



**CS Dulloo reviews framework for UT-level Project Monitoring Group**

**CM Omar moves resolution seeking immediate restoration of full statehood to J&K**



## IN BRIEF

**DGP Nalin Prabhakar Reviews Counter-Terror Operations Along Udhampur-Kathua Belt**

### NEWS POST REASI

**UDHAMPUR:** Director General of Police Nalin Prabhakar, accompanied by Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Tejinder Singh, on Saturday visited Udhampur to review ongoing counter-terrorism operations along the Udhampur-Kathua belt.

During the visit, the DGP took stock of the operational situation.

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**EOW Kashmir arrests man in Rs 93 Lakh land and property fraud case**

### NEWS POST REASI

**SRINAGAR:** Economic Offences Wing (EOW) Kashmir of Crime Branch J&K has arrested a notorious fraudster involved in a multi-lakh land and property fraud case.

The CBK said that the

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**Northern Railway's Jammu Division To Run 3 Special Trains To Meet Festival Rush**

### NEWS POST REASI

**JAMMU:** On the auspicious occasion of festivals, Northern Railway, Jammu Division has given a big gift to rail passengers. To clear the extra rush and waiting list during Dussehra, Diwali and Chhath Puja, the Railway has

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## Rohit Dubey leads BJP protest against NC government in Reasi



### AMAN SHARMA NEWS POST REASI

**REASI:** BJP workers led by Reasi district president Rohit Dubey staged a protest against the National Conference-led government in Reasi, opposing the Statehood resolution passed by the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly. The protesters took out a

protest rally from Thapa Chowk to the Bus Stand, raised slogans against the government and burnt the effigy of the National Conference. The protest was held over the references to the earlier autonomy and special-status resolutions in the Statehood resolution. BJP leaders have maintained that the party supports

restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, but opposes any attempt to link the Statehood demand with the pre-1953 position, autonomy or the restoration of Article 370 and Article 35A. The Assembly resolution refers to resolutions passed in 2000 and

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## SSP reviews security arrangements in Katra ahead of Navratras

### RAHUL KAPOOR NEWS POST REASI

**KATRA:** With Navratras approaching and a rise in pilgrim footfall expected at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, Reasi SSP Mukund Tibrewal reviewed security and traffic arrangements in Katra and along the pilgrimage route.

The review covered key areas including Katra town, the track leading to Bhawan, the base camp, parking areas, CCTV surveillance points, entry and exit locations and security checkpoints.

The crowd management plan was also reviewed in

view of the expected increase in the movement of devotees. Security has been strengthened at multiple locations in Katra, with additional checkpoints and police deployment being put in place ahead of the Navratras. The arrangements are aimed at maintaining orderly movement of pilgrims and ensuring security during the festive period. The Navratra period is expected to witness a significant increase in pilgrim movement to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine. Around four to five lakh devotees are expected

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## Congress Stages Protest in Reasi Over Alleged Vote Chori



### AMAN SHARMA NEWS POST REASI

**REASI:** A few days ago, the District Congress Committee Reasi staged a protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the Bharatiya Janata Party over the issue of alleged "vote theft" raised

by the Congress. Congress workers took out a rally from Thapa Chowk towards the office of the District Election Officer. During the protest, the party workers raised slogans against the Election Commission and the BJP, alleging irregularities

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## MLA Kuldeep Raj Dubey Lays Foundation Stone for Rs 2.07 Crore Water Supply Scheme at Sangar

### AMAN SHARMA NEWS POST REASI

**REASI:** Reasi MLA Kuldeep Raj Dubey on Sunday laid the foundation stone for the permanent restoration and reconstruction of the Water Supply Scheme at Sangar in Panchayat Sangar, Block Pouni. The proj-

ect, being undertaken under the SASCI, has an estimated cost of ₹207.04 lakh. The restoration work is aimed at improving the water supply infrastructure in Sangar, where the existing scheme had suffered extensive damage.

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## DGP Nalin Prabhat ...

and reviewed the progress of ongoing operations being conducted by security forces in the area. He also assessed security arrangements and operational preparedness in view of the prevailing security situation.

Prabhat felicitated personnel involved in the operations, acknowledging their courage, commitment and professional conduct.

The personnel were commended for their role in the successful operation in which two Pakistani Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists were neutralised during Operation Soan.

The DGP appreciated the coordinated efforts of the security forces and stressed the need for continued vigilance, operational preparedness and close coordination among all agencies engaged in counter-terrorism operations.

IGP Jammu Zone Tejinder Singh accompanied the DGP during the visit and reviewed operational aspects and security measures along the Udhampur-Kathua belt.

## Rohit Dubey leads ...

2024.Addressing the protesters, Rohit Dubey questioned the priorities of the Omar Abdullah-led government and alleged that the National Conference had failed to fulfil several promises made to the people during the Assembly elections. He said people were still facing problems related to basic issues, including electricity and drinking water, and demanded that the government focus on development, employment and public welfare.Dubey said the BJP was not opposed to the restoration of Statehood, but objected to bringing the pre-1953 autonomy agenda into the Statehood debate. He said the government should answer the people on its election commitments instead of diverting attention towards issues that could reopen old constitutional and political controversies.The BJP has also criticised the reference to the 2000 autonomy resolution, which sought restoration of greater autonomy as it existed before August 9, 1953, and the 2024 resolution seeking restoration of special status and constitutional guarantees. BJP leaders have described the two issues as separate from the demand for restoration of Statehood.The protesters said the government should concentrate on development, employment, basic amenities and implementation of its election promises. They accused the NC government of failing to address public issues and alleged that the Statehood resolution was being used to shift the political focus from governance-related concerns.The protest concluded with BJP workers burning the NC effigy and raising slogans against the Omar Abdullah-led government.

## SSP reviews security ...

to undertake the pilgrimage during the period, prompting authorities to strengthen arrangements related to security, traffic management and crowd regulation.Meanwhile, civic preparations are also being stepped up in Katra. Sanitation and cleanliness drives are being undertaken at the bus stand and other major public and pilgrim congregation points. Road repair and blacktopping work is also

underway at several locations.Arrangements are also being made to facilitate specially-abled pilgrims. Eligible devotees will be facilitated with horse/pony, pithu and palki services up to the designated point, followed by complimentary battery-car service up to Bhawan.The security review comes as authorities intensify preparations for the Navratras, with coordinated efforts being made to manage the expected pilgrim rush and facilitate a smooth pilgrimage.

## EOW Kashmir arrests ...

accused has been identified as Ghulam Mohi-Ud-Din Dar, son of Abdul Khaliq Dar, resident of Jawalapora, Samson Budgam.The arrest was executed in compliance with an order and warrant issued by the Hon'ble Court of Sub-Judge Srinagar. The accused was evading arrest for the past year and is involved in multiple criminal cases registered in Police Station EOW Kashmir/SCW Kashmir including FIR No. 17/2026 under Sections 318(4), 338, 340 and 61(2) of BNS.The case pertains to a written complaint alleging that the victim was duped of Rs 93 lakhs by the land broker Ghulam Mohi-Ud-Din Dar in connivance with co-accused Soom Nath Koul son of Kalash Nath Koul resident of 22 Lotus Tower Bangalore North Karnataka / Janipur Jammu.Investigations reveal the accused offered a fake sale of 5 kanals of migrant land in Drusu Pulwama and 300 standing trees in Bijbehara using forged agreements. A bank account used to funnel the defrauded money was reportedly opened on the exact day of the transfer solely to execute the scam.The duo used to dupe gullible people by giving false promises of selling them migrant property while acting as attorney holders or owners of the property.A Hue and Cry Notice remains active for the absconding co-accused, Soom Nath Koul. Further investigation into the network and operations is ongoing

## Northern Railway's ...

decided to operate 03 pairs of special reserved Festival Special Trains via Jammu Division. With the running of these trains, not only will it be easier for passengers to get confirmed tickets, but the journey will also be more comfortable and safe.

Talking about the major benefits of these special trains, they will directly connect two of the most important religious places of North India - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and Varanasi. This will provide special facility to the devotees coming for darshan of Mata and to the passengers going towards Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. All the trains will be equipped with modern LHB coaches, which ensure safer, faster and more comfortable travel. Running of these trains will reduce pressure on regular trains and will provide relief to passengers from the rush for tickets during festivals. This is another example of Jammu Division's commitment towards passenger amenities.

The details of the trains to be operated are as follows:

First Train No. 04604/04603 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Varanasi - Katra Reserved Special, This train will make a total of 09-09 trips in Up &

Down direction. Train No. 04604 will depart from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra from 04 October to 29 November 2026, every Sunday at 06:15 PM and will reach Varanasi at 06:30 PM the next day. On its return, Train No. 04603 will depart from Varanasi from 06th October to 01 December 2026, every Tuesday at 04:30 AM.

This train will halt at Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan, Jammu Tawi, Pathankot Cantt, Jalandhar Cantt, Ludhiana, Ambala Cantt, Saharanpur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Alamnagar, Rae Bareli and Maa Belha Devi Dham Pratapgargh stations.

\*Second Train No. 04610/04609 Jammu Tawi - Varanasi - Jammu Tawi Reserved Special, This train will also make 09 trips in Up & Down direction. Train No. 04610 will depart from Jammu Tawi from 01 October to 26th November 2026, every Thursday at 05:15 AM and will reach Varanasi at 05:10 AM the next day.

On its return, Train No. 04609 will depart from Varanasi from 02nd October to 27 November 2026, every Friday at 09:00 AM and will reach Jammu Tawi at 08:30 AM the next day.

This will be especially beneficial for passengers of Pathankot, Jalandhar, Ambala, Saharanpur, Moradabad, Shahjahanpur, Lucknow and Sultanpur.

## MLA Kuldeep Raj ...

The project is expected to help restore a more reliable water supply for residents of the area.According to the details shared in connection with the project, the intervention will also strengthen the resilience and sustainability of essential water infrastructure in the mountainous Reasi constituency.

## Congress Stages Protest ...

in the electoral process.On reaching the main entrance of the district headquarters, Congress leaders and workers attempted to burn an effigy of the Chief Election Commissioner. Police personnel intervened and tried to take the effigy into their possession, leading to a brief scuffle between the police and protesters. The police subsequently prevented the effigy from being burnt.District Congress Committee president Ajay Salalia, Pradesh Youth Congress General Secretary Karandeep Singh and several other Congress workers were taken into custody during the protest.Speaking to the media, Congress leaders questioned the police action and alleged that the administration was using the police to prevent the party from holding protests against the BJP and the Election Commission.

They said that raising issues concerning the electoral process was part of their democratic right.The Congress leaders reiterated the allegations raised by the party regarding the electoral process and said they would continue to raise the issue through democratic means. They also stated that protests would continue in the coming days.The protest in Reasi was part of the wider campaign undertaken by the Congress across Jammu and Kashmir over its allegations concerning the electoral process and its demand for accountability from the Election Commission.

## DDC Reasi flags off IEC Van to promote awareness on Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan

**RAHUL KAPOOR**  
**NEWS POST REASI**

**REASI:** District Development Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today flagged off an Information, Education and Communication Campaign Van from the Conference Hall, DC Office, Reasi, to create awareness among rural communities about the upcoming Gram Sabha under the VB-G RAM G initiative.

The campaign aims to sensitise people about the scheme, participatory planning, employment generation, improved livelihoods and the role of Gram Sabhas in identifying local development priorities. Speaking on the occasion, DDC Reasi Kumar Abhishek said the IEC van would spread awareness about the VB-GRAM-G employment scheme and the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP).

He informed that a Mahapanchayat will be organised in every Panchayat on October 2 to sensitise people about the scheme and the 375



permissible categories of works. He urged people to participate actively in the Mahapanchayats, visit their respective Gram Panchayats and put forward their genuine requirements so that the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans are prepared in a participatory and demand-driven manner.

The DDC said the awareness campaign would also help villagers understand the permissible works under the scheme and enable Panchayats to identify

development priorities based on the actual needs and aspirations of the local community. Additional District Development Commissioner Krishna Lal, Chief Planning Officer Narinder Kumar, Assistant Commissioner Development Mukesh Sharma, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, District Information Officer, Block Development Officers and other officers and officials were present on the occasion.

## Govt. General Zorawar Singh Memorial Degree College, Reasi conducted Mega Registration Drive

**AMAN SHARMA**  
**NEWS POST REASI**

**REASI:** Govt. General Zorawar Singh Memorial Degree College, Reasi conducted Mega Registration Drive and KYC Verification on PM-NAPS Portal at MP Hall, GDC Reasi as

Mamta Gupta, Principal, GDC Reasi. The event was coordinated by Ms. Anju, Nodal Officer NAPS, GDC Reasi.

Various faculty members including Dr. Rahil Dutta, Dr. Anish Gupta, Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Dr. Pooja Bhagat, Dr.



per Order No. WCP/NP/2026/928 dated 16-09-2026 issued by the Office of the Nodal Principal, Jammu Division Colleges.

The programme was conducted under the able guidance of Prof.

Anjum Ara, Dr. Umer Khandey, Ms. Renu Kumari and Ms. Malvika Kotwal extended their support and helped students in getting themselves registered and completing their KYC verification on the PM-NAPS Portal.

## DDC Reasi holds public grievance camp at Budhan, Directs officers to address issues on priority

**RAHUL KAPOOR**  
**NEWS POST REASI**

**REASI:** District Development Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today convened a public grievance camp at the PWD Dak Bungalow, Budhan, providing residents an opportunity to raise their issues and demands directly with the district administration.

During the camp, residents raised a range of issues pertaining to the repair and completion of PMGSY roads, payment of compensation for land and structures, provision of an ambulance, development of playgrounds and a children's park, and repair of the Dharmari-Budhan road.

Other issues included shortage of staff and repair requirements at Middle School Karam Katha, construction of buildings for schools functioning without adequate infrastructure, release of pending PMAY instalments and renewal of fertiliser licences.

The DDC gave a patient hearing to the grievances and interacted with the residents to understand the issues faced by the people.

He assured them that the genuine concerns raised during the camp would be examined and addressed in a time-bound manner through coordinated efforts of the concerned departments. Addressing issues related to rural development, the



DDC directed the Block Development Officer to identify suitable locations and initiate necessary measures for the development of playgrounds at Budhan and Chaklas.

He stressed the importance of providing adequate recreational and sports facilities for children and youth. The DDC also directed the concerned authorities to expedite the filling of vacant and essential posts at Government Hospital Budhan to strengthen healthcare services and ensure better access to medical facilities for the local population.

On revenue-related grievances, the DDC directed the concerned Tehsildar to deploy staff on a rotational basis in the affected areas to facilitate the disposal of revenue matters and minimise inconvenience to the public in accessing government services.

Reviewing issues related to the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY), the DDC assured eligible beneficiaries that pending instalments would be released at the earliest. He also directed the concerned

department to expedite renewal of fertiliser licences in accordance with the prescribed rules to ensure smooth availability of fertilisers to farmers. Regarding power supply issues, the DDC directed the Executive Engineer, JPDCL, to assess areas facing electricity-related problems and install additional transformers wherever required to address overloading and inadequate capacity and improve power supply.

The DDC further directed the SDM and Tehsildar, Dharmari, to organise regular public grievance camps in the area at least once a month. He emphasised that such camps should serve as an effective platform for residents to raise their concerns directly with the administration and facilitate their timely resolution. The DDC reiterated that the district administration is committed to responsive governance, effective public service delivery and timely resolution of genuine grievances. He directed the officers to maintain close coordination with the public and take proactive measures to address issues on priority.

Among others, ADC Rakesh Kumar, GM DIC Navdeep Wazir, PO POSHAN Vijay Kumar, CPO Narinder Kumar, ACR Nitin Verma, SDM Dharmari, ACD and other concerned officers were present at the camp.

# From Reasi to Dubai: Harsh Mengi's Journey From a Small-Town Dream to a Global Career

## How a childhood passion for writing evolved into a career in content, media and digital growth

**AMAN SHARMA**  
**NEWS POST REASI**

**REASI:** Some careers begin with a carefully planned path. Others take shape through curiosity, experimentation and the willingness to take risks. For Harsh Mengi, that journey began in Reasi, a small district in Jammu & Kashmir, with an early interest in writing, poetry and storytelling. Today, Mengi is based in Dubai and works at the intersection of content, digital growth, brands and the global creator economy. His professional journey has taken him from Kendriya Vidyalaya Jyotipuram in Reasi to Mumbai's competitive digital ecosystem and, eventually, to an international professional environment in Dubai. His journey is not simply about moving from one city to another. It is about gradually turning a personal interest into professional expertise—and taking those skills to a global platform. Where It All Began Mengi grew up in Reasi and completed his schooling at Kendriya Vidyalaya Jyotipuram. During his formative years, he developed an interest in creative writing and poetry. He also participated in open-mic platforms, giving him an early opportunity to experiment with expression, performance and storytelling. At the same time, he began exploring the emerging world of social media. He experimented with city-focused theme pages and started observing how online communities interacted with content. He also explored collaborations with regional businesses. These early experiences helped him understand an increasingly important principle of the digital world: content is not only about creating something—it is also about understanding the audience that consumes it. When Lockdown Became a Turning Point The year 2020 brought an unprecedented disruption as the COVID-19 pandemic and nationwide lockdown changed everyday life across India. For Mengi, the period also became an opportunity to focus on writing. During the lockdown, he wrote a book titled *Revenge of the Revenge*, which he later self-published. The project was independently funded using his own pocket money, according to Mengi. For a young person from a small town, completing and publishing a book during such an uncertain period represented more than a creative achievement. It reflected a willingness to take an idea and turn it into something tangible. The experience further strengthened his belief that creativity could become more than a personal interest—it could become a career. From Reasi to Mumbai The next major step came when Mengi moved to Mumbai. For someone coming from Reasi, Mumbai offered an entirely different professional environment. The city's competitive nature meant that establishing a career required constant learning, adaptation and persistence. Mengi



began his professional digital-media journey at BigBrainCo as a content writer. The role gave him practical exposure to professional content creation. But his ambitions extended beyond writing. He wanted to understand the larger digital ecosystem—how content is planned, how audiences are developed, how creators grow and how brands use digital storytelling to build stronger businesses. That broader curiosity would eventually influence the direction of his career. The BeerBiceps Chapter A significant phase of Mengi's professional journey came through his association with BeerBiceps, a prominent name in India's digital creator ecosystem. During this phase, his responsibilities expanded beyond conventional content writing. He became involved in areas including social media operations, content strategy and creator development, while also contributing to the educational ecosystem through Skillhouse. The experience exposed him to the systems behind successful digital brands and creators. He learned that digital growth is rarely about one viral post. Behind successful creators and brands are teams working on storytelling, audience behaviour, distribution, consistency, positioning and long-term growth. For Mengi, this became an important transition—from being primarily a content professional to developing a broader understanding of content-led growth. Working With Leading Names in India's Digital and Entertainment Space As his experience expanded, so did the scale and diversity of the projects he worked on. Mengi went on to contribute to content and digital initiatives involving major brands and public personalities. His professional work has included collaborations with names from India's business, media, creator and entertainment ecosystem. Among the personalities he has worked with are Mukesh Bansal, founder of Myntra and Cult.fit; digital creator Dhruv Rathee; Karan Aujla, one of the leading names in Punjabi music; Richa Anirudh; and KK Create. These experiences gave Mengi exposure to very different audiences and professional environments. Working across business, media, music and the cre-

ator economy required him to understand not only what content could attract attention, but also how it could strengthen a personality, brand or business. Every project brought a different challenge. And each challenge added to his understanding of the rapidly changing digital landscape. From Creating Content to Building Growth Over time, Mengi's professional focus evolved. The question was no longer simply: "What should we create?" It became: "How can content contribute to growth?" That shift—from content creation to content-led growth—became an important part of his professional evolution. His experience across social media, content strategy, creator development and brand initiatives helped him develop a more comprehensive understanding of the digital ecosystem. The ability to combine storytelling with strategy became one of the defining aspects of his career. The Dubai Leap In September 2025, Mengi took another major step by moving to Dubai and taking up the role of Chief Content & Growth Officer at StudioYT.

The move marked the beginning of an international chapter in his career. Dubai offered a new professional environment, bringing together international brands, businesses, creators and audiences from across different markets. In his current role, Mengi works on B2B client expansion in the Middle East while leading growth-focused campaigns and initiatives involving Indian and international content creators. The scale had changed considerably. The journey had moved from writing and experimenting with digital platforms in Reasi to working on content and growth initiatives in an international market. The Distance Between Reasi and Dubai

Geographically, Reasi and Dubai are worlds apart. Professionally, the distance can seem even greater.

Yet Mengi's journey connects the two. His story challenges the idea that major professional opportunities are available only to people who grow up in metropolitan cities. The starting point can be small. The resources can be limited. The network may not exist. But ambition does not require a

metropolitan address. With the rise of digital platforms, skills can travel far beyond geographical boundaries. A young person can begin by writing, experimenting with social media, learning from free resources, building small projects and gradually entering professional spaces that once seemed inaccessible. Mengi's career reflects that changing reality. The Struggle Behind the Success It is easy to look at a professional profile and see only the designation, international location and achievements. What is often less visible is everything that comes before them. There are difficult decisions, unfamiliar environments, professional competition and years of learning. Mengi's journey was built gradually. One piece of writing. One project. One opportunity. One collaboration. One calculated risk at a time. That gradual progression may be the most relatable part of his story for young people watching from Reasi and other small towns across Jammu & Kashmir. A Story Reasi Can Be Proud Of For Reasi, Mengi's journey represents more than an individual professional achievement. It highlights the talent and ambition emerging from smaller towns and the growing number of career opportunities being created by the digital economy. Fields such as content strategy, social media, creator management, digital marketing and growth are creating pathways that were difficult to imagine a generation ago. Mengi's journey demonstrates how those opportunities can eventually extend beyond national borders. For young people in Jammu & Kashmir who are interested in writing, content creation or digital media, his story offers an encouraging example. Your hometown can be your starting point without becoming the boundary of your ambition.

The Next Chapter Mengi's professional journey is still evolving. From Reasi to Mumbai and then to Dubai, each stage has brought new challenges, new responsibilities and new opportunities. The young person who began with an interest in poetry and writing has gone on to build a career around content, digital media and growth. But perhaps the most important part of his story is not the title he holds today. It is the mindset that took him there. Start with what you have. Learn continuously. Experiment. Adapt. Take calculated risks. And never allow your place of birth to determine the size of your ambition. For Harsh Mengi, the journey from Reasi to Dubai is ultimately a story about possibility. A story that began with a small-town interest in words has evolved into a professional journey across cities, industries and markets. And somewhere between the mountains of Reasi and the skyline of Dubai lies a journey that began with a young boy, a love for words and the courage to believe that his story could become bigger than his hometown.

# FREE MEDICAL CAMP CONDUCTED AT PHC DHARMARI

**AMAN SHARMA**  
**NEWS POST REASI**

**DHARMARI:** A Free Medical Camp was conducted at Primary Health Centre (PHC), Dharmari, with the aim of providing free medical consultation, specialist medical advice, basic diagnostic tests, medicines and health awareness to the local population.

The camp was organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Super Speciality Hospital, in collaboration with the District Administration Reasi and the Chief Medical Officer, Reasi, with support from 58 Rashtriya Rifles (RR), Indian Army. Approximately 500 local residents attended the camp and availed themselves of the medical facilities and specialist consultations.

The camp focused on strength-



ening healthcare outreach and fostering meaningful interaction between the medical team and the local population.

A team of specialist doctors and medical personnel provided

medical examinations, consultations and health screening services. The medical team included. Dr Ankita, Internal Medicine; Dr Malvika Sharma, Ophthalmology; Dr Suhail Khuroo, GI, HPB & Minimal Access Surgery; Dr Verinder

Gupta, Zonal Medical Officer, Dharmari; Dr Deepti Chahar, RMO, 58 RR; Dr Ankita, and Dr Arshad Iqbal, Medical Officer, Dharmari. During the camp, patients benefited from consultations in various medical spe-

cialties, including general medicine, surgery, orthopaedics/ bone and spine care, paediatrics, ophthalmology, gynaecology, ENT, dental care and other healthcare services. Basic medical tests and health screenings were also conducted for the local population.

Medicines were distributed free of cost to needy patients.

The medical team further conducted health awareness activities and provided guidance on preventive healthcare practices.

The camp served as an important initiative to improve access to healthcare facilities in the area, promote health awareness and strengthen the bond between the local population, civil administration, medical professionals and the Indian Army.

## Reasi MLA, BJP District President Meet Union Minister Somanna, Seek Shuttle Train Service



**RAHUL KAPOOR**  
**NEWS POST REASI**

**REASI:** Reasi MLA Kuldeep Raj Dubey and BJP Reasi District President Rohit Dubey met Union Minister for Railways and Jal Shakti V. Somanna during his visit to Reasi and submitted a memorandum seeking a shuttle train service from Katra to the Chenab and Anji railway bridges.

The demand was made for a shuttle service for tourists travelling towards the two

railway bridges.

The meeting took place during Somanna's visit to the district. The Chenab Rail Bridge and Anji Rail Bridge are part of the railway infrastructure on the Katra-Banihal rail route.

The memorandum submitted by the Reasi MLA and BJP District President placed the proposed shuttle train service among the demands taken up with the Union Minister during his visit.

## DC Reasi reviews arrangements for Navratra and Dussehra celebrations

**RAHUL KAPOOR**  
**NEWS POST REASI**

**REASI:** Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek chaired a meeting here today to review and finalize arrangements for the upcoming Navratra and Dussehra celebrations in Reasi town. Representatives of Durga Natak Mandli, Reasi, apprised the Deputy Commissioner of the programmes planned for the festivities, including the staging of Ram Leela during Navratra and the Dussehra celebrations. The meeting held detailed discussions on various arrangements, including sanitation, security, power supply, drinking water, medical facilities and fire safety, to ensure the smooth, safe and peaceful conduct of the festivities.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Executive Officer, Municipal Council Reasi, to undertake a special sanitation drive across the town, with particular focus on the festival venues. The concerned health authorities were asked to deploy adequate medical staff along with an ambulance at the General Zorawar Singh Sports Stadium on Dussehra day.

The Fire and Emergency Services Department was also asked to station a fire tender at the venue as a precautionary measure. The Jammu Power Distribution Corporation



Limited was asked to ensure uninterrupted power supply, particularly during the Ram Leela events, while the Jal Shakti Department was tasked with deploying water tankers to ensure the availability of safe drinking water for participants and visitors.

The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department, was further asked to put in place necessary barricading arrangements at the Ram Leela Ground and General Zorawar Singh Sports Stadium. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized close coordination among all con-

cerned departments and stressed the timely completion of all arrangements for the safe, smooth and successful conduct of the Navratra and Dussehra festivities. Additional Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Kumar, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Nitin Verma, Executive Engineer, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department, Tehsildar Reasi, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Headquarters), members of Durga Natak Mandli and other officials were present in the meeting.

## Carse nightclub drama takes fresh turn as police launch assault investigation



**LONDON:** The controversy surrounding England fast bowler Brydon Carse's nightclub incident took a sharp turn on Thursday after Derbyshire Police confirmed they are investigating "allegations of assault" following the incident that saw him handcuffed outside a Derby venue.

Last Sunday, a video of Carse emerged showing him being arrested by police outside Molly Malone's Irish Tavern in Derby, in what was the latest embarrassing off-field episode involving an England cricketer over the past 12 months. The ECB subsequently launched an investigation into the matter.

Carse was removed from England's squad for the second Test against Pakistan, which begins on Thursday, after the Cricket Regulator launched an investigation into the weekend incident.

He was initially arrested on suspicion of being drunk and disorderly and subsequently de-arrested after agreeing to leave the area. However, there has now been a significant update from Derbyshire Police.

"We are investigating allega-

tions of assault in Derby city centre," police said in a statement.

"No arrests have yet been made and the investigation is ongoing."

As of now, there is no clarity on whether, or to what extent, Carse is connected to the alleged assault.

Police had earlier confirmed Carse's detention after footage emerged appearing to show the England quick handcuffed in the street.

"A man in his 30s was arrested on suspicion of being drunk and disorderly in Derby city centre on Saturday night," the initial statement read.

"However, the man was de-arrested shortly afterwards having agreed to leave the area."

Former England captain Ben Stokes and fast bowler Matthew Potts also appeared in the same footage after Durham's County Championship victory over Derbyshire. There is, however, no evidence of their involvement in the alleged assault.

The ECB has yet to make a statement on the latest development, while new England Test captain Joe Root admitted earlier this week that he was frustrated by the incident.

## Dravid and Sehwal back in Indian team: Aryavir, Anvay named in India's U-19 squad for Australia series

**NEW DELHI:** Fourteen years after Rahul Dravid and Virender Sehwal last walked out together for India, their names are back on the same team sheet. Only this time, it is their sons who will carry the familiar cricketing legacies into the next chapter. Dravid and Sehwal last played together for India in 2012, against Australia, in a Test match in Adelaide. Dravid retired from international cricket three months later, while Sehwal carried on for another three years before calling time on his career in 2015. Now, Aaryavir Sehwal, Virender's elder son, and Anvay Dravid, Rahul's younger son, have both been picked in India's Under-19 squad — incidentally, for another series against Australia. The pair have been named by the BCCI selection com-

mittee for Australia U-19's upcoming tour of India and will be part of the three one-day matches against the visitors, to be played in Rajkot.

It is a maiden India call-up for 18-year-old Aaryavir, who is currently playing in the Delhi Premier League. Meanwhile, Anvay, the younger son of former India captain and coach Dravid, has retained his place in the ODI squad after being part of the India U-19 side that toured Sri Lanka last month. The 17-year-old wicketkeeper-batter scored 14 and 87 in the two youth ODIs he played during the tour. The three one-day matches will be played in Rajkot. The selectors have also picked a separate squad for the multi-day fixtures, but neither Aaryavir nor Anvay has been included in that squad.

## UEFA Champions League draw 2026-27: Who can face whom, pots, rules and key dates



**NEW DELHI:** The UEFA Champions League is set for one of the most anticipated dates of its calendar, with Europe's biggest clubs discovering their league-phase opponents on Thursday. Real Madrid, Barcelona, Bayern Munich, Paris Saint-Germain, Liverpool, Arsenal, Manchester City and Inter Milan are among the heavyweights waiting to learn their routes through the opening stage of the 2026-27 competition.

The Champions League is entering its third season under the expanded league-phase format, meaning there will again be no traditional eight groups of four teams. Instead, 36 clubs will compete in one league table, with every side playing eight matches against eight different opponents. The draw will determine those opponents as well as which four fixtures each club plays at home and which four it plays away.

When and where is the Champions League draw?

The 2026-27 Champions League league-phase draw will take place at the Grimaldi Forum in Monaco on Thursday, August 27. Proceedings are scheduled to begin at 9:30 PM IST. UEFA will make the draw available through its official platforms. Sony remains the Champions League broadcast partner for the Indian subcontinent.

The complete match schedule will not necessarily be released alongside the draw. UEFA has said the fixture list, including match dates and kick-off times, will be communicated no later than Saturday, August 29.

Which teams are in the Champions League draw?

The league phase consists of 36 clubs, with 29 securing direct entry and seven coming through qualifying. Among the con-

firmed participants are some of Europe's biggest names. Arsenal, Manchester City, Manchester United, Liverpool and Aston Villa represent England, while Spain has Real Madrid, Barcelona, Atletico Madrid, Villarreal and Real Betis.

Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund are among the German representatives, while Paris Saint-Germain, Inter Milan, Roma, Napoli, Sporting CP, Porto, PSV Eindhoven, Feyenoord and Club Brugge are also in the competition. The final qualifying places are being settled in the Champions League play-offs immediately before the draw. Bodø/Glimt, LASK and Sabah booked their places on Tuesday, with four more spots to be decided through Wednesday's remaining second legs. How will the Champions League draw work?

The 36 clubs will be separated into four pots containing nine teams each. The pots are determined primarily by UEFA club coefficients, with the reigning Champions League holders placed as the top seed in Pot 1. But unlike the old Champions League group-stage system, being in Pot 1 does not allow a club to avoid the other leading seeds. Every team will be assigned two opponents from each of the four pots — including its own pot. It will face one team from each pot at home and another away. That means every club plays eight league-phase games: two against Pot 1 opposition, two against Pot 2, two against Pot 3 and two against Pot 4.

The process combines a physical draw with automated technology. Clubs are physically selected during the ceremony before software determines their opponents and home-and-away

allocation while ensuring that all of UEFA's restrictions are satisfied. There are also limitations on which clubs can be paired. Teams from the same domestic association cannot, in principle, face each other during the league phase. A club can also face a maximum of two opponents from any one other national association.

When will the Champions League league phase begin?

The league phase starts from September 8 and will stretch into January 2027. Matchday 1 will be played from September 8-10, followed by games on October 13-14 and October 20-21. The fourth matchday is scheduled for November 3-4, before Matchday 5 on November 24-25 and Matchday 6 on December 8-9. After the winter break, Matchday 7 will take place on January 19-20, with all teams completing the league phase on January 27. Each club plays four matches at home and four away. UEFA's regulations also state that, in principle, teams should not play more than two successive home or away fixtures.

How do teams qualify for the Champions League knockouts?

All 36 teams will be ranked together in a single table after their eight matches. The top eight will qualify automatically for the round of 16. Teams finishing from ninth to 24th will enter a two-legged knockout phase play-off to decide the other eight places in the last 16.

The bottom 12 teams, those finishing from 25th to 36th, will be eliminated from Europe. Unlike the previous Champions League format, there is no route into the Europa League for teams knocked out at this stage. The knockout phase play-offs are scheduled for February 16-17 and 23-24, with the round of 16 beginning in March.

# Karolina Muchova and Jakub Mensik win the US Open mixed doubles championship

**NEW DELHI:** Jakub Mensik texted Karolina Muchova on the eve of the U.S. Open mixed doubles tournament so they could coordinate their outfits. Looking good on the court is important, he figured.

Now they look like a million bucks.

Muchova and Mensik won the title Wednesday night in their first time playing together, beating Belinda Bencic and Flavio Cobolli 6-3, 1-6 (10-6).

The Czech duo, wearing the same pink tops and maroon bottoms they settled on Monday, pulled out match tiebreakers in both matches on the second night of the two-day event, fueled by Mensik's powerful serve combined with some good hands near the net. He put away the final with an ace to earn \$1 million for him and Muchova to share.

"I think at the end, really the matching outfit made the difference for us," Muchova said.

They were a point from losing in the semifinals, erasing two match points and running off the final four to edge Mirra Andreeva and Andrey Rublev 5-4 (6), 3-5 (11-9).

Quite a performance, considering Mensik said he had never played in a mixed doubles event.

"My first mixed doubles, 100% win rate," he said.

Bencic and Cobolli rallied to end the run of spouses Elina Svitolina and Gael Monfils in the first semifinal with a 4-5 (7), 4-1 (10-5) victory.

They appeared headed toward a matchup with Andreeva and Rublev, who were smiling and pumping their fists after opening the lead in the match tiebreaker. Muchova flung her racket to the court in disgust after missing a volley that gave the Russians a 7-5 lead.



But the Wimbledon women's runner-up never lost belief, thanks in part to her hard-serving partner, who will turn 21 next week.

When Mensik first asked Muchova to play, she told him to improve his ranking. When the U.S. Open mixed doubles tournament was revamped last year, direct qualification was based on the combined singles rankings of the two players.

Mensik then did his part by reaching the semifinals of the French Open.

"I put a little pressure on him, but in a fun way. It worked," Muchova said. "I'm happy we managed and we got in, that we are here now."

The final was the only match of the tournament that resembled a regular match, with standard sets to six games and a tiebreaker at 6-all. Through the first three rounds, sets were to four games, with a tiebreaker at 4-all.

Bencic and Cobolli knocked Serena Williams and Carlos Alcaraz out of the

tournament Tuesday in the quarterfinals.

Then they dropped a set for the first time in the tournament in the semis, but began to dominate midway through the second set, winning the final 11 points to force the match tiebreaker. But they couldn't win their second one in the final.

"This year is already the second final. I never expected in my life to play a Grand Slam," said Cobolli, this year's French Open runner-up. "This is mixed but still something that you never forget."

It was the second year of the new format in mixed doubles, with the event shortened and moved to the week before the singles main draw begins, with the U.S. Tennis Association hoping that would get top singles players to compete.

Plenty of top names did compete but much of the star power, including Williams and Alcaraz, went out early.

Aryna Sabalenka and Novak Djokovic lost their opening match, as did Alex Eala and Felix Auger-Aliassime, and Jessica Pegula and Taylor Fritz.

That could explain a good number of empty seats in Ashe, particularly after both semifinals went the distance and pushed the start of the final back toward nearly 11 p.m. EDT.

None of the teams featuring doubles specialists survived to the final four, leaving an opening for some players still seeking Grand Slam glory such as Rublev, who has fallen 10 times in major quarterfinals.

Svitolina and Monfils, who have both reached the U.S. Open singles semifinals, accepted a wild card to team up for the first time. Married since 2021, they were trying to win a championship in Monfils's final Grand Slam appearance before he retires, on Sept. 1, when he turns 40.

They pulled out a back-and-forth tiebreaker in the first set in which they blew a 4-0 lead, then erased two set points. They went ahead 8-7 when Bencic tried to hit a cross-court backhand but nailed Cobolli, who had strayed into the middle. Cobolli then double-faulted to lose the set.

Bencic and Cobolli recovered, but then had a poor start to the final after a long break between matches. The Czechs pounced quickly, then finished well late.

Their biggest challenge may have been the outfit selection. Mensik apparently wasn't familiar with the word maroon.

Now he knows and loves it.

"My favorite color right now is pink and maroon, that's for sure," he said.

## Stan Wawrinka gets US Open lifeline, late wild card keeps Slam career alive; Serena, Venus Williams reunite

**NEW DELHI:** Stan Wawrinka's Grand Slam career is not over after all.

He had applied for a wild card at the US Open, only to be rejected after the U.S. Tennis Association (USTA) awarded its final spot to American Patrick Kypson. Wawrinka, in his final year of professional tennis, then said his goodbye to the tournament he won in 2016.

The move did not sit well with the tennis world, with criticism coming from several corners. But the US Open could do little at the time, having already used its final wild-card slot. Then, when an opportunity suddenly presented itself, the organisers did not hesitate to bring Wawrinka back, handing the Swiss veteran a last-minute wild card.

The 41-year-old is no longer ranked high enough to qualify



directly for the tournament. He had played two of the three Grand Slams this year as a wild-card entrant and had hoped for the same in New York. That hope appeared to disappear when the USTA awarded its final wild card to Kypson, ranked No. 115.

However, Kypson subsequently withdrew with an injury, opening up the spot for Wawrinka.

"I'm incredibly excited to accept the wild card for the 2026 U.S. Open and look forward to competing in front of the fans in New York once again," Wawrinka said in a statement.

There had been criticism of the USTA after it passed over Wawrinka, a three-time Grand Slam champion who is playing his final season. He had not entered the US Open qualifying tournament, so the decision

appeared to end his final chance of making the main draw. Wawrinka, though, chose appreciation over anger in his farewell post.

"Thank you, New York. Thank you, @usopen," Wawrinka wrote, alongside emojis of the Statue of Liberty and a tennis racket. "Thank you to every single fan who supported me, pushed me, believed in me and shared all these emotions with me over the years. Forever grateful. Forever New York."

Now, after that apparent goodbye, Wawrinka will get one more chance to walk onto the Flushing Meadows stage. Wawrinka was one of the most accomplished players of the Big Three era. He defeated Rafael Nadal in the 2014 Australian Open final and Novak Djokovic in the 2015

French Open final. In 2016, he beat Djokovic again to win his only US Open title.

He was unable to defend the title the following year after undergoing two knee surgeries, and further foot surgeries in 2021 compounded his injury troubles. Serena and Venus Williams will play doubles together.

The Williams sisters will reunite to play the US Open women's doubles for the first time since 2022, when they lost in the opening round at Flushing Meadows. That had been expected to be Serena's final appearance at the US Open, before she returned to competitive action earlier this year. She also featured in the mixed doubles event alongside Carlos Alcaraz, with the pair winning one match before losing in the quarter-finals.

## NEWS POST REASI

### EDITORIAL

# A New Dream for Sangar

A new dream is taking shape in Sangar today—the dream of having dependable drinking water. For many, turning on a tap and finding water may seem like an ordinary part of daily life. In some of the remote and hilly areas of Reasi, however, access to water can still be a difficult reality. There are habitations where people have to walk to collect water. In difficult circumstances, families also depend on storing rainwater for use when regular sources are not easily available. Decades after Independence, the fact that such challenges still exist in some parts of the district is a reminder that basic infrastructure must remain at the centre of development. The permanent restoration and reconstruction of the Sangar water supply scheme, for which the foundation stone was laid today, is therefore a significant step. The ₹207.04-lakh project under SASCI has the potential to improve an essential service for the people of the area. But the real work starts after the ceremony. Water projects cannot be judged simply by the amount sanctioned or the infrastructure promised. Their success is ultimately determined by whether the system is completed properly, functions as intended and continues to provide a reliable supply. This is particularly important in Reasi, where difficult terrain and scattered settlements can make infrastructure work challenging. Those difficulties are genuine, but they also make supervision, quality control and timely execution all the more important. The experience of water-supply schemes taken up under different government programmes, including the Jal Jeevan Mission, offers an important lesson. Sanctioning a project is only one stage. The public benefit comes when the work is completed and the service reaches the people. The concerned department and executing agencies must therefore ensure that the Sangar project does not face avoidable delays or shortcomings. Contractors must adhere to the prescribed standards, while the concerned authorities must maintain effective monitoring throughout the work. There is no need for grand promises. The requirement is simple and fundamental: a properly functioning water-supply system for the people who need it. For Sangar, a new chapter has opened today. What matters now is that this chapter reaches its proper conclusion—not merely with completed construction, but with dependable drinking water becoming a part of everyday life. That is when the dream will truly have been fulfilled.

## Public participation is essential in the campaign to save water.

The water crisis in India is becoming increasingly serious. Groundwater levels are declining in many areas, ponds and wells are drying up, and dependence on groundwater for agriculture and drinking water is increasing. At this time, the responsibility of conserving water cannot rest solely with the government. Public participation is also essential. With this vision, the "Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari" campaign has been launched. Launched on September 6, 2024, the primary objective of this campaign is to conserve rainwater, increase groundwater levels, and strengthen local water sources. Emphasis is placed on building low-cost water conservation structures, reusing old and defunct tube wells, and implementing water conservation measures tailored to local needs.

The unique feature of this campaign is that, along with the government, the general public, panchayats, social organizations, and companies can also participate. Its foundation is three Cs—community, corporate social responsibility, and cost. This means community participation, corporate social responsibility, and cost-effective water conservation. This is an attempt to transform water conservation from a mere government scheme to a public campaign.

To this end, a large number of water conservation structures have been built. Under the first phase, more than 2.7 million water conservation structures were built across the country by May 2025. Following this, the second phase was launched in June 2025. By May 2026, more than 15 million groundwater recharge structures had been built. By September 3, 2026, this number had increased to more than 15.8 million. This data indicates that water conservation is being promoted on a large scale in the country.

But simply building structures isn't enough. They also need to be properly sited, regularly maintained, and used correctly. If rainwater doesn't reach these structures or if they become clogged with mud and debris over the years, their purpose will be defeated. Therefore, local people must also take responsibility for their maintenance.

India has long had a tradition of water conservation. Village ponds, wells, step-wells, johads, and small dams met people's needs. Ancient water sources remain a reminder of this in many parts of the country, including Haryana and Rajasthan. During modern development, we neglected these sources and began overusing groundwater. Now is the time to combine ancient wisdom with modern science.

To this end, the water conservation public participation campaign has been integrated with the "Rainwater Harvesting" campaign. In June 2026, it was redesigned as the "Jal Shakti Abhiyan-Rainwater Harvesting." Its simple mes-

sage is to prevent every possible drop of rain from flowing away and to channel it into the ground.

A major cause of the water crisis is excessive water use in agriculture. Many farmers grow crops that require a lot of water. Tube wells are constantly operated to extract groundwater. This rapidly depletes groundwater. Therefore, to conserve water, it is important to promote crop diversification, drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation, and water-efficient crops. Gram Panchayats can also play an important role in water conservation. Each village can prepare its own "water budget." This should include a breakdown of how much water the village receives annually, how much water is used for agriculture and household purposes, and how much water can be returned to the ground. This will help people understand the actual water situation in their area.

Schools and colleges can also play an important role in this endeavor. Instead of teaching children about water conservation only through textbooks, schools should implement rainwater harvesting, tree planting, and water conservation programs on campus. Through children, the message of water conservation can reach homes.

The Ministry of Jal Shakti's departmental conference, held on September 1 and 2, 2026, also emphasized improved coordination between the Centre and the states. Along with water conservation, the need for water awareness, training, sharing experiences between states, and the compilation of accurate water-related data was also discussed. This is essential because water problems are not the same in every state and region. Some face floods, while others face drought.

To make water conservation successful, it's crucial to change people's mindsets. Leaving taps running, letting rainwater flow into drains, encroaching on ponds, and overusing groundwater must be stopped. The mindset of water as an unlimited resource must be changed.

The true success of public participation in water conservation will not be determined solely by the number of structures built. Success will be achieved when water returns to ponds, groundwater levels improve, farmers' dependence on water decreases, and ordinary people understand their responsibility to conserve water.

Water security in India isn't possible through government schemes alone. The government can provide direction and resources, but society must cultivate the habit of conserving water. Saving every drop, protecting every water source, and engaging every individual in water conservation is what a secure India needs for the future.

\*By Dr. Priyanka Saurabh\*

\*PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker. \*\* (Views are personal)

# CS Dulloo reviews framework for UT-level Project Monitoring Group

## National PMG presents model for its early establishment

### NEWS POST REASI

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu & Kashmir is set to establish a dedicated Project Monitoring Group (JK-PMG) on the lines of the National Project Monitoring Group (PMG) to ensure high-level monitoring of mega developmental projects and facilitate smooth, coordinated resolution of bottlenecks affecting their execution.

The institutional framework for replicating the national mechanism in the UT was presented before Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, by representatives of the National PMG. The proposed system is aimed at strengthening project oversight, improving inter-departmental coordination and ensuring timely intervention in matters involving land acquisition, statutory clearances, construction approvals and other implementation-related issues.

While speaking the Chief Secretary maintained that we should leverage technology to move from periodic status reporting to real-time, milestone-based project monitoring. He exuded hope that this comprehensive digital platform will enable us to track progress, identify critical gaps and take informed decisions based on reliable data.

He further observed that a clear-



ly defined escalation framework will ensure that issues are addressed at the level where they can be resolved, while matters requiring higher-level intervention are brought up without unnecessary delay. This will strengthen both administrative responsiveness and project accountability, he appreciated. The Chief Secretary also impressed upon the National PMG team to undertake additional capacity-building sessions for local stakeholders, ensuring that they are fully conversant with the system, its workflow and the escalation mechanism along with adequately equipping them to take over its operations efficiently here.

Highlighting the significance of this monitoring group the Commissioner Secretary, PD&MD, R.Alice Vaz revealed

that currently the National PMG monitors 61 projects in J&K, involving investments of ₹3.91 lakh crore with 130 active issues currently under review through National PMG portal. She further added that the proposed JK-PMG would function under the overall supervision of the Chief Secretary, with a dedicated team of project experts and a designated administrative department responsible for day-to-day operations and coordination. The group would monitor identified mega and strategically important projects, track milestones and pending approvals besides facilitating coordination among executing agencies and district administrations, and escalate unresolved issues for appropriate intervention.

The framework envisages a structured review mechanism

comprising fortnightly departmental-level reviews by Administrative Secretaries/Heads of Departments, monthly reviews chaired by the Chief Secretary, besides the reviews at the highest government level chaired by the Chief Minister himself for matters requiring such consideration. This graduated arrangement would ensure that project-related issues are examined at the appropriate level and escalated wherever necessary. It was demonstrated by the team that the proposed JK-PMG would leverage a digitized, cost-free portal with automated reporting and analytical capabilities. Under the envisaged workflow, project proponents would register projects and bottlenecks, sponsoring departments would verify the issues, and the concerned district

administration or departments would undertake action for their resolution. Critical unresolved matters would be escalated to higher forums involving the concerned stakeholders for instant resolution of the issues at hand.

Later, the National PMG team conducted a sensitization workshop for officers and officials of the Planning Department and other concerned stakeholders, apprising them of the working, institutional architecture, digital workflow and escalation mechanism of the proposed JK-PMG. The workshop focused on the roles of various stakeholders in identifying, tracking and resolving project-related bottlenecks, while facilitating a common understanding of the operational processes required for its smooth implementation in the UT.

# National Lok Adalat held across Poonch; 883 cases settled

## Child Care Room inaugurated at District Court Complex

### NEWS POST REASI

**POONCH:** The 3rd National Lok Adalat of 2026 under the Aegis of Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority and Hon'ble High Court of J&K was organized today in all Courts of District Poonch.

The proceedings witnessed enthusiastic participation from Judicial Officers, members of the Bar, bank officials, litigants and the general public. While starting National Lok Adalat Chairman, District Legal Services Authority Poonch, Susheel Singh (Pr. District & Sessions Judge) highlighted the positive aspects of Lok Adalat and described it as the need of the hour. He stressed upon the general public to come forward to take benefit of this Lok Adalat.

Prior to the start of National Lok Adalat, the Chairman DLSA inaugurated the child



care room in the district court complex which has been equipped with all the basic necessities. The facility has been made fully furnished recently by the efforts of the Chairman DLSA. The

Chairman DLSA was accompanied by judicial officers of the District Headquarter At District Headquarters Poonch, six benches were constituted for the conduct of the National Lok Adalat, while

total eight benches were constituted across the entire district for amicable settlement of cases. First bench was presided by Chairman DLSA (Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Susheel Singh and assisted by Additional District & Sessions Judge Mir Wajahat. Second Bench was presided by Chief Judicial Magistrate Sarfraz Nawaz and assisted by Secretary District Legal Services Authority Rafaqat Hussain. Third Bench was presided by Sub-Judge Special Mobile Magistrate Asma Choudhary and assisted by Principal Magistrate JJB Saloni Annand.

Forth Bench was presided by Additional District & Sessions Judge Mir Wajahat and assisted by District Mobile Magistrate Traffic Jaspreet Kaur. The fifth Bench was Presided by Munsiff

Additional Special Mobile Magistrate Surankote Meghna Mohan and assisted by Advocate Iftikhar Hussain Shah. Sixth Bench was presided by Munsiff/JMIC Mendhar Roopsi and assisted by Panel Lawyer Alyas Ahmed Khan. Seventh Bench was presided by District Labour Officer Mohammad Arif and assisted by Labour Inspector Ravinder Singh. Eighth Bench was presided by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Mohammad Sayeed and assisted by Tehsildar Haveli Azhar Majeed.

A total no of 1293 cases including civil, criminal, MACT, Bank Recovery, Pre-Litigation and other cases were taken up in today's Lok Adalat. Out of these, 883 cases were settled by way of mediation, conciliation and compromise. An amount of Rs.10573613 was settled.

# 'It was a risk': Bhai Tera Star Hai's Niharika NM on quitting well paying content creation career for acting

Niharika NM, the social media star who has acquired a millions of followers with her comedy sketches and videos, began her new journey with movies down South and now is venturing into Hindi film industry as well. The internet sensation is set to make her Hindi film debut in *Bhai Tera Star Hai* with Raghav Juyal, which arrives in cinemas on July 31. Talking about the transition from social media to the big screen and promoting her two films together, Niharika told Hindustan Times that it has been an 'incredible journey' full of emotions and challenges.

Paused content creation for acting

Known for her viral sketches and multilingual content, Niharika confessed that exiting the business was not easy for her. She said, "I stopped making content probably three years ago and it was a risk that I was willing to take at the peak of my social media career as a content creator because I truly believed that I wanted to be part of bigger, larger stories that I was passionate about telling. It was a risk I was willing to take, and I think it is slowly paying off."

The actor further stated that quitting her social media career and a hefty paycheck that came with it was intimidating. "The process of transitioning can be



a little daunting because leaving something you're already good at and that makes you a lot of money is quite a risk to take. But I believed in myself. Worst-case scenario, I know how to build myself back up. That much faith I have in myself," she said.

Niharika added that she decided to concentrate on learning the craft of acting instead of trying to balance both careers. "I wanted to fully jump into acting because I wanted to really learn. I wanted to do well and actually be accepted by the audience not just for my

personality on the internet, but also for my work as an actor. I feel a lot of responsibility and pressure, but it's also been a lovely journey of figuring out what makes me happy," the actor added.

Theatre kid background

Niharika NM responded to the idea that she was able to score the projects by using her popularity on social media as she revealed that she has been a passionate actress and that acting has been her dream.

"I've always been a theatre kid. I graduated from Chapman University, where

I did my MBA and MFA. Storytelling has always been what I wanted to do. What I did on the internet was also storytelling, just packaged differently," she said.

On making her Hindi debut with *Bhai Tera Star Hai*

She further added that learning multiple languages also helped her to explore various fields. Speaking about *Bhai Tera Star Hai*, she said that director Vivek Agarwal had given her the role of Rashmi in the film. "He definitely saw me as Rashmi. She's feisty, flippant but all heart. The entire experience has honestly been magical. I expected roadblocks, but the cast, crew, director and producer Avantika have all been incredible. It has been the best time," she added.

She was equally excited about sharing screen space with Raghav Juyal. "Watching Raghav perform has been such a full-circle moment. I told him that we are almost the same age, but I watched him growing up. It feels like seeing someone from your neighbourhood make it. I'm so proud of him because I know how hard he's worked," the actor said, as Raghav Juyal will be in the leading role in a movie for the very first time.

## Taapsee Pannu's Gandhari lands in copyright controversy as Kanika Dhillon's production house denies claims

After *Assi* earlier this year, Taapsee Pannu is returning with Netflix thriller *Gandhari*. After the announcement, the upcoming film has run into a copyright controversy just days before its September 3 release. Writer Kalyan Bandi claims the film is similar to a story he wrote and registered back in 2019. The makers, however, have denied the allegation, stating that the film is an original story written by Kanika Dhillon.

What Kalyan Bandi claims

According to a report in India Today, Kalyan Bandi, an IIT Madras alumnus who works as an Inspector with the Central GST and Customs department, claims he wrote a story titled *Gandhari* in 2019. He says the story centred on a mother who transforms into a fierce, almost goddess-like figure while trying to save her child from a child-trafficking racket.

Kalyan claims he pitched the story to Monika Shergill in 2019, when she was associated with Voot and is now a Vice President at Netflix. He says he first reached out to her on LinkedIn and later shared an eight-page story along with a two-page synopsis. According to him, while the material was acknowledged, he was eventually told that the concept did not fit the company's commissioning slate at the time.



He says he subsequently registered the story with the Screenwriters Association and continued developing it. In 2023, Kalyan approached Baweja Studios, where discussions around the project allegedly continued for several months. He also says he submitted the concept to JioHotstar.

Why the Netflix announcement raised questions

Kalyan said the controversy began after Netflix announced *Gandhari* in 2025. The

title caught his attention, and he claimed he then started comparing the upcoming film with the story he had written several years earlier. He said the similarities, particularly the title, made him question whether his concept had been used. Speaking about the title, he said, "Only I can connect the title to the concept because it was my creativity. How can it be credited to Kanika Dhillon?"

He also claimed that the announcement had an impact on the conversations he

was having with production houses and caused him both professional and financial setbacks. In September 2025, he sent a legal notice seeking around 740 lakh in compensation, along with credit for his work. But according to him, getting money was never really the point. He added, "I don't even want money. Just say thank you and acknowledge that it was my idea. I'll be very happy if they can prove to me that this is not my story."

He added that there was no response to his legal notice and the matter never went to court. He said taking the case forward would have meant spending a considerable amount of money on a lengthy legal battle, something he could not afford as a government employee. He eventually decided not to pursue the matter further.

Kanika Dhillon's production house, Katha Pictures, has dismissed Bandi's allegations, calling them baseless. The makers have reiterated that *Gandhari* is an original story and urged people not to treat the claims as fact.

In its official statement, the production house said: "Our attention has been drawn to allegations circulating on social media and in certain publications to the effect that our forthcoming film *Gandhari* copies another person's concept and uses that person's title.

# Ranbir Kapoor channels inner 'Animal' in bloodied first look from Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Love & War

The wait to see Ranbir Kapoor in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Love & War* is finally over. The actor's first look from the much-awaited period drama has been unveiled, giving fans their first official glimpse of his character ahead of the film's theatrical release in January 2027.

Producers unveil first look

The official Instagram handle of Bhansali Productions unveiled the first-look poster of Ranbir Kapoor, giving fans their first glimpse of the actor in the highly anticipated period drama. Ranbir is seen driving a vintage car, dressed in a white T-shirt, glasses and sporting a short buzz cut. While his look is understated, one detail immediately stands out: his hand gripping the steering wheel while the other one is visibly bruised and bloodied.

The caption read: "Woh rutba, woh raub, woh junoon!" Vicky Kaushal and Alia Bhatt, Ranbir's co-stars in the film, also shared the poster from their personal handles. "Here we go! RK... Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Love & War* on 21st January 2027.



See you at the movies! #LoveAndWar," wrote Vicky.

What is *Love & War* about?

*Love & War* stars Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt and Vicky Kaushal in the lead, bringing the three actors together for the first time in a Sanjay Leela Bhansali film. The project also reunites Ranbir with Sanjay nearly two decades after *Saawariya* (2007). The filmmaker is also working with Alia again following their collaboration on *Gangubai Kathiawadi*. Interestingly, Ranbir and Vicky have

worked together in Rajkumar Hirani's *Sanju* whereas Alia has worked with Vicky in Meghna Gulzar's *Raazi*.

The makers have kept the story largely under wraps, but reports describe *Love & War* as a period romantic war drama. Reports have previously suggested that Ranbir and Vicky play Indian Air Force officers whose lives become connected to Alia's character, with a love triangle unfolding against the backdrop of war. Written by Sanjay and Ila Bedi Dutta, the

film also stars Supriya Pathak in a key role.

The film has already wrapped shooting

*Love & War* wrapped its main shoot in September 2026 after being filmed across multiple schedules. The team began shooting in November 2024 and continued with different schedules before heading into the final leg of production earlier this year.

Even after the main shoot wrapped, Sanjay Leela Bhansali reportedly returned to the sets for additional battle

sequences. According to Mid-day, the filmmaker planned to shoot more portions of the war sequences, with Ranbir, Alia and Vicky taking part.

Earlier this year, an industry source told *Hindustan Times* that the makers are taking strict measures to prevent leaks from the shoot ahead of the film's release. A source close to the film shared, "The team of *Love & War* is leaving no stone unturned to protect the film's world and prevent any content from leaking out. Not just the principal cast, but makers has reportedly asked a large section of the crew working on the project to sign strict NDAs (Non-Disclosure Agreements). Over 500 NDAs have already been signed or are currently in process, ensuring that information, visuals, or material from the sets do not make their way into the public domain."

When will *Love & War* release?

The film has gone through a change in its release plans and was postponed twice and is now set for a worldwide theatrical release on January 21, 2027. It will be released in Hindi, Tamil and Telugu.

## The Paradise movie review: Nani's film leaves you with a sense of déjà vu; bogged down by legacy it doesn't live up to

There are many who have a grouse with Srikanth Odela's debut film, *Dasara* (2023), with Nani. I am not one of them. While that film also felt awfully familiar, thanks to his guru, Sukumar's *Rangasthalam* (2018), there was honesty in the way the tale was told. The same cannot be said for their second outing, *The Paradise*. It is not just bogged down with a sense of déjà vu, but is shoddily made, making no attempt to stand apart from similar films that have been hitting screens lately. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

The *Paradise* story

Shikanja Malik (Mohan Babu) rules over the fictional *Paradise* by exploiting the *Savaari* tribe. He has been looking down on them for years, but an incident changes the course of his rule. It has been 40 years since Independence, but the tribe is still struggling to gain legal recognition from the government. Sounds familiar? *Sammakka* (Sonali Kulkarni) is leading this fight for thousands who are throttled by Shikanja every day. Her son Jadal (Nani), however, is fighting a battle of his own against



his mother and Shikanja. What leads Jadal to join *Sammakka* in her fight for dignity? Will he achieve what he set out to do? Though it's no spoiler to say he does, because this is Telugu cinema. Every beat of this film is predictable.

The *Paradise* review

*The Paradise* is a story told in chapters, which also sounds familiar. The

story that begins with a birth and a death ends similarly. In between are people who dot the fictional place. There's Shikanja's annoying and spoiled son, Vikram (Raghav Juyal), who is busy cosplaying *Fahadh Faasil* from *Aavesham* (2024). There's Subbu (Kayadu Lohar), who gets a story that serves only as a catalyst for the hero.

There's even Sampooranesh Babu, Tanikella Bharani, Eshwari Rao, and a few others who get moments of brevity, but nothing lasting. To be fair to *The Paradise*, releasing after films with similar storylines, such as *Kalki 2898 AD*, *Salaar*, *Retro*, *Kingdom*, *Devara*, and *Peddi*, doesn't help its cause. But that's not to say Odela does anything to lend it any heft. It also doesn't help that Anirudh Ravichander delivers what is probably his weakest background score. A shame after *DC*, which shone due to his work.

The done-and-dusted saviour trope

I think it's time for Tollywood to retire the saviour trope. There are only so many ways to tell stories about downtrodden people who find a messiah. It is worth noting that most of these films haven't exactly been met with love either. So what do filmmakers think can add to an already crowded space? When Odela and Nani made *Dasara*, irrespective of what people say, it was raw and gritty. It had a beating heart. It was surprising to see Nani pull off something like that with a fresh director.

# India rape cases turn focus back onto women's safety

**NEW DELHI:** A string of rape cases in India has reignited debate over women's safety and raised questions about why sweeping legal reforms and tougher punishments have failed to curb sexual violence.

Hundreds of students marched through the streets of New Delhi on Wednesday, shouting slogans and holding placards demanding stronger safety measures following the latest high-profile case.

In that incident on Monday, three men posing as police officers allegedly gang-raped a 17-year-old girl in a public park in the heart of the capital city, according to authorities.

The case evokes the 2012 gang rape and murder of a 23-year-old physical therapy student on a bus, which triggered nationwide protests and led to more robust laws against sexual violence.

But campaigners say those changes, which included a broadening of the definition of sexual offences and the introduction of stronger punishments for rape, have proven inadequate.

"Nobody is working on the actual solution, which is the mindset change," women's rights activist Yogita Bhayana told AFP.

"The mentality that it is a woman's fault to be out of home late, or men policing women if they are seen with another man," she said.

"It is outrageous that society still thinks this way."

India recorded an average of 80 rape cases per day in 2024, according to the latest available official data. That compares with around 68 per day in 2012, the last year before the stronger laws came



in.

Activists say the true number of sexual assaults is likely far higher because many victims never file a report, often fearing stigma in a deeply patriarchal society.

- Lack of enforcement -

The alleged assault on Monday followed the rape and murder of a 16-year-old girl whose body was found by police in a decomposed state, and the alleged rape of a 17-year-old girl by a bus driver and a conductor who offered her a lift during heavy rain.

Both cases occurred in recent weeks in Delhi often called India's "rape capital" but other regions are not immune, with a video that surfaced this month showing a teenage girl being sexually assaulted in the eastern state of Bihar.

Each case has brought arrests, political condemnation and a public outcry.

After the watershed 2012 case the woman is known nationally as

"Nirbhaya" or "Fearless", as Indian law does not allow the press to publish a rape victim's name the government expanded the criminal definitions of penetration and consent.

Gang rape became punishable by at least 20 years in prison, and the death sentence was introduced for repeat rape offenders.

Lawyers and activists say the challenge lies in enforcement.

Overstretched police forces and courts lack the means to investigate cases thoroughly enough, hindering the reforms' impacts, criminal lawyer Shilpi Jain, who has represented survivors of sexual violence, told AFP.

"The problem is not in the law but with the people who are implementing it," she said.

"Overworked judges. Overworked cops. One police station handles 200,000 to 300,000 people. How will it work? This

is a vicious cycle."

India's conviction rate for rape has remained largely stable since 2012, hovering at around a quarter of all cases that make it to trial.

But the criminal justice system struggles with a vast case backlog.

Less than 10 percent of the more than 200,000 rape cases before the courts in 2024 were actually completed, according to official data.

But campaigners say those changes, which included a broadening of the definition of sexual offences and the introduction of stronger punishments for rape, have proven inadequate.

"Nobody is working on the actual solution, which is the mindset change," women's rights activist Yogita Bhayana told AFP.

"The mentality that it is a woman's fault to be out of home late, or men policing women if they are seen with another man," she said.

"An average rape case takes seven to eight years. If the case goes to the Supreme Court, then 20 years, so criminals lose fear of law and victims lose hope," Jain said.

For gender rights activist Poonam Muttreja, legal reforms alone cannot solve a problem rooted in social attitudes and inequality.

Deep-seated cultural taboos and political resistance have hampered the effectiveness of government programmes to raise awareness of sexual violence, experts say.

"Prevention must begin much before a crime is committed: in homes, schools, communities, digital spaces and police systems," Muttreja said.

## India wanted red flags on chip packets and soda. Big Food fought back

**NEW DELHI:** A can of Fanta sold in London has 63 calories. Buy the same brand in India, and it contains three times as much sugar. It also includes artificial dye, whose presence in food products in Europe requires a prominent health warning. In India, the colorant's presence is noted merely in small print on the back of the can. That suits some of the world's biggest companies, which have long resisted Indian efforts to mandate nutritional warnings on the front of packaged products. Consumer giants like Coca-Cola, which makes Fanta, appear to have the advantage. India's food-safety regulator said in August that it had abandoned a push for colorful warnings on the front of food packaging. It said such warning labels don't account for how Indian cuisine has more intense flavors than Western food and instead proposed that companies display a black-and-white table of sugar, fat and salt content.

India's Supreme Court is scrutinizing that decision after a petition by public health activists. At stake are the waistlines of the 450 million Indians who could be obese or overweight by 2050, according to



a recent study published in the journal Lancet. Experts say more transparency in labeling can forge healthier eating habits. At their urging, roughly 20 nations have adopted interpretive labels — which may include highlighting high sugar levels in red and low fat content in green — on the front of packaged foods.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India buckled after a tense March meeting with industry executives,

who argued that such warning labels were confusing and ineffective, according to recordings reviewed by Reuters. Executives also urged regulators to focus on encouraging portion control.

Details of the meeting are reported by Reuters for the first time.

It is "very simplistic" to believe that a consumer who doesn't already read ingredient lists "will be so informed by seeing a symbol or an icon on the label" that their

diet significantly improves, senior Coca-Cola India executive Mili Bhattacharya said at the March 19 meeting.

She added that warning labels were pointless because they would not prevent consumers from otherwise having sugary and salty foods. And they were unnecessary because Indian doctors had done a good job teaching their patients what food should be avoided. Coca-Cola and its bottling partners, however, have voluntarily added traffic-light-style labels to their drinks in some two dozen European markets. Such labels provide "clear and transparent" information, Coca-Cola HBC, a Switzerland-based affiliate, says on its website.

Nestle is a member of Indian lobbies that fought the regulator's erstwhile proposals. But the company has voluntarily used interpretive labels in Britain since 2013. Coca-Cola and Nestle declined to comment for this article.

For this report, Reuters reviewed the audio recordings, hundreds of pages of government and corporate documents, and interviewed 11 industry executives and health experts.

## F-35 parts headed for US now in Chinese possession: Big jet mystery looms ahead of Trump-Xi talks



**NEW YORK:** With US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping headed for talks this evening, a lot of important issues are at play between both sides. Among them is the mystery surrounding an F-35 fighter jet, parts of which are reportedly in Chinese possession now. The jet departed for the US from Australia months ago, but was diverted to Hong Kong.

While Australia has confirmed the parts were diverted to Hong Kong by mistake, Pentagon is investigating how parts of the US's most advanced fighter jet ended up there.

"We are actively working with US authorities and industry partners to retrieve these components, investigate the incident,

and place safeguards to avoid a future occurrence," the F-35 Joint Program Office was quoted as saying by news agency AP.

Charting the F-35 jet's course

A cockpit canopy and weapons-bay door from an Australian military F-35 were headed to the US for inspection and possible repairs in May. The shipment had parts coated with radar-absorbing material that enhances their stealth capabilities, a Bloomberg report said.

However, the plane was rerouted in transit and made an unscheduled stop in South Korea. From there, there it was routed to Hong Kong. There was initially no clarity on whether the parts were intentionally or inadvertently diverted. However,

Australia confirmed earlier this week that the diversion was made by mistake. "We've been made aware of this, and we're obviously working with the United States and Lockheed in terms of how we can assist in this investigation," Defense Minister Richard Marles was quoted as saying in a CNN report.

However, Australia has denied the material that the missing parts were "sensitive equipment."

According to reports, China has taken possession of the parts but so far hasn't returned them. A Chinese Embassy spokesman declined immediate comment, while the Foreign Ministry in Beijing said it was "not aware of the situation" on Thursday, Bloomberg said.

## Pentagon's official Iran war death toll no longer lists 4 troops killed during renewed fighting

**WASHINGTON:** The four American troops killed during renewed fighting between the U.S. and Iran in recent weeks are no longer listed as part of the Iran war death toll in the Pentagon's official casualty count but have been placed in a new, separate category.

It is raising questions about properly counting the impact to U.S. service members as the Trump administration has escalated strikes on Iran in a bid to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, while providing little indication of how it intends to wind down a conflict that is unpopular with many Americans.

The Defense Casualty Analysis System, which Pentagon officials have repeatedly pointed to as the definitive source on the numbers of dead and wounded from the conflict, removed the four fallen soldiers as well as dozens of wounded troops from its Iran war tally last week.

On Sunday, a new category called "Overseas Operations" emerged on the system's website, listing the four Army deaths by name as well as 207 wounded. It was unclear if all of the wounded were injured in the Iran conflict.

U.S. Central Command, which oversees operations in the Middle East, referred questions to the Pentagon, which did not immediately respond.

Pentagon press secretary Joel Valdez argued Thursday that the drop in casualty figures in the online system was not an effort to hide the growing human toll of the war but rather the result of "anomalies" and "temporary data disruptions" that were being resolved "imminently." As late as Tuesday, the website was reporting the war's official toll as 18 killed and 482 wounded.

It appeared to reflect that four soldiers had been killed since fighting resumed despite the signing of an interim ceasefire deal last month — three on a base in Jordan that was struck July 17 by Iranian ballistic missiles and drones, and one in Iraq a day later during a controlled detonation of an Iranian drone.

Adding further confusion, when the Pentagon announced two of the deaths in Jordan, it said the troops were supporting the U.S. mission to counter the Islamic State group. The other two were announced in press releases simply as supporting overseas operations.

President Donald Trump has confirmed the total, writing in a Truth Social post on Tuesday that the "Iran Military Conflict" had claimed 18 lives.

## Pak says it struck 10 Afghanistan sites allegedly used to launch drone attacks

**TEHRAN:** Pakistan said it carried out airstrikes early Thursday on 10 sites in Afghanistan that it said were used to launch drone attacks against Pakistan a day earlier, a sharp escalation in their recent fighting that threatens international mediation efforts.

In Afghanistan's southeastern Khost province, Mustaghfir Gurbaz, a spokesman for the province's governor, said Pakistani airstrikes had targeted several sites, including near the provincial center, at around 3:30 a.m., but that they had not caused any casualties.

The announcement of the strikes by Pakistani Information Minister Attaullah Tarar in a post on X came after officials said Afghanistan's Taliban forces had fired eight drones and shelled Pakistani border posts after Pakistani troops foiled what they described as a cross-border infil-

tration attempt by militants.

The Afghan government had no immediate comment. However, Afghan government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid on Wednesday denied that Afghan forces had carried out any drone attacks on Pakistan. The conflicting statements came two days after Pakistani fighter jets struck sites in eastern Afghanistan that Islamabad said were militant hideouts.

The accounts could not be independently verified. The escalation threatens mediation efforts by China, Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia to broker a lasting peace between Kabul and Islamabad.

Pakistan has repeatedly accused Afghanistan's Taliban government of allowing militants to operate from its territory and carry out attacks across the border, an accusation Kabul denies.

"Instead of dismantling these networks and taking credible and verifiable action against those using Afghan territory to perpetrate terrorism against Pakistan, the Afghan Taliban regime has chosen to escalate the situation through hostile drone operations against Pakistan," Tarar said.

"The strikes were deliberate, precise, calibrated, and proportionate and strictly limited to identified military objectives directly linked to the attempted attacks against Pakistan," he added.

Pakistani officials also claimed Wednesday that security forces had neutralized eight rudimentary drones launched by the Afghan Taliban before they could enter the northwestern city of Kohat and the border town of Torkham, and that Afghan forces fired mortars and other heavy weapons at Pakistani border

posts. Pakistani forces responded with artillery fire targeting Taliban border posts, mortar sites and defensive positions, they said. The four officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to talk to the media about the latest flare-up.

In Monday's airstrikes, Pakistan's Information Ministry said 28 militants were killed, while Afghan authorities said at least three civilians died and four others were wounded. The U.N. mission in Afghanistan confirmed the civilian casualties and Kabul formally protested the attack.

On the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York, Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar expressed concern about what he said was the presence of more than two dozen anti-Pakistani militant groups in Afghanistan.

Monday's Pakistani airstrikes followed a shootout with militants in Hangu, a district in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province near the Afghan border, that killed six Pakistani security personnel.

Days earlier, a suicide bomber struck a mosque inside a police compound in the nearby city of Kohat. Eight gunmen then stormed the compound, triggering a 20-hour gunbattle that killed at least 21 people, most of them police officers. No group had claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Pakistani authorities blamed the violence on the Pakistani Taliban and allied militant groups. The Pakistani Taliban, formally known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, have stepped up their attacks on Pakistani security forces, boosted by the Afghan Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan in 2021.

# Will Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation improve the education system?

BY DR.SATYAVAN SAURABH

The current situation in India's education system is one where the problem isn't confined to a single individual or a single ministry. It's a multi-layered crisis, characterized by policy ambiguity, implementation weaknesses, resource constraints, teacher training challenges, a test-driven mindset, and socio-economic inequality—all coexisting simultaneously. Therefore, when the question arises as to whether the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will improve the education system, the answer must be not merely political, but also institutional and structural. The truth is that simply changing a minister doesn't automatically improve the education system; improvement occurs when policy, intention, investment, and execution all work in unison. Education in India has long been seen more as a "declaration" than a "policy." Every government talks about education reform, but the pace of change on the ground remains painfully slow. The National Education Policy 2020 promised a new direction for India's education system—holistic education, mother tongue-based elementary education, skill development, multidisciplinary studies, digital learning, and research-oriented higher education. On paper, this policy is extremely ambitious. But there is often a huge gap between ambition and effective implementation. This gap is where any education minister's true test lies. Looking back at Dharmendra Pradhan's tenure, it's clear that he took steps to advance the National Education Policy, emphasize multilingual education, prioritize skill development, promote digital education, and make higher education more flexible. It would be wrong to say that nothing happened during his tenure. Many schemes progressed, dialogue increased, and the national debate on education intensified. But it's also true that the fundamental problems of the Indian education system remained unresolved. The quality gap in government schools, the rural-urban disparity, teacher shortages, the exam-driven culture, and the dependence on coaching institutes—all these problems remain deeply entrenched. In this context,

it's important to understand the role of the Education Minister. The Education Minister cannot single-handedly improve the quality of schools, increase the research capacity of universities, or transform the learning conditions of millions of students in one fell swoop. Their role primarily involves policy formulation, coordination, budget prioritization, institutional monitoring, and collaboration with states. If these five functions are improved, the potential for educational improvement increases. However, if only the face is changed and the policy framework remains the same, the results will be limited. The biggest problem with India's education system is its inability to provide equal opportunity. On one hand, there are private schools and expensive institutions in metropolitan cities, where facilities and opportunities are relatively abundant; on the other hand, there are government schools and remote rural areas, where there is a severe lack of infrastructure, trained teachers, and digital resources. This inequality cannot be eliminated by a single minister, whether Dharmendra Pradhan or anyone else. It requires long-term state policy, central-state coordination, and social investment. It's also worth noting that the question of education reform in India is not just administrative, but also ideological. For decades, our education system has been viewed as a machine for passing exams, not as a medium for developing thinking. Rote learning has limited students' creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities. The National Education Policy seeks to reverse this trend, but change doesn't come from mere documents. It requires changes in curriculum, assessment, teacher training, and classroom practices. This is where reforms are truly tested. Those demanding Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation may argue that leadership change increases accountability and injects new energy. This argument is partially correct. Leadership style, priorities, and work culture are crucial in any ministry. If communication is weak during a minister's tenure, policy results are slow, or grassroots grievances are not addressed as expected, then change is felt to be necessary. But the question here remains: is change needed

in the individual or in the system? If the system itself is weak, the new minister will operate within the same framework. Therefore, resignation can only serve as a political symbol, not a solution. The truth is that the real key to education reform lies in budgeting and implementation. Public investment in India's education has long been relatively low. While announcements are often grand, fundamental issues like school renovations, laboratory establishments, library development, scholarship distribution, teacher recruitment, and digital access are often left behind. If the government truly wants to prioritize education, it must increase financial commitment, not just policy documents. Education is an area where spending should be considered an investment, not a burden. Teachers are the backbone of this entire system. But the status of teachers in India is itself precarious. Many schools have teacher vacancies, in many places, one teacher is burdened with multiple classes, and teacher training in many institutions is outdated and irrelevant. Unless teachers are competent, respected, and trained, any education reform will be limited. Changing ministers will not solve this problem. This requires improving service conditions, quality training, and respecting the teaching profession. Digital education held great promise, but its limitations also became apparent. The pandemic made the usefulness of digital learning clear, but it also revealed the severe lack of internet, equipment, and digital literacy in large parts of the country. Digital education must now be an inclusive approach, not just a gadget-driven policy. This means improved connectivity in rural areas, low-cost devices, content in local languages, and technology-ready teachers. Simply creating online platforms doesn't modernize education. When it comes to higher education, research, innovation, and academic autonomy in India remain beset by numerous challenges. University curricula are outdated, research funding is limited, and administrative interference can impact academic freedom. A change in the Education Minister will only have positive implications if it improves university autonomy, the research environment, and international com-

petitiveness. Otherwise, mere political rhetoric will not make much difference. It's also essential that we don't view education reform as an election debate. Education is a long-term process, with results not immediately apparent. It's easy for any government to announce a new policy, but the challenge is implementing it consistently for ten years. Continuity is crucial here. If every minister were to completely overhaul the previous policy, the education system would cease to be stable. Therefore, the real question isn't whether Dharmendra Pradhan should go or stay; the real question is whether any leadership views education as a long-term national project. For India, education means not only employment but also citizenship. An educated society strengthens democracy, promotes scientific thinking, challenges social inequality, and opens new opportunities for women and disadvantaged communities. Therefore, it would be wrong to view education reform as merely an administrative achievement of a government department. It is a process of nation-building. If this process is accompanied by political stability, policy clarity, and social support, change is possible. Otherwise, leadership change will become a mere formality. Ultimately, the conclusion is clear. Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation won't automatically improve the education system. Yes, if the leadership that replaces him is more sensitive, more accountable, and more results-oriented, the pace of reform could improve. But fundamental reform will come not from the minister's departure, but from a systemic transformation. India's education system needs sustainable policy, adequate funding, trained teachers, digital inclusion, a research culture, and social equality. These are the foundations on which real reform can be built. Changing the face is easy; changing the system is difficult. And India's education system now needs difficult and honest reform, not easy.

By Dr. Satyawan Saurabh PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker. (Views are personal)

## How diabetes can affect your skin; 13 symptoms to watch out for

**NEW DELHI:** Diabetes, the chronic illness that makes it difficult for the body to use the sugar it gets from the food due. The elevated blood sugar level in the bloodstream can damage heart, blood vessels, eyes, kidneys, nerves are more over a period of time. Regular medication and lifestyle changes can keep the disease in control and keep complications in check. Diabetes can also affect your skin. In fact, changes in your skin can at time be the first symptom of diabetes. Having the metabolic disorder can make existing skin problems worse and also lead to new skin issues.

Diabetes can lead to damage to your blood vessels and nerves which may reduce circulation and blood flow to the skin. Decreased blood circulation can lead to changes in collagen in turn affecting skin's texture, appearance, and ability to heal. One may have itching, thickening of skin, yellow or brown patches, blisters, skin infections among other skin problems with diabetes. "Diabetes is a chronic disease and one of the fastest growing ailments in the world. And based on the current situation, it is predicted that in just a few years about one on three people will be suffering from Type II diabetes. While researchers and

experts are still looking for a permanent cure for the diabetes, most people tend to miss the indications for diabetes. Knowing the symptoms and effects of the disease can help you prevent it from getting serious," says Dr. Rinky Kapoor, Consultant Dermatologist, Cosmetic Dermatologist & Dermatologist, The Esthetic Clinics.

Dr Rinky on common symptoms of diabetes on skin to watch out for:

1. Bacterial infections on the skin. If your sugar levels are high then you are more prone to bacterial infections particularly on the eyelids in the form of sties and boils, nail infections and deep skin infections. These infections are usually painful with red and swollen appearance.

2. Necrobiosis Lipoidica

These are patches on skin that are yellow, red, or brown in colour. They usually start as small bumps and progress to bigger patches that are hard and swollen to touch. The skin gets a shiny appearance and becomes itchy and painful.

3. Dark velvety skin

This is one of the most common and first symptoms of pre diabetes. Dark, velvety patches of skin appear on neck, armpits and groins and other areas of skin folds.

## Maternal mental health at work: Here's how women can achieve work-life balance during the postpartum period

**NEW DELHI:** Pregnancy is life-altering but it can be overwhelming for many women as they will be unable to cope-up with the challenges that occur during pregnancy and the postpartum period thus, it is the need of the hour that the family members and organisations should support them and makes their life easy.

As per studies, how an organization handles a mother's return to work can have a dramatic impact on her mental health.

Organisations control the majority of work-related factors that can help with positive mental health outcomes, which can be in the form of paid maternity leave, total workload and job flexibility for new mothers.

A mother may find it difficult to strike a work-life balance as returning to work from pregnancy can be taxing for a woman where one may start combining her roles as an employee and a mother.

In an interview with HT Lifestyle, Dr Surabhi Siddhartha, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at Motherhood Hospital in Kharghar, talked about how to maintain a work-life balance and said, "If



there is a conflict between the role of a mother and an employee then it can lead to a negative outcome.

Those who've been out of work for a long time with an illness and are coming back to the workplace can have difficulty in re-adjusting themselves after a long period of time."

She asserted, "It is essential for the organisation to ensure a smooth transition for better productivity and successful results.

There are return-to-work programs to check the employee's capability and adjust their job responsibilities by maintaining a correct balance. There should be a support group created to help women cope with pressure sit-

uations. There should be a structure in place where we can have those conversations and meet those needs.

There should be flexibility while working so that women can easily juggle both duties. New mothers should be allowed to work from home whenever possible."

The expert concluded, "A good work environment should be provided to new moms so that they can pay attention to the baby and their work. Avoid overexerting, pamper, and take utmost care of yourself. It is OKAY to take out some time for yourself and relax without feeling guilty.

Try to take charge of your health too along with the baby's health."

## Doctor shares what happens to your eyes when you sleep less than 6 hours

**NEW DELHI:** Sleep is not just a process to make your body rest; it is as important for your eyes. While most people understand that getting enough sleep helps them feel fresh and focused, in contrast, many don't realise how lack of sleep can directly affect their health, especially their eyes. If you regularly sleep less than 6 hours, you may be at risk for various eye issues.

Dr. Vinay Prasad, Senior Consultant at Sharp Sight Eye Hospitals, shared with HT Lifestyle what really happens to your eyes when you don't get enough sleep.

1. Dry and irritated eyes

When you don't get enough sleep regularly, your eyes don't produce enough tears that keep your eyes moist, comfortable and clean. Without enough moisture, your eyes can become dry, red and itchy, which can later on cause severe eye problems. You may also feel a burning sensation or think there's something stuck in your eye for

- 24 hours.

2. Twitching eyes (Myokymia) Have you ever felt a sudden twitch in your eyelid? This is one of the most common symptoms of myokymia, and it can happen more often when you have tired eyes. It's not dangerous, but it is not normal. Eye twitching is usually caused by fatigue, stress and lack of sleep.

3. Dark circles and puffy eyes

One of the most relevant signs of poor sleep is dark circles and puffy eyes. This only happens when you don't sleep well, and then your blood vessels under the eyes react, making the area look darker. Insomniacs usually have puffy eyes that are immediately visible, causing fluid to build in their eye and making them look swollen and tired.

4. Blurry vision and trouble focusing

Your eyes need relaxation after long working hours, and a good sleep routine maintains the wellness of your eyes. Without enough sleep, your

eyes have difficulty focusing on any object and have a clear vision. You can also face blurry vision when you stare at the screen or try to read, as your eye muscles are not relaxed.

5. Increased risk of eye infections

Eye water that contains salts, lipids, and proteins is helpful in protecting your eyes from external enzymes like bacteria and dust. If you don't sleep enough, your eyes don't produce enough tears, which means your eyes are more exposed to germs. This can increase the risk of causing drastic eye infections like conjunctivitis (pink eye).

6. Eye strain and sensitivity to light

Tired eyes are more sensitive to light and more likely to feel strained. When you are sleep-deprived, you may find it challenging to sit in a room with bright lights or watch phone screens or computer monitors. This results in regular headaches and eye strain in

well-lit places.

Solutions to keep your eyes healthy

To protect your eyes from the drastic effects of a poor sleep cycle, you can improve your sleep schedule and sleep for at least 8 hours.

Try reducing screen time before bed and follow the 20-20-20 rule that is every 20 minutes, look at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds.

Adapt peaceful habits like meditation or deep breathing that can improve sleep quality and reduce eye strain caused by fatigue and anxiety.

The experts recommend proper 7-8 hours of sleep every day for healthy habits. This gives your eyes enough rest and time to recover, heal and recharge to function on the next day.

Your eyes work hard all day, and sleeping less than 6 hours regularly can backfire on your overall health. Therefore, give your eyes the rest they need and a clear vision, resulting in a

healthier lifestyle.

Even though most of India has finally received monsoon showers, many regions are still grappling with scorching heat. With temperatures soaring to 40-45 degrees, it's no wonder more people are spending long hours indoors under air conditioning. But while ACs help us stay cool, few realise that sitting in an air-conditioned environment for prolonged periods can quietly harm our eyes.

Dr Jay Goyal, Senior Eye Surgeon and Director at Surya Eye Institute, shared with HT Lifestyle how prolonged AC use can harm your eyes and shared practical tips to keep them healthy.

Sitting in the AC for long hours may worsen the symptoms for people with dry eye problems. This is because in a closed room, dust, pollen, mould, and other allergens can be dispersed by air conditioning systems, resulting in allergies and rashes near the eyes.



# CM Omar moves resolution seeking immediate restoration of full statehood to J&K

## Calls for fulfilment of commitment made to people; says statehood belongs to entire Jammu and Kashmir

### NEWS POST REASI

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today moved a resolution in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly calling upon the Government of India for the immediate and urgent restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. The resolution, moved during the ongoing Autumn Session of the Assembly, seeks to build upon the resolutions passed by the House on June 26, 2000 and November 6, 2024.

"In addition to the Resolutions passed by this House on 26th June 2000 and 6th November 2024, this House calls upon the Government of India for the immediate and urgent restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and resolves that this Resolution be forwarded to Government of India," the resolution states. Moving the resolution, the Chief Minister urged members across the political spectrum to support it unanimously, emphasising that statehood was not an issue belonging to one side of the House or another, but an issue concerning the entire people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"I would like to request the House to pass this Resolution, because without statehood,

Jammu and Kashmir has suffered immensely. A promise was made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir," the Chief Minister said.

Referring to the sequence of delimitation, elections and restoration of statehood, he said the first two steps had been completed and the people of Jammu and Kashmir had participated in the electoral process willingly.

"There was an election. People took part in the election. And they took part willingly," he said, adding that people had hoped that the third step of restoration of statehood would follow the elections.

The Chief Minister said the Government of India had been reminded publicly, privately and at various forums that the commitment to restore statehood remained to be fulfilled.

"Today, through this House, we want to remind the Government of India that something should be done about your promises," he said. Referring to the commitment made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Chief Minister said, "When the Prime Minister was giving his speech, he said that this is not an ordinary promise. This is the promise of Modi."



Omar Abdullah also emphasised the need for unanimity on the issue, saying that statehood should not be viewed as belonging to either the Treasury or Opposition benches. "Statehood is neither of this side nor that side. It is not only of this House. If there is statehood, then it is of the whole of Jammu and Kashmir," he said. Explaining the practical implications of the present constitutional and administrative arrangement, the Chief Minister cited the functioning of the Power Development Corporation and SKIMS as examples of areas where, according to him, the elected government does not exercise the same decision-making authority it would have under

full statehood.

Referring to a discussion in the House on a hydroelectric project, he said that as Chief Minister and Power Minister, he did not have the Power Development Corporation under his control, despite the elected government being responsible for development-related matters.

He also referred to SKIMS, stating that while the elected government provides budgetary support, decisions relating to the premier health institution are not entirely within the purview of the elected government.

"There are many other instances like these, which I will present at the end of this discussion in front of the

House," he said.

The Chief Minister clarified that the resolution had been carefully worded so that it would not replace or undermine earlier resolutions passed by the Assembly.

"This resolution neither replaces them, nor substitutes them, nor ignores them. This resolution is in addition to those resolutions," he said.

He further underlined that the earlier resolutions continued to stand as resolutions of the House and that the present resolution sought to add to them by reiterating the demand for restoration of full statehood.

The Chief Minister also rejected the possibility of a partial restoration of statehood.

"What we hear in the media that we will get a half state, we will get a quarter state, we will get a state without law and order. No, we do not want such a state. We have been promised a full state and we want a full state back," he said.

The Chief Minister concluded by urging the members to participate in the discussion on the resolution and support the call for restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

# Govt intensifies relief, restoration measures in Rajouri, Poonch; seeks IMCT assessment: Dy CM

## Rs 300 lakh SDRF, Rs281 lakh CMRF released for Rajouri; Rs400 lakh SDRF, Rs137 lakh CMRF for Poonch

### NEWS POST REASI

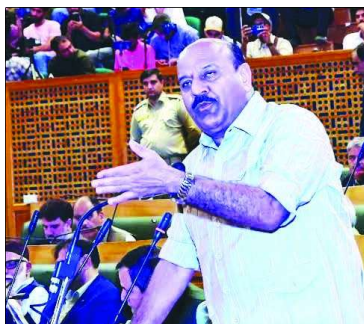
**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir government today informed the Legislative Assembly that comprehensive relief and restoration measures have been undertaken for areas affected by heavy rains, flash floods and landslides in Rajouri and Poonch districts.

This was stated by Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Kumar Choudhary, in response to a Calling Attention Motion raised by MLA Muzaffar Iqbal Khan regarding the extensive damage caused by unprecedented heavy rains, flash floods and landslides in Thanamandi Constituency and various parts of Poonch.

The Dy CM was replying on behalf of Chief Minister who also holds the portfolio of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction.

The Dy CM informed the House that ₹300 lakh have been released to District Rajouri under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and ₹281 lakh under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF). Similarly, ₹400 lakh have been released to District Poonch under SDRF and ₹137 lakh under CMRF.

Regarding relief disbursement, the



Deputy Chief Minister stated that, ₹75.52 lakh have been disbursed to 149 affected families in Thanamandi under SDRF norms while ₹120.50 lakh have been provided to 138 families under CMRF. In District Poonch, ₹216.379 lakh have been disbursed to affected families under SDRF.

The government further informed the House that, over and above SDRF assistance, ₹5 crore each have been provided under the UT Capex Budget for Rajouri and Poonch districts to undertake restoration and reconstruction of damaged infrastructure on priority. The

funds are being utilised through the concerned executing agencies.

The government also presented a district-wise account of damage and restoration measures undertaken. In Thanamandi Constituency, damage was reported to 182 roads, 25 HT poles/33 KV line infrastructure, 70 transformers, 72 drinking-water schemes, 51.98 hectares of agricultural land and 1.90 hectares of horticulture land besides 149 houses.

In District Poonch, 388 roads, 55 bridges, 29 power stations/transformers, 72 drinking-water schemes, 217.7 hectares of agricultural land and 379 houses were affected. The final damage assessment for infrastructure restoration stands at ₹13,025.94 lakh for roads/bridges, ₹1,360.43 lakh for power stations/transformers, ₹4,149 lakh for water supply schemes, and ₹6,024 lakh for khuls in Thanamandi Constituency. For District Rajouri, the final assessment totals ₹46,022.57 lakh, comprising ₹18,517.50 lakh for roads/bridges, ₹3,144.32 lakh for power infrastructure, and ₹24,360.75 lakh for water supply schemes. For District Poonch, the final assessment amounts to ₹18,185.95 lakh for roads/bridges, ₹233.75 lakh for power infrastructure, ₹2,315.07

lakh for water supply schemes, and ₹186.97 lakh for khuls.

On the demand for a special inter-departmental mechanism, the government clarified that an existing institutional mechanism involving concerned line departments and district administrations is already in place for coordinated assessment, restoration and rehabilitation of affected infrastructure and essential services. The situation is being closely monitored and additional assistance will be initiated as required.

The government also informed the House that the matter has been taken up with the Ministry for Home Affairs, Government of India, seeking deputation of an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) for on-spot assessment of the situation arising from flash floods, floods, cloudbursts and landslides during the 2026 monsoon in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The government reiterated that all reported cases of damage are being duly examined and verified by designated committees as per the prescribed procedure to ensure that all genuine and eligible cases are covered and relief reaches the affected persons in a timely and transparent manner.

## BJP OBC Morcha Organises Service Activities in Jammu South and Rajouri under 'Seva, Mera Yogdan' Initiative.

### NEWS POST REASI

**JAMMU:** As part of the ongoing 'Seva, Mera Yogdan' initiative, the BJP OBC Morcha, Jammu & Kashmir, organised a series of service-oriented and awareness activities in Jammu South and Rajouri districts, with a focus on promoting healthy living and cleanliness.

In Bahu Mandal of Jammu South, a yoga programme was organised at Harki Pauri Ashram, under the leadership of Sunny Sangotra, State General Secretary, BJP OBC Morcha, and under the guidance of Yoga Guru Karan Ji. During the programme, local youth participated in various yoga exercises and were made aware of the importance of regular physical activity, balanced living and maintaining good health.

The participants were also given a message on drug de-addiction and the need to stay away from substance abuse. The organisers



emphasised that yoga and disciplined daily routines can contribute towards physical fitness, mental well-being and a healthier lifestyle, particularly among the younger generation.

In Thanamandi Mandal of Rajouri district, a cleanliness drive was conducted in and around the Ziyarat Shadara

Sharief complex and the bus stand area.

The cleanliness activity witnessed the participation of District President Zahid Ahmed, Mandal office-bearers, Naseem Ullah Ganai and other BJP OBC Morcha workers, who actively contributed to cleaning the identified areas and spreading

awareness about cleanliness and civic responsibility.

Speaking on the activities, Braham Jyot Satti, President, BJP OBC Morcha, Jammu & Kashmir, said that the 'Seva, Mera Yogdan' initiative is aimed at encouraging workers and members of society to actively contribute towards the welfare

of the community. He said that service is not limited to any particular activity but includes efforts towards cleanliness, health awareness, environmental care and creating a responsible and healthy society.

He said that promoting yoga, healthy living and drug de-addiction among youth is particularly important, as a physically and socially aware younger generation can make a meaningful contribution to society. He also stressed the importance of maintaining cleanliness at religious places, public spaces and other common areas.

He appreciated the participation of the Morcha workers and local residents in both programmes and urged them to continue such activities at the grassroots level. He said that collective participation and a sense of responsibility among citizens can help in creating cleaner surroundings and promoting a healthier lifestyle.

## Veteran Social Activist Er.Rishi Kilam Raises Questions Over Devika's Condition, Seeks Impartial Probe into Rs 186.74-Crore Project

### NEWS POST REASI

**UDHAMPUR:** Veteran Social and Political Activist Er.Rishi Kilam conducted a cleanliness drive at the Devika river site and raised questions over the condition of the sacred riverfront and the implementation of the ₹186.74-crore Devika-Tawi River Pollution

Abatement Project. Rishi highlighted problems, particularly at the cremation ground, where, according to the party, even light rain can lead to water entering the cremation area. We are not here for a political controversy, but to raise our voice for the dignity of Devika Maiya and the rights of the people of Udhampur, Kilam said. He questioned how problems related to drainage, sewerage and waterlogging continue to affect areas around Devika despite the scale of the project. He said that if sewage and drainage water enters roads, shops and residential areas during rainfall, the functioning and quality of the sewerage and drainage infrastructure should be independently examined.

The Devika project was sanctioned in September 2018 at a cost of ₹186.74 crore under the National River Conservation Plan. Government records list major components including sewer lines, three sewage pumping stations, three sewage treat-



ment plants with a combined capacity of 13.60 MLD, riverfront development at bathing ghats and improved cremation facilities. Kilam said the public has a legitimate right to know what work has actually been completed, how much expenditure has been incurred, and whether the infrastructure is functioning as intended. This is public money, not anyone's personal money. Every rupee spent on Devika must be accounted for before the people, he said. He stressed that people of Udhampur was not levelling allegations of corruption against any individual or institution without an inquiry. Instead, we demanded an impartial and high level investigation into the project's expenditure, execution, quality of work, sewerage and drainage systems, and

the problems being witnessed during rainfall. Government records have previously documented delays in the project. Kilam also called for a comprehensive status report or white paper on the project, detailing the sanctioned amount, expenditure incurred, works completed, pending works and quality assessments. "Devika is not merely a river or a development project; it is part of Udhampur's faith, culture and identity.

The people deserve transparency and a clear account of every rupee spent in its name," Kilam said. He urged the administration to make the current status of the project public and ensure that any irregularity, negligence or deficiency established through an inquiry is dealt with according to law.

## Minority Morcha Workers Honoured in South Delhi BJP Will Take the Prime Minister's Policies to Every Section of Society: Bajrang Shukla



**NEW DELHI:** The South Delhi unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) organised a programme today to honour workers of the BJP Minority Morcha. Senior party leaders and office-bearers welcomed and felicitated the workers during the programme. South Delhi BJP District President Maya Bisht, District Co-Incharge Bajrang Shukla, Minority Morcha District President Nafis Qureshi, and Minority Morcha District Vice-President Jameel Khan, along with other senior party leaders and workers, were present on the occasion. During the programme, the workers expressed their gratitude to the party leadership and pledged to work continuously to take the policies and welfare schemes of the Bharatiya Janata Party to the people. The leaders called upon the workers to strengthen the organisation and ensure that the party's policies and vision reach people from all sections of society. Addressing the gathering, Bajrang Shukla said that the party workers will work with dedication to take the policies and initiatives of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to every section of society.

The programme witnessed enthusiasm among the workers and reflected their commitment towards the organisation.

# A passage to India and other international stories

**NEW DELHI:** Hours after India host the first of their three friendlies against top-50 teams, Zinedine Zidane will end a long wait to be helm France. "Now he's my national team coach. It's like a film, but it's amazing. It's real," said Kylian Mbappe. The season's first international window, reshaped to a fortnight where countries can play a maximum of four matches, will also see Lionel Messi's last dance - on the day India host Uruguay.

There's more: Juergen Klopp returns refreshed after a break to revive Germany's fortunes. First up, the Champions League, Bundesliga and Premier League winner will run into one who has lifted the World Cup and two European championship trophies: Xavi. Will the Spaniard's first gig as Netherlands head coach also be about the three-time World Cup finalists adding some charisma to caution? For many followers of the Oranje that was the biggest disappointment from the World Cup.

## New cycle

Like after every World Cup, a new cycle will begin as teams rebuild. So, enter 16-year-old Cavan Sullivan. The Philadelphia Union's starlet is among eight teenagers in the USA squad. Or Jeremy Jacquet, who has made the France shortlist. It could also be about good teams getting better as world champions Spain's head coach Luis de la Fuente has promised. After signing a new deal till 2032, de la Fuente has said that the world has not seen Spain's best yet. England will be the first to find out what the sexagenarian means.

If 54 teams in Europe are participating



in the Nations League, Africa will start the qualifications for the Cup of Nations in this window with 48 teams split into 12 groups. The winners of the last edition though remain undecided. That's because Senegal are pleading their case at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Like many teams, Senegal will start afresh under Patrick Vieira and without Sadio Mane. For new Belgium coach and former Dutch international Mark van Bommel, the window was made memorable by Xavi including his son Ruben. On 979 career goals and with the aim to score 1000, a certain Cristiano Ronaldo though continues to feature in Portugal's plans as does Kevin de Bruyne for Belgium. And talking about golden oldies, Sardar Azmoun's back.

## Azmoun's back

Depending on whom you believe, Azmoun was omitted from Iran's World

Cup plans either because he was injured or had upset the country's government after posting a picture with a royal from UAE. It's not the first time Azmoun had taken a political stance at odds with the establishment. Remember his support for those protesting at Masha Amini's death?

But all that's water under the bridge for Iran's top scorer (57 goals in 91 matches). "Maybe after all these years and all these games, getting called up to the national team should be routine for me. But it isn't. Today when I found out I was called up again, my happiness was just like the first time," said the 31-year old.

Palestine and Yemen will be among the participants in the Gulf Cup in Saudi Arabia at a time of strife in the region. Geopolitics and football will also be in lockstep when Ireland play Israel with

Ireland's prime minister Micheal Martin backing his coach Heimur Hallgrimsson for saying they were against genocide.

Thomas Tuchel and Roberto Mancini will try to win back fans, the former after letting Argentina close out the World Cup semi-final with England barely having the ball and the latter for leaving the Italy post for a more lucrative, but short-lived, stint in Saudi Arabia.

"I think that when a fan feels betrayed, he has the right to be upset, and you have to accept it. I think to win them back, we must do things well and bring the national team back to where it belongs so things will settle," said Mancini. Being European champions on his watch feels a like a false dawn given Italy's continued failure to qualify for the World Cup.

## Jamil's test

In all this, enter India. For the first time the attention of former world champions will be on the team ranked 138th in the world. Carlo Ancelotti and Diego Forlan will be in Kolkata hoping to take the first steps to remedy a poor World Cup for Brazil and Uruguay. For Khalid Jamil it will be a test like no other, one that the India head coach told HT he was looking forward to.

It will also be the biggest match in the city that has adopted Sunil Chhetri as one of its own with the former India captain playing no part in it. It's been nearly one year since he retired from international football but Chhetri said he is still not used to the idea of being just an India fan. So, yes it will be about beginnings and endings but also a lot more than that.

## Despite no South Africa contract, David Miller happy to be in 2027 World Cup plans: 'I still want to play'

**NEW DELHI:** Australia are in South Africa, and the first ODI is presently underway at Kingsmead. Veteran batting star David Miller has made it to the Playing XI. His situation is a bit unique. He doesn't have the Cricket South Africa (CSA) contract since April. Last season, the left-hander had a deal designed for players useful in only one format. Miller has been predominantly playing T20Is and ODIs in recent years but then in the last one and a half years, it's only been T20Is. Now he is back to ODI cricket, which suggests only one thing that he may not have the contract but he is in South Africa's scheme of things as far as limited-overs cricket is concerned. Next year, the men's ODI World Cup returns to South Africa after 24 years. They are co-hosting it with Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Today Miller featuring in South Africa's Playing XI is a big giveaway that the board has not given up on him and expects him to go on right up to the quadrennial event.



Ahead of the match, the 37-year-old had expressed his disappointment at not being given the contract but he was happy that the CSA was still interested in utilising his batting skills in the middle order. "I lost my contract with Cricket South Africa, and it's never really nice, but it's part of life. I still want to play for South Africa, I'm still making

myself available, and it's just about making sure that everything is communicated really well," he said.

"I just want to play against the best. I love competing against the best in the world. And so making myself available for South Africa is something that I've always wanted to do. My priority has always been South Africa. Although I've

played a lot of leagues, I've always wanted to play for South Africa, and I love playing for South Africa. Nothing's changed. It's just that I've lost my contract. That's pretty much where it stands, and I still make myself available. So if selected, then I'll play."

Miller is unlikely to play ODIs against Bangladesh in December as he is set to feature in ILT20. And since he has the freedom to skip certain series, probably that's why he doesn't have the CSA contract. Anyway, it is good for world cricket that Miller is still going strong. In the T20 World Cup early this year, eventual champions India lost just one game, and that was against South Africa. Miller joined Ryan Rickelton with the Proteas reeling at 20/3 and smashed a 63 off 35 balls under pressure to help inflict a big 76-run defeat on the co-hosts. There is definitely life in the old dog yet and hopefully more such treats will be coming our way next year in October and November. Cricket is much richer with players like Miller around.

# 'Play your own game': India receive message ahead of tie against Brazil

**KOLKATA:** India's forthcoming meetings with Panama, Brazil and Uruguay promise something Indian football has rarely been afforded in such concentrated fashion: a chance to measure itself against three teams accustomed to operating on a considerably higher international plane.

For Mehrajuddin Wadoo, the significance extends beyond the senior team. The former India international, recently appointed head coach of the India U-17 men's team, sees the three matches both as a test of Khalid Jamil's side and as a window into the level India's emerging generation must eventually aspire to reach.

In an interaction with Hindustan Times, Wadoo spoke about the psychological challenge of confronting elite opposition, why Panama could provide the most revealing examination of India's present level, the balance Jamil must strike against Brazil, and why these matches should not be judged merely through the arithmetic of the scoreline.

'Panama game will show where Indian football stands'

Q: India have three fascinating matches

against Panama, Brazil and Uruguay. Psychologically, what do players experience when they walk onto the pitch against opponents of this stature?

Mehrajuddin Wadoo: Psychologically, it will be very tough because they are facing World Cup participants, teams that have played at that level. It is going to be a very difficult challenge.

I think the first game against Panama will be difficult because India will also get to see what their strengths and weaknesses are. Another challenge for India is that most of the players have not played competitive games and are going directly into this match. But if you look at the positives, they are playing in Bengaluru, where the crowd is going to be behind them. Most of the players have played on this ground. For Panama, perhaps the weather and the atmosphere in Bengaluru could also make things a little difficult. But they are World Cup participants, and they are going to come with all guns blazing and make it difficult for India.

Q: Much of the conversation naturally revolves around Brazil and Uruguay.

Could Panama actually offer the more practical assessment of where India currently stand? Mehrajuddin Wadoo: Exactly. The first game is very important because when you see India playing against Panama, you will yourself be able to judge where Indian football stands. The players will also come to know where their strengths and weaknesses are. Then they have the Brazil game, and they can actually plan something for that match based on what they have seen and learned against Panama.

Q: During your playing career, you also faced much higher-ranked opponents. What tends to be the fundamental difference at that level — technique, physical strength or decision-making?

Mehrajuddin Wadoo: There are a lot of characteristics that are different. One of the biggest things I would say is the experience these players have.

Many of them play for big clubs and have a wealth of European experience. They have played big games and been on major stages. India have not played on such stages regularly, and that is going to be a very big difference between the teams.

Of course, India have work ethic. The players work very hard. But at the end of the day, we have to see what Khalid has planned, how he is going to set up his team and how they execute it. Q: Against Brazil, India could be confronted by extraordinary individual quality. How should they approach players capable of deciding games through individual skill and execution? Mehrajuddin Wadoo: I think it depends on Khalid and what he wants to do. Is he going to sit back and wait for Brazil to come and attack, or is he going to tell his boys: enjoy this, because it is a once-in-a-lifetime experience?

Don't worry too much about the result. Enjoy the game, show what you have got and put everything on the table. When Brazil are attacking, India have to be compact. They have to stay organised.

But otherwise, play your own football and enjoy the game. At the end of the day, we know there is a big difference between the two countries in terms of footballing quality and the kind of players Brazil have. Obviously, they are going to dominate periods of the game.

## Asian Games: Dominant Suruchi & Kamaljeet win mixed team gold



**NEW DELHI:** India's under-par campaign at the ongoing Asian Games got a massive boost on Friday when the pistol shooting pair of Suruchi Singh and Kamaljeet nailed the country's second gold medal. The gold also served as redemption for the shooting team, which has had an underwhelming campaign so far. The Indians shot 484.6, an Asian record, followed by Korea (478) and Iran (415.8). The Suruchi-Kamaljeet pair led from start to finish. Although the Koreans crept up, the Indians maintained their calm and kept nailing the high 10s. India built an early lead with both Suruchi and Kamaljeet regularly finding the inner rings. The duo led the second-placed South Korea by 4.9 points after the first series, an advantage that proved to be the springboard of their success. The Koreans began to catch up in the second series and reduced the gap to 1.2 points. However, as the final wore on, the Indians kept increasing the gap. After the first elimination on the 18th shot where Indonesia crashed out in fourth, the Indians had opened a massive 5.8-point lead over the field. The gap swelled to 7.1 two shots later. Going into the final two shots of the match, the Indians held a 7.2-point advantage over the Koreans. Suruchi shot a 10.5 in the penultimate shot while Kamaljeet hit 9.5, but the Indians still led by 6.2 points. The result all but sealed, Suruchi ended the memorable final with a 10.8 as India finally secured their first shooting gold of this Asian Games. Earlier, the Indian pair entered the four-team final after topping qualification with 587 points, equaling the Asian record in qualification. Iran were next with 584 followed by South Korean pair that shot 582. Indonesia were the last to qualify with 580. The medal came as a redemption of sorts for the pistol team, which has had an underwhelming run thus far. The star-studded team of Esha Singh, Suruchi Phogat and Manu Bhaker returned empty-handed while none of Kedarling Uchaganve, Aakash Bhardwaj or Kamaljeet could make the finals.

## Vaibhav Sooryavanshi receives daunting challenge from New Zealand: 'Let's see how he fares on pacy and bouncy pitches'

**NEW DELHI:** Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is currently sitting out of India's playing XI, but Rob Walter has already thrown down the challenge. The New Zealand head coach, excited by what he has seen from the young Sooryavanshi, is eager to see how the teenager performs on the lightning pitches in New Zealand when India travel for five T20Is in October. India's squad for the New Zealand tour has yet to be announced, but it is believed that Sooryavanshi will certainly be part of the touring contingent. Whether he gets a game, however, will be interesting to see, given the 15-year-old was benched for all three home games against Afghanistan and the one-off tie against Japan.

Sooryavanshi's India run hasn't been as exciting as his exploits for the Under-19 team or Rajasthan Royals, but that takes nothing away from what he has achieved so far. With time, playing for India, he could well surpass his previous accomplishments. As far as New Zealand is concerned, it's the only country where he hasn't played cricket — Sooryavanshi has already belted centuries in England, Australia and South Africa — and Walter can't wait to see how the kid fares.

Sooryavanshi to be tested  
"Yes, I'd love to see him on pacy and bouncy wickets and see how different that looks. But he's an exciting player. You've seen him dominate against the



world's best bowlers in the IPL. I think the challenge is always to see how that translates to different conditions, and also how we bowl to him in our conditions," Walter said during a press conference.

"Again, secretly as a coach, you always want to see your players under a little bit of pressure and how we respond to that. So [I'm] looking forward to it, if that is the case. If he's not here, they do have a lot of very good players other than him."

This will be India's third tour of New Zealand in the last seven years. In 2019, they lost the three-match series 1-2 but bounced back strongly the following year, sweeping the Kiwis 5-0. In T20I head-to-head matches, India have a 17-11 record against New Zealand, having also beaten them in the T20 World Cup final earlier this year.

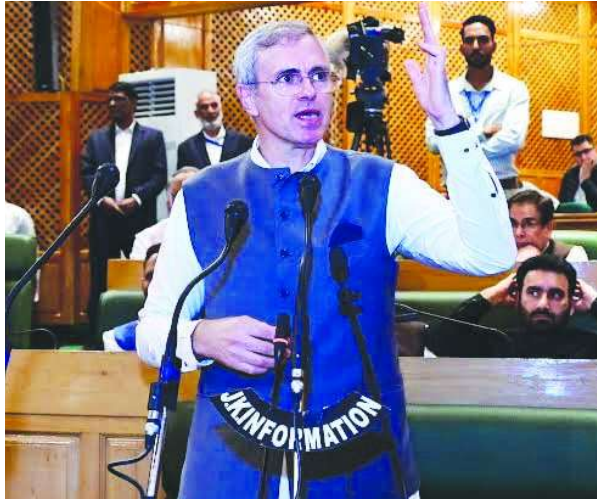
The wounds of that defeat are still fresh in Walter's mind, but there's always a fresh start.

# Gulmarg hailstorm damage assessment underway, relief to follow as per norms: CM Omar

## NEWS POST REASI

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday informed the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly that a detailed assessment of crop damage caused by a severe hailstorm in parts of Gulmarg constituency is underway and compensation will be sanctioned and released as per the prescribed relief norms after completion of the verification process.

Replying to a Calling Attention Notice by MLA Gulmarg Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, the Chief Minister, who also holds the Revenue portfolio, as per the news agency, said the hailstorm occurred during the intervening night of September 11 and 12 at around 11:45 pm and affected several villages in Tehsil Kunzer/Tangmarg. He said the hailstorm damaged agricultural and horticultural crops, including apple orchards, maize and paddy/rice. The Chief Minister said Revenue teams, along with Agriculture and Horticulture officials, had been deputed to the affected vil-



lages to conduct on-the-spot assessment and verification of the crop damage in accordance with the prescribed norms and guidelines. He said the concerned teams had been directed to submit detailed assessment reports at the earliest. "The village-wise and crop-wise extent of damage will be intimated after the field

reports are received and consolidated," the government said in its response.

On compensation and relief, the Chief Minister said no compensation or relief had been sanctioned or released so far as the assessment and verification process was still underway. He said sanction and release of compensation, along with

details regarding the amount and number of beneficiaries, would follow strictly as per the prescribed relief norms after the consolidated assessment report was received and processed.

The Chief Minister further informed the House that no case had been finalised so far and that the number of cases assessed, approved, paid and pending would be reported once detailed assessment reports from field functionaries were received and consolidated. Regarding any special relief or assistance for affected farmers and horticulturists, Omar said there was presently no such proposal with the department as the assessment of losses was still under process in the district.

## 'ST-II APPLICATIONS IN URI UNDER PROCESS'

In another Calling Attention Notice, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah informed the House that applications for issuance of ST-II certificates under the Pahari Ethnic Group category in Uri constituency were being processed strictly in accordance with applicable statutory rules, government guidelines and cod-

ified criteria.

Replying to a notice by Uri MLA Dr Sajjad Shafi regarding alleged administrative delays, non-processing and wrongful rejection of ST-II certificate applications, the Chief Minister said reports received from the concerned Tehsildars indicated that all applications received under the Pahari Ethnic Group category in Uri were being processed according to the prescribed procedure and eligibility criteria.

The Chief Minister said no eligible application within the constituency was being subjected to any arbitrary, wrongful or unwarranted rejection.

He said each application was being examined objectively and on its individual merits, based on field verification reports, relevant revenue records and extracts, and supporting documents furnished by the applicants.

The competent authorities, he said, were ensuring that the prescribed procedure and eligibility criteria were duly adhered to while processing each case

# PMAY-G beneficiary inclusion process being undertaken as per GoI guidelines: Javid Dar

## NEWS POST REASI

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today informed the Legislative Assembly that the Government is taking all necessary measures to ensure that eligible and deserving rural households are duly considered under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) in accordance with the prescribed guidelines of the Government of India.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Mian Mehar Ali, the Minister stated that PMAY-G aims to provide pucca houses with basic amenities to eligible rural households, particularly those living in kuccha and dilapidated houses.

The Minister clarified that no eligible household or individual has been deliberately or officially rejected or deleted from the PMAY-G Awaas+ 2024 survey at this stage. He said that certain Blocks have reported instances where deserving households are



not appearing in the Draft Permanent Wait List (PWL), apparently due to automated scrutiny, validation and eligibility checks carried out through the prescribed system.

He emphasized that since the final PWL has not yet been generated, non-inclusion of a household in the Draft PWL cannot, at this stage, be con-

strued as final rejection or deletion from the PMAY-G beneficiary selection process.

Javid Dar further informed the House that complaints regarding exclusion of eligible households on account of technical or system-generated flags/errors in the Awaas mobile application have been received at various levels. He said that cases flagged

or reverted by the automated system are being subjected to verification and re-verification by the concerned field functionaries as per the prescribed procedure. Therefore, no such case can be treated as finally rejected or deleted without due verification and approval by the competent authority, wherever required.

The Minister, however, informed the House that 4,250 system-flagged cases have been recommended for deletion after verification at the Block as well as District levels during the deletion module, in accordance with the guidelines conveyed by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India.

Regarding the mechanism for inclusion of left-out or deleted beneficiaries, Javid Dar said that no prescribed provision or procedure is presently available for direct incorporation or re-inclusion of such beneficiaries in the PMAY-G beneficiary list.

He added that, with a view to identifying genuine and deserv-

ing households that may have been left out during the survey or re-verification process, Gram Sabhas have been conducted in the concerned Panchayats for identification and verification of such cases. Based on these proceedings, the Draft Permanent Wait List is being prepared, he added.

The Minister assured that all cases identified or recommended by the Gram Sabhas shall be examined and processed further in accordance with the applicable guidelines and instructions of the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, and the procedure prescribed by the competent authority, as and when such provision is made available.

He reiterated that the Government remains committed to ensuring transparency, due verification and adherence to prescribed guidelines in the selection of beneficiaries under PMAY-G, so that genuine and deserving rural households are duly considered under the scheme.

## Crime Branch Cannot Compel Documents Under Sec 91 CrPC During Preliminary Verification: HC



### NEWS POST REASI

**JAMMU:** The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has quashed criminal proceedings against a road contractor, holding that the Crime Branch cannot invoke Section 91 CrPC to compel a proposed accused to produce documents during a preliminary verification when no formal investigation or inquiry under the Code is underway.

Justice Rajnesh Oswal, while allowing a petition filed by Jaydeep Singh Jadeja, Director of M/s Ashpura Road Lines, quashed the complaint titled Crime Branch v. Jaydeep Singh Jadeja under Section 175 IPC as well as the February 27, 2024 order by which the trial court had issued process against him. The case arose from a complaint lodged by Mohd. Shafiq Sohail alleging that Jadeja had duped him of Rs 40 lakh in connection with a sub-contract relating to EPC-mode construction of a stretch of National Highway-1, now NH-44, from kilometre 172 to 182 in Jammu and Kashmir.

During preliminary verification of the complaint, the Crime Branch sought certain records and information from the petitioner and subsequently issued notices under Section 91 CrPC. It was alleged that he failed to furnish the requisite records and cooperate with the agency, following which a complaint under Section 175 IPC was instituted.

The petitioner challenged the proceedings, contending that Section 91 CrPC could not be invoked because the Crime Branch was merely conducting a preliminary verification and no investigation or inquiry contemplated under the Code

had commenced.

The High Court noted that the Government counsel had acknowledged that no formal investigation or inquiry under the CrPC was underway and that the Crime Branch was only conducting a preliminary verification to determine whether registration of an FIR was warranted.

Referring to the scope of Section 91 CrPC, the Court held that the provision permits production of documents only where such production is necessary or desirable for an investigation, inquiry, trial or other proceeding under the Code.

The Court further observed that the object of preliminary verification is confined to determining whether the allegations disclose commission of a cognizable offence and cannot assume the character of an investigation into the truthfulness of the allegations.

Justice Oswal held that during such preliminary verification, the Enquiry Officer cannot compel the proposed accused to share documents or information.

The High Court also found that the trial court had issued process against the petitioner in a mechanical manner and held that once recourse to Section 91 CrPC itself was impermissible, a complaint under Section 175 IPC for alleged non-compliance could not be maintained.

Holding that continuation of the proceedings would amount to an abuse of the process of law, the Court quashed the complaint and the summoning order. It, however, clarified that the Enquiry Officer would remain at liberty to proceed with the original complaint in accordance with law.

## Atal Dulloo reviews progress of Census operations in snow-bound areas



### NEWS POST REASI

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting of the UT Level Census Coordination Committee (UTLCCC) to review the progress of ongoing Census 2027 operations in snow-bound areas and assess preparedness for the upcoming Population Enumeration exercise in the remaining parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department; Commissioner Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department; Secretary, Revenue; Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners; Director, School Education; Joint Director, Census Operations, J&K; and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took a comprehensive district-wise appraisal of the ongoing enumeration exercise from the respective Deputy Commissioners, besides reviewing the administrative arrangements, logistical preparedness and interdepartmental coordination required for the smooth conduct of the subsequent phase.

Reviewing the progress in snow-bound areas, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned Deputy Commissioners to expedite the completion of the remaining Enumeration Blocks (EBs), ensuring that the exercise is concluded well before the sunset date set for the exercise.

He emphasized the importance of maintaining accuracy, comprehensive coverage and strict adherence to prescribed timelines, while calling for close coordination between the district administrations and census authorities to address any operational bottlenecks.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed preparedness for the upcoming enumeration exercise in non-snow-bound areas of the UT. He directed the concerned Divisional and District

Administrations to put in place all necessary administrative and logistical arrangements well in advance, drawing upon the experience gained during the ongoing operations in snow-bound regions.

A detailed presentation on the progress achieved and upcoming activities was made by Joint Director, Directorate of Census Operations, J&K and Ladakh.

The meeting was informed that enumeration operations are presently underway across 95 designated charges spread over 16 snow-bound districts of Jammu and Kashmir. Of the 4,597 Enumeration Blocks identified in these areas, 3,814 have already been completed, registering an overall achievement of 82.97 percent.

Four districts, namely Budgam, Bandipora, Ganderbal and Pulwama, have achieved 100 percent completion, while Kishtwar has recorded 98.84 percent progress, followed by Reasi at 94.49 percent and Udhampur at 91.69 percent.

Regarding financial arrangements, the Commissioner Secretary, PD&MD, R. Alice Vaz apprised the meeting that the Department has released ₹49.20 crore to the respective districts to meet expenditure on IT infrastructure, fuel, contingencies, honorariums and training allowances for field functionaries.

The Committee was further apprised that intensive training of nodal officers, charge officers, supervisors and enumerators deployed for Special Charges in snow-bound areas had been completed in two phases across both Jammu and Kashmir divisions earlier this month.

Reviewing preparations for the compilation of the District Census Handbook (DCHB), the Chief Secretary was informed that training of all concerned field functionaries had been completed between September 14 and 27, 2026.

The fieldwork for compilation of Village and Town Directories is scheduled to commence on October 1 through a dedicated

digital portal, on which all field functionaries and charge officers have already been registered.

The exercise will involve collection of comprehensive information against 400 questions for the Village Directory and 420 questions for the Town Directory. The respective PCOs will exercise close supervision to ensure accuracy, completeness and reliability of the data collected.

The Chief Secretary stressed that the District Census Handbooks constitute an important repository of grassroots-level information and called for meticulous data collection and effective supervision at every stage of their preparation.

The meeting also reviewed the extensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign undertaken to generate public awareness and encourage active participation in Census 2027.

It was revealed that a multi-pronged publicity campaign is underway across the UT, encompassing print, electronic, digital and outdoor media. While awareness jingles are being broadcast through Akashwani and Red FM from Srinagar and Jammu in Hindi, Urdu, Kashmiri and Dogri.

Besides, mobile LED publicity vans are disseminating awareness messages and video advertisements across districts, while hoardings have been installed at prominent public places, including bus stands.

Moreover it was highlighted that the educational institutions have likewise been involved in the awareness campaign, with outreach activities including a seminar at the Bhaderwah Campus of the University of Jammu and a district-level quiz competition in Kishtwar.

The Chief Secretary underscored the need for sustained public outreach, effective field-level monitoring and proactive resolution of operational difficulties to ensure that the entire exercise is conducted smoothly, accurately and within the stipulated timelines.

# CS reviews J&K's preparedness for nationwide 'Reform Utsav' 2026

J&K to host major events in Srinagar, Jammu showcasing governance reforms, industrial development

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting of all the concerned Administrative Heads to review Jammu and Kashmir's preparedness for the upcoming nationwide 'Reform Utsav', a three-month mega-campaign scheduled from October to December 2026 to showcase transformative governance reforms, citizen-centric initiatives and developmental achievements of the past 12 years.

The meeting was attended by the concerned Administrative Secretaries, including Commissioner Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department; Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; and representatives of other concerned departments.

The meeting focused on strengthening institutional coordination, ensuring grassroots participation and finalising a comprehensive action plan for the effective implementation of the campaign across the Union Territory.

The nationwide initiative, spearheaded by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Government of India, envisages a whole-of-government approach to highlighting major governance reforms, their impact on citizens and the transformation brought about



through various developmental interventions.

Chairing the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasised that the campaign should go beyond ceremonial events and serve as an effective platform for bringing governance reforms closer to the people, particularly at the grassroots level.

The Chief Secretary directed the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department to work in close coordination with the Planning, Development and Monitoring Department to organise special Gram Sabhas across all Panchayats of the Union Territory ahead of the nationwide launch.

He stressed that these Gram Sabhas should provide an opportunity for citizens to learn about major governance reforms, assess their impact and identify developmental priorities

specific to their respective areas.

Dulloo further directed the district administrations to immediately designate nodal officers for overseeing Panchayat-level activities and ensuring effective coordination among the departments concerned.

Emphasising timely preparedness, the Chief Secretary instructed all line departments to complete the identification of citizen-centric reforms, preparation of locally relevant Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material to share it with the Planning Department and deployment of field functionaries before October 2, 2026.

The Chief Secretary observed that the campaign should also provide an opportunity to assess the outcomes of major public welfare initiatives and sensitise citizens about the benefits of

governance reforms. He called upon the departments to ensure that the achievements showcased during the campaign are supported by tangible outcomes and reflect improvements in public service delivery.

The Chief Secretary called for close interdepartmental coordination and meticulous planning to ensure that all scheduled activities are organised effectively and achieve the desired outreach.

As part of the campaign, the Commissioner Secretary, I&C, Vikramjit Singh apprised the meeting that two major events are proposed to be organised in Srinagar and Jammu during November and December, respectively, highlighting the Union Territory's developmental transformation and the impact of major Central Government initiatives.

He highlighted that a high-level workshop focusing on the holistic development of Jammu and Kashmir is scheduled to be held at the University of Kashmir, Srinagar, in November 2026. The event will be coordinated by Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, Alice Vaz.

Similarly, a workshop for industrial beneficiaries is scheduled to be organised by Industries & Commerce Department in Jammu during December 2026 to highlight the achievements and impact of the New Central Sector Scheme (NCSS), 2021, in promoting industrial investment and economic development across the Union Territory.

The meeting was further informed that the initial activities under the campaign are scheduled to commence in Srinagar on October 8, 2026, featuring major digital interventions of the Department of Justice, including Tele-Law and the Nyaya Setu AI Chatbot, alongside initiatives of the Department of Posts.

Concluding the Chief Secretary emphasised that Reform Utsav should serve as an opportunity to demonstrate the tangible benefits of governance reforms while strengthening public awareness, citizen participation and accountability in the delivery of government services across the length and breadth of the UT.

# Rana reviews progress of Jal Shakti Schemes in Doda, Bhaderwah

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today convened a meeting of officers of the Jal Shakti Department from Doda and Bhaderwah at the Civil Secretariat here to review the progress of ongoing water supply schemes and development works in the areas.

The Minister took a detailed review of the physical and financial progress of various ongoing schemes and sought a comprehensive assessment of the works at different stages of execution.

He also took stock of the issues and bottlenecks affecting the pace of implementation. He stressed the need for timely resolution of such matters through coordinated efforts.

Rana directed the officers to prepare comprehensive Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the proposed works, incorporating all necessary technical, financial and field requirements. He emphasised that DPRs should be prepared after proper site assessment and in accordance with



the actual requirements of the concerned areas to ensure efficient execution, minimise revisions and avoid delays at later stages.

He called for close monitoring of ongoing works and directed the field officers to

undertake regular inspections to ensure adherence to approved specifications, quality standards and timelines. He stressed that the available resources must be utilised judiciously and that the works should be executed with due regard to the

long-term sustainability of the water supply infrastructure.

The Minister underscored the importance of strengthening drinking water infrastructure in Doda and Bhaderwah, particularly in view of the difficult terrain and the requirements of people living in far-flung and hilly areas.

He directed the officers to maintain close coordination at all levels and ensure that all bottlenecks are identified and addressed promptly so that the ongoing schemes are completed within the stipulated timelines and the intended benefits reach the people without delay.

The officers apprised the Minister of the status of various schemes and ongoing works in their respective areas. They assured that necessary measures would be taken to expedite execution and ensure effective implementation on the ground.

The meeting was attended by Superintending Engineer, Executive Engineers, former Commissioner Secretary Mehboob Iqbal and other concerned senior officers and engineers of the department

## SC, ST, OBC and Minority Meeting Held at Sher Garh, Jammu



**JAMMU:** A meeting of representatives and members of the SC, ST, OBC and minority communities was held at Sher Garh, District Jammu, to discuss issues concerning social justice, constitutional rights, representation and the welfare of these communities. The meeting was organised by Shri Prithvi Singh, President, All India Batwal Welfare Association and senior Congress leader.

Shri Prithvi Singh stressed the need for greater awareness, coordination and collective efforts to address issues related to social justice, constitutional rights, representation and the socio-economic development of SC, ST, OBC and minority communities.

Prominent participants included Madan Lal Chalotra, Chairman,

OBC Department, J&K PCC; Sarpanch Kashmir Singh; Ajaz Ahmad Ganai, Chairman, OBC Department, Kishtwar; and Prem Sagar, Joint Coordinator, OBC Department.

Speaking on the occasion, Madan Lal Chalotra said that the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar has become an important issue in the ongoing debate over the functioning of the Election Commission and electoral-roll revisions. He alleged that concerns over the integrity of elections and the absence of adequate oversight by the government and concerned authorities require serious attention and greater transparency.

His remarks come amid an ongoing political controversy surrounding the Special Intensive

Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and demands from opposition parties for greater transparency and accountability from the Election Commission. The Election Commission has said it is reviewing its voter-roll software and has announced additional measures concerning the ongoing SIR process.

Among others, Darshan Kumar, Kewal Krishan, Joginder Singh, Mohinder Singh, Mani Ram, Nishan Das, Ajit Singh, Basant Kumar, Ravinder Singh, Gulshan Kumar, Surinder Kumar, B. L. Nanda, Baldev Raj, Sudesh Kumar, Kuldeep Kumar, Harbans Lal, Bidesh Chanjotra, Abhimanyu Chanjotra and Rashpal Taga attended the meeting.

## Rotary Club Felicitates Keshav Chopra for Outstanding Contribution to Society

### NEWS POST REASI

**JAMMU:** The Rotary Club of Jammu Midtown organised a grand Felicitation Programme to honour renowned Social Activist Keshav Chopra, Chairman of Samvedna Society and recipient of the Mahatma Gandhi National Service Award 2026, in recognition of his outstanding achievements and remarkable contribution towards social welfare and community service.

Keshav Chopra has been continuously working for the welfare of society through Samvedna Society and has organised 109 Free Health Check-Up Camps, providing free medical consultations, health screenings and medicines to thousands of needy people.

His social service initiatives also include organising Drug Awareness Programmes, promoting sports through Anti-Drug Cricket Tournaments, facilitating the distribution of Domicile Certificates and Ayushman Bharat Golden Cards, organising Aadhaar Enrollment Camps, and conducting Voter Enrollment and Awareness Camps to help citizens access government services and exercise their democratic rights.

Speaking on the occasion Shivani Choudhary, Assistant Governor, appreciated the dedicated efforts of Keshav Chopra towards social welfare and said that his continuous commitment to serving the underprivileged and needy sections of society was truly inspiring. She lauded the various initiatives undertaken by Samvedna Society and congratulated him on receiving the prestigious Mahatma Gandhi National Service Award 2026.

Chakshu Kapoor, Assistant Governor, also praised Keshav Chopra for his selfless service and contribution to the community. He said that organising such a large number of free health camps and other welfare initiatives reflects his dedication and commitment towards humanity and society.

Richa Jain, President, Rotary Club of Jammu Midtown, congratulated Keshav Chopra and said that the Club was proud to honour a social worker who has consistently devoted his efforts towards the betterment of society. She appreciated his initiatives in the fields of healthcare, drug awareness, youth engagement and facilitating access to various government welfare schemes.

Expressing his gratitude, Keshav Chopra thanked the Rotary Club of Jammu Midtown for recognising his efforts and said that the honour would further motivate him to continue working with greater dedication for the welfare of society. He also appreciated the support of all those associated with Samvedna Society and its various social welfare initiatives.

The proceedings of the programme were efficiently managed by Meena Jamwal.

## BJP OBC Morcha organises social activities in Kathua, Udhampur under 'Seva Mera Yogdan'.

**JAMMU:** Under the 'Seva Mera Yogdan' campaign, BJP OBC Morcha Jammu & Kashmir organised social activities in Kathua and Udhampur districts on the directions of obc Morcha State President Braham Jyot Satti. In Kathua district, programme was organised at an old-age home under the leadership of District President Binod Kumar Shinda. During the programme, Morcha workers spent time with the elderly residents and served them food.

Fruits and other essential items were also distributed among them. BJP OBC Morcha State Spokesperson Bodh Raj Mehra, State Executive Member Ramesh Mehra and members of the district team were also present. In Jalsar, Ramnagar Mandal of Udhampur district, a cleanliness and plantation drive was organised under the leadership of District President Sagar Verma. State Secretary Ravi Abrol, party



office bearers and the complete district team participated in the programme.

During the drive, the workers cleaned the surroundings and planted saplings. They also appealed to people to maintain cleanliness around their homes and public places and to take care

of the plants planted in the area. In his message, Braham Jyot Satti said, "This is not just a programme, it is a pledge of service made from the heart. Sitting with the elderly at the old-age home, sharing food with them and giving them fruits and necessary items is not just about helping

them, but also about giving them a feeling of care and belonging. In Udhampur, while carrying out cleanliness and plantation work, our workers also gave the message of keeping the surroundings clean and protecting the environment. Every sapling planted today is a hope for the future.

Service is a responsibility as well as a promise which we should fulfil sincerely.

"He said that more such service and social welfare activities will be organised in different areas of Jammu & Kashmir under the 'Seva Mera Yogdan' campaign. OBC morcha leaders and organisers said that the workers were happy to spend time with the elderly and serve them.

They said that providing food, fruits and essential items was a small effort to express respect and affection towards the senior citizens.

They said that cleanliness and plantation are important social responsibilities and every person should contribute towards keeping the surroundings clean and green.

He appreciated the participation of the party workers and the Udhampur district team in the programme.

## Satish Sharma meets delegations, exhorts departments to address public issues on priority

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for FCS&CA, IT, Youth Services and Sports, Science and Technology, Satish Sharma, today held a series of meetings with various delegations, during which issues concerning youth, sports, transport, food and public distribution, information technology, science and technology, employment and public services were raised.

The delegations, representing different groups, associations and sections of the public, apprised the Minister of their specific issues and sought his intervention for resolution of the same.



During the interactions, the representatives highlighted concerns related to sports infrastructure and facilities, opportunities for youth, employment and livelihood avenues, transport services, delivery of public services and other matters requiring government attention.

While responding to the issues raised by the delegations, the Minister assured them that all their genuine concerns would be examined on priority and appropriate action would be taken to sort out the same.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to examine the issues falling within their respective jurisdictions and take necessary action wherever required.

Issues concerning youth development and sports figured prominently during the interactions.

The Minister reiterated the Government's focus on providing young people with better opportunities to participate in sports, develop their skills and pursue avenues for employment and entrepreneurship. He emphasised that strengthening sports infrastructure, improving access to sporting facilities and supporting emerging talent are important components of youth empowerment.

Several issues relating to transport facilities and public service delivery were also brought before the Minister.

Satish Sharma directed the concerned authorities to examine the matters raised by the delegations and ensure that issues within the departmental framework are processed appropriately.

The Minister also highlighted the importance of Information Technology and Science & Technology in improving the governance, enhancing service delivery and creating new opportunities for the younger generation. He said that technology-driven solutions can help make government services more accessible, efficient and transparent, while also opening new avenues for innovation, entrepreneurship and employment.

He maintained that his departments would continue to engage with the stakeholders and work towards strengthening youth-oriented initiatives, sports infrastructure, transport services, public distribution and consumer-related services, technology-driven governance and scientific innovations.

## DC Poonch Flags Off Census awareness Van for Snow-Bound and Remote areas



### POONCH

Principal Census officer (Deputy Commissioner) Poonch, Shri Ashok Kumar Sharma, today flagged off a dedicated Census Awareness Van from the District Headquarters Poonch to Snow Bound areas of Tehsil Mandi and Tehsil Surankote.

District Census Officer and Additional District Census officer Poonch were present.

The initiative has been undertaken to disseminate important information regarding the

Census Population Enumeration Census Phase II among the people, particularly those residing in remote, snow-bound villages of Tehsil Mandi and Tehsil Surankote.

The specially equipped van carries a display system containing Census-related information and awareness material, aimed to educate the public about the Census process, importance and active public participation.

The District Administration

emphasized that the outreach initiative will help bridge the information gap and ensure that residents in far-flung areas remain properly informed about Census-related activities.

The initiative reflects the commitment of the District Administration to ensure inclusive, accessible and people-centric Census awareness, with special focus on remote and snow-bound areas.

## DDC Poonch Reviews Progress of Rural Road Development Works, Directs Timely Completion Before Winte

### POONCH

District Development Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, chaired a meeting to review the progress of ongoing road development works being executed across the district.

During the meeting, the DDC reviewed the physical progress of various road and related developmental works, particularly in remote and far-flung areas including Mandi, Mendhar, Surankote, Balakote and adjoining areas. The status of ongoing works, pending activities and issues affecting their timely completion were discussed in detail.

The DDC directed the concerned Assistant Commissioners Development and Block Development Officers to closely monitor the works in their respective areas and ensure that all ongoing road development works are completed at the earliest.

Emphasising the importance of connectivity in remote and snow-bound areas, the DDC



stressed that the works should be expedited and completed before the onset of snowfall and winter, so that people living in far-flung areas do not face difficulties due to adverse weather conditions.

The concerned officers were directed to maintain close coordination with the executing

agencies, regularly monitor the progress on ground and address bottlenecks, if any, on priority.

The district administration has been reviewing road and infrastructure projects under various development schemes regularly with emphasis on timely execution and effective utilisation of funds.

# LG Presents Appointment Letters to Newly Appointed JKPS Officers

The appointment letters to newly appointed police officers embody the trust of citizens of Jammu Kashmir, a call to serve with courage, integrity and compassion: LG Sinha

**SRINAGAR:**The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today handed over appointment letters to 29 newly selected officers of the Jammu Kashmir Police (Gazetted) Service, marking a significant milestone in the Union Territory's journey towards merit-based governance and strengthened security.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor emphasized that the appointment letters were not mere documents but carried the extraordinary weight of trust reposed by citizens of Jammu Kashmir. He described the appointment letter as invitations to serve, pledges to safeguard the dignity, security, and future of the people, and symbols of responsibility entrusted to the officers.

Congratulating the newly appointed officers, the Lieutenant Governor lauded their perseverance in overcoming an intense and transparent selection process conducted by the Jammu Kashmir Public Service Commission (JKPSC). He commended the Commission for upholding fairness, impartiality, and credibility and establishing a



new legacy of employment through merit since 2019. He recalled how, for the first time, even children of ordinary families such as vegetable vendors, labourers, were able to secure government jobs purely on the basis of talent and hard work.

The Lieutenant Governor reminded the newly appointed officers that their journey had only begun. Their mission, he said, was not personal success but service to the people, protection of citizens, and upholding the rule of law. He underlined the evolving nature of challenges, including terrorism, radicalisation, and new methods of terror financing through cryptocurrency and

money laundering. He urged the officers to act as sentinels of both Jammu Kashmir and the nation.

"After your training, when you wear the khaki uniform, you will stand as a protective shield between the terrorist forces and organisations across the border and the ordinary citizens of Jammu Kashmir. You will be the guardians of the dreams of every citizen, and this is no small responsibility. I believe that protecting every citizen is one of the greatest responsibilities that any democracy can entrust to its officers. My expectation of you is that you will ensure a fear-free environment for

every citizen," he said.

Highlighting the ethos of the Jammu Kashmir Police, the Lieutenant Governor praised the devotion, sacrifice, and courage of senior officers who have safeguarded peace and harmony over decades. He urged the newly appointed officers to combine authority with compassion, uphold communal harmony, and protect the rights of the most vulnerable. Reiterating the guiding principle- "Do not harass the innocent; do not spare the guilty"- he called upon them to wear the khaki uniform with pride, but keep their conscience closer to their hearts.

"You will possess authority,

and you must combine that authority with the values of compassion so that human sensitivity remains an essential part of all your actions. You must resolve that, regardless of how difficult circumstances may become, you will choose integrity and duty. Always remember that the respect commanded by the uniform depends on the honesty, courage and conduct of the officers who wear it.

Move forward with honesty, courage and humility. Along with your appointment letters, I have today entrusted you with the hopes, dreams and faith of the people. I expect you to honour this responsibility with unwavering resolve and to use your authority in the cause of justice," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shri Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Shri Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary, Home Department; Shri M Raju, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department, and senior officials of Police and Civil administration attended the ceremony.

## Satish Sharma calls for Sustained Push to Football Talent in Jammu & Kashmir

**SRINAGAR:**Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FS&CA), Information Technology (IT), Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today attended the concluding league-stage match of the Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League 2026, powered by Athwas Retail and Athwas Hyundai, and reiterated the government's commitment to providing Jammu & Kashmir's young sporting talent with greater opportunities to compete, excel and build careers in sports.

The Minister was the Chief Guest at the final league-stage fixture between Swift Strikers Rainawari FC and Sanctorum North United FC, witnessing an impressive display of football. Swift Strikers Rainawari FC registered a comprehensive 6-0 victory, thereby securing the fourth and final berth in the play-offs.

With the completion of the league stage, Athwas India XI emerged as the league winners, while the successful teams now advance to the play-off stage to compete for the coveted championship title.

During the event, Satish Sharma interacted with players, team officials and



organisers and appreciated their efforts in creating a competitive platform for footballers from Jammu & Kashmir. He said that leagues such as the Kashmir Super League are important in providing young players with sustained match exposure and an opportunity to demonstrate their skills in a competitive environment.

The Minister said that Jammu & Kashmir possesses considerable sporting talent and that the focus of the Youth Services & Sports Department is increasingly on identifying talent at the grass-

roots level, providing regular competitive exposure and creating pathways for promising sportspersons to progress to higher levels.

He stressed that sporting development cannot be confined to infrastructure alone and must also include regular tournaments, professional coaching, quality competition, talent identification and opportunities for players to gain experience.

Satish Sharma said that football enjoys a particularly strong following among the youth of Jammu & Kashmir, and

tournaments of this nature can play an important role in converting that enthusiasm into structured sporting participation and competitive achievement.

He appreciated the participation of local players in the league and said that giving them opportunities to compete before home crowds can contribute significantly to their confidence and development. He also underscored the importance of encouraging youngsters to take up sports as a disciplined pursuit and, wherever their talent permits, as a potential career. The Minister also acknowledged the contribution of coaches, referees, technical officials, team managements, organisers, sponsors and football supporters towards making the tournament successful. He said that a vibrant sporting ecosystem requires the collective participation of government institutions, sporting bodies, private partners, coaches, athletes and the community.

Highlighting the wider objectives of the government's sports policy, Satish Sharma said that efforts are being made to strengthen sports infrastructure and expand opportunities for young people across Jammu & Kashmir.

## MVD Poonch Intensifies Enforcement Drive with Traffic Police, 5 Vehicles Seized

290 Vehicles Checked, 26 Challans Issued; Rs 1.09 Lakh in Fines Realised/Expected



### NEWS POST REASI

**POONCH:** The Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) Poonch, in coordination with the Traffic Police, has intensified its enforcement drive across the district to ensure strict compliance with traffic regulations and promote road safety among motorists.

The enforcement action was carried out over the last three days in accordance with the directions of the Transport Commissioner and under the guidance of the Regional Transport Officer (RTO), Jammu. The drive focused on identifying traffic violations, ensuring adherence to prescribed rules and regulations, and discouraging unsafe driving practices.

The enforcement team, headed by Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) JKAS Nawaz Ahmed, conducted extensive checking at various locations across Poonch district. During the three-day enforcement campaign, a total of 290 vehicles were checked for compliance with traffic norms.

As part of the action, the department issued 26 challans against vehicles found violating traffic rules, while five vehicles were seized for violations warranting strict enforcement action. The enforcement proceedings resulted in the realisation, or expected realisation, of a total amount of ₹1,09,000 in fines and penalties. Officials said the joint enforcement drive was aimed at strengthening traffic discipline and ensuring that vehicle owners and drivers comply with the prescribed safety norms. The department also emphasised that regular enforcement is necessary to reduce traffic viola-

tions and contribute towards safer roads across the district. The enforcement team included Motor Vehicle Inspector (MVI) Mansoor Ahmed, DTI Poonch Ahmed Din Malik, and MVTA Sikander Hayat, along with other officials and staff of the MVD Poonch. The Motor Vehicle Department has reiterated its commitment to continuing such enforcement activities across the district and taking action against violations of traffic rules in the interest of public safety.

## Deputation of Citizens Cooperative Bank depositors met with the President CCI Jammu Arun Gupta

**JAMMU:** A deputation of Citizens Cooperative Bank depositors today met with the President Chamber of Commerce & Industry Shri Arun Gupta and briefed that we are facing a devastating and stressful situation having primary working capital frozen especially when our day today operation and payroll rely entirely on these accounts creates an immediate liquidity price for our businesses. The RBI has allowed to withdraw Rs. 1.25 lacs only during a period of six months which has created a sense of insecurity among the depositors. We have more than 50 lacs in our accounts and now the operation of our business have stopped due to lack of finance.

The deputation further said that the depositors have deposited their hard earned money with the Bank for managing their essential requirements like study & marriage of

## DC Poonch Inaugurates JKRLM-run Food Service Enterprise at SDH Surankote.

**SURANKOTE:** Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma today inaugurated a Food Service Enterprise (FSE) at Sub-District Hospital Surankote, being run by women members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) associated with the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), Surankote Block.

The FSE aims to provide livelihood opportunities to rural SHG women by engaging them in the food service sector and developing a sustainable community-based enterprise.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by SDM Surankote, Farooq Khan, ACD Poonch, Shakeel Ahmed, DPM JKRLM Poonch, Mohammad Nadeem, BPM Poonch, BPM Bafliaz, BMO Surankote and other officers.

While appreciating the initiative, the Deputy Commissioner commended JKRLM and the SHG women for taking up the innovative enterprise and creating a sustainable livelihood opportunity at the local level. He appreciated the efforts being made to empower rural women through community-based



enterprises and observed that such initiatives have the potential to generate employment while strengthening the economic participation of SHG members.

The Deputy Commissioner encouraged the enterprise members to expand services, increase income and make the venture sustainable in the long run.

Speaking on the occasion, BPM Surankote

Mudasir Ganai said the Food Service Enterprise was established in collaboration with NRO Kudumbashree to create better livelihood opportunities for rural SHG women through the food service sector.

DPM JKRLM said that JKRLM is focusing on strengthening the skills and capacities of the women associated with the enterprise.

He informed that the women will be sent to the Institute of Hotel Management (IHM), Srinagar, where they will receive specialised training in different culinary skills, food preparation and service.

He added that such initiatives are part of JKRLM's efforts to facilitate sustainable livelihood opportunities for SHG members and help rural women transition from individual livelihood activities to viable community-based enterprises.



their children, to meet the Medical treatment Expenses. They also said that with these Restrictions it is impossible for the businessmen to Carry on their business smoothly as due to restricted withdrawn facility the depositors are unable to access their own hard earned money deposited with the bank when required.

The deputation further demanded that the government should come forward and provide suitable funds for the revival of the Citizen Cooperative Bank as was done by providing Rs.366 crore in 2022 for revival of Central Cooperative Bank Anantnag and Baramulla Central Cooperative Bank. The deputa-

tion further requested the President CCI Sh. Arun Gupta to take up the matter with the Hon'ble Chief Minister to get the land allotted to Citizen Cooperative Bank for JDA long back just to maintain the CRR of the bank. President CCI assured the deputation that he will take up the matter with the Hon'ble Chief Minister to resolve the issue of land allotted to the bank for making the bank fully operational.

The deputation comprised of Sh. Sanjay Sharma, Sh. Rajesh Gupta, Sh. Ashish Chopra, Sh. Anil Gupta, Sh. Sunil Sharma, Sh. Anuj Gupta, Sh. Raman Sharma, Sh. Rajesh Kuamr Gupta, Sh. Sarang Sharma, Sh. Jyoti Gupta, Sh. Ankush Vaid, Smt. Reeta Gupta, Smt. Bhuvneshwari Sharma, Smt. Sunita Gupta, Sunny Aggarwal, Sh. Sunil Behal, Smt. Sunita Vaid, Sh. Manoj Gupta, Sh. Deepak Gupta and others.

# NSF celebrates 143th birth anniversary of Madan Lal Dhingra

**JAMMU:** National Secular Forum (NSF), organized a program in University Campus and on the Birth anniversary of Madan Lal Dhingra who laid his life for the country. Amid slogans "Madan Lal Dhingra" "inquilaab Zindabad" 'Bharat Mata ki jai' and they paid tributes to Madan Lal Dhingra and garlanded the portraits of the son of soil.

Ankush Abrol Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC was the chief guest while Dr. Vikas Sharma Coordinator and Secretary central Zone JKNC, presided over the function and Vikshay Vashist, Working President NSF was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion, Ankush Abrol appreciated the efforts of NSF members to come forward and organized these functions and appealed to the youth to come forward to eliminate all evils from the society.

Abrol threw light on the life of martyr Madan Lal Dhingra who was born on 18 September 1883 in Amritsar. He went to London in 1906 to study engineering.



His father, Dr Ditta Mal, retired as the Government Civil Surgeon and had twenty-one houses in Katra Sher Singh and six bungalows on G.T. Road. He also said that Thirty-one years later Udham Singh followed the same path and was executed on July 31, 1940 under almost similar circumstances.

Speaking on the occasion Dr Vikas Sharma threw light on the life history of Madan Lal Dhingra and appreciated the efforts of NSF. He was sen-

tenced to death. After the judge announced his verdict, Dhingra is said to have stated: "I am proud to have the honour of laying down my life for my country. But remember, we shall have our time in the days to come". He represented himself during his trial but did not recognize the legitimacy of the court. He stated that his assassination was done in the name of Indian independence and that his actions were motivated by patriotism. Madan Lal Dhingra

was hanged on 17 August 1909 at Pentonville Prison.

Dr Vikas Sharma expressed strong concern over the appointment of non-locals in the education sector, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir's universities. "This trend is blocking employment opportunities for highly qualified local youth and creating a sense of discrimination among the educated youth of Jammu and Kashmir," he noted. The party demanded a fair and transparent recruitment

policy with preference to local candidates.

Dr. Sharma also questioned the silence of the 29 BJP MLAs elected from the Jammu division, asking why they have not publicly raised these concerns if they believe the interests and employment opportunities of local youth are being affected.

Vikshay Vashist State Working President NSF also spoke on the occasion.

Irfan Ahmed, Chairman, NSF University Unit, delivered the welcome address and highlighted the importance of remembering the sacrifices of the nation's freedom fighters.

Abhishek Uppal, President, NSF Jammu District Unit, presented the vote of thanks and expressed gratitude to the distinguished guests and participants for making the programme successful.

The programme concluded with patriotic slogans and a reaffirmation by the participants to uphold the ideals of national unity, peace, democracy and social harmony.

## BJP OBC Morcha Organises Cleanliness Drive at Mata Sunita Nand Giri Ashram in Sunderbani

**SUNDERBANI:** BJP OBC Morcha organised a cleanliness drive at Mata Sunita Nand Giri Ashram, Sunderbani, with active participation of party leaders and workers.

The programme was organised under the directions of Braham Jyot Satti, President, BJP OBC Morcha, Jammu & Kashmir, as part of the Morcha's ongoing commitment towards cleanliness, public service and social responsibility.

During the drive, the participants undertook extensive cleaning of the Ashram premises and its surroundings. The entire temple premises were thoroughly cleaned both from inside and outside with the help of brooms and mops. The volunteers also cleared unwanted vegetation and cut down bushes and overgrown shrubs around the temple premises, improving the overall cleanliness and appearance of the sacred site.

The cleanliness activity witnessed the participation of a large number of BJP OBC Morcha functionaries and local party workers, who enthusiastically joined the drive and worked collectively to ensure that the premises were clean, hygienic and well-maintained.

Those present on the occasion included Sham Mehra, J&K UT General Secretary; Ashok Kumar, District President, OBC Morcha; Raju Gupta, Urban Local Body Convenor; Renu Sharma, Mahila Morcha District General Secretary; Anita Sharma, District Secretary (Parental Body);



Chaman Raina, District Vice President; Vicky (Sukhdev Singh), Mandal Pradhan; Chand Rani, Executive Member, OBC Morcha J&K UT; Rohit Dogra, Booth President; Vipin Kumar, Mandal General Secretary; Rattan Lal, Mandal Pradhan, OBC Morcha; Pawan Gupta, Senior Citizen; Inder Paul, Mandal Pradhan, Kisan Morcha; Sharda

Devi, Executive Member; Babey Ram, District General Secretary, OBC Morcha; Pushkar Verma, Booth President; and Joginder Paul, Executive Member, besides other party workers and local residents.

In his message, Braham Jyot Satti, President, BJP OBC Morcha, appreciated the dedication of the Sunderbani team

and said that cleanliness drives at religious and public places are an important part of social responsibility.

He said that cleanliness should not remain limited to occasional campaigns but must become a regular habit and a collective responsibility of every citizen. He emphasised that clean surroundings contribute to better hygiene, a healthier environment and greater respect for public and religious places.

He further said that the BJP OBC Morcha would continue to undertake such service-oriented activities across Jammu & Kashmir and encourage its workers to remain connected with the people through meaningful social initiatives. He urged party workers and the general public to actively participate in cleanliness and environmental protection efforts and to inspire others to keep their surroundings clean and green.

He also stressed that places of worship hold special importance in society and maintaining their cleanliness reflects respect for the faith of devotees as well as a sense of responsibility towards the community.

The participants reaffirmed their commitment to continue undertaking cleanliness, environmental awareness and other public welfare activities in their respective areas. The programme concluded with a collective resolve to contribute towards creating cleaner, greener and healthier surroundings.

## DC Poonch reviews anti-drug measures at District- NCORD Committee meeting

### NEWS POST REASI

**POONCH:** Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired the meeting of District Level Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD) Committee to review the action taken by the enforcement agencies for prevention and control of drug abuse in the district.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Shafket Hussain Bhat; Additional District Development Commissioner Amarjeet Singh; Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik; PO-ICDS Fareed Kohli; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Muhammad Sayeed; DFO(T); Addl. SP Ajay Sharma; CMO, Chief Education Officer, College Faculty, Medical Superintendent, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, Tehsildar Haveli, representatives of the Drug De-addiction Centre and Motor Vehicle Department, besides SDMs, Tehsildars, SDPOs and SHOs participated through virtual mode.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner sought a detailed briefing from all SDMs, SDPOs, Tehsildars and SHOs regarding the drug-related situation in their respective jurisdictions. The officers apprised the meeting about coordination meetings held at their levels, preventive measures undertaken, identification of vulnerable areas and action initiated against persons involved in drug trafficking.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to install CCTV cameras at strategic locations to strengthen surveillance. He further directed the police to intensify surveillance checking and monitoring at identified vulnerable points. The Chief Education Officer and College authorities were asked to take measures to keep premises and surroundings of educational institutions free from drugs. Stress was laid on regular assessment, close monitoring and sustained awareness activities to prevent drug-related activities in and around educational institutions.



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## ADC Poonch Flags Off 52 Farmers for Specialised Horticulture Training in Srinagar

### NEWS POST REASI

#### POONCH

Additional Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Tahir Mustafa Malik, today flagged off a batch of 52 farmers from Poonch for a specialised horticulture training programme in Srinagar. The farmers were flagged off in the presence of Chief Horticulture Officer (CHO) Poonch, Uttam Lal.

The specialised training programme has been organised to provide farmers with technical knowledge, practical exposure and experience of modern and improved horticulture practices. During the programme, the farmers will visit and receive training at the Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH), Rangreth; SKUAST-K, Shalimar, Centre of Excellence, Zawaora and C.A. Store, Lassipora, Pulwama.

The programme will also include field visits to local orchards in Shopian and interactions with



progressive orchardists and nursery growers, enabling the participating farmers to gain practical insights into modern orchard management, nursery production and other advanced horticultural techniques.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADC emphasised the importance of capacity building and exposure visits in enhancing farmers knowledge and encouraging the adoption of modern technologies in the horticulture sector.

The programme aims to enhance

the technical skills and knowledge of local farmers and promote the adoption of improved horticultural practices for increased production, productivity, quality and income generation.

The initiative is expected to provide the participating farmers with valuable practical exposure that can subsequently be shared with other growers in the district, thereby contributing to the overall development and modernisation of the horticulture sector in Poonch.

## Poonch Police foils bovine smuggling bids; 04 bovines rescued, 02 arrested

### NEWS POST REASI

**POONCH:** In its continued action against bovine smuggling, Poonch Police foiled two separate attempts at Gursai, rescued 04 bovines and arrested 02 persons.

A police party of Police Station Gursai, Sub-Division Mendhar established naka at Kallar. During checking, two vehicles, namely Tata Mobile bearing registration Nos. JK11 9320 & JK12A 8448, were intercepted which were found carrying bovines without valid permission and in cruel manner.

04 bovines were rescued on spot and both drivers of the involved vehicles were arrested as well.

In this regard, Case FIR No. 101/2026 & 102/2026 U/S 223 BNS and 11 Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act have been registered at PS Gursai and investigation taken up. Both vehicles have been seized.

Poonch Police remains committed to act tough against bovine smuggling and illegal activities.

## Surankote Police Intensify Traffic Enforcement Drive, 8 Vehicles Seized; Several Challenged

**SURANKOTE:** In a significant enforcement action aimed at improving traffic discipline and ensuring road safety, Surankote Police conducted a strict checking drive against traffic violators, taking action against motorists found violating traffic rules and regulations.

During the enforcement drive, police officials carried out checking of vehicles at various points and scrutinised motorists for compliance with the prescribed traffic norms. As part of the action, eight vehicles were seized, while several other vehicles were challaned for different violations of traffic rules.

The drive was undertaken to discourage motorists from violating traffic regulations and to ensure that people travelling on the roads follow the necessary safety measures. Police personnel remained vigilant during the checking process and took action against vehicles found operating in violation of the applicable rules. Officials said that strict enforcement of traffic regulations is essential to maintain discipline on busy roads and reduce the risk of road accidents.

Traffic violations not only create inconvenience for other commuters but can also pose serious risks to the lives and safety of drivers, passengers, pedestrians and other road users. The police also urged motorists to ensure that their vehicles have all the required documents and that they comply with traffic regulations while driving. Commuters were advised to avoid rash and negligent driving, follow speed limits, use safety equipment and observe all road-safety norms.

The action by Surankote Police has also served as a reminder to vehicle owners and drivers to remain cautious and responsible while using public roads. Police authorities have indicated that checking and enforcement activities will continue to keep a close watch on traffic violations and to strengthen road safety measures in the area.

The police appealed to the general public to cooperate with the enforcement teams and follow traffic rules in letter and spirit. Motorists were particularly advised to carry valid vehicle documents and ensure that all required safety and legal requirements are fulfilled before taking their vehicles onto the road.

With continued enforcement and public cooperation, authorities aim to promote better traffic discipline and create a safer environment for commuters across Surankote and adjoining areas.



# J&K eyes revenue from Green Projects through Carbon Credits

CS reviews the framework; calls for comprehensive policy, capacity building and digital monitoring platform

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting to review the proposed Carbon Credit Framework for Jammu and Kashmir, aimed at unlocking the economic potential of the Union Territory's ecological assets and creating sustainable revenue streams through carbon markets and green financing.

The meeting besides ACS, Finance was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology; MD, JKPDCC; Commissioner, JMC/SMC; DG, Resources; DG, A&T; DG, Budget; CEO, CITaG concerned officers and technical experts from CITaG.

The framework, presented by the Centre for Innovation and Transformation in Governance (CITaG) in collaboration with the Finance Department, envisages a comprehensive strategy built around four key pillars constituting Carbon Markets, Green Cess, Convergence and a dedicated Green Fund.

Appreciating the preliminary work undertaken by CITaG, the Chief Secretary called for developing a comprehensive policy document supported by a well-defined Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to ensure seamless implementation across the Union Territory.

He directed CITaG to organise a



specialised capacity-building workshop for all concerned departments to familiarise officers with carbon accounting, data standards and their respective implementation responsibilities.

Emphasising technology-driven monitoring and transparency, the Chief Secretary suggested exploring collaboration with the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) for developing an integrated digital monitoring platform and carbon registry.

During the deliberations, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar, highlighted the immense potential of J&K's agriculture, hydropower and forestry sectors in generating carbon credits

and attracting green investments.

He asked CITaG to prioritise these sectors while also incorporating emerging opportunities arising from rooftop solar installations under PM Surya Ghar Yojana and the growing adoption of electric vehicles across the Union Territory.

The ACS Finance also advocated the early establishment of a dedicated Green Fund to pool carbon proceeds and green revenues, safeguard their utilisation and leverage these resources for financing future climate-resilient development initiatives.

Earlier, the presentation by CITaG highlighted the considerable untapped potential of J&K's ecological assets, observing that the Union Territory has

yet to generate revenue from global carbon markets despite substantial investments in environmentally sustainable activities.

Citing successful initiatives elsewhere, the meeting was informed that BMC has earned ₹27 crore, Gujarat ₹22 crore, Indore Municipal Corporation ₹8.34 crore and Himachal Pradesh ₹20 crore through carbon credit monetisation and similar initiatives.

The proposed framework envisages integrating carbon screening into existing development programmes, including CAMPA, MGNREGS and the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), to maximise environmental and financial returns while avoiding duplication of

expenditure.

The meeting also deliberated on a proposed revenue-sharing mechanism under which 35 percent of net carbon proceeds would accrue directly to primary growers or community project owners, 30 percent to the J&K Green Fund, 15 percent to Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and aggregators, and 10 percent each to district-level climate initiatives and sector-specific sustainability accounts.

Another key proposal discussed was the introduction of a Green Tourism Contribution to mobilise resources for climate resilience and environmental conservation at major tourist destinations.

The meeting also considered a 180-day implementation roadmap involving a comprehensive inventory of green assets, identification and execution of five to seven priority pilot projects across Jammu and Srinagar.

Municipal Corporations, agriculture and forestry sectors, and establishment of a secure digital repository for project-related data.

The proposed initiatives are intended to establish a sustainable institutional and financial mechanism for translating J&K's environmental assets and climate-positive investments into measurable economic benefits for local communities and the Union Territory.

## Sakeena Itoo distributes appointment orders to 27 AYUSH Medical Officers at Srinagar

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today distributed appointment orders among 27 newly appointed AYUSH Medical Officers, marking their formal induction into government healthcare services in Jammu and Kashmir.

Congratulating the newly appointed Medical Officers, the Minister said that joining the public healthcare system was not merely a professional milestone but also an opportunity to serve people, particularly those living in rural, remote and underserved areas.

She emphasised that the appointment orders carried with them a responsibility towards the people and called upon the appointees to discharge their duties with sincerity, professionalism, empathy and a strong sense of public service.



"Healthcare is ultimately about serving people with dignity and compassion. Every patient who approaches a healthcare institution places trust in the system and in the medical professional attending to them,"

the Minister said, urging the new AYUSH Medical Officers to uphold the highest standards of professional conduct.

Underscoring the importance of health department for public welfare, the Minister said that

doctor is a very noble profession and you should understand the importance of health department.

The Minister underscored the significance of strengthening healthcare delivery mechanisms at the grassroots level and called upon the newly appointed officers to work with utmost dedication and commitment towards addressing the healthcare requirements of the people, particularly in rural, remote and far-flung areas. She stressed that effective delivery of public health services requires accessibility, accountability and a strong sense of responsibility on the part of every functionary.

Sakeena Itoo highlighted the important role of AYUSH systems in complementing the existing healthcare framework and promoting preventive, promotive and holistic healthcare practices. She called upon the Medical Officers to utilise their

professional expertise for extending quality AYUSH services to the people and contribute towards further strengthening the public healthcare infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister emphasised on the need for close coordination with the concerned health institutions and field functionaries to ensure efficient delivery of healthcare services and effective implementation of Government programmes and initiatives.

The Minister expressed confidence that the newly appointed AYUSH Medical Officers would discharge their responsibilities with dedication and sincerity and contribute positively towards the Government's endeavour to ensure accessible, affordable and quality healthcare services for all sections of society across Jammu and Kashmir.

## Ganesh Visarjan Celebrated with Religious Fervor in Poonch

DC, ADDC, and ASP Join Celebrations



### NEWS POST REASI

**POONCH:** The Ganesh Visarjan festival was celebrated in Poonch with great religious fervor, enthusiasm and cultural spirit, as devotees participated in the procession with devotion and joy.

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, Additional District Development Commissioner, Amarjeet Singh, and Additional Superintendent of Police, Ajay Sharma, besides other administrative and police officers, joined the Ganesh Visarjan Yatra and participated in the

celebrations.

The officers interacted with devotees, extended their greetings and conveyed their best wishes on the auspicious occasion.

The celebrations reflected the spirit of communal harmony, brotherhood and peaceful coexistence in the district, with people from different sections of society participating with enthusiasm.

The district administration and police appreciated the cooperation of the public in ensuring the peaceful, smooth and joyous conduct of the festival.

## Poonch Police holds PCPG meeting in border area of Chajla, Mendhar

### NEWS POST REASI

**MENDHAR:** Poonch Police today organized a Police Community Partnership Group (PCPG) meeting in the border area of Chajla, Mendhar.



The meeting was chaired by SDPO Mendhar accompanied by SHO PS Mendhar and IC PP Mankote and was attended by around 150 persons including respectable citizens, youth and ex-servicemen of the area.

During interaction, SDPO Mendhar sought active public participation in the fight against terrorism and drug menace. He appealed to the public to act as the real-time eyes and ears of Police and Security Forces, stating that this assumes greater significance as inhabitants of border areas. Participants were also urged to maintain peace and communal harmony and not to react to rumours which spread rapidly on social media. They were advised to verify any information from Police before sharing.

Youth were encouraged to come forward and actively participate with Civil and Police administration to make Mendhar a better place to live in. The participants appreciated the initiative and assured full cooperation to Police. Poonch Police remains committed to ensure peace and security in the border areas.

## DC reviews progress of District plan, CSS Works in Poonch District

Seeks timeline completion, adherence to quality standards

### NEWS POST REASI

**POONCH:** District Development Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a review meeting of the developmental departments and executing agencies to assess the physical and financial status of ongoing and new works taken up under the current District Capex Budget and Central schemes across different sectors.

The meeting was held in the Conference Hall of Dak Bungalow, and was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Amarjeet Singh; Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik; PO ICDS Fareed Kohli; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Muhammad Sayeed; Assistant Commissioner Development Shakeel Ahmed Malik, besides other concerned district officers, Executive Engineers, Block Development Officers and representatives from various executing agencies.

The DDC undertook a comprehensive department-wise, block-wise and executing agency-wise review of the progress of developmental works. Detailed discussions were held on current status of



works, including allotment, tendering, ongoing works, new works, completed works and financial expenditure.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of works under Aspirational Blocks, Swachh Bharat Mission and other centrally sponsored programmes. The concerned officers and executing agencies apprised the DDC of the current status of works under their respective jurisdictions, including the number of works taken up, allotment and tendering status, works in progress and works completed.

The DDC also reviewed the uploading of physically and

financially completed District Plan works for FY 2025-26 on the respective District e-Compendium Portal, along with mandatory geo-tagged photographs.

The DDC directed all concerned officers, particularly the Executive Engineers and executing agencies, to expedite the allotment and tendering of works and ensure timely execution and completion of all ongoing works.

He further directed the officers to closely monitor works at the field level, remove bottlenecks and ensure that the available funds are utilized efficiently within the prescribed timelines.

## DLIC meeting reviews Mission YUVA progress in Poonch; 293 cases approved

### NEWS POST REASI

**POONCH:** A meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) under Mission YUVA was held today under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma to review the progress and implementation of the Mission in the district. The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Amarjeet Singh; Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik; General Manager DIC Naheem Un Nissa Bhatti; Deputy Director Employment Abdul Majid; Chief Agriculture Officer Jograj Slathia; Chief Horticulture Officer Uttam Lal; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Ashraf Malik; AD Handicrafts/Handloom Jyoti



Choudhary; District Sheep Husbandry Officer Dr Bilal, besides Cluster head JK Bank and other members of the District Level Implementation Committee. The Committee, after detailed scrutiny and deliberations, approved 293 cases under Mission YUVA.

The DC reviewed the status of sanction and disbursement of approved cases. He directed

heads of different Banks for processing and ensuring sanction and disbursement of all eligible pending cases lying with the banks within the stipulated timeline.

The Deputy Commissioner further stressed upon all concerned departments and financial institutions to maintain close coordination and ensure timely disposal of applications.

# Sakeena Itoo reviews HRM Issues in School Education Department

## 21,323 Seniority Cases Finalised; 869 Placements Made on Higher Posts; Recruitment, Promotions and Regularisation Reviewed

### NEWS POST REASI

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today reviewed the overall status of Human Resource Management (HRM) matters in the School Education Department, with particular focus on seniority finalisation, promotions, placements against higher posts, regularisation, recruitment and revision of service rules.

Chairing a high-level meeting at the Civil Secretariat here, the Minister took detailed stock of the progress achieved in disposal of HRM-related cases and directed the senior officers to maintain focused attention on all pending matters. She called for time-bound action, effective monitoring and close coordination among all concerned authorities to ensure that eligible employees do not face avoidable delays in service-related matters.

Sakeena Itoo stressed that an efficient and transparent HR management system is fundamental to the smooth functioning of the School Education Department and has a direct bearing on the academic and administrative efficiency of educational institutions. She directed the officers to ensure that all cases relating to seniority, promotion, regularisation and recruitment are processed strictly in accordance with the applicable rules and established procedures.

The Minister further called for expediting all pending cases while maintaining transparency and procedural fairness. She directed the officers to prepare clear timelines for disposal of the remaining cases and ensure regular monitoring at the appropriate level so that bottlenecks, wherever identified, are addressed promptly.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of the School Education Department, including Directors of School Education Jammu and Kashmir, Special



Secretary and Additional Secretary. Officers stationed outside Srinagar participated in the meeting through virtual mode.

During the detailed review, the Minister was apprised of the significant progress achieved in finalisation of seniority lists. It was informed that final seniority lists of 21,323 PG Masters/PG Teachers across 32 disciplines have been issued during the last one year. Seniority lists pertaining to four remaining disciplines are under formulation. Besides, the final seniority list of 3,509 Headmasters/ equivalent posts has also been issued.

The meeting also reviewed the progress made in placements against higher posts. It was informed that 197 PG Masters/PG Teachers have been placed as In-charge Lecturers in various disciplines. In addition, 672 incumbents have been placed against higher posts, including Principals as In-charge Chief Education Officers, Headmasters as In-charge Zonal Education Officers and Masters as In-charge Headmasters.

Thus, a total of 869 placements have been made against higher posts, reflecting substantial progress in addressing career progression and administrative requirements within the Department.

The Minister was further informed that consideration

zones covering 988 PG Masters/PG Teachers have already been prepared for placement as In-charge Lecturers, while another 150 incumbents are under consideration for placement against other higher posts.

Reviewing the status of Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) proceedings, the meeting was informed that DPC consideration had earlier been completed for only 10 out of 36 subjects/disciplines, while cases pertaining to the remaining 26 disciplines, involving around 2,000 placements, are pending consideration.

The meeting was informed that consideration zones have already been prepared for multiple subjects as well as for CEOs/equivalent posts.

Taking note of the regularisation process, the Minister was informed that 53 incumbents belonging to different disciplines and cadres have been regularised during the last two years.

Sakeena Itoo directed the officers to ensure that all eligible regularisation cases are examined and processed expeditiously under the applicable rules. She emphasised that service matters should be dealt with in a transparent, objective and time-bound manner.

The Minister also reviewed the status of recruitment of Lecturers in the School Education Department. It was

informed that against 594 Lecturer vacancies in 27 disciplines referred to the J&K Public Service Commission (JKPSC), 586 selections have been received.

Of these, appointment orders have already been issued in respect of 291 selected candidates, while the cases of another 213 candidates are under process following receipt of the requisite verification reports.

The Department has also initiated a fresh exercise to identify available Lecturer vacancies across different disciplines for referral to the J&K Public Service Commission.

The Minister stressed the importance of timely recruitment to address manpower requirements and strengthen the teaching workforce in the Department.

The meeting was further informed that revision of the J&K School Education (Gazetted) Service Recruitment Rules is underway. The final draft has been shared with the Heads of Departments for comments and will subsequently be submitted for the prescribed clearance process. The revision of the School Education (Subordinate) Service Recruitment Rules has also been initiated.

The Minister also reviewed the proposal concerning utilisation of teacher vacancies arising due to promotions and retirements. It was informed that a proposal for utilising 50

per cent of GLT vacancies for fresh recruitment had been examined. The proposal is being re-examined in light of observations received from the Finance Department and will be resubmitted thereafter. The Minister directed the department to submit the necessary queries related to the matter to finance department within weeks time.

The meeting also took stock of the cases involving higher qualifications acquired through distance/online mode.

It was informed that a one-time exemption has so far been granted to 14,966 incumbents, including 7,377 incumbents in Jammu Division and 7,589 in Kashmir Division.

Sakeena Itoo directed the officers to accord the highest priority to pending HRM matters and ensure their disposal within the prescribed timelines. She called for continuous monitoring of seniority, promotion, regularisation and recruitment cases and stressed the need for effective inter-departmental coordination wherever approvals or clearances are required.

The Minister reiterated that the Government is committed to ensuring a transparent, efficient and rules-based human resource management framework in the School Education Department, aimed at strengthening both its administrative functioning and academic delivery.

## NC Reasi Delegation, Along with Civil Society Representatives, Meets CM Omar Abdullah



### NEWS POST REASI

**REASI:** A delegation of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference from Reasi, along with representatives of civil society, travelled to Srinagar and met Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, raising several important public-interest and developmental issues concerning the district. The delegation was led by National Conference District President Raj Kumar Sharma and Gulabgarh MLA Khurshed Ahmed. Civil society representatives Dr. Sukhdev Sharma, Yash Verma and Bishan Magotra were also

part of the delegation. During the meeting, the delegation sought the early operationalisation of the Mother and Child Hospital in Reasi. It also raised the issue of the PWD Dak Bungalows in Reasi and sought their vacation. The delegation further demanded the immediate release of funds for the District Court Complex, Reasi, and sought that the Bhamag Tehsil Office be made functional at Bhamag. Issues concerning Pouni were also taken up with the Chief Minister. The delegation sought upgradation of the Pouni Primary Health Centre to the status of a Sub-District Hospital. It also demanded that Pouni be declared a sub-division and that an SDM post be created there. The delegation apprised the Chief Minister of these issues and sought timely intervention for their resolution, highlighting their importance for the people and development of Reasi district. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah heard the demands raised by the delegation and assured the members that appropriate and necessary action would be taken on the issues discussed during the meeting.

## CJM Reasi Orders FIR in Liaquat Ali Death Case, Seeks Compliance Within 7 Days

### NEWS POST REASI

**JAMMU:** The Chief Judicial Magistrate, Reasi has directed Police Station Chassana to register an FIR and investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of Liaquat Ali of Village Banna, whose body was found hanging from a walnut tree in June this year.

CJM Geeta Kumari passed the direction on an application moved by Abdul Majeed, brother of the deceased, under Section 175(3) of the Bharatiya

Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). The applicant had sought registration of a case alleging kidnapping, illegal confinement, assault, conspiracy and murder against several persons.

According to the application, Liaquat Ali's body was found hanging from a walnut tree at Village Banna on June 24, 2026. The applicant alleged that there had been an ongoing matrimonial dispute between the deceased and his wife and claimed that the circumstances

required a criminal investigation.

The Court held that where information prima facie discloses a cognizable offence, pendency of inquest proceedings cannot indefinitely defer registration of an FIR.

The SHO, Police Station Chassana, has consequently been directed to register an FIR under the relevant provisions of law, initiate investigation and submit a compliance report regarding registration of the FIR within seven days.



**Says Jamabandis being verified; over 6,800 grievance camps held; Audoora receiving station augmentation 95% complete; five Bills passed, two salary Bills withdrawn**

## 1.3 million land record errors fixed in J&K: CM Omar

### NEWS POST REASI

**SRINAGAR:** More than 1.3 million clerical errors in land records have been identified and rectified across Jammu and Kashmir as part of the ongoing digitisation and verification of Jamabandis, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah informed the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday.

Replying to a question by MLA Devyani Rana during Question Hour of the ongoing Autumn Session, CM Omar, who also holds the Revenue portfolio, said verification of digitised Jamabandis was underway across all districts of J&K.

He said a robust digitisation process followed by an extensive error-rectification mechanism had been put in place to ensure that digitised Jamabandis remained accurate and error-free.

The Chief Minister, as reported by the news agency, said the land-record system had been shifted from a static Oracle SQL-based database to a dynamic PostgreSQL platform. Under close supervision, error correction had been undertaken across the entire land records, with more than 1.3 million clerical errors identified and rectified.

He said each entry in the digitised record was subjected to a three-stage verification process through the Maker-Checker-Approver framework, while a digital record was maintained of changes made in the Jamabandi to ensure accountability and traceability.

Abdullah said more than 6,800 village-level grievance redressal camps had been held across J&K for public reading of land records and disposal of grievances.

He said the JK Zameen Sudhaar Portal had been developed to enable people to view their land records online and register grievances, which were monitored for timely disposal.

The Chief Minister said that in collaboration with BISAG-N, a secure Backlog Mutation Module had been developed for systematic updation of Record of Rights data up to 2026. "For field-level supervision and verification, Senior Revenue Officers had been designated as District Mentors and Prabhari officers, while UT-level, district-level and inter-tehsil verification teams were also engaged in the process," he said.

Responding to the issue of pending mutations, discrepancies and correction cases between original/manual revenue records and digitised Jamabandis, Omar said verification was underway across all districts and the same institutional mechanisms are being used to identify and rectify discrepancies.

On erroneous Jamabandi entries affecting ownership, inheritance, partition or transfer of land, the CM said digitised records had been made available on the JK Zameen Sudhaar Portal, allowing landowners to inspect their records and submit grievances.

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