



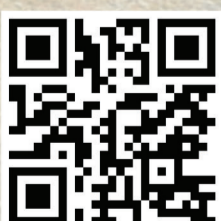
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Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra -2025

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Javed Rana, Javid Dar review irrigation scenario in JK

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 2

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana and Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today had a comprehensive review of the irrigation scenario in Jammu and Kashmir in a meeting held at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was called in view of the irrigation problems being faced by the farming community besides assessing the response mechanism adopted by the department to ensure farmers

are provided a reliable irrigation supply.

Legislators, Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Hasnain Masoodi, Irshad Rasool Kar, Hilal Akbar Lone and Irfan Hafiz Lone also attended the meeting and shared their concerns with respect to irrigation supply in their constituencies.

Detailed discussion was held on the working of Lift & Gravity irrigation schemes, NABARD/CAPEX/CSS projects and efficient water management for agricultural prosperity.

Javed Rana directed for effective measures to tackle the irrigation



issues, especially putting an efficient response mechanism in place to address the complaints of farmers. "There is no doubt that we are facing a critical situation due to adverse climatic conditions and there are shortcomings also but we have to find solutions," he said.

It is our collective responsibility to find

solutions to the problems faced by our farming community amid the paddy farming, he said. He called for taking both short and long-term measures to augment the supply of irrigation water as per the requirements on the ground. He also asked for an assessment of both the machinery and infrastructure given the present cli-

matic conditions.

Superintending Engineers were instructed to submit a comprehensive report outlining the potential measures for upgrading and strengthening the existing resources in their respective areas.

During the meeting, Rana also emphasized timely project completion, regular monitoring of public services and expedited project execution for enhanced agricultural support.

The meeting centered on discussions about restoring previously existing canals that have been encroached upon, with a focus on their revival.

Rana called upon the concerned to report encroachments and illegal mining that is creating a threat to the irrigation system so that appropriate action will be taken.

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra, gave a detailed presentation on the present irrigation infrastructure. He briefed about the functioning of Lift and Gravity irrigation schemes of the department being executed in the entire UT, status of NABARD schemes being implemented under various RIDFs and Capex Budget schemes under Capex Budget 2025-26.

ADC Baderwah reviews functioning of Tehsil Library



JI NEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, JULY 2

The Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Baderwah, Sunil Kumar Bhutyal today chaired a meeting at his office chamber to review the functioning and development of the Tehsil Library.

The meeting was attended by Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) AEE JPDCL, AE Jal Shakti Sub Division, Librarians officers, Naib Tehsildar and concerned officials.

The ADC gave one week's deadline to the concerned authorities to complete the remaining works so that the

library can start functioning.

During the session, the ADC took stock of ongoing operations, infrastructure needs and steps required to enhance the library's services for the public, especially students and researchers. He emphasized the importance of promoting reading habits among youth and directed officers to ensure regular maintenance, availability of updated books and a conducive reading environment. The ADC also assured that necessary measures will be taken to strengthen the library's resources and outreach in the coming months.

DC Samba assesses progress of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) - 2.0 survey in district



JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JULY 2

Deputy Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma today convened a review meeting to assess the progress of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) - 2.0 survey being undertaken in the district. The meeting aimed to evaluate the survey's status and ensure its effectiveness in identifying and verifying genuine beneficiaries under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

The Deputy Commissioner expressed concern over the slow pace of the survey and emphasized the need for accurate and time-bound completion. He directed the field functionaries and supervisors to complete the survey within a week's time and cautioned that any laxity would not be tolerated. Furthermore, he instructed that daily progress reports be submitted to the designated nodal officer to facilitate close monitoring.

Stressing the importance of transparency,

the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the need for proper identification of eligible beneficiaries so that timely benefits under the scheme reach deserving households. He reiterated that due diligence must be maintained at all stages of the process.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Champa Devi Thakur; Chief Planning Officer; Chief Education Officer; District Statistics and Evaluation Officer; Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Samba; and Executive Officers of Municipal Committees Ramgarh, Vijaypur, and Bari Brahmana. All field supervisors and survey staff were also present and were issued on-spot instructions to ensure adherence to guidelines and timelines.

The District Administration Samba reaffirmed its commitment to the successful implementation of PMAY (Urban), aligning with the vision of "Housing for All".

Amarnath ji pilgrims accorded rousing reception at Udhampur

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JULY 2

The first batch of pilgrims of Shri Amar Nath Ji Yatra 2025 was accorded a rousing reception by District Administration Udhampur on their arrival at Kali Mata Mandir Tikri.

On reaching at Kali Mata Temple, Pilgrims were warmly welcomed by DDC Chairman, Lal Chand, Member Legislative Assembly Udhampur East, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Member Legislative Assembly Chenani, Balwant Singh Mankotia, DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range Sarah Rizvi, Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Saloni Rai, SSP Amod Ashok Nagpure, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Prem Singh, DDC Member, Ashu Sharma, ACR Dr Umesh Shan and other officers besides prominent citizens of the District.

A large number of locals along with district officers received the first batch of pilgrims at Kali Mata Mandir Tikri Udhampur.

Information Department Udhampur arranged a cultural programme in



which students of Government Higher Secondary School and Sainik Cooperative Public High School Tikri presented themed based cultural items which was applauded by the pilgrims as well as locals.

The authorities urged upon the pilgrims to utilize and avail all the facilities being extended by the government during the yatra. The pilgrims were also informed about the arrangements made for them at the base camp, besides other facilities being extended to them. The pilgrims appreciated the goodwill gesture of Civil and Police Administration Udhampur for according them rousing reception and cooperation.

ADC Nowshera chairs block level program on Vibrant Village Programme-2.0

JI NEWS SERVICE
NOWSHERA, JULY 2

A Sub Division program was organized today under Vibrant Village Programme-2.0 (VVP-II) in which District and Sectoral Officers remains present.

The camp was attended by residents of five identified villages i.e. Sarya, Sehar and Chowki Handan of Nowshera Block, Pukharni of Qila Darhal Block and Village Kalal of Seri Block. Pertinent to mention that Vibrant Village Programme-2.0 (VVP-II) was launched by Government of India on 2nd of April, 2025 covering 15 states and 2 UTs including 124 villages in eight districts of Jammu and Kashmir also as a centre sector scheme with 100 per cent funding, furthering its commitment



for vision of Viksit Bharat at 2047 for 'Safe, Secured and Vibrant Land borders'.

The program was organized with an objective to generate awareness among the residents of these villages and to educate them about the objective of Vibrant Village Programme-2.0 (VVP-II).

Speaking on the occasion, officers emphasized on various aspects of the program which ensure gap analysis and saturation of services in thematic areas through convergence i.e. connectivity including all weather roads under PMGSY-IV, Telecom access via digital Bharat Nidhi, Basic

services such as electrification through RDSS and access to television via the BIND Scheme, Livelihood development through ecagri business models.

On the various thematic areas like weather road connectivity, telecom connectivity, television connectivity and electrification through convergence under existing scheme norms and also apprise them that program aims at organizing activities like fairs and festivals, awareness camps, celebration of National days, regular visits by Ministers, senior government officers from central and State/UT Gov-

ernment and night stays in such villages.

ADC Nowshera Pritam Lal Thapa informed that village action plan under the Vibrant Village Programme-2.0 will be formulated for each village covering thematic areas and saturation of all central and UT sponsored beneficiaries based schemes. Program aims at all weather road connectivity, telecom connectivity, television connectivity and electrification through convergence under existing scheme norms.

Among others, the program was attended by program officers like ICDS Rajouri, SE PWD (R&B) Rajouri, Deputy Director Employment Rajouri, ACD Rajouri, Executive Engineers of Nowshera Sub Division and other District and Sectoral officers.

DLIC Poonch approves 40 cases under Mission YUVA

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 2

A District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) meeting under Mission YUVA was convened under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal. The meeting aimed to review and approve self-employment cases under the NANO Enterprises component of Mission YUVA and to assess the overall progress of implementation in the district.

The session was attended by key district-level officers and stakeholders involved in the execution of the mission.

Additional District Development Commissioner Pankaj Mangotra (Nodal Officer, Mission YUVA); Khalid Wafa, General Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC); Abdul Majid Tantray, Deputy Director District Employment and Counselling Centre; Chief Agriculture Officer; District Sheep Husbandry Officer; District Horticulture Officer; Assistant Director, Handicrafts/Handloom; Lead District Manager (LDM); as well as the Nodal Officers of Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) and National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) attended.

The meeting commenced with an overview of the progress made under Mission YUVA in the district, with particular focus on the promo-



tion of NANO Enterprises aimed at generating livelihood opportunities for the local youth. The chairperson emphasized the significance of Mission YUVA as a flagship initiative to empower unemployed youth through the provision of financial and institutional support to initiate micro-enterprises across various sectors.

A total of 40 cases were presented before the committee for consideration and approval under the NANO Enterprises category. Each case was reviewed in detail and discussed thoroughly. The proposals were examined in light of feasibility, sustainability, sectoral representation, and the potential to create employment opportunities.

Following extensive deliberations and scrutiny, all 40 cases were approved by the committee. The decision reflects the district administration's commitment to fast-tracking the implementation process and ensuring

timely support to aspiring entrepreneurs.

The Deputy Commissioner, while appreciating the efforts of all departments involved, underscored the need for inter-departmental coordination and timely follow-up to ensure smooth implementation.

The meeting reiterated the district administration's resolve to continue supporting youth-led entrepreneurship initiatives and to remove bottlenecks in the implementation of government schemes. The committee expressed satisfaction over the growing interest among the youth to benefit from such opportunities and called upon all stakeholders to sustain momentum by ensuring transparency, efficiency, and inclusiveness in the process.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chair and all present members for their active participation and valuable inputs.

DC distributes sports kits under Khelo India Initiative at Sports Stadium Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 2

In a significant step towards promoting a vibrant sports culture and nurturing grassroots talent, the Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal today distributed sports kits to various Khelo India centres under the Khelo India Initiative at a dedicated event held at the Sports Stadium, Poonch.

The event was organized under the aegis of the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, which continues to play a pivotal role in developing sports infrastructure and encouraging youth participation across the region. The Khelo India initiative aims to empower local athletes by equipping them with essential training resources and boosting their performance capabilities.

While addressing the gathering, the DC urged the youth to embrace sports not merely as a recreational



pursuit but as a means to instill discipline, maintain good health and even represent the nation at various levels. He reiterated the government's unwavering commitment to fostering sportsmanship and supporting young athletes in realizing their full potential.

The Khelo India Centres of Poonch expressed heartfelt gratitude to the District Administration and the J&K Sports Council for the timely provision of sports kits which are expected to significantly contribute to the development of budding talent in the district.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Manager Sports Stadium Poonch, Mush-

taq Ahmed. He lauded the continuous support from the Sports Council and the Deputy Commissioner in strengthening the district's sporting ecosystem.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Mohd Sayeed, Tehsildar Haveli Azhar Majeed, District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Mohd Qasim, Chairman SMSMVC Tariq Khan, Retired Manager Nirdosh Kumar, Parink Singh, Anchor Vijay Kumar along with several coaches from different sports disciplines and other notable figures from the district were present on the occasion.

Domicile certificate distribution camp under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan held at Mandlote

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JULY 2

District Administration Udhampur under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai organized a Domicile Certificate Distribution Camp

under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gramin Utkarsh Abhiyan at Village Mandlote, Tehsil Chenani.

The camp aimed to facilitate the seamless access of tribal families to essential documents thereby enabling them to avail

themselves of various government welfare schemes and benefits. The initiative under the PM-JANMAN scheme aims to bring governance to the doorstep of tribal populations residing in remote and far-flung areas.

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
- Joint and muscle pain
- Stomach pain
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Diarrhoea
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or stool
- Redness on the face

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

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LG Sinha flags off first batch of pilgrims as Amarnath Yatra begins



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 02 (KNO)

Amid multi-tier security cover, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday flagged off the first batch of Amarnath pilgrims numbering over 5,485, marking the beginning of this year's pilgrimage from here.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his best wishes to all the pilgrims for a safe and blissful journey. "This sacred pilgrimage is a journey of faith and self-discovery. Wishing all spiritual seekers a safe and comfortable journey to the holy abode of Lord Shiva and a deep soul-stirring experience," the LG said.

The Lieutenant Governor said the administration, people of Jammu and Kashmir, SASB, J&K Police, and security forces have made elaborate arrangements for the pilgrims.

More than 4,500 devotees set off to the holy Cave Shrine in the first batch for the darshan of Baba Barfani. Jammu city has come alive with a new vibrancy. The enthusiasm of pilgrims is very high.

"Undeterred by terror incidents, devotees of Bhole Baba are arriving in huge numbers, demonstrating their immense faith. I hope that this year's Yatra will be even more historic than previous years," LG Sinha said.

An official told news agency that the Baltal axis convoy departed at 5:20 am, followed by the Pahalgam axis convoy at 06:04 am. "5,485 yatris in 299 vehicles, with 2,347 reached Baltal base camp and 3,138 to Nunwan base camp," he said, adding that 4,395 are males, 1,043 females, and 31 children, along with 16 sadhus. The convoy includes

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4

Amarnath pilgrims laud 'Operation Sindoor,' thank PM Modi led Govt, security forces for ensuring their safety



JI NEWS SERVICE
PAHALGAM, JUL 02 (KNO)

In a strong display of faith and resilience, a group of Amarnath pilgrims from Gujarat arriving at Nunwan base camp here installed a banner on their vehicle praising the success of "Operation Sindoor"—a counter-terror operation launched in the aftermath of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

The banner, displayed on their vehicle, according to the news agency read: "Operation Sindoor: A Message of Strength and Resolve." The group said it was their way

of thanking the PM Modi led Government and security forces for ensuring the safety of the pilgrims.

Talking to reporters, Mukesh, a devotee from Ahmedabad, Gujarat, said: "The Pahalgam terror attack was aimed at spreading fear among devotees, but the launch of Operation Sindoor has sent a strong message that the government stands firmly with the people. PM Modi's leadership has inspired confidence, and the turnout of pilgrims will increase with each passing day."

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4

Kashmir Vande Bharat needs more coaches, Wi-Fi & improved schedule: Omar to Vaishnaw

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 2

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has written to Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, urging an increase in the number of coaches, enhanced frequency, and a rescheduling of the Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express, which began operations last month.

In the letter Omar said the recent launch of the Vande Bharat Express between Katra and Srinagar has been widely welcomed and has generated immense public enthusiasm across Jammu and Kashmir.

"This landmark initiative has ushered in a new era of modern, comfortable, and time-efficient travel for our citizens and tourists alike," he said.

Omar said based on the feedback received from various stakeholders and com-



Chair Car and Executive Class coaches will go a long way in addressing this surge," Omar wrote.

He also requested the Minister to increase the frequency of the train which would greatly benefit the people.

Omar also urged the Railway Minister to reschedule the current departure and arrival timings, which are not optimal for the working population or for those intending to undertake day-trips for official, educational, medical, or pilgrimage-related purposes.

"In this regard, it is earnestly requested that the departure from Katra be scheduled in the early morning hours, and the return journey from Srinagar be timed for the late evening. This would facilitate same day return travel and significantly enhance commuter convenience," the CM wrote. The Chief Minister also

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4

LG lauds courage of border residents during 'Operation Sindoor'



JI NEWS SERVICE
SUCHETGARI, JUL 02 (KNO)

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday hailed the extraordinary courage and unwavering resolve of the residents of border villages during Operation Sindoor, calling them the "first line of defence" of the nation.

Addressing a gathering during his visit to border village of Changiya in Arnia

Jammu, where he paid obeisance at Daati Maa Dev Sthan of Mahajan Phagetra Biradari, LG Sinha, according to the news agency commended the bravery shown by the people living along the International Border. "The people of border areas stood firm in the face of adversity during Operation Sindoor. Their resilience reflects the true spirit of patriotism. Border areas are

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4

Encounter underway in Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JUL 02 (KNO)

An encounter is underway between terrorists and security forces at Chatroo area of Kishtwar district on Wednesday, officials said.

An official told the news agency that an exchange of fire took place after the security forces launched a Cordon and Search Operation in the area following specific intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists.

They said the joint operation is being carried out in the area. Meanwhile, sources said two to three terrorists are believed to be trapped in the area.

The White Knight Corps posted on X, "Op CHAS Based on specific intelligence a joint search operation was underway in Kanzal Mandu, #Kishtwar."

"Contact has been established with the #terrorists and #operations are in progress," the post reads. KNO

In a first, high-altitude telemedicine services launched for Shri Amarnath Yatra 2025

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 02 (KNO)

In a historic first, high-altitude telemedicine services during the Shri Amarnath Yatra 2025 have been established and made fully operational at key Base Hospitals in Baltal and Panjtarni.

This innovative initiative results from a collaboration between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir (DHSK), aimed at enhancing real-

time specialist healthcare in the challenging mountainous terrain along the Yatra route.

For the first time in the pilgrimage's history, ground medical teams at these high-altitude camps can connect with expert doctors at tertiary healthcare centres via satellite-enabled systems. This technology facilitates timely diagnosis, advanced consultations, and remote management of critical cases, significantly improving patient outcomes and reducing emergency evacuations.

Each telemedicine unit is equipped with advanced diagnostic tools, satellite communication terminals, high-definition video confer-

Buoyed by the success at Baltal and Panjtarni, DHSK is now expanding this telemedicine network to four additional strategic locations: the Holy Cave, Lower Holy Cave, Sheshnag, and Chandanwari. These installations are currently underway and promise to revolutionise healthcare delivery across the entire pilgrimage corridor.

Each telemedicine unit is equipped with advanced diagnostic tools, satellite communication terminals, high-definition video confer-

encing, and real-time data sharing, creating a virtual link between frontline caregivers and remote specialists.

Speaking to the news agency, Dr Jehangir Bakshi, Director of Health Services, Kashmir, said, "With the operationalisation of telemedicine at Baltal and Panjtarni, pilgrims at the most remote camps can access timely specialist care. This technology helps reduce unnecessary evacuations and strengthens on-site

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All officers on ground to ensure peaceful Amarnath Yatra: DGP Prabhat

JI NEWS SERVICE
QAZIGUND, JUL 02 (KNO)

Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat, on Wednesday said that all officers are on the ground to ensure peaceful conduct of the Amarnath Yatra.

The DGP, according to the news agency reviewed security arrangements for the ongoing Amarnath Yatra along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway today.

DGP Prabhat inspected the security setup at Nayvug Tunnel in Qazigund and interacted with police personnel deployed on ground. He also met the pilgrims and took firsthand stock of the arrangements in place to ensure their safety. Speaking to reporters during his

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Slight dip in mercury brings relief to people in J&K



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 02 (KNO)

As Jammu and Kashmir braces for the light to moderate from July 5, the region has witnessed a bit relief from the scorching heat as the maximum temperatures plummeted by a few degrees on Wednesday.

According to the details available with the news agency, Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir,

witnessed a slight improvement in the maximum temperatures as the mercury settled at 32.8 degrees against yesterday's 34.2 degrees.

Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir recorded 29.2 degrees while Pahalgam recorded 27.2 degrees. Besides, Kupwara, Kokernag and Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, recorded a maximum temperature of 34.4 degrees, 30.0 degrees and 22.8 degrees

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J&K to prioritise movement of perishable goods on Srinagar Jammu highway during Yatra

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 2

To ensure smooth movement of fruit and vegetable trucks during the Amarnath Yatra, the J&K administration has directed the Traffic Police to identify a five-kilometre stretch near the Navyug Tunnel for dedicated parking of such vehicles, enabling their priority passage along the Srinagar-Jammu highway.

An advisory issued by the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir said agriculture and horticulture sectors are critically important for the economy of J&K and the Union Territory administration is fully committed to facilitate the growers and extend every possible assistance in marketing the produce.

The advisory said that Srinagar Jammu national highway (NH-44) being the lifeline

of J&K, has an important role to play in this regard.

"Use of NH-44, by different class of users, is largely governed by the advisory issued by Traffic Police, which tries to accommodate every stakeholder. However, it has been reported that in view of the forthcoming SANJY (Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra)- 2025, onset of fresh fruit season, convey movement and the condition of NH-44, sufficient time slot is not getting allotted to this very important sector and as a result, downside movement of trucks carrying perishable goods is being hampered due to which the fruit growers/traders are facing inconvenience," the advisory read.

In order to address the concerns of fruit growers, the UT administration has decided that the vehicles or buses

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4

J&K Medical Council issues over 1600 registrations in last two months

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 02 (KNO)

The Jammu & Kashmir Medical Council is actively streamlining the issuance of various registration certificates following a mandatory directive issued last year through a public notice, stating that no allopathic doctor shall be allowed to practice in Jammu and Kashmir without a permanent registration certificate issued by the Council.

To expedite the registration process, the Medical Council has implemented several applicant-friendly measures within the framework of the regulations set by the National Medical Commission (NMC).

Over the past two months, a total of 1,688 registration certificates have been issued, including 542 permanent registrations, 863 provisional

registrations, 132 additional qualification registrations, 111 No Objection Certificates (NOCs), and 40 good standing certificates, according to details obtained by the news agency.

In the year 2024 alone, the Council issued 1,295 permanent registrations, 1,557 provisional registrations, 342 additional qualification registrations, 467 NOCs, and 225 good standing certificates.

The registration process involves meticulous verification and authentication by multiple authorities. This includes validation of class 10 and 12 degrees from the boards of school education, internship completion certificates from medical colleges, and degree certificates and mark sheets from universities. Foreign Medical

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4

Dr Shazad condemns authorities: incomplete bunkers put border people at risk

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 2

The Jammu and Kashmir Border Area Development Conference (JK-BADC), an organization working for the welfare of border and tribal communities in J&K, has raised serious concerns over media reports highlighting the non-utilization of central funds meant for building bunkers for civilians in border areas.

Dr. Shazad Ahmed Malik, Chairman of JK-BADC and former Vice Chancellor, expressed disappointment, saying it is extremely unfortunate that nearly half of the funds provided by the central government for bunker construction in the past five years have not been used. According to reports obtained through the Right



to Information (RTI) Act, the Government of India had approved Rs. 242.77 crore for this purpose between 2020 and 2025. However, only Rs. 129.68 crore has been spent.

Dr. Shazad pointed out that in Rajouri district, Rs. 78.05 crore was used, while Poonch saw spending of only Rs. 44.56

crore. Despite being the most affected areas due to cross-border firing, the construction of bunkers in these districts remains incomplete. This delay, he said, is endangering innocent lives year after year.

Referring to recent incidents of cross-border shelling under "Operation Sindoor", he stated that the tragic loss of life and injuries in Rajouri and Poonch could have been reduced if the bunkers had been ready. He called the failure to act not just negligence, but a serious lapse that must be seen as a crime against the people who live under constant fear without adequate protection.

Dr. Shazad demanded strict action against officials responsible for the delays and called for an immediate investigation

and time-bound completion of the remaining bunkers. "Public money is meant to protect lives and should never be allowed to go to waste," he said.

JK-BADC urged the government to take the problems of border residents seriously and ensure they are no longer ignored. These families, who have lived under threat for decades, deserve proper shelter, dignity, and the government's full attention.

Dr. Shazad assured the people of border areas that JK-BADC stands firmly with them and will continue to raise this issue at every platform until their safety and rights are secured. He also hinted to take the matter to the court of Law, if the government fails to take appropriate action into this serious issue.

Extensive studies by ICMR and AIIMS on sudden deaths among adults post COVID conclusively establish no linkage between COVID-19 vaccines and sudden deaths

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 2

The matter of sudden unexplained deaths has been investigated through several agencies in the country. These studies have conclusively established that there is no direct link between COVID 19 vaccination and the reports of sudden deaths in the country.

Studies by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) affirm that COVID-19 vaccines in India are safe and effective, with extremely rare instances of serious side effects. Sudden cardiac deaths can result from a wide range of factors, including genetics, lifestyle, pre-existing conditions, and post-COVID complications.

The ICMR and NCDC have been working together to understand the causes behind sudden unexplained deaths, especially in young adults

between the ages of 18 and 45 years. To explore this, two complementary studies were undertaken using different research approaches—one based on past data and another involving real-time investigation. The first study, conducted by ICMR's National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE), was titled "Factors associated with unexplained sudden deaths among adults aged 18-45 years in India - A multicentric matched case-control study." This study was carried out from May to August 2023 across 47 tertiary care hospitals in 19 states and Union Territories. It looked at individuals who appeared to be healthy but died suddenly between October 2021 and March 2023. The findings have conclusively showed that COVID-19 vaccination does not increase the risk of unexplained sudden death in young adults.

The second study, titled "Establishing the cause

in sudden unexplained deaths in young," is currently being conducted by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi with funding and in collaboration with ICMR. This is a prospective study aimed at determining the common causes of sudden deaths in young adults. Early analysis of data from the study indicates that heart attacks, or myocardial infarction (MI), continue to be the leading cause of sudden death in this age group. Importantly, no major changes in the pattern of causes have been observed when compared with previous years. In majority of the unexplained death cases, genetic mutations have been identified as a possible cause of these deaths. The final results will be shared once the study is complete.

Together, these two studies offer a more comprehensive understanding of sudden unexplained deaths in young

adults in India. It has also been revealed that COVID-19 vaccination does not appear to increase the risk, whereas the role of underlying health issues, genetic predisposition and risky lifestyle choices does play a role in unexplained sudden deaths.

Scientific experts have reiterated that statements linking COVID vaccination to sudden deaths are false and misleading and are not supported by scientific consensus. Speculative claims without conclusive evidence risk undermining public confidence in vaccines, which have played a crucial role in saving millions of lives during the pandemic. Such unfounded reports and claims could strongly contribute to vaccine hesitancy in the country, thereby adversely impacting public health.

The Government of India remains committed to evidence-based public health research to protect the well-being of its citizens.

Indian Army conducts Lecture on National Doctors Day at Various Locations of Poonch, Rajouri and Reasi District

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, RAJOURI, REASI, 2 JUL

In a commendable outreach initiative, the Indian Army organised a special lecture on the occasion of National Doctors' Day on 02 July 2025 at remote locations including Chasana, JWG, Lah, JNV, Kotranka, Thanamandi, and Marha in the districts of Poonch, Rajouri, and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir. The event aimed to spread awareness about the vital role of doctors in society and to educate the local population on the



importance of healthcare, hygiene, and timely medical intervention. Army officials interacted with local residents, shared insights on common health con-

cerns in the region, and highlighted the selfless contributions of doctors, especially in remote and underserved areas. Over 236 villagers, including

students, elders, and local leaders, attended the session and expressed their appreciation for the Army's continued support and humanitarian initiatives. The lecture reaffirmed the Indian Army's commitment not only to the security of the region but also to the welfare and upliftment of its people. Events like this help bridge the gap between remote communities and modern healthcare practices, fostering trust and cooperation between the Army and the local populace.

Samsung announces Pre Reserve for Next Generation of Galaxy Foldables in India

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 2

Samsung will launch its next generation of foldable smartphones on July 9 in New York. The next generation of foldable smartphones will come with a new AI-powered interface and will be supported by

breakthrough hardware. Before the official launch, customers in India can pre-reserve the next foldable smartphones by paying a token amount of INR 2000.

Customers who pre-reserve Samsung's next generation of foldable smartphones will be eligible for benefits worth up

to INR 5999 on purchasing the device. They will also be eligible for early delivery.

Customers can pre-reserve Samsung's next generation of foldable smartphones by visiting Samsung.com, Samsung Exclusive Stores, Amazon.in, Flipkart.com and leading retail outlets across India.

Samsung has designed the new devices around what people truly need, such as better performance, sharper cameras, and smarter ways to stay connected. And, Galaxy AI goes beyond what devices can do – it's about how people interact with them.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

LG Sinha flags...

299 vehicles - 162 on the Baltal axis and 137 on the Pahalgam axis. The vehicle distribution includes 113 buses (48 via Baltal, 65 via Pahalgam), 42 medium motor vehicles (MMVs), and 144 light motor vehicles (LMVs)," he said.

A multi-layered security setup has been activated along the 38-day Amarnath Yatra route, ending August 09, 2025.

The official said that for the first time, facial recognition systems have been installed on both the Pahalgam and Baltal routes. "RFID tags are mandatory for all vehicles and pilgrims, enabling real-time tracking," he said.

The Yatra route from both Pahalgam axis and Baltal axis has been declared a no-fly zone due to serious security concerns. CCTV surveillance, random vehicle checks, and a three-tier security grid are in place along highways and camps. KNO

Amarnath pilgrims...

Echoing his sentiments, another pilgrim from the group, as per KNO, said, "We have seen a very high level of security arrangements. Devotees should come without any fear. The administration and security forces have made elaborate arrangements, and there is absolutely no need to be scared."

The devotees asserted that Operation Sindoor is not over, and that it represents a continued commitment of the security forces to eliminate the terror threat and ensure that the holy Yatra proceeds peacefully and without interruption.

The atmosphere at the Pahalgam base camp was marked by high enthusiasm as pilgrims from various parts of the country arrived amid tight security—(KNO)

In a first, high-altitude...

medical support." This integration of space technology into public health demonstrates its potential in geographically difficult and disaster-prone areas, Dr Bakshi said, adding, "Not only does it enhance healthcare quality and reach for pilgrims, but it also ensures more efficient health infrastructure management during one of India's largest religious gatherings."

The DHSK has also undertaken extensive measures for Yatra safety, deploying over 1,000 medical personnel, including specialists, doctors, and allied health workers, across all medical stations, along with establishing Emergency Aid Centers (EACs), Mobile Medical Units, and Base Hospitals at critical points.

Life-saving equipment has also been provisioned, and pre-Yatra refresher training sessions and public awareness campaigns on high-altitude illnesses and emergency preparedness have been conducted.

The successful deployment of telemedicine services in such remote, logistically challenging locations highlights the transformative role of space technology

in public health. It not only elevates the standard of medical care during this major pilgrimage but also sets a precedent for future healthcare interventions in remote and disaster-prone areas. KNO

Kashmir Vande Bharat needs...

sought to provide onboard internet connectivity for the train.

"In today's digital age, uninterrupted internet access has become a key expectation of passengers, especially on premium trains such as the Vande Bharat Express. Provision of high-speed onboard Wi-Fi will greatly enhance the travel experience, allowing passengers to remain connected for work, communication, and entertainment during their journey especially in view of poor mobile connectivity in the long tunnels," Omar wrote.

Omar said he would be grateful if the Ministry of Railways could kindly examine the above suggestions with a view to their early implementation.

"These measures will substantially improve passenger satisfaction, regional connectivity, and tourism promotion in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

LG lauds courage...

not just geographical ends – they are the soul of our national security," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasized that the Vibrant Villages Programme launched by the Government of India is transforming the landscape of border villages through improved connectivity, infrastructure, and essential services. "We will ensure that the villages of this sector are taken up under the Vibrant Villages Programme from this year. Detailed instructions will be issued to prioritize the development of these areas," he said.

He reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, stating, "PM Modi always says that border residents should never feel they lack any facilities compared to people in other parts of the country. The Government of India has launched a special initiative to develop our border villages as hubs of growth and opportunity."

Responding to public demands, LG Sinha, as per KNO, assured that the sacred Daati Maa Dev Sthan would be brought on the religious tourism map of Jammu and Kashmir. "Steps will be taken to promote Suchetgarh and its surrounding areas for both general and religious tourism," he affirmed.

He also urged the people to pray for the successful completion of the ongoing Amarnath Yatra and encouraged citizens to contribute actively towards building a peaceful, prosperous Jammu and Kashmir in line with the vision of the Prime Minister.

"The collective effort of our citizens, especially those living in the most challenging terrains, will shape the future of Jammu and Kashmir. Together, let us move forward with hope and determination," LG Sinha said.

KNO

All officers on...

visit, the DGP, per news KNO said all officers are on the ground ensuring peaceful conduct of the Yatra.

The visit came at a time when the first batch of 5,485 pilgrims reached Kashmir amid unprecedented security measures.

The 38-day Yatra is being conducted through twin routes—Baltal in Ganderbal and Pahalgam in Anantnag—with a robust multi-tier security grid. KNO

Slight dip in mercury...

respectively.

However, Jammu stations continued to record below normal temperatures with Jammu city recording a day temperature of 32.9 degrees. Katra recorded 31.0 degrees while Baderwah recorded 30.6 degrees.

As per the details, Banihal and Batote recorded a maximum temperature of 27.3 degrees and 26.5 degrees respectively.

Meanwhile, as per the seasonal rainfall data prepared by the local Meteorological department, only three stations in Jammu and Kashmir including Kishtwar, Kulgam and Bandipora recorded large deficit rainfall, which ranges between 60 to 99 per cent from June 01, 2025 to July 02, 2025.

Srinagar, Shopian, Poonch, Kupwara, Ganderbal, Doda, Baramulla, Budgam and Anantnag continued to record a deficit rainfall, ranging between 20 to 59 per cent.

As per the data, three stations including Rajouri, Reasi and Samba have recorded large excess rainfall. The data reveals Rajouri has recorded a rainfall of 187.1 mm against the normal precipitation of 94.1 mm. Samba has recorded 155 mm rainfall against average rainfall of 88.4 mm while Reasi has recorded 312.4 mm against normal precipitation of 151 mm.

Moreover, 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

J&K to prioritise...

ferrying Yatris shall be given first preference for their hassle free movement along NH-44, followed by,

vehicles carrying fruits and vegetables.

"Traffic Police should identify a stretch of about 05 Kms along NH-44, between Levdoora to Navyug Tunnel, which should be dedicated for parking of fruit/vegetable laden vehicles, so that their movement could be facilitated on priority. Other HMs waiting to be released for their onward movement towards Jammu should be allowed to get parked only after Levdoora," the advisory read.

It added that fruit and vegetable growers are requested to load and timely park their vehicles, every morning before 9:00 AM at the designated place, so that traffic police could easily identify the vehicles and release them once SANJY related daily movement is over.

The Divisional Commissioner asked the Department of Agriculture Production to frame and issue instructions to all the fruit and vegetable growers to paste pycards, hoarding or banner mentioning the item and the source of origin, so that fruit and vegetable laden vehicles are distinguished and their movement is accordingly facilitated

"Trucks carrying perishable goods will also be facilitated through Jawahar Tunnel or Mughal Road if they desire so," the advisory said.

The administration also directed that certain categories of vehicles returning to Jammu must exclusively use the Mughal Road between 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM, starting July 2. The advisory applies to petrol, diesel, and LPG tankers, trucks carrying empty LPG cylinders, empty Food Corporation of India (FCI) vehicles, and all other loaded or empty vehicles up to 10 tyres.

This regulation will remain in force until the conclusion of the yatra.

J&K Medical Council...

Graduates (FMGs) also undergo verification processes, including eligibility certificates from the National Medical Commission, degree certificates, internship certificates, and marks cards verified through respective embassies, as well as FMG exam scorecards from the National Board of Examination (NBE).

The demand for registration has surged, as all universities offering MBBS courses issued final year results for approximately 800-900 students in May-June this year. Around 1,000 interns completed their compulsory internship during the same period.

"255 FMGs were selected for mandatory rotational internships in various medical colleges across Jammu & Kashmir, based on their merit in the FMG exam conducted by the NBE," data reveals.

The J&K Medical Council typically issues permanent registration valid for five years, after which renewal is required. Renewal mandates the completion of certain Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits.

To address the backlog and speed up the registration process, the Council said it is also planning to hire additional staff. Moreover, it is contemplating the digitisation and digitalisation of records of all registered medical practitioners since its inception, aiming to enhance efficiency and record-keeping. KNO

DC Poonch reviews PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 2

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to evaluate the implementation status of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in the district. The meeting focused on key aspects such as the progress of rooftop solar installations, registration trends, and financial disbursements under the scheme.

It was informed during the meeting that a total of 1080 applications had been received, of which 151 installations have been completed so far. Expressing concern over the slow pace, the Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned officers to intensify efforts and maximize the number of installations in



the coming weeks.

To ensure wider public participation, the DC instructed all departments to launch a mass awareness campaign highlighting the benefits of the scheme and to simplify the registration process for citizens. He stressed the need for timely approvals, hassle-free processing, and proactive handholding of beneficiaries to ensure the scheme's success.

Underscoring the importance of inter-departmental coordination, the Deputy Commissioner

urged the PDD, banking institutions, and empanelled vendors to work in close synergy to resolve any technical, financial, or procedural challenges faced by the applicants.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that with collective efforts and proper implementation, the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana could significantly transform the energy landscape of Poonch while empowering citizens through sustainable and cost-effective power solutions.

DC Kishtwar reviews functioning of Agriculture Department

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JULY 2

To strengthen the agricultural sector in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess ongoing agricultural activities, implementation of government schemes and challenges faced by the sector.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed various Centrally Sponsored and UT Government Schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Soil Health Card Scheme and Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

Key discussions focused on seed distribution, fertilizer availability, irrigation infrastructure and adoption of modern, sustainable farming practices.

The DC stressed the importance of improving agricultural productivity through focused interventions. He directed the Agriculture Department to speed up farmer registrations under the "Daksh



Kisan" initiative, setting a target of enrolling 15,000 farmers in the coming weeks.

The DC emphasized the need for massive awareness campaigns, timely distribution of quality inputs and promotion of organic farming. Special attention was given to cultivating high-value and climate-resilient crops, especially Black Zeera and Saffron which are unique to the region and have high commercial potential.

To enhance administrative efficiency, the DC instructed officials to fill key vacancies, including assigning staff to AEO positions in Marwah and Warwan. He further directed the department to focus on performance indicators that affect the district's ranking under the HADP and work actively to improve Kishtwar's performance.

The review also covered major challenges like irri-

gation shortages, limited market access and the need for capacity-building programs to equip farmers with technical knowledge and modern techniques.

The DC highlighted the need for close coordination among concerned departments and effective field-level implementation to ensure that the benefits of government schemes reach the grassroots level.

Lauding the ongoing efforts of the Agriculture Department, the DC reaffirmed the administration's commitment to building a resilient and inclusive agricultural system. He stressed the importance of turning policy into real results that improve the lives of farmers across the district.

The meeting was attended by CAO Kishtwar Kushal Chandel, SDAO Padder Dheeraj Singh, along with other officials and field staff of the Agriculture Department.

Union Minister promises optimal support for J&K's Dairy, Fisheries development



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 2

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Rajiv Ranjan Singh, who is on a two day visit to Kashmir, today said the central government will extend all possible support to J&K for developing dairy and fisheries sectors.

The Union Minister was speaking at a function, 'Reimagining Livestock & Fisheries with Future Ready Farmers: Vision 2030', at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K).

The Union Minister reaffirmed the Central Government's commitment towards agricultural advancement and farming community in J&K. He said that these sectors need to be organised by the strengthening and bringing them under Cooperatives at district, block and panchayat level to benefit the dairy farmers, who are mostly small and marginal. He added that there is tremendous potential for exports for Kashmir trout and niche dairy products, however, that requires processing and value addition. He said his Ministry will provide full support to the UT government for establishing retail dairy outlets in each district.

J&K Agriculture Minister, Javid Ahmad Dar, thanked the Union Minister for his support in transforming the livestock and fisheries sector in J&K.

He stressed on processing and value-addition of livestock produce for economic empowerment of the farming community. Shalendra Kumar, gave an overview of the dairy and fisheries sectors of the UT while Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-K briefed about the university's working.

Secretary, Union Ministry for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Varsha Joshi; Animal Husbandry Commissioner, DAHD, Abhijit Mitra and Joint Secretary Ministry of Fisheries, Sagar Mehra were present at the function.

Rajiv Ranjan Singh also interacted with the dairy and fisheries farmers, Poshu Sakhis and entrepreneurs, who informed him about the progress of these sectors in J&K over the years besides projecting their issues and challenges.

Earlier at SKUAST-K, the Union Minister toured the SKUAST-K High Density Apple orchards, followed by an inspection of various stalls showcasing groundbreaking agricultural innovations, particularly in animal sciences. A key highlight was the Minister's interaction at a stall featuring recently produced India's first gene-edited sheep, a testament to the cutting-edge research being conducted at SKUAST-K in animal husbandry. This achievement places India at the forefront of advanced genome editing technologies in livestock.

J&K Agriculture Minister, Javid Ahmad Dar, thanked the Union Minister for his support in transforming the livestock and fisheries sector in J&K. He stressed on processing and value-addition of livestock produce for economic empowerment of the farming community. Shalendra Kumar, gave an overview of the dairy and fisheries sectors of the UT while Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-K briefed about the university's working.

DC Ramban flags off Annual Sarvadar Yatra from Ukheral

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JULY 2

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan today flagged off the Annual 'Sarvadar Yatra', locally popular as Chamunda Mata Yatra, from Ukheral. The ceremony was graced by Member Legislative Assembly Ramban, Advocate Arjun Singh Raju amid rich religious, cultural and traditional fervor.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, senior officers, prominent citizens and members of the Yatra Committee were also present on the occasion.

The annual Chamunda Mata Yatra attracts thousands of devotees from across the region and beyond. Sarvadar Yatra is not just a religious journey but also a spiritual expedition through the breathtaking landscapes of the Himalayas, offering devotees a unique blend of devotion, adventure and natural beauty.

The sacred Chamunda Mata Mandir located



amidst the serene heights of Pogal Paristan in Ramban district, holds immense historical and spiritual significance and is believed to be centuries old. The 'Charri Mubarak' Yatra is traditionally held every year between June and August, with many devotees continuing the pilgrimage until winter, braving the challenging terrain with deep faith and devotion.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA highlighted the importance of the Yatra in preserving the region's spiritual and cultural heritage while strengthening communal harmony. He appreciated the efforts of the district administration and the Yatra Committee in facilitating smooth and

safe arrangements for the devotees.

The Deputy Commissioner assured that the district administration has made comprehensive arrangements for the convenience, safety and security of the pilgrims. He emphasized that facilities such as medical aid, drinking water, sanitation, boarding and lodging have been set up along the Yatra route in close coordination with various departments and local stakeholders.

The Yatra, which commenced today, will continue till Rakshabandhan in August, allowing devotees to undertake this sacred journey during the summer season and seek the blessings of Mata Chamunda Ji.

DC Kishtwar reviews power scenario in district



JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JULY 2

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, chaired a meeting with the JPDCL Kishtwar to review the power supply situation in the district.

The AEE JPDCL Kishtwar apprised the DC on the current status and progress of JPDCL in the District.

During the meeting, the DC directed JPDCL Kishtwar to provide day-wise progress reports on the installation of smart meters in the town area and other parts of the district. M/S Genus, the executing agency for smart meter installation, was instructed to expedite the process as the current performance

was found unsatisfactory. PGCIL was directed to carry out the execution of underground cabling work in the town for decongestion and town facelifting. PGCIL informed the DC that the survey for the same would be completed within a week.

The Sub Transmission Authority, Doda, was instructed to expedite the completion of 33/11 KV receiving stations at Chatroo, Bounjwah and Malpeth before the onset of winter.

Further directions were issued to speed up land identification for the Dool and Kuntwara receiving stations under the RR Plan of KWAR HEP and Rattle HEP, respectively. PGCIL was also direct-

ed to complete all allotted works under RDSS by the deadline of December 2025. AEE TLMD Udhampur was instructed to ensure the installation of the 50 MVA power transformer at Katersamna Grid is completed by August 2025. The meeting was attended by ACR Kishtwar Idrees Lone, CPO Kishtwar Shahnawaz Bali, Sudhir Kumar Sharma, Technical Officer ED Kishtwar; AEE Sub Division Kishtwar, Showkat Khan; AEE TLMD Udhampur, Kewal Singh; AEE Thathri; AEE STD Doda; Chief Manager PGCIL, Moin Manzoor; besides representatives of RECPDCL and all TKCS.

International Day of Cooperatives celebrated at Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 2

The Department of Cooperatives, J&K, in collaboration with JCC Bank today celebrated International Day of Cooperatives at JCC Bank Headquarters, Bahu Plaza Jammu.

The event was held under the theme "M-PACS - Focusing on Women Empowerment and Sustainable Livelihood", highlighting the vital role of cooperatives in driving inclusive growth and sustainable development.

The programme witnessed the participation of senior officials including the Additional Registrar, Cooperative Societies Jammu; Joint Registrar (Audit); Joint Registrar (Banking); Joint Registrar (Special); Deputy Registrars and Assistant Registrars from across the Jammu Division. A significant number of women members from cooperative societies also attended reflecting the growing involvement of women in cooperative governance



and enterprise.

Notably, participants came from both urban and remote areas such as Samba, Jammu, Poonch, Rajouri and Billawar. Many of them shared their inspiring journeys and experiences with the cooperative department, offering testimonials on how the cooperative movement has empowered them socially and economically.

A major highlight of the event was the distribution of registration certificates to newly registered Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), dairy and fisheries cooperatives across Jammu Division. Successful societies were felicitated with mementos in recognition of their outstanding contributions to innovation, livelihood

generation, and women-led development.

The event also featured stalls set up by various cooperatives showcasing their products—ranging from honey, pickles and spices to bakery items, milk products and handicrafts—demonstrating the vibrancy and diversity of cooperative entrepreneurship.

Addressing the gathering, dignitaries emphasized the crucial role cooperatives play in empowering communities, especially women and supporting rural economies. The celebration concluded with a reaffirmed commitment to strengthening the cooperative ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir, in line with the global theme "Cooperatives Build a Better World."

DIC Kathua organizes Bhajan Sandhya for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatris



JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, JULY 2

District Information Centre Kathua hosted a mesmerising Bhajan Sandhya for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatris at the Lakhapur Facilitation Centre.

The event commenced with a soulful rendition of Shri Ganesh Vandana, followed by a series of Shiv Bhajans performed in Hindi, Punjabi and Dogri. The artists captivating performances left the audience enthralled and spellbound.

The Bhajan Sandhya was organized with the dual purpose of entertaining the Amarnath Yatris visiting Jammu & Kashmir and providing them with a glimpse of the region's diverse and rich cultural heritage.

Pilgrims from various parts of the country participated in the soul-elevating musical presentations, creating an electrifying atmosphere filled with divinity at the Lakhapur Facilitation Centre.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr.DEE/GFZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.reps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids up to closing date and time only.
Tender No:- 251-Elect-T-09-2025-26 Name of Work: Electrical work in c/w Provision of Rubberized level crossing at 27 Nos existing level crossings in the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN-I/FZR and Electrical work in c/w Provision of 01 nos. 100 KL RCC OH water tank at GNA & 1 no at 225 KL at FZR in lieu of old abandoned steel OH water storage tank with plumbing pipes with pump house, bore & pump and Electrical work in c/w Provision of 5 Nos new SMC Over Head Tank of 1000L capacity each at EXB, LNK, MGS, GHS & JPD stations and provision of boring & pump house etc and Electrical work c/w Replacement of RCC tank of 2,25,000 liters capacity including Pump House and improvement to drainage system in Colony no. 1, 2, 3, & 4 at Firozpur. App. Cost. (in ₹): Rs. 39,34,423.28p Earnest Money (in ₹): Rs. 78,700.00p Completion period: 6 Months Opening of tender: 23.07.2025 after 15:00 Hrs. Website Particulars: www.reps.gov.in.
No. 251-Elect/T. Notice No. 09-Elect/2025-26 Dated:- 02.07.2025 1995/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
Sr. DEN-III/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.reps.gov.in with closing date: 25.07.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through only payment modes available on www.reps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.reps.gov.in.

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Bid System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
30.06.2025	11.07.2025	25.07.2025/ 15:00 Hrs
S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender
1.	67-2025-26-ADEN-I-ASR	Annual zone work for ordinary repair and maintenance of ASR-KEMK, ASR-VKA-DBNK in the section of SSE/W/BL/ASR under ADEN-I & II/ASR (2025-26).
		Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money Validity of Offer Period of Completion
		1,49,99,942.33/- 2,25,000.00/- 60 Days 12 Months
		Similar nature of work :- "Any civil work other than track work."
2.	68-2025-26-ADEN-I-ASR	Annual zone work for ordinary repair and maintenance in the section of SSE/W/VS/ASR under ADEN-I/ASR (2025-26).
		Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money Validity of Offer Period of Completion
		1,74,99,966.41/- 2,37,500.00/- 60 Days 12 Months
		Similar nature of work :- "Any civil work other than track work."
3.	69-2025-26-ADEN-JUC	Annual zone work for ordinary repair and maintenance in the section of ADEN/JUC (2025-26).
		Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money Validity of Offer Period of Completion
		1,79,99,969.54/- 2,40,000.00/- 60 Days 12 Months
		Similar nature of work :- "Any civil work other than track work."
4.	70-2025-26-ADEN-I-ASR	Annual zone work for ordinary repair and maintenance in the section of SSE/W/ML/ASR under ADEN-I/ASR (2025-26).
		Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money Validity of Offer Period of Completion
		1,74,99,968.85/- 2,37,500.00/- 60 Days 12 Months
		Similar nature of work :- "Any civil work other than track work."

Note 1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. Tender No:- 67,68,70-2025-26-ADEN-I-ASR & 69-2025-26-ADEN-JUC Date: 01.07.2025 1988/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Study finds genetic link for rare childhood brain developmental disorder

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

A team of international researchers has uncovered a new genetic cause for a rare developmental disorder that profoundly impacts brain growth and function in children.

The team led by the University of Otago-Ōtakou Whakaiti Waka from New Zealand pinpointed specific changes in a gene called CRNKLI that can potentially cause a severe genetic disorder that results in affected individuals having profound pre- and postnatal microcephaly (smaller head circumference), with pontocerebellar hypoplasia (underdevelopment in brain stem and cerebellum), seizures and severe intellectual disability.

The finding sheds new light on the complex process by which human bodies create the "instruction manuals" essential for



building and maintaining our brains, said Louise Bicknell, Associate Professor, from the Rare Disorder Genetics Laboratory in Otago's Department of Biochemistry.

"Our bodies rely on a precise process called 'splicing' to read and process genetic instructions from our DNA and help generate the building blocks required in our body," Bicknell said.

"While it's known

that problems with the machinery that coordinates splicing can cause various genetic disorders, this new finding adds to a small but growing recognition of the potentially severe impact on brain development in particular."

In the study, published in the American Journal of Human Genetics, the team studied 10 families, of which nine showed genetic changes in the

exact same spot in the CRNKLI gene.

All the affected children shared the same severe features, highlighting the strong link between these specific genetic changes and the disorder.

The research findings clearly show that CRNKLI is crucial for healthy brain development, said lead author Dr. Sankalita Ray Das, a Postdoctoral researcher in the Rare Disorder Genetics Laboratory. The finding not only identifies a new genetic cause for a severe neurological disorder but also offers further clues into the complex ways our genes guide brain development, she said.

"Importantly, this knowledge has provided understanding for families affected by these severe conditions and lays the foundation for further research into why only the brain is affected by these genetic changes."

Novo Nordisk launches weight-loss drug Wegovy in India, priced at Rs 4,336.25 per dose

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Danish pharmaceutical company Novo Nordisk on Tuesday launched its once-weekly injectable weight-loss drug Wegovy in India, at Rs 4,336.25 per dose.

Wegovy, a once-weekly glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist (GLP-1 RA), is the first and only weight management medication in India.

The drug, with semaglutide as the active ingredient, is indicated for both long-term chronic weight management and reduction in risk of major adverse cardiovascular events in people living with the condition.

The drug is available in five dosing -- 0.25 mg, 0.5 mg, 1 mg, 1.7 mg, and 2.4 mg -- and comes with the convenience of an innovative, easy-to-use pen device.

The first three will be priced at 4,336 rupees,



and the monthly price for the drug starts at Rs 17,345 per pen, the company said.

On the other hand, 1.7 mg is priced at Rs 24,280 per pen, and 2.4 mg is priced at Rs 26,015 per pen.

Wegovy is a prescription-only medication that has the potential to improve the quality of life for millions of Indians living with obesity or overweight, the company said.

"Obesity is not just a personal health concern -- it is a chronic disease and a national epidemic that India cannot afford

to ignore. Recognising this, we are proud to announce that we are bringing Wegovy to Indians as a transformative and evidence-based therapeutic solution with the convenience of a world-class, state-of-the-art pen device," said Vikrant Shrotriya - Managing Director, Novo Nordisk India.

"Additionally, we have an India-specific price with the benefit of the same price for the first three dosing strengths.

With this we are reaffirming our commitment to address India's growing burden of overweight and

obesity," he said.

Notably, the drug comes with common side effects which include nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, constipation, and stomach (abdomen) pain. In people with type 2 diabetes, it can cause low blood sugar; and also raise issues like gas, stomach flu, heartburn, and runny nose or sore throat. Rodent studies have reported a risk for thyroid tumours or thyroid cancer, with Wegovy. Acute pancreatitis and gallbladder problems were also reported in studies with Wegovy.

Wegovy works by targeting key areas of the brain involved in appetite regulation and food intake. It reduces hunger, improves satiety, and cuts down food cravings, eventually inducing weight loss.

It also improves insulin resistance and has a beneficial effect on the reduction of cardiometabolic events and risk factors.

Haemophilia A: Low dose emicizumab effective, will reduce cost by over 50 pc, says ICMR study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

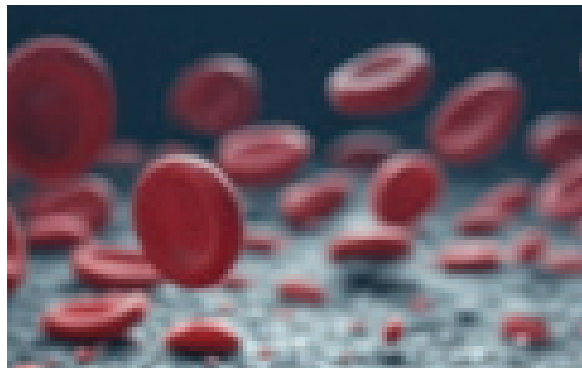
Low dose of emicizumab could be as effective as standard dose against Haemophilia A, according to a study led by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

Emicizumab is a bispecific monoclonal antibody used to treat hemophilia A -- a genetic bleeding disorder.

The drug works by mimicking the function of the missing or deficient clotting factor VIII (FVIII), enabling blood clotting to occur and preventing or reducing bleeding episodes.

As per the official government data, there are 27,000 haemophilia patients registered and 1, 40,000 patients expected to be affected in India.

Low-dose emicizumab can also be potentially a cost-effective treatment option in persons with hemophilia A, especially in developing countries, the



study revealed.

A standard dose of emicizumab is priced approximately at \$15,000.

"As the standard dose of the drug is expensive making it difficult for people from lower economic strata to access it, the ICMR led the study to understand its effectiveness even with a low dose," said Dr. Manisha Madkaikar, Director of ICMR - Centre for Research Management and Control of Haemoglobinopathies (CRHCM) in Nagpur.

"Low-dose emicizumab will reduce the cost of therapy by more than 50 per

cent resulting in the saving of more than 7 crore per patient for lifetime treatment assuming a life span of 50 years and average weight of 50 kg," she added.

In the study, the scientists compared the efficacy and safety of low-dose emicizumab with those on low-dose factor (FVIII) prophylaxis via chart review.

Published in the Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis, the ICMR team showed that the direct cost of low-dose emicizumab was approximately \$6,000 and that for low-dose recombinant FVIII pro-

phylaxis used in the study was \$6,282 (the cost may range from \$3432 to \$7920 depending on the type of factor).

"Our study successfully demonstrated that low-dose emicizumab is equally effective in the treatment of Haemophilia," Madkaikar said.

Haemophilia can typically lead to preventable joint damage. In about 80 per cent of cases, haemophilia manifests as bleeding, most frequently involving the large joints like knees, ankles, elbows, hip, and wrist, followed by deep bleeds affecting large body muscles.

Each bleeding episode requires attention, and patients take a prolonged time for recovery and severe complications could occur if any bleeding is not attended. Treatment with monoclonal antibodies like emicizumab are offering better protection with fewer infusions, especially for patients with inhibitors.

Dire need to identify new drugs for patients with sickle cell disease: ICMR scientist

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Identifying new drugs for patients with sickle cell disease is very important, said a senior scientist at the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

Speaking to news agency, Dr. Manisha Madkaikar, Director of ICMR - Centre for Research Management and Control of Haemoglobinopathies (CRHCM) in Nagpur, shared that among many drugs only hydroxyurea therapy has so far been effective.

Hydroxyurea has also been included in the National Health Mission's essential drugs list.

However, the drug remains ineffective in many patients, prompting the need to find new and better treatments.

"We have known sickle cell disease for now so many decades. But it is only hydroxyurea therapy that has stood the test of



time. Hydroxyurea significantly helps in improving the quality of life and complications in sickle cell disease patients," Madkaikar said.

"However, there are some patients who do not respond to hydroxyurea therapy. Another drawback with hydroxyurea therapy is the patients have to take treatment lifelong, so that is the reason why a better drug is something which is desired, a better mode of therapy is desired," she said.

The ICMR scientist

said this even as the government, last week, announced an award of Rs 10 crore to develop a drug for the treatment of sickle cell disease.

The tribal affairs ministry, in collaboration with the AIIMS-Delhi, will undertake a competition for the development of the drug. The selected proposal will be funded up to Rs 10 crore, said Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Durgadas Uikey at an event to mark World Sickle Cell Day in the national capital.

Uikey also announced the institution of the Bhawan Birsa Munda Prize for the development of a drug to treat the disease.

Sickle cell disease is a genetic disorder mostly prevalent in districts with high tribal populations. About one in 86 births among STs have sickle cell disease which affects haemoglobin in red blood cells, resulting in morbidity and mortality.

Madkaikar noted that there is a lot of research going on apart from bone marrow transplantation and gene therapy, which is available outside India but currently not available in India.

"We do not have any other drug which has shown promise like hydroxyurea therapy. So, there is a lot of scope or there is a lot of need for identifying such medicines which will transform the lives of patients with sickle cell disease," the scientists said.

Australian scientists' genetic barcoding decodes early human development

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Australian scientists have unveiled a transformative tool that allows researchers to track the fate of individual cells in a developing embryo with unprecedented precision.

The study introduces LoxCode -- a system that assigns each cell in a genetically engineered mouse a unique DNA barcode, Xinhua news agency reported.

The team led by Melbourne-based Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI) noted that the barcode might enable scientists to trace the lineage of each cell as it divides, migrates, and specialises.

LoxCode generates 30 billion unique DNA barcodes, far exceeding existing technologies, enabling full cellular ancestry mapping via standard sequencing.

Already adopted globally, it powers studies in



brain development, immunity, and organ regeneration, the team said.

The research revealed that the body's organ blueprint forms earlier than thought. Days after conception, some embryo cells are already committed to specific tissues such as the brain and blood, while others retain full flexibility.

This insight into cellular fate decisions could transform the understanding of

development and developmental disorders.

"When life is a ball of just a few hundred cells, we discovered that some cells could individually give rise to every tissue in the body, while others were already destined to become a certain type of tissue, like brain, gut, limbs or blood," said lead researcher Professor Shalin Naik, and WEHI laboratory head.

"What excites me most

is the explosion of research LoxCode enables - it's not every day you create a tool that's widely used and has the power to transform what we understand about how our bodies work, at the deepest level," Naik added.

Tom Weber, the inventor of LoxCode from WEHI and the University of Melbourne, compared it to dealing with each cell with a unique, inheritable DNA "hand."

By revealing how cells make their earliest decisions, LoxCode paves the way for advances in disease treatment and regenerative medicine. This marks a major step forward in mapping every cell's origin and fate, said the study published in the journal Cell.

"LoxCode is essentially a DNA ancestry test for every cell, in every tissue of the mouse, that allows researchers to investigate and unravel some of life's greatest mysteries," Weber said.

Millions of children at risk as global childhood vaccination rates plummet since 2010: Lancet

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

With a significant decline in the progress made in global childhood vaccination rates since 2010, lives of millions of children are at vulnerable to preventable diseases and death, according to a new study published in The Lancet on Wednesday.

The study led by researchers from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, analysed coverage rates for 11 core vaccines for diseases like diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, and measles recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) across 204 countries and territories.

The findings showed that between 1980 and 2023, worldwide vaccine coverage doubled against diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough (pertussis), measles, polio, and tuberculosis.



In addition, there was also a 75 per cent global decline in the number of children who had never received a routine childhood vaccine (also known as zero-dose children), falling from 58.8 million in 1980 to 14.7 million in 2019 before the Covid-19 pandemic.

But since 2010, progress has stalled or reversed in many countries. For example, measles vaccinations declined in 100 of 204 countries between 2010 and 2019, while 21 of 36 high-income countries experienced declines in coverage for at least one vaccine dose against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, measles, polio, or

tuberculosis, the research showed.

The Covid pandemic further exacerbated challenges, leading to sharp decline in global vaccine coverage.

The pandemic resulted in an estimated 15.6 million children missing the full three doses of the diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine or a measles vaccine between 2020 and 2023.

Nearly 16 million children also did not receive any polio vaccine, and 9.18 million missed out on the tuberculosis vaccine.

The four pandemic years (2020-2023) also saw around 12.8 million additional unvaccinated zero-

dose children worldwide.

"Despite the monumental efforts of the past 50 years, progress has been far from universal. Large numbers of children remain under- and unvaccinated", said senior study author Dr Jonathan Mosser from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), at the varsity.

Besides global inequalities and challenges from the Covid pandemic, "the growth of vaccine misinformation and hesitancy also contributed to faltering immunisation progress," he added.

Further, the global study showed that in 2023, more than half of the world's 15.7 million unvaccinated children were living in just eight countries. These were primarily in sub-Saharan Africa (53 per cent) and South Asia (13 per cent): Nigeria, India, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Indonesia, and Brazil.

Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan, CM Omar Abdullah jointly review Animal Husbandry & Fisheries Sector in J&K

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 2

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Rajiv Ranjan Singh and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today jointly chaired a high-level review meeting of the Animal Husbandry and Fisheries sectors of Jammu & Kashmir here at Srinagar, Civil Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Agriculture Production & Panchayati Raj Javid Ahmad Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Secretary GoI Alka Upadhyay, Additional Chief Secretary Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Secretary (CDD/IT) and other senior officers from the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying. Principal Secretary Agriculture Production Department J&K Shailendra Kumar, Vice Chancellors of SKUAST-K and SKUAST-J, and heads of allied departments were also present.

Addressing the meeting, the Union Minister underlined the immense untapped potential in J&K's livestock and fisheries sectors and assured full

support from the Centre. "We are here today to listen, understand your challenges, and work together. Where there is scope, there must be action," he stated.

He called for joint efforts between the Centre and J&K Government to convert potential into outcomes, adding that rural prosperity can only be achieved when economic development reaches the grassroots through sustainable livelihoods.

Union Minister said that encouraging youth to enter micro and small-scale livestock and fishery enterprises can generate employment and inclusive growth.

He informed that a detailed plan is being drawn up involving key national institutions like the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) to build strong infrastructure and link farmers to markets.

He also announced the government's intention to hold an Exporters' Conference and a Private Sector Investment Conference in J&K to boost entrepreneurship.



Emphasizing the need to shift dairy operations from the unorganized to the organized sector, the Minister stressed the importance of cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

He cited the example of dairy cooperatives in Varanasi where milk production increased manifold, and additional income was being earned even from cattle waste. He urged J&K's officials to study and replicate such successful models.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah thanked the Union Minister for his visit and reiterated the significance of such joint reviews in identifying local priorities and learning from national best practices.

He observed that in J&K, large industries and facto-

ries have not always yielded sustainable results, and the real opportunity lies in strengthening traditional sectors like agriculture, horticulture, livestock, fisheries, and tourism. "Our strength lies in these sectors—not in chasing elusive factories. We must build on what is rooted in J&K," he said.

The Chief Minister highlighted that while J&K contributes 90% of India's trout production, the sector lacks organized processing and value addition. Similarly, despite high per capita meat consumption, much of the mutton is sourced from outside. He emphasized that self-sufficiency in meeting domestic demand can significantly improve incomes and reduce imports. He also spoke about the

gradual decline of cooperatives in the dairy sector and assured that his government is committed to reviving cooperative culture and linking milk producers to formal processing networks.

Referring to the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), the Chief Minister said the initiative was launched to address critical gaps in oilseed production, fodder, dairy, mutton, and fisheries. He appreciated the Union Government's support and assured that all valuable suggestions made during the review would be implemented with sincerity and urgency.

During the event, the Union Minister and Chief Minister virtually inaugurated a 50,000 litres per day Ultra High Tempera-

ture (UHT) Milk Plant at Satwari, Jammu, and held interactions with progressive dairy farmers, who shared their experiences of improved incomes and organized procurement process through cooperative societies.

The meeting concluded with both leaders reaffirming their shared vision for transforming Animal Husbandry and Fisheries into vibrant, employment-generating sectors in J&K. It was resolved to implement joint strategies for infrastructure expansion, market linkages, entrepreneurship development, and cooperatives' revival, aimed at building a resilient rural economy.

Earlier, Principal Secretary Shailendra Kumar gave a detailed presentation on the performance

of the Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Departments, noting that the sectors contribute Rs 12,634 crore—6.25% of J&K's GDP. The livestock population includes 24.54 lakh cattle, 31 lakh sheep, 15 lakh goats, and 73 lakh backyard poultry, with annual milk production at 2,875 TMT and trout accounting for 90% of the national output.

The presentation highlighted achievements under major schemes. Under the National Livestock Mission, 2.9 lakh animals were insured and Sheep AI Centres established. Livestock Health & Disease Control facilitated mass vaccinations and the deployment of 50 Mobile Veterinary Units has been made. The meeting was informed that NADCP has covered over 96 lakh vaccinations, and Rashtriya Gokul Mission has expanded AI services and trained over 1,500 MAITRIs. PMSY has supported aquaculture infrastructure, ornamental fisheries, and RAS units, benefiting nearly 80,000 individuals.

Under the National Program for Dairy Development, JKMPCL is targeting Rs 500 crore turnover by

2025-26, with two new milk plants underway at a cost of Rs 258.10 crore. Over 11.33 lakh Kisan Credit Cards have been issued, including 2.46 lakh for AH&F. The AHIDF has achieved a 73% sanction rate, enabling private investments in dairy and poultry infrastructure. It was noted that Rs 5,013 crore Holistic Agriculture Development Program includes Rs 1,364 crore for livestock and fisheries, aiming at self-sufficiency in milk, mutton, and eggs. More than 1,800 Pashu Sakhis have been deployed, and 500 hydroponic fodder units are being set up to address green fodder needs.

It was stated that digitization is advancing through platforms like the Kisan Sathi Portal, Daksh Kisan LMS, and the Output Tracking App. Over 2,000 Kisan Khidmat Ghars are being established to deliver agricultural services at the grassroots level.

The department's reform efforts have earned national recognition, including the SKOCH Gold Award, Innovation Leadership Award, and the Best UT in Fisheries Award for 2024.

DC Kishtwar reviews progress of PMGSY projects in district

JINNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JULY 2

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to evaluate the progress of road infrastructure projects being carried out under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) across the district.

The Executive Engineer PMGSY Kishtwar presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation during the meeting. He informed that out of 99 sanctioned projects, 58 have been completed and 41 are in progress. In Division Marwah, 13 out of 21 schemes have been completed, with 5 currently ongoing.

A detailed review was carried out for key road projects under various stages of PMGSY implementation. These include roads from Gahan to Chandali, Nowapachi to Hanzal, Ikhala (Block Boundary Kishtwar) to Lopara, Margi to Sukhnai, Cherji to Semna Bhata, Hidyali to Hargadi, TKN (Km 5th) to Mori, Afani to Jar, Shashoo



to Sazar, Shiwas to Ongayee, Atholi to Palali, Kuriya to Keshwan, Kandni to Ohli, and Karool to Badhat, among others. The progress of bridge works under PMGSY was also reviewed.

The Deputy Commissioner issued directions to all Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) to monitor the progress of PMGSY works regularly in their respective jurisdictions. He also instructed the PMGSY department to initiate both phases of road works simultaneously, wherever applicable, to ensure faster execution.

To improve transparency and planning, the DC asked the Executive Engineers PMGSY to submit a month-wise completion plan for all ongoing works, including scheme-wise progress details and a list of projects delayed due

to legal or court-related issues.

He further directed the inclusion of proper drainage systems and water outlets along all roads and bridges to ensure long-term durability.

The DC instructed the department to take disciplinary action, including blacklisting, against non-performing contractors.

He reiterated the district administration's zero-tolerance policy towards substandard work and stressed the need for strict quality control across all projects.

The meeting was attended by ACR Kishtwar Idrees Lone, CPO Kishtwar Shah Nawaz Bali, Executive Engineer PMGSY Kishtwar Rajesh Sharma, Executive Engineer PMGSY Marwah Mohd Farooq, AEEs, along with other concerned staff.

"Tailor Women's Garments" Training Program inaugurated at SBI RSETI Ramban

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JULY 2

A month-long "Tailor Women's Garments" training program was inaugurated today at SBI Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), Ramban with the participation of 25 enthusiastic women candidates from various panchayats across the district. The program is aimed at equipping rural women with tailoring skills to promote self-employment and economic empowerment.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Ramban Shakeeb Ahmad Rather as the Chief Guest who formally inaugurated the training alongside Director SBI RSETI Ramban S. Harvinder Singh with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp. The event also included the distribution of training kits to all enrolled candidates.

During the program, the Director RSETI briefed the Chief Guest about the objectives and structure



of the training program, highlighting that the candidates have been mobilized from remote and diverse areas of the district. He emphasized the importance of such residential training programs in transforming rural women into self-reliant entrepreneurs. He also elaborated on the curriculum which includes modern stitching techniques, fashion trends, entrepreneurial competencies and financial literacy.

In his address, the CPO congratulated all the trainees and appreciated RSETI Ramban's continuous efforts in promoting livelihood opportunities in rural areas. He acknowledged the wide scope of tailoring as a sustainable self-employment avenue and encouraged women to take full advan-

tage of the training. He also provided insights into various government-sponsored schemes, including PMEGP, JKREGP and Mudra, which are designed to support aspiring women entrepreneurs.

The program concluded with heartfelt gratitude expressed by the trainees to the Chief Guest and RSETI staff for providing them with this valuable opportunity. A formal vote of thanks was presented, followed by the signature "RSETI Clap", marking the conclusion of a successful inauguration. SBI RSETI Ramban continues to work under the aegis of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and SBI with a mission to build capacities and transform lives through skill-based training and self-employment support.

Labour Department Samba disburses Rs 76,98,225 under various Labour Acts

JINNEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JULY 2



under relevant statutory provisions.

The Assistant Labour Commissioner, Samba Himani Jerath commended for her efficient and prompt disposal of court cases, reflecting the department's dedication to worker welfare and speedy grievance redressal.

The Deputy Commissioner, while handing over the cheques, appreciated the commitment of the Labour Department in safeguarding labour rights and delivering justice in a time-bound manner. This initiative reaffirms the government's commitment to labour welfare and highlights the efficiency of the local administration in executing court orders with diligence and speed.

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District Administration Ramban welcomes first batch of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025 Pilgrims at Chanderkote

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JULY 2

The District Administration Ramban led by Deputy Commissioner Mohamad Alyas Khan extended a warm welcome to the first batch of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025 pilgrims at Chanderkote and Banihal, here today.

The welcome ceremony witnessed the presence of Member Legislative Assembly Ramban, Arjun Singh Raju; DIG DKR Range, Shridhar Patil; SSP Ramban, Kulbir Singh; SSP Traffic NHW, Raja Adil Hamid Ganaie; ADC Var-



unjeet Singh Charak; ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo along with other senior officers.

The event was also graced by DDC Members and members of various religious and social organizations who joined in welcoming the pilgrims with great enthusiasm and devotion.

During the interaction, the Deputy Commissioner and other dignitaries personally reviewed the arrangements made for the pilgrims at Langars and Yatri Niwas established at Chanderkote, Lamber (Banihal) and other designated locations along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Ramban district.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted that the District Administration has

ensured robust civil amenities and security arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Yatra. He further informed that adequate facilities for boarding, lodging and emergency medical aid have been set up, along with round-the-clock helplines to assist the pilgrims in case of any eventuality or halt due to weather or other conditions.

The District Administration worked 24x7 to provide seamless support and ensure a safe and smooth passage for the devotees undertaking the holy pilgrimage, he added.

Srinagar welcomes the first batch of Amarnath Yatris with warmth & devotion

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 2

In a warm gesture of hospitality, the Srinagar district administration led by DDC Chairperson, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo along with Senior Superintendent of Police Sundeep Chakravarty on Wednesday warmly welcomed the first batch of Shri Amarnathji Yatra pilgrims as they arrived at PanthaChowk in Srinagar.

This followed the formal commencement of the annual yatra which



was flagged from Jammu by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, as part of the significant spiritual journey undertaken by the devotees every year to the holy Amarnathji cave.

Deputy Commissioner & SSP personally received the pilgrims and extended greetings besides ensuring

all arrangements are in place for their comfort and safety.

DDC Chairperson, DC, SSP & Officials from the District Administration Srinagar, along with senior Officers from SMC and Police Department were present at the reception site to assist and guide the pilgrims. The administration has reiterated its commitment to ensuring a smooth and secure yatra experience for all devotees.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC stated that the

Amarnathji Yatra is a significant spiritual journey and we are committed to ensure smooth conduct of the pilgrimage with safety and comfort of all pilgrims. He added that the District Administration Srinagar along with Srinagar Police has put in place comprehensive arrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of the annual Yatra and cater to the needs of the pilgrims.

Officials along with locals welcomed the Pilgrims and prayed for smooth, safe and peaceful conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Sikh Community deputation meets Tejinder Pal, demands Punjabi be taught in Govt. Schools in J&K

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 2

A deputation of prominent Sikh community members today called on Tejinder Pal Singh Aman, Provincial President of Youth National Conference (YNC) Jammu, at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu, to highlight the long-pending demands of Punjabi-speaking people in Jammu and Kashmir.

The deputation strongly urged the Govt to start teaching Punjabi in Govt Schools in view of the historical and demographic significance.

Responding to the concerns, Tejinder Pal Singh Aman assured the deputation that the Youth National Conference and the party are fully committed to safeguarding the linguistic and cultural rights of all communities,



including the Punjabi-speaking populace.

He further added, "Under the leadership of Dr. Farooq Abdullah and CM Omar Abdullah, the National Conference Govt has always worked to protect the diverse cultural fabric of Jammu and Kashmir. The Omar

Abdullah-led government will remain committed to implementing the genuine aspirations of all linguistic minorities, including the Sikh community."

Tejinder Pal Singh Aman also criticized the previous dispensation for ignoring the voices of

Punjabi speaking people and failing to recognize their legitimate demand. He assured the deputation that the issue will be raised with the senior party leadership and taken up at appropriate forums.

The interaction concluded with the Sikh leaders expressing hope and faith in the commitment of the National Conference Govt to deliver justice to Punjabi-speaking people

Among those who were on this occasion included: Randhir Singh, Harmandeep Singh, Aman-deep Singh, Gursharan Singh, Manjeet Singh, Harjoot Singh, Parajot Singh and Gurdev Singh.

IIM Jammu Signs MoU with Sheffield University Management School, The University of Sheffield, UK

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 2

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Sheffield University Management School, The University of Sheffield, United Kingdom, marking a significant step forward in its global academic engagement and collaborative initiatives.

The MoU aims to foster mutual cooperation and facilitate academic collaboration in areas of teaching, research, student and faculty exchange, and joint educational initiatives between the two institutions. The agreement is grounded in the principles of equity and reciprocity and provides a broad framework for further discussions on specific collaborative programs.



Under this MoU, both institutions will explore the possibility of Exchange of faculty, staff, and students, Joint research and academic programmes, Extended study programmes for qualified students and personnel, Collaborative models in MBA education leveraging the strengths of both institutions, Visits by senior officials to expand and

develop cooperative mechanisms, and increased awareness of each other's academic offerings and research facilities.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, highlighted that the collaboration represents a strategic milestone in IIM Jammu's journey toward global excellence.

He emphasized that the partnership with the University of Sheffield, a globally reputed institution, is well-aligned with IIM Jammu's vision to provide world-class education, foster impactful research, and create opportunities for cross-cultural academic engagement. He noted that the MoU would significantly benefit both students and faculty by

enriching their overall learning ecosystem.

The collaboration is expected to provide valuable global exposure, facilitate knowledge sharing, and build robust academic linkages between the two institutions. Both parties have agreed to designate representatives to oversee and coordinate the implementation of the MoU. While the MoU itself is non-binding, it lays a strong foundation for future collaborations, which will be governed by specific formal agreements.

This partnership is a testament to IIM Jammu's commitment to expanding its international footprint and cultivating a globally engaged academic environment. The MoU was coordinated by International Relations Office, IIM Jammu.

SMVDU NCC Cadet participates in Special National Integration Camp

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 2

Cadet Saher Sharma from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) had the distinct honour of participating in the Special National Integration Camp (SNIC)-2025 held at Srinagar, J&K. The camp served as a confluence of culture, discipline, and national unity, bringing together NCC cadets from across India in the scenic and vibrant region of Kashmir. One of the highlights of the camp was the Inter-Directorate Song Competition, where Cadet Saher Sharma proudly represented the Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh (JK&L) Directorate, performing Dogri, Ladakhi, and Kashmiri songs, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the region. Cadet Saher also participated in the celebration of International Yoga Day on 21st June, where a grand yoga demonstration was held. In addition, she took part in inter-directorate volleyball matches and the Group Dance Competition, where she performed traditional dances of JK&L as a selected member of the cultural team. The cadets also visited several significant locations, including the War Memorial, Pani Mandir, Dharohar Museum, FOD Museum, and enjoyed a Light and Sound Show



in the evenings. Their exploration continued with visits to the Shankaracharya Temple, Mughal Gardens, Pratap Singh Museum, and a serene boating experience on Dal Lake. A breath-taking trip to Sonamarg was also organized, where cadets witnessed a live demonstration of mountaineering gear and learned about climbing techniques on various snow conditions. A major highlight was the cultural performance before distinguished dignitaries, including the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Omar Abdullah, and the Additional Director General (ADG) of the JK&L Directorate. Cadet Saher Sharma was especially honoured to be one of the six cadets selected for the opening act, performing a graceful Ganesh Vandana, which set the tone for the entire cultural presentation. The final evening of the camp featured a grand

Cultural Night and Prize Distribution Ceremony, where the JK&L Directorate secured First Position in Dance, NIAP, and Group Song competitions. Every cadet was awarded a certificate of participation, marking the successful conclusion of the camp. Cadet Saher's journey was guided and supported by Dr. Varun Dutta, NCC Coordinator, and Ms. Deepika Malik, CTO, who played an instrumental role in her preparation. Their mentorship and encouragement helped her achieve this significant milestone. On this proud occasion, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, and Sh. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Registrar, SMVDU, extended their heartfelt congratulations to Cadet Saher Sharma for her outstanding achievement. They also appreciated the efforts of the NCC unit of SMVDU for nurturing cadets and guiding them towards excellence and national service.

Jammu resonates with Jaikaras of Bham Bham Bhole with starting of spiritual Shri Amarnath Yatra: Rattan Lal

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 2

The holy city of Jammu echoed with the chants of 'Bham Bham Bhole' as the auspicious Amarnath Yatra commenced with great devotion and enthusiasm from the Yatri Niwas at Bhagwati Nagar Jammu. In a press statement issued here today, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), hailed the spiritual fervour witnessed across the region and welcomed the devotees embarking on the sacred journey to the holy Amarnath Cave Shrine.

He lauded the Jammu and Kashmir Govt for making adequate arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Yatra and ensuring the safety, comfort, and convenience of pilgrims coming from across the globe. "It is heartening to see the J&K Govt rise to the occasion by facilitating elaborate security, medical, transportation, and accommodation arrangements for the Yatri. The efforts of all departments involved are commendable," he said.

The senior NC leader said that massive arrangements have been put in place, particularly at the



Yatri Niwas in Bhagwati Nagar and other transit camps along the route, reflecting the government's commitment to uphold the sanctity and significance of this annual pilgrimage.

Calling the Yatra a symbol of India's spiritual unity and communal

harmony, the senior NC leader appealed to the people, especially the youth, to participate in large numbers and extend wholehearted cooperation in ensuring a peaceful and successful Yatra. "Amar-nath Yatra is not just a religious event, but a celebration of our centuries-old ethos of brotherhood and shared culture," he emphasized.

Rattan Lal Gupta also urged the locals to continue the traditional role of hosts, showcasing the warmth and hospitality that Jammu and Kashmir

is known for. "The people of Jammu, especially traders, transporters, hoteliers, and volunteers have always played a significant role in facilitating this Yatra. Their contribution is invaluable and deserves praise," he added.

The Provincial President reiterated the importance of such spiritual events in promoting peace, brotherhood, and positive engagement among communities. He expressed hope that the blessings of Lord Shiva would usher in an era of harmony and prosperity in the region.

Dr. Karan Singh prays for peaceful Amarnath Yatra 2025

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 2

Dr. Karan Singh, former Sadr-e-Riyasat of Jammu and Kashmir and a nonagenarian leader, extended his heartfelt greetings on the auspicious commencement of the Shri Amarnath Yatra 2025.

In a statement issued today, the veteran leader prayed to Lord Shiva for the successful and peaceful conduct of the Yatra, which holds immense spiritual significance for millions of devotees across the country.

NIPCCD renamed as Savitribai Phule National Institute of Women and Child Development

JINNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUL 2

The National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD) has officially been renamed as the Savitribai Phule National Institute of Women and Child Development, reflecting its evolving role and greater focus on region-specific, mission-driven support for the development of women and children across India. This transformation has taken place under the visionary leadership of Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Annpurna Devi.

In a significant move aimed at strengthening outreach and regional

capacity-building, a new Regional Centre in Ranchi, Jharkhand is to be inaugurated on 4 July, 2025. This Centre will address the specialized training and research requirements of the Ministry's flagship programmes—Mission Shakti, Mission Vatsalya, and Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0—with a particular focus on the Eastern region covering Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal. Previously, training needs of these States were partially catered through Regional Centres located in Guwahati and Lucknow, posing logistical challenges for many

functionaries due to long

travel distances. The new Regional Centre will also offer the Advance Diploma in Child Guidance and Counselling and will facilitate better accessibility for frontline functionaries in these states. It is estimated that over seven lakh functionaries operate under the Ministry's missions across the four states, spread across 115 districts.

Smt. Annpurna Devi said that the renaming of NIPCCD as the Savitribai Phule National Institute of Women and Child Development is a tribute to the legacy of one of India's foremost social reformers and a reaffirmation of our commitment to women and child-centric development. Highlighting the

importance of setting up new regional centres, the Union Minister said that the inauguration of the new Regional Centre in Ranchi would mark a significant step towards decentralised, region-specific capacity building in the Eastern region. This Centre will not only empower our frontline functionaries with better access to training and support, but also strengthen our flagship missions at the grassroots level. She further added that under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, we are ensuring that no woman or child is left behind in our journey towards Viksit Bharat @2047.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION JAMMU EAST
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. 36 of 2025-2026/Jammu East Dated 01-07-2025

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

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Macadamization of Road from Rehari Chungi to Toph Chowk Petrol Pump including Internal links of Rehari Colony under C&T 2025-2026	PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East	44.50	600	2% of the Advertised Cost	01 Month	(1400 Hrs) on or after 09-07-2025	A & B Class
2	Macadamization of Road from Maheshpura Chowk to Bhagat Singh Chowk upto Shakti Nagar via J&K Board, Rajpura under C&T 2025-2026.	PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East	44.50	600	2% of the Advertised Cost	01 Month	(1400 Hrs) on or after 09-07-2025	A & B Class
3	Macdamization on Upper Thather road (KM 1st) (W.No 63) under C&T 2025-2026	PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East	7.50	600	2% of the Advertised Cost	20 Days	(1400 Hrs) on or after 09-07-2025	A, B, C & D Class

Position of AAA :- Accorded
Position of TS :- Accorded
Major Head of Account :- Under Cities & Town Programme 2025-26

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01-07-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 01-07-2025 to 08-07-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	04-07-2025 at 1300 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East
4	Bid submission Start Date	01-07-2025
5	Bid Submission End Date	08-07-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	09-07-2025 on or after 1400 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) division Jammu East
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

No: 3810-20
Dated: 01-07-2025

Sd/-
(Er. Parvez Malik)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Jammu East

DIP/J-2937/25
Date: 2-7-25

PM Modi embarks on five-nation visit, to attend BRICS Summit in Rio De Janeiro

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 2

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today embarked on a five-nation visit to Ghana, Trinidad & Tobago, Argentina, Brazil, and Namibia from July 2 to 9, during which he will be attending various bilateral, multilateral and other programmes, especially the BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

In a post on X, the PM said he is looking forward to interacting with world leaders and discussing ways to make our planet better.

"Over the next few days, I will be attending various bilateral, multilateral and other programmes in Ghana, Trinidad & Tobago, Argentina, Brazil, and Namibia. Looking forward to interacting with world leaders and discussing ways to make our planet



better.

"Later this evening, I will reach Ghana, a valued friend in Africa and a key partner in the Global South. The talks with President John Dramani Mahama will provide an opportunity to boost India-Ghana friendship across various sectors. It is also an honour to be getting the opportunity to address the Parliament of Ghana tomorrow, 3rd July.

"On 3rd and 4th July, I will be in Trinidad & Tobago, a nation with whom India shares histori-

cal linkages. The meetings with President Christine Carla Kangaloo and Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar will add momentum to the economic and cultural cooperation between our nations.

"My visit to Argentina will be the first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister in 57 years. India and Argentina are working closely in G20 and also bilaterally to improve economic linkages, especially in futuristic sectors such as technology and innovation.

Will be holding detailed discussions with President Javier Milei during this visit.

"My visit to Brazil includes participation in the BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro and a bilateral state visit in Brasilia, which would be the first by an Indian Prime Minister in almost six decades. There would be various meetings with world leaders on the sidelines of the Rio BRICS Summit. Am also eager to meet President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva to discuss new avenues of India-Brazil cooperation.

"The visit to Namibia seeks to strengthen relations with a trusted partner with whom we have a shared history when it comes to resisting colonialism. President Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and I will talk about ways to boost ties across many sectors. It'll be an honour to address the Namibian Parliament too."

BJP slams Cong for pact with Jamaat-e-Islami in Kerala bypolls, calls it 'double standards'

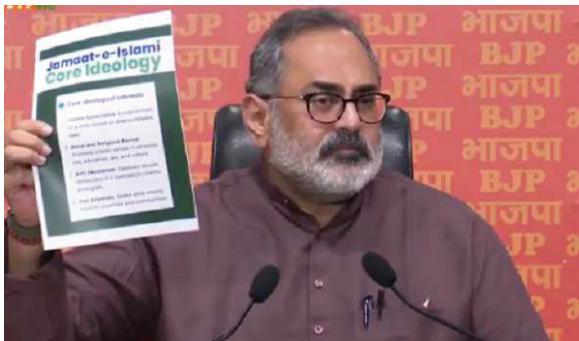
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 2

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today launched a scathing attack on the Congress for its alliance during the Nilambur Assembly by-election in Kerala with Jamaat-e-Islami, an organisation that, it alleged, has long opposed democracy, the Indian Constitution, and secular values.

Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Kerala State President of the BJP and former Union Minister while addressing the media, traced the controversial history of Jamaat-e-Islami, saying that it has openly advocated for the implementation of Sharia law in India and rejected the core principles of democracy and secularism.

In support of his claims, the BJP leader referred to a 2018 statement by Congress's former Kerala Chief Minister, Oommen Chandy, who had referred to Jamaat-e-Islami as "dangerous and anti-national."

Chandrasekhar accused Congress of double standards, saying, "On one hand, leaders like Rahul Gandhi often parade the Constitution, symbolising their commitment to secularism, while on the other,



they forge alliances with radical and anti-national groups like Jamaat-e-Islami."

He emphasised that the Congress had allied with Jamaat-e-Islami in the recent Nilambur by-election, a seat that falls within the Wayanad parliamentary constituency once represented by Congress MP Rahul Gandhi. Congress won the seat in the bypolls, which marked the first time they officially acknowledged their alliance with Jamaat-e-Islami.

"This is the true face of Congress politics: Constitution in one hand, secularism on the lips, and a dangerous partnership with Jamaat-e-Islami in their pursuit of power," said Chandrasekhar.

The BJP leader accused Congress of indulging in a "politics of appeasement," particularly Muslim

appeasement, which he argued had been the party's central strategy for decades. He noted that while the Congress had historically relied on Jamaat-e-Islami for support in Kerala, these alliances were previously kept under wraps.

"Now, under pressure from Jamaat-e-Islami, Congress has openly acknowledged the alliance," he remarked.

Mujeeb Rahman, the leader of Jamaat-e-Islami, had recently acknowledged that the BJP was the only party in India that had never sought support from the radical group, while other parties, including Congress, Left, and RJD, had consistently done so, Chandrasekhar added.

Shifting the focus to national security, Chandrasekhar recalled

instances where, it said, Congress had distorted facts and undermined the nation's security interests. He pointed to the aftermath of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, accusing Congress of suggesting that the RSS was behind the attacks instead of Pakistani terrorists. He also referenced the Batla House encounter, where Sonia Gandhi had defended the terrorists.

Chandrasekhar also condemned Congress MP Rajmohan Unnithan for calling a Hamas leader who attempted to radicalize children in Kerala a "freedom fighter." He likened this language to that used by Pakistan to justify terrorism.

In his closing remarks, the BJP leader accused Congress of abandoning any meaningful dialogue on development, governance, or economic issues.

Instead, he argued, the party has increasingly resorted to religious appeasement in a desperate bid to regain political relevance. He pointed to the party's failures in states like Karnataka, Telangana, and Himachal Pradesh, where it has struggled to address key issues of governance.

Quad nations strongly condemn Pahalgam attack, call for perpetrators, organisers to be brought to justice

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI, JULY 2

The Quad nations, comprising India, US, Japan and Australia, condemned in the strongest terms the April 22 Pahalgam terrorist attack and called for the perpetrators, organisers, and financiers of this reprehensible act to be brought to justice without any delay and urged all UN Member States to cooperate actively in this regard.

A joint statement issued at the end of the meeting of the Quad Foreign Ministers in Washington, the Foreign Ministers, including External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Australian FM Penny Wong and Japan's Takeshi Iwaya, said:

"We condemn in the strongest terms the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir on April 22, 2025, which claimed the lives of 25 Indian nationals and one Nepali citizen, while injuring several others. We express our deepest condolences to the families of the victims and extend our heartfelt wishes for a swift and full recovery to all those injured. We call for the perpetrators, organizers, and financiers of this reprehensible act to be brought to



justice without any delay and urge all UN Member States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant UNSCRs, to cooperate actively with all relevant authorities in this regard."

The joint statement reaffirmed the four nations' steadfast commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific.

They also announced a new, ambitious, and strong agenda focused on four key areas: maritime and transnational security, economic prosperity and security, critical and emerging technology, and humanitarian assistance and emergency response.

The Quad also announced the launch of the Quad Critical Minerals Initiative, "an ambitious expansion of our partnership to strengthen economic security and collective resilience by collaborating to secure and diversify critical minerals supply

chains".

"We underscore our commitment to defending the rule of law, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. As four leading maritime nations in the Indo-Pacific, we are united in our conviction that peace and stability in the maritime domain underpin the security and prosperity of the region.

"We are committed to a region where all countries are free from coercion and strongly oppose any unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo by force or coercion." The four FMs discussed the opportunities and challenges in the Indo-Pacific and how to further harness the strengths and resources of the Quad to advance peace, security, and prosperity, working with regional partners.

They emphasised their cooperation with and support for ASEAN and its centrality and unity, the Pacific

Islands Forum and Pacific-led regional groupings, and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). The Quad nations voiced serious concern "about the situation in the East China Sea and South China Sea", in a reference to China and its hegemonic activities in the seas.

"We reiterate our strong opposition to any unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo by force or coercion. We express our serious concerns regarding dangerous and provocative actions, including interference with offshore resource development, the repeated obstruction of the freedoms of navigation and overflight, and the dangerous maneuvers by military aircraft and coast guard and maritime militia vessels, especially the unsafe use of water cannons and ramming or blocking actions in the South China Sea. These actions threaten peace and stability in the region. We are seriously concerned by the militarization of disputed features. We emphasize the importance of upholding freedom of navigation and overflight, other lawful uses of the sea, and unimpeded commerce consistent with international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)."

Rahul Gandhi marks 1 yr as LoP, reaffirms commitment to Constitution and people

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 2

Marking the completion of one year as Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi today highlighted his journey, sharing key moments, personal experiences, and his continued efforts to uphold the Constitution and amplify the voice of the people.

In a social media post, Gandhi highlighted the central themes of his tenure so far including defending democratic values, presenting a clear economic vision for the country and connecting with citizens across diverse communities.

"As I complete one year as the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, I am sharing with you the memories, experiences, and my



ongoing fight to protect the Constitution," he wrote.

Gandhi invited the public to revisit his parliamentary speeches, which he said outline his vision for India's economy and shed light on the factors that led to the INDI alliance's success in the 2024 general elections.

He also underscored his extensive outreach efforts,

citing interactions with a wide cross-section of society, from the conflict-affected people of Manipur to farmers, Anganwadi workers, and Dalit youth across the country.

Meanwhile, the Congress through a newsletter said that Rahul Gandhi had centered his role as LoP around "amplifying public concerns", especially those of the most marginalised communities. Over the past year, he has consistently highlighted critical national issues from advocating a nationwide caste census to demanding justice for the victims of violence in Manipur and fighting for the rights of Dalit youth, farmers and Anganwadi workers.

According to Congress, Gandhi's sustained advo-

cacy compelled the government to take significant policy actions, including ordering a nationwide caste census, fulfilling a long-standing demand for greater social justice; imposing President's Rule in Manipur, amid continued unrest and violence in the state and withdrawing a controversial lateral entry notification, showcasing his effectiveness in holding the government accountable.

The party said Rahul Gandhi's first year in office was marked by extensive public engagement. He visited 16 states, held 18 press conferences, addressed over 60 rallies, took part in more than 35 official events, delivered 16 speeches in Parliament, and participated in over 115 public interactions.

Shivakumar will be CM in 2 months: Iqbal Hussain

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, JULY 2

In a major political statement likely to intensify leadership speculation in Karnataka, senior Congress MLA Iqbal Hussain today declared that Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar will "definitely" become the Chief Minister within the next two months, asserting it as a crucial step for the Congress party's future in the state.

"Definitely, 200 percent he will become Chief Minister. We will make him CM. Within two months, he will definitely become the Chief Minister," Hussain told UNI in an interaction. "The party needs dynamic leadership to sustain momentum and consolidate its prospects ahead of 2028."

He warned that a change in leadership was not just

desirable, but necessary for the survival of the Congress in Karnataka. "If the Congress party wants to survive and return to power in 2028, this change is essential. God promise, we need a good administration, and this is the right time for our survival," he said.

Hussain framed Shivakumar's elevation not as a factional demand, but a strategic imperative backed by many legislators. "It is not only my opinion, it is the opinion of most of the MLAs. We have to think about our future and our party. Some people who are already in power may have different views, but we, at the grassroots level, are thinking about the party and the workers," he said.

While strongly backing Shivakumar, Hussain also

offered praise for Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, making it clear that his call for change was not personal. "He (Siddaramaiah) is one of our best leaders, no doubt. He has given good administration, good service. I am very close to him, I am a fan of him. But we have given him sufficient time - in the last term and again now, with two and a half years offered by the high command."

Highlighting Shivakumar's relentless efforts in strengthening the party organisation, Hussain said, "He has made a wonderful contribution to the party. To build the party and bring this number (136 seats), he has struggled a lot. His efforts are immense - sky is the limit. This is the right time to give him a chance as Chief Minister to lead us into 2028."

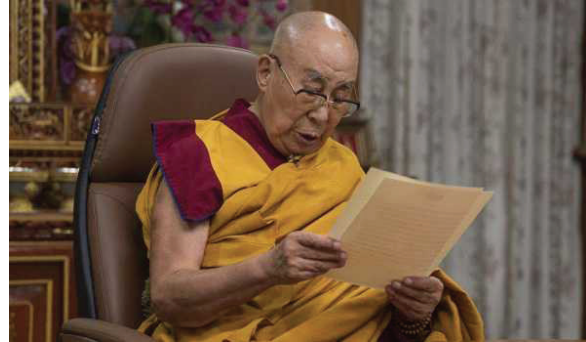
Dalai Lama spurns Chinese role in choosing successor, Beijing lashes out

AGENCIES
BEIJING/DHARAMSHALA, JULY 2

China has lashed out against Tibetan leader Dalai Lama over his comments on appointing his successor to protect the 600-year-old institution of Tibetan Buddhism, saying that only China has the right to appoint the next Dalai Lama.

"The reincarnation of the Dalai Lama, Panchen Lama, and other great Buddhist figures must be chosen by drawing lots from a golden urn and approved by the central government," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning.

The 89-year-old Tenzin Gyatso had ruled out the legitimacy of any political imposition, stating ahead of his 90th birthday that a successor can only be appointed by the centuries-old tradi-



tional practices of Tibetan Buddhism, ruling out any say by China.

Back in 2011, when asked whether the institution will continue, the Dalai Lama said he had no "public discussions" on the issue, leaving much to speculation in the last 14 years.

Taking to X, he said that the institution will continue, after "members of the Tibetan parliament-in-exile, participants in a special general body meeting, members of

the Central Tibetan Administration, NGOs, Buddhists from the Himalayan region, Mongolia, Buddhist republics of the Russian Federation and Buddhists in Asia, including mainland China," wrote to him asking for its continuation.

"In particular, I have received messages through various channels from Tibetans in Tibet making the same appeal. In accordance with all these requests, I am affirming that the institution of the

Dalai Lama will continue," he added.

"The process by which a future Dalai Lama is to be recognised has been clearly established in the September 24, 2011 statement which states that responsibility for doing so will rest exclusively with members of the Gaden Phodrang Trust, the Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

"They should consult the various heads of the Tibetan Buddhist traditions and the reliable oath-bound Dharma Protectors who are linked inseparably to the lineage of the Dalai Lamas. They should accordingly carry out the procedures of search and recognition in accordance with past tradition. I hereby reiterate that the Gaden Phodrang Trust has sole authority to recognise the future reincarnation; no one else has any such authority to interfere in this matter," he said.

Monsoon fury in Mandi: 10 dead, 34 missing amid landslides & cloudbursts

AGENCIES
SHIMLA/MANDI, JULY 2

The death toll in Mandi district due to landslides and multiple cloudburst incidents on July 1 has risen to 10, while 34 people remain missing, according to the latest report issued by the Himachal Pradesh State Emergency Operation Centre.

The monsoon fury, which has been consistently wreaking havoc in the state for the past three years, has again brought devastation to several regions of Mandi, especially in the sub-divisions of Karsog, Thunag, Padhar and Gohar. Between June 20 and July 1, the state has reported around 90 people either killed or missing in weather-related incidents.

Poor England slump to second T20 defeat by India

AGENCIES
BRISTOL, JULY 2

A poor all-round performance from England saw India take a 2-0 lead in the five-match T20 series with a convincing 24-run win here.

England dominated the opening powerplay as India slipped to 31-3 - including Saturday's centurion Smriti Mandhana for 13 - but contributions of 63 apiece from Jemimah Rodrigues and Amanjot Kaur led a brilliant recovery to 181-4 on Tuesday.

The pair added 93 for the fourth wicket as England lost control of the middle overs, before Richa Ghosh's unbeaten 32 boosted the innings at the death.

In reply, England's all-too-familiar batting frailties were exposed once again as they failed to recover from an early wobble to 17-3, eventually scrambling to 157-7 after Tammy Beaumont's 54 and a cameo of 35 from Sophie Ecclestone.

Openers Danni Wyatt-Hodge and Sophia Dunkley fell in the first two overs and captain Nat Sciver-Brunt was caught at mid-on for 13, before Beaumont's counter-attacking knock kept England in the game with 106 needed from the final 10 overs.

But Beaumont's run-out in the 12th over shifted the game back in India's favour and Amy Jones - who added 70 for the fourth wicket with Beaumont - and Alice Capsey



both followed shortly after in the 15th, dismissed by the left-arm spin of Shree Charani.

Ecclestone's 23-ball knock ensured England finished with some respectability but with many of the same mistakes repeated from the thrashing at Trent Bridge, the new leadership of Sciver-Brunt and Charlotte Edwards is being put to the test by a rapidly improving India who are building plenty of confidence going into their home 50-over World Cup in the autumn, according to a BBC news.

If India's dominance at Trent Bridge was lit up by Mandhana's individual class, this innings required an all-round team effort after their powerhouses - Mandhana herself and captain Harmanpreet Kaur, who was returning from injury, both fell cheaply.

England experimented with Capsey's off-spin for the first over, which conceded 11, but seamers Lauren Bell and Lauren Filmer dragged the control

back brilliantly.

The latter dismissed Shafali Verma with an unplayable short ball that reared up and pinned the opener on the glove to be caught behind, Em Arlott had Mandhana well caught at mid-on by Bell before Harmanpreet pulled a poor delivery to short fine leg.

But Rodrigues, who came in at three, settled into her knock with exceptional running between the wickets and putting the pressure on England's fielders before unveiling an array of ramps over the keeper and her movement around the crease completely threw England's bowlers off their length.

Amanjot took a back-seat in the partnership, but when Rodrigues was dismissed thanks to Dunkley's flying catch at cover off Bell, Amanjot stepped up with her maiden T20 fifty and with Ghosh - who was inexplicably dropped by Beaumont on 12 - took the game away from England.

Bell was exceptional for her 2-17 but India were smart with their targets, taking 43 from Arlott's four overs, 42 from Filer's extra pace and Linsey Smith struggled again with 37 conceded from three wicketless overs.

Faced with a competitive total on a sluggish surface, there was a feeling of inevitability around how England's innings would unfold, and it started to unravel almost immediately.

Dunkley was run out at the end of the first over by Deepti Sharma before she then dismissed Wyatt-Hodge from the first ball of the second, bizarrely striking the ball straight to mid-off as the opener now has just one run from her past four T20 innings.

Sciver-Brunt fell in the fourth over but Beaumont, recently recalled to the T20 side after a couple of years in and out, seemed to learn from India's batters and shifted around the crease efficiently to force the spinners off target with eight fours and a six, batting with her trademark swagger and a determined look to steer her side to victory.

But she was called through for a risky single from Jones, and Sneha Rana at point pulled off an exceptional piece of work to summarise India's noticeable improvement in the field, swooping and throwing in one movement while still on her knees, with bowler Radha Yadav whipping off the

bails as Beaumont's full-stretch dive left her just short of her ground.

From there, it was a procession. Another soft dismissal for Capsey saw her chip Shree Charani to cover for five, Jones was caught and bowled four balls later and despite Ecclestone and Arlott's entertaining seventh-wicket stand of 47, the result was already a foregone conclusion.

England are without Heather Knight's middle-order stability, but the repetitive manner of these defeats are a concern with the World Cup approaching and only three 50-over matches to come beforehand.

England captain Nat Sciver-Brunt said, "I thought we started off well in the powerplay with three wickets. Every bowler that came on was really focused on that but then they got a big partnership, which we didn't adapt to as quickly as we'd like."

"Some positives - Lauren Bell bowled a brilliant four overs and everyone really stuck to the task and tried to grind it out so the effort was really there."

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur said, "It was a good win for us. It's something special to see."

"We stay positive, see how many runs we can put on the board and see how our bowlers can contribute."

"It's a long time before the T20 World Cup. At the moment our main focus is on this series."

Bumrah rested as England opt to bowl first

AGENCIES
BIRMINGHAM, JULY 2

Star pacer Jasprit Bumrah has been rested for the second Test against England as India look to manage his workload ahead of the Lord's encounter, skipper Shubman Gill confirmed at the toss here today.

India, trailing 0-1 in the five-match series, made three changes to

the XI, bringing in Nitish Kumar Reddy, Washington Sundar, and Akash Deep.

"We got a good break and this is an important match, but we feel the third Test at Lord's will offer more for Bumrah. So we're saving him for that," Gill explained. "We were also tempted to play Kuldeep Yadav, but considering our lower-order struggles last match, we opted for extra batting depth."

Earlier, England captain Ben Stokes won the toss and elected to field, citing favourable overhead conditions at Edgbaston. "We're going to bowl. The overhead conditions support that decision. Last week was a great team effort, but we're focused on this match now," said Stokes.

England lead the series 1-0.

India's playing XI: Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul,

Karun Nair, Shubman Gill (c), Rishabh Pant (wk), Nitish Kumar Reddy, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Akash Deep, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna.

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

All-rounder Amanjot eager to contribute more for India

AGENCIES
BRISTOL, JULY 2

All-rounder Amanjot Kaur scored her first T20I fifty as India notched up another impressive win to go 2-0 up in the T20I series against England.

Fresh from a massive 97-run win over England in the first T20I at Nottingham, India continued their successful run in the series, with a 24-run win in the second T20I as well, despite being in trouble early in the game on Tuesday.

Having lost three quick wickets, including that of the previous match centurion Smriti Mandhana, the visitors came back in the match courtesy of half-centuries by Jemimah Rodrigues and Player of the Match Amanjot Kaur.

Speaking after hitting her first-ever T20I fifty, Amanjot credited Rodrigues for giving her crucial advice during their 93-run partnership that helped India finish their first innings on 181/4.

"The credit goes to Jemi (Rodrigues), the way she paced her innings. She told me to stay on the wicket," she said.

"The wicket was quite damp and slow, compared to the one in Nottingham and we planned to take it deep," Amanjot said.

"We wanted to get going in the 16-18th overs and Richa (Ghosh) finished well too," she said.

Amanjot also picked the crucial wicket of the England skipper Nat Sciver-Brunt, that helped stifle

the hosts' chase. The all-rounder added that she wants to contribute more for the country, an ICC report said.

Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship 2025 set to begin on July 3

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 2

The 15th Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship 2025 is set to begin tomorrow at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Astroturf Hockey Stadium in Ranchi.

The tournament will run until July 14 and will follow the newly-introduced division-based format—first implemented earlier this year during the Senior Men and Women's National Championships.

This year's edition will feature 28 teams divided into three divisions—Division A, Division B, and Division C—introducing an added competitive edge with promotion and relegation at stake.

Division A, comprising the top 12 performing teams in the country, will see intense action as the defending champions Hockey Jharkhand and last year's runner-up Hockey Madhya Pradesh lead the challenge for the national title. Division B and Division C will serve as competitive battlegrounds for emerging teams to climb the ranks.

Division Format & Pool Composition: Division A (Top-tier Championship Division): Teams compete for the title and two will face relegation.

Pool A: Hockey Jharkhand, Hockey Haryana, Hockey Andhra Pradesh

Pool B: Hockey Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh

Hockey, Hockey Chandigarh

Pool C: Hockey Association of Odisha, Hockey Maharashtra, Hockey Punjab

Pool D: Hockey Mizoram, Delhi Hockey, Hockey Association of Bihar

Each team will play round-robin matches within their pool. The top two teams from each pool will qualify for the Quarterfinals (July 11), followed by the Semifinals (July 12) and the Final & 3rd place playoff (July 14). The bottom two teams in Division A will be relegated to Division B next year.

Also in Division A, if at the end of regulation time a classification match ends in a draw, a shoot-out competition—as specified in the FIH Tournament Regulations—will be conducted to determine the winner.

Division B (Mid-tier Division): Teams compete for promotion to Division A; bottom two face relegation.

Pool A: Hockey Karnataka, Manipur Hockey, Hockey Uttarakhand, Kerala Hockey, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu Hockey

Pool B: Hockey Gujarat, Chhattisgarh Hockey, Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu, Hockey Bengal

Division C (Entry-level Division): Teams compete for promotion to Division B.

Pool A: Hockey Raj, Le Puducherry Hockey, Hockey Himachal

Pool B: Assam Hockey, Telangana Hockey, Hockey Jammu and Kashmir, Goans Hockey

Divisions B and C will follow a league format only, with top two teams in each gaining promotion to higher divisions.

Across all divisions, teams will earn 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw, and 0 for a loss.

Speaking on the tournament, Hockey India President Dr. Dilip Tirkey said, "The division-based format has brought a new sense of purpose and competitiveness to our domestic structure. The Sub Junior Women National Championship is a crucial platform for identifying and nurturing talent at the grassroots. Hosting the tournament in Ranchi—home to a strong hockey culture—makes this even more special. We look forward to witnessing top-tier performances from young athletes who are the future of Indian hockey."

Hockey India Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh added, "This revamped structure gives every team a clear goal—be it winning the championship, earning promotion, or avoiding relegation. It keeps the excitement alive at every level of the tournament. We are committed to providing equal and meaningful exposure to young girls through well-organised championships like this. Ranchi is ready to host another memorable event."

Ranka wins district-level Subroto Cup Under-17 Football Final

AGENCIES
GARHWHA, JULY 2

The 64th Subroto Cup (Under-17 Boys) district-level football tournament concluded on Wednesday at the Garhwa Football Stadium with a thrilling final match between Government Plus Two High School, Ranka, and PM Shri Upgraded High School, Obra Bardiha. Organized under the aegis of the Jharkhand Education Project, Garhwa, the final remained goalless at full time, ending in a 0-0 draw.

The winner was decided through a penalty shootout, in which Ranka edged past Obra Bardiha with a narrow 4-3 victory to claim the district championship.

With this win, the Ranka team will now represent Garhwa district in the upcoming divisional-level Under-17 boys' tournament.

Real Madrid edges Juventus to move into Club World Cup quarterfinals

AGENCIES
MIAMI, JULY 2

Gonzalo Garcia's second-half header lifted Real Madrid to a 1-0 victory over Juventus on Tuesday, securing the Spanish side a place in the FIFA Club World Cup quarterfinals.

The breakthrough came in the 54th minute when Trent Alexander-Arnold delivered a precise cross from the right, allowing Garcia to nod home from close range. The 21-year-old now has three goals and one assist in four tournament matches.

Persistent rain in the Hard Rock Stadium area eased shortly before kick-off, avoiding further delays after earlier weather disruptions during the tournament.

Juventus made six changes to its starting lineup, with Kenan Yildiz, Francisco Conceicao and Randal Kolo Muani replacing Nicolas Gonzalez, Teun Koopmeiners and Dusan Vlahovic in the attack.

Real Madrid welcomed back star forward Kylian Mbappe, who was named as a substitute after having missed the group stage with gastroenteritis.



Despite Madrid controlling early possession, Juventus carved out the sharper chances. Yildiz intercepted a pass and surged through midfield to slip Kolo Muani through on goal, but the French forward lifted his effort over the bar. Yildiz threatened again minutes later, forcing a corner with a deflected shot.

Jude Bellingham nearly opened the scoring for Madrid in the 29th minute, but Juventus goalkeeper Michele Di Gregorio produced a reflex save to deny him from Alexander-Arnold's cutback. Di Gregorio kept his side in the match with another close-range stop to deny Federico Valverde just before

halftime.

The Italian keeper continued his strong performance after the break, parrying efforts from both Bellingham and Dean Huijzen, but was finally beaten by Garcia's decisive header.

Garcia made way in the 68th minute for Mbappe, who made his Club World Cup debut.

Late saves from Di Gregorio kept Juventus in contention, but the Serie A side failed to find an equalizer against Madrid's disciplined defense.

Real Madrid will face either Borussia Dortmund or Monterrey - who play later Tuesday night - in Saturday's quarterfinal in New York.

Wiaan Mulder new captain for South Africa following Maharaj injury

AGENCIES
BULAWAYO, JULY 2

Wiaan Mulder will lead the South Africa in the second Test against Zimbabwe after stand-in captain Keshav Maharaj was ruled out due to a groin strain.

Maharaj, who was captain for the Zimbabwe series following the unavailability of full-time Test skipper Temba Bavuma, sustained the injury while batting on day three of the first Test on Monday.

He will return home for further assessment to determine the extent of the injury.

Senuran Muthusamy has been named as Maharaj's replacement, while all-rounder Wiaan Mulder will lead the side in the second Test, which begins on July 6.

Pacer Lungi Ngidi, who



was supposed to join the squad, has also been released to give further opportunities to pacers who impressed in the first Test.

The ICC World Test Championship winners South Africa were in terrific form against Zimbabwe in the first Test, with centuries for Lhuan-dre Pretorius, Corbin Bosch and Wiaan Mulder, and Codi Yusuf, Maharaj, Mulder and Bosch sitting among wickets.

The Proteas defeated Chevrans by 328 runs. The second Test will also be played at Bulawayo.

South Africa Squad for the second Test:

Wiaan Mulder (c), David Bedingham, Matthew Breetzke, Dewald Brevis, Corbin Bosch, Tony de Zorzi, Zubayr Hamza, Kwenza Maphaka, Senuran Muthusamy, Lhuan-dre Pretorius, Lesego Senokwane, Prenelan Subrayen, Kyle Verreynne and Codi Yusuf.

Dortmund, Real Madrid to meet in Club World Cup last eight

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, JULY 2

Borussia Dortmund and Real Madrid will clash in the FIFA Club World Cup quarterfinals after eliminating Monterrey and Juventus in the round of 16.

In Atlanta, Guinea international striker Serhou Guirassy struck two first-half goals as Dortmund secured a 2-1 win over Monterrey yesterday.

Guirassy opened the scoring in the 14th minute when he played a slick one-two with Karim Adeyemi before side-footing a low

effort that beat Argentine goalkeeper Esteban Andradá at his near post.

The Mexican side was undone once more by the Adeyemi-Guirassy combination in the 24th minute as the center-forward caressed a first-time shot past Andradá after Adeyemi's layoff.

Former Real Madrid defender Sergio Ramos had a gilt-edged chance to equalize in the 91st minute but headed inches wide following Erick Aguirre's cross.

The result means Dortmund will face Real Madrid

in New Jersey on Saturday for a place in the last four while Monterrey bows out.

"I think I could have scored at least three goals but I'm happy to have helped the team win," Guirassy said.

"It was difficult, they are a good team with experienced players. I think we had a very good first half; the second half was a little bit harder, but our mindset was tough."

The 29-year-old said the Bundesliga club would be ready for the challenge of confronting the 15-time European champions.

Adopt zero tolerance approach towards illegal mining in J&K: Dy CM to Officers

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 2

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today reiterated the Government's firm commitment to completely ban illegal mining activities across Jammu and Kashmir.

He made these remarks while chairing a high-level review meeting of the Geology and Mining Department at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

The Dy CM emphasized the importance of taking stringent action against the violators to safeguard the region's natural mineral resources. He directed the officials to adopt a zero tolerance approach towards illegal mining, ensuring a complete ban on such activities.

The Dy CM instructed the District Mineral Officers to take full control of



all mining resources while keeping strict monitoring and vigilance on the ground. He warned that any laxity or negligence, in this regard, would invite disciplinary action as per the law.

Underscoring the significance of protecting the public infrastructure, the Deputy CM directed the officers to closely monitor all functional mining blocks to ensure that critical infrastructure such as bridges, roads and water supply schemes remain unaffected.

"Immediately cancel the licenses of functional blocks if any damage to infrastructure is reported and impose penalties on the responsible firms," he instructed the officials.

He also directed the department to expedite the auctioning process of mineral resources strictly as per the existing rules and regulations, while ensuring robust enforcement and strict compliance with both the Central and UT mining Acts and Rules.

The meeting featured a

detailed presentation on the status of exploration and extraction of key minerals including limestone, granite, blue sapphire, gypsum, lithium and coal. The officials informed that 36 major mining leases for limestone and 233 minor mineral leases have been issued, so far.

To further strengthen enforcement, the Dy CM called for establishment of a robust monitoring mechanism involving multi-departmental district-level task forces, flying squads, informant networks, checkpoints and e-challan systems to curb the illegal mining effectively.

Highlighting the potential of the mining sector, the Deputy CM stressed on promotion of mineral-based industries to enhance employment opportunities and revenue generation.

He was informed that the department has generated Rs. 16.79 crore revenue through the compounding of vehicles and machinery involved in illegal mining and transportation, with a total of 6,219 seizures recorded during the financial year 2024-25. Besides, the department has recorded a revenue generation of Rs. 150.49 crore during the same period. Additionally, gypsum mining has earned a revenue of Rs. 438 lakh in 2025-26.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary Mining, Anil Kumar Singh, Director Geology and Mining, Suraj Prakash Rukwal, MD JKLM Pawan Kumar, Special Secretary Mining Dr. Suraya Fatima Tak, DMOs and other senior officers of the department.

DC Poonch visits Gurudwara Deri Sahib Khari



JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 2

In connection with the upcoming 25th Gurmat Samagam scheduled to be held on 6th July at Gurudwara Deri Sahib Khari, the Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal today visited the Gurudwara Sahib and paid obeisance. He was warmly welcomed by the Management Committee, which expressed heartfelt gratitude for his visit.

The Gurudwara premises

was filled with spiritual fervour as Ragi Jathas from Punjab recited soul-stirring Gurbani Kirtan echoing the messages of peace, devotion and unity.

The Deputy Commissioner interacted with the devotees and lauded the smooth and devotional conduct of the pre-event proceedings.

While addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the cultural and spiritual importance of such religious congregations in pro-

moting harmony and unity among diverse communities. He also took a detailed review of the arrangements, ensuring that the district administration is fully committed to extending all necessary support for the successful organization of the Samagam.

The Management Committee extended sincere thanks to the Deputy Commissioner for his continued support and active involvement in promoting religious and cultural events across the district.

DC, SSP Rajouri reviews preparations for upcoming Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JULY 2

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, today chaired a meeting at Dak Bungalow Rajouri to review the preparations for the smooth and successful conduct of the upcoming Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra.

During the meeting, the DC took a comprehensive review of the arrangements including parking facilities, deployment of medical teams, availability of drinking water, installation of mobile toilets, security, sanitation, lodging, and other essential services.

The DC directed the concerned officers to ensure deployment of AYUSH instructors at all lodgement centres to provide



basic wellness services to the pilgrims. The Tourism Department was instructed to install informative hoardings at prominent locations and set up a dedicated stall to promote local tourism and culture.

The Jal Shakti Department was asked to ensure the availability of water tankers at all critical points and conduct daily testing of water samples to maintain hygienic standards. The Executive Officers of Municipalities were directed to provide mobile toilet facilities at all lodgement and congregation points.

To strengthen surveil-

lance and ensure security, the DC emphasized the installation of CCTV cameras at lodgement centres. Self-Help Groups (SHGs) will be facilitated to set up stalls for local products and refreshments. The Information Department was asked to ensure that Public Address Systems are functional at all lodgement centres for timely announcements and information dissemination.

Instructions were also issued for the deployment of Executive Magistrates at various critical points, fire safety audits of langars, and timely arrangements

for tents and bedding facilities for the pilgrims. The Power Development Department was directed to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply at all lodgement centres.

For the safety and verification of manpower, the DC instructed the Police Department to carry out CID verification of all labourers to be deployed during the Yatra well in advance.

The meeting was attended by SSP Rajouri Gaurav Sikarwar, ADC Rajouri Chandar Prakash, ADC Sunderbani Ramkesh Sharma, ADC Nowshera Pritam Lal Thapa, DFO Shweta Deonia, SE PWD Tilak Raj, ACD Rajouri, and other senior officers from concerned departments.

DC Kishtwar reviews progress of Public Works Department projects in district

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JULY 2

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today convened a comprehensive review meeting with the Public Works Department (R&B) to assess the department's performance and monitor the progress of ongoing developmental projects across various sectors. These include District Capex, NFB, NABARD, United Grants, Health, Education, and ADP covering all three subdivisions of the district.

The meeting focused on key aspects such as project progress, financial utilization, adherence to regulations, and timely completion of works.

The DC also reviewed



the status of new works under District Capex 2025-26 along with the physical and financial progress of all projects under the plan.

A detailed presentation was given, outlining the physical and financial status of development works. The chair was briefed on the pace of execution, financial expenditures, and future work plans.

The DC emphasized the need for transparency, accountability, and strict compliance with tendering procedures and execution protocols. He reiter-

ated that all works must align with established norms and regulations.

Highlighting the importance of timely completion, the DC directed officers to closely monitor the progress of each project to ensure quality standards and efficient fund utilization.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, ACR Idrees Lone, Shah Nawaz Bali; Executive Engineer PW R&B Division Chatroo Shakti Kumar Raina, PMGSY AEE Sheikh Nisar, besides other concerned staff.

JCCI delegation meets LG, discusses Amarnath Yatra and trade issues

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 2

A delegation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Jammu led by its President Shri Arun Gupta called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, today.

The delegation comprised of Shri Anil Gupta senior Vice President and other officer bearers of the Chamber including Shri Rajeev Gupta, Shri Manish Gupta and Shri Rajesh Gupta apprised the Lieutenant Governor of various important matters pertaining to the on-going Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra and the welfare issues of the business & trade fraternity.

Subsequently, representatives of Ghatti Industrial Association, Kathua also called on the Lieutenant Governor.

Bridge to Machail on fast track: SDM Paddar orders double shifts, more skilled workers



number of technically skilled workers and implement double shifts to accelerate the pace of construction.

To ensure the safe and uninterrupted movement of pilgrims during the Yatra period, the PMGSY

department was also directed to construct a temporary alternate path. This proactive measure is expected to facilitate smooth execution of the bridge-launching work while safeguarding public convenience.

The Chishoti Bridge, once completed, will serve as a critical infrastructure link for the region, enhancing connectivity and supporting the spiritual and economic vitality associated with the revered Shree Machail Mata Yatra.

Tehsildar Paddar, Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) PMGSY, and the project contractor were present during the inspection.

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JULY 2

Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Paddar, Dr. Amit Kumar, conducted a site inspection of the under-construction Chishoti Bridge—an important connectivity project leading to Machail Village on Palali to Machail Road being executed by the PMGSY (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana) Department.

The inspection aimed at reviewing the progress of the bridge, which holds significant importance for the upcoming Shree Machail Mata Yatra 2025.

During the visit, the SDM instructed the contractor to augment the

Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra - 2025

Traffic Advisory

The yatris, travelling to seek blessings of Shri Amarnath Ji, in their own/rented cars/buses or any other mode, are requested to travel in the main Yatra convoy only, starting from Bhagwati Nagar Jammu daily; in the interest of smooth and secure conduct of Shri Amarnath ji Yatra 2025.

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