

DC Akshay chairs DRSC, DLMC Meeting to strengthen road safety framework

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SRINAGAR: In order to prevent road accidents and take corrective measures, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo who is also Chairman of District Road Safety Committee and District Level Monitoring Committee (DRSC/DLMC) today chaired a meeting here at the Meeting Hall of the DC office Complex.

SSP Traffic Police, Aijaz Ahmad; RTO Kashmir, Qazi Irfan; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; Superintendent of Police, Umar Shah; Superintending Engineer R&B (North), Shabir Ahmad; Superintending Engineer of R&B (South), Tatheer Manzoor; SDM West, Irfan Bahadur; SDM East, Zubair Ahmad, other senior Offi-

cers of School Education, Colleges, R&B and other concerned Departments attended the meeting.

At the outset, the meeting discussed in detail remedial measures to prevent road accidents and 'Hit and Run' cases in the district emphasizing implementation of road safety measures recommended by the Supreme Court.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the line departments to submit detailed GIS co-ordinates of accident-prone areas (black spots) along with transport data to identify vulnerable road stretches as per the Integrated Road Accident Database (IRAD) framework. The DC asked the R&B department to formulate a robust plan in accordance with the Supreme Court's directions for

the identification and management of black spots. He stressed that focused technological and enforcement interventions should be undertaken to significantly reduce road accidents particularly along highways.

Emphasizing data-driven planning, the DC highlighted the importance of using available traffic and transport data for safety interventions, strategic deployment of traffic personnel and implementation of corrective measures at accident-prone locations.

During the meeting, other issues included traffic decongestion, traffic regulation, particularly at black spots, proper illumination at cut points and removal of encroachments.

The meeting also reviewed the implementation of the Road Accident Victim



Fund. The DC stressed the need for swift disposal of related cases. Meanwhile, the DC also took appraisal of progress of ongoing traffic decongestion measures in the City including at Natipora-Rambagh junction, Barzulla underpass and other areas.

Secretary DLSA Budgam convenes meeting on 'Mediation for the Nation 2.0'

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BUDGAM: Reducing the burdens from the courts and providing relief to the parties, a meeting with all Ld. Judicial Officers of the District Budgam in offline mode and with the Judicial Officers Posted at Taluka Levels in Online mode was convened by Tabassum Qadir Parray, Secretary District Legal Services Authority.

The meeting was held to expedite the identification and review of cases within the ambit of respective courts and all Ld. Judicial officers were apprised to identify the maximum cases for the 'Mediation for the Nation 2.0'. Elaborating the scope of the Mediation, she apprised the participants that the mediation subtracts the burdens of the Court and is very fruitful for the parties.

The meeting in offline



mode was attended by O.P Bhagat, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA), Budgam; Yahya Firdous, Addl. district & Sessions Judge Budgam; Abdul Bari, Chief Judicial Magistrate Budgam; Esar ul Nabi, Spl. Mobile Magistrate Budgam; Tasneem Kawoosa Munsiff/JMIC Budgam; Shabber Ayaz, Principal Magistrate Juvenile Justice board Budgam and in online mode was attended by Shafeeq Ahmed Malik, Sub-Judge Chadoora; Syed Tayoub Bukhari, Munsiff/JMIC Chadoora; Rabiya Snober Gulzar, Towfeel Ahmed Mir and Aiman Amin.

Earlier, the Principal District & Sessions Judge also convened a separate meeting on 'mediation drive 2.0' with the mediators of DLSA Budgam and Panel Lawyers of the DLSA Budgam.

Several administrative units of Bandipora operate in nearby districts: Govt

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SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government Tuesday said that several administrative units of Bandipora district continue to function in the nearby districts, saying that they are functioning smoothly and effective coordination mechanisms are in place among departments and district administrations to ensure seamless service delivery.

Replying to a question by Congress legislator Nizam-Ud-Din Bhat in the Assembly, the government said the jurisdiction of some departments in Bandipora is not co-terminus with that of the Revenue Department.



The government said that in the Police Department, some areas and villages of Sumbal tehsil, including Odina, fall under the jurisdiction of police stations Pattan and Mirgund in Baramulla district.

It said that under the ICDS scheme, while most Anganwadi Centres in Bandipora are supervised by the ICDS Project Officer, Bandipora, certain centres located

within the territorial jurisdiction of Srinagar, Ganderbal and Baramulla districts are also looked after by the ICDS Project Officer, Bandipora.

The government further said that most areas under the Sumbal sub-division fall within the administrative control of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Hydraulic Division, Sopore, while the Mechanical Division for the same areas function under the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division, Srinagar.

It also said that zonal offices of the Soil and Water Conservation Department in Bandipora and

Gurez, though located in the district, fall under the administrative jurisdiction of the department's Baramulla office.

On steps taken to ensure smooth functioning, the government said that despite non-co-terminus jurisdictions, existing administrative arrangements are functioning smoothly and effective coordination mechanisms are in place among departments and district administrations to ensure seamless service delivery. It added that regular inter-departmental coordination and field-level supervision are carried out to address issues, if any.

DLSA Budgam conducts Ist UTRC Meeting of the Year 2026

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BUDGAM: As part of the Calendar of activities, DLSA Budgam Conducted Ist Under Trial Review Committee Meeting (UTRC) of the year 2026.

The meeting was held to expedite the identification and review of prisoners who are eligible to be considered for release as well as to accelerate the regular function of UTRC and review all eligible under trial Prisoners (UTPs).

The meeting was chaired by O.P Bhagat, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA), Budgam, and was convened by Secretary District Legal Services Authority Budgam in consonance with the SOPs already in place.



The meeting was attended by Mehraj-ud din Shah, Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam; Sajjad Bukhari, Additional Superintendent of Police Budgam; Abdul Rashid Dar, Sr. Prosecuting Officer (SSP office Budgam);

Ranjeev Kumar, Public Prosecuting Officer Session Court Budgam; Shehbaz Hussain, Dy. Superintendent Central Jail Srinagar, and Dr. Fayaz Ahmed, Senior Medical Officer, Central Jail Srinagar.

During the meeting, bare discussions were held regarding the release of Under Trial Prisoners (UTPs), identified by DLSA Budgam for their release by the UTRC Committee. Six cases of UTPs were identified by DLSA Budgam and two came into consideration before the UTRC Committee in accordance with SOPs formulated by NALSA and has resolved and decided to recommend them for release/Speedy trial/proper medical care etc.

Major relief for cancer patients as Budget cuts duty on 17 drugs



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SRINAGAR: In a major relief to cancer patients and their families, the Union Budget has announced the removal of basic customs duty on 17 cancer drugs, a move expected to significantly reduce treatment costs and improve access to life-saving medicines.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that, to ease the financial burden on patients suffering from cancer, customs duty has been reduced not only for cancer medicines but also for drugs, medicines, and specialised medical food imported for the treatment of seven additional rare diseases.

Cancer treatments in Kashmir often run into lakhs, with imported medicines forming a major part of the expense. For many middle- and low-income families, the cost can be overwhelming.

Abdul Qayoom Dar, whose wife has been undergoing treatment for blood cancer for two years, said that the announcement brings hope, as every month they spend around 50,000 rupees just on medicines.

"We have sold our land and borrowed from relatives, and if the prices go down even by a little, it will help families like ours survive this fight," he told.

Fareeda Akhter, a 35-year-old cancer survivor from South Kashmir, said the decision could change lives. "I had to stop one course of treatment midway because we couldn't afford the imported drug. Cheaper medicines mean patients won't have to choose between health and financial ruin," she added. Dr Ashraf Dar, an oncologist, said that customs duty removal will directly impact drug pricing. While this is not a complete solution, it is a positive step toward making cancer care more accessible.

Families affected by cancer say the announcement has given them a sense of recognition and support from the government. "We feel seen," said Mohammad Irfan, whose 10-year-old daughter is undergoing chemotherapy. "Cancer doesn't just attack the body; it destroys savings and peace of mind. Any relief means hope." They, however, urged for a strong and effective cancer policy to help patients in every way.

Ice Boxes distributed among Fishermen in Baramulla

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BARAMULLA: In a step towards strengthening the fisheries sector, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, in presence of Assistant Director Fisheries, today distributed 94 ice boxes among registered fishermen and fish farmers of the district.

The ice boxes have been procured by the Fisheries Department under the Jammu and

Kashmir Competitive Improvement Project (JKCIP) to support post-harvest management and improve the livelihoods of fishing communities.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted that the initiative is part of the long-term goal of the Jammu and Kashmir Government to double the income of people associated with agriculture and its allied sectors.

Minga Sherpa said that the initiative aims to enhance the shelf life of fish produce, minimize post-harvest losses, and promote hygienic handling, especially among street fish vendors.

Furthermore, the DC added that by enabling safe storage and transportation of fish, the intervention is expected to help beneficiaries avoid distress sales and

access better market opportunities, thereby improving their income levels.

The DC also noted that the ice boxes would play a key role in maintaining the quality and freshness of fish, ensuring the supply of safe and hygienic produce to consumers, adding that such measures not only benefit producers but also enhance consumer confidence in locally produced fish.

Police in Ganderbal takes action against Hoax Caller for making false emergency calls on Dial-112 helpline

■ RAYEES SHAH

SRINAGAR: Police in Ganderbal has taken preventive action against an individual found to be repeatedly making false emergency calls, thereby misusing the ERSS-112 helpline and wasting valuable police resources.

Police Post Shadipora received information through ERSS-112 via PCR Ganderbal that a caller Parvaiz Ahmad, reported that his wife had been assaulted and requested immediate police intervention. Acting promptly, the police post contacted the complainant and rushed a police party to the location provided. However, upon arrival, it



was found that the caller had switched off his mobile phone. Subsequent verification revealed that the complaint was false and misleading. Further enquiry brought to light that the caller, Parvaiz Ahmad Saeed son of Gh Ahmad Saeed resident of Narayanbagh, is a habitual offender who has repeatedly made fake distress calls, including three false complaints during January 2026 through ERSS-112. His actions were found to be deliberate, aimed at creating unnecessary panic and diverting police attention from genuine emergencies.

Based on the statements

NC expresses profound gratitude to CM Omar Abdullah for halting proposed Railway lines

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SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference State Spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar Tuesday hailed the decision to put on hold the proposed railway tracks connecting Anantnag to Pahalgam and Anantnag to Shopian and congratulated the Hon'ble CM Omar Abdullah, party MPs for their efforts in saving the livelihoods and orchards of thousands of residents of south Kashmir.

The proposed railway lines had sparked widespread apprehension among the local population, particularly apple growers whose orchards form the backbone of the region's economy. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, along with party MP Mian Altaf Ah-

mad played a pivotal role in advocating for the interests of the people, ensuring that the projects were paused to prevent irreparable harm to livelihoods and the iconic apple orchards of Anantnag, Shopian, and surrounding areas.

Imran expressed his thanks on behalf of the affected communities. He said, "We are deeply thankful to the Honorable Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and our Honorable MPs for this necessary and critical intervention. By halting the proposed railway tracks between Anantnag-Pahalgam and Anantnag-Shopian, they have safeguarded people's livelihoods and orchards. This is truly a government that listens to people's concerns and acts on them decisively."

Police Arrests Drug Peddler In Anantnag

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from society, Police in Anantnag arrested a drug peddler and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

A police party of Police Station Pahalgam at a checkpoint established at Kullar Hirpora, intercepted a suspicious individual. During search, 5.120 Kgs of Bung Boosa like substance concealed in a bag was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Basit Iqbal son of Mohammad Iqbal Shah resident of Hirpora. He has been arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody.

Action Against Illegal Mining Continues; Police Seizes 04 Vehicles In Pulwama, FIR Registered

SRINAGAR: In its continued drive against illegal mining and unlawful transportation of minerals, Police have seized four vehicles (one LNT machine, and three Dumpers) in Pulwama.

The seizure was made by a police party of Police Station Litter during routine checking in the Rambiar-Lassipora-Litter area. During the operation, one LNT machine bearing No. XUGA210BTNKAA00033 and three Dumpers bearing Registration Nos. JK19A-3972, JK20A-8900 and JK04G-7999, were found involved in illegal transportation and extraction of minerals.