

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

Many people with dengue can be cared for at home with adequate rest and hydration. But, if you experience any warning signs, go immediately to the nearest medical centre.

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

A drop in body temperature accompanied by any of the following symptoms:

- Increased and continuous sweating
- Discomfort
- Severe vomiting
- Severe pain
- Severe headache
- Severe joint pain
- Severe muscle pain
- Severe stomach pain
- Severe back pain
- Severe chest pain
- Severe abdominal pain
- Severe dizziness
- Severe confusion
- Severe weakness
- Severe fatigue
- Severe irritability
- Severe aggression
- Severe depression
- Severe anxiety
- Severe panic
- Severe fear
- Severe anger
- Severe sadness
- Severe loneliness
- Severe isolation
- Severe rejection
- Severe exclusion
- Severe ostracism
- Severe marginalisation
- Severe alienation
- Severe estrangement
- Severe disaffiliation
- Severe disengagement
- Severe disconnection
- Severe disorientation
- Severe dislocation
- Severe displacement
- Severe dislodgement
- Severe dislodging
- Severe dislodged
- Severe dislodgement
- Severe dislodging
- Severe dislodged

If you have any of these symptoms, go to the nearest medical centre IMMEDIATELY

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Army officer among 4 soldiers killed in Doda gunfight

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 16

An Army officer and three soldiers were killed in an encounter in Uran Baggi in Doda district, defence officials said.

They said that a contact was established with terrorists in the Uran Baggi forests in the general area of Doda in which a captain rank Army officer and three soldiers were killed in the incident.

"The firing continued for around 30 minutes and militants probably fled away into the forest area by taking advantage of darkness. Army and J&K police cordoned off the area and searches were going on," officials told news agency.

The source said that



bodies of the Army officer and three soldiers have been airlifted to northern command headquarters at Udhampur.

Army's 16 Corps spokesman in a post on X last night wrote, "Based

on specific intelligence inputs, a joint operation by #IndianArmy and JKP was in progress in the General area north of #Doda. Contact with terrorists was established tonight at about 2100h in which a

heavy firefight ensued. Initial reports suggest injuries to our brave hearts.

Additional troops have been moved into the area. Operations are continuing." However, later sources confirmed to KNO

that all four soldiers succumbed.

Meanwhile, defence minister Rajnath Singh said that the soldiers remain committed to eliminate the scourge of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir after four army men, including an officer were killed in an encounter with terrorists in Dhari Gote Urarbagi area of Doda district.

The defence minister also spoke with Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, who apprised him of the ground situation and ongoing counter terrorist operation in Doda.

"Raksha Mantri Shri @rajnathsingh spoke to COAS General Upendra Dwivedi this morning. RM was apprised of the ground situation

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LG Sinha lays wreath, pays homage to Doda brave hearts

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 16

Hours after losing an officer among four soldiers in a counter terror operation in the woods of Doda, Army's Northern Command has said that it is committed to eliminate the scourge of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir for which the relentless operations will continue.

Also, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha laid a wreath and paid homage to brave-hearts while Additional Director General of Police Jammu Anand Jain also visited the site in Doda area of Doda where a search operation is underway.

Earlier, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha laid wreath and paid homage



to Captain (Major) Brijesh Thapa, Naik D Rajesh, Sepoy Bijendra and Sepoy Ajay, who have made supreme sacrifice during the anti-terror operation in Doda.

"I salute the brave warriors who displayed exemplary courage and made supreme sacrifice for the nation. The nation will never forget the sacrifice made by the gallant heroes. The entire nation

stands firmly with the families of martyrs in this hour of grief," the Lt Governor said as per the news agency.

OPERATION DETAILS

Sharing details, PRO Army, Lt Col Suneel Bartwal said in light of the incidents in the recent past, proactive counter-terrorist operations continue to be prosecuted.

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BJP fully prepared for Assembly elections, We will form the next Govt in J&K: G. Kishan Reddy

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 16

Bharatiya Janata Party is fully prepared for the Assembly elections, and we will form the next Government in J&K, said G. Kishan Reddy, while addressing a workshop of 'Tridev and Morcha Sammelans' organized by J&K BJP.

G. Kishan Reddy, Union Minister & Election Incharge for J&K BJP, Tarun Chugh, BJP National General Secretary & Prabhari, J&K BJP, Ravinder Raina, President J&K BJP, Dr. Narinder Singh, BJP National Secretary, Jugal Kishore Sharma, MP (Lok Sabha), Dr. Nirmal Singh, former Dy CM, Kavinder Gupta, former Dy CM, Shamsheer Singh Manhas, former MP (Rajya Sabha), Sat Sharma, former Minister, Ashok Koul, General Secretary (organization), Sunil Sharma, BJP General Secretary & former Minister, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, General secretary & former Minister addressed the workshop.

G. Kishan Reddy, while addressing the party



cadre, congratulated everybody for the party's win in Lok Sabha elections. He spoke on the importance of abrogation of Article 370 and said that in the past we had to agitate and took out nationwide Yatra to hoist Tiranga in Srinagar but now Tiranga is proudly flying high in every corner of Jammu & Kashmir.

He said that the J&K witnessed nepotism, corruption, separatism, terrorism Hartal calendars, but now witnessing unprecedented development under the Modi government.

Reddy said that the people have understood the importance of the BJP government for the peace

and stability in the region. With the dedication of party workers and the faith of people, Bharatiya Janata Party is fully prepared for the Assembly elections, and BJP will form the next Government in J&K, he said.

Tarun Chugh asked the party cadre to be ready to face the elections. He asked the party cadre to enter the election mode and advised them not to take any rest till the last day of election. He said that the victory of the BJP in Jammu & Kashmir is necessary for the region to save it from the clutches of destructive forces. He asked the party cadre to take leave

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J&K DGP sanctions welfare loans to 134 police personnel

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 16

Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police R R Swain has sanctioned more than Rs 2.12 Crore as welfare loans/relief in favour of 134 police personnel to address their immediate financial needs.

The amount has been sanctioned out of the Central Police welfare Fund, police said in a statement on Tuesday.

Out of this allocation,

welfare loans of Rs 1 lakh each have been sanctioned for 25 police personnel, while Rs 1.50 lakh each has been granted in favour of 39 police personnel to cover expenses related to their own or their children's marriages.

Welfare loan of Rupees 1.5 crore has been sanctioned in favour of 53 police personnel to meet the expenses of self-treatment or for the treatment of their dependents, while four police

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GoC Chinar Corps Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai visits forward posts in Keran Sector

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 16

Two days after Army killed three infiltrators, General Officer Commanding (GOC) Chinar Corps Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai on Tuesday visited the forward posts on the Line of Control (LoC) in Keran sector of north Kashmir's Kupwara district to review the security situation.

He urged and motivated the troops to keep up the vigil and ensure that



all inimical attempts and activities on the LoC are disrupted and eliminated.

"Chinar Corps Cdr visited forward posts along the LoC in Keran Sector,

Kupwara to review the security situation and operational preparedness. He urged and motivated the troops to keep up the

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Security forces launch search ops after suspected movement in Poonch



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 16

The security forces launched a joint search

operation following suspected movement of two persons in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch

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Dr Jitendra inaugurates Asia's first health research 'pre-clinical network' facility, genetic repository

J I NEWS SERVICE
FARIDABAD (HARYANA), JULY 16

As a new milestone in India's healthcare journey, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated Asia's first health research related "Pre-clinical Network Facility" under Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) today at Regional Centre of Biotechnology under the aegis of "Translational Health Science & Technology Institute" (THSTI), Faridabad.

Coalition for Epidemic



Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) has selected BRIC-THSTI as a Pre-Clinical Network Laboratory based on its capability to handle BSL3 pathogens. It will be the 9th such network laboratory

across the globe and the first such laboratory in the whole of Asia. The other labs are located in the USA, Europe and Australia. The experimental Animal Facility is one of the largest small

animal facility in the country with a housing capacity of about 75,000 mice, including immune compromised mice and other species such as rat, rabbit, hamsters, guinea pigs etc

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space and MoS Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh

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Lt Governor's message on the eve of Ashoora

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 16

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha recalled the sacrifices made by Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) on the eve of Ashoora, the 10th day of Muharram.

In a message, the Lt Governor said, "The occasion reminds the humanity of sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and his great teachings. It is also a day to rededicate ourselves to the ideals of equality, brotherhood, compassion and justice as epitomised by Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS).

On this day, let all

President appoints Justice N Kotiswar Singh as Judge of SC

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 16

The President of India on Tuesday appointed Justice Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, as judge of the Supreme Court.

The Union Ministry of Law & Justice today issued a notification regarding the appointment of Justice Kotiswar Singh as judge of the Supreme Court.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice



Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu 8c Kashmir and Ladakh, to be a Judge of the Supreme Court of India, with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office," reads the notification, a copy of

which is in possession of news agency.

With the post of CJ falling vacant, the President has appointed Justice Tashi, seniormost pusine judge of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, as acting Chief Justice of the High Court. "In exercise of the powers conferred by Article 223 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Tashi Rabstan, Judge of the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, to perform the duties of the office of the Chief Justice of

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Joint Camp by Sankalp HEW and JK Bank Promotes Financial Inclusion among Women in Doda

JNEWS SERVICE
DODA, JULY 16

In a collaborative effort to promote financial inclusion and empowering women, Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) conducted a joint camp with Jammu and Kashmir Bank's main branch in Doda.

The event, held under the direction of the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Doda, aimed at raising awareness about various women-centric schemes, Direct Benefits Transfers (DBT) enablement, and Aadhar authentication for women beneficiaries.

The camp saw a substantial turnout, with a significant number of women participating enthusiastically. This overwhelming response underscored the



growing financial independence among women in the region. During the event, the staff of Jammu and Kashmir Bank held a Consumer Advisory Forum (CAF) meeting. Participants were educated on the use of digital apps and ATMs, which facilitate convenient transactions without the need to stand in long queues, thus avoiding the hustle and bustle typically associated with

banking services.

In addition to promoting digital banking, the bank representatives informed the attendees about various loan schemes and updated bank policies.

The camp also focused on the importance of Aadhar authentication for beneficiaries, ensuring they can seamlessly access DBT and other government schemes.

DDC Shopian chairs District Level Banker's Review Committee meet



JNEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, JULY 16

The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Fazlul Haseeb today chaired a meeting of District Level Banker's Review Committee Meet (DLBRC) at Mini Secretariat, here to review the performance of Banks and other financial institutions under various government initiatives and sponsored schemes of self-employment.

At the outset, DDC reviewed performance of the Banks in implementation of different govt. schemes and took appraisal of achievements of Banks in lending to prior-

ity/non-priority sectors.

The meeting was apprised about credit disbursement under various self-employment schemes including Mumkin, Tejaswini, KCC, NULM, PMFME, etc.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC stressed all the line departments and Banks operating in the district to further improve the credit facilities, and emphasised on the improvement of progress of schemes and flagship programmes of the government.

He asked for removing the bottleneck in the implementation of schemes in vogue and taking required measures

to improve the performance and reach of the schemes to cover maximum youth under its ambit.

The DDC directed all sponsoring agencies and Banks to spread awareness among the people about various self-employment schemes and motivate them to avail the benefits of these schemes for generating self-employment opportunities in the district.

The meeting was attended by GM, DIC, AD, Employment; AD Handicrafts and Handloom; Cluster Head, J&K Bank, Branch Heads and representatives of Banks and financial institutions.

DC G'bl reviews progress of schemes under Mission Youth

JNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, JULY 16

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyamir today convened a meeting at DC office, here to review the progress of Mission Youth schemes, Sankalp and Skilling Courses in the district.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed the progress of several initiatives under the Mission Youth programme viz. Mumkin, Tejaswini, and the Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative.

The discussion also covered various Skill Development courses, awareness camps, and other relevant parameters of the scheme.

Emphasizing the importance of youth engagement, the DC directed the Assistant Director of Employment to expedite progress under Mission Youth by conducting awareness and registration camps involving local

youth across the district. This initiative aims to ensure that maximum youth benefit from the self-employment opportunities provided.

The DC also highlighted the necessity of imparting skilled training to the youth, enabling them to become proficient in various trades. He stressed the importance of collaborative efforts to engage youth under different schemes.

Furthermore, the DC instructed all line departments to prepare a comprehensive skill development training chart. This chart is intended to offer ample opportunities to the youth in both manufacturing and service sectors.

Among others, the meeting was attended by GM DIC, CPO, Assistant Director Employment, District Lead Bank, District Heads of JKEDI, KVK and other concerned officers.

J&K Real Estate Regulatory Authority launches Portal

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 16

The Jammu and Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (JKRERA), on Tuesday, launched its official portal, a significant milestone in regulation of the real estate sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

The portal, jkrera.jk.gov.in, which is developed and hosted by National Informatics Centre, J&K, aims to promote transparency, accountability and efficiency in the real estate industry. It also envisages safeguarding the interests of homebuyers and ensuring fair business practices among developers, promoters, and real estate agents.

Pursuant to the Jammu and Kashmir Real Estate

(Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, all unauthorized colonies intended for sale purposes with an area exceeding 500 square meters or comprising more than 8 units are required to register with JKRERA. Failure to comply will result in penalties for promoters and builders, including a monetary penalty of up to 10% of the estimated project cost. If any promoter does not comply with the directions of the Authority and continues to violate the provision of the Act, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term. The term may be extended up to three years or with fine which may extend up to a further ten percent of the estimated cost of the real estate project, or with

both.

Furthermore, real estate agents are mandated to register with JKRERA. Non-compliance will result in a daily penalty of Rs 10,000, cumulatively extending up to 5% of the project cost.

"We encourage all stakeholders to utilize this platform and contribute to a transparent and regulated real estate ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir", asserted the Chairperson. He added that the official portal of Jammu and Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority is now live for registration of promoters/builders.

The portal will facilitate online registrations, complaints and queries ensuring a seamless user experience.

DC Ganderbal reviews functioning of SWD, Mission Shakti & One Stop Centre

JNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, JULY 16

In order to review the progress, implementation and extension of benefits of various Government schemes under Social Welfare Department (SWD), the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Shyamir today chaired a meeting of officers at V.C Room, here.

The DC held a threadbare deliberation on implementation of beneficiary-oriented schemes and took comprehensive review of schemes including National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS), Marriage Assistance Scheme (MAS), Mission Shakti and One Stop Centre.

At the outset, a detailed Powerpoint presentation was given by the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) and apprised the



DC about the functioning of the Department and targets achieved so far.

While giving Statistics of schemes, DSWO informed that 33477 beneficiaries are registered under ISSS and NSAP including Widow pension and Physically Challenged Persons in the district besides 925 cases have been sanctioned during 2023-24 under Marriage Assistance Scheme and 94 cases of 2024-25 have been forwarded for accord of sanction.

Furthermore, he

informed that 55 motorized tricycles have been distributed among eligible beneficiaries.

The DC also took a detailed review of services both institutional and non-institutional provided under Mission Vatsalya and functioning of Child Helpline (1098).

The DC stressed upon the officers to take comprehensive measures to reach out to all eligible beneficiaries, besides making the Welfare schemes easily accessible to the people so that maxi-

mum beneficiaries of the district can reap the benefits.

Meanwhile the DC reviewed the functioning of Mission Shakti and One Stop Centre to assess the effectiveness and impact of these initiatives in supporting and empowering women in the district.

The DC urged for intensifying awareness campaigns to inform women about the services available through Mission Shakti and the One Stop Centre. This would help in reaching out to more women in need and encouraging them to take advantage of these initiatives.

The DC reaffirmed the commitment of the District Administration to empower women and address issues of violence against women through proactive measures and robust support systems.

DDC B'la reviews implementation of AMRUT 2.0

JNEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, JULY 16

With an aim to enhance urban infrastructure and quality of life, the District Development Commissioner (DDC), Baramulla, Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting of the District Level Advisory and Monitoring Committee focused on the implementation of the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 scheme in urban areas of the district.

At the outset, the DDC was provided with a comprehensive briefing about the current status of various projects under AMRUT 2.0 and the strategies for the wholesome implementation of the scheme.

The meeting covered a wide range of aspects towards urban development with water supply projects a primary focus, along with strategies for improving sewerage and septage management. The committee also discussed initiatives for storm water drainage to reduce flooding in urban areas.

During the meeting, the DDC emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts in realizing the objectives of AMRUT 2.0 and directed all concerned departments and agencies to work in tandem to ensure the smooth execution of the scheme.

Minga Sherpa further directed the officers concerned to ensure all the projects under AMRUT 2.0 are completed in a time bound manner and commissioned for the public benefit.

Secretary Cooperatives held public outreach program at Bajabain, Sunderbani



JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JULY 16

Secretary Cooperatives, Babila Rakwal, held a public outreach program at Bajabain in Sunderbani block. She was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat besides others. The event served as a platform for direct interaction between the government and the public, addressing an array of critical issues. Several issues of public importance were brought to the forefront during this engaging session.

The Secretary conveyed commitment towards addressing the pressing issues brought forward by the local community. She emphasized that the top priority of the government is to ensure that basic facilities and services are delivered to the general public in an efficient, time bound

and transparent manner.

Babila Rakwal assured the attendees that their concerns would be redressed at the priority. She affirmed that the Government would take concrete action to address the raised issues and work towards fulfilling the demands of the community. She underscored the commitment towards transparency and accountability within government institutions, highlighting the significant strides made in ensuring these principles.

Emphasizing the significance of the cooperative movement in raising the socio-economic status of public, the Secretary also highlighted the crucial role cooperative societies in promoting economic growth and social welfare. She stressed the importance of computerization of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)

and urged upon the public to form cooperatives, as the Ministry of Cooperation is taking new initiatives in the sector.

Later, as a gesture of respect and to raise awareness under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign, the Secretary distributed baby care kits among the mothers of newborn infants.

The event was attended by DDC Member Sunderbani, Rajinder Sharma; ADC Sunderbani, Rajeev Magotra; GM DIC, Fareed Kohli; CPO, Maqsood Ahmed; CMO, Dr Manohar Rana; LDM, Sanjeev Bhasin; DSWO, Abdul Raheem; Dy Registrar Cooperatives, Adnan Rathar; AD FCS&CA, Rohit Kumar; EXEN PDD Rajouri, Mohd Rashid; EXEN PWD(R&B) Nowshera, VK Raina; Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Nowshera, Bipin Kumar and other concerned district and sectoral officers.

DDC Kulgam reviews ongoing Works under Capex Budget 2024-25

JNEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JULY 16

The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today conducted a detailed review of the ongoing works under the Capex Budget 2024-25.

During the meeting, the DDC directed the concerned officers to expedite the completion of the ongoing works and to ensure that the estimation and other formalities for new works are completed in a timely manner.

He emphasized the importance of adhering to project timelines to ensure efficient use of resources and timely delivery of public services. The DDC



also instructed the concerned executive agencies

to personally monitor the execution of projects and

Plantation drive under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Program organized by GDC Marh

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 16

With the aim of spreading awareness about forest conservation and saving the environment, "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign program was started by NSS unit of GDC

Marh under the guidance of Principal Dr Rakesh Kumar Koul.

On this occasion, the Principal Dr Rakesh Kumar Koul said that trees and plants are our life savers. He further said that the way of present luxury lifestyle has harmed the

environment, if it is not taken care of in time, then the entire human community can face a deep crisis. Untimely rains, high temperatures are some such signs, which are alerting us. In such a situation, the most important thing is plantation.

He said that awareness is also important. Awareness is also being spread through street plays in the surrounding areas through the NSS unit of the college.

NSS officer Sachin Kumar Bhagat said that the program "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" is not only

awareness but also a feeling, which connects the common man directly to nature. On this occasion, along with the volunteers of NSS, staffs were also present. Volunteers also planted trees at their homes and vicinity along with their mother.

MVD Jammu takes strict action against traffic violators, imposes Rs 126000 fine

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 16

Continuing the strict enforcement drive against the instances of overloading & overcharging in Passenger vehicles and other major violations under the Motor Vehicle Act and Central Motor Vehicle Rules, team of Motor Vehicles Department carried special enforcement drives under the special directions of Pankaj Bhagotra, RTO, Jammu.

The enforcement teams laid Nakas at different locations viz Bhagwati Nagar, Tawi 4th Bridge and near Railway Station. The focus of today's drive was overloading and overcharging in Passenger Vehicles particularly e-Autos and e-rikshaws carrying Amanrathji Pilgrims.

During the last 03 day's Enforcement Drive nearly 345 vehicles were checked for various offences viz.



Route Permit violations, RC violations, Overloading, without Seat Belt, Without Helmet, without SLD etc. out of which 118 vehicles e-challaned.

A fine of Rs. 126000/- (Rupees One Lac & Twenty Six Thousands) was imposed on violators during these drives. In addition to issuing Challans, the overload Passenger Vehicles were offloaded on spot and vehicles were arranged for their

respective destinations. The drive has been widely appreciated by the pilgrims and shows RTO's commitment to fair practices and regulatory standards.

The enforcement teams comprised of Rehana Tabassam, ARTO (HQR), Mudasir Iqbal (ARTO B.O.I), Motor Vehicles Inspectors, Vikas Srivats, Surinder Kumar & Jasbir Singh, SMVI, Amanish Sharma and MVTA Tarun-jot Singh.

District Administration Samba organizes Tabletop Exercise on Disaster Management in Collaboration with NDRF



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JULY 16

The District Administration of Samba, led by Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, organized a tabletop exercise on disaster management in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) at the Conference Hall in Samba. The exercise aimed to simulate emergency situations, outline the roles and responsibilities of key disaster managers, and learn from domain experts about the latest trends in disaster relief. Chairing the meeting, DC Abhishek Sharma emphasized the importance of the exercise in preparing and verifying the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for various disaster scenarios.

He highlighted the need for coordinated preparedness and response efforts, noting that the exercise would extend to the grassroots level to test the effectiveness of the Incident Response System (IRS).

The exercise involved a comprehensive discussion on various types of disasters, with a focus on flood management. Topics included flood preparedness measures, challenges in flood management, and actions to be taken before, during, and after floods.

DC Sharma stressed the need for illumination backups during floods, identifying flood-prone areas near the Basanter and Devak rivers, and swiftly undertaking flood protection construction works under MGNREGA.

He also highlighted the importance of identifying safe locations, training volunteers by NDRF/SDRF, removing encroachments on water bodies, clearing drains, and ensuring the availability of medical supplies, water pumps, and ration stocks in panchayats.

The DC announced that a mock drill would be conducted in this month in collaboration with the 13th Battalion of NDRF. This drill aims to create an effective disaster and IRS plan and identify any shortcomings.

Participants in the exercise included SSP Samba Vinay Sharma, ADC Suresh Sharma, SDMs, ACR, district officers, sectoral officers, and representatives from NDRF, SDRF, and BSF.

DC Reasi reviews Town Planning Scheme in Ransoo



J1 NEWS SERVICE
REASI, JULY 16

Deputy Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan convened a meeting today to review the operations of the Building Operation Controlling Authority regarding the town planning scheme in Ransoo.

DC Mahajan emphasized the importance of 17 enabled services for issuing permission for buildings in falling in the area of approved Ransoo Town planning schemes.

He stressed that through the usage of the on-line portal, the people who intend to apply, may apply with an ease and all the processing shall be done through the portal for which the recommendation shall be sent to Housing and Urban development department.

DDC further highlighted that the committee has developed to adopt the UBBL-2021, guidelines for Ransoo Town Planning Schemes and also an account shall be opened for the depositing of fees. He asked XEN of Jal Shakti, PWD, JPDC who are the members of the committee to keep their respective records and field staff ready for field checking.

He further directed that the copies of Ransoo Town planning schemes be displayed at Niabat Ransoo at tehsil office Pouni for the public and Tehsildar Reasi will create awareness for the same. EO SSKSB Pardeep Kumar, ACR Anshumali Sharma, XEN PWD, Jal Shakti and JPDC, Town Planner Housing and Urban development department. Reasi attend the meeting.

DC Poonch reviews preparations for I-Day Celebrations 2024

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 16

The Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Yasin M. Choudhary today chaired a meeting of concerned district level officers to review the necessary preparations and arrangements for Independence Day Celebration 2024 at the Dak Bungalow Poonch.

The Deputy Commissioner meticulously went through various aspects of the Independence Day celebrations, including security arrangements, venue decoration, public address system, seating arrangement, fire safety, cultural programs, parade preparations, refreshments, plantation drive, illumination of government buildings, media coverage, decoration etc.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed all the concerned departments to make the arrangements well in time for a smooth celebration of this national event.

The main function will be held at the sports stadium, where the Chief Guest will unfurl the national flag and take the salute at the march-past presented by various contingents.



The Deputy Commissioner also directed the authorities to launch a comprehensive cleanliness drive in and around the venue and ensure uninterrupted power and water supply on the day of the celebrations.

Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner informed that a full-dress rehearsal will be held on August 13, and screening of cultural activities will take place at Sheesh Mahal on August 10, 2024.

The Information Department has been tasked with making arrangements for a fault-free public address

system and comprehensive media coverage of the event, which will commence with the playing of Shahnai by the department.

The Deputy Commissioner has also directed the concerned executive engineers to ensure adequate arrangements for barricading, seating, drinking water supply, and uninterrupted power supply on the day of the function. Additionally, he has passed instructions to the concerned officers to make provisions for ambulance, fire tender, security, and adequate manpower at the venue.

Chairperson, DDC Kulgam reviews progress of works & implementation of various schemes

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JULY 16

Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Kulgam, M Afzal Parrey along with other DDC members chaired a meeting of officers to review the progress of developmental works and implementation of various schemes in the district.

The meeting threadbare discussed various aspects including execution of developmental plans, implementation of schemes of Agriculture, Horticulture, Education, Labour, Social Welfare and other departments.

The Chairperson DDC stressed on proper implementation of all schemes and programmes for larger benefit and welfare of the people of the district.

He also stressed on maintaining quality of works and timely completion of works in the district.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Bashir Ahmad Wani; DPO, Abdul Rasheed Das; ACP and other officers.

Gandhi Memorial College organizes Service Camp for mourners

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 16

Gandhi Memorial College continued its long-standing tradition by organizing a service camp for mourners on the eve of the 9th Muharram procession.

The event saw active participation from the college's Principal, Prof. Aijaz Ahmad Hakak, faculty members, and National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers.

The service camp primarily focused on providing refreshments to the mourners participating in the Muharram procession. Volunteers distributed juice and water among those observing the solemn occasion.

V.C DDC Kupwara inaugurates NTPHC Khurhama, Sub Centre Saiwan



J1 NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, JULY 16

To improve health care scenario in far flung areas of district Kupwara, Vice Chairman DDC Kupwara, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir today inaugurated two Health Centres in Kuligam block of Lolab Sub Division.

At Khurhama, the Vice Chairman inaugurated New Type Primary Health Centre (NTPHC) in presence of ADC Kupwara, M Rofiq Rahman; Chief Medical Officer, CPO, BMO and large number of people.

On the occasion, the Vice Chairman said that it was a long pending demand of the people of Khurhama village

which has got fulfilled after much efforts by District Administration and Health department.

He congratulated the people for getting the newly upgraded NTPHC which will cater their healthcare needs.

Later, the VC inaugurated newly constructed building of Sub Centre at Saiwan in presence of ADC, CMO, CPO, BMO and concerned officers. Huge number of people were also present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, people living in these areas expressed their gratitude and expressed hope that these newly inaugurated healthcare centres will cater to their needs.

FSD Anantnag seizes foreign brand cigarettes without pictorial warnings

J1 NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, JULY 16

Food Safety Department (FSD) Anantnag today conducted a massive raid in Anantnag on the trade and sale of illicit cigarettes particularly foreign brands violating different provisions of Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products Act, 2003.

During the raids, many departmental stores were found selling cigarettes without the mandatory pictorial warnings on packets thereof. Huge cache of such cigarettes worth Rs.

32,500 were seized from Abdullah Sirs Departmental Store and Rumi Utility Stores at Anantnag, under section 7 of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003 (COTPA).

Further, the Food Safety team warned shopkeepers to desist from sale of any kind of the Tobacco products, without pictorial and statutory warning failing which stern action as per law shall follow against those who are found violating the different provisions of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003.

DC Kulgam reviews progress of New SDH Building at D. H. Pora



J1 NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JULY 16

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan Tuesday conducted a visit to D.H.Pora to review the progress of the new Sub-District Hospital (SDH) building.

During the visit, the DC assessed the pace of the ongoing construction, and instructed the officers to accelerate their efforts to ensure the timely completion of the hospital building.

It was informed that the estimated cost of the new SDH building is Rs.11.34

crore, with an expenditure of Rs.6.10 crore incurred to date.

The DC emphasized the importance of adhering to the project timelines and urged the officers to expedite the remaining work.

The completion of the new SDH building is expected to significantly enhance the healthcare infrastructure in the region, providing improved medical facilities to the local population.

Accompanying the DC were ADC, Viqar Ahmad Giri; SDM, Tehsildar and other officers.

Mega Distribution Camp of Prosthetic aids held at Kulgam



J1 NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JULY 16

The Social Welfare Department Kulgam in collaboration with Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) organized a two days Mega distribution camp of Prosthetic Aids from 15 to 16 July 2024.

The distribution of these prosthetic aids was held under the scheme of Assistance to Persons with Disabilities for Purchase/ Fitting of Aids/ Appliances (ADIP

Scheme) in which 178 already assessed beneficiaries were provided "fit to size" prosthetic aids worth Rs 15 lakh.

Wheel chairs, CP chairs, Hearing aids, Smart canes, Rollators, Tricycles, Braille kits, Callipers, Smart Tablets, ADL kits etc were handed over to the beneficiaries during the camp by the Technical team from ALIMCO.

The main objective of the scheme is to assist the needy disabled persons by providing durable, sophisticated and scien-

tifically manufactured, modern standard aids and appliances to promote physical social, psychological rehabilitation of persons with disabilities by reducing the effects of disabilities and at the same time enhance their economic potential.

The gathering provided an opportunity to enlighten the participants regarding the initiatives for the advancement of the persons with disabilities community, in addition to the accessible amenities for the upkeep of prosthetic aids.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Army officer among 4...

and the ongoing Counter Terrorist Op in Doda by the Army Chief," defence ministry said in a post on X.

Singh also mourned the loss of lives and paid tributes to army soldiers killed in action in the Doda encounter.

"Deeply saddened by the loss of our brave and courageous Indian Army Soldiers in a counter terrorist operation in Urrar Baggi, Doda (J&K). My heart goes out to the bereaved families. The Nation stands firmly with the families of our soldiers who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. The Counter Terrorist operations are underway, and our soldiers remain committed to eliminate the scourge of terrorism and restore peace and order in the region," Rajnath Singh posted on X.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also expressed grief over the loss of lives in the ongoing encounter.

"I am deeply anguished to learn about the cowardly attack on our Army soldiers and JKP personnel in Doda district. Tributes to brave soldiers who made supreme sacrifice protecting our nation. My deepest condolences to members of the bereaved families. We will avenge the death of our soldiers & thwart the evil designs of terrorists and their associates. I call upon the people to unite in the fight against terrorism & provide us accurate information so that we can intensify anti-terror operations & neutralise the terror ecosystem," he posted on X.

Earlier, The Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) of the Army confirmed the casualties in a post on X.

"General Upendra Dwivedi COAS (Chief of Armed Staff) and all ranks of Indian Army convey their deepest condolences to the Bravehearts Major Brijesh Thapa, Naik D Rajesh, Sepoy Bijendra and Sepoy Ajay, who laid down their lives in the line of duty, while undertaking a counter terrorist operation in Doda in order to ensure peace in the region. Army stands firm with the bereaved families in this hour of grief," ADG-PI post reads.

Reacting to the death of four soldiers, leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi said India's soldiers and their families have been bearing the brunt of the BJP's wrong policies.

"Today, our soldiers were martyred in another terrorist encounter in Jammu and Kashmir. I pay my humble tribute to the martyrs and express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families. Such horrific incidents one after the other are extremely sad and worrying. These continuous terrorist attacks are reflecting the dilapidated condition of Jammu and Kashmir," Rahul Gandhi wrote on X in Hindi.

The Congress leader demanded that the government must take the responsibility for "repeated security lapses".

"Our soldiers and their families are bearing the brunt of the BJP's wrong policies. Every patriotic Indian demands that the government should take full responsibility for the repeated security lapses and take strict action against the culprits of the country and the soldiers. In this hour of grief, the entire country stands united against terrorism," he added.

Four soldiers, including a recently promoted major rank officer Major Brijesh Thappa of 10 RR sustained grievous injuries during initial exchange of fire between terrorists and security forces late last evening in the forest area of Doda. The encounter started after the troops of Rashtriya Rifles and Special Operations Group of J&K Police launched a joint cordon and search operation at Dhari Gote Urrabagi in the Desa forest area around 7.45pm.

Officials said Major Thappa along with four soldiers and police personnel were injured in the exchange of fire with terrorists which initially lasted for over 20 minutes.

The injured were evacuated to hospital and their condition was stated to be "critical". They later succumbed to injuries, the officials said, adding that additional troops were rushed to the spot and the operation is underway.

Officials added that after a brief exchange of fire, the terrorists tried to escape but were chased by the troops led by an officer, despite challenging terrain and thick foliage, leading to another firefight in the woods around 9.00 pm.

This is the third encounter in Doda in the past three weeks. The latest incident follows a terrorist ambush on an Army patrol in the remote Machedi forest area of Kathua district in which five soldiers were killed.

The Jammu region, which remained relatively peaceful between 2005 and 2020, has been witnessing a spike in terror attacks over the past month. It included an attack on a pilgrim bus that left nine persons dead and 40 injured.

LG Sinha lays wreath...

"Accordingly, a joint operation with J&K Police was launched in General Area Urrabaggi, 10 km North of Doda. At about 2040 hrs on 15 July 24, the search party was able to establish contact with the terrorists hiding in the area, which is a thickly forested and mountainous area with restricted visibility due to low clouds and rain," he said.

"In the initial volley of fire, four Indian Army personnel were injured, who later succumbed to their injuries. Additional troops and equipment have been inducted to flush out the terrorists and use of drones and other technical resources is being ensured. Due to security considerations regarding the ongoing operations, further details cannot be shared," he said.

The spokesperson further added that the Indian Army has been conducting a series of joint and coordinated operations with J&K Police to eliminate foreign terrorists who have infiltrated and are moving in the upper reaches of Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar and Bhandarwah districts and areas and thereafter to Kashmir Valley. Similar operations are being conducted in Kathua area in a relentless manner.

Series of operations in the recent past have resulted in neutralisation of three terrorists in Gandoh on 26 June 24, besides successfully thwarting Chattar Gali terrorist attack on 11 June 24, he said, adding that analysis of large quantities of warlike stores recovered from the killed terrorists reveal the hand of inimical agencies from across the border.

Number of measures have been instituted to enhance synergy between various agencies. These include joint training with J&K Police and CAPF, he said, adding that a robust intelligence sharing mechanism between the IA, J&K Police and other Intelligence Agencies has been established.

"Clear guidelines have been enunciated towards ensuring no collateral damage and disruption in day-to-day life of the locals in the area. Close interaction with the local populace is also ensured for flow of intelligence inputs.

Similar intelligence based and area domination operations are continuing in Kashmir region, North of Pir Panjal ranges. Line of Control and fence is intact and alert troops have recently neutralized three terrorists attempting to infiltrate along with large quantities of war-like stores in Kupwara region on 14 July 24," he said.

Intelligence based operations have also been conducted to foil infiltration attempts in Lam, South of Pir Panjal Ranges on 10 July 24.

We deeply regret the loss of precious lives of our four brave soldiers who have made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. All formations of Northern Command are committed to eliminate the scourge of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir for which the relentless operations will continue, he said.

SURGE IN DODA

Terrorism seems to be back in Chenab valley, especially in district Doda, as the fifth terror incident was witnessed in the area since June 11.

The Uran Baggi fire fight in Dessa area of district Doda has been the lethal one as four Army soldiers including a captain rank officer were killed.

According to KNO, the first fire fight began in Chatertgala on June 11 in which four soldiers and a policeman were injured followed by a contact with another group of militants in Gundoh on June 12.

Thereafter, the security forces managed to trap three terrorists in Gundoh and eliminated them on June 26 and on July 9, an encounter broke out in Goli-Gadi area of Doda where after the heavy exchange of fire, militants managed to give forces a slip.

Now, the July 15 encounter in Uran Baggi in Dessa area is a fatal one and militants also managed to flee from the area. What is common about all these five encounters is that terrorists have been taking advantage of dense forests which have allowed them to remain at large.

The Chenab valley like Kashmir valley witnessed the gun culture in the 1990s and it almost vanished by 2007.

Now, again terrorists are trying to revive by resorting to attacks on security forces but as the Director General of Police (DGP) RR Swain has already said that is their desperate attempt but with the support of people, security forces will be able to eliminate them. KNO

Timeline of major...

Five Rashtriya Rifles personnel and a Special Police Officer were also injured in a terrorist attack in Doda district.

June 9: Nine pilgrims were killed and 42 were injured in a terrorist attack on a bus in the Reasi district.

May 2024

May 4: One IAF personnel was killed and five were injured in a terrorist attack in Poonch district.

April 2024

April 28: A village defence guard was killed in an encounter with terrorists in Basantghar, Udhampur district.

April 22: A government employee was shot dead by terrorists in Rajouri district.

December 21, 2023: Four soldiers killed in action and three others were wounded in an ambush by terrorists after they fired at two army vehicles in southern Poonch district.

November 22, 2023: Five soldiers, including two captains, were killed in action.

April-May 2023: 10 soldiers martyred in twin attacks.

May 13, 2022: Four persons were killed after a pilgrim bus was attacked in Katra.

December 14, 2021: Four soldiers were killed in action.

There has been a recent surge in terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir with terrorists changing tactics to target the peaceful Jammu region in place of heavily secured Kashmir. KNO

J&K DGP sanctions...

personnel have received welfare loans of Rs 1.5 lakh each to support the higher or professional education of their children.

Besides, welfare relief of Rs 12.70 lakh in favour of 37 Police personnel has also been sanctioned. It is important to note that while the welfare loans are refundable and recovered in monthly installments from the salaries of the personnel, the financial assistance provided is non-refundable.

The Police Headquarters extends welfare schemes to all ranks of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, including the families of martyr police personnel and SPOs. Meritorious scholarships are also provided to outstanding children of serving, retired, or martyr police personnel and SPOs, fostering a spirit of competition and excellence among them.

BJP fully prepared for...

from their homes and work spaces for these months and start living in between the masses for these election months. He told them that the BJP belongs to every section of society and it has worked for everyone of them during these years and prompted them to go to all of them and discuss how they were cheated criminally by the parties like NC, Congress, and PDP. He asked them to compare the works done in 70 years before and after the Modi government and tell them that the Modi government has done real development and ensured peace and progress in the region.

Ravinder Raina credited the party cadre for the delighted victory in recently held Lok Sabha elections. He dedicated the third comprehensive victory to the hard work of party workers, which resulted in the repetition of the Modi government at the Centre. He spoke on the organization of Tridev & Morcha Sammelans on Assembly Constituency level and also asked the party workers to review the voter lists thoroughly.

Dr. Narinder Singh threw light on the political history of J&K and the sacrifices made by the BJP, Jana Sangha, Praja Parishad and Sangh Parivar cadre, and the development in J&K.

Jugal Kishore Sharma spoke on the commitment of BJP towards the development in the state and the loss of both former Chief Ministers in this Lok Sabha Elections.

Dr. Nirmal Singh spoke in detail on the President's address in the Parliament and said that the achievements of the Modi government are unparalleled.

Kavinder Gupta spoke on the achievements of the Modi government in the last 10 years and enumerated the vari-

ous public welfare schemes.

Ashok Koul discussed the organization of Sammelans at length with the party leaders and asked them to involve the general masses in their programmes.

Sunil Sharma deliberated on the organization of Morcha Sammelans with the focus on every single Morcha.

Priya Sethi spoke on the achievements of BJP and stressed on the role of individual Morchas in the organization.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, who conducted the proceedings of the workshop also presented a PPT explaining the progress and development in J&K after abrogation of Article 370.

Senior leaders also released the new edition of the party's monthly magazine 'Kamal Paigam'.

Earlier, Morcha State Presidents presented their reporting regarding the organization of Sammelans

GoC Chinar Corps Lt Gen...

vigil and ensure that all inimical attempts and activities on the LoC are disrupted and eliminated, Army Srinagar based Chinar Corps posted on X.

On July 15 troops neutralized three foreign infiltrators in the Keran sector and recovered war-like stores from them.

On Monday, Army said the evil designs of the adversary to infiltrate terrorists across and vitiate the peaceful situation was nipped in the bud by killing the three militants.

Security forces launch...

district on Tuesday, officials said.

The troops are already on high alert along the border line and hinterland in the border district, they said.

Acting swiftly on information about spotting suspicious movement of two persons near Betaar river, the army and Special Operation Group (SOG) launched a search operation, the officials said.

The soldiers also questioned one person roaming in the area, they said.

Dr Jitendra inaugurates...

also inaugurated "Genetically Defined Human Associated Microbial Culture Collection (Ge-HuMC) facility" to act as a "repository" for providing microbial cultures to research institutes, universities, and industries for Research and development. The facility will serve as a Nodal Resource Centre that will foster national and international collaborations between academic institutions, hospitals and industry. It will also serve as a repository of genetically characterized Specific Pathogen Free animals (including cryopreserved embryos/sperms) for the use of researchers within the country.

The Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) is an institute of the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC), Department of Biotechnology under Ministry of Science and Technology which facilitated the signing of more than a dozen agreements and MoU's signed with Private sector for Vaccine development and research in Nipah Virus, Influenza and other respiratory diseases. It will also facilitate innovative and cutting-edge fundamental research in the country, support translational research to test drug and vaccine candidates, identify biomarkers of disease progression/resolution and foster research collaborations across disciplines and professions with connectivity to industry and academia.

Speaking at the 14th Foundation day of THSTI, Dr. Jitendra Singh traced back the journey of THSTI since its inception. He also recalled Dr. M.K Bhan and his efforts in starting this facility.

The Minister said, "In A very short span of 14 years, the institute has achieved many landmarks and there has been an upward graph throughout with Covid Pandemic which marked its peak and realized its importance, gave recognition to the efforts of this institute". He also highlighted that the Department of Bio-technology is also not very old.

The Minister appreciated DBT's steady progress despite the dearth of resources. He also assured to press and support the needs of the department regarding office infrastructure etc.

The Science and Technology Minister underscored the pivotal role played by the institute in COVID pandemic and vaccine development which were granted emergency use authorization in India.. He said "India is recognised as a frontline nation in preventive healthcare," emphasizing the vaccine development and research in DBT.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also shared some of the challenges of contemporary health issues. He himself being an endocrinologist highlighted the burden of lifestyle related metabolic diseases prevalent in the Indian population. He also highlighted Prime Minister Modi's vision of TB Mukh Bharat and emphasized that we all should join his efforts.

Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the role played by THSTI in developing Nipah monoclonal antibodies. He underscored the recent example being the immediate kangaroo-mother care which is now a WHO-recommended practice to reduce infant mortality.

Dr. Rajesh Gokhale Secretary DBT, Dr. Shrinath Reddy, former President Public Health Foundation of India and Director THSTI Dr Kathikeyan, Director THSTI were also present at the event.

Lt Governor's message...

of us resolve to work together to build a peaceful, just and equitable society".

President appoints Justice...

that High Court consequent upon elevation of Shri Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court as Judge of the Supreme Court of India," reads another notification issued by the Ministry of Law & Justice.

It is worthwhile that the Supreme Court Collegium in its July 11 resolution has recommended appointment of Justice Suresh Kumar Kait, senior judge of Delhi High Court, as Chief Justice of the High Court for Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The Collegium has also recommended appointment of Justice Tashi Rabistan as Chief Justice of the High Court of Meghalaya on the retirement of Justice S Vaidyanathan, Chief Justice of that High Court, who is due to retire on 16 August 2024. KNO

Khatana condemns terrorist attack in Doda, calls for unity against terror

JI NEWS SERVICE

GUREZ, JULY 16:



Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, has strongly condemned terrorist attack on security forces in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir, in which four security personnel attained martyrdom fighting enemies.

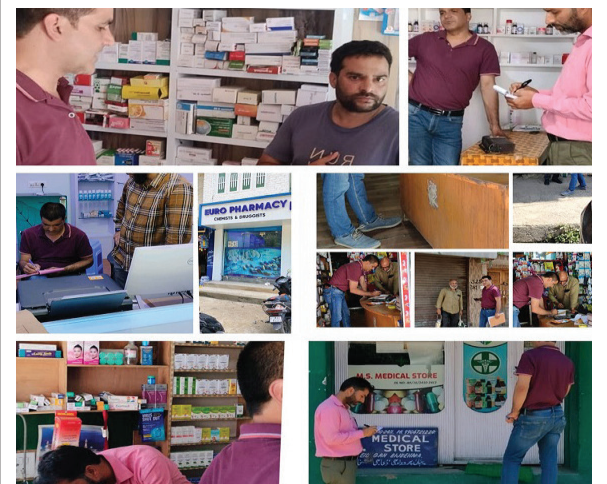
In a statement released today, Khatana expressed his deep anguish over the incident. "I am deeply anguished to learn about the cowardly attack on our Army soldiers and JKP personnel in Doda district," he said. The MP paid tribute to the fallen soldiers, stating, "Tributes to brave soldiers who made supreme sacrifice protecting our nation. My deepest condolences to members of the bereaved families."

Khatana's statement took a resolute tone as he vowed retribution for the attack. "We will avenge death of

our soldiers & thwart the evil designs of terrorists and their associates," he declared. This strong message underscores the government's commitment to maintaining security and stability in the region.

The MP also made a passionate appeal to the public, emphasizing the crucial role of community cooperation in combating terrorism. "I call upon the people to unite in the fight against terrorism & provide us accurate information so that we can intensify anti-terror operations & neutralise the terror ecosystem," Khatana urged.

Drug Control Authorities closes-down 03 Medical Establishments for License Violations at Anantnag



JI NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG, JULY 16

Drug Control Authorities Anantnag closed down the operation of 03 medical establishments for violation of conditions of licences and other norms.

Intensive inspections were carried out in various areas of Bijbehara tehsil of District Anantnag by a team of Drug Control officers during which more-than 15 inspections were conducted and operation of 3 medical establishments was closed down for violation of various provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940.

The establishments whose operation was closed include Vet Healthways Naibasti, Qadri Medical Store New Colony Bijbehara and Shah Medi-

cal Store New Colony Bijbehara. Earlier 20 legal and 17 informal drug samples were also lifted to ascertain their quality parameters.

Strict directions were passed to the chemists of the area to install computerized billing systems for bringing transparency in sale and purchase records. Records of Schedule H/HI drugs were checked on spot and 02 show-cause notices issued where the discrepancy was found.

It is worthwhile to mention that the Drug Administration has adopted a zero tolerance approach in misuse of any habit forming drug and has taken many stringent measures like launching prosecutions, suspension/Cancellation of licenses to deal with such incidents.

Our security strategy needs careful recalibration: BSP

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 16

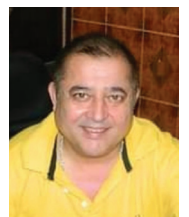
Jammu and Kashmir Bahujan Samaj Party

(BSP) general secretary and media head Rajesh Gupta on Tuesday hit out at the Centre after four soldiers were killed in an encounter in Doda, and asked what happened to all those "grand claims" made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Jammu and Kashmir. Gupta in his X message asked PM Modi why don't you attack on Pakistan and remove it from world map once for all and where is your 56" chest?

During these recent 9

terrorist attacks in a row, 12 soldiers were killed, 13 injured, 10 civilians were killed and 44 were injured. It needs careful recalibration in our security strategy.

BSP leader said he was deeply distressed by the martyrdom of the four brave soldiers, including a Army Captain. "Our heart goes out to the families of our bravehearts, who made the supreme sacrifice in the service of our great Nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with the injured, and we wish them a speedy and complete recovery," he said.



GM reviews performance of Northern Railway

J1 NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

Shobhan Chaudhuri, General Manager Northern Railway held a performance review meeting with the departmental heads of Northern Railway & DRMs at Baroda House, New Delhi. The GM emphasized that Safety is the main concern over Railways, for which all out efforts should be directed towards maintaining the tracks, rolling stock and signaling in top order. He instructed official to keep close and strict vigil on situation aroused due to rainfall and disruption in rail movement. He asked officials to maintain smooth rail movement without compromising safety.



done to curb any kind of obstruction during operation of trains.

On improving the infrastructure, the GM said that, greater focus should be on the timely completion of projects related with doubling of lines, signaling etc. He further said that the monitoring system of progress of construction projects should be a prime focus area as the development/improvement of railways are very much dependent on these projects.

Sh. Chaudhuri also reviewed the work done over the zone in improving the maintenance standard of tracks, welds, joints and removal of scrap lying near the tracks. He instructed the divisions to expedite the works related with mobility enhancement and conducting drives to check the progress. The GM also took stock of the tree cutting activity and removal of vegetation alongside the tracks. He stressed upon the safety during ongoing monsoon season and all efforts should be

During the meeting, Sh. Chaudhuri also emphasized on better crew management and optimum utilization of manpower. He instructed to maintain good record of punctuality of trains and expedite the works related with mobility enhancement and conducting drives to check the progress.

Northern Railway is committed to provide safe, smooth and efficient services to its customers.

DC Samba inaugurates Malhar Cooperative Canteen



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JULY 16

The Deputy Commissioner, Samba, in a significant move to promote women-led cooperatives, inaugurated the Malhar Cooperative Canteen at the DC Office Complex today.

The event saw the presence of prominent officials, including SSP Samba, ADC Samba, ACD Samba, DSWO Samba, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies Samba, and Assistant Registrars of Samba District, among others.

The inauguration event, hosted by the Malhar Cooperative Canteen, showcased the commitment to enhancing the cooperative movement in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner praised the quality and hygiene of the food and the canteen premises, highlighting the cooperative's dedication to maintaining high standards.

In his address, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of supporting women-led cooperatives, noting that this initiative is a step towards empowering women and promoting economic self-sufficiency. He handed over a certificate to Rakhi Sambyal the secretary of the society along with other members of the society, recognizing their efforts and achievements.

Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner provided valuable suggestions for future improvements, including the introduction of a suggestion box for feedback and the inclusion of recreational activities in the premises to create a more engaging environment for visitors and staff.

Minor boy drowns to death in Anantnag

J1 NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, JUL 16

A minor boy drowned to death while taking a bath in Hassanpora area of Bijbehara in south Kashmir's Anantnag district on Tuesday, officials said. An official told news agency, that the boy namely Mohammad Salim (9) son of Ghulam Mohammad Ganaeef Hassanpora drowned in river Vishow while taking a bath. He said that soon after the incident rescue operation was launched and later his body was retrieved from the river.

Mission Shakti SANKALP HEW JAMMU organises camp on health of pregnant and lactating mothers in Anganwadi Centre

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 16

Mission Shakti SANKALP HEW JAMMU Social Welfare Department J&K conducted an impactful awareness program at AWC NITCO Lane Talab Tillo which aimed at empowering women through education on nutrition of pregnant and lactating mothers the benefits of the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY). The initiative focused on educating pregnant and lactating women about the critical importance

of proper nutrition and adequate rest during pregnancy. Dr Nisha Dutt Gynecologist was the resource person of the awareness programme.

The program emphasized the pivotal role of a balanced diet and sufficient rest in maternal health, directly impacting the well-being of both mothers and infants. Doctor shared insights on the profound benefits of maintaining a nutritious diet throughout pregnancy and lactation phases.

Officials of Mission Shakti SANKALP HEW



highlighted the positive impact of PMMVY, a

scheme designed to support pregnant women financially. Beneficiaries of PMMVY expressed heart-

felt gratitude, citing how the scheme enabled them to afford nutritious food and essential vitamins, contributing to a healthy pregnancy and safe delivery.

The event concluded with a commitment to continue supporting women in Jammu through similar informative sessions, aiming to enhance maternal health and well-being. At the end of the session Nutritional kits and baby kits were also distributed and various queries of pregnant women were also addressed.

DLC approves 06 cases of "Change of Land Use" in Rajouri



J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JULY 15

The District Level Committee (DLC) on change of land use in Rajouri gave its approval for six cases of converting agricultural land to non-agricultural use.

In a meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Om Prakash Bhagat detailed discussion was held on the applications received from various areas of the district. After careful deliberation, the committee approved six cases of converting agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.

In addition, the concerned departments were

given specific instructions to ensure the prompt issuance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) in the cases fulfilling the criteria laid down in the matter as per norms. It was emphasised that proper verification of documents and adherence to the regulations under the Land Conversion Regulations of 2022 should be carried out in each case.

Officers who attended the meeting were DFO Rajouri; SE PWD(R&B), Devi Dayal; SE I&FC; ACR, Mohd Jhangir Khan; CAO, Sohan Singh; EXEN PDD Rajouri, Mohd Rashid; AD Fire and Emergency Services and other concerned officers.

Team selected for Nat'l Swimming C'ships



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 16

Jammu Kashmir Swimming Association (JKSA) has selected 12-member team for 40th Sub-Junior and 50th Junior National Aquatic Championships scheduled to be held from August 6 to 11 at Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The selected swimmers are Jaiwardhan, Talha Aziz, Melissa Singh and Vamika Parmar (15 to 17 years age group), Musa Pervaiz

Mallik, Abdul Aleem, Manah Pervaiz Mallik and Mitali Raj (12 to 14 years age group) and Pratyaksh Vir Parmar, Yashvardhan Veer, Saisha Gupta and Harshita Jalali (10 to 11 years age group). These swimmers were selected after proper trials conducted by JKSA in swimming pool of KC Sports Club, Jammu under the close supervision of technical experts committee comprising of swimming coaches.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT
PHE MECHANICAL DIVISION SOUTH JAMMU
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT PHEJ/MS/51 of 2024-25 Dated 10-07-2024

Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical Division South Jammu, on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered/ reputed firms.

Name of the Work	Name of the Division	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee(In Rs)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Validity of Rates
1	2	3	4	5
Providing and replacement of damaged components of LT Control Panel of Tube well Bandhu Rakh-I under Non Plan	PHE Mech. Division South Jammu	Rs. 200.00 (Non-Refundable) In the shape of e-challan/single window challan of JMC pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division South Jammu/tender fee receipt through online payment through the JMC link http://www.imcjammu.org/online-payment.html	@ 2% of estimated cost/ tender value in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division South Jammu	Bid shall be valid for 180 days

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 11-07-2024 (4:00 PM) and uploaded from 12-07-2024 (04:00 PM) to 19-07-2024 (1:00 PM). The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- Bids must be accompanied by EMD and cost of Tender Document as specified in column 3 & 4 of the table.
- The bid shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the tenderer shall be debarred from participating in tendering process for a period of 1 year.
- The Technical Bids of the tender document received shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department PHE Mechanical Division South Jammu on 20-07-2024 at 3:00 P.M or any other day convenient to the Ex. Engineer in the Office chambers of Executive Engineer, PHE Mechanical Division South Jammu.
- The Financial Bids of the tender document of the qualified bidders shall also be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department PHE Mechanical Division South Jammu during office hours and shall be communicated separately.
- Cost of bidding document in shape of e-challan/single window challan of JMC pledged to Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division South Jammu/tender fee receipt through online payment through the JMC link <http://www.imcjammu.org/online-payment.html>
- The original instruments in respect of cost of document, EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR and other relevant document of L1 bidder will be required to be submitted to the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division South Jammu within 05 days after opening of financial bids on line. No separate intimation about opening of financial bids will be sent by this office / by the tender opening authority. In case the original documents are not submitted by the L1 bidder within 05 days after opening of financial bid, the tender will be cancelled and the bidder will not be allowed to participate in any further / future tendering process in the division for a period of one year.
- Other details can be seen inside the detailed tender document.

No: PHEJ/MS/1533-37
Dated:- 10-07-2024

DIP/J-2981/24
Date: 16-7-24

A.E.E Sub-Div III
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mech. Division South Jammu

Department of Wildlife Protection J&K Government
Office of the Wildlife Warden, Jammu
Manda Hills, Near Hotel Ashok Jammu.
Email: wluwjammu@gmail.com

TENDERING

Tender Notice : e-NIT No.- 14/WLWJ of 2024-25 dated: 13-07-2024

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Govt. /Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:

Name of work	Adv. Cost (in lacs)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document (in Rs.)	Time of completion	Receiving/ Opening Authority
Strengthening of Boundary Fencing by way of raising height at Gharana Wetland Conservation Reserve	14.41 lacs	B, C & D	600	2 months	Tender opening committee

EMD (2% of advertised amount):- Rs 29,000/-
The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities, (B.O.Q), set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the departmental Website:- <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

AA No. & Date	148 of 2024 (CWLW J&K) dated 02-07-2024
TS No. & Date	25 of 2024-25 (RWLWJ) dated 01-07-2024
Position of Funds	Approved under CAMPA

Publishing Date	13-07-2024
Download Start Date	14-07-2024
Bid Submission Start Date	14-07-2024
Bid submission End Date	23-07-2024 up to 02:00 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid	24-07-2024 at 12:00 PM (In the Office of Regional Wildlife Warden, Jammu, Manda Hills, Jammu)
Date of opening of Financial Bid.	24-07-2024

Bid documents can be seen at and download from the website: - <https://jktenders.gov.in>. Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, bill of quantities, conditions and other details.

(Vijay Kumar, SFS)
Wildlife Warden
Jammu

DIP/J-2963/24
Date: 16-7-24

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice

SR/DEE/GFZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.iireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost. (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website particulars
251-Elect-T-27/2024-25	Electrical work in c/w Provision of covered shed over washing line and other allied works at BDGM on BAHL-BRML Section.	1,43,13,470.11	2,21,600.00	06 Months	07.08.2024 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.iireps.gov.in
251-Elect-T-26/2024-25	Electrical work in c/w Improvement of infra structure of 10 nos Existing SPL class L-xings under SSE/PP/JAT & SSE/PP/PTK & Upgradation and Modification of existing RPF barrack complex for provision of 40 bedded Female barrack accommodation for RPF Staff at Pathankot & Provision of Diyangjan Toilets, entry path 50 mtr COP and Drinking water booth for diyangjans under SSE/PP/PTK.	33,25,551.07	66,500.00	06 Months	06.08.2024 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.iireps.gov.in

251-Elect/T. Notice No. 20-Elect/2024-25 Dated:- 16.07.2024 2174/24

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

New pathway shows promise for developing advanced vaccines for TB

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

A team of scientists has identified an "unconventional" immune response that can pave the way for developing new vaccines for tuberculosis (TB).

The team from Hackensack Meridian Center for Discovery and Innovation (CDI) in US zeroed in on Marginal zone B (MZB) cells -- a natural response to tuberculosis infection that has been long overlooked.

These cells, they said, would be a welcome new target that might be strengthened through new vaccinations to better treat and prevent the illness.

Using high-dimensional flow cytometry, the sci-



entists tracked the progression of infection in an animal model. In the paper, published in the journal Cell Reports, they demonstrated that B cells altered their immunological landscape towards MZB cells.

Detailed observation of this transition revealed that MZB cells responded

to infection with increased activity and memory-like phenotypic expression. As a result, cytokine patterns were altered, boosting cell-mediated immunity.

"This discovery opens a new avenue in TB vaccine development, suggesting that targeting B cells for their regulatory functions could be a promising new

strategy," said the team led by Martin Gengenbacher from CDI.

Because the only TB vaccine available, the 100-year-old Bacille Calmette-Guerin, or BCG, is now becoming highly unreliable, the team advocated improving BCG by designing it to encourage the formation and communication of B cells, an important component of the immune system.

The researchers' goal with this technique is to create a second-generation TB vaccine that will provide dependable and long-lasting protection against new infections while also helping treat current tuberculosis infections by complementing antibiotic therapy.

WHO urges action to boost access to rehabilitative & assistive tech

AGENCIES
DHAKA, JULY 16

The World Health Organisation (WHO) on Tuesday called on countries in the South-East Asia Region to accelerate access to rehabilitative and assistive technology services, which is crucial for enhancing quality of life and community participation.

Saima Wazed, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia said that rehabilitation services include right from "physical therapy for injury recovery to counselling for mental health and addiction recovery."

"These services are not merely about medical treatment; they are about restoring dignity, hope,



and the ability to participate fully in society," she added.

She was speaking at the three-day 'Regional Meeting on Accelerating Access to Rehabilitation in South-East Asia' being held in Dhaka.

"The last 20 year's trends depict that the need for rehabilitation is increasing in the South-East Asia region, and will further elevate in coming years, given the increasing prevalence of conditions associated with ageing and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)," she added.

Approximately 590 million people in the South East Asia region, including India, require rehabilitation services.

The greatest needs are for conditions such as low back pain, vision loss, fractures, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Primary healthcare facilities often lack sufficient rehabilitation services and benefit packages

offer inadequate coverage. Additionally, there is a significant shortage of healthcare professionals in this field. The Regional Director also called for integrating basic rehabilitation into routine health services and expanding innovative care models to ensure equitable access, especially for those in remote areas.

She said that persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected by public health emergencies and face significant inequalities across various spheres.

They are more likely to live in poverty, have risk factors for NCDs, and lack access to essential health services.

Study shows new users find AI-assisted smart speakers challenging

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

Despite their increasing popularity some smart speakers continue to lack screens, providing little to no visual information feedback, finds a study.

A small study led by researchers at Osaka Metropolitan University in Japan showed that the lack of screens is complicating the usability factor and leading to negative future consequences.

The study consisted of 39 participants from the young adult bracket who had never used these devices.

In the experiment, participants were instructed to complete 10 operation tasks on the smart speaker under four different conditions: speech or remote operation, with or without a display screen.

The results, published in the journal, Applied



System Innovation, revealed that while the user became skilled after two to three tries under all scenarios, the level of usability remained constant.

Lack of feedback from the system, as well as distrust of the system caused by response mistakes, may have contributed to usability concerns.

"These results will contribute to improving the usability of the ever-developing smart speakers,"

said Dr. Toshihisa Doi, a lecturer at the University's Graduate School of Human Life and Ecology.

"Though it is important to consider the technical aspects as the number of new products and services rise, we would like to continue our research to improve the usability and adoption of these technologies so that even those unfamiliar with them can enjoy their convenience without being left behind," Doi added.

Study shows why raw poultry is key reason for Salmonella poisoning

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

Most Salmonella illnesses from raw chicken are caused by few products with high levels of virulent strains, according to a study.

The researchers from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, US, suggest regulation efforts to focus on detecting and preventing those types of high-risk contamination.

While the poultry industry has in the last two decades "lowered the frequency of Salmonella in poultry, the number of people who are getting sick from these pathogens has not declined," said study co-author Matt Stasiewicz, Associate Professor in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition (FSHN) at the varsity. More than 2,600 serotypes, or sub-groups, of Salmonella bacteria exist. Although Salmonella Kentucky is one of the most common serotypes in the US chicken, it is less likely to cause human illnesses. In comparison, three more virulent strains have been linked to multiple outbreaks of salmonellosis.

Using a mathematical method the team set different levels and serotype thresholds to estimate the risk of getting ill from each strain.



"The baseline calculations yielded an estimate of about two salmonellosis cases per 1 million servings of chicken consumed," according to the study published in the Journal of Food Protection.

Salmonella Kentucky showed less than 1 per cent of illness risk. But products with high levels of Enteritidis, Infantis, or Typhimurium serotypes showed 69 per cent to 83 per cent risk of illnesses.

The findings may help the poultry industry to improve its processes and to find strategies to manage it.

However, the researchers stressed that consumers should still follow food safety guidelines when preparing poultry, such as washing their hands, avoiding cross-contamination, and ensuring the meat is properly cooked.

Study calls for limiting overprescribing of opioids to cut misuse, overdose

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

Overprescribing is the direct cause of opioid misuse and overdoses for people who don't know how to dispose the medicines safely, according to a study.

A team of researchers from the Network of Canadian Emergency conducted a study at seven emergency departments in Canada to evaluate the ideal quantity of the dosage to reduce misuse and control pain in patients.

Dr. Raoul Daoust, a clinical professor and researcher at the University of Montreal believes that it is imperative to check on the prescription practices to prevent any unwarranted consequences.

The study cited that

more than 7,500 people died of opioid overdoses in Canada in 2021, and over 68,000 people in the US in 2020.

"It is important to adapt opioid prescription practices to patients' analgesic needs for specific acute pain conditions," Dr. Raoul said.

He also suggested "minimising the number of unused opioid tablets that can be diverted or misused".

The team conducted the study on 2,240 participants, the average age being 51 who were asked to maintain a diary for 14 days on their consumption of opioids.

They were also followed up to check for the amount of pills they took (converted to 5 mg morphine per tablet).

Indian hospital sector's market cap surges 9X to Rs 3.5 trillion in FY24

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 15

The market cap of the Indian hospital sector surged 9 times from Rs 375 billion in FY20 to Rs 3.5 trillion in FY24 riding on improved pricing, higher insurance coverage, and dedicated shift towards complex surgeries such as transplants, a report showed on Monday.

Apart from the momentary Covid boost, there were many structural changes in the Indian healthcare space like increased health awareness, higher insurance coverage, growing acceptance towards modern hospital experience and

price hikes, thereby leading to improvement in EBITDA, return on invested capital (ROIC) and cash flows, according to the report by JM Financial Institutional Securities Ltd.

"This has brought in a lot of investor interest with eight hospitals raising Rs 36 billion (equity raise) over the last four years," the findings showed.

With operating cash flow (OCF) generation of large listed players rising (Rs 60.5 billion in FY24 vs Rs 24 billion in FY20), there is a new capex cycle emerging.

"It is in this expansion phase, we prefer play-

ers that are diversifying, aligned with core philosophy, focusing on growth plus profitability and are available at reasonable valuations," the report mentioned.

The hospital chains account for only 11-23 per cent of beds across key cities while small format hospitals (which may or may not sustain in the longer run) form the majority of beds at present.

Moreover, cities that are seeing good bed capacity addition, their population is also growing at a 3-3.5 per cent rate which can absorb sizable bed addition, said the report.

Six kids dead, cases rising in suspected Chandipura virus outbreak in Gujarat

AGENCIES
GANDHINAGAR, JULY 16

Gujarat Health Minister Rushikesh Patel on Monday announced that six children have died from suspected Chandipura virus infections in the past five days, while the number of cases has risen to 12.

"Of the 12 patients, four are from Sabarkantha district, three from Aravalli, and one each from Mahisagar and Kheda. Additionally, two patients from Rajasthan and one from Madhya Pradesh received treatment in Gujarat. Six deaths have been reported, but confirmation is pending based on sample results," Patel said.

Most of the deaths occurred at the civil hospi-



tal in Himatnagar in Sabarkantha district.

All 12 samples, including eight from Sabarkantha, have been sent to the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune for verification. The Minister assured the public that while there is no need for panic, caution is necessary.

"Over 400 houses and

19,000 people have been screened for the virus. Chandipura is not a new virus. It mainly affects children aged 9 months to 14 years and is more prevalent in rural areas. Symptoms include fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, and headache. A doctor should be consulted if these symptoms are observed," he said,

Patel said that in Gujarat, nine cases have been registered across four districts, with three cases involving individuals from other states residing in Gujarat.

"Samples have been sent to Pune for confirmation, and results are awaited. Though six deaths have been reported, it is too soon to confirm if they were caused by the Chandipura virus," he added.

The virus, a member of the Vesiculovirus genus in the Rhabdoviridae family, causes fever with flu-like symptoms and acute encephalitis. It is transmitted by vectors such as mosquitoes, ticks, and sandflies. The Chandipura virus, a member of the Rhabdoviridae family, leads to symptoms akin

to flu and can cause acute encephalitis, a severe inflammation of the brain. It was first identified in 1965 in Maharashtra and has been linked to various outbreaks of encephalitic illness in the country.

A significant outbreak occurred in 2003 in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, resulting in 183 deaths among 329 affected children. Sporadic cases and fatalities were also noted in Gujarat in 2004.

In the present situation, paediatricians at Himatnagar Civil Hospital suspected the virus after four children died on July 10 and subsequently sent their samples to NIV for confirmation. Four additional children later exhibited similar symptoms.

Union Budget: Healthcare leaders call for scaling up infra, medical tourism & tax reforms

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

Prioritising and scaling up investment, infrastructure, medical tourism, and tax reforms will be key to creating a new ecosystem that can support the nation's ambitious healthcare goals, said experts on Monday, ahead of the Union Budget 2024-25.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is expected to present the Union Budget 2024 on July 23. While the interim budget in February has provided a roadmap, the journey toward transforming the

entire healthcare landscape requires a comprehensive and concerted effort.

Speaking to IANS, Sugandh Ahluwalia, Chief Strategy Officer, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre (ISIC), New Delhi, said that a key expectation from the upcoming budget "is the reclassification of hospitals as infrastructure investments".

"This reclassification can attract significant private sector investment, which is essential for building state-of-the-art healthcare facilities. In addition, extending interest rate

subvention for medical equipment can alleviate financial burdens on hospitals, enabling them to upgrade their technology and improve service delivery," said Ahluwalia.

During the interim budget, the government had announced widening the coverage by including Anganwadi and ASHA workers. The experts urged the government to further widen the coverage by including the excluded self-employed, seniors above 70 years old, and other weaker groups.

"This initiative is expected to go a long way in deal-



ing with the acute shortage of doctors in India, especially in underserved areas," Alok Khanna, Head Marketing and Branding Officer at Medanta Lucknow, told IANS. He also

called on to "equip new medical colleges with state-of-the-art facilities and experienced faculty".

"The government needs to pay attention to attract young doctors to work in

tier II and III cities and rural areas to break the rural-urban divide and make quality care more accessible," he added.

Further, the experts lauded the announcement of a cervical cancer vaccination programme in the interim budget as a positive move.

"It is promising to note that the government plans to promote vaccination for girls aged 9 to 14 to prevent cervical cancer. However, to maximise the impact of this programme, it is essential to ensure widespread awareness and accessibility," Dr

Ajay Kohli, Group Head, Oncology and Director, Corporate Growth Initiatives North and Narayana Hospital Gurugram, told IANS. Stakeholders also

called for increasing policy support for medical tourism -- a significant foreign exchange earner.

"If we have to offer world-class and cost-effective treatment and care to patients even from the US, UK, and Europe, the government needs to take up the issue of flying time restrictions beyond certain hours through diplomatic channels. Cross-border partnerships can

further promote medical value travel," Baldev Raj, Founder and Chief, Prius Brand and Business Partners, told IANS.

He also stressed further pushing public-private partnerships (PPP) for "effective collaboration, hassle-free visas, advanced medical technology, knowledge exchange, and incentivised packages".

The experts also urged the government to focus significantly on pharma and the diagnostics sector to further strengthen India's status as a global leader in the healthcare industry.

Cong will snatch reservation & give it to Muslims if they form govt in Haryana: Amit Shah

AGENCIES

MAHENDRAGARH (HARYANA), JULY 16

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said the Congress snatched the reservation from backward classes in Karnataka and gave it to the Muslims.

"If Congress forms the government, they will do the same in Haryana too," Amit Shah said while addressing the state-level Backward Classes Samman Sammelan in poll-bound Haryana.

He said the Congress has always been against the backward classes. "In 1957, the Kaka Kalelkar Commission was formed for OBC reservation, but the Congress did not implement it for years. In 1980, Indira Gandhi shelved the Mandal Commission. When it was introduced in 1990, Rajiv Gandhi opposed OBC res-



ervation by giving a speech for two hours and 43 minutes."

He said in 2014 after becoming Prime Minister Modi had told the whole country that his government is the government of Dalits, poor and backward people.

"The BJP has done the work of giving the country its first empowered backward-class Prime Minister. By giving 27 out of 71 ministers from the

backward class, Narendra Modi ji has done the work of honouring the OBCs of Haryana and the country," Amit Shah said.

The Home Minister listed the work done by the Prime Minister for the OBC community and said that he ensured reservations for them in various educational institutions.

"I want to assure you that we will not allow Muslim reservation in Haryana," he said.

Challenging Congress leader and two-time chief minister Bhopinder Hooda, he said, "I have brought the account of every penny, come to the field with the data."

Ahead of the Assembly election, likely slated in October, the BJP, which is contesting the polls alone, is eyeing to woo backward classes that account for 27 per cent of the state's population.

This was the second visit of Amit Shah in less than three weeks to the state where the BJP has been in power since October 2014.

Earlier, the Home Minister was received by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and his Cabinet colleagues.

"The land of Haryana is known across the country for few things -- mothers here have sent their sons to the Army; in sports,

medals come for India but when we look closely, every seven out of 10 medals are bagged by the youth of Haryana..."

Patting the back of Saini's government, he said that the Cabinet has taken three decisions.

"First, increasing the creamy layer income limit from Rs 6 lakh to Rs 8 lakh. Second, the decision has been taken to change the reservation in panchayats. Eight per cent reservation was allocated for Group-A in panchayats, now five per cent reservation for Group-D will also begin from today... third, the municipal corporations' five per cent reservation for Group B will begin and the eight per cent reservation will remain as it is."

Without mincing words, he said the BJP would form the government in Haryana with a complete majority.

On Harela festival Uttarakhand CM plants sapling, announces target of 50 lakh trees

AGENCIES

DEHRADUN, JULY 16

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama took part in a 'plantation drive in the name of martyrs' on Tuesday and planted saplings in Dehradun along with party leaders, on the occasion of the Harela festival.

The Chief Minister planted a sapling under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign at the forest department's nursery and appealed to the people of the state to participate in the drive. He said that the country is taking big strides in increasing the forest cover to combat the vagaries of climate change and also announced the state government's pledge to plant 50 lakh saplings and trees this year.

"I appeal to everyone to plant trees in their homes, farmland and vacant land for greenery and happi-



ness. We have pledged to plant 50 lakh trees, this time," Dhama said.

Harela is a Hindu festival celebrated in Uttarakhand and some parts of Himachal Pradesh. Marking the beginning of Shrawan month, this festival symbolizes prosperity, good harvest and new beginnings.

Dhama said that Sanatan culture has always been about worshipping nature and Mother Earth and the Harela festival makes us

aware of our responsibilities towards them.

He added that Prime Minister Narendra Modi started the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, under which crores of trees have been planted so far.

People celebrate the Harela festival by praying for a good harvest and prosperity. One of the customs of the festival is seed planting, in which people plant wheat or barley seeds, hoping for a good harvest.

Bengal Assembly Monsoon Session to be stormy; Trinamool to raise NEET, BJP violence

AGENCIES

KOLKATA, JULY 16

The forthcoming Monsoon Session of the West Bengal Assembly that will begin from July 22 is expected to be stormy.

The ruling Trinamool Congress is expected to move two special motions on the floor of the House during the session.

The first would be on the demand for scrapping the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and restoring the previous system of individual state governments conducting the entrance exams.

This comes in the wake of the recent NEET-UG paper leaks and instances of bribery to accommodate ineligible candidates around the country.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has already sent



a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 24 raising the same demand.

According to Trinamool Congress insiders, the second motion will condemn the "hurried implementation" of the three new criminal laws nationally. The Chief Minister had written to the Prime Minister on this issue as well last month.

On the other hand, the BJP is considering moving

a motion seeking discussions on the recent post-poll violence and Kangaroo Court assaults in the state.

Although the session will begin from July 22, on the first day it will be brief and adjourned for the day after obituary mentions.

The Monsoon Session this time is expected to be for ten days, said an official from the Assembly secretariat.

Don't confine to AC rooms, Telangana CM tells Collectors

AGENCIES

HYDERABAD, JULY 16

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday asked district Collectors not to confine themselves to the air-conditioned comforts of their offices but make field-level visits to know the people's aspirations and make decisions with empathy.

He told the district Collectors that their every action should reflect that this is the people's government.

He was addressing a day-long conference of district Collectors at the State Secretariat.

Collectors and SPs from all 33 districts are attending the meeting which is discussing various issues including agriculture, Dharani, health, education, law and order and drug abuse.

Terming Collectors the eyes and ears of the government, the Chief Minis-



ter advised them to make decisions with a humane approach.

He advised Collectors to follow in the footsteps of eminent former IAS officers like S. R. Sankaran and Sridharan to identify people's problems.

"You should know the aspirations of people at the ground level. If you confine yourselves to AC rooms, you will also not get any satisfaction," he said.

Revanth Reddy emphasised that pro-people governance should be delivered in a transparent manner.

He told the Collectors

that they had the responsibility to implement six guarantees in a transparent manner and asked them to give people confidence that this was their government.

"You have the responsibility to ensure that the state moves forward with a balance between welfare and development," he said.

He wanted Collectors to take responsibility for supervising the functioning of government schools and government hospitals.

Asserting that the government is spending Rs 85,000 each on poor

students every month, he said the educational system was key to rebuilding Telangana.

He asked them to make sure that the educational system does not suffer.

He pointed out that when some teachers of government schools were transferred, the students reacted as if they were their family members. "Your performance should be such that people feel the same way when you are transferred," the Chief Minister said.

Stating that the Collectors have come from various states, the Chief Minister said they can serve people effectively if they integrate with the Telangana culture. "You should work by considering Telangana as your own state," he said.

He suggested that Collectors consider a geotagging system to protect government lands from encroachments.

The Chief Minister enquired about the resolution of problems under Dharani, the integrated land records management system launched by the previous BRS government, and asked Collectors to resolve the pending issues under Dharani as early as possible.

Referring to the applications rejected under Dharani, he wanted the Collectors to take steps to inform applicants about reasons for rejecting their applications.

He suggested additional options to solve the technical problems under Dharani.

He directed the Collectors to address the applications about the pending problems under Dharani by August 15.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhathi Vikramarka, ministers, Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari and several top officials are attending the conference.

First two phases of Navi Mumbai International Airport to be commissioned by March 2025

AGENCIES

MUMBAI, JULY 16

The much-awaited Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) will be commissioned by March 31, 2025, with the completion of two phases with 20 million passengers handling capacity per annum.

"Currently, about 65 per cent of the work is completed including one runway," said the Union Minister of State (MoS) for Civil Aviation Muralidhar Mohol who last week visited the airport site along with the Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation (Independent Charge) Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu.

"The airport will be

operational in March next year and it will further increase the connectivity for Mumbai, Thane, Kalyan, Pune and Western Maharashtra. The airport is quite ideally located. The first two phases will handle two crore (20 million) passengers annually with one terminal and one runway. Various agencies are currently engaged for the completion of two phases and the Centre is resolved for its commissioning by March 2025," MoS Mohol said.

The cost for the completion of the first and second phases is estimated at Rs 19,646 crore.

MoS Mohol said that the third phase with 30

million passengers handling capacity annually is expected to be operational by 2028-29 and the fourth phase with 20 million and the fifth phase with 20 million passengers handling capacity annually will be completed by 2023.

"After the completion of all these phases, the airport can handle 90 million (9 crore) passengers annually. The airport will then have two runways and four terminals," he said.

The two phases will handle .8 million metric tonnes of cargo annually and after the completion of all phases, the airport can handle cargo of 2.6 million metric tonnes annually.



MoS Mohol's statement is crucial as the former Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia had earlier said that the airport is on track to commence operation by the end of March 2025, adding that it will be connected through multimodal connectivity through rail, road, metro

and ultimately waterways.

The airport will be equipped with solar power plants capable of generating 36MW p/a after the completion of the entire project.

The airport is being developed under the Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Transfer (DBFOT)

model with a 40-year concession period. The state-run City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) is a nodal agency for the execution of the project. The airport is being built through a public-private partnership between the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Maharashtra government together with Mumbai International Airports Ltd (MIAL), which holds 74 per cent of the equity.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, who had visited the airport site last year, is personally keeping an eye on the development. In addition, the CM's War Room, which has been

operational for the last two years to review the status of various infrastructure projects in the state, is also preparing its periodic reports on airport development.

The Chief Minister had expected that the first plane would need to take off in September this year.

He has said that the government is making all efforts to further strengthen the airport connectivity through road, metro rail, and suburban railways.

The airport connects the Navi Mumbai Metro Line 1 and the Mumbai Metro Line 8.

Further, the airport is going to the starting point of the Mumbai-Hyderabad

high-speed rail corridor. The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority has already commissioned the 22 km Mumbai Trans Harbour Link which provides easy access to the airport from mainland Mumbai.

Meanwhile, MoS Mohol said that issues raised by the villagers, whose lands have been acquired from the airport, will be addressed through talks with the airport management. "They (villagers) will not be displaced but they will be paid a due compensation," the MoS said.

He added that the Centre is positive about naming the airport after the noted leader D.B. Patil.

BRS seeks disqualification of all 10 defected MLAs

AGENCIES

HYDERABAD, JULY 16

Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) on Tuesday urged Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar to disqualify all 10 BRS MLAs who defected to the ruling Congress party.

A delegation of BRS leaders led by party working president K. T. Rama Rao met the Speaker and presented a memorandum.

Rama Rao told the media after the meeting that they demanded the disqualification of turn-

coat MLAs under the Anti-Defection Act.

The BRS leader said since the party had already petitioned the Speaker for the disqualification of D. Nagender, they demanded the disqualification of the remaining nine MLAs.

The BRS delegation demanded the Speaker to immediately take a decision on their disqualification petition.

"We hope that the Speaker will take a decision soon on disqualification of defected MLAs. If he fails to take a decision, we will approach the

Supreme Court," he said.

The BRS leaders brought to the Speaker's notice that as per the Supreme Court judgment, the Speaker has to make a decision on disqualification within three months.

The Speaker was also informed that in accordance with the Supreme Court order, a Congress MLA was disqualified in Manipur for defection.

The opposition party leaders demanded the Speaker to take a decision as per the Supreme Court order. The Speaker was told that if he failed to

follow the Supreme Court order, this would bring disrepute to the post.

KTR, as Rama Rao is popularly known, said on the one hand Congress leader Rahul Gandhi posing for pictures in Delhi with the Constitution in his hands and claiming to protect it while on the other Congress party is throwing the same Constitution to wind in Telangana.

The BRS working president Rahul Gandhi was raising a hue and cry over defections in other states but was encouraging defections in Telangana.

Boost to Aatmanirbharta: Govt releases new list of 346 indigenous defence items

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JULY 16

The Ministry of Defence has notified the fifth Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) consisting 346 defence items in a major boost to Aatmanirbharta in defence production.

The items include strategically important Line Replacement Units/Systems/Sub-Systems/Assemblies/Sub-Assemblies/Spares & Components and raw materials, with import substitution value worth Rs 1,048 crore, according to a

Ministry of Defence statement issued on Monday.

These items will only be procured from the Indian Industry after the timelines of indigenisation as indicated in the list available on the Srijan portal (<https://srijandefence.gov.in>).

The Ministry of Defence had launched Srijan portal in 2020. On this portal, defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs) and Service Headquarters (SHQs) offer defence items to domestic industries, including MSMEs and

start-ups, for indigenisation.

The DPSUs will undertake indigenisation of the items mentioned in the fifth PIL through various routes including 'Make' procedure or in-house development involving the industry, including MSMEs.

This will provide impetus to the growth in the economy, enhanced investment in defence and lead to reduced import dependence. In addition, this will augment the design capabilities of domestic defence

Industry due to the involvement of academia and research institutions, the Ministry said.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), BEML Limited, India Optel Limited (IOL), Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE) and Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) are the DPSUs involved in defence items of the fifth PIL.

EAM Jaishankar reaffirms India's consistent, continued support to Mauritius on Chagos islands

AGENCIES
PORT LOUIS, JULY 16

India on Tuesday reiterated its consistent support to Mauritius for the restoration of Mauritius sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago while underlining "unwavering commitment" to its special and enduring partnership with the East African island nation.

"As we look at our deep and enduring relationship, Prime Minister, I would like to again assure you today that on the issue of Chagos, India will continue its consistent support to Mauritius in line with its principal stand on decolonisation and support for sovereignty and territorial

integrity of nations," said External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar while jointly addressing the media with the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Pravind Kumar Jugnauth.

The EAM, on a two-day visit to Mauritius, held extensive discussions with Jugnauth on various aspects of bilateral ties, including the development partnership, defence and maritime cooperation, economic and trade ties, and people-to-people linkages.

"I reiterated India's consistent and continued support to Mauritius in its quest for progress and prosperity.

After all, our ties with Mauritius benefit from

four Indian priority foreign policy approaches. You are part of our Neighborhood First policy, of our Vision SAGAR, of our Africa Forward Initiative, as well as to our commitment to the Global South. In addition, we share the closest of bonds from history and kinship," stated Jaishankar.

The EAM, along with the Mauritius Prime Minister, inaugurated High Impact Community Development Projects, exchanged MoUs, and handed over the first Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cards to two seventh-generation Indian-origin Mauritians.

In his address, Jaishankar - who had last visited Mauritius in February 2021



- highlighted that Mauritius is one of the first countries that he is visiting in his current term as External Affairs Minister.

"It underscores the strength and depth of our bilateral ties. It is also an opportunity to underline India's unwavering commitment to its special and

enduring partnership with Mauritius," he said.

As many as 12 community development projects - covering infrastructure, education, healthcare, public amenities, and sports - were virtually inaugurated on Tuesday.

"With this, 37 out of 96 such community projects

have become operational in the span of just one year. Eight more, I understand, will be inaugurated in the next two months in Rodrigues and Agalega," the Minister detailed.

An exchange of Project Plan Document between India's ISRO and Mauritius MRIC also took place on Tuesday, boosting space cooperation between the two countries as India looks forward to launching a satellite for Mauritius.

During the ceremony, the EAM handed over a royalty payment cheque of 1.3 million Mauritian rupees towards revenues earned from the sale of Mauritian nautical charts produced by the joint hydrography service.

Preserving shared history, India will support the Mahatma Gandhi Institute in digitising the documented records of indentured workers, as well as provide training to MGI staff through the National Archives of India.

The two countries also agreed to renew the term of the ICCR Chair in Sanskrit and Indian Philosophies at the MGI for another five years.

"Our relationship today has actually blossomed into a robust and multifaceted partnership. Indeed, it serves as a role model for India's successful development collaboration abroad... India remains committed to strengthening of this critical partner-

ship that is so important for the future of the Indian Ocean region," concluded Jaishankar.

On Wednesday, the EAM and the Mauritius PM are scheduled to inaugurate a MedClinic, built with Indian grant assistance, in Grand Bois, which adds to the list of signature projects in the country.

Jaishankar will also visit another India-assisted project, the Civil Service College in Moka, which will be ready for inauguration soon.

Strengthening the multi-dimensional bilateral relationship, the Mauritius PM had recently visited New Delhi for the swearing-in ceremony of the new Council of Ministers.

UN report condemns North Korea's 'extensive, multilayered' system of forced labour

AGENCIES
SEOUL, JULY 16

North Korea has maintained an "extensive and multilayered" system of forced labour in a bid to use it as a means of controlling and monitoring its people for the interest of the state, a UN report showed Tuesday.

The United Nations Human Rights Office released a new report on North Korea's use of forced labour, which was written based on 183 interviews conducted between 2015 and 2023 with victims and witnesses of such labour exploitation, Yonhap news agency reported.

The report said North Korea's use of forced labour has become "deeply institutionalised" and serious human rights

violations have been committed in the process.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) stated that "systemic" forced labour is used mainly to generate foreign currency for the state, with most of the money earned by workers going to the government, violating workers' rights.

In the latest report, the Seoul office of the OHCHR examined the widespread use of forced labour in North Korea, which constitutes a serious violation of international human rights law and, in some instances, may be considered a crime against humanity under international criminal law.

Notably, the report highlighted "the widespread use of violence and cruel, inhuman and

degrading treatment" by officials to discipline workers who fail to meet work quotas.

The report cited various testimonies from victims of the regime's forced labour system. These include individuals forbidden to leave their worksites and a female worker who was sexually abused by a political guidance officer.

Forced labour impacts nearly everyone's lives in North Korea, including military conscripts, workers in state enterprises and even school children. It involves construction, farming, logging and mining, which are often hard, arduous and dangerous.

The report stated that forced labour not only provides a source of free labour for the state but

also acts as a means for the state to control, monitor and indoctrinate the population.

The agency urged Pyongyang to end these slavery-like practices and ensure effective prevention, including clear definitions in national laws, especially policies that are discriminatory toward women.

The report further urged the government to replace the system of labour employment based on coercion, including the threat of detention.

To the international community, the agency recommended ensuring strict due diligence in any economic engagement with North Korea and close surveillance of supply chains originating directly and indirectly from the country.

Environmental approval granted for Australian plan to export solar electricity to Singapore

AGENCIES
CANBERRA, JULY 16

Authorities in Australia's Northern Territory (NT) on Tuesday granted environmental approval for the world's largest renewable energy and transmission project. The NT government and NT Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) granted principal environmental approval for SunCable's Australia-Asia PowerLink (AAPowerLink) project, Xinhua news agency reported.

The project aims to supply renewable energy to customers in Darwin, capital of the NT, and also to Singapore via a 4,300 km undersea cable from the early 2030s onwards.

Over two stages of development SunCable is aiming to develop the world's largest renew-



able energy precinct and deliver up to four gigawatts (GW) of electricity to Darwin and 1.75GW to Singapore.

According to SunCable the AAPowerLink is the world's largest renewable energy and transmission project in development.

Electricity will be generated and stored at a solar farm with a generation capacity of up to 10GW in the Barkly region of the NT over 600 km south of

Darwin before being transmitted to Darwin and on to Singapore.

Environmental approval has been granted for the generation and storage site, a High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission line from the precinct to Darwin, a Darwin converter station and an undersea HVDC cable from the converter to the end of Australian territorial waters at the border with Indonesia.

SunCable estimates the project will deliver more than 20 billion Australian dollars (\$13.4 billion) in economic value to the NT during the construction period and the first 35 years of operation.

Cameron Garnsworthy, managing director of SunCable, said in a statement that the approval would provide significant momentum to the project.

"SunCable is founded with the belief that Australia can lead the world's energy transition," he said.

"AAPowerLink presents a unique opportunity for the Northern Territory to be at the forefront of this global shift through the development of its world-class renewable energy resources to supply customers in Darwin and Singapore with 24/7 green electricity."

SunCable estimates the project will deliver more than 20 billion Australian dollars (\$13.4 billion) in economic value to the NT during the construction period and the first 35 years of operation.

Sri Lanka and US to enhance cooperation on maritime security

AGENCIES
COLOMBO, JULY 16

Sri Lanka and the United States have resolved to enhance cooperation on maritime security aimed at a safe maritime domain in the Indian Ocean, including through activities undertaken under Sri Lanka's tenure as Chair of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

Both countries affirmed the US commitment to a free, open, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region during the 5th Sri Lanka-USA Partnership Dialogue held in Washington on July 12, the Lankan Foreign Ministry stated on Tuesday.

The meeting was co-chaired by Acting Under Secretary for Political Affairs of the US Department of State John Bass and Foreign Secretary of

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka Aruni Wijewardane.

In the joint Statement released on Tuesday, the two countries expressed their shared commitment to economic prosperity, security cooperation, sustainable development, democracy and human rights, and people-to-people exchanges.

"The United States welcomed the signs of economic stabilization in Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka's steadfast commitment to the IMF programme and reforms, which will lay the groundwork for recovery, financial governance, and future growth," it mentioned.

"Sri Lanka expressed its sincere appreciation for US economic assistance during the past crisis, totaling more than a quarter-

billion dollars. The United States continues to support Sri Lanka's debt restructuring and economic and governance reform agenda to promote sustainable growth," it added.

Colombo also welcomed the planned arrival of the fourth High Endurance US Coast Guard Cutter transferred through the US Excess Defence Articles programme and a King Air aircraft to strengthen Sri Lanka's maritime domain awareness and respond to humanitarian and post-disaster needs, totaling \$30.18 million.

"The United States resolved to explore opportunities to increase support for Sri Lanka's hydrographic mapping capabilities and training and development of personnel in this field," the joint statement mentioned.

8 troopers, 10 terrorists killed in attack at Bannu military Cantt in Pakistan

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD, JULY 16

A major terror attack targeting a cantonment area at Bannu in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province has claimed the lives of eight security personnel, while at least 10 attackers have been neutralised in retaliatory action by the security forces.

As per the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), an attempt by 10 terrorists to enter the Bannu cantonment area during the early hours of Monday was foiled, forcing the attackers to ram their explosive-laden vehicle into the perimeter wall of the cantonment, resulting in the collapse of a portion of the wall and damaging some infrastructure.

The ISPR also confirmed that a suicide blast resulted in the martyrdom of at least eight security person-



nel, while the 10 terrorists who carried out the attack were neutralised after the security forces retaliated.

"In the ensuing operation, our troops effectively engaged the terrorists as a result of which all 10 terrorists were sent to hell," read a release issued by the ISPR.

"This timely and effective response by the security forces prevented a major catastrophe, saving precious innocent lives.

The gallant and selfless action of the security forces is a testament to the unrelenting resolve in the fight against terrorism," the release added.

The attack was a major one by the banned outfit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which, as per the ISPR statement, operates out of Afghanistan.

The ISPR statement maintained that the Hafiz Gul Bahadur group of TTP carried out the Bannu can-

tonment attack, adding that the outfit "operates from Afghanistan and had used Afghan soil to orchestrate acts of terrorism inside Pakistan in the past as well".

The latest attack by the TTP in Bannu adds to the series of attacks in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province since the government announced the launch of Operation Azm-e-Istehkam Pakistan to root out the menace of terrorism from its soil.

Pakistan maintains that it will not engage in any dialogue with the TTP and will act against it anywhere in the country.

Pakistan also claims that TTP is getting supported, facilitated, and financed by Afghanistan under the supervision of the Taliban government, a claim denied by the latter.

The latest attack also highlights the strong pres-

ence of TTP militants in the country, especially along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

Bannu, a city located close to North Waziristan and bordering areas with Afghanistan, has been a stronghold of the Taliban in the past. It also holds critical importance as its Central Jail houses a large number of arrested militants.

In 2012, the Taliban carried out a massive attack on Bannu Central Jail with at least 800 attackers, who broke into the prison and helped at least 400 militants to escape.

"Pakistan's armed forces will keep defending the motherland and its people against this menace of terrorism and will take all necessary measures as deemed appropriate against the threats emanating from Afghanistan," read the ISPR release.

South Korea vows to persuade trainee doctors to return to work

AGENCIES
SEOUL, JULY 16

South Korean Health Minister Cho Kyoo-hong on Tuesday said that he would continue to persuade trainee doctors to return to work, while most junior doctors remain unresponsive to the government's dovish attempts to resolve the ongoing walkout.

The government had set a deadline for Monday for hospitals to accept the complete resignations of trainee doctors, who have



left their worksites since late February in protest of the government's medical reform, a move to help them find jobs at other hospitals, Yonhap news agency reported.

However, only about 50 trainee doctors, out of some 13,000 at 211 training hospitals, returned to hospitals, according to the health ministry.

"Although we cannot

provide detailed information, it seems that not many have returned," Cho told a parliamentary session.

Cho said more trainee doctors may opt to leave instead of returning to hospitals, noting that the government will come up with policies to encourage them to start training in September.

The Monday deadline was seen as crucial for the government to help persuade junior doctors to return to hospitals, as it is linked to a timetable

for hiring new trainees in September.

Last week, the government also decided to withdraw all punitive measures against trainee doctors defying return-to-work orders to seek a breakthrough in the prolonged medical vacuum.

It also allowed trainee doctors who re-apply for the training programme starting in September to receive special treatment, such as an exemption from the rule prohibiting repeat applications to a department within the same year.

24 killed in water-related accidents in Mongolia over national holiday

AGENCIES
ULAN BATOR, JULY 16

At least 24 people lost their lives in water-related accidents in Mongolia during the national holiday known as Naadam, the country's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) reported on Tuesday.

Naadam, renowned for its traditional sports such as wrestling, archery, and

horse racing, is an official holiday celebrated annually from July 11 to July 15, reported Xinhua news agency.

Twenty-two of the victims were adults and the two others were children, the emergency agency said in a statement.

Specifically, five people aged between 21 and 43 drowned in the Green Lake in Ulaankhusoum of the western prov-

ince of Bayan-Ulgii on Sunday.

One of them drowned while swimming, and the others tragically died trying to rescue him.

Water levels in major rivers throughout Mongolia have exceeded warning levels by up to 40 cm, the agency said, urging the public to take necessary precautions to avoid preventable water-related accidents.

Gautam Adani amazed at US envoy Eric Garcetti's love for kadak chai, chole bhature

AGENCIES
AHMEDABAD, JULY 16

Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group, on Tuesday said he is amazed to see the adoption of Indian culture by Eric Garcetti, the United States Ambassador to India -- from drinking kadak chai to savouring chole bhature.

Earlier in the day, Garcetti visited the Adani Group's Khavda Renewal Energy Facility in Gujarat, saying it was a learning experience on how the company is helping India advance towards its zero-emissions goals.

In a post on social media platform X, Gautam Adani said he is grateful for the US envoy's visit to Adani's 30 GW Renewable Energy site at Khavda, as well as



the flagship Mundra Port.

"Invaluable insights on geopolitics, energy transition and India-US relations in an open and candid Q&A with Adanians," said Gautam Adani.

"Amazing to see his

adoption of Indian culture, from kadak chai to celebrating holi, to playing cricket to speaking in Hindi and eating chole bhature every day," he added.

The Adani Group is

developing the world's largest renewable energy project of 30,000 MW on barren land at Khavda in Kutch, Gujarat. Built across 538 sq km, it is five times the size of Paris and almost as large as Mumbai city.

"Inspired by my visit to the Khavda Renewal Energy Facility in Gujarat, where I learned about @AdaniGreen's innovative projects advancing India's zero-emissions goals," Garcetti earlier posted on X.

He said that sustainable energy is a cornerstone of environmental stewardship.

"Our bilateral partnership is key to shaping the solutions for a cleaner and greener future for the region and the world," Garcetti noted.

The commissioning of the first 2 GW at the world's largest renewable energy plant in Khavda within 12 months of breaking ground has set a record.

Spanning over 8,000 hectares, the Mundra Economic Hub offers investment options as the largest multi-product SEZ, Free Trade and Warehousing Zone (FTWZ) and Domestic Industrial Zone. Mundra, the first port of APSEZ, welcomed its maiden ship in 1998. Since then, the company has built a network of 15 ports and terminals on the east and west coasts of the country.

The flagship port Mundra became the first in India to handle 16 MMT cargo in a single month (October 2023).

Received over 1 lakh pre-bookings for new foldables in India in 28 hours: Samsung

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

Samsung India on Tuesday said it has secured record pre-bookings for its fifth-generation foldable devices, adding that more than 100,000 consumers pre-booked Galaxy Z Flip5 and Z Fold5 in the country in the first 28 hours.

As compared to the fourth generation foldables, the company said it received 1.7 times pre-bookings for Galaxy Z Flip5 and Z Fold5 during the first 28 hours, reflecting the growing confidence of Indian consumers in the foldable category.

In India, pre-bookings for Galaxy Z Flip5 and Z Fold5 opened on July 27 and the devices will go on



sale from August 18.

"We are delighted with the overwhelming response for our newly-launched Galaxy Z Flip5 and Galaxy Z Fold5 phones in India. The new devices prove our commitment to meeting the needs of our customers through innovative technology," said JB Park, President and CEO, Samsung Southwest Asia.

The Galaxy Z Flip5's

outer screen is now 3.78 times larger and offers more usability than ever before. Galaxy Z Fold5 also delivers the most powerful performance in the Galaxy Z series because it is the thinnest, lightest Fold yet, according to the company.

Galaxy ZFlip5 starts at Rs 99,999 (8GB/256 GB) while Galaxy Z Fold5 is available from Rs 154,999 (12GB/256 GB).

Indian pharma, healthcare sector saw 55 deals worth \$4.1 billion in Q2 2024

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

The Indian pharma and healthcare sector witnessed significant activity in the April-June quarter (Q2) this year with 55 deals totalling \$4.1 billion, marking an 8 times increase in values and a 10 per cent rise in volumes over the previous quarter, a report showed on Tuesday.

The average deal size surged from \$9.7 million in Q1 2024 to \$74 million this quarter, driven by 11 high-value deals worth \$3.4 billion, compared to just one high-value deal worth \$150 million in Q1 2024, according to the report by Grant Thornton Bharat.

"As India strives towards 'Viksit Bharat,'



we anticipate a substantial rise in the health budget to approximately 3 per cent of GDP in the upcoming Union Budget 2024," said Bhanu Prakash Kalmath SJ, Partner and Healthcare Services Industry Leader.

Compared to Q2 2023,

deal values increased by 57 per cent despite a notable \$2 billion deal in the previous year executed by Temasek Holdings to acquire a 41 per cent stake in Manipal Health Enterprises.

Volumes witnessed a similar trend with 49 per

cent growth, reaching 55 deals this quarter, up from 37 deals in Q2 2023, according to the report.

Domestic consolidations led in deal volumes, while outbound deals dominated in values, contributing 74 per cent to the M&A space.

Private equity (PE) activity in Q2 2024 saw 37 deals valued at \$2.7 billion, a 3 per cent increase from Q1 2024.

The largest PE deal was KKR Asian Fund IV's investment in Healthium MedTech, valued at \$843 million, accounting for 31 per cent of the quarter's PE values.

Indegene Limited led the IPO activity with a fund-raise of \$222 million in Q2.

Current international poverty line misleading: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

The currently-used international poverty line is misleading, and billions of foreign aid dollars could be utilised more effectively if the line was more accurate statistically, a study revealed on Tuesday.

The international poverty line, set by the World Bank, averages national poverty lines across low-income countries to ensure cross-country comparability based on food and non-food expenses.

As per the new statistical analysis, published in the journal Humanities and Social Science Communications, there are many faults in the estimation of the line.

A team led by Dr Michail Moatsos, a research fellow in the Department of Inter-



national Development, King's College London, said that the current poverty line shows a very skewed image of poverty, citing the case of Covid-19 which he believes impoverished many individuals but they are not represented properly because of the fault in this line.

The main problem with the current method, the team said, lies in the comparisons of 'purchasing power'.

Dr. Moatsos argued that outdated purchasing power parity calculations mislead poverty statistics, potentially affecting as

many as 190 million individuals.

Purchasing power parities are used by economists to compare average incomes across countries but are sometimes also used in comparing living standards.

While it is an easy idea to implement, it does not serve the real purpose of reducing poverty.

The team advocated for abandoning the current 'one-size-fits-all' approach in favour of implementing the UN's Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development in 1995, which defines what absolute poverty is.

However, this is not yet implemented consistently across member states.

The team suggests that there is an urgent need for official consideration of alternative approaches to monitoring global poverty.

Average revenue per user for Indian telcos to cross Rs 225 next fiscal: Report

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

As the data usage surges in India amid tariff hikes, the average revenue per user (ARPU) per month will increase by 25 per cent to Rs 225 in the next fiscal (FY26), a report showed on Tuesday.

The industry ARPU should dial up to a decadal high of Rs 225-230 by the end of next fiscal compared with Rs 182 last fiscal (FY24), according to a Crisil Ratings report.

"This increase will have two distinct levers -- one, the recent tariff hikes of 17-19 per cent by telcos and, two, organic

growth in data usage amid increasing 5G penetration," said Manish Gupta, Senior Director and Deputy Chief Ratings Officer, CRISIL Ratings.

"Customers have been uptrading their plans because of rising content consumption via video streaming, social media and online gaming resulting in higher ARPUs," he added. According to the report, the ARPU growth will be gradual over this fiscal and the next as the tariff hike becomes effective on the next recharge cycle for long-duration plans.

Similarly, the new spectrum capex is also likely to reduce as most of the

spectrum purchase was completed in fiscal 2023 and next significant spectrum renewal will be due in 2030.

This was visible in the recent auction held in June 2024 which saw bids for only Rs 11,341 crore, or 12 per cent of the total airwaves on offer. Nearly half of the amount spent was on spectrum renewals.

"The moderation in capex as well as healthy profitability will enable telcos to pare their debt to Rs 5.6 lakh crore next fiscal from peak debt of Rs 6.4 lakh crore in fiscal 2024," said Anand Kulkarni, Director, CRISIL Ratings.

Singapore's Temasek eyes \$10 bn investment in resilient India

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

As the Indian economy remains resilient on its way to become the world's third-largest one sooner than expected, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund Temasek is aiming to invest an additional over Rs 83,000 crore (about \$10 billion) in the country in the next three years.

The potential sectors Temasek is eyeing for investment in India are healthcare, consumption, financial services, digitisation and sustainability, according to reports.

Ravi Lambah, Temasek's head of India and strategic initiatives said the new investment will take Temasek's total investment in India to a massive \$47 billion.

The \$10 billion potential investment excludes what Temasek subsidiaries will invest in the country, according to the company executive. Temasek has been investing in the country for the last 20 years and its India exposure makes up 7 per cent of its global portfolio by underlying assets, up from 4 per cent in 2020.

The Singapore-based wealth fund has invested in Indian companies like Mahindra Electric Automobile Limited (MEAL), Zomato, Lenskart.

Eyewear retailer Lenskart in June raised \$200 million in secondary investment from Temasek and Fidelity Management & Research Company (FMR). India's economy is growing rapidly, amid a stock market boom, making it an ideal nation to invest as China falters.

Last fiscal (FY24), Temasek deployed around \$3 billion in India, its largest annual investment to date.

The startups in the country raised nearly \$7 billion in funding during the first half (H1) of 2024, more than the \$5.92 billion raised in H1 2023.

Adani Green's innovative projects advancing India's zero-emissions goals: US envoy Garcetti

AGENCIES
AHMEDABAD, JULY 16

The United States' Ambassador to India, Eric Garcetti, on Tuesday, said the visit to Adani Group's Khavda Renewal Energy Facility in Gujarat was a learning experience on how the company is helping India advance towards its zero-emissions goals.

The Adani Group is developing the world's largest renewable energy project of 30,000 MW on barren land at Khavda in Kutch, Gujarat.

Built across 538 sq km, it is five times the size of Paris and almost as large as Mumbai city.

"Inspired by my visit to the Khavda Renewal Energy Facility in Gujarat, where I learned about @AdaniGreen's innovative projects advancing India's zero-emissions goals," Garcetti posted on X social media platform.

He said that sustainable energy is a cornerstone of environmental stewardship. "Our bilateral partnership is key to shaping the solutions for a cleaner and greener future for the region and the world," Garcetti noted.

The commissioning of the first 2 GW at the world's largest renewable energy plant in Khavda within 12 months of breaking ground has set a record.

Homegrown Namma Yatri app raises \$11 mn with Google as investor

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, JULY 16

Community-led mobility app Namma Yatri on Tuesday said it has raised \$11 million (about Rs 92 crore) in a pre-Series A funding round led by Blume Ventures and Antler, with participation from Google and other investors.

Moving Tech, the company behind community-led mobility apps Namma Yatri, Yatri Sathi, Yatri and Mana Yatri, said it will invest the fund in technology, R&D and product innovations.

Moving Tech, a spin-off from Juspay, launched open mobility app, Yatri, in 2020.

Subsequently, it



launched Namma Yatri in Bengaluru in 2022.

Namma Yatri and its family of apps are fully open-source, with open data metrics, and part of the ONDC Network.

"With our people-first approach, our goal is to build empathetic products and tech that are 10x better. This funding will enable us to innovate and grow further," said Mag-

izhan Selvan and Shan MS, Co-founders of Moving Tech.

The apps aim to create a transparent, efficient, and sustainable transportation ecosystem, aspiring to be the "UPI for mobility."

"We were amazed by the simplicity of what the tech and a robust product can do to solve mass mobility," said Karthik Reddy, Partner at Blume Ventures.

Moving Tech is live in eight cities and towns, having facilitated 46 million trips, generating Rs 7 billion in driver earnings without commissions.

With a user base of 7 million and 400,000 drivers, the firm is growing rapidly, said the company.

realme 13 Pro Series 5G dual sensor & ultra clear camera with AI deliver DSLR-level shots

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

The evolution of smartphone cameras from their humble beginnings to today's sophisticated multi-lens systems is truly remarkable.

Driven by relentless innovation and advancements in sensor technology, smartphone cameras have become a force to be reckoned with. Higher resolution sensors, combined with sophisticated image processing algorithms, have propelled image quality to a level comparable to dedicated

DSLR cameras.

The introduction of dual-camera setups unlocked even greater creative potential, enabling features like depth sensing for stunning portrait mode effects and true optical zoom capabilities.

Today, flagship smartphones boast impressive multi-camera arrays, often incorporating wide-angle, telephoto, and even ultra-wide lenses.

This versatility empowers users to capture a diverse range of scenes with unparalleled flexibility and quality.

realme exemplifies

a relentless pursuit of excellence, consistently striving to deliver cutting-edge camera technology to its users. With each new device, realme introduces innovative features and advancements, pushing the boundaries of mobile photography.

This dedication to innovation is evident throughout realme's history.

As one of its initial smartphones, realme 5 Pro made waves with the first quad-camera array in its segment, while the realme 8 Pro boasted the first 108MP camera. The realme 9 Pro+ further

solidified this reputation by optimising the Sony IMX766 Sensor with Pro-Light Technology.

realme's impact on smartphone camera technology is undeniable. The realme XT marked a milestone with the world's first 64MP camera, offering the highest megapixel count in a smartphone at the time.

The 10 Pro+ and 11 Pro+ 5G continued this trend, featuring the flagship HyperShot Imaging Architecture and the world's first 200MP camera with 4x in-sensor zoom, respectively.

Australia's new T20I addition Connolly 'couldn't believe' his call-up

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 16

Australia will tour the United Kingdom in September for a white-ball series against Scotland and England as chief selector George Bailey named a 15-man squad led by Mitchell Marsh on Monday. The 16-year-old Cooper Connolly made the headlines after getting his maiden call-up for the T20I matches on the tour.

The vibrant cheers of over 50,000 fans at Optus Stadium during the Big Bash League (BBL) final 2023 is a memory etched in the minds of cricket enthusiasts. However, for Connolly, his belief and journey to that moment began three years earlier, in the quieter and less glamorous setting of Wil-

lowmoore Park in Benoni, South Africa. This venue, situated about 20 kilometers east of Johannesburg, witnessed a pivotal moment in the career of the young left-hander from Perth.

The crowd barely reached three figures that day, a stark contrast to the massive audience at the BBL final. Yet, for the then 16-year-old Connolly, the stakes were just as high. Thrust onto the world stage due to Jake Fraser-McGurk's unfortunate exit from the tournament after a monkey scratch incident, Connolly seized his opportunity.

In the final game of the 2020 men's Under-19 World Cup, he scored a 47-ball half-century against the West Indies. This performance was a precursor

to his knack for delivering under pressure, a trait that would define his career in the years to come.

In the subsequent four years, Connolly's skill would be instrumental in leading the Perth Scorchers to a record fifth men's Big Bash title and securing three consecutive Sheffield Shield victories for Western Australia. His journey from a promising teenager to a key player on the big stage culminated in his recent selection for Australia's T20 squad for the upcoming tour of the UK, marking his maiden international call-up.

The call from national selector Tony Dodemaide was a "surreal moment" for Connolly. "I couldn't sit still, I was walking around the for about 10-15 minutes, it was such a surreal

moment," Connolly told cricket.com.au.

Despite his success with the Scorchers and WA, Connolly admits that he is venturing into uncharted territory. "I've never experienced this level (international cricket), so it'll be nice to learn from some of the guys going, some quality players including the likes of Travis Head," he said.

"I'll get (over) there, get learning and hopefully, if I get my opportunity, I'll make the most of it."

With limited top-level experience, having played only 15 games since his BBL debut in January last year, Connolly's adaptability stood out. His exposure to different conditions, including captaining Australia at the 2022 U19 World Cup in the West

Indies and touring India, added to his credentials.

Connolly's ability to perform under pressure was evident in the BBL 12 final against Brisbane Heat, where he scored a crucial 25 not out from 11 balls, swinging the match in the Scorchers' favour. This knack for delivering in critical moments earned him a reputation as a reliable middle-order finisher, a role previously held by seasoned players like Matty Wade and Marcus Stoinis.

As he prepares for the UK tour, Connolly remains grounded and focused on his growth. At just 20, he recognises that he is far from a finished product. "I'm trying to take every opportunity because I want to allow myself the best opportunity to represent my country in any position that's required," he said. Despite his desire to open the batting, he acknowledges the learning curve and aims to excel in the middle-order role where he has already shown promise.

"I found my way a little bit towards the back end of the Big Bash last season at six and worked out how to play that role a bit better. I still want to open the batting, it's quite a good spot to be.

"It's just going to take some time and it was something new to me, I haven't had that much exposure or experience with it so over time I'll hopefully get better and maybe get some opportunities in coming years."

Reflecting on his journey, Connolly often recalls

the day in Benoni in February 2020, a defining moment that sparked his rapid rise.

His performance in that tournament as a 16-year-old was a significant confidence booster, laying the foundation for his future endeavours.

"That tournament doesn't feel long ago at all," he said. "I made (64 off 53 balls) at 16 years of age which was a real confidence booster for myself, I thought I could potentially make it to the next level."

"It was strange circumstances that I got the opportunity and I just tried to make the most of it as much as I could. It's always nice to have in the back of your mind but then again I was 16 at the first one and 18 at the last one, there's so much

growth that has happened between then and now.

"And I feel like there's so much more growth I can give to my cricketing ability and hopefully I can show some of my talent if that opportunity presents (in the UK).

"It's pretty surreal to be saying that I could be standing shoulder-to-shoulder with some of these guys, it won't feel real for the first bit but hopefully I can settle in ... have some fun and see what happens."

Australia T20 squad: Mitchell Marsh (c), Xavier Bartlett, Cooper Connolly, Tim David, Nathan Ellis, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Cameron Green, Aaron Hardie, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Spencer Johnson, Marcus Stoinis, Adam Zampa.

I want to give my best at Paris Olympics: Kishore Jena

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

Javelin thrower Kishore Jena, holder of the second-longest throw by an Indian, is aiming to achieve his personal best at his Olympic debut in Paris 2024.

Jena's story is unique. After stepping away from the sport for three years to focus on his job with the CISF, it was Neeraj Chopra's Olympic success that motivated him to return. "My journey in javelin began in 2014-15. For over 20 years, our state record for a javelin throw was 65m. Then in September 2017, I broke the 20-year-old record with a 72.77m throw. That gave me confidence. In 2018, I got employed by CISF through the sports quota. Between 2018-2020, I prioritised my



job and focused on helping my family over playing the sport," said Jena on JioCinema's 'The Dreamers'.

The turning point came after Chopra's gold medal win at Tokyo 2020. "When Neeraj won at the Olympics, we celebrated and enjoyed his victory. But honestly, the victory also left me dejected because I too was playing the same

sport. I felt it was time for me to achieve something in sports. My coach at CISF suggested that if I try and nail a 75m throw, he would help me get into the national camp. My hard work and spirit helped me achieve 76.4m, which got me in," Jena recounted.

Resuming his javelin career wasn't without its challenges. "I participated

in the Lebanon National Championships after a dip in my rankings at the World Championships and produced a throw of 78m. Despite giving it my all, I couldn't achieve much. I started doubting if all the hard work was worth it. I called my father, who encouraged me to participate in the next competition in Sri Lanka."

Sri Lanka proved to be a pivotal moment. Jena's remarkable 84.38m throw not only boosted his confidence but also set the stage for his impressive performances at the 2022 Asian Games and 2023 World Championships, earning him a spot at Paris 2024. "I decided the event in Sri Lanka would be my last attempt, after which I would quit and go back to prioritizing work and family. With God's grace,

I performed well, producing a throw of 84.38m which led to my qualification for the World Championships. I performed well in the World Championships as well, achieving a personal best of 84.77m," Jena shared.

"I followed it up with another personal best of 87.54m at the Asian Games, securing my ticket to Paris 2024. I now want to give my best at Paris. I am quite confident. While I haven't set any particular targets, I am aiming to improve my personal best."

Kishore Jena's impressive achievements include a silver medal at the 2022 Asian Games and a top-five finish at the 2023 World Championships. He is now poised to compete in the javelin throw event at Paris 2024.

AIFF urges support for national teams from sports ministry

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

The All India Federation for Football (AIFF) has urged the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MOYAS) to support the development of the national teams.

AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey, along with acting secretary general M. Satyanarayan and treasurer Kipa Ajay, met the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Manu- suksh Mandaviya and his team on Monday.

"The AIFF requested the Ministry of Sports for support in four particular areas. Firstly, the AIFF wishes to utilise all FIFA International Match Windows throughout the year

for both men and women. Secondly, support for the head coach of both the senior men's and women's teams. Thirdly, the preparation camp and support for the 2026 Asian Games for men's and women's football teams. Lastly, support for a specialised goalkeeper academy. Dr. Mandaviya assured that the government will try to provide all the necessary support within their policy," the national football body said in a statement. Mandaviya assured that the government will try to provide all the necessary support within their policy.

On July 14, Mandaviya inaugurated the Blue Cubs Development Centre for Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council Football Academy in Srinagar. The AIFF president visited Jammu and Kashmir in April 2023. Currently, the AIFF and the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council are involved in several projects for youth football in the union territory, which was appreciated by Dr. Mandaviya. Jammu and Kashmir has rich potential for football development and the AIFF hopes its efforts will make value addition to it in the state where the game is hugely popular. Satyanarayan said: "Yesterday, we had a good hour-long meeting with the honourable Sports Minister. He emphasised that football is a popular sport and has a huge role to play.

Bawa enters World Junior squash semifinal; Anahat bows out

AGENCIES
HOUSTON (US), JULY 16

Shaurya Bawa became only the second Indian male after Kush Kumar (in 2014) to reach the semifinals of the World Junior Squash Championships.

The 18-year-old from Delhi, seeded 17/32, rallied to beat Malaysia's Low Wai-Sern 2-11, 11-4, 10-12, 11-8, 12-10 in the boys' quarterfinals to assure India of a medal.

In a thrilling clash that lasted 80 minutes, Bawa was down 6-9 and 7-10 in the fifth game but remarkably saved 3 match balls for victory.

Bawa showed impressive determination and composure in his semifinal win over Low, fighting back from three match balls down to secure a victory, with the Indian collapsing to the ground after the win as the realisation



of his achievement sank in.

He will meet Egyptian top-seed Mohamed Zakaria in the last-four stage.

Meanwhile, compatriot Anahat Singh (seeded 5/8) bowed out in the girls' quarterfinals for a third straight year. The 16-year-old women's National champion lost a close five-setter to Nadien Elhammamy, the Egyptian winning 11-8, 11-9, 5-11, 10-12, 13-11.

Elhammamy, who five days ago celebrated her

17th birthday, started well against the 16-year-old Indian, opening up a 2-0 lead as she defended Anahat's attacking game well.

The Indian came back hard in game three, though, reducing the deficit with an 11-5 win in game three and a hard-fought 12-10 victory in game four. Anahat appeared to have completed the comeback when she went 10-8 up in the fifth game, only for Elhammamy to dig in spectacularly to force a tie break.

Elyse Villani 'really passionate' to lead Hobart Hurricanes to WBBL title glory

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

Australia cricketer Elyse Villani is gearing up for a standout season in the upcoming Women's Big Bash League (WBBL), determined to turn Hobart Hurricanes into title contenders.

The Hurricanes, despite their success in Tasmania's domestic one-day cricket, have struggled to replicate that dominance in the WBBL, reaching the finals just once in the past seven seasons. Villani, recommitting to the club for another two years, is on a mission to change that narrative.

The Hurricanes' core group has remained largely unchanged, mirroring the team that clinched three consecutive Women's National Cricket League titles.

However, their WBBL performance has been less consistent, hampered by the presence of international stars and the unique



challenges of the 20-over format. Villani, passionate about elevating the Hurricanes' game, believes the team has yet to meet its potential.

"I'm really passionate about looking to make the Hurricanes better," Villani, who has signed a new two-year contract with the club told cricket.com.au.

"I feel like we've underperformed for the last couple of years, I feel like we've got a great core list together and it's just a great opportunity to actually change the narrative around the Hurricanes.

"We've already started having some really good

conversations around (improving) and I feel like we're really clear on our processes in our 50-over game down here, and it's about trying to get that clarity as much as possible in the T20 game and finding out what our identity is as a Hurricanes team.

"There's obviously a lot more pressure moments, the game's shorter, so you've got to adapt a lot quicker. But we're certainly not shying away from those conversations."

Despite being the second

leading run-scorer for the Hurricanes last season, with 324 runs at a strike rate of 116, she acknowledges there's room for improvement.

"I thought my season was all right, but I feel like I'm capable of more. I want to set the tone at the top of the order, as the captain, it's really important for me to perform first and foremost."

Pre-season efforts have focused on power hitting, an area Villani is keen to enhance.

"We've been working on our power hitting, which will put us in great stead both in the T20 competition and for the Tigers. The power-hitting is a big thing, but I'm just managing that as well. There's no point having good power unless you're making good decisions."

Villani spent the winter honing her skills in Hobart after missing out on selections in the WPL auction and The Hundred draft. She, along with several

Hurricanes players, will participate in the T20 Max in Brisbane, a vital opportunity to test pre-season improvements.

"It's one thing to do it in the nets and on the training track, but any games that you get an opportunity to practice that is paramount to setting yourself up for the season."

As the Hurricanes look to strengthen their squad, they have yet to announce if they will utilise the new signing provision allowing clubs to recruit one overseas player for up to three years outside of the draft. However, securing the first pick in the draft lottery positions them well to acquire top international talent.

Preliminary discussions are underway, with a middle-order batter high on the priority list. "Ultimately, you want to go for the best available talent and also combine that with what's really important for our list needs," Villani said.

MLC: Short, Plunkett's efforts power San Francisco Unicorns to win over Seattle Orcas

AGENCIES
MORRISVILLE, JULY 16

A remarkable half-century from Matthew Short followed by a solid performance from the bowlers helped San Francisco Unicorns beat Seattle Orcas by 23 runs in the Major League Cricket match here at Church Street Park.

After Short's 32-ball 56 took San Francisco Unicorn to 165/7, Liam Plunkett's Man of the Match performance of 3-26 with the ball restricted Seattle Orcas to 142/6 in the chase.

The victory was San Francisco Unicorn's second of the season as Seattle Orcas suffered their third loss.

Openers Shehan Jayasuriya and Ryan Rickelton provided a flying start to the Seattle Orcas, as they amassed as many as 54 runs in the Powerplay. Jayasuriya hammered 18 runs, including three fours, in Haris Rauf's first over, putting the Orcas in a strong position at the end of the first six overs.

Rickelton, who scored 29 off 21 balls, was dismissed by Plunkett in the

ninth over, and Quinton de Kock fell cheaply to Short in the following over. Jayasuriya, on the other hand, brought up his half-century in 35 balls, but was dismissed by Pat Cummins in the 11th over.

The San Francisco Unicorns made a strong comeback with three wickets in three overs. They continued their momentum with back-to-back wickets in the 13th and 14th overs.

Aaron Jones was caught and bowled by Plunkett, while Corey Anderson removed Heinrich Klaas-



en, leaving the Seattle Orcas struggling at 103/5, with 63 runs required in the final six overs.

Harmeet Singh and Hammad Azam then

approached cautiously. They added 30 off 21, but the Unicorns struck again as Harmeet tried to slog on Plunkett's last ball of his spell. Rauf and Cummins

then bowled exceptional final two overs to ensure a clinical win for their team.

Earlier, the San Francisco Unicorns were invited to bat first. They faced an early setback as Jake Fraser-McGurk (11 off 10) was bowled by Imad Wasim in the third over. Matthew Short and Fin Allen then took control of the game, as they exploited a wicket that offered good bounce and pace. The duo scored more than 10 runs per over, constructing a commanding partnership of 75 runs off 40 balls. Allen

scored a fiery cameo of 34 off 18 balls before falling to Wasim in the 9th over.

By the halfway mark, the Unicorns were cruising at 106/2 and looked set for a big total. However, Short's (56 off 32) dismissal in the first ball of the 11th over swayed the momentum towards Seattle Orcas. The ball that had come on nicely in the first half of the innings, started behaving differently in the second, as Seattle Orcas made a comeback to contain the Unicorns, taking wickets in quick intervals.

Corey Anderson (5 off 11) was dismissed by Cameron Gannon in the 13th over, followed by Josh Inglis (8 off 8) in the next over, by Harmeet Singh.

With the Unicorns struggling at 122/5 after 14 overs, Hassan Khan and Sanjay Krishnamurthi forged a crucial partnership, adding 31 runs off 27 balls to reach the 150-run mark in the 18th over. However, Khan (10 off 13) was dismissed in the same over by Gannon, who finished his spell with impressive figures of 3/26.

Investor Awareness Program' held at DC Office Complex Srinagar



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 16

The National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) & Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Tuesday organised an 'Investor Awareness Programme' here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

The event featured addresses by Gyanendra Niraj (DGM, SEBI);

Joginder Singh (VP, NSE) and Ankit Sharma (CRO, NSE).

The speakers in their address focused on empowering investors with knowledge about market dynamics, investment opportunities, and regulatory safeguards designed to protect their interests.

They laid bare the trajectory of how one should shift from the personal savings to investments in order to create wealth and fetch maximum benefits under long term plans.

They also talked about the money misunderstanding and urged the audience to make informed decisions before investing.

The program aimed to educate employees of Deputy Commissioners Office about the importance of prudent financial planning and the benefits of a transparent and well-regulated market.

Among others, the event was attended by senior officials of DC Office Srinagar. The program was coordinated by M Izhar (DM), NSE.

Adi Shakti Seva Sansthan Udhampur organises 18th Pingla Mata Akhand Jyoti Yatra

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JULY 16

One-day annual Pingla Mata Yatra was taken out today with religious fervor and enthusiasm, organized by Adi Shakti Sewak Sanstha, Pingla Mata Udhampur. Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Joginder Singh Jasrotia was the Chief Guest who formally flagged of the yatra on the occasion. Former Legislator, Balwant Singh Mankotia, Former President MC, Jogeshwar Gupta, Ex-BDC Chairman Ghordi, Aarti Sharma, Ex-Councillors, Station House Officer, Raghuvir Chaudhary, President, Adi Shakti Sansathan Pingla Mata, Ashok Gupta were present on the occasion. While speaking on the occasion the Chief guest congratulated the organiser for holding such



a religiously affair. He said that such type of efforts will go a long way to inculcate religious beliefs and keeping society away from drug addiction.

Devotees were seen enthusiastic to pay their obeisance at the sacred shrine of Pingla Mata situated on a hill top at village Pinger in Tehsil Ramnagar of district Udhampur.

President ASSS Pingla Mata, Ashok Gupta said that in the annual affair, free langar and light refreshment stalls were organized by the Sanstha and local people at different locations en-route the Cave Shrine. Beside this bus services were also arranged for the devotees from Udhampur to Village Kahua the base camp of

the Cave Shrine.

He thanked the devotees in general and people in particular who came forward to support the Sanstha in organising such affairs in a successful manner. He also extended heartfelt gratitude to the district administration for elaborate arrangements of security, drinking water, power, sanitation etc.

5 days Internship Program concluded at Govt. College of Education, Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 16

Govt. College of Education Jammu host 5 days Internship Programme for 20 students of Govt. Degree College Marh, studying in B.A 5th semester, having Education as major subject (NEP 2020) as per University of Jammu Status. The Internship Programme was started on 10th July 2024. The Programme has been successfully completed under the leadership of Dr. Rakesh Kumar Koul (Principal) GDC, Marh & Dr. Jyoti Parihar (Principal) GCOE, Jammu. Dr.(Prof.) Jyoti Parihar, Principal of the college welcomed the students and deliberated that this Internship program will provide a huge platform to all students for practicing Micro Teaching skills. The coordinator for the 5 days Internship was Dr. Rajinder Kour who delivered interactive session on Micro-Teaching and its various skills whole heartedly.

The other resource persons for the Internship session were Dr. Rakesh Bharti Assistant Professor in Education & Kiran Thapa Assistant Professor in Education who delivered wonderful presentation on skill of stimulus variation & skill of Questioning respectively. The certificate of participation were awarded to all the students during the valedictory function. The Co-ordinator who supervised the whole programme was Dr. Ashu Jolly (HOD Education from GDC Marh).

DDC Reasi reviews functioning of School Education Department in Reasi

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, JULY 16

District Development Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan convened a meeting today to thoroughly review the status and performance of the School Education Department in Reasi.

Chief Education Officer Mushtaq Ahmed provided a detailed overview of the education sector during the meeting.

In his remarks, DDC Mahajan emphasized the importance of nutrition and education, particularly through the mid-day meal program. He mandated that schools participating in the mid-day meal program establish kitchen gardens, with assistance from the Agriculture Department.

Addressing the academic challenges, DDC Mahajan instructed that additional classes be arranged



for students struggling in specific subjects. He also suggested implementing online classes in schools facing teacher shortages and emphasized the need for regular doubt-clearing sessions to support student learning.

DDC Mahajan reviewed the performance of the 10th and 12th-grade students. He expressed concern over schools with pass rates below 50% and announced stringent measures, including the sus-

pension of salaries for the entire staff in such schools, to ensure accountability and drive improvement in educational outcomes.

He directed teachers to conduct regular class tests and urged teachers to provide the best possible education to students for the betterment of the district.

ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, CPO Narinder Kumar, Heads of the educational institutions, ZEO's and other officers were present.

Director Horticulture launches massive plantation drive in District Kathua

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 15

Director Horticulture Jammu, Chaman Lal Sharma today conducted an extensive tour of Kathua district. During the tour, he launched the plantation drive under the scheme Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in district Kathua by planting saplings of Mango plants in the farmer's field at village Hira Nagar and Barnoti in the presence of Chief Horticulture Officer Kathua Ashwani Sharma, District Horticulture Officer, Horticulture Development Officer & farmers.

During the programme, the Director had an interaction with the farmers wherein he stressed the need to encourage High Density Plantation in the area. He also stressed the importance of these initia-



tives in promoting sustainable agricultural practices and enhancing the economic stability of farmers.

During the programme, the Director also handed over keys of Tractors & Power Tillers to the beneficiaries under HADP (Farm Mechanization & Automation) at Hira Nagar village.

The Director Horticulture Jammu take the pledge to Green Jammu

with 10 lacs fruit plants during the Rainy Season.

CHO Kathua asked the farmers to come forward to avail the benefits of various schemes and also addressed the technical issues of the farmers related to the production of fruit crops.

Further, the Director Horticulture chaired a meeting of the District Officers, Horticulture

Development Officers, officials & field functionaries of district Kathua.

At the outset, Chief Horticulture Officer, briefed the chair about the progress made under all the schemes being implemented in the district.

While taking a review of the

ongoing schemes, Director Horticulture impressed upon all the officers and officials to expedite the works undertaken for the development of the departmental nurseries and organize awareness camps, Kissan Goshtis, etc. to ensure better implementation of departmental schemes for the ultimate benefit of the fruit growers.

Director Agriculture Jammu launches new honey packaging to enhance Quality of Honey for Consumers



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 16

Director Agriculture Jammu, S. Arvinder Singh Reen launched new packaging of Honey produced at Departmental Farms/Apiaries, featuring upgraded packaging to maintain quality and meet consumer demands at revised rates at Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo Jammu.

Director Agriculture, Jammu addressing the launching event emphasized that the new packaging and revised rates demonstrate commitment to support the Apiculture industry and providing quality products to our

consumers. He added that the new packaging include glass bottles replacing plastic bottles to ensure quality. He also disclosed that FSSAI registration of Apiculture Development Scheme, Jammu for Honey also been done to meet the quality parameters for sale of Honey.

He further expressed that newly designed stickers with FSSAI number and detailed information about the honey and facilities available at DCTC, Apiculture Development Scheme, Krishi Bhawan, Jammu such as Honey Processing Unit, Honey Bottling Unit, Honey Testing Lab, Demonstration cum training center and Bee

Flora Garden to make the packaging attractive & informative so that the concerned farmers/consumers can get the benefits. He said that half kg packaging is also introduced to make it customer friendly.

Appreciating the initiatives taken by the Apiculture Development Scheme, Jammu such as providing training, mentoring, and infrastructure support to the Beekeepers, Director Agriculture commended the efforts which have not only helped the beekeepers but also contributed significantly to the growth of the Apiculture Sector in the Jammu Region.

He assured that these initiatives aim to promote

high quality honey marketing and provide consumers with a premium product at reasonable rates. The revised rates will ensure fair pricing for both producers and consumers effective from 15th July.

Joint Director of Agriculture (Extension) Satish Sharma, Deputy Director (Central)/ Liaison Officer Apiculture & Mushroom Development, Jammu Dr. Ashwani Kumar, Agronomist Vikas Padha, Subject Matter Specialist (RL) Darmesh Vaid, and Assistant Entomologist, Jammu Rajesh Verma graced the occasion with their presence. The programme was effectively conducted by Amit Sharma AEA Apiculture.

DDC B'la chairs DLIC meeting; approves 43 cases under Mission Youth schemes

JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, JULY 16

The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa on Tuesday chaired the District Level Implementation Committee meeting at the meeting Hall of DC Office Complex, here to review the implementation of MUMKIN, Tejaswini and SEI schemes in the district.

At the outset, the chair was comprehensively briefed about the current status of the cases that were approved in previous DLIC meetings, and several new cases of unemployed eligible youth in the district were presented to the Committee for approval under MUMKIN, Tejaswini and SEI schemes. After thoroughly reviewing the cases, the DDC approved 20 new cases under MUMKIN, 20 Tejaswini cases and 03 cases under SEI schemes, thereby enabling them to explore self-employment avenues to significantly improve their livelihoods.

During the meeting, DDC directed the Lead District Manager to sanction all pending cases under Mission Youth schemes by or before 31st July, 2024



and instructed the officers to diligently prepare and gear up for various activities aimed at empowering unemployed youth of the District.

Chief Planning Officer, Javed Ahmad; Assistant Regional Transport Officer Baramulla, Muazzam Ali; Functional Manager District Industries Centre, Lead District Manager besides other concerned officers and Officials were present in the meeting.

Later, the DDC handed over the keys of highly subsidized small commercial vehicles among 07 young eligible beneficia-

ries under the MUMKIN scheme thereby empowering them to earn a sustainable livelihood for themselves and their families in a dignified manner.

Interacting directly with the beneficiaries, the DDC congratulated them and encouraged them to utilize the vehicles effectively to sustain their livelihoods. Minga Sherpa further urged the youth to step forward and avail the benefits of similar government-run beneficiary schemes, highlighting the potential for positive impact on their lives and communities.

DC Doda inaugurates Job Fair in Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JULY 16

The Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, inaugurated a job fair organized by the District Employment and Counselling Centre Doda with the aim of providing employment opportunities to the local community and bridging the gap between job seekers and employers.

During his speech at the inauguration ceremony, the DC Doda highlighted the importance of such initiatives in boosting employment rates and improving the overall economic condition of the district. He expressed gratitude to all participating companies for their active involvement in this critical event. The job fair witnessed an overwhelming response from both employers and job seekers. Over 15 companies from various industries actively participated in the fair, offering more than 350 vacancies across different domains. Job seekers had a unique opportunity to engage in on-the-spot interviews and secure immediate placement with potential employers. In addition to providing direct employment opportunities, attendees were also informed about registration on an employment portal that will enable them to access future job openings conveniently.

The participants were educated about various self-employment schemes available within the district as well. To further enhance career aspirations among attendees, a career counseling workshop was also conducted during the event.