Mission YUVA: CS directs time bound loan disbursement, capacity enhancement of entrepreneurs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress and implementation of Mission YUVA, taking a detailed appraisal of achievements made so far and charting the future course of action with concerned departments and stakeholders.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretaries of Higher Education, Planning, and Agriculture Production Departments; Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Secretaries of Employment and Rural Development Departments; Director Employment; Director, Handicrafts (Kashmir), besides other senior officers.

Vice-Chancellors of Universities, Managing Director, J&K Bank, and Deputy Commissioners participated through video conferencing. While reviewing the progress under Mission YUVA, the Chief Secretary directed the Employment Department and J&K Bank to adopt proactive measures to meet the targets set for the current financial year. He emphasized that loans worth Rs 1,000 crore must be disbursed to facilitate grounding of projects worth Rs 2,000 crore, thereby enabling aspiring entrepreneurs to establish viable business ventures. He underscored the need for enhancing the capacity of beneficiaries to transform their ventures into successful enterprises and called for convergence of all employment generation initiatives such as Lakhpati Didis under JKRLM, PMEGP, HADP, JKCIP, and PMFME with Mission YUVA to maximize their collective impact.

Highlighting the significance of grassroots-level support systems, Dulloo directed that the Single Block Development Units (SBDUs), Block Handholding Desks (BHDs), and YUVA Doots under the Mission be optimally utilized to facilitate on-ground execution and synergy with other government schemes.

He further instructed banks to depute their representatives to the BHDs at block level to streamline the process of approvals and ensure timely sanction and disbursal of loans. Deputy Commissioners were asked to closely monitor the establishment of enterprises by beneficiaries and expedite processes from District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) approvals to bank sanctions and loan disbursals. The Chief Secretary also urged districts to complete the recruitment of required manpower for smooth functioning of Mission YUVA structures.

To ensure wider outreach, the Chief Secretary called for involving legislators, public figures, and local influencers in awareness campaigns. He advised strategizing engagement with focus groups such as Lakhpati Didis, PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries, PMKVY trainees, and artisans from the handicraft sector, encouraging their participation under Mission YUVA.

Administrative Secretaries and Vice-Chancellors shared their insights and suggestions during the meeting, highlighting best practices from other regions and recommending measures for capacity enhancement and time-bound implementation of the Mission.

Commissioner Secretary, Employment, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, presented a detailed overview of Mission YUVA's achievements and objectives. He informed that the Department aims to create successful entrepreneurs in every panchayat, building local role models to inspire others.

He highlighted that the fourth phase of the UdyamJagriti campaign is currently underway, focusing on students from Degree Colleges, Polytechnics, and ITIs; women in Self-Help Groups (SHGs); and beneficiaries with sanctioned loans. So far, 16,000 college students out of about 50,000 and 45,000 women SHG members out of 7 lakh have been reached under this phase. The Department is also contemplating capacity-building sessions for legislators to familiarize them with employment and livelihood schemes for better outreach at the constituency level.

The meeting was informed that 1,23,350 registrations have been made on the Mission YUVA portal, with 53,138 applications received-of which 50,544 pertain to nano-enterprises, 1,975 to new MSMEs, and 551 from existing units. Out of these, 27,369 applications have been approved by DLICs, 7,462 bank sanctions have been issued, and 4,673 disbursals completed, with subsidies granted in 281 cases. The average project cost is around Rs 6.44 lakh, and Rs 262 crore has been disbursed till date.

The Chief Secretary was also apprised about the buyer-seller app developed under the Mission to facilitate market linkages for registered enterprises and about initiatives to promote incubation and innovation-driven entrepreneurship in the Union Territory.

Reiterating the government's commitment to fostering youth entrepreneurship, Dulloo emphasized that Mission YUVA represents a transformative step towards empowering youth, enabling self-reliance, and creating a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem across Jammu and Kashmir. He called upon all departments and banks to ensure seamless coordination, timely support, and measurable outcomes for the Mission's success.

JMC Com visits Greater Kailash; reviews civic infrastructure

JMC Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav during tour of Ward No. 68.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Dr. Devansh Yadav on Thursday conducted an extensive tour of Ward No. 68- Greater Kailash- an important and fast-developing area within the municipal limits.

During the visit, Dr. Yadav inspected several prominent locations including Greater Kailash Shiv Mandir, Fountain Chowk, Jalochak Basti, Greater Kailash Park and Royal Avenue. The tour was aimed at assessing the on-ground condition of public infrastructure and identifying areas where developmental intervention is required.

Members of the Greater Kailash Residents Welfare Society and several locals met the Commissioner and apprised him of the pressing civic issues affecting the area. They raised various demands for improvement and up-gradation of civic amenities, including renovation and beautification of the pond near the Shiv Mandir, completion of the Nallah work to ensure proper drainage and prevent water-logging during the rainy season, laying of new lanes and drains in the Jalochak Basti to improve sanitation and connectivity, repair of the collapsed boundary wall to restore safety and aesthetics of the Greater Kailash Park and completion of pending lane and drain works in the Royal Avenue area.

Dr. Yadav listened patiently to the residents and assured them that the issues raised would be prioritized. He emphasized that the Jammu Municipal Corporation is committed to ensuring equitable development of all areas under its jurisdiction. He directed the concerned officers to prepare detailed estimates for the pending developmental works for timely completion of the same. The Commissioner said that public participation plays a vital role in shaping a clean, sustainable and well-developed city.

Health Officer JMC, Dr. Vinod Sharma; Executive Engineer, Division 5, Er. Yasir Bashir Kitchloo; Chief Transport Officer, S. Dharamveer Singh and Sanitation Officer, Parshotam Kumar accompanied the Commissioner during the tour.

Tiger Taekwondo Academy shines at Jammu Division Karate Championship; bags four gold medals

Medal winners of Tiger Taekwondo Academy with coach.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Tiger Taekwondo Academy achieved a remarkable feat at the Jammu Division Karate Championship organized by the Traditional Karate-do Association of Jammu & Kashmir, held from October 14 to 16, 2025, at Bhagwati Nagar Stadium, Jammu.

The academy's talented athletes brought pride and glory by securing four Gold medals in various categories. The gold medalists include Kyra Thakyal, Amaira Thakyal, Lakshay Bhatia, and Saksham Kumar, each delivering outstanding performances and demonstrating exceptional skill and discipline throughout the championship.

The young champions were trained under the expert guidance of Coach Suresh Kumar, whose dedication and coaching excellence played a vital role in their success.

The victory of Tiger Taekwondo Academy athletes highlights the growing spirit of martial arts among the youth of Jammu and stands as an inspiration for aspiring players across the region.

ADM Jammu reviews arrangements for JE Examination

Additional District Magistrate Jammu, Ansuya Jamwal chairing a meeting on Thursday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional District Magistrate Jammu, Ansuya Jamwal on Thursday chaired a meeting to finalise arrangements for the OMR-based written examination for filling posts of Junior Engineer (Electrical) and Junior Engineer (Civil), scheduled on October 25 and November 2, 2025. The ADM directed all departments to ensure strict adherence to procedures and examination guidelines to maintain fairness and transparency across all examination centres. She stressed the need for close inter-departmental coordination for logistics, security and entry management. Officers were instructed to ensure timely distribution of examination material, proper invigilation and adequate candidate-support facilities. Detailed responsibilities were assigned to each department and officers were advised to remain alert and proactive to prevent any irregularities or malpractice. ADM Ansuya Jamwal highlighted the collective responsibility to uphold the integrity of the recruitment process and called for full cooperation from all stakeholders to ensure a smooth and impartial examination for thousands of candidates in Jammu district.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Nazool, Nodal Officers from City Colleges, Executive Engineer JPDCL, District Education Planning Officer and other concerned officers.

Ladakh celebrates International Snow Leopard Day

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Reaffirming its commitment to wildlife conservation and environmental protection, the Fire and Fury Corps of the Indian Army, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the Union Territory Administration of Ladakh, celebrated International Snow Leopard Day on Thursday at Rinchen Auditorium, Leh. The event aimed to raise awareness about the preservation of the elusive and majestic snow leopard, a vital symbol of Ladakh's rich biodiversity. The programme was graced by Lieutenant General Hitesh Bhalla, General Officer Commanding, 14 Corps, and S. Rajesh, IFS, Chief Wildlife Conservator, UT Ladakh, along with other military and civil dignitaries. Through interactive sessions and awareness activities, the event emphasized the importance of protecting the snow leopard's fragile mountain ecosystem and highlighted the collective responsibility of the community, government agencies, and defence forces in ensuring its survival. With an estimated 477 snow leopards inhabiting Ladakh-about 68% of India's total population-the region has emerged as a global stronghold for the species.

This remarkable achievement reflects Ladakh's sustained conservation efforts, which integrate community participation, scientific monitoring, and eco-tourism initiatives. Such collaborative measures have not only safeguarded the snow leopard but also fostered harmony between humans and wildlife. Lieutenant General Hitesh Bhalla lauded the dedication of all stakeholders and reiterated the Fire and Fury Corps' unwavering support for conservation initiatives. S. Rajesh expressed gratitude to the Indian Army for engaging local communities and promoting awareness, noting that these efforts are instrumental in securing a safe and sustainable habitat for the snow leopard.

The celebration stood as a powerful reminder that through unity, awareness, and action, Ladakh can continue to lead by example in global wildlife conservation.

Army construct Passenger shed

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: The Indian Army inaugurated a newly constructed Passenger Waiting Shed at Upper Kalar Kattal, marking another milestone in its ongoing community development initiatives. The project underscores the Indian Army's commitment to improving local infrastructure and enhancing the quality of life of residents in remote areas. The new waiting shed will serve as a vital facility for passengers, especially during harsh weather conditions, and stands as a symbol of resilience and progress for the people of Upper Kalar Kattal and surrounding villages. As part of the Indian Army's continued efforts to strengthen civil-military relations, the initiative reflects its broader vision of fostering peace, stability and development through tangible, people-centric projects.

Children celebrate Tikka with traditional rituals, joy

Children celebrating Tikka with joy.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the occasion of Bhai Tikka, children celebrated the festival with great enthusiasm and devotion. Dressed in festive attire, sisters performed the traditional rituals by applying tikka on their brothers' foreheads, offering sweets, and praying for their long life and happiness.

Brothers, in return, gave gifts and sweets to their sisters, symbolizing love and protection. The atmosphere was filled with laughter, affection, and festive spirit as families came together to celebrate this beautiful bond of love between brothers and sisters.

Cultural songs and rituals added a traditional charm to the occasion, making it a memorable celebration for the young ones.

PSA against close aide of MLA Mehraj Malik

HC quashes detention order issued by DM Doda

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant judgment, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh at Jammu has quashed the Preventive Detention of a close aide of MLA Mehraj Malik namely Mohammad Rafi alias Pinka, son of Ghulam Kadir Sheikh resident of Phagsoo (Thathri), District Doda who had been detained under J&K Public Safety Act, 1978 vide Order No.PSA 03 of 2025 dated 10-04-2025 passed by the District Magistrate, Doda.

After hearing Advocate Rahul Raina appearing for the detenue Mohd. Rafi alias Pinka and Govt. Advocate Eishaan Dadhichi appearing for District Magistrate, Doda and others, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul observed that, 'Advocate Rahul Raina has contended that subjective satisfaction is to arrive at by Detaining Authority which would reflect application of mind on its part.

He further submitted that the allegations mentioned in Grounds of Detention are vague, absurd and baseless and without any substance and also relied upon a judgment of Division Bench of this court dated 26-07-2024 in LPA No. 19/2024 titled Showkat Ali V/s UT of J&K.' Advocate Rahul Raina further submitted that Grounds of Detention are bereft of details of activities of Detenue which would have necessitated issuance of Detention Order in as much as issuance of Order of Detention on vague grounds deprives detenue of his right to make an effective and meaningful representation against Order of Detention and if the detention order is passed on vague grounds, then Constitutional right of making representation against detention order as envisaged by Article 22(5) of the Constitution of India would become mirage and that issuance of Order of Detention on vague grounds would amount to be an arbitrary exercise of power by detaining authority. In support of his arguments, Advocate Rahul Raina relied upon Jahangir Khan Fazal Khan Pathan V/s Police Commissioner, Ahmadabad and Anr. (1989) 3 SCC 590 and Krishan Lal alias Lundi V/s Union Territory of J&K, JKJ Online 80364.

Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul after considering the submissions of Advocate Rahul Raina observed that in the present case the Detention Order was passed on April 10, 2025 and approved by the Home Department vide Govt. Order dated April 16, 2025 and after approval, the District Magistrate, Doda has considered and rejected the representation vide order dated May 1, 2025 though being forwarded to the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board has not considered and decided the representation nor has any decision been conveyed to the detenue.

In this regard the court relied upon several judgments that the representation in such cases must be considered expeditiously.

After hearing both the sides and adverting to the rival contentions, Justice Vinod Chatterji Koul allowed the Habeas Corpus Petition (HCP) of Detenue, who is a close aide of MLA Mehraj Malik and accordingly quashed Detention Order No. PSA 03 of 2025 dated April 10, 2025 passed by the District Magistrate, Doda and further issued directions that detenue Mohd.Rafi alias Pinka be released from the custody forthwith, if he is not otherwise required in any other case.

TRAVEL TIME!

Jammu to Srinagar	
IndiGo	10:05 AM - 10:45 AM
SpiceJet	11:10 AM - 12:00 PM
Air India Express	12:50 PM - 1:40 PM
Air India Express	1:35 PM - 2:45 PM
IndiGo	1:55 PM - 2:35 PM
IndiGo	6:40 PM - 7:20 PM
Srinagar to Jammu	
IndiGo	11:45 AM - 12:35 PM
Air India Express	12:10 PM - 1:05 PM
SpiceJet	12:35 PM - 1:30 PM
Air India Express	2:20 PM - 3:35 PM
IndiGo	3:15 PM - 4:05 PM
IndiGo	5:20 PM - 6:10 PM

FIND TRAIN SCHEDULE

11078 Jhelum Express
Departure : 23:35 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival : 11:15 at New Delhi

12426 Jammu Tawi - New Delhi Rajdhani Express
Departure : 21:25 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival : 05:55 at New Delhi

12446 Uttar Sampark Kranti Express
Departure : 21:50 from Jammu Tawi
Arrival : 06:55 at New Delhi

Train 26401 - Katra to Srinagar (Morning Service)
Departure : 8:10 AM from Katra
Arrival : 11:10 AM at Srinagar
Intermediate Stop : Banihal at 9:58 AM
Fare:
Chair Car (CC): 715
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,320
Booking: Available on IRCTC

Train 26403 - Katra to Srinagar (Afternoon Service)
Departure : 2:00 PM from Katra
Arrival : 05:00 PM at Srinagar
Fare:
Chair Car (CC): 660
Executive Chair Car (EC): 1,270
Booking: Available on IRCTC

FIND CINEMA

EK DIWAANE KI DEEWANIYAT
WAVE ONE MOVIE JAMMU 10:45 AM / 1:45 PM / 5:40 PM / 08:00 PM / 10:50 PM

KANTARA (A LEGEND CHAPTER-1) (HINDI)
WAVE ONE MOVIE JAMMU 4:45 PM

GODDAY GODDAY CHAA 2 (PUNJABI)
WAVE ONE MOVIES JAMMU 09:30 AM / 3:00 PM / 8:40 PM
PVR KC JAMMU 12:30 PM

THAMMA -HINDI
WAVE ONE MOVIES JAMMU 10:00 AM / 12:05 PM / 1:00 PM / 4:00 PM / 7:00 PM /10:05 PM /10:45 PM

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