deem any crowd-control device less lethal based solely on its name or stated purpose. The actual effectiveness of a device must be assessed based on its technical nature, the distance of use, the target, the circumstances, training, and the method of use. A device may be relatively less lethal, but its misuse, excessive, or uncontrolled use can cause serious injuries. Therefore, the nature of the device, as well as the method of its use, must be subject to legal and ethical scrutiny. Friends,

however, the Supreme Court's advice to petitioners to consider the formulation of clear and stringent protocols or standard operating procedures, rather than seeking a complete ban, can be seen as a pragmatic and balanced judicial approach. A third path between a complete ban on a device and its unchecked use could be strict regulation, limited use, clear permission processes, mandatory recording independent review, and accountability. The Court's reference to the Bureau of Police Research and Development's advisory indicates that clear standards, a trained command structure, and documented procedures are essential for crowd control. If a particular device is to be used only in exceptional circumstances, it should also be clear what the definition of "extraordinary circumstance" will be, who will assess the threat, what level of permission will be granted, whether prior warnings will be given, whether less harmful alternatives will be used, and what post-action review will be conducted. Friends, in this context, the CRPF Director General's statement regarding the need for soldiers to fearlessly perform their duties and take responsibility for their legitimate and bona fide official actions has sparked a new administrative and constitutional debate. Soldiers in any security force must be confident that if they act in difficult circumstances, in accordance with valid orders, training, rules, and established procedures, they will not be subjected to political pressure, media trials, or personal scapegoating without factual investigation. Security personnel often make decisions in stressful, uncertain, and rapidly changing circumstances. In such an environment, institutional support, clear orders, adequate training, and a system of impartial investigations are essential for their morale. If a tendency develops to blame only the lowest-level personnel on the ground after every controversial action, it can impact the command system, professional judgment, and efficiency of the security apparatus. But another, more important aspect of this statement is command accountability. Friends, this entire episode also raises a broader policy debate for India. Modern, clear, and publicly available protocols for crowd control should be developed at the national level. These could include provisions for the sequential use of force, a process for dialogue and warning, the role of trained negotiators, assessment of the nature of the crowd, special precautions for vulnerable groups such as women and students, medical assistance, video recording, body cameras, command logs, and independent post-incident reviews.

A timely "after-action review" following each serious use-of-force incident would also be useful, assessing whether the action was necessary, lawful, and proportionate, and what improvements could be made to handle the situation with less harm in the future. The role of dialogue becomes even more crucial in the context of student protests. Students are not merely a law and order challenge; they raise questions related to education, employment, examinations, opportunities, transparency, and the future in the public arena. It is not appropriate to automatically consider every student protest as peaceful or violent. The administration should make a factual assessment of the situation. If the protest is peaceful, dialogue, facilitation, security, and the right to peaceful assembly should be prioritized. If some elements resort to violence, responsibility should be individualized and evidence-based; it would not be fair to view the entire movement or all protesters with the same slant. Similarly, if security forces are attacked or a serious threat is posed, that fact should also be investigated impartially. Democratic balance does not mean accepting one side's story, but examining all facts with equal seriousness.

The Crop Insurance Scheme has proved to be a deception for farmers: Hooda

**NIWA NEWS
RAMESH SAINI
CHANDIGARH, JULY 30**

Former Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda said that the crop insurance scheme has turned out to be nothing more than a deception for farmers. When the scheme was launched, grand promises were made. But today, the number of beneficiaries has fallen to less than half. This time, the government itself did not give farmers adequate time to register for the Kharif season. The notification, which used to be issued every year between June 20 and 25, was issued this time on July 24. This meant that 1.120 million farmers were given barely a week to complete their registration. It appears that not only the farmers, but even the government itself has lost faith in this scheme. The way the scheme has operated so far makes it clear that farmers have not benefited even in the slightest. Instead, thousands of crores of rupees have been taken from them, while the coffers of private companies have been filled.



As a result, the number of beneficiaries under the scheme, which was around 2.4 million in 2018–19, fell to just 1.1 million by 2024–25. There is also concern that this time, because of the limited registration period, server outages, and other administrative formalities, farmers will lose valuable time and many of them may not even be able to apply. Bhupinder Singh Hooda has demanded that the application deadline be extended. He also said that instead of benefiting private companies, the government should focus on the welfare of farmers and provide

immediate compensation whenever necessary. He demanded that all pending compensation be paid without delay. He also asked the BJP government to explain why the amount of compensation paid under the scheme keeps decreasing every year while the premium amount continues to increase.

According to Minister of State for Agriculture Ramnath Thakur from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, ₹2,518.66 crore was paid under crop insurance in Haryana during 2022–23, but this dropped sharply to just ₹265.23 crore in 2023–24. Meanwhile, in 2023–24, farmers contributed ₹154.9 crore in premiums, the central government contributed ₹246.6 crore, and assuming the state government contributed an equal amount, a total of ₹648.1 crore went into the insurance company's coffers. This meant that the insurance company made a net profit of ₹382.9 crore. Similarly, in 2024–25, the compensation amount fell even further to ₹262.6 crore. During 2024–25, farmers contributed ₹280.3 crore in premiums, the central government.

The Municipal Corporation cracks down on major defaulters; sealing and attachment action will begin from September - Saloni Sharma, Municipal Commissioner.

**NIWA NEWS
SHALINDER JAIN
KARNAL, JULY 30**

The Municipal Corporation has intensified action to achieve record property tax collection; notices are being issued to defaulters owing crores of rupees.

The Municipal Corporation has stepped up its efforts to achieve the target of record property tax collection. The Property Tax Branch is issuing notices to major defaulters in a phased manner to ensure the recovery of the maximum possible outstanding tax. Municipal Commissioner Saloni Sharma said that the Haryana Government's special 75% waiver on interest on outstanding property tax is available until August 31. She



appealed to all defaulters to take advantage of this opportunity and deposit their outstanding tax on time. She said that in the first phase, notices have already been issued to institutions and departments with property tax dues exceeding ₹1 crore. Simultaneously, in the second phase, notices are being issued to defaulters with outstanding dues ranging from ₹50 lakh to ₹1 crore. Within the next week, all defaulters in this category will receive their notices. The Municipal Commissioner said that

the Municipal Corporation's objective is to maximize property tax collection by August 31. For this purpose, officers and employees of the Property Tax Branch are working with full seriousness and dedication. Every major defaulter is being monitored, and continuous action is being taken to ensure payment within the prescribed time limit. She clarified that if defaulters do not deposit their property tax during August, the Municipal Corporation will initiate strict action against them from

September. Such defaulters' properties will be sealed and attached in accordance with the rules. She urged all defaulters to deposit their outstanding tax within the stipulated time to avoid any inconvenience later. Outstanding service charges from Central Government departments and institutions. The Municipal Commissioner stated that a substantial amount remains outstanding as service charges from various Central Government departments and institutions. These include Rs.132 crore from the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Rs.24.53 crore from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Rs.1.03 crore from the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

PM Modi's "One Tree in Mother's Name" campaign has turned environmental conservation into a mass movement: Vedpal Advocate

**NIWA NEWS
SOHAN LAL SAINI
KURUKSHETRA,
JULY 30**

Haryana HSAMB Chairman Vedpal Advocate said that the "One Tree in Mother's Name" campaign launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has transformed environmental conservation into a nationwide public movement. Climate change has become a serious challenge for the entire world today. Rising temperatures, untimely rainfall, falling groundwater levels, and pollution cannot be



addressed through government schemes alone but require public participation. Therefore, everyone must not only take part in tree plantation drives but also protect and care for the saplings they plant. Chairman Vedpal Advocate was addressing the gathering as the chief guest on Thursday at the inaugura-

tion of the 77th District-Level Van Mahotsav (Forest Festival) held at the Government Polytechnic Institute, Umri. Before the event, HSAMB Chairman Vedpal Advocate, former Minister of State Subhash Sudha, Chairman Subhash Kalsana, Chairman Gurnam Saini, Zila Parishad Chairman

Kanwaljit Kaur, Municipal Council Chairperson Mafi Dhanda, BJP District President Ramesh Saini, Zila Parishad Vice-Chairman D.P. Chaudhary, Deputy Commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena, senior BJP leader Jaibhagwan Sharma, and Government Polytechnic Institute Umri Acting Principal Kamal Sachdeva formally inaugurated the Van Mahotsav by planting saplings under the "One Tree in Mother's Name" campaign. During the event, all the guests also watched the state-level program held in Karnal (Gharaunda).

Sharp attack by Energy Minister Anil Vij over attacks on students and police: The law is equal for everyone; Rahul Gandhi should speak reasonably

**NIWA NEWS
MOHAN SAINI
AMBALA, JULY 30**

Haryana's Energy, Transport, and Labour Minister Anil Vij strongly reacted to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's statement regarding the student protest, in which Gandhi said that Home Minister Amit Shah's absence from Parliament reflected a "sense of guilt." Vij said that Rahul Gandhi says one thing, whereas the law is equal for everyone. If anyone committed brutality against students, action should be taken against them, and if anyone committed brutality against police personnel, action



should also be taken against them. He said that 120 police personnel were injured, but Rahul Gandhi says nothing about them. "One should speak fairly. They have suffered injuries too—who caused them? The law is equal for everyone. Those who unnecessarily assaulted students should face

action, and those who assaulted police personnel should also face action." He further said that around 2,800 criminals had been identified as being present there. Rahul Gandhi says nothing about them. "Who brought these criminals there? Someone must have called them. They have committed crimes. Who called them and why? Every aspect should be investigated. It cannot be that only what Rahul Gandhi says will be accepted. Rahul Gandhi repeatedly mentions Amit Shah's name. What evidence does he have that Amit Shah gave any orders? On what basis is he taking his name?"

Energy Minister Anil Vij said that a duty magistrate is present at the spot and makes decisions there. "If extremists start firing every time, are we supposed to ask the Home Minister what to do? Rahul Gandhi talks like a child. One should speak only on the basis of facts." Taking a swipe at Rahul Gandhi, Anil Vij said, "The residence where your grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru served as Prime Minister, where your grandmother served as Prime Minister, where your father Rajiv Gandhi served as Prime Minister—and today your condition is such that you are lying outside its gate."

'One Tree in Mother's Name' campaign sends a strong message of environmental conservation from Haryana: Saini

** At the 77th State-Level Van Mahotsav, the Chief Minister planted a sapling and called for making nature conservation a people's movement.*

** The Mayor said—every citizen should plant a tree and pledge to protect it; only then will the campaign be meaningful.*

**NIWA NEWS
RAMESH SAINI
KARNAL, JULY 30**

At the 77th State-Level Van Mahotsav held at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya University of Health Sciences in Kutel village, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini planted a sapling under the "One Tree in Mother's Name" campaign, delivering an inspiring message of environmental conservation and respect for mothers. The Chief Minister said that trees are not only priceless treasures of nature but also the foundation of a safe, prosperous, and healthy future for coming generations. He urged the people of the state to plant as many trees as possible, pledge to protect them, and turn this campaign into a mass movement through public participation. On this occasion, Haryana Legislative Assembly Speaker Harvinder



Kalyan, Environment, Forest and Wildlife Minister Rao Narbir Singh, BJP State President Dr. Archana Gupta, Chief Whip Ram Kumar Kashyap, Karnal MLA Jagmohan Anand, Assandh MLA Yogendra Rana, Nilokheri MLA Bhagwandas Kabirpanthi,

BJP District President Praveen Lathar, along with several public representatives and distinguished citizens, participated in the campaign and spread the message of environmental conservation. Karnal Mayor Renu Bala Gupta also actively participated in this State-Level

Van Mahotsav and reaffirmed her commitment to taking the campaign to every section of society. She said that "One Tree in Mother's Name" is not merely a tree-planting program but a social campaign that connects nature, culture, and emotions. If every citizen plants a tree in honor of their mother and commits to caring for it regularly, not only Haryana but the entire country can become greener, cleaner, and more environmentally prosperous. Mayor Renu Bala Gupta said that environmental conservation is the greatest need of the present time. Public participation is essential to address the challenges of climate change.

She appealed to citizens, especially the youth, to plant more trees, protect them, and play an active role in creating a greener and healthier environment for future generations.

The Kanwar Yatra began today with heavy security and traffic diversions!

**NIWA NEWS
DR. SUNITA PUNDARIK
ROORKEE, JULY 30**

The holy month of Shravan has begun, along with the Kanwar Yatra. As soon as the month of Shravan arrives, chants of "Bol Bam" and "Har Har Mahadev" echo everywhere. Millions of Kanwariyas bring the sacred water of the Ganges to perform the *jalabhishek* (ritual water offering) to Lord Shiva. The Kanwar Yatra will conclude on **August 11, 2026**, which is also the day Shravan Shivratri will



be celebrated. After completing their pilgrimage, Kanwariyas will offer the holy Ganges water to Lord Shiva on the occasion of Shravan Shivratri.

According to religious belief, offering *jalabhishek* to Lord Shiva on Shravan Shivratri pleases Him and fulfills all the wishes of His devotees.

The Kanwar Yatra is considered one of the largest religious pilgrimages associated with the devotion to Lord Shiva. During this journey, Kanwariyas bring Ganges water to offer to Lord Shiva. Throughout the pilgrimage, devotees adopt a simple lifestyle and continue their journey with devotion, chanting the name of Mahadev. In view of this, a traffic diversion plan will remain in effect from today until **August 11**. Considering the huge influx of Kanwariyas, separate routes have been designated for Kanwar

Awareness Campaign on the POCSO Act

**NIWA NEWS
RAMESH SAINI
KARNAL, JULY 30**

District Child Protection Officer, said that under the awareness campaign organized by the District Child Protection Committee, training on the POCSO Act was conducted on Thursday at St. Theresa Convent School. He stated that, under the Department of Women and Child Development, the committee works for the welfare and protection of needy and destitute children aged 0–18 years. He also provided information about the schemes being run by the department.

On this occasion, Counselor Dr. Poonam urged the children to break their silence and become aware of their rights. Students were informed about the POCSO Act, 2012, including how to recognize, avoid, and protect themselves from abuse, violence, and sexual exploitation. They were also told why there was a need to enact and implement this law. The main objective of the Act is to protect children aged 0–18 years from physical and sexual abuse and to inform them about the legal provisions for punishing offenders. She explained that those found guilty of such crimes can be sentenced to life imprisonment.

CWC member Suman informed the children about their rights. The children were also told that if they face any form of abuse, they can contact the Child Helpline at **1098** or the District Child Protection Officer. Advocate Monica Sharma of the Bar Council raised awareness among the children about cybercrime and other legal procedures related to children. Present on the occasion were the Protection Officer, DCPU Counselor, CWC members, Principal Dr. S.R. Reena D'Souza, Manager S.R. Tara, Coordinator Chetna, Counselor Vandana Vohra, teachers, and students.

Mayor inquired about the well-being of former Industries Minister, obtained health updates from doctors

**NIWA NEWS
RAMESH SAINI
KARNAL, JULY 30**

Prayed to God for his speedy recovery, also met with the former minister's family members

Mayor Renu Bala Gupta visited Rawal Hospital on Thursday and inquired about the well-being of senior BJP leader and former Haryana Industries Minister Shashi Pal Mehta. During this visit, she received information about his health and wished for his speedy recovery. She also gathered necessary health-related details from the doctors present and his family members. On this occasion, Mayor Renu Bala Gupta said that Shashi Pal Mehta has made a significant contribution to the development of society and the state through public service and organizational work over a long period. His experience, simplicity, dedication, and commitment to pub-



lic life are an inspiration for the new generation. She expressed confidence that with God's blessings and the continuous efforts of doctors, he will soon recover completely and once again actively participate in public service and nation-building efforts with the same energy, enthusiasm, and dedication.

The Mayor prayed to God and said that the Almighty should bless Shashi Pal Mehta with good health, longevity, happiness, prosperity, and the strength to continue serving society. She said that the entire BJP family and well-wishers stand with him. Everyone is praying for his speedy recovery.

DC Kulgam reviews ULBs functioning, performance outcomes and ongoing developmental projects

**NIWA NEWS
KULGAM, JULY 30:**

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam today reviewed the functioning of the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of the district, including Municipal Council Kulgam, Municipal Committees of Devsar, Yaripora and Frisal. Detailed discussions were held on sanitation, solid waste management, revenue generation, civic amenities, and the progress of various ongoing developmental works of ULBs of the district. The meeting assessed the status of major developmental projects



ects under MC Kulgam, including the establishment of the vending zone at Kulgam, development civic works at Ziyarat Sharief at Kulgam, creation of on-street parking near District Hospital, and

other infrastructure works. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to strengthen monitoring mechanisms, improve service delivery, address operational issues on priority, and ensure

timely completion of all developmental projects while maintaining quality standards. A detailed review of the Solid Waste Management system was also undertaken, including the operationalization of trommel machines and corresponding substantial increases in user charges. The DC directed the concerned officers to ensure optimum utilization of available infrastructure and uninterrupted operation of facilities for scientific processing, segregation and disposal of municipal solid waste. He emphasized achieving 100 percent door-to-door waste collection, strength-

ening source segregation, ensuring timely transportation of waste and proper waste disposal, and maintaining regular monitoring for improved sanitation and environmental sustainability. The progress of the Solid Waste Management (SWM) project at Yaripora, which is nearing completion, was also reviewed. The Deputy Commissioner discussed the proposal for installation of a trommel machine at the Yaripora SWM facility and directed the concerned officers to expedite the necessary formalities for its establishment.

SWD Bandipora holds Awareness Programme on Digital and Financial Literacy under AVAY at Hajin

**NIWA NEWS
BANDIPORA, JULY 30:**

Social Welfare Department (SWD), Bandipora, today organized an awareness programme on Digital and Financial Literacy under the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVAY) for senior citizens at Hajin.

The programme, held under the guidance of District Social Welfare Officer, Bandipora, aimed to equip senior citizens with essential knowledge and skills to safely use digital financial services, promote financial inclusion, and create awareness about cyber fraud prevention, online banking, digital



tal payment systems, and responsible financial management. Resource persons from the Centre for Financial Literacy, Hajin delivered detailed presentations on various aspects of digital and financial literacy. They educated the participants about secure digital transactions, banking serv-

ices, government-backed financial schemes, and precautionary measures to protect themselves from online financial fraud. The experts also held an interactive session and addressed the queries raised by the participants. Speaking on the occasion, Tehsil Social Welfare Officer, Sumbal.

ADDC Shopian reviews JJM progress, directs expedited completion of pending works

**NIWA NEWS
SHOPIAN, JULY 30:**

Additional District Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of works under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) across the district. During the meeting, the ADDC reviewed the physical and financial progress of all ongoing JJM schemes, including overhead tanks, borewells, Rapid Sand Filtration (RSF) plants, pipe network laying, ground service reservoirs, mechanical works, electrical installations and the certification status of villages. It was informed that out of 62 JJM schemes, 23 have been completed, while the



remaining schemes are at various stages of execution. The meeting also reviewed the progress of 121 overhead tanks, borewells, filtration plants, pipe network works, mechanical and electrical installations, besides the status of village certification and Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs). The district has achieved 42,234 Functional

Household Tap Connections out of a target of 45,598, registering 92.62% coverage. The ADDC stressed the need for timely completion of all pending works and directed the concerned officers to remove bottlenecks, improve inter-departmental coordination and ensure adherence to project timelines. He emphasized that every effort.

Waqar Knowledge Centre Bandipora hosts HSS Quilmuqam students for Career and Awareness Session

**NIWA NEWS
BANDIPORA, JULY 30:**

As part of the District Administration Bandipora's ongoing initiative, envisioned under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, students from Government Higher Secondary School Quilmuqam visited the Waqar Knowledge Centre at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora, on Thursday. The exposure visit aimed to enhance students' understanding of government schemes, career opportunities, and citizen-centric welfare initiatives. The programme was attended by ICDS Programme Officer, Yaar Ali Khan, Knowledge Centre officials, and escort teachers, who interacted with the students throughout the session. During the visit, resource persons introduced the students to the various desks functioning within the Knowledge



Centre and explained the services, government programmes, career guidance facilities, and public welfare initiatives offered through each section. They also highlighted the vision of the Knowledge Centre as a comprehensive platform that empowers youth through information, guidance, and access to opportunities across

different government departments. Students were acquainted with a wide range of services, with special emphasis on career counselling, youth empowerment, skill development, welfare programmes, and other government support systems. The interactive session helped them understand the role of the Knowledge Centre

as a one-stop destination for learning, guidance, and public awareness. The students participated enthusiastically, engaged in meaningful discussions, and raised thoughtful questions to gain a deeper understanding of the opportunities available to them. Addressing the gathering, the ICDS Programme Officer encouraged the students to remain informed about government initiatives, make well-planned career decisions, and actively utilise platforms like the Waqar Knowledge Centre for continuous learning, skill enhancement, and personal development. The exposure visit offered students valuable firsthand insight into various government services, welfare programmes, and career pathways, reaffirming the District Administration Bandipora's commitment to empowering young people through awareness, education, and meaningful engagement.

DLSA Ganderbal concludes Two-Day Training-cum-Orientation Programme for Legal Aid Functionaries

**NIWA NEWS
GANDERBAL, JULY 30:**

Under the guidance of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Ganderbal, and under the supervision of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal, the second and concluding day of the Two-Day Training-cum-Orientation Programme for Mediators, Panel Lawyers, Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADCs), Supporting Staff, and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) was successfully conducted



today at the Conference Hall, District Court Complex, Ganderbal. Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge),

Ganderbal, appreciated the active participation of all stakeholders and emphasized that such capacity-building initiatives are essential for strengthening the legal services delivery system and ensuring effective

access, accessible and quality legal aid to every deserving citizen. Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal, gave a brief recap of the deliberations of the previous day and reiterated the significance of continuous capacity building and coordinated efforts in strengthening the legal aid delivery system. The first technical session on "NALSA Schemes, Role of Para Legal Volunteers in Legal Awareness and Community Outreach, and Grassroots Access to Justice for all" was delivered by Adv. Burjeena, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel. The session highlighted the pivotal

role of Para Legal Volunteers in disseminating legal awareness by conducting outreach activities, facilitating access to legal aid and bridging the gap between legal services institutions and the community, especially the marginalized and vulnerable sections of society including women and children. The second technical session on "Professional Ethics, Courtroom Conduct, Effective Communication Skills and Best Practices for Legal Services Functionaries" was conducted by Adv. Ghulam Rasool Rather, who emphasized the importance of professional integrity, ethical standards.

Drugs & Food Control Organisation J&K intensifies Market Surveillance Draws 13 Medicine Samples for Quality Testing

**NIWA NEWS
SRINAGAR, JULY 30:**

In a major initiative to strengthen post-market surveillance of medicines, the Drugs & Food Control Organisation, J&K conducted a special sampling drive across the districts of Srinagar, Baramulla and Kupwara to ensure that only safe, efficacious and quality medicines are available to patients. The special drive with more than 30 inspections in medical sale establishments was carried out by teams of Drugs Control Officers from the three districts, with a focused strategy of lifting statutory drug samples of medicines manufactured by various lesser-known pharmaceutical companies. 13 samples have been drawn for detailed quality testing and dispatched to notified Government Drug Testing Laboratories to ascertain their compliance with the prescribed quality standards under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Rules.

During the drive, operation of one chemist M/s Aleena Medicate, near Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Hospital, Rainawari, was suspended for one day, for absence of qualified person. The drive forms part of the Department's intensified market surveillance programme aimed at proactively monitoring the quality of medicines available in the supply chain. By targeting products manufactured by lesser-known companies, the department seeks to strengthen regulatory oversight and ensure that medicines reaching the public conform to established standards of safety, efficacy and quality. Khalid Jahangeer, Commissioner, Food and Drugs Administration, J&K, reiterated that the Department remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring that every patient in the Union Territory has access to safe, effective and quality medicines. He said that surveillance and enforcement activities will continue to be intensified across Jammu and Kashmir.

KVK Srinagar Trains Youth in Honey Processing to promote Agri-Entrepreneurship

**NIWA NEWS
SRINAGAR, JULY 30:**

More than 50 youth received hands-on entrepreneurial training in honey processing, fruit preservation, value addition during a two-day Skill Development Programme jointly organised by Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Srinagar, under the Directorate of Extension, SKUAST-K, in collaboration with JK Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd. The programme focused on creating self-employment opportunities by equipping participants with practical skills across the honey and fruit value chain. Trainees received hands-on exposure to



honey collection, purification techniques, quality testing, bottling, labelling and marketing, alongside fruit and vegetable canning and value addition. Head, KVK Srinagar, Dr. Shamim A. Simnani, said the initiative reflects the Kendra's commitment to nurturing agri-entrepreneurs by inspiring educated youth to establish sustainable agri-based enterprises capable of generating

employment and strengthening livelihoods. Technical sessions were conducted by Dr. Haseeb Ur Rehman and experts from the Honey Processing Facility, Khonmoh, who highlighted the growing business potential in honey processing, fruit preservation, quality control, branding and market linkages. The experts encouraged participants to leverage

District-Level Sensitization Workshop on Tobacco Control held in Bandipora

**NIWA NEWS
BANDIPORA, JULY 30:**

To strengthen tobacco control measures and promote a tobacco-free environment, a District-Level Sensitization Workshop for Heads of Institutions and key stakeholders under the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) and the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003 was held on Thursday at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, Bandipora. The workshop was organised by the Tobacco Control Cell, Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir, in collaboration with the Health Department Bandipora.



Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Bandipora, Dr. Bhajan Kour, presided over the programme. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Bhajan Kour highlighted the harmful effects of tobacco consumption on public health and stressed the importance of effective implementation of the provisions of COTPA, 2003.

She called upon all stakeholders to work in close coordination to create greater awareness, ensure compliance with tobacco control laws, and protect the younger generation from the ill effects of tobacco use. The workshop was attended by officers from the National Tobacco Control

Programme (NTCP), Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK), who delivered technical presentations on tobacco control. On the occasion, Dr. Nabeel, District Nodal Officer, NTCP Bandipora, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the health hazards of tobacco use, while officers from DHSK made presentations on the objectives of NTCP, the provisions of COTPA, 2003, and strategies for the effective implementation and enforcement of tobacco control measures. The workshop sensitised participants about the objectives of the National Tobacco Control Programme, the legal provisions of COTPA, 2003, and the role of various

departments in enforcing tobacco control measures. Discussions also focused on strengthening inter-departmental coordination for the effective implementation of the Act across the district. Heads of Institutions and representatives from the Revenue, Police, Health, Drug and Food Safety, Education, Municipal Council, Municipal Committees, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and the Media participated in the workshop. The participants reaffirmed their commitment to supporting tobacco control initiatives through sustained awareness, coordinated enforcement.

Chief Secy takes stock of PMAY-U housing schemes for Urban Poor

Calls for Mission Mode Completion of Housing Projects across J&K



**NIWA NEWS
SRINAGAR, JULY 30:**

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, took a comprehensive review meeting of the Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) to evaluate the implementation of housing schemes for the urban poor under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) in Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was attended by the Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Commissioners of Jammu and Srinagar Municipal Corporations; Managing Director, J&K Housing Board; Director General, Codes; Chief Town Planners of Jammu and Kashmir; representatives of J&K Bank and other senior officers.

While speaking the Chief Secretary observed that access to affordable housing is one of the most fundamental aspirations and essential needs of every family, particularly those belonging to the urban poor. He noted that for economically weaker households, a significant share of their income is often consumed in meeting housing-related expenses, leaving limited resources for other basic necessities. He said that the PMAY-Urban serves as a transformative social welfare initiative by providing secure and dignified housing to eligible beneficiaries, thereby substantially reducing their financial burden. This, he added, enables such families to redirect their hard-earned income towards other critical needs such as education, healthcare, nutrition and improving their overall quality of life, ultimately

ly contributing to their long-term socio-economic empowerment. The Chief Secretary directed all Deputy Commissioners, Commissioners of Municipal Corporations to further mobilise field functionaries to expedite verification of applications, preparation and submission of DPRs, and timely release of eligible instalments to beneficiaries strictly in accordance with the guidelines of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. He emphasized that every eligible urban poor household should be covered under the scheme, while ensuring complete transparency, accountability and adherence to the standards specified in the scheme. He instructed officers to strengthen field-level monitoring through regular inspections and effective use of digital platforms for real-time track-

ing of progress. The Chief Secretary further impressed upon the officers to resolve all pending issues proactively, enhance public awareness regarding the benefits of the scheme and facilitate eligible beneficiaries in completing all procedural formalities so that no deserving household is left out. During the meeting, the Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur presented an overview of the implementation of PMAY-U 1.0 and PMAY-U 2.0, highlighting the physical and financial progress achieved across all districts of the Union Territory. Highlighting the progress under PMAY-U 1.0, the Commissioner Secretary revealed that against the revised sanctioned target of 36,412 dwelling units, 31,663 houses have already been completed, registering an impressive completion rate of nearly 87 per cent, while the remaining houses are at various stages of construction and nearing completion. The meeting also reviewed the implementation of PMAY-U 2.0, particularly under the Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) component. It was divulged that 92 Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) involving 2,120 houses have been approved so far, with 1,379 houses.

Acting Chief Justice leads plantation drive at High Court held under "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign

**NIWA NEWS
SRINAGAR, JULY 30:**



JAMMU, JULY 30: Under the patronage and guidance of Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Sanjeev Kumar, a vigorous plantation drive was organized today at the High Court Complex, Janipur, Jammu, in collaboration with the Jammu Forest Division, Jammu under the campaign "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam". The event was attended by Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Mohd. Akram Chowdhary, Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri and Justice Sanjay Parihar, who actively participated in the plantation drive by planting saplings of various medicinal and ecologically significant tree species, including Rudraksh, Putranjiva and Sita Ashok. The initiative was aimed at promoting a cleaner, greener and healthier environment while encouraging collective responsibility towards preserving nature for the benefit of future generations. M. K. Sharma,

Registrar General, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Officers of the Registry of the High Court, Nirmal Kotwal, President, Jammu & Kashmir High Court Bar Association, Jammu, Pardeep Wahule Conservator of Forest, East Circle, Members of the Executive Committee and the members of Bar Association also participated in the plantation drive. On the occasion, Om Parkash Vidyarthi (Retd. IFS) delivered a tree talk highlighting the medicinal and religious significance of various tree saplings planted during the plantation drive. Drawing upon his vast experience in

forestry and environmental conservation, he highlighted the unique characteristics and traditional importance of Rudraksh, Putranjiva and Sita Ashok. Speaking on the occasion, Acting Chief Justice Sanjeev Kumar, emphasized the vital role of afforestation in mitigating the climate change, enhancing biodiversity and fostering ecological balance. He stressed upon the importance of community participation in environmental protection and the collective endeavour to build a sustainable future. Following the plantation drive, the Acting Chief Justice, Judges of the High

Court, accompanied by Dr. Devansh Yadav Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation and other officers of the High Court Registry, visited the public utility facility recently constructed by the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) near the High Court Complex, Janipur, Jammu. The Acting Chief Justice appreciated the initiative undertaken to enhance sanitation and public convenience. He emphasized the importance of maintaining the facility in a clean, hygienic and functional condition for the benefit of all stakeholders and visitors to the Court.

DC chairs District Advisory Committee meeting of MY Bharat Kendra Kishtwar



**NIWA NEWS
KISHTWAR, JULY 30:**

MY Bharat Kendra Kishtwar today convened a District Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma to review and strengthen youth-centric initiatives under the MY Bharat platform. District Youth Officer MY Bharat Kendra Kishtwar Sandeep Sharma briefed the committee on the objectives and key components of the MY Bharat initiative.

The Deputy Commissioner called for coordinated efforts among all stakeholder departments to implement MY Bharat programmes effectively. He observed that meaningful youth participation through leadership, volunteerism, community service and civic engagement is essential for nurturing a progressive, responsible and self-reliant society. The DC directed the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) to identify and facilitate a suitable office for MY Bharat Kendra and all departments concerned to intensify

registration drives for maximum enrolment of eligible youth aged 15-29 years on the MY Bharat portal. He also directed all line departments to extend full cooperation in mobilising students, volunteers and young citizens, particularly at the grassroots level. The committee also reviewed the action plan for MY Bharat Kendra Kishtwar, which includes awareness campaigns, institutional outreach programmes, youth interaction sessions, skill development activities, volunteer engagement initiatives and collaborative programmes with government departments and educational institutions. Among those present were ADC Pawan Kotwal, PO ICDS Rishi Kumar Sharma, ACP/ACD Neeraj Sharma, DSWO Tariq Parveez Qazi, DIO Dr Kuldeep Kumar, ALC Mamta Sudershan, CMO Dr Sanjay Bhat, DYSSO Jaffer Haider Sheikh and Deputy CEO Masood Ahmed Qazi, besides other officers and staff concerned.

PDP's Iltija Mufti accuses People's Conference leadership of threatening party MLC Reshi

**NIWA NEWS
SRINAGAR, JULY 30:**

PDP leader Iltija Mufti on Thursday accused the People's Conference leadership of threatening and intimidating her party leaders by claiming the support of central agencies, and appealed to Union Home Minister Amit Shah to intervene. Iltija said intimidating or threatening was no way to do politics.

"People Conference's top leadership has started issuing grave threats to PDPs Yasir Reshi. In these menacing phone calls he claims to have the support of ED & NIA - agencies both under Home Minister. Shri @AmitShah your name is being used to intimidate & browbeat people in our party. Please intervene if this isn't being done at the behest of MHA," Iltija said in a post on X.

She warned the People's Conference (PC), led by MLA Handwara Sajad Gani Lone, to back off or else be prepared for consequences.

"For those who are indulging in these misadventures best to back off or else be prepared for the consequences of your petty intimidation," the PDP leader added.

Later, flanked by PDP leaders Reshi and Waheed Para, she addressed a press conference here, and accused the PC leadership of developing a pattern of creating an atmosphere of fear.

"The top leadership of the People's Conference, including its president, is repeatedly threatening him (Reshi). The worrying part is that he claims to have the backing of the central agencies, whether it is the ED, the NIA, or the CBI," she said.

The PDP leader claimed Reshi, a former MLC, received threats from the PC leaders.

Reshi said he has call recordings in which PC leader Ishfaq Gilkar claims that meetings with the NIA, IB, CBI and other agencies have been recently held at the residence of PC chief Sajad Gani Lone in the presence of another leader Sheikh Imran to chart out a plan to pressure and threaten him.

Reshi had earlier quit the PDP and joined the PC in 2021. However, he rejoined the PDP last year.

"If you want to fight us, then fight us through the ballot, not through the ED or the NIA. Once again, I appeal to the Hon'ble Home Minister that in your name and in the name of central

agencies such as the ED, NIA and CBI, the top leadership of the People's Conference is allegedly threatening, intimidating and browbeating PDP leaders and former MLAs," she said.

She said the PDP did not weaken on its own, but the leaders who left the PDP for the PC and other parties "did so under the influence of the ED, NIA and CBI".

Iltija claimed that the PC wants to "distract" the PDP from raising larger issues confronting the people of J-K, including Article 370. "This is gutter level politics," she added.

Speaking at the presser, Para, PDP's Pulwama MLA, claimed that certain people were misguiding central agencies for their own benefit.

He said that after what the Centre did to J-K in 2019, "no two Kashmiris have a reason to fight".

Para also called such tactics attempts to divert attention from the core issues. Reshi said he was not afraid of anyone and "if NIA or ED wants to question me, then let them talk to me directly, why through Sajad Lone". He urged the Union home minister to intervene and inquire whether the central agencies were involved or not.

Committee on Government Assurances reviews Action Taken Report on assurances related to Information, Mining departments

**NIWA NEWS
SRINAGAR, JULY 30:**

SRINAGAR, JULY 30: The Committee on Government Assurances of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex here to review the Action Taken Report (ATR) on assurances pertaining to the Information Department, with particular focus on measures undertaken to tackle fake news, misinformation and dissemination of verified public information.

The meeting was chaired by Ali Mohammad Sagar, Chairman of the Committee and attended by Ghulam Mohi ud Din Mir, Chander Prakash Ganga, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, Sheikh Ahsan Pardesi, Mehraj Malik and Shabir Ahmad Kullay, members of the committee. The meeting was also attended by Commissioner Secretary Information, R Alice Vaz; Special Secretary Information, Director Geology and Mining, Joint Director Information (Hqr), Joint Director Information Kashmir,



Joint Director Geology and Mining, other senior officers of Information and Mining departments, besides Secretary J&K Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandit and other officers of Assembly secretariat. During the meeting, the Committee undertook a detailed review of the assurances made on the floor of the House regarding initiatives aimed at curbing fake news, countering misinformation and strengthening the dissemination of authentic and timely government information through credible communication channels. The Committee was informed about the measures being implemented by the Information department to

promote fact-based public communication, strengthen institutional mechanisms for verification of information and enhance public awareness against the spread of misleading and fabricated content. It was also informed that under the Draft Media Policy 2026, prevention of misinformation and fake news has been proposed as one of the policy objectives. It was also given out that other measures like dedicated Nodal officers in each department of J&K have been proposed in Draft Media Policy, 2026 to curb fake news and misinformation.

The Committee also reviewed the progress made on the assurances and sought updates on the initiatives

taken to ensure prompt dissemination of verified information in the larger public interest. Emphasising the importance of responsible information dissemination in the digital era, the Chairman observed that effective coordination among departments and timely communication with the public are essential to curb misinformation and maintain public confidence. He stressed on the need for sustained awareness campaigns, capacity building and adoption of modern communication tools to counter the menace of fake news. The Chairman also directed the Information department to finalise the Draft Media Policy, 2026 and Media Accreditation process in time bound manner. He directed the concerned officers to ensure expeditious implementation of all assurances made before the House and to maintain close monitoring of the progress so that commitments are fulfilled within the stipulated timelines. Other members of the committee, while speaking on the matter, said that powers.

SKUAST-K flags off first batch of BTech Artificial Intelligence students to IIT Mandi

**NIWA NEWS
SRINAGAR, JULY 30:**

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) today marked a significant milestone in its academic journey as the Vice Chancellor, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, flagged off the first batch of students of BTech Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture Programme proceeding to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi for their third year (Semester V and VI) studies under the collaborative academic arrangement between the two institutions. The BTech Artificial Intelligence programme was conceived through a strategic collaboration between SKUAST-K and IIT Mandi with the objective of creating a new generation of professionals equipped with expertise in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Robotics, Data Science, IoT, Digital Agriculture, Climate Intelligence, and other emerging technologies. The programme represents one of the first such initiatives in the country aimed at integrating advanced computing technologies with agriculture and allied sectors.



The outgoing students have successfully completed their first two years at SKUAST-K, where they underwent rigorous training in foundational engineering sciences, computer programming, mathematics, artificial intelligence fundamentals, deep learning, data science, IoT systems, and agricultural sciences. During their one-year stay at IIT Mandi, the students will be exposed to advanced courses in Artificial Intelligence, Computer Networks, Programming Paradigms, Robotics and Automation, Vision and Learning-Based Control Systems, Design Practicum, Drones and Automation Technologies, along with specialized electives offered by

IIT Mandi. The students will also gain access to the institute's world-class laboratories, innovation ecosystem, startup culture, research facilities, industry-linked projects, and multidisciplinary academic environment. The collaboration further envisages joint mentorship of students by faculty members from SKUAST-K and IIT Mandi, industry-linked capstone projects, internships, innovation-driven research, and exposure to national and international technology ecosystems. Through this model, students will have opportunities to work on real-world challenges related to agriculture, climate resilience, environmental sustainability.