

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
- Severe stomach pain
- Redness on eyes
- Redness on skin
- Redness on gums
- Redness on nose
- Redness on throat
- Redness on tongue
- Redness on lips
- Redness on face
- Redness on neck
- Redness on chest
- Redness on back
- Redness on arms
- Redness on legs
- Redness on feet
- Redness on hands
- Redness on fingers
- Redness on toes
- Redness on nails
- Redness on hair
- Redness on eyebrows
- Redness on eyelashes
- Redness on beard
- Redness on mustache
- Redness on lips
- Redness on tongue
- Redness on throat
- Redness on neck
- Redness on chest
- Redness on back
- Redness on arms
- Redness on legs
- Redness on feet
- Redness on hands
- Redness on fingers
- Redness on toes
- Redness on nails
- Redness on hair
- Redness on eyebrows
- Redness on eyelashes
- Redness on beard
- Redness on mustache

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Ensure safe, incident free Amarnath Yatra: Union Home Secy to security top brass



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 17 (KNO)

Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on Tuesday directed the security top brass to ensure safe and incident free forthcoming Amarnath Yatra, slated to commence on July 3.

Chairing a high-level review meeting here to finalize the security plan for the upcoming 38-day annual pilgrimage, the Union Home Secretary, according to the news agency, called on the officers to put foolproof security measures in place for the safety of the pilgrims.

Sources told KNO that senior officials from J&K Police, Army, paramilitary forces, including CRPF, SSB, ITBP BSF, and intel-

ligence agencies attended the meeting.

The participants included J&K Chief Secretary, Atal Duloo, Director General of J&K Police, Nalin Prabhat, Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA), Director General of Border Security Force (BSF), Sashstra Seema Bal (SSB) and Railway Protection Force (RPF), Additional Director General of Central Reserve Police Force and BSF, Joint Director Intelligence Bureau, Principal Home Secretary Kashmir, Northern Command GOC 15 Corps, GOCs pf 16 and 9 Corps, Additional Director General (ADG) CID, Special Director Intelligence Bureau, Chairman

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J&K govt enforces aerial restrictions over Amarnath Yatra routes

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 17 (KNO)

In a significant security measure, the J&K administration has declared the entire Amarnath Yatra route a 'no flying zone' for the period of pilgrimage this year.

As per the news agency, ahead of the beginning of the pilgrimage, the Union Territory's Home department, which is under direct control of Lieutenant Governor, has declared all the routes of Amarnath Yatra as 'no flying zone' including both Pahalgam axis & Baltal axis.

The restriction applies to all types of aerial devices including UAVs, drones, and balloons.

After Home department's directive, the authorities, in a separate notice, said that helicopter services wouldn't be available for Yatris this year.

Citing the 'no flying zone' directive, the authorities said that pilgrims can reach the Shrine through foot or avail services of Ponies and Palkis.

These restrictions would be applicable from July 01 to August 10. The move comes after the Ministry of Home Affairs, advised the J & K government to do so.

According to the Home Department's order, these restrictions, however, shall not apply to cases of medical evacuation, disaster management, or surveillance operations conducted by security forces. A detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for such exceptions will be issued subsequently, the order states.

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>> Iran-Israel conflict

'First batch of 90 Kashmiri students to board flight today'

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 17 (KNO)

Amid escalating tensions between Iran and Israel, at least 90 students of Kashmir studying in Iran on Tuesday evening reached the capital city, Yerevan, in Armenia and are expected to board a flight to New Delhi on Wednesday.

National Convenor of Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA), Nasir Khuehami informed the news agency that at least 90 students of Kashmir studying in Iran have safely crossed the border

into Armenia.

He said that besides Kashmiri students, nearly 20 students from other states have also reached Yerevan.

"All the Indian students who had crossed the Iran-Armenia border have now safely reached Yerevan in Armenia. This includes around 90 students from Kashmir Valley, along with others from various Indian states, making a total of approximately 110 students from Urmia Medical University," he said.

Khuehami said the students have been received

and accommodated at their designated location in hotels. "Their flight from Armenia to Delhi is scheduled for tomorrow, with all necessary arrangements being facilitated in coordination with the Indian authorities," he said.

Meanwhile, JKSA has appealed to the External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar for the immediate evacuation of Kashmiri students stranded in Iran as the conflict between Iran and Israel intensifies, pushing the region to the brink of a full-scale war.

The association raised

alarm over the deteriorating security conditions, warning that hundreds of Indian students, mostly from Jammu and Kashmir, are stranded amid ongoing airstrikes, missile barrages, and widespread fear.

The Embassy of India in Tehran on Monday said it has made arrangements for the evacuation of Indian students and may be permitted to leave the Universities.

The embassy, in an official communique to different universities, said, "We have made

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CM Omar calls for joint efforts to restore, revive J&K Tourism

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 17 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday held an interactive session with a visiting delegation of the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) and acknowledged their continued interest and efforts in promoting Jammu and Kashmir as a premier tourist destination.



The interaction was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Commissioner Secretary Tourism Yasha Mudgal, Director Tourism Kashmir Raja Yaqoob Farooq, President IATO Ravi Gosain, senior officials, key tourism stakeholders and IATO office bearers.

"We are very grateful to IATO for coming here and organizing this visit, because trust works both ways. Your presence assures us that we are on the right path," the Chief Minister remarked while addressing the gathering.

Referring to the tragic incident in earlier this year, the Chief Minister said, "To call it unfortunate would be an understatement. It impacted not just 26 families directly but affected

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Chief Minister receives first batch of Hajj Pilgrims at Srinagar Airport

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 17

Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, received the first batch of Hajj pilgrims this evening at the Srinagar International Airport, marking the beginning of the return phase for pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir who performed the sacred pilgrimage of Hajj-e-Baitullah this year.

The Chief Minister personally welcomed and congratulated the pilgrims on their safe return and smooth performance of the Arkan-e-Hajj.

He interacted with the Hajj pilgrims and inquired



about their experiences and the facilities provided during the pilgrimage.

The Hujaaj expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister and appreciated the arrangements made for their comfort and convenience throughout the

journey.

The Chief Minister expressed his appreciation for the devotion and discipline exhibited by the pilgrims during the course of their spiritual journey.

The first returning

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Single MRI machine struggles to meet huge patient influx at GMC Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 17 (KNO)

Government hospitals in Jammu region are under severe strain as they contend with an ever-increasing patient load, particularly from remote regions such as Chenab and Pir Panjal.

These hospitals are grappling with acute shortages of medical infrastructure and doctors, raising serious questions about the state of public healthcare in the region.

The situation reached a flashpoint recently during the assembly session, where lawmakers voiced concerns about the poor



public health conditions and the chronic shortage of doctors in Jammu's hilly areas.

The issue sparked several disruptions and protests, underscoring the deep-rooted challenges that persist in these under-

served communities. For the people of these remote regions, accessible and quality medical treatment remains a distant dream.

As per the news agency Correspondent, patients from Chenab and Pir Panjal often travel long

distances to Jammu Medical College, clinging to hopes for better care.

However, many are left disappointed due to the hospital's inability to cope with the overwhelming influx. Despite handling large patient volumes for years, Jammu Medical College faces significant challenges: a severe shortage of infrastructure, inadequate facilities, and insufficient staffing all contribute to weeks-long waiting times and unmet medical needs.

Crucially, Jammu Medical College currently operates with only one CT scan machine and one

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Temp rises in Kashmir, settles below normal in Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 17 (KNO)

While the weatherman here has predicted rains and thunderstorms for the next one week, the maximum temperature has risen across Kashmir while it continued to settle below normal in Jammu on Tuesday.

Details obtained by the news agency revealed that Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, along with other parts of the valley, once again witnessed above normal temperature with mercury settling at 30.5 degrees Celsius in the city on Tuesday.

Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, recorded a maximum temperature of 29.6 degrees Celsius while Pahalgam recorded 24.2 degrees Celsius. In Koker-nag, the mercury settled at 28.4 degrees Celsius while Kupwara and Gulmarg, a famous ski resort, recorded 29.3 degrees Celsius and 19.6 degrees Celsius respectively.

Jammu division, however, continued to record below normal temperatures, with the winter capital of the region recording a maximum temperature of 35.5 degrees Celsius.

Banihal recorded 28.2 degrees Celsius, Batote

27.1 degrees Celsius, Katra 31.8 degrees Celsius and Bhaderwah 27.2 degrees Celsius.

Pertinently, Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad had told KNO that there is a possibility of a brief spell of rain, thundershower with gusty winds at isolated to scattered places till June 20.

However, he said that generally cloudy weather with intermittent spells of rain and thundershower is expected at many places between June 21 and June 23. Amidst the forecast, the farmers have been advised to continue the farm operations. KNO

ACB files disproportionate assets case against Patwari in Kupwara

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 17 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau has filed a case against a patwari for amassing wealth disproportionate to his known sources of income in Lolab area of Kupwara district.

According to a statement, issued to news agency, a verification was conducted by ACB into the allegations of accumulation of disproportionate assets raised by one Ayoub Khan S/o Gulsheer Khan R/o Doniwari Lolab, Patwari in revenue department on receipt of a com-

plaint.

The statement reads that it was alleged in the complaint that the patwari is leading a grandiose lifestyle besides being the owner of large number of orchards and agricultural land, houses at Bemina, Srinagar/Doniwari Lolab, and possessing number of cars and has spent hefty amount on admission of his wards in professional colleges as donations etc.

"The discreet verification revealed that during the check period, the patwari has incurred huge expenditures and accumulated/raised various assets, which were prima

facie disproportionate to his known sources of income," it reads.

"The details of assets/expenditures revealed during verification are purchased land at Hamdaniya Colony Bemina Srinagar & constructed double floor house on the said land, constructed a double floor house at Doniwari Lolab, Kupwara, purchased a Venue Hyundai car & a two-Wheeler, huge expenditures incurred on re-payment of Bank loans., expenditure on education of his children i.e. MBBS admission outside country &

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Terrorism will not dictate our calendar or culture: Chugh

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 17 (KNO)

Stating that terrorism will not dictate our calendar or our culture BJP National General Secretary and J&K in-charge Tarun Chugh on Tuesday said that Pakistan's attempt to spread fear through the "Pahalgam terror attack has failed and the upcoming Amarnath Yatra is expected to witness record participation.

In a statement issued to the news agency, Chugh said, "Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's lead-

ership, a strong message has been sent to Pakistan that India will not tolerate any attempt to disturb peace in Jammu and Kashmir. The nation will respond with strength, not silence."

Chugh lauded the decision of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to reopen 16 of the 48 tourist destinations that were closed after the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, which claimed 26 lives, mostly tourists.

"Terrorism will not dictate our calendar

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DAJGUA Day-3: Distt admin Pulwama organizes mega awareness & benefit saturation camp at Nargistan Tral

J1 NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, JUNE 17

In line with the national vision of tribal welfare and inclusive development, district administration Pulwama today organized a mega Awareness and Benefit Saturation Camp at Nargistan Panchayat of Aripal Block under the banner of the ongoing Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA).

The camp marked the third day of the fifteen-day long campaign aimed at ensuring 100 percent saturation of all eligible tribal beneficiaries under various Central and UT Government schemes. The initiative envisions holistic upliftment of tribal communities through focused interventions in infrastructure, healthcare, education, livelihoods, and digi-

tal inclusion. Departments including Health, Education, Social Welfare, Rural Development, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Industries, Forest and others participated in the camp and set up dedicated stalls to deliver on-spot services and scheme benefits. Each departmental stall facilitated real-time support through on-the-spot registrations, beneficiary enrolments, scheme consultations, and awareness dissemination. Brochures, booklets and pamphlets were also provided to enhance informed participation.

To promote digital inclusion, a Common Service Centre (CSC) was established at the venue. The CSC enabled beneficiaries to enroll, correct,



or update various important documents such as Aadhar Card, PAN Card, Kisan Credit Card, Driving License, Ayushman Bharat Card, Domicile Certificate and register for various digital services and Government initiatives.

On the occasion, Rural Development department had set up a dedicated desk that facilitated on-the-spot registration of Job Cards under MGNREGA, assis-

tance with claims under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), and saturation of eligible households under PMAY (G).

Officials also sensitised the public about rural infrastructure development initiatives and livelihood convergence schemes tailored for tribal communities. The stall attracted a significant number of tribal beneficiaries seeking assistance and clarity on entitlements and

application procedures. A significant highlight of the event was the health camp organized by the Health department where residents availed free consultation and medical services provided by a team of doctors and paramedics. Special focus was laid on awareness regarding sickle cell disease and waterborne illnesses, with health experts educating the community about preventive healthcare, safe drinking practices, and early detection protocols.

On-spot screenings and basic diagnostics further strengthened the preventive healthcare outreach. The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from tribal residents of all age groups who expressed deep appreciation for the government's proactive outreach.

Comprehensive Anti-Drug IEC Campaign held at GHSS Chinta- Bhaderwah

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, JUNE 17



A comprehensive Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign was successfully organized at Higher Secondary School (HSS) Chinta, Bhaderwah to combat the rising threat of drug abuse among youth. The campaign held under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and the guidance of Chief Education Officer Mohammad Hafiz, witnessed enthusiastic participation from multiple departments, including Education, Health, Police, Social Welfare, Rural Development, Excise and others.

The awareness programme focused on sensitizing students about the harmful effects of substance abuse. Resource

persons from different departments delivered impactful talks, highlighting the adverse effect of drugs on physical, mental and social life of the individuals. The event also included a pledge ceremony, where students and staff committed themselves to support the goals of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, promoting a drug-free and responsible society. To enhance engagement and message retention, a sports event was organized, reinforcing the importance of a healthy lifestyle. ICT tools

were also used to communicate the anti-drug message effectively. This multimedia approach ensured a more interactive and memorable learning experience for the students. The campaign was coordinated by Lecturer Arvind Kumar, under the overall supervision of the District Administration. The sessions were moderated by Vice Principal Raj Mohammad and the program concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the School Principal Dr. Som Shaker.

DLIC Ganderbal approves 12 cases under Mission YUVA scheme

J1 NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, JUNE 17

In a significant push towards promoting youth entrepreneurship and self-employment, District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) Ganderbal, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today approved 12 cases under the Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan) scheme.

The meeting, held in the VC Room of the DC Office, was convened to scrutinize and approve applications received under the Mission YUVA scheme, which aims to provide financial assistance and support to aspiring young entrepreneurs of the district.

At the outset, concerned officials present-



ed a detailed overview of the applications received from the Single-Window Business Development Units (SBDUs). After comprehensive discussion and deliberation, the Committee approved 12 eligible cases for further financial and entrepreneurial support.

Addressing the meeting, DC underscored the importance of Mission YUVA in empowering the local youth through entrepreneurship and skill development. He directed the Dis-

trict Employment and Employment Centre to ensure wider outreach and maximum participation of local youth in the scheme so that more individuals can benefit from the opportunities being provided under self-employment generation initiatives.

The approval of these cases marks a step forward in the district's continued efforts to cultivate a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem and reduce unemployment among the youth.

DC reviews functioning of Animal and Sheep Husbandry Departments in Poonch District

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JUNE 17

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal chaired a meeting today to assess the functioning of the Animal Husbandry and Sheep Husbandry Departments in the district.

Earlier, the DC flagged off Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccination drive here from the District Veterinary Hospital.

At the outset, the departmental functionaries provided comprehensive updates on the initiatives for promotion of Dairy Development, Poultry Development and Artificial Insemination. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of effective grassroots implementation to ensure that the benefits of these programs reach every eligible beneficiary.

Key discussions included the status of the DAKSH Kissan Portal, with directives for increasing farmer enrollment and timely course completion. The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed milk and egg production in the district, while highlighting the need for timely execu-



tion of Foot and Mouth vaccination rounds. In pursuit of financial inclusivity, progress on Kisan Credit Card (KCC) saturation in Dairy and Poultry sectors was evaluated, setting the target of 100% coverage of farm-operating families. The Deputy Commissioner called for aggressive awareness campaigns regarding the National Artificial Insemination Programme (NAIP) to educate livestock owners on its benefits.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the sheep

Husbandry officers to focus on field activities like dipping and vaccination. The establishment of first aid camps along migratory routes was stressed to ensure timely veterinary support to nomadic breeders.

In closing remarks, the Deputy Commissioner urged both departments to meet their financial year 2025-26 targets systematically, stressing the need for robust awareness campaigns and inter-departmental coordination for effective service delivery to the grassroots.

Training prog. on Pension Suvidha Portal held at Pulwama



PULWAMA, JUNE 17

District Treasury Office Pulwama today successfully conducted a training programme for Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) of the district, focusing on the operationalization of the Pension Suvidha Portal.

The initiative was held in accordance with the directions of the Director General Accounts & Treasuries, Jammu and Kashmir.

The training session, held at the Auditorium Hall of Government Degree College (Boys), Pulwama, witnessed participation from DDOs and dealing assistants of various Govt. Offices operating under the District Treasury Pulwama.

Programme aimed to enhance the understanding and capacity of the officers with respect to the newly launched Pension

Suvidha Portal, designed to streamline pension-related processes and promote transparency and efficiency.

District Treasury Officer Pulwama highlighted the significance of digital transformation in public financial management. Participants were given a detailed orientation on various features and functionalities of the portal, followed by a practical demonstration.

On similar lines, parallel training programmes were also held at all Sub-Treasuries across the district. These sessions ensured uniform sensitisation, capacity building, and readiness among all Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs), thereby laying a strong foundation for the seamless district-wide implementation of the Pension Suvidha Portal.

Speaker Legislative Assembly visits Kargoom, Palpora in Charar-i-Sharief



J1 NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JUNE 17

Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today conducted an extensive tour of Charar-i-Sharief constituency in Budgam district.

The Speaker reviewed the progress on various ongoing developmental projects and had a first-hand appraisal of the pace and quality of work. He emphasized the importance of expediting the execution of these projects to ensure their timely completion.

As part of his outreach

efforts, the Speaker held public interaction programmes at Kargoom and Palpora, where he met with the local residents and listened to their concerns and demands.

The locals expressed appreciation for the visit and raised issues related to infrastructure, public services and basic amenities.

The Speaker directed the concerned officers and departmental heads to ensure prompt service delivery and effective grievance redressal mechanism. He stressed the need for responsive governance that reaches

the people at grassroots level. Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker stated, "The government is committed to reach the people at their doorsteps. Along with the district administration, we aim to understand the needs of the community directly and work together to address them."

He reaffirmed the government's commitment towards inclusive development and citizen-centric governance, highlighting the importance of on-ground engagement for effective administration.

Samba administration ensures comprehensive preparedness for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JUNE 17

Deputy Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma and Senior Superintendent of Police Virender Singh Manhas today convened a meeting to finalize the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025 arrangements to ensure a seamless and secure pilgrimage experience for the visiting devotees.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the District Administration has prioritized pilgrim comfort through extensive infrastructure upgrades and putting in advanced communication systems. "Public address systems and speakers have been installed across lodgement centres to enable real-time announcements and emergency advisories, while print, electronic and social media platforms are being



utilized to ensure pilgrims receive timely updates on cut-off timings and safety protocols" he added.

Speaking at the meeting, SSP Virender Singh Manhas outlined a robust multi-tier security deployment strategy featuring enhanced surveillance mechanism with special focus on sensitive zones and strategic security positioning around langar

locations. "This comprehensive monitoring system will ensure pilgrim safety throughout their sacred journey," he added.

The meeting was informed that the Medical and emergency preparedness has been given paramount importance with deployment of qualified health personnel and positioning of ambulances equipped with essential

medical equipment at all strategic locations. The Fire & Emergency Services Department has been directed to conduct mandatory mock drills with strategic placement of fire extinguishers and CCTV surveillance at all langar and lodging facilities, ensuring rapid response capabilities in any emergency situation.

To guarantee uninter-

rupted essential services, the administration has deployed adequate generators and water tankers ensuring 24x7 electricity and water supply and implemented comprehensive waste management and sanitation and hygiene protocols.

The coordination meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Champa Devi Thakur, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Jagdish Singh, military personnel and senior officials from critical departments including PWD, Jal Shakti, Power Development, Health, Fire & Emergency Services and Information Department. This multi-departmental approach reflects the administration's holistic strategy to address every aspect of pilgrim welfare and safety.

DC Kishtwar calls for mission-mode implementation of HADP & credit linked schemes

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JUNE 17

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and the Credit Link Schemes.

At the outset, Nodal Officer HADP & Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) Kushal Chandail presented a detailed report outlining the achievements and current implementation status of HADP initiatives across the district.

The DC emphasized the need for accelerated execution and wider public outreach, directing field officers to redouble their efforts.

Underlining the importance of organic farming and its potential as a revenue-generating model, the DC instructed officials to organise mass awareness campaigns and engage with the community including religious heads of all communities to promote HADP schemes with a cluster-based approach.



The review also covered the physical and financial progress in key allied sectors such as Horticulture, Fisheries, Sheep Husbandry and Animal Husbandry.

The DC set new targets and urged line departments to work in coordination to ensure Kishtwar district ranks among the top-performing districts in the UT under HADP.

He also set targets for enhanced registrations on Daksh Kisan Portal and Kisan Sathi Portal and directed focused awareness on millets promotion as part of the CAPEX 2025-26 action plan.

Further, a detailed review of Credit Link

Schemes was undertaken including Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF), Animal Husbandry Development Fund (AHDF), Agriculture Loan Fund (ALF), PMFME and National Livestock Mission (NLM). The DC emphasized a holistic and mission-mode approach to increase uptake and impact.

The meeting was attended by Rishi Kumar Sharma GM DIC Kishtwar, Idrees Lone ACR Kishtwar, Shah Nawaz Bali CPO Kishtwar, Kushal Chandail CAO Kishtwar, Sajid Mustafa CHO Kishtwar, DSHO Kishtwar, LDM Kishtwar, DAO Kishtwar and other allied Sectoral officers.

Training session on 'Pension Suvidha' Portal for Electronic Pension Processing conducted at Bandipora

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JUNE 17



JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JUNE 17

In a major push towards digital governance and in line with the directions of the Director General Accounts & Treasuries J&K, District Treasury Office Bandipora today conducted a comprehensive training programme on the newly launched Pension Suvidha portal for Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The training programme was held to facilitate the transition to electronic processing of pension cases of retiring government employees through the Pension Suvidha software application, developed by the Jammu & Kashmir Government in collaboration with the Accountant General (A&E) and NIC.

District Treasury Officer Bandipora, briefed the

participants about the key features and benefits of the new system. He emphasized the importance of timely and error-free pension case processing and urged all DDOs to ensure full compliance with the new digital procedure.

During the session, the officers were guided on various aspects of the portal including login procedures, uploading of documents, digital verification, and submission of pension cases through the online platform.

District Treasury Officer informed that the implementation of the Pension Suvidha Portal will bring greater transparency, efficiency, and speed in pension-related matters and will benefit both departments and retiring employees alike. He also stressed that similar follow-up training and support sessions will be organized to address technical queries from field offices.

Day 3: Dharti Aabha Abhiyan witnesses enthusiastic public participation at Ladden Panchayat of Nagam

JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JUNE 17

As part of the ongoing Dharti Aabha Abhiyan, a unique outreach initiative aimed at achieving cent percent saturation of 25 flagship schemes across 17 departments, a Gram Sabha was held today for the third consecutive day at Panchayat Ladden, Block Nagam of district Budgam.

All 17 line departments actively participated in the Gram Sabha, engaging with the local population and highlighting the benefits and eligibility criteria of various central and UT-sponsored welfare schemes, particularly those catering to the tribal population and other marginalised sections of society. The outreach initia-



tion was met with a warm reception by the public, who appreciated the door-to-door and Panchayat-level campaign aimed at ensuring that no eligible beneficiary is left out. Notably, a surge in enrolment for multiple Government welfare schemes was observed during the event.

The day-long programme featured a range of activities by all line departments, with officers and field-level staff ensuring active public engage-

ment. The event reinforced the administration's commitment to bridging the last-mile gap in scheme delivery through community involvement and participatory governance.

In district Budgam, Dharti Aabha Abhiyan will be conducted across all tribal Panchayats of the district in a mission mode, ensuring that the vision of inclusive and targeted development reaches every citizen at the grassroots level.

Empowering local entrepreneurs: PMFME scheme awareness camp held at Shopian

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, JUNE 17

Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing, Shopian, today organized an awareness programme on the Prime Minister's Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme at Bohrihallan Heerpora, Shopian.

A large number of potential entrepreneurs, especially women Self Help Groups (SHGs), actively participated in the event, showing great enthusiasm toward self-employment opportunities in the food processing sector.

The programme was attended by the Area Marketing Officer Shopian, along with his field staff, LDM, CLF Head, and DRP-PMFME scheme.

Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Grading and Marketing Officer (AGMO) Shopian addressed the gathering and highlighted the objectives and potential of the PMFME scheme in enhancing local micro food processing units.



He informed the participants that the scheme offers a 35% credit-linked capital subsidy with a maximum ceiling of Rs10 lakh for individual units, along with seed capital support of Rs 40,000 per member for SHGs and producer cooperatives.

It also includes assistance for branding, marketing, and capacity building, with dedicated handholding support to units established under the scheme.

LDM elaborated on

the procedures to be followed during the sanctioning of cases by banks and explained the importance of proper documentation.

On-spot registration of many interested women entrepreneurs was carried out during the programme.

District Resource Person provided a detailed explanation of the application process and shared guidance on documentation and formalities required for availing the scheme benefits.

Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan IEC campaigns to raise awareness on ill effects of drug abuse continue in Budgam

JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JUNE 17

As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, a series of Information, Education & Communication (IEC) campaigns were today held across multiple panchayats and municipal areas of district Budgam to raise awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse and to mobilize communities towards a drug-free society.

The awareness programmes were conducted at Gogjipatheri A, Gogjipatheri B, Dadompura Payeen, Dadompura Balla, Bonyar, Government Middle School Surnhall, and Panchayat Ghar Choon.

In addition, several municipal wards of Khansahib also witnessed enthusiastic participation in the campaign.

These events marked another step forward in the district administration's commitment to eradicate the growing menace of substance abuse.

Organised with the active collaboration of departments such as



Health, Education, Social Welfare, and local bodies including the Municipal Committee Khansahib, the events drew the involvement of students, teachers, civil society members and youth volunteers.

Resource persons from the concerned departments sensitized the participants on various facets of substance abuse including its psychological, social, and legal consequences.

Focus was placed on early intervention, strengthening community-level support systems, and linking vulnerable individuals with counselling and rehabilitation

services.

The programmes featured interactive sessions, anti-drug pledge ceremonies, educational skits, awareness rallies, poster exhibitions, and distribution of IEC materials. Youth participants were encouraged to act as agents of change within their peer groups and localities.

It was emphasized that the fight against drugs requires a united societal response, where schools, families, and communities work hand-in-hand to promote healthy lifestyles, identify red flags early, and provide support without stigma.

AYUSH Shopian holds Free Medical & Awareness camp at Durahpora



JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, JUNE 17

On the directions of the Director AYUSH J&K, Dr. Nuzhat Bashir, a comprehensive free medical and awareness camp was successfully organized today at village Durahpora, Shopian.

The camp was jointly conducted by the Ayush Health & Wellness Centres (AHWCs) of Wachi, Turkawangam, and Dachoo.

A team of dedicated medical professionals provided free consultation and distributed free medicines to the locals.

A total of 315 patients, including children, men,

and women, availed the healthcare services.

The primary objective of the camp was to bring healthcare to the doorsteps of rural residents, raise awareness about preventive health practices, and promote the benefits of traditional AYUSH systems for holistic well-being.

Participants also received guidance on disease prevention, lifestyle management, and the role of AYUSH therapies in promoting long-term health.

The community expressed deep appreciation for the initiative, which reflects the commitment of the AYUSH department to equitable and accessible healthcare for all.

Mega Yoga event organised at historic Samba Fort as prelude to 11th International Day of Yoga

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JUNE 17

The Department of AYUSH, in collaboration with District Administration Samba, organized a Yoga Event at the historic Samba Fort today, marking a significant prelude to the upcoming 11th International Day of Yoga celebrations.

The wellness initiative was conducted under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma and Director AYUSH J&K,



Dr. Nuzhat Bashir Shah, with direct supervision by District Nodal Officer AYUSH Dr. Renu Dass.

The comprehensive programme commenced with an enlightening awareness session on yoga delivered by

Dr. Rozy, Medical Officer, AHWC Gho Brahmna, followed by an engaging demonstration and practice of the Common Yoga Protocol. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from government officials,

staff members and citizens from across the district.

Adding educational value to the event, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Medical Officer AHWC Nud, shared comprehensive insights into yoga's rich history, underlying philosophy and extensive health benefits, enriching participants' understanding of this ancient practice.

The event achieved exceptional success with more than 180 participants, actively engaging in

the yoga session, demonstrating the community's growing commitment to holistic wellness practices. The enthusiastic response reflects the increasing awareness and acceptance of yoga as an integral component of healthy living.

Held at the culturally significant Samba Fort, this mega event not only promoted physical and mental wellness but also highlighted the integration of traditional practices with modern health initiatives.

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JUNE 17

As part of the ongoing Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh and under the banner of Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan—India's largest tribal outreach and empowerment campaign—a special awareness and benefit saturation camp was today organized at Village Bhakhna Dhal Khankir, Block Gundna today.

The programme was presided over by the Additional District Development

Commissioner (ADDC) Din Mohammad Affaqi.

In his address, the ADDC encouraged the tribal community to avail maximum benefit from the services provided under the campaign.

The departmental stalls set up at the venue offered vital information and on-the-spot services related to flagship schemes such as PMAY (G), MGNREGA, NRLM, Ayushman Bharat (PMJAY), Post-Matric Scholarships, Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and the Forest

Rights Act.

The camp also featured awareness sessions, health check-ups, on-the-spot registration for job cards and health cards and assistance for various beneficiary-oriented schemes. Local residents interacted directly with departmental representatives to resolve their queries and concerns.

The event concluded with a cultural tribute to Bhagwan Birsa Munda, celebrating tribal traditions through music and folk performances.



3rd Annual Dangal Competition 2025 held at Vill Chak Chimna, Bishnah

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BISHNAH, JUNE 17

The much-anticipated 3rd Annual Dangal Competition 2025 took center stage today in village Chak Chimna, bringing with it a vibrant display of strength, discipline, and community spirit. Organized by the Dangal Committee, Chak Chimna, the event once again captivated thousands of spectators with electrifying bouts and the unwavering energy of participants.

Wrestlers from across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and neighboring states descended upon Chak Chimna to compete in this prestigious event. The competition culminated in a thrilling final match where Rashid Vijaypuri emerged victorious, defeating Sagar of New Delhi in a hard-fought contest that kept the crowd on



the edge of their seats. Chief Guest Sh. Irshad Ahmed Rather, Superintendent of Police, Headquarters, Jammu, lauded the efforts of the Dangal Committee for organizing such a grand event under "Nasha Mukht Bharat" that not only promotes traditional sports but also empowers local youth by providing a platform to showcase their skills. He emphasized the importance of channeling youth energy toward nation-building and urged them to stay away from the

scourge of drugs. Guest of Honour, Mr. Vijay Singh, Sarpanch, also commended the organizers and highlighted the cultural and social value of traditional sports like Dangal in nurturing discipline and unity among youth. During the event, cash prizes were distributed among the winners by the chief guest, and felicitation of the organizing committee for exceptional contribution in organizing the event and promoting awareness against drug

abuse among the youth. The Dangal featured multiple matches across various weight categories, offering something for everyone in attendance. From experienced wrestlers to emerging talents, the event was a celebration of athletic excellence and mutual respect. The success of Dangal 2025 was made possible through the unwavering support of the local community, with key figures from the village and nearby areas showing up in strength. Distinguished

attendees included Panchs Janak Raj and Baldev Raj, Bishan Jangral, Mast Ram, Devi Singh Bogal, Deepak Bogal, Anchal Raj EX-TSO Namberder, Hans Raj Chowkider, Balwan Lal, Sham Mehra, Tarsem Singh Bogal, Capt. Manohar Lal, Darshan Kumar, Subedar Dalbir Singh, Sham Lal, Alam Husain, Dalip Kumar, Retd Insp Yashpal, Surinder Verma, Balwinder Kumar, Kapil Dev, Tarsem Lal, Madan Lal, Pyare Lal, Goutam Verma, Satish Kumar, Sansar Chand (Bittu), Parshotam Sharma, Som Nath, Parshotam Kumar, Sandeep Verma, Faqir Nath Yogi and many more prominent residents.

This spirited gathering of athletes and supporters reaffirmed Chak Chimna's commitment to preserving cultural heritage through sports and building a healthier, united community.

Sat Sharma inaugurates 'New Grand Bakshi Resorts' Banquet Hall in Marh

J1 NEWS SERVICE
MARH, JUNE 17

Sat Sharma, President of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, inaugurated a majestic banquet hall "New Grand Bakshi Resorts" at Seri, Marh, marking a significant addition to the region's hospitality infrastructure and a commendable step in youth-led entrepreneurship.

MLA Marh Surinder Bhagat, BJP Secretary Ayodhya Gupta, District President Jammu Adv. Rajesh Gupta, and other prominent political and social personalities were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma congratulated the young entrepreneur Ankush Gupta, lauding his initiative as a reflection of the rising spirit of self-reliant India.

Prathishtha V. Johar celebrated for Empowering Youth through "Johar Highland Honey"



J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JUNE 17

Prathishtha V. Johar, a proud resident of Poonch District, has emerged as an inspiring figure for the youth of the region. Having successfully completed her architecture degree in Mumbai, Prathishtha returned to her hometown to establish "Johar Highland Honey," a honey manufacturing store in Poonch. Her entrepreneurial venture has not only introduced a quality local product to the market but has also created employment opportunities for numerous unemployed youth in the district, contributing significantly to the local economy.

Today, Former MLC Pardeep Sharma, accompanied by his team, felicitated Prathishtha V. Johar for her remarkable achievements and dedication to uplifting the community. During the event, Sh. Sharma praised her vision and efforts, expressing hope that her success would inspire other young individuals in Poonch to pursue innovative and impactful endeavors.

Prathishtha's journey exemplifies determination, innovation, and a commitment to social good. "Johar Highland Honey" stands as a beacon of hope, showcasing how local talent can drive economic growth and empower communities.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Ensure safe, incident...

Railway Board, IG BSF Jammu, Joint Secretary Jammu and Kashmir Ladakh, ADG ITBP, Special DG Coordination, GM Northern Railway, IG NIA, IG CRPF, CEO Shrine Board, IGP Kashmir, IGP Jammu, Div Com Kashmir and Div Com Jammu.

Sources told KNO that the Union Home Secretary reviewed the security preparedness and held deliberations about the prevailing security scenario in J&K. The meeting discussed detailed security and logistical assessment for the pilgrimage, which attracts lakhs of devotees from across the country.

The meeting, sources said, dwelt upon every aspect - from route security, communication systems, to medical and disaster preparedness. "Emphasis was laid on ensuring that all necessary arrangements should be put in place in close coordination with the J&K administration and security forces. The officials discussed multi-tier security, enhanced intelligence coordination, and uninterrupted logistical support, they added.

Sources said that the Union Home Secretary was informed that a close monitoring mechanism has been activated to respond swiftly to any emerging situation and the intelligence grid is functioning proactively, and the joint security drills, surveillance along the yatra routes have already begun. "The vulnerable points have been identified. Drone surveillance, night patrolling, and road-opening parties have increased the vigil," the Home Secretary was told.

He was informed that the arrangements for RFID tracking of yatri, real-time weather alerts, emergency evacuation protocols, and dedicated health camps have been put in place to ensure the smooth conduct of the yatra. A multi-layer security grid, including both ground forces and aerial surveillance, would be activated ahead of the yatra.

This year's Amarnath Yatra is taking place in the aftermath of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 persons, mostly tourists dead. The authorities are taking no chances with the security arrangements being put in place for the Yatra.

A multi-layered security manned by the Army, CAPFs and the J&K Police is already in place at the cave shrine, base camps and transit camps in addition to the route right from Bhagwati Nagar Yatri Niwas in Jammu (starting point) for escorted convoys carrying the pilgrims to Baltal and Pahalgam.

Authorities have made arrangements for real-time weather alerts, emergency evacuation protocols, and dedicated health camps to ensure the smooth conduct of the yatra. KNO

J&K govt enforces...

The annual Amarnath Yatra will commence from July 03 and culminate on August 09.

In view of the Pahalgam attack, additional security measures have been undertaken this year for peaceful conduct of the Yatra. As many as 580 companies of Central Armed Paramilitary Forces (CAPF) are being deployed for the safety of the pilgrims. KNO

'First batch of 90...

arrangements for their evacuation. They may be permitted to leave the university and are being facilitated by the Embassy of India, Tehran.

At least 600 students of India, mainly from Kashmir, were relocated to safer places on Monday. KNO

CM Omar calls for joint...

the confidence of many more. Just when the season had begun to look promising, the downturn by mid-June was quite telling."

Highlighting the resilience of the tourism sector, Omar Abdullah expressed optimism about the revival. "Since the 2022 season, we've seen a surge in tourist vehicles. It was encouraging to see Srinagar bustling with activity, taxis with luggage on rooftops heading to Pahalgam, Gulmarg, and beyond."

He stressed that the goal is not to have tourists visit Kashmir just once. "We want them to return again and again. That's why your feedback is essential—for

improving the experience, enhancing infrastructure and expanding the adventure tourism potential."

Touching on the progress of developing nine new destinations, the Chief Minister said the government is working closely with the Government of India to develop and operationalize them. "Destinations across both Jammu and Kashmir hold immense tourism potential, and both regions will be equally promoted."

On infrastructure and connectivity, the Chief Minister noted the popularity of the new train services to Kashmir and promised to take up the issue of capacity constraints with the Ministry of Railways. "The demand is growing, and we will explore increasing train length and frequency."

He also underscored the importance of reopening destinations that were temporarily shut post-tragedy. "We have begun this process. It's a matter of restoring confidence—for tourists and for ourselves."

Addressing the scope for adventure tourism, Omar Abdullah mentioned new ideas being explored in places like Betab Valley in Pahalgam and Gulmarg. "Zip-lining, mountain biking, and summer trekking could redefine these locations. We're in touch with national-level adventure infrastructure providers to bring these ideas to life."

He also welcomed IATO's proposal for a promotional tourism event later this year. "We look forward to sending a sizable delegation from J&K, both government and private stakeholders, to showcase the valley's offerings."

President IATO Ravi Gosain, in his address, assured full support from the Association in promoting Kashmir across domestic and international markets. "We are committed to showcasing Kashmir's beauty and culture to the world," he said.

The Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to the visiting delegation and reaffirmed the government's commitment to elevating Kashmir's tourism potential through partnership, innovation and sustained promotional efforts.

Earlier during the interaction, the visiting IATO delegation also shared their observations, feedback and valuable suggestions regarding their visit to the Valley and the way forward for tourism revival in the aftermath of the tragic April 22 terror attack at Baisaran that targeted tourists.

They appreciated the efforts of the government in restoring a sense of security and normalcy, while also emphasizing the need for sustained confidence-building measures, better infrastructure and targeted promotional campaigns to reassure both domestic and international travelers. The delegates reiterated their commitment to partner with the government in repositioning Jammu and Kashmir as a safe, premier and vibrant travel destination. KNO

Chief Minister receives...

batch comprised 178 pilgrims, out of the total 3,606 pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir who undertook the pilgrimage this year.

The return of this group heralds the start of the arrival phase, which will continue over the coming days.

The government has made elaborate arrangements to ensure a hassle-free arrival experience for the pilgrims. Necessary logistical and transport facilities have been put in place to facilitate their smooth journey from the airport to their respective destinations across Jammu and Kashmir.

Minister Javed Ahmad Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA from Zadibal Tanvir Saqib, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Executive Officer J&K Haj Committee Dr. Shujhat Qureshi and other concerned officials were also present during the reception of the Hujjaj.

Single MRI machine...

MRI machine. The demand far exceeds capacity, forcing patients to wait for months—a major barrier to timely and effective treatment. "For thousands of patients in the region, there is only one govern-

ment MRI machine, which is struggling to handle the large patient load. If there is a malfunction in this one machine, patients are deprived of even this facility. The other four medical colleges in the region do not have MRI machines; patients must travel to Jammu Medical College for such services," a senior medico posted at the hospital told KNO.

The situation has deteriorated further following the breakdown of one of the two MRI machines at Government Medical College Jammu. The now-defunct unit, which had been in use for 25 years, has left the hospital relying on a single machine—one that is only about a year and a half old. As a result, all patients are dependent on this lone unit, and waiting times regularly extend into weeks.

Principal of Government Medical College Jammu, Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, confirmed to KNO that a formal request for a new MRI machine has been submitted to the government, and procurement is expected soon.

Health Minister Sakina Itoo, when contacted by KNO, acknowledged the immense pressure on GMC Jammu. "Patients, including couples, come from all the remote areas, and most of the referrals are directed to GMC Jammu," she said.

"Since the current government has taken office, we have installed a significant amount of equipment at GMC Hospital, including a new line of equipment worth several crores. The cath lab, which was either unavailable or not fully functional before, has now been made operational. If further improvements are needed, the government is committed to addressing them, and requests have already been submitted." KNO

ACB files disproportionate...

admission in Nursing stream at Nursing College Amritsar," it reads.

It added that the verification revealed that immediately after receipt of complaint against suspect, he started securing frequent Bank loans i.e. to the tune of Rs 75 lac in order to disguise his illegal /unknown sources of income & to hoodwink enquiry officer.

"The acts of omission & commission on part of suspect patwari constitute cognizable offence of criminal misconduct punishable under section 5 (1) (e) r/w section 5 (2) of the J&K P.C Act Svt, 2006 against the accused public servant. Accordingly, case FIR No. 03/2025 under section 5 (1) (e) r/w 5(2) of the J&K P.C Act Svt, 2006 was registered on 16-06-2025 against the accused patwari".

The statement reads that immediately after registration of the case search warrants were obtained from Anti-Corruption court Baramulla and searches were conducted at different places belonging to accused person

"During searches various incriminating material including the receipts of purchase of gold articles, receipts of purchase of iPhone 15 & 15 pro & other items pertaining to the investigations of the case, were recovered and seized in the presence of magistrates & witnesses as per procedure under law. Further investigations are going on," it added. KNO

Terrorism will not...

our culture. Pakistan's plans to spread fear in the Valley have failed yet again. Jammu and Kashmir is moving ahead with confidence, and this is the true reply to those who wish to keep the region in turmoil," Chugh said.

He said the 38-day Amarnath Yatra, beginning July 3 via the twin routes of Pahalgam in Anantnag and Baltal in Ganderbal, will reflect India's unity, faith, and resilience against terrorism.

Chugh said the return of tourists to the region underscores the Centre's commitment to peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir. "Pakistan's ISI and its terror proxies had conspired to cripple Jammu and Kashmir's tourism economy, but Operation Sindoor delivered a decisive blow to their agenda," he said.

The BJP leader said the rising footfall of tourists in the valley is a reflection of people's trust in the government's security measures and developmental initiatives. KNO

Indian Army Contingent departs for India-France Joint Military Exercise Shakti



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 17

The Indian Army contingent departed today to participate in 8th edition of the biennial India-France Joint Military Exercise SHAKTI. The exercise will be conducted at Camp Larzac, La Cavalerie, France from 18th June 2025 to 1st July 2025. The Indian contingent comprising of 90 personnel is being represented primarily by a Battalion of the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles besides personnel from other arms and services. The French contingent comprising of 90 personnel will be represented by personnel from the 13th Foreign Legion Half Brigade (13th DBLE). Exercise SHAKTI-VIII underscores the growing defence cooperation between India and France and will strengthen strategic ties between the two friendly nations.

Historic Day celebrated with devotion, service at Bakshi Nagar



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 17

On June 17, 1822, Maharaja Ranjit Singh declared Gulab Singh as the "King of Jammu," marking a significant moment in Jammu's illustrious history.

To honour this historic occasion, the Bakshi Nagar Shopkeepers Association, along with Ex Corporator Gaurav

Chopra, Jatinder Singh, Gulshan, and other members, organized a grand bhandara/langar. The event saw the presence of SHO Bakshi Nagar Azad Manhas, Former Corporator Gaurav Chopra, Raj Kumar, Jatinder Singh, Ashwani Gupta, Tona, Manu, Rakesh Sambal, Tinku, Rinku, Kaka Joshi, Vishal, and Nathi, among others.

DC Reasi finalises arrangements for International Yoga Day-2025 celebrations

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, JUNE 17

In preparation for International Yoga Day scheduled on June 21, a meeting of stakeholder departments was convened today to finalise the necessary arrangements. Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik chaired the meeting. As per the plan, a Mega Yoga Session will be organised at General Zorawar Singh Sports Stadium in wee hours to mark the global celebration of Yoga and promote its numerous health benefits among the general public. Similar events will be held at the subdivision level, in colleges, schools and at potential tourist spots.

Speaking at the meeting, DC Nidhi Malik directed the Department of AYUSH to make all arrangements well in time like arranging yoga mats, T-shirts, deputing qualified yoga instructors



to lead the sessions. The Health Department was instructed to ensure the presence of medical staff and ambulances at all venues for emergency support. She also directed XEN PHE to keep available an adequate drinking water facility for participants, while the EOMC will oversee sanitation arrangements.

All SDMs were instructed to make the necessary arrangements to celebrate the day in their jurisdictions to ensure wide reach and participation.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to

begin the execution of their respective responsibilities well in advance. She emphasised the importance of inter-departmental coordination and mass participation to make the event a grand success.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, ADC Rakesh Kumar, CPO Narinder Kumar, ACD, District AYUSH Officer, officers from the Police, DIO (Information), President of Patanjali Yog Sansthan and representatives from Degree Colleges and other institutions were present at the meeting.

Commissioner JMC visits Rajendra Bazar to address civic issues

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 17

Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav visited Rajendra Bazar (Ward No. 5) today on an invitation from the Market Association. The purpose of the visit was to assess the civic issues being faced by traders and the general public in the area and to discuss developmental needs.

During the interaction, members of the Market Association apprised the Commissioner about various issues being faced by them. They emphasized the need for improved sanitation, requesting for regular cleaning of drains and thorough maintenance of the market lanes. Additionally, the members highlighted the necessity of accessible drinking water facilities amid rising temperature. While water



coolers have been installed by JMC, the association requested that water purifiers also be added to ensure the availability of clean drinking water. They also demanded the repair and maintenance of street lights in the area to ensure public safety and convenience.

Dr. Yadav reiterated JMC's commitment to improving civic amenities and working in collaboration with local stakeholders for the betterment of the city. He issued on-the-

spot directions to the concerned for taking prompt action to resolve the issues, Dr. Yadav assured the members of the association that their grievances would be addressed at the earliest.

Health Officer, JMC, Dr. Vinod Sharma, Executive Engineer Division-1 Rajesh Kumar and Executive Engineer, Electricity, Simarpal Singh besides, President of market association Krishna Lal Gupta, Chairman Arun Gupta and a large number of locals were also present.

Two-day AI Training program for Girls launched by SANKALP-HEW Bandipora

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JUNE 17

SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW), Mission Shakti Bandipora, Social Welfare department Bandipora, in collaboration with ITI Bandipora, today inaugurated a two-day vocational training program on Artificial Intelligence for girls from various villages of the district.

Organized under the vocational initiative, the training aims to equip participants with foundational knowledge of AI, its practical applications, and essential digital skills to enhance employability and promote self-reliance.

Sessions conducted by resource person covered

AI basics, its use in education, job search, business, and ethical digital practices. Pamphlets were also distributed among trainees to make them aware about the services offered by SANKALP-HEW for the empowerment of women.

It was informed that participants will be awarded certificates upon successful completion and assessment and top performers will be felicitated as a token of encouragement in their journey toward digital empowerment.

Officials encouraged active participation, underlining the importance of AI skills in modern career development.

Distt Admin B'pora ramps up efforts to eradicate Child Labour



JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JUNE 17

As part of the pan-India Rescue and Rehabilitation campaign, district administration Bandipora conducted surprise inspections across the main market and nearby areas to identify and prevent instances of child labour.

A joint team comprising officials from the Labour Department, DLSA, Child Protection Unit, CWC, Child Helpline, and Bandipora Police carried out the drive. The inspections aimed at enforcement as well as raising awareness about the Child and Ado-

lescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act.

Shopkeepers and the public were sensitized on the legal and social consequences of employing children. Officials reiterated the district's zero-tolerance policy towards child labour and stressed the need to ensure a safe and nurturing environment for all children.

The administration urged citizens to report violations through the Child Helpline at 1098 and reaffirmed its commitment to protecting child rights through strict enforcement and continued public outreach.

SDD unveils HSDP for mega skilling of JK populace

CS lays emphasis on achieving set targets

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 17

Jammu and Kashmir is all set to embark on a transformative journey in skill development with the unveiling of Holistic Skill Development Plan (HSDP), a comprehensive strategy aimed at creating a future-ready workforce and fostering sustainable economic growth.

The plan was presented to Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, which outlines the ambitious goals and strategic interventions across various sectors.

Present on the occasion were ACS, Higher Education Department; Principal Secretary, School Education; Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD); MD, Skill Development Mission besides Director, Skill Development along with other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary emphasized that the true impact of the plan lies in its effective implementation at the grassroots level. He underscored the need for seamless coordination between the Education and Skill Development department, terming it essential for the plan's successful execution.

Highlighting the significance of skill development, Dulloo stated that it is a cornerstone for secur-



ing sustainable livelihoods for the people. He further noted that the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 offers a clear roadmap to guide this transformative mission.

Reviewing the Department's progress under schemes like PM Vishwakarma and PMKVY, the Chief Secretary asked the officials to go beyond basic training. He stressed the importance of complementing skill-building efforts with distribution of toolkits and access to credit linkages to truly empower the beneficiaries and enhance their livelihood opportunities.

ACS, Higher Education Department, Shantmanu, in his remarks, made out that a lot of transformative work had been done to link the education sector with the vocational courses to enhance employability of the students. He acknowledged that the department has a greater role to play in view of the objectives set under NEP-2020 and this

skilling plan as well. Principal Secretary, SED, Ram Niwas Sharma, also gave his inputs about the time bound implementation of the skilling plan besides ensuring about the seamless coordination with SDD in making the strategy to achieve these goals without facing any hindrance.

Secretary, SDD, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, while highlighting the plan informed that J&K has strengthened its skilling infrastructure to a larger extent in the past few years. He revealed that there are currently 54 Government ITIs offering 71 trades with enrolment of 12,600 admissions taken against a capacity of 12,832 students. Similarly, the region has 22 Government Polytechnics offering 18 trades with an intake capacity of 3,275 students and corresponding enrolment of 3,200 admissions in 2024, he added.

The main focal point of this meeting was the discussion on the Holistic

Skill Development Plan (HSDP) created by the department, envisioning empowerment of every individual with relevant skills, entrepreneurial mindset and livelihood opportunities, leading to sustainable employment and enterprise creation.

The plan delineates four tracks of skilling program-Skilling for School Explorer (Age 14-18) which focuses on early vocational exposure and foundational skills. This is followed by Skilling for Career Launchpad (Age 18-22) which envisages equipping the students with job-ready certifications and entrepreneurial orientation.

The 3rd path comprises of 'Skilling for Job & Entrepreneurship Accelerator' (Age 22-35) enabling youth to choose between employment, entrepreneurship or competitive exams. The fourth one is 'Skilling for Livelihood Enabler' (Age 35-59) which would support re-skilling for sustainable livelihoods

and promote home-based/self employment.

The key challenges identified in HSDP implementation were set in the shape of the skilling ecosystem in J&K facing weak placement linkages, lack of upskilling pathways, limited access to skilling, poor delivery, outdated curriculum and lack of industry feedback.

The plan simultaneously proposed interventions propelled by the force of 4 E's engine constituting the Establish, Enrich, Execute and Empower strategy. The first engine aims at establishing institutional support by strengthening the J&K Skill Development Mission, industry engagements, district skill planning and establishing a J&K Skills University as a central hub with model ITIs/Polytechnics as nodes.

The Enrich part focuses on curriculum updgradation, aligning the training content with market demand. It also encompasses adopting model curricula, introducing priority sector tracks for new-age skills (AI, ML, Green Economy) and building 21st-century life skills and digital competencies. The Execute part focuses on efficient delivery by improving trainee mobilization, manpower management (trainer identification and capacity

building), enhancing experiential learning through apprenticeships and dual system of training and providing structured offline placement support.

The whole strategy is envisaged to empower by building the enabling ecosystem throughout J&K. This pillar of the strategy also features developing the Mission YUVA App as a one-stop platform, implementing a Skills Passport system and facilitating the financing for skilling through loan schemes and vouchers.

Other focused initiatives constitute engaging Village-Level Skill Mitras/YUVA Saathis, who are trained volunteers at the Panchayat level to mobilize youth and link them with the schemes. For artisans and weavers, it envisions 'Mission Artisan 2047', a dedicated vertical to preserve and modernize traditional crafts.

About the implementation, it was set out that the strategy will involve a multi-tier approach at Block, District and Divisional levels, ensuring convergence of UT and Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The plan also emphasizes diverse training modes, including satellite campuses, online skilling, classroom training and mandatory on-the-job training.

Rana reviews water supply schemes in Pir Panjal region

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 16

Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, today conducted a comprehensive review of functioning of Water Supply Schemes in Pir Panjal Region at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting, which was attended by Director Finance, Director Planning, Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti, aimed to assess the current status of water supply infrastructure and identify the areas for improvement.

During the review, the Minister emphasized the importance of meticulous planning for the ensuing year to ensure uninterrupted water supply to the residents of the region. He



directed the concerned departments to prepare detailed plans, taking into account the region's specific needs and challenges. The Minister also stressed the need for regular water quality tests to ensure the provision of safe drinking water to the public. He directed the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) officials to prioritize water quality monitoring and take corrective measures wherever necessary.

The meeting also

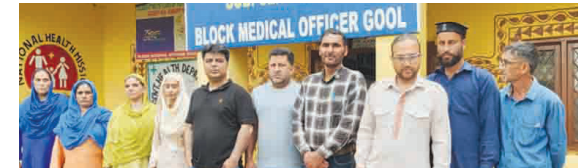
reviewed the progress on the ongoing projects of Water Supply Schemes in the region.

Rana expressed concern over delays and directed the concerned officers to fast-track the completion of these projects, ensuring high-quality workmanship.

The Minister also reviewed the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission in the Pir Panjal Region. He emphasized the importance of community participation and

involvement in ensuring the sustainability of water supply schemes. The Minister reaffirmed the commitment of J&K Government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah towards providing safe and reliable drinking water to the residents of J&K including the Pir Panjal region. He assured that his department would work tirelessly to address the region's water supply challenges and ensure the well-being of its residents.

Free Medical Camp held at Gagra Gool



JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JUNE 17

Health Department organized a comprehensive two day free Medical Camp at Gagra, Gool, catering to the healthcare needs of the local population.

Over 650 patients received medical consultations and free medicines, with Haemoglobin and Diabetes Mellitus testing facilities, and screening for Tuberculosis (TB) and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). The Camp was organized by the BMO

Gool Dr. Ashfaq Hassan in line with the directions of DDC Chairperson Ramban Dr. Shamshad Shan and MLA Banihal Sajjad Shaheen.

The BMO consulted nearly 500 patients, while other doctors attended to a significant number of patients. Local representatives and senior citizens expressed gratitude to the team of Health Department for providing specialized care at their doorstep. BMO Gool also interacted with senior citizens and addressed their concerns.

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JUNE 17

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a meeting of senior officers at the DC Office Complex to review the preparedness for the International Yoga Day, being observed across the district under the theme "Yoga for One Earth, One Health."

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Ramban Kulbir Singh; SSP Traffic NHW Raja Adil Hamid Ganaie; Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Shokat Hayat Mattoo; Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, SDMs,

Tehsildars, Dy. SPs, district heads of the departments and representatives of Beopar Mandal Ramban.

The meeting decided that the district-level Yoga event will be organized at the District Administrative Complex, Maitra, while similar programs will be hosted at Sub-Division and Tehsil Headquarters and other designated locations across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner briefed the officers on their respective roles and responsibilities while stressing maximum participation of government employees from their respective departments, prominent citizens and youth of the area in the district-level function and other venues.

EDITORIAL

Safety still a matter of concern!

The last-month flare-up along the India-Pakistan border, culminating in the loss of 13 civilian lives in Poonch during Pakistan's shelling following Operation Sindoor, has exposed the grim reality faced by border residents. Despite repeated assurances and prior commitments, the question of civilian safety remains dangerously unresolved. For the people living along the Line of Control (LoC), life continues to swing between fear and uncertainty, with each fresh exchange of fire reviving old traumas and forcing urgent questions about their safety into public discourse. In the aftermath of the May 7 shelling incident, the migration from Poonch town and adjoining border villages painted a stark picture—residents left their homes not out of choice but out of sheer desperation to save their lives. This scenario is not unfamiliar; it echoes the past and serves as a tragic reminder that despite being at the frontlines of national security, the people of Poonch and other border areas are often left defenceless in the face of enemy aggression. Now, over 25,000 applications have been submitted to the Poonch district administration for the construction of bunkers and it is a loud and clear message from the people for protection. In Poonch town alone, more than 700 applications have been received. These figures aren't mere statistics; they are cries for help from communities that have endured decades of neglect. To its credit, the local administration has begun a ground assessment, with block development officers and municipal authorities tasked to determine where bunkers are most urgently needed. However, the enormity of the task, as officials themselves admit, is daunting. Yet, inaction cannot be an option. The process of constructing bunkers under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) must be fast-tracked. The Central government, to whom the final proposals will be sent, must treat this not as a routine file but as an emergency intervention. It is commendable that Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during his visit to Poonch, acknowledged the need for such protective measures. But acknowledgments must now translate into visible outcomes. The previous construction of 1,201 bunkers has proven woefully inadequate in the face of the current threat landscape. The people deserve better—adequate infrastructure to safeguard their lives during border escalations is not a privilege; it is a right. Political leaders and even the NC-led government, have weighed in, pressing for urgency in the matter. But the real test lies in execution. Delays will not just endanger more lives—they will deepen the trust deficit between the government and people living in border areas. Operation Sindoor, launched in response to the Pahalgam massacre, may have been aimed at striking terror infrastructure, but it has undeniably escalated tensions in border districts like Poonch. The fallout has been devastating for civilians. Hence, any future security operation must also be matched with robust civilian protection plans. In nutshell, protecting our borders should not just mean fending off the enemy; it must also mean securing the lives of those who reside at the frontier. The bunker demand is a lifeline request from people living under constant threat. The government must act now—swiftly, comprehensively, and without bureaucratic delay. Anything less would be an unforgivable failure.



DR. JITENDRA SINGH

In the quiet fishing village of Thumba, Kerala, where India's space journey began with sounding rockets launched from a churchyard, few could have imagined the cosmic heights the nation would one day reach. It was a time of quiet resolve, when the dream of reaching the stars was nurtured with limited means but limitless ambition.

Today, that dream has matured into a national mission, and as we mark eleven years of the Narendra Modi Government, India's space program stands transformed—bold, inclusive, and deeply connected to the lives of ordinary citizens.

This transformation is not just about rockets and satellites—it is about people. It is about how space technology has quietly entered the daily rhythm of life, from the farmer in a remote village to the student in a digital classroom. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Modi and the strategic stewardship of the Department of Space, India has reimaged its space program as a tool for development, empowerment, and

opportunity.

The reforms introduced since 2014 have opened new frontiers. The creation of IN-SPACe in 2020 allowed private companies to participate in space activities, sparking a wave of innovation. Today, over 300 space-tech startups are building satellites, designing launch vehicles, and developing applications that serve agriculture, education, healthcare, and navigation. These startups are not just creating technology—they are creating jobs, especially for young engineers and entrepreneurs in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. The liberalized space policy has made space services more affordable and accessible, bringing the benefits of advanced technology to the grassroots.

India's satellites now play a vital role in weather forecasting, helping farmers plan their sowing and harvesting cycles with greater accuracy. In flood-prone regions, satellite data enables early warnings and disaster response, saving lives and livelihoods. During cyclones and droughts, remote sensing helps authorities prepare and mitigate damage. In rural clinics, telemedicine powered by satellite connectivity allows doctors in urban centres to consult with patients in remote areas, bridging the healthcare divide. E-learning platforms, supported by satellite bandwidth, bring quality education to children in far-flung villages, ensuring that geography is no longer a barrier to learning.

The NavIC system, India's indigenous GPS network, is now used for navigation in vehicles, tracking trains and ships, and even guiding fishermen safely back to shore. In agriculture, satellite advisories help farmers monitor soil moisture, crop health, and pest infestations, enabling smarter decisions and better yields. These are not abstract benefits—they are real, measurable improvements in the lives of millions.

The missions launched in the past decade have captured global attention. Mangalyaan reached Mars on its first attempt, showcasing India's engineering excellence. Chandrayaan-3 landed near the Moon's south pole, a region believed to hold water ice, and its rover conducted experiments that will inform future lunar missions. Aditya-L1 is now studying solar storms, helping scientists understand space weather and its impact on communication systems and power grids.

The Gaganyaan mission, scheduled for 2027, will send Indian astronauts into space. But even before the crewed flight, the mission is already inspiring a new generation. The training of astronauts, the development of safety systems, and the uncrewed test flights are creating a ripple effect—boosting research, attracting talent, and building national pride.

Looking ahead, India plans to build its own space station—the Bharatiya Antariksh Sta-

tion—by 2035. The first module is expected to launch in 2028, and the recent success of the Space Docking Experiment has validated the technologies needed for this ambitious goal. The station will allow long-term habitation and research, opening doors to deep-space exploration and interplanetary missions.

To support these growing ambitions, India is developing the Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV), capable of carrying 30,000 kilograms to low Earth orbit. It will feature reusable stages and modular propulsion systems, making space access more affordable and sustainable. A third launch pad at Sriharikota and a new spaceport in Tamil Nadu are being built to handle the increasing frequency of launches and to support commercial missions.

India's space program is also deeply collaborative. The NISAR mission with NASA will monitor Earth's ecosystems and natural hazards. The LUPEX mission with Japan will explore the Moon's polar regions with a heavier rover. These partnerships reflect India's growing stature as a trusted global space partner.

But space is not just about exploration—it is also about responsibility. With thousands of satellites orbiting Earth, space debris has become a serious concern. ISRO's Space Situational Awareness program monitors debris in real time, developing strategies to avoid collisions and ensure the long-term sustainability of space

activities.

In every corner of the country, the impact of space technology is visible. In the Himalayan states, satellite data helps monitor landslides and glacial movements. In coastal regions, it supports marine conservation and disaster preparedness. In tribal and remote areas, it enables digital inclusion through satellite internet. These are quiet revolutions—transformations that touch lives without fanfare.

As we look to the next decade, the goals are clear: a crewed lunar landing by 2040, a fully operational space station, and a leadership role in global space innovation. These are not just dreams—they are strategic imperatives for a nation that has always believed in the power of science to transform society.

From the bicycle sheds of Thumba to the docking maneuvers in orbit, India's space journey is a story of resilience, imagination, and relentless pursuit. It is a story that belongs to every citizen, every scientist, every dreamer. And as we celebrate eleven years of transformative governance, we also celebrate a nation that has truly reached for the stars—and brought their light back home.

Dr. Jitendra Singh is a Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions

Towards Making India a Global Sporting Powerhouse



DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA

As we embark on our journey to become Viksit Bharat by 2047, one of the most powerful forces shaping this vision is the rise of Indian Sports. Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Indian sports is scaling new heights on the global stage. From grassroots to global podiums, Prime Minister's vision has transformed India's approach to sports, ensuring world-class support, modern facilities, and a transparent system that rewards talent and hard work.

Just recently, Indian athletes once again made the nation beam with pride through a series of extraordinary performances on the global stage. Whether it was the Asian Athletics Championships 2025 in Gumi, South Korea, or the World Wrestling Ranking Series 4 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, our sports stars rose to the occasion with grit and glory. At the Asian Athletics Championships, the Indian contingent delivered a commanding performance, clinching 24 medals and smashing multiple national records along the way.

At the same time, our women wrestlers scripted a golden chapter in history, returning from Mongolia with a record-breaking 21 medals, their best-ever haul at a Ranking Series event. This success didn't come overnight. India won only 26

Olympic medals in the first 23 editions (including pre-Independence). But in the last three editions alone—2016, 2020 and 2024—India bagged 15 medals. In the Paralympics, the rise is even more impressive, from just 8 total medals between 1968 and 2012, India has now won 52 medals in the last three editions, including a record 29 medals in Paris 2024.

These achievements are no coincidence. They are the result of a performance-driven ecosystem built over the last eleven years. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has brought a clear and focused vision that every athlete, regardless of background, deserves access to world-class training, infrastructure, financial support, athlete-centric governance, and a transparent system to thrive. Since 2014, the Modi government has laid strong foundations through transformative reforms that have reshaped the landscape of Indian sports.

At the heart of these reforms is the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), launched in 2014 to identify and support top athletes. What began with 75 athletes has now grown to support 213 sportspersons for the Los Angeles 2028 cycle, including 52 para-athletes and 112 athletes under the development category. New schemes have also been introduced to support athletes in disciplines that have traditionally received less attention. The Target

Asian Games Group (TAGG), introduced this year, supports 40 medal prospects in 10 disciplines such as fencing, cycling, equestrian, sailing, kayaking and canoeing, judo,

taekwondo, tennis, table tennis, and wushu.

Driving this performance is not just vision, but also significant financial commitment. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports budget has more than tripled in the last decade, from just Rs 1,219 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 3,794 crore in 2025-26. The Khelo India Scheme, launched in 2017 to develop grassroots infrastructure and promote year-round competition, has seen its budget increase to Rs 1,000 crore this year. These investments are nurturing talent and building a vibrant competitive ecosystem for young athletes.

National Sports Federations have also received unprecedented support. Financial assistance for hosting international tournaments and national championships has nearly doubled. Coaches' support has been revised upward by 50 percent. Athlete dietary allowances have been increased to meet the rising demands of high-performance training.

These focused efforts are helping India diversify its medal potential and build depth across a wide range of sports.

One of the most impactful reforms has been the emphasis on transparency. All federations are now required to video record selection trials and publish selection criteria for major events two years in advance. This ensures fairness, builds trust among athletes, and keeps the system merit-based. Indeed athlete-centric reforms have been the key in recent sports policy formulation. Sports certificates are now issued through DigiLocker and linked

to the National Sports Repository System, ensuring tamper-proof documentation for athletes. The Draft National Sports Policy 2024, along with the Draft National Sports Governance Bill currently in its final stage, aims to strengthen the sports ecosystem and bring athlete welfare at the centre of policy making. Age fraud is being tackled through new medical checks and stricter penalties. Federations are also required to appoint Integrity Officers to ensure better compliance and transparency.

In addition to Olympic sports, our traditional Indian sports like Mallakhamb, Kalaripayattu, Yogasana, Gatka, and Thang-Ta are being revived and promoted through the Khelo India Games. Indigenous sports like Kabaddi and Kho-Kho are now receiving international recognition, proudly showcasing India's rich sporting heritage.

The push for gender equity has also been significant. The ASMITA League (Achieving Sports Milestones by Inspiring Women Through Action), launched to promote women's participation in sports, has expanded rapidly. From just 840 women athletes in 2021-22, over 60,000 women across 26 sports participated in 2024-25. The ASMITA League connects these athletes to the Khelo India pathway, giving them vital exposure and competition opportunities.

India's sports infrastructure has also expanded at an unprecedented scale in the last 11 years. From just 38 infrastructure projects before 2014, the number has now risen to 350. The Sports Authority of India currently runs 23 National Centres of

Excellence, training elite athletes under TOPS and Khelo India. Additionally, 34 State Centres of Excellence have been established across 33 States and UTs, along with 1,048 Khelo India Centres across 757 districts. These centres ensure that talent is discovered and nurtured from the grassroots level.

The Khelo India Games have evolved into a national movement. Nineteen editions have been held so far—including Youth, University, Para, Winter, and Beach Games—with more than 56,000 athletes participating. The Khelo India Para Games, in particular, have been game-changing, with many athletes from these competitions going on to win medals at the Paralympics.

Looking ahead, India is preparing for a potential bid to host the 2030 Commonwealth Games and the 2036 Olympic Games. To support this vision, new verticals under Khelo India such as the School Games, Tribal Games, Northeast Games, Water Games, Martial Arts Games, and Swadeshi Games are being launched to ensure year-round competition and talent discovery. Among these, the upcoming Khelo India School Games will play a pivotal role in bringing fresh talent into the sporting ecosystem by identifying and nurturing athletes from a young age.

And it is not just sports, community engagement in fitness has gained strong momentum through the Fit India Sundays on Cycle campaign, launched in December 2024. What began with just 150 participants has now expanded to over 10,000 locations, with more than 3.5 lakh citizens actively partici-

pating. The 25th edition, organised on June 1, was celebrated as a Tiranga Rally to pay tribute to the Armed Forces and mark World Bicycle Day. Over 75,000 citizens across 5,000 locations, including remote districts of Jammu and Kashmir, joined the rally.

These weekly events involve various groups such as doctors, government employees, teachers, and others to spread the message of fitness. Staying true to the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Fit India Movement is taking the message of fitness to every household in the country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision is for India to be among the top 10 sporting nations when we host the Olympics in 2036 and among the top 5 by the time we mark 100 years of independence in 2047. Much has been done to fulfil this vision, but a lot still remains to be achieved. To lay a strong foundation, major governance reforms have been implemented, which are crucial for the development of sports in the country.

India's sporting revolution today is a story of vision, resolve, and inclusive growth. With our youth at the heart of this transformation, and under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is rising as a global sporting powerhouse. From medals to mindsets, the change is visible and the journey to Viksit Bharat is being powered by the spirit of sport.

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya is a Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & Employment.

Study finds common gene variant that doubles dementia risk for men

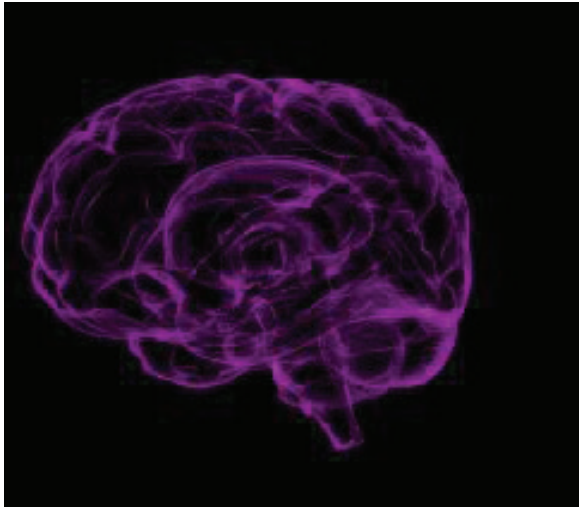
Australian researchers have identified a common genetic variant that doubles the risk of dementia in men.

The team from Curtin University said that one in three people carry one copy of the variant, known as H63D, while one in 36 carry two copies.

The research, published in the journal *Neurology*, found that men who carry a double H63D variant are twice as likely to develop dementia in their lifetime compared to women.

The study, based on 19,114 healthy older people in Australia and the US, investigated whether people who had variants in the hemochromatosis (HFE) gene, which is critical for regulating iron levels in the body, might be at increased risk of dementia.

"Having just one copy of this gene variant does not impact someone's health or increase their



risk of dementia. However, having two copies of the variant more than doubled the risk of dementia in men, but not women," said Professor John Olynyk, from the Curtin Medical School.

"While the genetic variant itself cannot be changed, the brain pathways which it affects -- leading to the damage that causes dementia -- could

potentially be treated if we understood more about it," Olynyk added.

Professor Olynyk said further research was needed to investigate why this genetic variant increased the risk of dementia for males but not females.

"The HFE gene is routinely tested for in most Western countries, including Australia, when assess-

ing people for hemochromatosis -- a disorder that causes the body to absorb too much iron. Our findings suggest that perhaps this testing could be offered to men more broadly," Olynyk said.

While the HFE gene is critical for controlling iron levels in the body, the team found no direct link between iron levels in the blood and increased dementia risk in affected men.

"This points to other mechanisms at play, possibly involving the increased risk of brain injury from inflammation and cell damage in the body," Olynyk said.

The findings could help improve outcomes for people at risk of developing dementia and pave the way for more personalised approaches to prevention and treatment, especially for men with the double H63D variant.

Previous investigations from Michigan Medicine researchers in the US into more accessible alternative diets led to a proposed "FODMAP simple," which attempted to only restrict the food groups in the FODMAP acronym that are most likely to cause symptoms.

In the new study published in the journal *Neurogastroenterology & Motility*, participants

were randomised into two groups, one following the Mediterranean diet and the other following the low FODMAP diet, a common restrictive diet for IBS.

In the Mediterranean diet group, 73 per cent of the patients met the primary endpoint for symptom improvement, versus 81.8 per cent in the low FODMAP group.

"Restrictive diets, such as low FODMAP, can be

difficult for patients to adopt," said Prashant Singh, Michigan Medicine gastroenterologist and lead author on the paper.

"In addition to the issue of being costly and time-consuming, there are concerns about nutrient deficiencies and disordered eating when trying a low FODMAP diet. The Mediterranean diet interested us as an alternative that is not an elimination diet

and overcomes several of these limitations related to a low FODMAP diet," Kumar added.

The Mediterranean diet is already popular among physicians for its benefits to cardiovascular, cognitive, and general health. Previous research on the effect of the Mediterranean diet on IBS, however, had yielded conflicting results.

While the Mediterranean diet did provide symptom relief, the low FODMAP group experienced a greater improvement measured by both abdominal pain intensity and IBS symptom severity score.

"This study adds to a growing body of evidence which suggests that a Mediterranean diet might be a useful addition to the menu of evidence-based dietary interventions for patients with IBS," said William Chey, chief of Gastroenterology at the University of Michigan.

People with irritable bowel syndrome can find relief with Mediterranean diet: Study

A team of US researchers has found that the Mediterranean diet may provide symptom relief for people with irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

Irritable bowel syndrome affects an estimated 4-11 per cent of all people, and a majority of patients prefer dietary interventions to medication.

The low FODMAP diet leads to symptom improvement in more than half of patients, but is restrictive and hard to follow.

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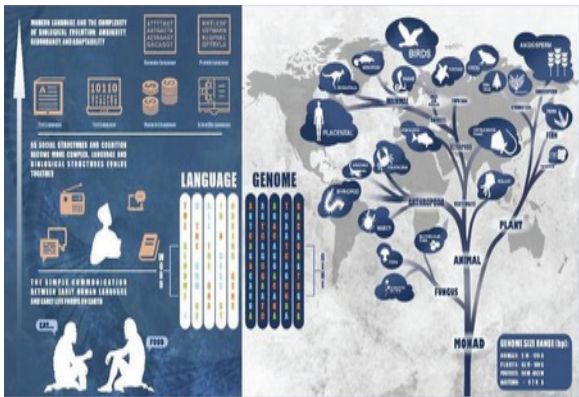
Large language models can accurately predict plant gene functions: Study

Large language models (LLMs), when trained on extensive plant genomic data, can accurately predict gene functions and regulatory elements, researchers said on Sunday.

By leveraging the structural parallels between genomic sequences and natural language, these AI-driven models can decode complex genetic information, offering unprecedented insights into plant biology.

This advancement holds promise for accelerating crop improvement, enhancing biodiversity conservation, and bolstering food security in the face of global challenges, said the study published in *Tropical Plants Journal*.

Traditionally, plant genomics has grappled with the intricacies of vast and complex datasets, often limited by the specificity of traditional machine learning models



and the scarcity of annotated data.

While LLMs have revolutionised fields like natural language processing, their application in plant genomics remained nascent. The primary hurdle has been adapting these models to interpret the unique "language" of plant genomes, which differ significantly from human linguistic patterns.

In this study, researchers explored the potential of LLMs in plant genomics.

By drawing parallels between the structures

of natural language and genomic sequences, the study highlights how LLMs can be trained to understand and predict gene functions, regulatory elements, and expression patterns in plants.

The research discusses various LLM architectures, including encoder-only models like DNABERT, decoder-only models such as DNAGPT, and encoder-decoder models like ENBED.

The team employed a methodology that involved pre-training LLMs on vast

datasets of plant genomic sequences, followed by fine-tuning with specific annotated data to enhance accuracy.

By treating DNA sequences akin to linguistic sentences, the models could identify patterns and relationships within the genetic code.

These models have shown promise in tasks like promoter prediction, enhancer identification, and gene expression analysis. Notably, plant-specific models like AgroNT and FloraBERT have been developed, demonstrating improved performance in annotating plant genomes and predicting tissue-specific gene expression.

However, the study also notes that most existing LLMs are trained on animal or microbial data, which often lack comprehensive genomic annotations, showcasing the versatility and robustness of LLMs in diverse plant species.

Study shows how plastic particles in food, beverages can harm your liver

Microscopic plastic particles found in food and beverages may affect glucose metabolism and harm organs such as the liver, according to a new animal study.

The findings raise concerns about potential health risks in people who consume microplastics (less than 5 millimetre) and nanoplastics (less than 100 nanometre), which can enter the food chain and end up in seafood and other foods people eat.

Previous estimates show that a person may ingest around 40,000 to 50,000 microplastic particles a year through food and beverages, with some estimating exposure to be as high as 10 million particles per year.

"Our observations that oral ingestion of polystyrene nanoplastics contributes to glucose intolerance and signs of liver injury, confirm and extend what has been recently reported

on the effects of nanoplastics in animal models," said Amy Parkhurst, a doctoral candidate at the University of California, Davis, US.

For the study, the researchers focused on exposure via oral consumption to mimic nanoparticles found in food and drink.

They gave 12-week-old male mice a standard



"We can't control for all the plastics the mice are exposed to," said Parkhurst. "However, our study design allowed us to see dose-correlated changes since the nanoplastics-dosed group would have a higher exposure."

Compared to the control group receiving no polystyrene, the mice consuming nanoplastics exhibited systemic glucose intolerance and elevated alanine aminotransferase, which indicates liver injury.

In the mice consuming polystyrene, the researchers also observed an increase in gut permeability and elevated levels of endotoxin, which contribute to liver dysfunction.

"Our findings warrant further studies to help inform policy around micro and nanoplastics," said Parkhurst.

"Robust scientific evidence plays a key role in shaping monitoring efforts and guiding regulations."

rodent diet with a daily oral dose of polystyrene nanoplastics. Polystyrene is a widely used plastic commonly found in food packaging and products.

The researchers chose a daily nanoparticle dose of 60 mg per kilogram of body weight, based on human exposure levels and earlier mouse studies that showed health effects at similar amounts.

They gave 12-week-old male mice a standard

Obesity may lead to anxiety, impair brain functioning: Study

Among the global rise in obesity rates, a study showed that being overweight can lead to mental health issues like anxiety and also impair brain functioning.

The animal study suggested that the two conditions may be connected through interactions between the gut and the brain.

Conducted in mice, the research linked diet-induced obesity with anxiety-like symptoms, alterations in brain signaling, and differences in gut microbes that may contribute to impaired brain functioning.

"Our findings suggest that obesity can lead to anxiety-like behaviour, possibly due to changes in both brain function and gut health," said Desiree Wanders, Associate Professor and chair of nutrition at Georgia State University, US.

In addition to other risks of obesity such as type 2 diabetes and heart



disease, the study focussed on its potential impacts on brain health using a mouse model that develops many of the same obesity-related issues seen in humans.

The team subjected six-week mice to a low-fat diet (16) and a high-fat diet (16) for 21 weeks.

As predicted, the mice on a high-fat diet weighed significantly more and had significantly more body fat than those fed a low-

fat diet.

In behavioural tests, the researchers found that the obese mice displayed more anxiety-like behaviours, such as freezing (defensive behaviour mice exhibit in response to a perceived threat), compared with lean mice.

These mice also showed different signalling patterns in the hypothalamus -- a region of the brain involved in regulating

metabolism, which could contribute to cognitive impairments.

In addition, the researchers observed distinct differences in the makeup of gut bacteria in obese mice compared with lean mice.

"These findings could have important implications for both public health and personal decisions," said Wanders.

"The study highlights the potential impact of obesity on mental health, particularly in terms of anxiety. By understanding the connections between diet, brain health, and gut microbiota, this research may help guide public health initiatives that focus on obesity prevention and early intervention, particularly in children and adolescents."

The findings will be presented at the ongoing NUTRITION 2025, the flagship annual meeting of the American Society for Nutrition in Orlando, Florida.

Suffering from chronic back pain? Nature may help you, shows study

If you are suffering from chronic back pain, a walk in the woods can help you better manage the condition, according to a study on Tuesday.

The study, published in *The Journal of Pain*, showed that being time in or around nature can provide people suffering from chronic lower back pain with a degree of escapism that helps them better manage their physical discomfort.

In a first-of-its-kind experiment, researchers from the University of Plymouth, UK, asked 10 people experiencing chronic lower back pain, in some cases for almost 40 years, about the role nature plays in any coping strategies they employ to help manage their condition.

They found that people who were able to get out in nature said it enabled them to connect with others on a social level, whereas they might otherwise spend the majority



of their time indoors and isolated.

It also provided them with a degree of distraction from their pain and a sense of escapism from their daily lives, and they enjoyed the opportunity to exercise in pleasant surroundings, preferring it to gyms or similar settings.

In addition, natural

features such as fresh air and the sound and visual presence of water, the interviewees said, helped give them a feeling of tranquillity that relieved the stresses and anxieties created by their pain levels.

"Lower back pain, like many other forms of physical discomfort, can be debilitating, isolating,

and exhausting. But amid a push for novel and more holistic therapies to treat chronic pain, nature has been suggested as a potential option," said lead author Alexander Smith, a researcher in the University's School of Psychology.

"Our research showed that those able to get out into nature saw the benefits of doing so, both from a physical and a mental perspective," Smith added.

Based on their findings, the researchers recommended that people with chronic lower back pain -- and the clinicians treating them -- give greater consideration to the role nature can play in their health and wellbeing.

"Simple changes, such as better paths and seating, and technological innovations including virtual reality may help make those benefits accessible to everyone. But we hope our findings open the door to greater exploration of how that might be achieved," Smith said.

MLA Mohan Lal leads Grand Tribute to Maharaja Gulab Singh Ji on 203rd Raj Tilak Diwas at Jeo Pota Ghat

J I NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, JUNE 17

The historic 203rd Raj Tilak Diwas of Maharaja Gulab Singh Ji, the illustrious founder of the erstwhile princely state of Jammu & Kashmir, was commemorated with immense reverence and cultural pride at the Jeo Pota Ghat, Akhnoor. The event was organized under the banner of Raj Tilak Celebration Committee, led by Thakur K.P. Singh, and witnessed massive public participation.

The ceremony was graced by MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal Ji as the Chief Guest, who was joined by Former MLA Rajeev Sharma and BJP District President Kuldeep Banotra.

The day began with a grand rally led by MLA



Mohan Lal, Rajeev Sharma, and Kuldeep Banotra, accompanied by hundreds of enthusiastic supporters. Chants of "Maharaja Gulab Singh Ji Amar Rahe" and "Jai Dogra, Jai Jammu Kashmir" echoed through the streets as the procession marched toward Jeo Pota Ghat, the very site

where Maharaja Ranjit Singh had performed the historic Raj Tilak of Maharaja Gulab Singh.

Participants performed pooja and paid floral tributes at the sacred site. Addressing the gathering, MLA Mohan Lal underscored the enduring legacy of Maharaja Gulab Singh

Ji. "He was not just a ruler, but a visionary who laid the foundation of Jammu and Kashmir. It is our responsibility to protect Dogra heritage and uphold the ideals of such legendary figures," he said.

Sh. Gulchain Singh Charak, former minister and President of Dogra

Sadar Sabha, called for greater recognition of Dogra contributions in educational curricula. "It is imperative that our children learn about the valor and sacrifices of Dogra rulers like Maharaja Gulab Singh," he stated.

Among the prominent dignitaries present were Vikram Singh, President Yuva Rajput Sabha; Sudesh Magotra, President Brahman Sabha; Rajinder Manhas; Ranbir Singh, Joint Secretary, District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee; Col. JP Singh, Depesh Singh, Rakesh Malhotra, Neeraj Sharma, Pawan Singh, and many other community leaders and social activists.

The event concluded with a community langer, symbolizing the spirit of unity, service, and Dogra brotherhood.

Indian Army organizes inauguration Ceremony of Renovated Sadbhavna Hall at GDC, Poonch

J I NEWS SERVICE
POONCH: 17 JUN 2025

An exhibition badminton match was conducted to mark the inauguration of the renovated Indoor Cultural cum Sports Complex (Sadbhavna Hall) at Degree College, Poonch. The inauguration was done by Brigade Commander, Poonch Brigade and Mr Jasbir Singh, Principal Degree College, Poonch in the presence of senior civil and military dignitaries. The event was attended by DDC Chairperson Ms. Tazeem Akhter, Deputy Commissioner Shri Vikas Kundal, SSP Shri Shafaqat Hussain and renowned media personnel. The match featured enthusiastic participation from college students and NCC



cadets, reflecting the spirit of youth engagement and sportsmanship. Originally constructed in 2006 under the initiative of the Poonch Brigade, Sadbhavna Hall has served as a key venue for cultural and community activities.

Given its location in the heart of Poonch city and the increasing needs of the student community, the requirement for renovation was clearly felt. Renovation work was undertaken by the Poonch Brigade since February 2025 and

damage sustained during Operation Sindoor in May 2025 was also restored during the process. The hall now stands revitalised as a modern, multi-purpose indoor facility dedicated to promoting sports, fitness and constructive youth engagement. This initiative reflects the Indian Army's continued commitment to fostering civil-military cooperation and supporting local development. The efforts were well appreciated by all present.

Bhupendra wins Tanda Dangal with impressive moves, tactics

J I NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, JUNE 17

Saying that sports hold big promise for career advancement of youth, MLA Jasrota Rajiv Jasrotia today called for societal responsibility in promotion of games. "Sports are not only beneficial for overall physical growth but lately it has emerged as a big incentive in shaping careers", Jasrotia said at the concluding function of Tanda Wrestling competition, while expressing satisfaction over traditional rural sports making a big comeback. The annual Dangal was held at Tanda village, attracting renowned wrestlers from J&K and other regions. In all 56 bouts were held in the tournament.

The highlight of the event was the final match between Ravi from Punjab and Bhupender, which drew a large crowd. In this, Bhupendra won the main bout beating Ravi wrestler with impres-

sive moves and tactics. The Dangal Organizing Committee and Chief Guest Jasrotia honored the winning wrestler by handing over the fixed amount of Rs 2 lacs for the main bout. The Dangal featured exciting matches between skilled wrestlers, showcasing their techniques and strength. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Sarpanch Raj Kumar, Naib Sarpanch Dev Raj, Sarpanch Kaka Gupta, Mandal President Roni Sharma, Youth Leader Basakh Singh, Hari Sham, Manik Gupta, Nandan Khajuria and other prominent workers.

Speaking on the occasion, Jasrotia expressed happiness over wrestling remaining popular among Indian youth, notwithstanding slight setbacks to the sport across the world over the years. Now, the sport is flourishing and becoming equally important and glamorous. This is a good



omen for the rural activity, which has been very popular for centuries, he added. Grooming and shaping the talent of sportspersons is an investment to brighten the future of enterprising youth and channel their energies into positive pursuits. It is with this view that sports are getting tremendous support by none other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which has given new impetus to various sporting activities over the years, said Jasrotia.

Jasrotia hoped that the youth of Jammu and Kashmir have become integral to the Khelo India movement and make their name in the world of sports. He

noted with satisfaction that a good number of youth were participating in various games, exuding confidence that the number of athletes will grow in coming years. He complimented the organizers and urged them to expand the scope of the game to other areas of the Union Territory on a larger scale. Describing sports as imperative for physical and mental growth, Jasrotia exhorted the youth to formulate their schedule in such a manner that sporting activities do not hamper their academics as both are equally important for career management.

Jasrotia observed that sports have opened up

vistas of opportunities in career progression, saying those excelling in their chosen field will find sky the limit. He advised the youth to aim high and pursue their objective with sincerity of purpose. He congratulated the participants for their impressive performance and said that winning or losing is part of the game and this should be taken in sportsmen's spirit. The larger objective of sporting activities is to foster camaraderie, which is necessary for the harmonious growth of society. He wished the participants all the best in their endeavours to excel in the game.

Jasrotia stressed the crucial need of developing understanding of literature and promoting sports among youngsters, whom he described as architects of the nation and the state. "Teachers will have to work overtime and with a sense of missionary spirit to

explore the potential of students, as per their aptitude and help sharpen this by ensuing best possible counselling", he said. He urged the students to participate in extra-curricular activities alongside academics in a big way, saying in the present competitive world the young people must attain versatility that alone could place them in good stead.

"Given the openings and opportunities available in the fast-changing world, sky is the limit for young to scale," he said and hoped that the students would not let any opportunity go unexplored. In this context, he also solicited close synergy between teachers and parents, especially at the grooming age of students, to work for their overall development. "While parents and teachers can be facilitators, ultimate choice of choosing the field of activity lies with children as per their aptitude," he said.

Tirupati Balaji Temple, Jammu honours Raju Jandyal



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 17

The Tirupati Balaji Temple in Jammu honoured renowned social Activists Raju Jandyal for his exceptional contribution during the temple's 2nd annual celebrations. The honour was conferred by Temple Inspector Sai Krishna, while a visiting priest from Andhra Pradesh offered his blessings to Raju Jandyal.

Temple Inspector Sai Krishna praised Jandyal for organizing a community langar with true devotion and a spirit of service. He stated, "People like Raju Chandiyal are rare

in today's society. His dedication and commitment to public service and religious causes are truly commendable. He has promised to continue organizing langars once in every week in future as well."

Raju Jandyal Social Activists, deeply moved by the recognition, thanked the temple authorities for the honour and expressed his gratitude for the blessings received from the Shri Tharun Kumar priest, from Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. He affirmed that he would always be ready to support the temple and contribute to its activities in every possible way.

PM Modi's Cyprus visit signals strong message to Turkey, World: Gaurav Gupta

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 17:

BJP J&K Spokesperson Gaurav Gupta has hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to Cyprus as a masterstroke in India's evolving foreign policy, asserting that it sends a strong and unambiguous message to Turkey and the global community.

"After 23 years, an Indian Prime Minister has visited Cyprus – and the timing is far from coincidental," said Gupta. "In the wake of Turkey's overt support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, PM Modi's visit to a nation long grappling with Turkish occupation is a bold assertion of India's strategic posture. It signals that India is no longer hesitant to call out expansionism and interference."

Gupta underlined the significance of the Prime Minister's presence near the UN-controlled Green Line – the demarcation separating the Republic of Cyprus from the Turkish-occupied north – describing it as a "silent yet potent diplomatic signal." He added, "If Turkey continues to raise Kashmir on international platforms, India has every right to raise Northern Cyprus. The message is clear: we



will respond to provocation with strategic precision."

He further highlighted Cyprus's unwavering support to India on critical global issues – from Kashmir and counter-terrorism to UN reforms – calling the bilateral bond a model of mutual respect and partnership.

On the economic front, Gupta termed the announcement of Eurobank's new representative office in Mumbai as a "transformational step" that will deepen business linkages between India and Europe. "Cyprus is positioning itself as a vital gateway for Indian enterprises entering the EU market. This move will facilitate smoother capital flows and foster greater Indo-European economic convergence," he said.

Gupta also emphasized

Cyprus's strategic role in the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), viewing the island nation as a future logistical and financial hub in the corridor. "As India works toward a Free Trade Agreement with the EU by 2025, Cyprus's presidency of the European Council in 2026 could be a game-changer. Their support will be invaluable," he noted.

Energy security was another critical area addressed by Gupta, who pointed out Cyprus's emerging role in natural gas exploration in the Eastern Mediterranean. He called for deeper collaboration in energy exploration, investment, and long-term partnership, as India seeks to diversify its energy sources and ensure future resilience.

The visit reached a

ceremonial high point when President Nikos Christodoulides conferred Cyprus's highest civilian honour – the Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III – upon Prime Minister Modi. Gupta described this as a moment of profound national pride. "This is not just a personal honour for the Prime Minister – it is a tribute to 1.4 billion Indians, to our shared values of democracy and peace, and to India's rising global stature under Modi Ji's visionary leadership."

PM Modi, in a gracious gesture, dedicated the award to the people of India and to the enduring friendship between India and Cyprus. His official statement read:

"Humbled to receive the 'Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III' of Cyprus. I dedicate it to the friendship between our nations."

Concluding, Gaurav Gupta remarked, "PM Modi's visit to Cyprus is more than a diplomatic milestone – it's a message to the world. It reflects a confident New India that engages globally on its own terms, defends its interests unapologetically, and envisions a secure, prosperous world driven by mutual respect."

DYSS Zone Budgam organizes U-14 Football Tournament; Int'l Islamic School wins Championship

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 17

In a proud moment, International Islamic School, Millatabad Peerbagh, won the Under-14 Inter-School Zonal Level Football Tournament 2025-26, held in Budgam. The tournament was organized by the Department of Youth Services & Sports, Zone Budgam and 11 teams took part of this tournament. The young players showed great skill and teamwork, beating strong teams like Delhi Public School (DPS) Budgam and Foundation World School (FWS) Mamath Budgam in the final match.

The high-energy tournament was witnessed by key officials, including DYSS Budgam G.H. Lone, ZPEO Budgam Tariq Ahmad Dar and Organising Secretary PZ Kausar Ahmad, alongside other officials from Zone Budgam.

The International Islamic School team, comprising talented young athletes, demonstrated exemplary sportsmanship and coordination throughout the competition.

The winning team included players Mohamad Kashif Bhat, Asfar



Manzoor, Arhan Baba, Usman Bin Javaid Mirchal, Hamza Nadeem Dar, Muneeb Hassan, Ahmad Altaf Rather, Junaid Latif Mir, Sheikh Muavin Manzoor, Yariq Tariq, Mohammad Yahya Gojri, Zain Mohammad, Huzai-fah Majid Wani, Ayan Showkat Dar and Usayd Inam Makhdoomi.

International Islamic School Chairman, Dr. Tariq Ahmad Bhat, expressed immense pride in the students' achievement. "This victory reflects the growing spirit of discipline, sportsmanship, and excellence that we cultivate at IIS. Our students have not only won a trophy but have shown that determination and teamwork can lead to great success. I wholeheartedly congratulate our young stars, their coach Muhtashim Sir and our sports department."

Principal, Umer Malik, praised the dedication behind the scenes. "Our football team's journey

to the zonal title is the result of persistent hard work, commitment and support from the entire school community. We are immensely proud of our boys for their outstanding performance and how they've carried the school's values onto the field."

Board of Directors, School Management & Teaching Faculty jointly stated "This victory belongs to every student, teacher, coach and staff who believed in the power of sports as a foundation of education. We are committed to nurturing talent in all fields – academic, athletic and beyond."

The school now sets its sights on the district-level championships, with renewed energy and higher aspirations. This success story serves as an inspiration to all students of International Islamic School, to strive for excellence in every endeavor, on and off the field.

ADGP Armed J&K issues promotion orders of 88 Police Personnel having their lien, seniority with J&K Armed Police

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 17

ADGP Armed J&K Shri Anand Jain-IPS issued promotion orders of 88 Police Personnel having their lien and seniority with J&K Armed Police.

Among the 88 promotions, 32 Head-Constables were promoted to the rank of ASI, & 56 Sg. Constables to the rank of Head-Constables.

The promotion orders to this effect were issued by Armed Police Headquarters J&K Srinagar after the Departmental Promotion Committee headed by DIG Armed/IR Range Jammu found them fit for next promotions in light of prescribed promotion norms. The DPC headed by Shri Vinod Kumar-IPS Dy. Inspector General of Police Armed/IR Range Jammu as its chairman comprised of Shri Mumtaz Ahmad, IPS Commandant, IRP-12th Bn. Shri Sandeep Wazir-IPS, AIG, (Pers) PHQ J&K, Smt. Anita Sharma, IPS, Commandant, IRP-1st Bn., Shri Abrar Ahmad Choudhary, SSP, Commandant IR-14th Bn. & Shri Anil Dev Jawwal CPO, APHQ J&K.

Interio introduces Flexible Café Furniture Solutions for Modern Indian Offices

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 17 JUNE 2025:

Interio, one of India's leading furniture brands under the Godrej Enterprises Group, has launched its latest innovation in workspace furniture - the Pep-Up Café Table Range. This new category of furniture combines functionality, style and ergonomic comfort to transform informal collaboration zones in modern offices.



Designed to meet the evolving needs of India's diverse workplaces, Pep-Up offers a vibrant mix of forms, colors and finishes ideal for breakout zones, office cafés, lounge areas and meeting corners. Available in three contemporary understructures - Pod, Rod and 4-Leg Tables, the range is built to support the dynamic

and collaborative nature of today's work culture.

Commenting on this innovative concept, Sameer Joshi, Sr. Vice President and Head of B2B Business, Interio said, "Interio, we create products that take a human-centered approach and offer flexible space solutions for workspaces. Pep-Up is more than a table—it's a social enabler. It brings employees

together, encourages creative interactions, and creates vibrant corners where ideas thrive. With these new offerings, we aim to blur the lines between work and leisure zones by offering furniture that's flexible, durable and expressive. Godrej Interio's institutional furniture business is expected to grow by 19% by FY27 and we plan to introduce over 45 new SKUs in the insti-

tutional furniture segment over the next two years."

The modern Indian workplace has changed significantly, driven by technological advances, modern workspace design and new office setups. Corporate cafeterias have evolved from simple convenience facilities to important tools for improving employee satisfaction and productivity. They are no longer just places to grab a quick meal but have become central to building a sense of community and well-being among employees. These spaces encourage networking and collaboration in a relaxed setting, where ideas can flow freely over a cup of coffee or during a shared lunch break. The casual atmosphere of a cafeteria creates meaningful conversations and knowl-

edge exchange, ultimately improving the creative and innovative environment.

The Pep-Up range supports flexible interior layouts through three distinct understructure designs - Pod, Rod and 4-Leg—available in square, round and rectangular shapes with regular and high table height options. This versatility accommodates dining zones, breakout areas, one-on-one discussions and waiting lounges across different floor plans and workplace cultures. Available in multiple color and material combinations with solid and wood grain finishes, the tables integrate seamlessly into modern Indian office aesthetics while delivering premium quality and tech-integrated flexibility that enhances contemporary workplace lifestyles.

Chiefs' Chintan: Indian Army strengthens coordination with Former Chiefs of Army Staff



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 17

Chiefs' Chintan, a structured two-day interaction, between the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), General Upendra Dwivedi, and former Chiefs of the Army Staff (CsOAS), at New Delhi commenced today. Being held in the aftermath of Operation SINDOOR, the conclave is aimed to leverage the institutional knowledge and experience of the former CsOAS. General Dwivedi welcomed the former Chiefs and underlined the importance of their continued engagement in shaping the ongoing trans-

formation and future direction of the Indian Army. A key highlight of the event today was a comprehensive operational briefing on Operation SINDOOR, including the synergised conduct of operations with the Indian Air Force and Navy. The operation's execution, strategic impact and jointmanship model were presented in detail to provide contextual understanding and invite insights from the former Chiefs. The former Chiefs were also updated on the induction of niche technologies and modernisation initiatives aimed at enhancing operational capabilities. Other discussions planned during the conclave include:

○ Technological Initiatives: Endeavours being undertaken towards tech absorption. Viksit Bharat @2047: The Indian Army's contributions to the goals of Viksit Bharat are also being discussed. ○ Human Resource and Veteran Welfare: Reforms in HR policies and initiatives for welfare schemes for veterans will also be brainstormed. ○ The former CsOAS shared insights and recommendations, contributing to the Indian Army's ongoing efforts towards capability enhancement and organisational reform. The interaction reaffirms the continuity of leadership and collective commitment to keep Indian Army future-ready

Ambedkar's Constitution opened ways for SCs to become DM, CM, PM: Balbir Ram

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 17

Balbir Ram Rattan, spokesperson of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu and Kashmir, and former Vice Chairperson, stated that the Constitution of India – a monumental contribution of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar – has provided equal opportunities for Scheduled Caste (SC) individuals to reach top positions like District Magistrate (DM), Chief Minister (CM), and even Prime Minister (PM). He said this constitutional framework stands as a symbol of social justice, equality, and inclusiveness.



He made these remarks during a meeting with key party workers from the Scheduled Caste community, where he discussed the provisions made by Dr. Ambedkar in the Constitution for the upliftment of marginalized communities.

Balbir Ram Rattan said that under various articles of the Constitution, every citizen has the right to progress in education,

employment, business, and public life without any discrimination. He emphasized that Dr. Ambedkar ensured the inclusion of such provisions that enabled socially disadvantaged groups to integrate into the mainstream.

He added that in the past, when caste-based discrimination was at its peak, it was extremely difficult for a dalit to even attain an education. But in today's India, a person from a Scheduled Caste category can not only become a district officer through administrative services but can also rise to the highest offices like Chief Minister and Prime Minister.

Balbir Ram Rattan further asserted that this

transformation has only been made possible due to the Constitution, which prioritizes equality and social justice. He urged the youth to embrace education as their most powerful tool and to make positive contributions to society by utilizing the rights guaranteed by the Constitution.

He also appreciated the welfare schemes launched by the Central Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which are focused on uplifting dalits, backward classes, and the underprivileged.

Present at the meeting were Jagdish Bhagat, Vijay Anand Gill, Ashok Gandhi, G.R. Bhagat, R.K. Raina, and others.

Dr. R. K. Uppal Conferred with Tagore Sahitya Samman for Excellence in Literary Writing



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 17

Guru Gobind Singh College of Management and Technology is proud to announce that its Principal, Professor (Dr.) Rajinder Kumar Uppal, has been honored with the prestigious Tagore Sahitya Samman by The Art of India (TAOI). This distinguished award is presented to eminent literary personalities in recognition of their outstanding contributions to Indian literature, cultural preservation, and intellectual thought. Dr. Uppal, a renowned academician, economist, and literary scholar, has authored and edited over 72 books,

with many acclaimed for their depth in economic research, socio-political commentary, and literary merit. "It is an honor to be associated with the legacy of Rabindranath Tagore. I dedicate this recognition to the educators, researchers, and rural voices of India whose stories inspire my writing."

Farooq, Omar convey condolences

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 17

National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah and Chief Minister J&K, Vice President JKNC Mr Omar Abdullah expressed grief over

the passing away after prolonged illness of Smt Sita Devi Ji mother of Smt Anita Thakur DDC Kalakote and maternal grandmother of Th. Yashvardhan Singh Additional Spokesperson Jammu JKNC and conveyed con-

dolences to the bereaved family. In their messages, Dr Farooq Abdullah and Mr Omar Abdullah prayed for peace to the departed soul and expressed solidarity with other members of the family.

MLA Marh inaugurates 100 KVA Transformer at Lalyal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
MARH, JUNE 17

In a significant development, MLA Marh Surinder Kumar today inaugurated a 100 KVA capacity transformer in Lalyal village, providing relief to the residents who were facing power irregularities and voltage fluctuations due to the scorching heat. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Bhuvanesh Mehta District General Secretary, Jalam Singh besides community members in large number. The inauguration of the transformer brings much-needed relief to the villagers, showcasing the MLA's dedication to their welfare.



The inauguration of the transformer will ensure a stable power supply, easing the burden on villagers who were struggling with frequent power outages. The installation of the transformer addresses a long-standing issue, demonstrating the MLA's commitment to resolving

ing pressing concerns. The event highlights the MLA's focus on community development and improving the quality of life for residents.

MLA in his address emphasized the importance of using power judiciously to conserve energy and reduce waste, encouraging residents to take responsibility for their power usage. The MLA's assurance of being available 24/7 demonstrates

his commitment to public service by prioritizing the needs and concerns of the residents, providing a direct line of communication for addressing public issues. By being approachable and emphasizing responsible power usage, the MLA aims to encourage collaboration and mutual support among residents, effectively respond to and resolve issues affecting the community.

The trust of the public

and the dedication of party workers are the true strength of the BJP, and its commitment to training, cultural nationalism and welfare of the poor have remained unchanged, MLA said. We have never compromised on our beliefs, which is why the BJP has gained global recognition. We are public servants, not rulers. Respect workers and listen to them. They are the foundation of our strength," MLA said.

MLA said that this was the long pending demand of the people of this area which has been fulfilled today. During his visit, he announced development works. He also inspected various ongoing development works in the area and directed the concerned agencies to complete the work on time. He stressed upon the people to come forward for taking benefit from various social, development and welfare schemes launched by centre as well as state government.



Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER PWD(R&B) JAMMU ZONE
(Phone No. 0191-2471788, Fax No. 0191-2471866)
e-mail id: cejmurnbpwd@gmail.com, cetendersection@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e-NIT No.06 of 2025-26 Dated 16.06.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K Union Territory e-tenders are invited on **percentage rate basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with **Union Territory of J&K/CPWD / BRO/ Railways/ MES and other State/ Central Government** for the work mentioned below:-

| S. No | Name of Work | Advertised cost (Rs. In lacs) | | | Cost of document (in Rs.) | Earnest Money Deposit in the form of CDR/FDR | Time Allowed for completion | Time and date of opening of tender | Class of Contract or |
|-------|---|-------------------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| | | Construction part | Maintenance part | Total cost | | | | | |
| 1 | Construction of Road from Patta Chowk Bohri to Gajansoo upto Chuchu da Amb District Jammu. (Phase -1) (Under Nabard). | 769.74 | 76.97 | 846.71 | 6000/- | 2% of the advertised cost | 24 Months | (1200 Hrs) on or after 8.07.2025 | 'A' Class |

Position of AAA = Accorded
Project Authority = PWD(R&B) Department Jammu Zone.
R&B Division = Satwari

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

| | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Bid submission Start Date | 16.06.2025 (time of start is mentioned on portal) |
| 2. | Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting | 23.06.2025 in the Office of the Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department, Jammu (time is mentioned on portal) |
| 3. | Bid Submission End Date | 07.07.2025 (time of closing is mentioned on portal) |
| 4. | Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) | 08.07.2025 in the Office of the Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department, Jammu (time of opening is mentioned on portal) |

1. **Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of challan through Treasury indicating the name of work and e-NIT No. favouring Chief Accounts Officer, PW (R&B)Department, Jammu Zone by crediting to 0059-PWD (Revenue) issued after issuance of e-NIT No. & Date uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt issued after the advertisement of e-NIT. The date on challan should be between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date.**

No: CEJ/TS/S/262-72
Dated: 16.06.2025

sd/-
[Er. R K Gupta]
Chief Engineer
PWD (R&B)
Jammu Zone

DIP/J-2261/25
Date: 17-6-25

SC stays demolition of Thane dargah for 7 days

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

The Supreme Court on Tuesday intervened in an ongoing legal tussle over the demolition of a religious structure in Thane, Maharashtra, by ordering a temporary halt to any further action for seven days.

The order provides the Pardeshi Baba Trust, which manages the structure, time to move the Bombay High Court with a recall plea against its earlier demolition directive. A vacation bench of justices Sandeep Mehta and Prasanna B. Varale passed the interim order while hearing a petition challenging the Bombay High Court's decision to demolish alleged unauthorised portions of a dargah that had expanded significantly from an initial 160 sq. ft. to over 17,600 sq. ft. without municipal sanction, on private land.

The High Court, while deciding a writ petition earlier, had criticised both the Trust and the Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC), describing the structure's expansion as "unscrupulous" and censuring the municipal body for submitting "evasive affidavits."

Appearing for the Trust, Senior Advocate Huzefa Ahmadi argued that the High Court was not informed of a critical development: the dismissal



al of a civil suit related to the property in April 2025.

He claimed this information was either overlooked or inadequately presented before the High Court, which could have impacted the outcome. Ahmadi also submitted that the contested construction area was only 3,600 sq. ft., not the entire 17,610 sq. ft. as assumed by the High Court.

Countering these claims, Senior Advocate Madhavi Divan, representing the private landowner, accused the Trust of exploiting religious sentiments to encroach upon private property.

She cited municipal records confirming the illegality of the entire structure and alleged that parts of the demolished premises had been reconstructed, showing defiance of judicial orders.

"This is private land, not public property. When were you granted permission to carry out construction over 17,000 square feet? Where is the approval?" Divan ques-

tioned during the hearing.

The bench noted the confusion surrounding the facts and the incomplete execution of the March 10, 2025, demolition order.

Justice Mehta observed that the High Court might have taken a different view had it been made aware of the civil suit's dismissal. Calling the omission "embarrassing," the Court said it was inclined to allow the Trust to approach the High Court with a recall application.

"We are inclined to give them liberty to file a recall application in light of the High Court's omission to consider the fact of the suit's disposal... We will protect them for seven days," the Court stated, while clarifying that no opinion had been formed on the legality of the remaining construction.

The court made it clear that if the Bombay High Court refuses to entertain the recall plea, the Trust would be at liberty to return to the Supreme Court for further relief.

Israel has right to defend itself : G7 leaders, while Trump leaves Summit early

AGENCIES
ALBERTA (CANADA), JUNE 17

The Group of Seven leaders, meeting here for the 51st Summit, on Tuesday affirmed support to Israel, describing Iran as the 'principal source of regional instability and terror', while US President Donald Trump left the meeting early after warning Iranian people to evacuate Tehran.

The G-7 leaders who are attending the two-day Summit, reiterated commitment to peace and stability in the Middle East and called for resolution of the Iranian crisis leading to a broader de-escalation of hostilities in the region, including a ceasefire in Gaza.

In a statement 'Recent Developments Between



Israel And Iran', the G-7 leaders asserted that Israel has a right to defend itself and Iran can never have a nuclear weapon.

"We, the leaders of the G7, reiterate our commitment to peace and stability in the Middle East. In this context we affirm that Israel has a right to defend itself. We reiterate our support for the security of Israel. We also affirm the importance of

the protection of civilians. Iran is the principal source of regional instability and terror. We have been consistently clear that Iran can never have a nuclear weapon,' they said in a brief statement.

They said they would remain vigilant to the implications for international energy markets and stand ready to coordinate, including with like-minded partners, to safeguard

market stability.

The statement came as the US President abruptly left for home on Monday evening cutting short his visit to Canada as the Israel-Iran crisis deepened further. President Trump warned Iranian people to 'immediately evacuate Tehran.'

"Iran should have signed the (nuclear) deal I told them to sign. What a shame and waste of human life. Simply stated, Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon. I said it over and over again," Trump said.

Before he left the US President asked his National Security Council to be prepared in the situation room as he returns early from the G7 Summit.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said on X on Monday that

because of what was going on in the Middle East, President Trump would be leaving tonight after dinner with Heads of State.

"President Trump had a great day at the G7, even signing a major trade deal with the United Kingdom and Prime Minister Keir Starmer. Much was accomplished, but because of what's going on in the Middle East, President Trump will be leaving tonight after dinner with Heads of State."

Trump told reporters he had to leave early for "obvious reasons" but later posted on Truth Social that his early exit had "nothing to do with" working on a ceasefire between Israel and Iran.

He said the reason for his early departure was "much bigger."

Congress doing vote bank politics over caste census: BJP

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP and spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi on Tuesday criticised the Congress party, asserting that it has been engaging in vote bank politics under the guise of reservation policies.

At the same time, he emphasised that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government is committed to ensuring dignity and upliftment for all castes through the conduct of a comprehensive caste census.

"Under the leadership of PM Modi, the cabinet has decided to conduct the census. In the press release, it was clearly stated that, for the first time in the history of independent India, a social, economic survey, and caste census will be carried out along with the national census," Trivedi stated during a press conference here.

He further highlighted that the NDA government stands for 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' (inclusive development), contrasting it with the Congress party's approach.

The BJP spokesperson accused the Congress of neglecting important issues such as Operation Sadbhav and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), and criticised their opposition to the caste census.

"The Congress party has a habit of overlooking crucial matters.



They are spreading false claims about the caste census and attempting to divert attention from the genuine goal of ensuring social justice," he added.

Trivedi raised concerns over Congress' alleged efforts to manipulate reservation policies, citing examples from Karnataka, Telangana, and West Bengal.

"I want to ask the Congress party what they have to say about the people of the minority community, the castes, that they have tried to include in such a large number in Karnataka and Telangana, about which the court has also commented? After all, whose part do you want to take?"

"The West Bengal government has included a large number of Muslim community members in OBC lists, with reports indicating that 73 out of 91 castes are from the Muslim community. Such practices reflect vote bank politics aimed at undermining the share of backward classes," he stated.

He further sought to clarify that the ongoing survey in Telangana is not a full caste census but

merely a social and economic survey. "The notification of the caste census is issued by the central government. States can only conduct surveys, not full censuses," Trivedi explained.

He alleged that Congress kept power within one family and failed to support real economic development even though it ruled India for decades. "The Congress is busy in destructive policy. Wherever the Congress came in power, the fiscal position of that state has deteriorated because of their 'khata khat' model of engaging in expenditure spree," Trivedi said referring to Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's acknowledgment of the state's precarious fiscal position.

Addressing the upcoming population census scheduled to begin in March 2027, he said it will be a comprehensive drive to be conducted in two phases, gathering demographic, socio-economic, and cultural details of every individual besides collecting data on housing conditions, assets, and amenities

Indian Army contingent departs for France to participate in exercise Shakti



AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

An Indian Army contingent departed on Tuesday to participate in the 8th edition of the biennial India-France joint military exercise, Shakti, scheduled to be held from June 18 to July 1, at Camp Larzac, La Cavalerie, in France.

The Indian contingent comprising of 90 personnel is being represented primarily by a Battalion of the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles besides personnel from other arms and services. The French contingent comprising of 90 personnel will be represented by the 13th Foreign Legion Half-Brigade (13th DBLE), a Defence Ministry statement said.

Exercise Shakti is a biennial training engagement between the Indian and French Armies, aimed at enhancing interoperability, operational cooper-

ation, and military to military connect. This edition will focus on joint operations in a sub-conventional environment under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, with training being conducted in semi-urban terrain.

The exercise will provide a platform for both contingents to rehearse and refine tactical drills, share best practices in Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs), train on new generation equipment (contemporary military technologies) and strengthen physical endurance. It will also foster esprit-de-corps, mutual respect and professional camaraderie between the two armies.

Exercise Shakti-VIII underscores the growing defence cooperation between India and France and will strengthen strategic ties between the two friendly nations.

SC to hear Tamil Nadu ADGP's plea against Madras HC-Directed arrest in abduction case

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to urgently hear a petition filed by Tamil Nadu Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) H.M. Jayaram challenging a Madras High Court order that had directed his arrest in connection with an alleged abduction case.

The matter is scheduled to be listed before the apex court on Wednesday.

Jayaram's petition comes in the wake of a directive issued by Justice P. Velmurugan of the Madras High Court, while hearing an anticipatory bail plea filed by KV Kuppam MLA "Poovai" Jagan Moorthy, also named in the case.

The case originates from a complaint filed by a woman named Lakshmi



at Thiruvallur Police Station. She alleged that her elder son had married a girl without her family's consent, prompting members of the girl's family and alleged associates to forcefully enter their home in search of the couple.

When the couple could not be located, Lakshmi claimed that her 18-year-old younger son was abducted instead and later found injured, allegedly dropped off near a hotel.

Serious allegations have surfaced suggesting that the abduction was carried out using the official vehicle of ADGP Jayaram. The MLA is also accused of

conspiring in the incident.

Observing the seriousness of the matter, the High Court had directed the police to proceed against the senior officer in accordance with law.

"Being a public servant, he is accountable to the public. A strong message must go out that no one is above the law," Justice Velmurugan noted.

Following the High Court's directive, Jayaram was arrested on Monday.

The Supreme Court will now consider the senior police officer's appeal seeking protection and challenging the legality of the High Court's order.

India's Covid cases below 7,000

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

For the third consecutive day, India has recorded a decline in Covid-19 cases, bringing much-needed relief amid ongoing concerns about the spread of the new variant.

According to the data available from the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, active cases across the country have fallen below 7,000, with a reduction of 428 cases in the past 24 hours.

The total active cases now stand at 6,836, compared to previous days. On Monday, the country

saw a decline of 119 cases. One death was reported from Maharashtra. The deceased, a 44 years old female was suffering from chronic liver cirrhosis post bariatric surgery with Covid-19, as per the Ministry.

On the Covid cases, statewide, Kerala has experienced the largest decrease, with 261 fewer cases in the last 24 hours, bringing its active cases to 1,659. Other states reporting notable declines include Gujarat with 185 fewer cases (active cases at 1,248), Delhi with 94 fewer (active cases at 555), Maharashtra with 28 fewer (active cases at

512), and Andhra Pradesh with 18 fewer.

Smaller reductions were observed in Sikkim, Assam, Telangana, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Goa. The States that reported increase in cases were Haryana, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Manipur and Punjab.

The current active case load reflects positive trends across the country, indicating a slowdown in the spread of Covid-19. However, many health experts believe that the actual cases may be on the higher side since the virus has mild impact and people are not going for a test.

Congress accuses Modi Govt of delaying caste census, calls it political diversion

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 17

The Congress on Tuesday slammed the Modi government for what it called a deliberate "delay in conducting a caste census", accusing it of politicising the issue to divert public attention - much like the women's reservation bill.

Congress general secretary Sachin Pilot, while addressing a press conference here, said that the demand for a caste census, led prominently by Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha



Rahul Gandhi, has long been a priority for the Congress, and the government has only "yielded to this pressure in principle, not in action".

"The Modi govern-

ment is simply managing headlines, not genuinely addressing the issue," Pilot said, adding that the formal notification lacks any mention of a "caste-based enumeration".

"The government has claimed that the caste census will begin in 2027, but concerns are growing due to the glaring budgetary shortfall. Only Rs 574 crore has been allocated, whereas such a massive exercise requires at least Rs 8,000 to 10,000 crore," Pilot alleged.

Accusing the central government of lacking both intent and commitment, Pilot said, "The objective is not just to collect data on an individual's caste but to understand the living conditions of these

families and create policies to substantially improve their livelihoods." Without tangible data, no state or central government can implement targeted interventions, which is what we aimed to achieve."

"Initially, they labelled us 'Urban Naxals' and refused to accept these demands. Now, sensing the country's mood, they have accepted the proposal in principle. However, there seems to be considerable confusion and dissatisfaction regarding it," Pilot said.

Smriti Mandhana returns to number one in ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings

AGENCIES
DUBAI, JUNE 17

India batter Smriti Mandhana has reclaimed the number one position in the ICC Women's ODI Batting Rankings.

The 28-year-old rose one slot, returning to the top for the first time since November 2019.

South Africa's captain Laura Wolvaardt, slipped to joint-second place (shared with England's new captain Nat Siverbrunt), following innings of 27 and 28 in the first two ODIs against the West Indies.

This gave way to Mandhana, who now sits comfortably with 727 ratings



points to the runners' ups' 719, ending Wolvaardt's more than six-month long perch at the top.

Wolvaardt's teammate, Tazmin Brits advanced five places to 27th thanks

to her half-century in the first match of the three-match series, which is currently levelled after South Africa bounced back from their opening, four-wicket loss to beat the hosts by 40

runs in the second match in Barbados over the weekend. In other movements, former Proteas captain, Sune Luus, struck 76 in the second match to gain seven places to 42nd in the batters list and rose seven slots to 42nd in the bowlers list.

The West Indies' opener Qiana Joseph's innings of 60 in their first match saw her leap 12 slots to joint-67th place.

Spinners, Afy Fletcher and Nonkululeko Mlaba, made the most significant gains in the bowlers list, progressing four and six places respectively to 19th and 23rd place after they both took four wickets in the second match.

New Zealand captain Devine to retire from ODIs

AGENCIES
WELLINGTON, JUNE 17

New Zealand captain Sophie Devine will retire from ODI cricket after the World Cup later this year.

The 35-year-old, who will skipper the side at the 50-over World Cup in India and Sri Lanka, will remain available for T20Is.

One of the finest all-rounders in world cricket, Devine is fourth on New Zealand's all-time run-scorers list with 3,990, while she is one of only two players - alongside Lea Tahuhu - to have taken more than 100 wickets. Appointed captain in 2020, Devine led the White Ferns to T20 World Cup glory against South Africa in 2024, according to a BBC news.

"It feels like the right



time for me to start stepping away," said Devine.

"It's important that everyone knows I'm focused and dedicated to giving this group everything I can before I step away.

"I'm really excited by where this young group's going and I'm looking forward to playing my part

in the next six to nine months."

Liz Green, head of New Zealand women's performance, said Devine had the team's "full support" after her decision. The World Cup begins on September 30, with co-hosts India and Sri Lanka facing each other in Bengaluru.

Netherlands & Nepal overdeliver in triple Super Over tussle

AGENCIES
TITWOOD (GLASGOW), JUNE 17

First-ever triple Super Over played out in international cricket in tri-series meeting between the Netherlands and Nepal.

The Nepal men's national team lived up to their "Cardiac Kids" moniker once more, though were this time on the wrong side of another international thriller, losing a tri-series T20I to The Netherlands in a never-seen-before third Super Over on Monday.

After 40 overs failed to separate the two teams in Glasgow, both scoring 152 in their respective innings, the teams walked back out for the first Super Over, both plundering 19 runs in six balls.

Having taken the match to a second Super Over through a Max O'Dowd four, the Dutch batted first in the second Super Over, hitting 13 runs off the first three balls, though were held at the end of the over through a wicket to Lalit Rajbanshi to finish with 17. It was Nepal's turn to match the lofty six-ball score set, with Rohit Paudel and Dipendra Singh Airee combining with 17 between them, capped off with an Airee six to trigger unprecedented scenes in the international game, an ICC report said.

Eventually, it was the Dutch to hold their nerve, with Zach Lion-Cachet's spin taking two wickets and ending Nepal's third crack at breaking the deadlock, with the Dutch youngster also at the end for Michael Levitt's six to finally finish proceedings.

It's the first time a men's professional T20 match has needed a third Super Over across domestic, franchise, and International cricket.

Earlier, it was the heroics of Nepali newcomer Nandan Yadav which denied the Dutch victory in regulation overs, hitting two boundaries, including one from the last ball, to tie the match up.

Brief score:
Nepal: 152/8 & 19/1 & 17/0 & 0/2 (0.4)
Netherlands: 152/7 & 19/0 & 17/2 & 6/0 (0.1)

Mulder wants to make No.3 spot his own for South Africa

AGENCIES
LONDON, JUNE 17

South Africa all-rounder Wiaan Mulder made a decent impression when batting at first drop in the ICC World Test Championship Final and wants to make the spot his own going forward.

Mulder contributed scores of six and 27 during the Ultimate Test at Lord's, with the 27-year-old's partnership of 61 with centurion Aiden Markram on the third day of the contest a pivotal moment in the Proteas' five-wicket victory over Australia.

It was just the fourth time that Mulder had batted at No.3 for South Africa at Test level, and the talented all-rounder is keen to cement that spot in the Proteas' lineup.

Ronaldo loan move to Al-Hilal counter-intuitive

AGENCIES
RIYADH (SAUDI ARABIA), JUNE 17

The chief executive of Saudi Pro League club Al-Hilal said that a loan move for Cristiano Ronaldo before the Club World Cup would have been "completely counter-intuitive" because he played for their "biggest opponent" Al-Nassr.

Al-Hilal were linked with a possible deal for the 40-year-old Portugal forward after Fifa introduced an additional transfer window earlier this month because of the revamped tournament.

Both rival Riyadh clubs are controlled by the country's Public Investment Fund (PIF), and Ronaldo is



Ronaldo as a huge player, as we all recognise he is, it's certainly completely counter-intuitive that you bring the biggest player of your biggest opponent to play with you.

"Even more when it's only for three to four weeks.

"We've been trying to see if we can reinforce the team. But some players were with a mindset of 'holidays already', some players were sometimes just asking for too much money, and we're aware that our team is extremely competitive.

"We'll go into the traditional transfer window after the tournament still with the biggest ambitions to see if we can reinforce the team even more."

out of contract at Al-Nassr at the end of June.

But when asked if they came close to a move for the forward, Esteve Calzada told BBC Sport: "We normally don't comment on players' situations, particularly because our name is always put out there, when a player or an agent wants to negotiate a

better deal with his club, or is trying to move out.

"It's been a very weird transfer window, it's a very short period of time.

"You don't want to take a decision thinking about this tournament that then you have to carry on with for the next two or three years.

"As much as I respect

Naushad Moosa's U23 boys all set for Tajikistan test on June 18

AGENCIES
DUSHANBE, JUNE 17

The India U23 men's team have arrived in Tajikistan to play two friendly matches against the hosts and Kyrgyz Republic.

The Blue Colts will first take on Tajikistan on Wednesday at the Hisor Central Stadium.

Led by head coach Naushad Moosa, the India U23s had been camping in Kolkata since June 1 before travelling to the Central Asian nation. After landing in the capital Dushanbe on Monday evening, Moosa's 23-member squad had a mobility session on Tuesday morning and will hold a 90-minute training session in the evening.

On June 21, India will meet Kyrgyz Republic in the second game.

"The boys are very eager for tomorrow. I've been talking to them about how important these games will be for us," said Moosa, for whom it's his second tour with the U23 team, after coaching them in two friendlies against Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur last year.

For the Blue Colts, these matches in Tajikistan are part of their preparations for the AFC U23 Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers that will be held in September. India will face Bahrain, Qatar and Brunei Darussalam as they aim to qualify for the U23 continental event for the first time.

Despite Dushanbe



being located 700 metres above sea level, the weather is hot at this time of the year, soaring to almost 40 degrees during the day. What the Blue Colts mainly have to adjust to is the artificial turf surface of the Hisor Central Stadium, located 25 kilometres from the city of Dushanbe. Moosa hoped for a good turnout at the 20,000-capacity venue.

"The weather is pretty warm. It's normal for us. It's always good to have supporters in the stands.

We would love to have them cheer for us. Most of our players are coming here for the first time, so it would be great motivation for them. I think the last time the Indian senior team played in Tajikistan, there were a lot of Indian fans in the stadium, so let's hope for the same," said

the 53-year-old.

Tajikistan U23s were last in action in November 2024 when they lost two friendlies against United Arab Emirates, both by a 0-3 margin. At the AFC U23 Asian Cup 2024, Tajikistan were knocked out in the group stage after defeats to Iraq and Saudi Arabia and a win over Thailand. But the team structure changes every year in youth football, and Moosa expects a different yet strong challenge on Wednesday.

"We know Tajikistan are a strong team. They qualified for the U23 Asian Cup last year and also did well at the senior Asian Cup. The players will, of course, be different tomorrow. The coach has changed. We just have to go out there and do our job right," said Moosa.

Chelsea beats LAFC at Club World Cup

AGENCIES
ATLANTA, JUNE 17

Chelsea kicked off its Club World Cup campaign with a comfortable 2-0 win against LAFC in a half-empty Mercedes Benz Stadium here.

Chelsea was the better side, although LAFC looked to move the ball around against a rival that started the match with three of its four new signings on the bench.

Chelsea had to withstand a bright start from LAFC in a ground where there were far too many empty seats, but after around 15 minutes the Conference League champions began to get control of midfield on Tuesday.

The more Cole Palmer and Nicolas Jackson got involved, the more danger Chelsea created, with Palmer, now wearing the number 10 shirt, curled an effort just after 20 minutes.

Jackson was involved in the opening goal with a smart pass to Pedro Neto, who left his marker on the floor before beating Hugo Lloris with a cool finish in the 34th minute.

LAFC had to replace Nathan Ordaz with David Martinez two minutes later after the El Salvador international suffered a knock on the head.

Real Madrid prepares for 2025 Club World Cup debut

AGENCIES
MIAMI, JUNE 17

Expectations are high ahead of Real Madrid's debut at the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup, as they face Al Hilal at Hard Rock Stadium here on Wednesday.

The match marks Xabi Alonso's first official game as Real Madrid head coach. Although the former Madrid midfielder and ex-Bayer Leverkusen boss has had just over a week with the squad, all eyes will be on what early changes he has implemented.

Under former coach Carlo Ancelotti, Real Madrid covered among the least distance on the pitch and rarely applied a high press, instead relying on the pace of Kylian Mbappe, Vinicius Jr. and Rodrygo to hit on the break. Alonso favored a high-pressing style at Leverkusen, with his players disrupting opponents' buildup from the back.

Whether he can instill that mentality in Madrid after only a few sessions, particularly in Miami's heat, remains to be seen.

At Leverkusen, Alonso frequently deployed a back three with attacking full-backs. It is unclear if he will adopt a similar system with Madrid.

The arrival of Trent Alexander-Arnold from Liverpool supports the use of wing-backs, and the England international appears poised to make his Real Madrid debut, along with Dean Huijsen, who signed from Bournemouth.

Huijsen impressed during the recent international break. His height and composure on the ball offer Madrid added flexibility, and it's easy to envision Mbappe and Vinicius exploiting gaps behind Al

Hilal's defense as Huijsen delivers long passes from deep.

Vinicius remains under scrutiny following a disappointing domestic campaign, while Alonso must also finalize his central midfield pairing, likely Fede Valverde and possibly Dani Ceballos.

Al Hilal's lineup features several players familiar to Spanish fans, including former Barcelona and Manchester City defender Joao Cancelo, forward Malcom, and former Atletico Madrid left-back Renan Lodi. With a sell-out crowd expected, the match promises to provide a strong benchmark of the Saudi League's level against one of Europe's top clubs.

Aryna Sabalenka apologises to Coco Gauff for comments

AGENCIES
BERLIN, JUNE 17

Aryna Sabalenka said she wrote to Coco Gauff to apologise for her "completely unprofessional" remarks after the American beat her in the French Open final.

World number one Sabalenka put in an error-strewn performance in a 6-7 (5-7) 6-2 6-4 loss to Gauff earlier this month.

The Belarusian said afterwards it was the "worst final I ever played", adding: "I think she won the match not because she played incredible but just because I made all of those mistakes."

Speaking 10 days on from the Paris final, Sabalenka said she "absolutely regretted" her remarks.

"That was just completely unprofessional of me. I let my emotions get the better of me," the 27-year-old told Eurosport Germany.

"I'm just a human being



who's still learning in life. I think we all have those days when we lose control.

"I wrote to Coco afterwards - not immediately, but recently."

Sabalenka, a three-time Grand Slam singles champion, has lost both of the major finals she has reached this year, according to a BBC news.

She lost to Madison Keys in the Australian Open final, where she was two-time defending champion, before the defeat by Gauff.

She committed 70 unforced errors against Gauff, one of the best defenders on the women's tour, and struggled to keep

her composure.

"I was super emotional and not very smart at that press conference," Sabalenka added.

"It took me a while to revisit it, to approach it with open eyes and to understand.

"I realised a lot about myself. Why did I lose so many finals? I kept getting so emotional.

"So it was a tough but very instructive lesson for me."

Sabalenka begins her grass-court season at the Berlin Open, where she is the top seed, before Wimbledon gets under way on June 30.

Reasi all set to roll out SMILE Scheme for rehabilitation of vulnerable children

J1 NEWS SERVICE
REASI, JUNE 17

In a significant step towards ensuring a life of dignity for marginalised individuals, Reasi is poised to become the second district in Jammu and Kashmir after Srinagar to implement the SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme.

Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik has emphasised on swift implementation of SMILE Scheme for tackling begging with compassion and opportunity.

Launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on February 12, 2022, the SMILE scheme focuses on the rehabilitation, reintegration and empowerment of beggars, helping them



transition into mainstream society through structured support. The Ministry has identified 50 districts, towns, cities and locations. Holy Katra town of the District Reasi, the base camp of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi yatra is one of them.

A key Project Approval Committee meeting, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik was held recently to scrutinize applications from NGOs interested in implementing the scheme. Out of

the three applications received, Prayas Juvenile Aid Centre Society secured the highest score based on the selection criteria established by the Ministry. Its project proposal was approved following a detailed review and presentation, which outlined a comprehensive plan including a baseline survey and subsequent rehabilitation efforts.

During the meeting, District Social Welfare Officer Sachin Sharma provided

an in-depth briefing on the scheme's objectives and implementation strategy. Prayas NGO shared their vision for the Reasi district, detailing a phased approach to bring vulnerable individuals back into the social fold through education, skill-building and livelihood opportunities.

Speaking at the meeting, DC Nidhi Malik stated, "We are committed to launching the SMILE scheme in Reasi in the coming weeks. Addressing the issue of begging is an urgent need and it is equally important to provide genuine support to those in need, helping them secure a dignified means of living."

DC Nidhi Malik further emphasized that a proposal to implement the scheme in Srinagar had previously been submitted

and successfully approved by the Government of India. "Special provisions will be made for children found begging – they will be enrolled in schools to ensure their education and holistic development," she added.

The scheme also includes measures to identify and dismantle organized begging rackets. "Our goal is not only to eliminate begging but also to empower individuals affected by it through vocational training and sustainable livelihood opportunities," Ms. Malik remarked.

With the rollout of the SMILE scheme, the District Administration of Reasi aims to adopt a holistic approach, focusing on social reintegration and the overall well-being of marginalized individuals.

Empowering Tribal Communities: DAJGUA Camp conducted at Chandaji Bandipora

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JUNE 17

As part of the ongoing Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), a special awareness and outreach camp was organized at Chandaji Kralpora in Bonakoot Block of district Bandipora.

The event was organised to empower tribal communities through awareness on various government welfare schemes and developmental initiatives.

On the occasion, officials from various departments including Health, Education, Social Welfare, Rural Development, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, and others partici-



pated and provided on-the-spot awareness, guidance, and scheme registration support to the local population.

The camp witnessed active public participation, reflecting the growing awareness and enthusiasm among tribal residents toward self-reliance and development.

DAJGUA campaign continues to play a pivotal role in bringing governance to the grassroots and uplifting tribal communities across the district. The ongoing DAJGUA campaign, aims to ensure full coverage of eligible individuals in 31 identified tribal villages of Bandipora, while promoting inclusive development.

DC Kishtwar reviews arrangements for Urs of Shah Farid-Ud-Din (RA)

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JUNE 17

Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma today convened a meeting of the line departments to review the arrangements for the Urs of Shah Farid-Ud-Din Sahib (RA), scheduled on June 21, 2025.

The DC inquired about the measures initiated for logistic and civic amenities including the provision of accommodation for visiting devotees, power and water supply, firewood, ration, LPG, sanitation, security, medical care, transportation, fire tender services and overall traffic management. He issued a slew of directions to the concerned departments.

SSP Kishtwar assured that comprehensive security arrangements will be



put in place during the Urs celebrations.

The DC directed the XEN, Jal Shakti, to ensure the availability of sufficient drinking water for devotees/Ziareens at all shrines and at Biat-Ul-Ziareen, with a backup provision of water tankers.

The DC also directed the EO Municipal Council to carry out repair

and replacement of non-functional streetlights in the town and adjoining areas of the shrines, and in the Chowgan ground to facilitate hassle-free movement of devotees. He also emphasized cleanliness around both shrines and stressed the lime lining of roads leading to them.

Additionally, the ARTO, DTI and police administra-

tion were instructed to devise a proper transport plan, arrange additional buses for the smooth to-and-fro movement of pilgrims, and manage traffic and vehicle parking effectively.

The JPDCL was directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply at both shrines and the accommodation areas for Ziareens, with provisions for generator sets as backup.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed for setting up of a Joint Information Dissemination Booth by the Civil Administration and Police to spread awareness, provide information and facilitate public announcements.

Representatives from the Auqaf Kishtwar and

Sajada-e-Nasheen (from both shrines) apprised the DC of various issues. The DC listened attentively and issued necessary directions on the spot, assuring them of full support from the administration.

Necessary directions were also given to the FCS&CA, Health Department, Fire and Emergency Services for making efficient and adequate arrangements.

The meeting was attended by Naresh Singh, SSP Kishtwar; Pawan Kotwal, ADC Kishtwar; Idrees Lone, ACR Kishtwar; Rishi Kumar Sharma, PO ICDS Kishtwar; Kaiser Bhawani, CEO Kishtwar Development Authority besides other District and Sectoral Officers and representatives of socio-religious organizations.

DDC Reasi reviews implementation of agriculture & allied sector Credit-Linked Schemes

J1 NEWS SERVICE
REASI, JUNE 17

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Reasi, Nidhi Malik convened a comprehensive review meeting today to assess the progress of the agriculture and allied sector credit-linked schemes.

The meeting was attended by functionaries of stakeholder departments and representatives from banking institutions

The meeting focused on the performance matrix, sanctioning, and disbursement status of key schemes, including the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Enterprises (PM-FME), PM-KISAN, Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and the Agriculture



Infrastructure Fund (AIF). The DDC emphasized the vital role of banks in supporting farmers by ensuring hassle-free and timely credit disbursement, which is crucial to achieving the district's agricultural development goals.

DDC Reasi Malik inquired about the number of pending cases under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and sought clarification on the reasons for pendency in the AIF scheme. She also directed the Agriculture Department to organise special training sessions

for KKGs to enhance their understanding and outreach capabilities.

Further, the DDC instructed to widely circulate the calendar of upcoming awareness camps, ensuring transparency and public participation. She directed the Agriculture Department to organise awareness camps in Mahore and other areas to inform the local population about various schemes and how to avail the benefits of the same.

The meeting was attended by CPO Reasi Narinder Kumar, CAO, CHO, CAHO, DSHO, Cluster head and other concerned officers.

Committee on Public Undertakings holds introductory-cum-review meeting



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 17

The Committee on Public Undertakings of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened an introductory-cum-review meeting at the Assembly Complex, Srinagar.

The meeting was presided over by Committee Chairman, Ali Mohammad Sagar and attended by the members including Ali Mohammad Dar, Baldev Raj Sharma, Mir Mohammad Fayaz, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Showkat Hussain Ganai, Said U Din Bhat and Tanvir Sadiq.

The Chairman empha-

sised the importance of proactive participation from all members and officials in strengthening the operations and efficiency of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

He highlighted the urgent need to take concrete steps for revival of loss-making Corporations. He stressed the importance of robust audits and evaluations to ensure added transparency and accountability. He instructed the concerned departments to submit the status of public undertakings along with audit reports to enable informed decision-making and reforms.

"The aim of the Com-

mittee is to ensure that our public undertakings are functional, contributing to economic development and creating business and employment opportunities for the people," said the Chairman.

During the session, the Principal Accountant General informed on the audit procedures and offered recommendations to further enhance the performance of public sector corporations in Jammu and

Kashmir.

Emphasis was given on holding Corporation wise review meetings, while members of the Committee committed to work collectively for improvement in the sector.

They also gave their suggestions regarding various issues pertaining to the sector.

Also present in the meeting were JPN Singh, Principal Accountant General J&K, Srinagar; Manoj Pandita, Secretary Legislative Assembly, Director General Accounts and Treasuries, Director General Expenditure Finance and other concerned officers.

District-Level NCORD meeting held at Udhampur

DC calls for strengthening of anti-drug measures



J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JUNE 17

Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the District-Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre here in the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex to assess the implementation of drug control measures and their on ground impact.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Amod Ashok Nagpure, Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr. Umesh Shan and other officers from line departments.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on progress achieved in identification of individu-

als involved in illicit drug trade and investigations into the NDPS Act cases.

The Drugs & Food Control Organization and the Police Department were tasked with submitting detailed reports on types of drugs seized and their respective locations to facilitate a targeted and coordinated crackdown on drug peddling.

The DC directed them enforcement departments to submit comprehensive action-taken reports on earlier directives. She sought updates on freezing and attachment of financial assets of drug traffickers, action taken against pharmacies selling scheduled drugs without valid prescriptions, measures to curb illicit cultivation of narcotic crops, rehabilitation initiatives for victims

of substance abuse, surveillance in educational institutions and implementation of Nasha Mukta Panchayat campaign. The DC instructed stakeholder departments to scale up counseling services and IEC activities to raise public awareness, especially at the grassroots level. The identification and monitoring of drug abuse hotspots in the district, action taken against government employees found involved in drug trafficking and inspection and monitoring of drug de-addiction centres etc was also stressed upon. Tehsildars and ETO were directed to mobilize teams and machinery to identify and destroy wild cannabis growth in their jurisdictions.

Arrangements for International Day of Yoga-2025 finalized at Bhaderwah



J1 NEWS SERVICE
BHADARWAH, JUNE 17

A meeting to finalize the arrangements for 11th International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2025 was convened today in the Office Chamber of the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bhadarwah.

Speaking at the meeting, the ADC Bhadarwah, Sunil Bhutyal emphasized the importance of coordination among all departments

to ensure the smooth, inclusive and impactful observance of the event. It was decided that the main celebration will take place at Gatha Park, Bhadarwah, while concurrent yoga sessions will be organized at Government Degree Colleges, identified tourist destinations, Vibrant Villages and Amrit Sarovars.

The ADC urged all departments to mobilize maximum public partici-

pation, especially involving school children, college students, youth clubs, PRIs, Self Help Groups (SHGs) and civil society members.

Detailed discussions were held regarding logistics, including sanitation, security arrangements, medical facilities, sound system setup and media coverage to ensure the program's success.

The meeting was attended by the District Ayush Officer Doda, Divisional Forest Officer, Tehsildar Bhadarwah, Block Development Officer, Block Medical Officer, Executive Officer Municipality, Zonal Education Officer, Dr. Akhtar Hussain (Professor, GDC Bhadarwah), Dr. Iftakar Ahmed (Ayush Department, Bhadarwah) and other officers and representatives from various departments.