

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Severe and continuous headache
- Diarrhoea
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Steady but painless or mild, brief aches, pains or itches
- Redness

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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India announces Rs 4,850 cr LoC for Maldives; Modi says ties between two neighbours as deep as ocean

JI NEWS SERVICE
MALE, JUL 25

India on Friday announced a Rs 4,850 crore line of credit for the Maldives and agreed to finalise a free trade deal soon, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasising that New Delhi is proud to be the "most trusted" friend of the Indian Ocean archipelago.

New Delhi also decided to reduce the Maldives' annual debt repayment obligations by 40 per cent (from USD 51 million to 29 million), seen as a significant move to help the country deal with its economic woes.

These measures were announced after PM Modi held extensive talks with Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu that focused on deepening



bilateral cooperation in a range of areas, including trade, defence and maritime security.

The two sides sealed six pacts in the fields of fisheries and aquaculture, meteorology, digital public infrastructure, UPI, Indian pharmacopoeia, and for

India's concessional line of credit to the island nation. "For us, it is always friendship first," Modi said in his media statement, adding the "roots of our relations are older than history, and as deep as the ocean." The outcomes of the Modi-Muizzu talks sig-

nalled a major turnaround in the relationship after a spell of unease and tension. The renewed intensity in the ties assumes significance as Muizzu came to power in November 2023 on the back of an "India Out" campaign.

India-Maldives friendship will always "remain bright and clear" irrespective of any circumstances, the prime minister said, outlining his vision for the relationship.

To give a new momentum to our development partnership, we have decided to give a line of credit of USD 565 million (Rs 4,850 crore) to Maldives, Modi said.

This amount will be used for projects related to the development of infrastructure in the Maldives, in accordance with the

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'Operation Sindoor' still underway, armed forces maintaining tight vigil: CDS Chauhan

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUL 25 (KNO)

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Friday said that 'Operation Sindoor' is still underway and the armed forces are maintaining a tight vigil and high level of preparedness.

Speaking at a defence seminar here, General Chauhan, according to the news agency said, "The military response against terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) is an ongoing process. Forces are maintaining a high level of preparedness at all times to counter any potential action from across the border."

Termining 'Operation Sindoor' as an example of India's military strength, he said, "There are no runners-up in war."

"Since Operation Sindoor was carried out,



our security forces have remained on high alert. A high-level alert remains in place across forward posts, with drones and radars deployed for round-the-clock surveillance," the CDS said.

Pertinently, the Indian Armed Forces launched 'Operation Sindoor' on May 6, 2025, in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 civilians dead.

The armed forces destroyed over nine terror camps operated by Jaish-

e-Mohammed (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror outfits in Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK).

According to the officials, over 100 terrorists were killed in the strikes. In response, Pakistan launched missile and drone attacks on Indian military installations between May 8 and 10. India conducted counter-strikes during the same period, targeting Pakistani military bases.

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Delhi High Court issues notice to NIA in Er Rashid case, arguments scheduled for July 29

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

In the legal battle surrounding incarcerated Member Parliament from Baramulla and President of Awami Itihaad Party (AIP) Engineer Rashid, the Delhi High Court on Friday issued notice to the SSP of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) over the imposition of exorbitant travel expenses on the elected MP for attending the complete ongoing session of Parliament.

The matter pertains to the daily Rs 1.45 lakh travel and security charges being levied on Er Rashid, despite his constitutional right and privilege as an elected public representative to participate in parliamentary proceedings.

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SPO injured in accidental fire

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 25

A Personal Security Officer (PSO) of former MLA and Apni Party leader Ashraf Mir was injured in an alleged accidental firing incident in Srinagar today, officials said.

They said the policeman identified as Mehraj-ud-din sustained a bullet injury during routine handling of firearms at the residence of Apni Party leader Mir in Srinagar.

The injured PSO was rushed to a nearby hospital, where his condition is stated to be stable.

Officials said an inquiry has been initiated to ascertain the exact circumstances that led to the misfire.

Agniveer killed, 2 injured in Poonch landmine blast



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 25 (KNO)

An Agniveer died while two others were injured in a landmine blast in the Krishna Ghati sector of the Poonch district, officials said on Friday.

An official told the news agency that the incident happened when a team of the Army was on a routine patrol near their forward post.

He said that while patrolling, the soldiers accidentally stepped on a

landmine, resulting in the death of a soldier and injuries to two others.

Meanwhile, Army White Knight Corps paid tribute to the deceased soldier. "All ranks pay solemn tribute to Agniveer Lalit Kumar of 7 JAT Regiment, who made the supreme sacrifice, while on an area domination patrol in general area of Krishna Ghati brigade on 25 July 2025, following a mine blast. We stand with the bereaved family in this hour of grief," it said in a post on X.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid tribute to Agniveer Lalit Kumar of 7 JAT Regiment, who laid down his life in the line of duty.

"I pay my heartfelt tributes to Agniveer Lalit Kumar, who made the supreme sacrifice in service to the nation.

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CM chairs 22nd Board Meeting of Building & Construction Workers Welfare Board



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 25 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired the 22nd meeting of the Jammu & Kashmir Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (JKBOCWBB) here at the Civil Secretariat.

The aim of the meeting was to comprehensively review the implementation of various welfare measures and approve key initiatives aimed at

improving the quality of life for construction workers and their families across Jammu and Kashmir.

Appreciating the strides made by the Board, the Chief Minister lauded its efforts in expanding welfare coverage to over 2.85 lakh active construction workers.

He underscored the importance of transparent, timely and targeted delivery of benefits and directed officials to widen

the outreach mechanisms, streamline application procedures, and ensure that no eligible worker is excluded from availing the Board's benefits.

The Chief Minister also called for a broader and more inclusive definition of 'construction worker' to bring within the fold all vulnerable and unorganized sector labourers.

He urged the Board to explore policy mechanisms that would

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LG, Deputy Chief of Army Staff discuss security scenario in J&K



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 25 (KNO)

Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy) and Director General Military

Operations (DGMO) called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, today and discussed the prevailing security scenario in the UT of Jammu Kashmir. KNO

ACB arrests Patwari for accepting bribe in Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 25 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday said to have trapped and arrested a Patwari from Patwar Halqa Dansal, Jammu for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 20,000.

A spokesman in a statement issued to the news agency, said that Jammu and Kashmir Anti Corruption Bureau received a complaint alleging therein that public servant namely Chuni Lal, Patwari Patwar Halqa Dansal, demanded illegal gratification from the complainant for providing demarcation report.

"The accused Chuni Lal, Patwari, Patwar Halqa Dansal, demanded the bribe amounting to Rs 1,00,000 from the complainant for providing report of demarcation

and after negotiation, the accused Chuni Lal has agreed to receive Rs 75,000 and demanded 1st installment of Rs 25,000 as bribe. However, the complainant could not arrange Rs 25,000 as 1st installment and instead he managed to arrange Rs 20,000 only," the spokesman said.

"Since, the complainant didn't want to pay a bribe he approached ACB for taking legal action against the accused public servant under law," he added.

On receipt of the complaint, a discreet verification was conducted, which corroborated the demand of bribe by the public servant concerned and accordingly, a case FIR No. 15/2025 U/S 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 was registered in Police Station ACB Jammu and investigation

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Ladakh has unique tourism potential: LG Gupta

JI NEWS SERVICE
LADAKH, JUL 25 (KNO)

Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Kavinder Gupta on Thursday said that Ladakh is a "unique region in the world" with immense potential for tourism and development.

During his visit to Shar-gol, Gupta said he had travelled through several areas and found the region to be rich in opportunities. "There is great scope and potential for tourism here," he said as per the news agency, urging the youth of Ladakh to explore livelihood options that align with the region's strengths.

He also said that access to water, electricity, and roads is the right and responsibility of every citizen. "The people of Ladakh are good and patriotic," Gupta said while



expressing confidence that the development goals can be achieved through collective efforts.

Speaking about local governance, the Lieutenant Governor noted that the administration has been engaging with the people of Ladakh for over a week and is studying their concerns.

He said ongoing discussions with representative bodies like the Apex Body

(APEC) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), which have been vocal about their demand for statehood.

"The demands of the people of Ladakh will be met," Gupta said, adding that the Government of India has been working on every issue raised by the region's residents. "We have met the demands of the people of Ladakh," he added. KNO

Amarnath Yatra Over 8,000 perform Darshan today, tally crosses 3.60 lakh

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 25 (KNO)

Amid tight security and spiritual fervour, 8,181 pilgrims performed darshan at the revered Amarnath cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas on Friday, taking the cumulative tally to 3,60,320 since the commencement of the yatra on July 3.

An official informed the news agency that among the devotees who visited the holy cave on the 23rd day of the annual pilgrimage were 6,326 men, 1,264 women, 84 children, 56 sadhus, 3 sadhis, and 448 security personnel.

The sacred ice Shivalingam inside the cave shrine, located at an altitude of 3,880 metres, continues to attract dev-

otees from across India and abroad. However, in recent days, there has been a noticeable dip in the number of daily pilgrims undertaking the trek.

From the Jammu base camp, the 23rd batch of 2,896 pilgrims—comprising 2,505 men and 314 women—left early Friday morning under multi-layered security arrangements. The convoy included 117 vehicles escorted by CRPF and police personnel.

According to officials, the first group of 790 pilgrims in 42 vehicles proceeded via the Baltal route in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. The second group, consisting of 2,106 yatis in

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ACB arrests Patwari for Batote for accepting bribe

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 25 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday said to have trapped and arrested Ashok Kumar, Patwari, Patwar Halqa Batote for demanding & accepting bribe of Rs 40,000.

"Jammu & Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau, received a complaint alleging therein that the complainant want to register his name on ancestral land after the death of his father. In this regard, complainant applied for registration of virasati intiqal on ancestral land and the concerned Patwari namely Ashok Kumar has demanded bribe of Rs 50,000 for registration of Virasati Intiqal and after negotiation, he agreed on Rs 40,000," a

CONTINUED ON ►► PAGE 4

DC Srinagar Hands over Sanction Letters to Mission YUVA Beneficiaries for Setting Up Self-Employment Units, 200 sanction letters issued

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 25

In a significant move towards youth empowerment and promoting self-reliance, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, today handed over Sanction Letters to the beneficiaries of Mission YUVA initiative aimed to support entrepreneurs in establishing self-employment generating units in the district.

In this regard, an event was organized at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex which was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Srinagar, Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Divisional Head J&K Bank, Shabir Ahmad Bhat, Zonal Head J&K Bank, Raja Zaffar Khan, Deputy Director Employment, Dr Sheeba Inayat, DSWO, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, LDM(Banks), Nilofer Jan, Heads of various J&K Bank Business Units and other concerned, alongside a large number of Mission YUVA beneficiaries from different parts of the Srinagar



District.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner handed over the 201 sanction letters to aspiring entrepreneurs under Mission YUVA initiative whose proposals had been approved after thorough evaluation by the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) marking a significant moment in the district administration's efforts to empower youth through sustainable self-employment ventures and foster economic growth by enabling youth to earn their livelihood in a dignified manner.

Speaking on the occasion, DC underlined that the Administration is working hard to create a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem in Srinagar District. He urged upon expeditious disposal of all Mission YUVA cases so that maximum benefits reach

the aspiring entrepreneurs swiftly.

He emphasized that the scheme is designed in a clear cut manner for easy access, enabling beneficiaries to receive benefits in a hassle free mode directly without unnecessary visits to different Government Offices.

The DC also commended the inter-departmental cooperation involving DIC, Employment, JKEDI, NRLM, and Banks to facilitate quick processing of cases & sanctioning and credit disbursement. He stated that the progress achieved in Srinagar is a promising sign for promoting self-employment and boosting the local economy by generating jobs.

The senior Officers of Jammu & Kashmir Bank while speaking on the occasion, described the "Mission YUVA a unique flagship programme

launched by the Government that has witnessed support of entire government machinery right from the conception to implementation to ensure that youth can avail maximum benefits without hassles. They assured that the Bank will make every possible effort to make the Mission YUVA a success initiative to empower youth through sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Pertinent to mention that, the Jammu & Kashmir Bank today organized multiple Login Day events titled as 'Roz-e-YUVA' in Kashmir and 'Udyami YUVA Day' across Jammu & Kashmir. These events were aimed at handing over loan sanction letters to Mission YUVA beneficiaries to help them establish their own ventures. Such Login Day events will be conducted on a weekly basis throughout the Mission YUVA period.

Earlier, Deputy Director Employment noted the enthusiastic response from the district's youth to Mission YUVA, which aims to empower them through self-employment opportunities.

Bhaskar Degree College students complete 10-Day summer internship at JKEDI Udhampur

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 25

A batch of 20 students from Bhaskar Degree College Udhampur successfully completed the 10-day Summer Internship Program at the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), District Centre Udhampur on Thursday.

The internship, conducted in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, was designed to develop entrepreneurial thinking, research aptitude, and teamwork skills among students. As part of the program, the interns were introduced to the core functions and objectives of JKEDI and were exposed to various verticals of the Institute that



promote entrepreneurship as a viable career option in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Spanning 60 hours over 10 days, the program provided hands-on exposure to key concepts in entrepreneurial development, startup culture, and enterprise creation. It featured a combination of interactive

lectures, practical assignments, field visits, and expert sessions delivered by JKEDI faculty and guest speakers from the regional startup ecosystem.

The internship culminated with a valedictory ceremony held at the JKEDI District Centre, Udhampur. Mohinder Kumar Sharma, Deputy Director, Employ-

ment, Udhampur, attended the session as the Chief Guest. He congratulated the students on the successful completion of the program and urged them to pursue their entrepreneurial goals with passion, discipline, and confidence.

The internship was conducted by a team of expert faculty members under the overall supervision of the Director JKEDI.

The institute continues to organize such internship programs across the Union Territory as part of its mission to foster entrepreneurship and promote self-employment among youth. These initiatives aim to bridge the gap between academic learning and its practical application in the entrepreneurial landscape.

Hokersar Wetland doing overwhelmingly better with impactful habitat interventions during recent past: Department of Wildlife Protection refutes misleading claims

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 25

In the wake of a recent article published in the Daily Excelsior on 23rd July 2025 titled "World Famous Hokersar Water Body Facing Grave Encroachment Threat", the Department of Wildlife Protection, Jammu & Kashmir Government, has issued a detailed clarification, categorically denying the allegations of ongoing or unchecked encroachment in the Hokersar Wetland.

Designated as a Ramsar Site of international importance and notified under the Wildlife Protection Act, Hokersar Wetland remains one of the most ecologically vital freshwater marshes in the Kashmir Valley. The department has reaffirmed that no fresh encroachments have occurred in the wetland in recent years and that strict protection mechanisms are in place, including GIS-mapped boundary surveillance, regular field patrolling and active legal enforcement where necessary.

According to official

sources, the wetland spans 13.54 square kilometres and has been fully delineated in the department's KML-based geospatial records. While the department acknowledges the presence of some legacy cultivation practices in fringe areas, particularly seasonal paddy farming, these activities are being systematically curtailed through notices, legal proceedings and ecological interventions as per provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

In response to disputes raised at certain points with regard to the demarcation exercise conducted in 2019-20, a joint demarcation committee was constituted by the Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Budgam and an Electronic Total Station (ETS) survey was carried out to scientifically resolve the contested boundaries. The final authenticated report from the Revenue Department is awaited and coordination is ongoing to ensure the full legal validation of the wetland's boundaries.

One of the most sig-

nificant ecological breakthroughs has come through hydrological regulation. The construction of inlet and outlet regulatory gates by the Irrigation and Flood Control Department has led to a remarkable rise in water levels, reportedly the highest in the last two decades. This natural flooding has resulted in inundation of fringe lands, automatically displacing historic cultivation and acting as a passive yet highly effective deterrent to any unauthorized use.

The increased water retention is also contributing to broader habitat restoration objectives outlined in the Integrated Management Action Plan (IMAP) 2022-27.

A senior official from the department emphasized that the media report in question fails to differentiate between the historical land-use patterns and actual encroachments, thereby misrepresenting the ground reality. "The wetland is under enhanced legal, ecological, and administrative protection. Misleading reports not

only demoralize field staff but also shift public attention away from tangible restoration efforts," the official noted.

The Department of Wildlife Protection strongly reiterated its commitment towards safeguarding the Hokersar Wetland and ensuring its rejuvenation in accordance with international conservation standards. However, it also made an earnest appeal for responsible journalism.

"We urge media outlets to verify facts with official sources before issuing sweeping claims that lack field validation. Misinformation undermines years of conservation work and can erode public trust. In the spirit of transparency and accountability, we expect media platforms to uphold ethical standards and refrain from publishing speculative or alarmist content," the department stated.

The department has expressed readiness to facilitate media field visits, to ensure that the public remains accurately informed.

Rajouri Admin, ALIMCO organise Special Camp for Left-Out PwDs and Senior Citizens

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JULY 25

The District Administration Rajouri in collaboration with Artificial Limb Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) today organised a special registration camp for left-out Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and Senior Citizens at Dak Bungalow Rajouri.

The camp was inaugurated by Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Rajouri, Advocate Naseem Liaqat. He lauded the efforts of the Social Welfare Department and the district administration for reaching out to the most vulnerable sections of society.

The District Social



Welfare Officer (DSWO) Abdul Raheem briefed the Chairperson and attendees about the objective of the camp. He informed that the initiative aims to identify and register left-out eligible beneficiaries under the government-sponsored social security and welfare schemes, such as pension schemes, UDID cards, and assistive aids support.

A number of beneficiaries from different parts of the district participated in the camp and were regis-

tered on the spot. The officials also facilitated on-site documentation, provided information about available welfare schemes, and extended assistance in application processing.

The Chairperson interacted with the attendees and assured them of the administration's commitment to inclusive development and ensuring that no eligible citizen is left out of government support mechanisms.

The camp witnessed

participation from field functionaries of the Social Welfare Department and representatives from allied departments who facilitated the smooth conduct of the event.

The District Administration reiterated its commitment to hold more such camps in other parts of the district through the Social welfare department along with ALIMCO to cover all left-out beneficiaries and ensure equitable access to welfare entitlements.

Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra: MLA Jammu East, JMC Commissioner inaugurate open shed at Sri Ram Mandir Purani Mandi for pilgrims

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 25

Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Jammu East Yudhvir Sethi and Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Dr. Devansh Yadav today inaugurated a newly constructed open shed on the rooftop of the historic Sri Ram Mandir located at Purani Mandi.

The open shed constructed at a cost of Rs. 44.51 lakh is a significant move to enhance facilities for devotees and yatis. The facility has been developed as part of a comprehensive infrastructure initiative titled "Construction of Bathing cum Toilet Blocks including Construction of Open Shed at Roof Top", funded under the SANJY (Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra) Project. The facility has been designed to provide shelter and basic amenities to Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims.

Appreciating the JMC's



commitment to create enhanced civic infrastructure around religious and heritage locations, Yudhvir Sethi said that such facilities are crucial to support Jammu's role as a key base station for the Yatra and reaffirmed the government's dedication to pilgrims' welfare.

Emphasizing the importance of such infrastructure in order to meet out the needs of yatis arriving from different parts of the country, the JMC Commissioner Dr. Yadav said the

open shed will offer a dignified, clean, and sheltered resting space for devotees staying at Sri Ram Mandir en-route to the holy Amarnath Cave Shrine.

To mark the occasion, Prasad was distributed among the devotees staying at the temple premises by the dignitaries, symbolizing communal harmony, service and hospitality extended to the visiting yatis.

Mahant Shri Rameshwar Dass Ji Maharaj, the spiritual head of Sri Ram

Mandir, extended his heartfelt gratitude to both dignitaries for their presence and support. He remarked that the open shed was a much-needed addition, especially beneficial during high footfall periods such as Ram Navami, Diwali, and the Amarnath Yatra.

The inauguration ceremony saw enthusiastic participation from temple Committee members, JMC officials and citizens from surrounding areas. The new structure is expected to significantly improve accommodation and convenience for visiting pilgrims. This initiative is yet another step by the Jammu Municipal Corporation toward inclusive urban development, focusing on cultural, spiritual, and public welfare infrastructure that directly benefits the people.

Among others, Executive Engineer Div-I Rajesh Kumar, large number of locals and yatis were present on the occasion.

Budha Amarnath Yatra

DC Rajouri inspects arrangements at Yatri Ground, chairs review meeting

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JULY 25

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today conducted an extensive inspection of the arrangements being put in place here at Yatri Ground for the Budha Amarnath Yatra pilgrims. He also chaired a review meeting at the venue to ensure seamless coordination among departments and timely completion of all preparations.

The Deputy Commissioner took stock of key facilities including water supply, uninterrupted power supply, sanitation and the installation of bio-toilets. He directed for separate signages for male and female facilities to ensure convenience and orderliness for the yatis.

Special emphasis was laid on the fire safety audit of the venue. The concerned officers were



instructed to ensure all precautionary measures are taken and necessary equipment is placed at strategic locations.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed pruning of trees in and around the venue area to avoid any safety hazards. The availability of ambulances, deployment of medical teams, preparation of duty rosters, and deployment of AYUSH instructors were also reviewed to ensure robust health and wellness support to the pilgrims.

The BRO has been

assigned the responsibility to maintain roads and ensure the Nowshera tunnel remains operational during the daytime, which is vital for smooth transportation.

To maintain traffic flow, the Traffic Police will regulate vehicular movement and oversee parking arrangements. The SDRF teams will be deployed at designated locations to respond swiftly in case of any emergency situations.

Furthermore, the Department of Tourism was directed to install informa-

tive and welcome hoardings at prominent locations.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed upon all departments to work in close coordination and complete all assigned tasks well before the scheduled date of the Yatra to ensure a safe, comfortable and spiritually fulfilling experience for the pilgrims.

Among others present during the inspection and review meeting were ADC Chander Prakash; ACR Mohammad Jahangir Khan; ACD Auqil Naveed; Executive Engineer PWD Aftab Anwar; Dy. SP Satish Sharma; Deputy SP Traffic Shiv Kumar; ARTO Rajesh Gupta; CMO Dr Manohar Lal Rana; AD FCS&CA Rohit Kumar and Executive Officer Municipality Yusuf ul Umar, along with other district and sectoral officers. Besides these, prominent citizens and representatives from civil society were also present at the venue.

Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament Doda

320 students participate in multiple discipline competitions

JINNEWS SERVICE
DODA, JULY 25

A spirited celebration of sportsmanship, discipline and youthful energy marked the ongoing Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament in Doda, which continues to inspire and empower the region's youth through dynamic displays of athletic talent and teamwork.

Today's events saw participation from over 320 student athletes representing different educational zones. Competitions were held in multiple disciplines including Cricket (U-14 Boys & U-17/U-19 Girls), Taekwondo (All Age Group Girls), Wrestling (All Age



Group Girls) and Carrom (All Age Group Boys).

The competitions were marked by remarkable performances, as young athletes showcased grit, discipline, and sportsmanship. Each match reflected the participants' strong commitment to excellence and fair play.

To acknowledge their achievements, meritorious athletes were felicitated with medals, trophies

and certificates, symbolizing not only their victory but also their dedication, perseverance and sporting spirit.

Organized under the aegis of the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports (YSS), J&K, the tournament is being conducted on the directions of Director General YSS, Anuradha Gupta and Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh. The event is further

guided by Joint Director Jammu Vinakshi Koul and held under the overall supervision of District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Jaffar Haider Sheikh.

The DYSSO applauded the tireless efforts of the organizing staff and extended special appreciation to the field teams whose dedication ensured maximum student participation across zones.

DC Poonch visits Mandi Mandir complex to oversee preparations for Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra

JINNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 25

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal today conducted a comprehensive visit to the Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Mandir in Mandi to review the preparations for the upcoming yatra.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by ADC, Tahir Mustaf Malik, Tehsildar Mandi, Ashfaq, Yatra Officer and other line department officers. He met with the Yatra Management Committee to discuss



essential arrangements aimed at ensuring the success of the pilgrimage.

The inspection by the Deputy Commissioner focused on several key aspects of the yatra, including Lodging arrangement, ration supply, drinking water, electricity and

security arrangements. He further assessed the infrastructure on the Poonch-Mandi road, emphasizing the importance of maintaining proper sanitation, lighting, and medical facilities throughout the pilgrimage route.

The Deputy Commis-

sioner also inspected the Langer site, toilet complex, and bath ghat to ensure the comfort and safety of the yatri.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited Dashnami Akhara in Poonch to assess the arrangements for the yatri, including accommodation, toilets, Langer, sanitation, and security. He expressed satisfaction with the overall facilities and commended the committee members for their efficient management, ensuring a safe and comfortable experience for the pilgrims.

Distt admin Kupwara bids farewell to outgoing DFO Anurag Arya

JINNEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, JULY 25

District Administration Kupwara today organized a warm farewell function in honor of Anurag Arya, Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer, on his transfer from the post of Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Kamraj.

The event was held at the DC Office Complex Kupwara and was attended by senior officers and officials of the administration.



Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, praised Arya for his dedicated service especially his efforts in resolving various administrative issues for completion of different

developmental projects in the Kamraj division of the district.

Various officers from administration spoke and appreciated the efforts and cooperation of the

out-going DFO.

ADDC Kupwara, ADC Kupwara, ADC Handwara, GM-DIC, ACD, ACR, CEO, CMO, CPO, besides, senior district officers attended the farewell function.

JINNEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JULY 25

As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukta Abhiyan (Drug-Free India Campaign), intensive Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities were successfully conducted at Government Middle School (GMS) Mammatt and Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS) Beerwah.

The initiative aims to raise awareness about the dangers of substance abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle among students and the community.



The campaign featured interactive sessions, awareness workshops, and engaging activities designed to educate students on the physical, mental, and social consequences of drug addiction.

Experts and counsellors highlighted preventive measures and encouraged youth to adopt positive habits and peer resistance strategies.

Various speakers on the occasion deliberated

the importance of educating the youth about the ill effects of substance abuse among the young generation. Nasha Mukta Abhiyan is empowering students to make informed choices and become ambassadors of change in their communities.

The events saw enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and local stakeholders, reinforcing the collective commitment to a drug-free future. Similar campaigns will continue across schools and villages in the district under the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan framework.

Annual Shree Machail Mata Yatra-2025 commences amid religious fervour

JINNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JULY 25

The Shree Machail Mata Yatra 2025 commenced today amid religious fervor and traditional gaiety.

The annual pilgrimage, which will continue till September 5- 2025, draws a large number of devotees from across Jammu and Kashmir and outside to pay obeisance at the Chandi Mata temple Shrine in village Machail located in the Paddar Valley.

Member Legislative Assembly Paddar-Nagseni and Leader of Opposition in J&K Assembly Sunil Kumar Sharma, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police, Bhim Sen Tuti paid obeisance at the holy temple of Shri Chandi Mata Machail on the day one.



Later, the dignitaries reviewed the arrangements made by the District and Police Administration Kishtwar to ensure smooth and secure conduct of the yatra. Stress was laid on maintaining cleanliness and sanitation enroute, proper road maintenance especially in land slide prone area, providing adequate facilities at Langar points, ensuring uninterrupted electricity and water supply and provision of foolproof security measures.

Speaking to the media persons, the Divisional Commissioner said that

the district administration and the police have made holistic arrangements for providing a smooth and hassle free yatra experience to the pilgrims of Shree Machail Mata Yatra.

"Adequate facilities have been put in place en-route from Kishtwar to Chisoti and to the Holy Shrine. The facilities include langars, toilets, help desks, medical booths and security measures for smooth and secure conduct of the annual holy Yatra," he added.

The Div Com urged the pilgrims to strictly adhere to the Standard Operating

Procedures (SOPs), guidelines and designated yatra timings, particularly cut-off timings for crossing specific locations.

Later, the dignitaries inaugurated a counter of traditional Laddu (Prasad) made from pure barley (Jou), run by a team from Machail. The Divisional Commissioner also interacted with the devotees and enquired about the facilities and their experience. The review was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, SSP Naresh Singh, ADC Pawan Kotwal, PO ICDS Dr. Rishi Sharma, SDM Paddar Dr. Amit Kumar, Tehsildar Headquarter Sunali Rani besides other concerned officers and officials who were directed to ensure all necessary arrangements are in place for the successful conduct of the yatra.

DDC Reasi approves 143 Entrepreneurship cases under Mission YUVA

JINNEWS SERVICE
REASI, JULY 25

The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) for Mission YUVA was convened today in Reasi. District Development Commissioner (DDC) Nidhi Malik chaired the meeting to review and approve cases verified by the Small Business Development Units (SBDUs).

A total of 143 cases, verified by the SBDUs were presented before the Committee and subsequently approved for financial assistance and handholding support under Mission YUVA.



The Committee, headed by DDC carried out a detailed scrutiny of each application based on eligibility, business viability, and the socio-economic background of the applicants. She emphasized the critical need to promote self-employment opportunities for local youth, particularly those

from underprivileged and marginalized communities.

The DDC also reviewed the district's overall performance under Mission YUVA and directed all relevant departments to ensure the prompt release of financial assistance, regular monitoring and comprehensive mentoring

to ensure the long-term success and sustainability of the approved projects.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to fostering youth-driven entrepreneurship and promoting sustainable livelihoods through the coordinated and effective implementation of Mission YUVA across the district.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Reasi, Sukhdev Singh Samyal; AD Employment Reasi (Member Secretary), Annie Vaid; representatives from J&K Bank, DDM NABARD, JKEDI and other concerned officers.

DC reviews implementation of PMAY-Urban 2.0 in Udhampur

JINNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JULY 25

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee today to review the implementation status of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0.

During the meeting, the DC took a detailed municipality-wise review of the applications submitted by eligible households under the scheme and sought updates from the concerned officers regarding the progress of the same.



Stress was also laid on maintaining utmost transparency and accountability, besides ensuring timely disposal of the cases.

The Committee approved 39 field verified cases after thorough

scrutiny. With regard to the pending applications, the DC exhorted the concerned officers to extend proactive support and handholding to applicants to facilitate the timely completion of formal-

ties and to ensure that no eligible beneficiary is left behind.

She further directed Executive Officers and Tehsildars to facilitate land title transfer of eligible applicants so that applications are processed in time.

The meeting was attended by the Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajinder Singh, Chief Planning Officer, Uttam Singh, Tehsildars and Executive Officers of the Municipal Committees of Udhampur, Ramnagar, Chenani.

AHD Udhampur hosts Veterinary Outreach Camp at remote Kulwanta Village

JINNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JULY 25

The Animal Husbandry Department Udhampur successfully conducted a special outreach veterinary camp in Kulwanta, one of the district's remotest villages. This initiative, part of a program to cater to neglected pockets, was carried out under the guidance of Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Dr. Sanjay Gupta.

The camp, supervised by Superintendent of District Veterinary Hospital Udhampur, Dr. Anwar Hussain was held in collaboration with the Mobile Veterinary Unit Udhampur. It witnessed significant participation from local farmers who brought their animals for treatment, sought advisory services, and received consultations on various



aspects of animal husbandry, including treatment, best practices, and employment generation.

Dr. Hussain emphasized the importance of transitioning towards value addition and cooperative farming to leverage better prospects and government assistance. He highlighted new government initiatives like Assisted Breed Improvement Program-Sex Sorted Semen (ABIP-SS) as crucial for Animal Husbandry advancement.

More than 240 farmers

attended the camp and approximately 47 animals received on-the-spot treatment.

"Our department is committed to provide veterinary services directly to farmers' doorsteps, and these camps are a testament to that commitment," Dr. Hussain stated on the sidelines of the event.

Farmers expressed their gratitude to the department. Tireth Ram, a dairy farmer, said "We have seen such an initiative for the first time." Naresh Singh,

a poultry farmer, praised the department for supporting poultry entrepreneurship. Rashid Ahmad of Ladana village personally thanked the department and requested more such camps. Bimla Devi shared her appreciation, expressing hope that the department's efforts would lead to a boom in milk and poultry production, creating employment opportunities for the youth in the area.

Also present at the camp were Dr. Ishfaq Jamal, VAS Jopher; Dr. Karun Gupta, VAS MVU Udhampur and Kripal Choudhary, Incharge Block Chanunta.

Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, later confirmed that free medicines are made available to needy farmers under the Mobile Veterinary Unit scheme, especially for inhabitants of difficult terrains.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

India announces Rs 4,850 cr...

priorities of the people of the country, he added. In his comments, Muizzu appreciated India's "pivotal role" in supporting the Maldives to manage its economic challenges.

"India's continued assistance to the Maldives through the export of essential commodities is a key facet of our bilateral cooperation under the long-standing trade agreement," he said.

At a media briefing, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said a key pact inked following the Modi-Muizzu talks was to reduce the Maldives' annual debt repayment to India by 40 per cent.

It is learnt that China's increasing assertive behaviour and its implications for regional security figured in the delegation-level talks between the two sides.

To a question on whether concerns over China's activities in the region figured in the talks, Misri only said India continues to work closely with the Maldives on any issue that might "impinge not just our security but the common security of the region".

In his remarks, PM Modi said the two sides will soon work towards finalising a bilateral investment treaty and that the negotiations on a free trade agreement have already begun.

Noting that the two countries must take advantage of the digital economy, especially to promote tourism, he welcomed the recent understandings on UPI adoption, acceptance of RUPAY card and trade in local currencies.

"The speed with which UPI is being promoted in Maldives will give a boost to both tourism and retail," he said.

Modi and Muizzu also jointly inaugurated a number of India-assisted projects, including a new defence ministry building in Male, roads and drainage systems in Addu city and 3,300 housing units in Hulhumale.

The prime minister also handed over 72 vehicles and equipment for use by the Maldives National Defence Force.

The defence ministry building is a "concrete building of trust" and it is a symbol of our "strong partnership", the prime minister said.

"India will continue to support Maldives in the development of its defence capabilities. Peace, stability and prosperity in the Indian Ocean region is our common goal," he said.

The comments came against the backdrop of New Delhi's concerns over China's attempts to expand its influence over the Maldives.

In his remarks, Modi said the Maldives holds an "important place" in both India's "Neighbourhood First" policy and its MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) vision.

"India is also proud to be the most trusted friend of Maldives. Be it a disaster or a pandemic, India has always stood by as a 'first responder'," he said.

The prime minister also referred to India and the Maldives unveiling a vision for a comprehensive economic and maritime security partnership during Muizzu's visit to New Delhi in October last year.

"Now it is becoming a reality. And as a result of that, our relations are touching new heights," he said.

"We have taken several steps to accelerate our economic partnership. To accelerate mutual investment, we will soon work towards finalising the bilateral investment treaty. Negotiations on a free trade agreement have also begun," Modi said.

The two leaders also released a commemorative stamp on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of India-Maldives diplomatic relations.

The stamp depicts the Indian boat Uru, a large wooden dhow handcrafted in the historic boatyards of Beypore, Kerala, and the traditional Maldivian fishing boat - Vadhu Dhoni.

"The postage stamp released today, which has the traditional boats of both countries, shows that we are not only neighbours, but also fellow travellers," Modi said.

The prime minister arrived here from London in the second and final leg of his two-nation trip.

Modi was accorded a warm welcome with Muizzu and a number of top ministers of his government receiving him at the Velena International Airport.

Hours later, Modi was accorded a colourful ceremonial welcome and a guard of honour at the iconic Republic Square. (Agencies)

'Operation Sindoor'...

The skirmishes ended on May 10, after Pakistan DGMO approached his Indian counterpart and requested for a ceasefire.

Referring to the current phase of warfare, General Chauhan said, "The armed forces have to operate across multiple dimensions. The pace of technological change is affecting every aspect of military strategy and planning."

He said that the nature of conflict has shifted, blending older methods of combat with newer, technology-driven tools.

He said this evolving form of warfare integrates kinetic and non-kinetic means and combines tactical, operational, and strategic aspects. He referred to this shift as a form of "convergence warfare."

General Chauhan said members of the military must develop a clear understanding of both traditional combat methods and modern technological tools.

He said the ability to respond quickly and across domains will shape the outcome of future conflicts. KNO

Delhi High Court issues...

Reacting to the development, AIP Chief Spokesperson Inam Un Nabi said, "We welcome the Hon'ble Delhi High Court's decision to issue notice to the SSP NIA on this grave concern. Engineer Rashid is not just an accused—he is an elected Member of Parliament. Imposing such unaffordable expenses on him is discriminatory and deeply undemocratic."

He added, "Arguments in the matter will now be heard on July 29, which is also the date fixed for hearing Er Rashid Sb's regular bail application. The AIP

remains committed to exhausting every democratic and legal avenue to ensure justice, dignity and full representation for the people of Baramulla."

Inam Un Nabi further noted, "The question is simple—can a duly elected MP be financially handicapped from entering Parliament? The voice of the people of Baramulla must not be silenced. We hope the Hon'ble Court intervenes with fairness and constitutional clarity." (CNS)

Agniveer killed, 2 injured...

My deepest condolences to the bereaved family. The nation stands firmly with them, in this hour of grief," the Lieutenant Governor said. KNO

CM chairs 22nd Board...

maximize coverage and enhance financial security for workers, in alignment with national best practices and labour welfare standards.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance, Principal Secretary PWD (R&B), Principal Secretary PDD, Commissioner Secretaries of Housing & Urban Development, Social Welfare, and Cooperatives, Secretary Labour & Employment, Secretary Law, Director General Budget, and representatives of Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh and Bhartiya Dastkar Union.

Senior officers from the Planning Department and other concerned departments also participated in the meeting.

Secretary Labour & Employment Kumar Rajiv Ranjan gave a detailed presentation highlighting the Board's key achievements, policy reforms and financial progress.

He informed the members that the Board continues to operate in accordance with the legislative mandate of the BOCW (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996. Under this mandate, the Board has been providing a wide range of benefits including ex-gratia relief in cases of accidental deaths, financial support for both permanent and temporary disabilities, and educational assistance for the wards of registered workers. It also offers one-time meritorious scholarships of Rs 50,000 to students securing 90% and above in Class 10 and 12, in addition to marriage and maternity assistance, aid for chronic illnesses, and funeral expense coverage.

To ensure transparency and efficiency, the Board has implemented significant digital reforms. These include 100% Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for all financial assistance, Aadhaar integration to eliminate bogus registrations, an online portal for registration and renewals, and OTP-based authentication along with SMS alerts to keep workers informed about key deadlines and updates.

The Board generates income through cess collections and accrued interest. At present, Rs 1082.58 crore is currently held as corpus in fixed deposits and savings accounts across various banks.

The Board discussed and approved a comprehensive set of agenda items during the meeting. These included the approval of scheme-wise budget proposals for the financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26, and the transfer of Rs 17.24 crore to the Union Territory of Ladakh, in accordance with SO 339 dated October 30, 2020. The audited accounts for FY 2022-23 and 2023-24 were approved and will be forwarded to the Accountant General for certification.

The meeting also approved the integration of the Board's initiatives with broader social security and financial inclusion schemes to maximize the impact of benefits.

In a significant move towards digital governance, the issuance of smart cards to all registered workers was approved, with a proposed budget of Rs 10 crore.

To improve workplace safety, the Board sanctioned Rs 60 crore for the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits and tools to construction workers, especially in rural areas. Recognizing the need for skill development, the Board approved short-term training programs for 10,000 workers under NSDC norms, with a budget of Rs 10 crore.

Given the overwhelming response to the meritorious scholarship scheme, it was resolved to revise the framework with slabs for top-performing students across all districts based on merit, while maintaining a minimum 90% cutoff. The Board also discussed the long-pending issue of staff regularization and directed the concerned committee to finalize recruitment rules in consultation with relevant departments within six months.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, in his concluding remarks, reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring that welfare benefits trickle down to every deserving worker.

He called for forward-looking reforms, robust monitoring and inclusive policymaking tailored to the needs of construction workers, particularly those in remote and underserved areas of Jammu and K

ACB arrests Patwari...

spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency.

"Since the complainant didn't want to pay the bribe and he approached ACB for taking legal action against the accused public servant under law. On receipt of complaint, a discreet verification was conducted, which confirms the demand of bribe by the public servant concerned. Accordingly, case FIR No.04/2025 U/S 7 of PC Act 1988 (as amended in 2018) against accused public servant was registered at PS ACB Doda and investigation taken-up," the statement reads.

It added that during the course of investigation, a trap team headed by Gazetted Rank Officer was constituted. "The team laid a successful trap and accused Patwari was caught red handed while demanding and accepting a bribe Rs 40,000 from the complainant in the presence of independent witnesses," it added.

The accused Patwari was arrested on the spot by the ACB team after following the due procedure of law.

Mission YUVA: Loan sanction letters handed over to 29 beneficiaries at Nowshera



JINEWSERVICE
NOWSHERA, JULY 25

In a significant move aimed at youth empowerment and employment generation, the Jammu and Kashmir Bank Zonal Office Rajouri marked "Big Login Day" under the Mission YUVA initiative of the J&K UT Government at a special function held today at Dak Bungalow Nowshera.

During the ceremony, 29 sanction letters were

formally handed over to the beneficiaries by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Pritam Lal Thapa. The event witnessed the presence of Zonal Head Rajouri Satish Kumar, Assistant General Manager Sanjeev Datta, Mohinder Kumar, CDPO Nowshera, Kumar Gokul, BDO Nowshera, and several other bank officials and dignitaries.

Addressing the gathering, the ADC lauded the

initiative and the role played by J&K Bank in the implementation of Mission YUVA. He highlighted the importance of such programs in tackling youth unemployment by encouraging self-employment and entrepreneurship. Thapa also emphasized the need for coordinated efforts between the Employment Department and JK Bank to ensure the scheme's successful execution.

Zonal Head Satish

Kumar and AGM Sanjeev Datta reaffirmed the bank's commitment to extending all possible support to the youth under the scheme and aligned with the government's vision of economic empowerment.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Sham Lal, Manager, JK Bank Nowshera, who assured continued support from the bank to help realize the goals of Mission YUVA.

Kashmir craft dealers given 7-day deadline to remove machine-made items or face blacklisting, deregistration

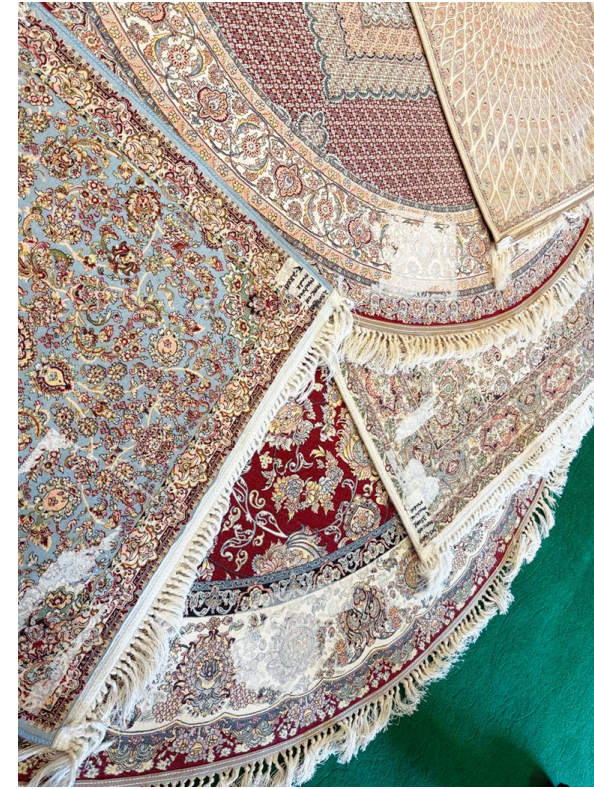
JINEWSERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 25

In an unprecedented move, the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir today issued a Notice giving Kashmir handicraft dealers a seven-day ultimatum to remove all machine-made products, largely imports from Turkey & Iran, from their Showrooms, failing which, the department warned, they will be blacklisted & deregistered for unfair trade practice under the relevant sections of law.

Addressing the dealers, the Notice, issued vide No. H&HD/DDQC/TTA/95/2025, dated 25.07.2025, reads that, "you have been granted registration under the provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir Tourist Trade Act, 1978, for the sale of Kashmir handicraft products at your respective showrooms/outlets." As part of the registration process, the Notice reads that craft dealers have submitted a duly-sworn affidavit, wherein they undertook to exclusively display and sell genuine Kashmir handicraft products at your business establishment.

The Notice further states that under 'Violation of Rules' section that during recent inspections conducted by this office, it was found that several dealers have breached the extant rules by displaying and selling machine-made products, misrepresented as genuine Kashmir handicrafts. Such malpractices undermine the authenticity and reputation of Kashmir handicrafts, the Notice reads.

An official spokesman of the Handicrafts and



Handloom Department, Kashmir, in a press release, stated that in response to these violations, this office has imposed penalties on defaulting dealers in accordance with the provisions of the J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act, 1978. "Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Director IICT and the Inspection Squad of Quality Control Division, visited various showrooms in City Centres in areas like Nishat, Nehru Park and Munawarabad, warning the Showrooms to immediately remove the machine-made products, failing which such showrooms shall be blacklisted and de-registered," he added.

Further, under G.I. labelling and misbranding concerns section, Notice reads that many Kashmir handicrafts are registered under the Geo-

graphical Indication of Goods Act (G.I.), Registry of India, Chennai, to protect their authenticity. To curb misbranding and promote genuine products, the department has introduced G.I.-based QR labelling for various crafts at PTQCC, IICT & Quality Control labs.

"However, it has come to our notice that a dealer recently affixed a fake QR label on a machine-made carpet, misrepresenting it as a genuine handmade product. Consequently, the said dealer has been blacklisted and deregistered," the Notice further reads.

As per the notice, all registered dealers have been directed to ensure within 7 days from the issuance of this Notice, that their showrooms exclusively display and sell genuine Kashmir handicraft products and that no machine-

made products are displayed or sold.

The spokesman further stated that the Notice directs concerned Kashmir Handicraft dealers to ensure all relevant documents, including G.I. labelling certifications, are prominently displayed at Craft Showrooms for inspection and sale purposes.

Quoting from the Notice, the spokesman said that the machine-made products are banned from being sold or displayed in Kashmir handicraft showrooms registered under handicraft or handloom categories, & any violation & misbranding including by way of pasting fake QR codes and pulling out the machine-made labels shall attract relevant clauses/provisions of the Quality Control Act, J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act, GI Act as well as the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita.

He further said that the Notice warned of consequences of non-compliance. It reads that failure to comply with this directive within the stipulated period shall result in appropriate action under the provisions of the J&K Tourist Trade Act, 1978, including penalties, deregistration, blacklisting or other legal measures as deemed necessary.

Furthermore, it advised all unregistered dealers/hawkers dealing in the business of Kashmir Handicrafts to immediately approach the Quality Control Division of the Handicrafts and Handloom Department for registration under the J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act, 1978.

The bribe money was also recovered in the presence of independent witnesses associated with the trap team, the statement reads, adding that further investigation of the instant case is going on. KNO

ACB arrests Patwari...

taken up, he said.

"During the course of investigation, a trap team headed by Gazetted rank officer was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and accused public servant was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe amount of Rs 20,000 from the complainant in the presence of independent witnesses. The accused was arrested on the spot by the ACB team after following due process of law. The bribe money was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses associated with the trap team," the spokesman added.

"Moreover, searches were also conducted in the office and in-laws house of the accused in presence

of independent witnesses and Magistrates," ACB said, adding that further investigation of the instant case is going on. KNO

Over 8,000 perform...

75 vehicles, opted for the traditional Pahalgam route in Anantnag district.

Despite smooth arrangements and favourable weather, both the footfall at the cave shrine and the number of pilgrims departing from Jammu have gradually declined.

Officials attribute the drop to several factors, including exhaustion after the peak rush in earlier weeks and the early completion of darshan by many registered pilgrims. Nonetheless, authorities are maintaining full arrangements to ensure the safety and comfort of the remaining yatri.

The pilgrimage, which began on July 3, will conclude on August 9. KNO

Trishul Yatra held at Nav Grah Mandir Poonch

JINNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 25

In a spiritually vibrant atmosphere, the Trishul Yatra was held today from Nav Grah Mandir, Ajote, drawing hundreds of devotees, cultural performers and dignitaries, highlighting the region's rich heritage and deep-rooted devotion. Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal along with Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik, Tehsildar Haveli Azhar Majid, and officers from the Indian



Army, actively participated in the yatra and performed the sacred Trishul Pujan. Devotees gathered in large numbers during the early morning hours to offer prayers and seek the blessings of Lord Shiva.

Amidst the chanting of hymns and traditional rituals, the religious procession passed through culturally significant areas including Ajote, Purani Poonch,

Kha Khanawan, Jernally Mohalla, and Qila Bazar. Flower-adorned tridents and religious flags carried by devotees added to the spiritual fervor, with devotional songs echoing through the streets. The Trishul Yatra concluded at the College Ground in Poonch, designated as the base camp for Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra. The venue witnessed an enthusiastic gathering of participants and devotees, turning the event into a vibrant celebration of faith and unity.

Special programmes held in Udhampur schools to mark birth anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee

JINNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JULY 25

As part of a nation-wide initiative, the schools across Udhampur—including Government Higher Secondary School Chanunta, Government High School Jib, Government Higher Secondary School Sudh Mahadev and Government High School Dhandal organized special programmes to commemorate the 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, a pioneering statesman, educationist and architect of modern India's nationalist vision.



These events formed part of a two-year nationwide celebration from July 6, 2025, to July 6, 2027, aimed at honoring Dr. Mookerjee's enduring legacy in education, constitutional development, national integration and regional progress.

At GHS Jib, Government Higher Secondary School Sudh Mahadev and several other institutions, students, teachers and invited speakers participated with great enthusiasm. The programmes featured speeches, presentations, and

discussions on Dr. Mookerjee's life, ideology and his pivotal role in shaping India's post-independence political discourse. Faculty members highlighted his commitment to unity, cultural integrity and national service. Students were encouraged to draw inspiration from his values and to contribute meaningfully to society. These events served not only to pay tribute to Dr. Mookerjee's contributions but also to foster historical awareness and patriotism among the younger generation across the district.

CS holds strategic discussion with Secretary MSME to boost industrial growth

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 25

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today held an extensive meeting with Union Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), S.C.L. Das, to deliberate on the prevailing industrial scenario in Jammu and Kashmir and explore long-term strategies for promotion and sustainability of the MSME sector across the Union Territory.



The meeting was also attended by Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, and Secretary, Labour & Employment, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan. During the interaction, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need for a robust and inclusive roadmap to ensure the long-term sustainability of both existing and newly established industrial units across the UT. He underscored that the industrial landscape in J&K has historically been impacted by its unique geopolitical context, being a peripheral region of the country, thereby facing distinct logistical and connectivity challenges.

for employment and economic empowerment, Dulloo urged the Ministry to extend necessary technical and financial support to foster a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem in the UT.

He observed that J&K is now poised to bridge the historic gaps in industrial development, and the youth of the region must be equipped with opportunities and tools to become self-reliant job creators. He further sought the Ministry's intervention in initiating targeted programmes to nurture a culture of entrepreneurship among the youth, who, he said, have remained deprived of such opportunities due to the past circumstances. He called for enhanced handhold support in skilling the local workforce in tune with emerging, technology-driven industries to enable them to secure gainful

employment. The Chief Secretary also emphasized the need for establishing comprehensive platforms that can facilitate better market access, credit linkage, and business mentorship for aspiring entrepreneurs. He suggested exploring avenues for expanding digital infrastructure and support systems to aid MSME growth in both rural and urban pockets of the UT. Additionally, Dulloo sought the Ministry's assistance in designing effective revival strategies for stressed and sick industrial units in the region. He stressed the importance of tailored interventions to rejuvenate these units, which form the backbone of local economic activity and employment.

He highlighted the immense potential of the MSME sector as a vehicle

renewed focus on industrial development and assured full support of the Ministry in strengthening the MSME ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. He said the Ministry would work closely with the UT administration to develop need-based schemes, skill development modules, and infrastructural support to unleash the true potential of the region's industrial sector.

The Union Secretary appreciated the UT administration's

ROZ-E-YUVA organized under Mission YUVA at Budgam

JINNEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JULY 25

ROZ-E-YUVA under Mission YUVA was today organized by J&K Bank at the New Conference Hall, DC Office Complex Budgam under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-du-din, to facilitate distribution of sanction letters to Mission Yuva Aspirants. The ceremony witnessed the presence of ADC Budgam, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah; CPO, Javaid Ahmad; Zonal Head

J&K Bank (Budgam Zone), Fayaz Ahmad Bhat; Cluster Head J&K Bank, Assistant Director Employment, Lead District Manager Budgam, and various Branch Heads of J&K Bank operating in district.

preneurial journey, thereby uplifting society as a whole." Speaking on the occasion, DC, said, "Mission YUVA is a path-breaking initiative enabling our youth to transform from job seekers to job creators. He urged all beneficiaries to work diligently and take along others in their entre-

DC Bandipora distributes sanction letters of Rs.5.5 lakh relief to Road Accident victims

JINNEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JULY 25

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Friday handed over sanction letters amounting to Rs 5.5 lakh to the next of kin (NoKs) of recent road accident victims during a brief ceremony held at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora. The financial assistance

had been sanctioned during a Road Safety Committee meeting held earlier this week, during which six cases were approved for compensation. On the occasion, DC urged citizens to strictly follow traffic rules to prevent road mishaps. Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Bandipora, Mudasir Ahmad Wani, briefed the

attendees besides the general public about the provisions of the J&K Road Accident Victim Fund, under which the financial assistance was provided. He informed that under the scheme, Rs 1 lakh is provided in case of death to the dependents, legal heirs, or close family members of the deceased; Rs 75,000 is given in case of permanent disability;

Rs 50,000 for grievous injuries; and Rs 10,000 for minor injuries. The ARTO also clarified that all victims of road accidents involving private vehicles, passenger-cum-goods vehicles, and even vehicles owned by government departments, corporations, and public sector undertakings are eligible under the scheme.

DC Budgam chairs DLTFC meeting on Climate Change & Health

JINNEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JULY 25

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who is also chairman of the District level Multi-Sectoral Task Force Committee (DLTFC) under the National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH), today chaired a high-level review meeting to discuss the district's action plan for addressing health impacts arising from climate change.



The meeting, held at the DC office complex, featured a detailed presentation by Prof. (Dr.) Ashfaq Ahmad, Head, Dept. of Community Medicine, SKIMS Bemina, highlighting the vision of a climate-resilient health system and Budgam's vulnerability to air pollution, water contamination, heat waves, floods, and vector-borne diseases. The meeting discussed the district's action plan for addressing health impacts arising from climate change. The meeting, held at the DC office complex, featured a detailed presentation by Prof. (Dr.) Ashfaq Ahmad, Head, Dept. of Community Medicine, SKIMS Bemina, highlighting the vision of a climate-resilient health system and Budgam's vulnerability to air pollution, water contamination, heat waves, floods, and vector-borne diseases.

Health, DDMA, Water Quality and WASH Co-Initiatives (Jal Shakti, Health, Education), Waste Management and Vector Source Control (Municipality, PRI, Health), Heat-Health Awareness and Early Warning Systems (IMD, Education, Health), Joint Campaigns & Emergency Readiness via wall art, FM radio, IEC drives, and fogging operations.

DC directed that monthly progress reviews be conducted; supported by an integrated monitoring dashboard tracking solar installations, air quality, IEC coverage, and IHIP reports under NPCCHH. "We must act not only to treat illness but to prevent it. That means cleaner air, safer water, better infrastructure, and informed citizens. Climate resilience begins with coordinated action," DC remarked.

Speaking on the occasion, DC said, "Climate-related health risks originate outside the health sector but impact it directly. There is a need for an integrated, coordinated strategy across all departments to protect public health in the face of rising climate threats."

DC directed to make an eco-friendly five years futuristic plan for the district. He further directed stakeholders for department-wise implementation of the Action plan both five year as well as District Action Plan, including preparedness drills, stockpiling of medicines and fuels in remote

areas, and community-based awareness drives. DC said, full administrative support will be ensured for strengthening the climate-health resilience framework in Budgam, under the larger goal of sustainable and inclusive development. Among others, the meeting was attended by CPO, CMO, Chief Education Officer, ACP, Principal ANMT School, District Health Officer, Dy.

CMO (Nodal for Maternal Health), all Block Medical Officers, DFO Budgam, District Pollution Control Officer, State Veterinary Consultant (IDSP), District Disease Investigation Officer, District Nodal Officer, NPCCHH, EO of all MCS, DGMO Ayushman SEHAT, District Consultant NTPC, representatives from Jal Shakti & PDD, representatives from SKIMS Bemina and NGOs.

INDIAN RAILWAYS
"PUBLIC NOTIFICATION"

Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the completed section of the under noted section of the Northern Railway that the 25 kV, 50 Hz, AC overhead traction wires will be energized on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date the overhead traction line shall be treated as live at all time and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead line.

Section	Date
New Washing Line no. 1 of Jammu Tawi Yard from (Km Location WL-1, chainage 96/269.00) to (Km Location WL-52, chainage 97/287.50) in connection with work of Jammu - Second entry in c/w development of coaching terminal over Jammu Division, Northern Railway	31.07.2025

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Const. Northern Railway, Jalandhar City
2258/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No. 433-Sig-T-21-25-26 Closing Date/Time: 18-08-2025 15:00 Date: 25/07/2025. 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-21-25-26 Closing Date/Time 18-08-2025 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:	(i) Provision of Telecom facilities in C/w Provision of TMS at Nasrula Goods Shed. (ii) Provision of Telecom facilities in C/w Provision of TMS at ADANI Siding, Dagru.
Tender Closing Date/Time	18/08/2025 15:00
Advertised Value Rs.	(i) 862361.99 (ii) 1271307.52
Earnest Money (Rs.)	(i) 173000.00 (ii) 254000.00
Date Time of Uploading Tender	25/07/2025 12:58
Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	04/08/2025
Period of Completion	(i) 3 Months (ii) 3 Months

NOTE: Tenderer should keep himself updated about the Tender amendments, Corrigendum, etc. by remaining in touch regularly with the website. 2278/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender No. 89-90-2025-26-ADEN-JUC & 91-93-2025-26-ADEN-ASR & 92-2025-26-ADEN-ASR Date: 25.07.2025. Sr.DEN/IRFZ acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on www.ireps.gov.in with closing date-18/08/2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on www.ireps.gov.in portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft Banker Cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. For more information logon to www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Type	Tendering Section	Bidding System
Open	Works	Single Packet System
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time
24.07.2025	04.08.2025	18.08.2025/15:00 Hrs.

S.No.: 1 Tender No. 89-2025-26-ADEN-JUC
Details of Tender: Misc. P.way works in the section of SSE/P.way/NRO in the jurisdiction of ADEN/JUC.
Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money Validity of Offer Period of Completion
1,18,92,245.53/- 2,09,500.00/- 60 Days 12 Months
Similar nature of work:- "CTR/TRR/TRF/TTR including raising of Track, screening, distressing of track, pre & post work for track maintenance machine like Tamping Machines/Ballast Screening/Regulating Machines and TTR by T-28".
S.No.: 2 Tender No. 90-2025-26-ADEN-JUC
Details of Tender: Misc. P.way works in the section of SSE/P.way/JUC in the jurisdiction of ADEN/JUC.
Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money Validity of Offer Period of Completion
1,18,98,676.37/- 2,09,500.00/- 60 Days 12 Months
Similar nature of work:- "CTR/TRR/TRF/TTR including raising of Track, screening, distressing of track, pre & post work for track maintenance machine like Tamping Machines/Ballast Screening/Regulating Machines and TTR by T-28".
S.No.: 3 Tender No. 91-2025-26-ADEN-ASR
Details of Tender: Upgradation/Improvement of BAT goods shed.
Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money Validity of Offer Period of Completion
8,51,77,976.61/- 5,75,900.00/- 60 Days 12 Months
Similar nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work."
S.No.: 4 Tender No. 92-2025-26-ADEN-ASR
Details of Tender: Upgradation/Improvement of goods shed & platform at Bhagatnala on ASR-KEMK section under ADEN-II/ASR.
Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money Validity of Offer Period of Completion
2,73,06,937.39/- 2,86,500.00/- 60 Days 06 Months
Similar nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work."
S.No.: 5 Tender No. 93-2025-26-ADEN-ASR
Details of Tender: Repairs to leaky gutters, platform shelters & Rain water pipes in the section of ADEN-I & ADEN-II/ASR.
Advertised Value (Rs.) Earnest Money Validity of Offer Period of Completion
1,19,99,969.84/- 2,10,000.00/- 60 Days 06 Months
Similar nature of work:- "Any civil work other than track work."
Note1. Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender. 2261/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-Auction Notice

The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Northern Railway, Firozpur for and on behalf of President of India, invites E-Auction from eligible and registered bidders for the following works over Firozpur Division:-

Catalogue No.	Auction Start	Name of work
EAFZR-SLR25-94	11.08.25 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 14630/F1, 14028/F2, 14730/R1, 14630/R1, 11906/R1, 14626/F1, 14633/F2, 11906/F1, 14633/F1 & 14622/F1.
EAFZR-SLR25-95	13.08.25 at 11:00 Hrs.	Allotment of contract for leasing of parcel space in Train No./SLR compartment: 14618/F1, 19614/F1, 14505/F1, 14616/F1, 14680/F1, 14682/F1, 14730/F1, 14028/F1, 14730/F2 & 14028/R1.

For other details and registration, please visit Railway website www.ireps.gov.in 2281/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy. CEE/GSU/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (www.ireps.gov.in) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost. (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
27-Elect-GSU-T-01-2025-26	Electrical works in c/w with Augmentation of homing capacity at ELS/LDH from 200 to 300 locomotive over 20025-26	1,29,57,941.53p	2,14,800/-	.06 Months	14.08.2025 after 15:00 Hrs	www.ireps.gov.in

No. NIT-01/2025-26 Dated: 23.07.2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2264/25

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Notice Inviting Tender

Dy. CEE/GSU/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date 18.08.2025 at 15:00 Hrs only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost (Rs.)	Cost of Tender form (Rs.)	Date & time for submission of tender	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
27-TRD-GSU-T-108-2025-26	TRD work in c/w augmentation of homing capacity at ELS/LDH from 200 to 300 locomotive over Firozpur division	1,23,82,129.37P	NIL	Upto 18.08.2025 15:00 Hrs.	211900/-	06 Months	18.08.2025 after 15:00 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

Note: # Tenderer (s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway. No.-27-TRD-GSU-T-108-2025-26 Dated : 24.07.2025 2262/2025
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

EDITORIAL

India's Diplomacy saves Nimisha from Yemen death row

SANTHOSH MATHEW

Growth catalyst in Ladakh

Union Territory of Ladakh, long-celebrated for its unique landscapes and cultural richness, is now scripting a new narrative—one of economic empowerment and grassroots entrepreneurship. The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in Ladakh is witnessing a remarkable transformation, fuelled by targeted Central Government support and an increasingly entrepreneurial local population. It has been revealed in Lok Sabha that over 18,500 MSMEs have been registered in Ladakh, generating employment for more than 54,000 individuals. This is a significant milestone for a region that has traditionally faced challenges such as geographical isolation, harsh climate, limited infrastructure, and a short working season. The scale of support from the Central Government has been both broad and deep. Key schemes such as the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) initiatives, the Credit Guarantee Scheme, and the newly launched PM Vishwakarma Yojana are actively transforming the economic landscape of Ladakh. These schemes go beyond mere financial aid—they foster skill development, promote innovation, and aim for long-term sustainability of micro enterprises. The Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP), which saw an exponential rise in participation—from just 50 beneficiaries in 2022-23 to over 1,700 in the span of three years. This surge reflects not only the growing aspirations of the youth but also a positive shift in mindset toward self-reliance and entrepreneurship in remote communities. The operationalization of a solar-powered wool processing cluster at Saspochey, Leh, managed by the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Rural Industrialization, is a noteworthy development. It provides a sustainable and scalable model for value addition in the Pashmina sector, benefiting local women artisans and preserving traditional livelihoods while embracing modern technology. Ladakh's participation in the PM Vishwakarma Yojana, which supports traditional artisans, is also encouraging. With more than 4,000 artisans already registered, the initiative holds promise for revitalizing hand tool-based crafts—a vital part of the region's cultural identity. However, while progress is evident, challenges remain. Uptake of the Procurement and Marketing Support (PMS) Scheme, for instance, has only recently gained traction, indicating the need for greater awareness and outreach. Similarly, access to credit—although improving through schemes like CGTMSE—must be expanded with more handholding support to first-time entrepreneurs unfamiliar with formal finance systems. The MSME sector in Ladakh is no longer just a peripheral player; it is rapidly emerging as a core engine of local development. The region is transitioning from being a recipient of aid to becoming a generator of opportunity. As these enterprises continue to grow and diversify—especially in sectors like adventure tourism, agro-processing, textiles, and handicrafts—Ladakh can become a model for sustainable, inclusive development in high-altitude, remote geographies. The journey is far from over. Continued support from the Central and UT administrations, improved digital and physical infrastructure, and capacity-building for entrepreneurs will be key to sustaining this momentum. But for now, the rise of Ladakh's MSMEs is a promising chapter in the region's economic story—one worth celebrating, and certainly worth nurturing.

In a remarkable display of decisive leadership and diplomatic finesse, the Modi Government has successfully secured the suspension of the death penalty for Nimisha Priya, the Indian nurse facing grave charges in Yemen.

What seemed like a perilous and nearly hopeless situation in the Houthis-controlled capital of Sanaa has now taken a hopeful turn, thanks to the timely and effective intervention of India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the brilliant execution of both Track One and Track Two diplomacy. Nimisha Priya's case had sent shockwaves through India and beyond—an Indian citizen caught in the crossfire of Yemen's volatile conflict, subjected to a justice system riddled with uncertainty and influenced by archaic customs such as blood money.

The stakes were extraordi-

narily high, and failure to act could have resulted in a grave injustice, if not a tragic loss of life. However, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and with the MEA's relentless efforts, India demonstrated what true global leadership looks like. The Government's swift mobilisation of diplomatic channels ensured that Nimisha's execution was postponed, providing precious time to intensify negotiations and seek a fair resolution. The seamless coordination between official diplomatic avenues (Track One) and informal backchannel engagements (Track Two diplomacy) played a pivotal role in this outcome, highlighting India's nuanced understanding of international relations and conflict resolution.

The intervention of key regional players—most notably an influential Sunni cleric and Iran's Foreign Minister, Abbas Araghchi—who active-

ly engaged with the Houthis authorities, underscores the success of India's multilateral diplomatic approach.

These efforts prevented the crisis from escalating into a full-blown humanitarian and diplomatic catastrophe. It also reaffirmed India's longstanding ties with Middle Eastern nations, reinforcing India's position as a respected and capable mediator on the global stage.

The Modi Government's handling of Nimisha Priya's case sends a strong message: the safety and dignity of Indian citizens abroad are non-negotiable priorities. The case further elevates India's reputation as a nation that not only champions human rights but also masters the art of soft-power diplomacy—showcased through the protection of its citizens who serve as cultural ambassadors in challenging environments worldwide. Kantapuram's timely and

discreet interventions, along with the MEA's robust diplomatic outreach, exemplify the power of perseverance and strategic dialogue in overcoming complex international hurdles.

The combination of official Government efforts and community-led diplomacy has set a new benchmark in protecting Indian nationals overseas. This successful episode is a defining moment in India's diplomatic history, shining a light on the Modi Government's commitment to justice, peace, and the protection of its diaspora. Nimisha Priya's life was saved not just by legal appeals but by India's unwavering resolve and global stature—proof that Indian diplomacy today is both compassionate and courageous.

As Nimisha Priya awaits final resolution, her case will be remembered as a testament to India's growing influence and the effectiveness

of its diplomatic machinery under the Modi administration. It is a victory not just for one citizen but for the nation's ethos of safeguarding every Indian, wherever they may be. This is diplomacy that works—heralding a new era in which India leads with heart, strategy, and strength on the world stage. In a world often defined by indifference, India's strong commitment to its citizens stands out. The rescue of Nimisha Priya is a reaffirmation of India's moral compass. The Government's intervention reflects not only strength, but also sensitivity in statecraft. As global challenges grow more complex, this case sets a precedent for responsive and humane diplomacy. It proves that when leadership is both bold and compassionate, no Indian is ever truly alone.

(The writer is an Associate Professor Centre For South Asian Studies, Pondicherry Central University)

War without end: Global conflicts rise, humanitarian aid falters

ACHANA DATTA

In the uneasy aftermath of a 12-day armed confrontation between Iran and Israel—marked by unprecedented military exchanges and US involvement—a fragile and unsustainable "ceasefire" continues to hang by a thread. Rather than restoring calm, it has added another layer to an already combustible global security landscape. The year 2024 proved to be one of the most violent in recent memory, with the highest number of armed conflicts since the Second World War. According to the Peace Research Institute of Oslo, 61 state-based conflicts erupted across 36 countries, affecting nearly one-fourth of the global population.

The violence has grown not only in scale but also in intensity. Fatalities from these conflicts surged by 37 per cent between July 2023 and June 2024, while the average number of deaths per violent event rose by 17 per cent, highlighting an alarming increase in lethality, as per the Armed Conflict Survey 2024. The human cost has been devastating. Civilian casualties jumped by 40 per cent in 2024, with

one person killed every 12 minutes—bringing the annual death toll close to 200,000, according to Humanity & Inclusion UK. Yet, as violence intensified, the response from the international community became increasingly inadequate. The Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) reported that 186.5 million people across 77 countries required humanitarian aid in 2024. However, of the \$49 billion needed, only \$22.58 billion—less than half—was raised, leaving a gaping \$26.42 billion shortfall. This was compounded by a sharp drop in global humanitarian assistance, which fell from \$37.5 billion in 2023 to \$33.9 billion in 2024. Key donors, including the US, Germany, EU institutions, Canada, Norway, and France, all significantly slashed their contributions. Canada, for instance, reduced its aid by 40 per cent, and Germany by 23 per cent. While the funding to support victims declined, global military spending soared to unprecedented levels. In 2024, the world spent \$2.718 trillion on defence—roughly 2.5 per cent of global GDP—with more than 100 countries increasing their military budgets. The United

States alone spent \$997 billion, making up 66 per cent of NATO's total and 37 per cent of global military expenditure. NATO as a whole spent \$1.506 trillion, with 18 of its member states meeting or exceeding the 2 per cent GDP target for defence—the highest number since 2014. Looking ahead, NATO has announced plans to raise defence spending further, targeting 5 per cent of GDP annually by 2035 to counter perceived threats from Russia and terrorism. Critics argue that such an aggressive militarisation push will mainly benefit arms manufacturers, intensify the security dilemma, and worsen the climate crisis. Russia, meanwhile, spent an estimated \$149 billion on its military in 2024—71 per cent of its GDP—while Ukraine's defence spending rose to \$64.7 billion, consuming a staggering 34 per cent of its national income, the highest in the world.

Israel also drastically ramped up its military spending by 65 per cent, reaching \$46.5 billion, or 8.8 per cent of its GDP—the second highest globally. Iran, constrained by sanctions, was forced to reduce its military budget by

10 per cent to \$7.9 billion, despite its continued involvement in regional conflicts. China, the second-largest military spender, increased its defence budget by 7 per cent to \$314 billion, accounting for half of all military spending in Asia and Oceania. India's military budget rose modestly by 1.6 per cent to \$86.1 billion, while Pakistan allocated \$10.2 billion to defence.

This lopsided prioritisation—more spending on arms and less on aid—underscores the weakening of global cooperation and the fraying of multilateral institutions designed to ensure peace. The Global Cooperation Barometer 2025, jointly published by the World Economic Forum and McKinsey, warned that the world's collective security framework is under "severe pressure." Multilateral platforms created to resolve disputes have largely failed to act decisively in the last decade.

According to the Multilateralism Index by the International Peace Institute and the Institute for Economics and Peace, international cooperation on peace and security saw its steepest decline between 2013 and 2023. The UN Secu-

rity Council has not authorised a single new peacekeeping mission since 2014, as geopolitical rivalries among major powers have eroded the very consensus needed to uphold peace. In this bleak context, the UN80 Initiative—launched to mark 80 years since the adoption of the UN Charter—offers a glimmer of hope. It seeks to reinvent multilateralism and strengthen the capacity of global institutions to manage conflicts and humanitarian crises. Despite its many flaws, the United Nations remains the most inclusive and representative global body. Its founding principles—rooted in preventing the recurrence of global war—are more relevant today than ever.

As the world teeters on the edge of deeper conflict and humanitarian collapse, the urgent task before nations is to renew their commitment to global cooperation and peace. Militarisation without diplomacy cannot secure the future. A return to the principles of the UN Charter is essential—not just to prevent the next war, but to preserve what remains of our shared humanity.

(The writer is former Director General of Doordarshan and All India Radio)

Hindi vs Marathi: From Harmony to Discord

RAMAKANT CHAUDHARY

The politics of language has long been a contentious issue in India, often manipulated by vested interests to stoke regional sentiments for electoral gains and political self-aggrandisement. In Maharashtra—a state whose very name derives from the Hindi word *rashtra* (nation)—linguistic divisions are being weaponised to fuel social unrest, especially as elections approach. The recent spate of violent incidents targeting Hindi-speaking migrant workers, who are integral to the state's economic fabric, has cast a shadow over Maharashtra's image as a progressive and inclusive hub.

These attacks, often carried out by fringe elements associated with parties like Raj Thackeray's Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) and Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT), expose a troubling surge of linguistic chauvinism—one that undermines the country's cherished motto of "unity in diversity" and threatens India's global image, especially as it champions the vision of One Earth, One Family, One Future. Home to Mumbai—India's financial capital—and Pune, a major industrial hub, Maharashtra owes much of its economic prowess to migrant labour. These workers, many of whom come from Hindi-speaking states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Jharkhand, are the backbone of key sectors including construction, manufacturing, and services. Estimates suggest that migrant work-

ers contribute nearly 10 per cent to India's GDP, with a substantial share stemming from their labour in Maharashtra. Yet, these very individuals—who toil to build the state's infrastructure and fuel its growth—are increasingly being targeted for their lack of fluency in Marathi. These incidents, often orchestrated for political mileage, have provoked national outrage. What is more alarming is the apparent inaction by law enforcement agencies, which seems to have emboldened such elements further. This lack of accountability not only shields the perpetrators but also risks denting India's image as a progressive, inclusive nation—particularly when the country is actively branding itself as *Viksit Bharat*. With the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections on the horizon, linguistic agitations have taken centre stage in Maharashtra's political discourse. Parties like the MNS and Shiv Sena (UBT), desperate to reclaim relevance in the state's shifting political terrain, appear to be resorting to divisive tactics to rally their voter base. By targeting Hindi-speaking workers, they aim to inflame regional pride and position themselves as protectors of the Marathi Manu (Marathi people). Yet this brand of politics reeks of opportunism and stands in stark contradiction to the inclusive ethos that has long defined Maharashtra. The Italian philosopher Niccolò Machiavelli's assertion that "politics has no relation to morals" seems particularly apt. These political actors relentlessly



target vulnerable migrant workers while remaining conspicuously silent about high-profile figures—Bollywood celebrities, corporate tycoons, and politicians—who have built their careers and fortunes in Maharashtra despite lacking proficiency in Marathi.

Historical Ties, Shared Heritage

The narrative of linguistic exclusivity promoted by certain political groups sits uneasily with Maharashtra's rich historical and cultural legacy. Icons of Marathi pride—Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and his son Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj—embodied an inclusive spirit that transcended linguistic barriers. Historical accounts record that Hindi-speaking communities played a critical role in aiding Shivaji's daring escape from Mughal custody in 1666. A priest from Kashi, in a Hindi-speaking region, conducted his coronation

in 1674, bestowing upon him the title of Chhatrapati. Sambhaji, celebrated for his valour, was also a scholar of Hindi, credited with authoring three significant literary works in the language—*Saatshak*, *Nakshikha*, and *Nayikabhed*. His court welcomed Hindi poets such as Kavi Kalash, a trusted confidant and advisor. These historical instances reaffirm the deep cultural and linguistic bonds between Marathi and Hindi-speaking communities—a legacy of coexistence starkly at odds with today's divisive rhetoric. Prominent pre-independence Maharashtra leaders like Lokmanya Tilak, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, and Kaka Kalelkar recognised Hindi's potential as a unifying force in India's diverse linguistic landscape. They advocated Hindi as a link language, capable of bridging regional divides without eroding local identities. Many Marathi poets, authors, and journalists

have also enriched Hindi literature, further underscoring the shared linguistic heritage between the two languages, which share nearly 80 per cent of their vocabulary.

Hindi as a Link Language

India's linguistic diversity is both its strength and its complexity. With 22 officially recognised languages, 121 spoken by over 10,000 people, and more than 19,500 recorded mother tongues, communication across regions remains a formidable challenge. In this context, Hindi has emerged as a vital bridge, facilitating socio-economic integration and national cohesion. Political scientist Baldev Raj Nayar, in his seminal work *Hindi as a Link Language*, argued that Hindi's structural affinity with other Indian languages and its expansive cultural reach make it uniquely positioned to foster national unity. Unlike regional languages tied to specific identities, Hindi operates as a neutral conduit for dialogue, supporting communication without threatening local linguistic vibrancy. This insight is particularly relevant for Maharashtra, where diversity has historically been a source of strength—not division. Maharashtra's political leadership must transcend parochialism and work to heal rather than fracture society. Law enforcement agencies must act decisively against those who incite or perpetrate such violence. The judiciary, too, has a constitutional duty to uphold the right of every citizen to live and work anywhere in the country, free

from discrimination. Civil society—media, academia, artists, and community leaders—must resist the narrative of linguistic chauvinism. Educational institutions can champion multilingualism, fostering appreciation for the country's linguistic richness. Political parties, for their part, must abandon cynical identity politics in favour of addressing real issues: unemployment, infrastructure gaps, education, and social welfare—challenges that transcend language. The contributions of Hindi-speaking migrant workers to Maharashtra's development are undeniable. From constructing Mumbai's skyline to powering Pune's factories, they have been vital to the state's success. Protecting their dignity and rights is not only a moral imperative but a pragmatic necessity for sustained growth. The politics of linguistic division is a perilous path—one that jeopardises both the social fabric of Maharashtra and the broader Indian ideal of unity in diversity. By targeting vulnerable communities, political opportunists dishonour the legacy of Maharashtra's greatest icons and betray the values enshrined in the Constitution.

As India moves forward on the global stage, its progress must rest on the pillars of coexistence, respect, and inclusion. Only then can Maharashtra—and indeed the nation—embody the true spirit of *Viksit Bharat*.

(The author is a senior journalist, political commentator and communication strategist)

Study blames high-calorie diet for global rise in obesity

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

More than a lack of exercise, a higher caloric intake may be the primary driver of obesity worldwide, finds a study.

While many experts have offered that rising obesity rates are due to declining physical activity as societies become more industrialised, the findings led by researchers from Duke University in the US, show that people in wealthier countries expend just as much -- or even more -- energy daily.

"It's clear that changes in diet, not reduced activity, are the main cause of obesity," said Herman Pontzer, principal investigator and Professor in the Department of Evolutionary Anthropology at the varsity.

In an article recently published in the journal PNAS, the researchers analysed thousands of measurements of daily



energy expenditure, body fat percentage, and body mass index (BMI) from more than 4,200 adults aged 18 to 60 across 34 populations spanning six continents.

While a marginal decrease was found in

size-adjusted total energy expenditure with economic development, differences in total energy expenditure explained only a fraction of the increase in body fat that accompanied development, said the researchers.

"This suggests that other factors, such as dietary changes, are driving the increases in body fat that we see with increasing economic development," explained Amanda McGrosky, lead investigator and postdoctoral researcher at Duke at the time of the study. McGrosky is now an assistant professor of biology at Elon University in the US.

Notably, the findings do not mean that efforts to promote physical activity should be minimised.

Instead, the data support an emerging consensus that both diet and exercise should be prioritised, the researchers said.

"Diet and physical activity should be viewed as essential and complementary, rather than interchangeable," the study noted.

The team will next work to identify which aspects of diet in developed countries are most responsible for the rise in obesity.

Antibiotic resistance to drive treatment cost from \$66 bn to \$159 bn yearly by 2050: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The increasing resistance to antibiotics may not only lead to an increase in deaths but may also surge treatment costs from the current \$66 billion per year to \$159 billion per year by 2050, according to a study.

Antibiotic-resistant bacteria or superbugs, which emerge due to the misuse and overuse of antibiotics, can increase the number of hospital admissions and lead to longer and more intensive hospital stays. Resistant infections are roughly twice as expensive to treat as those for which antibiotics are effective, posing a significant threat to global health and economic stability. However, its impact would be more pronounced in low- and middle-income countries, antimicrobial resistance increases the cost of health care by \$66 billion, and this will rise to \$159 billion in our business-

as-usual scenario where resistance rates follow historical trends," said the researchers, led by Anthony McDonnell, a policy fellow at the Center for Global Development.



human health burden projections with economic models to provide a comprehensive analysis of the impact of AMR on global economies and health systems.

"We estimate that the impact of antimicrobial resistance falls most heavily on low- and lower-middle-income countries. Antimicrobial resistance increases the cost of health care by \$66 billion, and this will rise to \$159 billion in our business-

as-usual scenario where resistance rates follow historical trends," said the researchers, led by Anthony McDonnell, a policy fellow at the Center for Global Development.

The study adopted a multifaceted approach to estimate the economic burden of AMR. Projections of the health burden were taken from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), which estimates deaths from AMR to soar by 60

per cent by 2050. The numbers of those becoming seriously ill from drug-resistant bacteria are also expected to jump. Health burden estimates from the IHME suggest that if resistance follows trends since 1990, AMR will lead to 38.5 million deaths between 2025 and 2050.

"If resistance rates follow historical trends since 1990, the direct health care costs of AMR are projected to rise to \$159 billion per year by 2050 (1.2 per cent of global health expenditure). This increase is attributed to higher treatment intensities and economic growth in regions most affected by AMR," the researchers said.

The study called for improving innovation and access to high-quality treatment.

It showed that if nobody died from AMR, "the global population will be 22.2 million larger by 2050".

New genetic test can predict obesity risk in adulthood by age 5

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

In a significant breakthrough, an international team of researchers has created a genetic test called a polygenic risk score (PGS) that predicts the risk of obesity in early childhood.

The test, which predicts the risk of obesity by age 5, may be key to identifying children and adolescents at higher genetic risk of developing the condition. It may help to target them with preventative strategies, such as lifestyle interventions, at a younger age.

"What makes the score so powerful is its ability to predict, before the age of five, whether a child is likely to develop obesity in adulthood, well before other risk factors start to shape their weight later in childhood. Intervening at this point can have a huge impact," said lead author Roelof Smit, Assistant



Professor from the NNF Center for Basic Metabolic Research (CBMR) at the University of Copenhagen and of the research published in Nature Medicine.

"This new polygenic score is a dramatic improvement in predictive power and a leap forward in the genetic prediction of obesity risk, which brings us much closer to clinically useful genetic testing," added Professor Ruth Loos from the varsity.

The World Obesity Federation expects more than

half the global population to develop overweight or obesity by 2035. Obesity is a known precursor to many diseases like hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, and cancer.

The PGS test, involving more than 600 scientists from 500 institutions globally, was developed by drawing on genetic data from over five million people.

PGS acts like a calculator that combines the effects of the different risk variants that a person carries and provides an overall score.

The team found that their new PGS was twice as effective as the previous best test at predicting a person's risk of developing obesity.

The scientists also investigated the relationship between a person's genetic risk of obesity and the impact of lifestyle weight loss interventions, such as diet and exercise.

They discovered that people with a higher genetic risk of obesity were more responsive to interventions but also regained weight more quickly when the interventions ended.

However, the new PGS has its limitations. Despite drawing on the genomes of a broader, more globally representative population, it was far better at predicting obesity in people with European-like ancestry than in people with African ancestry.

New immunotherapy drug frees 43-year-old UK man of deadly brain tumour

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

A 43-year-old UK man has been declared free from deadly glioblastoma -- the most aggressive and common type of primary brain tumour -- after taking the new immunotherapy drug.

Ben Trotman was 40 years old when he was diagnosed with glioblastoma.

He became the first patient in the world to participate in a groundbreaking trial of the immunotherapy drug -- ipilimumab -- at the University College London Hospitals (UCLH) in the UK.

Trotman received ipilimumab before the standard treatment when the immune system is at its strongest.

Following treatment, he underwent the current standard treatment of surgery, radiotherapy, and chemotherapy.



More than two and a half years on from treatment, "Trotman is doing well with no active tumour present on scans," the university said in a statement.

"It is very unusual with glioblastoma, especially when he didn't have the

follow-up surgery that had been planned to remove all of the tumour that was initially visible on scans. We hope that the immunotherapy and follow-up treatment Ben has had will hold his tumour at bay, and it has so far, which we are delighted to

see," said Dr Paul Mulholland, consultant medical oncologist at UCLH, who led the trial.

"The crucial element of this trial is that patients will have their immune system boosted by the drug before they have any other treatment, when they are fit and well enough to tolerate the immunotherapy," he added.

Glioblastoma is the most aggressive form of brain cancer with a poor prognosis. Most patients survive just nine months after diagnosis.

"I was in a clinical trial of one, which is why we don't know what the future holds. I am delighted that this new trial, with the same immunotherapy drug I received, is going ahead, and others will have the opportunity to take part. It will give people newly diagnosed with glioblastoma some hope," said Trotman.

Sickle Cell Disease: India achieves milestone with 6 cr screenings, says Govt

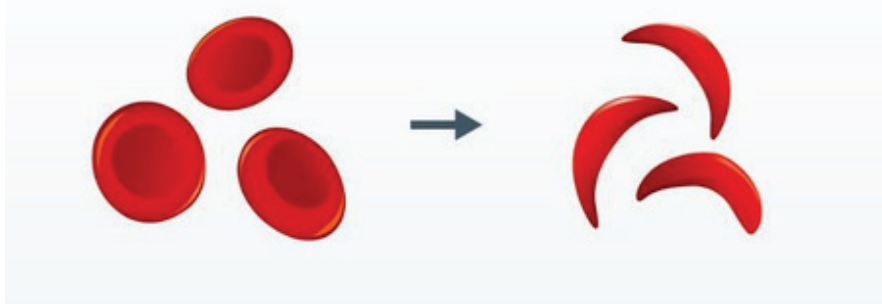
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

A total of 6 crore people in the country have been screened for Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) against the targeted 7 crore under the National Sickle Cell Mission, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said on Tuesday.

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

The genetic blood disorder affects the entire life of the patient, as it leads to various severe health complications.

In addition, "2.6 crore



health cards have been distributed by the respective states to the screened individuals," it added.

Further, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat reported the highest incidence of sickle cell diagnosis.

States like Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Telangana, Karnataka, and Uttarakhand achieved a high percentage of screening relative to their targets, the Ministry said.

The disease is particularly prevalent in India,

especially among the tribal population, though it also affects non-tribals.

To address the burden, the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Madhya Pradesh on July 1, 2023.

The mission aims to eliminate sickle cell disease as a public health problem in India before 2047 by universal screening of 7 crore individuals aged 0-40 years in affected tribal areas by FY 2025-26.

"Screening is conducted using validated Point-

of-Care Testing (POCT) kits, which ensure rapid, reliable, and confirmatory results. A dedicated dashboard and a sickle cell disease portal have also been established by the government to consolidate screening data from all participating states," the Ministry said.

"Future priorities encompass intensifying screening efforts to meet the remaining target and ensuring follow-up and counselling services for individuals diagnosed as diseased or carriers," it added.

Drugs and pharmaceuticals export up 92 pc in last 6 fiscals: Minister

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The export of drugs and pharmaceuticals has increased by 92 per cent over the last six financial years -- from Rs 1,28,028 crore in FY2018-19 to Rs 2,45,962 crore in FY2024-25, the Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

The PLI scheme for Pharmaceuticals aims to enhance India's manufacturing capabilities by increasing investment and production in the sector and contributing to product diversification to high-value goods in the pharmaceutical sector, said Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers, Anupriya Patel, in the Rajya Sabha in a written reply to a question.

The scheme has enabled enhanced investment and production in eligible products. As of March 2025, the committed investment of Rs 17,275 crore targeted over the six-year period of



the scheme stands substantially exceeded with cumulative investment of Rs 37,306 crore made by the scheme's third year, and cumulative sales of approved products of Rs 2,66,528 crore have been made, including exports of Rs 1,70,807 crore.

The cumulative sales of Rs 2,94,000 crore targeted over the six-year period of the scheme are expected to be exceeded in the scheme's fourth year.

The Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma MedTech Sector (PRIIP) scheme has been launched with an outlay of Rs 5,000 crore to

transform India's Pharma MedTech sector from cost-to innovation-based growth by strengthening research and to promote industry-academia linkage for research and development in priority areas in drug discovery and development and medical devices.

Under this, seven Centres of Excellence (CoEs) have been set up, one at each of the seven National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs), with total budgetary support to the tune of Rs 700 crore, to create research infrastructure and promote

R&D in identified areas.

The CoEs are in the areas of anti-viral and antibacterial drug discovery and development, medical devices, bulk drugs, flow chemistry and continuous manufacturing, novel drug delivery system, phyto-pharmaceuticals and biological therapeutics, and have so far approved 104 research projects under the scheme and have filed two patents, the minister informed.

The scheme also includes an outlay of Rs 4,250 crore for support to industry and startups, including in collaboration with academia, for undertaking research and innovation projects in priority areas.

Under the Bulk Drugs Park scheme, three parks have been approved and are at various stages of development in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, through their respective state Implementing Agencies.

Awareness, Counseling & Felicitation programme held at GDC Boys Pulwama

JNEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, JULY 25

A comprehensive awareness, counseling cum felicitation programme under flagship initiative 'The Right Path' was today held at Degree College Boys Pulwama.

The event, organised by Musuada Foundation in collaboration with MF Productions witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, social leaders, civil society members and local stakeholders.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Pulwama, Dr. Sheikh Mohammad Ashraf, attended the function as the chief guest.



Over 300 students and participants attended the programme, which aimed to raise awareness around critical social issues such as drug abuse, radicalisation and youth mental health, while also promot-

ing a positive and responsible community mindset. Addressing the gathering, ADC Pulwama emphasized the crucial role of parents in safeguarding the future of the youth, especially in tack-

ling the growing threat of drug addiction. He urged families to remain vigilant and involved in their children's lives to ensure they remain on the right path.

A number of reputed social and psychological experts addressed the gathering, delivering impactful sessions focused on mental well-being, role of youth in nation-building, and the importance of community vigilance.

The event also included a felicitation ceremony, where 20 young achievers from Pulwama district were honoured for their positive contributions to society and their inspiring journeys.

Mission YUVA: DC Poonch hands over 39 loan sanction letters to aspiring Entrepreneurs

JNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 25

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal today handed over 39 loan sanction letters to beneficiaries under Mission YUVA at a simple function held in the Conference Hall, DC Office.

Additional District Development Commissioner Pankaj Magotra; Deputy Director Employment Abdul Majid Tantray; Lead District Manager



Ravi Kumar and other members of the SBDU were also present.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner encouraged the

beneficiaries to make the best use of the financial support provided under the scheme and contribute positively to local economic growth.

The initiative, aimed at promoting youth entrepreneurship and self-employment, reflects the administration commitment to socio-economic upliftment and sustainable development in the district.

The officials present also reiterated their support in guiding and mentoring the beneficiaries throughout the implementation of their projects, ensuring successful execution and long-term impact of Mission YUVA in Poonch.

112 cases under Mission YUVA approved in Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 25

A meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC), Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) and Business Help Desk (BHD) Heads was held today at DC Office in Jammu. Chaired by Deputy Commissioner Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya, the committee approved 112 cases under the Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan) scheme with the cumulative figure of approved cases reaching 302.

The meeting's main



objective was to review and approve applications submitted by young, aspiring entrepreneurs.

After careful scrutiny and discussion, the committee approved 112 eligible cases for financial support and guidance. The Deputy

Commissioner assigned specific targets to the Business Help Desk Heads for the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for applications received under Mission YUVA.

The chair highlighted the importance of Mission

YUVA in empowering local youth and helping them build sustainable livelihoods. He emphasised the need for holding awareness camps to attract more young people toward self-employment so they can earn their livelihood.

Besides Additional District Development Commissioner Jammu Sher Singh, Deputy Director Employment Sunaina Saini, the meeting was also attended by DLIC and SBDU members and BHD Heads. BHD Heads (SDMs) attended the meeting virtually from their respective headquarters.

DC Budgam chairs DLSCC meeting to review SRO 43 cases

JNEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JULY 25

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat today chaired the District Level Screening-cum-Coordination Committee (DLSCC) meeting to review, discuss and finalize the cases related to compassionate appointment under SRO-43 for the NOKs of civilians and armed forces personnel killed in militancy related incidents.

At the outset, ADC gave a detailed briefing on the current status of each case. After thorough



deliberation and evaluation, the Committee approved several eligible cases under the provisions of the SRO-43.

Dr Bilal after assessing each case, reaffirmed that all deserving NOKs shall receive timely ben-

efits. He emphasized that compassionate appointments under SRO-43 are not merely administrative obligations but a moral commitment to the families who have suffered irreparable losses.

DC directed all concerned departments to maintain close coordination and expedite the verification process without unnecessary delays. He stressed on the need to ensure transparency, sensitivity, and efficiency in handling these cases, reiterating that no eligible family should be made to wait due to procedural

bottlenecks

He said all deserving NOKs shall receive timely benefits.

DC urged all departments to adopt a proactive approach and ensure that all required formalities and verifications are completed within stipulated timelines.

Among others, the meeting was attended by SSP Budgam, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, all SDMs, Commanding Officer 53 RR, all Tehsildars, representatives from the CID and other security agencies.

Satish Sharma meets Google India Leadership



JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 25

In a significant move aimed at boosting the digital development and youth engagement in Jammu and Kashmir, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma, today met with Ashish Wattal, Country Director of Google India, and Sanjay Dewan, Head, North States, Public Sector, Google.

During the meeting, the Minister emphasized the need to explore collaborative avenues with Google to promote the digital inclusion, entrepreneurship and employment generation for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

"J&K's youth have immense potential and it is our priority to channelize their energy into productive and innovative sectors. Strategic partnerships with global technology leaders like Google will help us unlock new opportunities in skilling,


digital education and job creation," said the Minister.

He called upon Google to support the government in launching tailored skill development programs, digital literacy campaigns and technology-driven entrepreneurship models, particularly in rural and remote areas.

Google team reiterated Google's commitment to digital transformation in India and expressed keen interest in working with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

They also extended support for designing the region-specific training programs, workshops and certification courses for the students, professionals and aspiring entrepreneurs.

The Minister directed the officers of the IT department to formulate a concrete action plan for initiating collaborative projects with Google, including potential pilots in IT education, cloud training, AI applications and youth innovation labs.



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

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

e-mail : xenpwwdivgandhinagar@gmail.com

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. DGN/42 of 2025-26 Dated 24-07-2025

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 (₹ in Lacs)	Cost of document (in ₹)	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Time Allowed for complete-on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Providing and laying of Interlocking Tiles at Under Pass Channi Himmat Jammu (Under Non Plan)	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	4.98	600	9960 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1200 Hrs) on or after 31-07-2025	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class
2	Construction of road by way of providing of Interlocking Tile work near H/o Dr. Naiza Sheikh to Er. Shaiza Jan and others No. 9 Doongian Jammu (Under Non Plan for the year 2025-26)	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	3.65	600	7300 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1200 Hrs) on or after 31-07-2025	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class
3	Providing and laying of Wire Grates in Alam Dhar Colony Sunjwan Jammu (Under M.H-3054 Non Plan)	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	1.35	600	2700 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1200 Hrs) on or after 31-07-2025	"A", "B" "C" & "D" Class

Position of AAA :- **Accorded by Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle South Jammu order No. 256 of 2025 dated 07-07-2025 for S.No. 1, Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle South Jammu order No. 269 of 2025 dated 18-07-2025 for S.No. 2 and Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle South Jammu order No. 253 of 2025 dated 28-06-2025 for S.No. 3.**

Position of TS :- **Sanctioned by Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle South Jammu order No. 278 of July 2025 dated 17-07-2025 for S.No. 1, Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle South Jammu order No. 288 of July 2025 dated 21-07-2025 for S.No. 2 and this office order No. 47/PWD Div. Gandhi Nagar/2025-26 dated 18-07-2025 for S.No. 3.**

Project Authority :- **Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle South Jammu for S.No. 1, 2 & 3.**

Major Head of Account :- **Under Non Plan.**

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	24-07-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 24-07-2025 to 30-07-2025, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	26-07-2025 at 1300 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu
4	Bid submission Start Date	24-07-2025
5	Bid Submission End Date	30-07-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	31-07-2025 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu and upload the same i.e treasury challan/receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi 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 need 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 Gandhi Nagar Jammu**. The date for same shall be intimated separately.
- The bids for the work shall remain **valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids**.

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

DIP/J-3892/25
Date: 25-7-25

realme Launches 15 Series with Industry-First AI Edit Genie and Segment leading Performance

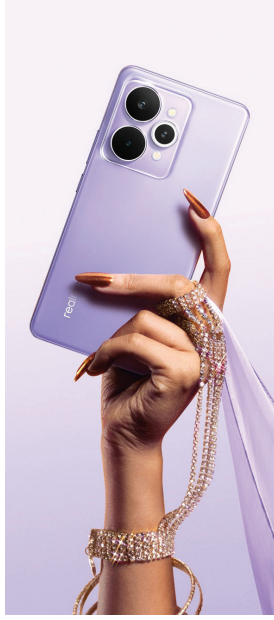
J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 25

realme, the most popular smartphone brand among Indian youth, today announced the launch of the realme 15 Pro 5G and realme 15 5G, positioned as the 'AI Party Phone' setting a new benchmark for camera excellence, advanced AI, and overall performance.

Designed for the young generation who embrace a diversified lifestyle, the realme 15 Series features triple 50MP Ultra-Clear cameras and 4K 60FPS video recording, delivering vivid, crystal-clear shots from any angle, at any moment. It also redefines AI imaging with the world's first AI Edit Genie technology, plus an exclusive AI Party Mode crafted specifically for young users.

Triple 50MP Cameras, Triple Kill

The realme 15 Pro 5G boasts a triple 50MP Ultra Clarity camera system. A flagship 50MP Sony IMX896 OIS main camera with 1/1.56" large sensor at 24mm equivalent of focal length, captures stunning portraits and vibrant nightscapes with unparalleled clarity, brightness, and true-to-life colors. A 50MP Ultra-wide angle with 1/2.8" sensor at 16mm equivalent focal length and a 50MP front camera with 1/2.8" sensor, delivering high-quality group



photos and selfies. In addition, this powerful camera system supports the segment's highest-level 4K 60FPS video shooting, facilitating young users to record their daily life.

The realme 15 5G features two powerful 50M cameras: A 50M Sony IMX882 OIS flagship main camera with big sensor and a 50M OV50D front camera. It delivers clear and powerful selfies, group photos and low-light shooting, enabling users to freely capture moments from every angle in all scenarios. When it comes to video performance, the realme 15 5G's front and rear lenses both fire up 4K, packing the punch for pro-grade video capture—so you can hit record from any angle, in any scenario, without missing a beat.

Users of both realme 15 Pro 5G and realme 15 5G can take 2K live photos. While live photos of general products only support 1080p and can only be viewed in albums, realme 15 Series can double images' clarity and enable its users to share live photos on social apps.

Industry-first AI Edit Genie: Say it, Edit it

The realme 15 Series debuts with the AI Edit Genie, is a revolutionary AI editing tool that enables hands-free image editing with voice commands. With just a sentence of voice command, the AI Edit Genie edits photos like magic by adding objects, swapping backgrounds, adjusting seasons, enhancing beauty, and removing elements instantly. Anyone can become a Photoshop master, leaving the technical details to AI while focusing on imagination.

What's more, AI Edit Genie is the industry-first on-device "AI Inspiration" feature—one tap is all it takes to edit photos, as AI intuitively crafts the optimal edits for you. The algorithm smartly analyzes photos and delivers Pro-level edits with creative flair—no editing skills needed. The AI Inspiration steps in as a savvy curator, intuitively perfecting shots with automated finesse. It fine-tunes brightness, reduces grain, enhances exposure, perfects skin

tones, and automatically banishes glare—all with professional polish. Meanwhile, enhanced by AI MagicGlow 2.0, AI Landscape, AI Glare Remover, and AI Snap Mode, 15 Series ensures vibrant, professional-quality images in any setting.

With the industry-first AI Party Mode, realme 15 Series are capable of shooting clear and bright portraits in low light, capturing fleeting emotions in an instant. Packed with creative watermarks and colorful, multi-style frames, this mode creates an electric party vibe, an exclusive UI adds that special touch of celebration, making every moment feel epic, which is perfect for turning any gathering into an unforgettable night.

Segment's Leading AI chipset for a grand slam in gaming

The realme 15 Pro 5G features the India-First Snapdragon® 7 Gen 4 chipset. Built on the advanced 4nm low-power consumption process, it delivers a 15% enhanced CPU performance and an impressive Antutu score of 110W+ at benchmark. Besides, the realme 15 Pro 5G redefines gaming with high-frame-rate enjoyment in mainstream titles, offering an overall popularization of 120FPS for Free Fire, and 90fps for Battlegrounds Mobile India, supported by AI gaming underlying technology optimization.

Fairdeal Motors Launches Harrier.ev – The Icon Goes Electric, with Future Ready Technology

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 25

Celebrating 25 years of trusted partnership with Tata Motors, Fairdeal Group, J&K's largest Tata Car Dealer, proudly unveiled the All-New Harrier.ev – a bold new electric SUV built for the future. The launch marks a significant milestone in Fairdeal's legacy, combining its decades of customer trust with Tata's latest innovation in sustainable mobility. The event witnessed the presence of Fairdeal's Managing Director Sh. Saleem Bakshi, Mr. Farhan Bakshi, Executive Director Sh. Bhagwan Dass Gandotra, Rohit Gandotra, Mohit Gandotra, Ritvik Gandotra and ASM Mr. Mohd. Danish Afzal from Tata Motors.



The Harrier.ev represents Tata's most advanced electric offering yet—built on the all-new acti.ev platform and designed to deliver performance, safety, and sophistication in equal measure. With a MIDC certified range of up to 627 km and available in QWD Dual Motors setup and RWD configurations, the SUV offers a seamless and powerful driving experience with instant torque

504 Nm, fast charging capabilities and intelligent 6 drive modes. Designed for both city and mountain terrains, it promises to meet the expectations of modern Indian drivers.

What sets the Harrier.ev apart is its bold styling, tech-forward features, and segment-first innovations. From connected LED lighting and a panoramic sunroof to a 14.5-inch infotainment system, ADAS

L-2 safety suite, and Dolby Atmos sound, every detail is crafted to offer a premium experience. Tata's lifetime battery warranty* and 5-star Bharat-NCAP rating further reinforce the SUV's position as the most reliable and future-ready electric car in its segment.

Speaking at the launch, Mr. Chander Singh Katoch, General Manager at Fairdeal Motors, said, "This isn't just the launch of a new car – it's a celebration of how far we've come. Completing 25 years with Tata Motors and launching the Harrier.ev together is a proud and emotional moment for the entire Fairdeal family. We invite all Jammu localities to come visit their nearest Fairdeal Motors setup and drive the future of SUVs at any of our showrooms."

BJP Legislators demand timely redressal of Jammu's critical civic concerns

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 25

In a focused consultative meeting, BJP MLAs expressed serious concern over the deteriorating condition of essential public services in areas pertaining to Jammu Municipal Corporation. The Legislators unanimously resolved to take up these issues directly with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, seeking immediate and time-bound redressal to alleviate the hardships being faced by the people.

The Legislators highlighted the prolonged strike by Daily Wagers of the Power Development Department (PDD) as a matter of urgent public importance. The ongoing strike has disrupted electricity supply in several areas, severely affecting daily life. The MLAs emphasized that despite the availability of 342 vacant posts and a clear government policy



on regularisation, the file remains unjustifiably pending with the Administrative Department, prolonging the crisis. They demanded that the issue be resolved without further delay and in the interest of public convenience. The worsening drinking water supply under the Jal Shakti Department was also brought to attention. The MLAs expressed deep concern over the irregular and insufficient water distribution, especially amid the current spell of heat and humidity. They called for urgent administrative intervention to ensure continuous and clean water supply to all

affected areas. Equally alarming is the state of sanitation across Jammu, compounded by the strike of Municipal Committee workers. Accumulation of garbage, clogged drains, and stagnant water have led to unhygienic conditions, raising the risk of vector-borne diseases like dengue and malaria. The MLAs urged the administration to initiate immediate negotiations with the striking sanitation staff and ensure proper cleanliness measures are restored at the earliest. The repeated flooding and waterlogging in low-lying areas of Jammu Dis-

trict due to clogged drains and lack of desilting were also raised. The BJP Legislators demand timely redressal of Jammu's critical civic concerns pertaining to Jammu Municipal Corporation for urgently undertaking flood mitigation efforts, including short-term desilting and long-term drainage planning to prevent recurring damage.

The meeting was attended by Shri Sham Lal Sharma, Shri Vikram Randhawa, Shri Yudhvir Sethi, Shri Arvind Gupta, Shri Vikram Randhawa, and Shri Surinder Kumar, who reaffirmed their commitment to representing the public's voice and ensuring accountability at all levels of governance. The MLAs resolved to submit a formal memorandum to the Hon'ble Chief Minister in the coming days, outlining the key issues and pressing for urgent departmental responses.

Samsung Ads and Kantar Study highlights Growing Role of Connected TVs in Driving Purchase Intent

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 25

Samsung Ads, in collaboration with Kantar, released a groundbreaking white paper titled Beyond Awareness, which aims to establish the role of Connected TV (CTV) advertising ecosystem in driving critical brand KPIs. This study is among the first from an OEM Connected TV player to deliver robust, data-driven insights into mid-to-lower funnel metrics, offering advertisers clear evidence of how Connected TV drives brand favourabil-

ity and purchase intent. The study analyzed over 100 brand lift studies conducted by Kantar for campaigns on Samsung Smart TVs across various industries and demographics. With independent validation from Kantar, the research brings unprecedented clarity and confidence to advertisers investing in Connected TV. Campaigns were assessed using brand lift metrics including brand favourability, message association, online Ad awareness, and purchase intent, providing a clear picture of the power of Connected

TVs in influencing real consumer behaviour. Sharing her insights, Bhavna Saincher, Head, Insights and Client Solutions, Samsung Ads India, said, "The 'Beyond Awareness' study emphasises the growing importance of Connected TVs as a pivotal touchpoint for driving awareness and consideration, all while amplifying visibility and generating positive outcomes for brands engaging with their audience on the big screen. I am confident that the high engagement of the Gen Z signals a major opportunity for brands

seeking impact with a digitally-native, decision-ready audience." Ebu Isaac, Vice President, Insights Division, Kantar, said, "As Connected TV matures into a full-funnel marketing channel, this study provides compelling evidence of its strategic value—particularly in driving favourability and purchase intent among younger audiences. Connected TV emerges as a critical platform that combines precision, scale, and measurable impact, as advertisers seek to build meaningful connections with the Gen Z."

Manipal Hospital Mukundapur helps Bangladeshi Woman walk again after years of pain and kidney damage

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 25

In a powerful reminder of how timely orthopaedic intervention can restore quality of life, Manipal Hospital, Mukundapur successfully performed bilateral total knee replacement surgery on a 66-year-old female patient, Sreema (name changed) from Bangladesh under the supervision of Dr. Sutanu Hazra, Senior Consultant & HOD - Orthopaedics, Manipal Hospital, Mukundapur. The patient had been wheelchair-bound for years due to crippling knee pain, and she has developed chronic kidney failure caused by prolonged and unsupervised use of over-the-counter painkillers to manage her knee discomfort. The knee replacement surgeries were conducted by Dr. Sutanu Hazra, Senior Consultant & HOD - Orthopaedics on 1st and 3rd July, and necessitated careful cross-specialty planning because the patient had compromised kidney function. She was monitored closely by Dr. Ritesh Kauntia, Consultant - Nephrol-

ogy, Transplant Physician, during the procedure to maintain renal stability, along with experienced anaesthesia and post-operative management. Despite the complexity of the case, the procedure was a huge success. To everyone's surprise, the patient started walking with support just one day after her surgery, something she had not done in years. She is now under observation and is ready for a kidney transplant in the next few weeks. While discussing the case, Dr. Ritesh Kauntia, Consultant - Nephrology, Transplant Physician, Manipal Hospital, Mukundapur, shared, "Over the counter pain killers and alternative medicines are one of the major reasons for kidney disease. When this patient came to me for kidney transplantation in a wheelchair bound state, we decided to treat the root cause first i.e. get her knee surgery done so that she is pain free and mobile before we plan for kidney transplantation. This was important to avoid future use of pain killer and safeguard the new graft kidney."

Dr. Sutanu Hazra, Senior Consultant & HOD - Orthopaedics, Manipal Hospital, Mukundapur, shared, "This patient's journey is a critical reminder that while knee or joint pain significantly hampers daily life, long-term self-medication with over-the-counter painkillers can lead to irreversible damage, not just to the kidneys, but also to the heart and gastrointestinal system. In her case, the unchecked use of analgesics resulted in

kidney failure. Early consultation with an orthopaedic specialist could have prevented this progression. People shouldn't ignore persistent joint pain or rely solely on pharmacy-based remedies. Timely orthopaedic care can address the root cause, prevent severe complications, and help preserve mobility and quality of life. It is deeply rewarding to see her walking again after years, thanks to a coordinated, multidisciplinary effort."

IHRO secures exam relaxation for paramedical students in J&K

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 25

In a major win for student rights and academic justice, the International Human Rights Organization (IHRO) has successfully secured examination relaxation for paramedical students across Jammu and Kashmir. This critical relief comes as a response to the mounting academic pressure and institutional delays that have continued to affect students in the post-pandemic period.

The move is the result of tireless efforts and sustained advocacy led by Adv. Pardeep Singh Chib, State Chairman of IHRO J&K UT. He was supported by Mr. Shubham Langer, State Youth President, and Mr. Akash Bhagat, Jammu Province Youth President. The IHRO leadership submitted detailed representations to relevant authorities,



initiated discussions, and emphasized the urgent need for student-centric reforms in the examination process. Their campaign highlighted how repeated delays and rigid academic calendars were impacting students' mental well-being and academic progression, particularly in a region still recovering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adv. Pardeep Singh Chib stated that the IHRO remains committed to raising its voice for the voiceless and defending

education as a fundamental right. He assured that the organization will continue to ensure fair and transparent practices are upheld across the Union Territory. Mr. Shubham Langer echoed the sentiment, adding that the decision represents just the beginning of several youth-focused initiatives that the IHRO plans to spearhead in the coming months. Mr. Akash Bhagat reinforced their collective commitment to standing by students and ensuring that outdated and bur-

densome policies do not hinder their educational journeys.

The IHRO has also issued a public appeal urging individuals across Jammu and Kashmir to approach the organization with any human rights grievances. These may include concerns related to education, employment, public services, or social justice. The organization offers free legal assistance, representation, and guidance to those in need, reaffirming its role as a vital support system for the citizens of the region.

This achievement marks a significant step forward in ensuring that the voices of students are heard and acted upon. It underscores the importance of proactive advocacy and highlights the IHRO's continued mission of protecting and promoting human rights across all sectors of society.

NOTICE

M/s Kashmir Ispat, SIDCO Industrial Complex, Bari Brahmana, Samba-181133 is applying for change of constitution with the General Manager District Industries Centre, Jammu from partnership concern to partnership concern i.e. from Sh. Rahul Bansal and Sh. Sahil Bansal to Sh. Rahul Bansal and Sh. Amogh Bansal as per new partnership deed duly registered with the Office of Sub-Registrar, Vijaypur dated 21-05-2025. Any body/ Bank/ Financial Institution/ Government body/ Semi Government body having any type of objection can report to the office of General Manager DIC, Jammu within 07 days from the publication of this notice.

'India-UK Vision 2035' sets ambitious goals, deepens bilateral cooperation

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

India and the UK have agreed to strengthen cooperation in developing complex weapons and advanced technologies and fight against terrorism including its financing and cross-border movement of terrorists.

The 'India-UK Vision 2035' endorsed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Keir Starmer in London yesterday, highlights the importance of strengthening of India-UK Defence partnership with both sides agreeing on



expanding engagements with armed forces and advancing Defence capability collaboration.

The 'Vision' also stresses on promoting strategic and Defence industry collaboration through the adoption of a 10-year Defence Industrial Road-

map and a joint mechanism at senior official level to monitor its implementation and progress.

The existing Foreign and Defence 2+2 senior official level dialogue will be upgraded to next higher level.

It calls for enhanc-

ing cooperation under the Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative (IPOI) through establishing a Regional Maritime Security Centre of Excellence (RMSCE) to build capacity and resilience across the Indian Ocean on non-traditional maritime security threats.

It reaffirms India as a regional hub for sustainment of logistics support to UK armed forces presence in the Indian Ocean Region.

Research and development of new capabilities, including underwater systems and direct energy weapons, will be strengthened.

ECI appoints returning officer for Vice President election

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has initiated preparations for the Vice-Presidential Election, 2025 after Jagdeep Dhankhar resigned early this week from the constitutional post.

An official order issued today said, Rajya Sabha Secretary General has been appointed the Returning Officer for the election in accordance with the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952.

The appointment was made in consultation



with the Ministry of Law and Justice and with the approval of the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha. Alongside the Returning Officer, two Assistant Returning Officers have

also been named: Garima Jain, Joint Secretary, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, and Vijay Kumar, Director, Rajya Sabha Secretariat. As per Article 324 of the Constitution, the Election

Commission of India is responsible for conducting the election to the office of the Vice President.

"Under Section 3 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952, the Election Commission, in consultation with the Central Government, appoints a Returning Officer, who shall have his office in New Delhi, and may also appoint one or more Assistant Returning Officers. As per convention, either Secretary General, Lok Sabha or the Secretary General, Rajya Sabha is appointed as the Returning Officer by rotation.

Congress to hold OBC leaders meet in Delhi, Telangana delegation to discuss BC reservations

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD, JULY 25

The Congress party is set to hold a major meeting of its OBC (Other Backward Classes) leaders at the Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi on Friday, with a special focus on the social, educational, and economic upliftment of backward communities across the country.

The meeting will see participation from a wide array of Congress leaders, including PCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud, BC Ministers, MLAs, MPs, MLCs, Corporation Chairmen, former legislators, DCC Presidents, and heads



of BC-affiliated groups. Leaders from the Youth Congress, NSUI, Library Society, Market Committees, BC intellectuals, and various caste group representatives will also be attending.

The event will be marked by addresses from key national leaders.

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi will be the main

speakers. Rahul Gandhi is expected to provide direction on launching a strong and united OBC movement aimed at empowering oppressed communities and ensuring greater inclusion.

A crucial part of the meeting will be the deliberation on the role of BC leaders in building awareness and unity among OBC communities nationwide. Telangana's Congress BC leaders will also use this platform to engage in discussions with Rahul Gandhi regarding BC reservations and the future political roadmap for backward classes in the state, a party statement said.

Rajnath Singh to lay foundation stone of rail unit in Madhya Pradesh

AGENCIES
BHOPAL, JULY 25

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will lay the foundation stone of a state-of-the-art rail coach manufacturing unit in Raisen on August 10, marking the beginning of a major infrastructure project with an investment of Rs 1,800 crore.

Ahead of the event, Bengaluru-based BEML Ltd Chairman and Managing Director Shantanu Roy along with Director (Rail and Metro) Rajiv Gupta, General Manager Chandrashekhar and Executive Director OP Singh paid a courtesy visit to Madhya



Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav at Samatva Bhavan in the Chief Minister's residence, it was

officially learnt.

Yadav was apprised that BEML Ltd is making preparations for the foundation stone-laying of the unit in Umaria village, located in Gauharganj tehsil of Raisen district. The project is being developed in collaboration with the Department of Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion, the Raisen district administration and other related agencies. The upcoming facility is expected to generate direct and indirect employment for around 1,575 people. Additionally, the process of land acquisition is underway to ensure seamless rail con-

nectivity by linking the government-allotted land for the unit to the railway line.

The Chief Minister informed the BEML officials of the significant investment flowing into various sectors across the state. He emphasised that the establishment of the unit will provide substantial employment opportunities for local youth and bring about a positive transformation in the region's economy. Principal Secretary (Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion) Raghendra Kumar Singh was also present during the meeting.

Anil Ambani not on boards of companies, says statement after ED raids 35 premises

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, JULY 24

The Anil Ambani-led Reliance Power and Reliance Infrastructure issued a statement today that raids carried out by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) "have absolutely no impact on the business operations, financial performance, shareholders, employees, or any other stakeholders of the companies."

"The media reports appear to pertain to allegations concerning transactions of Reliance Communications Limited (RCom) or Reliance Home Finance Limited (RHFL), which are



more than 10 years old," as per the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 for over 6 years." RHFL has been fully resolved pursuant to the judgement of the Supreme Court. Similar allegations as those set out in the media reports are sub judice and pending before the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT), as per publicly available

information," according to the statement. "Further, Anil Ambani is not on the Board of Reliance Power and Reliance Infrastructure. Accordingly, any action taken against RCOM or RHFL has no bearing or impact on the governance, management, or operations of both the companies," the statement maintained.

Earlier in the day, the ED raided more than 35 premises and 50 companies linked to the Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group to probe an alleged Rs 3,000-crore Yes Bank loan fraud, where Yes Bank officials allegedly received bribes.

Kerala Power Department a syndicate of corruption: Ramesh Chennithala

AGENCIES
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JULY 25

Senior Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala has alleged that the Kerala Power Department took a loan of Rs 175 crore from NABARD under the guise of a solar project to facilitate corruption, with the support of a secretive group within ANERT.

In a letter to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, AICC Working Committee member Chennithala said the Power Department has become a "syndicate of corruption" operating with borrowed funds.

The former Leader of the Opposition in the



Kerala Assembly also demanded a forensic audit and a Legislative Committee probe into a major corruption scandal worth over Rs 100 crore in ANERT, a public sector institution, related to the Central Government's PM-KUSUM scheme-intended to provide farmers with

free solar-powered pumps. "Simultaneously, due to the failure to utilize funds allocated by the Centre under the KUSUM scheme, the government was forced to return unutilized amounts. Irregularities worth crores have also occurred in the Thiruvananthapuram Smart City project—not just in the KUSUM scheme," he pointed out.

Chennithala alleged that the ANERT CEO, who is only authorized to issue tenders up to Rs 5 crore, issued a tender worth Rs 240 crore for the project. "Despite my repeated demands, the Power Minister has refused to clarify who approved this

tender. It is impossible for such a large tender to proceed without the minister's knowledge. The circumstances behind this approval must be made public," he said.

He also noted that the first tender—which had a lower quoted amount—was cancelled, and a second tender was floated. "The reason for cancelling the first tender needs to be disclosed," he demanded.

"The second tender received quotes up to 145% higher than the base price fixed by the Centre. This must be explained. Contracts were awarded at amounts higher than several of the submitted bids," he added.

**UT of Jammu and Kashmir
DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE & F.W, TALAB TILLO, JAMMU
E-mail: diragriammu-jk@jk.gov.in, telephone/fax: 0191-2552145**

Advisory on Fall Army Worm (FAW) *Spodoptera frugiperda* on Maize regarding.

Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) is an invasive, polyphagous economically important insect pest could cause substantial damage especially in maize crop. The pest is native to tropical and sub-tropical regions of America. In India it spread from South India to other parts of the country. Nevertheless, its damage intensity is under control by continuous efforts of DPPQES, FAO, ICAR and State Agriculture Department. Keeping in view the favourable climatic conditions, availability of maize crop throughout country and previous year observations there is possibility that the pest may cause extensive damage therefore the following strategies are suggested to prevent the pest attack well in advance:

- Extensive surveys need to be initiated to map the prevalence and spread of the pest. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome, Italy developed the FAW\monitoring and Early Warning System (FAMEWS) mobile app can be used by farmers, and extension agents to send vital data about FAW infestation levels. This helps generate detailed and reliable information that can be used to manage FAW. This app works offline and provides farmers with advice on how to manage FAW.
- Erection of bird perches @ 10/acre during early stage of the crop (up to 30 days) as birds acts as good predator on lepidopteran larvae.
- Sowing of 3-4 rows of trap crops (e.g. Napier) around maize field and spray with 5% NSKE or *Azadirachtin* 1500 ppm as soon as the trap crop shows symptom of FAW damage.
- Application of Sand + lime in 9: 1 ratio in whorls in first thirty days of sowing soon after the observation of FAW incidence restricts larval feeding.
- Install pheromone traps @ 15/acre in field for mass trapping and destruction of male moths.
- Eggs parasitoids such as *Trichogramma pretiosum* and *Telemonus remus* can be released for destroying the egg stage of FAW @ 50000 per acre at weekly intervals (avoid spraying chemical pesticides for few days during the time of release in the field).
- *Entomopathogenic fungi* such as *Metarhizium anisopliae*, *Nomuraea rileyi*, *Beauveria bassiana* and *verticillium lecani* at 1x 10⁸ CFU/g @ 5 g/litre whorl & repeat after 10 days if required could be used for management of the pest.
- *Bacillus thuringiensis* ver. *Kurstaki*, NPV formulation @ 2 g/l (or) 400 g/acre could be used IPM package of practices for Maize need to be promoted.
- Apply neem cake @ 250 kg/ha at the time of last ploughing.

Chemical Control:

- 1. Seed treatment:** Cyantraniliprole 19.8% + Thiamethoxam 19.8% FS @ 6 ml/kg of seed will be effective for 15-20 days.
- 2. First Window (seedling to early whorl stage):** To control FAW larvae at 5% damage to reduce hatchability of freshly laid eggs, spray 5% NSKE / *Azadirachtin* 1500ppm @ 5ml/l of water.
- 3. Second window (mid whorl to late whorl stage):** To manage 2nd and 3rd instars larvae having more than 10% foliar damage the following chemicals may be used upto early tasselling stage: Spinetoram 11.7% SC or Chlorantraniliprole 18.5% SC or Thiamethoxam 12.6% + Lambda cyhalothrin 9.5% ZC.
- 4. Third Window (8 weeks after emergence to tasseling and post tasseling):** Insecticide management is not cost effective at this stage.

All the sprays should be directed towards whorl and either in the early hours of the day or in the evening time.

In case of any symptoms contact your nearest **Agriculture Extension Officer** or further information contact, **Plant Health Clinic Jammu.**

**Director
Agriculture Production & F.W, Jammu**

**DIP/J-3898/25
Date: 25-7-25**

Indian men's hockey team to tour Australia for four-match series in August

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

The Indian men's hockey team is set to tour Australia in August for a four-match series, set to be held at the Perth Hockey Stadium from August 15 to 21.

The series promises to be a highly competitive contest, featuring eighth-ranked India taking on sixth-ranked Australia. The matches will be played on August 15, 16, 19, and 21.

The two sides recently faced each other in the FIH Pro League 2024-25 in Europe, where Australia edged India 3-2 in both legs. However, India had earlier scripted a memo-



orable 3-2 victory over the Kookaburras at the 2024 Paris Olympics – their first Olympic win over Australia since the 1972 Munich Games.

While recent encounters have been closely fought, Australia has historically held the edge

in the rivalry, winning 35 of the 51 matches played between the two teams since 2013. India have won nine times, with seven matches ending in draws.

The series will serve as important preparation for India ahead of the Asia Cup 2025, set to be held in

Rajgir, Bihar from August 29 to September 7. The tournament offers a direct qualification spot for the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup 2026, making the Australia tour a key milestone in India's buildup.

Speaking on the tour, chief coach Craig Fulton said, "This tour comes at a crucial time for us, just ahead of the Asia Cup in Bihar. While these are technically friendly matches, they form a very important part of our preparation phase. Playing against a team like Australia will test us in all aspects - both on the ball and off it - and that is exactly what we need to sharpen up before a major tournament."

4th Test: England might want to bat only once in this Test match, says Ponting

AGENCIES
MANCHESTER, JULY 25

Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting believes England might only want to bat once in the ongoing fourth Test against India, citing the good batting conditions on offer for day three's play at Old Trafford.

England ended day two's play at 225/2 in 46 overs, after Ben Duckett and Zak Crawley shared a 94-run opening partnership. With Ollie Pope and Joe Root on task to reduce the deficit, the hosts are in sight of taking a big lead.

"England's win percentage might now even be higher, thinking about



these batting conditions today (in bright sunshine at Old Trafford). They definitely got the better of it yesterday; we saw just how much the conditions changed from the morning to the afternoon."

"Batting conditions probably won't get any

better than they are right now and they've got two class players at the crease (in Pope and Root). England will have gone to bed last night thinking about the possibility of only batting once in this Test match."

and get a huge first-innings total. India need to find a way early to get back into this game with early wickets, otherwise this game is slipping away very quickly," said Ponting on Sky Sports' broadcast.

If Root goes past 19 and 20, he will leapfrog Rahul Dravid and Jacques Kallis to be in third place on the all-time leading run-scorers list in Tests. Root could potentially go past Ponting if he manages to get a score of 120 or more. "That could very well happen today (Root passing him on all-time run-scorers list). It's a great day for batting. What a remarkable career it has been."

"They want to bat long

Youngsters will get a chance to learn from legends of the game: Shiv Kapur on upcoming Indian Golf Premier League

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

Veteran Indian golfer Shiv Kapur believes the upcoming Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL) will be a valuable learning platform for young players, offering them a rare opportunity to compete alongside legends of the game.

The IGPL, a city-based franchise tournament with six mixed-gender teams, is set to take place over four weeks between January and February in 2026. The league will feature a unique format that brings together profes-



sional male and female golfers along with leading amateurs in a fresh and competitive setup.

"I think the leagues in India are bigger than leagues anywhere else in the world. And I think from a general sporting

audience, everyone recognises what being part of a team means. So I think for the youngsters, you know, for them to go around and tell everyone, you know, I'm part of the Delhi team. I'm part of the Mumbai team," said

Kapur, replying to an IANS query during a media interaction.

Kapur, a three-time winner on the Asian Tour, cited the Indian Premier League's (IPL) example of grooming young cricketing talents in the country and building a supply pipeline for the national team.

"It's something cool, right? And I saw that with some of the younger IPL guys, you know, there's a feeling of pride. And also, you know, you're playing against the best in the country. You're playing against what we call the legends of the game.

Magdalena Frech honours Venus Williams after Washington Open, says 'She's like a god'

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

World number 24 Pole Magdalena Frech said Venus Williams is like a god after topping the former world No. 1 in the second round of the Washington Open.

With her first-round win over fellow American Peyton Stearns on Tuesday, Williams became the oldest player to win a WTA Tour match since 2004. But it was a different story against Frech, who defeated the former world No. 1 in straight sets 6-2, 6-2. This loss came a day after Williams and Hailey Baptiste lost in the second round of the event doubles, where Taylor Townsend and



Zhang Shuai edged them in a match-deciding tiebreak -- closing the book on Williams' first competitive action in more than a year.

While No. 25 Stearns gave Williams free points off of unforced errors, she made 41 total in Williams' 6-3, 6-4 win. She made 10 unforced errors in the match, to nine winners; Williams made 32 miscues and double faulted five

times, as per WTA. "She's a super star, she's like a god here, so it was very emotional for me to handle this match. I can't even imagine myself in 17 years still on the court -- no chance! It was really a great match and a great honor to play her. I won a lot of points from the first serve, and I really tried to move her on the court -- play different directions all

the time, some drop shots, slice. I think I played well from the tactical side, and I'm really happy I'm in the quarterfinals," Frech said.

Frech is through to her first quarterfinal of the season -- having reached the last eight at a tournament at the WTA 1000 Wuhan Open last October. She'll bid for a third consecutive match win, something she hasn't done since then either, against No. 3 seed Elena Rybakina next.

A seven-time grand slam winner - two US Open titles and five Wimbledon championships - Williams will make her return to the WTA 1000 Cincinnati Open next. She's been given a wild card to the main draw.

Ex-England cricketer David Lloyd accuses Pant of 'milking' his injury

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

Former England cricketer David Lloyd revealed that the common consensus of the 'legends lounge' at Old Trafford was that India wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant was 'milking his injury' when he walked out to bat on Day 2 of the fourth Test.

Pant was batting at 37 on Day 1 when he was injured while attempting to reverse sweep a Chris Woakes yorker, which ended up hitting him on the toe and resulted in a reported fracture on his right foot. Despite the injury, he returned to bat after Shardul Thakur's



dismissal and received thunderous applause in Manchester, but Lloyd believes Pant should have been timed out.

"I've never had a metatarsal, which I think is somewhere in the foot, seeing Rishabh Pant. I have had a smashed hand against Andy Roberts and a broken cheekbone. I couldn't bat on after either, although I think I did con-

tinued when I had a broken finger. Pant looked in pain; it was pretty heroic of him to come out, though.

"I was in that legends lounge today, and the consensus was, 'He is milking that injury. It can't be that bad. He's milked it, coming down those steps, and one or two said, 'He should be timed out,'" said former English cricketer David Lloyd for talkSPORT

Cricket. Pant's injury once again sparked the debate of whether substitutes should be allowed for injuries in Test cricket. The England great was in favour of the idea in case of an external injury like Pant.

"I probably am against runners, but I am pro substitutes for an external injury. It opens up a can of worms, it really does. But if it is an external injury, a break, and medically he isn't going to be fit for six weeks, you could have a like-for-like substitute. So that's something else that you've got to consider. Not like replacing a batter with a spinner, though,"

'If you want to win a Test match, batters need to play big innings': Jwala Singh

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

Jwala Singh, India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal's childhood coach, has offered a critical assessment of India's performance so far in the Manchester Test as well as in the entire Anderson-Tendulkar trophy so far and suggested that the two-three batters must play longer innings, while the middle and lower order need to contribute more to the team's overall effort.

Reflecting on the top order's contribution so far, Singh highlighted the efforts of Sai Sudharsan, Rishabh Pant and Jaiswal, but noted the absence of



a long, match-defining innings, which he believes is key for winning a Test match.

"If you look at the openers, Sai Sudharsan scored some runs, and Rishabh Pant, despite playing with an injury, also contributed. Yashasvi made

runs, and a few other batters had short but useful innings. But if you want to win a Test match, one or two players need to play a big, long innings," Singh told IANS.

"The mistakes we made in the first Test match were repeated in the third

Test. We needed more contributions from the middle and lower order. We won the second Test largely because of Shubman Gill's big score. His innings played a major role in securing that win. The batters needed to take responsibility here as well, but unfortunately, they didn't," he added.

India are currently trailing the five-match series 1-2 and were bowled out for 358 in the first innings of the fourth Test at Old Trafford. In response, half-centuries from Ben Duckett (94) and Zak Crawley (84) guided England to 225/2 in 46 overs at stumps, trailing India by 133 runs.

'Was it ethical for Stokes to bowl so many yorkers at Pant with injured foot': Panesar

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

Former England spinner Monty Panesar questioned host captain Ben Stokes' approach of bowling yorkers to injured Rishabh Pant, when he came to bat again on day two of the fourth Test at Old Trafford.

Pant, who was retired hurt on 37 after being hit on the right toe by Chris Woakes in the final session of the opening day, came out to bat again despite the reports of a fracture on his right foot. He looked in obvious discomfort as he hobbled to complete his singles.

India vice-captain



received a roaring welcome from the crowd and earned a lot of praise from former cricketers, including Panesar, but the veteran spinner criticised Stokes for targeting Pant's injured foot (front) with yorkers when he was

already struggling with the pain. "Well, I think he's being very brave, and it's massively risky because you don't want him to get injured further and he has a fractured toe. So, he's done brilliant heroics

from him, and he's shown great bravery and shown how strong of a character he is. And it's probably similar to when Anil Kumble had a fractured jawline, what he did then.

"But, I don't know, was it ethical for Ben Stokes to bowl so many yorkers at Pant when he already had a broken toe? It's questionable," Panesar told IANS.

Pant added 17 runs to his last night's total and scored a gritty 54 to rattle India's first innings total to 358.

In reply, half-centuries from Ben Duckett and Zak Crawley guided England to 225/2 in 46 overs at stumps, trailing India by 133 runs.

'Bravery is one thing, but the team must take care of Pant': Surinder Khanna

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 25

Amid the praise of bravery and courage for Rishabh Pant's act to come out to bat again after severely hurting his right foot, former India cricketer Surinder Khanna had a distinct view and felt the team should have guided the wicketkeeper-batter to take care of himself after a severe injury.

When Pant walked out



to bat again at Old Trafford on Thursday, the crowd gave him a rousing welcome and former cricketers also hailed his courageous act of putting his body on the line for the team.

"At the moment, it was brave - the way he played that reverse sweep and the ball struck his toe. Now, what the medical reports say is all speculation. The fact that he came out to bat after that

was very brave. After his car accident, the issues he'd faced should be monitored closely by the medical team to ensure it doesn't turn into a career-threatening injury. It's good to be brave, but at the same time, for longevity, it's important to be careful," Khanna told IANS on Friday.

The veteran cricketer remarked that Rishabh Pant should have been rested following the blow to his finger during the Lord's Test, and suggested that Dhruv Jurel - who is currently handling wicketkeeping duties at Old Trafford due to Pant's foot injury - should have replaced him earlier.

Mission YUVA: DC Kulgam distributes sanction letters among 47 beneficiaries

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JULY 25

As part of the ongoing efforts to promote youth empowerment and entrepreneurship, 'Roz-e-YUVA' program under Mission YUVA initiative of the government was today held at the Conference Hall of Mini-secretariat Kulgam.

The event organised by the District Employment Office, Kulgam in collaboration with J&K Bank was presided over by the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan and attended by the ADDC Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan; ADC, Viqar Ahmed Giri; ACD, LDM Kulgam, Cluster Head JK Bank,



Assistant Director Employment, other senior administration and Bank officers.

During the event, DDC, in the presence of the other officers, distributed loan sanction letters under Mission YUVA among 47 young potential entrepreneurs identified from the Kulgam district to help them establish new ventures.

Speaking on the occasion, DDC highlighted the transformative impact of

Mission YUVA, stating that the government, through this flagship initiative, is proactively creating sustainable revenue-generating avenues for the unemployed youth of the region through subsidized credit support and training.

DDC added that over 172 cases under Mission YUVA have been approved for further disbursement, and urged unemployed youth to take advantage

of schemes like HADP, and other financial inclusion initiatives to build sustainable livelihoods.

Meanwhile, Khan urged the beneficiaries to utilize the financial support responsibly and effectively and channel these funds towards building sustainable and dignified livelihoods, not just for themselves, but for others around them.

Zonal head J&K Bank, Khurshheed Muzaffar expressed his pleasure at the enthusiasm shown by the youth and reiterated that J&K Bank remains steadfast in supporting the government's vision of empowering youth through these opportunities.

CS reviews BISAG-N powered IT initiatives in J&K

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 25

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress on ongoing Information Technology (IT) initiatives undertaken across J&K to enhance the governance and citizen-centric services.

The meeting besides Special DG, BISAG-N, Vinay Thakur was attended by Secretary, IT Department and concerned Administrative Secretaries; DG, Planning; SIO, NIC and other senior officers.

The Chief Secretary took detailed appraisal of the digital interventions being implemented to promote ease of living for the people.

Emphasizing the need to make IT platforms more impactful, he called for significant improvements in the design and functionality of dashboards related to various government schemes. He suggested that they be made more vibrant, informative and outcome-driven through integration with other relevant platforms.

Regarding the Kisan Khidmat Ghar Dashboard, the Chief Secretary directed that it should reflect real-time data on the functioning of Krishi Udhyanis and describe the support mechanisms to be made available to them for



improved efficiency and productivity.

He also reviewed the upgradation roadmap of the YUVA App, calling for deeper insights into application usage patterns, application submission tracking, DPR generation and integration with the MSME Health Clinic and ONDC platforms for enhanced user experience and benefit.

Importantly, he stressed the linking the app with the UDISE and APAAR databases of the School Education Department to monitor student skill development and career outcomes, thus enabling a seamless track of their educational and vocational journeys.

In healthcare, Dulloo suggested comprehensive integration of the JK Sehat App with the ABDM and HIMS frameworks. He emphasized making the platform more user-friendly while enabling support for registered home-care providers to access diagnostic tools and improve

treatment delivery.

The Chief Secretary also proposed creation of a unified search engine dedicated to indexing websites hosted by the J&K and Central Government, to help the citizens and employees easily access official data and resources.

Looking ahead, he advised the IT Department to explore the development of an AI-based Legal Counselling App to assist individuals in navigating legal issues with informed and automated guidance.

The meeting also discussed initiatives such as development of AI-based learning tools, introduction of educational TV channels and exposure of students to AI modules like AI-101 and AI-201 from an early stage to foster technological competence.

Further updates were taken on the status of the Centre of Excellence in Emerging Technologies, the 360° Tourism App, Land Records Digitization, HADP 360, JKCIIP, Agri

Output Tracking Apps, Village Planning App and IT-based platforms under PDD and Jal Shakti Department.

Special DG, BISAG-N, Vinay Thakur, shared the progress on ongoing projects being developed in collaboration with the UT Government. He assured continued support from BISAG-N in building robust, scalable and citizen-centric IT solutions. He also provided technical insights and affirmed BISAG-N's commitment to timely execution of tasks in consultation with the respective departments.

Earlier, Secretary IT, Dr. Piyush Singla, gave a comprehensive overview on key milestones achieved, current developments and future plans under the Digital J&K framework. He elaborated on the transformative potential of several digital initiatives underway and their anticipated impact on service delivery and governance across the length and breadth of the UT.

SDA launches Shehjar Heights Phase-II

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 25

Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) has announced the launch of Phase-II of the Shehjar Heights project at Bemina Srinagar envisaging construction of 112 more residential apartments, including 56 each 2-BHK and 3-BHK flats.

Shehjar Apartments is a flagship Vertical Housing project of SDA in Srinagar involving construction of around 450 residential apartments comprising around 13 towers. The Phase-I of the project completed with the construction of 140 apartments, is fully sold-out.

Given the overwhelming demand for quality residential apartments in Srinagar, SDA has expedited the execution of the project and has started the process for construction of 112 more flats under Phase-II after the Phase-I was fully sold out, said Mohammad Rafi, Vice-Chairman SDA adding that the possession of flats in Phase-II is likely to be handed over to the prospective allottees within 2 years.

He said vertical housing has become a necessity to ensure economical use of land in the fast-expanding



Srinagar city. "Given the scarce land resources and sky-rocketing land prices in Srinagar, time has come for SDA to promote the concept of flatted accommodation in the city in a big way," Mr Rafi said.

HUDCO, he said, are the projects consultants for the Shehjar Heights, who have formulated the overall layout plan and design of towers and individual residential units.

Mr Rafi said that Shehjar Heights are spread over around 100 kanals of land with 40 ft wide main road and 36 ft wide internal roads transecting various apartment blocks located adjacent to Srinagar-Baramulla highway in Bemina near Hajj House.

The Vice-Chairman said that the project has been

provided with adequate parking facility including surface parking for around 550 vehicles and covered parking for around 220 vehicles. Besides it will have parks, community hall, children's play area, tennis court, amphitheater, health club, community market, gym, food court and a dedicated STP.

He said the best thing about Shehjar Project is that it is suitably located on National Highway in easily accessible and buzzing Bemina area of Srinagar, with remarkable proximity to urban amenities like hospitals, schools and markets with hassle-free to Srinagar International Airport and Nowgam Railway Station.

He said adequate

interventions have been ensured to make the structures earthquake resistant and HUDCO has got the structural design of the project approved by IIT Kanpur. "For the first time Liquefaction Resistance technology is being used in the construction of Phase-II to make the towers earth-quake resistant," he said and added that HUDCO is also providing consultancy for drainage, water supply and sewerage design, energy management, communication system, fire detection, fire protection and security systems for the Shehjar Apartments.

The Vice-Chairman said that each 3-BHK flat is spread over a net surface area of 1250 sft with 3 bedrooms, Drawing Room, Living Room, Kitchen, 3 washrooms, utility and veranda while 2-BHK flat has a surface area of 1012 sft comprising 2 bedrooms, drawing room, living room, 2 washrooms, kitchen, utility and veranda.

Rafi said the tendering process of Phase-II has been initiated and SDA is going to soon announce the booking for Phase-II with flexible payment mode.

DC Srinagar hands-over 201 sanction letters to Mission YUVA beneficiaries for setting up self-employment units

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 25

In a significant move towards youth empowerment and promoting self-reliance, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, today handed-over Sanction Letters to the beneficiaries of Mission YUVA initiative to support entrepreneurs in establishing self-employment generating units in the district.

In this regard, an event was organized at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex which was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Srinagar, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Divisional Head J&K Bank, Shabir Ahmad Bhat, Zonal Head J&K Bank, Raja Zaffar Khan, Deputy Director Employment, Dr Sheeba Inayat, DSWO, LDM (Banks), Heads of various J&K Bank Business Units and



other concerned, alongside a large number of Mission YUVA beneficiaries from different parts of the Srinagar district.

On the occasion, DC handed over 201 sanction letters to aspiring entrepreneurs under Mission YUVA initiative whose proposals had been approved after thorough evaluation by the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) marking a significant moment in the district administration's efforts to empower youth through sustainable self-employment ventures and foster economic growth by enabling youth to earn their livelihood in a dignified

manner.

Speaking on the occasion, DC underlined that the Administration is working hard to create a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem in Srinagar district. He urged expeditious disposal of all Mission YUVA cases so that maximum benefits reach the aspiring entrepreneurs swiftly.

He emphasized that the scheme is designed for easy access, enabling beneficiaries to receive benefits in a hassle free mode directly without unnecessary visits to different Government offices.

DC also commended the inter-departmental cooperation

involving DIC, Employment, JKEDI, NRLM, and Banks to facilitate quick processing of cases & sanctioning and credit disbursement. He stated that the progress achieved in Srinagar is a promising sign for promoting self-employment and boosting the local economy by generating jobs.

Senior Officers of Jammu & Kashmir Bank while speaking on the occasion described the 'Mission YUVA' a unique flagship programme launched by the Government that has witnessed support of entire government machinery right from the conception to implementation to ensure that youth can avail maximum benefits without hassles.

They assured that the Bank will make every possible effort to make the Mission YUVA a success initiative to empower youth through sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Smart Public Distribution System to go live by mid August 2025: Satish Sharma

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 25

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Information Technology, Transport, and Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma, today said that the much-anticipated Smart Public Distribution System (Smart PDS) will be made functional across Jammu and Kashmir by mid August 2025.

The Minister was reviewing the progress on Smart PDS implementation in the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary FCS&CA, Saurabh Bhagat, along with other senior officers and technical teams involved in the migration process.

The Minister stated that Jammu and Kashmir is on track to become the first Union Territory in the country to fully migrate



to the Smart PDS under the national RCMS (Ration Card Management System) framework, as directed by the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

"Smart PDS is a transformative reform in food distribution that ensures transparency, efficiency and portability of services. With this shift, over 25 lakh senior officers and technical teams involved in the migration process.

The meeting was told that under the Smart PDS

system and under One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) the beneficiaries from Jammu and Kashmir can now avail their entitled ration PAN India and vice-versa.

Similarly, it was also informed that all the feeding of the Smart PDS is under testing phase and optimization for unique needs of Jammu and Kashmir and would also include various categories like SAA, NFSA and PMSES. The automation shall democratize the entire PDS system and beneficiaries can use applications like Mera Ration

and Annapurna to get real time information about his ration quota.

It was also given out that all the ration distribution shall be based on Aadhar enabled POS machines of LI configuration which are 4G enabled. This shall help the department in improving the storage efficiency, economize transportation and provide effective services to the Consumer. It was also clarified that all the other allied services like ration distribution, Ayushman card will not be effected by this transition.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to expedite testing, ensure training of FPS (Fair Price Shop) dealers and launch public awareness campaigns ahead of the roll-out. He emphasized that the success of Smart PDS depends on its accessibility to even the remotest parts of the Union Territory.

DC Bandipora distributes sanction letters of Rs.5.5 lakh relief to Road Accident victims

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JULY 25

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Friday handed over sanction letters amounting to Rs 5.5 lakh to the next of kin (NoKs) of recent road accident victims during a brief ceremony held at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The financial assistance had been sanctioned during a Road Safety Committee meeting held earlier this week, during which six cases were approved for compensation. On the occasion, DC urged citizens to strictly follow traffic rules to prevent road mishaps.



Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Bandipora, Mudasir Ahmad Wani, briefed the attendees besides the general public about the provisions of the J&K Road Accident Victim Fund, under which the financial assistance was provided.

He informed that under the scheme, Rs 1 lakh is provided in case of death to the dependents, legal heirs, or close family members of the deceased; Rs 75,000 is given in case of permanent disability; Rs 50,000 for grievous injuries; and Rs 10,000 for minor injuries.

The ARTO also clarified that all victims of road accidents involving private vehicles, passenger-cum-goods vehicles, and even vehicles owned by government departments, corporations, and public sector undertakings are eligible under the scheme.