



## Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra -2025

Join an Extraordinary  
Pilgrimage to the Sacred

# Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine

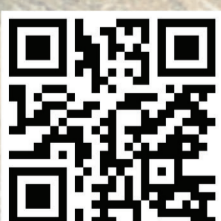
## Experience the Divine Grace of Lord Shiva

### Do's for the Yatris

- It is mandatory for every registered Yatri to collect their RFID Card from designated locations in Jammu / Srinagar before embarking on the Yatra. Carry your Aadhaar details for collecting RFID Cards
- Wear the RFID card around your neck at all times during Yatra for safety & security.
- Do carry sufficient woolen clothing, umbrella, wind cheater, raincoat and waterproof shoes. Weather remains unpredictable and temperature may abruptly fall to below 5 degree Celsius.
- Walk slowly and steadily — don't rush on steep paths.
- Take regular breaks to avoid fatigue.

### Don'ts for the Yatris

- No registered yatri shall be allowed to embark on Yatra without valid RFID card.
- Don't ignore the symptoms of high altitude illness.
- Don't drink alcohol, caffeinated drinks, or smoke.
- Don't stop at places with warning signs.
- Don't take shortcuts on the route—it's risky.
- Don't pollute or disturb the Yatra environment.
- Don't separate from your group — always stay with your companions.



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## Sakeena Itoo felicitates JEE/NEET achievers from Government Institutions at Srinagar

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JULY 1

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today felicitated champion students from various Government Institutions of Kashmir valley who have excelled in the prestigious JEE and NEET examinations this year.

Principal Secretary, School Education department, Ram Niwas Sharma; Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N Ito; Secretary JKBOSE, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh; Principals, CEOs, faculty members, NEER/JEE achievers, parents and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Sakeena Itoo lauded the hard work and perseverance of the students and acknowledged the crucial role played by government school teachers in nurturing talent from the grassroots. "These young achievers are not only a source of pride for their families but also a beacon of hope for the



entire region. Their success proves that with dedication and access to quality education, anything is possible", Minister Sakeena stated.

She emphasized on the need for continued academic mentorship of government school going children, especially from rural and underprivileged backgrounds to ensure equal opportunities for all.

While appreciating the JEE/NEET achievers, the

Minister advised them to take this success forward with your near and dear ones as well as fellow classmates so that they can get inspiration from your success. She also appreciated the teachers and parents of achievers for their contribution in the success of these students.

The Minister on the occasion, also called upon the department to conduct regular capacity building programmes for the teach-

ers as per the demand and evolving needs of education system.

Addressing the gathering, Principal Secretary, School Education department congratulated the achievers for their remarkable success in JEE/NEET exams. He advised the students to be the flag bearers of inspiration for the young school going students.

In his welcome address, Director School Education Kashmir lauded the hard work and determination of the achievers, emphasizing that their success is a testament to the improving quality of education in government schools.

He also acknowledged the dedication of teachers and the various support programs launched by the department to bridge the educational gap and promote competitive exam preparation among underprivileged students.

The Minister, on the occasion, also distributed tablets among the achievers for their remarkable achievements. Several teachers, nodal officers and other staff was also felicitated by the Minister on the occasion.

## Deputy CM reviews SANJY-2025 arrangements via Baltal axis

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, JULY 1

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted an extensive visit to Baltal to assess the arrangements being put in place for smooth conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2025 via Baltal axis.

The Deputy CM chaired a high-level meeting at JKTDC Sonamarg and was briefed by the district administration and concerned departments regarding the measures being taken to ensure the safety, comfort and smooth movement of the pilgrims.

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister held a detailed department-wise review of the Yatra arrangements at the Baltal Base Camp and along the Yatra route. Expressing satisfaction over the ongoing preparations, he commended the district administration and all line departments for their timely efforts in making adequate arrangements well in advance.

While interacting with the officers, the Deputy



CM emphasized the importance of teamwork and inter-departmental coordination. "The departments are the face of the government on the ground and we must work together to ensure a safe and successful Yatra," he said. He further stated that the successful conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra would send a positive message across the country and serve as a milestone in reviving tourism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the significance of the Yatra, he said, "This is not just a pilgrimage; it is a major festival for the entire Union Territory. Devotees from all corners of the country will visit and it is our collective responsibility to welcome and facilitate them in the best possible manner."

The Deputy Chief Min-

ister also commended the BRO for their significant contribution in development and maintenance of the Yatra track from Domail to the Holy Cave, which plays a critical role in ensuring the safety and accessibility for the pilgrims. He also urged all the departments to remain proactive and ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place, with a special focus on safety, sanitation, healthcare, traffic management and other essential services.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Executive Officer, Sonamarg Development Authority, Bilal Mukhtar; Sub-Divisional Magistrate Kangan; Executive Engineers from various engineering wings and other senior officers from the district administration.

## Rana reviews PMGSY projects in Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JULY 1

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a meeting at the Civil Secretariat Srinagar to review the status of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) projects in Poonch.

The meeting aimed to assess the progress on ongoing road projects and identify areas for improvement.

During the review, the Minister directed the concerned authorities to expedite the progress on works and achieve the set targets within the stipulated timelines. He emphasized that completion of these projects would provide tangible benefits to the common masses, including reliable road access and economic opportunities.

The Minister stressed the importance of adhering to quality standards in the projects to ensure development of durable assets. He instructed the officers to conduct regular monitoring of the work being executed in their respective jurisdictions.

## DC Kishtwar reviews functioning of Revenue Department; Sets timelines for key deliverables

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, JULY 1

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today convened a meeting to review functioning of the Revenue Department in the district.

The agenda points of the meeting included Digitization/Recreation of Missing Mussavis, progress of ground truthing of rectified maps (BISAG-N), progress on Ground Verified Maps 1.0 and 2.0 under the Svamitva scheme, timely disposal of online revenue services (PSG Act), among others.

ACR, Idrees Lone apprised the DC of the current progress and functioning of the Revenue Department in the District.

During the meeting, the DC directed all concerned Tehsildars to ensure the completion of recreation of Mussavis by 20th July 2025. Tehsildar Bounjwah was specifically instructed



to coordinate with DFO Kishtwar for the recreation of Mussavis in forest areas.

Emphasizing progress under the Svamitva Scheme, the DC instructed all Tehsildars to complete Mapping (Map 1.0 and 2.0) by 10th July 2025.

For efficient service delivery, the DC directed all Tehsildars to ensure timely issuance of certificates/services and clear all pending cases within 3 days. He also instructed Tehsildars to ensure timely disposal of revenue court cases as reflected on the RCCMS portal.

Strict instructions were

issued regarding eviction of encroachments from State/Common/Kahchara/Roshni land along with the installation of signboards and measures to prevent re-encroachment.

The DC directed all Tehsildars to conduct special camps for inheritance mutations in addition to routine mutation work.

The meeting was attended by ACR Kishtwar Idrees lone, SDM Chattro Nayeem Ur Rahman, SDM Marwah Dr. Mohd Ashraf, SDM Paddar Dr. Amit Kumar, Tehsildars, besides the concerned staff of Revenue Department.

## Mission YUVA: DC Bandipora chairs DLIC meeting, approves 51 cases

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, JULY 1

The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) meeting under Mission YUVA was held on Tuesday under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, at Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held on the applications received under the scheme. The committee deliberated on the cases submitted through the Skill and Business Development Unit (SBDU) and, after thorough scrutiny and evaluation, approved 51 cases unanimously for financial and institutional support under the Mission YUVA initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, DC highlighted the significance of Mission YUVA in empowering youth through skill development, entrepreneurship promotion, and self-employment opportunities. He stressed the need



for robust post-approval support and follow-up to ensure the sustainable success of the approved units.

DC also directed the concerned departments to expedite the process of sanctioning, disbursing benefits, and extending all necessary handholding support to the beneficiaries in a time-bound manner.

On the occasion, Qadri emphasized the importance of strengthening youth-led entrepreneurship and promoting sustainable livelihood opportunities in the district.

He further stressed that empowering the youth through structured support systems and skill-based initiatives is key to long-term socio-economic development in the region.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl, who is also the District Nodal Officer for Mission YUVA; AD Employment, Nodal Officer JKEDI, District Development Manager NABARD, Social Welfare Officer, representatives from J&K Lead Bank; and other concerned officials.

## DC Reasi chairs CLU committee meeting

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
REASI, JULY 1

Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Ms. Nidhi Malik, chaired a comprehensive review meeting to examine Change of Land Use (CLU) cases in the district. The meeting aimed to ensure judicious and regulated use of land in alignment with government norms and sustainable development goals. A total of 10 CLU proposals were taken up for detailed scrutiny during the session. After thorough deliberation with officials from concerned departments, 5 cases were granted approval, 4 were rejected due to non-compliance with guidelines or insufficient documentation, and 1 case was reverted to the applicant with directions to address specific observations raised during the discussion. DC Malik underscored the importance of maintaining transparency and accountability in the CLU process. She called for a coordinated approach among departments and instructed officials to expedite the issuance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) following proper document verification. Emphasizing strict compliance with legal procedures, she also set clear timelines for the processing and disposal of cases. The Deputy Commissioner further reiterated the administration's commitment to fostering efficient and transparent land-use practices, which are crucial for orderly development in the district. The meeting was attended by ACR Mr. Nitin Verma; Divisional Forest Officer (DFO); Executive Engineer, JPDC and other concerned officers and stakeholders.

## Sakeena Itoo credits SKIMS's founding to Sher-i-Kashmir, calls its contribution to J&K healthcare 'Unmatchable'

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JULY 1

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today remarked that doctors and healthcare professionals are backbone of our nation's health system, having critical role in shaping a healthier and more resilient society.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing the National Doctors Day celebrations at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura here.

Director SKIMS, Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ganie; former Director SKIMS, Dr. M.S Khuroo; HoDs of different departments and specialities, Medical Superintendent SKIMS, doctors,

medical professionals, researchers, scholars and large number of medical students were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Sakeena said that doctors and healthcare professionals deserve as much appreciation as we can as they form vital for building a prosperous and healthy society. "This day is not just about appreciation, it is about deep recognition of healthcare professionals and doctors. Doctors are not only healers but also pillars of hope for countless families. Their tireless service, often at great personal risk, deserves our highest gratitude", she stated.

The Minister said that doctors play an essential role in preserving life and



promoting well-being and their expertise and judgement guide us through some of life's most critical moments.

She added National Doctors Day in India is celebrated to honour Dr. B. C. Roy a Distinguished Physician and Statesman, whose legacy continues to inspire generations of medical professionals.

Terming doctors as true warriors, Minister Sakee-

na said that they continue to serve the society with compassion, courage and integrity. She underlined the critical role of medical professionals in shaping a healthier and more resilient society. "Doctors often work under pressure, especially during health crises. Their sacrifices are a true testament to their noble profession and it is our responsibility to acknowledge and respect

the contribution of our doctors", she stated.

Recognising and appreciating the invaluable contributions of doctors and healthcare professionals, the Minister said that the Doctor's Day serves as a tribute to the vital role doctors play in healing, protecting and strengthening communities. "They work relentlessly to keep people healthy and safe. The day serves as a tribute to their compassion, resilience and pivotal role in the healthcare ecosystem", she said.

The Minister further said that last few years have taught us that health care is not a privilege, it is a right and our doctors

are not optional, they are essential.

While speaking on the importance of SKIMS in delivering advanced healthcare facilities to people of Jammu and Kashmir, Minister Sakeena said that this contribution by Sher-i-Kashmir Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah is incomparable. She also commended the SKIMS faculty and staff for their unwavering dedication to excellence in patient care, research and medical education, and reiterated the need for greater institutional support, infrastructure, and training to empower the healthcare sector in Jammu & Kashmir.

"Glory of SKIMS will be restored and we are examining the ways for restor-

ing engineering wing of the institute", she stated.

In his address, former Director SKIMS, Dr. M S Khuroo spoke on the importance of the day and said that the theme of National Doctor's Day emphasis on the need for well being off doctors who prioritise patient care at the cost of their personal health. He added that being a doctor is blessing as it serves the mankind.

Addressing the gathering, Director SKIMS, Dr. M.Ashraf Ganie spoke in length about the achievements of the institute and said that this day honours the heroes in white coats, who heal with knowledge, compassion, commitment and care.

In his welcome address, HoD Hospital Administra-

tion, Dr. G.H Yattoo said that this day is a moment for recognition and commitment of those who chose their life for service of mankind. He added that during global pandemic, we have seen sacrifices of medical professionals behind the mask battling exhaustion and fatigue. He stressed that we need to rededicate ourselves to future where caregivers are respected everyday not only on doctor's day.

Principal SKIMS Medical College, Prof Fazal Qadir; Dean Medical Faculty, Prof. G.M Gulzar and former HoD Hospital Administration, Prof. G.J Qadri, also spoke on the occasion.

The Minister on the occasion also distributed promotion orders among the staff of the institute.

**DENGUE WARNING SIGNS**

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

**Watch out for dengue warning signs!**

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

- Severe and continuous headache
- Discomfort behind the eyes
- Joint and muscle pain
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Stomach pain
- Redness on the skin
- Easy bruising or bleeding
- Fatigue

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## SHRI AMARNATH JI YATRA-2025

# LG SINHA TO FLAG OFF FIRST BATCH OF PILGRIMS FROM JAMMU TODAY

## LG reviews final preparations for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JULY 01

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today chaired a high-level meeting with the senior officers and reviewed the final preparations for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Shri Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department Shri Shaleen Kabra; DGP Shri Nalin Prabhat; Special Director General (Coordination), PHQ, Shri S.J.M Gillani; Principal Secretary Home Shri Chan-



draker Bharti; Principal Secretary, Finance Shri Santosh D Vaidya; ADGP CID Shri Nitish Kumar; Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO SASB Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari and senior officials of SASB, Police and Civil Administration.

The Lieutenant Governor took a comprehensive review of the traffic & security management and all the arrangements in place by the stakeholder departments for the smooth, safe and hassle-free holy pilgrimage.

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## LG visits Yatri Niwas at Bhagwati Nagar Jammu, reviews arrangements for Pilgrims

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JULY 01

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today visited Yatri Niwas at Bhagwati Nagar and reviewed arrangements for the pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

The Lieutenant Governor took stock of food and lodging of the pilgrims, security, registration counters, power and water supply, health facilities, help desks, sanitation, transportation and emergency services.

At Yatri Niwas, the Lieuten-



ant Governor interacted with devotees of Baba Barfani and extended his warm wishes to pilgrims for a safe, blessed and spiritually fulfilling experience

Addressing the media persons on the sidelines of his visit, the Lieutenant Governor said that a large number of devotees from across the coun-

try have arrived for the Yatra, which begins from Jammu tomorrow morning.

“Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is a serene, enlightening and lifelong experience. May their pilgrimage be filled with joy, peace, and spiritual bliss.

Improved arrangements have been made for the convenience of the pilgrims. We must carry forward the traditions of J&K and make this yatra a huge success,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The 38-day long Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra will **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## LG flags off fleet of ambulances for Hospitals in Ramban and Anantnag Districts

SRINAGAR, JULY 01

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today flagged off the fleet of Ambulances for the Hospitals in Ramban and Anantnag Districts.

A total 5 Ambulances were donated by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) through M/S Quazigund Expressway Private Lim-



ited for Hospitals at Qazigund, Gool, under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The

deployment of the Ambulances will strengthen emergency healthcare services and ensure timely medical care to the people.

The Lieutenant Governor appreciated the NHAI and M/S Quazigund Expressway Private limited for their noble initiative. He also asked the Deputy Commissioner Ramban

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Traffic plan for Sgr-Jmu NH issued for today

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUL 01 (KNO)

Authorities on Tuesday said that subject to fair weather and better road conditions, Amarnath Yatra convoy, LMVs passenger and private cars shall be allowed from both sides on Jammu-Srinagar National highway viz from Jammu towards Srinagar and vice-versa.

A statement issued to the news agency however, reads that Heavy Motor Vehicles

(HMs) shall be allowed on alternate days. In view of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025, the authorities have issued Cut Off Timings for LMVs, passenger and private cars, stating that these vehicles shall be released from Nagrota (Jammu) towards Srinagar from 06:00 AM to 12:00 AM, Jakheni (Udhampur) towards Srinagar from 07:00 AM to 01:00 PM & Qazigund towards Jammu from 11:30 AM to 02:00 PM.

TCU Jammu and TCU Srinagar will inform all concerned about the traffic advisory and cut off timings, the statement reads, adding that no vehicle shall be allowed to move before and after cut off timings.

Subject to fair weather and better road conditions, HMVs shall be allowed from Jakheni (Udhampur) towards Srinagar after assessing the road and traffic situation on NH-44

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## LG attends Tawi Aarti on the eve of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JULY 01

On the eve of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today attended the ‘Tawi Aarti’ at Tawi Riverfront Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor sought the blessings of Suryaputri River Tawi and Baba Barfani and prayed for a peaceful, blessed and a memorable pilgrimage for all the devotees.

“Entire J&K is experiencing spiritual bliss on the eve of holy pilgrimage of Shri Amarnath Ji. People of J&K are ready to welcome devotees of Baba Barfani coming from across the country. May Lord Shiva bless everyone with health, happiness and harmony,” the



Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations to Jammu Municipal Corporation, Department of Tourism, Jammu Smart City Limited and Shri Raghunath Ji Corridor Vikas Council Jammu for organising the Tawi Aarti.

“There is the song of God in

the heartbeat of Jammu. The truth of life shines in city’s consciousness. The relationship between Jammu and spirituality is eternal. The city has always been in search of truth and it is blessed by the divine energy. This divine Tawi Aarti will connect the pilgrims

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## A Toll-free number will be notified for the assistance of Terror victim families: LG

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JULY 01

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today chaired a high-level meeting and discussed the issues concerning victim families whose loved ones were brutally killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the Deputy Commissioners and SSPs to reopen cases which were deliberately buried and file an FIR and ensure jobs are provided to Next of Kins (NoKs) on priority. He further directed them



to take immediate measures to free terror victim families’ property and land grabbed by terrorists or their sympathisers.

Identify those elements from terror ecosystem who were involved in kill-

ing of Common Kashmiris and currently working in Government Departments. Financial assistance under MUDRA and handholding must be extended to the

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## GST reshaped India’s economic landscape: PM

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUL 01 (KNO)

Termining rolling out of Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, eight years ago, as a landmark reform, Prime Minister Narendra on Tuesday said that it reshaped India’s economic landscape.

PM Modi, according to the news agency, said that the indirect tax regime reduced the “compliance burden and improved the ease of doing business.”

Pertinently, the GST was implemented across the country on July 1, 2017. It unified 17 taxes and 13 cesses, creating a seamless national market by simplifying compliance and digitising tax

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**



## Sgr records hottest June month in 47 years, Qazigund in half a century

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUL 01 (KNO)

After the record-breaking maximum temperatures, Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, has recorded the hottest June month in the last 47 years while Qazigund also witnessed the warmest month in half a century.

According to the details available with the news agency, Srinagar has recorded

the hottest June month since 1978, which was the second hottest as well since 1892.

An Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng while divulging the details, stated that Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, has also recorded the warmest June in over 50 years.

“Srinagar just experienced its hottest June since 1978, making it the second hottest on record since observa-

tions began in 1892,” he said, adding that the average maximum temperature for June 2025 stood at 31.0°C, while the mean minimum settled at 18.2°C, resulting in an overall average temperature of 24.6°C.

The only hotter June on record for the city was in 1978, when the overall average temperature reached 25.0°C, driven by a higher mean maximum of 32.9°C, though

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Houseboat Association, Dal dwellers call on CM Omar Abdullah; flag long-pending issues

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JULY 1

A deputation comprising Dal dwellers, including representatives of houseboat and shikara owners, today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to apprise him about various issues confronting them.

The meeting was held to address long standing grievances and to discuss the sustainable livelihood solutions



for communities dependent on Dal Lake.

The interaction was attended by Advisor to the Chief

Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Director General Fire & Emergency Services J&K, Commissioner Secretaries of Forest, Ecology & Environment, Tourism, Housing & Urban Development; Director Tourism, Vice Chairpersons of the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority

**CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

## Vomedh honours Pt. Amarnath Vaishnavi with Tributes, Awards, Devotional Music

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 1

Vomedh Rangmanch today organized a poignant and memorable event to commemorate the Puniyatithi of the tallest leader of the Kashmiri Pandit community, Pt. Amarnath Vaishnavi, at a packed Abhinav Theatre. The event, part of Vomedh's ongoing Centenary Celebrations for the leader, was a heartfelt tribute that brought together community stalwarts, young voices, and spiritual music to honour the life and legacy of a selfless torchbearer.

The ceremony was graced by an august gathering of dignitaries, led by Chief Guest Shri Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants). The Guests of Honour included Sanjay



Saraf, National Spokesperson of Rashtriya Lok Jan Shakti Party; Dr. Agnishekhar, Convenor of Panun Kashmir; Digambar Raina, General Secretary of Youth for Panun Kashmir; Moti Lal Malla, President of Sheetal Nag ASKPC; Rajive Pandita, President of Kashmir Displaced District, BJP; veteran poet and author Balkrishan Sanyasi; Rohini Vaishnavi, author and President of the PT Amarnath Vaishnavi Foundation; spiritual leader Swami Kumar Ji;

and Music Director Dr. Kuldeep Swadeshi. All esteemed guests were welcomed with a traditional Dastar Bandi ceremony. In his welcome address, Rohit Bhat, President of Vomedh, set the tone for the evening, reflecting on Vaishnavi Ji's unwavering commitment to justice and community. The intellectual tribute continued with a key paper reading by King C Bharati, senior journalist, social activist, and artist, who threw light on the leader's contribu-

tions. A unique and inspiring segment titled 'Young Opinion' saw the next generation stepping forward to carry the legacy, featuring heartfelt perspectives from Ayushi Bindroo, an engineering student, and Nirvi Jotshi, a student of Class 8th, whose clarity and pride moved the audience.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Vomedh Awards of Excellence, an initiative to honour individuals who have contributed immensely but silently to the Kashmiri Pandit cause. This year's awards were conferred upon Dr. Sushil Wattal, Shri Aryan Ramesh, Shri Pintoo Ji, and Shri Aditya Tickoo, recognizing their tremendous and selfless work for the community in their individual capacities.

## Indian Army conducts Medical Camp in Ghar-Majhoor Villages bolstering Community Health

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 1

In a significant demonstration of its commitment to civil-military cooperation and community welfare, the Indian Army and Department of Health & Medical Education, J&K, today successfully concluded a free medical camp at Primary Health Center, Ghar - Majhoor, in Chowki Chaura Block, Jammu. The initiative, part of the Army's continued efforts to reach out to residents in remote and border areas, provided vital healthcare services to hundreds of locals. The camp, saw a massive turnout of over 250 patients from villages of Ghar, Majhoor & Sandal Sunderbani which included 90 male, 127 female & 42 children. Dedicated team of medical officers



, from civil and armed forces offered consultation, diagnoses and free medicines along with free dental check up by dental hygienist. "Our aim is to provide accessible and quality healthcare to our fellow citizens, especially in areas where medical facilities might be limited," stated the doctors overseeing the camp. "The overwhelming response from the local population highlights the need for such initiatives, and we are committed to continuing

our efforts." Villagers, many of whom had traveled considerable distances, expressed profound gratitude for the Army's humanitarian gesture. "We are very thankful to the Indian Army for organizing this camp," said an elderly resident. "It is a great relief for us, as it saves us the trouble and expense of traveling to Chowki Chaura or Sunderbani for treatment." Beyond providing immediate medical relief, the camp also focused

on raising awareness about common health issues which included topics like lifestyle diseases, vector borne disease, basic first aid, hygiene practices, and preventive measures. Health education sessions were conducted, empowering residents with knowledge to maintain better health in the long run.

The medical camp at Ghar - Majhoor is a testament to the Indian Army's broader "Operation Sadbhavna" initiatives, which aim to foster peace, development, and a strong civil-military relationship in challenging regions. Such efforts not only provide tangible benefits but also reinforce the bond of trust and camaraderie between the armed forces and the local communities they serve.

## Jammu & Kashmir Contractors Coordination Committee hosts Grand Farewell for two Retiring Chief Engineers

JNEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JULY 1

The Jammu & Kashmir Contractors Coordination Committee (JKCCC) organized a grand farewell ceremony to honour two of the Jammu & Kashmir's most respected engineers—Mrs. Tanvir Mir, Engineer-in-Chief of the Public Works (R&B)

Department, and Mr. Sajad Naqeeb, Chief Engineer of Central Kashmir—both of whom retired on June 30, 2025, after distinguished careers spanning several decades in public service.

The heartfelt and dignified event was held at the Banquet Hall in Srinagar, where a large gathering of senior engineers, contractors, department officials

and well-wishers came together to celebrate the immense contributions of the two retiring officers to the infrastructure and development of Jammu & Kashmir.

Engineer-in-Chief Tanvir Mir, widely respected for her visionary leadership and commitment to quality in public works, leaves behind a legacy of innovation

and administrative excellence. Chief Engineer Sajad Naqeeb, equally admired for his hands-on approach and accessibility, earned widespread respect among contractors and officials alike for his integrity and people-centric leadership.

Both officers were honoured with traditional Kashmiri shawls and heartfelt tributes from members

of the engineering and contractor community. Speakers shared their experiences working with the two, praising their humility, professionalism, and the lasting impact they have had on J&K's development landscape.

Speaking on the occasion, JKCCC Chairman Ghulam Jeelani Purza said, "Today, we are not just bid-

ding farewell to two senior officers, but to two stalwarts of our engineering fraternity. Engineer-in-Chief Tanvir Mir Sahiba and Chief Engineer Central Kashmir Sajad Naqeeb Sahab have served with unmatched dedication. Their absence will be deeply felt."

"Their honesty and commitment to public service have inspired many. They

helped build not just physical bridges, but also fostered unity and trust within our communities. We are proud to have worked with them and pray for their continued health, peace, and happiness in this new chapter of life."

Chairman Purza also emphasized that the JKCCC, representing thousands of contractors across Jammu

& Kashmir, deeply values the professionalism and cooperation consistently extended by both officers throughout their careers.

The evening concluded with a vote of thanks, followed by a dinner and informal interactions, leaving attendees with warm memories and deep respect for the two retiring officers.

### FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

#### LG reviews final...

The Lieutenant Governor directed the officials for widespread publicity of Traffic Advisory so that common man is not inconvenienced. District Administrations, SSPs, Traffic Police and Stakeholder departments should work in close coordination to ensure movement of pilgrims in designated convoys and smooth implementation of the traffic plan, he said.

He further directed the Deputy Commissioners to ensure that Lodgement centres and sanitation units are in good condition.

#### LG visits Yatri Niwas...

commence on 3rd July from the base camp on both the routes and it will culminate on 9th August 2025. The Yatra will be flagged off by the Lieutenant Governor on July 02 from Yatri Niwas, Bhagwati Nagar.

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by DGP Shri Nalin Prabhat; ADG CRPF, Shri Rajesh Kumar; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Shri Ramesh Kumar; IGP Jammu Shri Bhim Sen Tuti; Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Shri Sachin Kumar Vaishya and senior officials from civil administration, police and security forces.

#### LG flags off fleet...

to explore the possibilities for Hospital on Wheels for the remote areas of the district to ensure equitable, and quality healthcare to all.

Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board; Shri Mohammad Alyas Khan, Deputy Commissioner Ramban; Shri RS Yadav, NHAI Regional Officer, J&K; senior officials of NHAI and representatives of M/S Quazigund Expressway Private limited were present on the occasion at Raj Bhawan.

#### Traffic plan for...

and no HMV shall be allowed after 07:00 PM while TCU Udhampur shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the HMTVs.

Moreover, in view of ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji yatra 2025, to provide hassle free movement of trucks carrying fresh and perishable goods on NH-44, the administration has decided all tankers of Petrol, Diesel, LPG bulk gas, all trucks carrying empty LPG Cylinders; all empty vehicles of FCI; any other vehicle loaded/empty upto 10-tyres shall use only Mughal Road while returning to Jammu.

Meanwhile, the people have been advised to undertake journey only after confirming status of the road from Traffic control units including Jammu (0191-2459048, 0191- 2740550, 9419147732, 103); Srinagar (0194-2450022, 2485396, 18001807091, 103); Ramban (9419993745, 1800-180-7043); Udhampur (8491928625); PCR Kishtwar (9906154100) and PCR Kargil (9541902330, 9541902331). KNO

#### LG attends Tawi Aarti...

of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra with the spiritual and historical significance of the Suryaputri River Tawi," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, highlighted Jammu Kashmir's extraordinary journey towards peace, prosperity, and unprecedented development over the past few years.

"After decades of darkness J&K in 2019 leaped towards

regaining its dignity, its pride and its spiritual peak. It has got new wings in the last 5 years. The light of upliftment is dispelling darkness in every section. Citizens are full of self-confidence and the river of progress is flowing uninterrupted," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated his unwavering commitment to the inclusive development of the Union Territory and revival of the region's rich cultural and spiritual legacy.

"For me responsibility of J&K is not just administrative assignment. For me this was an opportunity to restore the ancient glory of Jammu and Kashmir. For me it was an opportunity to rebuild Jammu and Kashmir.

I have tried to recreate the grandeur of Jammu and Kashmir like the sacred temple. I have tried to restore the lost image of this holy land," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor saluted the people of J&K for actively participating in the development journey.

"I am proud about the rapid pace at which Jammu Division and Kashmir Division have developed in the last five years. The pace of progress is historic.

Common citizens and intellectuals of the society are engaged in the transformation of Jammu and Kashmir which is highly commendable, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also commended the entire team of Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board for performing its duties with dedication and devotion for the pilgrims. He said the Yatri Niwas at Baltal will be dedicated to Pilgrims on July 04.

Since 2022 facilities for pilgrims are significantly improved. I pray to Lord Shiva to make the journey of devotees successful and all their wishes come true, he said.

"World's eyes are on this yatra. The devotees' resolve is unshakable; no threats can deter their spirit. With the cooperation and support of everyone, this year's Yatra will be even more historic than previous years," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor urged all the civil society members, enlightened citizens to join the flag-off ceremony of the first batch of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025 at Yatri Niwas tomorrow morning. He asked the media persons to spread awareness among the pilgrims to travel in designated convoys.

The Lieutenant Governor also sought the support from all sections of the society to make the Tawi Aarti a continuous event.

Shri Bharat Bhushan, Chairman, District Development Council Jammu; Ms. Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shri Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Shri Devansh Yadav, Municipal Commissioner Jammu and CEO of Jammu Smart City Limited; Shri Rajesh Gupta, Chairman Shri Raghunathji Corridor Vikas Council; heads of various religious and business associations, members of civil society groups, Acharyas and Archakas were present.

Members of Legislative Assembly; Administrative Secretaries; senior officials of Civil and Police Administration, people and pilgrims of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra in large number also took part in the Tawi Aarti.

#### A Toll-free number will...

terror victim family members who want to start their self-employment venture, the Lieutenant Governor told the officials.

The Lieutenant Governor said a Special Cell will be established in LG Secretariat to address concerns of

terror victim families. He further asked the Chief Secretary to set up a similar cell in his office. A Toll-free number should also be notified for the assistance of Terror victim families, he said.

"Every possible assistance would be provided to terror victim families and culprits roaming free for many decades will be brought to justice," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Shri Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department Shri Shaleen Kabra; DGP Shri Nalin Prabhat; Special Director General (Coordination), PHQ, Shri S.J.M Gillani; Principal Secretary Home Shri Chandraker Bharti; Principal Secretary, Finance Shri Santosh D Vaidya; ADGP CID Shri Nitish Kumar, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO SASB Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari; IGP Kashmir, Shri VK Birdi; IGP Jammu Shri Bhim Sen Tuti; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Shri Vijay Bidhuri; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Shri Ramesh Kumar; MD & CEO J&K Bank, Shri Amitava Chatterjee; DIGs, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, and senior officials of Police and Civil Administration.

#### GST reshaped...

systems. It also expanded the taxpayer base and strengthened cooperative federalism.

PM Modi wrote on X: "By reducing the compliance burden, it (GST) has greatly improved the ease of doing business, particularly for small and medium enterprises. GST has also served as a powerful engine for economic growth, while fostering true cooperative federalism by making states equal partners in this journey to integrate India's market."

In 2024-25, gross GST collections hit a record Rs 22.08 lakh crore, marking a year-on-year growth of 9.4 per cent. This rise reflects the growing formalisation of the economy and improved tax compliance. KNO

#### Sgr records hottest...

the mean minimum that year was lower at 17.1°C, he informed.

"Interestingly, 2008 still holds the record for the highest mean minimum temperature in June at 18.3°C, slightly above this year's figure," Keng said.

Notably, an overall average temperature of 24.6°C – the same as this year – was also recorded in 1971 and 1973, placing 2025 on par with some of the hottest Junes in history.

Qazigund in June 2025 recorded a mean maximum of 30.3°C and a mean minimum of 16.1°C, taking the overall average temperature to 23.2°C – the highest since 1973.

"Back in 1973, the station had logged its hottest June on record with an average of 23.7°C, with slightly higher values – 30.4°C mean maximum and 16.9°C mean minimum," Keng said, adding that June average in 1978 was also 23.2°C, same as this year, though the mean maximum was slightly lower at 30.2°C and the minimum a bit higher at 16.2°C.

Qazigund's highest average minimum for June remains 17.3°C, recorded in 1971, when the overall mean temperature reached 23.3°C, he added.

Meanwhile, Srinagar was once again hotter than the Jammu region today with the mercury settling at 34.2°C while in Qazigund, a maximum temperature of 32.6°C was recorded today.

Pahalgam witnessed a maximum temperature of 30.0°C while Kupwara, Kokernag and Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, recorded 34.7°C, 32.4°C and 24.5°C respectively.

Jammu City, however, recorded below normal temperature at 29.0°C, which was 7.0°C below average temperature.

Banihal recorded a maximum temperature of 29.6°C while Batote, Katra and Bhaderwah recorded 27.5°C, 26.0°C and 31.8°C respectively.

Furthermore, the weatherman here has predicted hot & humid weather conditions with possibility of brief spell of rain and thundershower at scattered places till July 04.

However, Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that from July 5 to July 7, generally cloudy weather is expected with possibility of intermittent light to moderate rain and thundershower at many places. "Few places may receive intense showers with heavy rain at isolated places of Jammu division," he added.

From July 8 to July 10, he said there is a possibility of brief showers at scattered places.

Moreover, in its advisory, the MeT has said that flash floods are expected at few vulnerable places with landslides and mudslides & shooting stones as well during July 5 to July 7

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

#### Houseboat Association...

(LCMA), Srinagar Development Authority and other senior officials.

Representatives of the Houseboat owners association, Shikara owners union and Dal dwellers' community participated in the meeting and put forth their concerns and issues.

At the outset, MLA Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq gave a detailed briefing to the Chief Minister on the issues raised by the visiting deputation.

The president of the Houseboat owners association highlighted key concerns of the community, particularly the delay in the renewal of licences of houseboats. He also raised the matter of rehabilitation for houseboat owners currently located in River Jhelum and Chounti Khul, who are willing to relocate voluntarily to more sustainable locations. He further stressed the need for dedicated space at Srinagar Airport and Srinagar Railway Station to promote and market houseboats as a unique tourism asset and renovation of facilities at Chinar Bagh. The demand for setting up a dedicated fire station near Nigeen Lake, given the vulnerability of houseboats to fire accidents, was also reiterated.

Members of the Dal dwellers' community urged the administration to take up urgent repair and renovation work of the wooden culverts and bridges that are integral for community movement, especially ahead of the Muharram processions. They also flagged the need for improvement in basic amenities for the residents living in the interiors of the lake.

They also brought attention to the lack of a reliable mechanism for the transportation of essential ration to the interiors of the lake, affecting the daily lives of inhabitants.

Similarly, shikara owners demanded restoration and maintenance of ghats and jetties along the Dal Lake shoreline. The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the deputation and assured them that all genuine concerns would be examined and addressed on priority.

He emphasized that the government is committed to safeguarding the interests of those whose livelihood depends on the lake, while also ensuring sustainable preservation of this ecological treasure.

## YUVA CONNECT empowering youth for nation building under Viksit Bharat@2047 Vision

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JULY 1

In a major stride towards youth led national development, the YUVA CONNECT initiative under the Viksit Bharat@2047 mission has been launched to ignite civic awareness, leadership and active participation among India's young population.

Spearheaded by the Union Ministry for Youth Affairs and Sports, the initiative is being implemented across premier higher education institutions in Jammu and Kashmir. These included IIT Jammu, IIM Jammu, NIT Srinagar, Jammu University, SMVDU, AIIMS Vijaypur and various degree colleges.

The initiative was formally introduced during an informative session that outlined the implementation framework, with activities and timelines as per the Concept Note circulated by the Ministry.

The interactive virtual session was chaired by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Mansukh Mandaviya and was attended by Sports Ministers for different States/UTs of the country.

Speaking during the



interaction session, Minister for Youth Services and Sports, J&K, Satish Sharma, emphasized the pivotal role of youth in shaping a progressive nation. He said, "YUVA CONNECT is not just a program, it's a movement to empower our students with the tools of leadership, civic responsibility and innovation. As we march towards a developed India by 2047, our youth must be at the forefront, acting as torchbearers of social transformation and inclusive development."

The Minister highlighted the need for developing border sports and allied infrastructure in J&K, promoting economic upliftment and provide psychological relief to the residents living in tense border environments. He urged the Union Sports Ministry for prioritising the border

areas by providing special financial assistance/package in order to build a better Sports infrastructure and to create a conducive sports environment in these vulnerable areas.

"Our border areas are filled with untapped potential for tourism. Developing this sector, along with robust infrastructure, will not only generate local employment but also provide a sense of normalcy and dignity to families living under constant stress near the borders," the Minister asserted and requested the Union Ministry for its support in this connection.

During further interaction, Satish Sharma put forth suggestions for a mega plantation drive across the country during inauguration of the Yuva Connect programme, as an initiative for more greener India.

## Chief Secretary visits Yatri Niwas, reviews final arrangements for Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JULY 1

Ahead of commencement of the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra from July 3, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo today undertook a comprehensive visit to Yatri Niwas, Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu to take stock of the final arrangements being made by various departments for smooth and secure conduct of the pilgrimage.

Accompanied by the senior civil and police officers, the Chief Secretary inspected all key facilities at the Yatri Niwas, one of the pivotal base camps in Jammu for the devotees.

Those present during the visit included Divisional Commissioner Jammu; IGP, Jammu; IG, Traffic; Deputy Commissioner, Jammu; SSP Traffic (City); Commissioner, JMC; MD, JPDCI; Director, Information; Chief Engineers of Jal Shakti and PWD besides representatives from various security agencies and other concerned departments.

During his walkthrough of the facility, the Chief Secretary took a detailed



assessment of the arrangements ranging from accommodation, sanitation and power supply to security and registration counters. He asked for increasing the number of registration counters to ease the process for the incoming pilgrims and minimize waiting times.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed functioning of the dedicated control room set up to monitor yatra-related activities round-the-clock.

Highlighting the significance of seamless inter-departmental coordination, he later chaired a high-level meeting of officers. He stressed the importance of ensuring a glitch-free and safe

experience for the pilgrims during the entire 38-day yatra period. He expressed satisfaction over the meticulous efforts of all the departments. He expressed confidence that the arrangements would offer pilgrims a comfortable and spiritually enriching journey.

Dulloo remarked that every department has worked with utmost dedication to create a conducive environment for the pilgrims. He further observed that our goal is not only to ensure their safety and comfort but also to leave them with a memorable experience that they can carry home with joy.

He also directed the

Information Department to run a targeted communication campaign across the social and mass media platforms to provide real-time updates on weather, traffic and yatra advisories. The campaign will also help allay any doubts or apprehensions among the devotees and encourage confident participation in the sacred pilgrimage.

Earlier, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar briefed the Chief Secretary about the upgraded infrastructure and support services put in place this year. He informed that boarding, lodging, power, water supply, sanitation and fire safety services have been significantly enhanced compared to previous years.

IGP, Jammu, Bhim Sen Tuti, also gave a comprehensive overview of the multi-layered security grid and traffic management plan developed in coordination with other security forces. He assured that all necessary measures have been taken to ensure a safe, peaceful and well-regulated yatra this year as well.

## Reasi's Thakrakote climbs 407 places to secure 13th rank in NITI Aayog's Aspirational Blocks; DDC stresses sustained development

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
REASI, JULY 1

In a landmark achievement for Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district, Aspirational Block Thakrakote has made an extraordinary leap of 407 positions in NITI Aayog's Aspirational Blocks Ranking, climbing from rank 420 in December 2024 to rank 13 in March 2025. This remarkable improvement reflects the block's focused progress across five core development sectors identified by NITI Aayog: Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Allied Activities, Basic Infrastructure and Social Development.

The significant improvement is the result of continuous monitoring, field visits, and collaborative governance. Repeated review meetings, intensified monitoring and on-ground assessments of Thakrakote by the DC Nidhi Malik, have driven focused developmental action and improved grievance redressal mechanisms.

Among the notable successes, Thakrakote achieved 100% performance in crucial Health & Nutrition indicators such as ANC registration of pregnant women, provision of supplementary nutrition under the ICDS scheme and regular screening for



diabetes and hypertension. The district also ensured that 99% of Self-Help Groups received revolving funds under livelihood promotion initiatives. In the Agriculture sector, all targeted Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) were formed, every eligible farmer received soil health cards and PM-KISAN beneficiary coverage was fully linked with Aadhaar and land records. Under the basic infrastructure theme, the block reported a 16% rise in completion of housing units under PMAY-G.

To build on this success, DC Reasi Nidhi Malik chaired a high-level review meeting today with district officers to evaluate ongoing works and set a clear roadmap for pushing the block further up the rankings. Emphasis was placed on improving outcomes in Health, ICDS and Education sectors. The CMO was tasked with ensuring full functionality of all health institutions and improving the quality of health-

care services. The CEO was instructed to resolve teaching staff shortages, upgrade infrastructure, and raise the standard of education. The PO ICDS was directed to ensure timely and adequate supply of nutrition at all Anganwadi Centres.

The Deputy Commissioner also underlined the importance of accurate and real-time data reporting, directing all departments to regularly update progress on the development portal to enable better monitoring and planning. Looking ahead, a structured development framework for the financial year was proposed, focusing on improved service delivery, digital connectivity and efficient resource allocation to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Reasi Sukhdev Singh, CPO Narinder Kumar (virtually), CMO, CEO, DIO, CAHO, BDO and others.

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, JULY 1

With chants of "Bam Bam Bhole" and "Jai Baba Barfani" echoing in the air, the District Administration Kathua extended a heartfelt and vibrant welcome to the first batch of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatis at Lakhanpur—the traditional gateway to the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Lakhanpur, transformed into a dynamic and spiritually charged facilitation centre, witnessed an exuberant reception early this morning. The pilgrims were greeted with traditional warmth and devotion by DDC Chairman Col. (Retd) Mahan Singh, Deputy Commissioner Kathua Dr. Rakesh

Minhas, SSP Kathua Shobhit Sexena, Vice Chairman DDC Raghunandan Singh, MLA Kathua Dr. Bharat Bhushan, ADC Vishavjeet Singh (Yatra Nodal Officer) and senior civil and police officers.

To ensure smooth facilitation, 12 RFID counters were operational on-site for issuing RFID tags after eKYC verification, a mandatory step for registered yatis before continuing their onward journey. The arrangements saw enthusiastic cooperation and timely processing, reflecting the administration's commitment to efficiency and pilgrim-centric services.

Before departing from Lakhanpur at 12:30 PM, the yatis were immersed

in soul-stirring devotional performances—featuring Shiv Tandav stotras and bhajans—curated by artists from the District Information Centre Kathua. The spiritual ambiance energized the devotees, setting a powerful tone for their sacred journey ahead.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC welcomed the pilgrims with open arms, reaffirming the district's full preparedness to provide a safe, seamless and spiritually uplifting experience. He informed that dedicated helplines, service desks, medical aid points and sanitation facilities have been set up as part of a coordinated multi-agency Yatra support framework.

This year, Kathua Dis-

trict has gone the extra mile to turn the Lakhanpur Yatri Facilitation Centre into a symbol of hospitality, devotion, and administrative excellence, ensuring that every pilgrim receives not just logistical support, but also emotional and cultural enrichment.

Later, the Jatha was formally flagged off from Lakhanpur amidst chants of devotion and spirited farewells by the district officers, marking the symbolic commencement of this year's pilgrimage. The Jatha of yatis with proper security will now proceed to the Jammu Base Camp, where the formal commencement of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025 is scheduled for July 2.

## JKEDI trains 117 entrepreneurs, including 93 women under RAMP scheme



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JULY 1

The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) has successfully concluded a series of Management Development Programs (MDPs) across six districts under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme. The initiative is funded by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, and implemented in the Union Territory by the Industries and Commerce Department, J&K.

The training programs, which commenced on June 24, 2025, were held simultaneously in Doda, Jammu, Kulgam, Ramban, Srinagar, and Udhampur. A total of 117 aspiring and

existing entrepreneurs, including 93 women, participated in the six-day, 30-hour comprehensive training. The strong representation of women highlights a positive trend toward gender inclusivity in the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The MDPs focused on enhancing the managerial, financial, and strategic skills of participants, aiming to help them scale operations, boost competitiveness, and build sustainable enterprises. The curriculum, meticulously developed by subject matter experts, featured modules on business planning, marketing strategies, digital tools, financial literacy, legal compliance, innovation, and leadership.

To provide practical exposure, the programs also included field visits to successful business ventures, interactive sessions with sector specialists, and mentorship opportunities. Experts from District Industries Centres (DICs) and the Labour and Employment Department shared insights with participants, helping them align their ventures with current industry practices.

The MDPs were monitored by designated Range/Reviewing Officers, who regularly engaged with the trainees and gathered feedback to ensure quality and relevance of the training.

The successful completion of these programs reflects JKEDI's ongoing commitment to empowering local entrepreneurs through structured learning, capacity building, and direct exposure to market realities. This initiative aligns with the broader objectives of the RAMP scheme to strengthen the MSME ecosystem across the Union Territory.

## DHSJ visits village Dhar Sakri, Block Kandi following Gastroenteritis outbreak



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JULY 1

In response to the outbreak of gastroenteritis cases in village Dhar Sakri of Block Kandi, the Director Health Services Jammu, Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar conducted an on-ground visit to the affected area.

The Director was accompanied by State Surveillance Officer (SSO) Jammu Dr. Harjeet Rai and Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Rajouri Dr. Manohar Rana.

During the visit, the Director met the affected individuals and interacted with members of the local community. He took a

## Udhampur Admin conducts outreach camp under DAJGUA in Panchayat Krimachi

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, JULY 1

As part of the ongoing "Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan campaign, District Administration Udhampur today organised public outreach camp under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai here at Panchayat Krimachi.

GM DIC Udhampur Kishore Singh Katoch presided over the camp as chief guest, inspected stalls installed by wide array of departments, including Health, Rural Development, Agriculture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry etc, sensitized locals regarding various flagship gov. schemes for the welfare of tribals, motivated them to reap benefits under the schemes.

He also listened to scores of public grievances and assures for prompt redressal of public grievances and emphasizes that the aim of outreach camp is to ensure last-mile delivery of essential government services and the saturation of welfare schemes across tribal areas through focused & coordinated outreach.

To facilitate digital inclusion, a Common service Centre was also set up enabling residents to make enrolments, necessary corrections and updates in Aadhar Cards and other important documents.

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.

## Ayush Shopian organises free medical/awareness camp at Turkwangam

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SHOPIAN, JULY 01

Free medical and awareness camp was organized today by AHWC Turkwangam, AHWC Wachi and AHWC Dachoo at village

Mugalpora Turkwangam Shopian.

The aim of the camp was to provide free consultation, with free medicine at the doorstep of the inhabitants of the area.

During the camp, 145 patients were screened and given free medicines.

Free awareness about disease prevention and health promotion was also given to the patients.

## EDITORIAL

## Tactical rebranding in Kashmir?

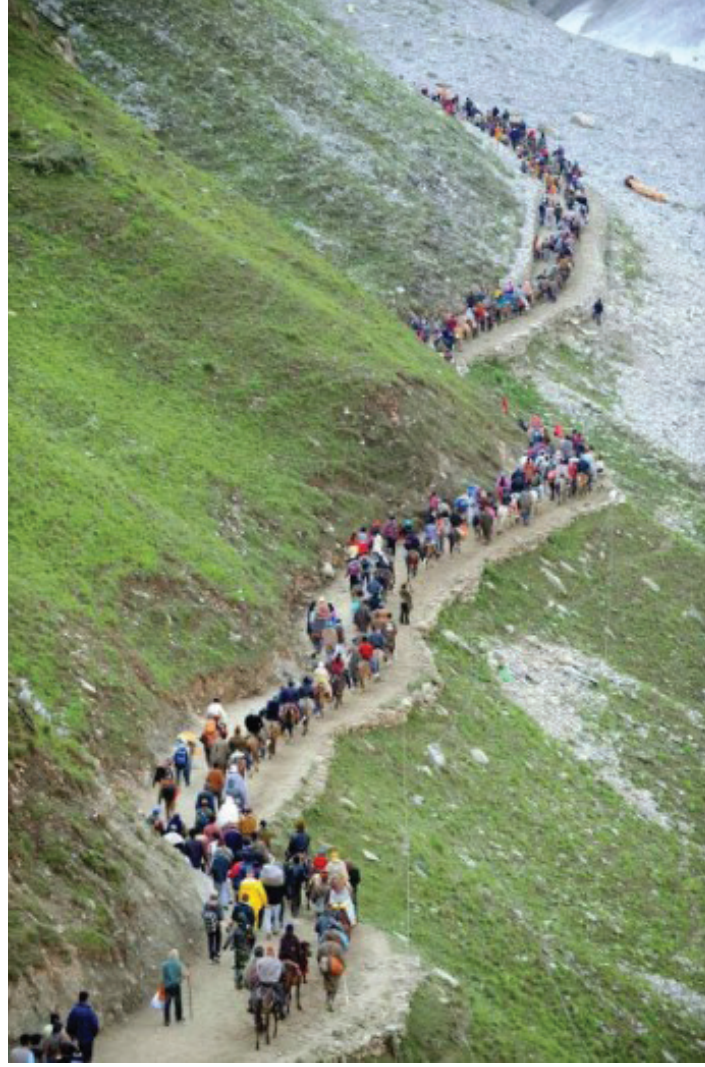
The political landscape in Jammu and Kashmir has once again shifted gears – and this time, the tremors are unmistakable. With the formation of the People's Alliance for Change (PAC), spearheaded by Sajad Lone's Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference (JKPC), Hakim Yasin's Peoples Democratic Front (PDF), and the Jamaat-e-Islami-backed Justice and Development Front (JDF), a new front is attempting to reframe the political narrative of the Valley. However, within minutes of its announcement, the National Conference (NC) – arguably the most dominant regional force in the current political arrangement – dismissed the alliance as a "BJP proxy," triggering a war of words that is already reshaping political fault lines. The sharp response by NC, calling PAC "Party B Pro Max" and mocking it as a repackaged "B-Team," points not just to ideological disagreements but to the rising unease within the mainstream over any emerging challenge to its dominance. While the National Conference sees the alliance as opportunistic and electorally irrelevant – especially after JKPC and JDF's dismal showing in the 2024 elections – the very need to issue a frontal attack reflects PAC's potential to stir the political pot. On the surface, the alliance proclaims unity in diversity, vowing to work for the restoration of Article 370, Article 35A, and full statehood – echoing sentiments that resonate deeply with many in the Valley. Their "Declaration for Change" promises justice, accountability, and dignity. But can this promise, coming from parties that failed to secure significant public support just weeks ago, carry weight? Or is it merely a tactical realignment to remain politically afloat? It is being seen as this is less a movement of the people and more a resurrection of sidelined actors who share a history of fluctuating allegiances. The inclusion of JDF, with its Jamaat-e-Islami roots, further polarizes opinion – particularly at a time when the politics of identity and security are deeply intertwined. Nonetheless, the PAC's decision to raise the controversial issue of regional imbalance in reservations – alleging systematic discrimination against Kashmir in government recruitments – sets it apart from traditional parties that have mostly tiptoed around the subject. Whether this position is rooted in genuine grievance or is a calculated attempt to gain traction among disillusioned youth remains to be seen. Importantly, the alliance's success will not be determined by social media spats or press conferences. It will depend on its ability to build public trust, forge grassroots connections, and articulate a clear, consistent agenda that transcends the rhetoric of victimhood and grievance. What we are witnessing is more than just the birth of a new political front. It is a reflection of the churn in Kashmir's political consciousness post-August 2019 – where traditional loyalties are fraying, and new formations are being tested. In this volatile yet fertile political terrain, PAC could either emerge as a serious player filling the void between mainstream parties and radical voices – or fade away as just another footnote in Kashmir's turbulent democratic journey. Only time – and the people's mandate – will decide whether this political turnaround is real or merely cosmetic.

## FAITH IN THE HIMALAYAS: THE AMARNATH YATRA PILGRIMAGE

VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

The Amarnath Ji Yatra is a significant Hindu pilgrimage to the Amarnath Temple in Jammu and Kashmir. For 2025, the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board (SASB) has announced that the Yatra will take place from July 3 to August 9, 2025. The Amarnath Ji Yatra is a test of faith, endurance, and devotion. It is more than a trek and a religious journey that tests your faith, your health, and your patience. The Amarnath Ji Yatra is considered a sacred journey, offering devotees an opportunity for spiritual growth, self-reflection, and connection with the divine. Every year 'Amarnath Ji Yatra' is marked by 'Pratham Pujan' which is said to summon the blessings of Baba Amarnath and attracts a large number of devotees from all over the world. The Amarnath Ji Yatra is a revered pilgrimage that showcases the devotion and resilience of millions of pilgrims.

Every year, thousands of pilgrims from every corner of the nation travel to the holy cave of Amarnath Ji in Jammu and Kashmir. The cave is located at over 12,700 feet above sea level and contains a naturally formed ice Shivaling said to represent Lord Shiva. The cave, located in Sind Valley, is surrounded by glaciers, snowy mountains



and is covered with snow most of the year, except for a short period in the summer, when it is open to pilgrims. This cave is famous for its ice formation, with the main lingam represent-

ing Lord Shiva and two smaller ones representing Parvati and Ganesha. As per the beliefs, the Amarnath Ji Cave is where God Shiva was narrating Amar Katha to Goddess Parvati and wanted to keep it a secret. Therefore, he left all his companions behind. His riding friend - Nandi, the bull - was left at Pahalgam, the moon atop his head at Chandanwari, the snake around his neck at Lake Sheshnag, the 5 basic essentials of life that he carried at Panchtarini and even his son Lord Ganesha himself at Mahaguna to p.

The 38-day annual pilgrimage is scheduled to start from the twin routes – the traditional 48-km Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district – leading to the 3,880-metre-high Amarnath cave shrine. The decision to shorten the pilgrimage period was made before the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 people, mostly tourists, and is unrelated to any immediate security threat. Security arrangements for the Amarnath Ji Yatra are comprehensive and multi-layered. Despite recent incidents, including a terror attack near Pahalgam, pilgrims stood firm in their resolve to undertake the sacred journey.

It is nice that security forces have carried out an extensive joint mock drill along the Jam-

mu-Srinagar National Highway, as part of final preparations ahead of the annual Yatra. Over 180 companies of paramilitary forces have been deployed in the Jammu region, and CCTV surveillance has been increased at multiple points along the yatra route. Jammu police has also set up several checkpoints across the city to bolster security arrangements and carry out daily anti-sabotage checks ahead of the Amarnath Ji Yatra.

The Amarnath Ji yatra is an important part of Indian cultural heritage, showcasing the country's rich spiritual traditions and diversity. The journey offers an opportunity for personal growth, self-reflection, and spiritual rejuvenation, attracting millions of devotees each year. Best possible facilities are made available for the devotees with the efforts of the Indian Army, Central Government and State Government Police Forces along with NGOs and government provided services. To ensure a safe and successful yatra, pilgrims must ensure to adhere to security guidelines, including prescribed cut-off timings and restricted areas and stay away from isolated areas and avoid taking alternative routes suggested by drivers or local transporters.

Vinod Chandrashekhara Dixit is a Free-Lance Journalist, Writer & Cartoonist

## ZERO DOSE CHILDREN: A PICTURE OF INDIA LEFT BEHIND IN VACCINATION

DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

In a country like India with a huge population, universal vaccination is not just a health campaign but an important step towards social justice. But when we see that millions of children are still in a 'zero dose' situation, that is, they did not get a single vaccine after birth, it is natural to ask where are we missing? Is our health policy based only on statistics or is it actually benefiting the most deprived sections of society?

According to a Lancet (2024) report, in 2023, there were 1.44 million children in India who did not receive any vaccine. This number is not just a statistic but the untold suffering of families whose children were denied health services. The highest number of zero dose children is seen in states where there is a strong combination of poverty, illiteracy, ethnic or religious marginalization and administrative apathy. States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra are prime examples of this, where socio-economic disparities limit access to vaccination.

Poverty and maternal education level are among the biggest factors hindering vaccination. For a daily wage laborer, who works from morning to evening in the struggle for livelihood, taking the child to a government hospital becomes a 'losing' decision. If the wages are not earned that day, then the stomach is not filled. In such a situation, access to health facilities becomes a luxury. Along with this, if the mother is uneducated, then she is not fully aware of the need, process and benefits of vaccination. This lack of information deprives children of the right to health.



Another important aspect is the situation of tribal, Muslim and migrant communities. Vaccination rates within these communities are extremely low, and mistrust, cultural apprehensions, and suspicion of the government run deep. Religious misconceptions and rumours, especially in Muslim-dominated areas, lead to perceptions of vaccination as 'haram' or a conspiracy against the body. Misinformation spread during Covid-19 also reinforced this mistrust. People saw no clear communication at vaccination camps, only government pressure. This further increased fear among them.

Talking about urban slums and remote areas, the condition of health services there is even more pathetic. In the states of Northeast India like Nagaland, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh, difficult geography, limited health workers and lack of infrastructure are the biggest obstacles to the success of the vaccination program. In these areas, neither the vaccine reaches on time, nor the trained personnel, nor are there frontline workers to provide information to the mothers.

Now let's talk about governance and program failures. Mission Indradhanush was an ambitious scheme, which aimed to achieve 90% full vaccination coverage. But according to the National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21), this figure could reach only 76%. In many districts it is even less. The reasons behind this are - administrative apathy, shortage of health workers, and failure of monitoring at the ground level. The division of health responsibilities in urban areas is so entangled between the state government, municipal corporation and other institutions that accountability is nowhere to be seen. There is no clear determination of who will take the responsibility of vaccination in a slum.

Also, the lack of monitoring mechanisms is a big problem. We do have systems like the Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) that do the logistical tracking of vaccines, but this system does not ensure follow-up at the child level. It is not known which child took which vaccine and which one was missed. The Covid-19 pandemic shook this entire system. When all resources were diverted

to Covid vaccination, programmes like routine immunisation went into the background, due to which the vaccination of lakhs of children stopped.

These problems cannot be solved by mere announcements or technical fixes. This requires policy changes that are based on the values of social justice. First of all, vaccination plans will have to be run under community-specific and area-specific strategies. Under Mission Indradhanush 5.0, micro planning and social behavior change communication (SBCC) will have to be given priority in high-burden districts. Just delivering the vaccine is not enough, trust and participation will have to be created among the people.

For this, our grassroots health workers - like ASHA, ANM and Anganwadi workers - will have to be empowered. They should not only be provided training and mobility, but also be given respectable incentives. Only when health workers work with confidence in their area, will families trust them. Along with this, the National Urban Health Mission will have to be implemented strongly, so that millions of children

living in slums also get the facility of regular vaccination.

The use of technology is meaningful only when it is in public interest and reaches the last person. Vaccination records linked to Aadhaar, mobile-based vaccination vans, and artificial intelligence (AI)-based dashboards all need to be implemented so that every child has a digital record and missed children can be identified immediately. But a human touch is necessary along with technology. Vaccination is not just an injection, it is a relationship of trust - this needs to be understood.

The importance of community participation has increased even more today. Self-help groups, religious leaders, teachers and social workers will have to be included in the campaign so that the message reaches every household that vaccination is a right of children, not an unnecessary risk. Countries like Bangladesh have proved that if vaccination is done door-to-door, both reach and acceptance increase. In an African country like Rwanda, mobile health clinics have given miraculous results in remote areas. India will

have to take inspiration from them and create its own model.

The government should not focus only on achieving the target, but it should also see who is being left out and why. Policies should be made keeping the socially excluded sections in mind. Otherwise, we will keep bringing new schemes every year, keep showing an increase in the figures, and the childhood of millions of children of the country will continue to grow up without protection and at risk.

India's universal immunization goal will only be realised if there is integrity at all three levels of policy, intention and execution. The biggest measure of the progress of any society is its health status, and the health of children is paramount in that. If we are not able to ensure that every child gets his or her first vaccine on time, we must ask ourselves - are we really building an equitable and inclusive nation?

In short, India should not leave the problem of zero dose children as the concern of the Ministry of Health. It is a national challenge in which all departments, communities and citizens have a role to play. It is not just a matter of children's health, but also a question of the future of the country's future generations. If we all together can make vaccination not just a government responsibility but a social movement - then perhaps in the years to come, the dream of 'zero deprivation' instead of 'zero dose' will be realised. This dream is the foundation of a true democracy and social justice.

(This article critiques social and governance failures centered on vaccination policy in India and highlights possibilities for improvement.)

## Imported seafood increasing resistance to colistin, a potent antibiotic: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK

A team of US researchers on Sunday said it has identified a way that colistin (a potent, last-resort antibiotic) resistance genes are spreading via imported seafood.

Colistin is used only to treat people with dangerous, life-threatening bacterial infections that have developed resistance to other drugs. But it's not foolproof.

Worldwide, resistance to colistin is spreading, further diminishing treatment options and putting infected people at higher risk.

Researchers from the University of Georgia recently identified a way that colistin resistance genes are spreading.

In a new study, microbiologist Issmat Kassem, and his group have reported the first isolation of colistin-resistance



genes in bacteria found in imported shrimp and scallops, purchased from 8 food markets around Atlanta.

"Many people don't know that most seafood consumed in the U.S. is imported, Kassem said, including about 90 per cent of shrimp.

Imported seafood is screened for contaminants but the process doesn't catch everything, especially antimicrobial resistance genes.

"The bacteria that were carrying colistin resistance genes are not normally

screened."

Kassem and his group also found that some of the resistance genes are carried on plasmids – round bits of genetic material that can be transmitted from bacteria to bacteria.

Antimicrobial resistant infections kill hundreds of thousands of people globally every year, and antimicrobial resistance is a rising public health menace.

Colistin was first introduced in the 1950s to treat infections by pathogenic Gram-negative bac-

teria, but it takes a heavy toll on patients, including increased risk of damage to the nerves and kidneys.

It was discontinued in the U.S. in the 1980s. However, Kassem noted, other countries continued to use it in agricultural settings, both to treat infections and to promote animal growth.

Colistin was eventually reintroduced to human medicine because it was one of the few options available to treat certain bacterial infections. The World Health Organization categorises colistin as a high priority critically important antibiotic, which means it is an essential option for treating serious human infections.

Researchers cautioned that the group identified 1 source of colistin resistance, but there could be other, and they're likely spreading.

## India's herbal and ayurvedic OTC market set to outpace global growth: Report

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

India's herbal and ayurvedic OTC (over the counter) market is expected to grow at a CAGR of 6.5 per cent, from \$69 million in 2025 to \$118 million by the end of 2033, outpacing global trends, a report showed on Monday.

However, challenges persist as 40 per cent of new launches in 2024 faced regulatory hurdles, only 20 per cent of products have clinical validation, and quality concerns affect up to 30 per cent of offerings, limiting their credibility and adoption for clinical illness, the report mentioned.

The herbal and ayurvedic OTC industry is reported to be growing at an unprecedented rate. According to latest research, it has made a robust entry in more than 70 per cent of Indian households.

This insight comes from



the latest industry analysis by MediQ, the Healthcare Intelligence research wing of ILattice, which highlights a fundamental shift in consumer behaviour, with a strong shift in preference for natural, chemical-free wellness products across all age groups.

The study reveals that the driving factor behind

the rapid growth is due to the widespread consumption of popular categories, such as Chyawanprash, Ashwagandha supplements, Ayurvedic personal care, functional food, and youth-targeted products -- like gummies and efferescent tablets.

The study also reveals that over 40 per cent of

the new adopters are millennials and Gen Z, signalling a generational shift for traditional wellness, but in modern formats.

According to the report, digital adoption is accelerating the market's expansion, with over 10 per cent of urban OTC sales are now online, and 35 per cent of new products offer tech-driven personalisation.

Meanwhile, nearly 60 per cent of urban consumers actively seek clean-label and organic-certified products, indicating growing awareness and scrutiny amongst the Indian consumers.

The sector is also seeing a strong wave of innovation, with R&D investments up by 45 per cent in 2023.

Globally, the herbal and ayurvedic OTC market is forecasted to grow from \$145 billion in 2025 to \$230 billion by 2033, reflecting increased focus on preventive and holistic wellness.

## Recycled plastics can harm hormone systems, metabolism: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

A new study on Monday warned that a single pellet of recycled plastic can contain over 80 different chemicals, adding that recycled polyethylene plastic can leach chemicals into water causing impacts in the hormone systems and lipid metabolism.

The plastic pollution crisis has reached global levels, threatening both planetary and human health, and recycling is proposed as one of the solutions to the plastics pollution crisis.

However, as plastics contain thousands of chemical additives and other substances that can be toxic, and these are almost never declared, hazardous chemicals can indiscriminately end up in recycled products, said researchers from University of Gothenburg and



Leipzig.

In a new study published in Journal of Hazardous Materials, researchers bought plastic pellets recycled from polyethylene plastic from different parts of the world and let the pellets soak in water for 48 hours.

After which zebrafish larvae were exposed to the water for five days. The experimental results show increases in gene expression relating to lipid metabolism, adipogenesis, and endocrine regulation in the larvae.

"These short leaching times and exposure times are yet another indicator of the risks that chemicals

in plastics pose to living organisms. The impacts that we measured show that these exposures have the potential to change the physiology and health of the fish," said Azora Konig Kardgar, lead author and researcher in ecotoxicology at the University of Gothenburg.

Previous research has shown similar effects to humans, including threats to reproductive health and obesity, from exposure to toxic chemicals in plastics.

Some chemicals used as additives in plastics and substances that contaminate plastics are known to disturb hormones, with potential impacts on fer-

tility, child development, links to certain cancers, and metabolic disorders including obesity and diabetes.

"This is the main obstacle with the idea of recycling plastic. We never have full knowledge of what chemicals will end up in an item made of recycled plastic. And there is also a significant risk of chemical mixing events occurring, which render the recycled plastic toxic," said Bethanie Carney Almeroth, professor at the University of Gothenburg and principal investigator on the project.

Representatives from the nations of the world are preparing to head to Geneva, Switzerland, in August, for what is planned to be the final negotiating meeting for a Global Plastics Treaty at the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee under the United Nations Environmental Program.

## Researchers turn toxic fungus into potent anti-cancer compound

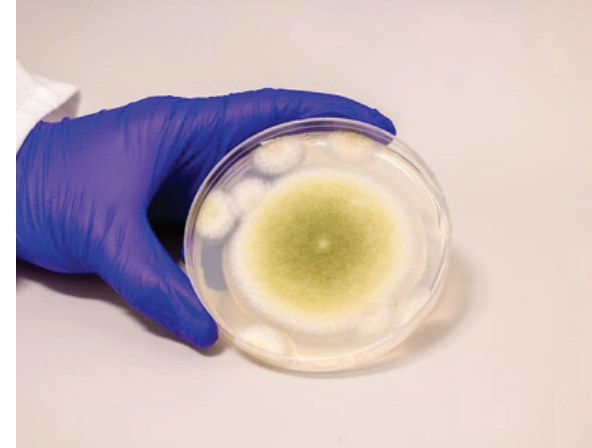
AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

A team of US researchers has turned a deadly fungus into a potent cancer-fighting compound, according to a new study released on Monday.

After isolating a new class of molecules from *Aspergillus flavus* -- a toxic crop fungus linked to deaths in the excavations of ancient tombs -- the researchers modified the chemicals and tested them against leukemia cells.

The result was a promising cancer-killing compound that rivals FDA-approved drugs and opens up new frontiers in the discovery of more fungal medicines, according to the study by University of Pennsylvania's School of Engineering and Applied Science.

"Fungi gave us penicillin. These results show that many more medicines derived from natural products remain to be found,"



said Sherry Gao, Presidential Penn Compact Associate Professor in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering (CBE) and senior author of a new paper in Nature Chemical Biology journal.

The therapy in question is a class of ribosomally synthesized and post-translationally modified peptides, or RiPPs, pronounced like the "rip" in a piece of fabric.

The name refers to how the compound is pro-

duced -- by the ribosome, a tiny cellular structure that makes proteins -- and the fact that it is modified later, in this case, to enhance its cancer-killing properties.

"Purifying these chemicals is difficult," says Qiuyue Nie, a postdoctoral fellow in CBE and the paper's first author.

While thousands of RiPPs have been identified in bacteria, only a handful have been found in fungi. In part, this is

because past researchers misidentified fungal RiPPs as non-ribosomal peptides and had little understanding of how fungi created the molecules.

"The synthesis of these compounds is complicated," adds Nie. "But that's also what gives them this remarkable bioactivity."

To find more fungal RiPPs, the researchers first scanned a dozen strains of *Aspergillus*, which previous research suggested might contain more of the chemicals.

By comparing chemicals produced by these strains with known RiPP building blocks, the researchers identified *A. flavus* as a promising candidate for further study.

Genetic analysis pointed to a particular protein in *A. flavus* as a source of fungal RiPPs. When the researchers turned the genes that create that protein off, the chemical markers indicating the presence of RiPPs also disappeared.

## Honey from native stingless bee may help tackle antibiotic resistance

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Australian researchers have found that honey made by native stingless bees possesses distinctive antimicrobial qualities, offering new hope in the fight against the worldwide threat of antibiotic resistance.

Known locally as "sugarbag" honey, honey from three species, such as *Austroplebeia australis*, demonstrates remarkable antimicrobial activity, Xinhua news agency reported.

Researchers from the University of Sydney noted that the antimicrobial activity remains intact even after undergoing heat treatment and long-term storage -- a trait that could benefit commercial applications.

This resilience sets it apart from honey produced by European honeybees, whose antimicrobial effects often rely on hydrogen peroxide and can diminish over time or



with heat.

The study found that stingless bee honey's antimicrobial power relies on both peroxide and non-peroxide mechanisms, remaining effective even without hydrogen peroxide -- unlike manuka honey, whose potency depends mainly on certain

plants. The study's lead author, Kenya Fernandes at the University of Sydney, said the honey's consistent antimicrobial effects across locations suggest the bees themselves, not just the plants, play a key role.

"Antimicrobial activ-

ity is consistent across all sugarbag samples tested, unlike honeybee honey which can vary significantly based on seasonal changes and floral sources," said co-author Dee Carter, Professor at the University of Sydney.

Traditionally used by indigenous Australians for food and healing, sugarbag honey is now seen as a promising natural alternative to synthetic antibiotics, said the study detailed in Applied and Environmental Microbiology, published by the American Society for Microbiology.

Although each stingless beehive produces only half a litre of honey per year, their low maintenance could enable larger-scale production.

With regulatory approval, this honey can now access high-value markets, and ongoing research into its antimicrobial properties offers new promise against antibiotic resistance, researchers said.

## Newborn screening programme for sickle cell reduced death rate to below 5 pc: ICMR-CRMCH

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Newborn screening programme for sickle cell disease (SCD), undertaken between 2019-2024, reduced mortality risk to below 5 per cent from the earlier 20 to 30 per cent, said Dr. Manisha Madkaikar, Director of ICMR-Centre for Research Management and Control of Haemoglobinopathies (CRHCM) in Nagpur.

Speaking to media, Madkaikar explained how the Newborn Screening Programme 2019-2024 found that an early diagnosis can significantly boost the outcomes of the chronic, single-gene disorder.

SCD is a chronic, single-gene disorder that causes a debilitating systemic syndrome characterised by chronic anaemia, acute painful episodes, organ infarction, and chronic organ damage, significantly reducing life expectancy.

The genetic blood dis-



order affects the entire life of the patient, as it leads to various severe health complications.

"Newborn screening programme is recommended for sickle cell disease because as early you diagnose the sickle cell disease, you can initiate comprehensive care in the form of penicillin prophylaxis, some vitamins, appropriate vaccination, and then hydroxyurea therapy," Madkaikar said.

"Our newborn screening has shown that comprehensive care could be given early to patients, it has significantly brought down the mortality which was earlier mortality rate was reported to be around 20 to 30 per cent, this has

brought down the mortality risk less than 5 per cent," she added.

In a study, conducted by the ICMR-National Institute of Immunohaematology (NIH) in Mumbai, about 63,536 newborns were tested for a period of five years.

Of the total newborns tested, 57 per cent belonged to tribal parents, while 43 per cent were from non-tribals.

The yet-to-be-published study identified 546 cases of sickle cell disease.

The study was led across seven centres in high prevalence areas of India, namely Udaipur (Rajasthan), Bharuch (Gujarat), Palghar, Chandrapur and Ghadchiroli

(Maharashtra), Mandla and Dhindori (Madhya Pradesh), Nabrangpur and Kandhamal (Odisha), and the Nilgiris (Tamil Nadu).

Centres in Gujarat reported the highest number of SCD cases (134), followed by Maharashtra (127), Odisha (126). Other centres with SCD cases include Madhya Pradesh (97), Rajasthan (41), and Tamil Nadu (21). Mortality due to SCD was identified in 22 cases (4.15 per cent), revealed the study.

"The study showed that early intervention definitely helps, it also helps in cascade screening as you identify one baby with the sickle cell disease, you counsel the family, you test the family members, and it helps in further diagnosis of existing patients as well as prevention of further birth of the disease. So, newborn screening activity must be done for all the newborns in sickle cell prevalent areas," Madkaikar said.

## Samba Administration intensifies Anti-Narcotics campaign in NCORD meeting



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
SAMBA, JULY 1

In a determined stride towards eradicating the scourge of drug abuse, Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma chaired the monthly Narcotics Coordination (NCORD) meeting at the DC Office, Samba.

The meeting, attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Gurbpreet Singh district and sectoral officers, reflected the administration's unwavering resolve to adopt a comprehensive, interdepartmental approach to dismantle the drug menace plaguing the region.

DC Sharma emphasized that a synergized and sustained campaign is the only way to neutralize the intricate networks that sustain

drug trafficking. He stressed the importance of ensuring that every stakeholder contributes actively, stating that the war against narcotics demands not only enforcement but also education, engagement and empathy.

He directed that all resolutions adopted in the meeting must be executed in letter and spirit, with zero tolerance for laxity.

Discussions revolved around bolstering surveillance mechanisms, particularly in vulnerable zones, and ensuring rigorous regulatory control over the sale of syringes and restricted pharmaceutical substances. The Health and Drug Control Departments were instructed to carry out regular inspections and penalize violations without delay.

Police authorities presented a detailed account

of recent crackdowns and shared plans for scaling up operations to target hotspots of drug peddling.

The DC placed strong emphasis on community outreach as a preventive tool, calling upon departments to scale up awareness campaigns, especially among students, daily wagers and at-risk youth.

He urged officials to collaborate with educational institutions, NGOs, and local influencers to design engaging sports, cultural and counselling programs that promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

Contributions from law enforcement agencies and representatives from the higher education sector provided critical insight, enriching the district's roadmap for a more targeted and impactful campaign.

## DC Poonch chairs NCORD meeting; reviews anti-drug measures in district



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, JULY 1

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting of the District-Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to review the ongoing anti-drug measures and assess the performance of enforcement departments in curbing the drug menace in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a comprehensive review of the anti-narcotic activities, including the destruction of cannabis and the progress of the Nasha Mukh Panchayat initiative across tehsils.

Tehsildars presented detailed reports on the ongoing efforts and were instructed to regularly monitor computerized billing in chemist shops.

The District Social Welfare Officer informed the

meeting that awareness campaigns under the Nasha Mukh Abhiyan are being held regularly with active public participation.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the inclusion of police, Army and CRPF personnel in these awareness drives to ensure a more impactful outreach.

Heads of colleges and schools shared updates on awareness activities and preventive initiatives conducted in educational institutions.

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) provided updates on the counseling services, medical support and sensitization efforts being undertaken by the health department.

The DFO and Tehsildars were directed to take immediate action for the destruction of cannabis in identified areas. Additionally, the ACR Poonch was asked to organize a Nasha Mukh awareness

camp at Degree College Mandi.

The Deputy Commissioner underscored the importance of coordinated efforts among departments to achieve the goal of making Poonch a drug-free district.

He called for increased surveillance in hotspot areas, installation of CCTV cameras, enhanced enforcement presence and sustained awareness drives.

The SSP stressed the need for seamless inter-departmental coordination and urged for swift action against any drug-related activity reported in the district.

The meeting was attended by SSP Poonch, ADC Poonch, DFO, ACR, DSWO, CMO, Professors from Degree Colleges, Drugs Inspector, Tehsildars and other concerned officers where SDMs from Surankote and Mendhar joined the meeting virtually.

## Legal Metrology Deptt imposes Rs 2 lakh penalty for short delivery

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JULY 1

Acting swiftly on the direction of Controller Legal Metrology, Rajinder Singh Tara, Legal Metrology Enforcement, Jammu, has imposed a penalty of Rs. 2 lakh on a firm for supplying and marketing retail packages of wheat flour (Atta) with average lesser net quantity of 160g in each 10 kg bag.

The department has taken this action following a complaint alleging that a particular pre-packaged commodity sold in the market was lesser than the declared net quality.

On the basis of the complaint, the matter was swiftly investigated

by the department and upon quantity measurement testing, it was established that net content of pre-packaged bags sold in the market was 160g lesser in net quantity on an average basis against the declared net quantity of 10kg. This was a serious infringement of consumer right and volatile of some of provisions of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 and the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011. By supplying lesser than declared net quantity, the firm not only breached the customer trust but also violated the legal provisions of laws.

In view of this, the Legal Metrology Enforcement Unit, Jammu, under the overall supervision of

the Controller, has registered this case against the concerned firm and issued a notice to the defaulter.

On receiving the notice of the department, the concerned defaulting supplier firm admitted violations and applied for departmental compounding which a legal remedy under the Act for first such offence within three years. The case against the firm was compounded and a penal sum of Rs. 2,00,000/- was realised on assurance from the firm for immediate compliance of net content correction of stocks as mandated under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 and Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011.

## MLA Ramban lays foundation stone of Kilasari to Dayargali Road via Dugga

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, JULY 1

Taking a major step towards strengthening rural connectivity, the Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Ramban, Advocate Arjun Singh Raju today laid the foundation stone for the construction of the Kilasari to Dayargali road via Dugga.

The 5-km road project is being executed by the Public Works Department (PWD) R&B Ramban under the NAMARD RIDF-



XXVII scheme. The project, sanctioned for the year 2022-23, carries an estimated cost of Rs 499.50 lakh, with an allotment of Rs 311.92 lakh.

The project is expected

to benefit a population of over 2,000, providing a vital boost to connectivity, easing transportation challenges and contributing to the socio-economic upliftment of the region.

## Power Shutdown

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JULY 1

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL, in order to carry out evacuation of power for GIS Harwan, shutdown of 33KV Burzhama Tap line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Burzhama shall remain off while power supply to Danihama, Khimber, Chaterhama, Tailbal, Burzhama, Gassu, Shoperbagh, Rahbagh, Batpora will be affected from 08:00 AM to 01:00 PM on 2, 5 & 7 July, 2025.

To facilitate works related to maintenance and stabilization of the 33 KV lines, shutdown of 33KV Pampore-Badamibagh Trunk line shall be observed due to which

33/11KV Receiving Stations at Sonwar, Badamibagh, Panthachowk, Lasjan, Flour Mills, Govt. Press, GB Panth Hospital and WSS Tangnar shall remain off while power supply to Sonwar, Indra Nagar, Batwara, Shivpora, Badamibagh, Lasjan, WSS Tangnar and adjoining areas will be affected from 08:00 AM to 01:00 PM on 2 July, 2025.

Also, shutdown of 33KV Khonmoh SIDCO-3rd line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Cement Plants (Khyber Saifco/ TCI Max) shall remain off while power supply to Cement Plants (Khyber SAIFCO/ TCI Max) and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 06 July, 2025.

## Food Safety Anantnag bans sale of 04 nutraceuticals/ health supplements

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
ANANTNAG, JULY 1

In significant step aimed at safeguarding the health of consumers, Food Safety Anantnag has put an immediate ban on sale of four nutraceuticals/health supplements including, Lycobax, Zymerio B+, BECOSIP-EZ and Festzyme Plus after their samples were found to be of unsafe quality.

In an official handout issued here, it has been informed that the Assistant Commissioner/Designated Officer Food Safety Anantnag has immediately prohibited the sale of the four nutraceuticals/health supplements namely 'Lycobax' (Batch No. FL241206; Manufactured by Indo Rama Healthcare Pvt. Ltd. (Yamunanagar, Haryana) and marketed by Solace Biotech Limited (Ambala, Haryana), ); 'Zymerio B+' (B. No. 3028; Manufactured by M/S: Exotic

Healthcare Mohali, (Pb) Marketed by M/S: Riomedica Healthcare Pvt. Ltd. 654 Ambala Cantt. Haryana); 'BECOSIP-EZ' (B. No. PL2415 Manufactured by M/S: Phaedrus Life Science Pvt. Ltd., 3012, Phase-IV, G.I.D.C., Vatva, Gujarat (India) and 'Festzyme Plus' (B.No. EHL-1928; Mfd by M/S: Exotic Healthcare, Mohali, Punjab and Marketed by M/S: Estocott Pharma Pvt. Ltd., Sirmour -173030 (HP) in the district.

The samples of these health supplements were procured by the Food Safety Officers of the district Anantnag and were found to be of unsafe quality by the National Food Laboratory in Ghaziabad on account of the saccharine levels exceeding the prescribed limits.

Meanwhile, consumers are urged to refrain from purchasing the health supplements under question till further orders.

## DHSJ celebrates National Doctors Day



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JULY 1

Directorate of Health Services Jammu today celebrated National Doctors Day with this year's theme: "Behind the Mask: Who Heals the Healers?" - a reflection on the mental and emotional challenges faced by healthcare workers. The theme calls on society to recognize not just the doctors' efforts but also their humanity and need for support.

Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar and doctors from Directorate and adjoining offices participated in the event. Some heartfelt quotes by Officials from Directorate about their respective officers were presented during the event.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, the Director said that every day, doctors prioritize the lives of others often neglecting their own well-being. He congratulated all present on the occasion and said that the day is both a celebration and a call for action to build a system where doctors are not just revered as caregivers but also protected, respected and cared for in return.

DD Dentistry Dr. Sanjay Sharma congratulated all on this occasion and gave few tips on how to remain fit. Chief Medical Officer Jammu Dr. Harbaksh Singh highlighted the emotional, mental and physical challenges doctors face in their daily life.

The event organized by AD HEB Dr. Simmi Verma, Dr. Mridula Singh and team HEB was highly appreciated by all.

### Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir

#### Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospital Division Udhampur

(E-mail- xenmdudh@gmail.com)

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) e-tenders are invited in two cover system, from reputed and registered firms for the job mentioned below:-

S.No.	Description of work	N.I.T No	Estimated/ Approved Cost (in Lacs)	Earnest Money/ Performance Security	Cost of tender documents	Time of completion	Eligibility Criteria of Bidder	Tender Receiving Authority
01	Design, Fabrication, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 10 No. Passengers Lift (G+2) (old building) at Associated Hospital GMC, Udhampur.	e-NIT No: MHDU/TS/15 of 2025-26 Dated: 30-06-2025 Due on: 15-07-2025	28.24 (Lacs)	Earnest Money 2% of estimated amount, amounting to Rs. 56480/- only shall be submitted by all Participating Bidder in the shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG. Performance Security 5% of the contract value shall be submitted by the lowest Bidder before the allotment of work order in the shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG. (irrevocable)	Rs.2000/- (Fixed Amount) in the shape of challan through J&K Govt. Treasury indicating treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to MH-0059(PWD) Misc. Revenue and uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt on e-tendering portal OR The bidder may deposit tender fee in shape of e-challan through Account No. 0028010200000009, J&K Bank, Udhampur, of Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Udhampur)	90 ninety days )	OEM/Registered & Reputed firms having authorization from OEM to quote the e-NIT having sufficient experience the Similar Nature of work	Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospital division Udhampur

Position of Funds:- (Partially available)

Position of AA/Tech. Sanction :- (Accorded)

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, terms & conditions, Bill of Quantities can be seen / downloaded from the J&K govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in

No: MHDU/TS/ 807

Dated:- 30.06.2025

DIP/J-2892/25  
Date: 1-7-25

-Sd-  
(Er. Daljeet Singh)  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical & Hospital Division  
Udhampur

## NC fails to fulfil even basic election promises: Vibodh

J NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, JULY 1

BJP Jammu & Kashmir General Secretary and former MLC Vibodh Gupta today addressed the media alongside senior party leaders to express his heartfelt gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji and Hon'ble Union Minister for Rural Development Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan Ji for sanctioning 316 road projects under Batch-I of PMGSY-IV, with an estimated cost of 4,224 crore.

Vibodh emphasized that under PM Modi's visionary leadership, Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing unprecedented development, particularly in rural infrastructure, which was neglected for decades by successive governments of National Conference, PDP and Congress. "This is not just about roads—it is about connecting aspi-



rations, creating jobs, and transforming lives at the grassroots level. PM Modi's Viskit Bharat vision is empowering J&K," he said. "The Omar Abdullah led government has failed to address pressing public issues such as electricity supply, water scarcity, rising unemployment, tourism, and delayed development initiatives while under the Lieutenant Governor's administration and Central Government development has reached the grassroots level—something that remained a distant dream under the National Conference (NC) government", Vibodh added.

Vibodh Gupta strongly criticized the National Conference (NC) holding its government responsible for betraying public trust and failing to uphold even the most fundamental promises outlined in its election manifesto. He said the NC's tenure is marked by empty slogans and broken commitments, leaving the people of Jammu and Kashmir disillusioned and deprived of real progress.

Speaking on the occasion Former Chairman, MC Rajouri Arif Jatt also expressed his gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Union Minister for

Rural Development Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan for big infrastructure boost. He firmly stated that no visible development work has taken place under the National Conference government and urged the MLA Rajouri to fulfill his promises rather than making empty assurances.

BJP District Spokesperson Varun Chandan criticized the National Conference government for its lack of vision, stating that it had completely failed to deliver any meaningful development on the ground. He added that the aspirations of the people of the Jammu and Kashmir are being ignored by the cor-

rupt National Conference government.

BJP Rajouri District Secretary Radish Sharma launched a scathing attack on the current public representatives and called on the MLA Rajouri to face public outrage and clarify why not even a single penny has been spent on development in the Rajouri Municipal area.

BJP Rajouri District Spokesperson and former Corporator Sanjay Sharma praised the Modi Government for its unwavering focus on development and good governance. He said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India has witnessed unprecedented growth in infrastructure, connectivity, healthcare, and welfare schemes that directly benefit the common citizen. BJP Mandal Presidents Tarun Vasoon and Chowdhary Riaz Ahmed also addressed the media.

## ICICI Prudential Life launches a market-linked product for the youth

J NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 1

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched ICICI Pru Smart Insurance Plan Plus, a market linked product designed to enable customers to build wealth over the long-term. This product can be purchased with a monthly premium of just 1000, enabling a large cross section of young customers to systematically invest and achieve their long-term financial goals. The life cover component in the product ensures that the customer's family is financially secure. Mr. Amit Palta, Chief Product and Distribution Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance said, "India is the fastest growing major economy and pegged to become the 3rd largest by 2028,

as per Morgan Stanley. The country's growth story is largely propelled by the youth, which constitutes about 65% of the population. ULIPs, by design, are an effective wealth creation tool and to encourage the youth to start investing early and remain invested for the long-term, we have launched ICICI Pru Smart Insurance Plan Plus. This cost-effective and tax-efficient product allows the youth to start early with affordable investments, as low as 1000 per month. Keeping in mind the target segment for the product and their preference to engage with brands and products digitally, we have enabled a complete digital purchase journey.

ICICI Pru Smart Insurance Plan Plus offers customers an array of 25

funds and four portfolio strategies to choose from. Besides, customers can fine tune their asset allocation by switching from one fund to another without any cost or tax implications. Additionally, the product offers customers financial security in the form of a life cover. Notably, customers can opt for the Waiver of Premium add-on benefit which can ensure the long-term savings goal remains on track even in the absence of the policyholder." Mr. Palta further stated, "The launch of this product reinforces our focus on developing products which fulfil the evolving needs of customers. It is a cost-effective tool that empowers individuals to plan for their future on their own terms, with flexibility, clarity and peace of mind."

## Record Alert: Škoda Auto India achieves its highest-ever half-yearly sales

J NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JANUARY 1

Škoda Auto India is keeping its foot on the accelerator as it celebrates its 25th anniversary in India and 130th year globally. With 36,194 units sold in the first half of 2025, Škoda Auto has achieved its highest half-yearly sales in its 25-year history in India.

Commenting on the achievement, Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Škoda Auto India, said, "Our landmark half-yearly sales reflect the strong acceptance of Škoda products and services by customers in India. Our customers love to explore the world around them every day. With the addition of the Kylaq in our portfolio, we now enable their journeys even more through an 'SUV For Everyone', as well as our sedan offering. Our aim is to get 'closer' to our customers in India with our accessible products, services, and touchpoints across the country. This achievement encour-



ages us to stay focused on being relevant through timely product actions, offer unique value to our customers by differentiating our product and service offerings, and to continue building trust with an unmatched ownership experience."

With sales of 36,194 units in H1 2025, Škoda Auto India is now among the top seven automotive brands in India. This is a jump of four positions from its rankings in 2024.

Furthermore, it surpasses Škoda Auto India's previous best half-yearly sales in 2022 of 28,899 units.

Škoda Auto India began 2025 with the launch of the Kylaq, its first sub-4m SUV and a new entry point for customers into the Škoda family, that is helping the brand go deeper in Tier 1 markets and expand further in Tier 2 and 3 cities. This was followed by the introduction of the all-new, second-generation Kodiaq luxury 4x4. Along

with the Kushaq, Škoda Auto India now offers a wide range of SUVs suited to the differing mobility needs of customers across the country. Škoda Auto India continues to build on its sedan legacy with the Slavia sedan and a global icon soon to be introduced in India. Škoda Auto India also offers the most advanced range of automatics and direct injection turbocharged engines across its entire portfolio, enabling a con-

venient, comfortable, safe and enjoyable mobility experience for customers.

From 120 touchpoints in 2021, Škoda Auto India has expanded its network to over 295 touchpoints till date. The company remains steadfast in its goal of achieving 350 touchpoints by the end of 2025, reinforcing its commitment to providing a seamless customer experience across India.

To ensure peace of mind during ownership, Škoda Auto India provides class leading standard warranty on all its products, along with a wide range of extended warranty and maintenance packages for customers to choose from. Furthermore, the Škoda Supercare maintenance package is now complimentary with every Škoda car for a period of one year. With this, a Škoda owner's first expense for routine service is only at the end of the second year of ownership or 30,000 kms, whichever is earlier.

## Movement Kalki saddened to see miserable condition of Gangwal Gaushala, urges govt for quick action

J NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 1

Today, senior board members of Movement Kalki visited the Gangwal Gaushala located in Samba district and were left deeply shocked and disturbed by the appalling conditions there. Approximately 350 to 400 cows are sheltered in the Gaushala, but there is a complete lack of basic facilities.

During the rainy season, the entire Gaushala premises are filled with mud and filth. The cowsheds are partially enclosed, due to which cows roam freely, and chaos breaks out during feeding times. This leads to stampedes where weak and sick cows often get injured or even die.

Movement Kalki board members Sapna Hindu and Saurabh Sharma inspected the site and expressed serious concern over the condition. Local residents informed them that although some



individuals are offering voluntary services, there is no proper, organized system in place. Despite occasional visits by veterinary doctors, the situation of the cows has not improved.

Through Movement Kalki, the local community has appealed to the administration, elected representatives, and concerned departments to take swift action to improve the condition of the Gaushala. There is an urgent need for a secure

boundary wall, regular medical care, dry fodder supply, and overall cleanliness.

The members of Movement Kalki have strongly urged the administration to take immediate cognizance of this sensitive matter and ensure long-term solutions for the care and protection of Gaumata (Mother Cow). The organization also called upon political leaders and public representatives to prioritize this issue without delay.

## Balbir Ram meets India's former Ambassador to Belarus

J NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 1

Balbir Ram Rattan, National General Secretary of Guru Ravidass Vishwa Mahapeeth, General Secretary of the Indian chapter of the British Ravidassia Heritage Foundation, and a member of the Begampura Vishwa Mahasabha, met Sh. Ramesh Chander, a retired Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer and former Ambassador of India to Belarus, during his visit to Jalandhar. The meeting took place in a warm and cordial atmosphere, marked by an in-depth discussion on life of Guru Ravidass and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

On this occasion, both of them shared thoughts on key topics such as social harmony, Dalit awareness, and instilling moral values among youth. They agreed to collaborate in the future to further intensify efforts for social upliftment.

Balbir Ram Rattan, during his discussion with the former Ambassador, said that it is indeed a matter of pride for our community that a person



from amongst us has secured higher positions in his life by following Dr. Ambedkar's vision of education. He said that Dr. Ambedkar was of the view that we can achieve success and prosper in life if our priority remains acquiring education.

Balbir said that it has been the education through which Shri Ramesh Chander passed


Indian Foreign Service examination. He got opportunity to serve as the Indian Ambassador to Belarus, Consul General of India in Edinburgh (Scotland, UK), Minister at the Embassy of India in Prague (Czech Republic), and Counsellor at the Indian Embassy in Tokyo (Japan). During his diplomatic career, he played a significant role in

strengthening India's foreign policy.

After retirement, Shri Ramesh Chander has been actively associated with various social organizations and remains dedicated to serving the poor, underprivileged, and marginalized sections of society. He continues to make people aware about the importance of education and spreading the message of Saint Shiromani Guru Ravidass Ji, centered on humanity, equality, and universal brotherhood. He has also been promoting the vision of social justice and constitutional equality as advocated by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Appreciating Shri Ramesh Chander's service, Balbir Ram Rattan, said that even while holding high-ranking positions, he always prioritized social upliftment and human service. He emphasized that such inspiring personalities provide direction to society and that the younger generation should learn from their lives.

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**Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)**  
**Committee for Fixation of Fee Structure of Private Educational Institutions of J&K (UT)**  
**Directorate of School Education, Muthi, Jammu/Old Assembly Complex, Srinagar**

**CORRIGENDUM TO ORDER NO. FFRC/ADM./024/4162 DATED 25/07/2024**

In continuation of the above-referred order, the following addition/modification is made to Point No. 1 of the decisions:


**Revised Point No. 1:**

**"On the matter of charging of Transport Fee by private schools during the winter break (Kashmir Division) and summer break (Jammu Division), it has been decided that the private schools will be charging only 50% of the transport fee provided the transport facility is owned and operated by the school itself. In cases where the transport facility is outsourced, hired from a third party, or operated under a contractual arrangement, no transport fee shall be charged during the break periods by such outsourced agencies/transporters. This directive shall be effective from the academic session 2024-25 in Kashmir division and 2025-26 in Jammu division onwards."**

All other terms and conditions of the original order shall remain unchanged.

The Director School Education, Kashmir/Jammu, shall ensure strict adherence to this clarification while monitoring of implementation thereof.

DIP/J-2897/25  
DATE: 1-7-25

  
**Mr. Justice Suhil Hali**  
(Former Judge)  
**Chairperson, FFRC, J&K, UT**

No: FFRC/Adm./4506-12/2025.  
Dated: 30/06/2025

# PM Modi lauds 10 years of Digital India initiative

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today lauded the successful completion of 10 years of the Digital India initiative, calling it a historic milestone in the country's journey towards becoming a digitally empowered and technologically advanced society.



The Prime Minister shared a thread on X, posted by MyGovIndia, to mark the occasion.

He emphasised that the Digital India initiative, launched a decade ago, has significantly impacted the lives of millions and contributed to the nation's growth, particularly in sectors like digital payments, healthcare, and education.

In his post, the Prime Minister said, "Today is a historic day as we mark #10YearsOfDigitalIndia! Ten years ago, Digital India began as an initiative to transform our nation into a digitally empowered and technologically advanced society."

"A decade later, we stand witness to a journey that has touched countless lives and ushered in

a new era of empowerment. India has made many strides in digital payments, powered by the collective resolve of 140 crore Indians. Sectors like health and education have also benefited from this initiative, he added."

He further highlighted the transformative impact of the programme, highlighting its far-reaching effects on the lives of

ordinary citizens. "This thread offers a glimpse of the transformation and its scale!" he added.

Notably, the Digital India initiative, launched in 2015, to enhance online infrastructure, increase internet connectivity, and improve digital literacy.

MyGovIndia on X said, "In 2015, PM @narendramodi launched Digital India to make technology accessible for all".

"A decade later, India leads in real-time digital payments, has one of the fastest 5G rollouts, and is building future-ready tech like AI and semiconductors. Whether it's a remote village or a rising startup, Digital India is unlocking opportunity everywhere. The numbers don't whisper. They roar," it added.

# Pakistani state up to its eyeballs in cross-border terror: EAM Jaishankar

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK/NEW DELHI, JULY 1

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said it is very clear that the Pakistani state is "up to its eyeballs" in cross-border terrorism, and India has made its message "pretty clear" to Islamabad that it will exercise the right to defend its people.

"We are now moving to a policy of no impunity. We will not accept that the terrorists are proxies and somehow, therefore, the state is not culpable. I mean, we think it's very clear the Pakistani state is up to its eyeballs in this one," EAM Jaishankar said in an Exclusive Fireside Chat with Dev Pragad, Newsweek CEO, in New York.

"I think we will strike at



terrorists. We will protect. We will exercise the right to defend our people. And I think that message has been made pretty clear."

On Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressing readiness for peace talks last week, EAM Jaishankar said:

"We are willing to hold talks on terror, but if there is an expectation that we

will talk about other things while they continue their terrorism, I think that's, you know, that's not realistic," he said.

"Terrorism cannot be a diplomatic tactic of putting a neighbour under pressure, and saying, oh, OK, come and talk to me. You cannot be a good neighbour and be a terrorist at the same time.

So, they have to end that terrorism."

India had launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, in response to the horrific April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were shot dead. Indian armed forces struck terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir under Operation Sindoor, which led to a military stand-off between both nations, which ended on May 10 with a ceasefire.

On Pakistan warning that it could resort to nuclear weapons during the military stand-off, EAM said:

"We are not going to yield to nuclear blackmail that you know there could be escalation, and therefore we should not do anything."

# BJP slams RJD of undermining PM's efforts to uplift backward classes, accuses Tejashwi of pushing 'Sharia agenda'

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National Spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia today accused Bihar's former Deputy CM and Leader of Opposition, Tejashwi Yadav of "undermining" Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts to uplift backward classes, Dalits, and women and said that Rashtriya Janata Dal's sole objective is the "imposition of Sharia law in India, and to empower only one community."



"Tejashwi Yadav's party, RJD, is destroying the idea of empowering these marginalized sections. While they talk about Sharia, the BJP will continue to talk about the Constitution," he said during a press conference at BJP headquarters in Delhi.

Asserting that 'Mahatubandhan' is openly against the Constitution, the BJP spokesperson said, "The Congress manifesto said that it wanted to implement Sharia Law. Personal Laws will be implemented. Reservations will be based on religion, which is against the Constitution. NDA will never allow their plans to succeed. On 2010 May 7, Lalu Prasad Yadav said that the Waqf board

has snatched the land of the government and the common man and strong laws are required to control it. RJD Chief Lalu Yadav has never apologized for the disrespect he showed towards Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar."

Referring to Bihar's former Deputy CM and Leader of Opposition, Tejashwi Yadav's remarks on Waqf Amendment Act, Bhatia said, "Yesterday, a 9th-grade fail, Tejashwi Yadav, was saying that he would throw the Waqf Amendment Bill, passed by the Indian Parliament, into the trash. How can a state government dismiss a law passed by the Centre?"

Taking on the INDIA alliance, the BJP spokesperson said, "If Tejashwi Yadav gives hate speech against the Waqf Amendment Act, then his pur-

pose is to create a division in society. Our government in Bihar talks about development, and they talk about Sharia Law. In Karnataka, they snatched the rights of the backwards and gave them to Muslims," he said.

Recalling the lawlessness that prevailed during the 'Jungle Raj' of Lalu, he said, "The first rule of Jungle Raj is the destruction of the Constitution and the law, and that is exactly what Tejashwi Yadav is doing while sitting in the opposition."

Questioning the RJD's so-called socialist agenda, Bhatia stated, "Those who call themselves 'samajwadi' (socialists) in Bihar are in fact 'namazwadi'. They do not want Babasaheb's Constitution and neither do they respect it. Their sole objective is the imposition of Sharia law in

India, and to empower only one community."

He took a direct jibe at Tejashwi Yadav, asking, "The so-called master of appeasement, Maulana Tejashwi Yadav, have you ever read the Constitution? Can a state government disregard a law passed by Parliament and signed by the President?"

In another sharp remark, Bhatia reminded Tejashwi Yadav about his family's long tenure in power. "Tejashwi Yadav is now demanding 20 months, but the people of Bihar gave more than a decade to the Yadav family. What was the result? The value of human life was lost. Now they talk about youth, but have they ever given an opportunity to anyone outside their family to become CM or even party president?" Bhatia asked.

Bhatia also questioned Tejashwi Yadav's stance on the Waqf Amendment Bill, pointing out that the matter is still pending in the Supreme Court. "Why does Tejashwi Yadav have such an anarchist approach? Why is he trying to demean the SC before it has even passed its verdict? Has Tejashwi Yadav become more important than the Supreme Court itself?"

# TN custody death: EPS demands CBI inquiry, actor Vijay for HC-supervised SIT probe

AGENCIES  
CHENNAI, JULY 1

Following the death of a 27-year-old youth in alleged illegal custody of the police in Sivaganga district, the DMK government of MK Stalin has been under fire from the Opposition with the principal opposition AIADMK demanding a CBI inquiry while the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) of actor Vijay pressing for a High Court-monitored probe by a Special Investigation Team (SIT).

The victim, Ajith Kumar, a security guard at the Bhadra Kali Amman temple at Madapuram, picked up by the police in connection with a jewel theft case filed by a devotee visiting the shrine, had died allegedly due to severe thrashing by a Special Police Team on Sunday.

While six cops, attached to Thirupuvanam police station, allegedly involved in thrashing the victim to death, were suspended



and arrested, the state government transferred the investigation to the CB-CID police.

This is the 25th such custodial death after the DMK assumed power in 2021. AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami has demanded that the case be handed over to the CBI as the state police has lost the confidence of the people, he said.

"It is shocking that the post-mortem report of the victim had revealed 18 wounds from head to toe. Further, the blows on the neck resulted in the death. This had happened due to the highhandedness of the police, under the watch of

the Stalin government. The 25 custodial deaths are a flagrant violation of human rights and the NHRC should take this up suo motu," he wrote in an 'X' post.

A former chief minister, EPS also alleged that the police had initially attempted to cover up the incident. He charged that the police under the Stalin government were lying as they did in the May 2022 lock-up death of Vignesh in Chennai.

"Even the FIR in Ajit Kumar's death has stated that it was due to fits. Where is the Chief Minister hiding? Rather than answering the public, he

is holding review meetings on law and order. Shifting the investigation to CB-CID is not enough," he said.

Coming down heavily on the DMK government, actor-politician Vijay, pressing for a High Court-monitored probe, said the death of Ajit Kumar under illegal police custody had raised several questions.

"This incident exposes how under the watch of Chief Minister Stalin, holding the Home Department, the police have become a lawless force without an iota of ethics. Initially, the government had tried to save the police personnel involved in the heinous crime. Only after political parties took up the issue and after the intervention of the Madurai bench of the High Court, the police started to act. The Chief Minister should release a white paper on the 24 lock up deaths in the last four years," read a statement he shared on 'X'.

He asked Stalin to ensure that such an incident would not recur.

# Indian Navy rescues 14 crew members from burning vessel in North Arabian Sea

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

Demonstrating rapid operational readiness and unwavering commitment to seafarer safety, the Indian Navy rescued 14 Indian crew members onboard the Palau-flagged tanker MT Yi Cheng 6 in the North Arabian Sea.

In the early hours of June 29, INS Tabar, which was on a mission-based deployment, received a Mayday distress call from MT Yi Cheng 6. The vessel reported a major fire outbreak in its engine room while operating approximately 80 nautical miles east of Fujairah, UAE, an Indian Navy statement said today.

Responding swiftly, INS Tabar proceeded at maximum speed and reached the vicinity of the distressed tanker. Upon arrival, the naval team established communication with the vessel's Master and immediately commenced firefighting operations.



Prioritising crew safety, seven crew members were promptly evacuated to INS Tabar using the ship's boats. All evacuated personnel were unharmed and received medical evaluations from Tabar's onboard medical team. The remaining crew, including the Master, stayed aboard the vessel to assist with fire containment efforts.

INS Tabar deployed a six-member firefighting and damage control team with firefighting equipment. Their initial efforts, in coordination with the ship's crew, significantly reduced the intensity of the fire, which was successfully contained within the engine room.

To strengthen the ongoing operation, 13 additional Indian Navy personnel--five officers and eight sailors--were deployed to support the firefighting mission. Sustained efforts

by Indian Navy's firefighting team along with crew members have successfully brought the fire under control. Temperature checks and continuous monitoring are being conducted to ensure safety, while INS Tabar remains on station to provide continued support.

The courageous and timely action by the Indian Navy not only ensured the safety of the vessel and its crew but also reinforced India's role as the first responder in the Indian Ocean Region. The operation exemplifies the Navy's exceptional rapid response capability, operational preparedness, and humanitarian approach to maritime safety.

# 4 Dead, 16 missing as cloudbursts wreak havoc in Mandi

AGENCIES  
SHIMLA, JULY 1

Mandi district in Himachal Pradesh is facing severe devastation due to heavy monsoon rains and multiple cloudbursts.

During the past 15 hours, Sandhole recorded 224 mm of rainfall, Mandi 216 mm, and Pandoh 215 mm, causing flash floods and landslides.

Four people have lost their lives, while four were injured, and 16 others are missing. Rescue teams have saved 287 people, including 233 in Mandi, 51 in Hamirpur, and three in Chamba. Houses, roads, and bridges have been damaged, with 10 homes and 12 cowsheds destroyed.

A key bridge was washed away, and NH-305 remains blocked, leaving many stranded. NDRF and SDRF teams are working in Karsog, Gohar, and Thunag to rescue trapped residents. In Karsog, a cloudburst killed one person, while in Gohar, nine people are missing after two houses were swept away.

# 'Head back home to South Africa': Trump to Musk

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON, JULY 1

Following criticism by Tesla chief over sweeping tax-cut and spending bill, US President Donald Trump on Tuesday said that without government subsidies, US entrepreneur Elon Musk would be forced to "close up shop and head back home to South Africa".



"Electric cars are fine, but not everyone should be forced to own one. Elon may get more subsidy than any human being in history, by far, and without subsidies, Elon would probably have to close up shop and head back home to South Africa," Trump said on Truth Social.

Trump further suggested that ending support for rocket launches, satellites and electric car produc-

tion would save the United States "a fortune." He further suggested that the US Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), previously headed by Musk, "take a good, hard, look at this?"

The lower house of the US Congress in May advanced Trump's "One Big Beautiful Bill," which cuts federal spending but simultaneously provides serious tax breaks. As a result, according to the Congressional Budget

Office, both the budget deficit and the national debt will grow.

Despite divisions within the party about its expected \$3.3 trillion hit to the nation's debt pile, Senators have voted in a marathon session known as a "vote-a-rama."

Musk has repeatedly criticized Trump's bill on social media. He said, in particular, that the bill would drive the US's budget deficit up to \$2.5 trillion and push American citizens into debt.

"It is obvious with the insane spending of this bill, which increases the debt ceiling by a record FIVE TRILLION DOLLARS that we live in a one-party country - the PORKY PIG PARTY!! Time for a new political party that actually cares about the people," Musk wrote on X.

"Anyone who campaigned on the PROMISE of REDUCING SPENDING, but continues to vote on the BIGGEST DEBT ceiling increase in HISTORY will see their face on this poster in the primary next year," Musk posted on X.

He went on to argue that the bill proves Democrats and Republicans are part of a single "PORKY PIG PARTY" that prioritizes reckless spending over the interests of ordinary Americans.

According to analysts, the United States may be on the verge of default by August if Republicans and Democrats in Congress do not agree on raising the debt ceiling. The issue of raising the borrowing limit has often been used in political disputes within Congress between the two US parties in recent years.

## Three years term of J&K Sports Council members comes to end, reconstitution on cards

AGENCIES  
JAMMU, JULY 1

The reconstitution of the new J&K Sports Council is on cards as the term of the existing body, as per the 2022 government order, came to an end on June 27, 2025 with the completion of a three-year term.

The Jammu and Kashmir government on June 27, 2022, reconstituted J&K Sports Council, headed by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha as its president and his advisor as the vice president, after dissolving the previous body framed in the year 2018 in the Mehbooba Mufti-led government.

"The term of J&K Sports Council members automatically comes to an end on June 27 with the completion of a three-year term, as no extension period has been ordered so far by the government," official sources said.

They said that the notice in this regard has already been taken, and a call on the reconstitution of the J&K Sports Council will soon be taken by its head.

Notably, in 2022, in the



absence of an elected government, the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor was the president of the J&K Sports Council.

However, at present, Jammu and Kashmir is headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah as its president and Sports Minister Satish Sharma as its Vice President.

As per the order number 21-JK (YSS) of 2022 issued by the then Principal Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department, Alok Kumar, the Sports Council had 15 members, including the LG as president, the advisor as vice president, five official members and eight outstanding players and sports association administrators.

The order also read that

the Council shall remain in office for a period of three years, and the Government, however, shall have powers to dissolve the Council at any time it deems appropriate and reconstitute a fresh Council.

The power to dispense with the individual membership was vested with the President, J&K Sports Council, it read.

As per the order, the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council members serve a term of three years and the government can dissolve the Council earlier if deemed necessary and reconstitute it while individual members can also be removed with a 14-day notice period, citing reasons, with the

President having the final say on accepting the explanation.

In the official category of the Council, the members as per the order were: Administrative Secretary, Finance Department, Administrative Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department, Administrative Secretary, Planning Development and Monitoring Department, Director General/Director, Youth Services and Sports; and Secretary, J&K Sports Council, as member secretary.

Meanwhile, Surya Bhanu Pratap Singh (International Wushu Player), Nitin Kumar (International Handball Player), Saqlain Tariq (International Volleyball Player), Kabra Altaf (National Judo Player), Shweta Thakur (National Judo Player), Mohammad Akbar Khan (National Level Cyclist), Rajeev Sharma (Former President, Hockey J&K) and Ranjit Kalra (Vice President Wushu Association of J&K and Sports Promoter) were the non-official members, it read further.

## India look to rewrite history at Edgbaston after Leeds defeat

AGENCIES  
BIRMINGHAM, JULY 1

India arrive at Edgbaston tomorrow for the second Test of the five-match series carrying a statistic as extraordinary as it is painful: they are the first team in first-class cricket history to score five centuries in a match and still walk away defeated. That historic misstep at Headingley – after being in command for most of the game, has left fans bewildered and has handed England a significant psychological edge.

Despite blistering centuries from Shubman Gill, Rishabh Pant (who scored tons in both innings), KL Rahul, and Yashasvi Jaiswal, India collapsed in the key moments. Their lower-order fell away just when it mattered, and a passive bowling display on the final day allowed England to chase down an imposing target with five wickets to spare, a result that flipped the tone of the series entirely.

Now, the caravan rolls into Edgbaston Stadium, a venue steeped in tradition and deafening spectators' energy, but one where India have never tasted success. In eight previous Tests here, India have lost six and drawn two, a daunting record they will



look to rewrite. A loss here would see England stretch their lead to 2-0 with three matches remaining, while an Indian win would square the series and breathe life into their campaign.

England too have had their recent struggles at this venue, losing three of their last five Tests here. But this version of England – riding high under Ben Stokes and the unapologetically aggressive 'Bazball' strategy – feels different. They've now won four of their last five Tests, including the stirring comeback in Leeds, and look hungry to dominate again.

Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum have kept faith in a winning combination, naming an unchanged XI. There's still no spot for Jofra Archer, though he remains with the squad. Local hero Chris Woakes will lead the seam attack alongside Josh

Tongue and Brydon Carse. Tongue and Stokes were game-changers in Leeds, each bagging four wickets in India's first innings.

India, in contrast, are expected to make at least one tactical change. With the Edgbaston pitch likely to dry out and take spin from Day Four onwards, Kuldeep Yadav is expected to replace Prasad Krishna. Captain Gill will be counting on Jasprit Bumrah to rediscover his rhythm and menace, especially at a ground where England tend to flourish with the bat.

In that opening Test, India's top order was in sublime touch: Gill scored 147, Pant struck twin centuries (134 and 118), KL Rahul made 137, and Jaiswal added 101 to the tally. Bumrah led the attack with five wickets. But England responded with similar steel – Ollie Pope anchored the innings with 106, Harry Brook added

99, and Ben Duckett fired with scores of 62 and 149. On the bowling front, Tongue and Stokes delivered under pressure.

The Edgbaston pitch promises an intriguing battle. Dry and true early on, it's expected to offer moderate bounce before bringing spinners into the contest later. A first-innings total of 400-450 will be considered a benchmark, and with both sides enjoying massive fan support, the atmosphere is set to be electric.

The pressure is now firmly on India to bounce back and make history at a venue where they've never won. For England, it's an opportunity to tighten their grip on the series and turn the screw further. All eyes are on Birmingham – a battleground where form, history, and momentum collide.

Probable XIs:  
England: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (c), Jamie Smith (wk), Chris Woakes, Brydon Carse, Josh Tongue, Shoaib Bashir.

India: Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Shubman Gill (c), Rishabh Pant (wk), Karun Nair, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Mohammed Siraj, Jasprit Bumrah, Kuldeep Yadav.

## Hockey India announces India A Men's squad for Europe Tour

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 1

Hockey India today announced the India A Men's Hockey Team squad for its upcoming tour of Europe, scheduled to take place from July 8 to 20.

The tour will feature a total of eight matches against some of the top European sides and is aimed at providing valuable international exposure to a mix of emerging and experienced players.

The India A team will play two matches each against Ireland, France, and the Netherlands, along with one match each against England and Belgium. These high-intensity games are expected to test the depth and readiness of India's talent pool as the national setup looks to build a strong pipeline for the senior team.



line for the senior team.

The 20-member squad comprises a blend of seasoned performers and promising youngsters who have impressed in domestic and international circuits. The team will be Captained

by Sanjay, while Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh will be his deputy.

The squad includes goalkeepers Pawan and Mohit Honnenahalli Shashikumar and defenders Pratap Lakra, Varun Kumar, Amandeep

Lakra, Parmod, and Sanjay.

In the midfield department, Poovanna Chandura Boby, Mohammed Raheel Moussem, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Vishnukant Singh, Pardeep Singh, and Rajinder Singh are present, while forward line-up includes Angadbir Singh, Bobby Singh Dhami, Maninder Singh, Venkatesh Kenche, Aditya Arjun Lalge, Selvam Karthi, and Uttam Singh.

The standby list includes goalkeeper Ankit Malik, defender Sunil Jojo, and forward Sudeep Chirmako.

During the tour, the team will be coached by Shivendra Singh, who is also the assistant coach of the Indian Men's Hockey Team and brings a wealth of experience and a sharp focus on attacking play.

## New career-best rating for Smriti Mandhana as No 1 ranking looms

AGENCIES  
DUBAI, JULY 1

India opener Smriti Mandhana has been rewarded for her recent century against England by reaching a new career-high rating on the updated ICC Women's T20I Batter Rankings.

Mandhana, who is the No.1 ranked ODI batter, took England to the sword with a superb innings of 112 in Nottingham recently and that helped the left-hander gain one place and move to third on the latest rankings for T20I batters.

It also sees Mandhana reach a new career-best rating of 771 points and close to within 23 points of No.1 ranked player Beth Mooney



at the top of the charts for T20I batters.

Fellow Indian opener Shafali Verma gains one place to move to 13th on the same rankings list following her innings of 20 in the same match against England, while teammate Harleen Deol re-enters the batter rankings in equal

86th after a quickfire knock of 43.

England pacer Lauren Bell claimed three wickets in that Nottingham clash and the tall right-arm rises two spots to a career-best place of fourth on the latest rankings for T20I bowlers.

Pakistan spinner Sadia Iqbal remains at the top of

the list for T20I bowlers, but it's tight at the top with just 44 rating point separating the top 10 players.

The final match of the T20I series between the West Indies and South Africa also sees a host of their players make some ground on the latest rankings, with Proteas young gun Miane Smit jumping from well outside the top 100 to 76th on the list for T20I batters following her half-century in that clash.

There are also gains for former South Africa skipper Sune Luus, who jumps nine spots to 31st on the list for T20I all-rounders following decent efforts with both bat and ball in that Cave Hill match.

## India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate provides team ahead of second Test

AGENCIES  
BIRMINGHAM, JULY 2

Having stated his availability only for three out of the five Tests, the visitors are yet to make a call on Jasprit Bumrah's selection for the Edgbaston Test.

India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate spoke about the potential participation of the star quick in the Edgbaston Test, ahead of the second match of the series against England.

"He is available for the game, we know from the start that he is going to be playing only three out of the five Tests," he said.

"He has obviously had only eight days to recover from the last Test. Given the workload and conditions, we haven't made a call on that selection," Ten Doeschate said.

He added that they will take a call about Bumrah in the last minute depending on the team's requirement for the second Test and how the pitch is going

to play.

"He trained yesterday and today, so it is not like he isn't fit to play. It is just trying to fit the puzzle pieces to get the most out of him," Ten Doeschate said.

"We also feel we could go 1-1 or 1-0 without Jasprit but again we'd need him at some stage, we've got to decide when are we going to play our stronger suit," he said.

"We can't win a Test series with just one bowler in any case and the bowlers are very well aware that they need to chip in with wickets," he said.

Ten Doeschate was of the view that the weather in England enables them to play two spinners in the second Test and it would boil down to which two, while looking at other options as well, an ICC report said.

"We'd love to get him Kuldeep Yadav into the team. We are trying to make the best assessment of what it is in front of us, we are

aware that we're going to need three seamers in the game, it is just how we manage the (number) 6-7-8 role and how we can get Kuldeep in," he said.

"If the weather remains the same, it is expected that it will turn along the way," Ten Doeschate said.

"Last time we wanted to go with a bowling all-rounder, Nitish Reddy is our premium batting all-rounder at the moment. So I would say he has a very good chance to play this Test," he said.

The assistant coach also spoke about how they felt the team played four games of good cricket in the first match and yet lost out, and would try to push that past them to put their best foot forward depending on the pitch.

"All three spinners are batting very nicely, Wasly (Washington Sundar) is batting very nicely. It is just the combination with which we want to go through - an out and out spinner or a bowling all-rounder," Ten Does-



chate added.

"I am pretty sure two spinners will play this Test match," he said.

"If we are going to go with two spinners, Arshdeep (Singh) provides a little bit more control and you have got a left-arm running in from over the wicket if you want to put eggs in that basket," Ten Doeschate said.

Meanwhile, England fast bowler Chris Woakes is keen to help his side press home the advantage in the five-match series after his team pulled off a record chase at Headingley in the first Test.

Woakes, a Birmingham native, is looking forward to performing in front of his home crowd.

"I love playing here, having spent my whole life here. So whenever we come here for internationals (matches), it has got the extra buzz and it is a good feeling to turn up at your own ground," Woakes said.

"Obviously we get a great support over here always and there will be a lot of Indian fans as well, they have got a great support here in Birmingham. I am sure it makes for a great atmosphere for both the teams," he said.

The all-rounder, who is now the most experienced bowler in the squad, after the retirements of James Anderson and Stuart Broad said he is enjoying the new role while passing on the knowledge to the new set of bowlers.

"I have tried to get the most out of my career, I am still in that position where I am trying to get better and I am trying to improve every-time I go out there and pass on the knowledge," he added.

Woakes also spoke about the inclusion of ace pacer Jofra Archer into the squad after four years. Though Archer will not be a part of the second Test, Woakes felt that the fast bowler addition to the squad will be a big boost to the team.

"When Jof (Archer) is around, he adds a lot to the group, not just as a player but also as a person, as a character," Woakes said.

"He's obviously had a very tough journey in the last few years due to his

injuries, credit to him for the hardwork he has put in to get back into the position to hopefully play Test cricket," Woakes said.

"His best is still ahead of him, he is physically great and I am sure he is pumped up to get out there and show people what he's already done in whites. We all know how good he can be, it is exciting for him and us," he said.

Talking about the first Test win, Woakes believed the brand of cricket that England has played has been successful in the last few years and felt they will try to stick to that, while trying to tweak a bit to perform better as a team.

Woakes also praised Ben Stokes' bowling especially after not having played much cricket leading into the Test series against India and hoped there is more to come in the series from the captain.

"He was incredible, he is obviously fit and lean at the minute, looking very strong

which is great for us. We want him to be that seamer to come bowl and do what he can do, which he did last week (at Headingley)," Woakes said of Stokes.

"On a good pitch, he looked threatening every-time he had the ball, the newer ball or the older ball. It is great to have a leader being able to grab the ball and showing you the way sometimes," he said.

When asked to share the team's gameplan against Rishabh Pant, Woakes said, "Rishabh is a player with whom you don't know what is coming next. He keeps you on your toes as a bowler which is sometimes exciting to bowl against while sometimes he can put you on the backfoot."

"It is exciting to be a part of the game when he is batting, he got two hundreds last match, hopefully we will get him earlier this week," he added.

The second Test between England and India begins on July 2.

## Director Horticulture Jammu conducts an extensive tour of Samba

J NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 1

Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Sayed today conducted an extensive tour of Samba district.

During the tour, he visited Government Fruit Plant Nursery, Vijaypur wherein he planted a sapling of Mango plant. He inspected Mother block of Dragon fruit, an exotic fruit plant, established under the component "Production of Designer Plants" of HADP as well as protected cultivation structure having micro-irrigation facilities. The Director took stock of the ongoing developmental activities in the nursery and gave on spot instructions to the nursery staff regarding the production of quality grafted planting material in the nursery. He



also emphasized on introduction of new cultivars of fruit plants and opening of fruit plants sale outlet in the nursery.

While inspecting the nursery, he appreciated the structure having micro-irrigation facilities. The Director took stock of the ongoing developmental activities in the nursery and gave on spot instructions to the nursery staff regarding the production of quality grafted planting material in the nursery. He

Further, the officers were instructed to get soil testing of orchard of every farmer so that a balanced dose of fertilizer may be applied in the orchards for better productivity and also asked to issue advisory on plant protection measures to be taken in the orchards for production of quality fruit.

Further, the Director inspected naturally ventilated Poly House structure at Sarore estab-

lished under HADP by Navneet Sharma, who after rendering 25 years in financial sector has become a Horticulture Entrepreneur.

Meanwhile, Director inspected various projects viz: dragon fruit orchard at Ramgarh and mango orchard at Gupwal. The Director also had an interaction with the farmers and urged them to come forward and avail the benefits of various schemes of the department especially HADP and Revised Modified High Density Plantation Scheme.

He was accompanied by Chief Horticulture Officer Samba Sh. Anil Gorkha, DL Subject Matter Specialist Raivati Raman Sharma, HDO Vijay Kumar and other officials of the department.

## District Administration Samba extends grand welcome to Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra at Tapyal

J NEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, JULY 1

In a display of devotion and hospitality, the District Administration Samba extended a warm welcome to the first batch of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2024 pilgrims at Tapyal today.

Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma and SSP Samba, Virinder Singh Manhas personally received the devotees, marking the auspicious beginning of the annual pilgrimage through the district.

A spirit of unity and reverence permeated the atmosphere as local residents, religious leaders, and civil society members joined hands with the administration to greet the pilgrims with open hearts. The warm reception created a serene and spiritually enriching environment for



the Yatris.

The welcome event witnessed the presence of senior district officials, including Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Sub Divisional Magistrate, officials from civil and police administration, and representatives of various religious and social organizations.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma con-

veyed his heartfelt wishes for a safe, peaceful, and spiritually fulfilling journey for all pilgrims. He reiterated the administration's commitment to ensuring seamless arrangements throughout the Yatra route. "Pilgrims' safety, comfort, and spiritual experience remain our top priorities," he said, while urging devotees to adhere to all safety and health protocols.

The DC, along with

other senior officers, also interacted with the pilgrims to take on-ground feedback regarding the facilities provided, especially at the Langar sites. He assured that the District Administration, in close coordination with the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board and Social and Religious Langar Organizations, has made elaborate arrangements for boarding, lodging, medical care, sanitation, security and other essential services for the smooth conduct of the Yatra.

The collective efforts of all stakeholders ensured that the sacred journey commenced on a note of harmony, faith, and efficient public service, reaffirming Samba district's role as a gracious host on the divine path to Shri Amarnath Ji.

## Benefit Saturation camp held at Panchayat Kachnambal B under DA-JGUA



J NEWS SERVICE  
GANDERBAL, JULY 1

As part of the ongoing Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA), an Awareness and Benefit Saturation Camp was successfully organized today at Panchayat Kachnambal B, Block Gund, with the aim of extending doorstep delivery of welfare services to tribal households.

The camp witnessed active participation from the Gujjar and Bakarwal community, who availed a range of services provided by line departments includ-

ing Health, ICDS, Social Welfare, Education, NRLM, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Rural Development.

On-the-spot services provided included enrollments under PM-JANMAN and PM-JAY SEHAT, awareness on Mission Shakti, PMAY-G, and tribal scholarships, Free medical check-ups and screenings, livelihood promotion & self-help group linkages

Resource persons highlighted the Government of India's commitment to saturating all tribal villages with welfare schemes and

enabling social inclusion, economic upliftment, and empowerment of tribal women and youth.

Tribal community expressed gratitude to the District Administration Ganderbal for ensuring inclusive governance and requested regular camps for continued engagement and support.

The camp concluded with a strong message of commitment to 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas,' ensuring that no tribal household is left behind in the journey of development.

## DC Reasi finalises arrangements for Shivkhori Shrawan Mahotsav 2025

J NEWS SERVICE  
REASI, JULY 1

Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik, who also serves as the Vice Chairperson of the Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board (SSKSB), chaired a high-level meeting at the DC Office Complex to finalise arrangements for the upcoming Shivkhori Shrawan Mahotsav 2025.

The month of Shrawan is set to begin on 11th July, with the inaugural function scheduled for 14th July. The DC reviewed all necessary preparations to ensure the smooth and safe conduct of the month-long religious festivities.

The meeting focused on critical areas including security, power and water supply, sanitation, health-care, transportation and crowd management. The



police department was instructed to deploy adequate security personnel, while XEN JPDCL and PHE were directed to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply throughout the festival. BDO Pouni was tasked with maintaining cleanliness in Ransoo Bazar and surrounding areas.

DC Nidhi Malik informed that the Mahotsav will host a range of spiritual and cultural programs such as the Kavay Yatra, Shiv Katha, and Bhajan Sandhya. Renowned singers and local artists will present devotional performances dedicated to Lord Shiva, enhancing the religious ambiance. Daily Rudra

Abhishek rituals will be performed at the Shivkhori Shrine and Hawan ceremonies will be conducted at the Shiv Shakti Bhawan premises.

Emphasising the importance of health and safety, the DC instructed the Health Department to deploy a medical team equipped with essential medicines and oxygen cylinders at the shrine and bus stand to provide timely medical aid. The Fire and Emergency Services were directed to station fire tenders, extinguishers and other emergency equipment at key locations.

To ensure food safety and fair pricing, the Assis-

tant Director, Food was asked to conduct regular inspections of Langars and food stalls. The ARTO was directed to prevent over-charging of pilgrims by transporters and the PWD was instructed to ensure road repairs and maintenance for safe travel.

DC Reasi reiterated that the district administration is fully committed to ensuring a safe, spiritual and enriching experience for all devotees attending the Mahotsav. She urged all departments to work in close coordination to make this event successful and memorable.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, ADC Rakesh Kumar, ASP Ifthkar, AD Tourism, CMO, XENs of JPDCL and PHE, BDO HQ, DIO (Information) and other concerned officers.

## Legislators, delegations call on Jal Shakti Minister

J NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JULY 1

Several delegations and legislators today met Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment, and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, at the Civil Secretariat, highlighting various issues impacting welfare of the people.

Legislators Ali Mohd Dar, Shakti Raj Parihar and Showket Hussain Ganie raised constituency-specific concerns.

The discussions centered around key developmental issues, including improving potable water supply, upgrading road infrastructure and implementing the Forest Rights Act.

## Committee on Public Undertakings holds meeting in Srinagar

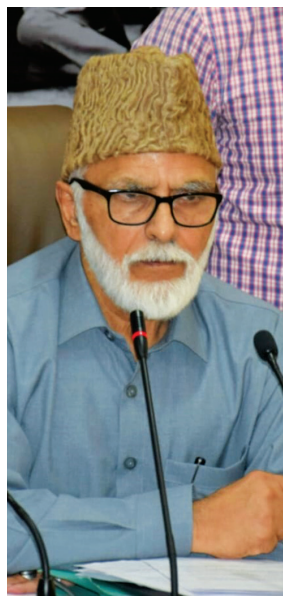
J NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JULY 1

The Committee on Public Undertakings of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex, Srinagar, to review audit paras pertaining to the Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation (JKPDC) and the Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA).

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman, Ali Mohammad Sagar and attended by members Saifullah Mir, Ali Mohammad Dar, Baldev Raj Sharma, Shakti Raj Parihar, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Bashir Ahmad Veeri, Showkat Hussain Ganai and Tanvir Sadiq.

Also present were the Principal Accountant General J&K, Principal Secretary PDD, Managing Director JKPDC, Director General Accounts and Treasuries, Director General Expenditure, Director General Finance, Managing Director KPDC, CEO JAKEDA and other concerned officers.

The Committee held a comprehensive discussion and reviewed audit paras 7.4, 8.1 and 8.7 from the



Comptroller and Auditor General's reports for the years 2018-19 and 2020-21, pertaining to JKPDC and JAKEDA.

The Chairman directed that a joint team comprising Committee members and concerned officers shall conduct spot inspections across various areas to assess the progress under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). The inspection team will include members Saifullah Mir, Shakti Raj Parihar, Bashir Ahmad Veeri and Showkat Hussain Ganai.

The Committee also

reviewed the functioning of various hydroelectric projects and examined the status of all ongoing power projects across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chairman instructed the concerned departments to submit a comprehensive progress report on all ongoing projects within 15 days. He stressed the need to adopt proactive measures to harness the Jammu and Kashmir's power generation potential and improve the performance and efficiency of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

Emphasizing transparency and accountability, the Chairman underlined the importance of rigorous audits and evaluations. He further directed the departments to submit updated status reports of all public undertakings, along with relevant audit documentation, to facilitate informed decision-making and necessary reforms.

During the meeting, the Principal Accountant General elaborated on the audit process and shared recommendations to strengthen the functioning of public sector corporations in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Director Agriculture Jammu inaugurates 9th Crop Insurance Week Campaign under PMFBY

J NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 01

Director Agriculture Jammu, Arvinder Singh Reen, today inaugurated the 9th Crop Insurance Week Campaign at the Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo, Jammu.

The week-long campaign, being observed from July 1 to July 7, 2025, marks a significant step in promoting awareness about the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for the Kharif 2025 season across Jammu Division.

The inaugural event witnessed the presence of Chief Agriculture Officer Jammu, Manohar Lal Sharma, Agronomist (VIS) Vikas Padha, SMS-DL Rajeev Katoch, SDAO Marh Khalid Hassan Tantri, State Head, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, Sonu Kumar Kashyap along with sectoral heads, officers and staff of the department.

As part of the launch, the Director flagged off the Crop Insurance Awareness Campaign Van, which will travel across districts



of Jammu Region to sensitize and educate farmers on the key features and benefits of the PMFBY scheme.

The Director emphasized the importance of the campaign in ensuring maximum farmer outreach, particularly focusing on non-loan farmers. He directed field functionaries to organize awareness camps at the block and panchayat levels in collaboration with insurance companies and banking institutions.

The Director directed Chief Agriculture Officers for active participation of Agriculture Extension Officers (AEOs), Junior Agriculture Extension Officers (JAEOs) and Agriculture Extension Assistants

(AEAs) to assist farmers in the enrolment process.

He stressed the need for close coordination with insurance companies and Common Service Centres (CSCs) to ensure smooth and timely registration within the notified cut-off dates.

The Director appealed to the farming community of Jammu Division to enroll under PMFBY for the Kharif 2025 season to safeguard their crops against unforeseen losses. He encouraged farmers to utilize the toll-free helpline 14447/ WhatsApp number 7065514447 for any queries related to the scheme and to approach their nearest bank branches or CSCs for registration.

## DC Kishtwar reviews implementation of JK E-Sehat App

J NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, JULY 1

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma convened a meeting to review the status of the JK E-Sehat App—a unified digital platform aimed at enhancing healthcare delivery.

The CMO Kishtwar Dr. Rajinder Kumar briefed the DC on the current registration figures in the district.

To accelerate implementation, the DC directed all Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) to ensure immediate registration of their government employees, and instructed the Health Department to deploy dedicated staff for mass registration, including the general public.

SDMs were also tasked with ensuring the rollout at the sub-divisional and tehsil levels.

The JK E-Sehat App provides a wide range of services including tele-consultation, appointment booking, access to health records, AI-based symptom checking, medication reminders and integration



with wearables. It supports both public and private healthcare access and includes features for patients, healthcare professionals and medical students—such as academic resources, e-prescriptions, secure messaging, ambulance services, insurance scheme information and skill development modules like CPR and BLS training.

The DC stressed the importance of ensuring widespread adoption of the app to improve healthcare access, especially in remote and underserved areas.