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**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:

- Headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue
- Stomach pain
- Swelling in hands or feet
- Redness in eyes
- Redness in skin

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## LG Sinha dedicates Pantha Chowk Yatri Niwas to pilgrims; says facilities much better than previous years

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR/BALTAL, JUN 30

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday inaugurated a newly constructed Yatri Niwas at Pantha Chowk, Srinagar, ahead of the upcoming Amarnath Yatra, stating that this year's arrangements surpass those of previous years in both scale and quality. The new facility has the capacity to accommodate 1,300 pilgrims, significantly enhancing lodging infrastructure for devotees.



Notably, the five floors of the Yatri Niwas building dedicated to the Yatris comprise of 75 rooms having a bed capacity of 225, and 43 dorm rooms.

LG Sinha said the construction of the second phase of Yatri Niwas will begin soon. It

symbolises devotion to selfless service. Let us pray to Baba Amarnath to bless our land with peace, happiness and prosperity," he added.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed his gratitude to Mukesh Garg, Member, Shri

Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, his team members and Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board for their invaluable contribution in building the Yatri Niwas for the pilgrims.

"The Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board is making continuous efforts to improve facilities for the pilgrims. A wave of enthusiasm is sweeping across Jammu and Kashmir. This Yatra is deeply rooted in the spirit of J&K, drawing full support and cooperation from its people," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also unveiled a painting on Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, by KK Gandhi.

K.N.Rai and Mukesh Garg - Members of Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board; Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor

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## Govt has made all arrangements for smooth Amarnath Yatra: CM



J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUN 30

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday said the government has made all the arrangements for smooth conduct of Amarnath Yatra.

Speaking with reporters, per news agency, CM Omar said that they hope and pray for the safe and smooth conduct of the yatra.

"The Lieutenant Governor

chaired meetings with political parties and civil society members and assured adequate security arrangements are in place for the yatris," he said after addressing the Buyer-Seller Meet-2025 held at SKICC.

He added they are now waiting for yatris, who will be flagged-off from Jammu tomorrow. "We hope they turn up in large numbers and pray that they return

home safely," CM Omar said. Amarnath Yatra will commence from July 3 in Jammu and Kashmir amid multi-layered security arrangements.

Pertinently, the Chief Minister, who was a chief guest at the Buyer-Seller Meet-2025, said that through such events, the government is striving to revive the historic connection between Kashmir's artisans and the

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## Army, BSF foil infiltration bid in Rajouri sector, local guide nabbed

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUNE 30

The troops of the Indian Army and Border Security Force (BSF) have foiled an infiltration bid and nabbed a local guide suspected of facilitating the infiltrators along the Line of Control in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Official sources here today said that alert troops last night detected a suspicious movement in the Tarkundi area of Keri sector.

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## BJP snubs PAC demand for restoration of Article 370

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUN 30

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has dismissed the newly formed People's Alliance for Change (PAC) demand for the restoration of Article 370, calling it "daydreaming." BJP general secretary (organization)

Ashok Koul told news agency that the conglomerate is misleading people with its promises.

"They are daydreaming if they think they can

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

## Police arrest 87 in drug crackdown, seize narcotics worth Rs 2.42cr

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUNE 30

Jammu and Kashmir Police in its war against drugs this year so far have arrested 87 accused persons, seized narcotics worth Rs 2.42 crore and attached properties in Udhampur district.

An official spokesman here today said that district police in Udhampur have intensified their war against narcotics and registered 61 cases under the NDPS Act.

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## Major political shake-up in Kashmir

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUN 30

In a significant development, the Peoples Conference (PC), Jamaat-e-Islami-backed Justice and Development Front (JDF), and Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) on Monday announced the formation of an alliance that could potentially emerge as the main rival to the National Conference (NC) in the Kashmir Valley.

Addressing a news conference here, as per the news agency, Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone announced the launch of the Peoples Alliance for Change (PAC).

"We held meetings and consultations with the JDF for the past

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## DGP chairs joint security review meeting ahead of SANJY-2025

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUN 30

Director General of Police (DGP) Jammu and Kashmir, Nalin Prabhat Monday chaired a high-level joint security review meeting at Range Police Headquarters, Anantnag, to assess the overall security scenario in South Kashmir, with a special focus on the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2025.

Following the meeting, the DGP, as per a statement issued to the news agency, accompanied by Special DGP Coordination SJM Geelani, IGP Security J&K Sujit Kumar, DIGP SKR and other senior officers conducted an extensive field visit of key areas in and around Pahalgam along the Yatra route.

DGP inspected the Base Yatra Camps at Nunwan and Chandanwari and conducted the security audit and reviewed deployments and



arrangements at these camp locations, ensuring that all logistics, infrastructure, and personnel were in place to facilitate a smooth and secure pilgrimage.

Additionally, a detailed security review meeting was chaired by DGP at Pahalgam, which was attended by the Senior Officers of Police, Army, CRPF, BSF, ITBP and other agencies including intelligence agencies, CID, Traffic, SDRF, Telecommunication,

Security, and Fire and Emergency Service.

During the meeting, the DGP J&K took stock of the current security posture and issued directions to strengthen preparedness against any potential threats, emphasizing law and order management along the Pahalgam axis.

In his concluding remarks, the DGP J&K urged all officers and concerned agencies to work in close

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## '4200 lecturer posts lying vacant in School Education Department'

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUN 30

In Jammu and Kashmir at least '4200' lecturer posts are lying vacant—thus raising a question on the quality of education at secondary level in government-run schools.

According to the news agency, the School Education Department in a review meeting with Education Minister Sakina Itoo stated that there is a sanctioned strength of 10,330 lecturer posts out of which 6130 are in position.

The official documents further reveal that there is a vacancy of 4200 lecturer posts in the department.

However, the school education department in the meeting further states that 594 lecturer posts have been referred to the Public Service Commission (PSC) for direct

recruitment. It also informed that filling of vacant posts under promotion quota is in process.

Besides, the department in the meeting also stated that the placement proposals of eligible PG Masters, Teachers as in-charge lecturers in different disciplines are being finalized for submission to the authorities.

"Around 1600 vacant posts of lecturers shall be filled in OPG mode by July-15-2025 for major subjects and rest by July-31-2025," reads the documents.

About the referral of Non-Gazetted posts to JKSSB, the department informed that the proposal for referral of 727 non-teaching staff and 43 posts of MTS to JKSSB has been submitted to the Finance Department for

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## PM Modi to attend 17th BRICS Summit in Rio De Janeiro as India to hold chair of BRICS next year

J I NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 30

With India set to hold the chair of BRICS next year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to Rio De Janeiro, Brazil for the 17th BRICS Summit, holds even more significance.

The BRICS Summit is taking place on July 6 and 7. Prime Minister Modi will arrive in Brazil the July 5 evening, to attend the main programme, which is on July 6.

The theme of the Rio Summit is Strengthening Global South Cooperation for Inclusive and Sustainable Governance. The program on July 6 includes the first agenda item, the Reform of the Global Governance, where only the full BRICS members will participate. And thereafter, there is the second item



on the agenda, the Peace and Security, in a working lunch format, where the leaders will discuss the agenda item. Leaders' statements will be issued later.

The BRICS has 10 full members and 12 partner countries, as well as eight invited countries at the Head of State, Government level, and seven heads of regional and multi-

lateral bodies. Post-lunch, the third item on the agenda is the Strengthening Multilateralism, Economic Financial Affairs, and Artificial Intelligence. Later there will be an official reception and all the leaders will be participating.

On July 7, the fourth item of the agenda is environment, COP30, and Global Health. Brazil will also be hosting COP30 in November this year.

"As you know, the BRICS process is led by the Chair and they set the agenda, but the decisions are in a consensus-based format. We are hopeful that there will be four deliverables, although discussions are continuing still at the Sherpa and the Sous-Sherpa level.

"The leaders' declaration, the leaders' statement on global governance and

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## ACB arrests Patwari for accepting bribe in Kathua

J I NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, JUN 30

Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Monday said to have trapped and arrested a Patwari of Halqa Thuthay Chak, Hiranagar, Kathua for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 30,000.

A spokesperson said in a statement issued to the news

agency, Anti-Corruption Bureau received a complaint alleging therein that public servant namely Liaquat Ali, Patwari, Patwar Halqa Thuthay Chak Tehsil Hiranagar, District Kathua, demanded illegal gratification from the complainant for attestation of mutation. "The accused had demanded a bribe

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## NRPC raises concern over J&K's mounting liabilities

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUN 30

The Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) has raised a red flag over the whopping liabilities of Rs 150 crore against Jammu & Kashmir primarily on account of deviation charges and reactive energy

charges. The minutes of the meetings of 79th Northern Regional Power Committee (NRPC) and 54th Technical Co-ordination Committee (TCC) of NRPC held on May 30 reveals that the issue of non-payment of liabilities by J&K, on

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## Heatwave tightens grip in Kashmir

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUN 30

The intense heatwave once again tightened its grip in Kashmir with the weatherman here predicting intermittent rain and thundershower at scattered places for the next five days across Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the news agency, the maximum temperature in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, settled at 34.5 degrees.

The other stations across Kashmir except Gulmarg recorded above 30 degrees temperature today.

As per the details, Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, recorded 33.6 degrees while Pahalgam recorded 30.2 degrees.

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## Commissioner Secretary H&UDD reviews Muharram arrangements in Srinagar

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 30

Intensifying efforts towards ensuring seamless and safe observance of Muharram-ul-Harram and Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, Commissioner Secretary Housing & Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur, today conducted a comprehensive inspection of key sites across Srinagar.

She was accompanied by Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Faz Lul Haseeb and senior officials from SMC and allied departments.

The visit included prominent Imam Bargahs in Zadibal and Hassanabad, where the Commissioner Secretary reviewed the arrangements being made for Muharram processions and religious gatherings.



She interacted with the members of the Shia community, listening to their suggestions and concerns regarding a peaceful and dignified observance of the holy month.

The inspection focused on several essential ser-

vices including sanitation, power supply, street lighting, drinking water, water tanker availability, drainage and road conditions.

The Commissioner Secretary stressed the importance of coordinated efforts and timely action

to address any issues that may arise during the period. She reassured the community members of the government's full support and its commitment to public safety and well-being.

Regarding the hygiene standards, she directed concerned officials to carry out thorough fumigation at all key religious sites, including Imam Bargahs, mosques and shrines.

In addition to reviewing the Muharram arrangements, she also visited the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Centre at Tengpora to assess its operations.

Later, she inspected the Yatra Transit Camp at Pantha Chowk, taking stock of facilities and preparations being put in place for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

## SKUAST-K holds workshop in Gurez to promote revival of heritage crops

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, JUNE 30

The Dryland Agriculture Research Station (DARS) Rangreth of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), in collaboration with the Mountain Agriculture Research & Extension Station (MAR&ES) and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Gurez, organized a one-day mega workshop at Izmarg, Gurez under the AICRP on potential crops.

The programme, organised to promote the revival of heritage and potential crops among tribal farmers, was attended by officials from various departments as well as 43 progressive tribal farmers.

On the occasion, Dr. Ajaz Ahmad Lone, Pro-



fessor and Principal Investigator, AICRP on Pulses, highlighted the importance of potential crops like Buckwheat in addressing nutritional needs, generating income, and promoting sustainable agriculture. He expressed concern over the declining interest in such crops and emphasized the need to sensitize farmers through quality seed distribution, scientific training, and extension literature.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Fayaz Ahmad

Bahar, Chief Scientist, DARS Rangreth, spoke about the efforts of the scientific community at SKUAST-K to revive orphan crops tied to the cultural heritage of Gurez.

While sharing details, Dr. Hilal Ahmad Malik, Head KVK & MAR&ES Gurez, informed that 7.5 hectares at Badugam Tulail have been brought under potato seed production, with a target of producing 3,000 quintals this year and scaling up to 30,000 quintals

next year. He added that over 16 hectares across Gurez have been covered under KG-2 maize, while the entire village of Dangan (Izmarg) has been brought under Buckwheat cultivation. Dr. Hilal also announced the establishment of a Custom Hiring Centre under HADP-09 and appreciated the continued support of DARS Rangreth. Later, farmers were provided with free toolkits and tarpaulin sheets to support natural farming practices.

## Anti-drug campaign organized at Gool under Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, JUNE 30

In line with the anti-drugs campaign launched by the District Administration Ramban, the Sub-Divisional Administration Gool today organized a comprehensive anti-drugs awareness campaign at Panchayat Gool-A.

The campaign was jointly led by the BDO Office and Police Department aiming to spread awareness among the locals, especially the youth about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of building a drug-free society.

During the drive, officers sensitized the participants about the ill effects of drugs and encouraged community participation in eradicating the menace.

The campaign is part of



the ongoing efforts under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan to make Ramban a drug-free district.

## DC Pulwama reviews JK Sehat App registration progress in District



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
PULWAMA, JUNE 30

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today chaired a comprehensive meeting at the Administrative Complex Pulwama to review the progress of registration under the JK Sehat Mobile Application across the district.

While reviewing the progress, DC stressed the need to expedite the registration process. He directed all Block Medical Officers (BMOs) to prepare a comprehensive plan to ensure timely and widespread registration under the app. He also instructed them to constitute teams and adopt

a door-to-door campaigning strategy to maximise public awareness, registrations and effective use of the platform.

"Proper awareness should be created among the public through the use of IEC materials and by organizing health camps to inform people about the benefits and long-term advantages of registering on the JK Sehat platform, he said.

JK Sehat App is a one-stop digital platform designed to provide a wide range of healthcare services and information to patients, healthcare professionals, medical students, and the general public.

During the meeting, Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Pulwama, presented a detailed overview of the application, highlighting its key features, user benefits, and the current status of registrations across the district.

In addition, Deputy Commissioner also issued directions to the concerned officers to ensure that adequate medical arrangements are in place across the district in view of the upcoming 10th Muharram.

The meeting was attended by Chief Medical Officer, Pulwama; District Health Officer, Pulwama; Block Medical Officers; and other concerned officers.

## DC Kulgam inspects progress on NH-444 Project



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KULGAM, JUNE 30

District Development Commissioner (DDC), Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, on Monday conducted an extensive inspection of on-going work on National Highway (NH)-444 project in the district.

He reviewed the progress made on the Kulgam By-Pass on NH 444 stretching from Pahloo to Lirow including 378-meter-long Brazloo bridge.

During his visit, the DDC was briefed by engineers on the progress status of

the NH-444 Pahloo-Lirow By-Pass.

The DC instructed the concerned to expedite work and ensure the timely completion of the NH-444 project in the district.

He also emphasized the need to prioritize the construction of the Brazloo Bridge which is coming up an estimated cost of 56 Cr.

Accompanying the DC were Assistant Commissioner Revenue Reyaz Ahmad Shah, Tehsildar Kulgam/Pahloo Executive Engineer NH444 Construction Division Sgr, AEE's and other Officers.

## Empowered voices, inclusive choices: Gram Sabha anchors Tribal Progress on Day 15 and 16 of DAJGUA in Paddar



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, JUNE 30

On the 15th and 16th days of the transformative Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gramin Utarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), awareness and benefit saturation camps were successfully organized in Block Paddar at two Scheduled Tribe population-dominated villages—Village Lossain, Panchayat Machail, Block Paddar on Day 15 and Village Kabban, Panchayat Sole, Block Paddar on Day 16.

This flagship outreach initiative witnessed vibrant participation from tribal communities and local stakeholders with a special emphasis on Information, Education and Communication (IEC).

The camps served as a single-window platform, streamlining access to

a spectrum of welfare schemes and public services.

Key departments including Health, Jal Shakti, Agriculture, Education, ICDS, Employment, Rural Development, JPDCL Kishtwar and FCS&CA set up interactive stalls.

Tribal community members availed themselves of on-the-spot assistance for registration, application processing and service delivery—many of which were communicated in local dialects to ensure full accessibility.

Specialized health check-ups were conducted, extending essential healthcare services to tribal populations often underserved due to geographic remoteness.

Gram Sabhas held at both locations during the event emerged as a highlight—providing a demo-

cratic platform for open dialogue on community development. Resolutions were passed, concerns were addressed and the importance of participatory governance was reinforced.

Voices from the Ground Tribal elders and residents expressed heartfelt gratitude to the district administration for bringing governance to their doorstep. They lauded the initiative as a meaningful step toward transparent, accountable and inclusive governance.

The DAJGUA Day 15 and 16 events in ST-dominated villages of Block Paddar stand as a model of integrated service delivery and community empowerment—strengthening trust between citizens and the administration, and paving the way for sustainable tribal development.

## DC Ramban reviews functioning of Cooperative, Social Welfare Departments

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, JUNE 30

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan today reviewed the functioning and progress of the Cooperative and Social Welfare Departments in a detailed meeting.

The Meeting was attended by the CPO, Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, Deputy Registrar Cooperatives Priyanka Sharma and District Social Welfare Officer Tariq Parvez Kazi, Functional Manager DIC and other concerned.

During the review of the Cooperative Department, it was informed that 69 Cooperative Societies are functional in the district, while 16 societies are currently non-functional. The DC emphasized the need to revive non-functional societies and focus on promoting result-oriented cooperatives for sustainable growth.

Taking stock of the functioning of the newly inaugurated Mini Super Bazaar, the DC directed the department to strengthen publicity and



promotional activities to attract more consumers. He also reviewed the performance of Common Service Centres (CSCs) operating under Cooperatives, PM Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMJAK) and PM Kisan Samridhi Kendras, besides assessing the functioning of Food Processing Units established under the Cooperative sector.

While reviewing the Social Welfare Department, it was revealed that a total of 21,879 beneficiaries are availing benefits under various schemes like National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS). This includes 15,309 old-age pensioners, 2,369 women in distress and 4,201 specially-abled persons.

Additionally, three children have been pro-

vided scholarships under the National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH). The DC directed the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) to ensure the availability of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials in Hindi, Urdu and English to enhance public awareness about welfare schemes.

Further, the DC instructed the Social Welfare Department to expedite pending cases under the Marriage Assistance Scheme, ensuring timely benefits to eligible beneficiaries.

The Deputy Commissioner also distributed tablets to three meritorious students under the Beti Padhao Beti Bachao (BPBB) scheme encouraging them to pursue academic excellence.

## Sham Lal reviews PAI 2.0 implementation, Panchayat Ghar progress

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUNE 30

Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal on Monday chaired a review meeting with Assistant Commissioners Panchayat (ACPs) to evaluate the implementation of the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0, construction of Panchayat Ghars and the co-location of Common Service Centres (CSCs).

During the meeting, the Director emphasized the need for organizing training sessions on PAI across all districts and blocks, ensuring full participation of relevant personnel.

He directed that the data under PAI must be fact-based and aligned with ground realities and should be personally monitored by Assistant Commissioners Panchayat (ACPs) and Block Development Officers (BDOs).

The Director highlighted that discrepancies in scoring often deprive well-performing panchayats of national-level recognition and awards, hence scoring must accurately reflect the actual performance in

respective thematic areas. He stated that district-level implementation of PAI is of critical importance and real-time and authentic data is essential to formulate strategies aligned with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Regarding the construction of Panchayat Ghars, the Director instructed that the process must be taken up on a mission-mode priority.

He said for panchayats where land has not yet been identified, immediate steps should be taken to finalize locations and in cases of land disputes, he directed that joint site inspections be conducted in collaboration with the Revenue Department to resolve issues promptly.

The Director stressed that no compromise on construction quality will be tolerated and that Panchayat Ghars should be located at central, accessible locations to serve the entire community effectively.

He further directed that a detailed list of panchayats without Panchayat Ghars be submitted for new approvals.

## DC Shopian inspects work of rural development projects at Keller

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SHOPIAN, JUNE 30

In order to take on ground appraisal of development work, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today visited Keller block where he inspected developmental works, both completed and ongoing along with senior officers of the district administration.

The DC visited Zampathri Bridge, connecting Zampathri with Pehlipora, executed at the cost of 60 lacs which was recently completed through Rural development office, Keller.

Under SBM-2.0, the under-construction site of Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) being constructed at the cost of 90 lacs at Zampathri was also inspected by the DC where he instructed for immediate execution and completion of the project, to be dedicated for eco friendly development of the area



The DC also inspected Chotiwayley-Zampathri road project, executed at the cost of Rs 10 lacs.

These key projects of the department are being executed for improving connectivity in the hill area, benefiting thousands of local population along with strengthening public infrastructure especially in

sanitation sector, signalling eco friendly and sustainable development.

Accompanied by ADC, ACR and BDO, the DC assessed the pace and quality of work being executed in the area where he highlighted the significance of the projects while calling for efficient execution delivery.

## Warm farewell accorded to retirees of Agriculture Department Jammu



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JUNE 30

The staff and officers of the Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu, bid a warm and affectionate farewell to Agriculture Economist Jammu Pardeep Sharma and Assistant Agriculture Engineer, Seed Processing Unit, Jammu, Arshad Hussain Rashid who superannuated today after rendering over 35 years of dedicated service to the department.

A heartfelt farewell function was organized at the Directorate to honour the retirees for their remarkable contribution to the department and the farming community. Director Agriculture Production &

Farmers Welfare, Jammu, S. Arvinder Singh Reen graced the occasion and extended best wishes to the retiring officers.

In his address, the Director lauded their exemplary service, professionalism and unwavering commitment towards agricultural development and farmer welfare. He further added that the department will always value the dedication and sincerity with which the officers discharged their duties over the years. The retirees leave behind a legacy of service and integrity that will inspire future generations of the department.

Joint Director Agriculture (Extension), Satish

Sharma and Joint Director Agriculture (Input), Dr. Ashwani Sharma also conveyed their warm wishes and heartfelt appreciation to the retiring officers. They acknowledged the invaluable contributions made by the retirees and wished them continued happiness, good health and success in the next chapter of their lives.

Warm wishes for a healthy, peaceful, and prosperous post-retirement life were also extended to the retirees by officers and staff from various districts of Jammu division. As a token of appreciation and respect, mementoes were presented to the retirees on behalf of the department.

## LMD intensifies market inspections ahead of Shri Amarnathji Yatra: Traders penalized for violations in Kathua

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JUNE 30

With the view to safeguard the interests of consumers, especially Shri Amarnath pilgrims, the Legal Metrology Department, under the directions of Controller Legal Metrology J&K Rajinder Singh Tara conducted a special enforcement drive ahead of the Shri Amarnathji Yatra. The rigorous inspections were carried out along the National Highway in Kathua district—a crucial transit zone for Yatris en route to the holy shrine.

The inspection drive, led by the Legal Metrology unit in Kathua, was aimed to ensure fair trade practices and strict compliance with the Legal Metrology Act, 2009. During the inspections, several traders were found violat-

ing various provisions of the Legal Metrology Act/ rules and were accordingly booked by the area inspectors and penalties amounting to Rs 1.40 lakh were imposed.

The department emphasized that traders must strictly use certified weighing instruments and cautioned against short-weight sales, particularly involving commodities like sweets, bakery items, snacks, beverages and pre-packaged food products which witness high consumer demand during the pilgrimage season and the department stressed the need for transparency.

In an official hand-out, the Department urged the consumers to remain vigilant and thoroughly inspect pre-packaged products for key labelling details such as the manu-

facturer or importer's address, country of origin, net quantity and the Maximum Retail Price (MRP), inclusive of all taxes. As the proper labelling helps ensure transparency and provides consumers with accurate product information of pre-packaged commodities which in-turn discourages deceptive or fraudulent practices.

The Controller Legal Metrology J&K reiterated the department's commitment in protecting the rights of consumers and maintaining ethical standards in market transactions, especially during the festive and pilgrimage season. He also encouraged consumers to report any instance of overcharging or short-weight sales or deceptive pre-packaging to the department for prompt action.

## Committee on Petitions holds meeting in Srinagar

**Discusses petition related to Housing Department**

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 30

The House Committee on Petitions of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to deliberate on issues pertaining to the Housing Department.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah and attended by members Mushtaq Guroo, Salman Sagar, Mian Mehar Ali, Vijay Kumar and Thakur Randhir Singh.

Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Housing Board, Shahbaz Ahmad Mirza, also participated in the proceedings.

The Committee held a threadbare discussion on a petition submitted by former Member of Legis-



lative Assembly, Ghulam Qadir Wani, regarding the retrieval of 12 marlas of land at Channi Rama, Jammu, from the Housing Department.

The discussions focused on identifying practical and time-bound solutions to the issues raised in the petition.

The members assured deep commitment towards resolving the genuine public grievances through a structured and responsive mechanism. The Chairman, empha-

sized the Committee's responsibility to meticulously examine each petition referred to it, ensuring timely redressal and resolution of genuine concerns. He reiterated that the Committee would report to the House on specific complaints and recommend appropriate remedial measures as deemed necessary.

He stressed the importance of active cooperation and seamless contributions from all members and the concerned officials to ensure the vibrant and effective functioning of the Committee.

The members actively participated in the meeting, offering valuable suggestions and feedback on various issues discussed, reaffirming their dedication towards addressing the public concerns transparently and efficiently.

## DC Reasi calls for tough action on drug abuse; urges youth-centric awareness drives



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
REASI, JUNE 30

A meeting of the District Level Narco Coordination Committee (NCORD) was convened today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik at the DC Office Complex.

The meeting witnessed active participation from various departments, including the Police, Health, Education, Excise, Social Welfare and Rural Development.

During the session, the Deputy Commissioner took a comprehensive review of the measures being undertaken to curb drug abuse in the district. The Police Department apprised the chair about a doctor in Katra allegedly prescribing narcotic drugs

indiscriminately. Taking serious note of this malpractice, the DC directed the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to initiate strict action against the doctor involved.

Emphasising timely documentation and transparency, the DC directed concerned officers to ensure that details of all drug awareness camps under Nasha Mukta J&K are uploaded on the dedicated portal within the stipulated timeframe. She further instructed SDMs and BDOs to ensure high-quality photographs are uploaded and that these camps see maximum participation, especially from the youth who are the most vulnerable demographic.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed the Excise Department to

procure quality drug testing kits and ensure their timely distribution to relevant departments to facilitate early detection of drug abuse cases. Additionally, the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) was asked to inspect the functioning and facilities of the drug de-addiction centre in the district to ensure proper support for rehabilitation.

The DC reiterated the administration's commitment to a drug-free Reasi and called for coordinated efforts from all departments and community stakeholders in this critical fight. ADC Rakesh Kumar, ACR Nitiv Verma, SDMs, ACD, CMO, Tehsildars and other officers attended the meeting.

During the meeting,

## DC Baramulla reviews progress under Aspirational District Programme



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, JUNE 30

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa today convened a meeting of all concerned officers at DC Office Complex here to review the progress achieved under different indicators of Aspirational District Programme (ADP).

The meeting held threadbare discussion and reviewed the progress achieved under various indicators including health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion, and basic infrastructure.

During the meeting,

other related sectors were also thoroughly discussed during which the DC emphasized the need for sustained efforts to address developmental gaps and to further improve the district's overall performance under the ADP framework.

The DC directed the concerned department to take concerted measures for increasing the percentage of agricultural land covered under sprinkler, drip, and other forms of micro-irrigation, with the objective to sustainable farming practices across the district.

Minga Sherpa further called for effective strategies to address key challenges, urging all depart-

ments to work with greater dedication to elevate the district from Aspirational to Performer.

Joint Director Planning, Javed Ahmad, Chief Education Officer, Chief Agriculture officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Medical Officer and other District Officers attended the meeting.

## Sakeena Itoo reviews progress on health projects across Kashmir division



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 30

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat to assess the status of ongoing works being executed under health infrastructure projects across Kashmir Division.

The meeting was attended by MD J&K Housing Board, MD Police Housing Corporation, Chief Engineer R&B North Kashmir, Director Health Services Kashmir, representatives of mechanical and hospital engineering department and other officers of the concerned departments and project executing agencies.

While reviewing the district-wise progress on each project, the Minister underscored the importance of adhering to deadlines, particularly in far-flung and snow-prone areas. "Timely completion of these projects is crucially important for saving precious human lives. We cannot afford delays that could hamper rural healthcare delivery during harsh winters," she stated.

The Minister issued

clear directions to all the executing agencies to ensure that all the ongoing projects, ranging from new health centres to upgradation of existing facilities, are completed in time as Kashmir has less working season.

Highlighting the importance of these projects for rural healthcare services, the Minister underlined that once completed, these projects will significantly strengthen the healthcare network in rural and underserved areas of Kashmir division. "Government's goal is to make quality healthcare accessible at the grass-roots level. These infrastructure upgrades are a crucial step towards achieving the healthcare equity", asserted the Minister.

During the meeting, the Minister stressed upon the officers of the health department and executing agencies to conduct regular check-ups of ongoing construction works so that the buildings are constructed as per the approved works. She also asked them to consult every stakeholder in DPR formulation, ensuring that all necessary basic facilities are incorporated.

## Handicrafts & Handloom Deptt condoles demise of father of Mussrat Islam

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 30

The Officers and the Officials of the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir today held a condolence meeting at the Directorate Office here to express profound grief and solidarity with Mussrat Islam, Director, Handicrafts and Handloom Department, on the sad demise of his father.

The meeting was attended by senior officers and staff members of the department, who shared heartfelt tributes and fondly remembered the values and legacy of the departed soul. Prayers

were offered for eternal peace to the deceased and strength to the bereaved family.

Speaking on behalf of the department, the staff conveyed the collective sorrow of the organization, stating, "Loss of a parent is an irreplaceable void. On behalf of the entire Handicrafts and Handloom Department, we extend our deepest sympathies to Mussrat Islam and his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with them in this hour of grief."

Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir stands united in support of Mussrat Islam and his family during this period of mourning.

## MVD conducts enforcement drive on Jammu-Poonch National Highway, Nangali Sahib

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, JUNE 30

On the direction of Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal, the Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) Poonch carried out an extensive enforcement drive along the Jammu-Poonch National Highway and Nangali Sahib area.

The drive was conducted under the supervision of MVD Inspector Imran Choudhary.

During the drive, a total of 80 vehicles were thoroughly inspected. Out of these, 13 were issued challans for various violations of the Motor Vehicle Act and 6 vehicles were seized on the spot.

NORTHERN RAILWAY						
E-TENDER NOTICE						
Sr. DEE/G/JAT acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders ( <a href="http://www.reps.gov.in">www.reps.gov.in</a> ) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.						
Tender No.	Name of Work	App. Cost (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Completion Period	Opening of Tender	Website Particulars
251-J-Elect-T-06-2025-26	Electrical work in c/w Resurfacing of PF 1 and PF 2 & 3 at Pathankot Railway Station.	Rs. 23,03,309.56	Rs. 46,100.00	06 Months	21.07.2025 after 15:00 Hrs.	<a href="http://www.reps.gov.in">www.reps.gov.in</a>
No.: 251-J-Elect/T.Notice No. 06-Elect/2025-26 Dated: 27.06.2025						
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE						

## BJP protests against compulsory Urdu for Naib Tehsildar Posts, terms it a continuation of Omar Abdullah's biased legacy

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, 30 JUNE 2025:

Senior leaders and party cadre of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, held a strong protest demonstration at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Chowk (Panama Chowk), Jammu, expressing deep resentment over the recent decision to make Urdu language compulsory for the newly advertised Naib Tehsildar posts. The protest saw widespread participation from six organizational districts of BJP, namely Jammu, Jammu South, Jammu North, Jammu Border, Akhnoor, and Kashmir Displaced.

The BJP charged the government with regional and linguistic discrimination, warning that such moves were reminiscent

of the Omar Abdullah-led National Conference (NC) government's biased and Kashmir-centric policies, which persistently ignored the interests of Jammu and its youth.

Former Deputy Chief Minister Kavinder Gupta, DDC Chairperson Bharat Bhushan, and BJP Secretary & MLA Arvind Gupta, MLAs Ch. Vikram Randhawa, Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat, Surinder Bhagat, Dr. Rajeev Bhagat, and Mohan Lal Bhagat, DDC Vice-Chairperson Suraj Singh, DDC Suresh Sharma, Dharminder Kumar, former Mayor JMC Rajinder Sharma, Secretary Veenu Khanna, Anju Dogra, Ayodhya Gupta, Prabhat Singh Jamwal, Rakesh Mahajan, Adv. Purnima Sharma, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Dr.



Tahir Choudhary, Sanjita Dogra, Arun Prabhath, Ved Sharma, Prem Gupta, Bawa Sharma, District Presidents, Nand Kishore, Adv. Rajesh Gupta, Nareesh Singh Jasrotia, Rinku Choudhary, Kuldeep Sharma, Rajeev Pandita and other senior leaders and party cadre participated in the strong protest organized.

Kavinder Gupta denounced the move, stating, "This is a calcu-

lated attempt to deprive the youth of Jammu of equal opportunity. Making Urdu mandatory reflects the same divisive policies which Omar Abdullah's government propagated during its earlier tenures. We will not allow the repetition of that injustice."

He stated that there are other regional languages too, and questioned their unconditional love for just one language.

Bharat Bhushan

asserted that the government must immediately reconsider this decision. It is unacceptable that the majority of youth of Jammu & Kashmir is being forcibly deprived of the government job due to the Urdu language. This is direct discrimination with youth."

Arvind Gupta added, "This is a violation of the principles of equity and meritocracy. Recruitment should be based on competence, not language-based exclusion. The BJP stands with the youth of Jammu and will not tolerate such targeted discrimination."

Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat said that the language condition is unfair and unconstitutional. The majority of youth are being deliberately kept out of the

competition through such conditions. We demand an immediate rollback.

Ch. Vikram Randhawa warned the administration, saying, "The J&K government is playing with fire by ignoring the sentiments of Jammu's youth. We will not sit quiet if this policy is not scrapped. Our fight will intensify across every district."

Following the protest, BJP leaders submitted a detailed memorandum to the Divisional Commissioner, demanding immediate withdrawal of the Urdu language criterion for Naib Tehsildar posts, ensuring equitable job opportunities, and respecting the linguistic diversity of the Union Territory. The protest was coordinated by Adv. Rajesh Gupta.

## Pawan Sharma urges reassessment of Naib Tehsildar eligibility criteria

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, 30 JUNE 2025:



Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former State Secretary, Pawan Sharma, has strongly criticized the National Conference (NC) government and its leadership for making Urdu language proficiency mandatory in the recently advertised recruitment for the post of Naib Tehsildar. Sharma urged the Omar Abdullah Government to reassess the eligibility criteria for these posts.

Sharma asserted that imposing such a condition denies fair employment opportunities to deserving youth across Jammu and Kashmir, particularly those who are not well-versed in Urdu. He termed it a violation of constitutional rights, as it disregards the region's linguistic diversity and the spirit of equality enshrined in the Constitution.

"Excluding capable candidates on the basis of language is not only discriminatory but also undermines the aspirations of thousands of unemployed youth," said Sharma. "The BJP remains firmly committed to protecting the rights and interests of the youth of Jammu and Kashmir."

Sharma demanded that the Omar Abdullah Government should reassess the eligibility criteria for Naib Tehsildar posts. He suggested that the government should consult with all stakeholders, including the public, to ensure that the recruitment process is fair, transparent, merit-based and justified.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

### LG Sinha dedicates...

and CEO SASB; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; senior officials of SASB, Police and Civil administration were present at the inaugural ceremony.

#### VISITS BALTAL BASE CAMP

The Lieutenant Governor also visited Baltal Base Camp and reviewed the preparedness.

At Baltal, LG Sinha interacted with the camp officials and reviewed the arrangements for healthcare, power, communication, water supply, sanitation, food, lodging, weather forecasting, traffic management, surveillance and maintenance of track, security grid and emergency services.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the officials to ensure round the clock availability of all the basic amenities with adequate manpower for the convenience of the pilgrims.

LG Sinha also conducted the on-site inspection and ascertained the progress of the Disaster Management and Yatri Niwas Complex of Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board.

He also made a visit to the hospital at Baltal Base Camp, and inspected the healthcare facilities for the pilgrims and inaugurated a training ward for medical staff.

The Lieutenant Governor said, "Significant upgrade has been done to the overall Yatra arrangements. Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, Administration, J&K Police, Security Forces, Service providers, all line departments and stakeholders have diligently implemented pilgrim-centric measures to ensure the pilgrimage is peaceful, safe, and hassle-free for devotees."

LG Sinha was accompanied by K.N Rai, Member, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board; Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary, Science & Technology Department; Jatin Kishore, Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal and senior officials of SASB, Police, Security Forces and stakeholder departments.

#### LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN FOR ZERO-WASTE PILGRIMAGE, YATRA LOGO, YATRA ANTHEM, CAMPAIGN WEBSITE AND MIS PORTAL

The Lieutenant Governor also launched a comprehensive IEC (Information, Education & Communication) campaign and various innovative initiatives of Directorate of Rural Sanitation, Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, for a sustainable and Zero-Waste pilgrimage of Shri Amarnath Ji at Baltal.

The initiatives include Yatra Logo, Yatra Anthem, campaign website and MIS portal, Trinetra App, Pamphlet & Yatra Guidelines, Yatra Mascots and IEC toolkit aimed to promote sustainable practices, address sanitation issues, share verified information, and engage Yatris through feedback along the Baltal and Pahalgam axis, with the goal of achieving a Zero Landfill Yatra.

The campaign website www.shriamarnathjiyatra.com and an MIS portal will serve as the central hub for all information, updates, and resources, while the browser-based mobile application www.zerowasteyatra.app will provide real-time information and support to the Pilgrims.

Pamphlet & Yatra Guidelines, designed for Langar organizers, shopkeepers, and service providers along the Yatra route are focused on ensuring waste minimization, discourage single-use plastics, and implement SBM-G norms.

Trinetra App will significantly enhance the pilgrim experience through sanitation facilities, safety alerts and making them aware of the values of cleanliness during their pilgrimage.

Anoo Malhotra, Director General, Rural Sanitation briefed the Lieutenant Governor on dedicated measures taken by the department to make the yatra more sustainable.

It was informed that the Department has installed a total of 5613 toilets / bathing units, on both the axis, of which 2920 are on the Pahalgam axis and 2693 are on the Baltal axis. Further, 7361 sanitation workers are deployed to ensure cleanliness of these sanitation units. The department has also established 15 Processing Facilities for Solid Waste Management on both the axis— (KNO)

### Govt has made all...

global market by rebuilding the direct relationship between creators and customers.

Reflecting on the significance of the meet, the Chief Minister said that there was a time when such Buyer-Seller Meets were not needed. "Tourists from across the globe would come to Kashmir and naturally become buyers. Today, through initiatives like this, we are trying to revive that connection—to bring the buyers back and reestablish the relationship between creators and customers."

He emphasized that the event is not a one-off showcase.

"Under the scheme, we are committed to organizing six regular Buyer-Seller Meets and six reverse meets. These will ensure sustained engagement and provide deeper market access for our artisans and entrepreneurs," he said. KNO

### Major political...

two to three months and have agreed to form a platform that will work for the interests of the people," said Lone.

He said that the alliance comprises individuals who have endured pain and suffering in Kashmir over the past three decades.

"There are two types of people in J&K: those who were beaten and jailed, and those who inflicted that suffering. The latter have ruled Kashmir for the past 30 years," he said.

Speaking at the occasion, Shamim Ahmad Thokar, president of the Justice and Development Front—a political party established by Jamaat-e-Islami-affiliated candidates—said, "We cannot succeed alone. To serve the people effectively, we must unite. Our party will join this alternative alliance."

Peoples Democratic Front president Hakim Muhammad Yasin added that the alliance would fight for the restoration of Kashmiris' dignity.

The new coalition has the potential to become the primary opposition to the ruling NC-led alliance, particularly given the traditional vote base of the Peoples Conference and the JDF backed by JeI, which was a major political force in the Valley until the 1987 elections.

Yasin's PDF holds significant influence in the Khanshab area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district. With the Kashmir-based opposition parties in disarray after a humiliating defeat in the 2024 Assembly elections, this alliance could pose a serious challenge to the ruling bloc in future elections.

In their agenda, the alliance has said that they will fight for restoration of Article 370, 35A, and statehood. The conglomerate has also called for amnesty for political prisoners and detained youth.

It has termed the reservation as a regional issue, saying that it is being used as a tool to disempower Kashmiris. KNO

### DGP chairs joint...

synergy and coordination to ensure a peaceful, smooth, and secure conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025. KNO

### '4200 lecturer posts...

obtaining Financial Concurrence. It also said that the vacant General Line Teacher posts stand frozen in light of SAC decision in 2018. KNO

### PM Modi to attend 17th...

artificial intelligence, the leaders' framework declaration on climate finance, and BRICS partnership for elimination of socially determined diseases," said Secretary ER Dammu Ravi, at a briefing today. "There will also be in addition four reports that will be submitted to the leaders. One, the deliberations that happen during the National Security Advisors level, the Business Council meetings that would have happened before that, the Women's Business Alliance report, and the civil council report," he added.

On the bilateral front, Prime Minister Modi during the state visit to Brasilia on July 8, is scheduled to hold bilateral talks with President Lula. He will be accorded a ceremonial welcome on arrival, followed by a restricted meeting and a delegation-level format talks, culminating with a lunch hosted by President Lula for Prime Minister Modi. Prime Minister has earlier visited Brazil on three occasions, the first in July 2014, followed by another visit in 2019 to attend the BRICS summit, and in November last year to attend the G20 summit in Rio

de Janeiro.

"The state visit will provide an opportunity to review the entire gamut of our partnership, including trade and investments, oil and gas, renewable energy, mining and critical minerals, defense and security, agriculture and livestock, healthcare and traditional medicine, tourism, space, science and technology, DPI, and also sports and people-to-people relations in general. Both leaders will also be discussing during their talks global issues of mutual interest," said Secretary East P Kumar. "The visit will be a significant milestone in the India-Brazil strategic partnership and is envisaged to add renewed momentum to the strategic partnership, which we agreed to in 2006. On the trade front, India's trade with Brazil is the largest compared to any other country in Latin America. It had reached 16.6 billion in 2022-23, and following the drop in oil and gas prices, it is now around 12.2 billion, with India enjoying a trade surplus as we export goods worth \$6.7 billion to Brazil and import goods worth \$5.4 billion. Both leaders have set a bilateral trade target of 20 billion during their last meeting in November 2024. During their forthcoming meeting in Brasilia, the two leaders are expected to discuss ways to strengthen and diversify bilateral trade, including through expansion of the India-MERCOSUR PTA, as Brazil will be holding the Chairship of MERCOSUR from 1st July 2025," he added.

"We are looking at a few important bilateral MOUs and agreements, especially in renewable energy, agricultural research, and security cooperation," he said.

### ACB arrests Patwari...

of Rs 1,00,000 from the complainant for entering the name of his wife in the mutation register. After negotiation, the accused has agreed to take bribe amount of Rs 70,000 from the complainant in two installments," the statement reads.

The complainant arranged Rs 30,000 as bribe money as 1st installment for payment to the said Patwari, it reads, adding that since, the complainant didn't want to pay bribe and he approached Anti-Corruption Bureau for taking legal action against the accused public servant under law.

"On receipt of the complaint, a discreet verification was conducted, which corroborates the demand of bribe by the public servant concerned and accordingly, a case FIR No. 13/2025 U/S 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 was registered in Police Station ACB Jammu and investigation taken up," the statement added.

During the course of investigation, the spokesman said that a trap team headed by Gazetted rank officer was constituted. "The team laid a successful trap and accused public servant was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe amount of Rs 30,000 from the complainant in the presence of independent witnesses. The accused was arrested on the spot by the ACB team after following due process of law. The bribe money was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses associated with the trap team. Moreover, search is being conducted in the residential house of the accused situated in Kishanpur, Dungara, Billawar, District Kathua in presence of independent witness and Magistrate," it reads, adding that further investigation of the instant case is going on. KNO

### NRPC raises concern...

account of these charges, was discussed threadbare. According to the record note of the meeting, the committee expressed concern over non-payment, stating that it was affecting payment to receivable entities of the Northern region.

"It is to be noted that non-receipt of payment from J&K leads to non-payment to the receivable entities of Northern Region," reads minutes of the meeting, a copy of which is in possession of news agency.

The issue of non-payment of these liabilities was repeatedly raised by the Northern Regional Load Despatch Centre (NRLDC) with J&K. "In this regard, NRLDC has already sent various communications to J&K. This agenda was also raised in special meeting with J&K on 06 Feb 2025 but there is no update about the payment. J&K representative kindly update the status and share the firm commitment date of the payment," the document states.

NRLDC is operating and maintaining the "Northern Region Pool Account" for deviation charges, reactive energy charges and congestion charges in accordance with provisions under various CERC Regulations. As per Regulations, the concerned utilities are required to pay

the indicated amounts within 10 days of issue of weekly energy account by NRPC secretariat.

However, J&K's dues on account of deviation and reactive energy charges have remained pending for a prolonged period, with the last payment from Jammu & Kashmir Power Corporation Limited (JKPCL) received on February 9, 2024, the documents states.

In the meeting chairman NRPC, who happens to be J&K PDD's Principal Secretary- assured the forum that efforts are being made to expedite the payment of DSM and reactive energy charges by J&K.

The Forum asked all constituents to clear their pending dues at the earliest. KNO

### Heatwave tightens...

Kupwara and Kokernag also recorded 34.2 degrees and 33.6 degrees respectively.

Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, has recorded a maximum temperature of 25.0 degrees.

In Jammu division, the mercury however settled below normal with Jammu City recording a maximum temperature of 32.3 degrees, which is 4.7 degrees below normal.

Banihal recorded a day temperature of 29.8 degrees while Batote recorded 28.3 degrees. Katra and Bhandarwah recorded 30.2 degrees and 32.1 degrees respectively.

Meanwhile, Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that there is possibility of intermittent rain and thundershower at scattered places for the next five days till July 05.

He added that from July 06 to July 08, there is a possibility of intermittent rain and thundershower at many places.

Amidst the persistent heat wave conditions, there is no forecast of any major weather activity across Jammu and Kashmir, indicating the continuous heat wave conditions across the region for the next one week. KNO

### Army, BSF foil...

Keri sector is one of the prominent routes used in the past for infiltration by the terrorists.

"Infiltration attempt was foiled by the security forces while a local guide, suspected of facilitating the infiltrators, was nabbed," they said.

"The captured guide is under interrogation to ascertain the details on his cross-border links with terror-ist outfits," they added.

They said that the Army, along with other sister concern agencies including BSF and J&K Police, are already on alert, particularly in connection with the Amarnath Yatra starting from July 2 with the flagging off of the first batch from Jammu-based Yatri Niwas.

### BJP snubs...

restore Article 370. No power can restore it," Koul said.

The People's Alliance, which includes the Peoples Conference, Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Front, and the Jamaat-e-Islamia-backed Justice and Development Front had pledged in their joint declaration to strive for the restoration of Article 370, Article 35A, and statehood. KNO

### Police arrest 87...

A total of 87 accused were arrested, including 80 under NDPS and 7 under PIT NDPS/PSA provisions; 22 vehicles used for narcotics transportation were seized; and additionally, six pharmacy shops were sealed for violating norms related to HI drugs, said the spokesman.

He further added that as part of financial disruption, 43 bank accounts linked to drug peddlers were frozen, involving an amount of Rs 16,72,948 and seized contraband during this period was valued at Rs 2.42 crore on the black market, including Heroin, Charas, Poppy Straw and Ganja.

Further tightening the grip on drug networks, the spokesman added that Udhampur police attached properties worth Rs 4.69 crore, including multiple vehicles, residential houses, and commercial assets related to both NDPS and bovine smuggling cases. Moreover, police have also successfully secured convictions against 28 drug peddlers in 21 cases from courts, which marks the professional approach towards case investigation and prosecution, he added.

## Dharti Aaba Abhiyan conducted in Panchayat Mujhpathri, a tribal area, of block Khanshaib Budgam

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BUDGAM, JUNE 30

Dharti Aaba Abhiyan was conducted at Tribal Village Mujhpathri, a remote village in Block Khanshaib regarding Saturation of Government Schemes across 25 Interventions spanning 17 line departments of Tribal Villages.

All Line Departments ensured participation in Gram Sabha and Representatives spoke about the eligibility of their respective Schemes where gaps in terms of 100% saturation was required.

The event saw greater participation of people than the previous day from Tribal community and people apprised the representatives regarding the need for such Gram Sabha benefiting the Tribal Community.

To grace the occasion, students of Govt Model Middle School Mujhpathri, Khanshaib performed on various cultural events like Gojri folk music, etc to highlight the importance of preserving ones' cultural and local heritage.

Besides, onspot registration of schemes like PMAY-G, Kisan Credit Cards, Swadesh Darshan Guest



Homes, HADP Scheme, JJM FHTC, PMJAY Health Cards was done.

People in large number participated in this awareness campaign where the quick redressal to some of their grievances raised by community members was done by the concerned line departments.

Important dignitaries who spoke on the Occasion are Block Development Officer Khanshaib, Zonal Educational Officer

Khanshaib, Block Medical Officer Khanshaib among others.

BDO Khanshaib who is also the Nodal officer of the Dharti Abha Jhanbaghidari Abhiyan while speaking on the occasion highlighted the importance of such events. He stressed that the people should come forward and enroll themselves under various schemes being offered by the line departments in the District.

## DAJGUA campaign continues across Pulwama; Outreach camps held in Sangerwani and Tral

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
PULWAMA, JUNE 30

As part of the ongoing "Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA)" campaign, District Administration Pulwama today organised tribal outreach camps at Sangerwani and Karmulla Tral. The initiative aims to ensure last-mile delivery of essential government services and the saturation of welfare schemes across tribal areas through focused & coordinated outreach.

A wide array of departments, including Health, Social Welfare, ICDS, Rural Development, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Forest, and Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Fisheries established dedicated stalls at the venues to deliver on-the-spot services. These departments facilitated registrations under key schemes such as Jal Jeevan Mission (Functional Household Tap Con-



nections), MGNREGA Job Cards, PMAY-G, PM Ujjwala Yojana, Mudra Yojana, PM Vishwakarma among others. Eligible citizens were guided and assisted on-site to ensure timely and complete coverage under these schemes.

A health camp was also conducted on the occasion by the Health department during which a team of doctors and paramedics provided on-spot consultation and treatment to local community. Health experts educated attendees on preventive measures including safe drinking practices, hand hygiene, and early identification of symptoms.

To facilitate digital inclusion, a Common service Centre (CSC) was also set up by the District CSC Coordinator, enabling residents to make enrollments, necessary corrections and updates in Aadhar Cards and other important documents. Besides, registration for other government schemes and scholarships were also facilitated by the CSC.

The camps received overwhelming participation from tribal residents, who appreciated the DAJGUA campaign as a positive step towards inclusive development and easy access to government schemes.

## Public Accounts Committee holds meeting in Srinagar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 30

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) today convened a meeting to discuss audit paras pertaining to Finance Department at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Sham Lal Sharma and attended by members Nazir Ahmad Khan, Qaysar Jamshaid Lone, Javid Hassan Baig, Devinder Kumar Manyal, Sajad Shaheen and Muzaffar Iqbal Khan.

The Committee undertook a detailed review of audit paras pertaining to the Finance Department, including Paras 3.6 (2001-02), 2.2 and 2.5 (2018-19).

The Chairman emphasized the importance of ensuring efficiency and transparency in public expenditure. He reiterated that the mandate of the Committee is to scrutinize the government spending, identify lapses, fix accountability and recommend corrective actions.

The Committee deliberated on key issues such



Asad, Director General Accounts and Treasuries, Director Finance, Commissioner State Taxes and other senior officers.

The Committee also decided to drop various audit paras, including Para 2.2.4 related to the management of bank accounts with a direction to submit a detailed action taken report within a stipulated time frame.

The Chairman highlighted the importance of the Committee, emphasising on the core responsibilities, including examination of audit reports from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), scrutiny of public spending and recommendation of reforms to enhance fiscal discipline.

He appreciated the commitment and meticulous efforts of the Committee members and officials and encouraged them to continue contributing effectively towards the public accountability. He underlined the crucial role of the PAC as a watchdog over public funds and government operations.

as computerisation of Toll Post Lakhampur, management of bank accounts and disbursement of flood relief funds.

The meeting reviewed the details submitted by the concerned department and asserted that action taken reports be submitted over various matters in a time bound manner.

Principal Accountant General J&K, K P Yadaw, Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Santosh D. Vaidya, Secretary, PWD Bhupinder Kumar, Secretary, RDD & PR Mohammad Aijaz

## DC Poonch inspects blacktopping work on National Highway, under-construction bridge at Potha Bypass Surankote



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, JUNE 30

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, today conducted a detailed inspection of ongoing blacktopping work on the National Highway in Poonch district. He also visited the under-construction bridge site at the Potha Bypass in Surankote to review progress and assess the quality of work being executed.

During the inspection, the DC emphasized the importance of maintaining high standards in both the execution and materials used for the BT work on the NH stretch. He directed concerned officials and executing agencies to ensure that the work is completed within the stipulated timeline without compromising on quality.

"The National Highway is a lifeline for the people of Poonch. Smooth and durable road infrastructure is essential for connectivity, safety and economic growth. There is no room for delay or substandard work," the DC stated during the site visit.

At the Potha Bypass in Surankote, where a crucial bridge is under construction, the DC reviewed structural elements and instructed the executing agency to expedite the pace of work while adhering strictly to safety and engineering standards. He also interacted with site engineers and workers, urging them to work diligently and complete the project before the monsoon intensifies.

The DC was accompanied by SDM Surankote, Farooq Khan, Senior Officers from BRO, officials from the Public Works Department (PWD), National Highway Division and district administration. He directed regular monitoring of both projects and warned of strict action in case of any lapse in quality or unjustified delays.

The district administration remains committed to improving infrastructure across Poonch and ensuring that developmental works are carried out efficiently, transparently and with long-term public interest in mind.

## Street Play on malaria awareness organised at Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JUNE 30

The Directorate of Health Services, Jammu, in collaboration with the Department of Information and Public Relations, Jammu, today organized a malaria awareness programme at Government Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, as part of its ongoing public health awareness campaign.

To disseminate vital information about prevention and control of malaria, a street play (Nukkad Natak) was performed by the artists of the Cultural Unit Department of Information and Public Relations, Jammu. The play used powerful dialogue, drama and relatable characters to educate the public about mosquito-borne diseases, especially malaria and how simple precautions can prevent its spread.

The event was graced



by the State Malariaologist Dr. D. J. Raina, who addressed the audience and emphasized the importance of cleanliness, use of mosquito nets and timely medical attention in controlling malaria. He also urged people to eliminate stagnant water sources around their homes and surroundings which serve as breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

The programme was attended by the Medical Superintendent Dr.

Narinder Bhutyal, doctors, medical staff and patients. The street play succeeded in spreading key messages in an engaging manner, especially among the visiting patients and local community members present at the hospital.

The programme was conducted under the directions of Joint Director Information Jammu, Deepak Dubey and under the supervision of Cultural Officer Jammu, Mukesh Kumar Sharma.

## Awareness Camp-cum-Outreach Program for Formalisation of MSMEs under RAMP Held at Keller

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SHOPIAN, JUNE 30

The District Industries Centre (DIC) Shopian today organised an Awareness Camp-cum-Outreach Drive under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) program at the Block Office, Keller. The event was aimed at promoting the formalisation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and encouraging Udyam registration among local entrepreneurs.

The camp witnessed the participation of around 75 local stakeholders, including aspiring entrepreneurs, small business owners, and local youth. Officials from DIC Shopian briefed the gathering on the Udyam registration process,



explaining its key benefits such as access to government schemes, financial support, and market opportunities.

The Lead District Manager (LDM) Shopian also addressed the participants and shared valuable insights on various finan-

cial schemes offered by banks to support MSMEs. He highlighted the importance of timely credit, financial awareness, and institutional support for the growth of small enterprises. The program reflected the dedication of DIC Shopian towards fos-

tering entrepreneurship and industrial development in the district. The initiative is part of the ongoing efforts under the RAMP scheme to enhance the productivity, competitiveness, and formalisation of MSMEs across the region.

## Awareness workshop on PMFME Scheme held at Bandipora

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, JUNE 30

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, a one-day awareness workshop on the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme was conducted on Monday at the Municipal Council Hall, Bandipora.

The event was organized under the guidance of District Sheep Husbandry Officer Bandipora, Dr Peer Irshad, who is also the District Nodal Officer (DNO), PMFME Scheme.

The workshop was organized to create awareness among local stakeholders about the scope, procedures, and benefits of the PMFME scheme.

This flagship initiative by

the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India, aims to formalize and support the unorganized micro food processing sector.

On the occasion, special focus was placed on empowering rural entrepreneurs, self-help groups (SHGs), and individual beneficiaries, highlighting the financial support, technical assistance, and capacity-building initiatives available under the scheme.

Speaking at the event, the District Nodal Officer emphasized the transformative potential of the PMFME scheme and encouraged eligible stakeholders to take full advantage of the scheme to boost rural employment and value addition in food processing.

## Javid Dar inaugurates JKRTC Bus Service from Zalloora to Srinagar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, JUNE 30

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, and Cooperative Election, Javid Ahmad Dar, today inaugurated a new Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) bus service from Zalloora to Srinagar.

This long-awaited service fulfills a persistent demand of the local residents, offering them a much-needed transportation link and improved regional connectivity. The bus service will cater to areas of Zalloora, Harwan, Tujjar Sharif and Sopore for travel to Srinagar city.

Speaking on the occasion, Javid Dar said that the launch of this service

reflects the commitment of the Omar Abdullah-led government towards ensuring enhanced basic facilities for the people, especially in far-flung and underserved areas. He emphasized that improving public transportation is a key step towards enhancing daily mobility, boosting local economic activities and connecting communities.

The Minister assured that the government would continue to strengthen the road connectivity, upgrade transportation infrastructure and enhance the public amenities across the region.

Later, Javid Dar, visited Goripora, Rafiaband, to participate in the Muharram commemoration.

## EDITORIAL

## A new alliance--a familiar demand

The political landscape in Jammu and Kashmir is shifting yet again. Amid the continuing clamor for restoration of statehood and reinstatement of the pre-August 5, 2019 position, the formation of the People's Alliance for Change (PAC) marks a significant moment, not merely as a new coalition, but as a bold challenge to the dominant political narratives in the Valley. Comprising the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference (JKPC), People's Democratic Front (PDF), and the Jamaat-e-Islami-backed Justice and Development Front (JDF), the PAC has been unveiled with the declared objective of amplifying the "issues of the common masses." But it is clear from the tone and rhetoric of its constituents – particularly JKPC chief Sajad Gani Lone – that this is more than a grassroots movement. It is a clear attempt to redefine the politics of victimhood, representation, and resistance in post-Article 370 Kashmir. Sajad Lone's sharp criticism of established parties—especially the National Conference and its leaders Farooq and Omar Abdullah – highlights a generational shift in political posturing. "How would they know victimhood?" Lone asked, positioning the PAC as a voice of those who have endured political marginalization in the new Union Territory framework. Whether this formation qualifies as a true third front or not, as Lone dismisses the label, its emergence points to a growing disenchantment with the traditional parties – both from the ruling BJP and from legacy opposition parties. The PAC intends to occupy a space where the call for restoration of constitutional identity and human rights concerns, like the incarceration of separatist leaders and Jamaat members, are placed front and center – a terrain other parties have often approached with caution or ambiguity. Moreover, the alliance is openly challenging the narrative of normalcy often cited by the Centre to justify its post-2019 policy direction. If all is well, the PAC argues, then what explains the prolonged imprisonment of political and religious figures? Why the hesitation in restoring statehood? Lone's remarks on reservation imbalances, political tokenism, and the futility of the victim card further reflect a calculated attempt to stir debates that other parties avoid – perhaps fearing electoral backlash or loss of central favor. His direct attacks on Omar Abdullah and the National Conference are also tactical, designed to fracture the existing opposition space and build a constituency around alternative resistance politics – one that seeks empowerment without returning to the politics of slogans. However, the real test for the PAC will be public traction and electoral viability. Can it move beyond a press conference and form a meaningful alternative for voters disillusioned with both the BJP and mainstream Valley parties? Can it navigate the fine line between asserting Kashmiri political rights and working within the current constitutional limits? The alliance's cautious optimism – hoping for statehood restoration while yearning for the August 4, 2019 status – reveals both the constraint of their political leverage and the pragmatism of their positioning. Lone himself admits that with only three MPs from J&K in Parliament, the final decision rests with the ruling party at the Centre. But symbolism matters. In a region where political expression was drastically curtailed after August 2019, the formation of such an alliance – even without mass support or sweeping mandates – is a signal of renewed political articulation. It also serves as a reminder to New Delhi that hearts and minds in Kashmir remain unconvinced by silence and symbolism alone. The road ahead for PAC is fraught – with skepticism, surveillance, and stiff opposition. Yet, its formation suggests a growing political appetite for change that cannot be ignored. Whether it can channel that appetite into meaningful outcomes remains to be seen.

## WHEN RS 10 FEELS EXPENSIVE ON A CART, BUT NOT IN A CAFE



SHAHID AHMED HAKLA POONCHI

On a regular day in any Indian town or city, a familiar scene unfolds: a customer arguing with a roadside vegetable vendor over Rs 5, insisting the price is too high for a kilo of tomatoes. Later that same evening, that same customer proudly pays Rs 300 for popcorn in a multiplex – without a second thought. This double standard – of bargaining with those who toil the hardest while unquestioningly accepting inflated prices from corporatized retailers – is not just hypocritical. It is symptomatic of a deeper malaise: a crisis of empathy, a skewed perception of dignity, and an unconscious class prejudice.

## The Two Indias: Divided by a Counter

India's economic landscape is a paradox. On one hand, we have glossy malls, lavish showrooms, and global franchises. On the other, the country's informal economy – comprising small shopkeepers, roadside vendors, handcart pullers, and flea market sellers – forms the backbone of everyday urban

life. Ironically, these informal workers are the ones most subjected to bargaining. And yet, they are the least capable of absorbing those losses. They lack the buffers of fixed salaries, marketing budgets, or scale advantages. Every rupee they earn is hard-won.

## The Psychology Behind the Bargain

This behavior isn't just about saving money – it's deeply psychological:

**Power Dynamics:** People feel more in control when bargaining with the poor. The informal setting and lack of a corporate shield create a one-sided dynamic where the buyer feels dominant.

**Social Conditioning:** There's a misplaced belief that small vendors overcharge. Yet, more often, they're merely surviving.

**Fear of Judgment in Elite Spaces:** In malls, customers don't bargain for fear of looking "cheap" or "uncultured." Bargaining is seen as something people do only in unbranded, unregulated settings.

**Perceived Legitimacy:** Malls feel "official" with price tags and bills, while vendors are seen as "informal" and therefore negotiable – as if the lack of a barcode invalidates their pricing.

## Economic Injustice in Disguise

The cruel irony is that those who need money the most are

pushed the hardest to reduce their prices. The profit margin of a small vendor might lie in the very Rs 10 the customer is trying to shave off. When a buyer insists, the vendor often yields – not because it's fair, but because they need the sale to eat that night.

By contrast, branded stores overprice with impunity. A shirt costing Rs 300 to manufacture sells for Rs 2,000 with ease – and we gladly pay it because the brand sells us an illusion of value.

## Emotional Distance vs. Human Connection

When you walk into a mall, you interact with a logo, a brand name, a rehearsed script. The transaction is cold, efficient, and detached.

But when you buy from a small vendor – a fruit seller, a street bookseller, a chaiwala – you engage with a human being. There is often a conversation, a smile, even a story. That human connection should evoke empathy, not exploitation.

Unfortunately, the exact opposite happens. The anonymity of malls gives them prestige. The familiarity of small vendors makes them vulnerable.

## Bargaining as Habit vs. Bargaining as Harm

Bargaining is part of our cultural DNA – a game, a ritual, an expected back-and-forth. But what was once an art of mutual

negotiation has, over time, turned into economic bullying.

We rarely stop to consider who we're bargaining with. When we haggle with someone surviving on razor-thin margins, it becomes less about being "smart" and more about being insensitive.

A Rs 10 discount may mean very little to the buyer – but could be the difference between dinner and hunger for the seller.

## The Myth of Value

People wrongly associate higher price with better value. But the truth is – many local sellers offer goods that are fresher, more handmade, or more sustainable than anything in a mall.

Your local sabziwala likely gets vegetables hours after they leave the farm. The big supermarket stores may sell the same produce three days later – wrapped in plastic, stored in cold chains – but marked up at twice the price.

So the next time you hesitate to pay the quoted price at a roadside stall, ask yourself: Are you really protecting your budget, or just protecting your ego?

## What Can We Do?

This isn't just about awareness – it's about daily decisions:

**Pay Fairly:** If the price seems reasonable, don't negotiate – especially for food, essentials, or handmade goods.

**Tip Generously:** That extra Rs

10 may not matter to you but can mean a lot to the seller.

**Shop Local:** Support artisans, handloom sellers, local grocers. Let's not let malls replace culture.

**Question the Real Cost:** Don't be afraid to ask – how much am I paying for the product, and how much for the branding?

**Lead by Example:** Refuse to haggle with small vendors and encourage others to do the same. It begins with one.

## Dignity Is Not a Luxury

Our behavior in the marketplace is a mirror of our morality.

When we respect the time, labor, and honesty of those who sell to survive, we honor their dignity.

When we choose not to bargain with the poor but praise overpriced malls, we reveal our own misplaced priorities.

So next time you're tempted to ask a street vendor for a Rs 10 discount, pause and reflect:

Would I do this in a mall? If not – then why now?

In a time where inequality grows silently, our smallest decisions speak the loudest.

Let us carry forward this message:

"Bargain with brands, not with the breadwinners."

"Price tags should not define how we treat people – humanity should."

**The writer can be contacted at shahidhakla360@gmail.com**

## Harvard vs Trump: The battle for academic freedom in a polarised America

SUKHDEV SINGH

Education is a driver of change, development, and human enlightenment; it helps individuals to question, experiment, and explore, leading to regulated change. When supported by the community and Governments, it brightens up at a faster speed, opening new horizons. The research throws light that empowers the researchers to explore further; it is a continuous process. The communities gain from it in human welfare, while the Governments and businesses gain by profiting. To control who gains the most engenders politics of conflicting interests.

That is the main impulse of the current feud between the Trump administration and Harvard University. While Harvard aims to promote liberal ideologies encouraging free speech and the right to protest unjust and inhuman actions, the Trump administration aims to contain the proliferation of liberal ideologies. President Donald Trump has been spinning a narrative of packing in 'America's burden' policy of supporting international students, migrant labour, and political seekers as a solution for the problems of the local population. The politics of ideological conflicts come to the fore in the exchange on social media and press statements on the sidelines of formal communication.

Trump has gone on to accuse Harvard faculty of colluding with the Communist Party of China, while those rejecting the charges have called the Trump Government policies reminiscent of McCarthyism of the 1940s.

As to the formal war



between Harvard and the Trump Administration, responding to Harvard's lawsuit on May 23, 2025, a US district court in Massachusetts has ruled that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) May 22, 2025 order revoking Harvard's Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) certification is restrained till the next hearing on May 29, 2025. The court has blocked DHS from "implementing, instituting, maintaining, or giving effect" to the revocation of Harvard's eligibility to enrol international students and sponsor international scholars.

Describing SEVP as a privilege and not a right, the DHS issued a letter on May 22, 2025, revoking Harvard's SEVP certification, which meant that Harvard could not admit foreign students on F- or J-nomination status for the 2025-2026 academic year, and existing foreigners on F- or J-nomination "must transfer to another university in order to maintain their non-immigrant status."

To avoid SEVP privilege revocation, Harvard had been advised to provide within 72 hours all the information related to on- or off-campus activities by its non-immigrant

students allegedly against others in the last five years. In response to the Government action, Harvard chose to challenge it in court, communicating to the Harvard community that the revocation was against Harvard's refusal to submit to the federal Government's illegal assertion of control over its curriculum, faculty, and student body.

In a series of actions, the Trump administration wrote a letter to Harvard on April 11, 2025, charging it with failure to "justify federal investment." To rectify its failure, the university was advised to (a) reduce the power of students, faculty, and administrators; (b) share all admissions and hiring data for a comprehensive audit; (c) prevent the admission of "students hostile to the American values... and Semitism"; and (d) commission an external party, acceptable to the federal Government, "to audit the student body, faculty, staff, and leadership for viewpoint diversity" and "the programs and departments that most fuel anti-Semitic harassment or reflect ideological capture." (e) discontinue "all diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs, offices, commit-

tees, positions, and initiatives..."; (f) reform "its student discipline policies and procedures"; (g) establish procedures to protect anyone reporting "noncompliance with the reforms..."; (h) make "organisational changes to ensure full transparency and cooperation with all federal regulators."

Instead of surrendering to the DHS demands, Harvard had preferred to challenge the letter in the court while conveying to the Government that their demands were "unconstitutional," amounting to encroachment on academic freedom. On May 23, pleading in the court, Harvard described the "revocation" order as "quintessential arbitrary, irrational, and unilateral executive action."

Although the university has acceded to correcting some of the lapses during protests against the Gaza war, it has refuted the charges of any planned discrimination against Semitism. It has rejected the conditions as a requirement to get a \$2.2 billion federal grant and tax-exempt status.

In the meanwhile, the federal Government's 'stringent' conditions on Harvard have drawn strong reactions from many academics, activ-

ists, and political leaders, including the Jews, criticising the Trump administration for using anti-Semitism as a weapon to act upon universities for their ends.

Whether the Trump administration will gain anything politically from the continuing feud is ambivalent, but the damage to the work and values that the USA has been claiming to stand for is definite. Harvard may or may not lose the federal grant, but it has retained its character through its unflinching resistance to the Government pressures to surrender its DEI programmes.

Its strength to resist comes not from its classroom activity alone but from its community programmes of capacity building and its socially relevant research and education. According to a Study on the Global Economic and Social Impact of Harvard Alumni, the alumni of Harvard University have created 146,429 jobs globally. Harvard's socially relevant inventions include baking powder, organ transplantation, oral rehydration therapy (ORS), functional MRI, portable surgery, logical quantum processors, and gene-editing medicine.

Harvard created the world's first MBA programme in 1908. Harvard has about 5800 patents to its credit.

Harvard works for the welfare of its neighbourhood community. It 'partners with local communities to provide apprenticeship and internship opportunities' for youth. "As of August 2024, Harvard was the 5th largest employer of Massachusetts residents and the largest in the city of Cambridge." According to a report, Harvard's reve-

nue for work comes from philanthropy: endowment income and gifts (45 per cent); education: tuition, housing, and food sales (11 per cent); research (federal grant 11 per cent + non-federal 5 per cent = 16 per cent); and other sources (18 per cent). Harvard spends the federal grant on research. Although Harvard is financially as well as academically strong, the freeze of the 2.2 billion dollar federal grant and the tax-exemption status will affect its research programmes.

While the 'feud-theatre' and the 'gain-loss narrative spinning' exercise continue, there is enough stuff for the Indian and the rest of the world's universities to learn from:

1. The universities have to nurture the values of equity and inclusion and of internationalism to gain a wider exposure environment for their learners and knowledge creators.

2. To do that, the universities must reach out to the community for support rather than over-dependence on Government grants.

3. To gain the community's support, the universities must relate their knowledge and research to the community for its welfare and capacity building.

4. The universities must create work cultures for skilling and knowledge to the highest standards for the physical, psychological, socio-cultural, economic, and spiritual welfare of the community.

**(The writer is Professor (Retd) of Applied Linguistics & ELT Department of English, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. Views are personal)**

## Night shifts may raise risk of asthma in women: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Women who work night shifts are more likely to suffer from moderate or severe asthma compared to women who work in the daytime, according to a study of more than 270,000 people.

However, the study, published in ERJ Open Research, found no such link between asthma and working nightshifts in men. The risk of asthma in men did not alter according to whether they worked days or nights.

Women who only work nightshifts were around 50 per cent more likely to suffer from moderate or severe asthma compared to women who only work in the daytime.

"Asthma disproportionately affects women. Women generally have more severe asthma, and a higher rate of hos-



pitalisation and death from asthma compared to men," said Dr. Robert Maidstone from the University of Manchester, UK.

"This is the first study to evaluate sex differences in the relationship between shift work and asthma. We found that permanent nightshift workers had higher odds of moderate-severe asthma when compared to corresponding day workers," he added.

The study builds on

previous research which found a higher risk of moderate or severe asthma in nightshift workers.

To probe further, the team included a total of 274,541 working people and found that 5.3 per cent of those had asthma, with 1.9 per cent suffering from moderate or severe asthma (meaning they were taking an asthma-preventer inhaler and at least one other asthma

treatment, such as an oral steroid).

Overall, the research found that women who work shifts are more likely to have asthma.

While the research did not explain the link between shift work and asthma, the researchers said, "it could be because shift work disrupts the body clock, including the levels of male and female sex hormones".

High testosterone has previously been shown to be protective against asthma, so lower testosterone in women could play a role. Alternatively, men and women work different types of shift jobs, and this could be a factor, the researchers said.

In postmenopausal women, the risk of moderate or severe asthma was almost doubled in night workers, compared to day workers, in those not taking hormone replacement therapy (HRT).

## EVs transform household waste collection under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban: Centre

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

The integration of electric vehicles (EVs) into household waste collection has marked a transformative step under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U), the government said on Tuesday.

These zero-emission vehicles represent the future of sustainable urban sanitation – reducing air and noise pollution while efficiently managing daily waste.

By replacing traditional fuel-powered garbage trucks, EVs not only cut down on carbon emissions but also align perfectly with the mission's goal of garbage-free cities.

"This innovative synergy between clean mobility and solid waste management is paving the way for a more environmentally responsible future," said Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

For example, Guntur



in Andhra Pradesh has embraced an eco-friendly transformation in waste management by deploying over 200 electric autos for door-to-door garbage collection.

The initiative, backed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) under the Sustainable Cities Integrated Pilot Approach (SCIAP), replaces conventional diesel-powered

trucks with a greener alternative. These electric autos, each equipped with GPS tracking for real-time monitoring, efficiently cover the city's 159.46 square kms.

"By eliminating the need for over 71,000 litres of diesel annually, the project significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions—an estimated 21,000 tonnes over a decade – helping to combat climate change and enhance air quality,"

informed the ministry.

The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has also deployed battery-operated electric rickshaws for waste collection across the city.

By replacing diesel-powered vehicles with E-rickshaws that travel approximately 40 kms daily, the city effectively reduces around 41 tonnes of carbon emissions each day – amounting to an annual reduction of 15,160 tonnes.

Currently, the GCC operates a robust fleet of 5,478 E-rickshaws, servicing all 15 zones and covering 24,621 streets and over 2.1 million households.

"The initiative also creates employment for over 6,000 individuals. The integration of audio systems in the E-rickshaws further helps spread awareness about waste segregation through dedicated songs and public information campaigns," said the ministry.

## A busier social life may signal Alzheimer's risk, says study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

While social isolation has long been known a risk factor for Alzheimer's disease, a new study showed that being more sociable can be an early sign of the neurodegenerative disease.

The study examined the social habits and genetic data of half a million British people whose average age was 56.

Researchers from the University of California San Francisco and Boston University found that Alzheimer's may make people more sociable rather than less -- at least in the early stages.

The study shows that at its earliest stage Alzheimer's doesn't make people less socially engaged.

"Their social lives may even expand," said co-senior author Ashwin Kotwal, from USC. "We don't know for sure if they



are engaging more with others, or if those around them are noticing subtle changes and giving them more support," he added.

The data from UK Biobank showed that people with a higher genetic risk for Alzheimer's reported less isolation, participation in a wider range of social activities and happier family relationships.

No differences were found between higher-risk and lower-risk individuals

in measuring loneliness, friendship quality and emotional support.

Social connectedness is believed to delay or reduce the risk of Alzheimer's by promoting cognitive reserve, the brain's ability to maintain normal function despite aging or dementia.

The research showed that other non-genetic factors influencing Alzheimer's are physical inactivity, uncontrolled diabetes and

high blood pressure, poor sleep, depression, current smoking and certain medications.

Experts believe that 30 per cent of Alzheimer's may be attributed to these modifiable risks.

Another research earlier this month found that mood disorders like depression, bipolar disorder, or mania after the age of 40 may not be just mental health conditions but can precede motor or cognitive symptoms in various neurodegenerative diseases.

Growing evidence suggests these late-life mood disorders (LLMDs) could be early warning signs of neurodegenerative diseases like dementia, even when they appear years before memory loss or other cognitive symptoms become apparent, said researchers from the National Institutes for Quantum Science and Technology (QST), Japan.

## Personalised cancer vaccines can slow down tumour recurrence: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

US researchers have found that developing personalised vaccines can play a key role in keeping aggressive tumours from recurring.

The study, led by a team from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, focused on triple-negative breast cancer and melanoma, a deadly skin cancer.

Currently, the long-term prognosis for human patients with these cancers is relatively poor.

It's because the diseases tend to recur after the initial treatments to remove the tumours.

However, using mouse models, the team could slow down the recurrence of tumours.

Quanyin Hu, a professor in the UW-Madison School of Pharmacy, said the approach could theoretically be applied to any cancer that tends to recur, such as pancreatic



cancer and glioblastoma, the most common and extremely aggressive brain tumour.

The personalised vaccine approach is an extension of the team's recent discovery of pyroptotic vesicles -- tiny sacs filled with the remnants of cancer cells when they undergo programmed cell death.

Crucially, the remnants in these microscopic sacs include antigens specific to the tumour, along with

other molecular bits that can help direct immune cells to find and suppress cancer cells that might remain after a tumour is surgically removed.

In the new study, published in the journal Nature Nanotechnology, the team engineered these sacs to carry an immunostimulating drug.

They then embedded these engineered vesicles into a hydrogel that can be implanted into the space left behind after surgical

removal of a tumour.

Using a melanoma mouse model and two different types of mouse models for triple negative breast cancers, including one with a human-derived tumour, the researchers compared their new approach with other cancer vaccine methods being studied.

The mice that received the hydrogel laden with their engineered sacs survived significantly longer than others.

"Compared to the other approaches, ours shows a much stronger immune response," Hu said.

Another advantage of this approach, the researchers said, is the localised nature of the treatment.

According to Hu, applying the engineered vesicles directly to the site of the removed tumour greatly reduces the risk of systemic side effects, unlike currently available treatments.

## USFDA okays Lenacapavir: Affordable, generic India-made drug key to boost global HIV prevention

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

While Gilead Sciences' HIV prevention drug lenacapavir got approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), its made-in-India generic versions may be a more affordable alternative that can boost the prevention of the deadly condition globally.

In a major breakthrough, the US FDA this week approved lenacapavir -- a long-acting injectable drug that offers near-complete protection against HIV with just two doses a year.

Marketed under the brand name Yeztugo, the world's first twice-yearly HIV prevention shot can potentially, transform pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) options. The drug may be particularly crucial for those who struggle with daily medication adherence due to stigma, access issues, or lifestyle factors.

However, the high cost -- at \$28,218 per person per



year -- is likely to act as a deterrent to global HIV prevention goals.

Although USFDA approval is a big thing, the "real breakthrough would be when lenacapavir becomes accessible, affordable and available to all those in need," said Dr Ishwar Gilada, Secretary General of People's Health Organisation (PHO).

Earlier the UNAIDS also urged Gilead to drop the price of lenacapavir HIV prevention shot.

"If this game-changing medicine remains unaffordable, it will change nothing. I urge Gilead to do the right thing. Drop

the price, expand production, and ensure the world has a shot at ending AIDS," said Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of UNAIDS and United Nations Undersecretary-General.

Even as Gilead granted voluntary licenses to six generic manufacturers earlier, including four Indian: Dr Reddy's Laboratories, Emcure, Hetero Healthcare, and Viatrix, Gilada urged Indian generic manufacturing companies to develop 'made in India' generic versions.

"The voluntary licenses give hope that the medicine may cost less than

\$100 -- that is 0.3 per cent of the innovator's cost," said Gilada, who is also the President Emeritus of the AIDS Society of India (ASI).

According to the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), an estimated 2.4 million people were living with HIV in India in 2021. That year, 41,970 AIDS-related deaths were recorded, underscoring the ongoing public health challenge.

"India needs to lead from the front for lenacapavir's equitable and timely distribution at the required scale to prevent HIV transmission and help end AIDS," said Dr Gilada.

"Only India could deliver lenacapavir to all those in need worldwide, in terms of quality, quantity, and speed," he added, stating that only the country can meet global demand for lenacapavir at such low cost, just as it did for Antiretroviral therapy (ART) -- the standard treatment for HIV -- at 0.3 per cent of innovator's cost.

## People-centric, local communication key for disease surveillance, pandemic preparedness: Centre

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

It is important to develop people-centric and locally rooted communication to boost disease surveillance and pandemic preparedness in the country, said the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

In a bid to boost the pandemic preparedness in the country, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), under the Animal Husbandry Ministry in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the UN, organised a One Health Communication Strategy Workshop in New Delhi.

The workshop stressed the need for building a coordinated and impactful communication framework to support India's efforts in strengthening animal health systems and pandemic preparedness through the One Health approach.



"India remains committed to advancing the One Health agenda by strengthening disease surveillance, enhancing frontline capacities, and promoting inclusive public engagement through strategic and coordinated communication," the Ministry said.

Animal Husbandry Commissioner (AHC) Dr. Abhijit Mitra, emphasised the importance of a clear and cohesive communication strategy in achieving the goals of the Pandemic Fund project.

"We must use simple, locally understood language to ensure that messages truly reach and resonate with communities,"

Mitra said. "Delivering the right message to the right audience at the right time is key to creating meaningful impact," he added.

Mitra highlighted that effective communication is not just an outreach tool, but a critical enabler of behaviour change, inter-sectoral coordination, and risk mitigation. Communication is a core pillar of the One Health approach, said Dr. Konda Chavva, Assistant FAO Representative in India.

"Communication is the critical bridge between knowledge and behaviour, between policy and practice. It is what

ensures that the work we do translates into action and impact on the ground," he noted.

The workshop also emphasised the importance of the One Health Strategy Document, currently under development. This national framework will guide collaborative action across animal, human, and environmental health sectors, aiming to institutionalise a sustainable and resilient health security ecosystem in India.

Participants engaged in technical sessions and group exercises on message design, risk communication, and cross-sector coordination.

## Bimla Luthra stresses women's active participation in upcoming Panchayat & Local Bodies Polls

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUNE 30

Mrs Bimla Luthra former MLA and State Vice President Women Wing underscored the crucial role of women in the upcoming Panchayat and Local Bodies elections in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing their active participation in governance and decision-making.

She was addressing a well-attended meeting in Vijaypur Assembly constituency, District Samba where she highlighted the need for greater political representation of women in Jammu and Kashmir.

After listening to the various public grievances patiently i.e. Widow Pension, Old age Pension. Mrs Bimla Luthra assured the attendees that their concerns would be addressed on priority, and neces-



sary steps would be taken to resolve the issues raised. She assured all of them that these genuine demands of the people personally discussed with concern cabinet ministers at top priority basis, she said

Expressing her deep concern, Bimla Luthra

of women. She lamented the lack of employment opportunities, healthcare facilities, and women-centric policies, which have left the female populace struggling with undressed issues. Bimla Luthra praised the present government led by Omar Abdullah for continuing this legacy by rolling out schemes aimed specifically at enhancing the economic, social, and political participation of women across Jammu and Kashmir.

Among those who were present in the meeting included: Rajni Devi working President Women Wing Jammu, Joginder Kaur District Vice President Jammu Urban Women wing, Sapna Gill Block President Jammu Urban Women Wing, Baljeet Kour, Gurmeet Kour, Madhu. Lalita and others.

stated that although women constitute nearly 50% of the voting populace in Jammu and Kashmir, their representation in governance continues to be neglected. She strongly criticized the previous government, accusing it of failing to deliver on promises made for the welfare

## Sat stresses mass contact, youth & women empowerment, equitable development in a BJP's organizational meeting

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, 30 JUNE 2025:

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, under the leadership of its President Sat Sharma (CA), held an organizational meeting at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The meeting was convened to assess the progress of party programmes and to strengthen grassroots-level connect across the Jammu, Akhnoor, and Jammu Border organizational districts.

Prominent leaders present included former Deputy Mayor of Jammu Municipal Corporation Baldev Singh Billawaria, District Presidents Adv. Rajesh Gupta (Jammu), Rinku Choudhary (Jammu Border), Kuldeep Sharma (Akhnoor), along with senior leaders Rajeev Charak, Parduman Singh,



Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra, Sanjay Kumar Baru, and others. During his address, Sat Sharma took comprehensive ground feedback on ongoing party initiatives and instructed the cadre to enhance their engagement with the public through meaningful outreach. Emphasizing the importance of inclusive development, he urged BJP workers to proactively assist the needy, marginalized, and underprivileged segments in availing benefits from the

welfare schemes launched by the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre.

He highlighted youth and women empowerment as two of the party's top organizational and social priorities. "Our programmes must actively promote the participation of youth and women in political, social, and economic spheres. We are committed to building a self-reliant generation and a secure, dignified space for women," Sat Sharma said.

The BJP President reiterated that the party stands firm against any discriminatory or biased policy attempts by the NC-led government in the Union Territory. He made it clear that BJP will vocally resist and legally counter any effort aimed at unfairly granting benefits to one community over others, undermining the principles of equality and justice.

Sat Sharma underlined that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has laid a solid foundation of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas, ensuring equitable development in every region of Jammu & Kashmir. "The BJP cadre must take this message to every household that under PM Modi's leadership, no region, no community, and no individual will be left behind," he asserted.

## Vi Business's Ready for Next - India's largest digital advisory celebrates Growth on MSME Day

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUNE 30

On this World MSME Day, Vi Business, the enterprise arm of leading telecom operator Vi, releases the third edition of its flagship 'Ready for Next MSME Growth Insights Study 2025'.

As India's digital economy accelerates backed by Digital India, Bharat Net and mobile broadband use, smaller businesses are exploring digital tools to enhance operational efficiency and expand their market reach.

'Ready for Next MSME Growth Insights Study 2025' reflects this positive shift, revealing a rise in the country's Digital Maturity Index (DMI), however the digital adoption remains fragmented. With a strong intent, right financial support and access to right advisory support, India's small businesses are well

positioned to accelerate their digital journey.

Commenting on the release of the study, Arvind Nevatia, Chief Enterprise Business Officer, Vodafone Idea Ltd said, "MSMEs in India are clearly moving from digital curiosity to digital commitment – and that's an encouraging shift. The sharp rise in investment intent around cloud, cybersecurity, and automation shows that small businesses increasingly see technology as a growth enabler, not just a utility. Through Ready for next program, our aim is to celebrate incredible growth journeys of India's MSMEs - from small towns to global markets, from manual processes to being digital-first enterprises."

Highlights from 'Ready for Next MSME Growth Insights Study 2025' include:

South India leads the Digital charge – Telanga-

na Tops National DMI rankings

India's national Digital Maturity Index (DMI) rose from 56.6 in 2023 to 57.3 in 2024, and 58.0 in 2025. Regionally, the South leads the digital shift (DMI: 62.9), followed by the West (57.4), East (57.1), and North (55.8).

Among individual States, Telangana (DMI: 71.2) has emerged as the digital frontrunner. Hyderabad's transformation into "Cyberabad" – home to global tech firms, government-backed digital infrastructure, and vibrant startup ecosystems – has significantly boosted MSME digital adoption. Kerala (63.7) follows, leveraging its high digital literacy and strong services sector.

Maharashtra (59.2) ranks third, supported by Mumbai's financial services base and Pune's IT and



this MSME day, join India's largest digital advisory for MSMEs. Trusted by 2 lakh+ businesses to accelerate their growth journey.

industrial ecosystem.

Digital Investment is on the rise; Cloud and Cybersecurity gain importance

Digital maturity remains uneven across sectors, but the study reveals a sharp rise in investment intent across the board. Professional Services tops the list of sectors increasing digital transformation budgets, followed by Retail, Logistics, Transportation, Media and Entertainment, Manufacturing, Telecom, Agriculture, Financial Services, and Healthcare. Encouragingly, 72% of MSMEs plan to increase

cloud spending, and 76% have prioritized cybersecurity as a response to rising cyber threats.

Digital Leadership: Gender Parity Shines Through

Women entrepreneurs (DMI: 57.4) are closing the gap with men (DMI: 57.7) and even leading in cloud and security uptake in niche sectors like Education and IT though on a small base.

Entrepreneurs aged 40-60 lead the pack (DMI: 64.0), showing that being digital savvy is no longer just the domain of younger

founders (DMI: 57).

Digital maturity is growing, but just 12% of MSMEs are fully digitalized, adoption remains fragmented

The study shows a steady increase in Digital Maturity with the country's DMI increasing to 58.0 in 2025. However, it also reveals that only 12% of MSMEs have reached full digital maturity, indicating that adoption remains fragmented.

While digital tools are being explored across sectors, critical gaps remain in areas like customer engagement technologies and internal collaboration platforms. This signals that intent is rising faster than execution, especially among micro and small businesses, where financial capacity and advisory support continue to be barriers.

A Crucial Challenge to

Digital Adoption

While awareness and intent are rising, the pace of digital adoption is still closely tied to financial capacity. The study finds that MSMEs with higher turnover – typically in the Rs 50- Rs 100 crore+ range – report significantly greater digital maturity, as they are better positioned to invest in advanced tools across cloud, automation, and customer engagement.

In contrast, younger or smaller MSMEs, despite being digitally aware, continue to make measured, phased investments due to budget constraints.

Vi Business Ready for Next is certified as India's largest digital advisory for MSMEs by Cyber Media Research (CMR) and has witnessed participation by over 2 lakh MSMEs across 15,000 pin codes and 16 sectors in the past 3 years.

## G.A. Mir discussed various issues of public importance with the Ministers

JINNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 30

Congress Legislature Party Leader & AICC General Secretary Ghulam Ahmad Mir on Monday met Minister for PHE, Irrigation & FC Javed Rana and had detailed discussions on various important issues concerning people in his constituency (Dooru).

Mir also highlighted various irrigation related issues concerning people elsewhere in J&K, laying emphasis over attaching importance to these for their timely resolution, mentioning that people have high expectations from the Govt, which have to be responded with timely resolution.

Mir also met Minister for Health, Med Edu and social welfare Sakina Itoo in Civil Sectt Srinagar, and discussed required health infrastructure and medical facilities for the general public.

## AESL felicitates NEET UG 2025 Toppers from Jammu at Champions of Aakash Event, Symbolizing the 'Problem Solver' Spirit

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUNE 30TH, 2025:

Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), the national leader in test preparatory services, has once again exhibited its academic excellence by empowering students to rise above challenges and emerge as true problem solvers. Despite the increased difficulty level and changes in the NEET UG 2025 examination pattern and format, AESL students across the country showcased yet again stellar performances, guided by the institute's focused problem-solving approach.

Aakashians have bagged 5 ranks in Top 10 of NEET UG 2025 namely AIR 2, 3, 5, 9 and 10. There are 35 rankers from Aakash in Top 100 and 11 Aakashians have become State Toppers in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Jammu and Kashmir, Chhattisgarh, Goa and Daman and Diu.

Says Mr Deepak Mehrotra, MD and CEO of Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), "At Aakash, we teach our problem solvers how to adapt to new situations. That's why we have so many rankers this year too. NEET 2025



format was not just different, it was tough too. But be it new formats or new challenges, Aakashians have proven yet again, that when you learn the skill of problem solving you can ace any test."

13 Aakashians from Jammu became top scorers including Harivansh Rai Sudan (AIR 930) has emerged as the Jammu region topper in NEET UG 2025. Other outstanding achievers are Rahul Singh (AIR 1542), Riddhiman Sharma (AIR 2103), Arnab Baghotia (AIR 2934), and Arnab Jandial (AIR 3990) have secured top All India Ranks amongst others in NEET UG 2025.

In JEE Advanced 2025, from the North Region, Angad Singh (AIR 3070), Kanwar Harshvardhan Singh Rana (AIR 7479), Yatharth Kanethia (AIR 8744) have secured top All

India Ranks.

All the students were today felicitated and honoured by AESL at the Champions of Aakash event organized here for their outstanding result and for representing the spirit of a true problem solver, someone who stayed focused and overcame every hurdle with preparation and clarity. Their achievement not only brings pride to their city and state but also stands as an affirmation to the impact of right strategy, mentorship and perseverance.

Addressing the event, Dr. Surender Chauhan, Regional Director, Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), said, "Our student's success is a moment of immense pride for all of us at AESL. At Aakash, we believe in enabling every student to become

a problem solver, someone who remains calm, focused, and solution-oriented even in the face of new challenges, such as this year's exam changes. Our consistent results year after year reflect our strong academic foundation, personalized mentorship, and our commitment to shaping future-ready learners. We congratulate all the students and our achievers who have made us proud."

The toppers shared valuable insights on how students can prepare for exams like NEET in a better way. They also shared tips on time and stress management.

Students got a first-hand opportunity to listen and get inspired by the impeccable academic track record of Harivansh Rai Sudan, Rahul Singh, Riddhiman Sharma, Arnab

Baghotia and Arnab Jandial; How to manage time effectively; How to overcome challenges faced during preparation journey; Ways to keep up the motivation levels and Ways in which Aakash can help students achieve their career goals. The interactive session answered the queries of students and parents and helped students in clarifying their doubts.

NEET is conducted annually by National Testing Agency as a qualifying test for students who wish to pursue undergraduate medical (MBBS), dental (BDS) and AYUSH (BAMS, BUMS, BHMS, etc.) courses in government and private institutions in India and also, for those intending to pursue primary medical qualification abroad.

## NC exposes failure of LG Admin in utilisation of devp funds: Rattan Lal

JINNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUNE 30

Advocate Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, has raised serious concern over the failure of the LG administration in utilising funds meant for the development as well as the construction of underground bunkers in border areas, as revealed through a recent RTI. He shocked over utilization of only 53% of the central funds allocated over the past five years have been spent under the LG led administration, which is a matter of serious concern considering the grave threat to civilians during frequent cross-border shelling incidents.

In a press release issued here today, the senior NC leader said the negligence of the administration has once again exposed its disconnect from ground realities. "Despite receiving generous financial support from the Centre, the LG-led dispensation has failed to implement even the most critical safety measures for border residents. This is not just a case of financial mismanagement but also of criminal neglect towards the lives of people living

along the International Border and LoC," he said.

Taking a strong dig at the LG administration, Rattan Lal said that no real development has taken place in the last 10 years under the BJP regime in J&K as most of the funds under vital social welfare schemes have either lapsed or remained unutilised. "From rural development to youth welfare, from health to infrastructure – every sector has been ignored. The administration has mastered the art of photo-ops and announcements, but the people on the ground continue to suffer," he added.

The Senior NC leader further pointed out that even after the formation of the popular government led by Omar Abdullah, the LG administration is acting as a parallel power centre and deliberately creating hurdles in the smooth functioning of the elected government. "This is unacceptable in a democratic setup. If the Centre claims to have restored normalcy, then it must also allow the elected representatives to function without any interference," he said.

Rattan Lal Gupta reiterated the urgent need for

restoring full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that statehood is a constitutional right of the people and must not be delayed any further. "The time has come to return the stolen democratic rights to the people of J&K," he stated.

The senior NC leader also referred to the open letter sent to the Chief Justice of India, Justice B R Gavai, by a group of five eminent citizens, expressing concern over the continued denial of statehood to J&K. The signatories – former Union Home Secretary Gopal Pillai, Major General (Retd.) Ashok K. Mehta, Air Vice Marshal (Retd.) Kapil Kak, Prof. Radha Kumar (former J&K interlocutor), and ex-Union Secretary Amitabha Pande – have urged the apex court to set up a constitutional bench that would hear petitions on the unconstitutionality of the removable of Jammu and Kashmir's Statehood.

Rattan Lal Gupta said this petition reflects the sentiment of every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir and demanded that the Centre must act without delay and restore statehood to allow the Omar Abdullah-led government to function fairly, freely, and effectively.

## Pir Panchal News Line successfully conducts 60-Hour Internship-Cum-Workshop at GCW Parade

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUNE 30

Pir Panchal News Line, a leading bilingual newspaper with a legacy of 47 years, successfully conducted a 60-hour Internship-cum-Workshop in collaboration with the Department of Mass Communication and Multimedia Production (MCMP), Government College for Women, Parade. The program was designed to equip media students with hands-on experience and practical exposure to the field of journalism.

The internship was conducted in three comprehensive segments:

- 1. News Writing Module**  
In the initial phase, students were introduced to the fundamentals of news—what makes an event newsworthy and how to structure a report. They learned the inverted pyramid style of writing, with their articles published in Pir Panchal News Line, giving them their



first professional bylines.

**2. Newspaper Designing & Layout**  
The second segment focused on the technicalities of newspaper production. Students explored the use of QuarkXPress software, understanding concepts like ead, bottom, gutter space, and layout structure. They were tasked with designing a full-fledged newspaper page as a part of their project.

**3. Digital Journalism**  
The final segment covered the essentials of mobile journalism, from basic concepts to advanced tools. Students

learned about content creation, social media handling, SEO, mobile video shooting, and editing using mobile apps like VN Editor. They also created and edited their own news videos using mobile devices.

Adarsh Pal Gupta, Editor-in-Chief of Pir Panchal News Line, added,

“Our newspaper has been serving the society with trusted news for 47 years. We believe in nurturing fresh talent and turning them into responsible, skilled journalists. It was an honor to partner with GCW Parade’s MCMP department for this mean-

ingful initiative.”

Dr. Alpana Vohra, HOD, MCMP Department, extended heartfelt gratitude to Pir Panchal News Line and presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Rohan Choudhary, Editor, acknowledging his contribution. He emphasized the need for such future collaborations for continued skill development of students.

Rohan Choudhary, Editor of Pir Panchal News Line, said, “In these 60 hours, I shared all the knowledge and experience I’ve gained over the years. Today’s generation of journalists must be both

educated and ethically grounded. This internship was a step in preparing them for that responsibility.

Assistant Professor Akash praised the initiative, stating,

“This workshop provided students with valuable practical experience, turning classroom knowledge into field-ready skills. It was a highly enriching experience for all budding journalists.”

During the valedictory session, students expressed their satisfaction and shared enthusiastic feedback. They highlighted how the internship empowered them to understand journalism as a tool for change—teaching them how to write, report, design, and produce multimedia content professionally.

The event concluded on a note of encouragement and hope, laying a strong foundation for future partnerships and continued media education.

## Dr. Shazad appeals for urgent monsoon readiness in Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUNE 30

The Jammu and Kashmir Border Area Development Conference (JK BADC), a registered organization working for the welfare of border and tribal populations in Jammu and Kashmir, has urged the district administration Poonch to take proactive steps ahead of the upcoming monsoon season to safeguard human lives property, and livestock in vulnerable areas of the border district.

Dr. Shazad Ahmed Malik, Chairman of JK BADC and former Vice Chancellor, expressed serious concern over the recurring damage caused by heavy rainfall, flash floods, and landslides during the monsoon, especially in hilly and remote border areas.

In a letter addressed to Vikas Kundal (IAS), Deputy Commissioner, Poonch, the BADC chairman vide his letter dated 28/June/2025 urged the district administration to take pro-active measures in safeguarding the lives of humans.

He reminded the administration that in the past, many people from these regions have tragically lost not only their homes and livestock, but also the lives of their dear ones due to natural calamities. He said such disasters push already marginalised communities into deeper hardship and insecurity.

The BADC Chairman appealed the authorities to establish 24x7 main control room for monsoon emergency situation



in DC Office, Poonch, then place the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) on high alert and ensure that all necessary arrangements are made in advance. He called for the deployment of SDRF teams in strategic and disaster-prone zones, and the pre-positioning of rescue equipment, medical supplies, and emergency shelters. According to him, timely preparedness is the only way to minimize damage and loss of life.

He also emphasized the importance of issuing real-time weather alerts and sharing updates on rising water levels in rivers and rivulets. Block Level coordinating committees headed by executive magistrates comprising of officials from different departments. Regular interaction with the local population to keep them aware of the situation. He also suggested forming block-level coordination committees led by executive magistrates and including officials from different departments. These teams should interact regularly with local residents to keep them informed.

The former VC also suggested to establish District Police Poonch may also establish emergency 24x7 monsoon readiness control rooms.

Dr. Shazad noted that better communication of this information would help people take necessary precautions and avoid dangerous areas during heavy rainfall.

Calling for enhanced coordination among departments such as meteorology, flood control, health services, and local governance bodies, he said a unified response mechanism is essential to handle emergencies effectively. He further suggested that awareness campaigns be carried out to educate people on monsoon-related safety measures.

Concluding the statement, Dr. Shazad reiterated JK BADC’s full support to the administration and appealed for immediate, organized action to protect the people of J&K’s border and tribal areas from recurring monsoon threats.

## J&K Students Association Thanks CM Omar Abdullah for Evacuation of 1,300 Kashmiri Students from War-Torn Iran

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUNE 30

The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association on Monday expressed its heartfelt gratitude to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for his timely intervention, concern, and unwavering support that facilitated the safe evacuation of over 1,300 Kashmiri students stranded in conflict-hit Iran.

In a formal letter addressed to the chief minister, the Association commended his consistent advocacy and leadership during the unprec-

edented crisis. “Your timely intervention and public appeal at a critical juncture brought national attention to the plight of Kashmiri students stranded in Iran. It is due to such collective, compassionate efforts that large-scale humanitarian responses become possible,” the letter stated.

National Convener of the Association Nasir Khuehami also extended special thanks to Nasir Sogami, Advisor to the Chief Minister, for his proactive and hands-on role throughout the evacuation operation. “We are espe-

cially grateful to Sogami Sahab for his support and for personally monitoring the entire evacuation and transportation process from day one. His continuous coordination, timely communication, and logistical oversight brought immense relief to distressed students and their families across Jammu and Kashmir,” said Khuehami.

Khuehami further stated, “We are immensely thankful to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for standing by the students in these trying times and for consistently raising

their concerns at the highest levels. His engagement with the External Affairs Minister and multiple follow-ups helped galvanize immediate support and action for relocating students from high-risk areas in Iran back to safety in India.”

He noted that the emotional and psychological distress faced by students in cities such as Tehran, Shiraz, Isfahan, Qom, and Tabriz was severe. “These students, trapped in conflict-ridden cities, endured days of fear and uncertainty. Their safe return to the arms of

their families in Jammu and Kashmir has brought much-needed emotional peace and relief.”

“The care and priority given to the safety of Kashmiri students by the Chief Minister from the initial response to the final leg of their journey was nothing short of exemplary,” Khuehami said.

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DIVISION, KATHUA NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 13 OF 2025-26 Dated: 28-06-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of the UT of J&K, the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Kathua invites e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Bidders/Firms/Companies of mentioned classes, registered with JKPWD/CPWD/Railways or any other State Government, for the below-mentioned works at various Water Supply Schemes of PHE Division Kathua, Jammu Province, UT of J&K under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

The bidding process shall be completed online on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) in two covers:

**Cover 1:** Consisting of General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications

**Cover 2:** Consisting of Financial Bid on overall percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr. No.	Particulars of the Work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion (Days)
1	Construction of 01 No. 10000 Glns GSR, 01 No. 10000 Glns Sump Tank and Boundary Wall in WSS Baira & 01 No. 10000 Glns GSR in WSS Bakhta, under JJM	As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document	As per ANNEXURE-I	2% of the estimated cost of work	90 days	As per ANNEXURE-I to this bid document

**Position of Funds:** Approved under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

The Tender Inviting Authority is Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Kathua

The Awarding Authority is District Jal Jeevan Mission (DJJM)

#### Critical Dates:

i.	Publish Date	28/06/2025
ii.	Document Download Start Date	28/06/2025
iii.	Clarification End Date	----
iv.	Bid Submission Start Date	28/06/2025
v.	Bid Submission End Date	09/07/2025 (04:00 PM)
vi.	Date of Bid Opening	10/07/2025 (02:00 PM)

- Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)
- The whole bidding process shall be completed online on the tender portal. The intending bidders can download the bid document and submit their bids by uploading them on the portal.

Sd/-

Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Division, Kathua

No. PHEK/C/2390-2400

Dated: 28/06/2025

DIP/J-2828/25

Date: 30-6-25

### OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (I&FC) DIVISION DODA NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Stage tenders for the year 2025-26

e-NIT No.06 of 06/2025 dated 27-06-2025

Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (I& FC) Division Doda on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of J&K by e-tendering mode of **percentage basis** on **SSR 2022** from Govt. approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. (U.T Now) having valid registration card, the Technical Bid shall be opened on **08-07-2025 at 1:00 PM** for the following works:

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of Documents	Cost of work (Rs. In lacs)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Validity of work	Class of contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
01	Stage contract for urgent Improvement Repair /Restoration of works for the khuls Bhagwah khul, Gai khul, for the year 2025-26	500	Partially available	5000	Upto 31-03-2026.	A,B,C,D.

<b>Date of Publishing:</b>	<b>30-06-2025 (11:00 AM.)</b>
The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <a href="http://jktenders.gov.in">http://jktenders.gov.in</a> from	30-06-2025 from 02.00 PM.
The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <a href="http://jktenders.gov.in">http://jktenders.gov.in</a> from	30-06-2025 from 04.00 PM To 07-07-2025 06:00 pm.

- The Technical bids uploaded on the website will be opened on: 08.07.2025 (1.00 PM) in the office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation & F C Division Doda in presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
- Bidding documents can be viewed at and downloaded from the website <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>. Bidding documents contain qualifying criteria for bidders and other details. The complete bidding process will be on line.

Sd/-

Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti (I&FC) Division  
Doda

No: - IFCD/D/790-804

Dated: - 28.06.2025

DIP/J-2841/25

Date: 30-6-25

## Serbian student led demonstrations intensify as thousands take to streets, block roads in 18 cities

AGENCIES  
BELGRADE, JUNE 30

In an intensification of the ongoing student-led demonstrations across Serbia, thousands of protesters blocked roads and major traffic interchanges in 18 cities, including key locations throughout the capital, Belgrade, reports DW News.

The action followed the expiration of an ultimatum issued to the government on June 25 by students and opposition groups demanding early parliamentary elections and the removal of a pro-government tent encampment in front of the National Assembly.

A third demand – the release of those detained during protests on 28-29 June – was added on Sunday.

According to organisers, demonstrators blocked traffic at 24 points in Belgrade and set up road pickets in cities from Subotica in the north to Zaječar in the southeast.



Videos circulated on social media showed protesters using rubbish bins and improvised barricades to block roads.

Authorities have yet to officially respond. However, Serbia's Interior Minister Ivica Dačić stated that 48 officers were injured in clashes in Belgrade on Sunday night, while 77 people were detained. Dačić added that 22 individuals required emergency medical treatment, including two with serious injuries.

Tensions flared on Saturday night when protesters clashed with police outside the presidential administration.

Anti-graft activists, responding to the arrest of a "large number of citizens" in the wake of the protest, called for more action - with thousands responding to set up dozens of blockades around the capital.

Over 140,000 people had rallied in central Belgrade due to the collapse of a train station roof in the city of Novi Sad in November, which killed 16 people in a disaster widely blamed on shoddy construction resulting from entrenched corruption.

According to police chief Dragan Vasiljević, officers used tear gas and

physical force only after demonstrators attempted to breach a cordon for several minutes. Protesters reportedly threw firecrackers and various projectiles at police.

State broadcaster RTS reported that eight additional individuals were arrested on Sunday for alleged offences against the constitutional order. President Aleksandar Vučić described the absence of fatalities during the unrest as "nothing short of a miracle."

The protests, which drew a crowd of approximately 36,000 in Belgrade on Saturday according to the Interior Ministry, reflect mounting public frustration with the government. Parliament speaker and former prime minister Ana Brnabić accused some demonstrators of advocating for a civil war and the collapse of Serbia, rhetoric which organisers have dismissed as an attempt to delegitimise the movement.

## Landslide-prone chakki mod stretch on Parwanoo-Dharampur NH faces renewed monsoon disruption

AGENCIES  
PARWANOO, JUNE 30

The Parwanoo-Dharampur section of National Highway-5 (NH-5), particularly near Chakki Mod, faced renewed disruption over the weekend due to landslides triggered by monsoon rains.

The affected stretch, part of the four-lane highway maintained by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), witnessed traffic congestion and partial road blockage, despite continued toll collection by the agency.

Visuals and videos circulated on social media platforms yesterday and today showed heavy accumulation of debris on the road, reducing traffic movement to a single lane.

According to commuters, traffic remained at a near standstill for extended periods. Among those reporting delays was former Deputy Mayor of Shimla, who shared his experience on social media, stating that the traffic had moved only a few metres in an hour before reaching the affected zone.



The Chakki Mod stretch has repeatedly witnessed similar issues during monsoon seasons over the past few years. In August 2023 and July 2022, landslides in the same area led to prolonged traffic blockages, raising concerns about the long-term stability of the slope along the widened highway. In 2021, heavy rains in the Solan region triggered slope failures that caused hours-long delays.

Following public concern and media coverage, the Himachal Pradesh High Court had intervened in the matter multiple times, including in

2021 and 2023.

The court questioned the NHAI over continued toll collection despite frequent disruptions and directed the agency to implement effective slope protection measures along vulnerable segments of the highway. However, recurring incidents at the same location have persisted.

The NHAI, in a recent communication, announced plans to stabilise 83 landslide-prone sites along the Parwanoo-Solan stretch, including Chakki Mod.

These measures include installation of green mesh,

soil nailing, and construction of reinforced soil walls. The project is scheduled for completion by March 2026. However, commuters and local stakeholders have raised concerns about the pace of the work, particularly as the monsoon season intensifies.

The Parwanoo-Dharampur highway is a key route connecting Himachal Pradesh to Chandigarh and the plains. Frequent monsoon-related disruptions not only affect passenger mobility but also impact the movement of goods and services along this corridor.

## BJP alleges INDI Bloc promoting 'Namazwad', undermining constitutional values

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 30

The Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday launched a sharp attack on the Opposition INDI Alliance, alleging that its parties like the RJD and Samajwadi party were attempting to promote what he termed as "Namazwad"—a religiously motivated deviation from constitutional principles—and accused them of undermining the legacy of BR Ambedkar.

Addressing a press briefing, Senior BJP leader Sudhanshu Trivedi claimed that there is "no mention of the concept of Waqf in the Quran, attributing it to interpretations developed by clerics. He further said the Quran encourages voluntary giving, not institutional religious control, and warned that opposition parties are attempting to "convert Samajwad (socialism) into Namaz-



wad."

"If their government comes—which is not going to happen—they will throw Baba Saheb Ambedkar's Constitution in the dustbin and implement Sharia law," the BJP Rajya Sabha MPP said.

"They are bowing before mullahs and maulavis to pursue hardline vote bank politics. Be it the Congress, the RJD, or the Samajwadi Party—they are all driven by a thirst for votes from fundamentalist sections," he alleged.

Trivedi also revisited

the Shah Bano case of 1985, accusing the Congress of having previously placed personal law above constitutional supremacy by enacting legislation that effectively overruled a Supreme Court judgment in favour of Muslim women's rights. He suggested that such precedents demonstrate the Congress's historical willingness to appease conservative religious sentiments at the expense of legal uniformity.

Reinforcing his party's stance, Trivedi said the

BJP remains committed to preserving the values enshrined in the Constitution, adding that voters must choose between "a government that respects Ambedkar's vision" and one that "seeks to impose religious law through the backdoor."

"Only once in Indian history has a party crossed 400 seats, and that was the Congress in 1985. What did they do? They used that majority to push Sharia over the Constitution," the BJP leader said.

Ahead of the assembly elections in Bihar, the BJP MP remarked, "I want to say to the people of Bihar that there are two options. The INDI alliance, which will try to implement Sharia through the back door if it comes to power, and on the other side, our government, which will remain committed to protecting Baba Saheb's constitution."

## Meghalaya police closer to cracking Sohra tourist killing

AGENCIES  
SHILLONG, JUNE 30

Meghalaya Police is closer to unravelling the web of betrayal and conspiracy that led to the brutal killing of Raja Raghuvanshi in Sohra.

The case took a decisive turn when a Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Meghalaya Police, with support from Madhya Pradesh police, raided the home of arrested property dealer Silom James in Ratlam district.

During the raid, officers recovered crucial evidence, including Raja's missing gold chain, laptops belonging to both Raja and his wife Sonam, and other incriminating materials.

East Khasi Hills Superintendent of Police Vivek Syiem said that the electronic devices and docu-



ments hold significant evidentiary value. They are expected to provide further insight into the premeditated nature of the May 23 murder involving Sonam Raghuvanshi and her lover, Raj Kushwaha.

The murder of Raja Raghuvanshi, a newlywed who had travelled to Sohra (popularly known as Cherrapunji) with his wife on a honeymoon trip, initially baffled authorities. His decomposed body was discovered near Weisawdong Falls on June 2, ten days after he was reported missing.

Raja and Sonam had rented a scooter from Keatinge Road in Shillong on May 22 and headed towards Sohra, about 65 km to the south.

After being unable to secure a room at a homestay, they left their belongings behind and trekked nearly 3,000 steps to Non-griat, a scenic but remote village famed for its living

root bridges. The couple spent the night there and began their trek back to Mawlakhat early the next morning.

Unknown to Raja, they were being tailed by three men from Indore—later identified as close friends of Raj Kushwaha, Sonam's lover. The men, acting as contract killers, had been captured on camera by a tourist guide and an Instagram user while trekking in the same area, footage that later proved critical in the investigation.

By around 11 am on May 23, the group reached a secluded forested area near Weisawdong Falls, where Raja was ambushed and hacked to death with machetes before his body was dumped into a gorge.

The attackers and Sonam fled the scene immediately after the crime.

## Cong slams Odisha govt over Rath Yatra stampede, demands CM's resignation

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 30

The Congress party strongly criticised the BJP-led Odisha government over the stampede during the Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra in Puri, calling it a "clear failure of governance".

Senior party leaders Saptagiri Ulaka and Arabinada Das demanded that Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi take moral responsibility for the incident and step down.

Addressing a press conference at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters here, Ulaka accused the state government of mismanaging the event, alleging that the Rath Yatra had been delayed due to the distribution of 5,000 cordoned-off passes to VIPs.

The Congress leader also slammed the prom-



ises made by the Odisha government to make the event "historic", with the introduction of high-tech features such as AI-controlled CCTV cameras and an integrated control system to ensure safety.

Ulaka claimed the reality was far from the assurances, with more than 700 devotees injured and seven tragically losing their lives in the stampede.

He further criticised the state administration, alleging that there was a lack of visible police presence to manage the crowd. He claimed that

law enforcement's primary focus appeared to be on VIP security, leaving ordinary devotees vulnerable.

Holding the alleged "VIP culture" responsible for delaying the yatra, the Congress leader said that such an incident had never occurred before, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ulaka raised concerns over an alleged statement by the chief administrator of the yatra, who reportedly said the event had not resumed because "all devotees had not arrived". He questioned the meaning behind this statement,

asking, "Which devotees were they waiting for?"

The Congress leader also referred to media reports suggesting that industrialist "Gautam Adani was expected" to attend the Rath Yatra, but only arrived the following day. He questioned whether the delay had been due to Adani's attendance, calling it a "deeply troubling precedent".

Ulaka emphasised that the Congress party would not treat the incident as a minor issue, stressing that it was not just about mismanagement but also about preserving the sanctity of a divine tradition and ensuring the safety of millions of devotees who participate in the event each year.

He called on the Odisha government to ensure proper arrangements for future events to prevent such incidents.

## High Command will decide: Congress President Kharge on Karnataka leadership change

AGENCIES  
BENGALURU, JUNE 30

Amid heightened political buzz in Karnataka, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge today addressed speculation over a possible leadership change in the state, asserting that the decision rests solely with the party high command.

"So that is in the hands of the high command. Nobody can say here what is going on in the high command. This is left to the high command," Kharge said, responding to reporters' questions on the growing chatter that Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar may replace Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the coming months.

Kharge, who hails from



Karnataka and is AICC president, warned party members against creating "unnecessary problems" through speculative statements. "The high command has got power to make changes, but unnecessarily one should not create problems," he said, in a veiled message to state leaders publicly airing their preferences.

The remarks come at a time when several Con-

gress MLAs in Karnataka have made public comments hinting at dissatisfaction within the party ranks and signalling support for Shivakumar to take over the CM post by rotation, as was reportedly discussed before the 2023 assembly elections.

Kharge's intervention is being seen as an effort to quell internal unrest and reassert central control over state-level matters.

His comments also underscore the party's traditional structure, where such key decisions are made by the top leadership in Delhi rather than through public debate.

While both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar have so far maintained that they are committed to the collective leadership of the party, pressure has been mounting with periodic statements from factional supporters and senior MLAs.

The Congress high command has not issued any formal communication regarding a change, but party sources indicate that the leadership is closely monitoring the political situation in Karnataka, which is seen as a crucial state for the party after its sweeping victory in 2023.

## 6 year-old Punjabi boy, becomes youngest in world to scale Europe's highest mountain peak

AGENCIES  
RUPNAGAR, JUNE 30

Hailing from Rupnagar town, Teghbir Singh sets the world record by scaling Mount Elbrus located in Russia at a staggering height of more than 18510 ft (5642 Meters).

At a tender age of 6 years and 9 months, Teghbir Singh, has achieved a remarkable feat - he has become the youngest ever in the world to scale the Mount Elbrus which is highest peak of European continent and located in Russia at a staggering height of more than 18510ft (5642 Meters).

Teghbir started the Trek to Mount Elbrus on June 20 and walked all along to reach the Elbrus peak, highest point of the mountain, on 28 June.

It is worth mentioning here that it is a low Oxygen



trek and one needs preparation to tackle problems associated with Altitude Sickness. However, conquering all these challenges, he finally reached the summit, normal temperature of which is -10 Celsius, and fulfilled his dream.

After conquering the peak, he received the Mountain Climbing Certificate issued by Mountaineering, Rock Climbing and

Sports Tourism Federation of Kabardino - Balkarian Republik (Russia).

"It is to certify that Teghbir Singh from India, The world's Youngest Sumiter on Mount Elbrus at age of 6 Years, 9 Months and 4 days" states the certificate.

Elated over the achievement, Teghbir said, "I knew where I was to reach and finally, I reached and

had a picture with my father there".

"I was walking first time on snow, my shoes were heavy, but I had practiced it back" added the 2nd standard student of Shiwalik Public School, Ropar.

With this feat he sets the new World record of summiting Mt Elbrus at age 6 years and 9 months surpassing the previous world record by Wagah Kushagra (Native of Maharashtra, India) who set the world record last year at the age of 7 Years and 3 months.

In August 2024, he had become the youngest Asian to scale Mt Kilimanjaro (Highest Peak of African Continent) in August 2024 and his name features in the Asia Book of records and India Book of records.

He had also reached Mt Everest Base Camp (Nepal) in April 2024.

## Ayush Shetty clinches Yonex US Open title; Tanvi Sharma makes history with final finish

AGENCIES  
IOWA, JUNE 30

India's second-highest ranked Men's Singles player Ayush Shetty secured his first BWF World Tour title with a dominant win at the Yonex US Open 2025, defeating third seed

Brian Yang of Canada 21-18, 21-13 in the men's singles final.

In women's singles, 16-year-old Tanvi Sharma delivered one of the stand-out stories of the tournament, reaching the final with a string of fearless performances, with victo-



ries over

World Rank 23, 40, 50, and 58 en route.

The 20-year-old rising star from Karnataka, Ayush

became the first Indian to win a World Tour title this season on Sunday.

The victory capped off a stellar week for Shetty,

who also stunned World No. 6 and top seed Chou Tien-Chen in the semifinals to underline his potential on the big stage.

Though she fell to top seed Beiwen Zhang of the USA in three games (21-11, 16-21, 21-10), Tanvi etched her name in the record books as the youngest Indian ever to reach a BWF World Tour final.

The teenager, ranked World No. 66 and a member of India's Asian Team Championship-winning squad, showcased her readiness for the senior circuit with poise, variety, and attacking flair.

## Smith provides injury ahead of second Caribbean Test

AGENCIES  
GRENADA, JUNE 30

Australia batter Steve Smith is confident he will be fit to return from injury for the second Test against the West Indies here.

Smith, who missed the opening Test of the ongoing three-match series against the Caribbean side with the finger injury he picked up during the ICC World Test Championship Final, has recently had his stitches removed from the affected area and looks set to regain his place at No.4 in Australia's side when the series resumes on Thursday.

The veteran joined up with his teammates in the Caribbean on Sunday and is expected to take part in full practice on Tuesday in an attempt to return to the side that won the opening Test against the West Indies by 159 runs.

Smith will be fitted with a thinner splint for his injured finger and, while



he won't be able to field in his usual position in the slips, the 36-year-old is expecting to have no issues while batting and is expecting to play in the second Test.

"For me, it'll just feel like training as normal, I think," Smith said.

"I don't really feel any pain or anything. (It's) just getting used to the splint on and the slight limited movement. It's not too bad, I've got a lot of movement there now, so that feels good. Hitting the ball felt completely fine," he said.

"Fielding some balls in front of the wicket will probably be the strangest thing for me, I don't think I've ever done that in a Test match. Fielding at either probably mid-on or mid-off or fine leg, is a bit different to standing at the second or first slip," Smith said.

With Smith set to return to Australia's side, it means reserve batter Josh Inglis is likely to be the unlucky one to make way after he managed scores of just five and 12 during the first Test against

the West Indies in Barbados, an ICC report said. Inglis wasn't the only top-order batter to struggle against West Indies' pace attack at Kensington Oval, with teenager opener Sam Konstas and No.3 Cameron Green out cheaply in both innings of the Test match as the Aussies failed to cope with a difficult batting pitch.

But Smith has put faith in Australia's top-order to hit back quickly and believes good scores will be just around the corner for Konstas and Green.

"These guys are good players, there's been a lot of talk around it but...we just need to give them an opportunity," Smith said.

"It doesn't always come around straight away. We've just got to give them an opportunity and let them get used to playing in these conditions and in international cricket. These guys have some really good talent and I think they have bright futures," he added.

AGENCIES  
KARACHI, JUNE 30

Pakistan have announced former all-rounder Azhar Mahmood as their new acting red-ball head coach.

Azhar steps into the new role following a long stint as bowling coach and assistant head coach of Pakistan's men's side and will serve in this position until the conclusion of his current contract.

Pakistan are confident Azhar can thrive in the role given his expertise as a player and coach prior.

"A seasoned cricketing mind, Azhar Mahmood steps into the role with an impressive portfolio of experience," Pakistan said via a release.

"Having served as the



assistant head coach of the national side, Azhar has long been a pivotal part

of the team's strategic core. His deep knowledge of the game, combined with hands-on international exposure and proven success in the English county circuit, make him

exceptionally well-suited for this position.

"His red-ball pedigree is underscored by two County Championship titles—an achievement that speaks volumes about his leadership, tactical acumen and unwavering commitment to excel-

lence. "The PCB is confident that under Azhar's guidance, the red-ball squad will continue to grow in strength, discipline and performance on the global stage."

Former fast bowler and 1992 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup winner Aaqib Javed had been fulfilling the role as red-ball coach following the departure of Australian Jason Gillespie towards the end of last year.

Mahmood's first task will be readying the side for their upcoming assignment for the new ICC World Test Championship cycle, which is scheduled to be when South Africa visit Pakistan for a two-match series later this year.

## Indian Women's Hockey team lose 2-3 to China

AGENCIES  
BERLIN, JUNE 30

Indian Women's Hockey Team ended their FIH Hockey Pro League 2024-25 campaign with a 2-3 loss against China here.

Though it was an inspired performance by India on Sunday, it was simply not enough to get the better of China. It was goals by Ying Zhang (19', 30') and Xu Wenyu (53') that helped China win while Sunelita Toppo (9') and Rujuta Dadaso Pisal (38') scored for India.

This was the last match of the season with Netherlands finishing on top, Argentina finishing second and Belgium finishing third in the league while China have finished fourth in the points table. India sadly, have finished last and will be relegated and will need to play the FIH Nations Cup to earn their place again in the prestigious FIH Pro League.

Though it was China who got on to a good start with an early PC, India made headway in the 9th minute when a pass from Neha Goyal to Sunelita Toppo led to a fine goal. The youngster from Odisha picked up the pass well, runs up wide to create space and got a clear shot on goal. Two minutes later, China threatened to equalise when they won a PC but India defended well.

It didn't take too long for China to find an equaliser. In the 18th minute, China won a PC - though there was no goal from this



attempt, Deng Qiuchan was hit on the face by Indian defender Manisha Chauhan while she was trying to clear the ball. Qiuchan had to be taken off the field, and the on-field umpire missed it, India took a successful referral and were awarded another PC. This time, Navneet Kaur took the shot and tried a fantastic variation. The experienced Kaur passed the ball to Rujuta who was standing on the right flank. She got a perfect deflection to level the score.

India showcased an inspired performance today, put pressure on China, creating potential chances in the circle and even found success. China, meanwhile, began the final quarter with a PC after a back stick foul by India. This

one was well-defended by Bichu Devi, India's goalie. Bichu was kept busy in the following minutes as China won two more PCs but Devi was on par with her saves.

A relentless China ended up finding success in the 53rd minute when Xu Wenyu converted this one through a PC. India giving away soft PCs has been a concern in both the matches against China.

The 3-2 lead put China in a good position to finish well.

"This Pro League we played attacking hockey. We need to continue to build on it. We have the World Cup qualifier coming up and our aim will be to do well there," stated Salima Tete after the match.

## Surrey dominate opening day against Durham

AGENCIES  
LONDON, JUNE 30

Dominic Sibley and Sam Curran scored excellent centuries as champions Surrey made Durham rue their decision to field first on day one at the Kia Oval.

Sibley's batted all day for his unbeaten 169, his third century of the campaign, while Curran's 108 from 117 balls was his first Championship ton of the season on Sunday.

The duo added 170 for the third wicket as the hosts piled up 407-3.

Prior to their mammoth stand, Rory Burns lit up the morning's play with a half century full of trademark shots and laced with 12 fours and Dan Lawrence (58\*) too passed 50 at better than a run a ball before stumps were drawn.

Durham were without the services of Ben Raine from early afternoon and there was a nasty moment for England quick Matthew Potts, who collided with the advertising boards in stopping a boundary



shortly before lunch.

He didn't appear at the start of the afternoon session but returned to bowl later, seemingly without issue.

Shorn of the services of Brydon Carse, Mark Wood and Codi Yusuf, Durham nevertheless followed the accepted practice of bowling first at the Oval even with the Kookaburra ball in play, according to a BBC news.

Burns soon caused them to question the wisdom of that decision, producing his full repertoire of strokes. Durham aided this process, guilty of bowling either short and wide to feed the cut shot or drifting onto the pads where

upon the former England opener would drive them through mid-on and mid-wicket.

There was the odd cover-drive too, all of which meant Burns was not required to exert himself with too much running on a hot day. His 12th four raised his 50, at which point he'd scored only three aside from his boundaries.

A loose stroke brought his downfall shortly before lunch and when Ryan Patel went cheaply soon after the resumption there seemed a tiny window of opportunity for the visitors. However, Raine (1-32) left the field in the wake of taking the wicket and

Curran and Sibley soon slammed that window shut again.

Curran bristled aggression from the start, taking a particular liking to the spin of George Drissell, clouting his first ball, a full toss back, over the bowler's head and later muscling him over the ropes for six.

Against seam he was ruthless given any width, his first 50 coming in only 48 balls. Only a tight spell from Will Rhodes dragged him back below a run a ball, but his sparkling hundred containing a six and 14 fours was completed soon after tea before Drissell gained a measure of recompense by having him caught in the deep.

Sibley, who edged short of wicketkeeper Ollie Robinson on four in the second over of the day, was content to play second fiddle, though he did unfurl three boundaries in one Jimmy Neesham over, the former New Zealand Test bowler pressed into service with a red ball for the first time in three years.

## DAJGUA: Awareness cum public outreach camps held at Panchayat Chapper-A, Sundla

J I NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, JUNE 30

District Administration Udhampur today organized awareness cum Public Outreach camps under the ongoing Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan at Panchayat Chapper-A, Block Latti and Panchayat Sundla, Block Khoon.

The camps were aimed at bringing government services to the doorsteps of tribal communities and ensuring 100% saturation of eligible beneficiaries under various schemes.

A wide range of stalls were set up by different departments to facilitate registrations and provide on-the-spot services such as aadhaar enrolment,



Ayushman Bharat Card generation issuance of domicile certificate and awareness about flagship government schemes.

Local residents, particularly from the tribal community participated with great enthusiasm and availed themselves of the services being offered.

Officers and officials from key departments including Agriculture, Rural Development,

Health, Revenue etc actively participated in the camps. They sensitized the public on the benefits of schemes like PMAY, MGNREGA and various welfare initiatives aimed at the upliftment of Tribal Community.

They emphasized the significance of such outreach programs in achieving last-mile delivery particularly in remote and tribal-dominated areas.

## Mental Health awareness programme for SHG members organized at Shopian

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, JUNE 30

In a significant step towards promoting mental well being among rural women, the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) Shopian, in collaboration with the Human Welfare Voluntary Organization (HWVO), organized a Mental Health awareness programme for Self Help Group (SHG) members of Shopian and Keller blocks at the District Mission Management Unit (DMMU), Shopian.

The session was attended by a large number of SHG members and JKRLM cadre, aiming to break the stigma surrounding mental health and create a supportive environment for women across the rural landscape.

The programme was



facilitated by Adil Farooq, Programme Manager HWVO, and Syed Asma, a qualified mental health counselor, who led the awareness and counseling sessions.

Syed Asma provided professional counseling and shared practical coping strategies to help the participants deal with stress, anxiety, and other

emotional challenges. The session proved to be deeply impactful for the cadre and SHG women, many of whom expressed the need for more such initiatives in the future.

Adil Farooq highlighted the importance of integrating mental wellness into livelihood and capacity-building efforts under HWVO and emphasized

that emotional resilience plays a key role in enhancing productivity and social cohesion within SHG groups.

This initiative marks a progressive move towards holistic empowerment of rural women, aligning with JKRLM's mission to build strong, self sustaining community institutions.

## 6000 students participate in NMMSS examination

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 30

Nearly, 6000 8th pass students participated in the examination under National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) on June, 29 through 102 centres set-up across the J&K.

The examination was conducted by J&K BOSE with active support of School Education Department.

The clearance of examination assures Rs 12,000 yearly financial assistance to the academically promising students belonging to economically weaker sections for a period of four years.

The NMMSS being flagship scheme of Central Government has been instrumental in encouraging the meritorious students to chase their academic dreams over the years.

## SANJY-2025

### Lakhanpur Facilitation Centre all set to welcome Amarnath Ji Yatris

J I NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, JUNE 30

With the onset of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025, the Lakhanpur corridor, the first entry point into Jammu & Kashmir for pilgrims arriving via road, has been transformed into a well-equipped, multi-utility Facilitation Centre by the District Administration Kathua to ensure a safe, smooth, and spiritually enriching experience for the yatris.

The gateway to Jammu & Kashmir is now fully prepared to welcome thousands of pilgrims with comprehensive arrangements ranging from registration to accommodation, health care to cultural engagement.

A Reception Centre has been set up to provide point-to-point information. Pilgrims are being

extended facilities like hot meals, drinking water, sanitation, rest zones, and other essential services for their comfort during transit. A 24x7 Information Help Desk has been made operational to respond to yatris' queries and assist them throughout their stay.

For mandatory verification and tracking, 12 RFID Registration Centres have been established in the district, including a major hub at Lakhanpur. A dedicated facilitation centre is set up for the eKYC process and RFID tag issuance for pre-registered yatris, ensuring real-time tracking and improved security throughout their pilgrimage.

Medical preparedness has also been prioritised. Besides, a 5-bedded, fully-equipped hospital has been established at the



Lakhanpur Facilitation Centre, offering emergency care and first aid. Doctors, paramedics, and essential medicines are available round-the-clock to handle any medical situation.

Cultural and promo-

tional activities are adding a vibrant touch to the spiritual journey. An arcade of stalls by various government departments including AYUSH, Horticulture, Agriculture, and NRLM SHGs showcases local art, crafts, and public welfare

schemes. Food stalls serve regional cuisines, offering yatris a taste of local flavours. Tourism Department's digital displays highlight the scenic, spiritual, and cultural wealth of J&K, while the troupes of Information Department all set to entertain crowds with devotional music and traditional performances (Shiv Tandava & Laser & Light Show). Besides, the 24X7 helpdesk being manned by the Information Department to resolve queries of the Yatris.

Speaking on the arrangements, Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Dr. Rakesh Minhas said, "Lakhanpur is all set to welcome the yatris with robust arrangements to ensure their comfort, safety, and spiritual satisfaction. Every aspect, from RFID registration to lodging and health care, has been carefully planned

and executed."

He further informed that a contingency plan has also been activated, with 36 lodgement centres across the district kept ready to accommodate yatris in case of unexpected halts. These centres are equipped with all basic amenities for a comfortable stay. On the security front, a multi-tier security grid comprising Police, Paramilitary and other forces has been deployed. The setup includes joint nakas, CCTV surveillance, QRTs, and area domination patrols to ensure 24x7 vigilance and a safe environment for the yatris.

The DC appealed to all devotees to avail of the RFID facility at Lakhanpur, cooperate with the administration and follow the issued advisories for a peaceful and smooth Yatra.

## District Administration Doda bids farewell to Irshad Ahmed Khurwani



DODA, JUNE 30

District Administration Doda today accorded a warm farewell to Irshad Ahmed Khurwani, Head Assistant (Nazir) at DC Office Doda on his superannuation after the rendering service of 40 years.

A farewell function was organized at DC Office Doda, which was graced by the Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh as the Chief Guest.

The DC appreciated the dedication, discipline and valuable contributions of the retiree throughout his service and extended best

wishes for a healthy and happy post retirement life.

The farewell ceremony was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Accounts Officer, Tehsildar, AD Planning and other officials and staff of the DC Office.

The staff expressed admiration and heartfelt gratitude for Irshad Ahmed Khurwani.

As a token of appreciation and affection, a traditional shawl and gift was presented to Irshad Ahmed Khurwani by the Deputy Commissioner Doda and colleagues.

## DC Ramban inspects water supply restoration works in flood affected areas

J I NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, JUNE 30

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, along with Additional Deputy Commissioner, Varunjeet Singh Charak today conducted an extensive visit to Ramban town to assess the on-ground status of water supply restoration in areas affected by the flash floods triggered by a cloudburst in April this year.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department to ensure the restoration of proper water supply in Ward No. 1 and other affected households in various wards within prescribed timeline.

The DC also reviewed the flood prevention and mitigation plan prepared by the executing departments to safeguard Ramban town from potential future damages. Emphasizing proactive measures, he instructed the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Committee



Ramban to immediately remove bottlenecks hindering water flow in the drainage system.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited Ashri Nallah to inspect the current situation and reviewed the plan for its regulation and strengthening of safety measures to protect Ramban town from further erosion and flood risks.

The DC also took stock of the progress on the Multi-Storey Bus Stand

project at Ramban and asked the executing agencies to accelerate the pace of work to ensure its early completion.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shokat Hayat Mattoo; Executive Engineers of PWD and Jal Shakti; Tehsildar Ramban; CEO Municipal Committee Ramban and other concerned officers.

## Proud Moment for District Doda: Two innovative projects selected for State-Level Inspire Award MANAK Competition

J I NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, JUNE 30

District Doda is brimming with pride as two of its talented young minds have been selected for the State Level Exhibition and Project Competition under Inspire Award MANAK Scheme 2023-24. The selections were made following the successful conduct of the District-Level Exhibition and Project Competition (DLEPC) held today at Krishna Palace, Udheywala, Jammu, organized by the SCERT Divisional Office, Jammu.

The two student projects stood out for their ingenuity, creativity and real-world relevance, exemplifying the district's growing focus on nurturing scientific temperament and innovation in the school education system.

One of the selected entries, titled "Sliding Luggage Carrier Behind Buses," was developed by Sujal Kumar, an ex-student of Government High School Pranoo, who is currently pursuing Class 12th at Government Higher Secondary School Berarru. Sujal's project



offers an engineering-based solution to common transportation challenges, and it won acclaim for its practicality and innovative design.

Joining him at the state-level platform is Avish Parihar, a student of Ex-Servicemen Public Higher Secondary School, Thathri. His project, titled "Waste Decomposing Machine," received significant appreciation for addressing environmental sustainability and offering a viable model for efficient waste management—an issue of growing global concern.

The selection of both projects not only highlights the creative potential of District Doda's students but also reflects the relentless efforts of dedicated educators, mentors, and

the academic ecosystem fostered by DIET Doda.

In his congratulatory message, the Chief Education Officer Doda, Mohammad Hafiz extended warm wishes to both Sujal and Avish. He also acknowledged the crucial contributions of their guiding teachers and respective schools, emphasizing the importance of cultivating innovation and scientific thinking from an early age.

The DIET Doda also conveyed its appreciation to the students, teachers and school authorities for their roles in this achievement. The institute termed their success "a shining example of what is possible through vision, mentorship and student dedication," calling it an inspiration for aspiring innovators across the region.

## DC Poonch reviews implementation of JK-Sehat Mobile Application



J I NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, JUNE 30

Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Poonch, Vikas Kundal, chaired a comprehensive meeting today with district officers and healthcare functionaries to review the implementation of the JK-Sehat mobile interface application. This initiative aims to enhance healthcare access for residents by streamlining services through digital means.

The JK-Sehat application, developed by BISAG-N at the request of the Health & Medical Education Department, serves as a one-stop solution for all patient and health practitioner-related services. It is designed to facilitate easy access to healthcare schemes, ensuring that residents can benefit from vari-

ous offerings efficiently.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized the critical need for dedicated efforts and strong coordination among all departments involved in the implementation process. He directed officers to achieve 100% registration of the district's target population, highlighting that this is essential for maximizing the benefits of healthcare schemes available on the platform.

To ensure effective outreach, the DC set clear targets for maximum registration and urged line department officers to intensify their efforts across the district. He stressed that robust community engagement and awareness campaigns are vital to encourage residents to utilize the application fully.