

Karra announces march to LG house on July 19th for statehood, to join Delhi protest on 20th

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 17

JK Congress President Shri Tariq Hameed Karra today announced to hold a protest march to LG house in Jammu on July 19th to intensify the Congress struggle for restoration of full statehood besides participation of the party in the proposed Protest of NC in Delhi on July 20th.

Karra also declared that JK Congress will take out a long march from Lakhampur to Lolab, if statehood is not granted in near future and this was brought to the notice of LOP Shri Rahul Gandhi too.

Addressing a Press conference here today at Rajiv Bhawan PCC HQ Shahedi Chowk Jammu, President JKPC Shri Tariq Hameed disclosed that JKPC has decided to take part in the protest dharna in Delhi also on 20th July, while it has preponed the scheduled sit in dharna followed by march to LG house in Jammu to 19th July instead of 20th July.

The party shall hold a massive sit in dharna at Maharaja Hari Singh ji park on Sunday July 19th from 10.30 am onwards, followed by a strong protest march to LG house at 12 noon.

All senior leaders, Legislators, ex ministers/ ex Legislators and party functionaries, DCC Presidents, Frontal wings leaders,



Block Presidents and others from both regions shall take part in the programme.

The march shall pass through main Bazars of the Jammu city before culminating outside LG house at Punjtirthi, where a Memorandum shall be submitted to the President of India through LG office.

Flanked by Working President Shri Raman Bhalla, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma Former Minister Yogesh Sawhney, Former MLC Ved Mahajan and Mohd Iqbal Dar, co-I/C Congress office Karra said that Congress had been leading the statehood struggle since oct. 16, 2024, the day NC government took out of office. Instead of joining the cabinet, Congress choose to take to streets for achieving full statehood.

He said that Congress

took this demand to every nook and corner of J&K, held series of protest, dharna and chain hunger strikes, Srinagar Chalo, Jammu Chalo and Delhi Chalo, holding a successful protest at Jantar Mantir Delhi, where central leaders of congress party also participated.

Congress President Shri Malikarjun Kharge and LOP Shri Rahul Gandhi wrote to Prime Minister on July 16th July, 2025 reminding him of his government's commitments for statehood and urging him to restore statehood at the earliest, he added.

Karra said that Congress is happy that NC has belatedly jumped into this movement and adopted our slogan " Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq", the Congress is for a larger cause of statehood for one crore forty lakh people, so

will join their protest in Delhi too, although NC had stayed away from our protest last year and raised certain questions too.

He said that Congress is prepared to fight tough battle as per attitude of BJP government at the Centre.

Congress will take out a long march from Lakhampur to Lolab, if statehood is not restored in near future. " I have already discussed this with our LOP Shri Rahul Gandhi ji also," he said adding that details are being worked out and will be shared with media and public in due course of time.

Karra distanced the party from the views expressed by Veteran Congress leader Prof Saifuddin Soz on Art 370 and said that Congress party has always maintained that we are fighting for the restoration of full statehood.

Billawaria welcomes 50 additional MBBS seats for GMC Jammu, urges NC Govt to Fulfil Job Promises

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Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir General Secretary and former Deputy Mayor of Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria, has welcomed the National Medical Commission's (NMC) approval of 50 additional MBBS seats for Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu, describing it as a historic achievement for medical education and a significant step towards securing a brighter future for the youth of Jammu & Kashmir.

Billawaria said that, according to the Letter of Permission issued by the Medical Assessment and Rating Board under the provisions of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019 and the prescribed standards for medical education, the annual MBBS intake at GMC Jammu will increase from 200 to 250 seats with effect from the 2026-27 academic session. He stated that this expansion will provide greater opportunities for talented students from the region to pursue medical education and will contribute to producing more qualified doctors for Jammu & Kashmir



in the years ahead.

Billawaria further said that there was a time when the youth of Jammu & Kashmir were misled and encouraged to take to stone-pelting. However, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Central Government has prioritized development, education, skill development, and employment, replacing stones in the hands of the youth with laptops, books, and opportunities for meaningful careers. He said that stone-pelting has now become a thing of the past, while a growing number of young people are actively participating in education, startups, self-employment, sports, technology, and na-

tion-building. He added that the Central Government has successfully guided the youth away from violence, separatism, and alienation towards development, progress, and a self-reliant future.

Billawaria said that while the Central Government continues to take landmark decisions for the comprehensive development of Jammu & Kashmir, the ruling National Conference government in the Union Territory must also demonstrate accountability towards the promises it made during the Assembly elections.

Recalling the National Conference's election commitments, Billawaria said that the party had

promised to provide one lakh government jobs to the youth of Jammu & Kashmir in its election manifesto. He said that the youth of the region now deserve to know what concrete progress has been made towards fulfilling that promise. He called upon the government to clearly state how many government recruitment processes have been completed so far, how many young people have been provided employment, and what roadmap has been prepared to fulfill the remaining commitments. He emphasized that in a democracy, governments have a moral and constitutional responsibility to fulfill the promises made to the people in a transparent and time-bound manner.

Billawaria expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and the National Medical Commission for approving the additional MBBS seats. He expressed confidence that Jammu & Kashmir would continue to receive similar initiatives in the fields of healthcare and education, enabling the Union Territory to achieve new milestones of development, prosperity, and self-

DC Kupwara inaugurates Aadhar Seva Kendra

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 17

Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has operationalised a new UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra (ASK) at Kupwara, marking another significant step towards strengthening resident-centric Aadhaar services in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, in the presence of Chief Planning Officer, Kupwara, Parvaiz Ahmad Lone. The inauguration ceremony was hosted by UIDAI Regional Office, Chandigarh and attended by V. Siva Subramanian, Deputy Director, UIDAI, and Shoaib Mohmad Khan, State Project Manager, UIDAI. Representatives from service provider, Rajnish Mehta, Regional Manager BLS International; Peer Mubashir Shah, Cluster Manager, and Aijaz Ahmad Wani, Operations Manager were also present on the occasion.



The newly established Kupwara Aadhaar Seva Kendra is equipped with four operational Aadhaar enrolment and update kits to provide seamless Aadhaar-related services to residents. The centre offers a comprehensive range of Aadhaar services under one roof, including new enrolment, demographic updates, biometric updates, document verification, correction of Aadhaar details, and grievance redressal.

The Aadhaar Seva Kendra functions on all working days except public

holidays, ensuring greater accessibility, convenience, and an enhanced service experience for residents of Kupwara and the surrounding areas.

During his visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with residents availing Aadhaar services and the staff at the centre. He reviewed the Aadhaar enrolment and update procedures and appreciated the efforts being made to provide efficient, transparent, and citizen-friendly services.

UIDAI officials informed

the Deputy Commissioner that the centre has been designed as a fully inclusive and resident-friendly facility with amenities such as wheelchair accessibility, accessible washrooms, comfortable waiting areas, and a dedicated grievance redressal mechanism. Residents can also conveniently book appointments online for Aadhaar services through the UIDAI Aadhaar Appointment Portal.

Mandatory Biometric Updates (MBU) for eligible children aged 5 to 17 years are currently being provided free of cost up to 30 September 2026. The facility is available both at the Aadhaar Seva Kendra and through special school-based Aadhaar camps being conducted across District Kupwara.

The DC termed the operationalisation of the UIDAI Aadhaar Seva Kendra at Kupwara as an important milestone in strengthening digital governance, improving service delivery, and enhancing the ease of living for residents in line with the vision of Digital India and inclusive governance.

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Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired a high-level meeting to review arrangements for the smooth and befitting celebration of the forthcoming Independence Day across the district.

Reviewing department-wise preparedness, the DC stressed close coordination among all stakeholders to ensure that the national festival is celebrated with dignity, enthusiasm and active public participation.

The meeting reviewed arrangements for the district-level function at Qamar-ia Stadium, Ganderbal, including security, traffic management, seating, parking arrangements, barricading, sanitation, drinking water, uninterrupted power supply with backup, medical facilities, fire and emergency services, public address system, transportation, hospitality, illumination of government buildings and other logistical requirements.

It was informed that the National Flag will be hoisted by the Chief Guest, followed by a march past by contingents of District Police, CRPF, Armed Police, SSB, Police Training



School Manigam, Forest Protection Force and students from educational institutions. Patriotic cultural performances by school students will also be presented.

The DC directed all departments to complete assigned works well before the scheduled rehearsals and ensure proper illumination of the Mini Secretariat and other government offices, bridges and clock tower to ensure a festive atmosphere during the festival.

He instructed that special cultural programmes highlighting patriotism, social harmony and awareness under Nasha Mukta Abhiyan be organised while showcasing the district's rich cultural heritage.

The full dress rehearsal will be held on August 13 ahead of the main celebrations on August 15.

The Chief Medical Officer

was directed to deploy medical teams and ambulances during rehearsals and the main event, while the Municipal Council was asked to ensure cleanliness and sanitation. Departments concerned were instructed to provide uninterrupted drinking water, electricity and other essential facilities.

The DC directed the District Information Officer to ensure effective public address arrangements and wide dissemination of the Flag Code.

He also asked all departments to install hoardings highlighting their major developmental achievements and prepare jhankis (tableaux) showcasing the district's development journey, innovative initiatives and public welfare programmes.

Emphasising wider public participation, the DC said Independence Day is

an occasion to celebrate the nation's unity, democratic values and collective progress. He directed the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Kangan, all Tehsildars and concerned officers to ensure enthusiastic celebrations at subdivision, tehsil, block, Panchayat, ULB level and in all educational institutions so that the spirit of the national festival reaches every corner of Ganderbal.

The meeting was attended by the Additional District Development Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Chief Executive Officers of Wular Manasbal Development Authority and Sonamarg Development Authority, Superintending Engineers of KPDC, PW (R&B), senior officers of civil and police administration, security agencies and other concerned departments.

Commissioner SMC inspects Integrated Animal Birth Control Centre at Tengpora

SRINAGAR, JULY 17: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, today conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Integrated Animal Birth Control (ABC) Centre and Cattle Pond at Tengpora to review the functioning of the Corporation's stray animal management facilities and assess ongoing measures aimed at strengthening animal welfare, public health, and urban sanitation. The Commissioner was accompanied by the Joint Commissioner (Administration), Executive Engineers, DFO SMC and other senior officers of the Corporation.

During the visit, the Commissioner reviewed the implementation of the Animal Birth Control Programme,

including the sterilization and anti-rabies vaccination of stray dogs in accordance with the Animal Birth Control Rules and the guidelines of the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI). He also inspected the veterinary infrastructure, operation theatres, post-operative recovery units, cattle shelters, feeding arrangements, sanitation facilities, and other essential support infrastructure at the integrated complex.

Interacting with veterinary professionals and field personnel, Commissioner emphasized strict adherence to prescribed animal welfare protocols and directed the concerned officers to ensure scientific, humane, and efficient management of stray dogs and cattle while maintain-

ing the highest standards of veterinary care, hygiene, and sanitation.

The Commissioner directed the officers to undertake extensive plantation across the premises to improve the environmental ambience of the facility and stressed the need for intensive sanitation and regular upkeep of all sections. He further instructed that appropriate signage be installed at all functional units to facilitate better identification and operational efficiency. To strengthen animal care services, he also directed the establishment of a modern feed preparation and distribution facility with a robust inventory and stock monitoring system to ensure the timely availability and efficient management of animal feed.

Highlighting the importance of the integrated facility, the Commissioner observed that it is a vital component of the Corporation's strategy for scientific and humane stray animal management, contributing significantly to public health, rabies control, environmental hygiene, and sustainable urban governance. He reaffirmed SMC's commitment to continuously upgrading the facility through modern infrastructure, improved operational systems, and best management practices. The inspection forms part of Srinagar Municipal Corporation's sustained efforts to modernize civic infrastructure, promote responsible animal welfare practices, and build a cleaner, safer, and healthier urban environment.

DC Kulgam reviews implementation of welfare schemes under JKBOCW Welfare Board

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Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today reviewed the implementation of welfare schemes being provided under the Jammu & Kashmir Building and Other Construction Workers (JKBOCW) Welfare Board.

During the review, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Labour Department to ensure the registration of only genuine construction workers under the JKBOCW Act. He further instructed the Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC), Labour Officer (LO), and Labour



Inspector (LI), Kulgam, to conduct regular inspections of construction sites

to identify and register genuine workers, ensuring that welfare benefits reach de-

serving beneficiaries in a transparent, fair, and effective manner.