

**DENGUE WARNING SIGNS**

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

**Watch out for dengue warning signs!**

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

- Severe and continuous headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Stomach pain
- Present vomiting
- Red spots on the skin
- Difficulty breathing
- Severe tiredness or weakness
- Redness in the eyes

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## London-bound AI plane crashes near Ahmedabad airport; at least 265 killed

**AGENCIES**  
AHMEDABAD, JUN 12

A UK-bound Air India flight with 242 people on board crashed near Ahmedabad airport on Thursday afternoon.

Former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani was among those killed in the crash. Mr Rupani, 68, was the Chief Minister from 2016 till 2021. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh while confirming

the death of Vijay Rupani, said he was 'pained by the tragic demise of former Gujarat Chief Minister Rupani ji in the unfortunate plane crash in Ahmedabad. He will be remembered as a grass-root leader who devoted his life for the development and welfare of his state,' Mr Singh said.

BJP Gujarat chief C R Patil also confirmed the demise of Mr Rupani.

Details about casualties were

not known immediately and there was no official statement on the number of casualties. One person who was sitting on seat no. 11 A, was admitted to hospital even as the kin of other passengers frantically looked for any survivors.

The aircraft lost contact within minutes of takeoff and went down in the Meghani Nagar area.

Rescue operations were on. National Disaster Response Force

(NDRF) teams were brought in from Gandhinagar.

The Air India flight, a Boeing Dreamliner 787, crashed in a densely populated area near the airport. Immediately after the crash, local residents rushed to the area to help with rescue efforts.

There were 169 Indian nationals, 53 British, one Canadian and seven Portuguese nationals

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**



### PM, HM, J&K LG, CM, Mirwaiz others express shock

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUN 12 (KNO)

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief

Minister Omar Abdullah and other leaders from the region expressed sadness over the tragic plane

crash in Ahmedabad in which 242 persons were onboard.

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### Power sector faced 2 lakh cyber-attacks during 'Op Sindoor', says Union Minister

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUN 12 (KNO)

Union Minister for Power and Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal Khattar Thursday said that there were two lakh cyber-attacks on the power sector of India during 'Operation Sindoor'.

The Minister however said that all the cyber-attacks were successfully thwarted.

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

### Amarnath Yatra: Around 125 langars to be set up for pilgrims

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JUNE 12

As preparations are in full swing for an upcoming Shri Amarnath Yatra

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

### CISF secures two most sensitive jails in J&K

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 12

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has taken over the security of the two most secure central jails in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The development comes almost three years

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## Under PM Modi's leadership India's disaster management moving forward with 'Zero Casualty Approach': HM Shah

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUN 12 (KNO)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership India's disaster management is moving forward with a 'Zero Casualty Approach'.

Chairing a high-level meeting here to review flood management preparedness in the country, Shah, according to the news agency said, "In 2014, India was far behind in the field of meteorology, but today under the leadership of Modi ji we are at par with developed countries, now we have to become No.1." He said that under the leadership of PM Modi highest priority has been accorded to remain prepared to reduce



the impact of floods and other natural calamities.

The Union Home Minister directed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to coordinate with the State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) and District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) for ensuring dissemination

of early warning alerts to the grassroots level.

He urged all the States and Union Territories for timely implementation of the advisories issued by NDMA for flood management.

He asked NDMA and NDRF to work towards efficient flood management in full coordination with the states.

Notably, every year, Union Home Minister review the flood preparedness measures and on his directions a number of initiatives have been undertaken, including increasing the advance rainfall and flood forecasts by IMD and CWC from 3 to 7 days and improved parameters for heatwave forecast.

The Home Minister also discussed the new technologies adopted by all agencies for flood management and expansion of their network in the meeting.

He emphasized on maximum use of space technology by various central agencies for flood control and water management.

Shah, while appreciating Central Water Commission (CWC) and India

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## CM reviews works plan under Capex of Estates, Revenue, Tourism & Culture Deptts



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUN 12 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday chaired a series of departmental review meetings to take stock of the Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) plans for the year 2025-26 of the Estates, Revenue, Tourism and Culture departments.

The high-level discussions were attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam

Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Estates Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary Culture Brij Mohan Sharma, Commissioner Secretary Tourism Yasha Mudgal, Secretary Revenue Kumar Rajiv Ranjan and other senior officials

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## Amid IWT suspension, 2 projects can be taken up in J&K: CM Omar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUN 12 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said that two projects can be taken up in Jammu and Kashmir amid the ongoing suspension of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT).

Talking to reporters after meeting Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, CM Omar, per

news agency said talks in this regard are going on with the Centre.

Pertinently, Omar had stated that the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) with Pakistan that has been put in abeyance by the Centre in the wake of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack was the "most unfair document" to the people

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## J&K integral part of India's rapid urban development: Union Minister Khattar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUN 12 (KNO)

Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir forms an integral part of India's rapid urban development, Union Minister for Housing and Urban Development Manohar Lal Khattar on Thursday said that Centre and Jammu and Kashmir Government are working in close coordination to achieve inclu-



sive development of the Union Territory.

Chairing a review meeting of urban development schemes and projects in Jammu and Kashmir today in presence of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in Srinagar, Khattar, according to a PIB statement issued to the news agency, said, "People of Jammu & Kashmir are getting benefits of all urban

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## No let up in severe heatwave across J&K

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUN 12 (KNO)

There has been no letup in the intense heatwave conditions in Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday as the maximum temperatures continued to settle above normal, with the local Meteorological Department here issuing a severe heatwave alert for the next two days.

According to the details obtained by the news agency, Srinagar, the summer capital of J&K, has recorded a maximum temperature of 34.2 degrees Celsius, which was 6.2 degrees Celsius above normal. Jammu City, however, recorded a slight improvement but continued

to witness above normal temperatures today. As per the details, Jammu has recorded a maximum temperature of 43.6 degrees Celsius against yesterday's 44.4 degrees Celsius.

Notably, Jammu on Wednesday figured among the top 'hot-spots' on earth at 44.4 degrees Celsius, ranking 68th hottest place across the globe.

Moreover, Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, recorded a day temperature of 33.9 degrees Celsius, which was 7.2 degrees Celsius above normal.

At 33.2 degrees Celsius, Kokernag also recorded 7.0 degrees Celsius above normal temperature on Thursday,

while the mercury at Gulmarg, a famous ski resort, settled at 24.8 degrees Celsius.

In Pahalgam, the mercury settled at 29.0 degrees Celsius while Kupwara recorded 33.0 degrees Celsius.

Similarly, the Jammu division also witnessed above normal temperatures today, with Katra recording a maximum temperature of 39.5 degrees Celsius.

Banihal, Batote and Bhadrawah recorded a maximum temperature of 33.8 degrees Celsius, 33.0 degrees Celsius and 34.0 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Moreover, Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad has predicted severe heatwave conditions across Jammu and

Kashmir for the next two days.

He said a brief spell of light rain and thundershower is expected at isolated to scattered places, accompanied by thunder and gusty winds from June 14 to 17.

"Generally, hot & dry weather is expected from June 18 to 20," Ahmad added.

Meanwhile, the MeT has issued an advisory, predicting a severe heatwave at scattered places of J&K during the next two days. "Take sufficient fluid, water and avoid outdoor activities during peak intensity (12 noon to 4 pm)," the advisory reads, adding that the farmers are advised to continue farm operations. KNO

## Katra-Srinagar: Over 30,000 travel in newly-launched Vande Bharat

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JUN 12 (KNO)

The newly-launched Vande Bharat Express on the Katra-Srinagar route has received an enthusiastic response from passengers. Since its daily run began on June 7, more than 30,000 people have travelled on the train, and all seats remain booked for the next fifteen days, according to railway officials.

The journey offers passengers a scenic and memorable ride through some of the region's most remarkable

infrastructure, including the iconic Chenab and Anji Bridges, long tunnels, and extended viaducts.

Jugal Kishor Sharma, Station Superintendent at Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Railway Station, speaking to the news agency, said that public interest in the high-speed service is strong, with advance bookings filling up weeks in advance.

"There is a huge rush for the Vande Bharat Express. Around 30,500 passengers have travelled since June 7," he said. The train comprises

eight coaches—one executive class and seven chair cars.

On whether more coaches will be added ahead of the Amarnath Yatra, Sharma said that railway authorities are evaluating the option.

The officer noted a positive impact on tourism, which had dipped following the Pahalgam terror attack. "Most travellers are tourists. Even locals between Jammu and Srinagar are benefiting from it through livelihood," he said. Passengers have shared their

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## DC Baramulla visits Imam-bara Goom Ahmadpora, reviews Muharram Arrangements

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, JUNE 12

In view of the forthcoming holy month of Muharram, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, accompanied by SDM Pattan, today visited Imam-bara Goom Ahmadpora to take stock of the arrangements and assess the preparedness of line departments for the smooth conduct of religious gatherings.

During the visit, DC held a detailed interaction with members of the Intizamia Committee and local residents. Several key public issues and demands were raised, primarily related to infrastructure and essential services.

The residents demanded blacktopping of link roads leading to the Imam-bara, installation of street lights and solar-powered



lighting systems, provision of a DG set for uninterrupted power supply, and improvements in the drinking water supply system.

A major concern highlighted by the community was the presence of poplar trees in the vicinity of the Imam-bara, which they said posed a threat to public safety during the large congregational events. Taking note of this, the DC issued on-spot directions to the concerned departments

to initiate immediate cutting of the trees before Muharram.

The residents also raised concerns about the ongoing power curtailment schedule, stating that it was causing inconvenience, particularly in relation to agricultural activities. They appealed for a revision in the curtailment plan to better suit local needs.

Responding to the concerns, DC assured the gathering that all genuine demands will be

addressed on priority. He emphasized that the district administration is committed to ensuring a safe, peaceful, and well-facilitated environment for Muharram observances.

Minga Sherpa urged all departments to work in close coordination and ensure timely execution of all required arrangements, underlining the administration's dedication to public welfare and smooth conduct of religious events.

## DC Baramulla presides over Block Diwas at Lalpora Tangmarg

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, JUNE 12

In continuation of the district administration's public outreach programme, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today presided over a Block Diwas at Lalpora, Tangmarg.

At the outset, DC held an extensive interaction with the public, during which people raised several demands and developmental concerns. These issues included the establishment of a veterinary centre, construction of a sports playground, desilting of irrigation canals, provision of safe drinking water, proper functioning of the local hospital, installation of ATM facilities, and the need for door-to-door garbage collection

along with a designated dumping site.

DC gave a patient hearing and issued on-the-spot directions to concerned officers for prompt redressal of the genuine grievances raised by the public. He assured that the district administration is committed to ensuring responsive and efficient governance at the grassroots level.

Highlighting government initiatives, DC urged the local youth to actively register under Mission Yuva and benefit from various livelihood and skill development schemes. He also stressed the importance of availing benefits under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, encouraging eligible individuals to come forward

for enrollment.

As part of the programme, DC also inspected stalls set up by various government departments, which were aimed at creating awareness about different government welfare schemes and services. He appreciated the efforts of departments for disseminating valuable information to the public and promoting citizen participation in ongoing development initiatives.

Adding a cultural touch to the event, students from local schools presented various cultural performances and participated in sports activities, which were highly appreciated by the DC. He commended their talent and enthusiasm and encouraged continued participation in such constructive

extracurricular engagements.

DC emphasized that outreach programmes like Block Diwas are vital platforms for bridging the gap between the administration and the people. He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to holding such events regularly, especially in remote and rural areas, to ensure equitable development and efficient delivery of public services.

Among others SDM Gulmarg, Mir Jaleel Ahmed; ACD Baramulla, Chaudhary Mudasar Hussain; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Ibaad-ur-Rehman and other concerned sectoral officers, besides local residents, public representatives and senior citizens were present during the event.

## Awareness workshop on PMFME Scheme held at Panchayat Shiva-Doda

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, JUNE 12

A one-day awareness workshop on the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme was today held here at Panchayat Shiva, Block Ghat.

The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from farmers, Self Help Group (SHG) members, Cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) from across District Doda.

Officers and officials from the Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry Departments also participated and shared detailed insights about their departmental schemes.

The event was addressed by the Area Mar-



keting Officer (AMO) Doda, GMI from the department, and District Resource Person (DRP-PMFME). They briefed the gathering—comprising women, unemployed youth, and farmers—about the scope and benefits of the PMFME scheme. The speakers encouraged attendees to come forward and avail the scheme's advantages, which aim at fostering self-

employment and promote

food processing enterprises.

The District Nodal Officer PMFME Anayatullah Khanji emphasized that the PMFME scheme is proving to be a game changer, especially for women and unemployed youth. He highlighted how the scheme has enabled many individuals to become self-reliant and even create job opportunities for others. Notably, 34 units have

already been established in Doda under the scheme, providing employment to over 200 people.

Marketing Inspector Jagdish Raj also explained the scheme in detail, outlining key features such as a 35% subsidy, easy bank financing, assistance in documentation and DPR preparation, as well as support in branding and marketing. Mohd. Yaqoob, DRP, educated the participants about the documentation process, including obtaining necessary certifications like the FSSAI license and Udyam Certificate.

Anayatullah Khanji urged the public to avail full advantage of this initiative and become active contributors to the Atmanirbhar Bharat movement launched by the Prime Minister of India.

## Mission Vatsalya B'pora organizes awareness programme on World Day against Child Labour

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, JUNE 12

A comprehensive awareness programme aimed at highlighting the evils of child labour and advocating for child Rights was today organized by Mission Vatsalya Bandipora, in collaboration with district administration Bandipora, Labour Department Bandipora and International Delhi Public School Bandipora to mark the World Day against Child Labour.

The event commenced with all participants taking a solemn pledge against child labour, reinforcing the collective commitment to eradicate this social evil. A large number of students, teaching and non-teaching staff, civil society members, and officials from the District Child Protection Unit, Child



Welfare Committee, Child Help Line and the Labour department attended the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) Bandipora, Rabia Iqbal emphasized the significance of observing this day and the crucial role that various stakeholders, including educational institutions

and government departments, must play in preventing child labour.

District Child Protection Officer Bandipora reiterated the need for community vigilance and proactive reporting of child labour cases. He stressed that collective responsibility and action are vital in combatting child labour and safeguarding Child Rights.

A poignant highlight of the event was a skit performed by students of GPS Colie Mohalla Athwato, which depicted the harsh realities and consequences of child labour. The performance left a deep impact on the audience, underscoring the message that every child deserves to grow in a safe and nurturing environment, free from exploitation.

Several key speakers enriched the event with their insights. Protection Officer DCPU, Member CWC Bandipora, Member Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) Bandipora and Protection Officer shared their perspectives on the role of Mission Vatsalya and associated departments in ensuring the safety and well-being of children, especially those in vulnerable situations.

## Secretary in Agriculture Production Department reviews implementation of HADP projects in J&K



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 12

Secretary in Agriculture Production Department and Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), Sandeep Kumar, today said that successful implementation of HADP will play a pivotal role in transforming Jammu and Kashmir's agriculture and allied sectors into a sustainable and vibrant Rs 1 lakh crore agri-economy.

Chairing a review meeting held at the Directorate of Agriculture, Lal Mandi, Srinagar, Sandeep Kumar emphasised the importance of output-based monitoring and real-time progress tracking to maximise the impact and effi-

ciency. The review meeting focused on 13 major HADP projects.

Director Agriculture Jammu, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Director Horticulture Jammu, Director Horticulture Kashmir, Director Animal Husbandry (Jammu/Kashmir), Director Sheep Husbandry (Jammu/Kashmir), representatives from SKUAST-Jammu and SKUAST-Kashmir, Directors of Sericulture, CAD, Fisheries and other allied sectors besides concerned PGMCs and technical teams attended the meeting while officers from outside the station joined the meeting virtually.

The Mission Director stressed the need for

robust and measurable outcome tracking over 92,000 units already established at the grassroots level under HADP schemes. He also underlined that output-led project governance, efficient inter-departmental coordination, and strategic bottleneck resolution are vital for achieving the goals of HADP.

Sandeep Kumar called for stronger last-mile delivery, data-driven monitoring systems and greater accountability in implementation. He reaffirmed the government's commitment towards empowering the farmers, improving productivity and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities through HADP.

## Rajouri admin finalises activity plan for International Yoga Day 2025



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, JUNE 12

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess and finalize the preparedness for the International Yoga Day (IYD)-2025.

At the outset, the DC underlined the need for meticulous planning to ensure widespread participation and impactful celebration of the day. He directed that Yoga Day events be organized at multiple venues including Government Degree Colleges, Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres, near Amrit Sarovars and selected villages of the district.

To showcase collaboration and unity, the DC instructed the concerned officers to plan a joint Yoga event with the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

to highlight the role of armed forces and civil administration in promoting wellness.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed officers to finalize and submit the list of selected sites across the district where Yoga Day events will be held. This will aid in better planning and execution of the celebrations.

The Senior Superintendent of Police asked for sharing the final list of selected sites with the Police Department in advance to ensure adequate security arrangements at all venues.

The meeting was attended by ADC's, SDM, ACP, ACD, district and sectoral officers, who were instructed to extend full support to make the International Yoga Day celebrations a grand success across Rajouri.

## Zila Sainik Board reviews welfare measures for Ex-Servicemen



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, JUNE 12

The annual meeting of the Zila Sainik Board Doda was convened today in the Mini Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, Doda.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anil Kumar Thakur chaired the meeting which was attended by Chief Medical Officer, Dy. SP Headquarters, District Treasury Officer, Chief Education Officer, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B), Lead Bank Officer, Post Master, Tehsildar General Manager DIC and other stakeholders.

Zila Sainik Board Officer Wg Cdr Tirath Singh (Retd) projected a range of demands seeking renewal of weapon licenses for ex-

servicemen, resettlement of veterans in the Union Territory of J&K, construction of the road from Dossa to Lal Draman, filling of vacant posts in the Board and issues related to the salary of security guards.

Discussions were also held on improving pension disbursement system, enhancing employment and self-employment opportunities for ex-servicemen through coordination with DIC and KVIB, facilitating Ayushman Bharat healthcare benefits, providing educational support including scholarships and fee waivers to their wards and resolving land allotment and housing matters.

The meeting was also attended by unofficial

members of the ex-servicemen community who provided valuable grassroots-level feedback.

Responding to the projected demands, the ADC said the preparation of a DPR for road connectivity to Dossa would be prioritized and submitted to higher authorities. He further assured the relocation of ECHS Polyclinic to a more accessible site for the benefit of veterans. He encouraged ex-servicemen to use the online system for weapon license renewal and assured them of full support and timely redressal of their grievances through effective interdepartmental coordination. He urged ex-servicemen to utilize their experience in training others in civil defence.

## Director Sheep Husbandry Kashmir takes review of dept schemes



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 12

Director, Sheep Husbandry department Kashmir, Dr. Rafiq Ahmad Shah, chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the implementation and planning of various departmental schemes for the financial year 2025-26. The review focused on the UT Capex Budget allocations, with detailed discussions on district-wise releases, liabilities, and targets under the Integrated Sheep Development Scheme (ISDS). Non-construction, construction and NABARD-funded works were also examined

to ensure effective execution and impact.

Discussions included updates on the National Livestock Mission, with specific focus on animal insurance, honorarium to field veterinarians, and planned extension activities.

The meeting also reviewed proposals related to the Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir under innovation and development initiatives.

Under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) 2025-26, the department emphasized efforts toward self-sustenance in mutton and wool production.

Further, the meeting discussed operationalization of Common Facility Centers (CFCs) and wool markets, strengthening monitoring of Breeding Base Farms (BBFs), commercial farms and CFCs, adoption of the JD vaccine in disease prevention and implementation of administrative reforms including the 'Behak Order'.

The meeting concluded with constructive suggestions for the upcoming mid-term review of the HADP, reiterating the department's commitment to innovation, accountability, and sustainable livestock development.

## Dy CM pays surprise visit to Labour Commissioner Office in Srinagar

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 12

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today paid a surprise visit to Labour Commissioner Office in Srinagar, assessing the functioning of the organisation.

The Dy CM reviewed progress on various initiatives and schemes being implemented by the Labour Department to promote social security and welfare of employees/workers. He also took stock of issues being faced by the employees in performing their duties efficiently.

During the visit, the Dy CM held a detailed discussion with the officials regarding the steps aimed at to streamline the functioning of the department. He was briefed about the ongoing activities, achievements and challenges facing the department.

The Deputy Chief Minister emphasized the importance of ensuring effective implementation of labour laws and regulations to protect the rights of workers. He stressed on maintaining cleanliness,



ensuring quick disposal of public grievances and enforcing punctuality in government offices.

He also interacted with the public who were waiting to resolve their grievances at the Regional office EPFO, GoI, housed in the Labour Commissionerate Headquarters.

The Dy CM listened to their concerns and assured them of prompt resolution. He also asked the officers to ensure official files are processed without any delay. He stressed the need for efficient and citizen-centric service delivery, directing the officials to expedite the grievance redressal process and maintain transparency in their functioning. Choudhary asserted "

it is essential that citizens do not have to wait unnecessarily and services are provided strictly according to the scheduled time frame".

He maintained that the benefits of all government schemes should reach the last person in line in real-time. He directed for conducting awareness programs to educate the general public about the government schemes.

The Deputy Chief Minister highlighted the achievements of the Omar Abdullah led government, underscoring the commitment to public welfare. He assured the public that the government is working tirelessly to meet their expectations and fulfill all promises.

## DLSA Kulgam observes World Day against Child Labour



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM, JUNE 12

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kulgam in collaboration with Islamia Simmania Hr. Secondary School Kulgam observed 'World Day against Child Labour' today.

The event was held under the chairmanship of Aijaz Ahmad Khan, Chairman DLSA Kulgam. Fozia Paul, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Kulgam supervised and conducted the programme. Resource persons,

Sheikh Saqib Ansari, Labeeba Alamgir both Assistant LADCs discussed various aspects of topic, and highlighted various provisions of child labour laws including Juvenile justice Act.

They highlighted the underlying causes contributing to this challenge and provided valuable information about the legal frameworks aimed at prohibiting child labour.

Programme was attended by staff of DLSA, PLVs, and teaching Staff & Students of the said Institute.

## NCORD Meeting: DC Rajouri orders attachment of properties of those detained under NDPS Act

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, JUNE 12

To strengthen drug control measures, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma and Senior Superintendent of Police Gaurav Sikarwar today jointly chaired a meeting of the District level Committee under Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) here at Dr R K Thapa memorial Hall.

The DC emphasized the need for intensifying awareness campaigns targeting students and youth. He directed the Education Department to organize special awareness sessions in Higher Secondary Schools, while the Rural Development Department was asked to host anti-drug camps in Panchayat Ghars during the upcoming summer vacation, particularly in uncovered and vulnerable villages.

To tighten noose around the perpetrators, the DC directed for attaching the properties of individuals detained under NDPS Act.



He further called for the implementation of computerized billing systems in all shops to monitor suspicious transactions and directed concerned teams to randomly verify CCTV footage from business establishments.

Highlighting the importance of data tracking, the DC instructed for the Aadhar-based documentation of individuals admitted to and discharged from drug de-addiction centres, with a focus on improving the in-patient rehabilitation facility at GMC Rajouri.

To maintain vigil, the DC directed enforcement teams to conduct random checking around coaching and tuition centres, besides installation of CCTV cameras in all government offices to keep

check on suspicious activities. "Any government official found to be involved in drug-related activities must be immediately reported and dealt with strictly," he added.

The Senior Superintendent of Police, while briefing the Committee, informed that property worth 85 lakh of drug offenders has already been seized, and FIRs have been registered against several individuals involved in drug trafficking and consumption. He also underscored the need to thwart attempts of drug smuggling across Line of Control (LoC). The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioners, SDMs, and all concerned district and sectoral officers.

## DC Baramulla conducts field visit to Gulmarg, reviews tourist infrastructure and services

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
BARAMULLA, JUNE 12

In an effort to ensure a seamless, safe and memorable experience for tourists, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today undertook a comprehensive tour of Gulmarg, where he inspected the functioning of the Gulmarg Gondola and reviewed a range of facilities provided to visitors.

During the visit, DC inspected both Phase I and Phase II of the Gondola cable car system, reviewed the ticketing process, and assessed the preparedness to manage the increasing flow of tourists. He examined the functioning of ticket counters, adherence to safety protocols, and arrangements made to streamline passenger movement and prevent overcrowding.

DC also conducted a detailed assessment of sanitation and cleanliness, particularly around the Gondola base station and nearby public spaces. He inspected the condition of public washrooms and other basic amenities, and interacted with tourists and staff to obtain feedback on the services being offered.



He reviewed the progress of ongoing development works in the area, with specific instructions to ensure timely completion and adherence to quality standards to enhance the overall tourist experience.

Subsequently, DC chaired a review meeting with officers from the Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA), Tourism Department, Municipal Committee, J&K Cable Car Corporation, Public Works Department (PWD), Health Department, and other allied departments.

During the meeting, Minga Sherpa stressed upon strengthening the tourist facilitation mechanism, including the establishment of round-the-clock Tourist Help Desks, improved traffic management, and streamlined transport services to ensure hassle-free

mobility within the tourist area. He also called for timely waste disposal, an efficient and transparent ticketing system, and proper directional signage and information displays.

DC emphasized the importance of enhanced inter-departmental coordination and deployment of emergency response teams to ensure tourist safety and satisfaction. He urged all departments to work collaboratively to provide a high-quality, visitor-friendly environment and reiterated the administration's commitment to promote Gulmarg as a model of sustainable and responsible tourism. The meeting was attended by CEO GDA, SDM Gulmarg, SDPO Gulmarg, and other senior officials from departments concerned with tourism infrastructure and public services.

## DC chairs District-Level Zila Sainik Welfare Board meeting at Udhampur

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, JUNE 12

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai today chaired the annual general body meeting of the Zila Sainik Welfare Board to review its functioning and deliberate on the welfare measures and schemes for ex-servicemen, war widows and their dependents in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Chief Planning Officer Mohammad Iqbal, General Manager DIC Kishore Singh and other senior officers from the district administration.

At the outset, the Zila Sainik Welfare Officer briefed the meeting about the functioning of the Board and highlighted the issues being faced by the ex-servicemen community. He projected a wide



range of demands seeking allotment of land for the construction of Sainik Sarai, development of housing colony and reservation of plots for ex-servicemen, establishment of a KV at Majalta, employment opportunities for ex-servicemen, infrastructure improvement of the Zila Sainik Welfare Board, construction of a meeting-cum-waiting shed for ex-servicemen, survey, demarcation and construction of a front boundary wall for the ZSWB, repair and furnishing of ZSWB cum Boys Hostel building, construction of toilet facilities for women, improvement of road connectivity to the Zila Sainik Board. The DC directed

the concerned departments to take prompt action on all pending issues and reiterated the District Administration's commitment to extending full support to strengthen the functioning and infrastructure of the ZSWB.

She also encouraged the ex-servicemen to actively contribute towards combating the drug menace and to promote sports and physical fitness among the youth. AD Employment was directed to organize registration camps for ex-servicemen on the designated portal. Additionally, Tehsildar Udhampur was instructed to prioritize and resolve the land and other related issues of ex-servicemen without delay.

## Tribal Affairs Minister meets Gujjar-Bakerwal delegations

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 12

Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today met with several delegations of the Gujjar-Bakerwal tribe from districts of Jammu, Samba and Kathua at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar.

The delegations raised various issues and problems including alleged discriminatory treatment, lack of security

of life and property and concerns related to selective acquisition of their immovable property in the name of development.

The tribal delegates projected various grievances regarding forced eviction from places they have resided in for decades.

Javed Rana gave a patient hearing to the delegations and assured them that the Jammu and Kashmir government, led

by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, will not tolerate harassment of any section of society on sectarian grounds.

The Minister asked the officers to prioritise early redressal of the delegations' problems.

The Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment towards protecting the rights and interests of all communities, including the Gujjar-Bakerwal tribe.

## Awareness event held at GMHSS Ramban to mark World Day against Child Labour



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, JUNE 12

To commemorate the World Day Against Child Labour, the Labour Department Ramban, in collaboration with Government Model Higher Secondary School (GMHSS), Ramban, organized an awareness programme under the global theme "Progress is clear, but there's more to do. Let's speed up our efforts."

The event was presided over by Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) Amit Kumar. The host school Principal Kewal Krishan Sharma, Chairperson Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Nighat Ganai school staff, students and other stakeholders attended the programme.

Addressing the gathering, the ALC highlighted the need to continue and accelerate efforts to eradicate child labour. "Though much progress has been made through legal frameworks and awareness campaigns, a united and sustained community response is essential to address the root causes and protect every child's right to

education and a dignified life," he maintained.

The School Principal appreciated the initiative and emphasized that education is the most powerful tool in combating child labour. He encouraged students to play an active role in raising awareness within their families and localities.

The Chairperson CWC urged parents, teachers and community leaders to remain vigilant and report any instances of child labour. She elaborated on the mechanisms in place to safeguard children and reiterated the importance of collaborative efforts to eliminate exploitation.

Other key speakers, including Lovepreet Singh from the employment department delivered a lecture on Career options and Project coordinator Mudansir Jiral highlighted the role of child helpline.

The event concluded with an interactive awareness session with the participants reiterating the resolve to uphold child rights and contribute towards building a child labour-free society.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system**  
Dy. Chief Materials Manager, N.Rly, Store Depot Mech. Workshop, AMRITSAR for and on behalf of President of India, invited tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items:-

S.No.	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Due Date
1.	62255131	D Frames Assembly (Fabricated) for end wall of BVCM wagon as per ASRW Drg. S.No. 01 to 05, (Ref. Drg. WD-17039-S06) with glass wool (spec. IS-8183/1993 or latest).	960	10-07-25

NOTE-Above tenders with detailed description are uploaded on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in. The firm, who desires to participate against e-tenders, is advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which they would require to have a class III digital certificate form certifying Agencies authorized under IT Act 2000 by Govt. of India. Manual offers against e-tenders will not be accepted.  
Tender Notice No. 03/2025-26 Date: 11.06.2025 1753/2025

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**Notice Invite Application**  
The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Jammu Division invites applications for allotment of halt contract for sale of tickets for the following stations:-

1	Name of Work	Allotment of Halt contract at (1) Sohal (2) Baryal Railway Halt Stations over Jammu Tawi Division.
2	Tenure of Contract	5 (Five) Years.
3	Last date & time of submission and opening of applications	On 07.07.2025 Up to 15:00 hrs. (Applications will be opened on 07.07.2025 and in case the day on which the applications are to be opened is a holiday, the same will be opened at the same time on next working day).
4	Address of the office & date from which application forms will be available	Office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Jammu Tawi. Date: 05.06.2025 to 07.07.2025
5	Northern Railway's website	Applications can also be downloaded from Northern Railway's official website <a href="http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in">www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in</a>

The notice for inviting application forms and other related information is also available on the official website of Northern Railway [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in)  
1752/2025

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

## London-bound Al...

on board. There were 12 crew members.

Air India in a post on X, said "Flight AI171, operating Ahmedabad-London Gatwick, was involved in an incident 12 June 2025." It said Air India continues to ascertain the details.

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deep sorrow over the tragic crash. In a post on X, President Droupadi Murmu said she was "deeply distressed" to learn about the incident and called it a "heart-rending disaster."

"I am deeply distressed to learn about the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad. It is a heart-rending disaster. My thoughts and prayers are with the affected people. The nation stands with them in this hour of indescribable grief," the President said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi while describing the tragedy as 'heartbreaking beyond words,' said 'the tragedy in Ahmedabad has stunned and saddened us. It is heartbreaking beyond words. In this sad hour, my thoughts are with everyone affected by it. Have been in touch with Ministers and authorities who are working to assist those affected.'

The Prime Minister spoke to Home Minister Amit Shah and Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu and directed them to ensure that all necessary support is extended immediately and has asked to be kept regularly updated on the situation.

The Civil Aviation Minister informed the Prime Minister that he was rushing to Ahmedabad to oversee rescue and relief operations on the ground.

Air India chairman N Chandrasekaran said XXX Editors pick up from Para eight of Accident Air India Third Lead crash.

## PM, HM, J&K LG...

Pertinently, an Ahmedabad-London Air India plane carrying 242 passengers and crew crashed into a medical college complex here minutes after takeoff on Thursday.

According to the news agency, PM Modi in a post on X, said that he has been in touch with the Ministers and authorities who are working to assist the people affected in the plane crash.

"The tragedy in Ahmedabad has stunned and saddened us. It is heartbreaking beyond words. In this sad hour, my thoughts are with everyone affected by it. Have been in touch with Ministers and authorities who are working to assist those affected," Narendra Modi wrote.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the disaster response forces have been quickly rushed to the crash site.

"Pained beyond words by the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad. Disaster response forces have been quickly rushed to the crash site. Spoke with the Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, Home Minister Shri Harsh Sanghavi, and Commissioner of Police Ahmedabad to assess the situation," Shah wrote.

J&K LG Manoj Sinha expressed shock over the plane crash. "Deeply shocked and pained by the flight crash in Ahmedabad. My prayers are with the passengers and their families," Office of J&K LG, wrote.

National Conference (NC) President, Dr Farooq Abdullah and party's Vice President and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed profound grief over the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad.

"JKNC President Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Vice President & CM @OmarAbdullah have expressed profound grief over the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad. Their thoughts and prayers are with the victims and all those affected by this unimaginable tragedy, and they prayed for strength to the bereaved during this difficult time," JKNC wrote on X.

Leader of Opposition in Legislative Assembly and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Sunil Sharma prayed for speedy recovery of the injured.

"Shocked and deeply saddened by the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad. My heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives. Praying for the speedy recovery of the injured," Sharma wrote.

MLA Handwara and Peoples Conference (PC) Chairman, Sajad Gani Lone termed the incident heartbreaking.

"Heartbreaking. The crash of the Air India aircraft. So many families have lost their loved ones. May they rest in peace," Lone wrote.

Top religious cleric and Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir, Molvi Umar Farooq prayed for the strength and patience of the bereaved. "Deeply saddened by the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad. Heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their loved ones. Praying for strength and patience of the bereaved, and a swift recovery for the injured," Mirwaiz wrote.

Apni Party President and former minister, Syed Altaf Bukhari in a post said that this is an unspeakable tragedy.

"The plane crash in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, is heart-breaking. Officials have confirmed that the London-bound flight was carrying 242 people on board, however confirmation regarding the death toll is yet to come. Media reports are citing varying numbers of fatalities. This is an unspeakable tragedy. May the departed souls rest in eternal peace, and may the Almighty grant their loved ones strength, comfort, and patience in this time of immense sorrow," Altaf Bukhari wrote.

CPI (M) senior leader and MLA Kulgam, Muhammad Yousuf Tarigami expressed shock over the incident. "Deeply shocked by the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad. Thinking of all those who lost their lives. My heart goes out to their families and everyone affected by this tragedy," he wrote. KNO

## Under PM Modi's...

Meteorological Department (IMD) for increasing the time limit regarding issuance of flood forecasting/advisory, emphasised on increasing the accuracy level of forecasts.

He said that the flood monitoring centers of the CWC should be in accordance with our requirements and of international standards. Shah advised Jal Shakti Ministry, NDMA and National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) to closely monitor the glacial lakes and take timely steps in the event of any type of outburst.

The Home Minister emphasized that the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)/National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) should work with the States to ensure uniform design changes in the state and district highways also, so that highways drainage system becomes integral part of the designs of road construction to deal with inundation of roads, in case of heavy rains.

He said that NDMA should also coordinate with the state authorities for coordination between central agencies and states for flood preparedness and mitigation. KNO

## CM reviews works...

and heads of concerned departments.

During the review, the Chief Minister emphasized the importance of ensuring immediate approval of plans, authorization of funds and execution of development projects thereby strengthening the institutional capacity, and creating impactful outcomes.

He underscored the need for close monitoring, effective coordination, and optimum use of resources to deliver public services efficiently and meet people's aspirations.

Estates Department

At the outset, ACS Estates informed the meeting that the Department reported a 94.93% expenditure (Rs 2452.34 lacs) for CAPEX 2024-25 against funds released (Rs 2583.19 lacs). Out of 217 total works, 182 have been completed.

For 2025-26, the department has a CAPEX budget ceiling of Rs 10000 lacs. This budget includes Rs 3304.69 lacs for ongoing works, Rs 863.00 lacs for water/electricity for Sempora flats, Rs 2541.00 lacs for shifting REVEX to CAPEX, and Rs 3291.31 lacs for new works and budget announcements.

Major ongoing projects like the 400 Flats at Pampore and flats in Sarwal, Ahata Amar Singh, and Lower Muthi in Jammu are progressing, with some expected to be completed by October 2025.

The meeting was informed about key budget announcements for 2025-26 which include construction of 300 new 2-BHK/3-BHK units, twin towers at Canal Road, Jammu and additional blocks at Civil Secretariats in Jammu and Srinagar. Other new works proposed for 2025-26 include road macadamization, new flats in Jawahar Nagar, CCTV installation, and power supply upgrades in various government complexes.

Revenue Department

Secretary Revenue Kumar Rajiv Ranjan gave a detailed presentation outlining the department's CAPEX progress and plans for 2025-26. Out of the approved Rs 79 crore, Rs 69 crore has already been uploaded on the BEAMS portal. The department has proposed 133 new projects, including 18 SDM offices with an outlay of Rs 4.5 crore, 21 Tehsil offices with Rs 6.3 crore outlay, 50 Niabats with Rs 3 crore, and 40 additional rooms with lavatories worth Rs 2 crore. The department continues to push forward in its landmark digitization efforts, having completed 100% scanning of revenue records.

He informed that over 94.36% of cadastral maps have been digitized (quality checks are ongoing), and 89.97% of villages have been geo-referenced. Additionally, 99.9% of Record of Rights (RoR) have been digitized with spatial and non-spatial data integrated under the Land Records Information System (LRIS).

The Chief Minister was apprised of key digital initiatives, including the "Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani" platform launched in October 2021, which has enabled real-time access to land records while saving Rs 19.83 crore through in-house digitization.

The meeting was informed that the second phase of the LRIS involves transliteration of Urdu land records into 22 Indian languages. Digitized land passbooks are now available in Urdu, Hindi, and English. Other major initiatives include the J&K Revenue Court Case Monitoring System (JKRCCMS), issuance of SVAMITVA property cards, computerized registrations, creation of dynamic RoRs, digitized crop surveys, and establishment of modern record rooms. He informed that the department aims to implement real-time RoR updates, integrate Jamabandis with the NGDRS and mutation systems, and introduce map-based dynamic RoRs to enhance transparency and accountability in land governance.

Tourism Department

Similarly, Commissioner Secretary Tourism Yasha Mudgal presented a comprehensive overview of the department's CAPEX implementation and future plans. The department is coordinating its initiatives across various agencies which include directorates of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir, JKTDC, SKICC, JKCCC, 21 tourism development authorities, and several golf courses. As part of its 2024-25 CAPEX Plan, Rs 388.20 crore was approved, with Rs 247.66 crore (66.08%) already spent. Out of 1,551 total works, 871 have been completed so far, marking a 56% completion rate.

For 2025-26, the department has planned 1,071 total works with a financial outlay of Rs 191.87 crore, including funds for Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

The meeting was also informed that a total of 312 new projects worth Rs 75.5 crore have been reviewed, while another 109 projects valued at Rs 18.07 crore are pending finalization. The Chief Minister was informed that an amount of Rs 10 crore has been reserved for high-priority or technically viable works proposed by elected representatives. Action has already been initiated on several budget announcements, including Rs 10 crore for the preparation of tourism master plans, Rs 27 crore earmarked for sewerage and solid waste management projects in Gulmarg, Rs 6 crore for developing water sports infrastructure at major lakes, Rs 15 crore for winter sports facilities, and Rs 20 crore for exploring new tourism destinations.

She informed that plans are also underway to revive idle tourism assets, improve wayside amenities, and monetize under-utilized properties. Targets for 2025-26 include the preparation of master plans for key destinations, strengthening of tourism infrastructure, enhanced destination development, and aggressive promotional campaigns to attract visitors.

Culture Department

Likewise, Secretary Culture presented an elaborate plan aimed at heritage restoration, infrastructure modernization, digitization, and promotion of regional arts and languages. The department has completed 16 out of 106 heritage restoration projects, with another 46 targeted for completion by March 2026. A major focus is on the revival of the historic Mubarak Mandi Complex in Jammu, with Rs 30.02 crore allocated for the purpose. Under Phase III of the Heritage Revival Scheme, an additional 123 projects have been identified across various districts.

The department is finalizing its draft Cultural Policy, which will soon be put in public domain for consultation. Simultaneously, efforts are underway to modernize the SPS Museum; while repairs and improvements are already completed, a revised DPR worth Rs 19.80 crore has been submitted for making the museum fully functional. Revival of the Tehzeeb Mahal project in Srinagar is also being actively pursued at its original site. On the digitization front, the department is upgrading its web portal to facilitate AI-assisted archiving of manuscripts and vital records.

To preserve and promote regional art forms, the department has been organizing structured cultural programs. It also aims to re-launch the publication of "Sheeraza" in Sheena and Bhaderwahi languages after re-advertising posts

for editors and composers due to a poor initial response. Under the proposed Rs 132 crore budget for 2025-26, allocations have been made for the directorates of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, Libraries & Research, and the J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages. New projects include setting up library-cum-reading rooms and restoration of temples, forts, and shrines. During the last fiscal year, Rs 131.50 crore was allocated and Rs 27.20 crore was spent, with 10 out of 156 projects completed by March 31, 2025. Several heritage revival projects under Phase-I were successfully completed during 2024-25.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, while commending the detailed planning and progress in the departments, called for swift and effective execution to ensure that projects translate into measurable improvements on the ground.

The Chief Minister assured that his government remains committed to strengthening governance, modernizing public infrastructure, and accelerating inclusive development across all sectors. KNO

## Amid IWT suspension...

of the Union Territory and they have never been in favour of it.

"The Government of India has taken some steps. As far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, let's be honest we have never been in favour of the Indus Waters Treaty," Abdullah had told reporters.

The Chief Minister, reacting to a query, said that while the IWT continues to remain suspended, they have taken up two projects—one each in Jammu and Kashmir with the Centre. "The talks for starting the project have been ongoing," he said.

He said progress is being made in two ministries including Power and Housing & Urban Affairs.

Replying to a question, CM Omar said, "We are still in debt. Jammu and Kashmir is supplying power to the consumers including domestic, industrial as well commercial on concessions. There is a difference between power procurement rate and supply rates."

Notably, Union Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs Manohar Lal reviewed the urban development and power sector scenario for Jammu & Kashmir at Srinagar today.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, his Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani were also present in the meeting. The meeting was also attended by Chief Secretary of J&K, senior officials from the Govt. of India (GoI), UT Administration, representatives of State power Utilities and CPSEs. KNO

## Katra-Srinagar: Over...

excitement over the scenic views and comfortable facilities. Notable personalities, including former chief minister Dr Farooq Abdullah, have also taken the ride.

The train is equipped with modern amenities, including security personnel, automatic doors that operate only at stations, and advanced safety mechanisms to prevent unauthorised entry during travel.

With two Vande Bharat trains now connecting Katra to the Kashmir Valley, direct and efficient rail connectivity has become a reality. The services were flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 6.

The journey between Katra and Srinagar takes just about three hours, significantly cutting travel time. The trains are specially designed to operate in the cold weather conditions of the Kashmir region.

The route features engineering marvels such as the Anji Khad Bridge—India's first cable-stayed railway bridge—and the Chenab Bridge, the highest railway arch bridge in the world.

Part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, the 272-km stretch was built at a cost of around Rs 43,780 crore. It includes 36 tunnels spanning 119 km and 943 bridges, aimed at ensuring year-round, all-weather connectivity and accelerating regional development. KNO

## Power sector faced...

Speaking at a press conference here—marking 11 years of the BJP-led Central government, Khattar as per news agency said, "There have been many cyber-attacks on our technology and if I will speak about the cyber-attacks on power sector, there were over 2 Lakh attempts of cyber-attacks on our power sector Operation Sindoor."

Khattar however said, "Our cyber department tackled all of them and did not let us suffer any losses."

Asked about the closure of a mobile app of the power department, the Minister said, "There is no involvement of any cyber-attack. There would have been some other issues."

He said, "We have strengthened our defense system. Nowadays, we are not only manufacturing war related gadgets and appliances for our safety only but we are becoming more powerful in exporting it."

"Since 2013, the export of such gadgets and appliances have increased by 34 percent," he said. KNO

## Amarnath Yatra: Around 125...

starting from July 3, this year around 125 langars (community kitchen) will be set up from Lakhampur (gateway to J&K) to the cave shrine situated in the South Kashmir Himalayas.

Official sources said that nearly 125 langars will be set up from Lakhampur to the cave shrine, including on the twin Pahalgam and Baltal routes.

They said that the trucks carrying langar material and infrastructural equipment to install sheds will start reaching Jammu and Kashmir from June 15.

"The process of installing langars will be completed by the end of this month," they said.

This year, the 38-day-long yatra starting from July 3 will conclude on August 9, on the day of Raksha Bandhan.

The first batch will leave from Jammu on July 2.

Officials said that apart from the Yatra routes, more than 50 langars will be installed from Lakhampur to Srinagar and Pahalgam and Baltal after being permitted by the Amarnath Shrine Board to the langar organisations.

They stated that langar organisations from Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and other states will be setting up community kitchens en route to the Cave Shrine.

They said that out of the total, 25 langars will be organised in Baltal and Domel, 13 langars at the holy cave, 8 at Sheshnag, 5 at Pissutop, 12 at Panchtarni, 7 at Chandanwari, 9 at Nunwan and 5 at Zojibal.

Five langars will also be set up at the Jammu base camp

Yatri Niwas Bhagwati Nagar and about 50 on Jammu-Pathankot and Jammu-Srinagar national highways.

Shri Amarnath Shrine Board has also finalised the food menu for the langar organisations and asked them to avoid oily items.

The Shrine Board has also encouraged the pilgrims to eat nutritious and healthy food.

The holy cave of Shri Amarnath is located in Pahalgam of Anantnag district and is a major pilgrimage site for Hindus.

It is located at an altitude of about 13,600 feet above sea level.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday also inspected the maintenance, upgradation and widening of the Yatra track en route and took a first-hand appraisal of the measures taken by the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board and Border Road Organisation (BRO) to ensure the safe and hassle-free pilgrimage of the devotees.

Sinha also performed the Pratham Puja at the Holy Cave, marking the ceremonial beginning of the annual Shri Amarnath Yatra.

The Lieutenant Governor urged all the devotees of Baba Barfani to visit in large numbers for the Holy Yatra and prayed for the progress of J&K and the nation.

## CISF secures two...

after CISF took over the security of Jammu and Srinagar airports from the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

In a post on X, CISF said it takes immense pride in securing Srinagar Jail, ensuring a robust and vigilant security presence at all times.

"Our dedicated personnel operate with the highest standards of professionalism to safeguard this critical institution," the post said.

The CISF, which is usually responsible for the security of central government offices, airports, seaports, Metro facilities, and some industrial units, has now taken over the charge of two high-security jails- the Srinagar Central Jail and Central Jail Jammu, Kotbhalwal.

The two sensitive prisons house several terrorists and other criminals. The two jails house an estimated over 1,400 inmates.

While the CISF provides security to the two jails, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) would continue to secure the outer periphery of the jail.

"Yes, the responsibility of round-the-clock security of the two jails is with CISF," said an officer. "There are deliberations to take over the security of more jails in J&K."

At present, there are 14 functional prisons in Jammu and Kashmir, which include two Central Jails, 10 district Jails, a Special Jail & a Sub Jail. Against a lodgement capacity of 3629 inmates, the Jammu & Kashmir Prisons Department is accommodating more than 5300 inmates.

The Srinagar jail had been in the news for the wrong reasons on multiple occasions in the past . The Counter-Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) and the State Investigation Agency (SIA) of J&K police last year conducted a joint raid on the Central Jail in connection with a "terror-linked case".

Over the last few years, several central institutes in Jammu and Kashmir have sought CISF security due to threat perception.

## J&K integral part of...

schemes of the Central Government and that the Centre and the UT of J&K are working in close coordination, upholding the spirit of cooperative federalism, to fast-track schemes and projects for its overall inclusive development."

He said, "Jammu and Kashmir forms an integral part of India and is rapidly developing with significant progress in urban development."

The Minister laid down guidelines to ensure effective planning and efficient implementation of urban schemes under MoHUA to promote development and enhance ease of living for the people of J&K.

Reviewing each scheme in detail, the Minister emphasized the need to develop, improve infrastructure and promote sustainable urbanisation through strategic planning and Public-Private Partnerships, the statement said.

It said the review meeting focused on accelerating urban development, building and strengthening infrastructure, promoting inclusive growth of cities, and address other key issues in the Union Territory (UT). The meeting was attended by senior officials from Central and UT Governments.

Khattar, the statement said, reviewed the implementation and progress of key urban development initiatives and infrastructure projects of the urban schemes of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) such as Atal Mission for Rejuvenation & Urban Transformation (AMRUT & AMRUT 2.0), Smart Cities Mission (SCM), Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban (SBM-U & SBM-U 2.0), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U & PMAY-U 2.0), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) and PM-eBus Sector.

Under AMRUT 2.0, it was advised to accelerate water infrastructure (new/service tap connections) and sewerage projects in all ULBs. Under SCM, it was stressed upon to complete the ongoing smart city projects, upgradation of the Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs) for managing and monitoring various city operations, repurpose of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPVs), among others, the statement added. Review of City Investments to Innovate, Integrate, and Sustain (CITIIS), a sub-component of the Smart Cities Mission, was also done. CITIIS 2.0 envisions a comprehensive and integrated approach to urban waste management. The Government of J&K was advised to set-up a State Climate Centre for Cities to ensure flow of funds for implementation of projects, the statement said.

Under SBM-U 2.0, it was informed that the UT allocation has increased by more than 200 crore in comparison to allocation under SBM-U 1.0. The UT of J&K was asked to expedite construction of toilets (community toilets, public toilets, aspirational toilets, urinals), Solid Waste Management, STP/co-treatment facilities and ensure garbage-free cities, it said.

With respect to PMAY-U 2.0, more than 19,000 applications have been submitted on unified web portal while in-principle approval for construction of 10,000 pucca houses has already been given by the Ministry, the statement said, adding, the UT administration was therefore, directed to fast-track and verify beneficiary applications so that maximum eligible families get benefits of affordable housing.

Under PMAY-U 1.0, it was asked to expedite construction of the houses which are in different stages of construction. For DAY-NULM, the J&K Government was asked to initiate survey for the identification of urban homeless and constitute a Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC) under the Street Vendors Act at the earliest, the statement said.

## Dist. Pulwama continues school outreach under Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
PULWAMA, JUNE 12

As part of the ongoing Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign under the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, District Administration Pulwama, in collaboration with the District Social Welfare office, today continued its series of school outreach programmes aimed at sensitising students about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

Awareness sessions were conducted across several government and private schools in different educational zones of the district. The programmes witnessed active participation of students, school authorities, teachers, and officials from concerned departments.

During the sessions, resource persons from the Education, Health,



and Social Welfare Departments delivered informative lectures and engaged students through interactive discussions on the physical, mental, and social consequences of drug abuse. Emphasis was laid on the importance of early awareness, healthy lifestyle choices, and the proactive role of students in promoting a drug-free environment within their institutions and communities.

Medical experts and counsellors provided guid-

ance on identifying early signs of substance use and encouraged students to seek help without hesitation. Students also took a collective pledge to lead a drug-free life and to act as responsible citizens in spreading awareness among their peers.

The campaign will continue in the coming days with more educational institutions being covered, ensuring that the message of prevention, awareness and support reaches every student in the district.

## Awareness programme for Krishi Udyamis organised at Town Hall Doda

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, JUNE 12

An awareness programme under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) was today organised for Krishi Udyamis by the Agriculture Production Department here at the Town Hall.

A large number of Krishi Udyamis, along with officers from the Agriculture and allied departments attended the programme chaired by Chief Agriculture Officer Amjad Hussain.

The AO provided a detailed overview of the objectives of the Kisan Khidmat Ghars. He assured Krishi Udyamis of full cooperation from the department and addressed their grievances. He raised awareness about various



departmental schemes aimed at improving the livelihood of farmers and agri-entrepreneurs.

The District officers from allied departments and functionaries from Banks also briefed attendees about the benefits of HADP schemes and other

initiatives.

The DDM NABARD and Bank Cluster Head highlighted the role of financial institutions in supporting agricultural growth. They discussed different credit schemes and financial assistance available to farmers.

## Div Com Kashmir reviews arrangements for International Yoga Day

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 12

Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, today chaired a comprehensive meeting to review preparations for the upcoming International Yoga Day celebrations, set to be observed across the Kashmir division in alignment with the national event led by the Prime Minister of India.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, Senior Superintendents of Police, and officers from various departments including AYUSH, Health, School and Higher Education, Sports Council, Rural Development, Tourism, and the SKICC. Addressing the officers, Div Com emphasized the importance of active participation and synchronization with the central event. He directed officials to ensure live streaming of the Prime Minister's Yoga session at SKICC and in degree colleges to engage and inspire participants.



The main event will be held at SKICC on June 21, from 6:00 AM to 8:00 AM. Around 5,000 participants are expected to take part. AYUSH department has been tasked with arranging Yoga mats and T-shirts for attendees.

Div Com also instructed departments to ensure smooth transportation to the venue, along with the provision of drinking water, mobile toilet facilities and refreshments

post-event. Deputy Commissioners briefed the Div Com on district-level arrangements, including live streamings and the organization of Yoga sessions at tourist spots and other prominent locations.

In anticipation of inclement weather, Div Com stressed the need for a contingency plan to ensure that the celebrations continue seamlessly at all designated venues.

## Stretching Towards Wellness: AYUSH Kishtwar hosts District Yoga Championship 2025

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, JUNE 12

As a prelude to the International Yoga Day 2025, a District-Level Yoga Championship 2025 was held today here in the Auditorium Government Degree College Kishtwar under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan.

The event was hosted by the Department of AYUSH, in collaboration with the District Administration, Government Degree College (GDC), Education Department, J&K Sports Council and Department of Youth Services & Sports (YS&S), with Assistant Commissioner Revenue Idrees Lone as the Chief Guest.

The ACR addressed the participants and attendees, emphasizing the importance of yoga in promoting physical, mental, and emotional well-being, particularly among the youth.

He highlighted the significance of incorporating yoga into daily life to foster a healthier and more balanced lifestyle.

The ACR also praised the enthusiasm and discipline demonstrated by the young participants and lauded the efforts of schools, instructors, and



organizing departments for successfully conducting the event. He encouraged students to continue practicing yoga and to spread its message of harmony, wellness, and inner peace.

The championship witnessed enthusiastic participation from schools from across the district, featuring separate competitions for Male and Female in the Under-14 and Under-19 age group categories.

The event was conducted under the close supervision and guidance of Dis-

trict Nodal Officer, AYUSH Dr. Vikram Singh Jamwal. The championship not only celebrated the spirit of yoga and healthy living among youth but also served as a platform to identify and promote local talent ahead of the International Yoga Day celebrations.

The event was attended by DYSSO Jaffer Haider Sheikh, MO AYUSH Dr. Atul Mahajan, as well as other senior doctors from the AYUSH Department, teachers and concerned staff.

## ADDC convenes Public Outreach Camp at Panchayat Murrah- Bufliaz

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, JUNE 12

Additional District Development Commissioner Poonch, Pankaj Magotra today conducted a public outreach camp at Panchayat Murrah in Block Bufliaz, continuing the district administration's commitment to responsive governance and doorstep delivery of services.

The camp witnessed encouraging public participation. Officers and officials from the line departments including Social Welfare, Rural Development Department, Agriculture, Horticulture, Education, Health, Revenue, Power Development Department, Public Health Engineering and Labour addressed the grievances and demands of the local residents.

Multiple public welfare services were provided on

the spot. Several pension queries were addressed, while disability certificates were issued to eligible beneficiaries. In addition, awareness was imparted regarding various government welfare schemes being implemented by different departments, ensuring that people are well informed about the benefits and services available to them.

The camp was coordinated by the District Social Welfare Officer Wakeel Ahmed Bhat, ensuring seamless service delivery and prompt resolution of public grievances.

These outreach camps are a part of the administration's ongoing efforts to ensure transparent, accountable and people centric governance, bringing various government schemes and services directly to the citizens.

## Students take Anti-Drug Pledge at inter-school zonal level U14 Girls Sports meet at Achabal



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
ANANTNAG, JUNE 12

In a concerted move to promote healthy living and raise awareness against substance abuse, an anti-drug pledge was administered to all participants at the opening of the inter-school zonal level Under-14 Girls Volleyball, Kabaddi, and Kho-Kho competitions organized by the Zonal Physical Education Office (ZPEO) Achabal.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from various schools across the zone, bringing together young athletes who are not only showcasing their sporting talents but also standing united against the menace of drugs. The program began

with the national anthem followed by the solemn anti-drug pledge, reaffirming the commitment of students and officials alike to stay away from drugs and lead a life devoted to fitness, discipline, and sportsmanship. ZPEO officials highlighted the importance of sports in building a drug-free and positive youth culture.

The competitions are scheduled to continue over the next few days, featuring spirited contests among talented young girls in volleyball, kabaddi and kho-kho. This initiative aligns with broader efforts to integrate anti-drug education within the school sports framework and ensure a healthier future for the youth.

## MLA declares open Inter-Zonal District Level Sports Tournament at Ramban

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, JUNE 12

The Department of Youth Services and Sports Ramban, today inaugurated the Inter-Zonal District Level Sports Tournament for Under-14 and Under-17 boys and girls in the disciplines of Kabaddi, Kho-Kho and Volleyball here at District Police Lines (DPL) Ground.

The tournament was declared open by Member Legislative Assembly Ramban Advocate Arjun Singh Raju as the Chief Guest. The event is being held under the direction of the Director General, YSS J&K and the guidance of District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) Jagdish Raj Sharma.

The opening ceremony witnessed an enthusiastic participation of over 335 student athletes from all



six zones of the district, accompanied by their respective Zonal Physical Education Officers, Physical Education Teachers, Rehbar-e-Khel instructors and field staff. The ground buzzed with energy as young athletes showcased their passion for sports in an environment filled with discipline, sportsmanship and zeal. An anti drug pledge was also administered to the participants.

Addressing the gather-

ing, the MLA lauded the Youth Services and Sports Department for providing a platform to youth to showcase their talent and energy through sports. He emphasized that such events are crucial for identifying grassroots-level talent and fostering a spirit of unity and teamwork among youth. He also advised the youth to remain focused on their goals and to stay away from negative influences, urging them to take full

advantage of such opportunities for personal development.

The DYSSO highlighted the transformative power of sports in shaping character and promoting a healthy lifestyle. He urged the youth to embrace sports as a positive alternative to harmful habits particularly substance abuse and as a means to develop self-confidence, leadership, and resilience.

Prominent among those present were ZEPO Banihal Saidullah Mir; ZEPO Khari, Fayaz Ahmed Mir; ZEPO Batote, Joginder Paul Gupta; ZEPO Ukhral, Mohd Haroon Bhat, and Activity Incharge, Arun Kumar Sharma, who expressed their appreciation for the smooth conduct of the tournament and the commendable performance of the participants.

## Drum beating campaign held at Khoon to promote Dharti Aaba Abhiyan

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, JUNE 12

To generate public awareness about the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, a special drum beating campaign was organized today at Village Omara, Block Khoon.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the local tribal community members. They were informed about the objectives of the transformative campaign, aimed at the holistic development of tribal villages.

The campaign seeks to ensure saturation of welfare schemes in tribal areas, with focus on improved access to education, healthcare, livelihood opportunities and basic infrastructure. The drum beating campaign served as a traditional and effective means to mobilize the community and generate interest about the initiative.

## Historic 3-day Sudh Mahadev Mela concludes at Udhampur



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, JUNE 12

The 3-day annual Sudhmahadev Mela concluded today recording a footfall of over 45,000 devotees, visitors including men, women and children across the social spectrum.

The visitors paid obeisance at Sudh Mahadev

temple after taking bath in the Pap Nashni Bowli believed to have divine power of purging the sins of the followers.

During the first two days, scintillating cultural performances by the folk artists and students of educational institutions of the area captivated the audience, depicting the rich heritage of the

region with special reference to deep reverence of people for Lord Shiva. The audience was treated to captivating Dogri music and folk dances. Mela Officer (Tehsildar Chenu) Pankaj Singh Bhau coordinated the activities and managed the arrangements for the devotees during the 3 day religious and cultural event.

## EDITORIAL

## Wake-up call for security, tourism stability

The aftermath of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack has left a deep scar—not just emotionally but economically—on the Kashmir Valley. Nearly two months on, the devastating consequences are becoming more evident and measurable, particularly in the realm of air travel and tourism. Passenger traffic at Srinagar International Airport has nosedived dramatically, with current operations standing at only 30-40% of what they were prior to the attack. This collapse is not just an aviation concern; it reflects the larger, multi-sectoral disruption Kashmir now faces. On April 21, a day before the terror attack, Srinagar Airport was buzzing with activity. It witnessed 104 flights—arrivals and departures combined—and handled nearly 20,000 passengers. Fast forward to June, and the numbers tell a grim story: fewer than 50 flights on most days, with passenger count barely crossing the 7,000 mark. On some days, the total has dipped to as low as 4,000. This sharp decline has occurred despite available flight slots and infrastructure readiness. Airlines, citing poor demand, have scaled back services drastically. The principal reason is clear—tourism, the Valley's economic heartbeat, has taken a massive hit. The Pahalgam attack, which claimed 26 lives, triggered a chain of fear and uncertainty. The situation was further exacerbated by retaliatory strikes by India on terror infrastructure across the border, leading to heightened Indo-Pak tensions. Tourists, especially families and foreign nationals, are choosing to stay away, wary of being caught in a region on the edge. Kashmir's tourism sector had witnessed a renaissance of sorts in recent years. Record footfalls were recorded, new infrastructure was developed, and confidence among stakeholders was steadily rebuilding. Srinagar's air traffic figures had become a symbol of that revival. But the events of April have once again exposed how quickly these gains can be reversed in a region that continues to be vulnerable to geopolitical and internal unrest. For the airline industry, this drop is a financial setback. For hoteliers, transporters, shopkeepers, ponywallahs, and shikara operators, it is a livelihood crisis. Hundreds of seasonal workers who depend on tourist arrivals during the summer months now face uncertain months ahead. This is particularly concerning given that the upcoming Amarnath Yatra was expected to inject fresh momentum into the economy. The challenge before the Jammu and Kashmir administration and the Union Government is enormous and complex. Security is, and must remain, a top priority. But alongside that, there must be a focused economic and perception-management strategy. Tourists will not return simply because the flights resume; they will return when they feel safe—when Kashmir once again becomes synonymous with beauty and peace, not bloodshed and curfews. This situation underscores the need for a long-term vision. Kashmir must not remain a destination that is one tragic incident away from collapse. It needs a resilient tourism ecosystem—one that has built-in buffers, rapid response mechanisms, and diversified attractions beyond the peak seasons and pilgrimages. Local stakeholders must be trained and equipped to handle crisis situations, while government agencies should invest in consistent branding of Kashmir as a safe, year-round destination. The silence at Srinagar Airport today is deafening—not just in decibel but in economic and social terms. Each cancelled flight, each empty seat, and each closed guest house tells a story of lost opportunity and deepening uncertainty. But this silence can be broken—not with fear, but with resolve. It is time for policymakers, industry leaders, and citizens alike to come together and reclaim Kashmir's skies, streets, and spirit. A Valley that has seen so much must not be allowed to fall again—not when it was beginning to rise.

## Highways to prosperity and growth

NITIN GADKARI

When Narendra Modi took oath as India's Prime Minister in 2014, the BJP-led Central Government prioritised infrastructure development above all else from that very moment. In this direction, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways became the focal point of infrastructure growth. Under Modi's leadership, this Ministry has not only accelerated the country's economic development but has also given it a new dimension over the 11 years since 2014. The construction of highways—both completed and upcoming—has played a significant role in changing the trajectory of the country's growth.

Efficient highways, waterways, and railways can reduce logistics costs and boost the economy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi dreams of making India a 'Vishwaguru' (World Leader). India has emerged as the world's third-largest economy and a \$5 trillion economy.

To fulfil this dream, we need to increase exports, which will, in turn, boost growth in agriculture, services, and industrial sectors. In the past 11 years, the roads built

have already reduced our logistics costs from 16 per cent to 10 per cent, and next year, we aim to bring it down further to 9 per cent. This will enhance our exports, make us more competitive, and help India advance more powerfully toward becoming a 'Vishwaguru'.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is building 25 new Greenfield Express Highways across the country. Over 3,000 km of highways are also being built to connect ports and promote religious tourism. The Government's efforts to boost religious tourism are also taking shape. The Buddhist Circuit project, completed at a cost of Rs 22,000 crore, has significantly increased the number of tourists visiting the birthplace of Lord Buddha from South Asia, Indonesia, Malaysia, China, Singapore, and Japan.

Simultaneously, the number of pilgrims visiting the Char Dham sites—Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri—has tripled. A ropeway worth Rs 12,000 crore is being constructed to connect Kedarnath. About 90 per cent of the work on the road linking Kailash Mansarovar in Uttarakhand to Pithoragarh has been com-



pleted. In India, particularly in the national capital, the dream of 'flying buses' is on the verge of becoming a reality.

This includes aerial buses, flash-charging electric buses, and double-decker flying buses for hilly regions. The aerial bus service from Dhaula Kuan in Delhi to Manesar, based on a skyway system, is almost in its final stages. I am confident that this experiment will be crucial in resolving the persistent traffic congestion on this special route. Nagpur will soon see the launch of the first flash-charging electric bus. It will have 135 seats, executive class, front TV screens, and bus hostesses like air hostesses. This bus will have a maximum speed of 120 km/h and will stop every 40 km for just 30 seconds to fully charge before resuming its journey.

Such work cannot be

achieved by merely sitting in an office preparing DPRs—it requires wholehearted effort! A recent study by IIM-Bangalore on road construction revealed that every Rs 1 spent on National Highway (NH) construction has led to a Rs 3.21 increase in India's GDP, a multiplier effect of 3.2 times. Consequently, domestic production has grown by 9 per cent and car sales by 10.4 per cent. The work done by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has not only boosted economic activity but also created numerous job opportunities. Here are some figures worth noting: In 2014, India had only 91,000 km of national highways. By 2024, this network has expanded by nearly 60 per cent to 1.46 lakh km.

The daily pace of road construction has increased from 12 km/day to 28-30 km/day. Under the ambi-

tious Rs 5.35 lakh crore Bharatmala project, the target is to build 65,000 km of roads, including economic corridors, international border roads, and border area connectivity.

This plan is a decisive step toward reducing India's logistics costs further. The 'Gati Shakti' and multimodal connectivity initiative integrates roads, railways, air, waterways, and ports into a single digital platform, which has helped ensure timely project completion.

Our ministry has also started implementing road development projects through public-private partnership (PPP) models, which has attracted significant private investment. Under this model, road projects worth over Rs 12 lakh crore have been undertaken. This journey, which began in 2014, is not just about roads; in a way, it has become the lifeline of India's progress.

The expansion of the highway network has not only made travel easier but also boosted domestic trade, industry, tourism, and safety. From day one, our Government has been working tirelessly to ensure inclusive development reaches every person in the last row of society. We are committed to accelerating this work

even faster in the coming years to achieve this goal as soon as possible. We now have a clear vision of building world-class infrastructure and making our national highways network superior to even that of the United States by 2047, so that India becomes an economic superpower. "America does not have good roads because it is rich; America is rich because it has good roads." This quote by former US President John F Kennedy, displayed in my office at the Transport Bhavan in Delhi and earlier in Maharashtra when I was a minister, is not there by chance.

This has been our guiding mantra for the past 11 years under the leadership of Modi ji. We are determined to carry this work forward even faster in the future. In the coming years, India's road infrastructure will be better than that of the United States—this is not a dream, but a reality taking shape. By maintaining a balance of quality, speed, transparency, and environmentally-friendly policies, India's national highway network will be recognised at the global level.

(The writer is the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways. Views are personal)

## The Unavoidable Journey of Learning

RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJJI

As conscious beings, we have five sense organs which are also called doors of knowledge. Hence it would not be a wrong statement to make that, because of our very nature, we cannot be without learning. Like, our ears are always open, so we are constantly listening. The words that go through our ears to our brains are like lessons that we receive constantly. Similarly, we see the whole world through our eyes which also results in learning good things as well as bad things.

The electrical impulses that we receive through our skin or taste buds, reach our brain which is also a kind of learning

for us. However one must understand the fact that all the above-mentioned processes of learning take place by awareness or consciousness that is present in our brain without which learning is next to impossible.

In this context, we should know that our sense-organs are only the doors, learning is a process that is undergone by the consciousness. It may be called 'mind-intellect-memory-feeling' combined or we may simply call it a 'Soul'. So, all bits of information or all messages that we receive influence the Soul.

And they give good or bad experiences to the soul. Further, we must know that there are two kinds of information or knowledge we acquire.

One is the knowledge of material things; the other is about the soul, karma, supreme etc. The latter kind of knowledge, when put into action, results in some sanskaras or as we call it personality traits.

Most of our actions performed again and again under the influence of a sanskara, result in experiencing happiness or sorrow. Throughout our journey of life, we constantly learn some such lessons that result in the formation of sanskaras according to our karma.

Hence, if we know clearly that learning is unavoidable and that we are always learning good or bad things, resulting in good or bad sanskaras that lead to happiness or sorrow, then we will never say that we have no time

or no interest in learning.

Likewise, if we know that our sanskaras go along with our life after life, then we will be more careful in learning good things and in giving up bad things because education seems to be an elixir that can bring us a healthy mind & body along with a lasting fruitful life.

We all know this fact very well that in the present day life, nobody is perfect as far as goodness and virtues are concerned. Hence, it cannot be denied that we all need to be enlightened and we urgently need to improve the quality of our thoughts, speech and actions.

Since we cannot avoid learning, even if we wish, why don't we then learn to inculcate, in us, moral

values, virtues or good qualities so that we may make progress towards perfection? Why do we wish to carry a heavy load of rubbish on our heads? Why do we want to delay our march towards our goal? What do we gain by making lame excuses, saying that we have no time or that we are not interested? What is it that we are interested in?

Are we interested in our downfall, decay or doom? In sinking and drowning deep down in the quagmire of vices, evils and mud? Remember !! The more we delay, the worse will be our condition and the more difficult it be to rectify our ways.

The process of learning, as was said earlier, is ceaseless and continuous and hence someone

has rightly said "we learn everyday & shed the ego and the perception that I know everything".

Hence we cannot stop it even if we try our best, putting all our might into it. So why not we remain alert & follow the right path that saves us from tragedies, traumas, tensions and turmoil of life?

Right learning is important what we learn defines us. It is simple yet a profound change we go through. Right learning can make us a better person, someone who has right frame of mind and is aware about his responsibilities and strives to make this world a better place.

(The writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist. Views are personal)

## If there is any institution facing the biggest threat in India today, it is the joint family

VIJAY GARG

The background of Indian joint families is linked to the human sensibility in which the entire world is considered as one's family. For thousands of years, Indian families have been identified not by wealth, position, property, but by the values, beliefs, rules and concepts embedded in them. Even in monarchy, the importance of families remained the same as today in democracy the individual is the unit of the family. Therefore, it is essential that every person's mutual relationship and behavior is better. Yatra Vishwam Bhavat Ek Needam means the world is like a family. Our tradition has been generous in connecting with the world and adopting all forms of human cultures. Family is the most important unit of society. It is the duty of every civilized person in the world to respect this unit and be a part of it and maintain his own importance along with the family.

In our Vedic Sanatan tradition, women have been given special importance. Give the woman of the family the respect she deserves. There has been a change in the atti-

tude of men towards women in the world, but she has not been given the respect she deserves. The creation of an ideal family leads to the creation of an ideal society; from this point of view also, the joint family is important. Surveys show that there has been a continuous increase in family problems. In India, where the family has never been the strongest. What was once a unit, its strength is constantly weakening due to several problems and the erosion of family values. New problems appear in families. If there is one institution in India today, it is the joint family. The continuous breakdown of joint families has not only affected the importance of social relationships, but also the values, norms, ethics, behavior and identity of Indian society. The reason for the importance and respect of elders in society was linked to the structure, values and mutual trust of the joint family. This unbreakable bond began to weaken. Surveys on families also confirm that Western culture has influenced the characteristics and structure of the Indian family. The West brought not only its culture to India, but also its social struc-

ture and values. As a result, joint families in India began to take the form of small families of the Western model, where only individual advancement was given importance. The condition of small families in India also became like that of birds. Just as the young birds grow up and separate from their family and form their own families. This also started happening in those Indian families who left the joint family and started establishing their own separate families. Completely different from the structure, functions, nature, relationships, values and strength of the joint family, the contribution of these small newly formed families to the society also almost disappeared. Due to this, the comprehensiveness, strength and mutual complementarity of the society also started to disappear. If insensitivity and lack of mutual trust are seen between individuals and society, then the major reason for this is the weakening of those human and social values that build an individual and an ideal society. According to the 'National Family Health Survey', a lot has changed in families. Accordingly, there has been a change in the status of

women in families. According to the 2019-2021 survey, women were the heads of the household in 18 percent of households. According to the 2011 census data, there were 11 percent of households in which women were the heads. This means that there is a difference of seven percent. At that time, the highest number of female-headed households was in Lakshadweep at 43.7 percent and in Kerala at 23 percent. In Indian families, women are the heads of the household.

The extended family is prevalent in many countries. According to research, 38 percent of families are living in this system. In such families, grandparents, parents, uncles, aunts and children live together. Then there are some small families where parents and minor children live together. In India, 50 percent of families are now changing into nuclear families. At the same time, only 17 percent of families in India live as joint families, where parents, grandparents and grandchildren live together. The era of joint families is gradually coming to an end. The reason for this is the social structure of those countries, their lifestyle, traditions and financial

conditions. The society of Western countries is more prosperous than the society of developing countries. Mutual ideological complementarity is very low. Very few joint families are left in a prosperous country of the West. Statistics show that joint families are decreasing in most countries of the world. Not only in Christian majority countries, but also in Muslim countries like India, the number of joint families is constantly decreasing. Fifty years ago, the number of joint families in all Muslim countries was ten times more than today. There too, the influence of Western countries has been there. Saving families is a big challenge. Understanding the issues, problems and differences related to the family is the need of the hour. To properly understand the importance of the family, it is important to understand the economic, social and demographic processes of the family. The happiness of the family speaks about its progress, but the neglect of the elders of the family has raised questions about the condition of families. In such a situation, understanding the differences between generations and instilling a sense

of respect and love for each other is no less than a challenge. In India, a country where there is a culture of considering the entire world as one family, awareness about maintaining the importance of families has increased. A family consists of people who carry forward the values from generation to generation. Surveys show that no efforts are being made to save joint families from breaking up in India. Like in cities and towns, joint families have decreased considerably in villages too. The reason behind this is the separation of people from agriculture. If people start leaning towards agriculture again and there is a consensus on farming together, then the breakup of joint families can be prevented. Due to the weakening of the joint family model, many problems have arisen in the villages. Therefore, for social reform. The working institutions need to be more active again. This will not only save agriculture, but also save joint families and villages.

Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Eminent Educationist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab

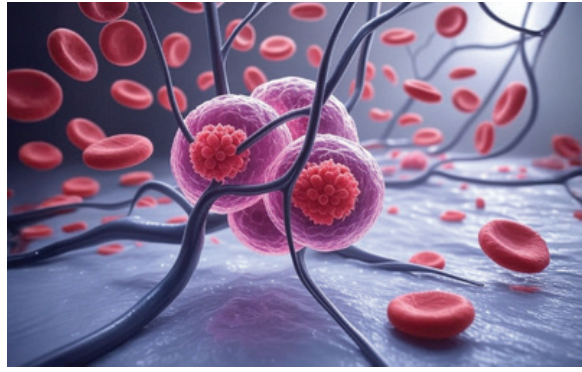
## Late diagnoses, high costs driving blood and bone marrow cancer cases: Experts

Late diagnoses and high costs are driving cases of acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) -- an aggressive form of blood and bone marrow cancer, said health experts.

After the US and China, India reportedly had the highest number of cases of AML in 2021.

According to health experts, early screening, accurate diagnosis and timely initiation of treatment are extremely important to improve survival rates.

"We lose critical time because AML is detected late in our country and often masquerades as fatigue or infection. By the time the right tests are done, the disease has often progressed to a stage where treatment options are limited or less effective," Dr. Ranjit Sahoo, D.M. (Medical Oncology) Professor (Additional) at All India Institute of Medi-



cal Sciences (AIIMS), said. While acute leukaemia can be detected by a simple blood test, "the treatment of AML is carried out at tertiary centres and the cost of supportive treatment is high," the expert said.

For many patients, the onset is silent, the symptoms of AML are vague, and the window for intervention is tragically narrow.

Many patients also delay treatment due to financial constraints or seek care in late stages

when treatment is less effective.

"AML, while rare among all haematological malignancies, is the most feared one. It has an excellent chemotherapy combination for control of disease, including deep remission (control, not cure), but is fraught with complications, including life-threatening ones due to severe infections and bone marrow suppression," said Dr. Abhay A. Bhawe, a haematologist, from a Mumbai-based hospital.

Bhawe noted that "AML can be a relapsing, relentless disease based on the genes that cause this disease".

Traditional chemotherapy, the mainstay of AML treatment, has often been poorly tolerated, especially in older patients. However, the emergence of targeted therapies -- which act on specific genetic mutations driving the disease -- has dramatically improved remission rates, reduced toxicity, and enhanced quality of life for patients globally.

However, these are often expensive; and bone marrow transplantation is also not easy to obtain, the doctors said.

Dr. Punit L. Jain, a leukaemia specialist at a Mumbai-based hospital stated that 60 per cent of AML patients arrive in advanced stages with infection and bleeding, impairing treatment methods.

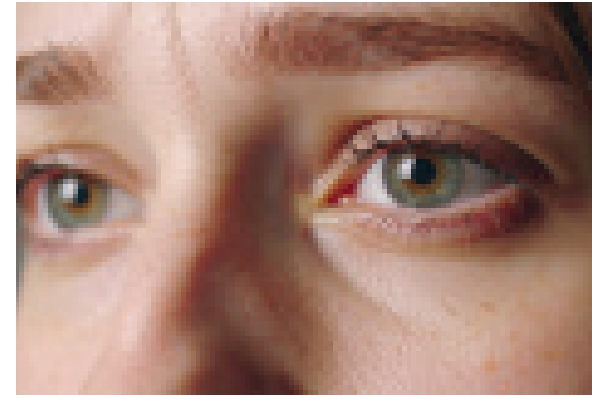
## Low-cost HIV drug to improve vision in patients with common diabetes complication

An inexpensive, long-approved HIV drug can improve vision in patients with a blinding complication of diabetes more effectively, according to preliminary results of a clinical trial.

The drug, lamivudine, could represent an important new option for millions of patients with diabetic macular edema (DME) -- a condition affecting about one in 14 people with diabetes. It causes fluid to build up in the retina of the eye and affects vision.

As the drug is taken orally it potentially offers patients an alternative to monthly injections directly into their eyes, said the researchers from the University of Virginia in the US.

"The mechanism of action of lamivudine is also different from that of existing treatments, so we could also develop combination therapies," said researcher Jayakrishna



Ambati, from UVA Health's Center for Advanced Vision Science.

The researchers explained that lamivudine is effective against DME because it blocks the activity of inflammasomes -- important agents of our immune systems. Inflammasomes normally act as sensors of infections, but they have also been implicated in the development of DME.

For the study, published in the journal *Med*, the researchers enrolled two dozen adults with DME in

a small randomised clinical trial.

Participants were randomly assigned to receive either lamivudine or a harmless placebo, in addition to injections of the drug bevacizumab into their eyes starting after four weeks.

Participants who received lamivudine showed significant vision improvements even before their first eye injections. Their ability to read letters on an eye chart improved by 9.8 letters (about 2 lines on the eye chart) at four

weeks, while the participants receiving a placebo saw their ability decrease by 1.8 letters.

A month after the bevacizumab injections, the lamivudine recipients had improved by a whopping 16.9 letters (more than 3 lines on the eye chart), while the placebo group, receiving bevacizumab alone, had increased by only 5.3.

The results suggest that lamivudine may work both alone and in conjunction with bevacizumab injections, though larger studies will be needed to bear that out, the researchers said.

Lamivudine alone could be life-changing for patients in many areas of the world with limited access to specialty doctors or who are unable to afford or travel to monthly eye appointments, Ambati said, while calling for more trials of lamivudine with larger numbers of patients.

## Indian workforce facing chronic illness, poor mental health, burnout: Report

A silent health crisis is brewing within corporate India, with a significant number of employees suffering from chronic illness, poor mental health, and burnout, according to an alarming report on Thursday.

The report by Plum, India's leading employee health benefits platform, showed that chronic illness hits working professionals by the age of 40. The report noted that 40 per cent of employees take at least one sick day each month for mental health reasons, and 1 in 5 are considering quitting due to burnout.

Alarming, the data reveals a consistent pattern across the onset of major health conditions: heart disease (by age 32), cancer (by age 33), diabetes (by age 34), chronic kidney disease (by age 35), cerebrovascular disease such as strokes, ischemia (by age 36)



This early onset not only threatens individual well-being but also puts long-term pressure on workforce productivity, healthcare costs, and India's economic potential.

Chronic disease costs companies up to 30 days per employee every year in productivity losses and disengagement.

The report urged Indian companies to redefine "value" in employee benefits, prioritising prevention, holistic care, and addressing the unique needs of their workforce.

"We need to urge companies to think of healthcare beyond the transactional nature of insurance. True employee well-being lies in providing access to holistic healthcare solutions that encompass mental, physical, and social well-being," said Abhishek Poddar, Co-founder of Plum.

"Our report underscores the urgency for a comprehensive approach that empowers employees to take charge of their health journey, including addressing the specific mental health needs of

different demographics within the workforce," he added.

Despite the growing burden of disease, only 20 per cent of companies offer regular health check-ups, and even when available, just 38 per cent of employees use them, said the report.

In addition, mental health issues are escalating quickly: with anxiety being the leading concern.

The data also shows a gender divide in access and stigma with men dominating healthcare utilisation (58 per cent) in the 30-49 age group.

However, women in the 50-59 age group account for 68 per cent of benefit utilisation. This is due to the typical age for menopause and perimenopause onset, and years of de-prioritising their own health due to caregiving roles, often lead to late detection and more severe conditions, finally pushing them to seek treatment.

## DEPwD to organise conference on utilising AI for empowering disabled

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, is set to organise a conference on the importance of utilising artificial intelligence (AI) for empowering persons with disabilities (PwDs).

The conference will be held in collaboration with Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) on May 30 in Bengaluru.

"This pioneering initiative aims to spotlight the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence in creating inclusive, accessible, and assistive solutions for persons with disabilities (PwDs)," the Ministry said.

The conference is expected to bring together eminent academicians, technologists, innovators, policymakers, startups, and stakeholders from across the globe to discuss, demonstrate, and deliberate on cutting-



edge AI applications that enhance the quality of life for PwDs.

In addition to panel discussions, the event will also witness a series of launches including mission AI Accessibility; mission AI: Implementation of AI in Assistive Technology and Tools for Empow-

ering PwDs; National Disability Support AI Chat Bot; Unified Benefits Interface (UBI).

The day-long conference will see sessions showcasing innovative approaches in AI and assistive technology. Real-life stories of transformation will also be shared by

leading entrepreneurs, changemakers, and beneficiaries of assistive technology solutions.

Further, startups under the India AI Challenge (MeitY) and other global innovators will showcase their breakthroughs in assistive tools for developmental, visual, hearing, and multiple disabilities. Key participants will include Dot Inc (South Korea), Torchit, Sunbots Innovations, Sohum Innovation Labs, Indic AI, Barrier Break, Khyaal, among others.

The conference will conclude with an Interactive Q&A Session, followed by the 'Way Forward' address by Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary (DEPwD), paving a strategic roadmap for inclusive AI development.

The event will offer stakeholders a platform to build collaborations and ideate further on future-ready, inclusive technology solutions.

## Flexi-staffing, EV, e-commerce to drive 2.8 pc Indian workforce growth in April-Sep: Report

The growing trend of flexible workforce models, and increased opportunities in the Electric Vehicles (EVs) and e-commerce sectors is set to boost the workforce in India, according to a report on Thursday.

The Employment Outlook Report (EOR) for the period between April and September by TeamLease Services, a staffing firm, highlighted measured optimism amid economic complexity.

With 47 per cent of employers indicating plans for workforce expansion, 28 per cent opting for stability, and 25 per cent predicting reductions, the report forecasts a 2.8 per cent Net Employment Change (NEC).

It showed that the growing trend of flexi-staffing is taking centre stage, with 69 per cent of employers embracing flexible workforce models to manage cyclical demand and seasonal peaks.

Similarly, the gig econo-



my remains a cornerstone of hiring strategies, with 64 per cent of employers expanding sales and customer service roles through gig models.

"India's workforce stands at a defining moment, where traditional models of hiring are giving way to more dynamic and adaptive strategies. As industries embrace emerging tech-

nologies, organisations must recognise that agility and innovation are the true engines of success," said Kartik Narayan, CEO-Staffing, TeamLease Services.

"The future lies not in simply expanding headcount, but in shaping highly specialised, flexible teams that can scale, evolve, and thrive amid continuous market shifts.

By fostering such talent ecosystems, companies will not only adapt but will lead India's workforce into a new era of growth and opportunity," Narayan added.

Further, employers are now prioritising core competencies like digital literacy (76 per cent), customer experience management (68 per cent), and communication (63 per cent), indicating a clear focus on tech-readiness, service orientation, and effective collaboration, the report said.

It also highlighted that the automotive sector projecting a 6.9 per cent NEC and EVs and allied infrastructure sector poised for strong growth at 7.1 per cent, are leading the charge. Similarly, e-commerce and tech startups are set to grow by 6.9 per cent, the report said.

The rise of AI and automation is another factor accelerating the evolution of workforce requirements.

## About 15 pc babies, toddlers facing long-Covid, symptoms can differ by age: Study

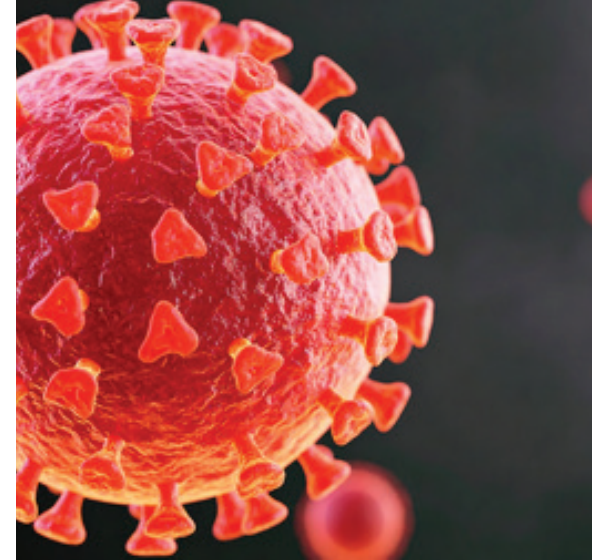
Amid another global wave of Covid-19 disease, a new study showed that about 15 per cent of babies and toddlers are facing long-Covid conditions and that their symptoms can vary based on age.

Long Covid in kids can be defined as prolonged symptoms that last for at least three months after a SARS-CoV-2 infection.

The study, published in the *JAMA Pediatrics*, is based on 472 infants and toddlers, and 539 preschool-aged children enrolled from March 2022 to July 2024, found that about 15 per cent of kids had long Covid.

About 40 of 278 infants aged 2 years and under (14 per cent) had persistent symptoms, while 61 of 399 children aged 3 to 5 years (15 per cent) had the symptoms.

Further, the study showed that babies and toddlers experience different long-Covid symptoms than preschoolers ages 3



to 5 years.

Infants and toddlers (younger than 2 years old) were more likely to experience trouble sleeping, fussiness, poor appetite, stuffy nose, and cough.

Preschool-aged children (3 to 5 years old) were more likely to have a dry cough and daytime tiredness/low energy. In total, 74 per cent of preschoolers with probable

long Covid reported a dry cough.

These symptoms differ greatly from those commonly seen in older kids and teens who have long Covid.

The study found that school-aged children are more likely to have neurologic symptoms, such as trouble focusing, trouble sleeping, or feeling lightheaded. They may also have back or neck

pain, headache, stomach pain, or vomiting. Sometimes, they have behavioural changes.

"This study is important because it shows that long Covid symptoms in young children are different from those in older children and adults," said Tanayott (Tony) Thawethai, associate director of Biostatistics Research and Engagement at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH).

Further, the team noted that the varied symptoms may be explained by the fact that symptoms in younger children are reported based on what caregivers can observe rather than what the children themselves are feeling and describing.

"Children with these symptoms often had worse overall health, lower quality of life, and delays in development," Thawethai said, while calling for more research on the impact of Covid on young children.

## Bhalla leads Jai Hind Yatra of Congress at Doda

J I NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, JUNE 12

The District Congress committee Doda today organised an impressive Jai Hind Sabha followed by Jai Hind Yatra at Doda today which was led by Working President Shri Raman Bhalla accompanied by Former MLA Incharge Doda Shri Dina Nath Bhagat DCC President Sheikh Mujeeb, Former MLC Sham Lal Bhagat, IYC Secretary Man Singh Rathore & other senior leaders.

The rally was part of the nation wide campaign of the party to pay respect to the armed forces for their bravery and valour in carrying out operation Sindoor besides questioning the flip flop foreign policy & other policies of Modi government including denial of statehood to J&K.

Addressing the gathering Shri Raman Bhalla said that BJP has been politicizing the achievement & bravery of armed forces in carrying out operation Sindoor but the Modi govt is escaping from answering vital questions relating to the security



and integrity and honour of the country.

He lashed out at the Modi government for betraying the faith of the people of Jammu and Kashmir after getting mandate on the basis of assuring early statehood, after Assembly elections. More than eight months have passed to Assembly elections but the Prime Minister didn't utter a word on restoration of statehood during his recent visit in Jammu.

Bhalla said that BJP's lust for power even after failing to secure mandate in Jammu and Kashmir, despite all sorts of opportunist alliances, has kept a mess in government but dual control system under UT. He said a parallel system of government despite Assembly elections to fulfill lust of BJP to run government through remote control system, is harmful to democracy & to the overall interest of people.

He also referred to the present mess of the issue of Naib Tehsildar selections, Bhalla said that it was the result of the same dual control system on the administration otherwise it should not have resulted into lot inconvenience to the candidates. He said during Congress NC government, when he was Revenue minister, the candidates for this post were exempted from Urdu. It was settled then by Congress and now, when

other official languages are there alongwith Urdu, all languages should be at par to give equal rights to all class of people.

He asked BJP to explain why the non urdu knowing candidates faced discrimination in Naib Tehsildar selections in 2019, when BJP was at the helm of affairs in J&K and at centre. It was during Governor's rule controlled by BJP led centre that Jammu candidates suffered injustice.

In his address Former

MLA vDina Nath Bhagat questioned the silence of PM Modi over the barbaric treatment of Indians by the trump administration and their repatriation in chains besides Trump's insulting language against India claiming ceasefire by him.

Former MLC Sham Lal Bhagat questioned how terrorist state Pakistan is getting full financial support and recognition at International levels but Modigovernment is not acting against it. Our people are getting worst ever treatment in US under Donald Trump but Modi ji describes him as friend. DCC President demanded immediate restoration of statehood as promised otherwise people will launch a struggle for getting their rights.

Others who spoke include District Vice President Ranjeet Manhas Ji, Swarn Veer Singh Jaral, State General Secretary JKPYC, Mudassir Bandey, Anju Jaral, Shivam Sharma, Koshal Parihar, Seva Dal District President, Incharge NSUI Chenab Valley and Others.

## Adv. Purnima condoles tragic Air India crash

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUNE 12

Expressing shock and sorrow over the devastating crash of an Air India aircraft that took off from Ahmedabad and was bound for London, Advocate Purnima Sharma, Spokesperson BJP, J&K and former Deputy Mayor of Jammu, has extended her heartfelt condolences to the families of the more than 200 passengers who tragically lost their lives in the incident.

"This is a deeply painful moment for the entire country. My thoughts and prayers are with the families who are going through unimaginable grief. We have lost fellow citizens in a disaster that words cannot describe," she said in a statement issued today.

Adv. Purnima Sharma lauded the quick response of rescue teams and called for transparent updates from the authorities to keep the public informed. She also pressed for psy-



chological and legal support mechanisms to be put in place for the affected families.

"It is crucial that the government ensures speedy identification of victims, facilitates their dignified return to their loved ones, and provides all possible logistical and financial support," she added. The senior BJP leader emphasized the need for rigorous safety protocols in the aviation sector. "Such a catastrophe must be a wake-up call to revisit existing safety frameworks and upgrade them with global standards," she said.

## International Day of Yoga 2025 is Not Just a Milestone, It is a Global Wellness Movement: Prataprao Jadhav

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUNE 12

The Ministry of Ayush hosted the curtain raiser for the 11th International Day of Yoga (IDY) at the National Media Centre, New Delhi. The event marks the formal commencement of the grand celebration of IDY 2025 and leading to the National Event to be led by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 21st June in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Ayush and Union Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Shri Prataprao Jadhav addressed media persons along with Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush. Senior officials from the ministry were also present on the occasion.

Speaking at the press conference, the Minister of Ayush, Shri Prataprao Jadhav, reflected on the remarkable journey of the International Day of Yoga (IDY) over the past decade.

"When the United Nations General Assembly adopted 21st June as the International Day of Yoga in 2014—following the visionary call of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi—it marked the beginning of a global wellness movement rooted in India's traditional wisdom," the Minister said.

The Minister recalled that since 2015, IDY has been celebrated with extraordinary enthusiasm across the world. "From the record-setting first event in New Delhi to landmark celebrations in Mysuru, New York, and Sri Nagar, each edition of IDY has united people from diverse cultures in the shared pursuit of health, harmony, and peace," he noted.

Highlighting the importance of this year's milestone, the Minister stated, "As we enter the 11th year, IDY 2025 is not just a commemoration—it is a collective call to scale up our efforts and deepen yoga's reach across all segments of society." He added that the theme 'Yoga for One



Earth, One Health' aligns with the global health vision presented during India's G20 Presidency and reflects the Indian civilisational ethos of 'Sarve Santu Niramaya', meaning—"May all be free from disease."

The Minister also mentioned that the national event on 21st June 2025 will take place in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, where Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will lead the Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) session with more than five lakh participants. Simultaneously, 'Yoga Sangam' sessions will be conducted at over one lakh locations across the country, making it one of the largest synchronised yoga demonstrations in history.

The Minister also acknowledged the significant contribution of the Government of Andhra Pradesh and its Chief Minister, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu, for launching the "YogaAndhra" campaign—an ambitious initiative to cultivate a community of 10 lakh regular yoga practitioners across the state.

The Minister highlighted that IDY 2025 will feature ten Signature Events spread over 100 days, designed to resonate with various segments of society and promote yoga as a holistic way of life. These events—ranging from Yoga Samavesh for inclusivity to Yoga Bandhan for international partnerships—represent the government's strategic vision of taking

yoga from the mat to the masses.

The Minister further noted the enthusiastic public response to the series of countdown events—held at 100-day, 75-day, 50-day, and 25-day milestones in Delhi, Bhubaneswar, Nashik, and Puducherry, respectively—which have built strong momentum in the lead-up to the main event.

Calling upon the media, Shri Jadhav urged, "Yoga is not just a practice of postures and breathing—it is a way of life. With your support, we aim to make IDY 2025 a landmark event that inspires millions to integrate yoga into their daily routines and help create a healthier, happier, and more harmonious society."

Sharing updates on global participation, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha noted that over 60 countries have already initiated activities in the run-up to IDY 2025. He added that yoga enthusiasts worldwide are actively organising events aligned with the theme 'Yoga for One

Earth, One Health' and the ten Signature Events, reflecting the truly international character of this movement.

At the press conference, Shri P.N. Ranjit Kumar, Officer on Special Duty (IDY Coordination), Ministry of Ayush, delivered a comprehensive presentation detailing the scale, vision, and strategy for IDY 2025. He elaborated on the decadal journey of the IDY movement, provided insights into the 10 Signature Events, and highlighted the collaborative partnerships being forged with state governments, civil society, and international stakeholders to ensure wide-reaching and inclusive participation.

The presentation concluded with a compelling overview of how the Ministry of Ayush is using digital tools, grassroots mobilisation, and global partnerships to amplify the message of "Yoga for One Earth, One Health"—positioning IDY 2025 as not just a national observance but a global wellness celebration.

## IIM Jammu concludes CBP for Officials of Finance, Planning & Monitoring Department, Govt of Jammu & Kashmir

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUNE 12

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu hosted the Valedictory Ceremony of the Capacity Building Program (Batch-4) for officials of the Finance, Planning & Monitoring Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir at Vice Chancellor's Conference Hall, SKUAST Kashmir, Srinagar. The program was organized under the aegis of the Centre for Innovation and Transformation in Governance (CITaG) and concluded on 12th June 2025. The valedictory ceremony was graced by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu ( Online Mode).

Present on the occasion were Prof. Nazeer Ahmed Ganai, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Kashmir and Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean, Faculty and Research, IIM Jammu. Also present on the occasion were Dr. Sanjay Pathak, Chairperson, Executive Education



& Consultancy (joining online), along with Program Directors Prof. Ravij Seth, Dr. Guangpuanang Kahmei, and Dr. Garima Maurya. Dr. Kapil Gumte and Dr. Chinmaya Kumar Swain are also serving as Program Directors for the training program under CITaG. The Capacity Building Program features 94 participants from officials of the Finance and Planning & Monitoring Department of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. Participants shared their reflections and valuable insights on the training program, highlighting its relevance and impact on their professional roles.

## PM Modi restored image of India at global level in last 11 years: Jasrotia

J I NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, JUNE 12

MLA Jasrotia Rajiv Jasrotia organized a grand program to commemorate the completion of 11 years of the PM Modi government under the banner of 'Viksit Bharat Ka Amritkaal, Sewa, Sushasan, Gareeb Kalyan Ke 11 Saal' Abhiyan. The event was attended by prominent dignitaries, including Updesh Andotra District President, Ragunandan Singh Bablu, DDC Vice Chairman, Mukherjee Sharma: State Professional Cell Incharge, Gopal Mahajan, Ravinder Sharma, Gagan Singh, Rajesh Mehta, Anil Singh, Vidya Sagar, Anil Khajuria, Mukesh Kumar Roni, Deepak Sharma, Samar Singh, Nandan Khajuria, Bittu. The leaders discussed the future roadmap for the nation, emphasizing the need for continued

development and progress.

Speaking on the occasion, Jasrotia drew a sharp line of difference between the corruption marred governance by the congress and the public-welfare oriented governance by the Modi government. He said that the party through these endeavours has presented the report card of its performance before the public. He said that the Modi government has achieved milestones in the welfare of every single community that deserved attention of the government. He said that BJP has worked for the nation and the society with utmost dedication right from top level to the bottom line for 365 days in a year.

Jasrotia further said that PM Modi changed the country's political culture and made room for performance-driven politics and good govern-



nance by implementing a model of "responsible and accountable" government. With Operation Sindoor, India's military response to the Pakistan-sponsored April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam dominating the political and security narrative, Jasrotia said the PM confronted all problems upfront. He said India's doctrine that all terror attacks will be considered

an act of war has become "the new normal."

The abrogation of Article 370, that gave the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir its special status; outlawing Triple Talaq; and passage of the Waqf (amendment) Bill were underlined by Jasrotia as illustrations of the government's bold decisions. He said there was a political narrative that

abrogation of Article 370 was not possible. "Elections in the state (J&K) were known as formality but the voter turnout was 58% in the Lok Sabha and 63% in the assembly polls." "Governance is now based on the satisfaction of everyone and the appeasement of none; the country has witnessed it in 11 years," Jasrotia said, underscoring what he described as

a people-centric approach in contrast to earlier political models, added Jasrotia.

Praising PM Modi's impact on India's global image, Jasrotia said, "PM Modi has cemented India's position at the global level and has given India an identity." He contrasted the current administration with past regimes, stating, "In the 65 years of Congress rule and unstable governments, the trust of the common people was lost, and the image of India that was damaged at the global level, PM Modi has restored it in the last 11 years." "During the 75th Independence Day celebrations, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India surpassed Britain - the very nation that had ruled it for nearly two centuries. India is the only economy to have doubled in size within a decade," Jasrotia added.

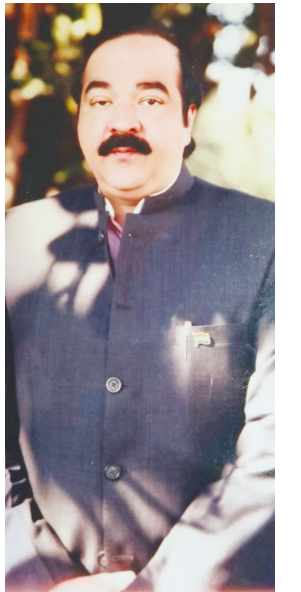
## M.K Ajatshatru Singh expresses grief over Air India Tragedy

J I NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUNE 12

Senior BJP leader and former minister M.K Ajatshatru Singh has expressed his profound anguish over the fatal crash of an Air India flight, which resulted in the deaths of over 200 passengers. The aircraft, carrying 242 people on board and bound for London, crashed minutes after taking off from Ahmedabad on Thursday, in what is being termed the deadliest air disaster in the past ten years.

In a press release issued here today, the former Minister said "This horrific tragedy has left the nation mourning. I offer my deepest condolences to all those who lost their loved ones."

He also expressed grief over the untimely death of former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, who was on board the ill-fated aircraft



He urged the Civil Aviation Ministry to conduct a thorough investigation and ensure that stringent safety measures are enforced. He added that the incident underscores the pressing need for reforms in flight operations and passenger safety management.

## YNC holds meeting at Batote, flags local Youth concerns

JNEWS SERVICE  
BATOTE, JUNE 12

A significant meeting of the Jammu and Kashmir Youth National Conference (JKYNC) was held at Batote in District Ramban, drawing enthusiastic participation from the youth of the region. The meeting was marked by a warm and rousing reception accorded to Tejinder Pal Singh, Provincial President of JKNC Youth, on his maiden visit to Batote after assuming office.

During the meeting, several pressing issues concerning the youth and local residents of Ramban district were brought into focus.

District President Ramban National Conference Abid Magrey was present in the meeting and addressed the local youth. The meeting was organized by Youth leader Nafiz Mir.

While addressing the meeting Abid Margrey highlighted the acute problem of unemployment in



the region, stating that despite the presence of several national projects in the district, local youth are being neglected when it comes to job opportunities. He made a strong pitch for the reservation of employment for local educated youth in these ongoing infrastructural and developmental projects.

YNC workers raised concerns over the shortage of medical officers and inadequate health-care facilities in the district. They also demanded construction of an indoor

sports stadium in Batote. They stressed that creating sports infrastructure is vital to positively engage the youth and keep them away from the growing menace of drug addiction in the region.

Speaking on the occasion, Tejinder Pal Singh expressed gratitude for the warm welcome and said that the present government under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is committed to inclusive development and youth empowerment. Tejinder acknowledged

the issues raised by the district unit and assured that the party is aware of the hardships faced by people living in hilly areas, especially in terms of employment, health-care, and infrastructure.

He further assured the gathering that he will take up all these issues with the Party High Command for appropriate redressal and policy attention. He encouraged the youth to remain united and continue to work under the banner of the National Conference to strengthen the voice of Jammu and Kashmir's youth at every level.

Among others who were present included: Aslam Parey Joint Secretary Chenab Zone, Shakeel Ahmed, Sachin Bhatti, Fareed Choudhary, Mohd Abbas, Usman, Sheikh Tabrez, Shadab Bhat, Aftab, Asir Katoch, Raiz Magrey, Andrew's Mir and others.

## Rattan Lal Gupta expresses deep grief over Air India Flight Crash in Ahmedabad

**Demands Accountability, Safety Reforms**

JNEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUNE 12

Advocate Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu & Kashmir National Conference, has expressed profound grief and anguish over the tragic crash of Air India Flight en route to London Gat-

wick, which crashed shortly after takeoff near Ahmedabad. The ill-fated aircraft, carrying 242 people, reportedly struck a doctors' hostel in Meghani Nagar, igniting a massive fire that engulfed the building. The catastrophe has claimed more than 200 lives, including passengers and crew onboard.

In a press release issued here today, the senior NC leader extended his heartfelt prayers

and condolences to the grieving families and affected communities.

Rattan Lal Gupta has also strongly urged the Central Government, civil aviation authorities, and Air India leadership to initiate a full-scale, transparent investigation to uncover the technical, human, and systemic causes of this horrific crash. He called for swift and decisive accountability, along with adequate

compensation, medical assistance, and psychosocial support for the bereaved families.

He further emphasized that the lessons from this tragedy must lead to robust reforms in aviation safety to ensure such a disaster is never repeated. The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference stands in complete solidarity with the affected families in this hour of mourning.

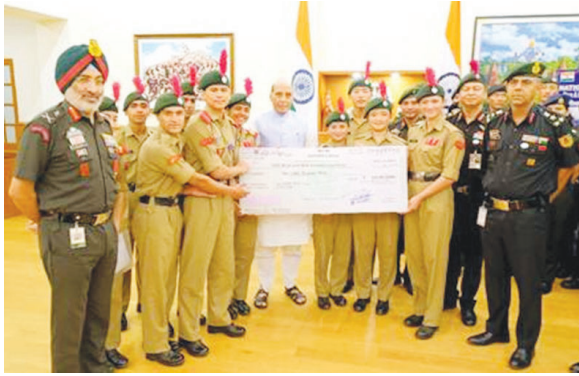
## Raksha Mantri felicitates NCC team, comprising five girls, five boys, for scaling world's highest peak - Mount Everest

JNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 12 JUN 2025

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, on June 12, 2025, felicitated the National Cadet Corps (NCC) Mountaineering Expedition Team, comprising five girls and five boys aged an average of 19 years, who scaled Mount Everest on May 18, 2025. Honouring the raw courage, grit and patriotism of the team, led by Col Amit Bisht, he presented a cheque of Rs 10 lakh for achieving the feat in the harshest of conditions without any injury.

During the event held at South Block, New Delhi, the cadets shared their experiences of the expedition, detailing the rigorous training, meticulous planning and challenges encountered. Raksha Mantri commended the team for passing the test of courage, discipline, resilience & composure with flying colours.

Terming the cadets as a source of inspiration to the younger generation, Shri Rajnath Singh stated that, with the expedition, the brave cadets have sent a message that even the world's highest peak is no



them in this endeavour. DG NCC Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh was among the dignitaries present on the occasion.

The feat marked the third successful Everest expedition by the NCC, following similar accomplishments in 2013 and 2016. The expedition team comprised 10 cadets, a contingent of officers, junior commissioned officers, instructors and non-commissioned officers. The team consisted of Subedar Major Balkar Singh, the first Subedar Major of the Indian Army to summit Mount Everest. The young cadet of the team was just 16 years old.

The expedition team was formally flagged-off by Raksha Mantri on April 03, 2025. Throughout the expedition, the team adhered strictly to established safety protocols and operational guidelines, ensuring the well-being of all members at every stage.

limit for the youth of the country. He exuded confidence that the cadets would overcome future challenges with the same courage and determination they displayed while scaling Mount Everest.

Raksha Mantri acknowledged the efforts of NCC towards instilling the feeling of national pride among the cadets while ensuring their holistic

growth by making them physically, mentally & emotionally strong and developing their social skills. He also appreciated the family members of the cadets who supported

## Indian Army conducts Medical Patrol for Gujjar, Bakarwals at Bharakh, Reasi

JNEWS SERVICE  
REASI, 12 JUN 2025

In a compassionate outreach effort, the Indian Army conducted a medical patrol in the remote Bharakh village of Reasi district, extending essential healthcare services to the local population, including Gujjar and Bakarwals. The medical team provided on-the-spot consultations, conducted basic health check-ups, and distributed medicines for common illnesses. The patrol also educated villagers on preventive healthcare practices, emphasizing the importance of hygiene, balanced nutrition, and early illness detection.

A total of 24 villagers comprising 10 men, 9



women, and 5 children benefited directly from the initiative. The locals expressed heartfelt gratitude towards the Indian Army for bringing medical assistance to their doorstep in an otherwise inaccessible area. This initiative reflects the Indian Army's commitment to fostering goodwill and supporting the health and well-being of communities in remote and underserved regions.

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI**  
**PHE MECHANICAL DIVISION UDHAMPUR**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

**E-NIT JSPHEM/UDHR/ 02 OF 2025-26 DATED 09-06-2025**

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division, Udhampur, on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir UT, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from registered firms who have sufficient experience in the relevant field of electro-mechanical/ electrical works.

Sl.	Name of the work	Qty	Name of Division	Cost of Tender Document / Tender Fee (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Bid validity
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Replacement / repair to 50000 GPH x 130 meter head HC pump set unit no. 5 installed at pumping station Salmay stage-1 <sup>st</sup> (Old)	01 job	Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur	Rs. 200.00 (Non-refundable in shape of treasury challan in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur	(Rs. 1800.00) 2% (in case of non-registered firms) Or (Rs. 900.00) 1% (in case of firms registered with DIC / SSI / MSME)	90 days
2	Repair of 50000 GPH x 50 meter head HC pump set at pumping station Salmay stage-0 (Old)	01 job	Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur	Rs. 200.00 (Non-refundable in shape of treasury challan in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur	(Rs. 1000.00) 2% (in case of non-registered firms) Or (Rs. 500.00) 1% (in case of firms registered with DIC / SSI / MSME)	90 days
3	Repair of 50000 GPH x 130 meter head HC pump set at pumping station Salmay stage-2 <sup>nd</sup> (Old).	01 job	Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur	Rs. 200.00 (Non-refundable in shape of treasury challan in favour of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division Udhampur	(Rs. 1700.00) 2% (in case of non-registered firms) Or (Rs. 850.00) 1% (in case of firms registered with DIC / SSI / MSME)	90 days

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 09-06-2025 (18:00 Hrs.)
- The Bids shall be deposited on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 09-06-2025 (18:30Hrs) to 18-06-2025 (15:00 Hrs.).
- After opening tender only successful bidder shall be asked for submitting the hard copies of documents with CDR and tender fee
- The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>.
- The technical bid will be opened on line on 19-06-2025 at 11.00 A.M or any other subsequent date in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Udhampur.
- The Financial bids of the bidders shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mechanical Division Udhampur after evaluation of technical bids. The date shall be communicated separately.

NO. JSPHEMUDHR/2025-26/423-26  
Dated:-09-06-2025

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division  
Udhampur

DIP/J-2061/25  
Date: 12-6-25

**Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**

**Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospital Division Udhampur**  
(E-mail- [xenmdudh@gmail.com](mailto:xenmdudh@gmail.com))

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

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

S.NO.	Description of work	N.I.T No	Estimated/ Approved Cost (in Lacs)	Earnest Money/ Performance Security	Cost of tender documents	Time of completion	Eligibility Criteria of Bidder	Tender Receiving Authority
01	Repair of Mobile Toilets and Associated Machinery of M C Udhampur i.e General repair with replacement of defective parts of vehicle No. JK14J-4690 (TATA 610)	ENIT No: MHDU/TS/ 11 of 2025-26 Dated: 11/06/2025 Due on:- 20.06.2025	2.495 (Lacs)	<b>Earnest Money</b> 2% of estimated amount, amounting to Rs. 4990/- only shall be submitted by all Participating Bidder in the shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG. <b>Performance Security</b> 5% of the contract value shall be submitted by the lowest Bidder before the allotment of work order in the shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG.	Rs.200/- (Fixed Amount) in the shape of challan through J&K Govt. Treasury indicating treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to MH-0059(PWD) Misc. Revenue and uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt on e-tendering portal OR The bidder may deposit tender fee in shape of e-challan through Account No. 002801020000009, J&K Bank, Udhampur, of Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Udhampur)	10 Ten days )	Registered/ Reputed Mechanical firms having sufficient experiences for the similar nature work	Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospital division Udhampur

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

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

**No: MHDU/TS/ 561**  
**11.06.2025**

**DIP/J-2055/25**  
**Date: 12-6-24**

-sd-  
(Er. Daljeet Singh) **Dated:-**  
Executive Engineer  
Mechanical & Hospital Division  
Udhampur

## Give top priority to youth fitness and nurturing sporting excellence: CS



J NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 12

In a significant move to harness the power of youth and channel their energies into productive and health-enhancing pursuits, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting to review the performance and roadmap of the Youth Services & Sports Department (YS&S). The meeting witnessed vibrant discussions on expanding the sporting landscape of the Union Territory and enhancing youth engagement through structured and inclusive initiatives.

Calling the Department's role vital in building a fit, focused, and drug-free society, the Chief Secretary underlined the transformative power of sports in shaping personalities, cultivating discipline, and deterring youth from harmful distractions like substance abuse. He emphasized that increased community participation in sports must become a

key pillar of public health and social development in the UT.

The Department should aim to bring every young person into the fold of some sporting discipline. This not only nurtures physical well-being but fosters a sense of purpose, teamwork, and self-control, Dulloo remarked. He applauded the strides made in strengthening sports infrastructure\* which he said now rivals national benchmarks. Encouraging the optimal utilization of newly created stadiums, indoor arenas, and playgrounds across the UT, the Chief Secretary urged the department to aspire towards organizing more mega sporting events that can spotlight local talent and inspire wider participation.

Recognizing the natural water bodies as untapped potential for adventure and water sports, Dulloo also directed officials to \*\*initiate water-based sporting activities

at Manasbal Lake and to explore competitive events at Ranjit Sagar Lake in Kathua, adding a thrilling dimension to the UT's sports repertoire.

The meeting also marked a milestone celebration with the release of the Annual Sports Calendar, alongside beautifully curated coffee table books and compendiums that capture J&K's remarkable journey in sports. These publications showcase the Department's achievements, the growth of infrastructure, and the rising graph of talent emerging from every corner of the UT.

The Commissioner Secretary, YS&S, Sarmad Hafeez, in his remarks, gave a panoramic view of the sporting ecosystem in the UT. He informed that millions of youth have been directly or indirectly engaged in various sports activities organized at the block, district, and UT levels. The Department, he noted, has created dozens of world-class

infrastructure facilities over the past few years, many of which now align with national and even international standards.

He reiterated that the day is not far when Jammu & Kashmir's sports infrastructure will be counted among the best in the country, adding that the Department is also collaborating with national sports associations to host major events in the region.

Secretary of J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, also made a detailed presentation outlining the Council's efforts in tournament organization, grassroots coaching, and infrastructure upgradation. She highlighted the impact of trained coaches across disciplines and expressed confidence that, with continued support and planning, J&K's athletes will soon rank among the country's finest. With a renewed commitment to nurture sporting talent, promote physical fitness, and build a robust sports infrastructure here.

## PM lauds youth-led digital progress in India in 11 yrs

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that his government in the last 11 years has brought innumerable benefits for people by leveraging the power of technology with young innovators playing a crucial role in driving India's self-reliance in the sector.

The prime minister said the use of technology has greatly boosted service delivery and transparency. Furthermore, technology has become a means of empowering the lives of the poorest of poor, he added.

He also praised the



Digital India initiative for enabling youth to harness innovation and strengthen India's position as a global tech leader. "Over the past 11 years, Digital India has empowered the youth to harness innovation, reinforcing India's position as a global technology powerhouse," added Modi on X.

A thread of posts from a government handle and highlighted by the PM said India ensured transparency at scale through direct benefit transfer (DBT), noting that over Rs 44 lakh crore were credited to beneficiaries of over 322 schemes regulated by 56 ministries.

India's Covid case load touches 7,154; three deaths in past 24 hrs

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

India's total number of Covid-19 cases has reached 7,154 as of 8 AM on Thursday, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

In the past 24 hours, 33 new infections have been confirmed, though case data from West Bengal is still awaited.

Additionally, three new deaths linked to Covid-19 were reported in the last 24 hours: one from Madhya Pradesh and two from Maharashtra. These bring the total number of Covid-related deaths in 2025 to 77.

On a positive note, more than 9,000 individuals have recovered from the virus so far this year.

While several states have reported modest increases in active cases, Kerala remains the worst-affected, with 2,165 active infections as of Thursday. Other states with relatively high caseloads include Gujarat (1281), West Bengal(747), Delhi (731), and Maharashtra(615), based on data from the national Covid-19 dashboard.

Health authorities have attributed the current rise in infections to new Omicron sub-variants — including JN.1, NB.1.8.1, LF.7, and XFC. These strains are noted for their high transmissibility but are causing milder illness compared to earlier variants. The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified them as "Variants Under Monitoring", indicating that while they are not currently a serious threat, their progress should be observed closely.

Covid-19, caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, has now transitioned into a seasonal pattern similar to the flu. Though no longer considered an emergency, the virus continues to circulate and may pose risks, especially to vulnerable populations.

CISF's 'Shri Anna' triumph: Millet usage crosses 30 pc of food consumption

AGENCIES  
HYDERABAD, JUNE 12

In a significant stride towards government's 'Shri Anna' mission for sustainable health in armed forces, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has exceeded target for millet (Shri Anna) consumption across its 434 units and formations across the country.

"The accomplishment underscores CISF's commitment to the Home Ministry's initiative to promote their traditional nutritious grains, not just among its personnel but also their families and the wider citizenry," said a CISF officer.

The journey to this achievement began with the United Nations General Assembly declaring 2023 as the 'International Year of Millets,' a testament to India's persistent efforts.

Following this, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) mandated on May 4, 2023 the inclusion of millets in the daily diet of all Central armed police forces for the financial year 2023-24, with a specific target of 30 percent Shri Anna in the daily diet of jawans for 2024-25.

## Stalin hikes Paddy procurement price to Rs 2,500 per quintal

AGENCIES  
CHENNAI, JUN 12

Soon after releasing waters from the Mettur dam on the scheduled date of June 12, Thursday, for irrigation and enable farmers in Cauvery delta region to take up Kuruvai crop cultivation, Tamil Nadu Chief

Minister M K Stalin brought more cheers to them by hiking the procurement price of paddy to Rs 2,500 per quintal.

Speaking at an official function in Salem soon after opening the sluice gates of the Stanley Reservoir for irrigating more than 17.15 lakh acre of farmlands, began his address with an announcement that the farmers would



henceforth get Rs 2,500 per quintal as procurement price for paddy.

Mr Stalin said the procurement price for ordinary variety of paddy has been raised to Rs 131 and for fine variety to Rs 156.

Thanks to this hike, the farmers would get procurement price of Rs 2,500 for ordinary variety and Rs 2,545 for fine variety.

This will benefit more than 10 lakh farmers, he added.

Stating that the Cauvery waters was the lifeline for delta districts to be known as the rice bowl of Tamil Nadu, the Chief Minister said, by storing the cauvery water to irrigate 16 districts, the Mettur dam was opened on the scheduled date for the last four years

including today, much to the delight of farmers to enable them to take up Kuruvai crop cultivation.

"With such immense happiness, I have come to Salem to attend this function after opening the dam for irrigation", he said, and announced that by adding more happiness to farmers, they would now get an enhanced procurement price of Rs 2,500 for paddy per quintal.

During the function, Mr Stalin inaugurated 225 completed projects and laid foundation stone for 509 new ones at a total cost of Rs 1,649.18 crore, and distributed welfare schemes to 1,01,203 beneficiaries to the tune of Rs 204 crores.

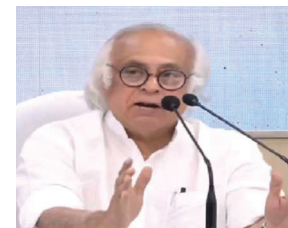
## Jairam slams US invite to Pak Army chief, calls it diplomatic setback for India

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 12

Amid reports that Pakistan Army Chief Gen Asim Munir has been invited for the US Army Day on June 14, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Thursday termed it a "major diplomatic and strategic setback" for India.

Taking to X, Ramesh questioned the United States' intent, pointing out that General Munir is the same person who made provocative remarks shortly before the Pahalgam terror attack.

He also criticised the recent remarks by the US Central Command chief, who described Pakistan as a "great partner" in counter-terrorism efforts.



"The Modi government is saying that Operation Sindoor is still underway; in such a situation, the participation of the Pakistani Army Chief as a guest at the US Army Day event is undoubtedly a matter of serious concern," Ramesh said.

The Rajya Sabha MP further said, "The Trump administration is consistently making statements that can only be interpreted to mean that the US is viewing India and Pakistan

through the same lens. The Prime Minister has only recently welcomed the delegation that had briefed the global community, including the United States, on Pakistan's involvement in supporting terrorism, yet simultaneously, reports from Washington DC are surfacing that further undermine India's diplomatic standing."

Ramesh demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi shed his "obstinacy and prestige", and immediately convene an all-party meeting and a special session of Parliament to present a unified national stance and chalk out a clear roadmap.

"Decades of diplomatic progress cannot be easily undermined," he added.

## Raghuvanshi murder

# Kamakhya temple authority refutes charges of human sacrifice

AGENCIES  
GUWAHATI, JUNE 12

The Kamakhya temple authority has taken strong objection to the allegation of human sacrifice involving the Mother Goddess Kamakhya behind the murder of Indore-based businessman Raja Raghuvanshi, whose body was found in Meghalaya.

Some of the relatives of deceased Raghuvanshi during recent television talk shows said that his wife had performed black magic and used

him for human sacrifice. The family also linked the visit of the couple to the Kamakhya temple and the murder and speculated that Raghuvanshi's wife Sonam probably offered the human sacrifice to fulfil her desire to be with another man.

"We condemn these kinds of statements. There is no relevance of human sacrifice in Kamakhya temple. For centuries the Kamakhya temple is known for its Vedic rituals. There is no ritual of human sacrifice

here. Apart from this case also, whenever there is a murder case in the vicinity of Kamakhya temple, the issue of human sacrifice in the temple is alleged," said Saru Doloi (junior priest) of the temple Himadri Sharma.

Sarma said the state and Central government must ensure that no one should tarnish the image of the historical Kamakhya temple with such baseless allegations. "Such allegations have hurt the sentiments of people here, lakhs of devotees from different



parts of the country and abroad come to Kamakhya temple every year. Such allegations would put the temple in bad light, which is not expected," he said.

Shakti Peeths in the country.

Raghuvanshi and his wife Sonam got married on May 11 and visited Guwahati and Meghalaya on a honeymoon trip. They reached Meghalaya on May 20 and both went missing on May 23 from a homestay in Nongriat village in Sohra, Meghalaya.

However, police recovered the body of Raghuvanshi from a gorge near a waterfall in Cherrapunji on June 2 while Sonam remained missing. On June 9, police from Indore and Uttar Pradesh rescued

Sonam from a Dhaba in Gazipur in UP.

Police later took Sonam into custody and arrested four others and claimed that Raghuvanshi was murdered by Sonam and her former lover Raj Kushawaha by hiring contract killers.

Meghalaya police who have taken custody of all the five suspects, including Sonam, however, says that it is a planned murder and that it was Sonam who lured Raghuvanshi to northeast for executing the murder.

## Ponting lauds Webster's resilience on opening day of WTC25 Final

AGENCIES

LONDON, JUNE 12

ICC Hall of Famer Ricky Ponting has heaped praise on Aussie all-rounder Beau Webster, who came to the rescue in Australia's first innings of the WTC25 Final.

"He just looked completely ready," Ponting said.

Those were the words of Aussie great Ricky Ponting, referring to fellow Tasmanian Beau Webster making the step up to Test cricket.

And 'ready' is exactly the word that sums up what Webster has displayed in his limited Test career so far, having been tasked with making critical runs under intense pressure more than once already.

The towering all-rounder made his Test debut in a pressure cooker series-deciding Test in Sydney against India at the start of this year, scoring a crucial 57 in his maiden innings in the format, coming to the crease with his side in all sorts at 39/4, still 146 runs behind and facing a large first innings deficit. The knock helped Australia scratch and claw their



way to a first innings score of 181, helping the hosts set up an opportunity to grind out a tough victory over the Indians.

And under the bright lights of the Ultimate Test, at Lord's no less, Webster did it again. In what is just his fourth Test, the 31-year-old negotiated a tough early period, and compiled a gutsy 72 off 92 balls, top scoring for Australia and ensuring his side posted a competitive total of 212 runs on a tricky deck against world-class bowling.

The performance has earned high profile praise.

"You take those 70 odd runs out, that scorecard looks a whole lot different," Ricky Ponting told

ICC Digital after Australia's first innings.

"I think that says a lot about how comfortable he is in his own game right now and even the comfort he has of being in the Australian middle order," he said.

"The thing I liked about that today was, although Australia were in a little bit of trouble, wickets were falling... (Webster) was able to go out there and maintain his own natural style of play and play the way that he wanted to play and try and be aggressive and try and put some pressure back on the South African bowlers," Ponting said.

Webster's 72 led the way for Australia, with Steve

Smith also contributing with a hard-fought 66 in just under three hours at the crease.

Keeper Alex Carey was the next highest scorer with 23 runs, as South Africa cleaned up the tail to make a day one statement. The Proteas were led by Kagiso Rabada's 5/51, which included the eventual dismissal of Webster.

"The other thing (is that) although the wicket was doing something and we know the Dukes ball will do something early June in the UK, it just goes to show that if you do get in and get set like Smith and Alex and Beau did that regardless of the conditions you can still make some big scores," Ponting continued. Australia fought back valiantly in the final session of the Ultimate Test's opening day, taking four wickets to prove just how tough conditions were for batters. The Proteas, who won the toss and opted to bowl first, were 43/4 at stumps, now facing a similar assignment to the one that Australia faced - and ultimately dug their way out of - when action resumes at the top of day two.

## Rabada reveals key reason behind Lord's Aussie onslaught

AGENCIES

LONDON, JUNE 12

As South Africa's skipper Temba Bavuma won the toss and opted to bowl in the ICC World Test Championship Final 2025 against Australia at Lord's, the onus with the new ball fell to Kagiso Rabada and the seasoned campaigner took little time to make his mark on the Ultimate Test.

Removing Australia opener Usman Khawaja and Cameron Green in his opening burst, Rabada went on to claim his 17th five-wicket haul in Tests. His spell helped South Africa bundle the defending champions out for 212.

But Rabada believes the Proteas could've managed to run through the Aussie batting much sooner. "212, we'd take that. We thought we should've had them at 160, but that's just the way the game goes," the pacer told reporters at the end of the day's play at Lord's.



With Australia five wickets down for 146, Beau Webster took command of the first innings with a handy knock of 72.

Rabada lavished praise on the all-rounder, who shifted gears after seeing through South Africa's pace battery early on in his innings, an ICC report said.

"Yeah, he didn't start off too well there, looked like he was going to get out any ball but I guess his positive intent got him

through," he said.

Rabada eventually got rid of Webster, and marked his bowling figures by overtaking Alan Donald as the fourth-highest wicket-taker for the Proteas in Tests.

"To be named in that list of bowlers is special," Rabada said on the milestone.

"As a player growing up and representing South Africa, I've been inspired by those who have come before and seen what

they have done on the big stage. To be listed among those names is special and long may it continue," he said.

While Rabada was the pick of the bowlers for South Africa, Australia pacers also made early inroads towards the end of Day 1 at Lord's.

Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and skipper Pat Cummins all struck with the ball as South Africa closed the day at 43/4.

"I think the ball is nipping quite a bit, at times nipping off the slope quite a lot. But I still felt like batters could get in. If you just put more balls in the right area for a long period of time that would create chances," Rabada said.

"Right now, we're 43/4, not the start we were looking for but there's a lot of cricket to be played in this Test match. So we're just going to keep going for it," he added.

## Indian Men's Hockey Team handed narrow 3-4 defeat by Argentina in FIH Hockey Pro League

AGENCIES

AMSTELVEEN, JUNE 12

The Indian Men's Hockey Team put on a very spirited display against Argentina, but went down narrowly with the scores at 3-4 in their FIH Hockey Pro League 2024/25 (Men's) game, at the Wagener Hockey Stadium here in Netherlands.

For India, Harmanpreet Singh (12', 33') netted twice whilst Abhishek (42') added a third. For Argentina, the goals came from Matias Rey (3'), Lucas Martinez (17'), Santiago Tarazona (34') and Lucio Mendez (46') on Wednesday night.

With all to play for, it was Argentina who came out of the blocks quicker than India. And the early pressure paid off as Matias Rey (3') was on hand to fire the Argentine side into the lead.

After that, the Indian Men's Hockey Team absorbed the pressure and started to build in attack,



causing their opponents some moments of worry. India continued to push for the equaliser, and

just before the break, it was Harmanpreet Singh (12') who smashed it home, to end the quarter at 1-1.

The Indian Men's Hockey Team were looking to build momentum in the second quarter, but

Argentina had other plans. Lucas Martinez (17') scored an early goal to put India under some pressure.

However, the Indian Men's Hockey Team fought back as they went on the hunt for a second equaliser. But Argentina managed to hold on despite the waves of attack from India, and went into half-time with the lead.

Early in the third quarter, Mandeep Singh earned a penalty stroke for India, and Captain Harmanpreet Singh (33') stepped up and hammered it into the bottom corner. India were back on level terms with Argentina.

However, within a minute, Argentina responded with a third goal of their own as Santiago Tarazona (34') found the back of the net. From then on in, India started to up the ante, and pushed Argentina back into their own half. The continued pressure eventually paid off, as Abhishek (42') hit it into the roof of the net to make it 3-3, just before the end of the quarter.

The final quarter also had a quick start, as Argentina found a way through India's defence and Lucio Mendez (46') finished it off from close range. In the final phase of the match, India gave it their all in attack, as they marched on in the hunt for another equaliser. The Indian Men's Hockey Team though could not conjure up a fourth goal, and came away with a 3-4 defeat.

India is currently fourth in the points tally having accumulated 15 points from 11 games.

AGENCIES

LONDON, JUNE 12

Steve Smith is ruing a missed opportunity with the bat but insists Australia have rebounded into a promising position after a late surge of wickets put South Africa on the ropes at Lord's.

Smith hit a fluent 66 on the first day of the ICC World Test Championship Final 2025 but lost concentration when facing part-time spinner Aiden Markram and edged him to slip.

Australia were then bowled out for 212, Beau Webster top-scoring with 72, after losing their final five wickets for just 20 runs after tea.

But the defending champions roared back in the final session.

Mitchell Starc set the tone by clean bowling Markram in the first over before a run was on the board.

He should have had a second wicket when Wiaan Mulder edged behind, only for Alex Carey to spill the chance, but did not have to wait long for it to arrive as Ryan Rickelton edged to Usman Khawaja.

Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood then joined



the party, each snaring a late wicket to leave South Africa 43 for four - 169 runs in arrears - and the game finely poised.

"I think we are in a good spot, we had a few missed opportunities with the bat to try and get a bigger total," Smith said.

"The wicket offered something all day but we are in a pretty good position, 169 in front and they're four wickets down," he said.

"Hopefully it does a bit in the morning like it did today. It could have been a better day but we're in a decent position," Smith said.

"I felt good out there, I felt in a nice place. I love batting here at Lord's and I enjoyed my time out there while I was out there. I left

a few in the shed unfortunately," he said.

"It felt quite tricky, it felt like wicket was doing enough all day. It was two-paced, at times it was slow and then at others it zinged through," Smith said.

"When I got out, I felt like the ball was softer but the wicket still offered something and hopefully tomorrow is the same," he said. South Africa captain Temba Bavuma won the toss and opted to bowl - Smith also added Australia would have batted had they won the toss - under cloudy skies.

Australia fell to 67 for four when Travis Head departed for 11, before Smith and Beau Webster put on 79 for the fifth wicket.

In the process, Smith became the most prolific overseas batter in the rich history of Lord's, though his latest innings at the home of cricket was brought to an end by an unlikely source in Markram - which did not go down well.

"Don't nick the part-time off-spinner down the slope," he joked when asked what he had learned going into the second innings. "I am still trying to fathom how I did that."

"I think the pitch will take more spin as we go on, it is quite dry and the seam might go down as the game goes on," Smith said. Australia regrouped between innings and the former captain admits their sparkling finish is testament to the experience of the bowling group.

"With the ball, we just said the aim was to keep it simple," he added.

"Hit the top of the stumps and make them play. There was a bit on offer, a little bit of variable bounce and a bit of sideways movement so the message was to keep it simple and hit the top of the stumps," Smith said.

"Ideally we now finish them off and come out with a bit of a lead," he added.

## Real Madrid coach Alonso names 34-man squad for Club World Cup

AGENCIES

MADRID, JUNE 12

New Real Madrid coach Xabi Alonso has named a 34-player squad for the upcoming FIFA Club World Cup in the United States.

Alonso has included several players recovering from injury, such as Eder Militao, Dani Carvajal, Ferland Mendy, Antonio Rudiger and Eduardo Camavinga.

The former Bayer Leverkusen manager has also called up new signings Dean Huijzen and Trent Alexander-Arnold, along with 10 players from the club's B-team.

Real Madrid also



June 27.

Full Squad: Goalkeepers: Thibaut Courtois, Andriy Lunin, Fran Gonzalez, Sergio Mestre. Defenders: Dani Carvajal, Eder Militao, David Alaba, Trent Alexander-Arnold, Lucas Vazquez, Fran Garcia, Antonio Rudiger, Ferland Mendy, Dean Huijzen, Youssef, Jacobo, Raul Asencio, Fornea, Diego Aguado. Midfielders: Jude Bellingham, Eduardo Camavinga, Fede Valverde, Luka Modric, Aurelien Tchouameni, Arda Guler, Dani Ceballos, Chema, Victor Munoz, Mario Martin. Forwards: Vinicius Jr., Kylian Mbappe, Rodrigo, Endrick, Brahim Diaz, Gonzalo.

announced that Alexander-Arnold will be officially presented to the press on Thursday at the club's Valdebebas training ground. The team is set to fly to the U.S. on Thursday.

Real Madrid opens the tournament against Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal on June 18 in Miami, followed by matches against Mexico's Pachuca on June 22 and Austria's RB Salzburg on

## Manchester City makes late Reijnders signing in time for Club World Cup

AGENCIES

LONDON, JUNE 12

Manchester City completed the club's fourth signing of the summer with the announcement that Dutch international midfielder Tijjani Reijnders has joined from AC Milan.

Reijnders costs 46.5 million pounds (63 million U.S. dollars) and has agreed a five-year deal.

The 26-year-old arrives soon after City completed the signing of Rayan Cherki from Olympique

Lyon, and the club insists he will be able to play in the forthcoming FIFA Club World Cup,



although the announcement of his arrival was made after the transfer window closed on Tuesday evening.

City coach Pep Guardiola has also seen left back Rayan Ait Nouri and

goalkeeper Marcus Bettinelli added to his squad in a busy start to the summer.

"I am ecstatic to be signing for Manchester City: City are one of the biggest teams in the world, with the best coach, world-class

players and outstanding facilities," said Reijnders on the club website on Wednesday.

"Under Pep Guardiola, City have won so many titles and I want to help keep that going with a lot more success in the coming years," added the player who has already won 22 caps for the Netherlands. With the signings of Reijnders and Cherki, Guardiola will hope to have covered the departure of

Kevin de Bruyne, while Ait Nouri should give balance at left back after arriving from Wolverhampton Wanderers.

## Indian Army commences Pre-Training for Agniveer Aspirants at Banihal

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, JUNE 12

The pre-training classes for Agniveer aspirants under the Agnipath scheme commenced today with a solemn and inspiring opening ceremony held at Bn HQ, Karawa Camp Banihal. The event witnessed the presence of distinguished guests, training staff, and a large number of enthusiastic candidates who are preparing to serve the nation through this prestigious program.

The ceremony began with the warm welcome of the chief guest, ZEPO, Banihal Rubina Ahmed Bhat. During the interaction session, the ZEPO encouraged the candidates besides emphasizing the importance of discipline, integrity and commitment in shaping the future of the



youth and building a strong nation.

Delivering the opening address, Major Gurpreet Singh Hora, 2IC said, "This training is not just a physical or academic preparation; it is the beginning of a transformation where each of you will learn what it truly means to wear the identity of an Agniveer.

This journey will demand your best, but it will also prepare you to serve the country with honor and pride".

The pre-training classes aim to prepare aspiring candidates holistically focusing on physical fitness, mental toughness, academic readiness, and values-based orientation. Trainers and

coordinators will mentor the candidates in alignment with the Indian Armed Forces' expectations, building a strong foundation for their upcoming selection processes.

The ceremony concluded with a collective pledge by all aspirants to uphold the values of patriotism, dedication, and discipline throughout their journey.

The Indian Army continues to remain at the forefront of initiatives aimed at promoting Various Pre Training of Youth in the area and as part of its unwavering commitment to public welfare and holistic community development.

## JMC, Urban Forestry Division launch 'Clean Jammu Green Jammu' Campaign

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUNE 12

In a significant step towards promoting environmental sustainability, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), in collaboration with the Urban Forestry Division Jammu, launched the "Clean Jammu Green Jammu" campaign today.

The campaign was inaugurated by Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav, who led the initiative by planting a sapling, symbolizing the start of a city-wide plantation drive. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from Swachhata Champions of various wards, media personnel from print and electronic media, and officers from both departments.



Addressing the gathering, Dr. Yadav emphasized the urgent need for enhancing green cover in the city, especially in light of rising temperatures. Under the joint initiative,

around 60,000 saplings will be planted across Jammu city before August 15, 2025, he informed and urged upon the citizens to actively participate in this noble campaign and con-

tribute towards making Jammu a cleaner and greener city. Each sapling will be tagged with a QR code, providing detailed information about the species and the individual who has adopted it. "We urge citizens to adopt a tree in their own name or in the name of their mother," said Dr. Yadav, "so that together we can convert vacant spaces into green zones and bring long-term environmental relief to our city."

Among others, Joint Commissioner Health and Sanitation Abdul Star, Divisional Forest Officer, Urban Forestry Division Jammu, Ashwani Kumar Mittal, Chief Transport Officer, Dharamveer Singh, IEC Incharge Dr. Divya Sharma and AFO Rabia Khan were also present on the occasion.

## Rana reviews progress on implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 12

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat Srinagar to review progress on implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in PHE division Chadoora and other areas.

The meeting was attended by MLA Chadoora, Ali Mohammad Dar, MLA Beerwah, Dr Shafi Ahmad Wani, MLA Khan Sahib, Saifud Din Bhat, MLA Sopore, Irshad Rasool Kar and senior officers from Jal Shakti department.

While reviewing various ongoing JJM projects in Chadoora, Budgam, Sopore, Khan Sahib and Beerwah, Javed Rana exhorted upon the offi-



cers to expedite pace of progress on these works for timely completion. He directed the officers to personally monitor the execution of works in their respective divisions.

He instructed the concerned officers to ensure pace of work is expedited to ensure speedy construction of filtration plants, civil works and other related works at all water supply schemes. He stressed that work on all JJM projects be carried out in full swing without any delay. He exhorted upon the officers to work in

mission mode so that safe and adequate drinking water is made available to all citizens of Jammu and Kashmir

He enjoined upon the officers to maintain coordination and better synergy between executing agencies to ensure timely and effective implementation of Water Supply Schemes. He further said that work should be resumed on the water supply schemes wherever it has been stalled so that people don't have to face any problems. MLA Chadoora, while

speaking on the occasion, said that certain water supply schemes in his constituency are nearing completion and require little attention from the officers so that they can be dedicated to public use.

The MLAs raised various issues related to water supply and irrigation pertaining to their constituencies and demanded immediate attention of the Minister for early resolution.

The officers assured that most of the WSSs are nearing completion and will be put to public use at an earliest.

## DC Poonch reviews progress of JJM projects; Directs for timeline completion of Water Supply Schemes

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, JUNE 12

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission schemes in the district. He emphasized timely completion of the projects to ensure safe drinking water supply to every household as per the mission's mandate.

At the outset, Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Poonch gave a brief, detailing the total number of sanctioned schemes, along with the status of ongoing and completed works and challenges being faced in the execution.

The Deputy Commissioner discussed in detail the status of water supply schemes, infrastructure augmentation, groundwater exploration, and house-



hold tap connections. He directed the concerned officers to resolve land and coordination issues promptly to avoid delays.

The DC directed the Superintending Engineer and Executive Engineer Jal Shakti to instruct contractors to expedite and

complete pending works at the earliest. AEE Ground Water was directed to complete the digging of borewells wherever pendency exists. The DC also stressed that completed schemes must be made operational immediately to benefit the public.

He further instructed all executing agencies to ensure strict adherence to quality and safety standards to create sustainable and effective assets.

Others present at the meeting were Chief Planning Officer, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, Executive Engineer PDD, AEEs and JEs of Sub Divisions Poonch, Surankote and Mendhar, AEE Mechanical, AEs and JEs, AEE and JE Ground Water.

## Fostering environmental stewardship among youngsters, reconnecting with nature, need of the hour: Sakeena Itoo

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 12

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today emphasised on the urgent need of reconnecting with nature and foster environmental stewardship among the young generation, especially college and school going students.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing a gathering held in the backdrop of World Environment Day-2025 week celebrations at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Kothibagh here today.

Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N Itoo; Chief Education Officer, Srinagar; Principal GGHSS Kothibagh, Heads of various institutions of Srinagar district, faculty members and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Education Minister said that Kashmir's weather is witnessing drastic changes due to defores-



tation and other allied activities. She emphasized on the urgent need of the hour is to reconnect with nature and foster environmental stewardship among the younger generation as well as school and college going students.

"Environmental preservation is not just a policy issue, it is a personal responsibility. Each of us has the power to influence change, starting with our homes, schools and communities", Sakeena Itoo stated.

The Minister called upon all the participants to make plantation of trees a routine habit, highlighting that we need to work collectively to bring back

the charm and environmental conditions our Kashmir was known for across the globe.

On the occasion, Education Minister also praised GGHSS Kothibagh for academic excellence, highlighting that Government institutions are at par with Private schools in these days. She added that the position holders of various government institutions felicitated today reflect this.

The Minister also said that selections in prestigious examinations like IAS and KAS as well as professional exams like NEET, GATE and others are usually alumni of Government institutions. She added

that the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah is giving more impetus to education and health sectors as they form the pillars of any developed society.

Sakeena Itoo on the occasion, also praised the young students of GGHSS Kothibagh for their proactive role in promoting green initiatives and urged them to become lifelong ambassadors for nature.

In her welcome address, Principal GGHSS Kothibagh, spoke on the broad contours of this programme. She also expressed gratitude to Minister for continuous support.

On the occasion, Education Minister felicitated the 10th and 12th class examination toppers of various institutions. She also felicitated the students of Bal Raksha Bharat on the occasion.

The Minister also unveiled the school tarana of GGHSS Kothibagh during the event.

On the occasion, students presented various cultural performances, reflecting vibrant culture and ethos of our valley.

## Dharti Abha Janjatiya Gramin Utkarsh Abhiyan: DC Kishtwar reviews Camp Calendar for IEC campaign

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, JUNE 12

In the run up to the 15 day Dharti Abha Janjatiya Gramin Utkarsh Abhiyan starting from June 15, 2025, Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan reviewed the camp calendar and arrangements at a meeting held here today.

The Kishtwar administration is all set to launch a massive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign across 19 tribal villages of the district. The focus will be on saturation of centrally sponsored schemes being implemented by 17 Government Departments.

The DC highlighted that the campaign will address developmental gaps in tribal habitations through development of social infrastructure, construction of pucca houses under PMAY-Gramin, access to tap water supply through Jal Jeevan Mission, road development under PMGSY and household electrification through RDSS.



Additionally, the district administration plans to provide instant health care services by deploying mobile medical units, to distribute Ayushman Bharat cards, establish Anganwadi Centres and make provision of AYUSH medicines. The administration also proposes to construct hostels under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, launch skill development programs, promote digital literacy, provide LPG con-

nections, extend benefits under PM-KISAN, support livestock and fisheries development, and promote financial inclusion schemes.

The DC also reviewed arrangements for providing different services at the camps, including Aadhaar enrollment and updation, issuance of PMJAY cards, caste certificates, domicile certificates, registrations under HADP and others.

Emphasis was laid on ensuring the availability of basic amenities at all camp venues, including clean drinking water, sanitation facilities and the services of Tribal influencers to raise awareness in locally spoken language such as Gojri and Urdu.

To ensure maximum Tribal participation, the DC instructed the departments to intensify Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) efforts through vans, posters, newspaper outreach, and social media engagement at the sub-division, tehsil, and block levels.

The meeting was attended by PO ICDS Rishi Kumar Sharma, ACR Idrees lone, CPO Shahnazwaz Bali, DSW Zubair Ahmed, DIO Dr Kuldeep Kumar, AD FCS&CA/ Employment Shafiq Ali Keen, Tehsildars, BDOs besides other senior officers.