

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 center.

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Severe and continuous abdominal pain
- Diarrhea
- Persistent vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit
- Redness

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 12 | ISSUE NO: 158 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. L-29/JK-497/25-27 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

Amarnath Yatra commences, 12,348 devotees pay obeisance at holy cave shrine on first day

J1 NEWS SERVICE

PAHALGAM/JAMMU, JUL 03 (KNO)

Amid unprecedented security arrangements, the annual Amarnath Yatra commenced on Thursday with more than 12000 pilgrims paying obeisance at the holy cave shrine, nestled in Himalayas.

Officials told the news agency that till 7:15 PM, a total of 12,348 pilgrims paid obeisance. "The devotees included 9,181 males and 2,223 females. The yatra also saw the participation of 99 children, 122 sadhus, and 7 sadhis, reflecting a wide range of pilgrims undertaking the spiritual journey. Additionally, 8 transgender devotees and 708 personnel from security forces also visited the cave shrine," they said.

Earlier this morning the first batch of pilgrims left from twin base camps marking a spiritual start to the 38-day-long pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high holy cave in south Kashmir Himalayas.

Hundreds of pilgrims were flagged off by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri and DC Anantnagar respectively from Baltal in central Kashmir and Nunwan (Pahalgam) in south Kashmir.

Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment,



Shobha Karandlaje, also undertook the sacred trek to the Holy Cave of Shri Amarnath from the Baltal base camp in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. She joined thousands of pilgrims participating in the annual spiritual journey through the Himalayas.

Speaking to the media, she said, "Today, we are all going to have the darshan of Bholenath. It feels wonderful. May God bless us all. The atmosphere here is very pleasant, and people are feeling good because development work is also taking place here."

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, while speaking to reporters at one of the camps, said: "This Yatra is not just a religious pilgrimage. From security forces

to pitthus, tents to service providers – everyone is contributing to its success. The enthusiasm among the devotees is unparalleled. I pray everyone's wishes are fulfilled and peace prevails across Kashmir and the country."

Pilgrims, too, expressed immense satisfaction with the arrangements. A devotee from the Pahalgam base camp said, "We are not afraid of terrorism. The facilities are excellent. We are thankful to the Shrine Board."

A veteran pilgrim from Sangrur, Punjab, said, "This is my 14th Amarnath Yatra. The arrangements are better each time. There's no need to rush – everything is well-managed."

To ensure smooth

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Shivraj Chouhan, Omar Abdullah review Agri, Rural Development progress in J&K

Centre, J&K Govt join hands to accelerate growth in farm and rural sectors

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JULY 3

In a significant move to strengthen Jammu & Kashmir's agriculture and rural development landscape, Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Panchayati Raj, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today co-chaired a high-level review meeting at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

The meeting was also attended by Union Minister of State for A&FW Ram Nath Thakur, Minister for Agriculture Production, RDD & PR Javid Ahmed Dar, and Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Secretary DA&FW, Gol Devesh Chaturvedi, Secretary DARE, GoI Mangi Lal Jat, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Joint Secretary Ministry of Rural Development, Additional Secretary DA&FW, along with senior officers from the Government of India and Jammu & Kashmir administration including Administrative Secretaries of Agriculture Production, PWD, RDD, and heads of departments of agriculture, allied sectors and rural development were present in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reaffirmed the Government of India's commitment under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the holistic development of Jammu & Kashmir. "For Viksit Bharat, a Viksit Jammu & Kashmir is essential. I extend my full support to CM Omar Abdullah and his team and assure you that my office is just a call away whenever needed," the Union Minister said.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan lauded the J&K Government for its achievements in agriculture and allied sectors and appre-



ciated the momentum being built at the grassroots.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, in his welcome address, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Union Minister for his prompt response and visit: "Your presence here today has truly won our hearts. We have always known you to be a positive and responsive leader, but I must admit—I did not expect such a swift and gracious response. A few days ago, during the NITI Aayog meeting, I had requested you to visit, especially after the Pahalgam incident, to reassure the people that the nation stands with us."

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar, the minister, per news agency said the Prime Minister has decided that those who are still without homes will be given permanent shelter. "A survey has been conducted to identify the beneficiaries, and once verification is completed, housing allotment will begin. Verification is important so that no ineligible names

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

5 lakh homeless people in J&K to get permanent shelter: Union Minister

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUL 03 (KNO)

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday said the central government has identified around five lakh people in Jammu and Kashmir who do not have permanent homes and efforts are being made to provide them housing under a government scheme.

Addressing a press conference in Srinagar, the minister, per news agency said the Prime Minister has decided that those who are still without homes will be given permanent shelter. "A survey has been conducted to identify the beneficiaries, and once verification is completed, housing allotment will begin. Verification is important so that no ineligible names

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

'Strong India' will contribute to more stable, prosperous world: PM Modi

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUL 03 (KNO)

Asserting that India as the world's largest democracy, is a pillar of strength for the world, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said a 'strong India' will contribute to a more stable and prosperous world.

Addressing the Parliament in Ghana, PM Modi, as per the news agency, said that progress cannot come without giving voice to the Global South. "A strong India will



contribute to a more stable and prosperous world," he said. Stating that India is the fastest-growing

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

J&K braces for heavy rainfall on July 6

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUL 03 (KNO)

With no letup in the heat-wave conditions, Jammu and Kashmir is all set to witness a major relief with the weatherman predicting heavy rainfall on July 6.

According to the details available with the news agency, the local Meteorological department (MeT), Srinagar, the summer capital of the region, has recorded the maximum temperature of 34.0 degrees, witnessing 4.4 degrees above normal temperature.

Kupwara was the second hottest in Kashmir today at

33.4 degrees followed by Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, at 32.8 degrees. Kokernag recorded a maximum temperature of 32.4 degrees, the data reveals.

Pahalgam, a famous tourist-resort, recorded a day temperature of 29.0 degrees while Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, recorded 23.5 degrees.

Furthermore, Jammu continued to record below normal temperature with the main City recording a maximum temperature of 34.5 degrees while Banihal saw 30.1 degrees.

Batote, Katra and Bhaderwah recorded a maximum temperature of 27.2 degrees,

30.5 degrees and 32.4 degrees respectively.

Meanwhile, the weatherman here has predicted hot & humid weather with possibility of brief spell of rain and thundershower at scattered places for tomorrow.

Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that hot & humid weather is expected during day time on July 05, with possibility of spell of light to moderate rain and thunder towards late night.

In between July 06 and July 08, Ahmad said that generally cloudy with possibility of intermittent light to moderate rain and thundershower

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Perpetrators of terrorism must be held accountable: EAM Jaishankar

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUL 03 (KNO)

Stating that perpetrators of terrorism must be held accountable and brought to justice, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday said that "Operation Sindoor" conveyed to the world with great clarity that India will act against terrorism.

"What is important for us in the Quad statement, as also the statement that the Security Council has issued



on April 25, is that the perpetrators of terrorism must be held accountable. They must be brought to justice," Jaishankar said during a press

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

2 terrorist aides arrested in Tral: Police

J1 NEWS SERVICE

AWANTIPORA, JUL 03 (KNO)

Police along with security forces on Thursday arrested two terrorist associates from Wagad area falling under the jurisdiction of Police Station Tral and recovered explosive substance, ammunition from their possession.

"Police Awantipora along with Army (42 RR) and CRPF (180 Bn) at a checkpoint established at Wagad crossing, arrested two terrorist associates. They have been identified as Umer Mohiud-Din Bhat S/o Ghulam Mohiud-Din R/o Nader Tral and Shakeel Ahmad Sheikh S/o Gh. Hassan Sheikh R/o Kuchmulla Tral," a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency.

During the search, explosive substance, ammunition including O2 Hand

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Monsoon Session of Parliament to begin from July 21

J1 NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 3

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has announced that the Monsoon session of the Parliament will begin on July 21 and continue till August 21.

Rijiju on Wednesday said that President Droupadi Murmu has approved the government's proposal to convene the Session while highlighting that no Parliamentary sittings will be held on August 13 and 14 due to Independence Day celebrations.

In a post on X, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju wrote, "The Hon'ble President of India has approved the proposal of the Government to convene the Monsoon Session of Parliament from 21st July to 21st August, 2025. In view of the Independence Day celebrations, there will be no sittings on the 13th and 14th of August."

Both Houses of the Parliament are scheduled to convene on July 21 at 11 am, after a break of over three months.

Earlier, Rijiju had informed that the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, had recommended the dates.

It is pertinent to mention that Opposition leaders have been demanding convening of a special session of Parliament to discuss 'Operation Sindoor' post the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed.

The INDIA alliance, comprising 16 opposition parties, penned a joint letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to convene a special parliamentary session. They sought to discuss recent developments, including the Pahalgam terror attack, Operation Sindoor, and ongoing military tensions with

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Limited purchases, trading restrictions responsible for power shortages in J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUL 03 (KNO)

Limited procurement of power and financial non-compliance are key reasons for power shortages in Jammu & Kashmir, an official document has revealed.

The agenda note of the 79th meeting of Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) lays bare that the primary reasons for power shortage in J&K were limited procurement of power from market and trading restrictions on J&K in power exchange due to non-payments. "The reason for shortage in most of the occasions is either due to limited procurement of power from market which may be due to high power demand in the market or barring of J&K from trading in exchange due to payment issues (sic)," reads the document, a copy of which is in possession of news

"No increase in internal generation in past 4-5 years; non-availability of internal generation during winters increases dependency on imports"

agency. The document states that J&K has experienced power shortages in the past year. "It is to be noted that in the past year, there have been power shortages reported in J&K when the states from the

rest of the country are able to supply power and not reporting shortages," the agenda note states.

The document points out that J&K's dependency on importing power has increased in recent years as there has been no increase in its internal generation.

"There has also not been an increase in internal generation in J&K UT for the last 4-5 years, therefore the increased demand had to be met by importing higher power from the interstate network," it states.

It further reveals that J&K's dependency on import of power increases during winters due to non-availability of internal generation.

"Due to non-availability of internal generation during winter months, J&K imports power from interstate network. From the total

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

SIA conducts searches in Bijbehara in migrant labourer's killing case

J1 NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JUL 03 (KNO)

The State Investigation Agency (SIA) Kashmir carried out search operations at the premises of two suspects in the Bijbehara area of Anantnag in a case linked to the killing of a migrant labourer in April last year.

According to a statement, issued to news agency, these searches were carried out as part of an ongoing investigation into the brutal killing of Raja Sah on April 17, 2024, in Bijbehara.

The statement reads the searches were aimed to uncover critical evidence to unravel the conspiracy behind this heinous crime and identify accomplices involved in the case.

"The searches yielded significant evidence that is expected to strengthen

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

Chief Secretary emphasises timely Aadhaar seeding of DBT schemes

J1NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 3

In a significant push towards greater transparency and efficiency in public services delivery, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today emphasized upon all the concerned departments to embark on a time-bound ambitious drive to complete Aadhaar seeding for the remaining beneficiaries within the next two months.

This critical initiative aims to ensure that the benefits directly reach the deserving, effectively eliminating the role of middlemen.

The meeting was attended by the Administrative Secretaries of the concerned departments besides officers from the Finance Department.

The Chief Secretary underscored the dual benefits of this accelerated Aadhaar seeding remark-

ing that it isn't just about transparency; it's about empowering our citizens by ensuring that every rupee of assistance reaches those it's intended for, without any dilution or diversion.

Further beyond the direct benefit transfer, the Chief Secretary highlighted Aadhaar seeding as a fundamental prerequisite for widespread adoption of SNA-SPARSH. This innovative "just-in-time" fund release system, soon to be mandatory for all Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) being implemented across the country, promises to revolutionize the financial management and optimize fund utilization.

To facilitate a seamless transition, he directed the departments to nominate the dedicated liaison officers. These officers will undergo specialized training by the financial experts within the Finance department, equipping them to

navigate the intricacies of the new SNA-SPARSH framework.

On the occasion, Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya, provided a detailed overview of various Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) schemes currently operational across the departments. He offered valuable insights into the current status of Aadhaar seeding for each scheme and laid out a clear roadmap for achieving complete coverage.

Vaidya also elaborated on the strategic plan for a smooth transition to SNA-SPARSH, with active support and collaboration from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). He designated the contact persons for each Department who would lend a helping hand in ironing out all the obstacles faced during the course of action taken by



respective departments.

The review highlighted significant strides, with an overall Aadhaar seeding percentage of 55.2% across 76 schemes, encompassing a grand total of 7,883,610 beneficiaries.

The meeting, focusing on "DBT Bharat" and "Apna Adhikar, Apne Dwar" initiatives of the GoI, underscored the government's commitment towards ensuring efficient and transparent delivery of benefits directly to the intended recipients exclusively.

While giving out department-wise progress, it was given out that most of them showcased notable

Education Assistance, Funeral Assistance, and Medical Assistance, with a total of 4,543 beneficiaries seeded.

The Education Department demonstrated 59% Aadhaar seeding, with Mid-Day Meal Scheme showing 100% seeding for 985,267 beneficiaries. Other schemes like Meritorious Student and National Scholarship also achieved 100% seeding.

Similarly, the Rural Development Department had achieved 93% Aadhaar seeding for a total of 1,198,381 beneficiaries. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) has 98% Aadhaar seeding, covering 1,081,860 beneficiaries.

Besides, the Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution Department: Reported 100% Aadhaar seeding for the scheme providing subsidized sugar to PHH

categories. The Health & Medical Education Department was given out to achieve 60% Aadhaar seeding overall. Schemes like ASHA Incentives, Family Planning Compensation Cases, Janani Suraksha Yojana, Nikshay Poshan Yojana and NIKSHAY-DOT Provider Honorarium all reported 100% Aadhaar seeding.

The Agriculture Department showed an overall 58% Aadhaar seeding. The meeting also assessed Aadhaar seeding of DBT schemes of other departments including Animal/Sheep Husbandry Department, Horticulture Department, Housing and Urban Development Department, Finance Department, Skill Development Department, Youth Services and Sports Department, Industries and Commerce Department and Tribal Affairs Department.

Power shutdown

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 03

Superintending Engineer, O&M Circle-III, JPDC Batote has informed that the power supply to Bidda, Talwara Migrant Colony and adjoining areas will remain affected on July 04 and 05 from 9 am to 5 pm. In view of branch cutting, stabilization works and completion of balance work for Dam Toe, the Power supply from 33 KV Potushai-Gurez line to Dawar, Wanpora, Tragbal, NHPC and adjoining areas shall remain affected on July 10 & 11 from 08.00 AM to 01.00 PM.

Additional Registrar reviews cooperative activities in Ramban

J1NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JULY 3

Additional Registrar Cooperative Societies, Jammu, Bal Krishan today conducted an extensive visit to district Ramban to review the functioning of the Cooperative Department and promote grassroots-level initiatives under the cooperative movement.

During the visit, the Additional Registrar inaugurated the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra established by Thopal MPACS at CHC Batote. The Kendra aims to provide quality generic medicines at affordable prices to the local population, ensuring improved access to essential healthcare.

He also inaugurated a Curd Making Unit set up by Chenab Dairy FPO Cooper-



ative Ltd. with an estimated cost of Rs 9 lakh, supported by a 50% subsidy from the Cooperative Department. The unit is equipped with modern dairy-processing machinery including Electric Heat Tank, Homogeniser, Plate Heat Exchanger, Culture Tank, Curd Incubator and Storage Tanks, ensuring hygienic and value-added dairy production for local farmers.

The Additional Registrar, accompanied by Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies Ramban Priyanka Sharma, BMO Batote Dr. S. Opinder Singh and other

officers also inspected the recently inaugurated Cooperative Mini Super Bazar run by MPACS Maitra. He appreciated the efforts made to provide goods at affordable prices with a special focus on organic and locally produced items.

As part of the day's engagements, he participated in a plantation drive under the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" initiative, symbolizing commitment to sustainable and cooperative-driven development in line with the International Year of Cooperatives.

He later interacted with

members of various cooperative societies, encouraging them to diversify their ventures and tap into emerging opportunities in the cooperative sector. On the occasion, registration certificates were distributed to newly established MPACS units, marking a new milestone in the district's cooperative growth.

The Additional Registrar also visited the construction site of the upcoming Cooperative Super Bazar Ramban, reviewed the quality and pace of work, and issued directions for its timely completion. Lastly, he inspected the Fair Price Cooperative Medical Shop at the District Hospital Complex, Ramban and instructed the management to enhance discounts on medicines and equipment to benefit the public.

House Committee on Environment holds review meeting in Srinagar

J1NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 3

The House Committee on Environment of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened a review meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to discuss critical environmental issues and challenges, particularly those related to the Geology and Mining Department.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami and attended by members including Peerzada Mohammad Syed, Rajiv Jasrotia, Dr. Sajjad Shafi, Peerzada Feroze Ahmad, Zafar Ali Khatana, Khurshid Ahmed, Mushtaq Guroo, Irshad Rasool Kar and Yudhviri Sethi.

Referring to the fragile ecological balance of Jammu and Kashmir, the Chairman stated that development must not come at the cost of the environment.

"Any development activity must be aligned



with protection of the local flora and fauna," he emphasized.

The Chairman called for strict monitoring and vigilance against the illegal mining activities, highlighting the detrimental impact of unregulated mining on water levels, agriculture and the broader ecosystem. He assured the Committee would conduct on-ground inspection of various mining sites to verify compliance with environmental regulations.

"Mining of natural resources is directly linked to our environmental health. Illegal mining has led to a decline in groundwater levels, adversely affecting our agricul-

ture sector," Tarigami observed.

He further directed the department to undertake routine inspections of mining sites and ensure no environmental degradation occurs.

The Chairman called for strict action against the violators of mining regulations. He also emphasized the need to mitigate impacts on riverbanks and beds, which disrupt irrigation and harm agriculture and horticulture.

Officers were instructed to collaborate with the environmental experts, NGOs, scientists and activists to strengthen the environmental protection efforts across J&K.

During the meeting,

the Committee members raised several environment-related concerns and unanimously demanded tougher measures to curb illegal mining.

Principal Secretary, Geology and Mining, Anil Kumar Singh, briefed the Committee on the department's ongoing initiatives to eliminate illegal mining. He stated that technology-driven monitoring systems are being used to enhance vigilance and prevent violations across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was also attended by Director, Geology and Mining, S.P. Rukwal, Chairman, Pollution Control Committee, Vasu Yadav and other senior officials.

Annual Sarthal Devi Ji Yatra commences with religious fervor & enthusiasm at Kishtwar

J1NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JULY 3

The revered Annual Yatra of Shri Ashtadash Bhuja Mata Sarthal Devi Ji commenced today in Kishtwar, marking the beginning of a joyous and spiritually significant event.

The yatra began with a grand Hawan ceremony held at Gori Shankar Mandir, Sarkoot, where devotees fervently offered Aahuti and Puran Aahuti (sacred oblations).

Accompanied by an impressive Shoba Yatra, the Chari Mubarak (holy procession) proceeded through Chowgan Ground, Shaheedi Chowk, and the Bus Stand, starting from Gori Shankar Mandir.

Thousands of devotees, including men, women, and children, enthusiastically chanted religious slogans and bhajans, while traditional "Paddari Dance" to drum beats resonated along the procession route.

Local communities from various neighborhoods extended a warm welcome to the Holy Chari.



A grand Jagran (night-long devotional singing) is going to be organized today at the Sarthal Devi Mata Bhawan, adding to the spiritual fervor of the yatra.

Tomorrow morning, on 04 July, a Maha Yajna (grand religious ritual) will be performed at Sarthal Devi Mandir.

The district administration and police have made meticulous arrangements for security, drinking water, power supply, transportation, and other essential facilities at Kishtwar and Sarthal to ensure a smooth and comfortable experience for the devotees.

Sarthal Devi Ji is revered as the "Kul Devi" (patron goddess) of the region.

The historic yatra has been organized every year since the Dogra regime,

and each devotee holds a deep and unique faith in this sacred pilgrimage.

The yatra is annually organized by the Shri Sarthal Devi Ji Trust, under the patronage of Dr. Karan Singh, the sole trustee and Vikramaditya Singh, Chairman Trustee of the Trust.

Pooja Thakur, Chairperson of the District Development Council (DDC) Kishtwar; MLA Kishtwar, Shagun Parihar; Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma; prominent socio-religious personalities of Kishtwar; key officers from the civil and police administration; Arvind Parihar, President of Santan Dharma Sabha and Sanjeev Parihar, Vice Chairman of Shri Sarthal Devi Ji Trust, among others were present on the occasion.

Dir Agri Kashmir visited Model Floriculture Center Nunar, Ganderbal

J1NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, JULY 3

Director Agriculture Kashmir Sartaj Ahmad Shah today Visited Model Floriculture Center Nunar, Ganderbal where he flagged off first ever consignment of dry Lavender Flower Spikes to Dehradun.

While interacting with the Officers, Director highlighted the economic importance of lavender crop and said that it is one of the best cash crops in the world. He said the demand for quality planting material of lavender has increased over the years and efforts are on to attract progressive agriculture entrepreneurs towards this aromatic crop.

Sartaj said that the idea behind the promotion and introduction of lavender crop to more areas on commercial lines is to create employment opportunities for the youth.

He further said that in coming days the uncultivable and barren land throughout valley will be brought under the cultivation of Lavender crop.

Regarding Agri-Tourism, Director said that three Departmental Farms have already been brought under this crop to boost the agriculture and tourism sectors.

Three-Day Training for Internal Assessors-cum-Service Providers (IA cum SPT) Commences at Convention Centre, Jammu

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 3

A three-day training programme for Internal Assessors-cum-Service Providers commenced at the Convention Centre, Jammu. The training is being organized by the State Health Society, National Health Mission (NHM), Jammu & Kashmir) under the insightful guidance of Mission Director, NHM J&K, Baseer ul Haq Choudhary.

The training was formally inaugurated in the gracious presence of Director General (Planning & Statistics), SHS, NHM, J&K, Director Health Services, Jammu, Deputy Director, Dentistry, Jammu, Financial Advisor/Chief Accounts Officer, SHS, NHM, J&K and Chief Medical Officer, Jammu.

DHS, Jammu appreciated the efforts of the districts and NHM in quality implementation in the public health facilities and further emphasized on the importance of qual-



ity of the health care services being provided to the population. The programme aims to build the capacities of healthcare professionals in conducting internal assessments and improving service delivery standards across health institutions in J&K. Participants include Block Medical Officers (BMOs), Medical Officers (MOs) and other representatives from various districts of the Jammu Division.

A key component of the training will be a post-evaluation test, and participants who successfully qualify will be awarded a Certificate of Internal

Assessor. These certified assessors will play a pivotal role in monitoring and enhancing the quality of healthcare services in their respective districts, thereby contributing to the overarching goal of strengthening the public health system and quality certification of the public health facilities, which is the priority area of Govt. of India. This training reflects the strong commitment of the National Health Mission J&K towards institutionalizing quality assurance practices and ensuring sustained improvements in healthcare delivery across the UT.

Power Shutdown

J1NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 3

According to CE, KPDC that in view of Yard Clearing, installation of 11 Isolator D.O. set for Auxilliary X-mer, the power supply from 33 KV Ahmadpora Beerwah line to Beerwah, Khag & Arizal and feeding areas Beerwah, Sonpah, NajanKhag, Arizal, Zanigam and adjoining areas shall remain affected on July 07 from 06.00 AM to 01.00 PM. Similarly, in view of construction of 33 KV Sukhnagar Arizal Tap line Phase-II, the power supply from 33 KV Ahmadpora-Berwah-Arizal Tapline to Arizal, Zanigam, Raiyar, Doodhpathri and adjoining areas shall remain affected on July 09 from 06.00 AM to 01.00 PM. In view of branch cutting, stabilization works and completion of balance work for Dam Toe, the Power supply from 33 KV Potushai-Gurez line to Dawar, Wanpora, Tragbal, NHPC and adjoining areas shall remain affected on July 10 & 11 from 08.00 AM to 01.00 PM.

DDC Rajouri chairs DLRC meeting, emphasizes timely disposal of pending cases



JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JULY 3

District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma today chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting at Dak Bungalow Rajouri to review the performance of banks and line departments under various government-sponsored schemes.

During the meeting, the DDC took a detailed review of the branch-wise list of pending cases under schemes such as PMEGP, KVIB, HADP and other self employment schemes of different departments. The LDM was asked to provide detailed data regarding cases returned under each scheme from all banks to the concerned departments, along with reasons, to ensure transparency and corrective measures.

The DDC issued strict instructions that departments clearing the cases must communicate promptly with the concerned officers. He emphasized that no applicant should be harassed or made to run unnecessarily for follow-ups. He further directed the Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) to ensure timely disposal of all pending applications.

The Handloom Department was instructed to plan and propose a District Export Plan to boost the district's economic activities and promote local artisans and weavers.

The State Bank of India (SBI) was directed to submit a separate Action Taken Report (ATR) regarding scheme implementation. The DDC also stressed that bank branches should be selected carefully, ensuring that the proposed unit or benefi-

ciary falls within the service area of the concerned branch to avoid operational bottlenecks. In addition, the DDC directed RSETI to provide quality training under the Mission YUVA initiative, ensuring that the youth are trained in market-relevant skills and are made job-ready or self-employment ready. The banks were asked to ensure timely disbursement of sanctioned cases under various governmental schemes.

The meeting was attended by key officials including the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Deputy Director Employment, Functional Manager DIC, Lead District Manager, DDM NABARD, District Nodal Officer JKEDI, DDM NABARD, district-level officers of line departments and representatives from KVIB, Handloom and other concerned agencies.

Seminar on Cooperative Empowerment and Sustainable Agriculture held at Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 3

A one-day seminar on "Cooperative Empowerment and Sustainable Agriculture" was successfully organised today at the Auditorium, Kissan Kendra, Directorate of Agriculture, Talab Tillo, Jammu. The event was jointly hosted by Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited (BBSSL), setup under the Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India in collaboration with Unnatu Agri Allied and Marketing Multi-State Cooperative Society. The Department of Agriculture, Jammu actively participated in the programme.

The seminar was held as part of the Cooperative Week Celebrations (1st July - 6th July 2025), commemorating the vital role of cooperatives in strengthening India's rural and agricultural economy. The event brought together key stakeholders including cooperative leaders, officials from the Agriculture Department, representatives of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs) and other allied government agencies.

The main objective of the programme was to strengthen Agricultural Cooperative Societies/Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) by identifying natural seeds of indigenous plant varieties, including but not limited to food grains, vegetables, fruits and more. The initiative aims to establish a comprehensive system for the preservation, breeding,



conservation, production, distribution and promotion of these seeds. BBSSL plans to incentivize farmers cultivating natural seeds through coordinated support from various agencies and to establish seed banks ensuring availability of such seeds to farmers across regions.

Ms. Babila Rakwal, Commissioner Secretary, Department of Cooperatives, was the Chief Guest, while Dr. Arvinder Singh Reen, Director Agriculture Jammu, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour.

In her address, Ms. Rakwal highlighted the formation and aggregation of 165 cooperative societies in the Union Territory and emphasised their potential in ensuring the supply of quality seeds and generating rural employment. She underscored the importance of identifying and preserving natural seed varieties found in different agro-climatic zones of J&K, pointing out their long-term sustainability compared to hybrid seeds.

Dr. Arvinder Singh Reen, while speaking on the occasion, highlighted the diverse agro-climatic potential of Jammu and Kashmir, which is conducive to seed production of cereals, oil seeds and medicinal and aromatic plants. He emphas-

ized the need for collaborative efforts between the Agriculture and Cooperative Departments to benefit farmers and encouraged exploring allied activities such as beekeeping, mushroom cultivation and exotic vegetable farming.

Representatives from BBSSL, J.P. Singh and Paresh Desai, delivered a detailed presentation on the role of BBSSL in promoting the production, conservation, and distribution of natural seeds. They also informed about collaborative efforts with National Cooperative Organic Ltd. (NCOL) and National Cooperative Export Ltd. (NCEL) to support farmers in production and market linkage.

Key speakers included Dr. Puneet Choudhary, Head KVK Jammu; Vikrant Dogra, Chairman UNATI and Sh. Jyoti Saroop Sharma, M.D. UNATI, who spoke about the ongoing initiatives and future prospects in sustainable agriculture through cooperative models.

As part of the seminar, a plantation drive titled "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" was carried out by the distinguished guests along with members of FICCI FLO, promoting environmental awareness and sustainability.

President DCDRC Kupwara Stresses for Compliance with Consumer Protection Act



JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, JULY 3

The President, District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (DCDRC) Kupwara, Peerzada Qousar Hussain, today convened a meeting with officers of various line departments in his office chamber to discuss matters related to the Consumer Protection Act and ensure effective coordination.

During the meeting, the President apprised the officers about the key provisions of the Consumer Protection Act and emphasized the need for cooperation with the Com-

mission in handling consumer grievances.

He directed the concerned officers to respond promptly to notices issued by the Commission and ensure that replies are submitted without delay.

The President also cautioned that any failure to comply with the court directions or delay in response may compel the Commission to take coercive measures, which can be avoided through timely action and coordination.

The meeting aimed to enhance awareness among the line departments and ensure smooth and effective redressal of consumer complaints in the district.

Div Com flags off first batch of SANJY pilgrims from Domail Baltal

JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, JULY 3

The Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025 commenced today with great enthusiasm as the first batch of pilgrims was ceremoniously flagged off from the Domail, Baltal in Ganderbal district by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri.



Secretary, Science and Technology Department, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary (Nodal Officer for Yatra-2025 for Baltal axis); Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore; SSP Ganderbal, Khalil Poswal; and other senior officers from the District Administration and Police were also present on the occasion.

The officers extended warm wishes to the pilgrims, praying for their safe and spiritually enrich-

ing journey. The Baltal base camp echoed with chants of "Bam Bam Bhole" and "Har Har Mahadev", as thousands of ecstatic pilgrims including men, women, elderly devotees, and sadhus, set off on their sacred journey to the Holy Cave Shrine of Shri Amarnath Ji.

The pilgrims expressed joy and appreciation for the robust arrangements made by the Jammu and Kashmir UT Administra-

tion, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board (SASB), and the Police. They lauded the seamless coordination and facilities put in place to ensure a smooth and secure Yatra experience.

To ensure the safety and well-being of the pilgrims, the administration has made comprehensive arrangements, including round-the-clock security, well-equipped medical camps, sanitation facilities, and other essential services along the Yatra route.

DC Budgam Reviews Progress on New District Hospital, Critical Care Unit in Reshipora

JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JULY 3

The Deputy Commissioner of Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohiud-Din Bhat visited the construction site of 125-bedded new District Hospital and a 100-bedded Critical Care Unit in Reshipora.

During the visit, DC highlighted need for accelerating construction efforts to ensure these essential healthcare facilities are completed in a timely manner.

He pointed out that these hospitals will greatly improve the healthcare infrastructure in the district and offer advanced medical services to local residents.

Dr. Bhat noted that both projects are on track and, once completed, will significantly boost healthcare delivery in the region by providing specialized care and critical medical services.



The District Administration, together with the Roads and Buildings (R&B) department and the health department, is committed to completing these important projects as quickly as possible, aiming to make them available to the public ahead of schedule.

The establishment of the hospital and critical care unit is expected to be crucial in meeting the healthcare needs of Budgam, particularly in delivering specialized and critical medical care to public.

DC informed that con-

tinued monitoring of the projects is being conducted to promptly address any issues through coordinated efforts among multiple departments.

During the visit, he was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Superintendent Engineer R&B circle Budgam, Chief Planning Officer Budgam, Chief Medical Officer of Budgam, Medical Superintendent of District Hospital Budgam, as well as various executive engineers and representatives from the agencies.

Tabletop Exercise on Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Conducted in Kulgam

JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JULY 3

The Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRRR), in joint collaboration with the Union Territory Disaster Management Authority (UT DMA) and District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Kulgam, conducted a Tabletop Exercise on Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) in District Kulgam.



The exercise was held under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Viqar Ahmad Giri (CEO DDMA) and attended by Dr Aamir, Chief Executive Officer-ERO, DMRRR, and Sanober Jameel, Deputy Secretary, DMRRR, Civil Secretariat, J&K UT and Consultant DDMA Kulgam Mohammad Hanan.

Officers from various departments participated, including the Sub-Divisional Magistrate DH Pora, Bashir-ul-Hassan, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Reyaz Ahmad Shah, DYSP Ayoub Rather, Civil Defence and SDRF in-charge, Engineers from all concerned departments, CRPF Officers, Tehsildars of all Tehsils, along with teams from SDRF, Fire & Emergency Services, Aapda Mitra Volunteers, and other disaster response units.

During the session, Dr Aamir emphasized the importance of preparedness and proposed the

execution of mock drills near Kousarnag Lake, a potential GLOF risk site.

He stressed the need for the deployment of medical teams during drills, the formation of additional volunteer groups, and the active involvement of all stakeholders in strengthening community-level disaster response.

The initiative reflects the administration's proactive approach toward GLOF disaster preparedness and resilience-building in vulnerable areas of South Kashmir.

The exercise simulated multiple disaster scenarios to test the preparedness and response capabilities of all agencies involved.

Detailed deliberations were held on communication strategies, evacuation procedures, and the deployment of critical emergency response units.

SHEW Shopian organises Awareness Camp under BBBP at Sedow

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, JULY 3

Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW) Mission Shakti, Shopian today organized an impactful awareness programme under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative at Sedow, Shopian.

District Mission Coordinator, Sankalp Hub sensitized the gathering about the importance of girl child education and



the need to empower girls for a brighter future.

Gender Specialist addressed the audience with a compelling talk on gender inequality and urged collective community action for change.

The event featured a pledge ceremony, a BBBP awareness rally, and sticker pasting activities across public spaces to spread the campaign's message.

The programme wit-

District Treasury Office Shopian held training programme on SNA-SPARSH for DDOs



JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, JULY 3

The District Treasury Office Shopian today held first orientation session on the Single Nodal Account Samyochit Pronali Akarit Shigr Hastantaran (SNA-SPARSH) for DDOs of the district operating Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

The aim of the session was to aware the DDOs on the efficient management of funds under these schemes. The programme was attended by Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) and dealing account assistants associated with the district treasury and its subordinate treasuries, aimed at familiarizing them with the SNA-SPARSH system for seamless financial operations.

The session was led by District Treasury Officer, Muzaffar Ahmad Rather who highlighted the role of SNA-SPARSH in strength-

ening financial governance and gave a demo on bill generation on JKPaySys from DDO maker to Checker login.

Detailed instructions were given to the participants as how the bills/claims can be uploaded on this portal from their end and then submitted to the treasury for payment. Moreover they were briefed about the fetching of budget for the respective schemes and the procedure for making the bills keeping in view both the UT as well as the centre share by NIC expert at Dist Treasury, Ashiq Hussain.

This reform is part of a broader financial transformation under the Finance Department integrating systems like BEAMS, JKPaySys, TreasuryNet and e-Kuber, aimed at ensuring timely, transparent, and efficient release of funds to beneficiaries.



Ram Nath Thakur, Union Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, today. He was accompanied by Shri GM Shaheen, President, J&K Janta Dal United (JDU).

Find and fix the Responsibility at highest level for real Justice: GL Raina

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, 03 JULY 2025:

Decision to address the issues concerning families of terror victims brutally killed by the terrorists by LG Manoj Sinha ji is a welcome step in the right direction, stated Girdhari Lal Raina, Spokesperson, J&K BJP & former MLC.. The commitment to deliver justice and comprehensive support to the affected families, reopen cases that were deliberately buried, ensure that FIRs are registered, and provide government jobs to the Next of Kin (NoKs) on priority is also appreciable. So are the instructions issued to initiate immediate measures to reclaim properties and land that had been illegally occupied by terrorists or their sympathisers.

Expressing these views Girdhari Lal Raina, however termed these steps as short of the expectations of the countrymen including citizens of JK-UT. People have been demanding a high powered enquiry commission to look into the rise of separatism and its transformation into full blown terrorist violence and the role played by the rulers of that

era both directly and indirectly by abdicating their constitutional responsibility.

Pakistan-sponsored terrorists who imposed their writ on Kashmir by unleashing death and destruction under a concerted plan"- neatly executed by local terror groups.

The state government at that time abdicated its constitutional duties, not only created a socio-political vacuum but actually left people's life and liberty at the mercy of looters, marauders and terror groups Raina asserted.

Death and destruction that took place over a period of time was the result of a sustained process of separatism and cultivation of anti-India sentiment. Those in power rewarded, instead of punishing these elements involved in fostering separatism and secessionism, GL Raina pointed out. Known terrorists trained in Pakistan and arrested by law enforcement agencies were released in the name of goodwill gesture, he recalled.

Innocents were brutally killed, the entire minority Hindu community was ethnically cleansed, targeted killings were undertaken to

instill fear among the vulnerable minorities and property worth billions destroyed, encroached and captured, He continued. All this was done under the watchful eyes of the administration headed by an 'elected' chief Minister, Ex-MLC stressed.

Complete and real justice is possible only after all those responsible, including the political masters in power are identified, apprehended and punished in accordance with the Law of the land. It is therefore essential to inquire into the role played by those at the helm of affairs .

Bringing real culprits to book is possibly by a high powered commission as has been done in case of 1984 anti-Sikh riots. Such a commission should be constituted without any further delay and those found guilty should be given exemplary punishment as per the law. FIRs that have not been acted upon by the state should be clubbed and given to the NIA for a comprehensive probe leading to a time bound charge sheet, GL Raina demanded. He also demanded the publishing of white paper on this entire issue.

Jhangar Day commemorated with Solemn Tributes, Launch of Usman Memorial Website



J1 NEWS SERVICE

NEWSHERA, JULY 3

Jhangar Battalion commemorated Jhangar Day with solemn tributes and meaningful community engagement, marking the death anniversary of Brigadier Mohammad Usman, MVC, who made the supreme sacrifice on this day in 1948 during the Indo-Pak War. Widely regarded as the 'Lion of Nowshera', Brig Usman's leadership in the Battle of Jhangar turned the tide in defence of Jammu & Kashmir.

A wreath-laying ceremony was held at the

Usman Memorial by Commander, 80 Infantry Brigade and Bal Sainik Shri Basant Singh, honouring Brig Usman and the brave soldiers who laid down their lives for the nation.

The highlight of the day was the launch of the Usman Memorial Website - www.usmanmemorial.in - a digital platform offering worldwide access to the memorial, along with e-learning content, archival material and community resources. The website aims to connect people with the legacy of sacrifice while serving as a gateway to learning and civic inspi-

ration. In the lead-up to the day, community outreach activities such as a Multi-Specialty Medical Camp, Plantation Drive, Children's Play Events and Relief Kit Distribution in collaboration with Amazon India for locals who got affected during Op SINDOOR were conducted to deepen bonds with local residents.

The day concluded with the felicitation of War awardees and interaction with villagers over refreshment, blending remembrance with community solidarity.

Historic Raghunathji Temple gears up to greet Yatris: DT President



J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 3

Dr. P.S Pathania, President of J&K Dharmarth Trust, today visited the historic Raghunathji Temple in Jammu and held an interaction with the temple Pujaris and staff in view of the commencement of the annual Shri Amarnath Yatra.

During the visit, Dr. Pathania exhorted the temple priests and staff to extend a warm welcome to the Amarnath Yatris visiting the ancient temple. He emphasized the importance of maintaining a hospitable and spiritual atmosphere for the yatris as many of whom visit Raghunathji Temple as part of their pilgrimage journey.

Dr. Pathania asked the temple staff to brief the visiting Yatris about the rich legacy and historic significance of the Raghunathji Temple, which is one of the most revered shrines in the North India. He further asked them to highlight the pivotal role played by the Royal Family of Jammu and Kashmir in the establish-

ment, preservation, and maintenance of ancient temples & shrines falling under the ambit of the J&K Dharmarth Trust.

He reiterated the Trust's commitment to upholding the spiritual heritage of the region and ensuring seamless services to the devotees, especially during the ongoing yatra season.

Meanwhile, the Trust President also joined the flagging-off ceremony of the first batch of Shri Amarnath Yatra pilgrims at Yatri Niwas, Bhagwati Nagar Jammu. The yatra was ceremonially flagged off by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha, amid chants of "Bam Bam Bhole" and immense religious fervor.

Dr. Pathania lauded the efforts of the District Administration and various stakeholders for making elaborate arrangements to ensure the safe and smooth conduct of the yatra and expressed hope that this year's pilgrimage would be spiritually enriching and incident-free for all devotees.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Amarnath Yatra commences...

conduct of the Yatra, a three-tier security grid has been implemented, with thousands of security personnel deployed along the route. In addition to traditional security measures, AI-powered CCTV surveillance systems are monitoring key locations for real-time threat detection.

Meanwhile, the second batch comprising 5,246 pilgrims left Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu early Thursday morning.

The second batch included 4,074 males, 795 females, 19 children, 324 sadhus, 33 sadhvis, and one transgender pilgrim. Of these, 1,993 pilgrims are heading to Baltal, and 3,253 to Pahalgam.

A fleet of 268 vehicles - including 106 buses, 38 medium motor vehicles (MMVs), and 124 light motor vehicles (LMVs) - has been deployed for transportation.

On Wednesday, the first batch of 5,485 Yatris was flagged off from the Yatra base camp in Jammu's Bhagwati Nagar by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. The pilgrims who reached the Kashmir Valley, received rousing welcome from the Administration and locals alike.

The Yatra, which began Thursday, will conclude on August 9.

Pilgrims from across the country undertake the Amarnath Yatra to pay obeisance at the holy cave shrine that houses a naturally formed ice shivlingam. KNO

Shivraj Chouhan...

Today, you are here with your full team, which reflects your deep commitment and solidarity."

He added that face-to-face engagement, as opposed to formal correspondence, helps in quicker resolution of issues. "This meeting itself is a testimony to how much can be achieved through dialogue and collaboration," he said.

Earlier in the meeting, Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar, and Secretary, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Aijaz Asad, gave comprehensive presentations on the performance and progress of their respective departments.

They highlighted implementation status, physical and financial achievements under various centrally sponsored schemes, GoI-supported and UT-specific schemes, including: PM-Kisan, RKVY, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture; Rural infrastructure initiatives under MGNREGA, PMAY-G, NRLM, and PMAY

Key performance indicators, success stories from field-level beneficiaries, and use of digital governance tools for real-time monitoring were also showcased.

The meeting broadly reviewed sectoral achievements, discussed bottlenecks, and chalked out action plans to accelerate progress in both Agriculture and Rural Development sectors.

On the occasion, in the presence of the Chief Minister and Union Agriculture Minister, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Kudumbashree and JKRLM to establish 20 food service enterprises across all 20 districts of J&K. This initiative aims to empower women, Self-Help Groups (SHG) by creating local employment opportunities and building market-ready ventures.

Additionally, the dignitaries launched 'Har Didi Ek Kahani' - a compendium of success stories of over 100 women SHGs who have become Lakhpati Didis through structured enterprise support, capacity building, and mentorship under the JKRLM framework.

The Union Minister and the Chief Minister jointly made commitment for grassroots empowerment, inclusive growth, and stronger centre-state collaboration to transform the rural and agricultural ecosystem of Jammu and Kashmir.

5 lakh homeless...

are included," Chouhan said.

He added the work will be initiated to ensure every eligible individual in the region gets a permanent roof. The minister also said under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), efforts are underway to eliminate rural poverty, particularly among women. "Through self-help groups, the government is aiming to increase the annual income of women to over Rs 1 lakh under the 'Lakhpati Didi' scheme".

Chouhan said that the scheme is progressing in Jammu and Kashmir and many women have already achieved the Lakhpati status. He also mentioned a new category, "Millennial Didi," for women whose annual income has reached Rs 10 lakh.

A booklet showcasing the stories of such women was released during the event.

Speaking on employment, Chouhan said rural job schemes like MGNREGA have faced some challenges, but steps are being taken to address those issues.

He said targets have been set for workers under MGNREGA this year and implementation is underway in the region. "The government is also focusing on skilled youth for employment and new educational initiatives will be introduced. Efforts are being made to connect more farmers to the Kisan Credit Card scheme".

He said several problems were discussed during his visit and steps are being taken to improve the implementation of central schemes. "As per the direction of the Prime Minister, we are committed to ensuring the full development of Jammu and Kashmir," he said. KNO

'Strong India' will...

emerging economy, PM Modi said that on the foundations of stable polity and governance, India will soon become the third-largest economy.

Prime Minister Modi underlined that the world order created after World War II is changing fast.

"The revolution in technology, the rise of the Global South and the shifting demographics are contributing to its pace and scale," he said, adding that the changing circumstances demand credible and effective reforms in global governance. KNO

J&K braces for...

is expected at many places while few places may receive intense showers with heavy rain at isolated places of Jammu division.

As per Aadil Maqbool, an Independent Weather Forecaster, Western Disturbance and Monsoon winds would likely bring widespread rain showers across Jammu and Kashmir from 06 July onwards. "Heavy to very heavy rain showers are also possible," he said.

"As per current indications, peak activity is expected on 6 and 7 July with a couple of more spells expected on 8 July," Maqbool said.

In the meantime, the MeT has issued an advisory, stating that flash floods at few vulnerable places with landslides, mudslides & shooting stones are expected during 6-8 July.

Rise in water level in rivers, streams, local Nalas & water logging in few low lying areas is also expected, the advisory added. KNO

Perpetrators of...

conference in Washington, as per the news agency. "And that's important because we then have to communicate to the world what we did. On May 7, the objective of Operation Sindoor is that if there are terrorist attacks, we will act against the perpetrators, the supporters, the financiers, and the enablers. So that mes-

sage, I think, was conveyed with great clarity," he said.

A joint statement issued by Quad Foreign Ministers condemned in the "strongest terms" the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, which left 26 people dead.

"We call for the perpetrators, organisers, and financiers of this reprehensible act to be brought to justice without any delay and urge all U.N. member states, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant UNSCRs (UN Security Council resolutions), to cooperate actively with all relevant authorities in this regard," the joint statement said.

The U.N. Security Council press statement condemned the Pahalgam attack, with members of the Security Council underlining the need to hold perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of this reprehensible act of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice.

The council members stressed that those responsible for these killings should be held accountable.

India had launched Operation Sindoor targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the Pahalgam attack. KNO

2 terrorist...

grenades, 59 live rounds of AK-47, 01 AK 47 Magazine and incriminating material was recovered.

It is pertinent to mention here that, both the arrested terrorist associates were involved in providing logistics support and transportation of arms & ammunition to the active terrorists of proscribed terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad in Tral and Awantipora areas of Police District Awantipora.

Accordingly, police said that a case under FIR number 86/2025 under relevant sections of law have been registered in PS Tral and investigation has been initiated. KNO

Monsoon Session...

Pakistan. This request comes as multi-party delegations, currently abroad for diplomatic outreach, are expected to return to the country soon.

PM Modi-led NDA government also sent seven multi-party delegations who travelled to over 30 countries to highlight India's strong stance against terrorism following Operation Sindoor.

As part of the government's diplomatic outreach, the delegation included MPs from across party lines, former parliamentarians and senior diplomats.

Earlier, the session was to conclude on August 12, but now it has been extended by a week as the government is mulling to bring in key legislations, including one to facilitate the entry of the private sector in the atomic energy domain.

Limited purchases...

imported power, it is seen that the power procurement by J&K from the market is approx. 40-50% during lean season. This over dependence on day ahead/ intraday market for purchase of power is indicating that measures for ensuring resource adequacy are required at J&K end," the document states. KNO

SIA conducts searches...

the investigation. These efforts will aid SIA Kashmir to bring the perpetrators of this terrorist act to justice and dismantle the terror module involved in such terrorist activities," it reads.

It added the search operations are a crucial step toward identifying and apprehending the co-conspirators and supporters of the accused, ensuring a comprehensive probe into the murder and related unlawful activities. KNO

India will continue to lead charge against terror: Kavinder



Says days of silent tolerance toward terrorism over now

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 3

"India will continue to lead the charge against terror with global partners standing in solidarity. The days of silent tolerance toward terrorism are over," declared Kavinder Gupta, senior BJP leader and former Deputy Chief Minister, while welcoming the strong message issued by the Quad grouping over the recent Pahalgam terror attack.

Kavinder was responding to the joint statement released by the Quad foreign ministers - from India, the United States, Australia, and Japan - during their meeting in Washington, which unequivocally condemned the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

The statement called for the perpetrators, organisers, and financiers of the attack to be brought to justice without delay, urging all UN member states to co-operate in line with international law and relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Kavinder Gupta said that this unified stance by Quad nations is a clear message to terror sponsors across the globe that the international community will no longer remain a mute spectator. He appreciated the strong intervention of External

Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, who effectively conveyed India's unwavering position on terrorism and cross-border threats.

"When the Government of India is committed to wiping out terrorism from its roots, global partners stepping up to echo that voice strengthens our resolve manifold," he said. He emphasized that terrorist attacks like the one in Pahalgam are not isolated incidents but part of a larger proxy war being waged against peace and democracy, especially in Jammu and Kashmir.

The senior BJP leader also stressed the need for strict global accountability mechanisms to isolate nations that provide safe havens and funding to terror networks. "The Quad's call for justice must now be followed by concrete diplomatic and economic actions against rogue elements," he added.

Kavinder expressed hope that the upcoming Quad Summit in India later this year will further cement strategic cooperation, not just against terrorism but also in areas like maritime security, supply chain resilience, and regional stability.

"The world must recognize that terrorism anywhere is a threat to peace everywhere. India's stand is clear - we will neither forget nor forgive acts of terror, and now, the world seems ready to stand with us," he added.

Cooperative department Kashmir commemorates 'International Year of Cooperatives' at Srinagar

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 3

The Department of Cooperatives today organized a Divisional Level function at Tagore Hall here to commemorate the International Year of Cooperatives 2025, as declared by the United Nations under the global theme: 'Cooperatives Build a Better World'.

In his welcome address, Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Mohammad Shafiq Chak was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Registrar Cooperative Societies highlighted the transformative power of cooperatives in building a sustainable and economically viable society. He said that cooperatives are more than economic enterprises and are value-driven organizations built on solidarity and mutual support.

The Registrar also spoke about the roadmap for cooperative movement in Jammu and Kashmir, focusing on digital integration, capacity building, financial literacy, and easier access to credit facilities for grassroots organizations.



Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Mohammad Shafiq Chak was the Chief Guest on the occasion. He shared the department's vision for the cooperative movement in Jammu and Kashmir and emphasized the revival of primary cooperative societies, particularly in agriculture, dairy, handicrafts, and rural credit—contributing to the economic upliftment of the region.

Speakers from various cooperative societies shared personal insights into how the cooperative movement has trans-

formed their lives and positively impacted their communities, underscoring the movement's grassroots strength and social value.

Later, the Registrar also inspected exhibition stalls set up by various cooperative societies and held brief, engaging interactions with their representatives.

The event also featured cultural performances, showcasing the cooperative ethos and community spirit unique to the region.

A special segment of the event included the felicitation of Best Performing Cooperative Societies as well as outstanding departmental officers and officials from across Kashmir Division, recognizing their contributions to the sector.

Food Safety Team inspects langars at Base Camp Nunwan, Transit Camp Chandanwari, Pahalgam

J I NEWS SERVICE
PAHALGAM, JULY 3

Aimed at ensuring the safety and well-being of pilgrims during the Shri Amarnath Yatra, the Food Safety team Kashmir, under the directions of Commissioner Food and Drugs Administration, Smita Sethi, conducted a comprehensive inspection of Langars operating at the Base Camp Nunwan and Transit Camp Chandanwari, Pahalgam. The inspections were conducted under the supervision of Joint Commissioner Food Safety, Sanjeev Kumar.

The team was comprised of Deputy Commissioner Food Safety, Kashmir, State Nodal Officer, Food Safety Officer HQ Kashmir and Food Safety Officers from Anantnag district.

The inspection aimed to ensure that all Langars adhere to the highest standards of food safety and hygiene, thereby safeguarding the health of pilgrims.

On the occasion, a sensitisation meeting was also convened by the Joint Commissioner, in which Sachin Sharma, Additional Camp Director and representatives of Langars authorized to operate at the Base Camp Nunwan participated.

It was informed that 12 Langars are currently operating at the Base Camp, Nunwan and 08 at the Transit Camp Chandanwari.



During the meeting, State Nodal Officer FDA sensitized the representatives of the Langars on the importance of maintaining high standards of health hygiene and food safety.

The Langar representatives and food handlers were emphasized for compliance with the Advisory issued by the department, focusing on key areas like sanitary and hygienic requirements, proper storage conditions, regular checking of expiry dates of raw materials, use of potable water for food preparation, disposal of food waste, pest and

rodent control measures, prohibition of an permitted food colors, ensuring health certificates for food handlers, registration of Langars under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

The Joint Commissioner Food Safety said that the Food Safety Department is firmly committed to monitor and enforce the food safety standards during the Shri Amarnath Yatra. He urged all Food Business Operators (FBOs) to strictly adhere to the guidelines and regulations, ensuring a safe and healthy experience for all the pilgrims.

DLIC meeting under Mission YUVA held at Shopian

J I NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, JULY 3



A meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) under Mission YUVA was held today under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta.

The meeting aimed to review and approve applications received under the Mission YUVA initiative, designed to foster youth entrepreneurship and self-employment.

A total of 148 applications verified by the SBDU were presented for consideration.

Following a comprehensive evaluation based on eligibility, business viability and the applicant's socio-economic background, all applications were approved for financial assistance and handholding support under the Mission YUVA framework.

Addressing the committee, DDC emphasized the vital role of self-employment in empowering youth, instructing

all departments to ensure timely fund disbursement, monitoring and mentoring to guarantee the sustainability of the supported ventures.

During the meeting, Gupta underscored the importance of expanding outreach activities, organizing awareness camps and conducting mobile registration drives to ensure the benefits of Mission YUVA reach every eligible youth in the district.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, General Manager DIC, Shurjil Naikoo, AD Employment, Lead District Manager, DDM NABARD, Advance Manager Cluster office JKB, District Officer JKEDI, Advance Manager, DDM NABARD, Employment & Counselling officer DECC Shopian.

DC reviews Good Governance Index performance in Udhampur



J I NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JULY 3

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, today chaired a meeting with officers from various line departments to review the status of the Good Governance Index in the district.

At the outset, DSEO, Darshan Kumar, presented an overview of the District Good Governance Index through a detailed PowerPoint presentation. He outlined the objectives of the index and its role in monitoring district-level performance across key developmental sectors.

The meeting was attended by PO Poshan Subash Dogra, General Manager

DIC Kishore Singh Katoch, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan, Chief Planning Officer Mohd Iqbal Zargar and other senior officers of line departments.

During the meeting, Chief Education Officer was instructed to take proactive measures to improve gender parity in the education sector. The Executive Engineer, JPDCL was directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply to all government schools. In this regard, the DC emphasized checking the availability and functionality of both power and drinking water facilities in schools.

The Social Welfare Department was asked to

boost beneficiary enrollment under the Atal Pension Yojana, while the PO Poshan was directed to monitor abandoned buildings for their potential use in accommodating Anganwadi Centres.

Additionally, the Health Department was instructed to take steps to increase the rate of institutional deliveries in the district, as part of efforts to strengthen maternal and child health services.

The Deputy Commissioner urged all departments to work in close coordination and adopt a result-oriented approach to ensure significant improvement in governance standards at the grassroots level.

Satish Sharma highlights direct selling as catalyst for economic growth, youth empowerment



J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 3

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, today emphasized the transformative potential of direct selling industry in empowering youth, fostering ethical entrepreneurship and catalyzing inclusive economic growth in Jammu & Kashmir.

He was speaking at a conclave organised by Federation of Indian Direct Selling industries on Direct Selling and Consumer Markets on the theme "Regulations, Innovations and Growth."

The Minister appreciated the Dignitaries, Industry Leaders and the Delegates for their collective commitment towards fostering a robust and ethical direct selling ecosystem in the region and across the nation.

"The landscape of consumer markets is constantly evolving and at the heart of this evolution lies the direct selling industry, a sector that has shown remarkable

resilience, adaptability and the power to reach grassroots communities across India," maintained the Minister.

He underscored the necessity of a clear and comprehensive regulatory framework, calling it not just beneficial but essential. "Trust forms the very foundation of direct selling between the seller and the consumer and within the business model itself. Well-defined regulations provide this trust, protect consumers from malpractices and create a level playing field for all the stakeholders," he said.

Reiterating Jammu & Kashmir Government's commitment, Sharma assured full support for ethical practices, consumer protection and responsible business conduct. "We are resolute in ensuring effective implementation of regulations that eliminate ambiguities and build consumer confidence, thereby unlocking the full potential of direct selling," the Minister stated.

Highlighting the sector's role in youth engagement, the Minister said that the direct selling

is a powerful vehicle for generating employment, promoting skill development and enabling meaningful self-employment, especially among women and youth. It offers a low-barrier entry point for entrepreneurship, contributing significantly to local economies, he added.

The Minister further affirmed that the government is creating an enabling environment for direct selling companies to invest and expand in Jammu & Kashmir. "We view this sector as a vital component of our economic resurgence," he said, adding that ethical growth of the industry must be inextricably linked to innovation and unwavering adherence to consumer rights.

"Together, we can ensure that direct selling continues to be a powerful force for economic empowerment and a model of responsible business in India. Let us strengthen the trust and confidence of our consumers and drive sustainable development through this dynamic sector", maintained the Minister.

DDC Poonch reviews implementation of Vibrant Village Programme-II



J I NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 3

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch, Vikas Kundal today chaired a comprehensive meeting to review the implementation of the Vibrant Village Programme-II—an ambitious initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs aimed at transforming the lives of people in border areas.

The review meeting, held at the conference hall of the DC Office Complex, focused on strategizing measures for achieving the full saturation across key thematic areas identified by the Ministry. The DDC underlined the importance of addressing critical gaps in essential sectors such as network connectivity, road accessibility, television connectivity and household electrification in remote and border villages.

Calling for a holistic and inclusive development approach, DDC directed

the concerned departments to carry out detailed gap analyses and prepare Village Action Plans (VAPs) accordingly. He emphasized the need to conduct Gram Sabhas in each village to ensure ground-level assessment and community participation in the planning process.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC said, "This Vibrant Village Programme will become a major scheme for our border district. The administration is committed to ensuring inclusive development and significantly improving the quality of life in border and remote villages under the Vibrant Villages Programme."

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDCC), PO ICDS, Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Assistant Commissioner Panchayats (ACP), AD FCS&CA, BDOs, Tehsildars and other concerned officers joined the session virtually.

DC Budgam Flags off Cluster-Based Exposure Visit for 100 Farmers Under HADP

J I NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JULY 3



The Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohiud-Din Bhat today flagged off a group of 100 progressive farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs for a cluster-based exposure visit under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) to different agriculture institutions of J&K.

The exposure visit aims to provide farmers with first-hand knowledge and technical insights into modern farming practices, with a focus on innovation, sustainability, and productivity enhancement.

During the tour, the participating farmers will visit several renowned agricultural institutions including the Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture

(CITH), Dryland Agricultural Research Station (DARS), Rangreth, Integrated Mushroom Development Centre (IMD), Lal Mandi, Kitchen Gardens, Lal Mandi, Floriculture Hot House, and the Lavender Park in Srinagar.

On the occasion, the DC Budgam underscored the vital role of agriculture in the district's economy and reaffirmed the district administration's commitment to farmer welfare and sustainable agricultural growth. He urged the participating farmers to take full advantage of the exposure visit and incorporate the best practices into their farming

operations. DC assured the farming community for district administration's continuous support in upgrading their technical skills and empowering them through innovative and market-oriented initiatives. He further said, District administration remains steadfast in promoting farmer-centric programmes aimed at increasing productivity, fostering agri-entrepreneurship, and enhancing market linkages for local produce. Besides, Chief agriculture officer (CAO) Budgam, all SDAOs and officials of concerned were present on the occasion.



CA. Charanjot Singh Nanda, President, The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, today.



Mohammad Haneefa, Member of Parliament, along with a delegation of students from Ladakh called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today. The delegation urged the restoration of reservation in admission earlier granted to the students of Ladakh under various courses at SKUAST Kashmir.

EDITORIAL

The urgent call for smarter crowd management

Power crisis in J&K rooted in poor planning and financial mismanagement

The power crisis in Jammu and Kashmir has once again come under the spotlight, this time through the agenda note of the 79th meeting of the Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC). The document lays bare the uncomfortable truth: that the recurring electricity shortages in the Union Territory are less about national supply constraints and more about limited market procurement and chronic financial non-compliance on J&K's part. It is a deeply troubling revelation that even as other states are managing to ensure uninterrupted supply, J&K continues to falter due to structural inefficiencies and a glaring lack of accountability.

The NRPC note confirms what experts have long warned—that J&K's over-reliance on power imports, particularly during the winter months when internal hydropower generation dries up, leaves the region vulnerable to supply disruptions. But instead of addressing this vulnerability with long-term planning, the power department has seemingly resorted to short-term fixes, sourcing 40-50% of its power from volatile day-ahead or intraday markets during lean periods. This approach not only exposes the UT to the whims of market pricing but also makes it susceptible to exclusion from power exchanges, especially when payment defaults occur.

The fact that J&K has seen no increase in internal power generation over the last four to five years is both alarming and disappointing. Despite having significant hydropower potential, the region has failed to capitalize on it, while demand continues to grow year after year. Without expanding its own generation capacity or entering into stable, long-term power purchase agreements, J&K has locked itself into a cycle of crisis management—buying expensive electricity at the last moment and often being denied access due to outstanding dues.

This crisis points to a broader failure of governance and planning. Financial mismanagement has not only undermined J&K's credibility in the national power market but also deprived citizens of a basic necessity. In a region where winters are severe and industrial development is a key part of future growth, the inability to guarantee power supply is a major bottleneck. The UT administration must accept that temporary fixes and reactive strategies are no substitute for sustained investment, fiscal discipline, and clear policy direction.

For Jammu and Kashmir to overcome its power woes, it must prioritize internal capacity building, clear its financial backlogs, and engage in long-term planning. The stakes are too high to allow short-sightedness and inertia to continue. Energy security is not just a matter of infrastructure—it is a matter of public trust and development.

SATENDRA SINGH

The devastating stampede in Bangalore, which resulted in the tragic loss of eleven lives and stunned the nation, remains vivid in our minds. Now, another sorrowful event has transpired during the honoured Rath Yatra in Puri. This stampede has taken the lives of three pilgrims and left many others wounded, turning a moment of spiritual devotion into one of confusion and grief. Despite having thousands of security personnel and employing advanced surveillance technology, such as drones, CCTV cameras, and AI, this tragedy could not be averted. This occurrence, like many others before it, raises urgent questions: Why do these incidents continue despite past lessons? What more can be done to protect the millions who participate in these events with hope and faith?

India has a troubling history with stampedes, particularly during religious celebrations, in temples, and at pilgrimage sites. Since 1996, there have been over 4,000 reports of such incidents, resulting in numerous fatalities. The Kumbh Mela, known globally as one of the largest gatherings, has faced multiple disasters despite thorough planning. The recent tragedy in Puri underscores the urgent need to reassess our strategies for managing large crowds, moving beyond mere barricades and police presence to adopt intelligence-driven, holistic approaches that can predict and prevent such catastrophes.

A key challenge in managing crowds stems from the unpredictability of human behaviour. A stampede can often be set off by a minor incident—such as a loud sound, a rumour, or a blockage—that incites fear. People may flee in different directions, escape routes become blocked, and within moments, lives can be lost.

In Puri, initial reports indicate that poor sector organisation and a failure to disperse the crowd on time contributed to the deadly incident. While authorities may have enhanced crowd management tactics over time, understanding the psychology and dynamics of moving crowds is a vital area that requires focus.

What is especially concerning is the possibility of deliberate disruptions. Evidence from social media and local news indicates that organised groups or troublemakers may attempt to provoke unrest during major gatherings. This highlights the need for improved intelligence networks—not just nationally but also within local communities.



It is essential to engage reliable informants, community leaders, and local law enforcement to collect real-time intelligence about any potential threats or attempts to create disorder.

The time has come to shift from reactive tactics to a proactive, intelligence-driven approach to crowd management. Effective preparation should go beyond simply predicting crowd numbers and setting up barriers.

It must include comprehensive risk assessments that consider human behaviour, infrastructure readiness, and security intelligence. Frameworks like the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction establish a global standard for these approaches, underscoring the significance of grasping risks, investing in preventive actions, and enhancing early warning and response systems.

While technology can significantly aid this process, it cannot operate in isolation. Surveillance tools such as facial recognition, drone-based thermal imaging, and AI-enhanced crowd analytics depend heavily on the skills of those who interpret and act on the data. It is vital to train staff in crowd psychology, emergency response, and real-time communication.

Likewise, mobile apps that provide instant updates, emergency alerts, and navigation help attendees avoid high-risk zones. Biometric and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)-based access control systems can effectively mitigate overcrowding in sensitive areas. Nevertheless,

these sophisticated solutions must be integrated into a comprehensive preparedness strategy that prioritises community involvement. Residents, shopkeepers, and volunteers—those who best understand the surroundings—should be engaged in security planning and monitoring.

Their vigilance and prompt reporting of unusual activities can help avert disasters. India should also learn from international best practices. Countries like Japan have adeptly managed large public events with clearly marked exits, organised crowd flow, and robust communication systems. These tactics can be adapted to suit India's religious and cultural circumstances with suitable planning and political commitment. Furthermore, the importance of analysing incidents after the fact cannot be emphasised enough. Each stampede should be meticulously examined to pinpoint failures in execution and establish corrective measures. The duties of various stakeholders—event organisers, law enforcement, and municipal officials—must be clearly defined and coordinated under a unified command framework. Publicising investigation findings and implementing their recommendations can enhance transparency and build public trust.

The Puri tragedy symbolises not only an administrative shortcoming but also a human one, underlining how systems can fail when vigilance wanes. As the size of religious gatherings continues to rise, India must

take assertive steps to protect the lives of those who come together in faith. Belief should never invoke fear.

Only through a unified, forward-thinking strategy that merges intelligence, community participation, behavioural insights, and cutting-edge technology can we hope to ensure the safety of such events. The moment to act is now—before another holy day turns into a National Day of Mourning.

Major Stampede Incidents in India Over the Last Two Decades
January 2005: A stampede at the Mandher Devi Temple in Satara, Maharashtra, resulted in over 300 deaths due to a fire and overcrowding during a religious fair.

August 2008: At the Naina Devi Temple in Himachal Pradesh, a stampede led to 145 fatalities, with many victims being women and children.

September 2008: A devastating stampede during Navratri at the Chamunda Devi Temple in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, claimed more than 220 lives.

January 2011: An incident occurred on a narrow forest path during the Sabarimala pilgrimage in Kerala, resulting in the deaths of over 104 devotees after a vehicle overturned.

2013: A stampede at the Kumbh Mela in Allahabad (now Prayagraj), Uttar Pradesh, at the railway station caused at least 36 deaths.

October 2013: Around 115 people lost their lives in a stampede near the Ratangarh Temple in Madhya Pradesh, reportedly sparked by rumours of a collapse.

ing bridge.
July 2015: A tragic stampede during the Godavari Maha Pushkaram festival in Andhra Pradesh led to at least 27 fatalities.

September 2017: Twenty-three people died and 36 were injured in a stampede on the narrow bridge connecting the Elphinstone Road station of the Western Railway to Parel station of the Central Railway in Mumbai.

January 2022: A surge in the crowd at the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu and Kashmir resulted in the deaths of at least 12 pilgrims near the Bhawan complex.

July 2024: A stampede during a religious gathering in Hathras, Uttar Pradesh, left more than 120 individuals dead, predominantly women, following a spiritual discourse.

January 8, 2025: At the Tirupati Temple in Andhra Pradesh, a stampede resulted in the deaths of 6 people and left several others injured.

February 2025: A stampede during the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, led to the deaths of over 30 pilgrims and injured many more, highlighting ongoing crowd management issues.

June 2025: A tragic incident in Bengaluru occurred when a stampede at the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) stadium resulted in several fatalities.

(The writers Former Executive Director, National Institute of Disaster Management, GOI. Views are personal)

Higher education: Growth, challenges and road ahead

AJITESH BASANI

India's higher education sector is undergoing a dynamic transformation marked by significant growth, diversification of academic programme, and the rise of hybrid learning models. With a reported 14 per cent growth in sectoral revenue, the momentum is being driven by changing learner expectations, technological advancements, and policy shifts aimed at increasing the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), which currently stands at 28 per cent. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 envisions raising this to 50 per cent in the next decade—an ambitious target that demands both structural reform and innovative delivery mechanisms.

A key trend shaping the higher education landscape is the shift from traditional, siloed disciplines to industry-aligned, multidisciplinary programs. Institutions across the country are increasingly introducing courses in emerging domains such as artificial intelligence, data analytics, fintech, sustainable development, and digital marketing. The rise of hybrid learning models—combining online and offline components—has played a critical role in

democratising access. The post-2020 acceleration of digital platforms has brought education to remote and underserved areas, while simultaneously catering to urban learners who value flexibility and autonomy. Hybrid models are especially attractive to the current generation of learners, who seek personalised and modular learning journeys rather than rigid, one-size-fits-all programmes.

International enrolment is also contributing to the sector's vibrancy. Students from Africa, Southeast Asia, and parts of the Middle East are increasingly looking to India for higher education due to its relative affordability, quality assurance, and English-language instruction. With clearly defined academic roadmaps and regulated institutional frameworks, India is emerging as a credible global education hub.

However, the rapid transformation has brought with it new challenges. Chief among them is the need for constant curriculum renewal to keep pace with industry disruptions, especially those led by technology. As the pace of change accelerates, the traditional model of revising curricula every few years has become inadequate. Insti-

tutions that offer autonomous programs are now introducing mechanisms such as biannual curriculum reviews in collaboration with industry experts.

This allows for agile course updates and incorporation of real-world applications. In the realm of business education in particular, job readiness has become a central concern. The success of any academic program is increasingly being measured by how well it prepares students for the workforce. This includes not just academic knowledge, but also a portfolio of practical skills, exposure to current tools, and adaptability to new technologies. Institutions are addressing this by embedding certification modules from industry leaders, offering hands-on training, and introducing placement preparation from the first semester.

The implementation of NEP 2020 marks a significant departure from previous policies by encouraging multidisciplinary learning, vocational integration, and skill-based education. While the policy is well-framed in its vision, its execution remains uneven across states. Variations in adoption timelines and curricular frameworks have led to fragmented outcomes. For instance,

students within the same institution may follow entirely different academic models depending on state-level directives. This lack of cohesion hinders scalability and national benchmarking. Policy clarity is especially critical in defining institutional roles. The NEP envisages categorising institutions into research universities, teaching universities, and autonomous colleges. Such classification allows for targeted development and funding, but ambiguity in criteria and overlapping mandates have caused operational uncertainties. A unified and phased approach to implementation, led by both central and state Governments, is essential to streamline the transition.

Another area of concern is teacher training. As student expectations evolve, the role of educators is shifting from knowledge dispensers to facilitators and mentors. This transition requires a new set of competencies—ranging from digital literacy and interdisciplinary thinking to the ability to guide students through personalised learning paths. The forthcoming national teacher education framework, set to launch in 2026, may address some of these gaps, but continuous professional

development and pedagogical innovation must remain a priority. The changing perception of degrees and certifications also warrants attention. In today's job market, demonstrable skills often outweigh formal qualifications. Employers are increasingly emphasising problem-solving ability, communication skills, and digital proficiency over academic transcripts. This shift is especially evident in sectors like media, design, IT, and entrepreneurship. As a result, institutions must realign their assessment systems and course outcomes to reflect competence, not just compliance.

Going forward, the future of higher education in India lies in meaningful collaboration. Academic institutions must build deeper partnerships with industries to ensure relevance, internships, mentorships, and placements. Specialisation, adaptability, and a commitment to lifelong learning will be key differentiators. Institutions that invest in these areas will be best positioned to prepare students for a rapidly changing world.

(The writer is the Executive Director—Administration at Acharya Bangalore B-School (ABBS). Views are personal)

PRIP Scheme to boost cost-effective, affordable healthcare solutions in India: Centre

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The scheme for Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma MedTech sector (PRIP) will boost cost-effective and affordable healthcare solutions in India, said the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers on Thursday.

The scheme has been launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals to transform India into a global powerhouse for R&D in the Pharma MedTech sector.

The scheme was notified on August 17, 2023, with a total financial outlay of Rs 5,000 crore, of which Rs 4,250 crore is focused on accelerating investments in the R&D ecosystem within the sector.

"The PRIP Scheme



is focussed on enabling research and innovation for the health challenges of tomorrow, with the aim of supporting innovative, cost-effective, and affordable healthcare solutions that can strengthen both domestic and global healthcare ecosystems," said Amit Agrawal, Secretary, of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, at an Industry dialogue organised on the PRIP scheme in Mumbai.

Agrawal emphasised the importance of futuristic products and the "need for affordable healthcare solutions as fundamental pillars of India's global leadership in pharmaceuticals and medical technology".

He highlighted that data-driven markets will play a transformative role in shaping the future of Pharma-MedTech R&D and stressed that India, with its highly diverse

gene pool and as home to one-sixth of the world's population, holds a unique comparative advantage in developing personalised and precision medicines.

The event served as a platform for industry leaders, associations, and research institutes from the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs) to engage in discussions on strengthening industry-academia linkages. The experts also deliberated on fostering collaboration and leveraging government initiatives to accelerate R&D and commercialise innovative solutions in the pharmaceutical and medical technology sectors.

Study links diet, waist-to-hip ratio in midlife with cognitive function later

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

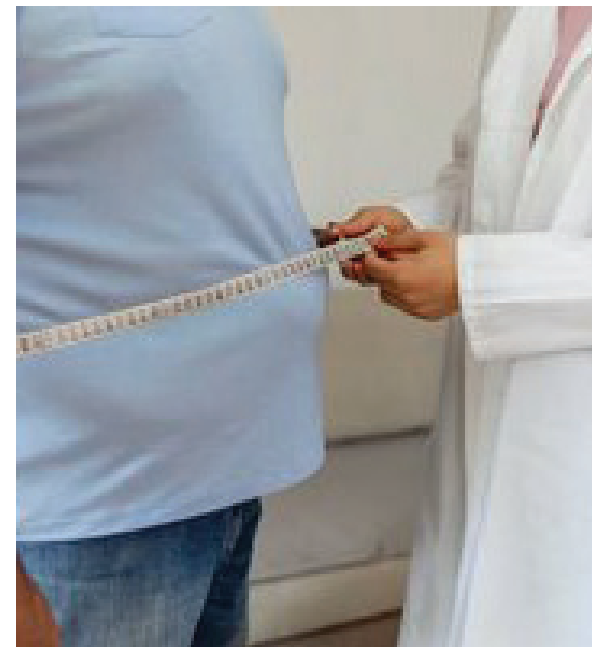
The quality of diet and waist-to-hip ratio in midlife are associated with brain connectivity and cognitive performance in later life, according to a study.

Researchers from Oxford University and University College London in the UK found that people in midlife engaging in healthy eating had an increased hippocampal functional connectivity to the occipital lobe and cerebellum; as well as a better white matter.

These improved working memory, executive function, and overall cognitive performance in middle-aged adults.

On the other hand, those with higher waist-to-hip ratio in midlife had a widespread decrease in white matter integrity, leading to implications in memory and executive function.

Reduced fractional



anisotropy in these regions was linked to poorer cognitive performance.

"Healthier diets and lower waist-to-hip ratio during midlife correlate with improved brain health in older age," said the researchers in the study, published in JAMA

Network Open.

Global shifts in dietary habits have contributed to rising rates of obesity, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes, all of which are linked to an increased risk of dementia.

Research into the relationship between diet,

metabolic health, and brain function has primarily focused on individual nutrients, with fewer studies assessing overall diet quality and body fat distribution over extended periods.

Previous studies have suggested that midlife is a critical window for cognitive health interventions, yet long-term study evidence on diet and brain connectivity remains limited.

The study analysed longitudinal changes in diet quality and waist-to-hip ratio to assess their association with hippocampal connectivity and cognitive function in ageing.

The team included 512 participants in the diet quality analysis and 664 in the waist-to-hip ratio analysis.

The findings suggest that interventions to improve diet and manage central obesity might be most effective between ages 48 and 70 years.

Chinese scientists develop novel hydrogel to combat rheumatoid arthritis

AGENCIES
BEIJING

A research team from north China's Tianjin University has developed a new type of injectable hydrogel that can regulate immune cell metabolism, helping to reduce inflammation and slow down rheumatoid arthritis.

Rheumatoid arthritis is a painful and relentless chronic disease. It occurs when the body's immune system mistakenly attacks healthy joints, leading to deformities and disabilities, making everyday life a struggle for millions of people, Xinhua news agency reported.

Scientists have discovered that a key factor in this process is the metabolism of immune cells, particularly macrophages. When these cells' metabolic pathways go off balance, they release excessive inflammatory signals that worsen the disease. If this metabo-



lism could be controlled, it might open up a new way to treat rheumatoid arthritis.

The novel hydrogel developed by the researchers is made from biodegradable alginate and has a special dual-net-

work structure, making it easy to inject and allowing for the controlled release of therapeutic agents.

Once inside the joint, the hydrogel reacts to the acidic environment of the inflamed area, gradually releasing zinc ions and

small interfering RNA.

These substances help reprogram the macrophages' metabolism, reducing their ability to trigger inflammation and enhancing their anti-inflammatory function.

"This is the first time metabolic reprogramming has been used in rheumatoid arthritis treatment, and we hope it can be applied to other inflammatory diseases in the future," said Li Nan, who led the team.

The findings were recently published in Advanced Functional Materials.

"Our goal is to provide not just a more effective treatment for RA, but also to explore new ways of tackling inflammation-related conditions at the metabolic level," Nan said.

This innovative hydrogel brings new hope to RA patients, offering a potential game-changer in the fight against this challenging disease.

Western diet may raise risk of lung cancer: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Western diet, often high in salt, sugar and fat, has the potential to raise the risk of cancer in the lungs, finds a study.

Previous research has shown the link between poor diet and cancers of organs like the liver and pancreas; thus the long-term impact of diet has been well studied.

"Lung cancer has not traditionally been thought of as a dietary-related disease," said Ramon Sun, Associate Professor and director of the University of Florida's Center for Advanced Spatial Biomolecular Research.

"Diseases like pancreatic cancer or liver cancer, yes. However, when it comes to lung cancer, the idea that diet could play a role is rarely discussed," Sun added.

For the study, published in the journal



Nature Metabolism, the team focussed on glycogen accumulation -- a storage molecule, made up of glucose, or a simple sugar. It has been found to accumulate at high levels across a variety of cancers and other diseases.

Through lab models and computer-guided models of glycogen stores

in the lung, the researchers showed that in lung cancer, glycogen acts as an oncogenic metabolite, akin to a "giant lollipop for cancer's sweet tooth."

The more glycogen in the cancer cells, the bigger and worse the tumour growth.

When scientists fed mice a high-fat, high-

fructose Western diet that supported more glycogen in the blood, lung tumours grew. When glycogen levels decreased, tumour growth did, too.

In short, the typical Western diet increases glycogen levels and glycogen feeds lung cancer tumours by providing their building blocks for growth, said the researchers.

Glycogen is an "exceptionally good predictor" of tumour growth and death in lung cancer patients, Sun said.

Sun called for greater emphasis on public awareness and policy-driven strategies to promote healthier dietary choices much like the anti-smoking campaign.

"Prioritising a nutrient-rich diet, maintaining an active lifestyle and minimising alcohol intake are foundational strategies for long-term health," the team said.

Younger adults, kids will benefit more from H5N1 vaccines: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Younger adults and children would benefit more from H5N1 vaccines, even those not tailored specifically to the current strain circulating in birds and cattle, finds a study.

Researchers from the University of Pennsylvania in the US showed that prior exposures to specific types of seasonal influenza viruses promote cross-reactive immunity against the H5N1 avian influenza virus.

In the study, published in the journal Nature Medicine, older adults who were exposed to seasonal flu viruses that circulated before 1968 were found to be more likely to have antibodies that bind to the H5N1 avian flu virus.

"We know that early childhood influenza exposures can elicit immune responses that last a lifetime," said Scott Hensley, Professor of Microbiology



at the varsity.

"We found that antibody responses that were primed by H1N1 and H3N2 viruses decades ago can cross-react to H5N1 avian viruses circulating today. Most of these cross-reactive antibodies cannot prevent infections, but they will likely limit disease if we have an H5N1 pandemic," he added.

H5N1 viruses have circulated in birds for many years, but a new version -- clade 2.3.4.4b H5N1 virus -- emerged more recently and has since spread among cattle. This current

H5N1 strain does not bind well to receptors in the human upper airway, but widespread circulation in mammals could lead to mutations that help the virus infect human airway cells and increase transmission.

If this occurs, H5N1 could potentially start spreading from human to human. Current influenza vaccines primarily elicit antibodies that recognise hemagglutinin proteins and prevent them from infecting a person's cells.

The team tested blood samples from over 150

people born between 1927 and 2016 for antibodies targeting the stalk proteins of different influenza viruses, including H5N1. They found that blood samples from older adults born before 1968 who were likely first exposed to H1N1 or H2N2 in childhood had higher levels of antibodies that could bind to the stalk of the H5N1 virus.

They found that an individual's birth year was closely linked to the amount of H5N1-fighting antibodies in their blood. Young children who were not exposed to seasonal flu viruses possessed low levels of antibodies that could fight H5N1.

Hensley said that in cases of an H5N1 pandemic, all age groups will likely be highly susceptible. But, the highest disease burden may be in children. "If this is the case, children should be prioritised for H5N1 vaccinations," the expert said.

S. Korea may log negative growth from 2050 if low birth rate continues: BOK chief

AGENCIES
SEOUL

The chief of the South Korean central bank on Friday warned that the current level of ultra-low birth rate will cause South Korea to log negative economic growth after 2050, calling for measures to ease intense competition and burdens regarding employment, housing and childcare.

The Bank of Korea (BOK) Gov. Rhee Chang-yong issued the warning in his keynote speech during the Global Engagement & Empowerment Forum (GEEF) held in Seoul, citing the demographic crisis and climate change as the most urgent challenges facing the country, Yonhap news agency reported.

"The current fertility rate constitutes a national emergency. If this trend continues, Korea faces an irreversible population crisis that threatens economic stability and social



cohesion," Chang-yong said.

"If the fertility rate remains at 0.75, Korea will inevitably face prolonged negative economic growth after 2050," he added, citing a recent BOK study that showed the country's potential growth rate may approach near zero percent by the late 2040s from the current 2 percent level.

The total fertility rate, which represents the average number of expected births per woman in her lifetime, came to 0.75 in 2024, far below the 2.1 births per woman needed to maintain a stable population without immigra-

tion, government data showed.

"Young people today face fierce competition for scarce, high-quality jobs, making career stability difficult. Simultaneously, soaring housing prices make home ownership seem unattainable. Under these pressures, raising children is more than challenging; it is an overwhelming financial and emotional burden," Chang-yong said.

The demographic crisis was blamed for "the extreme concentration" of population and economic activities in the Seoul metropolitan area and highly competitive university

entrance system, the governor said, calling for efforts to foster regional hub cities and the so-called regional proportional college admission system.

"We must strategically develop two to six carefully selected regional hub cities. Targeted, large-scale investment in key infrastructure is essential to providing life quality comparable to Seoul, thus effectively attracting and retaining residents," Chang-yong said.

"Under the regional proportional admission system, universities voluntarily allocate admissions based on each region's proportion of high school seniors," he added.

Speaking of climate challenges, the governor stressed the need to make carbon pricing more realistic and improve the country's emission trading system to create more market incentives for emission trading.

Nothing Launches its First True Flagship - Nothing Phone (3) and First Over-Ear Audio Product - Headphone (1) in India

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 3

London-based technology company Nothing today announced the launch of two category-defining products in India - Nothing Phone (3), its first true flagship smartphone, and Nothing Headphone (1), its debut over-ear audio product. Both products reflect Nothing's vision to reimagine consumer tech with intentional design and bold innovation.

Nothing Phone (3) introduces a new era of smartphone performance and expression. Designed to make tech feel personal again, it features a pro-grade triple camera system, including a class-leading 1/1.3" main sensor for rich low-light shots, lossless optical zoom, and

cinematic 4K 60fps video across all lenses with full optical image stabilisation. A vibrant 6.67" AMOLED display with ultra-narrow bezels, and a powerful Snapdragon® 8s Gen 4 chipset, all wrapped in a premium modular design. With Glyph Matrix, users can receive key information at a glance and engage with playful experiences like Flip to Record and Glyph Toys. The Phone (3) features a new tri-column layout - A redesigned R-angle shape improves ergonomics, while the front features uniform 1.87 mm bezels, 18% slimmer than Phone (2), framing a sharper, more immersive AMOLED screen.

Nothing Phone (3) ships with Android 15 and Nothing OS 3.5 out of the box. The Nothing OS 3.5 brings AI-powered features like

Essential Space and Essential Search, helping users stay focused and organised on their own terms. It is future-ready with Android 16 and Nothing OS 4.0 set to arrive in Q3 2025. Nothing is committed to longevity, offering 5 years of major Android updates and 7 years of security updates, ensuring Phone (3) is built to last, both in design and experience. With a 5500 mAh high-density battery, 65W fast wired charging, 15W wireless charging and IP68 rating, Phone (3) is ready for everything life throws at it.

Nothing Headphone (1) marks Nothing's entry into the over-ear audio category. Developed in collaboration with KEF, it combines expressive design with precision engineering. From the custom 40 mm

dynamic driver to the real-time Spatial Audio with head tracking, it delivers a deeply immersive listening experience. A refined mix of premium materials including aluminium and PU memory foam ensures all-day comfort, while signature tactile controls - the Roller, Paddle and Button, enable seamless control over volume, media and ANC.

Built for everyday listening and audiophile-grade performance, Nothing Headphone (1) supports Hi-Res Audio, LDAC, USB-C lossless playback, and 3.5 mm wired mode. It features up to 35 hours of playback time with ANC and a quick 5-minute charge for 2.4 hours of listening. Dual-device connectivity, AI-powered call clarity, and in-app customisation tools like Channel Hop and

Advanced EQ bring convenience and personalisation to the forefront.

Nothing Phone (3) Pricing:

Phone (3) will be available in Black and White colour options, with two configuration variants:

12 GB + 256 GB - starting at INR 62,999 (Including bank offer + exchange offer*)

16 GB + 512 GB - starting at INR 72,999 (Including bank offer + exchange offer*)

Pre-booking for the Nothing Phone (3) begins on July 1, 2025. As a special launch offer, customers who pre-book will receive the Nothing Ear (worth INR 14,999) free with their Phone (3)

All the consumers who pre-book the Nothing Phone (3) or purchase the device on 15th July will also

receive 1 year additional extended warranty

Nothing will also offer up to 24 months No-Cost EMI options across leading banks

Availability:

The Nothing Phone (3) will go on sale via Flipkart, Flipkart Minutes, Vijay Sales, Croma, and all leading retail stores starting from July 15, 2025

Nothing Headphone (1): Pricing:

Headphone (1) will be available in black and white variants for INR 21,999 in the Indian market and consumers can also avail a special introductory launch day price of INR 19,999 on July 15, 2025

Nothing will also offer 12 months No-Cost EMI options across leading banks on purchase from offline stores

Trikuta KP Trust Serves Meals, Spreads Smiles at Balgran Charitable School



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 3

Trikuta Kashmiri Pandit Trust, Trikuta Nagar Jammu today on 03/07/2025 visited Balgran charitable school Narwal. Trust as per its mission has taken within its fold the paramount issue of helping orphans and vulnerable children who are facing homelessness, poverty and lack of education. Balgran School is doing a human service in providing the basic needs and enhancing the well beings of orphan children.

A small effort in the

direction was made today by the Trikuta Kashmiri Pandit trust by serving the nutritious meals (Lunch) to children by the trustees and members of the trust. Members had interaction with the students and the management of the school. They were satisfied and happy with this gesture of the trust. By such small acts of kindness and compassion the trust believes that it can have big impact on the lives of orphan children. Trust is committed to continue this service for humanity with their aims and objectives.

Delegation from Kalka Colony meets Rajeev Charak, raises civic issues

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 3

A delegation of residents from Kalka Colony, Ward No. 48, in the Bahu Fort area, met senior BJP leader Shri Rajeev Charak today to highlight a number of persistent civic problems affecting their locality.

The delegation informed Mr. Charak that a local resident, Christian Chand, has constructed a large structure (barrier-like obstruction) on the road in front of his shop and house for personal safety. As a result, rainwater is unable to flow into the drainage system and instead floods the streets and nearby homes. Due to the lack of proper drainage, residents are often forced to stay up at night to clear water from their



homes.

The residents said that they have repeatedly informed the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and Jammu Development Authority (JDA), but no effective action has been taken so far. They demanded that the illegal obstruction be removed immediately so that the newly constructed drain can function properly.

Additionally, the citizens complained that under the Jammu Smart City project, tin sheets have been erected along

the roadside to hide nearby slums. These have been placed in such a way that access from the lane to the main road has become hazardous. The main access route, built over a drain, has also been encroached upon by a person named Krishan Lal. This has not only obstructed public passage but also poses a serious accident risk, especially for children who now have to jump directly onto the road from the narrow lanes.

Mr. Rajeev Charak lis-

tened attentively to the delegation's concerns and assured them that the matter would be promptly taken up with the concerned departments. He emphasized that ensuring public safety and convenience, especially during the monsoon season, is a top priority.

He further stated firmly, "Those who encroach upon public spaces for personal gain, at the expense of public welfare, will not be spared under any circumstances. Strict action will be taken against such individuals to ensure that no one dares to damage or misuse public property in the future."

Other who a company delegation included Raj Pandey Anil Kumar Bhagat, Vimla Devi Savitri Devi kalbhushan and asha Devi.

Tony reviews CAPEX PRI Plan, demands restoration of deducted Pyt Funds

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SUCHETGARH, JULY 3

Senior Congress leader and DDC Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony, today chaired a crucial meeting to review the CAPEX PRI Plan for the financial year 2025-26 at the office of the Block Development Officer (BDO) Chakroi in Suchetgarh.

The meeting was attended by BDO Suchetgarh Shailender Pakhroo, all Gram Sevaks, and PRI representatives from the area.

During the review, Tony emphasized the need to modernize governance at the grassroots level by connecting all Panchayat Ghars with CCTV cameras and linking them directly to the BDO office in Suchetgarh. He asserted that such digital integration would not only ensure transparency but also facilitate vir-



tual Gram Sabha meetings, thereby speeding up developmental works.

Tony came down heavily on the bureaucratic establishment for arbitrary deductions of over 60 per cent from Panchayat funds, as well as significant cuts in BDC and DDC allocations. Calling it "undemocratic and illegal," he questioned the rationale behind such deductions when the Government of India is consistently sending development funds to the Union Territory.

"Why are bureaucrats acting as stumbling blocks to rural development?" Tony asked, adding that rather than promoting savings or ensuring judicious expenditure, the concerned departments seem "hell-bent on slashing development allocations," effectively backstabbing the entire Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) system.

The senior Congress leader urged the Commissioner Secretary of the Rural Development Department and the con-

cerned Minister to immediately release the deducted funds so that the "limping development activities can regain momentum and be completed in full swing."

Notably, Suchetgarh has seen development worth Rs 900 crore under the tenure and leadership of Tony. This includes the highest number of NABARD projects, a horticulture nursery worth Rs 250 crore, roads and bridges valued at Rs 100 crore, and the four-laning of the RS Pura to Suchetgarh border road - reflecting the overall transformation of the Suchetgarh constituency.

Tony reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening democratic institutions at the grassroots and warned that any attempt to paralyze PRI bodies through fund manipulation will be firmly resisted.

SSI MantraM "Made in India" Surgical Robot Yatra Kicks Off India Tour, First Leg to Cover 1500 km across Rajasthan

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 3

SS Innovations, the maker of India's first and only home-grown surgical robotic system, SSI Mantra, today flagged off the SSI MantraM "Made in India" Surgical Robot Yatra from its headquarters in Gurugram. The roadshow was ceremoniously inaugurated by Shri Rao Narbir Singh, Hon'ble Minister for Industries & Commerce, Government of Haryana. With the launch of the SSI MantraM Surgical Robot Yatra, India embarks on a transformative journey in healthcare, unveiling its first mobile robotic surgery training and demonstration unit. This innovative "telesurgery-on-wheels" initiative brings cutting-edge surgical technology and skill-building opportunities directly to hospitals and healthcare professionals across the country.

As part of its first leg through Rajasthan, the SSI MantraM Yatra will commence on July 3&4 at SMS Medical College, Jaipur, featuring live demonstrations and interactive training sessions for both the medical fraternity. Later in the afternoon on July 4th, the MantraM will



move to AIIMS Jodhpur, the yatra will participate in the RUFCON until July 6th. On the July 6th evening, proceed to Mathura Das Mathur Medical College for more sessions on July 7. The Rajasthan leg will conclude on July 8 with a final showcase at Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Ajmer, before returning to Gurugram.

Speaking on the flag-off of MantraM "Made in India" Surgical Robot Yatra, Dr. Sudhir Srivastava, Founder Chairman & CEO of SS Innovations, said, "SSI MantraM is more than just a mobile robotic training and demonstration unit, it is a national movement to democratise and decentralise access to world-class surgical education and innovation. As it embarks on its multi-city roadshow, it showcases India's indigenous strength in surgical robotics while breaking

geographic barriers to healthcare. De-signed to reach underserved and remote regions, the unit is equipped with advanced telecommunication capabilities and is undergoing ongoing research and development for future satellite connectivity, making it future-ready for real-time telesurgeries, even in the most inaccessible parts of the country. At present, the roadshow serves as a first-hand exposure platform, offering doctors and healthcare professionals an opportunity to engage directly with the SSI Mantra system through live demonstrations, hands-on training, and interactive sessions. More than a technological showcase, SSI MantraM offers a vision of a future where advanced robotic surgery is accessible and inclusive, reaffirming SS Innovations' mission to transform healthcare-one

city and one life at a time."

Shri. Rao Narbir Singh Hon'ble Minister for Industries & Commerce, Govt of Haryana, said, "It is a matter of immense pride that Haryana is home to SS Innovations, a company leading India's charge in the global field of surgical robotics. The launch of the SSI MantraM 'Made in India' Surgical Robot Yatra is a shining example of our country's technological and medical innovation. This initiative will not only elevate the standards of healthcare delivery across the nation but also empower doctors and medical institutions in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities with cutting-edge tools and training. I commend SS Innovations for their visionary efforts in transforming access to advanced surgical care and putting India on the map as a hub for healthcare innovation."

Covering over 1,500 kilometres, the first leg of the Yatra will offer transformative training and learning opportunities to more than 500 doctors across Rajasthan, furthering SSI Innovations' mission to democratise access to advanced surgical technologies in India.

Art 3 empowers Parliament to create new States without dissolving Assembly: Rattan Lal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 3

Advocate Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu & Kashmir National Conference, has strongly dismissed speculative media narratives suggesting that fresh Assembly elections would be mandatory following the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement issued here today, the senior NC leader termed these assumptions as "constitutionally unfounded and democratically misleading."

He was responding to recent remarks by the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who stated he has no objection to dissolving the current Assembly if statehood is restored. While welcoming Omar Abdullah's statement, he clarified that "dissolution of the Assembly is not a constitutional compulsion, but rather a political choice."

Citing the constitutional framework, Rattan Lal Gupta emphasized that the reorganisation of states and Union Territories is governed by Article 3 of the Constitution of India, which empowers Parliament to create new states, alter boundaries, or change the status of existing territories. It was under this provision



continued briefly before being dissolved for fresh elections. "Even then, there was no constitutional obligation - only a political will to start afresh under new circumstances," he said.

On the larger question of statehood restoration, Rattan Lal Gupta expressed concern over the continued delay despite repeated assurances from the Centre. "The Government at the Centre keeps saying statehood will be restored at an appropriate time, but now it is the most appropriate time to restore statehood to J&K, he said.

Highlighting the return of peace and normalcy in the region, he noted, "We've had record-breaking tourist foot-fall, successful conduct of the G20 summit, a smooth Amarnath Yatra underway, etc. What further evidence does the Centre require to acknowledge normalcy and restore the democratic dignity of J&K?"

The Provincial President asserted that the current J&K Assembly - elected under the UT structure - still represents the people's will and should not be undermined by speculative narratives. "This is the people's government. And the law allows for its continuation even as Jammu and Kashmir transitions back to full-fledged statehood.

Police establishes Helpline for victims of terrorism in Ganderbal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 3

In a proactive initiative to support individuals and families those who are victims of terrorism, Police in Ganderbal has established a dedicated Helpline/Assistance Cell at the District Police Office (DPO) Ganderbal.

The cell aims to streamline the process of registration, documentation, and redressal of grievances of those who have suffered due to terrorist activities within the district. The affected individuals or their family members can reach out to the DPO Ganderbal Assistance Cell through the following contact numbers: 9541786755 and 0194-2416113. The helpline will remain operational on all working days from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

J&K Police remains committed to extending every possible support to the victims and ensuring that their concerns are addressed promptly. Genuine grievances will be duly taken up with the appropriate authorities for necessary action.

Jammu police crack theft, snatching, and telecom heist cases; 13 arrested, Rs 27 lakh recovered

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 3

In a major success against urban crime, Jammu Police South Zone has solved six theft-related cases, including two incidents of chain snatching and one of critical telecom infrastructure theft. This achievement was made possible through the concerted efforts of Police Station Gandhi Nagar and led by PSI Maan Singh, operating under the close monitoring of the SHO Gandhi Nagar and SDPO City South. Utilizing CCTV footage and Smart City surveillance, the team successfully identified and arrested the involved individuals.



Among those arrested in the chain snatching cases were Pardeep Singh of Resham Ghar Colony and Virinder Singh of Gandhi Nagar, from whom two gold chains totaling approximately 50 grams were recovered. In the motorcycle theft case, Mohd. Sadiq from Miran Sahib was apprehended, and a stolen bike bearing registration number JKO2CE-7803 was seized. In connection with construction material theft, Fazal Hussain of Jammu and Chandan Kumar from Bihar, currently residing in Greater Kailash, were arrested. Along with the stolen materials, a suspected stolen scooter (JKO2DC-5835) was also recovered from them.

In a separate and significant development, five

women hailing from Barnala, Punjab, were arrested in connection with the theft of vital BSNL telecom infrastructure. An FIR (No. 145/2025) was lodged under section 303(2) BNS after theft of copper wire was reported near the back gate of DPL Jammu. The arrested women—Banti, Sapni, Babli, Rajani, and Salochana—were found with 8-10 kilograms of stolen copper wire. The investigation in this case is ongoing, with further recoveries anticipated.

Another highlight of the crackdown was the swift resolution of a high-value house theft case reported by a resident of Preet Nagar. On May 9, 2025, complainant Gurjeet Kour reported the theft of gold and diamond jewellery from her home during the night of May 7-8. A case (FIR No. 113/2025) under sections 331(2), 331(4), and 305 BNS was registered. A special team from Police Post Digiana, led by ICPP Digiana under the supervision of SDPO City South and SHO Gandhi Nagar, successfully cracked the case using a combination

and ground intelligence. The arrested accused include Safar Ansari of Bihar and Ibrahim of Uttar Pradesh, along with a minor whose identity has been withheld. Jewellery worth approximately Rs 21 lakh was recovered, including multiple gold and diamond items such as choker sets, bangles, earrings, and rings.

The cumulative recovery from these cases includes gold and diamond jewellery valued at Rs 21 lakh, 8-10 kg of copper wire, two snatched gold chains, a stolen motorcycle and scooter, and various construction materials.

Jammu Police South Zone has reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring public safety and maintaining law and order through timely intervention, smart policing, and effective community cooperation. Authorities have urged citizens to remain alert and report any suspicious activity promptly to help maintain peace and curb criminal elements in the region.

Army Training Command Investiture Ceremony-2025 held

JINNEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA : 03 JUL 2025

Army Training Command (ARTRAC) Investiture Ceremony 2025 was held at Danfe Auditorium Shimla on 03 Jul 2025. General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Army Training Command, Lt Gen Devendra Sharma, PVSM, AVSM, SM presided over the function. During the solemn event, establishments and individuals were awarded for their outstanding performances for the Training Year 2023-24.

Three Category 'A' Establishments and two Affiliated Units to Category 'A' Establishments were awarded prestigious 'GOC-in-C Army Training Command Unit Citation' for their outstanding performance. The proud recipients were Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Mhow, Combat Army Aviation Training School (CAATS), Nasik, Army Airborne Training School (AATS), Agra, 4 MAHAR (BORDERERS) & 118 Infantry Battalion (Territorial Army) GRENADIERS. The recipient Establishments and units have made exceptional contribution in enhancing training ethos and standards of the Indian Army, which lays the foundation of a strong and resilient force for the 21st Century. Lt Gen Vivek Dogra, SM, Comdt MCTE, Mhow, Maj Gen Abhinaya Rai, AVSM, YSM, Comdt, CAATS, Nasik, Col Bheemaiiah PS, SM**, Comdt, AATS, Agra, Col Utpal Das, CO, 4 MAHAR, Col Rahulraj B Alavekar, CO, 118 Inf Bn (TA) GRENADIERS alongwith Subedar Major Halim Ali Khan, Subedar Major Dandu Mabu, Subedar Major Dhan Singh, Subedar Major Jogendra Singh and Subedar Major Niraj Kumar received the Citation from the Army Commander.

Financial Excellence Awards were conferred upon three training establishments viz Military College of Material Management (MCMM), Jabalpur, Counter Insurgency Jungle Warfare School (CIJWS), Variengate and Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering (MCEME), Secunderabad for setting high standards in Financial Management. Additionally, two training establishments to include Armoured Corps Centre & School (ACC&S), Ahilyanagar and Military College of Material Management MCMM, Jabalpur were awarded with e-Office Excellence Awards for promoting e-office software usage which reduces usage of paper. Lt Gen Sanjay Sethi, AVSM, VSM, Comdt, MCMM, Jabalpur, Lt Gen Neeraj Varshney, VSM, Comdt, MCEME, Secunderabad, Maj Gen Vikram Varma, SM, VSM**, Comdt, ACC&S, Ahilyanagar and Maj Gen Vinod Nambiar, YSM, SM, VSM, Comdt CIJWS, Veirangate alongwith Subedar Major (Hony Capt) MN Tripathi, Subedar Major (Honorary Lieutenant) Girish Kumar Pappiniseri, Risaldar Major Gurdev Singh and Subedar Major Honlong Pansa received the awards from the Army Cdr.

In the individual category, Lt Col Anuj Chandra Shrivastava, HQ ARTRAC, Lt Col Abhimanyu Singh, MCTE, Mhow, Lt Col J K Verma, College of Military Engineering (CME), Pune, Lt Col Abhilash Anand, MCTE, Mhow, Lt Col Amol Jaynadhodkar, MCTE, Mhow, Capt R Sushil Kumar Iyer, MCEME, Secunderabad, Subedar Manoj, MCTE, Mhow, Naib Subedar Thakur Singh, EME School Vadodra & Naib Subedar Jagdish,



MCTE, Mhow were felicitated with Award of Technical Excellence for their innovations. The Army Commander also awarded GOC-in-C Spot Commendation Cards to five individuals for their distinguished service & performance. The recipients included Col K Sundaresh of HQ ARTRAC, Constable Sunita Devi and Constable Riya of HP Police, Shri Kailash Chand of CPWD and Shri Ramesh Chand of Amateur Dramatics Club.

Lt Gen Devendra Sharma while addressing the gathering highlighted recent ARTRAC initiatives and the lines of effort towards Indian Army's roadmap for Decade of Transformation and Year of Technology Absorption. As part of Decade of Transformation, ARTRAC has undertaken 57 initiatives under the pillars of Jointness & Integration, Force Re-structuring, Technology Absorption & Modernisation, Systems, Processes & Functions and Human Resources Management. The Army Commander highlighted that recent conflicts have clearly indicated that technology is going to play a decisive role in outcome of all future conflicts. Therefore, the vision of ARTRAC is to adopt, develop and imbibe Niche Technology in training curriculum to facilitate learning and exploit technology for exponential results during operations. This would require 'Whole of Nation' Approach, wherein, niche technology available with industry and premium academic institutions of the country will be absorbed by Indian Army

through Memorandum of Understanding. 15 major Training Establishments are evolving as Centres of Expertise for adopting 33 Niche Technologies. A comprehensive plan has been evolved to adopt all these technologies by 2030. An amount of Rs 390 Crs is planned to be invested in R&D, infrastructure development and training over the next five years. Impetus on technology absorption has resulted in ARTRAC training approximately 18,000 personnel on 22 Niche Technologies in the training year 2024-25 with a plan of training another 12,000 personnel on 21 Niche Technologies in the training year 2025-26. All these initiatives will play a crucial role in the transformation of Indian Army into a 'Future Ready Force'. Lt Gen Sharma made a special reference to the role of women in Armed Forces of the country, wherein more than 1800 women are proudly serving across rank and file of Indian Army including undertaking challenging roles like Command of a unit. He highlighted the steps that have been taken by Training Establishments under ARTRAC to ensure Gender Neutrality and providing equal opportunities to women in Indian Army, akin to their male counterparts.

While congratulating the awardees for their outstanding performances and achievements, the Army Commander mentioned that their achievements will be a source of inspiration for others to emulate.

FICCI FLO hosts financial literacy camp, plantation drive to empower rural women farmers

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 3

FICCI FLO Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh Chapter today organized a Financial Literacy Camp at Kissan Kendra, Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu, in collaboration with J&K Bank and Unati Agri Allied and Marketing Multi-State Cooperative Limited. The initiative aimed to empower over 200 farmers, predominantly women, by equipping them with critical knowledge on digital banking, loan schemes, and online transactions to promote financial inclusion and rural women empowerment.

Speaking on the occasion, Aarti Chowdhary, Chairperson of FICCI FLO JK&L, said, "Financial awareness is the first step toward economic independence. By enabling rural women to understand and access digital and financial tools, we are nurturing



grassroots transformation."

The FICCI FLO JK&L Chairperson further said, "FICCI FLO is committed to empowering rural women through financial literacy, skill development, and sustainable livelihood initiatives. By bringing together institutions, cooperatives, and government bodies, we aim to create an ecosystem where women farmers can thrive as independent, informed, and economically empowered individuals."

Banking experts from J&K Bank conducted sessions on secure digital payments, government-backed credit schemes, and financial planning for

self-help groups and farmer cooperatives. The program received overwhelming participation and enthusiasm from women across various farmer cooperatives.

On the sidelines of the camp, a plantation drive under the banner "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" was also carried out to promote environmental consciousness and sustainability. The drive was led by Ms. Babila Rakwal (JKAS), Commissioner Secretary, Cooperatives, JKUT and Mr. Arvinnder Singh Reen, Director Agriculture, Jammu.

Farmer representatives from leading cooperative societies such as Vijaypur

Fruits Agro and Vegetables Producers Cooperative Ltd, Ghagwal Oilseed and Agro Producers Cooperative Ltd, Baba Jitto Basmati Producers Cooperative Ltd, Kaushal Jammu Milk Producers Cooperative Ltd, Bishnah Border Basmati Producers Cooperative Ltd, and Atmanirbhar Nari Mushroom and Agro Producers Cooperative Ltd participated and expressed appreciation for the initiative.

The event marked a significant step towards bridging the digital divide, enhancing rural livelihood resilience, and fostering women-led development in the agri-allied sector of Jammu & Kashmir.

Prominent among those who were present included Ruchika Gupta Immediate Past Chairperson, Sonu Mehta Treasurer, Nandita Bajaj Secretary, Purnima Chowdhary and Minu Chawla.

IUST organizes industrial visit to JKEDI

JINNEWS SERVICE
AWANTIPORA, JULY 3

The Department of Mathematical Sciences, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), today organized an industrial visit to the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), as part of its ongoing Industrial Connect initiative. The visit aimed to bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world entrepreneurial practices,



offering students valuable exposure to industry-led insights.

During the visit, the students also interacted with experts at JKEDI including Dr. Sameer, Dr. Iftikhar, Mr. Wajid Agha,

and Mr. Aijaz, who encouraged students to consider entrepreneurship as a viable career option. Speakers highlighted how mathematics plays a vital role in entrepreneurial success, from data-driven

decision-making and financial modeling to risk assessment, optimization, and innovation.

Students were encouraged to apply the analytical and problem-solving skills developed through mathematics to identify market gaps, develop sustainable business models, and drive innovation. The event was coordinated by Dr. Afaq Ahmad, Coordinator, Industrial Connect, Department of Mathematical Sciences, IUST.

PM Modi becomes India's most globally honored leader with 24 International Awards: Rohiin

REFUEE MESSAGE BUREAU
JAMMU, JULY 3

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) proudly celebrates the remarkable achievement of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who has become the most globally honored Indian Prime Minister in history, receiving an unprecedented 24 international awards. This milestone, as highlighted by BJP leader Rohiin Chandan, underscores PM Modi's exceptional leadership and India's rising stature on the global stage.

The latest accolade, the Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana, conferred during PM Modi's historic visit to Ghana—the first by an Indian Prime Minister in over three decades—marks his 24th international honor. This prestigious recognition from Ghana, alongside awards from nations such as Palestine, Russia, Egypt, France, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Cyprus, reflects the global acknowledgment of PM Modi's visionary leadership and India's growing influence in international affairs.

Rohiin Chandan stated,

"With 24 international honors and counting, PM Modi is raising India's global stature like never before. These awards are not just a testament to his personal leadership but a reflection of India's emergence as a global powerhouse under his guidance. From strengthening diplomatic ties to fostering economic partnerships, PM Modi has redefined India's role in the world order."

He elaborates that these 24 honors, conferred by nations across continents, celebrate PM Modi's distinguished statesmanship, his commitment to fostering global partnerships, and his relentless pursuit of India's progress. The awards highlight his contributions to global diplomacy, including his assertive stance during the Russia-Ukraine conflict, where his call for peace—"this is not an era of war"—resonated worldwide. His leadership in hosting the G20 Summit in New Delhi further solidified India's position as a key player in global governance.

Chandan emphasized, "This prestigious recog-

ognition reflects not only PM Modi's global leadership but also India's rising stature on the world stage under his visionary guidance." The awards symbolize the trust and respect India commands globally, driven by PM Modi's principles of Seva, Sushasan, and Garib Kalyan (service, good governance, and welfare of the poor).

As Rohiin Chandan aptly noted, "Prime Minister Modi's 24 international awards are not just personal accolades but a reflection of India's rising influence and global respect. His leadership has redefined India's role in the world, making every Indian proud." He expressed that as India continues its journey toward becoming a global leader, PM Modi's leadership has been instrumental in advancing economic strength, military capabilities, and international engagement. The BJP reaffirms its commitment to supporting PM Modi's vision of a Viksit Bharat (Developed India), ensuring that the nation continues to shine brightly on the global stage.

DAC clears 10 capital acquisition proposals worth approx. Rs 1.05 lakh crore under Buy (Indian-IDD) category

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 3

Defence Acquisition Council, under the chairmanship of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh on July 03, 2025, accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for 10 capital acquisition proposals amounting to approx. Rs 1.05 lakh crore through indigenous sourcing. AoNs were accorded for procurement of Armoured Recovery Vehicles, Electronic Warfare System, Integrated Common Inventory Management System for the Tri-Services and Surface-to-Air Missiles. These procurements will provide higher mobility, effective air defence, better supply chain management and augment the operational preparedness of the Armed Forces. AoNs were also accorded for procurement of Moored Mines, Mine Counter Measure Vessels, Super Rapid Gun Mount and Submersible Autonomous Vessels. These procurements will enable mitigation of potential risks posed to the Naval and Merchant Vessels.

MLA Jasrota inaugurates Langar at Baltal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BALTAL, JULY 3

On the auspicious occasion of the commencement of the Amarnath Yatra, MLA Jasrota Rajiv Jasrota had the privilege of inaugurating the 25th grand Langar at Baltal. The event was organized by the Langar Committee of Shri Hanuman Temple, Malerkotla. Shahid Iqbal Chaudhary, IAS (Baltal Camp Incharge), graced the occasion with his presence, adding to the dignity and organization of the event. Chairman Amrit Lal Garg played a pivotal role in the success of the Langar besides dedicated team including Sham Sharma, Satish Ahuja, Pawan Gupta, Naresh Sharma, and Prashantam Jindal were among the key contributors who worked selflessly to make this event a success.

MLA Jasrota speaking on the occasion of inaugurating the Langar service said that Langar service provides



a glimpse into the spirit of community service and devotion. The Langar Committee has made arrangements for thousands of pilgrims to partake in the Prasad, showcasing the spirit of selflessness and service. The event was made possible by the dedication of volunteers, donors, and organizers who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of this noble cause, added Jasrota.

Jasrota expressed gratitude to Langar Committee and the organizers, to all the devotees, volunteers and donors who contrib-

uted to this noble cause. He urged the devotees to pay obeisance in large numbers claiming that PM Modi government has indeed prioritized the Amarnath Yatra, ensuring a hassle-free, secure and peaceful experience for pilgrims. The government has deployed over 50,000 CRPF personnel, along with Jammu and Kashmir Police officials, to maintain tight security around the region. Special arrangements have been made at Jammu Railway Station, including registration counters and medical check-ups for pilgrims, added Jasrota.

Jasrota further said that pilgrims will be given RFID cards for real-time location tracking, and they'll also receive 5 lakh insurance coverage. The government aims to adopt eco-friendly measures in managing the Amarnath Yatra, under the leadership of PM Modi. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has prioritized the importance of perfect inter-agency coordination for effective security arrangements. Indian Railways has arranged special trains for pilgrims and set up a special holding area with registration counters at Jammu Railway Station. Prime Minister Modi's government has demonstrated its commitment to ensuring a smooth and secure pilgrimage experience for devotees. With these arrangements in place, pilgrims can focus on their spiritual journey, while the government handles the logistics and security, said Jasrota.

Exercise SHAKTI-VIII concludes in France, Marking a New Milestone in Indo-French Defence Cooperation

J1 NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI-03 JUL 2025

The eighth edition of the Indo-French Joint Military Exercise SHAKTI-VIII culminated today at Camp Larzac, La Cavalerie in France, with a formal closing ceremony. The exercise marked the successful completion of an intensive training engagement aimed at enhancing interoperability, mutual trust, and tactical coordination between the Indian and French Armies.

Over the course of the exercise, the Indian contingent—comprising 90 personnel primarily from the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles battalion—and troops from the French Army's 13 Demi-Brigade de Légion Étrangère, participated in a series of



mission-oriented drills tailored to sub-conventional operations. The engagement included combat shooting, urban warfare training, obstacle crossings, Electronic Warfare (EW) integration, and Counter-Unmanned Aerial

System (C-UAS) operations.

A major highlight was the successful execution of a 96-hour continuous field exercise, simulating multi-domain scenarios in complex operational environments. The phase tested

the endurance, planning proficiency, and joint decision-making capabilities of both contingents under realistic and high-pressure conditions.

The Indian Ambassador to France, Mr. Sanjeev Singla, visited the troops during the exercise and commended their professionalism and contribution to strengthening defence ties between the two nations.

Exercise SHAKTI-VIII stands as a testament to the growing strategic convergence between India and France. It has not only facilitated the exchange of tactical knowledge and operational best practices but has also reaffirmed the shared commitment of both countries towards regional stability, collective security, and defence cooperation.

Cyber Police Recovers Rs 11,06,555.82 in Online Financial Fraud Cases In Kupwara

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, JULY 3

In a significant breakthrough, the Cyber Cell of District Police Kupwara has successfully solved multiple cases of online financial fraud and recovered a total amount of Rs 11,06,555.82/ through a combination of court interventions and advanced cyber tactics.

Over the past months, the Cyber Cell Kupwara received a number of complaints related to various types of digital frauds such as online job scams, fake investment schemes, fraudulent KYC update requests, deceptive credit SMS alerts, and impersonation frauds. Several individuals from across the district including civilians, government employees, and defence personnel fell victim to these scams.

The fraudsters employed a range of deceptive tactics to trick victims into voluntarily or unknowingly transferring money to fraudulent accounts. In response, the Cyber Cell swiftly collected digital evidence and coordinated with relevant financial institutions and service providers. With a proactive and technically sound approach, the Cyber Cell was able to trace the fraudulent transactions and recover the funds in multiple cases.

Police appeals to the general public to stay alert and avoid falling prey to the following online threats viz; Digital arrest scams, Fake online trading platforms, Fraudulent credit SMS messages, Installation of unauthorized mobile applications, including malicious loan apps, Fake Instagram/Telegram job tasks, Calls pretending to be from telecom companies like Jio, Airtel, and BSNL requesting SIM updates, Fraudulent video calls, Requests for sensitive personal information via suspicious links or messages.

The public is advised to report any suspicious online activity immediately to the National Cyber Crime Helpline at 1930 or visit www.cybercrime.gov.in for filing complaints.

MLA Akhnoor conducts tour of Akhnoor Town, directs swift action on devp, rain damage restoration

J1 NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, JULY 2

In a proactive move to assess monsoon-related damages and expedite development works, MLA Mohan Lal conducted a comprehensive tour of Akhnoor town on Wednesday. Accompanied by officials from various key departments, the MLA visited multiple affected areas and chaired a review meeting to issue necessary directives for time-bound execution of critical projects.

Prominent among those present were Municipal Committee Executive Officer Tahir Hafeez, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department Rocky Mahajan, Executive Engineer PWD Sunil Dogra, Assistant Engineer Electric Department Farooq, Assistant Executive Engineer Flood Control Department Sanjeev Choudhary, AEE Irrigation Anil, and other concerned engineers.

During the visit, the MLA inspected areas including Jia Pota, Geeta Colony near Kameshwar Temple, Bus Stand, and surrounding regions impacted by recent rains. He instructed that road



widening projects in the town be initiated within a week and emphasized immediate cleaning of all major drains to prevent waterlogging.

He further directed the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for upcoming municipal works and outlined several key projects to be prioritized. These include the construction of a Jhula bridge, an Asthi Visarjan Ghat, beautification of the town's historic ponds, and a new concrete bridge from Gurha Brahmana to Guda Patan. He also instructed PWD to clear accumulated soil over storm drains near Pulli Temple and ensure complete restoration of roads and lanes affected by pipeline laying under the AMRUT Scheme.

Major Concern Over

Damage to Jia Pota Promenade, Calls for Investigation

Expressing serious concern over the partial collapse of the Jia Pota promenade—constructed at a cost of several crores—MLA Mohan Lal ordered the Tehsildar of Akhnoor to conduct an immediate inquiry into the matter. Locals reportedly alleged that prolonged drainage-related work by the PWD Electric Wing caused water accumulation, weakening the foundation and leading to the damage.

The MLA emphasized that strict action will be taken against any official or contractor found negligent. "Public money cannot be allowed to go to waste due to carelessness. Accountability is non-negotiable," he said.

Association of Terror Victims in Kashmir applauds Govt of India, LG Sinha historic decision on job reservations

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 03:

Tasleema Akhter, Chairperson of the Association of Terror Victims in Kashmir (ATVK), is deeply thankful to Hon'ble LG Manoj Sinha Ji and the Government of India for taking a historic and just step regarding the pending SRO files of terror victims. This long-awaited decision rightly acknowl-

edges that terror victims truly deserve government jobs as part of their rehabilitation and dignity.

ATVK is grateful that the issues raised by it in respect of terror victims and their families have finally been heard and honoured by our beloved Indian government. This marks a significant milestone in our ongoing struggle for justice, recognition, and rightful opportunities for the real

HUMANITY, NON-VIOLENCE AND PEACE



Chairperson ATVK
HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER TASLEEMA AKHTER

victims of terrorism in Kashmir. ATVK, is a fearless voice for the Humanity, Non-violence and peace,

dignity, rehabilitation, justice, education, basic rights, and reservation of terror victims. She has raised their plight on national platforms and international forums, including the United Nations, to expose the truth of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism and demand justice for the real sufferers of Jammu and Kashmir.

Three-day traditional Sarthal Devi Yatra begins with religious fervor

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JULY 3

Three-day long traditional Shri Ashtadash Bhujia Mata Sarthal Devi Ji Yatra commenced with great religious fervor early today morning by performing Hawan at Gori Shankar Mandir, Sarkoot in which number of couples offered Aahuti and Puran Aahutis.

Impressive Shoba Yatra was taken from Gauri Shankar Mandir by Sanjeev Parihar, Vice Chairman, Shri Sarthal Devi Management Council which passes through different locations of Kishtwar town. The locals of various localities accorded warm welcome to Shoba Yatra and served refreshment to the pilgrims.

On the occasion, MLA Kishtwar Shagun Parihar, DC Pankaj Sharma, DDC Chairman Pooja Thakur, heads of various religious



organisations participated in the Yatra.

The Shobha Yatra along with pilgrims proceeded towards Sarthal Devi Ji Bhawan from Bus Stand Kishtwar in buses and other vehicles. Tomorrow morning a Maha Yajya will be performed at Sarthal Devi Mandir.


District Administration along with police had made all the necessary arrangements at Sarthal and Kishtwar for the welfare of devotees.

The Yatra was organized

by Shri Sarthal Devi Ji Trust under the patronage of Sh. Vikramaditya Singh, Chairman Trustee of the Trust.

Vikramaditya Singh, in his message, extended warm greetings to all devotees and people of Kishtwar on this auspicious occasion and prayed for peace, prosperity and well being of all.

Arjun Singh, Manager J&K Dharmarth Trust, Baderwah, also participated in this three-day long traditional Yatra.



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION GANDHI NAGAR JAMMU

e-mail : xenpwwdivgandhinagar@gmail.com

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. DGN/34of 2025-26 Dated 02-07-2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir—tenders are invited on **percentage basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/ Central Governments for each of the following works :-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (₹ in Lacs)	Cost of document (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Time Allowed for complete -on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Up-gradation of Directorate Office Complex 4th Floor J.L. Nehru Udyog Bhawan Rail Head Complex Jammu (Under M.H-Geology & Mining)	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	25.85	600	51700 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	02 Months	(1200 Hrs) on or after 11-07-2025	"A"&"B" Class

Position of AAA :- Accorded by Director Geology and Mining J&K order No. 90 of 2024 dated 16-08-2024 amounting to ₹59.26 Lacs.

Position of TS :- Sanctioned by this office order No. 42/PWD Div. Gandhi Nagar/2025-26 dated 27-06-2025.

Project Authority :- Director Geology and Mining J&K.

Major Head of Account :- Under M.H-Geology & Mining.

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website <http://jktenders.gov.in> per below schedule :

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02-07-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 02-07-2025 to 10-07-2025, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	04-07-2025 at 1300 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu
4	Bid submission Start Date	02-07-2025
5	Bid Submission End Date	10-07-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	11-07-2025 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu and upload the same i.e treasury challan/receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of LI be submitted to the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu at the time of allotment.

Sd/-
(Er. Rahat Gupta)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Gandhi Nagar

DIP/J-2992/25
Date: 3-7-25

Arvind Gupta holds public darbar at BJP headquarters

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 03 JULY 2025:

Arvind Gupta, J&K BJP Secretary and MLA from Jammu West, held a Public Darbar at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, which saw an overwhelming response from the public.

Deputations from various sections of society, visited party headquarters to highlight pressing civic and administrative issues.

During the Darbar, dozens of deputations presented their grievances related to key public service departments such as Revenue, Public Health Engineering (PHE), Power Development Depart-



ment (PDD), Public Works Department (PWD), and Urban Local Bodies.

Prominent among the concerns raised were the attention seeking condition of roads and the urgent need for blacktopping and repairs. Water scarcity emerged as a major issue, with residents pointing to erratic PHE supply and inadequate dis-

tribution infrastructure. Several deputations also reported frequent power cuts and voltage fluctuations. The malfunctioning and absence of street lights in many areas were flagged as significant safety concerns, while others highlighted the long-pending repair and construction of lanes and drains. Issues related to ration card,

exclusion from beneficiary schemes, and delays in receiving benefits under government welfare programs such as Ayushman Bharat were also brought to attention.

Arvind Gupta gave a patient hearing to each deputation and promptly directed that the grievances be forwarded to the concerned departmental officials for immediate action. Emphasizing the need for timely redressal, he assured the public that all genuine concerns would be addressed on priority.

Speaking to the media and attendees, Gupta remarked that the massive turnout at the Darbar

is a testament to the people's trust in the BJP's model of transparent and responsive governance. He underlined that the party is committed to ensuring that governance remains citizen-centric and inclusive, particularly for the underprivileged.

Reiterating the BJP's guiding philosophy, Arvind Gupta stated that the party, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is firmly committed to the mission of Antyodaya, uplifting the last person in the queue. He stressed that inclusive development and strong public outreach are cornerstones of the BJP's governance approach.

IUST organized Hackathon to boost innovation and placement prospects

J I NEWS SERVICE
AWANTIPORA, JULY 3

The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) hosted a Hackathon at its campus, organized by the Centre for Career Counselling and Placements (3CP@IUST), a key vertical of the Dean Outreach Office. The program is organized in collaboration with Andino Labs, a Bengaluru-based technology company designed exclusively for B.Tech Computer Science and Engineering students at IUST.

Four groups of IUST students are participating in this intensive 26-hour Hackathon where they are working in teams to tackle real-world problem statements provided by the industry partner. The initiative aimed to encourage innovation, teamwork, and practical problem-solving abilities among the participants. The best performers of the hackathon will be offered placement opportunities. Several mentors and panellists are guiding and supporting the students throughout the 26-hour program, helping them refine their ideas, enhance their problem-solving approaches, and align their



solutions with real-world industry expectations.

Encouraging the participants, Prof. A. H. Moon, Dean Academic Affairs, IUST said that such competitions give our students the opportunity to apply what they learn in classrooms to real-world problems, which not only strengthens their conceptual understanding but also enhances their employability. Ms. Jexa Gohil, Consultant Andino Labs, who coordinated the event, said that organizing the Hackathon was a valuable experience that combined innovation, teamwork, and practical learning. She noted that the participating students displayed impressive problem-solving abilities and emphasized that such platforms play a crucial role in preparing them for real industry challenges and future placement opportunities.

Speaking about the importance of such initiatives, the Dean Outreach,

Dr. Ruheela Hassan, highlighted how university outreach through platforms like 3CP not only nurtures student potential but also strengthens university-industry linkages that are critical for future-readiness. Placement Officer Mr. Basharat Masoodi emphasized the growing role of Hackathons as a pathway to internships and job opportunities and said that these platforms help students apply theoretical knowledge to real-time challenges, improving both their technical and soft skills. While Dr. Zahoor A. Ganie, Head of the Centre for Career Counselling and Placements, underlined the department's focus on experiential learning and industry alignment. He said that the event marks another step in IUST's ongoing commitment to holistic student development through collaboration, innovation, and meaningful engagement with industry.

PM Modi's honour on foreign soil a matter of pride for India: Balbir Ram

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 4

It is a matter of pride for India that the Honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, has been conferred with Ghana's highest national honour, 'The Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana'.

These views were expressed by Jammu and Kashmir BJP spokesperson and former Vice Chairman Balbir Ram Rattan. He said that this prestigious award, presented to him during his visit to Accra, is proof of India's growing stature in the world under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and is a matter of pride for every Indian.

Balbir Ram Rattan stated that this is not the first time Prime Minister Modi has been honoured on foreign soil. Many countries have previously recognised his leadership and his contribution to



strengthening international relations, development cooperation, and public outreach. In the past 11 years, about two dozen countries – including Cyprus, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Saudi Arabia, Fiji, USA, Palestine, Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Maldives, Russia, Guyana, France, Greece, Nigeria, the Republic of Palau, Papua New Guinea, and Bhutan – have honoured Prime Minister Narendra Modi with their highest awards, thereby enhanc-

ing India's prestige.

These international honours bestowed upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi also reflect India's growing identity as a responsible global power. His vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas" (Together with all, Development for all, Trust of all, Effort of all) resonates beyond India's borders, instilling a new hope for peace, cooperation, and sustainable development in the world.

These honours underline global appreciation of India's democratic values, development initiatives, and its role in promoting peace and cooperation. With this latest achievement in Ghana, the entire nation feels proud. This recognition of Prime Minister Modi has elevated the head of every Indian and taken India's reputation to new heights.

Dr. Jyotsna Singh appointed Member of INTACH's HCCD Advisory Committee

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 3

Dr. Jyotsna Singh, Director of the Amar Mahal Museum & Library, Jammu, has been appointed as a Member of the Heritage Craft and Community Division (HCCD) Advisory Committee by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH).

Daughter of Dr. Karan Singh, former Sadr-e-Riyasat of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Jyotsna Singh is a noted cultural activist and heritage conservationist. She is also the founder of the much-acclaimed Tawi Festival, which celebrates the diverse cultural traditions of the region.

The appointment was confirmed through an official communication from INTACH, stating that the HCCD Advisory Committee has been reconstituted



as of May 7, 2025.

Dr. Jyotsna Singh's inclusion in this prestigious committee reflects her longstanding contributions to the promotion and preservation of art, culture, and heritage in Jammu & Kashmir and beyond.

As a member of the HCCD Advisory Committee, Dr. Jyotsna Singh will play a key role in offering expert guidance and advice towards strengthening INTACH's initiatives focused on heritage crafts and community engagement across India.

Sawhney flags-off pilgrimage bus to Khatu Shyam, praises women-led initiative

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 3

Former Minister Jammu & Kashmir and senior Congress leader Yogesh Sawhney on Thursday flagged off a pilgrimage bus from Jammu Darbar, Channi, to the revered Shri Khatu Shyam Maharaj Ji Temple. This initiative of the pilgrimage bus, now the second such one, has been organized by Neha Sharma, proprietor of Jai Durga Hardware, Kot Bhalwal, and Pooja Gupta, associated with Bawa Roadlines in Birpur. They have been managing this no profit, no loss pilgrimage service, providing pilgrims with comfortable AC sleeper bus travel and also ensure arrangements for meals and accommodation throughout the journey. Sawhney lauded their efforts and the initiative, stating that it was rooted in community service and devotion. Sawhney was accompanied by Ram Magotra, Vice President DCC Jammu (Urban) on his visit to flag off the pilgrimage bus from Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Sawhney said that these efforts reflect true devotion and commitment to religious service, allowing many from Jammu to undertake this sacred journey without financial burden. Lauding the noble gesture, Yogesh Sawhney



praised Neha Sharma and Pooja Gupta for setting a remarkable example of citizen-led religious service. "They are enabling people to fulfill their spiritual aspirations with comfort and care, and their devotion is truly commendable," said Sawhney. He emphasized that such voluntary efforts bring communities together and promote shared values of compassion, faith, and selflessness.

He further added that the bus journey also includes Salasar Balaji on its route, offering a spiritually enriching experience for the pilgrims. People such as the organisers of this initiative who have made it their mission to help pilgrims visit sacred sites with ease and dignity should be encouraged, and it is a welcome step. Sawhney also wished the pilgrims for their journey and said he sent his regards

with them to the holy sites. He expressed hope that more such efforts would inspire similar spiritual and social initiatives across Jammu & Kashmir. The community's growing participation in such yatras reflects the deep-rooted cultural and religious harmony of the region.

The initiative has received widespread appreciation from local residents, for the tireless work in organizing a well-structured and comfortable yatra. Beneficiaries of the service expressed their gratitude, noting how such arrangements make it possible for the elderly and financially challenged individuals to participate in spiritual journeys they had only dreamed of. Concluding the program, the Congress leaders appreciated the organizers for the initiative and thanked them for their efforts.

Reopening of terror victim cases will expose terror ecosystem in Kashmir: Bali Bhagat

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 3

Senior BJP leader and former Minister Bali Bhagat on Wednesday said that the decision of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to reopen cases of terror victims in Jammu & Kashmir would be a long-awaited step towards justice for thousands of innocent civilians who fell prey to Pakistan-backed terrorism.

In a press release issued here today, the former minister hailed LG Sinha's directive to Deputy Commissioners and SSPs to reopen all such cases which were deliberately buried in the past and to file fresh FIRs. He said this move has reignited hope among terror victim families who were left in the lurch for decades due to the indifference of previous regimes.

Bali Bhagat held the National Conference (NC) directly responsible for the rise of terrorism in the Kashmir Valley. "It was under the patronage of NC that terrorism took roots and innocent Kashmiris were either silenced or sacrificed at the altar of vote bank politics. Many cases of civilian killings were buried just to protect certain elements aligned with the terror ecosystem," he alleged.

The former minister strongly asserted that the rigging of the 1987 Assembly elections by the then

National Conference Govt, in collusion with the Congress at the Centre, laid the foundation for terrorism in Kashmir. He said the massive electoral manipulation not only crushed the democratic aspirations of the youth but also pushed many towards the path of militancy.

"The betrayal of the people's mandate in 1987 created deep resentment and disillusionment, which was exploited by Pakistan to fuel terrorism in the Valley," he said, adding that the NC must be held morally accountable for triggering decades of bloodshed and instability in Jammu & Kashmir.

Welcoming the decision of LG Sinha to ensure job priority to the next of kin (NoKs) of victims, the senior BJP leader said the move would provide not just compensation but also dignity and recognition to the families who bore the brunt of terrorism. "This is not just a policy decision, it is an act of moral correction and justice," he stated.

Referring to the order for reclaiming properties and land grabbed by terrorists or their sympathisers, Bhagat said this would dismantle the deeply entrenched support structure of terrorism within society. "It is shameful that for years, victims' lands were usurped by those who aided terror, and no government until now had the courage to undo that injustice," he said.

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons holds Asia Meeting in New Delhi, 1st - 3rd July, 2025



J I NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUL 3

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) came into force in 1997, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention, with its 193 Member States, it oversees the global endeavour to permanently and verifiably eliminate chemical weapons. The OPCW was awarded the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize for its extensive efforts in eliminating chemical weapons.

India is an original signatory to the Convention. The National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC) is the national authority responsible for implementing the Convention in India. In 2024, NACWC successfully mentored the Kenya National Authority under the OPCW Mentorship/Partnership Programme to strengthen its implementation capacity.

The Indian Chemical Council (ICC), India's oldest Chemical Industry Association works closely with the NACWC for reaching out to industry. ICC brought laurels for India as it was awarded the OPCW-The Hague Award 2024, as a co-recipient, for its role in promoting chemical safety, compliance with the Convention, and enhancing industry-wide security practices in India. This is the first time

globally, that a chemical industry body was honoured with this award. The 'OPCW-The Hague Award' recognizes individuals and organizations that play a significant role in advancing the goals of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Regional Meetings of National Authorities are organised by OPCW annually to support implementation of the Convention through capacity building of National Authorities. This annual meeting provides an opportunity to exchange experiences, information and best practices for CWC implementation, and also provides a platform to present and discuss issues and solutions for complying with obligations under the Convention that are of particular importance to the National Authorities regionally. This interaction fosters bilateral and regional cooperation and bolster networks among National Authorities.

The 23rd Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Asia, organised by the OPCW and hosted by National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC) India, opened on 1st July at Vanijya Bhawan, New Delhi in the presence of senior officials from the OPCW, international delegates from National Authorities across Asia, senior officials from the Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India and the NACWC, Cabinet Sec-

retariat, Government of India.

The meeting was attended by 38 delegates from 24 States Parties (countries) from the Asia region including Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Cambodia, Iraq, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Myanmar, Maldives, Philippines, Oman, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Vietnam along with officials from the OPCW and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPPD).

During this Regional Meeting, the delegates shared their experiences, discussed national implementation challenges, best practices, and opportunities for further cooperation. The sessions covered discussions on the legislative frameworks, chemical safety and security, role stakeholders including the chemical industry and the use of Artificial Intelligence. The OPCW provided important updates on synergies between United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 and the CWC as well as discussions on future Mentorship Partnership Programmes.

The 3 days Regional Meeting is expected to strengthen regional cooperation between Asian countries in implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention.

ADC Bhadarwah convenes a meeting ahead of Kailash Yatra 2025

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BHADARWAH, JULY 3

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bhadarwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal convened a meeting at ADC Office Chamber Bhaderwah to address essential arrangements for the upcoming Kailash Yatra-2025.

The meeting was attended by Tehsildar Bhadarwah/Bhalla, SDPO Bhadarwah, BDO Bhadarwah/Bhalla, BMO Bhadarwah, President Sanatan Dharam, Kailash Sewa Sangh Trust, Kumar Langer Ganthak Ramtund, Chobia Langer, Hayan Rishi Dal and among others.

During the meeting, ADC Bhadarwah emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanli-



ness and environmental sustainability during the yatra. He urged all stakeholders to keep the Langer sites and yatra destinations free from plastic waste. To ensure this, coordination between Forest Department, BDO, EO MC Bhaderwah, Langer committees and Sanatan Dharam Sabha Bhaderwah has been initiated for the collection and proper disposal of plastic waste before, during and after the conclusion of the

yatra. Several directives were issued, including the repair of water supply schemes at Kailash Kund to Hayan, installation of water taps and water camp at camp sites and the tendering process for firewood at various locations, repair and maintenance work for damaged poles, electric wires and DG sets at Kailash Kund by JPDCL.

Repair of infrastructure including sheds and toilets

at Kailash Kund and Hayan by BDA Bhaderwah.

Furthermore, BMO will provide two stationary medical teams with doctors equipped with oxygen cylinders and one mobile medical team to accompany the yatra from the Kellar side.

To ensure the safety and security of the yatra participants, SDPO, Bhaderwah has been tasked with arranging a security force at Kailash Kund and Hayan. Repair of infrastructure including sheds and toilets at Kailash Kund and Hayan by BDA Bhaderwah. Furthermore, BMO will provide two stationary medical teams with doctors equipped with oxygen cylinders and one mobile medical team to accompany the yatra from the Kellar side.

SDM Paddar conducts whirlwind tour of Machail to inspect ongoing developmental works

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JULY 3

Under the Directions of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, the Sub Divisional Magistrate Paddar, Dr. Amit Kumar conducted a whirlwind tour of Machail to inspect the ongoing developmental works in the area.

During this tour, he paid particular attention to the laying of tiles from the Helipad towards Bhawan.

The construction of sanitary complexes was initiated and he oversaw the progress of the Parisar Bhawan construction project.

The contractor in charge of the Parisar Bhawan was instructed to complete the slab laying



before the 20th of July to ensure the smooth conduct of the annual Shree Machail Mata Yatra 2025.

Additionally, SDM Paddar inspected other developmental works, such as the construction of Yatra Sarai and dormitory by the PWD department.

He directed the RDD department to ensure the proper functioning of the Yatra Sarai and to maintain sanitation in and

around the Parisar area.

The Sub-Divisional Magistrate emphasized the importance of completing these projects in a timely manner to facilitate the upcoming Shree Machail Mata Yatra and to provide essential facilities for the residents and pilgrims.

The SDM was accompanied by Tehsildar Atholi Vijay Gupta, besides senior officers of the concerned departments.

Omar Abdullah visits SKIMS to enquire about health of Mehbooba

Mufti's mother

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 3

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today went to SKIMS Hospital Soura on learning about the ill-health of mother of Mehbooba Mufti, PDP President & former chief minister.

The Chief Minister enquired about her health and wished her a speedy recovery. CM also met the family members at the hospital. CM was accompanied by Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani.

Director SKIMS Dr. Ashraf Ganai & Medical Superintendent Dr. Farooq Jan briefed the Chief Minister about her health condition and assured the CM that all necessary treatment and health care is being provided to her.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar inaugurates Legal Aid Clinic & Free Medical Camp for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatris at Pahalgam

J1 NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, JULY 3

In a momentous step towards strengthening access to justice and healthcare, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, inaugurated a Legal Aid Clinic and Free Medical Camp at the Court Complex, Pahalgam, for the benefit of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatris and the local population.

Addressing the gathering, Justice Sanjeev Kumar underlined the dual commitment of the Legal Services Authorities towards legal empowerment and humanitarian service. He interacted with aggrieved persons seeking legal assistance, encouraging them to utilize the free services

available through the Legal Services Institutions.

"Legal aid is not charity; it is the constitutional mandate of a welfare state. Every person, regardless of their economic or social status, has the right to access justice. The Legal Services Authorities have been working tirelessly to bridge the gap between law and the people. This Legal Aid Clinic at Pahalgam is another step in that direction—bringing justice to the very doorstep of the needy, especially during the holy Amarnath Yatra when thousands converge here," he said.

He stated that Free Medical Camp established here is equally significant, as pilgrims undertake a physically and spiritually intense journey. He added, "It is our duty to ensure that no one is left without basic healthcare.



I commend the Health Department and the Legal Services Authority for this collaborative effort which merges legal aid with health care—two pillars of human dignity."

"It is heartening to see today's program combine awareness with cultural expression. The skit and folk song by students beautifully highlighted the importance of knowing one's rights. And more importantly, today's dis-

tribution of mobility aids—scooties, wheelchairs, and hearing aids—reiterates our commitment to empower those who have been historically neglected" Justice Sanjeev Kumar underlined.

"Let us continue to work together—judiciary, civil society, health officials, and the public—to build a more inclusive and accessible justice system. Legal aid is not just about courts—it is about compas-

sion, care, and commitment to the last person in the line."

The program featured a welcome address by Tahir Khurshid Raina, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Anantnag.

A cultural folk song and an impactful skit presentation by the students of Government Higher Secondary School, Pahalgam, enriched the event and conveyed the legal aid message through artistic expression.

A highlight of the program was the distribution of legal aid equipment to beneficiaries, which included scooties for specially-abled persons, wheelchairs, and hearing aids, exemplifying the practical outreach of the Authority.

The event was graced by the presence of Shazia

Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, Mohammad Amin Parry, Senior Advocate, Anantnag Bar, Himanshu, Additional Special Mobile Magistrate, Pahalgam, Shaam Kumar, Munsiff, Aishmuqam, Dr. Khalid Parvez, Chief Medical Officer, Anantnag, officials from the R&B Department, as well as Principals, faculty, and students from various educational institutions. The program culminated with a plantation drive led by the Chief Guest, symbolizing a commitment to environmental sustainability and leaving behind a lasting green imprint of the day's initiatives. The entire program was coordinated and conducted by Fozia Paul, Sub-Judge and Secretary, DLSA Anantnag, whose meticulous efforts contributed to the success of the event.

Devotional event held at Chichi Mata for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JULY 3

In a spiritually uplifting initiative to mark the commencement of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025, the District Administration Samba organized a devotional and cultural evening at the revered Chichi Mata Temple.

The proceedings were formally inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma, who paid obeisance at the shrine and invoked divine blessings for the safe, smooth, and successful conduct of the Yatra. His presence underscored the administration's unwavering commitment to facilitating this sacred pilgrimage.

The atmosphere was imbued with devotional fervor as local artists rendered soul-stirring bhajans, entralling the audi-

ence and elevating the spiritual ambience. The resonant hymns echoed through the temple premises, creating an aura of serenity and reverence.

The event was graced by the presence of Additional District Development Commissioner Champa Devi, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, officers from the civil administration, Shri Amarnath Ji pilgrims and an enthusiastic gathering of local devotees.

This initiative served not only as a gesture of warm hospitality to the Yatris but also as a celebration of the region's vibrant spiritual and cultural ethos. The District Administration reaffirmed its resolve to provide a seamless, secure and spiritually enriching experience to all pilgrims embarking on this revered journey.

SANJY-2025

Kathua Glows with Light, Sound & Devotion in grand Laser Show at Scenic Riverfront

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, JULY 3

In a unique blend of devotion, patriotism and public engagement, the District Information Centre Kathua organised a grand Multi-Themed Laser Show at the iconic Kathua Riverfront to mark the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from citizens of all age groups who gathered in large numbers to enjoy the visual spectacle. The multi-themed show featured a captivating blend of Shiva Tandav, Ganga Aarti, Patriotic Narratives and synchronised Light & Sound Laser displays, drawing repeated rounds of applause from the audience.

Visitors at the Kathua Waterfront restaurants also enjoyed the breathtaking show from the riverside, creating a festive and vibrant ambience throughout the evening.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner Dr Rakesh Minhas,



said that the event aimed to engage citizens positively and promote collective responsibility towards making Kathua cleaner and culturally vibrant. "This is just the beginning. More such cultural and public engagement events will be held in the future to strengthen the bond between people and administration" he said. The DC also reiterated the Administration's commitment to developing Kathua as a model district, highlighting the Garbage-Free Kathua slogan as a collective mission.

Touching upon youth development, Dr Minhas informed the audience about the upcoming International Standard Indoor Stadium at Kathua. "This project will provide world-

class sports infrastructure and motivate local youth to excel and bring laurels to Kathua, Jammu & Kashmir, and the nation," he said.

On the occasion, Member Legislative Assembly Kathua Dr Bharat Bhushan lauded the efforts of the District Administration and Information Department for organising such a visually impactful event. "Kathua Waterfront is fast becoming the new identity of the city. Events like these not only celebrate our faith and traditions but also bring the community together," he remarked.

He also added that the upcoming indoor stadium will be a game-changer for youth empowerment and personality development in the district.

DC Budgam chairs Meeting to Review Implementation of PMJKV Projects in Minority Concentration Areas of District

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JULY 3

In order to accelerate pace of development in minority-concentrated areas of the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, today chaired a detailed review meeting to discuss the implementation of projects under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJKV) in District Budgam.

The meeting focused on identifying key gaps and prioritizing project proposals in sectors including education, health, skill development, and other critical infrastructure.

DC emphasised on ensuring targeted development in areas with a substantial minority population, in accordance with the guidelines of the centrally sponsored scheme.

He stressed that 80% of PMJKV resources must be utilized for education, health, and skill development, with 33-40% of projects exclusively benefiting



women and girls.

DC emphasized the need for projects such as the construction of school buildings, residential hostels, degree colleges, health centers, working women hostels, Anganwadi centers, and facilities for safe drinking water and sanitation.

He instructed concerned departments to formulate proposals in alignment with the revised PMJKV guidelines and ensure timely submission for approval.

He directed the departments to prioritize women empowerment projects, including girls' hostels and skill development centres

dedicated to female beneficiaries.

Further, he underlined that projects must be taken up within a 15 km catchment area having at least 25% minority population, as stipulated under the scheme.

Bhat called for enhanced inter-departmental coordination for comprehensive planning and monitoring of ongoing and upcoming projects.

The meeting was attended by CPO Budgam, District Programme officer ICDS Budgam, ACD budgam, CEO, CMO, Principals of all degree colleges, District Ayush Officer, DSWO, DYSSO budgam and representatives from various line departments and implementing agencies.

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJKV) is a centrally sponsored scheme, which aims to bridge development deficits in minority-concentrated areas through focused, need-based interventions, ensuring inclusive growth and social justice

DDC Rajouri reviews progress on Kissan Khidmat Ghars under HADP

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JULY 3

District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the progress of the establishment of Kissan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the district.

During the meeting, the DDC laid special emphasis on expediting the selection of Krishi Udyamis for the KKGs, stating that operationalizing these centers on a war footing is crucial. "Making the KKGs functional at the earliest will not only provide much-needed support to the farming community but will also create meaningful employment opportunities for highly educated and unemployed youth of the district," he said.

In a significant step towards promoting sustainable agricultural practices,

the DDC also directed the officers to initiate Natural Farming as a pilot project in Badhal village of Sub Division Koteranaka. The initiative aims to reduce the adverse phytotoxic effects caused by excessive use of chemical inputs in farming.

To ensure the operational readiness of the KKGs, the DDC further instructed the concerned departments to expedite the procurement of essential furniture and IT equipment for the centers scheduled to be established during the current financial year.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Rajouri, Chief Agriculture Officer Rajouri, and Accounts Officer from the Office of the Deputy Commissioner Rajouri. The DDC directed all attending officers to work in close coordination and ensure timely implementation of all deliverables under HADP.