

DC Kupwara visits border villages of Karnah

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KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, today undertook an extensive tour of border villages in Karnah sub-division to assess developmental works and interact with the local population.

During the visit to village Taad, situated in close proximity to the Zero Line on the LoC, DC held an interaction with local residents who highlighted their developmental concerns and day-to-day challenges faced in the border belt.

DC gave a patient hearing and assured them that the administration is committed to bridging infrastructure gaps, addressing connectivity issues, and improving basic amenities in these remote villages. He reiterated that special attention is being given to far-flung and border areas under various Government schemes.

Later, DC paid a visit to the historic Sharda Peeth Temple at Teetwal, where he offered prayers and sought blessings. He also paid respects at the adjacent Gurudwara, symbolizing the spirit of communal harmony of the region.

On the occasion, DC also joined devotees in the Yatra Rally taken out from Sharda Temple. The participation of people from diverse backgrounds in the event,

he said, is a testimony to the cultural richness and peaceful coexistence of the area.

At the Teetwal Sports Ground, DC interacted with enthusiastic youth and local sportspersons. He assured that the administration would explore all avenues to strengthen sports infrastructure in Tanghdar sub-division. He also visited the Army Goodwill School at Teetwal, and assured that the district administration is committed to supporting educational initiatives in border areas.

During the tour, DC inspected the Kandi Madrassa building, which was severely damaged in a fire incident last night. He expressed solidarity with the Madrassa management.

Speaking during the visit, DC reiterated that border residents are the priority of the district administration, and assured continuous efforts are being made to bring development, better infrastructure, and essential services to their doorsteps despite challenging geographical and climatic conditions. He called upon the locals to actively cooperate with the administration in implementation of developmental projects for the overall progress of the district.

DC was accompanied by ACR Kupwara, SDM Karnah, and officers from various line departments during the visit.



One More Arrest Made in Theft Case; Stolen Items Recovered

SRINAGAR: During the investigation of the case registered vide FIR No. 180/2025 at Police Station Awantipora, pertaining to the theft of bat clefts, Police in Awantipora had earlier recovered 200 stolen bat clefts and arrested one accused person.

During further investigation, an investigating team of Police Post Toll Plaza by taking assistance of modern techniques including collection of CCTV footages of various locations learnt about the involvement of one more accused person identified as Sajad Ahmad Ganie son of Gh Hassan Ganie resident of Pathan, Pulwama and was subsequently arrested in the instant case. On his disclosure, 1780 bat clefts were recovered from various locations, taking the total recoveries to 1980 clefts. Vehicle bearing registration number JK18D-5938 used in the commission of crime has also been seized. J&K Police assures the public of its firm resolve to protect life and property, and urges citizens to remain vigilant and promptly share any information regarding suspicious activities, so that anti-social elements are effectively curbed.

Dr. Farooq expresses concern over increasing weather vagaries in J&K

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SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah Sunday expressed deep concern over the alarming rise in extreme weather events in Jammu and Kashmir and the broader Himalayan region, which have been causing severe damage to both human lives and property.

In a statement issued from party headquarters Nawa-e-Subha Srinagar, Dr. Farooq called for urgent, proactive measures to address the growing climate unpredictability, stressing the need for



sustainable development strategies that ensure the protection of life and livelihood in the region.

“The increase in weather vagaries, ranging from flash floods, landslides, and prolonged dry spells, to erratic rainfall patterns, has

become a pressing concern for the people of Jammu and Kashmir,” he said adding, “These unpredictable weather events are not only threatening our ecological balance but also impacting local populations, their agricultural livelihoods, infrastructure and most tragically, human lives.”

Pointing out that J&K region and the broader Himalayan belt are particularly vulnerable to climate change, Dr. Farooq stressed that sustainable development must become the cornerstone of future planning, where the immediate need for economic growth does not come at the cost of the environment or people’s safety.

“Development should no longer be seen as just economic growth; it should encompass environmental protection, ecological conservation, and social equity,” he said. “We need to re-evaluate our development models and ensure they are in harmony with nature, not at odds with it.”

In light of the increasing frequency of extreme weather events, he also called for collaboration between various stakeholders, including the government, civil society, and experts, to collectively work towards mitigating climate risks and ensuring a resilient future for Jammu and Kashmir.

Medical experts caution that drug overdose is no longer confined to illicit narcotics alone but also includes the misuse of prescription drugs and sedatives. They say an overdose can cause permanent brain damage, liver and kidney failure, and long-term psychological disorders if not immediately treated.

Dr Aijaz Ahmad, a psychiatrist at Srinagar, said many young people experiment with drugs under peer influence without realising the life-threatening risks involved. “We see a large number of patients who had no history of substance abuse but started due to peer pressure or curiosity. Lack of awareness about the dangers of overdose often turns a one-time trial into a tragedy,” he said.

Doctors point out that mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, and trauma are major underlying triggers for substance abuse. Unfortunately, stigma around psychiatric treatment prevents many from seeking timely help. “In many overdose cases, we find a direct link to untreated depression or stress. Instead of professional help, individuals turn to drugs as an escape, which only worsens their condition,” said Dr Shabnam, a clinical psychologist.

According to health officials, drug overdose can result in a cascade of medical emergencies, ranging from respiratory failure and seizures to irreversible damage to vital organs. In some cases, delayed medical intervention has led to fatalities. They urged for stronger awareness campaigns in schools, colleges, and communities to highlight the dangers of overdose. “The parents should maintain open conversations with their children about mental health

and drug abuse,” they said. Doctors said society must treat addiction as a disease, not a crime. They said early intervention, counselling, and rehabilitation can save countless lives. According to doctors, overdoses are not always intentional. Sometimes, misuse of prescribed medications or mixing them with alcohol can also trigger dangerous reactions. They said that immediate effects include breathing difficulty, unconsciousness, coma and long-term effects include permanent brain damage, liver/kidney failure, and psychological disorders, while social impacts include family trauma, financial burden, and increased crime rates.

“People should never take medicines without a doctor’s prescription, avoid mixing drugs with alcohol or other substances, and store medications safely, away from children and vulnerable individuals,” the doctors said. They called for spreading awareness about drug abuse in schools and colleges and seeking professional help for addiction and mental health issues.

Rising drug overdose cases in J&K raise concern over youth health crisis

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SRINAGAR: Rising cases of drug overdose have emerged as a grave public health concern across Jammu & Kashmir, with doctors warning that lack of awareness, peer pressure, and untreated mental health issues are pushing many, especially the youth, towards fatal consequences.

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Police organises Men’s Volleyball Tournament

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KUPWARA: Police in Kupwara organises Men’s Volleyball Tournament at DPL Kupwara, under the banner of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan 2025. This exciting event, has drawn 12 enthusiastic teams from across the region, all vying for the prestigious Grand Finale trophy.

The opening ceremony was graced by DySP DAR Kupwara, Shri Gulzaar Rashid, accompanied by other senior police officers. The officials interacted with the participating players, extending their best wishes for a successful tournament. Speaking at the event, DySP DAR Kupwara emphasized the importance of sports as a powerful tool in promoting a healthy and drug-free environment in the region.

The first match of the tournament was played between Drugmullah Volleyball Team and Hyhama Volleyball Team.

In an exciting and competitive contest, Drugmullah Volleyball Team triumphed over their opponents with a dominant 2-0 victory, setting the tone for what promises to be an action-packed tournament.

The tournament is being held as part of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan 2025, a national initiative aimed at combating drug abuse and promoting a healthy lifestyle among the youth. J&K Police, in collaboration with local community leaders and organizations, are working to create awareness and engage young people in sports to foster positive change.

SRINAGAR: When life pushed him into absolute darkness, Mohammad Shafi Mir a resident of Magam area of Handwara in north Kashmir’s Kupwara district chose to create light—not just for himself but for thousands of others.

A 100% visually challenged motivational speaker, social reformer, and change-maker, Mir’s life is one of resilience, courage, and an unyielding spirit that continues to inspire people across the nation.

Born on March 20, 1982, Mir’s life took a tragic turn in 2006 when, soon after completing his post-graduation in Economics from Kashmir University, he lost his vision completely. What followed were six long years of silence, depression, and

Rising above darkness: 100 per cent Kupwara blind man inspires thousands across India

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

self-isolation. But, instead of succumbing to despair, Mir decided to rebuild his life with courage as his guiding force.

That turning point came at Enable India in Bengaluru, a pioneering institute dedicated to empowering the visually impaired. Here, Mir received intensive training in computer literacy, mobility, life skills, employability, and counseling. More than skills, the training restored his confidence and gave him a renewed sense of purpose.

“Blindness took away my sight, but it gave me a vision. True vision does not lie in what the eyes can see, but in what the soul dares to dream,” Mir said.

Over the last 13 years, Mir has conducted over 500 seminars, workshops, and awareness campaigns

across India, including Jammu and Kashmir. His work goes far beyond disability rights—he has been a strong voice against social evils such as drug addiction, child labour, dowry, caste discrimination, and corruption. He also works extensively for women empowerment, child rights, and youth career counseling, ensuring that no section of society is left behind.

His relentless efforts have not gone unnoticed. Mir was recently felicitated with the State Award for his outstanding contribution and unwavering support to disabled persons and blind children. The award was presented by the Chief Minister of J&K Omar Abdullah and Education Minister Sakina Itoo.

As the Chairperson of Women Empowerment

Widows, Orphans & Handicapped (WEWOH), Mir continues to champion the cause of those pushed to the margins. His upcoming projects focus particularly on uplifting children with special needs in the field of education, ensuring that disability is never a barrier to learning and growth.

From being a young man lost in the shadows of hopelessness to emerging as a national motivational speaker, Mir’s journey is nothing short of extraordinary. His life is a testament to the belief that challenges do not define us—our courage and purpose do.

“Every stage I stand on, every audience I address is a reminder that even in darkness, there is light. The impossible becomes possible only when we refuse to give up,” he said.

Director Agriculture Kashmir conducts extensive tour of Kulgam

KULGAM: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah today visited several areas of Kulgam and held interaction with farmers.

During the tour, the Director visited fields of innovative farmers who have successfully cultivated paddy in a high density apple nursery in Tangjan Village.

Director also took feedback from the concerned farmer Mohammad Amin Ganaie regarding the experiment and successful innovation he has adopted.

He appreciated him and highlighted the importance of innovative practices in the crop cultivation sector. He said the experiment would be replicated in different areas and the results would be analysed on scientific lines.

Shah impressed upon the young educated farmers to take the inspiration from progressive farmers like Mohammad Amin and adopt an innovative approach during the cultivation of agriculture crops.

After interacting with the farmers at different places, the Director reiterated his commitment to ensure all the technical support to the farmers during their different endeavours.

He directed the field functionaries to work in close coordination with the farming community of the area and guide them during all the pre and post harvesting operations of different agriculture crops.

Police solves Hit & Run Case in Kulgam; Accused arrested

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KUPWARA: Police in Kulgam have solved a hit & run case by arresting an accused driver involved in the commission of crime. Vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized.

On 24/08/2025, at Nipora near Grid Station, a pedestrian Smt. Zeba Banoo wife of Gh Hassan Sheikh resident of Zainpora, Shopian was hit by an unknown vehicle and later she succumbed to her injuries at SKIMS Hospital. Subsequently, a case under relevant sections of Law was registered at Police Station Qazigund and a special team led by IC PP Mirbazar was constituted.

By using all available means, investigating team made strenuous efforts and subsequently traced the offending vehicle

bearing registration number JK03G-8092 along with its juvenile driver. Furthermore, it was revealed that the boy, being a minor without licence, was driving the vehicle, and thereafter, in connivance with his father Zahoor Ahmad Shah son of Bashir Ahmad Shah resident of Pirkhoo, Anantnag, attempted to conceal the vehicle and tamper with evidence. The broken side mirror and damaged fender, which has been replaced to mislead the probe, were recovered during investigation.

With the help of CCTV footage, witness accounts and technical investigation, the case was worked out in a short span of time, establishing offences under relevant provisions of BNS and MV Act.

J&K police reiterates its commitment to ensure swift investigation and accountability in all such cases.

DC Kupwara inspects Land Record Digitization in Kralpora, Karnah tehsils



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse today held an extensive tour of Kralpora and Tangdar tehsils to assess the progress of digitization of Jamabandis and Massavi, besides, inspecting the healthcare facilities.

During the tour, DC visited BHSS Kralpora where the digitization centre is established, interacted with the revenue staff, took feedback, and emphasized the importance of maintaining quality in the digitization process. He directed the

concerned officers to complete the task within the timelines prescribed by the Government.

DC also paid a visit to Sub District Hospital Kralpora and inspected various sections of the hospital including OPD, IPD, Immunization, ECG, ER, Dental, Ayushman Bharat, Physiotherapy and Ophthalmology.

He interacted with the doctors and para medical staff and took feedback about the health care services provided to the patients. He also interacted with the patients and enquired about the services provided at the hospital.

Later, DC paid a visit to SDH Tangdar during which he took stock of different sections including OPD, Laboratory, Pharmacy, Dental etc. He also interacted with the doctors and hospital staff.

Suse also inspected the ongoing construction of staff residential quarters being made near the hospital.

He also paid an inspection to GDC Tangdar where digitization of land records are being carried out.

During the tour, DC was accompanied by ACR Kupwara and other concerned officers.

Sopore hospital achieves milestone, performs maiden Angiography

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: In a significant milestone for healthcare in North Kashmir, the Sub District Hospital (SDH) Sopore on Friday successfully conducted its first-ever CECT Cardiac/Coronary Angiography. Officials said that the procedure was carried out by the Radiology team headed

by Dr. Sadia, with dedicated support from technologists Mudasir Bashir, Incharge Riyaz Ahmad, Pir Samiullah and Rayees Akbar.

They said the achievement marks a major step towards strengthening advanced diagnostic services at the secondary care level, reducing patients’ reliance on tertiary care centres in Srinagar and beyond.

“This success reflects the commitment of the hospital administration and medical staff to provide state-of-the-art healthcare facilities to the local population,” Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) said, while extending gratitude to CMO Baramulla and BMO Sopore for their leadership and support.

Sports activities for CCI children conclude in Bandipora

BANDIPORA: A three-day sports event for children of Palaash and Pareesha Child Care Institutions (CCI) concluded today in Bandipora.

Organized by the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) under Mission Vatsalya, the programme aimed at promoting the well-being and holistic development of children in CCIs.

The event served as a platform for these children to engage in healthy competitions and build confidence. The children enthusiastically took part in various games, showcasing skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Trophies were distributed among participants to encourage and recognize their efforts.

Protection Officer, Gowhar Mehmood said the initiative is part of DCPU’s ongoing efforts to foster the physical, mental, and social growth of children in CCIs.

Property Worth Lakhs Attached as Proceeds of Terrorism in Pulwama

SRINAGAR: In a major step against terrorism & its ecosystem, Police in Pulwama have attached immovable property worth lacs belonging to Gulzar Ahmad Dar son of Mohammad Anwar Dar resident of Kharbatpora Ratnipora, father of designated terrorist Arjumand Gulzar @ Hamza Bhai of proscribed terror outfit Al-Badr.

The said property comprises a double-storied residential house constructed on land falling under Khasra No. 3082/1645, Khata No. 868, situated at Kharbatpora Ratnipora. The property has been identified as proceeds of terrorism, linked to Arjumand Gulzar’s involvement in facilitating and promoting militant activities in the district. The attachment has been carried out under Section 25 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, in connection with Case FIR No. 25/2022 U/S 16, 17, 18, 20, 38, 39, 40 UAPA Act, 7/27 IA Act, 307 IPC of Police Station Litter.