

Senior Citizens Day 2026 celebrated in District Kishtwar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 22

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma, the Department of Social Welfare, Kishtwar today organised a programme at TRC Kishtwar to mark Senior Citizens Day 2026, with the active participation of prominent citizens, beneficiaries of the department and members of the Senior Citizens Council.

Members of the Senior Citizens Council, Kishtwar, including AM Bichoo, Dr Sanjay Sen and Prehlad Sharma, along with several other members, participated enthusiastically and shared their views on matters concerning the welfare and well-being of senior citizens.

On the occasion, the Department of Social Welfare organised a health check-up camp in collaboration



with the Department of AYUSH.

An assessment camp was also conducted in collaboration with ALIMCO to provide prosthetic aids to eligible persons and senior citizens under the ADIP and Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) and 18 under the ADIP Scheme.

The event was conducted

under the overall supervision of DSWO Tariq Parveaz Qazi.

During the camp, 142 beneficiaries were assessed. Of these, 124 were assessed under the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) and 18 under the ADIP Scheme.

It is pertinent to mention

that the Department of Social Welfare is organising assessment camps in far-flung areas under the ADIP and RVY schemes. The upcoming camps will be held at Panjdhara, Dachhan on 22-08-2026; Panchayat Ghar, Tiaryi, Paddar on 24-08-2026 and Nali Bunjwah on 25-08-2026.

MPs, MLAs, industrial representatives call on CM Omar Abdullah at Raabita

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A number of public representatives, industrial representatives today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Raabita office here and discussed various matters of public importance.

Rajya Sabha MPs Chowdhary Mohammad Ramzan and Gurwinder Singh Oberoi called on the Chief Minister and discussed various matters of public importance.

MLAs Zafar Ali Khatana from Kokernag and Choudhary Mohd. Akram from Surankote also called on the Chief Minister and apprised him of various issues and matters pertaining to their respective constituencies.



President of the Federation Chamber of Industries, Kashmir (FCIK), Shahid Kamili, former FCIK President Shakeel Qalander and FCIK General Secretary Afaq Ahmad also called on the Chief Minister. During

the meeting, the delegation raised key issues concerning the industrial sector and discussed measures to strengthen local production, support enterprises and boost economic activity across Jammu & Kashmir.

Several other individuals and delegations called on the chief minister and apprised him of several issues and grievances.

The Chief Minister heard the delegations and representatives and discussed the issues raised during the meetings.

ICC Advocates Adoption of TReDS Platform to Ease MSME Liquidity; Sahai Seeks Timely Ayushman Bharat Payments

JAMMU, AUG 22: The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Jammu Chapter, has advocated adoption of the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) for eligible MSME suppliers under Ayushman Bharat to ease working-capital pressures and facilitate timely liquidity against accepted invoices.

In a representation submitted to Sh. Ananth Dwivedi, Chief Executive Officer, State Health Agency, Jammu & Kashmir, ICC Jammu Chairman Rahul Sahai highlighted the concerns of suppliers and vendors whose legitimate payments under the Ayushman Bharat scheme have remained pending for prolonged periods.

Sahai appreciated the important role of Ayushman Bharat in strengthening healthcare access and providing cashless treatment to beneficiaries across J&K, and emphasised that ensuring the financial sustainability of suppliers and other stakeholders supporting the scheme would further strengthen its implementation.

ICC suggested that the State Health Agency, in consultation with the concerned authorities / Hospitals, explore onboarding of the relevant entities on TReDS and facilitating eligible MSME receivables through the platform. Sahai said this could provide much-needed working-capital support to MSMEs, reduce dependence on



costly borrowings and bring greater transparency and financial discipline to the payment ecosystem.

The Chamber also sought an early review and clearance of long-pending legitimate dues and recommended adoption of a transparent First-In-First-Out (FIFO) payment mechanism at the Hospital level, so that payments are released according to the chronological seniority of bills.

Sahai pointed out that prolonged payment cycles are putting considerable pressure on suppliers, affecting their ability to meet commitments towards manufacturers, banks, employees and principals. In some cases, suppliers associated with reputed national and multinational

companies have also faced difficulties in retaining their distributorships because of delayed realisation of receivables.

ICC further suggested that while changing or transitioning vendors for continuity of supplies, the legitimate outstanding liabilities of previous vendors should also be appropriately addressed so that businesses that have supported the healthcare system are not placed under avoidable financial stress.

The Chamber requested the State Health Agency to take up the issue of timely release of J&K's due share of funds with the concerned authorities, while also considering a time-bound payment and grievance-redressal mechanism for suppliers.

“MSMEs and vendors have continued to support the healthcare system in good faith despite considerable working-capital pressures. Timely payments, a transparent FIFO mechanism and integration of eligible receivables with TReDS can significantly strengthen both MSMEs and the overall Ayushman Bharat ecosystem in J&K,” Sahai said.

ICC Jammu expressed confidence that the matter would receive positive consideration from the State Health Agency and the Government, resulting in an early, transparent and equitable resolution for affected suppliers while further strengthening the effective implementation of Ayushman Bharat in Jammu & Kashmir.

Sainik School Nagrota celebrates 57th Raising Day

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Sainik School Nagrota celebrated its 57th Raising Day with great enthusiasm, patriotic fervour and a spirit of camaraderie. The day-long celebrations brought together cadets, staff members, their families, parents and distinguished guests to commemorate the glorious journey of the institution and celebrate its achievements and traditions.

The celebrations commenced early in the morning with a ceremonial March Past by the cadets at Major Somnath Sharma Stadium. The cadets presented an impressive display of discipline, precision, coordination and immaculate turnout. Sindh House secured first position in both the Senior and Junior categories of the March Past.

The newly admitted Class VI cadets participated with particular enthusiasm in the inter-class Tug of War competition, displaying remarkable energy and team spirit. The competition also witnessed enthusiastic participation by the girl cadets, with two teams of girl cadets taking part in the Tug of War, adding excitement and vibrancy to the celebrations.



A friendly cricket match between staff and cadets was also organised, providing an opportunity for interaction and camaraderie beyond the classroom. The match was enjoyed by both participants and spectators and reflected the strong bond shared between the staff and cadets of the institution.

The evening celebrations were marked by a variety of fun games for staff members, their families and children, creating a lively and joyful atmosphere on the school campus. The celebrations culminated in an exciting cultural competition presented by the cadets of Sainik School Nagrota, showcasing their talent, creativity and confidence through vibrant performances.

The occasion was further enriched by the gracious presence of the parents of Late Flight Lieutenant Advitiya Bal, whose association with the institution added a special emotional and inspirational dimension to the celebrations. Their presence was a reminder of the values of courage, sacrifice, patriotism and service that Sainik School Nagrota seeks to instil in its cadets.

The 57th Raising Day celebrations provided an opportunity for the school community to look back with pride at its rich legacy and achievements while reaffirming its commitment to nurturing disciplined, responsible and patriotic young citizens ready to serve the nation.

The celebrations concluded on a note of pride, joy and renewed commitment to uphold the motto and traditions of Sainik School Nagrota and continue its journey of excellence in academics, character buildings, sports and leadership.

MLA lays foundation stone for first phase of Rs 3.38 cr road to Shiv Keri

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Akhnoor MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat on Saturday laid the foundation stone for the first phase of a major road project from Km 5th of Akhnoor-Sumrah Road to Aap Shambhu Mahadev Mandir, Shiv Keri, in Sungal area. The first phase of the project has been taken up at an estimated cost of 23 crore 38 lakh 48 thousand, marking a significant step towards improving connectivity to the important religious destination.

The foundation stone laying ceremony was attended by senior officers of the Public Works Department, local representatives, BJP functionaries and prominent citizens. The gathering welcomed the commencement of the road project and appreciated the efforts being made to improve connectivity in the area.

Among those present were PWD Executive Engineer Sanjeev Sharma, AEE Sunil Bogyal, Engineer Gagan, former Sarpanch Ashwani Sharma, Sungal Mandal President Shamsher Dass, Akhnoor Mandal President Deepesh Singh, Pargwal Mandal President Gaurav Manhas, former Sarpanch Rajveer Singh, former Sarpanch Kuldeep Singh, Yuva Morcha President Bindu Singh Chib, retired DSP Gurdial Singh, retired Deputy Commandant Arjun Singh, retired Bank Manager Bhajan Singh, Om Parkash, Ashu



Sharma, Tilak Raj, former Panch Satveer Kour, Anuradha, Captain Mehtab Sharma, Sawarn Sharma and Ayush Singh, among others.

Speaking on the occasion, former Sarpanch Ashwani Sharma said that MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat had personally taken note of the poor condition of the road during his visits to Aap Shambhu Mahadev Mandir, Shiv Keri, and directed the concerned authorities to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for improving the connectivity.

He said the project received approval within about a year and the commencement of its first phase was a significant achievement for the area. He added that Shiv Keri has emerged as an important centre of faith not only for Akhnoor but for the entire Jammu region, attracting devotees from different areas.

Ashwani Sharma said the larger road project would provide improved connectivity to the temple and also facilitate the development of allied link roads in the surrounding areas, benefiting pilgrims as well as local residents.

He further highlighted various development works taken up in the Sungal area during MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat's tenure. He said 78 lakh has been sanctioned for Government High School Sungal for construction of its boundary wall and other development works. Besides, 28 lakh has been sanctioned for the area's first cricket top box, while 25 lakh has been provided from the MLA's CDF for a library. Several road projects worth crores of rupees have also been sanctioned in the area, he added.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat said his endeavour was to ensure balanced development across the Akhnoor Assembly constituency in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas.”

He said providing a strong road network, particularly in rural areas, remained one of his foremost priorities as better connectivity was essential for the socio-economic development of villages and for ensuring access to education, healthcare and other basic facilities.

The MLA said development of libraries, playgrounds and sports facilities for youth was also being accorded priority. He said efforts were underway to strengthen education and healthcare infrastructure across the constituency.

LG Saxena reviews operationalisation of commercial flights from Thoise, Kargil Airport

LEH, August 22: In a significant push to expansion of air connectivity in Ladakh, Lieutenant Governor, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, yesterday chaired a meeting with officials from Ministry of Defence, Indian Air Force, Airports Authority of India and UT Ladakh Administration, at Ladakh Bhavan in New Delhi, to review the preparedness for commercial civil flight operations from Thoise Airport in Nubra Valley and Kargil Airport.

The meeting focused on resolving infrastructure, regulatory and operational issues to enable early commencement of civilian flights from the strategically and socio-economically important airports, which will significantly boost regional connectivity in the Border areas.

During the meeting, the LG emphasised the time-bound operationalisation of the two airports. The flight operations at Thoise and Kargil, apart from fulfilling Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's vision of enhanced regional connectivity and inclusive development of Ladakh, would also unlock the immense tourism potential in border areas like Kargil, Drass, Turtuk, and Siachen Base Camp.

The key outcomes of the meeting included the following: Thoise Airport: Indian Air Force approved allotment of 5 acres of land for construction of a new civil terminal in Nubra.

Runway recarpeting is underway for a November completion deadline. Targeting commencement of civil operations by December 2026, from an old Chartered flight terminal at Thoise Airport, after refurbishing it.

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It was decided to conduct a joint inspection with the Indian Air Force, Airport Authority of India and Ministry of Civil Aviation on September 1, in the presence of LG to assess civil operation readiness.

For commencing commercial flights from the existing Chartered Terminal at Thoise, L-G, Shri Saxena asked the Airports Authority of India to submit the requisite infrastructure requirements to the UT Administration, based on which the Public Works Department will take up the necessary refurbishment works.