

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Identify, isolate those...

the forthcoming Mahakaal pilgrimage. Speaking to the media persons on the sidelines of his visit, the Lieutenant Governor said: "There is an atmosphere of joy across J&K as devotees arrive for the holy Shri Amarnathji Yatra. Muharram processions were taken out peacefully, and today we have gathered here at Mata Sidh Lakshmi Temple. It's heartening to see communities celebrating together in unity and mutual respect. This is the true spirit of Jammu Kashmir." Vidhi Kumar Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid, Deputy Commissioner; Anantnag; senior officials of Police and Civil Administration, members of Teerathraj Sidh Lakshmi Peeth Trust, prominent citizens and devotees in large numbers were present.

Peace time is...

DAD's new motto "Alert, Agile, Adaptive" and noted that these are not mere words, but a reflection of the work culture required in today's rapidly evolving defence environment. He urged officials to undertake internal reform through self-introspection, rather than relying solely on external audits or consultants. "Improvements made through internal evaluation create living organisations. These reforms are more organic, with fewer barriers." "Peace time is nothing but an illusion. Even during periods of relative calm, we must prepare for uncertainty. Sudden developments can force a complete shift in our financial and operational posture," he said. "Whether it's stepping up equipment production or adapting financial processes, we must be ready with innovative techniques and responsive systems at all times," he said. He urged the DAD to incorporate this mindset into their planning, budgeting and decision-making systems. Highlighting the increasing strategic and economic significance of the defence sector, Singh called for a shift in perception from defence spending as mere expenditure to an economic investment with multiplier impact. "Until recently, defence budgets were not seen as part of the national economy. Today, they are growth drivers," he added. Singh said India, along with the rest of the world, is entering a new phase of re-armament, marked by capital-intensive investments in the defence sector. The defence minister called upon the DAD to incorporate defence economics in their planning and assessments, including social impact analysis of R&D projects and dual-use technologies.

Pahalgam terror attack...

in Pahalgam before the April 22 attack that left 26 people, mostly tourists, dead and 16 others injured. The two provided food, shelter and logistical support to the terrorists, who, on the fateful afternoon, selectively targeted and killed tourists based on their religious identity, making it one of the most gruesome terrorist attacks in recent memory, the NIA said, as it continues its probe into the terror network behind the massacre in Kashmir's tourism hub.

Over 8,600 pilgrims...

the second convoy of 5,119 pilgrims in 206 vehicles who are undertaking the yatra from the 48-km traditional Pahalgam route in the Anantnag district, they said. This was the largest batch of pilgrims since Wednesday, when Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the yatra in Jammu on July 2. With this, a total of 40,361 pilgrims have left the Jammu base camp for the valley. There is a huge rush at the counters for on-the-spot registration, with authorities increasing the number of counters as well as the daily quota to ease the rush. Over 3,000 devotees arrived in Jammu from various parts of the country to get themselves registered. Amid chants of "Bum Bum Bhole" and "Har Har Mahadev", enthusiastic pilgrims left with religious fervour for Amarnath from Jammu, which transformed into a 'city of divinity'. More than 3.5 lakh people have registered online for the pilgrimage so far. Thirty-four accommodation centres have been set up across Jammu, and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags are being issued to the pilgrims. Twelve counters have been set up for on-the-spot registration. Arrangements have been made to provide boarding and lodging facilities for more than 50,000 people at various lodgement centres across the Jammu region, from Lakhampur to Banihal, they said. A total of 106 lodgement centres have been set up for the purpose, they added. A total of 180 companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), which is 30 more than previous years, have been deployed for the security of the annual Amarnath Yatra in Jammu division this year, a senior police officer said.

Army pays tribute...

enduring gratitude for his sacrifice and bravery, it said. On the occasion, Brigadier V S Chauhan, Group Commander, NCC, Chandigarh, addressed the NCC cadets, inspiring them to draw inspiration from Captain Batra's life. Mona Narang, Principal, DAV College, expressed pride that Captain Vikram Batra was an alumnus of the institution. G L Batra said his son's sacrifice and bravery will continue to inspire future generations. His rallying cry 'Yeh Dil Maange More' still resonates in every Indian's heart. During the programme, a short movie on the armyman's life was screened. It has been 26 years since India secured victory with its Operation Vijay in the decisive battle against Pakistani forces at the icy heights of Kargil in Jammu and Kashmir. The Indian Army since then commemorates July 26 as Kargil Vijay Divas.

Advisor to PM...

Bursar and Tulbul Storage also came under focus. Stressing the strategic significance of these projects at the national level, the Advisor called for robust organizational structures and efficient decision-making processes to ensure their timely execution. The Advisor took stock of key railway projects including the landmark Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL), and new corridors like Qazigund-Budgam double line, Baramulla-Uri, Sopore-Kupwara, Anantnag-Pahalgam and Jammu-Katra double line. These projects aim to drastically cut the travel time, boost commercial transport and improve the market access for J&K's horticultural produce. Road infrastructure, being implemented by NHAI, NHIDCL and BRO, was also reviewed. The Advisor discussed challenges such as construction material availability and the issuance of short-term permits to address the supply gaps. A detailed review was conducted on the AIIMS campuses at Jammu and Srinagar. While the Jammu AIIMS is already functional, the Kashmir AIIMS is on track for completion by November this year. The Advisor also assessed progress on faculty recruitment and procurement of high-end medical equipment to ensure world-class healthcare delivery in these prestigious institutions. With a vision for a greener future, the Advisor took stock of solar initiatives under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. He asked for focused action on installing grid-connected rooftop solar panels for domestic consumers and government buildings, spearheaded by the government agencies of PDD and J&K Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA). The health of Dal Lake was also in spotlight, with a review of the existing and proposed Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) to improve water quality and preserve the lake's ecological balance. Kapoor emphasized sustainable lake management to protect the valley's iconic natural heritage. He also assessed the Urban infrastructure projects in Jammu and Srinagar. These included PM eBus Seva, Intelligent Traffic Management Systems (ITMS), modern parking infrastructure, IMS Katra, water transport and Smart City/AMRUT schemes. These initiatives are poised to significantly improve the urban mobility, environmental sustainability and citizen-centric service delivery. The Advisor appreciated the UT's Mission YUVA, aimed at creating sustainable livelihood avenues for the youth. He emphasised on identifying viable, local sectors and providing both financial and institutional support to promote nano enterprises, MSMEs and startups in sunrise sectors through a comprehensive umbrella scheme. He also had a detailed review of the telecom connectivity and digital empowerment. He was informed that with the BharatNet initiative, efforts are

underway to extend high-speed internet to every corner of the UT, including its most remotest of villages. Simultaneously, IT reforms being executed in collaboration with BISAG-N were reviewed, with a thrust on making administration more transparent, accountable and accessible through digital platforms and integrated governance tools. Summing up the review, the Advisor expressed satisfaction with the scale of progress while underlining the need for timely execution, inter-agency coordination and people-centric outcomes. He reaffirmed the Centre's commitment to give utmost priority to Jammu and Kashmir, transforming the region into a model of inclusive development and digital governance.

Sinha visits Shri...

to Lieutenant Governor and CEO, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board; VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag and other senior officers of District Administration, SASB, Police and Security Forces.

Man killed in...

reaches of Poonch to remain alert, as weather conditions continue to remain unpredictable. Heavy rainfall caused inundation of main roads in parts of Rajouri town. Shopkeepers suffered losses as overflowing water entered shops and other business establishments, they said. In the Darhal area, landslides were triggered by heavy rainfall, damaging several acres of land. A multi-storey house also appears on the verge of collapse due to a landslide. Several areas in Srinagar, including Downtown, were inundated. The heavy rains flooded roads, leading to massive traffic snarls across the city, the officials said. Electricity was snapped due to high-speed winds that preceded the rains, they said, adding there were reports of trees and electric poles getting uprooted in many areas of the Valley. Properties were damaged due to the falling of trees, but there were no reports of any casualties, they said. "Moderate to heavy rain was reported from most parts of Kashmir, with Srinagar city getting torrential showers," an official said. The rains have ended a prolonged heat wave in Kashmir. Srinagar city witnessed the third hottest day ever as mercury soared to 37.4 degrees Celsius on Saturday. This was the hottest day recorded in the Valley since July 5, 1953, when the city had recorded a high of 37.7 degrees.

For India, climate...

grouping's two-day annual summit in this seaside Brazilian city. Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin skipped the summit. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and Egypt's Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi also didn't attend the gathering. The BRICS has emerged as an influential grouping as it brings together 11 major emerging economies of the world, representing around 49.5 per cent of the global population, around 40 per cent of the global GDP and around 26 per cent of the global trade. BRICS, originally comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates, with Indonesia joining in 2025.

In a first...

Very stringent data security measures would be kept in place to ensure data security at the time of collection, transmission and storage. HLO will start from April 1, 2026 followed by phase 2 starting on February 1, 2027 in which Population Enumeration (PE) will be conducted. Castes of household members will be enumerated in the ensuing Census. Reference date for the Census 2027 will be 00:00 hrs of March 1, 2027 and 00:00 hrs of October 1, 2026 for Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir and snowbound non-synchronous areas of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. It will be the 16th Census since start of the exercise in the country and 8th after Independence, for which a gazette notification was issued on June 16. The Registrar General of India has put in place a three-tier focused and need-based training for each phase-national trainer, master trainer and field trainer. The field trainers will train around 34 lakh enumerators and supervisors for the massive exercise. The RGI has told states and Union Territories to make any proposed changes in the boundaries of administrative units before December 31, when they will be considered final for the Census exercise. In a letter to all states and Union Territories, Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India Mritunjay Kumar Narayan had said that for the Census, all villages and towns are divided into uniform enumeration blocks and for each block, an enumerator is assigned to avoid any miss or repetition during the population count.

Doda Police organizes awareness programme on crime against women across district

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: On the directions of SSP Doda, Sandeep Mehta, an awareness program was conducted to promote the safety and well-being of women in the



community. In a proactive effort to empower women and promote their safety, the Women Help Desk of Police Station Doda, led by Lady PSI Sonalika Sharma and PSI Megha Verma, conducted an awareness programme at village Jodhpur, while Police Station Bhaderwah, led by Lady PSI Chhaya Pikha along with the Women Help Desk at Seri Bazar Bhaderwah. Similarly Police Station Thathri led by L/PSI Ruchi Sharm and PSI Himanshi alongwith Women Help Desk PS Thathri, conducted an awareness program at Dak Bungalow Thathri. The initiative aimed to educate women about their rights and the legal recourse available to them in cases of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and dowry-related issues. During the program, the Women Help Desks and their teams interacted with local women, discussing the importance of recognizing and reporting crimes against them. The team provided valuable information on the support systems in place for victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, and dowry harassment. The program highlighted the Police department's commitment to creating a safer and more supportive environment for women in the District. By raising awareness about crimes against women and promoting women's rights, the initiative seeks to empower women to take control of their lives and seek help when needed. The Women Help Desks of Doda Police, encourage women to report any incidents of violence or abuse and assure them of a sympathetic and supportive response. The Women Help Desks of Doda Police remains committed to working towards the safety and well-being of women in the community and seek help when needed.

Bovine smuggling bid foiled, 6 animals rescued

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Continuing its efforts against bovine smuggling, Doda Police has rescued 06 bovine from the clutches of smugglers in Koti area falling under the jurisdiction of PS Doda. Official sources has said that an information was received reliably at PS Doda that some unknown persons are smuggling 06 bovine without any permission by foot in a cruel manner from Koti via Bagla Bharat towards Kashmir. On this information a case FIR No. 162/2025 U/S 223 BNS, 11 PC Act registered at PS Doda and police party led by SHO PS Doda Inspector Parvaiz Ahmed raided that above mentioned area, where they rescued 06 bovine and arrested the accused from the spot. Further investigation of the case is going on. The act of Police reflects the efforts to maintain law and order in the region. By taking such actions, the police aim to ensure public safety and prevent potential of law and order in the District. The sources said.

Dr Jitendra urges rapid adoption of Agri-tech to boost India's GDP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh today called for a paradigm shift in the agriculture sector by embracing cutting-edge technology and fostering greater synergy among stakeholders, as he addressed the 96th Annual General Meeting of the ICAR Society at the NASC Complex in the capital.

Speaking at the high-profile event chaired by Union Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Dr. Jitendra Singh underscored that every technology available globally is now accessible within India. "It is no longer about whether technology is available-it is about how fast we adopt it and integrate it into our agricultural ecosystem to add value to our economy," he said.

The Minister stressed the importance of breaking mental and institutional silos, noting that many in the agriculture value chain are not just unaware of new technologies, but also unaware that they are unaware. "Technology in agriculture has progressed rapidly under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership over the past 11 years. Yet, its full potential remains untapped at the ground level," he added.

Pointing to success stories like the Lavender Revolution in Jammu and Kashmir,



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing 96th Annual General Meeting of ICAR Society at NASC Complex, New Delhi on Monday.

where over 3,000 startups have emerged around lavender cultivation, Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized how new-age farming-using satellite imaging, remote-controlled tractors, and order-based crop production-is reshaping the agricultural narrative. "From lavender in Bhaderwah to off-season tulips grown for temple offerings, we have examples where science and strategy have combined to generate both income and innovation," he noted.

The Minister also highlighted that biotech-driven advances, such as pest-resistant cotton developed through Department of Biotechnology initiatives and radiation-based food preservation techniques by the Department of Atomic Energy, are redefining how produce is grown, stored, and exported. "Our mangoes now fly to the U.S. thanks to these technologies. And yet, many states have not come forward to fully exploit these tools," he observed.

In an earnest appeal to state agriculture ministers and institutional stakeholders, Dr. Jitendra Singh proposed more frequent and informal cross-ministerial

interactions to ensure real-time exchange of innovations. "We should not wait for annual meetings alone. Let's create working groups and reach out when solutions can be shared, spontaneously and practically," he urged.

Referring to the Marine Agriculture initiative in coastal states and the cultivation of mangoes in Manipur or apples in Andhra Pradesh, the Minister cited these as "non-traditional yet highly viable" ventures that show how India's agri-map is being redrawn through science.

The meeting, attended by key Union and state ministers, scientists, and officials from ICAR and associated ministries, also saw the release of key ICAR publications and presentations on annual reports and financials.

"Our biggest challenge isn't lack of technology. It's the lack of connect between those who develop it and those who need it. That is the bridge we need to build," he concluded.

The AGM ended with a vote of thanks and a renewed commitment to harnessing India's scientific edge for agricultural resilience and economic growth.

Transport Commissioner visits Budgam; inspects ARTO office, transport infrastructure

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Mahajan, visited Budgam to undertake a comprehensive inspection of the ARTO office Budgam besides reviewing the status of transport infrastructure in the district.

He was accompanied by Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir, Qazi Irfan.

Earlier, the Transport Commissioner held an interaction with the transporters and stakeholders at the RTO Office, Bemina, where he listened to their concerns, suggestions and feedback regarding the transport operations, permit issues and public service

delivery. He assured them that all their genuine concerns would be addressed in a time-bound manner. He reiterated that the recent directive, permitting only the applicants to visit RTO and ARTO offices in order to further strengthen transparency, shall be implemented in letter and spirit.

During his visit to Budgam, Mahajan assessed the functioning of the ARTO office and interacted with the staff. He emphasized the need for enhanced service delivery, transparency and citizen convenience.

The Transport Commissioner also inspected the proposed site for the Driving Trial Track at

Ompura, aimed at streamlining the driving license testing process and ensuring compliance with the safety and technical standards.

He had a discussion with the Deputy Commissioner, Budgam, regarding transfer of the proposed site at Ompura for use by the Transport department. He stressed the importance of expediting the handover process and initiating the driving tests at the site once the required infrastructure is in place.

He also reviewed other infrastructural requirements and issued directions for prioritizing the key works.

DDC Chairman Doda flags off Rudra Ganga Yatra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: In a vibrant and spiritually uplifting ceremony, the District Development Council Chairman, Dhanaanter Singh Kotwal today flagged off the Rudar Ganga Yatra from Doda to Chandi Dhar Dessa, amidst religious fervour and enthusiastic participation.

The event witnessed the presence of key dignitaries including Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Anil Thakur, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Din Mohammad, and Executive Officer Municipality Yasir Wani. Also present were Dy. SP, President of Sanatan Dharam Sabha, Zila Pradhan of Sewa Bharti and Zila Pradhan of Sadbhavana along with a large gathering of devotees and locals. The Chairman empha-

sized the spiritual and cultural significance of the Rudra Ganga Yatra, highlighting how such events foster communal harmony, promote the region's rich traditions and boost spiritual tourism. He appreciated the efforts of the organizing committees and administration for their seamless coordination and extended wishes for safe and successful yatra.

Traditional rituals were performed before the flag-off and chants of devotion echoed across the town as the yatra procession began its journey toward the sacred destination of Chandi Dhar Dessa.

The administration assured all necessary arrangements for the yatra including security, sanitation and medical aid to ensure the safety and comfort of devotees.

DDC Poonch reviews progress of HADP, Agriculture & Allied Sector Schemes

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch, Vikas Kundal today chaired a comprehensive meeting to review the progress of the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) and other key schemes related to agriculture and allied sectors in the district. The meeting aimed to foster greater coordination and ensure timely execution of initiatives to benefit farmers and boost agricultural productivity.

During the meeting, officers from the concerned departments presented status reports and outlined the targets set for the current financial year under HADP. They highlighted focused efforts on

increasing productivity and enhancing farmer income through sustainable interventions. DDC conducted a detailed review of major schemes including Daksh Kisan, Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and PM-KISAN, issuing clear directions for time-bound implementation. Emphasizing the importance of achieving set targets under Daksh Kisan, the DDC instructed all stakeholders to adhere strictly to the prescribed timelines.

Stressing the need for inter-departmental coordination, field-level monitoring and farmer engagement, the DDC urged all departments to work in synergy to ensure comprehensive implementation of

agricultural programs across the district. DDC also took stock of the vaccination drives being carried out by the Animal and Sheep Husbandry Department, directing officials to expedite the process to ensure livestock health and disease prevention.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, District Sericulture Officer, Lead Bank Manager, Assistant Director Fisheries, Assistant Floriculture Officer, Area Grading and Marketing Officer and the District Head of Krishi Vigyan Kendra Poonch.