

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:

- Increased and continuous fever above 102°F
- Severe joint and muscle pain
- Severe headache
- Severe stomach pain
- Severe vomiting
- Severe back pain
- Severe chest pain
- Severe sore throat
- Severe weakness

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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>>> AMARNATH YATRA 2025

Amid multi-layer security cover, over 26,000 pilgrims pay obeisance at holy cave shrine in 2 days

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 04 (KNO)

Amid multi-layer security cover and tight vigil in two days more than 26000 pilgrims have paid obeisance at the holy Amarnath cave shrine, officials told the news agency on Friday.

According to official data, 14,515 pilgrims visited the holy cave shrine till 7 PM on Friday. The breakdown includes 11,440 males, 2,426 females, 91 children, 221 sadhus, 9 transgender devotees, and 328 personnel from the security forces.

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Pilgrim from UP dies after falling unconscious at Sheshnag base camp

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 4

A pilgrim from Uttar Pradesh died after falling unconscious at Sheshnag base camp of the annual Amarnath Yatra, officials on Friday said.

The pilgrim, identified as Dileep Srivastav, a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri, fell unconscious at Sheshnag base camp on the second day of the 38-day pilgrimage, the officials said.

Srivastav was immediately shifted to Sheshnag base camp hospital

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Amarnath Yatra symbol of unity, brotherhood; 20,000 pilgrims have paid obeisance, more on way: LG Sinha

JI NEWS SERVICE
BALTAL, GANDERBAL, JUL 04 (KNO)

Describing the Amarnath Yatra as a symbol of unity and brotherhood, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that till now 20,000 pilgrims have paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine, nestled in Himalayas, and their number is swelling.

After ingurating the Yatri Niwas at Baltal base camp that will accommodate 800 yatris, LG Sinha, according to the news agency, while talking to reporters said, "More

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6th SKUAST-K Convocation

HADP improving income of 13 lakh farmer families in Kashmir: LG Sinha



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 04 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Friday said

culture Development Programme (HADP) is improving the income of 13 lakh farmer families.

Speaking at the 6th Convocation of SKUAST-K Sinha,

as per news agency said, "SKUAST-K has made a lot of efforts to make the HADP scheme successful in Kashmir."

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J&K's future lies in hands of young scientists: CM Omar

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 04 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday said that the agriculture sector in Jammu and Kashmir is not only the backbone of the economy but also central to the region's culture and identity while the future of the Union Territory lies in the hands of young scientists.

Speaking at the 6th Convocation of

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Clean Plant Centre to be set up in Kashmir to enhance apple production: Union Minister

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 04 (KNO)

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan Friday said Kashmir is rich in apple production and that a Clean Plant Centre for the Valley will enhance its quality and production.

Speaking at the 6th Convocation of SKUAST-Kashmir, Chauhan, per news agency said Kashmir is rich in producing apples but there is a

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Heatwave: Sgr records 2nd hottest day of season at 35.3 degrees Celsius

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 04 (KNO)

Amid the persistent heatwave conditions, Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, has recorded the second-hottest day of this season at 35.3 degrees on Friday.

An independent weather forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng, while sharing the details with the news agency, said that the second-hottest day of the season was recorded in Srinagar today at 35.3 degrees. The hottest day this season, at 35.5 degrees, was recorded twice on June 20 and June 24.

As per the details, Qazigund, a gateway to Kashmir, recorded a maximum temperature of 34.4 degrees, while Pahalgam recorded 30.2 degrees. Kupwara saw a maximum temperature of 35.4 degrees, while Kokernag and Gulmarg, a famous ski resort, recorded 33.4 degrees and 26.0 degrees, respectively.

Meanwhile, Jammu division continued to record below-normal temperatures, with details revealing that Jammu City recorded a maximum temperature of 35.0 degrees.

In Banihal, the

CONTINUED ON >> PAGE 4

8th Muharram: Traditional procession carried out though Lal Chowk for 3rd straight year

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 04 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Friday allowed the 8th Muharram procession on its traditional route from Guru Bazar to Dalgate for the third consecutive year.

The peaceful procession began before dawn, with thousands of Shia mourners participating amid heightened security, logistical arrangements and sweltering summer heat.

According to the details obtained by the news agency Correspondent, the pre-dawn procession, which started at around 5:30 AM from Guru Bazar, passed through Budshah Kadal and Maulana Azad Road, culminating at Dalgate.

It marked the third year since the traditional route, barred for more than three decades, was formally restored in 2023.

Officials told KNO that the permission for this year's procession was granted by the District Magistrate Srinagar after a request by the Yaadgari-i-Hussaini Committee and a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Senior Superintendent of Police, Srinagar. They said the order included several conditions to maintain peace and ensure public safety.

According to the official guidelines, the procession was to be conducted strictly on the left side of the road, keeping the right side clear for emergency vehicles, and had to conclude within the prescribed time frame. The administration prohibited any anti-national, communal, or provocative speeches, use of drones, and public address systems. "Any activity disrupting law and order, damaging public property, or hampering emergency services was to be dealt with strictly," says the guidelines.

On security and logistics, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, and senior police officials had held prior high-level meetings with religious representatives to ensure smooth conduct of the event.

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J&K govt enhances MLA development fund to Rs 4 crore

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 04 (KNO)

In a significant move, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday announced an enhancement of Rs one crore in the constituency development fund (CDF) allocated to members of the legislative assembly (MLAs).

The Finance Department, in an order, a copy of which is in possession of news agency enhanced the annual

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Op Sindoor exposed Pak-China military nexus: Lt Gen Rahul Singh

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 4

Deputy Chief of Army Staff (CD&S) Lt General Rahul R Singh today highlighted the growing military cooperation between Pakistan and China as a key concern emerging from Operation Sindoor, calling it a strategic challenge for India.

Addressing the conference-cum-exhibition on 'New Age Military Technologies', organised by FICCI here, Lt



Gen Singh said, "We had one border and two adversaries - actually three. Pakistan was in the front, while China provided all possible support."

He described the alliance as "unsurprising", stating that China would rather kill with a borrowed knife than engage directly.

"In the last five years, 81 percent of Pakistan's military hardware is sourced from China," Lt Gen Singh said, while highlighting Beijing's growing role in Islamabad's defence preparedness.

He also warned that China's involvement in

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New timings announced for district courts of Jammu division from July 7

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 4

The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has notified that from July 7, 2025, all District Courts in Jammu Province will follow the office and court timings outlined in an earlier order dated May 22, 2020. As per the revised schedule,

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DAJGUA- Awareness cum benefit saturation camp held at GHS Parla Chapper

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JULY 4

As part of the ongoing Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, awareness cum benefit saturation camp was successfully organized at Government High School Parla Chapper under the overall supervision of Sub-Divisional Magistrate Dudu.

The camp witnessed active participation from officers and officials of various line departments, along with a large turnout of the locals, especially members of the tribal communities.

During the event, representatives from key departments including Agriculture, Rural Development, Health, Social Welfare, Revenue and others provided detailed



information about welfare schemes and services available under their respective domains.

These included flagship initiatives such as PM-KISAN, MGNREGA, Ayushman Bharat, Kisan Credit Card etc.

Officers of various departments addressed

the gathering and explained the core objectives of the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan. They emphasized the importance of such camps in ensuring last-mile delivery of government services, especially in tribal and far-flung areas.

To facilitate awareness and service delivery multiple stalls were set up by the participating departments. These stalls not only showcased government schemes but also enabled spot registrations and provided direct benefits to the public.

SANJY 2025: DC Bandipora undertakes Inspection of Shadipora Transit Camp, reviews facilities for Yatris

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JULY 4

As part of ongoing efforts to ensure seamless arrangements for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, conducted an inspection of the Shadipora Transit Camp to assess the quality of facilities and services being provided to the pilgrims.

The visit was aimed at taking a firsthand appraisal of the infrastructure, logistics, and support systems established for yatris at one of the key transit points.

On the occasion, DC was accompanied by SDM Sumbal, Tehsildar Sumbal and other concerned officers.

During the inspection, DC thoroughly reviewed



accommodation arrangements, sanitation measures, medical aid stations, and other critical amenities. He laid special emphasis on maintaining hygiene, ensuring round-the-clock medical assistance, and upholding safety standards to provide a hassle-free experience for pilgrims.

While interacting with the yatris during the visit, DC sought direct feedback

on their experience. The pilgrims expressed satisfaction with the arrangements, particularly highlighting the availability of clean accommodation, timely medical assistance, and cooperative support staff.

Qadri directed the concerned departments to remain on alert and address any emerging issues promptly.

Free AYUSH Medical outreach camps held in Shopian

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, JULY 4

Ayush Health and Wellness Centres of Heerpore and Sedow today jointly organised a free Ayush medical outreach camp at Mirzapur Sedow.

In the camp, 186 beneficiaries received free AYUSH medicines and consultation, ensuring accessibility and affordability of the AYUSH system.

Similarly, another outreach medical aid camp was organised by Ayush Unit DH Shopian at Sofanaman.

During the camp, more than 130 patients were given medicines for various types of ailments. Monitoring of sugar and haemoglobin was done for the needy persons.

DDC Bandipora reviews progress of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JULY 4

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Friday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress and implementation of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in the district.

The scheme, launched by the Government of India in July 2021, aims to enhance the quality and reliability of power supply to consumers by improving operational efficiency in the distribution system and minimizing Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses.

DDC conducted a detailed division-wise review, focusing on key components of RDSS, including metering, distribution infrastructure, project management and other related activities.

The meeting also discussed the physical progress of works such as the replacement of damaged electric poles, survey activities, feeder bifurcation, and the overall implementation plan across all electric divisions of Bandipora district.

During the meeting,



Project Coordinator NTPC, briefed the DC on the comprehensive scope of work under RDSS. This includes the construction of new 11 KV lines, installation of distribution transformers, reconditioning of 11 KV infrastructure, and replacing bare conductors with LT cables.

It was informed that the project, with an outlay of rupees 81 crore for Bandipora district, includes the installation of around 8,000 steel tubular poles, 600 distribution transformers, 644 LT AB cables, 612 ACSR conductors, and HT AB cables across various areas of the district.

DDC was apprised that 75% of the implementation has been completed. Current efforts are focused on 13 feeders in the Bandipora Division and 17 feeders in the Sumbal Division.

Emphasis was laid on

effective resource mobilization, urging all stakeholders to carry out activities in parallel to expedite RDSS implementation. DDC stressed that all ongoing works must be completed within the stipulated timelines to ensure overall improvement in the power supply.

Qadri directed concerned officers to ensure close coordination during surveys and resolve any technical issues promptly to avoid delays. He also instructed the Executive Engineers to personally inspect sites and ensure quality improvements in electricity supply, particularly in remote areas. The project implementation agency was directed to expedite and complete works in Sub Division Gurez before the onset of winter.

DDC highlighted the importance of delivering high-quality power to consumers and called for responsible participation from both DISCOMs and consumers to realize the intended benefits of the scheme.

Among others, the meeting was attended by CPO, Executive Engineers, NTPC Project Manager and other concerned officials.

J&K Cooperative Societies deptt organize workshop on Holistic Cooperative Development Programme

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 4

The J&K Cooperative Societies Department, today convened a collaborative workshop to discuss and co-create the proposed Holistic Cooperative Development Programme (HCDP).

Commissioner Secretary, Cooperatives, Babila Rakwal, was the chief guest on the occasion.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from a wide range of stakeholders including the representatives from cooperatives, government departments, financial institutions and sector experts.

Notable participants included Cooperatives including Bhartiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Ltd., J&K Milk Producers Cooperative Ltd., J&K Dairy Cooperative Federation Ltd., UNATI Multi-State Cooperative Ltd., Farm Fresh Ltd besides Institutions like NCDC, NABARD and former CGM NABARD Bhallamudi Shridhar.

Besides, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Skill Development, Horticulture Planning & Marketing, Industries & Commerce departments and the J&K State Rural Livelihoods Mission attended the event.

The workshop began with a plantation drive held under the banner of "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam", led by Commissioner Sec-



retary, Cooperatives. This was followed by a presentation by the department introducing the vision and structure of HCDP. The presentation emphasized a Bottom-Up, people-led and convergence-based development approach.

That HCDP is not a prescriptive scheme, but a framework to support the cooperative-driven models across sectors like agriculture, dairy, processing, fisheries and digital enterprise. The participants shared relevant schemes, potential models for convergence and strategies for enabling cooperative ventures while the departments introduced the participants to opportunities for collaboration ranging from skill training and marketing access to financial and technical support.

The Commissioner Secretary emphasized that the success of this initiative depends on understanding the real capacities, limitation and unique contexts of different cooperative societies. Field officers

must play a proactive role in encouraging the societies, enabling convergence with departmental schemes and providing active handholding at the grassroots.

Babila Rakwal asked officers to proactively identify and initiate pilot projects under the proposed initiative, emphasizing the need to test viability and demonstrate success at the grassroots level before wider replication.

The Commissioner Secretary also directed that all suggestions and models shared during the workshop be compiled into a comprehensive document and circulated for further feedback and refinement, reinforcing the department's commitment to co-creation.

Officers of the Cooperative Department including Additional Registrar Jammu, Joint Registrars (Audit, Banking & Finance, Special), Deputy Registrars and Assistant Registrars from various districts also participated.

Physical Mock Exercise on GLOF Disaster held in Kulgam



J1 NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JULY 4

Department of DMRRR in joint collaboration with JKSDMA and DDMA Kulgam conducted a Physical Mock Exercise on GLOF Disaster in district Kulgam.

The exercise was held under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kulgam, Vigar Ahmad Giri (CEO DDMA) and attended by CEO ERO, Dr Aamir Ali.

The Mock Exercise was coordinated by Con-

sultant DDMA Kulgam, Mohammad Hanan.

All the concerned stakeholders attended the Mock Exercise. Various simulations and scenarios regarding GLOF were carried out by NDRF, SDRF, F&ES, Health Dept. During the Mock Exercise, emphasis was laid on rescue techniques and evacuation procedures during GLOF. District administration Kulgam put all the necessary arrangements in place to make the Mock Exercise a successful event.

District Treasury Office Reasi organizes training programme on SNA-SPARSH for DDOs



J1 NEWS SERVICE
REASI, JULY 4

The District Treasury Office Reasi today organized a training programme on the Single Nodal Account Samyochit Pronali Akarit Shigr Hastantaran (SNA-SPARSH) for DDOs of the district operating Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

The training programme was organised to aware the DDOs on the efficient management of funds under these schemes. The

programme was attended by Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) and dealing account assistants associated with the district treasury and its subordinate treasuries, aimed at familiarizing them with the SNA-SPARSH system for seamless financial operations. The training was led by District Treasury Officer Reasi, Qamar Rehman who highlighted the role of SNA-SPARSH in strengthening financial governance and gave a demo on bill genera-

tion on JKPaySys from DDO maker to Checker login.

Detailed instructions were given to the participants as how the bills/claims can be uploaded on this portal from their end and then submitted to the treasury for payment. Moreover they were briefed about the fetching of budget for the respective schemes and the procedure for making the bills keeping in view both the UT as well as the Centre.

SBDU Rajouri scrutinizes 50 cases, clears 42 under Mission YUVA



J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JULY 4

The Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) Rajouri, under the supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner (District Nodal Officer Mission YUVA) Rajouri,

Chander Prakash convened a meeting of all members.

During the meeting, the SBDU scrutinized 50 cases under Mission YUVA and cleared 42 cases for placement before the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC).

The cleared cases will now be presented to the DLIC for further review and approval, marking a significant step towards promoting entrepreneurship and employment opportunities in the district under Mission YUVA.

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 4

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting of the District Telecom Committee (DTC) to review and discuss the development of telecom infrastructure and network connectivity across the district, with a special focus on the construction and commissioning of mobile towers.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the project-wise status of mobile tower installations under various saturation projects. It was informed that out of 38 sanctioned projects, 13 towers have been completed, out of which 09 are fully functional while work on 04 is currently in progress.

Threadbare discussions were held to address

the issues and concerns of telecom operators as well as consumers regarding network coverage, tower installation delays and associated infrastructure challenges. The DC emphasized the urgent need to enhance telecom services, particularly in remote and border areas where connectivity remains a critical concern.

The Deputy Commissioner issued clear timelines to the executing agencies, especially BSNL for expediting the installation of mobile towers. He stressed the importance of improving network strength and coverage for the benefit of the public, particularly in underserved regions. He also reiterated that strong communication infrastructure is essential for overall development and public welfare.

DAJGUA Camp organised at Panchayat Ghar Margund



JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, JULY 4

As part of the ongoing Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), district administration Ganderbal organised a special outreach and benefit saturation camp at Panchayat Ghar Margund, targeting tribal and marginalized populations of the area.

The camp witnessed participation from multiple departments including

Health, ICDS, Social Welfare, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, RDD, and Education.

Services such as health check-ups, Ayushman Bharat registrations, distribution of medicines, livestock vaccinations, awareness on individual beneficiary schemes, and issuance of caste and income certificates were provided on the spot.

Officers highlighted the mission of the Abhiyan to ensure last-mile delivery of

welfare schemes in tribal villages and to bridge service gaps. The integrated approach brought critical schemes directly to the doorstep of eligible families, reflecting the commitment of the administration towards equitable and inclusive development.

PRI members and locals expressed gratitude for holding the camp in their area and requested the continuation of such initiatives for sustained development of tribal belts.

Union Agriculture Secretary visits agricultural institutions, facilities in Kashmir

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 4

Union Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Devesh Chaturvedi, today visited prominent Agricultural Institutions and facilities in the Kashmir Valley to assess the ongoing initiatives and explore avenues for further strengthening of the sector.

During the visit, Devesh Chaturvedi inspected the Indian International Kashmir Saffron Trade Centre (IIKSTC), where he reviewed the post-harvest and value-addition infrastructure in the centre. He appreciated the technological advancements being implemented to support the saffron growers. He emphasized the importance of branding and marketing to ensure better price realization for the farmers. Deputy Commissioner Pulwama,



Basharat Qayoom; Director Horticulture, Vikas Anand; Director Agriculture, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, senior officers of the Department and scientists accompanied the Secretary during the visits.

The Union Secretary also visited the Honey Testing Laboratory at Lalmandi, where he examined the facilities supporting quality assurance and value addition for apiculture-based products. He stressed the significance of traceability and certification in ensuring access to national and international markets.

The Director Agriculture Kashmir, briefed the Union Secretary about the activities, achievements and future plans of the department across these key sectors.

Later, Devesh Chaturvedi toured the Floriculture Nursery at Lalmandi, where he took note of the varieties being cultivated and the potential for floriculture as a high-value agri-enterprise in the region. He encouraged the officials to further enhance propagation techniques and promote commercial floriculture among youth and entrepreneurs.

Treasury office Kulgam organizes orientation programme on SNA-SPARSH (Phase-2nd) for left out DDOs

JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JULY 4

District Treasury Office Kulgam, on the directions of the Finance department J&K, conducted the orientation programme on the Single Nodal Account Samyoचित Pronali Aakakrit Shigr Hastantar (SNA-SPARSH) model for efficient management of funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) for DDOs who could not participate in the 1st phase.

The programme was attended by Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs), aimed at familiarizing them with the SNA-SPARSH system for seamless financial operations.

Training session began with a lucid introduction to the model by District Treasury Officer Kulgam, who highlighted the role of SNA-SPARSH in strengthening the financial governance at the grassroots level.

The PowerPoint presentation on SNA-SPARSH and a demonstration on bill generation on JKPaySys from DDO maker to check-



er login were presented by NIC Expert.

SNA-SPARSH model integrates critical financial platforms, including JKBEAMS, PFMS, and eKuber of RBI, facilitating real-time fund transfers directly from the central and state Consolidated Funds to the implementing agencies.

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

Induction Training for newly placed Headmasters of Jammu Division concludes

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 4

A three day Induction Training Programme for 282 newly placed Headmasters of Jammu Division concluded today at Government Polytechnic College, Jammu.

The programme, held from 2nd to 4th July 2025, was organized by the School Leadership Academy of State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) J&K, Jammu in collaboration with DIET Jammu, aligning with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The training focused on leadership, pedagogy, inclusivity and school governance, aiming to build a cadre of empowered school leaders to drive educational transformation at the grassroots level.

The valedictory ceremony was presided over by Additional Chief Secretary Higher Education (ACS) and Director, SCERT, Shantmanu.

During his address, Shantmanu congratulated the newly promoted HOIs and applauded their leadership journey. He emphasized the importance of ethical leadership, inclusive practices and commu-



nity engagement in shaping the future of school education. He urged them to be visionary and proactive in implementing NEP 2020 reforms.

Joint Director, SCERT Jammu Division, Professor Sindhu Kapoor reiterated SCERT Jammu's unwavering commitment towards empowering both the teachers and Heads of Institutions to ensure equitable and quality education.

Joint Director Central, JKSCERT, Shailesh Kumari, while addressing the gathering stressed on fostering inclusive, accountable and context-sensitive school ecosystems.

The three day program featured insightful and engaging sessions from eminent educationists and experts on diverse and critical topics. These included thought provoking session on pedagogical lead-

ership by Dr. J N Baliya, motivational strategies by Colonel Arun Gupta, visionary leadership by Dr. Atul Hans, fostering positive school culture by Dr. Rajinder Kour and practical orientation on the GeM Portal by Dheeraj Jandyal.

A short documentary capturing the highlights and significant moments of the program was also screened.

The participants shared their reflections, expressing appreciation for the enriching learning experience and the engaging, interactive sessions throughout the training.

Later, memento was presented to the ACS as a mark of respect.

The ACS distributed certificates among all the participants, resource persons, Chairpersons and members of the organizing team.

DHSJ observes World Zoonoses Day

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 4

The Directorate of Health Services Jammu today observed World Zoonoses Day with great enthusiasm and commitment towards addressing the rising threat of zoonotic diseases.

The event was organized by the State Surveillance Unit, IDSP DHS Jammu, highlighting the importance of a coordinated approach to zoonotic disease prevention and control.

State Surveillance Officer (SSO) / IDSP Jammu Division Dr. Harjeet Rai welcomed all officers of the Directorate and the stakeholders from the Animal Husbandry Department acknowledging their pivotal role in managing zoonotic threats under the One Health ' framework.

Director Health Services Jammu, Dr. Abdul Hamid Zarger emphasized the critical need for early diagnosis, prevention and awareness regarding zoonotic diseases such as rabies, brucellosis and leptospirosis-especially relevant to the Union Terri-



tory of Jammu & Kashmir. He stressed that intersectoral collaboration is the cornerstone of effective zoonotic disease control.

Dr. Sanjay Gupta highlighted the vital role of veterinarians and animal surveillance in identifying early warning signs and outbreaks. He also encouraged capacity building and field-level training for cross-sectoral teams as part of the One Health vision.

A series of technical presentations were delivered by expert resource persons covering the key themes such as Overview of major zoonotic diseases affecting humans and animals by Dr Prem Lata, The One Health approach and the role of integrated surveillance by Dr Simran Nag, Animal Health Management and awareness programs in schools and communities by Dr Sandeep Pandita and National

Action Plan for Snake bite Envenoming (NAPSE) by Dr Shehnaaz Chowdhary.

In his concluding remarks, the Director stressed upon timely reporting on the IHIP/IDSP portal, active community engagement and the need to strengthen inter departmental coordination to safeguard both human and animal health.

The event was graced by CMO Jammu, Dr Harbaksh Singh, Joint Director, M.S. Institute of Animal Health and Biological Products, R.S Pura, Dr. Sanjay Gupta and all Nodal Officers of the Directorate of Health Services. The observance of World Zoonoses Day served as a platform to reinforce the shared responsibility between the health, veterinary and environmental sectors in combating zoonotic threats and moving closer to a healthier and safer Jammu & Kashmir.

Mission Director JJM asks district project units to expedite creation of Dashboards

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 4

Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, today convened a review meeting regarding working of District Project Management Units (DPMUs) of J&K through virtual mode.

The meeting was attended by Technical Advisor Kashmir and Jammu along with Technical Officers and I/C DPMUs.

The Mission Director was informed that creation of IDs for Panchayat functionaries is ongoing which will pave the way for creation of Online Dashboards in each district under JJM. He urged the DPMUs to expedite the process so that the information related to implementation of JJM is readily available in public domain, ensuring transparency in the works being executed under JJM.

The Mission Director conducted a comprehensive review of the Har Ghar Jal certification progress in villages. He directed the District Programme Management Units (DPMUs) to expedite the reporting of Har Ghar Jal villages, ensuring prompt resolution of any minor issues that may arise during the certification process. He also had a district wise review of



water quality issues affecting the tapped sources or drilled bore wells. He was informed that quality issues, wherever encountered, are being resolved by identifying and tapping the alternate sources.

He directed the DPMUs to ensure that water testing in Schools and Anganwadi Centres is done twice every month as per the new direction regarding water quality surveillance protocol.

Khurshid Shah also discussed the Geo tagging of assets and sources. He directed the DPMUs to complete the process of Geo tagging within the set timelines.

Special mediation drive 'For the Nation' launched to settle pending cases through mediation

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 4

The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), in association with the Mediation & Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC) of the Supreme Court of India, has conceptualized a Special Mediation Drive titled Mediation 'For the Nation'. The initiative is being launched under the guidance of the Chief Justice of India and Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Supreme Court of India, who is also the Executive Chairman of NALSA and Chairman of MCPC.

The campaign is being rolled out across the country and will run from July 1 to September 22, 2025 as an intensive drive to settle



pending cases through mediation. It will cover Taluka Courts, District Courts and High Courts across India.

A meeting was chaired by Y. P. Bourney, Principal District and Sessions Judge Jammu/ Chairman District Legal Services Authority, Jammu at his office chamber with the Judicial Officers of District Headquarters Jammu regarding the Special Mediation Drive-

"Mediation for the Nation". The campaign aims to settle pending cases through mediation in all Taluka Courts, District Courts and High Courts of India. The Principal District and Sessions Judge briefed the Judicial Officers on the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and timeline for the campaign.

He discussed that campaign's objective is to reduce pending cases and

court backlog, provide an alternative dispute resolution mechanism, save time and costs for litigants, promote amicable settlements, and enhance access to justice.

Later, the information was also shared by Y. P. Bourney, Principal District and Sessions Judge and Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Jammu, while interacting with media personnel.

During the special campaign, all matters that contain elements of settlement may be referred for mediation. These include cases pending under various categories such as matrimonial disputes, accident claims, domestic violence, cheque bounce, commercial disputes, service matters, criminal compoundable offences, consumer disputes, debt recovery, partition, eviction, land acquisition and other suitable civil matters. Principal District and Sessions Judge, Y. P. Bourney further informed that all courts in District Jammu will take up eligible cases for disposal through the mediation process during the campaign period. He urged the general public

to take advantage of this opportunity to resolve their long-pending disputes amicably and efficiently through mediation. Litigants can approach their concerned courts to have their cases listed before the mediation panel.

Also, the Pr. Distt. & Sessions Judge Jammu convened a meeting with President Bar Association Jammu and conveyed Lawyer fraternity about the ongoing special campaign i.e. Mediation for the Nation and sought full cooperation of the Lawyers. The President, Bar Association Jammu assured full cooperation in ensuring this Special Campaign a success.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE			
Sr. DSTE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on https://www.ireps.gov.in against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-13-25-26 Closing Date/Time 25.07.2025 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 tender, 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 online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.			
NIT HEADER			
Contract Type	Works		
Name of Work	Sectional Signal maintenance Contract (SSMC) for the sections of DSTE/ASR for one year.		
Tender Closing Date Time	25.07.2025 15:00	Date Time of Uploading Tender	02.07.2025 18:57
Advertised Value (Rs.)	8494887.47	Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	11.07.2025
Earnest Money (Rs.)	169900.00	Period of Completion	12 Months
NOTE: Tenderer should keep himself updated about the Tender amendments, Corrigendum, etc. by remaining in touch regularly with the website.			
Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-T-13-25-26 Date:- 03.07.2025 Closing Date/Time : 25.07.2025 15:00 2014/2025			
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			

SSP Jammu held crime/security review meeting at DPL Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 4

The Senior Superintendent of Police Jammu Sh. Joginder Singh-JKPS today on 04.07.2025 held

a Crime/Security review at District Police Lines. The meeting was attended by all the Zonal SsP, SDPO's, DySP DAR, SHO's & IC PP's of Jammu District.

During the meeting

in addition to Crime review, various security measures were discussed for controlling crime & ensuring peace and stability in the district. Various aspects of

policing including quality investigation of cases, crime disposal, verifications, disposal of NDPS, UAPA cases, inquest proceedings, history sheeters, absconders,

missing persons and other issues related to accountable policing were also discussed. Disposal of cases registered under Old as well as New Criminal Laws of

each Police Station/Sub-division was discussed in detail including disposal within time limit period of 60 & 90 days. Progress on CCTNS front, e-Sakshaya, SID's,

e-summons was also taken up during meeting.

Progress on mandatory utilisation of FSL services was also discussed.

SSP Jammu also advised the police offi-

cers posted in the district in various capacities to

provide a good policing to the general public and give a tough time to anti-national and antisocial elements.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Amid multi-layer...

On Thursday, 12,348 pilgrims had visited the shrine, taking the total footfall to 26,863 over two days.

Meanwhile, the third batch of 6,411 pilgrims, which departed from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu early Friday, has reached the twin base camps of Baltal in Ganderbal and Nunwan in Pahalgam, Anantnag.

The batch travelled in 291 vehicles, including 130 buses, 46 medium motor vehicles (MMVs), 113 light motor vehicles (LMVs), and 2 two-wheelers, all moving under a strict multi-layer security cover, the officials said, adding that the third batch included 4,723 males, 1,071 females, 37 children, 487 sadhus, and 93 sadhvis. Of them, 2,789 pilgrims headed for Baltal, while 3,622 chose the Pahalgam route.

Pertinently, over 350,000 pilgrims have already registered online for this year's pilgrimage. To accommodate the influx of devotees, 34 lodging centres have been established across Jammu.

Pilgrims are being issued Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags for tracking and safety. Additionally, 12 counters have been set up to facilitate on-the-spot registration.

The 38-day-long Yatra, which commenced on July 3, will culminate on August 9. KNO

Pilgrim from...

where he passed away, they said. (Agencies)

Amarnath Yatra...

than 20,000 devotees have had darshan of Baba Amarnath so far. They are coming from different parts of the country. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are welcoming them with an open heart. The UT administration, the Government of India, and the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board have expanded services to ensure a safe and spiritually fulfilling journey for all."

He said, "Pilgrims arriving earlier than stipulated date will be accommodated, however advised them to wait since those devotees who had prior registration would be given priority."

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized the coordinated efforts of the administration, security forces, Shrine Board, and local residents. "This yatra is a reflection of the collective will and spirit of service. While the administration and security forces manage the logistics and safety, the people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially locals play a vital role by supporting the pilgrims selflessly," LG Sinha, said as per KNO.

Earlier the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated a newly constructed Yatri Niwas Complex at Baltal. The facility, built under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of ONGC, will provide safe and comfortable accommodation to 800 pilgrims, alongside a dedicated registration and security block.

The LG underlined that providing safe and adequate accommodation to all pilgrims is a top priority for the administration. He praised ONGC for contributing to the yatra through its CSR efforts, which, he said, complement the government's initiatives to improve facilities and infrastructure for devotees.

The inauguration at Baltal follows a series of similar developments in recent years aimed at enhancing facilities for pilgrims.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed his heartfelt gratitude to PM Modi and Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, for their kind support to Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board.

He also thanked the ONGC for taking up the work for establishing Yatri Niwas at Sidhra Jammu, Baltal, Nunwan and Bijbehara at a cost of Rs 240 crore under Corporate Social Responsibility.

"Safe and adequate accommodation to all the devotees is our top priority. We are creating better facilities for the pilgrims, while securing the livelihood of local people and service providers. At present, the work of Yatri Niwas at Sidhra, Nunwan Phase-I and Bijbehara is going on. Yatri Niwas at Nunwan is expected to be completed before the month of October this year," LG Sinha said.

The Lieutenant Governor Sinha also highlighted several key developments that have transformed the yatra experience in recent years. "Today, 12-foot-wide roads have been built up to the cave shrine. Railing systems have been installed at vulnerable stretches to ensure safety. Mobile connectivity has significantly improved, and arrangements have been made to accommodate yatis from various states. A 24x7 monitoring mechanism is in place to respond quickly to any situation," he said, adding, "Today the tracks are illuminated by grid power and this has provided great relief to the pilgrims and also provided an opportunity for 24x7 monitoring. Grid Power Connectivity from Panchtarni to Chandanwari will be ensured by next year."

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir has achieved several developmental landmarks in recent years, adding that the peaceful and seamless conduct of the Amarnath Yatra is yet another example of the UT's growing capabilities and collective resolve.

During his visit to Baltal Base camp, the Lieutenant Governor also interacted with the service providers and devotees of Baba Barfani and extended his best wishes to all the pilgrims for a safe pilgrimage.

He also lauded the contribution of Police, Security forces, Administration, Shrine Board, executing agencies, engineers, laborers, sanitation workers, civil society groups, langar seva organizations, local people and all other stakeholders for the smooth conduct of Yatra.

Nuzhat Ishaq, DDC Chairperson, Ganderbal; Mian Mehar Ali, Member of Legislative Assembly from Kangan; KN Rai, Member, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board; Dr. Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary and CEO

SASB; Arun Kumar Singh, Chairman and CEO ONGC; Vartika Shukla, Chairman and Managing Director Engineers India Limited; Vijay Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Jatin Kishore, Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal, senior officials of Police, Administration, SASB, and devotees in large numbers were present at the inaugural ceremony. KNO

HADP improving...

Sinha further said that HADP in Kashmir is improving the income of 13 lakh farmer families.

"Today HADP across India is being seen as a role model in the agricultural industry," he said.

He further said that Jammu and Kashmir is one of the largest agricultural sectors in India and in the past couple of years, the farmers here have secured fifth rank in agriculture and allied sector ranking.

On the occasion, Sinha while congratulating the graduating students said that the girl students have yet again shined at SKUAST-K. He informed that among the total of 150 gold medallist students at least 115 are female students.

He also lauded SKUAST-K for creating a competent and competitive human resource and shining the farm sector here.

The LG also extended his felicitations to the female students for their excellent academic performance across the subject and informed that among the total of 445 certificates of merit, 334 were conferred to girls.

He also said that in the 6th convocation at least 2661 degrees were given to the female students out of a total of 5250 degrees of undergraduate, masters, PhD

LG Sinha in his address further said, "The agriculture and allied sector across India under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra has rightly turned out to be the backbone towards the economy of India."

While pitching some of the major achievements in the last five years, Sinha said that the Union Territory has set four important areas for agriculture and allied sectors.

The Lieutenant Governor urged the graduating students to make their valuable contribution to innovation and progressive farming and take the lead in Agri-technology, food technology, and groundbreaking innovation. Your passion and ideas will shape the future of India's Agriculture sector, he said.

Sinha further said, "I believe that education is the precious asset for the students and I believe that if the education is being pursued in sync with the current time, the global industry will need it all at the appropriate time period."

On the occasion, Sinha appreciated the SKUAST-K Vice Chancellor and the faculty for making it advanced campus saying, "The new academic initiatives, and the centres of brilliance is taking Jammu and Kashmir nearer in accomplishing its objectives in helping the bio-economy of the region." KNO

J&K's future lies...

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), CM Omar, per news agency said over 70 percent of the population is directly or indirectly connected to agriculture.

He said that the vision guiding the transformation of agriculture in the region is rooted in the ideals of Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah and finds expression today in every lab and lecture hall.

He said the institution has contributed significantly to temperate horticulture research, sustainable farming in high-altitude areas, animal husbandry, and organic agricultural practices. "The graduates are not just degree holders but are becoming grassroots problem solvers".

CM Omar said the agriculture of yesterday can not address the challenges of tomorrow. He named climate change, land degradation, and market volatility as major hurdles, along with the aspirations of a younger generation seeking growth and opportunity.

He said the administration has initiated a number of data-driven reform programs aimed at achieving real change on the ground and that a holistic agriculture development program is one of the cornerstones of this effort.

"The program, with an investment of over Rs 5,000 crore, brings together science, finance, and governance to reshape agriculture into a high-value and technology-driven sector".

The Chief Minister said the government is working closely with scientists, entrepreneurs, and farmers across several fronts, including precision farming, dairy modernization, and post-harvest processing. "29 major projects are being supported, including high-density apple and walnut plantations, sheep husbandry clusters, saffron revitalization, and new agribusiness models".

He told graduates that this is their field and their opportunity. "The government's mission is to empower young aspirations and has already launched support for hundreds of start-ups in food processing, agri-tech, dairy, and horticulture. The graduates will find support if they come forward with ideas and business plans.

He said that if young people have the courage to lead, the government will create platforms for them. He called the graduates the new torchbearers of change.

Addressing the graduates directly, he said the world needs not only their knowledge but also their courage, compassion, and character. He asked them to be bold with their ideas, to build Agri-startups, to consult with farmer groups, and to digitize extension services. He said they are trained to bridge science and society.

He said they should stay rooted in their soil and never forget their land and people. "Whether they go to Bengaluru or any other place, they should carry Jammu and Kashmir in their hearts. They must also contribute to building a peaceful and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir."

He asked the graduates whether they could help double the income of small farmers, develop solutions for climate-smart agriculture, build agri-enterprises that generate rural employment, or mentor future generations. "If their answer is yes, they will have the full support of the Jammu and Kashmir government," he said. KNO

Clean Plant Centre...

need for good plants. "Yesterday we decided to open a Clean Plant Centre worth Rs 150 crores in Kashmir."

He said that the high density apple production has increased six-fold and he wants to take the fruit of Jammu and Kashmir to the rest of the world so that India will not import any apple from any country.

Chauhan further said he is very happy to be at SKUAST-K. "Before I leave, I want to inform professors and the students of this university that very soon we will get first rank from 5th among agricultural universities of India. I am happy there are students from 20 states studying in SKUAST-K. I believe SKUAST-K can not only be the national university but it can be an international university," he said.

The minister further said that the graduating students must know that their studies have not completed but have begun now. "Now is the time for them to share and execute the knowledge which they have achieved from classrooms to laboratories."

"Farming is the basics of Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the country. Half of the population is earning and eating the bread by farming," he added.

In the meantime, the minister visited the horticulture research and demonstration blocks the varsity where he reviewed a high-yielding variety of apple capable of fruiting within the first year of plantation, significantly reducing the gestation period for orchard productivity.

During his two day visit, Chauhan took stock of on-ground innovations in horticulture. Besides he conducted a general interaction with main stakeholders of agriculture and related divisions.

During the visit, the minister made a commitment to reform the pesticide ecosystem.

Chauhan said that the GoI will adopt multiple ways to make sure that the quality and affordability of pesticides, with stringent penalties, including imprisonment, for those dealing in substandard or harmful products. KNO

Heatwave: Sgr records...

mercury settled at 29.8 degrees, while Batote, Bhaderwah, and Katra recorded 27.0 degrees, 32.3 degrees, and 32.0 degrees, respectively.

According to Keng, severe heatwave conditions are expected to continue tomorrow, adding that there is a possibility that temperatures will be higher than today as well.

He added that hot and humid weather conditions may continue on Sunday, although there will be a relief by a few degrees. Major improvement, he said, is expected from Monday onwards.

However, the Director of the Meteorological Department (MeT), Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, said that hot and humid weather is expected during the daytime on July 5, with the possibility of a spell of light to moderate rain and thunder towards late night.

Between July 6 and July 8, Ahmad said that the weather would be generally cloudy, with the possibility of intermittent light to moderate rain and thundershowers at many places, while a few places may receive intense showers with heavy rain at isolated spots in Jammu division.

The MeT has also issued an advisory, stating that flash floods at a few vulnerable places, along with landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones, are expected during July 6-8.

A rise in water levels in rivers, streams, local nallas, and waterlogging in some low-lying areas is also expected, the advisory added. KNO

J&K govt enhances...

CDF of each MLA from Rs three crore to Rs four crore. The revised allocation will come into effect from the financial year 2025-26.

The enhancement has been made in line with commitments made by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on the floor of the Assembly. While replying to discussion on grants of departments headed by him, Omar had announced enhancement of CDF by Rs one crore.

The government has also done away with guidelines mandating that MLA must submit their list of proposed development works—up to the full Rs four crore annual limit—within the first 90 days of the financial year.

Now MLAs can propose works under the CDF scheme throughout the financial year, subject to the annual ceiling. KNO

Op Sindoor exposed...

providing weapons to Pakistan offers them an opportunity to test new technologies in a real-world combat environment, comparing it to a "live lab."

Lt Gen Singh revealed that during DGMO-level talks, Pakistan appeared to be receiving live updates from China about India's military vectors, demonstrating the increasing sophistication of electronic warfare and intelligence sharing among adversaries.

He also highlighted about Turkey playing an important role in providing support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor.

He emphasised on the urgency of developing a robust air defence system capable of countering such challenges, despite the financial and logistical constraints India faces compared to nations like Israel, which boasts

the Iron Dome system.

"Moving fast is crucial, and we need to be prepared for the next time," Lt Gen Singh said.

He said, "There is a lot of scope including civil-military fusion and we need to develop an eco-system for drones including production, testing, etc. We have been in consultation with the Ministry of Defence and others to come up with a framework and by September or October we should be out with our drone framework wherein we are looking at how to incentivise all the production, how to get through the vulnerabilities and how to facilitate testing would be the basic theme of this framework".

He stated that India's dream is to become a developed country by 2047 and Viksit Bharat means meeting a target of USD 30 trillion economy. "This is possible only if industries play out. It is possible in case our armed forces provide the secure environment that is required for the nation to progress," he added.

The industry, Lt Gen Singh said, should focus on profits but should not compromise on quality and timely delivery.

"Industry must stick to timelines and focus on 4 Cs which include cooperate, collaborate, compete but not complain. We have to be ready to fight the war, and it is not the soldiers only who can win a war. It is soldier and the industry going together," he added.

The Deputy Chief of Army Staff also recommended that the industry should create more testing facilities and both the armed forces, and the industry must work together to take it forward.

New timings announced...

office hours will be from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., while court working hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., with a break from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The earlier notification dated April 8, 2025, regarding court timings stands withdrawn.

8th Muharram: Traditional...

A comprehensive security grid, including road barricades, surveillance points, and deployment of personnel along the route, was in place.

Additionally, the traffic police department issued advisories, rerouting traffic via Residency Road, Jehangir Chowk and other alternative roads to avoid congestion. Designated parking spots were also arranged at Gindun Park and SP College. Moreover, to ease the discomfort from high temperatures, water sprinklers were deployed at key locations.

Additionally, hundreds of volunteers from local organisations were present to assist with crowd management, first aid and ensuring orderly movement.

Eyewitnesses from the procession, describing the atmosphere, told KNO mourners were beating their chests, reciting elegies and walking peacefully in orderly rows in memory of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

"It's heartening to see the traditional 8th Muharram procession return peacefully for a third straight year. This route was off-limits for decades," said Syed Murtaza Rizvi, a participant. "This change reflects a hopeful shift in policy and mindset."

Another mourner, Naqib Abbas Baba, expressed gratitude towards the administration. "We hope this tradition continues. The administration's cooperation has made it easier for us to observe this solemn day."

It is worth mentioning, the 8th Muharram procession had remained banned since the late 1980s due to security concerns amid rising insurgency in the Valley. For over 35 years, the main procession was replaced by smaller, localised gatherings under tight restrictions.

Notably, its restoration in 2023, after multiple representations by the Shia community, was hailed as a major step towards religious accommodation and community healing.

Moreover, the 8th Muharram marks one of the most important days of mourning leading up to Ashura (10th Muharram), the day commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions in the Battle of Karbala, Iraq.

With a heart-warming gesture, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, V K Birdhi, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Dr. Akshay Labroo, and SSP Srinagar Dr. Sundeep Chakarvouri on Friday joined the traditional 8th Muharram procession at Lal Chowk Srinagar, where they served water to the mourners under the scorching heat.

According to KNO, they walked with the procession, offering support and interacting with mourners under the intense summer sun, while also distributing refreshments and water bottles to them.

Similarly, the police had also set up a stall of their own with posters reading, 'Srinagar Police At Your Service.' In the meanwhile, the presence of top brass walking shoulder to shoulder with the mourners stood out as a message of solidarity and communal harmony.

Irfan, a mourner, said this is the third year they have seen such a sight. It felt respectful and reassuring. "It is not just about security anymore, but it is about being seen and acknowledged," he said.

Additionally, while officials earlier said arrangements for traffic management, medical care and security were in place well in advance, the actual participation of officers in the procession added a human touch to the administration's role.

Moreover, social media was also abuzz with videos and images of the moment, with many users praising the gesture as a welcome step toward bridging the gap between the community and the administration. KNO

CS aligns hydropower development with community empowerment

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 4

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a meeting to review and strategize the accelerated development of hydropower projects across various rivers in Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting underscored the administration's unwavering commitment to harnessing the region's immense hydroelectric potential as a cornerstone of sustainable growth and prosperity here.

The pivotal meeting saw the participation of key officials, including the Principal Secretary, Power Development Department (PDD); Principal Secretary, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRRR); Principal Secretary, Finance; and the Director General, Budget among others.

Concerned Deputy Commissioners joined the meeting via video conferencing.

During this review meeting the Chief Secretary unequivocally remarked that the Hydropower is the mainstay of the economy of our UT therefore our collective endeavour shall be to enhance the generation capacity by completing all the projects under the set timeline.

He highlighted the critical role of hydropower in ensuring energy security, driving industrial growth, and creating employment opportunities within J&K. He stressed the imperative of adhering to deadlines strictly to bring these vital projects to fruition expeditiously.

A key focus of the discussions revolved around the holistic rehabilitation and



resettlement (R&R) plans for communities impacted by new projects. The Chief Secretary emphasized a forward-looking approach, asserting that the R&R plans for the newly constructed projects should include the market-driven skills to be imparted to the local youth there. The aim should be to equip the local populace with relevant skills, enabling them to integrate seamlessly into the evolving economic landscape and benefit directly from the development initiatives.

Furthermore, Chief Secretary Dulloo underscored the paramount importance of addressing community needs through the Local Area Development component. He urged officials to prioritize developmental works as raised by the locals, ensuring that the benefits of these large-scale projects directly translate into tangible improvements in the lives of the people residing in the project vicinity.

The meeting highlighted the ambitious plans and ongoing efforts to harness J&K's vast hydropower potential, which is crucial for the region's energy security and economic growth.

In his presentation the Principal Secretary, PDD,

Rajesh Prasad gave out that J&K possesses an estimated hydropower potential of approximately 18,000 MW, with around 15,000 MW already identified. Currently, 3540.15 MW has been harnessed, comprising 1197.4 MW from the UT sector, 2250 MW from the Central sector (NHPC Ltd.), and 92.75 MW from Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

He further explained that the UT has embarked on an ambitious path to expeditiously develop the remaining hydropower potential informing that 15 projects, aggregating a massive 7768 MW, are at various stages of implementation. This includes 3063.5 MW worth of projects under construction with 49.5 MW in the UT sector and 3014 MW in the Joint Venture.

The projects that had been tendered out or are at award stage cumulatively makes 641 MW, including 141 MW in the UT sector and 500 MW in the Central sector, the meeting was apprised. Additionally the projects at advanced stage of investigation/appraisal/DPR stage and ready to be tendered out includes 4063.5 MW, comprising 390 MW in the UT sector, 2743.5 MW in the Central sector (NHPC), and 930 MW in the JV sector.

The major projects under UT sector the status of which was assessed were Parnai HEP (37.5 MW), with a physical progress of 64% (as of June 15, 2025), this project is anticipated to be commissioned by December 2027.

Karnah HEP (12 MW), was said to show a physical progress of 74.75% (as of May 30, 2025) and is expected to be commissioned by November 2025.

Similarly Pakaldul HEP (1000 MW), under JV Sector (CVVPL) was given out to have achieved 70% physical progress (as of June 30, 2025). It is anticipated to be completed by December 2026.

Regarding Kiru HEP (624 MW), taken under JV Sector (CVVPL), the meeting was apprised that it has shown 64% physical progress (as of June 30, 2025), this project is expected to be commissioned by December 2026. In the same vein Kwar HEP (540 MW), was said to have achieved the progress of 22.15% (as of June 30, 2025), therefore anticipated for commissioning by March 2028.

The mega Ratle HEP (850 MW), also taken under JV Sector (RHPCL) has achieved significant excavation progress, including 81% for the powerhouse and transformer cavern,

100% for dam abutment, and 95% for TRT. It is anticipated to be commissioned by August 2029, the meeting was informed.

Tendered projects includes New Ganderbal (93 MW), Lower Kalnai (48 MW). The upcoming projects which are in the pipeline, includes Sawalkote (1856 MW, NHPC), Kirthai-II (930 MW, CVVPL), Dulhasti-II (260 MW, NHPC), Kirthai-I (390 MW, JKSPDC), Bursar Storage (800 MW, NHPC), Ujh Multipurpose (89.5 MW).

It was given out that JKSPDC is also venturing into solar energy, with plans to develop a 10 MW grid-connected Agro-Solar Power Project at Pampore in phases. A 5 MW plant is in progress. DPRs are also prepared for floating solar projects at Lower Jehlum HEP (4.2 MW) and Baglihar reservoir (2.1 MW).

The Chief Secretary assured full support to expedite clearances, resolve all the bottlenecks, and ensure timely completion of these vital projects, underscoring the government's commitment to transforming J&K into a power-surplus region.

DMRRR organises mock exercises on Glacial Lake Outburst Floods in Anantnag, Kulgam

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 4

Intensifying efforts towards addressing the Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) hazard in Jammu & Kashmir, mock exercises on GLOF disaster scenario were organized by the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRRR) under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary, DMRRR, Chandraker Bharti, in Anantnag and Kulgam districts having high risk Glacial Lakes.

These exercises were aimed at to inculcate a culture of preparedness among the community and first responders besides reviewing efficacy of the disaster managers and the management plans of the districts to deal with GLOF disaster.

These exercises were conducted to identify the gaps in resources, communications and systems in Anantnag and Kulgam with respect to GLOF Hazard.

Being conducted in coordination with vulnerable districts of Anantnag



and Kulgam, these exercises helped in inculcating sense of preparedness and sensitization among the district officers, line departments and all emergency support functionaries regarding GLOF hazard.

The mock exercises were preceded by exhaustive orientation-coordination conferences and Table Top Exercises in which all aspects of GLOF management were discussed in detail.

As part of the mock drill program, a simulated Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) scenario was enacted, assuming downstream flooding and multiple landslides. Emergency responders including local communities, officials from various support departments, SDRF, NDRF, Army and Police, assembled at the staging

area with resources. Subsequently, the teams were deployed to the simulated affected areas, where medical teams conducted search and rescue operations, triage and provided medical aid and relief, followed by damage assessments.

The exercises were conducted in coordination with various agencies including fire service, SDRF, Civil Defence, NDRF, Local army unit, CRPF, ITBP, Forest Department, Health Department, police and all the stakeholders.

This kind of mock exercise will be conducted in all the districts of the UT where high and medium risk glacial lakes are located. The Department of DMRRR will ensure to take all measures for the disaster risk reduction and enhancing resilience in the UT of J&K.

DC Budgam conducts spot assessment of Ashura arrangements at Beheshte Zehra Park



JNEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JULY 4

In view of the forthcoming observance of Ashura (10th Muharram-ul-haram), Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, today conducted a comprehensive review and on-spot assessment of arrangements at Beheshte Zehra Park Budgam - a key congregation site for mourners in the district.

During the inspection, DC interacted with concerned officers and took stock of the facilities being put in place to ensure a smooth and peaceful conduct of the Ashura procession.

He emphasized the need for inter-departmental coordination and timely completion of all preparatory measures.

DC issued a series of on-the-spot directives to the departments involved.

He instructed EO Municipal Committee

Budgam to install adequate tents and shelters for mourners, ensure regular sanitation drives, and place sufficient dustbins in and around the park as well as along procession routes to maintain cleanliness and hygiene.

Jal Shakti department was directed to keep water tankers readily available and ensure uninterrupted tap water supply to the public convenience blocks at the site.

KPDCL was asked to check and ensure the functionality of streetlights and guarantee uninterrupted electricity supply during the procession timings, particularly in congregation zones.

CMO Budgam was instructed to deploy an adequate number of paramedical staff and emergency medical facilities at designated locations to respond swiftly to any health emergencies during the procession.

DC underscored the importance of dedicated and sensitive approach by all departments, keeping in view the significance of the day.

He directed all line departments to work in close coordination and ensure all arrangements are in place well ahead of time.

District administration Budgam has appealed to the general public, especially participants of the Ashura procession, to extend full cooperation with the authorities and adhere to all issued guidelines for observance of the day.

DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Tehsildar Budgam, all Executive Engineers, Executive Officer Municipal Committee Budgam, and other concerned officers and officials during his visit.

IGP Jammu Zone promotes 555 Head Constables to ASI



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 4

IGP Jammu Zone, Shri Bhim Sen Tuti, IPS, today promoted 555 Head Constables to Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) on the auspicious occasion of Guru Purab.

Congratulating the promoted personnel and their families, IGP Tuti expressed confidence that they would serve with greater dedication and professionalism in their new roles. He emphasized that the promotions recognize their hard work and commitment while urging them to uphold the highest standards of policing.

The move aims to strengthen leadership at grassroots levels and enhance operational efficiency. The promoted ASIs will now take on greater responsibilities in investigations, public safety, and team leadership.

JAMMU POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ELECTRIC DIVISION-II, JPDCL GANDHINAGAR JAMMU

E-mail: eemred2@gmail.com

Tender Notice

E-NIT No: 33 of 2025

Dated: 01-07-2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the Executive Engineer Electric Division-II JPDCL Gandhi Nagar Jammu, here in after referred as 'Employer', invites online e-bids from registered Electrical contractors having valid A-Class Electrical Contractors License for "Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of 250 KVA, 11/0.415KV Distribution Substation along with HT/LT line at Rathana Scheme Code (PDD2526100410) under UT Capex Budget 2025-26 on Turnkey Basis under the jurisdiction of Executive Engineer ED-II JPDCL, Jammu" during the Financial Year 2025-26."

- Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful/conscious study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.
- The tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested Bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

A	Tender Document Sale/Download Start Date	05.07.2025; 09:00 Hrs.
B	Tender Document Sale/Download End Date	25.07.2025; 14:00 Hrs.
C	e-Bid submission (start) date & time	05.07.2025; 12:00 Hrs.
D	e-Bid submission (end) date & time	25.07.2025; 16:00 Hrs.
E	Submission of Hard Copy of Tender Fee	05.07.2025; 16:00 Hrs. to 25.07.2025 16:00 Hrs.
F	Commercial and Technical Bid opening date & time	26.07.2025; 14:00 Hrs.
G	Online financial e-Bid opening date & time (Only of the technically qualified Bidders)	Will be communicated to the Technically Qualifying Bidders.
H	Venue of opening of techno-commercial Bids	Soft Copy Electronically & Hard copy in the Office of the Executive Engineer Electric Division-II JPDCL Gandhi Nagar Jammu.
I	Position of Funds	Available Partially under Capex Budget
J	Tender Value	Rs. 20.42 Lacs
K	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs. 1000.00 (Non-Refundable) in shape of e-Challan/ Treasury Challan pledged to Executive Engineer Electric Division-II JPDCL Gandhi Nagar Jammu
L	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs 41000.00 in shape of CDR/FDR only from any Nationalized/Scheduled bank only pledged to Executive Engineer Electric Division-II JPDCL Gandhi Nagar Jammu.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of "e-Challan through Treasury Indicating Treasury Voucher no. & date, e-Nit No. and name of the work duly crediting to 0801 (Revenue) favouring Executive Engineer Electric Division-II JPDCL Gandhi Nagar Jammu and upload the same. Earnest money /Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG Pledged to Executive Engineer Electric Division-II JPDCL Gandhi Nagar Jammu. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for minimum of 45days beyond bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1be submitted to Executive Engineer Electric Division-II JPDCL Gandhi Nagar Jammu at the time of allotment.

Executive Engineer
JPDCL Electric Division-II
Jammu

No: - ED-II/TS/Tender/
DIP/J-1063-P/25
Date: 4-7-25

Dated:

EDITORIAL

Rohingya conundrum in Jammu

The recent arrests of Rohingya nationals in a theft racket in Jammu have brought back into sharp focus an issue that has long simmered beneath the surface of security debates in the region: the uncomfortable intersection of illegal immigration and rising criminal activity. The recovery of two stolen vehicles and Rs 6,000 in cash during a targeted police operation in Bakshi Nagar, involving two Rohingyas and their local accomplices, is not just a case of petty crime—it is a warning siren. While this isn't the first time Rohingyas have come under the scanner, their growing involvement in organized criminal activities marks a deeply worrying trend. From past instances of ATM break-ins and drug trafficking to the current revelations about vehicle theft and human trafficking networks, the evidence of a widening criminal footprint is becoming difficult to ignore. Security agencies and law enforcement are now grappling not only with the legality of their stay but also the implications of their alleged roles in crimes that disturb public order. The issue is further complicated by the demographic reality: nearly 10,000 Rohingyas reside in areas like Sunjuwan, Bhatindi, and Narwal in Jammu—some for over a decade. Many have blended into local communities, married residents, and obtained Indian identification documents like Aadhaar and voter IDs through questionable means. This unofficial assimilation masks a deeper, unresolved crisis: their very entry into India was unauthorized. The government now appears to be drawing a hard line. The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has directed all states and UTs, including Jammu and Kashmir, to carry out a month-long verification drive focused on Rohingyas and Bangladeshi nationals. This exercise may ultimately lead to detentions and deportations. However, such action—while necessary from a national security standpoint—will also unleash complex humanitarian and geopolitical ripple effects. The challenge before the administration is to strike a delicate balance. India is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention, and hence, does not offer the same legal protections to asylum seekers as other nations. Yet, many Rohingyas living in Jammu are UNHCR-recognized refugees, which makes any crackdown sensitive from a human rights perspective. India must maintain its security interests without ignoring international humanitarian norms. Nonetheless, criminal behavior cannot be cloaked under the veil of victimhood. Refugee status cannot and must not be a shield for criminality. While the plight of the Rohingyas as a persecuted minority fleeing Myanmar is real and tragic, their growing entanglement with crime networks in Jammu undermines their own case for sympathy and protection. It also threatens to strain communal harmony and public trust in the administrative system, particularly in a region as sensitive as Jammu and Kashmir. At the same time, there is a need to address how such integration—complete with official documents and access to government services—was ever allowed to happen unchecked. Who facilitated their access to Aadhaar cards and voter IDs? How did they open bank accounts? These are not mere administrative lapses; they are systemic breaches that demand accountability. Ultimately, the Rohingya question is no longer just a refugee issue—it is now a security imperative. The government must move decisively, but also thoughtfully. India's commitment to human rights and its duty to protect its borders must go hand in hand. One cannot be sacrificed at the altar of the other. The road ahead requires firmness without prejudice, and vigilance without vilification. The message must be unambiguous: while India remains a compassionate nation, it will not compromise on law, order, or national security.

Empowering Change: A Decade of Technological Transformation in Women & Child Development



ANNAPURNA DEVI
UNION MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Empowerment begins with access—access to rights, to services, to protection, and to opportunity. Over the past decade, this access has been redefined and democratised through the focused commitment of the Modi Government to build a more inclusive and digitally empowered India. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has been at the forefront of this transformation. Guided by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, the Ministry has systematically integrated technology into its programmes, ensuring that benefits reach the last mile swiftly, transparently, and efficiently.

We often say: "Empowered Women, Empowered India." And empowerment must begin with access—access to rights, to services, to protection, and to opportunity. Today, that access is increasingly digital.

What was once aspirational is now operational—thanks to the Government's emphasis on digital public infrastructure, real-time data systems, and responsive governance.

With steadfast focus on care, protection, and empowerment, the Ministry has strengthened access to nutrition, education, legal safeguards, and essential entitlements—ensuring that

women and children not only lead healthier, more secure lives but also emerge as confident leaders and changemakers of Amrit Kaal.

As the Hon'ble Prime Minister rightly said, "I see technology as a means to empower and as a tool that bridges the distance between hope and opportunity." This ethos has guided our transition from manual processes to real-time dashboards, from fragmented schemes to integrated platforms.

A cornerstone of this transformation is the Saksham Anganwadi initiative. Designed to modernise and empower over 2 lakh Anganwadi Centres across India, it represents the next generation of early childhood care and development. These centres are being upgraded with smart infrastructure, digital devices, and innovative learning tools—enabling more effective delivery of nutrition, healthcare, and pre-school education services.

The integration of services provided by 14 lakh Anganwadi Centres across the nation with the Poshan Tracker has enabled real-time data entry, performance monitoring, and evidence-based policy interventions. By equipping Anganwadi workers with smartphones and comprehensive training, the initiative ensures quality service delivery at the last mile. This marks a decisive shift from the manual record-keeping and data blind spots that existed before 2014.

A decade ago, the ICDS system was weighed down by fragmented data, delayed responses, and lack of real-time tracking. The Poshan Tracker has transformed this landscape—ushering in precision, efficiency, and accountability in nutrition service delivery.

Over 10.14 crore beneficiaries—including pregnant women, lactating mothers, children under six, and adolescent girls—are now registered on the platform. By enabling real-time updates on growth monitoring and supplementary nutrition delivery, it ensures timely interventions and evidence-based policymaking. At its core, the Poshan Tracker is driving the national vision of a Swasth Bharat, Suposhit Bharat—reimagining Anganwadi Centres as digitally empowered community hubs bridging the urban-rural divide.

Recognised with the Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration (2025), the platform also supports 'Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi', providing digital training modules to Anganwadi workers for early childhood education—fostering holistic care in the Amrit Kaal of Viksit Bharat.

To further strengthen transparency and reduce leakages in the Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP), a Facial Recognition System has been introduced. This ensures that only eligible beneficiaries receive nutrition support, transforming the delivery mechanism into one that is secure, accurate, and dignified.

Beyond nutrition, the Ministry is ensuring safety and support for women through technology-led platforms. The SHE-Box portal provides single-window access to every woman, irrespective of her employment status or whether she works in the organised or unorganised, private or public sector, to lodge, complaints under the POSH Act—enabling online redressal and tracking. Meanwhile, the Mission Shakti Dashboard and Mobile App provide integrated

assistance to women in distress, connecting them to the nearest One Stop Centre—now operational in nearly every district. These interventions exemplify how technology is being used not just for efficiency, but for justice, dignity, and empowerment.

A decade ago, maternity benefits were difficult to monitor and faced delays. The Modi Government has operationalised the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)—a game changer in maternal welfare. Under the PMMVY Rules, 2022, pregnant women receive Rs 5,000 for their first child. Under Mission Shakti, the benefit extends to Rs 6,000 if the second child is a girl—promoting positive reinforcement for daughters. Delivered through a paperless Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system, more than Rs 1,900 crore has reached over 4 crore women beneficiaries since inception.

PMMVY is a fully digital programme—leveraging Aadhaar-based authentication, mobile-based registration, doorstep assistance from Anganwadi / ASHA workers, and real-time dashboards. A dedicated grievance redressal module and citizen-facing portal ensure transparency, trust, and accountability—strengthening the Government's commitment to Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao.

These targeted efforts are delivering tangible outcomes. The latest reports from Health Management Information System (HMIS) of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) reveal that Sex ratio at Birth (SRB) has increased from 918 (2014-15) to 930 (2023-24) with a net positive change of 12 points. The Maternal Mortality Rate has declined to 97 per 1000 births (2018-20) from 130 per 1000 births (2014-16)—under-

scoring the positive impact of sustained efforts over the past decade of our government.

Every child deserves a nurturing, safe, and secure environment. In recent years, digital transformation has played a key role in child protection and welfare. Under the Juvenile Justice Act, the Ministry has strengthened the adoption ecosystem through the CARINGS portal (Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System). This digital interface ensures a more transparent, accessible, and efficient adoption process.

Digitisation has also improved monitoring of Child Care Institutions, foster care placements, and statutory support structures under the JJ Act. Platforms developed by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) are actively tracking violations of child rights. Meanwhile, the Mission Vatsalya dashboard strengthens convergence and coordination among various child welfare stakeholders.

This is New India—where governance meets technology, and where policy meets purpose. In the past decade, under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has not only adapted to digital change—it has championed it.

As we move forward in the Amrit Kaal, the Ministry will continue to lead from the front, ensuring that every woman and every child becomes a partner in nation-building. Through technology, transparency, and targeted action, we are building a future where empowerment is not a slogan—but a lived reality for every Indian.

Leisure and connection: What millennials want

JATIN GOEL

The traditional notion of transactional consumerism is now being replaced by immersive and leisure-led engagement. As per the report titled Retail Level-up – The Entertainment Edition, on average, over 65 per cent of respondents preferred to focus solely on entertainment experiences or combine them with food and beverages (F&B). This highlights how consumers today are not merely walking into malls to shop; they're coming to explore, unwind, and connect. The post-pandemic era has brought a significant cultural transformation, evolving lifestyles, and a desire for exclusive experiences. Consumers now seek retail destinations that serve as social meeting places.

This has led to a growing demand for retail developments that provide a comprehensive offering of food, shopping, daily needs, and entertainment – all in one location. Notably, Family

Entertainment Centres (FECs) are outpacing other segments with their ability to pull crowds and bring huge traction. What was once considered a peripheral add-on, tucked into a corner of the mall, these centres have now paved their way into the spotlight as a primary anchor. In these centres, Indoor Amusement Centres (IACs) are scaling fast and emerging as the core expectation in retail. According to JLL, indoor amusement centres are becoming popular in India, with more than 500 such facilities currently operational in 83 cities, covering 66 lakh sq ft of retail space. These centres feature a combination of games and attractions to provide recreational and leisure experiences. Almost half of the operational IACs in the country are in the gaming zone format, followed by trampoline parks and the emerging entertainment format. The report further shows that by 2028, indoor amusement centre stock is expected to reach 11 mil-

lion square feet.

Larger retail developments and malls are expected to accommodate more expansive and innovative centres. Moreover, mall developers are rethinking and strategising on how these centres can be designed and activated. Developers are no longer treating FECs as isolated attractions; they're building around them. As these centres grow in scale and sophistication, mall zoning is being recalibrated to amplify their impact. FECs are now deliberately positioned next to high-traffic zones, such as food courts, cafés, and children's stores, creating a seamless loop of entertainment and indulgence. Further, with consumer preferences evolving at breakneck speed, agility has become a competitive edge.

Mall blueprints are being torn up and redrawn to accommodate the new reality – where experience trumps everything. Larger floor plates are being carved out for sprawling FECs, while entire

levels are being transformed into dedicated entertainment decks, complete with immersive zones, themed attractions, and interactive tech. This evolution is being led by developers who understand that the future of retail lies in orchestrated, high-impact experiences. Even globally, the Family Entertainment Centre (FEC) market is forecast to grow from \$15 billion in 2024 to \$27 billion by 2034, representing a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6.1 per cent. The newly released report by Exactitude Consultancy positions FECs as a key sector within the broader leisure and attractions industry, with growth being fuelled by rising demand for immersive, socially inclusive entertainment options across global regions.

This market evolution reflects a shift in consumer behaviour, with increased emphasis on shared experiences across age groups, particularly in urban areas where families, teenagers, and adult groups are actively

seeking high-quality recreation venues. As developers recognise the importance of IACs in attracting visitors, the entertainment category is increasingly being integrated into initial mall design phases. From high-energy gaming arcades to immersive VR/AR zones, the offerings are as varied as the audiences they attract. Add to that the edutainment segment and the adrenaline-fuelled appeal of trampoline parks and bowling alleys, and developers are constantly reinventing malls and retail spaces. Hence, the future of FECs is already shifting gears – from pure play to purposeful play. As consumer expectations evolve towards immersive, interactive, and emotionally rewarding experiences, the centres have firmly established themselves as both crowd-pullers and revenue drivers.

(The writer is an expert on urban landscapes an emerging trends. Views are personal)

Uniform Civil Code and Gender Justice

PRAFULL GORADIA

In recent weeks, the Telangana High Court has significantly corrected a major inequality, which happens to be prohibited by the Constitution's Article 15, i.e., discrimination on the grounds of sex, religion, caste, etc.

The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on the grounds only of religion, caste, sex, place of birth, so states our Constitution. For those who were born much later, it bears iteration that since 1950, when the national document was adopted, discrimination between every Muslim man and every Muslim woman, ironically sanctioned by the statute, has been in practice.

This has continued for decades and is still in force. Defending the Hindu Code Bill during the parliamentary debate on the matter in 1955, when it was passed to become a law in the form of the Hindu Marriage Act – while com-

pletely ignoring a similar demand to reform the Muslim Personal Law and bring in a Uniform Civil Code – Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's first Prime Minister, had said:

"Well, I should like a Civil Code which applies to everybody, but wisdom hinders. If the member or anybody else brings forward a Civil Code Bill, it will have my extreme sympathy. But I confess I do not think that at the present moment time is ripe in India for me to try to push it through. I want to prepare the ground for it."

(Uniform Civil Code and Gender Justice by Dinanath Raina, pp. 1-2) This statement of Nehru was the first blunder – of both omission and commission – which made the Uniform Civil Code the victim of perverse secularism and emboldened the perverted communalists to ensure that this constitutional commitment is not enforced. Surely, Nehru was aware that it was the strong

political will of leaders like KM Munshi and Dr BR Ambedkar that ensured Article 44 was pushed through.

As things stand today, a Muslim man can divorce or give talaq in a maximum course of three months.

Whereas, his wife hitherto did not have a right to talaq. If a wife was harassed to the wall, she could move for what is called khula – first by returning the mehr she received, if she did receive any, to her husband, and then proceed with the long procedure required by the Sharia law of khula, wherein several members of the clergy usually have the final say.

In the bargain, the husband would have ample opportunity to intervene officially or behind the scenes. So far, in my experience, I have come across nobody who has witnessed khula taking place successfully, amicably, and in favour of an unfortunate lady. Does this not mean that the procedure for khula

must be so cumbersome that disgruntled women do not have the gumption to try to obtain liberty?

Think about it; the very existence of polygamy is ultra vires Article 15 of the Constitution.

For the simple reason that the Sharia does not permit equal rights to women and allows a man to have four wives – but not vice versa. How is it that it did not occur to anyone to challenge polygamy in a court of law?

How blasé is the fact that an obscurantist body like the All India Muslim Personal Law Board – or for that matter, medieval religious laws like Sharia – exists in modern, 21st-century India?

How can polygamy, itself a blatant mockery of Article 15 of the Constitution, be plugged? I had, some years ago, written an article pleading that Articles 25 to 30 of the Constitution violate Article 15 in the matter of equality.

As we have quoted above, Article 15

clearly says there shall be no discrimination on the grounds of religion – meaning that all religions will be equal before the State. How, then, were we tolerating the very existence of these six Articles?

Article 30 also states that all minorities shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice, including the acquisition of property without any special permission.

Whereas, the majority community cannot think of starting any school without obtaining the sanction of the State education department. One would like to know how many schools or colleges Muslims have founded in the last 75 years, and how many have been opened by Hindus – from primary schools to universities?

If this information is made available on an all-India basis, one would hear howls of sowing discord among com-

munities – i.e., spreading communal disharmony. A number of the clauses of the Constitution were drafted during 1946-47 to persuade the Muslim politicians of the day not to insist on the Partition of the country.

Thereafter, even though Partition did take place and became a reality, these very Articles were smuggled into the Constitution. We are encouraged to sing Vande Mataram, which is a song stirring enough to arouse in most young people an emotion of nationalism.

However, this emotion will become a lasting sentiment provided, over time, only if all Indians are enabled in their souls to breathe together. Instead, as we have said above in this article, the current state of affairs only discourages us from doing so. It only drives Indians to act separately and randomly.

(The writer is a former Member of Rajya Sabha and a well-known columnist. Views are personal)

Inflammatory cells continue in blood after treatment of severe asthma: Study

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI

While biological drugs or biologics have improved the lives of many people with severe asthma, a new study shows that some immune cells with high inflammatory potential are not completely eradicated after treatment.

The findings may explain the reason for the return of inflammation of the airways as soon as the treatment is discontinued, said researchers from Karolinska Institutet in Sweden.

In a new study published in the scientific journal *Allergy*, the team explored what happens to the immune cells of patients being treated with biologics -- which has become an important tool in the treatment of severe asthma.

They analysed blood samples from 40 patients before and during treatment. They found that instead of disappearing



during treatment, certain types of immune cells -- which play a key part in asthma inflammation -- actually increased.

"This suggests that biologics might not attack the root of the problem, no matter how much they help asthma patients during treatment," said Jenny Mjösberg, professor of tissue immunology

at Karolinska Institutet's Department of Medicine in Huddinge.

"Continued treatment might be necessary to keep the disease under control," she added.

The team used advanced methods such as flow cytometry and single cell sequencing to determine the properties and function of the immune

cells.

They discovered that "blood levels of inflammatory cells increased rather than decreased".

"This could explain why inflammation of the airways often returns when the treatment is tapered or discontinued. It is important that we understand the long-term immunological effects of these drugs," said Lorenz Wirth, doctoral student at Karolinska.

The team said while biologics like mepolizumab and dupilumab help most patients keep their symptoms under control, little is still known about their long-term effects since they are relatively new and have been prescribed asthmatics for less than 10 years.

The team next plans to analyse samples from patients with a long treatment history and to study lung tissue to see how the immune cells are affected in the airways.

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI

More than 90 per cent of employees in India are confident that they can afford the healthcare needs for themselves and their families, according to a report on Thursday.

The Mercer Marsh Benefits report, based on a survey of over 18,000 employees across 17 markets, including in India, explores what employees value most from their workplace benefits, and how their expectations are evolving.

The findings showed that for Indian employees there are high levels of well-being and satisfaction. The report also highlights growing expectations around flexibility, personalisation, and long-term support, indicating a broader evolution in the Indian workforce -- one that is becoming more rooted in long-term ambitions.

While the report showed that although 92 per cent of employees are confident about affording healthcare needs, the top two reasons for delaying healthcare are financial and anticipated long wait times.

This suggests that even with insurance coverage, out-of-pocket costs, and other financial considerations are still preventing some employees from getting the care they need.

Further, the report showed that employers

Over 90 pc Indian employees confident about affording healthcare needs: Report

AGENCIES

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Further, the report showed that employers



have emerged as the most trusted source of affordable, quality healthcare. It showed that more than 80 per cent of employees who could personalise their benefits packages felt their employer cared about their health and well-being.

For employers, this presents a timely opportunity to outpace their competition by adapting their benefits strategy and building affordable coverage by focusing on preventive care and early detection to primary

care, through outpatient provisions (OPD), said the report.

"Our report provides a strategic blueprint for employers. Specifically for India, it is the growing emphasis on longevity and planning for the future. As life expectancy increases and careers extend, employers have a profound opportunity to build trust and commitment by prioritising benefits that support long-term health planning and financial well-being, ensuring their workforce thrives not just today, but well into retirement," said Sanjay Kedia, Chief Executive Officer, Marsh McLennan India President and CEO, Marsh India.

The report also suggested employers bolster quality and timely healthcare by exploring innovative care delivery models, such as telemedicine and partnerships with local healthcare providers.

Study shows gene therapy can provide lasting, durable treatment for HIV

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI

Gene therapy may be a crucial tool to put HIV to sleep permanently, providing a lasting and durable treatment against the virus that causes AIDS, according to a study.

Scientists at Johns Hopkins University in the US showed that a molecule within HIV can be manipulated and amplified to force the virus into long-term dormancy -- a state in which HIV does not replicate.

The new findings add to a growing body of evidence that may help researchers develop a gene therapy that boosts the production of the molecule -- an "antisense transcript," or AST, said Fabio Romero, Associate Professor of molecular and comparative pathobiology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

The study builds on previous research which



showed that AST is produced by HIV's genetic material and is part of a molecular pathway that essentially puts the virus to sleep -- a state known as viral latency.

Worldwide, 39.9 million people are living with HIV, and 630,000 deaths from HIV-related illnesses each year, according to the World Health Organization.

Standard treatment for HIV involves taking daily antiretroviral therapy that stops the virus from

making new copies of itself and from spreading. Antiviral medicines must be taken long-term, and they carry short- and long-term side effects, whereas gene therapy would require as little as one dose.

Even after several years of antiretroviral therapy, the virus can remain in cells and tissues throughout the body, quickly spreading if the infected individual stops the therapy, Romero said.

"Our aim is to find a way to provide a lasting,

durable treatment for HIV," said Rui Li, postdoctoral fellow in Romero's lab and first author of the paper, published in the journal *Science Advances*.

Romero noted that the new findings could lead to gene therapies that permanently enhance the production of AST in the T cells of people with HIV, placing the virus in a state of long-term sleep.

To investigate the role of AST in viral dormancy, scientists first turned to a human cell line of CD4+T cells, the immune cells HIV targets to insert its genome and make copies of itself.

The scientists genetically engineered these T cells, infected with HIV, to boost the production of AST by inserting a genetic element capable of generating many copies of AST.

The team also studied AST in CD4+T immune cells collected with permission from 15 people with HIV.

Study shows sleep shaped by environments not just personal habits

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI

Sleep patterns are significantly influenced by the day of the week, the season, and geographic locations, according to a study.

The study, led by researchers from Flinders University in South Australia, is based on data from more than 116,000 adults and over 73 million nights of sleep. The team used an under-mattress device to objectively track sleep duration and timing across 3.5 years, Xinhua news agency reported.

The study finds that sleep is shaped not just by personal habits, but by environmental factors like daylight, temperature, and weekly routines.

"Our findings underscore the seasonal nature of human sleep, and that it is influenced by demographics and geography,"

said Hannah Scott, a sleep health expert at Flinders University. Buy vitamins and supplements

People in the Northern Hemisphere sleep 15 to 20 minutes longer in winter, while those in the Southern Hemisphere sleep less in summer.

"Interestingly we found



that the farther you live from the equator, the greater the seasonal variation in sleep," Scott said.

People go to bed later and sleep in longer on weekends, recovering some lost sleep, especially middle-aged adults balancing work and family.

These irregular patterns

are increasingly linked to negative health effects, according to the study published in *Sleep*.

The study found a gradual decline in sleep, with people sleeping about 2.5 minutes less per night from 2020 to 2023, possibly due to the ongoing effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Irregular sleep is more than just feeling tired -- it can be a health risk and understanding how our routines and environments affect sleep is a helpful step towards improving it," said Danny Eckert from Flinders University.

Although the study focused on tech-savvy users and didn't account for factors like pets or partners, it underscores how the environment shapes sleep, reminding people to consider time and season for better rest, said the researchers.

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New AI tool to revolutionise personalised cancer treatment

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI

An international team of scientists has developed an artificial intelligence (AI) tool that could revolutionise cancer treatment by mapping cellular diversity within tumours.

The innovation tackles tumour heterogeneity in oncology, where varied cell populations cause treatment resistance and recurrence, Xinhua news agency reported.

The AAnet AI tool, developed by the Sydney-based Garvan Institute of Medical Research in collaboration with the Yale School of Medicine in the US, uses deep learning to study gene activity in single cancer cells.

It finds five different cell types within tumours, each with its own behaviour and risk of spreading. This helps doctors understand cancer better than older methods, which treated all tumour cells



the same, said the multinational research team.

"Heterogeneity is a problem because currently, we treat tumors as if they are made up of the same cell. This means we give one therapy that kills most cells in the tumor

by targeting a particular mechanism. But not all cancer cells may share that mechanism," said the study's co-senior author, Associate Professor Christine Chaffer from the Garvan Institute.

As a result, some cancer

cells survive, and the disease can return, Chaffer said. She added that AAnet provides a way to biologically characterise tumour diversity, enabling the design of combination therapies that target all cell groups at once.

Associate Professor Smita Krishnaswamy of Yale University, a co-developer of the AI, indicated that this is the first method to distill cellular complexity into practical archetypes, potentially transforming precision oncology.

The technology is ready for clinical use, with plans to combine AI analysis and traditional diagnostics to create treatments tailored to each tumour's cell type.

Validated in breast cancer, it also shows promise for other cancers and autoimmune diseases, marking a shift toward personalised medicine, revealed the study published in the journal *Cancer Discovery*.

Indian researchers develop diagnostic device to detect early-stage bone cancer

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI

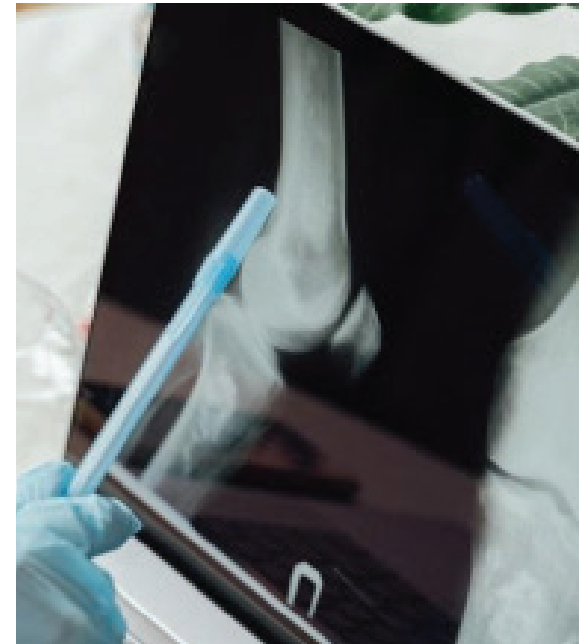
In a major scientific breakthrough, researchers from IIT (BHU) in Uttar Pradesh have developed a miniaturised, self-reporting diagnostic device that can detect early-stage bone cancer with high precision.

The first-of-its-kind sensor detects osteopontin (OPN) -- a key biomarker for bone cancer.

The device is reagent-free, portable, and cost-effective and is ideal for rural healthcare, said the research team led by Dr. Pranjali Chandra from the School of Biochemical Engineering.

The device works much like a glucose metre and enables quick, accurate, and on-the-spot detection, even in resource-limited settings.

The device uses a custom sensor surface composed of gold and redox-active nanomaterials, allowing it to func-



tion similarly to a glucose meter.

"This technology simplifies cancer detection and empowers primary health centres," said Prof. Chandra. The findings are published in the prestigious journal *Nanoscale* (Royal Society of Chemistry, UK).

OPN is a crucial biomarker associated with osteosarcoma -- a highly aggressive form of bone cancer that primarily affects children and adolescents.

While current methods to detect OPN are costly and time-consuming, the new device offers rapid

and accurate results with minimal equipment.

It is designed as a reagent-less immunosensor, which enables on-the-spot and affordable testing. It is especially beneficial in rural and resource-constrained areas where early cancer detection is often delayed.

Cancer is a major public health concern in India, with rising incidence rates and significant mortality.

Lauding the innovation, Director Prof. Amit Patra called it "a prime example of technology with a human face". He said it contributes to precision medicine and national health priorities. He added that the innovation aligns with the government's Make in India and Start-up India initiatives.

A patent application has been filed, and efforts are underway to convert the prototype into a smartphone-compatible diagnostic kit for remote healthcare access, the researchers said.

MLA Arvind pays Obesciance, participates in Special Abhishek Ceremony at Tirupathi Balaji Temple Jammu

J1NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 4

Today MLA Arvind Gupta, RC Subramaniam Suprident Tirupati Balaji Temple Jammu, Sai Krishna Temple Inspector, Raju Jandyal Social Activists And Kiran ji, Today paid obesciance at Tirupati Balaji temple Jammu and participated in the special abhishek of Tirupati. prayed for the welfare of the country. Every Friday the ceremony of abhishek of Lord Venkateshwar is performed. Mla Arvind Gupta expressed happiness over the temple said that it is a feeling of pleasure and proud that the Tirupati Balaji temple is established here for the people of Jammu. With this temple we are able to witness the culture of south India and this feeling is heavenly. He



appealed people to visit the temple and pay obesciance here. He Said the dedication of Lord Venkateswara temple would give a boost to spiritual tourism He Said overwhelmed to share with you all my divine experience at Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple which is famous as Tirupati Balaji Temple located amid the scenic Shivalik forests in Majeeen, situated in Jammu. I am requesting all Devotee,s

who are unable to visit Andhra Pradesh, can come here and offer prayers to the Lord Venkateswara Swamy and seek blessings RC Subramaniam to appeal stated that with the upcoming Amarnath Yatra, pilgrims arriving in Jammu should also be taken to Tirupati Balaji Temple. He appealed to the administration and the Smart City CEO to include the temple in sightseeing plans so that

devotees can experience South Indian culture. He also requested Smart City e-buses be routed to the temple.

After the Abhishek ceremony, guests were honored by the temple authority with portraits of Lord Venkateswara. MLA Arvind Gupta expressed his gratitude to Tirupati Balaji Temple Authority Jammu Superintendent R.C. Subramaniam and Sai Krishna Ji for giving him the opportunity to attend the sacred ceremony and receive the blessings of Lord Venkateswara. The event was marked by devotion and reverence, with all attendees expressing deep appreciation for the spiritual experience and the warm hospitality extended by the organizers.

Shiv Sena reviews on-spot registration arrangements, demands to remove flaws

J1NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 4

The huge crowd of devotees of Baba Barfani was expected for on-spot registration, our suggestions to increase the number of tokens and registration counters etc. were completely ignored, as a result, devotees are facing huge problems, which cannot be tolerated at all, stated by Manish Sahni, President, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit.

A team of party leaders led by Jammu-Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni today visited the on-spot registration site in Jammu and took stock of the problems being faced by the devotees.

Sahni said that seeing the crowd of devotees of Baba Barfani at the on-spot registration counters



is heart-warming and it was also expected. Our appeal to be a part of the fearless Amarnath Yatra has paid off and this crowd of devotees is giving a befitting reply to Pak-sponsored terrorism.

We were constantly suggesting to increase the number of token and registration counters but the administration and the Shrine Board continued to show a careless attitude. As a result, before

the complex and difficult journey, the pilgrims are forced to stand in queues for hours in the scorching heat and humidity, due to which they have to face physical and mental problems. Sahni and his team met Manu Hansa (SDM), Raju Samayal (Tehsil Bahu Fort), Ajay Sharma (SP South) present on the spot and demanded to ensure on-spot registration of pilgrims without any prob-

lems.

Sahni has demanded from the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (who is also the Chairman of Shri Amarnath Shrine Board) to immediately increase the registration quota and issue instructions to provide all possible facilities to the pilgrims. Sahni has appealed to the devotees to maintain patience and cooperate with the administration. He said that all the devotees who reach Jammu for the darshan of Baba Barfani will get the opportunity to join the Holy Yatra.

On this occasion, dozens of leaders and workers including Sanjeev Kohli (Working President), Raj Singh (President Kamghar), Happy Verma (President Youth Wing Jammu) were present.

MMTTC - SMVDU effectively conducts NEP Orientation & Sensitization Program

J1NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 4

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) conducted an 8-days Online Training Program on National Education Policy (NEP)-2020 Orientation & Sensitization under the UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC). The program saw enthusiastic participation from Faculty Members across the country with 136 faculty members registered on the official portal UGC-MMTTC. The program was inaugurated by Prof. Supran K. Sharma, Director, MMTTC-SMVDU; Prof. Sharada M. Potukuchi, Deputy Director, MMTTC-SMVDU, Dr. Anil K. Bhardwaj, Member, MMTTC-SMVDU and Dr. Kamaldeep, Member, MMTTC-SMVDU, who stressed the importance of implementation of NEP 2020 in India's higher education system. Prof. Sharma emphasized upon the participating Faculty Members to embrace its comprehensive, encompassing and multidisciplinary perspective and implement the ideas shared by the resource persons in their day-to-day teaching methodology. Dr. Anil K. Bhardwaj, Coordinator of the Program and Dr. Kamaldeep is the Co-Coordinator of the program-shared his experiences regarding the evolving nature of teacher training programs in terms of enhancing academic leadership abilities

and fostering institutional excellence. Esteemed Resource Persons who delivered the informative sessions included Prof. Ashwani Luthra, Guru Nanak Dev University, Prof. Hemlata Sharma, Kurukshetra University, Prof. Anjan Chakrabarti, Director-MMTTC, University of North Bengal, Siliguri, Prof. Divya U. Joshi, Director-MMTTC, Kumaun University, Prof. Neelika Arora, Director-MMTTC, Central University of Jammu, Prof. Anil Gupta, University of Jammu, Prof. Parmod Kumar, Director-MMTTC, Central University, Haryana, Dr. Shefali Nagpal, Director-HRDC, BPSMV, Sonapat, Prof. Nazir Ahmed Nazir, Director-MMTTC, University of Kashmir, Prof. Gauri Mahulikar, Sanskrit University, Mumbai, Prof. Preeti Jain, Director-MMTTC, Kurukshetra University and Prof. Rajesh Dubey, Director-MMTTC, JNVU, Jodhpur besides the team members from SMVDU. The general topics outlined by UGC for the NEP-2020 were the focus of the intensive academic sessions organized, such as, Holistic and Multidisciplinary Education, Indian Knowledge Systems, Academic Leadership, Governance and Management, Higher Education and Society, Research and Development, Skill Development, Student Diversity and Inclusive Education and Information & Communication Technology enhanced the knowledge of faculty members who were

participated from various State/ Central Universities, Deemed to be Universities, Private Universities, Institutions of National Importance, Colleges and other Higher Education Institutions across India. Participants from distinguished Universities and Colleges across various regions of the country were specifically chosen to highlight the importance of providing training and skill development to faculty members for the effective and seamless implementation of NEP-2020 at their respective institutions. A vote of thanks was also proposed by Dr. Anil K. Bhardwaj, who thanked Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, for his constant support and guidance. They also thanked Sh. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Registrar and Sh. Neeraj Gupta, Finance Officer, for their cooperation and help in organizing such programs at the University. Special thanks were extended to all participants from across the nation, with many presenting their findings online, emphasizing the initiative's broad scope and impact. Other Members of SMVDU-MMTTC included Prof. Raghvendra K. Mishra, Prof. Ankush Anand, Prof. Sharada M. Potukuchi, Dr. Sunanda, Dr. Kamaldeep, Dr. Pabitra Jena and Staff Members of the organizing committee of MMTTC-SMVDU who also assisted in smooth conduct and successful execution of the Program.

Week-long workshop on tech-driven research concludes at KU

J1NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, JULY 4

To promote innovation and digital proficiency in academic research, the Department of Economics, University of Kashmir (KU), successfully concluded a week-long national workshop on "Tech-Enhanced Research: From Data Collection to Publication" at the main campus.

The workshop, held from June 24 to July 01,

aimed to equip scholars with advanced tools and methodologies in data handling, automation, visualization, and ethical research practices. It featured over 35 hours of hands-on sessions delivered by expert resource persons from reputed institutions such as University of Delhi, Aligarh Muslim University, O.P. Jindal Global University, CRRID Chandigarh. Topics included AI-driven research platforms, bibliometric tools like

VOSviewer, reproducible research frameworks in R, digital data collection via KoboToolbox, and academic writing with LaTeX.

Speaking at the valedictory session, Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, said, "Workshops like these reflect the University's resolve to integrate technology into research training and prepare our scholars for the digital academic environment."



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 33 of 2025-2026 Dated. 03-07-2025

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 complete-on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Repair and renovation of PWD quarter no. 4 Occupied by Babli devi at Medical enclave Bakshi Nagar Jammu	PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu	5.19	600	2% of Advertised Cost	45 Days	10-07-2025 (12.00Pm)	"A,B,C&D"

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of TS: Sanctioned

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	03-07-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 03-07-2025 to 09-07-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	XXXXXXXX at XXXX Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu
4	Bid submission Start Date	03-07-2025
5	Bid Submission End Date	09-07-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	10-07-2025 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu and upload the same i.e treasury challan / receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu at the time of allotment.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder needs not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

No: - EE/R&B/\BN/

Date:-

DIP/J-3034/25

Date: 4-7-25

(Er. Sandeep Gupta)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Bakshi Nagar Jammu

President of India flags off 134th Durand Cup Trophies in a Grand Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan

J I NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI: 04 JUL 2025

In a moment steeped in legacy and national pride, the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, today flagged off the three iconic Durand Cup trophies from the Rashtrapati Bhawan Cultural Centre (RBCC), formally marking the commencement of the 134th IndianOil Durand Cup - Asia's oldest and India's most prestigious football tournament.

This is the second consecutive year the Hon'ble President has performed this symbolic gesture, reaffirming the Durand Cup's enduring significance as a unique confluence of sport, service and nationhood. The ceremony also continues a proud post-independence tradition of the Supreme Commander's direct association with the Durand Cup.

The ceremony at the RBCC saw the presence of General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff, Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff, Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh, Chief of the Air Staff and Lt General RC Tiwari, GOC-in-C Eastern Command and

Patron, Durand Cup Organizing Committee (DCOC). Also gracing the occasion was Arjuna Award recipient and renowned Indian footballer Sandesh Jhingan.

Speaking at the occasion, President Murmu acknowledged the Durand Cup as a living symbol of India's footballing heritage and Armed Forces' sporting commitment, adding that "football has a special place in the hearts of millions. It is not just a sport; it is a passion. The game of football is all about strategy, endurance and working together towards a common goal. Events like the Durand Cup not only foster the spirit of the game but also help develop the next generation of football players, providing them with a platform to grow. She appreciated the role of the Armed Forces in keeping alive and promoting the spirit of the Durand Cup."

General Anil Chauhan Chief of Defence Staff on the occasion said, "The Durand Cup is a legacy of valour, discipline, and unity that reflects the finest traditions of our Armed Forces and our nation. As we embark on another chapter of this historic competition, we are honoured by the presence of the Hon'ble President of



India in flagging off this edition. This gesture reaffirms the enduring bond between sport, service, and the spirit of India."

Lt General RC Tiwari, GOC-in-C Eastern Command and Patron, DCOC, in his address, also reiterated Durand's importance for young football talent in the country saying, "The Durand Cup, conducted by the Indian Army on behalf of the Armed Forces, is far more than a football tournament. It is a celebration of India's unity in diversity, of our belief in character through competition, and of our duty to nurture the next generation through the timeless values of teamwork, discipline and resilience."

Sandesh Jhingan, who has also captained the national side on several occasions, recalled his enduring experiences with the Durand Cup and said, "We have gathered here

today to not merely unveil a trophy, but to celebrate a legacy, a century old tradition, he also thanked the Indian Army's spirit of unwavering dedication and sacrifice, which has played a vital role in shaping the journey of Indian football: the Durand Cup."

Lt Gen Bhavnish Kumar GOC Delhi Area and Chairman, Standing Working Committee, Durand Football Tournament Society in his address said, "The Durand Football Tourna-

ment Society has long stood as a symbol of excellence in promoting football in our nation. We convey our best wishes to all the teams participating in this tournament for successful and spirited matches."

The trio of revered trophies - the Durand Cup, the President's Cup and the Shimla Trophy - will now embark on a multi-city tour across this year's five host states: West Bengal, Jharkhand, Assam, Meghalaya and Manipur.

The Trophy Tour aims to ignite public enthusiasm and community pride in the lead-up to the tournament's kick-off on July 23, 2025. The grand finale is scheduled for August 23, 2025. A Legacy of Dreams, a Platform of Promise

For 137 years, the Durand Cup has been more than just a football tournament - it has been the launchpad for India's most promising young talent. Long before they became household

names, some of India's greatest footballers took their first national strides on Durand's hallowed turf.

The tournament's enduring legacy lies in this very promise - to give unknown players from every corner of the country the chance to test their mettle, earn recognition and chase their dreams.

This year for the first time ever, Durand Cup is being played across five states - West Bengal, Jharkhand, Assam, Meghalaya and Manipur. Also, at a time when Indian football is searching for fresh heroes and renewed belief, the Durand Cup continues to serve as a nation-building platform - a competitive crucible where aspiring footballers from academies, Services teams and state clubs from the remotest corners of

the Nation can rise, shine and inspire.

Celebrating Sport, Service and Sacrifice

The Durand Cup embodies discipline, unity and sporting excellence. Today's flag-off, graced by senior military leadership, underscored the Armed Forces' steadfast commitment to nurturing talent and fostering competitive spirit across India. As the trophies journey through the nation's football heartlands, the 134th Indian Oil Durand Cup promises not only exhilarating competition but fresh chapters in India's sporting aspirations. The flame has been lit and the stage is set - across villages and cities, thousands of young footballers will now see the tournament not just as spectators, but as dreamers and future champions.

Jammu gets its first MR.D.I.Y Store at Jewel Chowk; A One-Stop Destination for Affordable Everyday Essentials

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 4

MR.D.I.Y, one of Asia's leading home improvement retailers, continues its rapid expansion across India with the launch of its first store in Jammu. Located at Jewel Chowk, the new store brings MR.D.I.Y's unmatched variety, unbeatable prices, and everyday convenience to the heart of Jammu city.



With a global footprint spanning 14 countries with 4,500+ stores and presence in over 100+ cities across 12 states in India and, MR.D.I.Y is committed to making quality products affordable and accessible for Indian families from all walks of life. From daily-use essentials to smart home upgrades, the brand promises value-for-money in every aisle no compromises.

MR.D.I.Y India recently announced acclaimed Bollywood actor Rajkumar Rao as its official brand ambassador. Known for his authentic and versatile on-screen presence, Rajkumar embodies the values of MR.D.I.Y smart choices, relatability, and everyday excellence. His debut brand campaign with

MR.D.I.Y, themed Milega Kya Mat Pooch, MR.D.I.Y has SABKUCH, highlights the stores incredible range of 15,000+ products and the joy of unexpected discovery that shoppers experience inside every MR.D.I.Y outlet. The collaboration marks a major milestone for the brand as it continues to build deeper connections with Indian consumers.

Spanning over 5,650 sq. ft., the Jewel Chowk store houses an extensive collection across categories including household, home décor, stationery, fashion accessories, toys, tech accessories, festive décor, and more all under one roof. Whether you're looking to organize your kitchen, decorate your living space, pick up school sup-

plies, or find a quirky gift on a budget, MR.D.I.Y has something for everyone at prices that are hard to beat.

To celebrate its grand opening, MR.D.I.Y is hosting special giveaways and fun-filled activities. Shoppers who spend INR 1,000 or more will receive a complimentary MR.D.I.Y water bottle. Adding to the festive spirit, customers can also enjoy free popcorn and live music from 4th to 6th July as part of the launch festivities.

The new Jammu store is designed to deliver a convenient, family-friendly shopping experience, with its well-organized layout, friendly staff, and consistently affordable prices making it a go-to destination for every member of the household.

Ravinder Sharma seeks CM's intervention in SCARD Bank fraud with farmers

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 04

Expressing grave concern over the non-drawl and stoppage of payments of hard earned money of the farmers deposited by them in the state Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development (SCARD) Bank, JKPC has sought the immedi-

ate intervention of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the affairs of the Bank, which has duped its depositors from farming community of crores of rupees, who are not being allowed withdrawals/ return of their hard earned money for over couple of months, without disclosing any reasons.

JKPC Chief Spokes-

person & Former MLC Mr Ravinder Sharma, has highlighted the plight of large number of depositors of bank especially from Sunderbani and adjoining areas, who owe from bank over two & half crores of their hard earned deposits in the bank over the years in the shape of recurrings and fixed deposits.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B)
DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR, JAMMU
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 35of 2025-2026 Dated. 03-07-2025

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 complete-on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Renovation of Govt. Quarter no 16 at NGO colony behind girl hostel GMC Jammu	PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu	5.91	600	2% of Advertised Cost	45 days	11-07-2025 (12.00Pm)	"A,B,C&D"

Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Sanctioned

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	03-07-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 03-07-2025 to 10-07-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	XXXXXXXX at XXXX Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu
4	Bid submission Start Date	03-07-2025
5	Bid Submission End Date	10-07-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	11-07-2025 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu and upload the same i.e treasury challan / receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu at the time of allotment.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder needs not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) DIVISION BAKSHI NAGAR Jammu. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

No: - EE/R&B/\BN/2259-65

Date:- 03-07-2025

DIP/J-3038/25
Date: 4-7-25

Sd/-
(Er. Sandeep Gupta)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Bakshi Nagar Jammu

CLUJ holds 4th syndicate meeting, approves key academic and administrative reforms

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 4

The Cluster University of Jammu (CLUJ) successfully conducted its 4th Syndicate meeting on July 4, 2025. The meeting was chaired by Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the University, and was graced by Shri Santmanu, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary; Shri Santhosh D. Vaidya, IAS, Principal Secretary, Finance; and Prof. Kavita Shah, Vice Chancellor of Siddharth University, Uttar Pradesh. The meeting also saw the presence of Dr. Geetanjali Andotra, Dr. Rajinder Singh, and Dr. Romesh Gupta, Principals of the constituent colleges along with Deans of the Cluster University of Jammu including Dr. Chander Shekhar, Dr. Mohd. Zubair, and Dr. Monicka Sharma. Addi from the Cluster University of Srinagar Dr. Munir Ahmed Mir, Dr. G. M. Lone, Dr. Nighat Nasreen, and Dr. Raif Ahmad Khan where as Dr. R. K. Mittal, Vice Chancellor of BBA University, Lucknow, joined virtually. Earlier in the meeting, Ms. Ankur Mahajan, Registrar of the University, presented the agenda items for discussion and approval.

At the outset, Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar outlined key developments at the University since the last Syndicate meeting. These included receiving approvals from AICTE and NCTE



for new programmes, successfully conducting a mega job fair, revising the postgraduate syllabus, and completing the syllabus for the 7th and 8th semesters of the UG 4th year programme. The Syndicate ratified several actions taken by the Vice Chancellor, including the approval of revised reservation rules of J&K for UG and PG admissions, as well as Ph.D. admissions. A significant decision was made to evaluate all end semester examination answer sheets through a coding system, with assessment carried out by eligible evaluators from a panel approved by the Controller of Examinations. Additionally, the Syndicate granted a one-time exemption to students with a credit shortage of less than 50%, allowing them to seek admission into the 5th semester of UG General, Honours, and PG Integrated programmes. The adoption of NET as the entrance test for admission to Ph.D. programmes was also deliberated. The Syndicate further approved the introduction of various new programmes, including MPA, PG Diploma,

Diploma and Certificate courses in Dogri translation, M.Sc. Geography, and one-year PG programmes. Another notable decision was the recognition of eligible college faculty members as Ph.D. supervisors and collaboration with other institutions to implement the fourth year of the FYUGP in alignment with NEP 2020.

Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar also highlighted that NEP 2020 has been effectively implemented at the Cluster University of Jammu, ensuring opportunities for research and project work in the 4th year Honours Degree. Moreover, dual degree programmes were approved to commence from the academic session 2025-26.

The Syndicate also deliberated extensively on the provision of mercy chances for the batches of 2017, 2018, and 2019 and approved their conduct. It was also decided to explore the introduction of new academic programmes, including M.Sc. (Entrepreneurship) in collaboration with EDII, Ahmedabad, B.Sc. (Nursing), English as a

minor subject, and Statistics as a major, minor, and multidisciplinary course at GGM Science College. Additionally, the Syndicate authorised the Vice Chancellor to co-opt senior faculty members from affiliated colleges into various university positions to strengthen activities related to extension, outreach, and consultancy. It was further resolved to reintroduce CLUJET from the academic session 2026-27.

Earlier in the day, the 5th Finance Committee meeting was held under the chairmanship of Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor. The meeting was attended by Shri Santmanu, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary; Shri Santhosh D. Vaidya, IAS, Principal Secretary, Finance; Ms. Ankur Mahajan, Registrar; Dr. Mohammed Zubair, Dean; and Dr. Romesh Gupta, Principal, GGM Science College. Shri Nagesh Jamwal, JKAS, Finance Advisor of CLUJ, presented the budget estimates, proposals for the creation of new posts, enhancement of fees, and the audit report. These were duly approved by the Finance Committee and subsequently ratified by the Syndicate. Prof. K. S. Chandrasekar, Vice Chancellor, expressed his gratitude to all members of the Finance Committee and the Syndicate for their valuable contributions and support.

Nowabad Police traces missing woman within 72 hours

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 4

In a remarkable display of dedication and expertise, Nowabad Police team has successfully recovered a missing lady within 72 hours of her reported disappearance. This out-

standing achievement is a testament to the unwavering commitment of Jammu Police in ensuring the safety and security of citizens.

On 30/06/2025, the Nowabad police received a written complaint from one person R/o Jammu reporting her missing. The

complainant stated that his mother had gone missing on 30/06/2025 Morning. She left the home without telling anybody where she was going.

Upon receiving the complaint, a thorough enquiry was initiated under the supervision of SHO Police

Station Nowabad. A dedicated police team led by PSI Sandeep Kumar & PSI Akshay Kumar was tasked for tracing the missing lady. Officers conducted extensive searches in entire Jammu, gathered human/technical intelligence and followed up on the leads.

TRAFFIC POLICE HEADQUARTERS, J&K, JAMMU/SRINAGAR

1. From 03-07-2025, 1700 hrs. to 04-07-2025, 1600 hrs., there was slow movement observed on NH-44 due to breakdown of 03 HMVs, single lane traffic at Nashri-Dalwas and between Marog & Kishtwri Pather.
2. Commuters belonging to Reasi, Katra, Udhampur, Patnitop, Doda and Ramban town are requested to keep their photo ID card to prove their identification after cut off timing from Jammu/Udhampur so that their movement can be facilitated smoothly.
3. Passengers/LMVs operators are advised to undertake journey on Jammu-Srinagar NHW during day time due to apprehension of shooting stones between Ramban and Banihal.
4. Goods carrier (HVM/LMV) Operators carrying fresh perishable/live stock are advised to load their vehicle as per advisory issued by Traffic Police Headquarters time to time as there is single lane traffic and poor condition of road at Nashri-Dalwas and between Marog & Kishtwari Pather on Jammu Srinagar NHW.
5. Fruit growers/ Load carrier (HVM/LMV) Operators carrying fresh perishable from Valley towards Jammu are advised to load and park their vehicle timely (every morning before 9.00 am at designated place between NAVYUG Tunnel and Levdoora) so that their movement can be facilitated smoothly.
6. HMVs Operators/Owners are requested to desist from overloading and carry sufficient fuel during journey on Jammu-Srinagar NHW. It is further requested that vehicle owners must double check the fitness of their vehicles and carry sufficient fuel before undertaking journey on Jammu-Srinagar NHW.
7. HMVs with only 06 and 10 tyres shall be allowed to ply through Dhar road.
8. Commuters are advised to avoid unnecessary haltagage between Ramban and Banihal especially near landslide/shooting stone area.

TRAFFIC PLAN & ADVISORY FOR 05-07-2025:-

Subject to fair weather and better road conditions SANJY convoy /LMVs Passenger/Private Cars shall be allowed from both sides on Jammu-Srinagar NHW (NH-44) viz from Jammu towards Srinagar and vice-versa. However, HMVs shall be allowed on alternate days. TCU Jammu/Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing this traffic.

SHRI AMAR NATH JI YATRA 2025

Please refer to Yatra Advisory No. 01 dated 27-06-2025

CUT OFF TIMINGS FOR LMVs/PASSENGER/PRIVATE CARS:-

To be released from:-

- Nagrota (Jammu) towards Srinagar: from 0600 hrs. to 1200 hrs.
- Jakheni (Udhampur) towards Srinagar: from 0700 hrs to 1300 hrs &
- Qazigund towards Jammu: from 1130 hrs to 1400 hrs.

TCU Jammu and TCU Srinagar will inform all concerned about the traffic advisory and cut off timings. No vehicle shall be allowed to move before and after cut off timings.

HMVs/Load Carriers:-

Subject to fair weather and better road conditions, HMVs shall be allowed from NAVYUG Tunnel (Qazigund side) towards Jammu after assessing the road and traffic situation on NH-44 and no HMV shall be allowed after 1900 hrs . TCU Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the HMVs. Moreover, in view of ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025, to provide hassle free movement of trucks carrying fresh/perishable goods on NH-44. UT administration has decided, all tankers of Petrol, Diesel, LPG bulk gas, all trucks carrying empty LPG Cylinders; all empty vehicles of FCI; any other vehicle loaded/empty upto 10-tyres shall use only Mughal Road while returning to Jammu, as per advisory issued by DIVCOM Kashmir vide No. Divcom/Dev/120/2025/7055-75 dated 01-07-2025

Kishtwar- Sinthan- Anantnag NH-244:-

Subject to fair weather and good road condition, after getting green signal from NHIDCL, LMVs/HPSVs shall be allowed from both sides viz from Anantnag towards Kishtwar and vice-versa on Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag road. These vehicles shall be allowed from PP Parana towards Anantnag from 0800 hrs to 1600 hrs and from PP Daksum towards Kishtwar from 0900 hrs. to 1500 hrs. No HMV other than designated HPSVs shall be allowed as per order issued by SDM Chhatroo vide No. SDM/C/2025-26/146-53 dated 16-05-2025 and SDM Kokernag vide No. SDM/KNG/665-71 dated 16-05-2025.

SSG ROAD

Subject to fair weather and good road condition, (after getting green signal from the BRO) traffic movement shall be allowed on regulated manner on Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumari road. LMVs followed by HMVs shall be allowed from Minamarg towards Srinagar at 0500 hrs. to 1000 hrs. Similarly, LMVs followed by HMVs shall be allowed from Sonamarg towards Kargil at 1130 hrs to 1730 hrs . No vehicle shall be allowed after cut off timing.

SFs Convoy, plying from Srinagar to Kargil and vice versa shall plan their movement in such a manner so that Yatra convoys (both UP and DOWN) don't get disturbed.

Mughal Road:-

Subject to fair weather and good road condition, after getting green signal from Road maintenance agencies (GREF). LMVs Passenger/Private Cars shall be allowed from both sides on Mughal road viz from Jammu towards Srinagar and vice-versa via Poonch. However, HMVs (upto ten tyres only) shall be allowed from Shopian towards Poonch. These vehicles shall be allowed from Behramgala (Baffliaz) and Herpora (Shopian) at 0700 hrs. upto 1800 hrs. as per advisory issued by DIVCOM Kashmir vide No. Divcom/Dev/120/2025/7055-75 dated 01-07-2025.

ADVISORY:

People are advised to undertake journey only after confirming status of the road from Traffic control units as under:-

- Jammu (0191-2459048, 0191- 2740550, 9419147732, 103)
- Srinagar (0194-2450022, 2485396, 18001807091, 103)
- Ramban (9419993745, 1800-180-7043)
- Udhampur (8491928625)
- PCR Kishtwar (9906154100)
- PCR Kargil (9541902330, 9541902331)

DIP/J-3045/25

Date: 4-7-25

SIBA organizes Free Multispeciality Health Camp in Jammu

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 4

SIBA Event Management and Innovations Cooperative Ltd., in association with Shoppers Stop, Punjab Kesari, Inner Wheel Club, Rotary Club Jammu Stars, and Rotary Jammu Elite, Vidyapeeth Academy, organized a Multispeciality Health Checkup Camp at the Shoppers Stop premises located in Pacific Tower, Channi Himmat, Jammu. The event is aimed at providing free health checkups and essential medical consultations to the local community, helping raise awareness and promote preventive healthcare practices.

The health camp featured a wide array of medical specialties, including general health checkups, eye care, dental consultations, hearing assessments, and more. Leading healthcare professionals from top hospitals and clinics in the region have provided these services.

The camp officially begin at 11:30 AM and closes at 3pm, good number of local peoples and students from Vidyapeeth academy and employees of Shoppers stop participated and got benefitted.

Partners and Supporters for the Event, are Inner Wheel Club, Rotary Club Jammu Stars, Sumali Financial Services, MJ COLORS Saloon, JKDCUL, DSK Caterers Medical Associates and Hospitals are Ujala Cygnus JK Medicity Hospital Dr jaspreet Endocrinologist, Dr Richu sharma Oncologist

Path Square Labs Sharda suri Marketing executive, Sharp Sight Eye



Hospitals Deepak kumar, Rahul, Ajay kumar Hear & Clear, Dr manas ji and Gulshan ji, Embrace Dental Clinic, Dr Aastha Mahajan, Dr Ankita, De Sakshi gupta, Dr Divya Mahajan

Media & Broadcast Partners are Punjab Kesari and Radio partner is Top FM Rj pallavi, Abishak, Rj Shaan Pooja Malhotra Renowned educationist. Sakshi gupta president, Inner Wheel jammu tawi

Vanita kholi (vikas bharat vikas parishad jaswant kour secretary, Rotary Club Elite Dr Ravika Arora, president and jasmeeet panday Secretary

This camp is designed not only to provide essential health services to those in need but also to encourage a healthier lifestyle by offering advice on preventing various health conditions. The event's focus will be on making healthcare services acces-

sible to all, especially those from underserved communities.

This initiative is a part of SIBA Event Management's ongoing efforts to bring together healthcare professionals, community organizations, and individuals committed to improving health and wellness in Jammu. The event is expected to have a positive impact, benefiting people of all ages and backgrounds.

PM Modi to be conferred Trinidad & Tobago's highest honour

AGENCIES
PORT OF SPAIN/NEW DELHI,
JULY 4

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will today receive the 'Order of Trinidad and Tobago', the highest honor of the country on the second day of his visit to the Caribbean nation.

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar had yesterday announced that Trinidad and Tobago would confer the award on the visiting Indian Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister expressed his heartfelt gratitude to her and the people of Trinidad and Tobago for this honor.

This would be Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25th international honour. Modi, who is in Trinidad and Tobago as part of his five-nation tour, will hold talks with the top leadership of Trinidad and Tobago to further strengthen bilateral relations.

Earlier, PM Modi was received by his counterpart Persad-Bissessar at Piarco International Airport, where he was accorded a ceremonial welcome and a guard of honour.

While addressing an Indian community event in Trinidad and Tobago, Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar hailed the relationship between the two nations and said, "These



are ties of ancestry, of kinship, of sacrifice, and of love. We are bound by history, by shared struggle, and we're bound by common dreams. Through your benevolence, you brought hope and calm where there was fear. This was more than diplomacy. This was an act of kinship, shared humanity, and love. This is one of the many reasons we are deeply proud to bestow upon you The Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, our nation's highest honor, to be conferred tomorrow..."

The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago praised PM Modi's leadership, calling him a "transformational force who has refined the governance of India."

She stated that PM Modi has modernized India's economy through his visionary and futuristic initiatives. While addressing the Indian community event in Trinidad and Tobago, Persad-Bissessar

said, "What inspires this gathering most is your enduring commitment to the Indian diaspora, promoting culture, history, and the spirit of our shared journey. The ties that bind India and Trinidad and Tobago are not merely diplomatic in nature."

Addressing the community event, PM Persad-Bissessar said, "Namaste, Sita-Ram, and good evening. This evening, we are graced by the presence of someone near and dear to us. We are graced by a leader whose visit is not just a matter of protocol but a profound honor for us. So, I am deeply privileged to join everyone here in welcoming one of the world's most respected and admired visionary leaders, the Honourable Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, and his delegation on this very historic state visit to Trinidad and Tobago. Prime Minister Modi, your pres-

ence is a great inspiration to all of us, particularly to the Indo-Trinidadian community, whose roots are planted in the same blessed Indian soil from which you emerged."

Recalling Modi's earlier visit to Trinidad and Tobago in 2002, when he was not Prime Minister of India, she stated that he returned to Trinidad and Tobago as a "distinguished and celebrated leader" whose influence transcends borders.

Mentioning the *Fatel Razack*, the first ship that carried Indians to Trinidad in 1845, she said, "On your first visit to our country, you were not then Prime Minister. But as part of a cultural ambassador, as part of the World Hindu Conference in 2002. Today, sir, you return as the head of a government of more than 1.4 billion people. You return as a distinguished and celebrated leader whose influence transcends boundaries. We bow to you, sir."

The visit is of particular significance as it represents PM Modi's first official trip to the Caribbean nation as India's Prime Minister, and is also the first bilateral Prime Ministerial-level visit from India to Trinidad and Tobago since 1999. Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the last Prime Minister to have visited the country in 1999.

PM Modi welcomed with Bhojpuri Chautaal in Trinidad & Tobago

AGENCIES
PORT OF SPAIN/NEW DELHI,
JULY 4

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was greeted with exceptional warmth by the Indian diaspora and given a colorful traditional Indo-Trinidadian welcome on his arrival here.

PM Modi reached Trinidad and Tobago late on Thursday marking the start of the second leg of his five-nation tour.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received a grand welcome as the Indian diaspora presented a folk programme upon his arrival, marking the second leg of his five-nation tour. He also met members of the Indian community and praised their contributions to the country's development during his first official visit to Trinidad and Tobago.

As the Prime Minister, who is on a two-day visit to Trinidad and Tobago, arrived at Piarco International Airport in Port of Spain, he was greeted with a traditional performance of Bhojpuri Chautaal, an expressive folk music form from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The performance highlighted the cultural



ties between the Caribbean nation and India, especially through the Indian diaspora that has kept its cultural roots alive.

PM Modi shared his appreciation for the performance by posting on X, "A cultural connection like no other! Very happy to have witnessed a Bhojpuri Chautaal performance in Port of Spain. The connection between Trinidad & Tobago and India, especially parts of eastern UP and Bihar, is noteworthy."

He further wrote, "Bhojpuri Chautaal echoes in Trinidad & Tobago!"

Applauding the contribution of the Indian community to the country's development, PM Modi highlighted that the diaspora had not only achieved success in various fields but also remained deeply

connected to Indian culture.

This visit is particularly significant, as it marks Modi's first official trip to the Caribbean nation since becoming Prime Minister. It is also the first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Trinidad and Tobago since 1999.

In a special gesture symbolizing the close ties between the two countries, PM Modi was warmly received by Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and several members of her Cabinet at the airport. He was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour and welcomed with more cultural performances.

PM Modi also addressed a large gathering of the Indian Diaspora in Trinidad and Tobago. The event was attended by the

Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Members of her Cabinet, Members of Parliament and several other dignitaries.

At the event, Prime Minister was greeted with exceptional warmth by the diaspora and given a colorful traditional Indo-Trinidadian welcome.

In his statement, PM Modi expressed gratitude saying, "Landed in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago. I thank Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, distinguished members of the Cabinet, and MPs for the warm welcome at the airport."

PM Modi also spoke about the deep historical ties between the two nations, noting, "Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar's ancestors hailed from Buxar, Bihar. Kamala ji herself has visited the village. People consider her a daughter of Bihar."

The Prime Minister also shared a symbolic moment when he spoke of bringing water from this year's Mahakumbh, the world's largest spiritual gathering, to offer to the Ganga River in Trinidad.

Trump boasts effectiveness of airstrikes on Iranian sites, says they pushed Tehran to talks

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, JULY 4

US President Donald Trump, boasting the effectiveness of the US military's airstrikes on June 22 on Iranian nuclear sites said today that Washington's attacks on Iran had effectively ended the hostile rhetoric being peddled from Tehran, pushing the country towards talks.

"We just did a really great job. And then, of course, you cap it off with the hit, the perfect hit in Iran, where they were talking awfully badly, you know, death to America, death to Israel. They were talking awfully badly," Trump said at a rally in Des Moines, Iowa, reports Iran International.

"They're not talking badly anymore, to be honest with you. And we might even meet with them and see," he added.



"They want to meet, they want to meet, and we'll see if we can do something. But they want to meet. I think they want to meet very badly."

Earlier in the day, Trump told reporters at Joint Base Andrews that "Iran does want to speak. And I think they'd like to speak to me. And it's time that they do."

"We're not looking to hurt them. We're looking to let them be a country

again. They got beat up and, you know, they were both exhausted, frankly. But Iran really got beat up. And I think they want to meet. I mean, I know they want to meet. And if it's necessary, I'll do it."

Trump made the remarks after his phone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin, where the two sides discussed Iran and Ukraine,

though not much settlement has been made on that issue, Trump said later.

Washington also intensified its economic attack on Iran, with the US Treasury imposing strong sanctions on Thursday against a network that it claimed smuggles Iranian oil disguised as Iraqi oil and, on a Hezbollah-controlled financial institution.

The Treasury Department alleged that a network of companies run by Iraqi-British national Salim Ahmed Said, had been buying and shipping billions of dollars worth of Iranian oil disguised as, or blended with, Iraqi oil since at least 2020, the department said.

They were the first round of sanctions imposed against Iran following the US and Israeli strikes against Iranian military and nuclear facilities, post the ongoing ceasefire.

Naveen flays BJP MLA's remarks against BJD woman leader

AGENCIES
BHUBANESWAR, JULY 4

BJD chief Naveen Patnaik has strongly condemned the remarks made by BJP MLA Santosh Khatua against senior BJD leader Lekhashree Samantasinghar, calling them "deeply disturbing and unacceptable."

Taking to his social media platform X, Patnaik said, "Publicly defaming a woman as a political response reflects a sick mentality and is aimed at silencing women in public life. This sends a message that all women should remain silent."

The leader of Opposition in the Odisha Assem-



blly further stated, "What is even more disheartening is the complete silence of BJP leaders. Not a single member has come forward to condemn the MLA's hateful comment or hold him accountable."

Patnaik added that the lack of response from the ruling party reflects its true stance on women in

public life. "Before offering advice on women's empowerment, political leaders must first learn the basic principle of respecting women," he said.

Terming the remarks as "extremely unbearable and inhumane," Patnaik noted that such language from an elected representative has brought Odisha's political discourse to a new low.

He appealed to all conscious citizens of Odisha to recognize the true nature of those with such anti-women and regressive mindsets who have entered the State Assembly.

"Let us stand united, regardless of political affiliation, to oppose this

behavior and demand accountability. Otherwise, we will fail our daughters and mothers as a society," the BJD supremo said.

The controversy erupted after BJP MLA from Nilgiri, Santosh Khatua, allegedly made derogatory remarks recently against BJD leader Lekhashree Samantasinghar. The remarks have sparked widespread outrage, with BJD leaders demanding a public apology from both Khatua and Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

Opposition chief whip Pramila Mallik also condemned the remark, calling them "an attack on women's participation in politics."

NASA discovers new interstellar visitor some 420 million miles from Earth

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, JULY 4

In a major celestial discovery, NASA has located a new interstellar comet that's currently located about 420 million miles (675 million km) away from Earth.

The space agency spotted the quick-moving object with the Atlas telescope in Chile on July 2 and confirmed it was a comet from another star system. The new interstellar comet's official name is 3I/ATLAS, reports CBS News.

The newly discovered comet is the third known interstellar object to pass

through our solar system, and has been said to pose no threat to Earth. The other two interstellar objects were 2I/Borisov, reported in 2019, and Oumuamua in 2017.

"These things take millions of years to go from one stellar neighborhood to another, so this thing has likely been traveling through space for hundreds of millions of years, even billions of years," Paul Chodas, director of NASA's Center for Near Earth Object Studies, said yesterday. "We don't know, and so we can't predict which star it came from."

The 3I/ATLAS is said to

be over 416 million miles (669 million km) from the sun, out near Jupiter, and heading this way at a blistering 37 miles (59.5 km) per second.

NASA said the comet will make its closest approach to the sun in late October, scooting between the orbits of Mars and Earth – but closer to the red planet than Earth at a safe distance of 150 million miles (241 million km).

Space agencies worldwide are currently monitoring the icy snowball that's been officially designated as 3I/Atlas, trying to determine its size and shape.

Chodas said there have been more than 100 observations since its discovery, with preliminary reports of a tail and a cloud of gas and dust around the comet's nucleus.

NASA said 3I/ATLAS should remain visible to telescopes through September, but then it will pass too close to the sun to observe. It is expected to reappear on the other side of the sun by early December, allowing for renewed observations.

Based on its brightness, the comet appears to be bigger than the first two interstellar interlopers, possibly several miles across, Chodas said.

NIA raids communication centre in McLeodganj over suspected hawala links

AGENCIES
DHARAMSHALA, JULY 4

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) today carried out an early morning raid at a communication centre located on Naoroji Road, Ward No. 4, in McLeodganj, Dharamshala.

The NIA team is conducting an in-depth probe into the bank accounts and documents of the owner of the communication centre, located near the Dalai Lama Temple Road.

Confirming the raid, Kangra SSP Shalini Agnihotri said the action was taken in connection with suspected hawala transactions linked to illegal immigration activities. She said NIA officials are thoroughly examining the suspect's bank accounts, financial dealings, and property records. She said that NIA was here in connection with a case registered at Chandigarh.

NDA is best place to install statue of warrior Bajirao Peshwa: Amit Shah



AGENCIES
PUNE, JULY 4

Union Home Minister Amit Shah today said that National Defence Academy (NDA) is the best place for installing the statue of great warrior, Bajirao Peshwa.

Shah was speaking at a gathering after unveiling the statue of Thorle Bajirao Peshwa within the NDA premises. "Peshwa was entrusted with the title by Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj at the age of just nineteen. He transformed Swarajya into an empire," Shah said.

"Bajirao Peshwa fought 41 wars in his 20-year

tenure and won all of them. I don't think any other warrior has such a history", Shah said.

The war strategy of the great Bajirao Peshwa is timeless, he said. "If we study it and decide our strategy, no one will look at India with an evil eye", said Union Home Minister.

He said Punyanagari (Pune) is the land of heroes. "Lokmanya Tilak gave the first call to fight against the British for freedom from Pune. Veer Savarkar showed how much a single person can do for the country," he added.

Three killed as two lorries collide, catch fire in Telangana

AGENCIES
MAHABUBABAD
(TELANGANA), JULY 4

Three people were burnt alive after two lorries collided and caught fire on National Highway 563 near Kudiyaithanda in Maripeda mandal of Mahabubabad district in the early hours of Friday.

According to police, the fatal accident occurred past midnight when two lorries – one transporting granite from Vijayawada to Gujarat and the other carrying fish meal from Warangal to Andhra Pradesh – crashed into each other. The impact of the collision led to both vehicles bursting into flames.

By the time fire brigade personnel and police reached the spot, the blaze had engulfed both lorries. Despite efforts to douse the flames, all three occupants – two drivers and a cleaner – were charred to death.

Formulation of PRI and BDC Plan under District Capex Budget 2025-26 discussed in Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 4

To ensure effective and inclusive planning under the District Capex Budget 2025-26, a meeting was today convened under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch, Vikas Kundal to review and discuss the formulation of the PRI and BDC plans for the upcoming financial year.

During the meeting, the DDC directed the concerned officers to ensure that the PRI plans are formulated after thorough grassroots-level consultations, particularly through the conduct of Gram Sabhas. He emphasized the importance of community participation in identifying priority works that are feasible, need-based and impactful.

The DDC further



stressed that the proposed works should be technically sound and source-oriented with special emphasis on sectors such as water conservation, installation of solar lighting systems, setting up of smart classrooms and projects pro-

moting environmental and financial sustainability. He added that the selection of works must aim to benefit the maximum number of people and should be completed within the stipulated time frame.

The DDC underlined

the need for timely and optimal utilization of funds and directed the departments to align the proposed projects with the broader goals of equitable development across the district. He called for a focused and integrated approach to ensure that the schemes and interventions reach every corner of the district, especially remote and underserved areas.

The meeting witnessed the presence of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Assistant Commissioner Panchayats (ACP), Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Executive Engineer REW and other officers. Block Development Officers (BDOs) from across the district participated in the meeting virtually.

DC Doda chairs preparatory meeting for Formulation of District Capex Budget 2025-26

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JULY 4

A preparatory meeting was convened to formulate the District Capex Budget 2025-26 under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, Harvinder Singh, at the DC Office Complex, Doda. The meeting aimed to discuss and finalize the developmental works and priorities for the district, ensuring that the planning process is need-based, inclusive, and equitable.

Chief Planning Officer, Manesh Kumar Manhas gave a brief PowerPoint presentation about the plan formulation of the District Capex Budget 2025-26.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Doda, Din Mohammad Afaq; Assistant Commissioner Panchayats (ACP) Doda, Mushraf Haff; Block Development Officers (BDOs) of various blocks; and representatives from different line departments.

The primary focus of the meeting was to fill the gaps in infrastructure development and adopt indicators-based planning in aspirational blocks and panchayats, prioritizing works as per the gaps and needs of the area in consultation with different stake-



holders at the panchayat and block levels.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the prioritization of works in different blocks. The DC directed the BDOs to include proposals for the construction of Anganwadi centres, school buildings, health centres, power infrastructure, water supply schemes and road connectivity in uncovered areas of their respective jurisdictions.

The DC emphasized that all plans should be based on lessons learned from the previous years' performance, incorporating both the strengths and weaknesses observed. He underscored that planning must reflect the actual and real needs of communities, ensure transparency and promote equitable development across all panchayats and blocks in the district.

He directed the BDOs to draft their aspirational block-level plans themselves, in consultation with local stakeholders, ensuring active community participation and ownership of the process across all indicators. This, he said, would help fill the gaps and bring these blocks at par with other blocks in the district.

The DC highlighted the need to give priority to backward and underserved areas, with special focus on aspirational panchayats and blocks to reduce disparities. He stressed the importance of ensuring convergence of different government schemes and resources to avoid duplication of efforts and wastage of funds.

Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025: DC visits Poonch town; reviews necessary arrangements

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 04

In a proactive move to ensure smooth and hassle-free conduct of the upcoming Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025, the Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal today undertook a comprehensive town visit to assess and review the preparedness of the administration and allied departments.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Executive Officer Municipal Committee, Tehsildar Haveli and officers from various line departments. Members of the Yatra Management Committee



also joined the inspection.

During the visit, the DC inspected lodgement and facilitation centers, including College Ground, Government Degree College Poonch, ITI, Shri Dashnami Akhara Poonch. He also took stock of the facilities for the Yatris.

The DC emphasized the need for inter-departmental coordination and directed the line depart-

ments and nodal officers to ensure the provision of drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, medical aid, first aid stations, sanitation, mobile toilets, traffic, security, parking and lodging facilities and availability of langars.

The DC stressed upon creating a pilgrim-friendly atmosphere, ensuring cleanliness and hygiene

besides providing round-the-clock assistance to the devotees.

The DC reaffirmed the administration's commitment to making this spiritual journey a peaceful, secure, and memorable experience for all pilgrims. He urged all stakeholders to remain vigilant and ensure that every requirement of the Yatra is addressed well in time.

DC Doda chairs CLU meeting, approves 3 cases

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JULY 4

Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, today chaired a meeting of the Change of Land Use (CLU) Committee at the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Doda, to review and assess the status of pending and new CLU cases in the district. The meeting aimed to streamline the process of land use conversion while ensuring compliance with legal and environmental norms.

The meeting was attended by ADC Doda Anil Kumar Thakur, ADC Bhaderwah Sunil Bhutyal, ACR Doda Ashraf Pervez, DFO Doda, Tehsildar Doda, Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Amjad Hussain, Tehsildars, and representatives from the Revenue Department.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of inter-departmental coordination for timely disposal of CLU cases and instructed departments to provide clear, factual reports on



each application to avoid unnecessary delays.

During the meeting, a detailed review of several pending and new CLU applications was conducted. Each case was examined with respect to its feasibility, compliance with land laws impact on agricultural productivity, forest cover and infrastructural requirements such as power supply and road connectivity. After this detailed review, 3 CLU cases were approved, while the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to expedite verification of remaining cases, ensure that land under cultivation or falling within protected forests

is not converted without proper justification, and maintain transparency in granting permissions.

The Deputy Commissioner also emphasized the need to sensitize applicants about the documentation and procedures involved in obtaining CLU approval.

He directed revenue officials to organize awareness sessions at tehsil and block levels to guide landowners. Further, he advised the Agriculture Department to assess the impact of proposed conversions on local food security, and the Forest Department to ensure that no encroachments on forest land occur under the guise of CLU.

SHEW Shopian organises awareness camp at Chitragam

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, JULY 4

Awareness programme under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao was organized today by Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW), Mission Shakti Shopian at Chitragam under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative.

The programme commenced with an address by the District Mission Coordinator, Sankalp Hub, who sensitized the gathering about the crucial need for educating the girl child and ensuring her empowerment in all spheres of life.

Highlighting the socio-economic benefits of girls' education, coordinator emphasized how an empowered girl becomes the foundation of a strong and progressive society.

Gender Specialist delivered a powerful and thought-provoking talk on gender inequality, its his-



torical roots, and its present-day implications. She stressed the urgent need for collective community efforts to break the cycle of discrimination and to create an enabling environment where girls are celebrated, educated, and empowered.

As part of the outreach and mobilization activities, the programme featured a pledge ceremony, where all participants took an oath to uphold the rights and dignity of the girl child and to work collectively for gender justice. This was followed by a BBBP awareness rally across Chitragam, with partici-

pants holding placards and raising slogans in support of girls' rights and equal opportunities.

To further strengthen the visibility of the campaign, BBBP stickers were pasted at prominent public locations, including community halls, market areas, and educational institutions, carrying strong messages about saving and educating the girl child.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from ASHA workers, NRLM Self Help Group (SHG) members, the Panchayat Secretary, and numerous local residents.

DC, SSP Rajouri review arrangements for Annual Urs of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah (RA) at Shahdara Sharief Shrine

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JULY 4

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma and Senior Superintendent of Police, Gaurav Sikarwar today jointly chaired a review meeting at the revered Shahdara Sharief Shrine to finalize arrangements for the upcoming Annual Urs of Hazrat Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah (RA), scheduled to be observed on 5th and 6th July 2025.

The meeting focused on ensuring seamless arrangements for the thousands of devotees expected to arrive from different parts of the country to pay obeisance at the shrine.

A comprehensive review was held on key components including transport and traffic regulation, power supply, drinking water, sanitation, security deployment and other necessary facilities to facilitate a smooth and spiritually



enriching experience for the pilgrims.

The Deputy Commissioner directed concerned departments to work in close coordination and ensure round-the-clock availability of essential services. He emphasized the need for cleanliness in and around the shrine premises, timely garbage clearance, uninterrupted power supply and installation of adequate drinking water points. He also stressed on crowd management measures and adequate signage for the convenience of the devotees.

The SSP took stock of the security and traffic management plan. He

instructed the deployment of sufficient police personnel to regulate vehicular movement and maintain law and order during the event.

The DC urged all stakeholders to work in synergy to ensure that the Annual Urs is celebrated peacefully, with proper facilities and security arrangements in place for all attendees.

The meeting was attended by SDM Thanamandi Abid Hussain, SDPO Thanamandi, ACD Rajouri Auqil Naveed, Administrator Waqf Rajouri Qayoom Mir, Tehsildar Thanamandi, Executive Engineers of PDD, PHE and other district and sectoral officers.

Power Shutdown

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 4

According to the Chief Engineer, KPDC, in order to carry out completion of balance work and test charging of evacuation of power from 150 MVA GIS Grid Station at Tengpora through UG Cable circuit upto Allochibagh Bund (Part D), shutdown of 33KV GIS Tengpora Narkara line, 33 KV GIS Tengpora Danderkha line, 33 KV GIS Tengpora KP Bagh line and 33 KV GIS Tengpora Exhibition line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Station at Danderkha shall remain off while power supply to Danderkha, SD Colony, Tengpora, Gulberg Colony will be affected from 06:00 AM to 01:00 PM on 7 July, 2025.

To facilitate Shifting of ACSR Conductor on newly erected 11 mtr poles feeding Receiving Station Sidiq Colony, shutdown of 33KV Amargarh Sopore line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Station at Sidiq Colony shall remain off while power supply to Model Town, Noorbagh Hospital, Kapra and adjoining areas will be affected from 08:00 AM to 01:00 PM on 10 July, 2025.

Power shutdown

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 4

Chief Engineer, (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Trikuta Nagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on July 06 from 7 am to 9 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Dachhan, Ikhala and adjoining areas will remain affected on July 05 from 7 am to 4 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Jakh, Sarore, Bari Brahmama town and Bari-Brahmana Industrial areas will remain affected on July 07 from 5.30 am to 9.30 am.

Similarly, the power supply to the areas fed from Gladni Grid Station on rotational basis will remain affected on July 05 and 06 from 10 am to 6 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Vijaypur Town, Kolpur, Bandral and its adjoining areas will remain affected on July 06 from 6 am to 1 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Industrial area of Bari Brahmama, EPIP Kartholi and adjoining areas will remain affected on July 06 from 7 am to 9 am.

Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer, (Distribution) JPDCL O&M Circle, Kathua has informed that the power supply to Kelhi and adjoining areas will remain affected on July 05, 07 and 08 from 7.30 am to 11 am.