

**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
- Persistent vomiting
- A skin rash
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit
- Redness

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## Hostilities between India, Pak ended on Islamabad's request: PM Modi tells Trump

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUN 18 (KNO)

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Wednesday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made it clear to United States President Donald Trump that India will "never accept" mediation on any issue.

The Foreign Secretary said that PM Modi in a 35-minute telephone call to the United States President stated that India will "never accept" mediation and that the discussions between Indian and Pakistani militaries on cessation of military actions last month were initiated at Islamabad's request.

PM Modi also said that India no longer views "terrorism as a proxy war, but as a war itself", and that India's Operation Sindoor is still ongoing.

Pertinently, the cessation of hostilities between India and Pakistan was first announced by President Trump on May 10. Since then, the US president has been claiming that he brokered the ceasefire deal by threatening to stop trade with both countries if they do not agree to stop the conflict.



Prime Minister Modi declined a request by the US president to stop over in the US on his way back from Canada, citing "prior commitments".

The May 7-10 military clashes between India and Pakistan figured prominently during the phone conversation that took place as the two leaders could not meet on the sidelines of the G7 summit following the American president's early departure.

"Prime Minister Modi clearly conveyed to President Trump that at no point during this entire sequence of events was

there any discussion, at any level, on an India-US trade deal, or any proposal for a mediation by the US between India and Pakistan," the Foreign Secretary said.

"The discussion to cease military action took place directly between India and Pakistan through the existing channels of communication between the two armed forces, and it was initiated at Pakistan's request," he said, sharing key points of the PM Modi-Trump conversation.

PM Modi told President Trump in clear terms that after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, India

had conveyed its determination to take action against terrorism to the whole world.

PM Modi told Trump that India had only targeted the terrorist camps and hideouts in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, adding India's actions were very measured, precise, and non-escalatory.

"India had also made it clear that any act of aggression from Pakistan would be met with a stronger response," the foreign secretary said.

"On the night of May 9, Vice President (JD) Vance had made a phone

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## Committed to fulfill PM Modi's vision of disaster resilient India: MHA

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUN 18 (KNO)

The Ministry of Home Affairs on Wednesday said that it's committed to fulfill Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of disaster resilient India.

A PIB statement issued to the news agency said, "Under the leadership of PM Modi, Government of India is standing shoulder to shoulder with the state governments during natural calamities and disasters."

It said, "To fulfill Prime

Minister Modi's vision of disaster resilient India, Ministry of Home Affairs under the guidance of Home Minister Amit Shah has taken several initiatives to ensure effective management of disasters in the country. A number of steps have been taken to prevent any extensive loss to life and property during disasters by strengthening disaster risk reduction system in India."

The statement said, "The Central Government has approved a

number of mitigation projects with overall financial outlay of Rs 7253.51 crore, for mitigating the risks of a number of hazards in the areas of Urban Floods (Rs. 3075.65 crore), Landslides (Rs.1000 crore), GLOF (Rs. 150 crore), Forest Fire (Rs. 818.92 crore), Lightning (Rs. 186.78 crore) and Drought (Rs. 2022.16 crore)."

"This additional assistance is over and above the funds released by the Centre to the States in the State Disaster Response

Fund (SDRF), already placed at the disposal of the States. During the financial year 2024-25, the Central Government has released Rs. 20,264.40 crore to 28 States under SDRF and Rs. 5,160.76 crore under NDRF to 19 States," it said, adding, "Additionally, Rs. 4984.25 crore from the State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF) to 19 States and Rs. 719.72 crore from National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) to 08 States has also been released." KNO

## CM chairs high-level meeting to finalize Muharram arrangements



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUN 18 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday chaired a high-level meeting at the Civil Secretariat to review and finalize arrangements for the upcoming holy month of Muharram.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary; Ministers Sakeena Itoo, Javed Ahmed Rana, Javed Ahmed Dar, and Satish Sharma; Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani; Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta; administrative secretaries; the Inspector General of Police Kashmir; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Budgam, Baramulla and Jammu; Members of the Legislative Assembly; senior officers from line departments; prominent heads of Shia and reli-

## GCC delegation calls on CM Omar

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 18

A delegation from the Group of Concerned Citizens (GCC), J&K, today called on the Chief Minister and highlighted several issues of public importance.

Led by Khurshid Ahmad Ganai, retired IAS officer, the delegation raised concerns regarding the need to improve district healthcare, reduce unnecessary referrals to tertiary hospitals, and strengthen cancer care facilities.

The delegation also emphasized the importance of increased investment in the agriculture sector, promotion of vertical farming and innova-



tion, and strict control over the conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes.

In the education sector, the GCC called for enhanced focus on teacher training, introduction of STEM and AI-related courses, and the promotion of Urdu teaching in relevant regions.

Issues related to strengthening startups,

expanding vocational training, encouraging MSME-based employment, and addressing traffic bottlenecks on Srinagar city roads were also flagged during the meeting.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured that all genuine concerns would be addressed on priority.

gious organizations; and other concerned officials. Officers from outside stations attended the meeting through video conference.

In his address, the Chief Minister reiterated the government's unwavering commitment to ensure that all arrangements for Muharram are

made with utmost efficiency and care. "We will leave no stone unturned in our efforts, and there should be

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## In 11 yrs, face of governance witnessed massive change under PM Modi's leadership: Dr Jitendra Singh

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUN 18 (KNO)

Union Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Dr Jitendra Singh on Wednesday announced that the Central government employees who are covered under the "Unified Pension Scheme" will now be eligible for retirement and death gratuity benefits.

Addressing a news conference here Dr Singh, according to the news agency outlined the transformational journey of the Ministry of Personnel,



Public Grievances and Pensions over the past 11 years, highlighting a series of reforms aimed at simplifying governance, empowering citizens, and humanizing administration.

The Minister also made

the important announcement that Central government employees covered under the Unified Pension Scheme will now be eligible for retirement and death gratuity benefits, as per the provisions of the

Central Civil Service (Payment of Gratuity under National Pension System) Rules, 2021.

Responding to this long-pending demand by a large section of government employees, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the move addresses a significant demand of government staff and brings parity in retirement benefits.

He said, the new provision reflects the government's commitment to ensure social security for all categories of

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## Kashmir braces for heatwave again as temperature surges

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUN 18 (KNO)

The scorching heat has once again hit Jammu and Kashmir, especially in the valley, where the mercury continued to rise for the second straight day on Wednesday.

According to details obtained by the news agency, J&K witnessed 26 per cent deficit rainfall during the ongoing month till Wednesday as against the normal precipitation of 39.7 mm, the region has recorded a rainfall of just 29.5 mm in the last 18 days.

The large deficit of rain-

fall has been recorded in Samba at 72 per cent and in Kathua at 62 per cent during the period. The majority of the stations across the region, including Srinagar, Budgam, Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Kishtwar, Kulgam, Poonch, Reasi, Shopian and Udhampur have recorded deficit rainfall.

According to the data prepared by the local Meteorological (MeT) department, Rajouri was the only station where large excess rainfall was recorded during the period.

Five stations, including

Anantnag, Doda, Jammu, Kupwara and Ramban, have recorded normal precipitation this month so far.

Meanwhile, an Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng said there is a possibility of an intense heatwave for the next three days. "The temperature in Srinagar may go up above 35 degrees Celsius," he said. Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, on Wednesday recorded a maximum temperature of 32.5 degrees Celsius.

Qazigund, a

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## CS scrutinizes strategy for effective implementation of Mission YUVA



**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 18

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a comprehensive meeting to assess the implementation of Mission YUVA, a flagship initiative aimed

at fostering entrepreneurship and employment in Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting, attended by senior government officials, Vice-Chancellors and representatives from leading financial institutions like IIT Jammu, IIM

Jammu, NABARD and J&K Bank, focused on accelerating the mission's ambitious goals while Deputy Commissioners participated virtually.

The Chief Secretary expressed

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## GoI launches 'Operation Sindhu' to evacuate Indian nationals from Iran

**J1 NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUN 18 (KNO)

In the ongoing war between Iran and Israel, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) of Government of India Wednesday launched 'Operation Sindhu' to evacuate the stranded Indian nationals.

In an official statement, the GoI according to the news agency said, "In view of the deteriorating situation as a result of the ongoing conflict between Iran and Israel, the Government of India has been taking various steps over the last several days for

the safety and security of Indian nationals in Iran."

"As a first step, the Indian Embassy has evacuated 110 Indian students from northern Iran, assisting them in safely crossing over into Armenia on 17th June 2025. The students have travelled by road to the Armenian capital, Yerevan, under the supervision of our Missions in Iran and Armenia," it reads.

It also said that these students departed Yerevan on a special flight on June-18-2025 and will arrive in New Delhi

**CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4**

## IMCSD Interns interact with Joint Director Information, Jammu Ist DLIC meeting under Mission YUVA held at Shopian

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUNE 18

As part of the ongoing Summer Media Internship Programme 2025-26, a group of student interns from the Institute of Mass Communication and Skill Development (IMCSD) today visited the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), J&K Government, at Bahu Plaza, Jammu.

The interns, comprising students from Government MAM College and Government College for Women (GCW), Bhagwati Nagar, engaged in a meaningful interaction with the Joint Director Information Jammu, Deepak Dubey.

The session aimed at familiarizing the aspiring media professionals with the functioning of DIPR and its crucial role in disseminating government information to the public in a transparent and



responsible manner.

The interns were accompanied by the senior journalist and IMCSD executive member Vicky Verma, who coordinated the visit as part of the institute's hands-on field exposure programme.

During the interaction, the Joint Director offered valuable insights into the operational structure of the department, highlighting its multifaceted responsibilities including public outreach, media coordination, press release dissemination, government

publicity campaigns and publication of official content.

The students were also briefed on how the department uses various platforms including print, electronic and digital to ensure that accurate and verified information reaches the masses.

A significant part of the discussion was dedicated to the emerging challenge of fake news and misinformation in the digital age.

The Joint Director emphasized the importance of fact-checking,

ethical journalism and the critical role that government agencies, journalists and media students must play in countering the spread of misleading content. He encouraged the interns to develop a habit of verifying sources while upholding journalistic integrity in their future careers.

The interns expressed keen interest in understanding how government public communication is managed and asked thoughtful questions related to media strategy,

crisis communication and the use of social media for public information.

The interactive nature of the session ensured an enriching learning experience for the budding media professionals.

Vicky Verma expressed gratitude to the Joint Director for providing the interns with an insightful exposure to the department's operations. He said such interactions are crucial in bridging the gap between academic learning and real-world media practices.

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, JUNE 18

The inaugural meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) under Mission YUVA was held today in Shopian under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta.

The meeting aimed to review and approve applications received under the Mission YUVA initiative, designed to foster youth entrepreneurship and self-employment.

A total of 56 applications verified by the SBDU, were presented for consideration. Following a comprehensive evaluation based on eligibility, business viability and the applicant's socio-economic background, all appli-

cations were approved for financial assistance and handholding support under the Mission YUVA framework.

Addressing the committee, DDC emphasized the vital role of self-employment in empowering youth, instructing all departments to ensure timely fund disbursement, robust monitoring and dedicated mentoring to guarantee the sustainability of the supported ventures.

During the meeting, Gupta underscored the importance of expanding outreach activities, organizing awareness camps and conducting mobile registration drives to ensure the benefits of Mission YUVA reach every eligible youth in the district.

"Mission YUVA is not just a scheme, it is a move-

ment to promote innovation, self-reliance and employment generation," he stated, reaffirming the administration's commitment to continuous support and monitoring.

The meeting concluded with a united resolve among members to turn Mission YUVA into a model of success and a key pillar of district development, advancing youth-led entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihoods across Shopian.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, General Manager DIC, AD Employment, Lead District Manager, DDM NABARD, Advance Manager Cluster office JKB, District Officer JKEDI, Advance Manager, DDM NABARD, Employment & Counselling officer DECC Shopian.

## Massive plantation drive held near BSF camp Paloura to promote Clean Jammu, Green Jammu Campaign

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUNE 18

Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) in collaboration with the Urban Forest Division Jammu carried out a major plantation drive under the "Clean Jammu, Green Jammu" campaign near BSF camp Paloura, today. The initiative aimed to promote environmental conservation and foster a culture of green responsibility among citizens.

JMC Commissioner, Dr. Devansh Yadav led the drive by planting Gulmohar saplings at a vacant site along the canal bank. The plantation drive witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents, cleanliness champions, senior



citizens, former councilors and dedicated volunteers of Jammu city, who adopted saplings and took a pledge to care for them. Emphasizing the mission's ambitious target of planting 60,000 saplings before August 15, Dr. Yadav called upon people from all walks of life to actively participate and contribute towards making Jammu

a cleaner and greener city. He also announced that each sapling will be tagged with a QR code, providing detailed information about the plant species and the adopter responsible for its care. Highlighting the importance of post-plantation care, especially during the summer season, the Commissioner stressed

that protecting and nurturing these saplings is crucial. "These trees will not only enhance the beauty of Jammu city but also play a significant role in maintaining a healthy and pollution-free environment," he said. Among others, Joint Commissioner (R&E), JMC, Subah Mehta, Secretary JMC Chand Singh, Divisional Forest Officer, Jammu Ashwani Kumar Mittal, Superintendent Engineer, Urban, PHE Sunil Gandotra, Assistant Floriculture Officer (JMC) Rabia Khan, IEC Incharge Dr. Divya Sharma, besides former Councillors Mohinder Kumar and Ashok Singh Manhas and locals participated in the drive.

## SDRF J&K hosts interactive session with civil society members

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUNE 18

An interaction with senior dignitaries, retired Police officers and prominent civil society members was organized today at SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu under the guidance of Commandant General HG/CD & SDRF J&K (ADGP) Alok Kumar.

At the outset, the senior dignitaries, retired Police officers and prominent civil society members were welcomed by DIG, HG/CD & SDRF Jammu Mohammad Arshad.

The DIG, HG/CD & SDRF Jammu gave a presentation, briefing the guests about steps taken to strengthen the Civil Defence set up, with a focus on recognizing the community as an important stakeholder, encouraging its involvement and reinforcing the



bond between the District authorities and the civil society for a more effective role in dealing with any disaster like situations.

The dignitaries extended full support for strengthening Civil Defence and gave valuable suggestions which were incorporated for implementation.

Retd DGP J&K A. K Bhan also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the need to create mass awareness about the importance of readiness during any war like situation.

At the end, Comman-

dant SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu Zahid Naseem Manhas presented the vote of thanks to all dignitaries and guests.

The key dignitaries present in the interaction were Retd Chief Justice of J&K & Ladakh High Court Justice Tashi Rabastan; Retd. Chief Secretary J&K B.R Sharma; Retd DGP J&K S.P Vaid and Mrs Bharti Vaid; Retd DGP A. K. Bhan; Retd. Member J&K PSC K. B. Jandial; Retd. Dy AG J&K Rameshwar Singh Jamwal, besides the officers of the organization.

## Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Khawaja Habibullah Nowshehri (R.A) celebrated with religious fervour

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 18

Urs e Mubarak of Hazrat Khawaja Habibullah Nowshehri (R.A) was celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety at his shrine located in Nowshehra area of Srinagar city.

Today on the occasion of Mehfil-e-Sama, a cultural troupe of Cultural Unit Kashmir of Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) presented his Kalam (writing) and mesmerized the audience by its rendition.

Enthralling the audience, the cultural troupe received a great applause from the audience.

## Sakeena Itoo, Satish Sharma visit Imam Baras at Zadibal, Hassanabad to oversee the Muharram arrangements

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 18

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo alongwith Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Information Technology and Transport, Satish Sharma today visited Imam Bara Hassanabad here to review the preparedness and arrangements being made for the observance of forthcoming Holy Month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

During the visit to Imam Bara at Zadibal, the Ministers interacted with local representatives, community leaders and members of the Shia community.

MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Ali Sadiq; MLA Hazratbal, Salman Ali Sagar; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Commissioner SMC, Director Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Kashmir, Director Health Services Kashmir, Chief Engineer KPDCL, allied departments like PHE, Irrigation and Flood Control, PWD and other departments were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Sakeena



said that Muharram holds deep spiritual and cultural significance for the Muslim community and it is our collective responsibility to provide an environment of dignity, safety and comfort to the mourners.

She directed the officers to deploy adequate manpower of health department along the routes of Muharram processions for the facilitation of mourners. She asked the Director Health to deploy sufficient number of Ambulances as well as blood storage units during the days of procession.

The Minister also directed the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar to establish Control Room at district level for better coordination of allied departments.

Minister Sakeena also

stressed on the importance of uninterrupted power and water supply, sanitation measures and proper traffic regulation during the mourning period. She emphasized on the need for seamless coordination between various departments to ensure peaceful and respectful conduct of all Muharram processions and gatherings.

The Minister also directed the SMC Commissioner to take immediate measures for cleanliness and desilting of drains in Zadibal, Alamgari Bazar, Madain Sahib Hawal and other routes leading to Imambaras and through which Muharram processions will pass so that people do not face any difficulty.

During the visit, Min-

ister Satish Sharma also interacted with local representatives. He assured them that sufficient stock of essential supplies will be kept available during this holy month.

Minister Sakeena Itoo on the occasion also paid obeisance at the shrine of Mir Shams-ud-din Muhammad Araqi (RA)

Later, the Ministers also visited Imam Bara Hassanabad and took stock of Muharram arrangements.

During the visit, the Ministers held detailed interaction with the local Shia leaders and public representatives to have first-hand feedback of the arrangements to be put in place during the Holy Month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

On the occasion Min-

ister Sakeena passed on several onspot directions to the line Departments and stressed on elaborate arrangements and sustained efforts facilitating the observance of important proceedings especially on 9th and 10th of Muharram. She assured the public that all genuine issues will be redressed promptly for smooth observance of holy month.

Later, the Ministers undertook a comprehensive tour of Mir Behri Dal, the interiors of densely populated Shia areas.

On the occasion, the Ministers held a public interaction and met scores of people of the Shia community and assured them that adequate arrangements shall be made available on the eve of the

## 62 students of SPMR College complete internship at JKEDI



JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUNE 18

The first batch of 62 students of Government SPMR College of Commerce, Jammu successfully completed their summer internship at the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI).

The students pursuing Bachelors in Business Management (BBA) from the Government Sri Pratap Memorial Rajput College of Commerce (SPMR), Jammu underwent a 10-day (60-hour) internship, which commenced on June 4, 2025, at Bari Brahmana campus of the institute. As per National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 guidelines, the internship program aimed at developing the entrepreneurial and research acumen among students, research aptitude and teamwork skills.

During the program, the students were introduced to the role and functioning of the JKEDI. They gained exposure to the program

verticals of the institute, all aimed at promoting entrepreneurship as a viable career choice in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

At the valediction ceremony, the Secretary Industries and Commerce Department, Khalid Jahangir who also holds the charge of Director JKEDI, addressed the students. He encouraged the interns to adopt an innovative mindset in embracing entrepreneurship, expressing hope that many would become future entrepreneurs and startup founders. He also invited the students to participate in an upcoming Idea Generation Competition being organized by the institute under J&K Startup Policy 2024-27. On the occasion, internship certificates were also handed over to the interns upon successful completion of the program.

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

## DDC Pulwama chairs DLRC meeting for 4th Quarter of FY 2024-25

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
PULWAMA, JUNE 18

To assess the performance of banks and line departments across various financial and developmental parameters, District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting for the fourth quarter of the financial year 2024-25 at the circuit house Pulwama.

At the outset, Lead District Manager (LDM), Pulwama presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation, highlighting the district's banking performance. The chair was apprised that Pulwama has recorded a year-on-year growth of 8.04% in deposits, while Advances and CD ratio grew by 8.10% and 0.05% respectively. The district's CD ratio at the end of the 4th quarter stands at

108.50%, ranking among the highest in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

During the review, Dr. Qayoom examined the sector-wise performance of banks against allocated targets and directed all concerned banking institutions to identify existing gaps across sectors and prepare a comprehensive strategy to address them during the current financial year.

Emphasising the importance of financial inclusion, DDC instructed the officers of line departments and banking institutions to ensure saturation of all Government Sponsored Schemes, with a particular focus on extending benefits to the marginalised and underprivileged sections of society.

He further directed all the stakeholders to improve priority sector lending in different Gov-



ernment sponsored schemes so that unemployed youth can attain self-sufficiency through various self-employed schemes of central and UT Govt.

DDC also called upon banks to actively leverage the ongoing Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh

Abhiyan, to foster social inclusion and ensure the effective implementation of government schemes in tribal areas.

The progress under Smart Card distribution under Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was also reviewed. DDC instructed the banking institutions to

expedite the distribution of smart cards and achieve full saturation on priority.

"All departments and banks must work in close coordination to ensure that government schemes reach every eligible individual, with particular focus on achieving full saturation among marginalised, tribal, and other underprivileged communities, while also prioritising the economic empowerment of youth through access to financial and employment opportunities," directed the DDC.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Lead District Manager (J&K Bank), NABARD, Chief Planning officer, Pulwama; General Manager, DIC Pulwama; and other District officers from various line departments and District coordinators of various banks forming part of the committee framework.

## DAJGUA: DC Udhampur pitches for mission mode completion of JJM schemes in tribal villages

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, JUNE 18



Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai today directed for prioritizing the completion of Jal Jeevan Mission projects in tribal villages in consonance with the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA).

The DC was chairing a meeting with JJM functionaries and contractors to review the progress and address the challenges faced in the execution of water supply schemes in

eight tribal villages of the district.

After detailed deliberations on the issues hampering timely completion of the schemes, she sought special focus on identifying bottlenecks in key components viz. electrical and mechanical works etc. Contractors highlighted several ground-level impediments, including delays in material supply and inter-departmental clearances.

The DC assured the contractors of timely resolution of genuine issues par-

ticularly those related to pending payments of JJM works and urged all contractors to adopt a mission mode approach to ensure time-bound and quality completion of the ongoing works.

The DC directed the concerned officers to carry out regular field inspections and closely monitor the pace of work. She also stressed on inter-departmental coordination and proactive grievances redressal mechanism to prevent further delays.

## Empowering Tribal at Grassroots Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan enters 4th Day



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, JUNE 18

The 15-day-long IEC campaign under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan activities continued on the fourth consecutive day in District Kishtwar. Today an awareness camp was held at Panchayat Chicha, Block Nagseni, to impart awareness and ensure saturation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes among the tribal community.

The event saw active participation from the tribal community, reflecting their interest in availing government services delivered at their doorstep.

The local BDO Abhilash Sharma delivered an insightful address, highlighting various government welfare schemes tailored for the uplift of the tribal communities.

Highlights of the camp also included informative stalls set up by the government departments, includ-

ing Agriculture, Health, ICDS, Social Welfare, Revenue, Sheep Husbandry, Horticulture, Fisheries and others, showcasing and providing on-the-spot benefits of flagship schemes, especially for tribal.

Other activities included awareness about DAJGUA, distribution of IEC pamphlets, issuance of PMJAY and Ayushman Cards as well as the on-the-spot distribution of caste certificates and more.

## Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan Awareness Camp held at Panchayat Bhingara-Ukhral

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
RAMBAN, JUNE 18

On the fourth day of the ongoing Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan, the District Administration Ramban organized an awareness camp at Panchayat Bhingara, Block Ukhral to empower tribal communities by facilitating access to the government schemes and services.

The camp was attended by Tehsildar Nasir Javed, BDO Shahid Saleem and representatives from several departments. Assistant Director FCS&CA, Niamatullah Sheikh, acted as the Key Resource Person, sensitizing the tribal population about welfare schemes.

The local Scheduled



Tribe (ST) community participated actively. Government officials briefed attendees on schemes related to livelihood, skill development, education, food security, social welfare and self-employment.

Numerous grievances were resolved on the spot, while others were documented for follow-up. Officials emphasized the need to ensure that no eligible ST household is left out of

government benefits.

As part of the campaign, the awareness camps are being conducted across 11 identified ST villages of Ramban district till June 30, 2025, promoting inclusive development and participatory governance.

Locals appreciated the administration's outreach and expressed hope for continued engagement and support.

## MVD Rajouri seizes 6 vehicles, e challans 16 others for breaching rules

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, JUNE 18

Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Rajouri today conducted an extensive road checking drive in Kalakote town of the district.

The drive was carried out on the directions of Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan and Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma. As many as 90 vehicles were checked, of which 16 were e-challanned for violation of rules. The expected penalty amount from these e-challanned vehicles stands at approximately Rs 36,000 (Thirty-six thousand rupees).

In addition, six Tata



Magic vehicles were seized for operating without valid permits, highlighting the administration's zero tolerance towards permitless commercial operations.

The ARTO Rajouri reiterated that such enforcement drives will continue in the

safe conduct of the yatra. The Shri Chound Mata Charri Yatra is a revered annual event that attracts thousands of devotees from Doda and neighboring areas. As the procession makes its way towards Galadhar, the atmosphere reverberates with devotional chants, traditional rituals and a strong sense of spiritual unity.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of ongoing developmental works and assessed field-level implementation of key government schemes in the mountainous Tehsil. The Deputy Commis-

## DC, SSP Doda flag off Shri Chound Mata Charri Yatra from Kastigarh to Galadhar

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, JUNE 18

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh and SSP Sandeep Kumar Mehta today flagged off the Shri Chound Mata Charri Yatra from Kastigarh to Galadhar, marking the beginning of the sacred pilgrimage with religious fervor and devotion.

A large number of devotees gathered at Kastigarh to participate in the yatra, which holds immense spiritual and cultural significance in the region. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from members of the Shri Chound Mata Mandir Committee, local residents and officials from the district administration.

The Deputy Commissioner extended his heartfelt wishes to the pilgrims and highlighted the yatra's role in strengthening the cultural fabric and communal harmony of the region. He emphasized the importance of maintaining discipline, cleanliness and cooperation throughout the pilgrimage.

The District Administration Doda has made comprehensive arrangements to ensure the smooth and



inspections of the road construction projects, water supply schemes and public utility initiatives. He emphasized the need for time-bound completion of all works while maintaining quality standards and transparency.

He interacted with local residents and PRI representatives to understand grassroots-level issues. He assured time bound redress of public concerns and equitable development across all areas of the district, especially remote and hilly regions like Kastigarh.

## ADC unveils poetry collection of budding writer Prabhleen Kour



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JUNE 18

Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Ansuya Jamwal today unveiled a poetry book "The Sole Burst of Colour in My World of Words", penned by a Class 12th student of Army Public School Miran Sahib Prabhleen Kour.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADC appreciated the young talent and lauded Prabhleen's literary expression and creative spirit. She encouraged her to continue writing and further hone her poetic skills, wishing her success

in all future endeavours. The young poet has a keen interest in literature, philosophy and graphic design. She shared that poetry has been a meaningful medium for her to express deep personal reflections and experiences.

The book is a reflective collection of poems exploring themes of nostalgia, identity, love and introspection. From verses like "School Yard Nostalgia" to "Crumbling the Shackles of Slavery", the anthology showcases a blend of imagination, emotion and philosophical depth.

## DC Kishtwar distributes sponsorship benefits under Mission Vatsalya



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, JUNE 18

Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma today distributed Rs 78.03 lakh among 231 eligible beneficiaries as Non-Institutional Care Sponsorship benefits for the financial year 2024-25.

The initiative forms part of Mission Vatsalya, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme envisaging the care and protection of children in vulnerable circumstances.

The distribution underscores the administration's commitment to safeguarding child rights and providing essential support to children in need, enabling

them to lead a secure and dignified life.

The sponsorship assistance is extended under various eligibility criteria, including orphans, children with a single deceased parent and those suffering from life-threatening diseases or living with disabilities.

The financial support will help address the critical needs of these children, particularly in the areas of education, nutrition and healthcare. The distribution event was held in the presence of Zubair Ahmed Lone, District Child Protection Officer (DSWO Kishtwar) and Chetna Sharma TSWO Kishtwar.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

## Hostilities between...

call to Prime Minister Modi. Vice President Vance had conveyed that Pakistan may launch a major attack on India," the Foreign Secretary said.

Prime Minister Modi had conveyed to him in clear terms that if such an action were to occur, India would respond with an even stronger response, he said.

"On the night of May 9-10, India gave a strong and decisive response to Pakistan's attack, inflicting significant damage on the Pakistani military," he said on the phone conversation.

"Their military airbases were rendered inoperable. Due to India's firm action, Pakistan was compelled to request a cessation of military operations," he said.

Misri said President Trump enquired if PM Modi could stop over in the US on his way back from Canada. "Due to prior commitments, Prime Minister Modi expressed his inability to do so. Both leaders agreed to make efforts to meet in the near future," he said. KNO

## In 11 yrs, face...

employees under the National Pension System.

The Minister categorized the Ministry's work into four major areas that reflected the changing face of governance under the PM Modi led Government. "For the first time since Independence, a government has taken pride in doing away with redundant rules rather than creating new ones.

He cited the repeal of over 1,600 outdated provisions—many of them colonial-era legacies—as a strong message of trust in citizens, particularly India's youth. The decision to make job interviews non-evaluative for certain categories, announced from the Red Fort by the Prime Minister and implemented nationwide by January 2016, was flagged as a key move towards fairness and transparency in recruitment.

Dr Singh underscored that several of the Ministry's reforms went beyond administrative convenience and carried broader socio-cultural messages. Measures such as the amendments to the Prevention of Corruption Act sought to balance accountability with protection for well-performing officials, while changes in how cases of unfair means in examinations are handled have been aimed at protecting students from the fallout of organized cheating rackets. "We are here to punish the racketeers, not the students," the Minister said, emphasizing the government's intent to move from suspicion to support in public policy. These changes, he said, helped build a new narrative for governance where intent is not presumed guilty and trust becomes a foundational value.

Human-centric reforms formed the third pillar of the Ministry's efforts, with Dr. Jitendra Singh recounting how several changes were driven by direct experiences of insensitivity in existing rules. The introduction of the digital life certificate for pensioners, reforms in family pension norms to include divorced and separated daughters, and extending maternity leave to stillbirth cases were some of the examples he shared. "We combined human concern with technology to create solutions that respect the dignity of individuals," he said, recalling how over 19,000 long-pending promotions were expedited to bring relief to officials who had served without timely career progression. These measures, he said, reflected an approach that viewed policy through the lens of empathy.

Highlighting innovation as the fourth key area, the Minister said that several governance reforms have been infused with out-of-the-box thinking and technological adaptability. The establishment of the Capacity Building Commission and rollout of the iGOT-Karmayogi platform were mentioned as game-changers in preparing civil servants for real-world challenges. The CPGRAMS grievance redressal portal, which now handles over 26 lakh complaints annually with a 95-96% disposal rate, was cited as a case of how citizen expectations have evolved in response to responsive governance. Initiatives like 'Anubhav', where retiring officers document their experiences for institutional memory, and the Assistant Secretary programme for IAS officers, were held up as efforts to build a knowledge-oriented, future-ready bureaucracy. "We have moved from red tape to real-time, from file-pushing to feedback-based policy," Dr. Jitendra Singh concluded, noting that these reforms mark a significant shift in the governance ethos of New India.

Dr Singh also released a set of key publications and digital initiatives that reflect the Ministry's continued focus on transparency, accountability, and service delivery. These included the 11-year achievement booklets of DoPT, DARPG, and DoPPW, offering a comprehensive overview of reforms and milestones across the three departments. The Minister also unveiled the Guidelines for the Special Campaign for Family Pensioners' Grievances, a Compendium of Circulars covering the period from August 2024 to June 2025, and a set of circulars related to the Central Civil Services (Union Public Service) rules. In a move to strengthen capacity building within the system, Dr. Jitendra Singh virtually launched the Sevottam Training Modules, aimed at institutionalising excellence in public service delivery. KNO

## CM chairs high-level...

no shortcoming from our side," the Chief Minister asserted.

Highlighting the significance of the meeting, he remarked: "The very size and composition of this meeting reflects the importance we attach to the sacred month of Muharram."

The Chief Minister emphasized that administrative focus should not be limited to just the first ten days of Muharram.

"The rituals and religious observances of Muharram span two months and eight days. The government must remain responsive even beyond the 10th day of Muharram," he stressed.

Acknowledging that this year Muharram coincides with the Amarnath Yatra, the Chief Minister noted the increased responsibility on the administration to ensure the smooth conduct of both events. In this context, he announced the appointment of a Secretary-level Nodal Officer—independent of the Division-

al Commissioner—to coordinate inter-departmental efforts and oversee Muharram arrangements across the Union Territory.

The Chief Minister outlined key focus areas identified during the meeting:

**Water Supply:** CM assured uninterrupted water availability through the deployment of tankers and installation of storage tanks at key locations.

**Electricity and Lighting:** The Power Development Department was directed to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply and install high-mast lights at major congregation points.

**Ration and Firewood:** He instructed the Food Department, in coordination with FCI, to ensure timely availability of ration. Firewood will be provided, particularly in rural areas where demand is higher.

**Sanitation and Health:** Municipal bodies and the Health Department was asked to intensify sanitation drives and ensure the availability of essential healthcare services: Fire and Emergency Services will use high-pressure water canons to clean congregation areas.

The Chief Minister added that the newly appointed Nodal Officer will coordinate efforts across departments and districts, and report regularly to avoid any lapses.

Earlier, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir gave a presentation on the planned arrangements for Muharram, covering key areas such as power, water, ration supply, sanitation, and infrastructure readiness in Shia-dominated areas.

The meeting also deliberated on issues related to macadamisation, street lighting, road repair, and other civic amenities required during the observance. Legislators and religious leaders present on the occasion provided valuable feedback and suggestions to enhance the effectiveness of the arrangements. KNO

## Kashmir braces for...

gateway of Kashmir, recorded a maximum temperature of 31.4 degrees Celsius while Pahalgam recorded 27.0 degrees Celsius. In Kokernag, the mercury settled at 30.8 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara and Gulmarg, a famous ski resort, recorded 30.5 degrees Celsius and 22.8 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Jammu city, however, continued to record below normal temperatures, with the winter capital of the region recording a maximum temperature of 37.6 degrees Celsius.

Banihal recorded 29.4 degrees Celsius, Batote 27.8 degrees Celsius, Katra 35.2 degrees Celsius and Bhandrawah 30.8 degrees Celsius.

Meanwhile, the weatherman here has predicted generally dry weather with the possibility of a brief spell of rain and thundershower with gusty winds at isolated places till June 20.

Between June 21 & 22, Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that generally cloudy weather with intermittent spells of rain and thundershower is expected at many places.

He added that on June 23 & 24, the weather conditions are expected to remain dry with the possibility of a brief spell of light rain and thundershower at isolated places while from June 25 to June 27, generally cloudy weather is expected with possibility of intermittent spells of light to moderate rain and thundershower at many places.

Moreover, the MeT has issued an advisory, advising the farmers to continue farm operations till June 20th.

According to the advisory, there is a possibility of moderate to heavy rain with intense showers at a few places, mainly in Jammu division on June 21 & 22. "Flash floods are expected at a few places with landslides, mudslides & shooting stones," it added. KNO

## CS scrutinizes strategy...

satisfaction with the progress on online application submissions for Mission YUVA. He asked the Deputy Commissioners to intensify awareness campaigns at the district level and establish robust institutional frameworks to assist the applicants. He emphasized the importance of consistent monitoring of applications and timely convening of District Level Implementation Committees (DLICs) for swift case approvals.

Dulloo asked the experts of BISAG-N for developing the dashboard which would give a peek into working of the YUVA portal and its utilization by different stakeholders and the applicants.

Addressing the J&K Bank, Dulloo recommended designating a senior administrator to oversee the Mission YUVA operations. He also instructed their branch managers to conduct weekly visits to Block-level Business Help Desks (BHDs) to guide the applicants in developing effective business proposals for swift loan sanctions.

The Chief Secretary also sought and received assurances from the universities, national institutions, NABARD and NIFT to dedicate their human and material resources towards capacity building for the applicants, transforming them into successful future entrepreneurs.

Secretary, Labour and Employment, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, while highlighting the Mission YUVA's objective, said that it aims to establish J&K as a thriving hub of enterprises and holistic employment. The mission targets creation of 1,37,000+ new enterprises and 4,25,000+ employment opportunities. He explained that the implementation strategy has been built upon four key pillars: Culture, Capital, Capacity Building and Connectivity (4Cs), designed to accelerate employment avenues in J&K. The "Culture" pillar focuses on motivating the individuals and creating an enabling business environment.

Moreover, extensive "Udhyan Jagriti" awareness campaigns have been conducted across J&K, utilizing social media, mass media, outdoor advertising and panchayat-level outreach. So far, 2,086, out of 4,291 panchayats, have been covered, reaching nearly 98,700 individuals. The goal for this phase is to cover 90% of the panchayats and reach 2 lakh individuals.

A subsequent phase involved sensitization for a baseline survey to ensure better data capture. Recently, the "Jagriti 3.0" campaign launched on May 15, 2025, has already resulted in the reception of 8,189 loan

## Indian Army conducts Medical Patrol in Riyoti, Rajouri



## JNEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI: 18 JUN 2025

The Indian Army organized a medical patrol in Riyoti, Rajouri District, on 18 Jun, 2025, providing free medical aid and treatment to 55 beneficiaries, including 20 males, 21 females, and 14 children. The medical patrol was conducted at Riyoti, where army medical personnel offered essential medical services to villagers in need. The medical patrol is part of the Army's ongoing efforts to reach out to remote areas and provide medical assistance to local communities. By conducting such patrols, the Army aims to build trust and strengthen its bond with local residents, while ensuring their health and

well-being. The medical team provided treatment for various ailments, distributed medicines, and offered guidance on healthy living, nutrition, and disease prevention.

The patrol demonstrated the Indian Army's commitment to serving the nation and supporting local communities, particularly in remote and underprivileged areas. The success of the medical patrol in Riyoti, Rajouri District, is a testament to the Indian Army's dedication to promoting health and well-being among local populations. By providing access to quality healthcare services, the Army is contributing to the improvement of health outcomes and the overall quality of life in the region.

applications.

The "Capital" pillar focuses on providing fixed and working capital support. The government will offer a 5% interest subsidy on bank loans. Micro-loans up to Rs 5 lakh will be collateral-free, supported by CGTMSE credit guarantee and accessible to first-time entrepreneurs aged 18-59 without educational or income barriers.

For existing MSMEs, the scheme offers loans up to Rs 5 lakh for Micro, Rs 30 lakh for Small and Rs 75 lakh for Medium enterprises. Beneficiaries can avail 80% of the total project cost as a loan, with a 20% self-contribution required.

The "Capacity Building" pillar focuses on equipping the entrepreneurs and employees with the skills to run sustainable businesses. This included institutional support for Detailed Project Report (DPR) framing.

Furthermore, Small Business Development Units (SBDUs), Business Help Desks (BHDs) and YUVA Doots will provide end-to-end support, from motivating potential entrepreneurs to assisting with document uploading and other necessary help. Two business acceleration hubs will be established in Srinagar and Jammu, alongside 20 SBDUs at the district level and 80 BHDs at the block level, supported by approximately 1,000 volunteers.

Finally, a market linkage framework will be extended to these entrepreneurs once their units become operational, improving reach, export and trade opportunities for business growth.

## GoI launches 'Operation...

in the early hours of June-19-2025 as part of the initial stages of Operation Sindhu."

The GoI appreciated the Governments of Iran and Armenia for the smooth facilitation of the evacuation process.

"India accords highest priority to the safety and security of Indian nationals abroad. As part of the ongoing operation, the Indian Embassy in Iran has been assisting large numbers of Indian nationals in moving from areas seeing increased hostilities to relatively safer areas within the country and to subsequently evacuate them using the available and feasible options," it reads.

In a statement, the GoI advised the Indian nationals to stay in touch with the Indian Embassy in Tehran through its emergency helpline, and with the 24x7 Control Room established by the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi.

Accordingly, the GoI issued emergency helpline numbers of Embassy of India in Tehran: For call: +98 9128109115, +98 9128109109, For WhatsApp: +98 901044557, +98 9015993320, +91 8086871709, Bandar Abbas: +98 9177699036, Zahedan: +98 9396356649 and Email- cons.tehran@mea.gov.in

Helpline numbers of 24 X 7 Control Room set-up by Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi: 80018797 (Toll free), +91-11-23012113, +91-11-23014104, +91-11-23017905, WhatsApp: +91-9968291988; Email- situationroom@mea.gov.in.

Pertinently, at least 90 students of Kashmir studying in Iran Tuesday evening reached the capital city, Yerevan in Armenia and boarded a flight to New Delhi on Wednesday.

Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) said, "At least 90 students of Kashmir studying in Iran safely crossed the border into Armenia on Tuesday and boarded a flight on Wednesday to India."

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

"All the Indian students who had crossed the Iran-Armenia border have now safely reached the capital city, Yerevan. 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," JKSA said. KNO

## DIG Traffic decorates promoted Officer



## JNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 18

A piping ceremony for the newly promoted Inspector was held today at Range Traffic Headquarters, Jammu.

Deputy Inspector General of Police, RTHQ Jammu Dr. Mohammad Haseeb Mughal decorated the newly promoted officer Inspector Santosh Sharma.

On this occasion, the DIG Traffic Jammu congratulated the officer on his well-deserved promotion and extended his best wishes for his future assignments. DIG

Traffic Jammu appreciated the services and the role he played at Range Traffic Hqs Jammu while handling multi tasks assigned to him from time to time. The DIG Traffic Jammu also stressed upon the officer to continue serving with enthusiasm, integrity and a high sense of responsibility.

Among others present were DySP (S) Ramesh Chander Kataria, Private Secretary to DIG Traffic Jammu, Voonesh Sangotra, Sr. PO, Inspector (S) Ruby Dhar, PA to DIG Traffic Jammu were present on the occasion.

## NMC demand enhancement of Medical Allowance



## JNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 18

President NMC Subash Shastri on Wednesday urged the Lieutenant Governor and Chief Minister to increase the monthly medical allowance of pensioners from the existing Rs 300 to Rs 1000 in the line with other union territories across the country.

Addressing a meeting of N M C activists here Shastri appealed implementation of this enhancement to bring JKUT at par with Ladakh which had raised the allowance to Rs 1000 per month from April 1 2020.

Shastri said that the current Rs 300 medical allowance has remained unchanged for over two decades despite the steep rise in medicine costs and other medical expenses. He said the hike would provide much needed relief to pensioners grappling with increase health care expenditure.

He also demanded a 2 percent in HRA for Jammu and Kashmir employees

pointing out that the DA has already crossed 50 percent threshold which warrants a revision.

Further Shastri pressed the centre to release 18 months of pending DA arrears from January to June 2021 stating that three installments were withheld during the period. He Called for their immediate disbursement to benefit employees and tensioners who have been awaiting the dues for over three years.

Regularization of the services of all daily rated workers under SRO 64 were others demands highlighted in the meeting.

Rajan Babu Khajuria, B.S.Jamwal, Surrender Kumar, Ramesh Sharma, Ram Singh, Chaman Lal, Tarsem Sharma, Vijay Bhagat, Shail Singh, Angrej Singh, Darshan Bawa, Sukhdev Singh, Vinod, Kamal Bhagat, Bir Bal Sharma, Ram Lal, Ram Paul Sharma, Dalip Bhagat, Harbans Lal, Anil Gupta, Rajnish Kapoor and others were also present in the meeting.

## Rajan Gupta welcomes Centre's decision on Annual Toll Cap of Rs 3000

## JNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 18

Social Activist Rajan Gupta has warmly welcomed the landmark decision of the Central Government to cap the toll charges at Rs 3000 per year for vehicles, especially those frequently used for pilgrimage and yatra purposes. He stated that this decision would bring much-needed relief to thousands of devotees and transporters who had been burdened by excessive toll payments.

Rajan Gupta praised Union Transport Minister Mr. Nitin Gadkari for his visionary leadership and commitment to the

welfare of the common man. "This is a fantastic step by the government, especially in the interest of people undertaking yatras. It will ease their travel and reduce their financial stress," Gupta said.

He added that such decisions reflect the government's sensitivity to public issues and help in promoting religious tourism while respecting the sentiments of the devotees. Rajan Gupta also urged the administration to ensure effective implementation of this policy across all relevant toll plazas to guarantee uniform benefit to all travellers.

## DYSS Kishtwar hosts District Level Chess & Yoga Tournament for Boys and Girls

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, JUNE 18

The Department of Youth Services & Sports (YS&S) Kishtwar on Wednesday declared open the Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament for U/14 and U/17 boys and girls in the disciplines of Chess and Yoga here in the Indoor Hall of GHSS Boys.

The event was inaugurated amid a vibrant and energetic ceremony that drew enthusiastic participation from student-athletes, sports officials and dignitaries.

Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma was the chief guest, who declared the tournament open.

In his address, the Deputy Commissioner applauded the Youth Services & Sports Department



for nurturing young talent. He emphasized the critical role of sports in promoting discipline, fitness and unity among the youth. He encouraged all participants to perform with dedication, uphold sportsmanship and strive for excellence.

The event was attended

by the host school Principal, along with the officers from the DYS&S, Zonal Physical Education Officers, PEMs, PETs, REKs, GMs, NYCs and other stakeholders. The event featured impressive Chess and Yoga demonstrations and the spirited participation of young athletes from

across the zones of the district.

Earlier, District Youth Services & Sports Officer Jaffer Haider Sheikh highlighted the importance of intellectual and mind sports like Chess and Yoga in enhancing concentration, confidence and emotional well-being among the students. He extended heartfelt gratitude to all field officials for their relentless commitment in organizing such events and urged the students to aim for participation at divisional and UT-level championships. This Inter-Zonal competition serves as a vital platform for young talent across the educational zones of Kishtwar to showcase their skills and qualify for higher-level tournaments, fostering healthy competition and camaraderie.

## CS for equitable development of tribal areas under DA-JGUA

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 18

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired the maiden Apex Committee meeting held to review and accelerate implementation of the 'Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan' (DA-JGUA), marking a significant step towards equitable and holistic development of tribal communities.

The Abhiyan is a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at comprehensive human development in tribal areas.

Present in the meeting were Principal Secretary, Power Development Department; Principal Secretary, Social Welfare Department; Principal Secretary, School Education Department; Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs; Secretary, Tribal Affairs; Secretary, Planning; Secretary, Health & Medical Education; Secretary, Information Technology; Secretary, Rural Development Department besides other concerned senior officers.

The Chief Secretary directed the department to work hard towards ensuring that the benefits of the scheme equally reach all tribal areas of J&K. He laid particular stress on the importance of robust data validation at the grassroots level.

The Chief Secretary asked the Deputy Commissioners to conduct thorough ground truthing, visiting the villages to validate the data and pin-



point gaps across 25 critical parameters. He reiterated that reliable data is essential for impactful interventions, highlighting the need for meticulous verification to ensure data accuracy.

He further enjoined upon the concerned departments to prepare Detailed Project reports (DPRs) in a time-bound manner, specifically designed to plug the identified gaps. He highlighted the scheme's potential for transformative change, underscoring the importance of seizing this opportunity to bring about sustainable development in the villages.

The Chief Secretary called upon the Deputy Commissioners to personally monitor the entire process in their respective districts. This oversight, he stressed, would ensure the qualitative collection of data and subsequent gap analysis, thereby guaranteeing that future interventions are both fruitful and result-oriented, leading to tangible improvements in the lives of tribal communities.

Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Prasanna G. Ramaswamy, highlighted the key components and progress of the scheme, stating that it operates through two primary components. One component involves direct funding by the Ministry for Tribal Affairs, under which

the Project Appraisal Committee has approved proposals worth Rs 877.10 lakh for 2024-25. This included Rs 500.00 lakh for establishing 5 Tribal Multipurpose Marketing Centers (TMMCs).

The Secretary added that the scheme also envisages setting up of Forest Rights Act Cells, one at the UT level and twenty at the district level, with an outlay of Rs 377.10 Lakh. These cells will be crucial for managing the FRA claims and implementing the CFR Management Plans.

The scheme's second component involves funding from various Government of India Ministries through their Developmental Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST)/Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) allocations. Eligible villages must meet specific criteria, including a population of 500 or more with at least 50% Scheduled Tribe population, or villages in Aspirational Districts with 50 or more Scheduled Tribes.

Moreover, a preliminary gap analysis, covering 25 key indicators from housing and road connectivity to education, health and market access, has been conducted by MoTA. This data is being rigorously verified through ground-truthing exercises at the village level via Gram Sabhas, ensuring accurate

assessment of developmental needs.

Moreover, seventeen Union Ministries are working together to address the identified gaps and ensure that tribal villages benefit from all 25 approved interventions. These initiatives included PMAY-G, PMGSY, Jal Jeevan Mission, RDSS, PM Ujjwala Yojana, Poshan Abhiyan, Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, as well as schemes for skill development, sustainable agriculture and tourism, aiming for comprehensive development of tribal areas.

For the Tribal Villages component, verified village-wise gaps approved by the UT-level Apex Committee, will guide coordinated efforts by various departments in J&K to implement DA-JGUA effectively. This included launching IEC campaigns, allocating separate budget lines under DAPST schemes, conducting baseline assessments and preparing detailed project proposals aligned with gap analyses for funding from relevant ministries.

Pertinently, the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA) is a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at saturating the tribal areas with essential services and opportunities for holistic development. Launched in 2024, the mission focuses on a multi-sectoral approach involving various Ministries to address critical gaps in tribal villages across the nation.

approved 29 applications under Mission YUVA, aimed at fostering youth-led entrepreneurship in the district.

The DC directed the concerned officers to obtain a written undertaking from applicants in cases where the unit cost is above the prescribed scale of finance clearly stating the beneficiary is willing to bear the rest amount on his own to ensure transparency and financial viability of the proposed ventures.

## Review meeting for 'International Yoga Day' celebrations held at Anantnag



**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
ANANTNAG, JUNE 18

In view of the upcoming International Day of Yoga, the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anantnag, Sandeep Singh Bali today chaired a comprehensive preparatory meeting with the heads of various concerned departments at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Anantnag.

The meeting was convened to review and finalize the arrangements for the smooth and successful conduct of the Yoga session scheduled to be held on 21st June, as part of the nationwide celebrations of the International Day of Yoga.

During the meeting, ADC emphasized the importance of the event and underscored the need for coordinated efforts among all departments to ensure its effective execution.

He directed all line departments to extend full cooperation and make all necessary arrangements well in advance. This includes ensuring the availability of essential logistics such as sound systems, mats, drinking water, medical support, sanitation, security arrangements, and transportation facilities for participants.

Bali stressed on maintaining cleanliness at the

venue, adequate publicity and IEC (Information, Education & Communication) activities to generate public awareness and enthusiasm around the event. He urged the officers to promote mass participation and create a festive and health-conscious atmosphere in the district in line with the vision of 'Yoga for Harmony and Peace.'

ADC instructed the concerned departments to maintain inter-departmental coordination and regularly monitor the preparedness to avoid any last-minute issues. He also called for the deployment of volunteers and officials to assist in organizing the session and managing the crowd effectively.

Notably 21st June marks the International Day of Yoga which aims to promote health, wellness and the holistic benefits of yoga among masses globally.

## DHJ takes stock of horticulture activities in Marh zone

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JUNE 18

Director Horticulture Jammu (DHJ) Gul Syed conducted a tour of the Horticulture zone Marh-Jammu. He was accompanied by the Chief Horticulture Officer, Horticulture Development Officer and other officials of the Department.

The Director along with SDM Marh, CHO and HDO interacted with numerous local farmers and beneficiaries covered under various schemes by the Horticulture Department.

During the tour, the Director inspected the High Density Plantation at various sites and gave expert advice to farmers for increasing their income. He also briefed the farmers about the schemes of the department and urged them to associate with the Horticulture Department to avail the benefits for high density plantation, protected cultivation, water harvesting tanks, drip irrigation, custom hiring Centres, machinery, nursery establishment etc. for upliftment of their socio-economic status.

NORTHERN RAILWAY				
E-TENDER NOTICE				
Sr. DEN-I/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on <a href="http://www.reps.gov.in">www.reps.gov.in</a> with closing date 07.07.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. In place of Earnest money deposit, "Bid Security Declaration" is to be submitted or prescribed format as available in document section on the portal.				
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Packet System		
Open	Works	Single Packet System		
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time		
12.06.2025	23.06.2025	07.07.2025 / 15:00 Hrs.		
S. No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender		
1	36-2025-26-ADEN-JRC	Various Base Depot/Site activities in c/w Through Sleeper Renewal by PQRS 12.75 km at various locations of DN Line km 14.00 to 19.50 & 20.25 to 27.75 km of existing track laid with 60 kg rails on PSC-6 sleepers with M+7 density proposed with PSC Wider sleeper with M+8 density on JRC-PTK section under Sr. DEN-I/FZR.		
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
1,74,45,127.19/-	2,37,200.00/-	60 Days	12 Months	
<b>Similar nature of work:</b> "CTR/TRR/TFR/TTR including raising of track, screening, distressing of track, pre & post works for track maintenance machine like tamping machines/ballast screening/regulating machines & TTR by T-28."				
<b>Note 1.</b> Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.				
Tender Notice No.: 36-2025-26-ADEN-JRC Date: 13.06.2025 1820/2025				
<b>SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE</b>				

NORTHERN RAILWAY				
E-Tender Notice				
Tender Notice No.: 37, 38, 39-2025-26-ADEN-JRC & 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45-2025-26-ADEN-LDH Date: 16.06.2025				
Sr. DEN-I/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders (E-Tenders) against below titled tenders and available on <a href="http://www.reps.gov.in">www.reps.gov.in</a> with closing date 08/07/2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. In place of Earnest money deposit, "Bid Security Declaration" is to be submitted or prescribed format as available in document section on the portal.				
Tender Type	Tendering Section	Packet System		
Open	Works	Single Packet System		
Date of Uploading Tenders	Bid Starting Date	Bid Closing Date/Time		
13.06.2025	24.06.2025	08.07.2025/ 15:00 Hrs		
S.No.	Tender No.	Details of Tender		
1.	37-2025-26-ADEN-JRC	Annual zone work for ordinary repair and maintenance for DMU shed, MDDTI JUC for the year 2025-26 under ADEN/JRC.		
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
69,99,372.34/-	1,40,000.00/-	60 Days	12 Months	
<b>Similar nature of work:</b> "Any civil work other than track work.."				
2.	38-2025-26-ADEN-JRC	Ordinary repair and maintenance as well as new works, additions and alternations to existing structures, emergent works of service building & staff Qtrs for the year 2025-26 in the section of SSE/W/JRC under ADEN/JRC.		
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
1,89,99,699.96/-	2,45,000.00/-	60 Days	12 Months	
<b>Similar nature of work:</b> "Any civil work other than track work.."				
3.	39-2025-26-ADEN-JRC	Annual zone work for ordinary repair and maintenance in the section of SSE/W/JUC under ADEN/JRC.		
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
1,19,99,142.78/-	2,10,000.00/-	60 Days	12 Months	
<b>Similar nature of work:</b> "Any civil work other than track work.."				
4.	40-2025-26-ADEN-LDH	Ordinary repair and maintenance as well as new works, additions and alternations to existing structures & emergent works at service building and other service building in the section of SSE/W/P/W under ADEN/LDH.		
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
1,69,99,818.61/-	2,35,000.00/-	60 Days	12 Months	
<b>Similar nature of work:</b> "Any civil work other than track work.."				
5.	41-2025-26-ADEN-LDH	Ordinary repair and maintenance as well as new works, additions and alternations to existing structures & emergent works under Zone no. 1/2025-26 at station building and other service building at LDH in the jurisdiction of ADEN/LDH.		
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
1,19,99,220.67/-	2,10,000.00/-	60 Days	12 Months	
<b>Similar nature of work:</b> "Any civil work other than track work.."				
6.	42-2025-26-ADEN-LDH	Ordinary repair and maintenance as well as new works, additions and alternations to existing structures & emergent works under Zone no. 2/2025-26 at Diesel shed, RPF Barrack, RPSF barrack & Loco office etc at LDH in the jurisdiction of ADEN/LDH.		
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
84,99,925.04/-	1,70,000.00/-	60 Days	12 Months	
<b>Similar nature of work:</b> "Any civil work other than track work.."				
7.	43-2025-26-ADEN-LDH	Ordinary repair and maintenance as well as new works, additions and alternations to existing structures & emergent works under Zone no. 3/2025-26 at service building and staff quarters on LDH (exd)-SNL section at Ludhiana in the section of SSE/W/LDH under ADEN/LDH.		
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
1,29,99,194.58/-	2,15,000.00/-	60 Days	12 Months	
<b>Similar nature of work:</b> "Any civil work other than track work.."				
8.	44-2025-26-ADEN-LDH	Ordinary repair and maintenance as well as new works, additions and alternations to existing structures, emergent works Zone no. 4/2025-26 of staff quarters in colony no. 1 to 13 at Ludhiana in the section of SSE/W/LDH under ADEN/LDH.		
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
1,29,99,499.84/-	2,15,000.00/-	60 Days	12 Months	
<b>Similar nature of work:</b> "Any civil work other than track work.."				
9.	45-2025-26-ADEN-LDH	Ordinary repair and maintenance as well as new works, additions and alternations to existing structures & emergent works Zone no. 5/2025-26 at Electric shed & TRD office etc at LDH in the jurisdiction of ADEN/LDH.		
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Earnest Money	Validity of Offer	Period of Completion	
29,99,218.58/-	60,000.00/-	60 Days	12 Months	
<b>Similar nature of work:</b> "NIL."				
<b>Note1.</b> Before bidding, bidders to check for any corrigendum issued against tender.				
<b>SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE</b>				

## DC chairs District level implementation committee meeting under Mission YUVA

**JINNEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, JUNE 18

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee under Mission YUVA to evaluate and approve financial assistance proposals of aspiring entrepreneurs.

The meeting was attended by IAS Probationer Seerat Baji, Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh, General Manager



DIC, Kishore Singh, Assistant Director Employment, Priyanka Gupta and other officers concerned.

A total of 33 applica-

tions were placed before the committee for consideration. After thorough evaluation and due deliberations, the committee

approved 29 applications under Mission YUVA, aimed at fostering youth-led entrepreneurship in the district.

The DC directed the concerned officers to obtain a written undertaking from applicants in cases where the unit cost is above the prescribed scale of finance clearly stating the beneficiary is willing to bear the rest amount on his own to ensure transparency and financial viability of the proposed ventures.

## EDITORIAL

## Mandatory service bonds

Jammu and Kashmir's reported decision to introduce mandatory service bonds for MD/MS graduates marks a pivotal moment in the region's healthcare policy—one that mirrors Ladakh's recent steps and aligns with a wider national trend. With rural and underserved areas grappling with chronic shortages of specialist doctors, this measure is both timely and necessary. Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo's confirmation that the proposal is in its final stages reflects a growing political consensus around the need to hold postgraduate medical graduates accountable for the public investment in their education. Her assertion that doctors trained with state resources must "give back" to the healthcare system is not just a policy statement—it's a reminder of the social contract between public institutions and professionals. The logic behind the move is straightforward. Every year, over 550 MD/MS seats are offered by Government Medical Colleges in J&K, and a significant portion is filled by local candidates. Once the bond policy comes into effect, these graduates will be contractually obligated to serve for two years in the region—potentially transforming healthcare access in districts that have long struggled with inadequate specialist care. Such service bonds are neither novel nor legally contentious. They are already in force in 16 other states and UTs across India, backed by Supreme Court judgments that uphold their constitutionality and intent. In essence, these bonds are not restrictions but structured repayments—repayments not in money, but in meaningful public service. Opponents may argue that compulsory service could deter aspirants or limit career choices. However, these concerns are outweighed by the pressing needs of patients in far-flung areas, where a lack of specialists often means delayed treatment, unnecessary referrals, and in some cases, avoidable fatalities. The aim is not to stifle ambition, but to instill a sense of responsibility and ensure that skilled professionals serve beyond city hospitals and private clinics. It is also important to note that the policy does not prohibit further education or migration—it simply delays it until the service bond is fulfilled. For a region like J&K, still rebuilding its healthcare framework post-reorganisation, such structured interventions are crucial. The upcoming policy will undoubtedly need safeguards—transparent postings, protection from exploitative work conditions, and robust monitoring—to ensure its success. But if implemented wisely, it can help achieve dual objectives: retain homegrown medical talent and ensure healthcare equity. J&K's move is not merely administrative—it's ethical. It places community welfare at the heart of policy and asks doctors to invest not just in degrees, but in the people they are trained to serve. If the vision holds and execution matches intent, this could be a game-changer for public health in the Union Territory.



GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT  
UNION MINISTER OF CULTURE AND  
TOURISM, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

In January 2024, as the sun rose over the holy city of Ayodhya, a prayer whispered for centuries finally found its voice. The Pran Pratishtha of Shri Ram in his Ram Mandir was not just a religious milestone—it was a moment of civilizational redemption. After centuries of invasion, colonial distortion, and political delay, the temple stood tall—etched in sandstone, echoing with mantras, and pulsing with history. It wasn't just about architecture; it was about the healing of a wounded soul. The return of Shri Ram to his birthplace rekindled the spirit of a nation that had long carried the silence of exile in its heart.

A few months prior, another symbol of India's ancient spirit quietly returned to its rightful place. During the inauguration of the new Parliament, Prime Minister Narendra Modi installed the Sengol—a sacred scepter presented to Jawaharlal Nehru in 1947 by

Tamil Adheenams to mark the dharmic transfer of power. For decades, it had been forgotten, mislabeled, and dismissed as a walking stick. Its restoration was not just an act of remembrance—it was a powerful declaration that India would no longer view itself through borrowed eyes. The Sengol represented rule anchored in righteousness, not relics of empire—a decisive embrace of India's own statercraft and spiritual traditions, long overlooked in a post-colonial order.

Together, these moments signaled a deeper cultural resurgence—a civilizational stirring that would unfold across eleven transformative years.

From the outset in 2014, it was clear that under the Modi Government, culture would no longer be ornamental—it would be foundational. International Yoga Day, first observed in 2015, saw millions across the globe celebrate an ancient Indian practice that fuses body, mind, and spirit. Yoga was not just a wellness routine—it became India's greatest cultural export of the past few years.

Revival of traditional knowledge systems was given institutional force through the Ministry of AYUSH, which elevated Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy to national and global platforms. In parallel, the government launched missions to preserve

classical languages like Sanskrit, Tamil, Pali and Prakrit promote the digitization of manuscripts, and support endangered folk arts and crafts under schemes like USTTAD and Hamari Dharohar.

India's monuments too began to breathe with renewed vitality. The unveiling of the Statue of Unity in 2018 was not just about scale—it was about reclaiming narrative. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, long overshadowed, was placed at the forefront of national memory. The renaming of Rajpath to Kartavya Path symbolized a decisive shift—from colonial symbolism to native accountability.

Perhaps no diplomatic engagement illustrated this shift better than the 2019 informal summit between PM Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu. Far from the corridors of Delhi, the ancient port city—once a thriving center of the Pallava dynasty and Indo-Chinese maritime links—became the backdrop for a conversation between two civilizations. As the leaders walked amid rock-cut temples and stone chariots, India presented not just geography, but history; not just protocol, but legacy. It was soft power at its subtlest and strongest.

This cultural ethos flowed into India's global diplomacy in other ways too. PM Modi's state gifts to world leaders—

ranging from Pattachitra paintings to lacquered toys for children—carried with them stories of India's artisans and timeless traditions.

The G-20 presidency in 2023 was another cultural milestone. Far from being confined to Delhi's diplomatic halls, the summit became a pan-India celebration of cultural identity. From tribal art displays to classical performances, India showcased not just its policy depth, but its soul. Every delegation was immersed in the colors, cuisine, crafts, and consciousness of Bharat. The message was clear: India is not a civilisation in past tense—it is alive, dynamic, and confidently global.

During these years, over 600 stolen artefacts—including idols, sculptures, and manuscripts—were brought back from foreign museums and collectors. Each return was a restoration not just of art, but of honour. Similarly, Veer Bal Divas was instituted to remember the martyrdom of Guru Gobind Singh's sons, while Janjatiya Gaurav Divas brought tribal freedom fighters into national focus.

Even the pandemic did not dim the cultural flame. Through virtual concerts, digital museum tours, and "Mann Ki Baat", the Prime Minister ensured that art, stories, and cultural pride continued to thrive within the solitude of lockdowns.

All of this converged into the campaign slogan: "Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi"—a call that economic growth must walk hand in hand with cultural pride. Under the Modi Government, this slogan wasn't mere rhetoric. It defined a new vision where GDP growth, digital infrastructure, and defense modernization were inseparable from temple restoration, tribal pride, and civilizational storytelling.

India today no longer tiptoes around its identity. It strides forward—unapologetically rooted and confidently modern. Cultural nationalism, once dismissed as regressive, has emerged as the binding force of progress. In the BJP's ideological compass, culture is not an accessory—it is the axis.

In these eleven years, the Modi era has not merely overseen a cultural policy—it has awakened a cultural consciousness. What began as restoration became resurgence. And what was once neglected as nostalgia has now become the nucleus of national identity.

The Ram Mandir and the Sengol will remain iconic symbols, but the deeper legacy lies in the collective realization that India's future is brightest when it remembers where it came from. We are not just a country with a long history—we are a living civilization with a long memory. And in that memory, under the watch of dharma, India has found its voice again.

## From Cradle to Character: The power of parenting



SHAHID AHMED HAKLA POONCHI

Parenting is a journey that begins with love and ends with legacy. It is more than just raising a child; it is about shaping a human being's character, outlook, and future. Parenting involves a combination of nurturing, teaching, setting boundaries, and modeling behaviors that help a child become emotionally intelligent, socially aware, and ethically grounded. Whether it is through daily interactions, the values imparted, or the emotional climate of the home, parenting has a profound and lasting impact. What parents do in the present becomes the emotional and psychological blueprint their child carries into the future. From behavior patterns and decision-making to relationships and self-worth, a child's world is deeply colored by how they are parented. While no parent is perfect, the environment they create and the choices they make profoundly shape the kind of adult their child becomes.

### 1. Emotional Security: The First Foundation

Children thrive when they feel loved and secure. The emotional tone of a home—whether it is warm and accepting or cold and critical—lays the foundation for how a child perceives themselves and the world.

A parent who consistently responds with affection, empathy, and understanding teaches the child that their feelings matter. These children grow up trusting their emotions and are more likely to express themselves constructively. On the other hand, neglect or emotional inconsistency from parents can lead to fear, emotional suppression, and social withdrawal. Emotional security gives

rise to confident and expressive adults.

### 2. Discipline with Understanding: Teaching Responsibility

Discipline isn't about punishment—it's about guidance. How a parent disciplines their child can either foster growth or breed fear and resentment.

Authoritative parents set clear boundaries but also take the time to explain why those rules exist. This not only teaches moral reasoning but also encourages children to think about consequences. Harsh, authoritarian parenting often produces either overly obedient or overly rebellious children. Meanwhile, overly lenient or uninvolved parenting can leave children feeling lost or entitled.

Balanced discipline teaches accountability, empathy, and self-control.

### 3. Role Modeling: Children Imitate What They See

Children are always watching. Parents are their first and most influential role models. Whether it's the way parents handle stress, talk to each other, manage time, or treat strangers—children absorb it all like sponges.

If parents model respect, kindness, patience, and honesty, children naturally learn those values. Conversely, if children witness shouting, lying, or aggression at home, they may normalize such behaviors in their own lives—even if they're told not to do it.

Children do what you do, not just what you say.

### 4. Communication Style: The Power of Words

How parents communicate with their children influences how children communicate with the world.

Active listening, speaking respectfully, and giving space for a child to express themselves help children develop strong communication skills. When children feel heard, they learn to listen to others, solve conflicts peacefully, and develop emotional intelligence. On the flip side, if a child is

constantly silenced, mocked, or ignored, they may either become emotionally closed-off or seek attention in negative ways.

A child who feels heard will grow into an adult who listens.

### 5. Support for Exploration: Building Curiosity and Confidence

Every child is born curious. How parents respond to this curiosity determines whether it flourishes or fades.

When parents encourage exploration—be it through play, learning, or social interactions—they signal that it's okay to make mistakes and try new things. This builds self-confidence and fosters a growth mindset. In contrast, overprotective or critical parents may stifle exploration, leading children to become anxious, risk-averse, or overly dependent.

Encouragement fuels innovation. Fear of failure blocks growth.

### 6. Academic and Career Influence: Future Planning Begins Early

Parental involvement in education can directly influence a child's academic success. Simple actions like helping with homework, attending school events, or showing interest in their learning make children feel supported.

Parents who celebrate effort rather than just achievement foster perseverance. Additionally, when parents talk about dreams, goals, and the importance of hard work, children develop a long-term perspective on life and career.

A parent's belief in their child's potential shapes that child's ambitions.

### 7. Love Without Conditions: Nurturing Self-Worth

Conditional love—when children are only praised for achievements or good behavior—teaches them that they must "earn" love. This can lead to people-pleasing tendencies, low self-esteem, and fear of failure.

Unconditional love, however, tells a child: "You are valued, no matter what." It

creates a solid foundation for healthy self-worth, emotional stability, and authenticity.

Children loved for who they are become adults who accept themselves fully.

### 8. Conflict Resolution: Teaching Peace Through Practice

No household is free from disagreements. But how parents handle conflicts teaches children how to manage their own.

If parents argue constructively—without yelling, blaming, or name-calling—it becomes a lesson in emotional regulation. Children learn that it's okay to disagree and that problems can be solved respectfully. On the other hand, toxic or violent conflict creates fear, anxiety, and often, behavioral issues in children.

How you fight teaches your child how to live with others.

### 9. Identity and Belonging: Cultural and Moral Foundations

Children look to their parents for a sense of identity. This includes cultural values, religious beliefs, traditions, language, and moral codes.

Parents who instill pride in their heritage and values provide children with a strong sense of belonging. Even as they grow up and explore different perspectives, this core identity acts as a compass, helping them stay grounded.

Children anchored in identity are less likely to feel lost in the world.

### 10. Dealing with Failure: Turning Setbacks into Comebacks

The way parents respond to their child's failures sends a powerful message. Is failure seen as a shameful defeat or a learning opportunity?

Parents who say, "It's okay to fail, let's try again," teach resilience. But those who ridicule or pressure their children into perfection can unknowingly foster fear, anxiety, or avoidance.

Children who are allowed to fail learn to succeed with courage.

A Real-Life Example: The Story of Kalpana Chawla :

A powerful example of how parenting shapes a child's behavior and future can be seen in the life of Kalpana Chawla, the first Indian-born woman to travel into space.

Born in Karnal, Haryana, Kalpana was raised in a conservative society where girls were often not encouraged to dream beyond traditional roles. However, her parents—especially her father—believed in giving her freedom, emotional support, and encouragement. From a young age, Kalpana was curious about the stars and airplanes. Instead of dismissing her dreams, her parents nurtured her curiosity and provided her with access to books and learning tools.

They gave her emotional security, modeled gender equality at home, supported her exploration, and celebrated her academic interest without conditions. Even when she faced societal criticism for her ambitions, her parents stood by her. Their trust gave her the courage to go abroad for higher studies and later join NASA.

Despite the obstacles she faced, Kalpana's grounded upbringing helped her develop resilience, humility, and self-confidence. Her life is a testament to how nurturing parenting can shape a future of excellence.

### The Lasting Impact

There is no universal manual for perfect parenting. Every child is different, and every parent brings their own experiences into the process. But what remains constant is this: parenting is the most powerful influence on a child's life.

Your actions today—how you speak, love, guide, support, and correct—will echo through your child's future. While schools may educate, it is parents who cultivate the emotional intelligence, values, and behaviors that last a lifetime.

Be present. Be patient. Be the parent you needed when you were a child.

The writer can be contacted at shahidhakla360@gmail.com

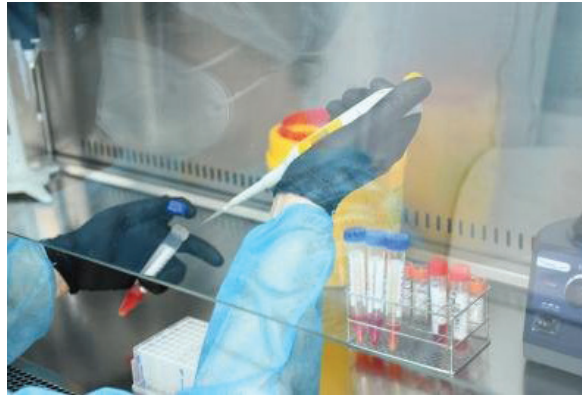
## AiMeD lauds govt's progressive reforms in public procurement

The Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AiMeD) on Tuesday praised the government for progressive reforms in public procurement and the robust judicial support that ensured the reiteration of the country's commitment to Atmanirbharta in healthcare which became a national imperative post-Covid.

With policy, regulations, and the judicial framework now aligned, Indian manufacturers look forward to a level playing field for tenders.

"We heartily welcome the initiatives of the Government, the policymakers, and the Judiciary in driving a long-overdue move towards fairness in procurement," said Rajiv Nath, Forum Coordinator, AiMeD.

"The word is now loud and clear: preference to foreigners over Indians



is not only archaic -- it is no longer legally tenable," Nath added.

His comments come as the European Union (EU) members on Monday voted to restrict imports of Chinese medical devices, delivering a blow to a key industry under Beijing's high-tech manufacturing strategy.

Nath noted that the Indian government has issued a series of consistent and unabashed directives not to discriminate against Indian manu-

facturers. The Department of Pharmaceuticals cautioned against the exclusion of homegrown manufacturers simply for lacking foreign regulatory approval certifications such as USFDA or CE.

"AiMeD welcomes each of these as groundbreaking measures towards a more inclusive and self-sufficient procurement system," Nath said.

It also cited the Supreme Court's 2025 judgment in the Gwalior Municipal Corporation

case which deprecated exclusionary clauses assuming Indian incapability by multinationals. Although the case dealt with municipal procurement, the judgment established the general principle of fairness in competition, and by extension, a precedent that can be applied across industries.

"This judicial clarity provided an additional boost of confidence to the manufacturers in India and sends an emphatic message to the tendering authorities to introspect and improve," said Nath.

"With policy, legislation, and industry capability now aligned, we think this is a watershed moment for manufacturers domestically.

"Particularly for those innovating diagnostics, surgical, and therapeutic devices, this is a window of opportunity to scale impact," he said.

## Study reinforces need for vaccines to help prevent hearing loss

Vaccination may play a significant role in preventing hearing loss in children and adolescents, according to a study that identified 26 infectious pathogens that can potentially cause hearing loss.

Over 1.5 billion people worldwide are affected by some degree of hearing loss. While it is often linked to ageing, a lesser known but significant cause is infections contracted during childhood and adolescence, many of which are preventable.

According to the World Health Organization, nearly 60 per cent of childhood hearing loss could be prevented through public health measures such as vaccination against rubella and certain forms of meningitis.

To probe further, a team of researchers, including from Université de Montréal in Canada conducted an in-depth review of the scientific literature.



The study, published in the journal *Communications Medicine*, identified 26 infectious agents that can potentially cause hearing loss, including the virus responsible for common diseases such as measles as well as rubella, which is especially danger-

ous if contracted during pregnancy because it can harm the developing auditory system and cause congenital deafness.

The list also includes the virus that causes mumps, which can lead to sensorineural hearing loss by damaging the inner

ear or auditory nerve, and the bacteria *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Neisseria meningitidis*, which cause meningitis and result in permanent hearing damage.

"If a vaccine is shown to save lives, it's reasonable for policy decisions to be made on that basis," said Mira Johri, a professor in the Department of Health Management, Evaluation and Policy at the varsity's School of Public Health (EPSUM).

"But vaccines can also offer significant benefits in preventing other harms, such as hearing loss, and these benefits deserve greater attention."

The study recommends including the effect of hearing loss in vaccine evaluations, both during development and for products already on the market. This factor could also help inform research priorities for new vaccine formulations.

## India needs stringent front-of-pack labelling on ultra-processed foods: Experts

India needs a stringent front-of-pack labelling on ultra-processed foods (UPF) that are pre-packaged food and beverage products high in sugar, salt, and saturated fat, public health experts said on Tuesday.

Even as evidence mounts regarding health risks posed by high fat, sugar, and salt (HFSS) or UPF products, a coalition of India's 29 leading public health and consumer organisations urged the government to mandate front-of-pack warning labels.

According to the ICMR-NIN Guidelines, 2024 HFSS foods are defined as foods or diets that exceed recommended thresholds for added fat, sugar, or salt. These foods are typically energy dense, low in micronutrients and fibre, and are associated with increased risk of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and cardio-



vascular disease. "India cannot afford to wait while NCDs escalate, and children become marketing targets. Warning labels are simple, effective, and evidence based" said Professor K. Srinath Reddy, from the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI).

The Supreme Court has also recently expressed

concern over misleading and insufficient food labelling practices.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his recent 'Mann Ki Baat' address, emphasised the critical need to raise awareness among children about their sugar consumption, how much they are eating and what they should ideally consume.

Earlier this year, he also emphasised on reducing fat consumption to tackle obesity crisis in India. He suggested that such awareness would guide them toward healthier choices.

"Without mandatory warning labels, the public remains in the dark. Industry interests must not override children's right to health," said Dr Arun Gupta, Convener of NAPI, a national think tank on nutrition policy.

"Globally, self-regulation has been ineffective. Stringent front-of-pack labelling rules are needed and must be enforced," he added quoting the Economic Survey.

The Supreme Court, in a Public Interest Litigation hearing (April 2025), directed the government to amend the 2022 Draft Regulation within three months, stating food packets "have no information" and raised concern about products like Kurkure and Maggi.

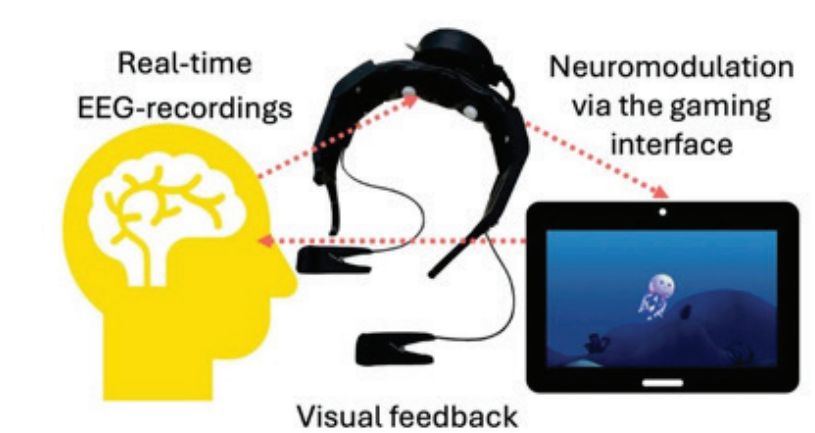
## Australian researchers develop brain training game for drug-free pain relief

Australian researchers have developed a new interactive game, showing early promise as a non-invasive, drug-free alternative for managing chronic nerve pain.

The project, called PainWaive, trains users to regulate abnormal brain activity linked to neuropathic pain, Xinhua news agency reported.

Developed by researchers from the University of New South Wales (UNSW), the game uses a headset to monitor brainwaves in real time while players engage with a mobile game that rewards healthy brainwave patterns, offering a potential home-based replacement for painkillers such as opioids.

Three out of four participants reported significant pain reduction after four weeks of use in a recent trial. Their relief was comparable to or greater than what is typically achieved with opioid medication,



the team found.

The game is based on disrupted brainwave activity in people with nerve pain, particularly changes in the thalamus -- a key relay centre in the brain.

The technology helps users retrain abnormal brain activity using mental strategies like relaxation or positive imagery, said Sylvia Gustin, professor at UNSW. The findings are published in the *Journal of Pain*.

"Participants felt

empowered to manage their pain in their own environment. That's a huge part of what makes this special," said Dr Negin Hesam-Shariati from UNSW's NeuroRecovery Research Hub.

Participants used a low-cost EEG (electroencephalogram) headset and tablet-based game at home, with remote monitoring by researchers.

Designed using 3D printing and open-source parts, the headset costs

around \$193.7, far cheaper than commercial systems, and uses wet electrodes to target the brain's sensorimotor cortex for accurate pain-related readings.

PainWaive's design prioritises accessibility for those with limited access to conventional treatments, Gustin said. She added that recruitment is underway for two larger trials targeting chronic spinal pain and neuropathic pain from spinal cord injuries.

## Early exposure to pet dogs may lower kids' risk of eczema: Study

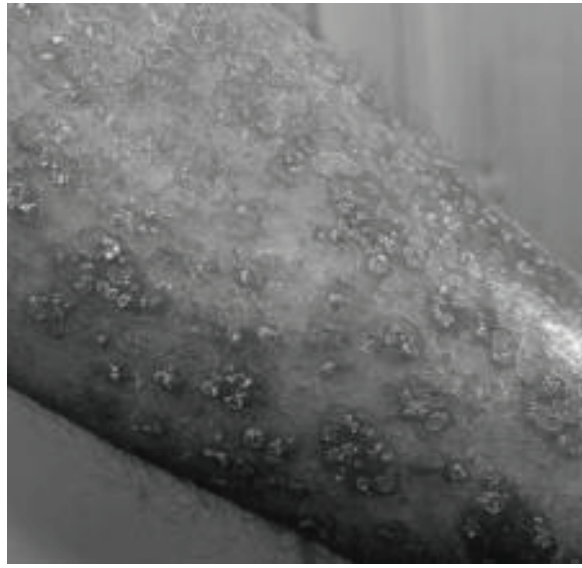
Early exposure to pet dogs may lower the risk of developing atopic eczema -- a condition characterised by dry, itchy, and inflamed skin -- among children who are genetically prone to the condition.

Eczema is an itchy skin disorder caused by a combination of genetic and environmental effects, but little is known about how the two interact.

The findings provide new insights into what could cause eczema in children and how environmental factors may influence genetic risk, experts say.

The study did not look at the effect of dog exposure in the treatment of existing eczema, and experts caution that introducing a dog may make symptoms worse in some children.

"We know that genetic make-up affects a child's risk of developing eczema and previous studies have shown that owning a pet



dog may be protective, but this is the first study to show how this may occur at a molecular level," said Sara J. Brown, from the University of Edinburgh.

"More work is needed, but our findings mean we have a chance to intervene in the rise of allergic disease, to protect future generations," she added.

For the research published in *Allergy*, the

team analysed data from 16 European studies to test for interactions between the 24 most significant eczema-associated genetic variants and 18 early-life environmental factors.

They applied their findings to an additional 10 studies and used lab modelling tests to assess their results.

The first analysis

(including 25,339 individuals) showed suggestive evidence for interaction between seven environmental factors (antibiotic use, cat ownership, dog ownership, breastfeeding, elder sibling, smoking, and washing practices) and at least one established genetic variant for eczema, with 14 interactions in total.

In the additional analysis (254,532 individuals), dog exposure interacted with a particular genetic risk variant on chromosome 5, near the gene that codes for the interleukin-7 receptor, a protein involved in immune cell function.

Lab modelling tests showed that this variant affects the expression of interleukin-7 receptors in human skin cells and that dog exposure modifies the genetic effect of this variant on the development of eczema, essentially providing a protective effect by suppressing skin inflammation.

## 'Maternal exposure to toxic air during pregnancy can raise premature birth risk'

Exposure to the tiny particles in air pollution during pregnancy can disrupt maternal metabolisms, altering key biological pathways, according to a study.

These changes were associated with an increased risk of various negative birth outcomes, including premature birth, said researchers from Emory University.

Preterm birth is also linked to complications such as cerebral palsy, respiratory distress syndrome, and long-term noncommunicable disease risks, while early-term births (37-39 weeks of gestation) are also associated with increased neonatal morbidity and developmental challenges.

Approximately 10 per cent of the preterm births in the world are attributable to PM2.5 exposure.

"The link between air pollution and premature birth has been well established, but for the first time we were able to look



at the detailed pathway and specific fine particles to identify how they are reflected in the increased risk of adverse birth outcomes," said lead author Donghai Liang, and associate professor of environmental health at the varsity's Rollins School of Public Health.

"This is important because if we can figure out the 'why' and 'how' then we can know better

how to address it," Liang added.

The study, which analysed blood samples provided by 330 pregnant women, identified two substances -- cortaxolone and lysoPE -- as factors in the relationship between short-term air pollution exposure and elevated risk of early births, offering a potential mechanism through which air pollution triggers prema-

ture labour. The study highlighted disruptions in protein digestion and absorption -- which are vital to foetal development and immune function -- as potential links between air pollution and early births, also offering new potential targets for prevention efforts.

Of the 330 women who participated in the study, 66 (20 per cent) delivered preterm babies and 54 (16.4 per cent) delivered early-term babies, both of which are significantly higher than the prevalence in the general US population.

The researchers said it is critical to gain a better understanding of these pathways and molecules affected by pollution. "In the future, we may be able to target some of these molecules to develop effective strategies or clinical interventions that could help reduce these adverse health effects," Liang noted.

## North India's First Oceanarium set to Revolutionize Jammu's Tourism Economy: Kavinder

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUNE 18

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Kavinder Gupta, has hailed the upcoming inauguration of North India's first oceanarium, and the third in the country, at Bagh-e-Bahu in Jammu. This landmark project, nearing completion, is poised to become a game-changer for the region's tourism economy, showcasing the dynamic governance and visionary leadership of the BJP-led administration.

The state-of-the-art oceanarium, a pioneering initiative in North India, will offer visitors an unparalleled immersive experience, featuring a diverse range of aquatic



life, including exotic fish species and majestic sharks. He expressed that the facility is designed to captivate tourists, marine enthusiasts, and families alike with its cutting-edge displays, providing both education and entertainment. This ambitious project underscores the BJP-led administration's commitment to enhancing Jammu's stature as a premier tourist destination while fostering economic growth in the region.

Speaking on the significance of the oceanarium, Kavinder Gupta remarked,

"The completion of North India's first oceanarium in Jammu is a historic milestone that reflects the transformative vision of the BJP-led administration. This world-class facility will not only offer a unique experience for visitors but also position Jammu as a hub for tourism and economic development. By showcasing the wonders of marine life, we are creating opportunities for education, employment, and sustainable growth in the region."

The oceanarium, strategically located at the scenic

Bagh-e-Bahu, is expected to draw thousands of visitors from across the country and beyond, boosting local businesses, hospitality, and allied sectors. The project aligns with the administration's broader agenda of promoting sustainable tourism and highlighting Jammu's rich cultural and natural heritage. The facility's advanced infrastructure, coupled with its focus on conservation and education, will provide a platform to raise awareness about marine ecosystems and their preservation.

Gupta further emphasized the economic ripple effect of the oceanarium, stating, "This project is a testament to the BJP's commitment to fostering development that benefits every section of society. The oceanarium will

create direct and indirect employment opportunities, empower local entrepreneurs, and elevate Jammu's tourism profile on the national and global stage."

He elaborates that with the procurement of diverse fish species, including sharks, under way, the oceanarium is in its final stages of preparation and will soon open its doors to the public. This monumental initiative is set to redefine Jammu's tourism landscape, offering a unique blend of adventure, education, and entertainment. The BJP-led administration invites citizens, tourists, and marine enthusiasts to witness this historic milestone and experience the wonders of the ocean right in the heart of Jammu.

## GDC Sunderbani organizes Two-Day Yoga Workshop to Celebrate IYD-2025

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
NOWSHERA, JUNE 18

In celebration of International Yoga Day NCC Unit of GDC Sunderbani is proud to announce a Two-Day Yoga Workshop to be held on [18-06-2025 & 19-06-2025] at the college campus. The event is aimed at promoting physical well-being, mental clarity, and emotional balance among students, faculty, and staff of the college.

Organized by the NCC Unit the workshop will feature experienced yoga instructors who will guide participants through a variety of yoga practices including asanas (postures), pranayama (breathing techniques), meditation, and discussions on the philosophy and health benefits of yoga.

Dr. Vandana Verma,



Principal remarked, "This initiative reflects our commitment to holistic education and wellness. International Yoga Day is the perfect occasion to encourage our community to embrace healthier and

more mindful lifestyles." This workshop not only honors the global recognition of yoga but also strengthens the college's mission to foster a balanced and resilient community.

## DC conducts inspection of Reasi Town to address public grievances

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
REASI, JUNE 18

Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik today conducted an extensive inspection of Reasi town and interacted with public regarding the issues related to civic amenities.

During the visit, the DC interacted with members of the Market Association, former councillors, and the general public to discuss the civic concerns. The public demanded development of parking space, replacement and repair of street and solar lights, upgrading of drainage system, stringing of power wires and augmentation of water supply.

DC Nidhi Malik issued on the spot instructions to concerned departments to take measures to address the issues. The Power



Development Department (PDD) was directed to prepare a list of damaged street and solar lights for prompt repair.

The Public Health Engineering (PHE) department was instructed to deploy water tankers to bridge gaps in the water supply, while the Public Works Department (PWD) was tasked with prepar-

ing a Detailed Project Report (DPR) to improve the drainage system. The Executive Officer (CEO) Municipal Council was instructed to follow all identified issues and ensure their timely resolution.

Additionally, several healthcare-related grievances were brought to the DC's attention. The Chief

Medical Officer (CMO) was directed to take immediate steps to address these concerns and provide quality healthcare services to the public.

The Deputy Commissioner also reaffirmed the administration's commitment to upkeep and maintaining of important tourist attractions, such as Sula Park and Bhingarh Fort, as part of the broader initiative to promote tourism in the district.

DC Nidhi Malik assured the public that all grievances will be addressed on priority and an action taken report will be prepared to ensure transparency and accountability.

ADC Rakesh Kumar, Tehsildar, officials from PWD, PHE, PDD and other departments accompanied the DC during the tour.

## Prof. Amitabh Mattoo conferred with India-Australia Strategic Award

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 18

In a moment of pride and recognition, Prof. Amitabh Mattoo, one of India's most respected academics and policy thinkers, was honoured during a prestigious ceremony commemorating five years of the Australia-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The landmark event celebrated the growing collaboration between the two nations and paid tribute to individuals who have played a pivotal role in nurturing and advancing this vital bilateral relationship.

Held in the presence of senior dignitaries, diplomats, and thought leaders from both countries, the felicitation ceremony recognised Prof. Mattoo's enduring contribution as a bridge of understanding,



cooperation, and strategic trust between India and Australia. A renowned international affairs scholar and former Advisor to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Prof. Mattoo has long championed the cause of deeper academic, cultural, and strategic ties between the two democracies.

Prof. Mattoo was the inaugural Director of the Australia India Institute both at the University of Melbourne and at its New Delhi Chapter, where he played a transformative role in shaping the intellectual and diplomatic

dialogue between the two countries. He also holds the position of Honorary Professor at the University of Melbourne, further solidifying his influence and commitment to Indo-Australian collaboration in higher education and public policy.

The event witnessed Prof. Mattoo being presented with a token of honour and appreciation on stage, amidst resounding applause. Expressing his emotions on social media, Prof. Mattoo shared, "A deep honour, humbling & overwhelming."

Over the years, Prof. Mattoo has been instrumental in forging robust partnerships across educational institutions, think tanks, and policy circles. His visionary leadership has led to several high-impact academic and policy exchanges that have enriched the strategic relationship between India and Australia.

Launched in June 2020, the Australia-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership has since evolved into a multifaceted framework encompassing cooperation across defence, trade, education, technology, and regional security. Honouring Prof. Mattoo at this milestone celebration is a testament to the impact of individuals who have laid the intellectual and strategic foundations of this vital global partnership.

## Modi's Governance delivers development with transparency: Vibodh

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUNE 18

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir General Secretary and former MLC Vibodh Gupta strongly emphasized the transformative development taking place across the Union Territory under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Viksit Bharat". Speaking at a Shakti Kendra Choupal held in Kalyan Pur, Marh (Jammu North), Vibodh highlighted the government's commitment to transparent governance, grassroots empowerment, and inclusive progress.

Addressing the public gathering, Vibodh Gupta said, "Jammu and Kashmir is moving forward with confidence and speed under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Modi. Development, which was once a distant dream, is now a ground reality—from rural infrastructure to digital services, every sector is witnessing unprecedented growth."

Vibodh further added that the government's focus on grassroots-level development has empowered the common people, ensuring that benefits of various welfare schemes reach even the most remote areas. "PM Modi's model of \*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vish-



was\* is not just a slogan—it's a working philosophy that is transforming lives," he said.

Vibodh also praised the pace of implementation of central government schemes such as

\*Ayushman Bharat\*, \*PM Awas Yojana\*, and \*Digital India\*, which have brought health insurance, housing, and digital infrastructure to underserved communities. He stressed that these initiatives have improved

the quality of life and created new opportunities for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

BJP MLA from Marh, Surinder Baghat, emphasized the impact of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary leadership, stating that under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the vision of Viksit Bharat is no longer just a dream—it is being implemented on the ground with determi-

nation and vision. He highlighted various schemes of central government which has benefited the marginalised sections of society. The transformation is a direct result of PM Modi's

focus on inclusive growth and grassroots-level development.

District President Nand Kishore said that Prime Minister Modi's commitment to building a Viksit

Bharat is ensuring that even the remotest villages in the country are part of India's growth story. He stringently asserted that the development that was once limited to paper

promises under earlier regimes is now visible on the ground—from electrification and clean drinking water to digital services and transparent governance.

### UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Office of the Superintendent Industrial Training Institute, R.S.Pura  
(Website:-www.itirspura.in)------(E-mail:-itirspura@gmail.com)



#### EXTENSION OF ADMISSION NOTICE

In pursuance of the Director, Skill Development J&K's Extensions notice issued under endorsement No.DSD/401/Trgs/2025/2165-2257 Dated 16.06.2025, the last date for submission of online applications along with the hard copies, for admission in Govt. Industrial Training Institute R.S.Pura for the academic session 2025-26/27 for the following Trades is hereby extended upto 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2025.

However the other Terms & Conditions shall remain same as notified earlier vide this office admission notification No. ITI/RSP/2025/18d/107-13 Dated:-09.05.2025.

#### DETAIL OF TRADES IN GOVT. ITI R.S.PURA.

S.No	Trade	Intake Capacity	Duration of Course	Entry Qualification	Whether NCVT/SCVT	Scheme
1	Computer operator and Programming Assistant	24	01 year	10 <sup>th</sup>	NCVT	Normal
2	Computer operator and Programming Assistant	24	01 Year	10 <sup>th</sup>	NCVT	Self-Finance
3	Stenographer & Secretarial Assistant (English)	24	01 year	10 <sup>th</sup>	NCVT	Normal
4	Stenographer & Secretarial Assistant (English)	24	01 Year	10 <sup>th</sup>	NCVT	Self-Finance
5	Welder	20	01 year	8 <sup>th</sup>	NCVT	Normal
6	Sewing Technology	20	01 Year	8 <sup>th</sup>	NCVT	Normal
7	Plumber	24	01 Year	8 <sup>th</sup>	NCVT	Self Finance
8	Electrician	20	02 Year	10 <sup>th</sup>	NCVT	Self-Finance
9	Mechanic Agricultural Machinery	24	02 Years	10 <sup>th</sup>	SCVT	Normal
10	Mechanic Tractor	20	01 Year	10 <sup>th</sup>	NCVT	Normal

No.ITI/RSP/2025/18-D/211-16  
Dated:- 17 .06.2025

Sd/-  
Superintendent  
Industrial Training Institute  
R.S.Pura

DIP/J-2307/25  
Date: 18-6-25

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER TRANS. LINE**  
**MAINTT.DIV-IV, JKPTCL, AMBEDKAR CHOWK, JAMMU**

**J&K.**

Email: xentlmd04@gmail.com/Ph/Fax: 0191-2453427

Subject: **Extension of E-NIT No: TLM-D/IV/J/05 of 2025-26 Dated: 23/05/2025**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
**EXTENSION OF DATES**

The dates of captioned E-NIT's are hereby extended:

1	Last date for submission of hard copy of e-bid	24.06.2025 (02.00PM)
2	e-Bid submission (end) date & Time	24.06.2025 (02.00PM)
3	Online Commercial and Technical e-Bid opening date & Time	26.06.2025 (02:00PM)

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

-Sd/  
**Executive Engineer,**  
**Transmission Line Maintt. Div.-IV,**  
**Jammu**

**DIP/J-843-P/25**  
**Date: 18-6-25**

## NCC Cadets of SMVDU participate in Pre-NIC Camp at NCC Training Academy, Nagrota

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JUNE 18

In a commendable display of discipline, enthusiasm, and national spirit, two NCC cadets from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) – Cadet Charvi Thakur and Cadet Saher Sharma, participated in the Pre-National Integration Camp (Pre-NIC) held at the NCC Training Academy, Nagrota (J&K). The camp aimed to prepare and shortlist cadets for the Special National Integration Camp (SNIC), a prestigious platform that fosters unity and cultural exchange among youth from across the country.

The camp offered a structured and intensive training program that included daily Physical Training (PT) sessions, where cadets engaged in fitness drills and



exercises to improve endurance, discipline, and coordination. Cadets also underwent professional Wushu training, which equipped them with self-defense skills and helped enhance focus, strength, and agility. In addition to physical and leadership training, Cadets showcased their talents by actively participating in the cultural events organized during the camp. These

events included group singing, dance performances, dramatics, and state-wise cultural presentations that celebrated India's rich diversity. Their spirited performances helped promote cultural harmony and left a lasting impression on fellow cadets and instructors. Both cadets also underwent various modules of the Pre-SNIC selection process. These were designed

to identify cadets with leadership potential and a deep sense of national pride to represent the region at the SNIC. Dr. Varun Dutta, NCC Coordinator, and Ms. Deepika Malik, CTO, NCC from SMVDU consistently motivated and guided the cadets throughout their preparation and participation.

Their mentorship played a vital role in encouraging the cadets to excel in all spheres of the camp. On this proud occasion, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, and Sh. Ajay Kumar Sharma, Registrar, SMVDU, congratulated the cadets for their outstanding participation. They appreciated the efforts of the NCC unit of SMVDU in fostering leadership, cultural awareness, and a spirit of service and unity among the students.

## 2nd District Magistrate Open Chess Championship 2025 concludes at Poonch

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, JUNE 18

The 2nd District Magistrate Open Chess Championship 2025 concluded today at Dina Nath Rafiq Memorial (DNRM) Girls Higher Secondary School. The event was organized by the District Administration Poonch in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services and Sports.

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal attended the closing ceremony as the Chief Guest. He congratulated the participants and gave away trophies and cash prizes to the winners for their excellent performance.

In the girl's category, Heena Mir secured 1st position, Musarat Nayeem 2nd and Vanshika Raina 3rd.

In the boy's category, Rashid Manzoor stood 1st, followed by Suryanish



Sharma in 2nd and Raman Sharma in 3rd place.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the efforts of the Youth Services and Sports Department and the school for promoting sports among the youth. He also announced

the introduction of rugby in the district to further engage young talent.

The championship ended on a high note, reflecting the growing interest and talent in chess among students of the region.

## Commissioner Secretary reviews functioning of FCS&CA department

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 18

Commissioner Secretary Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Saurabh Bhagat, today reviewed overall functioning of the department in a meeting held here. Director FCS&CA Kashmir, Dr. Owais Ahmed besides senior officers of the department including district officers attended the meeting. The Director FCS&CA, Kashmir, apprised the Commissioner Secretary of the stock and supply position of foodgrains and Petroleum Products in the division. It was also informed that more than 70% distribution of foodgrains for the current month has been completed while lifting for the month of July is also going on subsequently.

## Mission YUVA boosts youth empowerment in Rajouri: 21 projects cleared for funding by DLIC



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJOURI, JUNE 18

The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) under Mission YUVA was held today in Rajouri. The meeting was chaired by the District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma. The meeting aimed to review and approve applications received under the Mission YUVA initiative, designed to foster youth entrepreneurship and self-employment.

A total of 31 applications, verified by the SBDU, were presented for consideration. Following a comprehensive evaluation based on eligibility, business viability, and the applicants' socio-economic background, all applications scrutinised for financial assistance and handholding support under the Mission YUVA framework. After thorough verification of documents/DPRs etc, 21 cases were approved by the DLIC.

Addressing the committee, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized

the vital role of self-employment in empowering youth, instructing all departments to ensure timely fund disbursement, robust monitoring, and dedicated mentoring to guarantee the sustainability of the supported ventures.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the importance of expanding outreach activities, organizing awareness camps, and conducting mobile registration drives to ensure the benefits of Mission YUVA reach every eligible youth in the district. "Mission YUVA is not just a scheme—it's a movement to promote innovation, self-reliance and employment generation," he stated, reaffirming the administration's commitment to continuous support and monitoring.

The meeting was attended by key officials including the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Deputy Director Employment, Functional Manager DIC, Lead District Manager, DDM NABARD and District Nodal Officer JKEDI.

## Pre-Yoga Day Event organized at Ved Mandir Bal Ashram, Jammu

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JUNE 18

As part of the preparations for International Yoga Day (June 21), a special yoga program was organized today at Ved Mandir Bal Ashram, Amphalla, Jammu. The event was graced by renowned social activist and National Incharge of the Rashtriya Gau Raksha Samiti, Movement Kalki, Mr. Mohit Sharma as the Chief Guest.

The program was chaired by the District AYUSH Department, Jammu, with the presence of Dr. Himani Bhutyal (Nodal Officer), who educated the children about health, discipline, and the significance of yoga.

Yoga instructors Ms. Riya and Mr. Kunal Jamwal taught the children simple and effective yoga asanas. The children actively and enthusiastically practiced and repeated exercises like Tadasana, Vajrasana, Anulom-Vilom, and Bhramari



Pranayama. Distinguished members of the Bal Ashram – Shri Nagarmal Ji, Shri Vijay Ji, Ms. Amita Ji, and Shri Purn Chand Sharma Ji – were also present, encouraging the children and contributing to the success of the event.

The objective of the program was not only to promote physical health but also to instill mental balance, discipline, and an understanding of Indian cultural values among the children. The curiosity, energy, and eagerness to learn displayed by the children impressed all attend-

ees. Chief Guest Mr. Mohit Sharma, in his address, said:

"Yoga is not merely physical exercise but a means of purifying the soul and stabilizing the mind. Introducing children to yoga from an early age is a crucial step toward shaping them into balanced, self-reliant, and disciplined citizens."

The event concluded with a group yoga demonstration by all the children, who showcased the practices they had learned with great concentration and enthusiasm, leaving the guests highly impressed.

## Mizoram makes history by inking BHASHINI MoU with Gol to bridge linguistic gaps

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 18

A historical Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was inked (signed) between Government of Mizoram through Amit Sharma, Secretary to the Government of Mizoram, Information & Communications Technology (ICT) and Cooperation Departments and Amitabh Nag, Chief Executive Officer, Bhashini Division, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, in the presence of Chief Secretary Mizoram Khilli Ram Meena and Additional Secretary, MeitY Abhishek Singh today at the Conference Hall of Electronics Niketan, MeitY, New Delhi.

With this important and historical milestone for Mizoram which was achieved today, through the introduction of multi-linguistic AI-based model of Bhashini in the state of Mizoram, the Government working and even the general public, shall get highly benefitted with the usage of this platform for live conversion of text-to-text, text-to-speech, speech-to-text and even, speech-to-speech from Mizo language to any other popular Indian language like English or Hindi and vice-versa.

Secretary ICT Mizoram expressed deep gratitude to the MeitY, Government of India for taking special initiative to bring



Mizoram, amongst all states in North Eastern Region (NER), in this Artificial Intelligence based multi-linguistic fold and help this much-needed cause of public here, who are largely con-versant with Mizo language only.

Also, Chief Secretary Mizoram Khilli Ram Meena, who visited MeitY for Bhashini-signing ceremony to-day, mentioned that this partnership with BHASHINI will make digital governance truly accessible to every Mizo citizen. He further said that by preserving Mizo language while embracing technology, we are building a more inclusive digital future for Mizoram.

While sharing his views, Secretary ICT Mizoram Amit Sharma said that BHASHINI's multilingual technology will transform how we serve our citizens. This collaboration shall ensure that tribal communities of Mizoram can access digital services in their native language, making governance more

inclusive and culturally sensitive.

Additional Secretary MeitY, at this historical occasion said that Bhashini's implementation as an AI-driven Large Language Model (LLM) should be done strongly through organization of a big Workshop in Mizoram soon, led by Chief Minister & all Ministers of Mizoram and inclusion of colleges and schools through Hackathons, Quiz Competitions, etc in a Mission Mode manner for next few months so that Bhashini's maximum usage could improve its accuracy-levels in times to come.

The ceremony got concluded with the exchange of MoU and related documents between the Government of Mizoram and Bhashini team with a resolve to partner together in usage of AI-driven Bhashini Rajyam platform in all Government and Public platforms in a big way for its sustained usage by Mizos in the times to come.

## SWD distributes free aids, appliances among Divyangjans & senior citizens at Ramnagar



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, JUNE 18

Department of Social Welfare Udhampur organized free distribution camp of aids and appliances for senior citizens under RVY scheme and for Divyangjans under ADIP in Tehsil Social Welfare Office Ramnagar in collaboration with ALIMCO.

MLA Ramnagar, Sunil Bhardwaj graced the occasion as chief guest.

District Social Welfare Officer, Kanika Gupta presented welcome address and apprised the chair about the details of the camp.

A total of 354 devices were to be handed over to 149 beneficiaries costing around Rs. 10 lacs.

While speaking on the occasion, MLA Ramnagar, Sunil Bhardwaj congratulated

the beneficiaries and applauded the efforts of Social Welfare Department in serving the needy people. He distributed various assistive devices such as motorized tricycle, artificial limbs, wheelchairs, hearing aid and cane sticks among the beneficiaries. He also directed the department to organize such camps at regular interval so that left out beneficiary if any is covered.

The program saw gathering of around 200 people including team from Artificial Limbs Organization of India, SHO Ramnagar, staff of Social Welfare and beneficiaries of the scheme.

Earlier in the previous day, a similar distribution camp was organized in Block Majalta covering around 50 beneficiaries to whom 87 devices were distributed.

## Indian Army Mountaineering Expedition honours Galwan Heroes

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JUNE 18

To promote border area tourism in the Union Territory of Ladakh, the Indian Army conducted a mountaineering expedition to Mount Shani Kangri and Mount Silver Peak. The expedition was flagged off on 28 May 2025 by Lt Gen Hitesh Bhalla, GOC Fire and Fury Corps and culminated on 18 Jun 2025. The expedition honoured the valour of Ladakhi soldiers who laid down their lives during the Galwan conflict.

Comprising 28 highly skilled personnel trained in ice and rock craft, the team demonstrated exceptional endurance and technical prowess in high-altitude mountaineering. The peaks, located in the Karakoram Range southwest of the Depsang Plains, are snow-bound round the year and known for their extreme terrain and climate.

## DYSS Kathua organizes Common Protocol Yoga Sessions ahead of IYD



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KATHUA, JUNE 18

In the run-up to the 11th International Yoga Day on June 21, the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS), Kathua, organized a series of Common Protocol Yoga sessions across various schools in the district. These sessions were

conducted during morning assemblies and saw enthusiastic participation from both students and staff.

Under the guidance of yoga experts, participants were introduced to different aspects of yoga, including its scientific benefits, its positive impact on academic performance, and practical ways to incorporate yoga into daily routines.

The initiative highlights DYSS Kathua's commitment to promoting physical and mental well-being among students, reinforcing the importance of yoga in achieving holistic development and a healthy lifestyle.

## Manish Sahni urges action to protect Holy Him Shivling for safe Darshan during Shri Amarnath Yatra

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JUNE 18

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni has demanded to take appropriate steps to keep the Holy Him Shivling safe for darshan till the duration of the annual Shri Amarnath Yatra which is going on from 3 July to 9 August.

The party state chief Manish Sahni has justified the decision of the Shrine Board not to provide helicopter service for the safety of the pilgrims and the Holy



Him Shivling. Sahni said that although this decision will definitely cause inconvenience to some pilgrims, the safety of the pilgrims is paramount. At the same time, the increasing number of helicopter flights and excessive noise was proving to be a reason

for the premature melting of the naturally formed Holy Him Shivling in the Amarnath cave temple. In the last few years, the Holy Him Shivling was disappearing before the end of the Yatra period, due to which the devotees coming on the Yatra in the last days were not getting the chance to have darshan. Sahni has demanded from the Shrine Board to make all appropriate arrangements to keep the Holy Shivling safe for darshan during the yatra period.

## PM Modi terms visit to Croatia a special one; is welcomed by Indian diaspora, Sanskrit chants

AGENCIES  
ZAGREB (CROATIA), JUNE 18

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today termed his visit to Croatia as a special one, it being the first ever by an Indian Prime Minister to the central European nation. He thanked Prime Minister Andrej Plenković for the special gesture of welcoming him at the airport.

In a post on X, the PM said:

"A short while ago, landed in Zagreb, Croatia. This is a special visit, the first ever by an Indian Prime Minister to a valued European partner. I am grateful to Prime Minister Andrej Plenković for the special gesture of welcoming me at the airport."

The Indian community also gave a rousing welcome to the PM.

"Croatia's Indian community has contributed to Croatia's progress and also remained in touch with their roots in India. In Zagreb, I interacted with some members of the Indian community, who accorded me an unforgettable welcome. There is immense enthusiasm among the Indian community here about



this visit and its impact in making the bond between our nations stronger than ever before!"

Later, the PM was treated to the chanting of Sanskrit shlokas by a group in Zagreb. The PM who was seen appreciating the chanting, posted on X: "The bonds of culture are strong and vibrant! Here is a part of the welcome in Zagreb. Happy to see Indian culture has so much respect in Croatia"

The two nations are expected to sign a number of memorandums and bilateral agreements across various sectors, including agriculture,

culture, and education, during the talks between Prime Minister Modi and Croatian PM Plenković.

In the evening, the PM is to meet President Zoran Milanović.

"India is one of Croatia's most important partners in Asia. This is a historic, first visit by an Indian Prime Minister. It is the world's most populous country, with 1.44 billion people," said PM Plenković at a government session on Wednesday.

He described the bilateral relations between the two countries as good and "on the rise," adding that Modi is visiting Croatia at

his invitation, following the G7 summit in Canada.

India officially recognised Croatia in May 1992, and diplomatic relations were established in July of the same year.

Croatia and India have rarely exchanged visits at the highest level. President Stjepan Mesić paid an official visit to India in 2002, and then-President of India Ram Nath Kovind made a return visit in 2019.

According to data, trade between the two countries from January to November 2024 amounted to approximately USD 306 million, with Croatia running a significant trade deficit.

## INS Arnala commissioned into Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 18

INS Arnala, the first of the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts, was commissioned into the Eastern Naval Command of the Indian Navy on Wednesday in the presence of General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff, at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam.

Designed for a broad range of Anti-Submarine operations, INS Arnala is equipped to conduct sub-surface surveillance and interdiction, search and rescue missions; and Low-Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO), a Defence Ministry statement said.

This 77-metre-long warship, with a gross tonnage of over 1490 tonnes, is the largest Indian Naval warship to be propelled by a diesel engine-waterjet



combination.

The commissioning of INS Arnala not only reinforces India's defence capability but also highlights the triumph of indigenous design, engineering, and manufacturing.

As India continues its maritime journey toward greater self-reliance, INS Arnala stands as a proud symbol of national strength, industrial partnership and naval excel-

lence.

In his address, the CDS underscored the Indian Navy's remarkable transition from a "Buyer's Navy" to a "Builder's Navy", highlighting this as the backbone of the country's Blue Water aspirations. With large number of ships currently under construction in India - including capital warships and auxiliaries - India has emerged as a formidable force in ship-

building.

Indigenous warships now feature cutting-edge home-grown systems ranging from stealth technology to electronic warfare suites and advanced sensors significantly enhancing combat preparedness and progressively realising the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

The CDS commended the Indian Navy for the steadfast commitment to transforming strategic vision into tangible outcomes via the indigenous route.

The induction of INS Arnala, named after the historic coastal fort off Maharashtra, is a step in the direction of building naval capabilities in line with the force levels envisaged to meet the challenges of the future.

## Shah approves Rs 2006 cr Central aid for recovery and reconstruction in Himachal

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 18

In a significant step towards rebuilding disaster-affected regions, a high-level committee, chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday approved Rs 2006.40 crore in Central assistance to Himachal Pradesh.

The financial aid is earmarked for recovery and reconstruction activities in the wake of the devastating floods, landslides, and cloudbursts that struck the state in 2023, a Home Ministry statement said.

The committee, comprising of Finance Minister, Agriculture Minister and Vice Chairman NITI Aayog as members considered the proposal for financial assistance to the state from recovery and reconstruction funding window under National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). The committee has approved the recovery plan of Rs 2006.40 crore to Himachal Pradesh,



which will help the state in carrying out recovery and reconstruction activities, arisen due to damage and destruction that occurred in 2023 monsoon due to floods, cloudbursts and landslides.

Out of this, Rs 1,504.80 crore will be the Central share from recovery and reconstruction funding window under NDRF. Earlier, on December 12, 2023, the Ministry of Home Affairs had approved additional financial assistance of Rs 633.73 crore from the NDRF for Himachal Pradesh, which was affected by this disaster.

The statement said that the Central government stands shoulder to shoulder with state gov-

ernments during natural calamities and disasters.

To fulfill Prime Minister Modi's vision of disaster-resilient India, the MHA has taken several initiatives to ensure effective management of disasters in the country. A number of steps have been taken to prevent any extensive loss to life and property during disasters by strengthening disaster risk reduction system in India.

The Central government had approved recovery plans for the states of Uttarakhand (Rs 1658.17 crore) in the aftermath of Joshimath subsidence and for Sikkim (Rs 555.27 crore), in the aftermath of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) incident of 2023.

The Central government had approved a number of mitigation projects with overall financial outlay of Rs 7,253.51 crore, for mitigating the risks of a number of hazards in the areas of urban floods (Rs 3075.65 crore), landslides (Rs.1000 crore), GLOF (Rs 150 crore), forest fire (Rs 818.92 crore), lightning (Rs. 186.78 crore) and drought (Rs 2022.16 crore).

This additional assistance is over and above the funds released by the centre to states in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), already placed at the disposal of the states.

During the financial year 2024-25, the Central government has released Rs 20,264.40 crore to 28 states under SDRF and Rs 5,160.76 crore under NDRF to 19 states. Additionally, Rs 4984.25 crore from the State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF) to 19 states and Rs 719.72 crore from National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) to eight states has also been released.

## Govt unveils Rs 3,000 FASTag annual pass for Pvt vehicles from Aug 15

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 18

In a major push towards hassle-free and efficient highway travel, the government on Wednesday announced the launch of a FASTag-based annual pass, priced at Rs 3,000, effective from August 15.

The pass, designed exclusively for non-commercial private vehicles such as cars, jeeps, and vans will be valid for one year from the date of activation or up to 200 highway trips, whichever is earlier, Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Trans-



port & Highways posted this information on social media platform X.

The annual pass will enable seamless movement across National Highways and aims to address long-standing issues at toll

plazas, especially those located within a 60 km range, he said.

A dedicated link for activation and renewal will soon be made available on the Rajmarg Yatra App as well as on the official web-

sites of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).

This policy will address the long-standing concerns regarding toll plazas located within a 60 km range and simplify the toll payments through a single, affordable transaction.

By reducing wait times, easing congestion, and minimising disputes at toll plazas, the annual pass aims to deliver a faster and smoother travel experience for millions of private vehicle owners, the Minister added.

## Trump-Munir 'lunch' meet; Ramesh takes a dig at PM

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 18

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, citing a series of recent developments involving the United States and Pakistan describing them as a "triple jhatka" to the government's foreign policy.

On his social media handle X, Ramesh questioned the Modi government's silence over the reported lunch meeting between US President Donald Trump and Pakistan Field Marshal Asim

Munir at the White House.

Ramesh said, "Field Marshal Asim Munir, the man whose inflammatory, incendiary and provocative remarks were linked directly to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attacks, is having lunch today with President Trump in the White House. Is this why President Trump abandoned the G7 Summit a day early denying Mr. Narendra Modi a huge hug?"

He further alleged, "President Trump himself has trumpeted 14 times

that he brought about a ceasefire between India and Pakistan meaning he ended Operation Sindoor".

He further raised concerns by pointing to US Central Command Chief General Michael Kurilla's remark, where he praised Pakistan as an "outstanding" partner in counter-terrorism operations.

"This is a triple jhatka to 'Howdy Modi' by 'Namaste Trump'," Ramesh quipped, adding that "Indian diplomacy is being shattered and the PM is totally silent. And tomorrow is the fifth anniversary of his (in)famous clean chit to China".

## Axiom-04 launch likely on June 22: Dr Jitendra Singh

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 18

The Axiom Mission 04, a private crewed spaceflight to the International Space Station (ISS), is now scheduled for launch on June 22, subject to final clearances on module fitness, crew health, and weather conditions.

The mission includes Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla among its international crew, marking a significant milestone in India's foray into commercial human spaceflight.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for



Science & Technology and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh, confirmed the development on Wednesday.

"After reviewing all key parameters, Axiom Space has indicated June 22 as the likely launch date for the Axiom-04 mission carrying Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla to the ISS," Dr Singh said in

a post on X.

He further added that this mission reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of India's rising global stature in space innovation and international collaborations.

Axiom Space, which is organising the mission in coordination with NASA and SpaceX, said further updates would be shared as they become available.

This will be one of the first instances of an Indian citizen travelling to space on a privately operated orbital mission, paving the way for future global partnerships in space exploration.

## Tribal culture has special place in cultural richness of Odisha : CM Majhi

AGENCIES  
BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 18

Tribal culture has taken a special place in the cultural richness of Odisha, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Wednesday said.

Inaugurating the state-level Adivasi Shakti Samavesh organized at Chhau Podia, Baripada on the occasion of the first year of the state government, the Chief Minister said to achieve the goal of a prosperous Odisha in the next 11 years, the tribals and scheduled castes who constitute 40 percent of the state, must be developed.

He said there is a unique fusion of culture and tradition in this "Adivasui Shakti Samavesh, organized under the auspices of the State Government's Department of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes Development and Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare.

This convention, Majhi said, has created an opportunity to bring together all

the tribal communities of the state and introduce them to each other's culture.

The main objective of this gathering is to ensure that all the problems and needs of the tribal community are addressed, the Chief Minister said, adding that we are committed to improving their education, health, and social security.

The Chief Minister said it is a matter of pride for us that seven tribal community MLAs from Mayurbhanj are representing this district today.

When it comes to honor, the daughter of a common family from Mayurbhanj, despite many obstacles, is today the first citizen of the country, glorifying the country as the President.

Majhi further said under the Chief Minister's Tribal Livelihood Mission, the livelihood and economic condition of 1.45 lakh tribal families has improved through agriculture, irrigation and animal husbandry.

## Three top Maoists killed in Andhra encounter

AGENCIES  
PADERU (ANDHRA PRADESH), JUNE 18

Three top-ranked Maoists, including central committee

Member Gajarla Ravi alias Uday were killed in a fierce encounter with the Greyhounds personnel at Rampachodavaram village early on Wednesday.

According to the police, a Greyhound team conducted the combing at Kondamodalu, Koyyalagudem and Chintakur villages between Rampachodavaram

and Maredumilli mandal in the forest area. The Greyhound team noticed the movements of Maoists near Devipatnam forest area.

When the Greyhounds personnel were nearing them, the Maoists opened fire which the Greyhounds retaliated. Sources said that Maoists central com-

mittee member Gajarla Ravi alias Uday, Andhra-Odisha Border ACM Anju and special zone committee member Aruna were killed in the encounter.

The police recovered three AK 47 rifles and ammunition from the encounter site. One of the deceased, Aruna, was the wife of one of the Maoists' top

leaders and Central Committee member Chalapathi Rao, who was killed in an encounter in January, 2025 at the AP-Odisha border. Aruna was an accused in the killings of the then MLA Kidari Sarveswara Rao and former MLA Siveri Somu in the combined Visakhapatnam in 2018 at Dumbiguda village.

## South Africa heroes rewarded for WTC25 Final heroics in latest rankings

AGENCIES  
DUBAI, JUNE 18

Newly crowned ICC World Test Champions South Africa are basking in their glory, with multiple members of their stellar cast at the WTC Men's Test Player Rankings.

Leading the way is their Player of the Match from the final at Lord's, Aiden Markram. The prolific batter has risen seven places to just outside the top-10 in the Men's Test Batting Rankings, with only two points separating the Protea from New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell (725) in 10th.

Markram amassed an impressive 136 runs off 207 balls in a masterful display of Test batting to take South Africa across the line in the WTC Final.

The 30-year-old, who also nabbed a couple of crucial wickets for South Africa, has also been rewarded in the Test All-Rounders Rankings, rising



a whopping 44 places.

David Bedingham, who closed the famous win for South Africa, also made a move of note in the Batting Rankings, climbing 17 places to 40 alongside Cameron Green.

Meanwhile, South Africa fast bowler Lungi Ngidi, who produced an inspirational spell with the ball during Australia's second innings, has also soared in the Bowling Rankings, an ICC report said.

The right-arm quick climbs seven spots to share the 37th place with fellow quicks Lahiru Kumara and Naseem Shah.

Kagiso Rabada, who was South Africa's pick of the bowlers, maintained his second place among the bowlers, next to India's Jasprit Bumrah.

For Australia, seasoned speedster Mitchell Starc and all-rounder Beau Webster benefited from valiant displays through the summit clash.

Starc, who took five wickets through the Test and scored a fighting half-century in the second innings, climbed to 10th spot in the Men's Test Bowling and All-Rounders Rankings.

Webster meanwhile, who was Australia's top

scorer in the first innings, ascended 13 places in the Batting Rankings.

In the ODI Player Rankings, key performers from the Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 action have boasted impressive climbs. Netherlands top-order batter Michael Levitt, who was also handy with the ball, has soared 22 places in the Batting Rankings to go with a climb of 21 among the bowlers and another 27 in the all-rounders charts. Levitt also leapt 11 places in the T20I batting charts to the 30th spot in the tri-series after League 2 play, just below Pakistan's Mohammad Haris.

His teammate Noah Croes also jumped 20 places in the Men's ODI Batting Rankings after making a vital fifty from the four-wicket win against Scotland. Nepal's Aarif Sheikh, who top-scored with the bat in the 16-run win over the Dutch, climbs 13 places in the batting charts.

## Khel Gaon: DG J&K YSS for speedy completion of developmental works

AGENCIES  
JAMMU, JUNE 18

Jammu and Kashmir Director General Youth Services and Sports, Anuradha Gupta on Wednesday directed for speedy completion of developmental works during her visit to the Khel Gaon Nagrota here in the city outskirts.

She served strict instructions to the concerned authorities for speedy completion of developmental works.

While inspecting the developmental works, Anuradha batted for early completion of the infrastructural facilities at this venue, which is the first of its kind multipurpose sports facility owned by the Department.

While inspecting the ongoing developmental work of Hockey Turf, Synthetic Athletic Track, Cycle Track and Multipurpose Hall, the work of which was in full swing at this venue.

On the occasion, Executive Engineer Sanjeev Sharma, AEE Gautam Raina, JE Kunal and Incharge Khel Gaon, Vishal Bharti Slathia, Incharge



Works were present.

The officers assured of early completion of the construction works.

Termining the venue as an asset for the Department rather a sporting hub, the Director General Youth Services and Sports said that the Department was committed to raise sports infrastructure at all levels and in every nook and corner of the Union Territory, adding that making Khel Gaon a sporting hub was the need of the hour.

"Khel Gaon caters to

the needs of thousands of sportspersons as it is a multipurpose sports facility. The dire need is to enhance sports infra at the venue and the Department is committed to do so," maintained Anuradha.

She further said the sporting facility at Khel Gaon enables the Department to hold multiple activities simultaneously at the venue and yield better results.

Director General Youth Services and Sports also served instructions to the

concerned regarding the requisite arrangements needed to celebrate World Yoga Day, falling on June 21, in a most befitting manner.

The DG Sports was accompanied by Vinakahi Koul, Joint Director Youth Services and Sports Jammu, Ravi Sharma, Deputy Director Youth Services and Sports (Planning); Sunil Kumar Sharma, Accounts Officer of the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports and few other officers and officials of the Directorate.

## Liverpool host Bournemouth to open Premier League season

AGENCIES  
LONDON, JUNE 18

Champions Liverpool will host Bournemouth on the opening weekend of the 2025-26 Premier League season, with Manchester United playing Arsenal at Old Trafford.

Liverpool, who won the league in Arne Slot's first season in charge, will begin their title defence at Anfield in the curtain-raiser on August 15.

Newly promoted Sunderland, back in the top flight for the first time since 2016-17, start their campaign at home against West Ham the following day.

Championship winners Leeds welcome Everton



to Elland Road for the Monday night game, while Burnley - promoted back to the top flight at the first time of asking - travel to Europa League holders Tottenham, who will be led by Thomas Frank in a league match for the first time.

Everton fans will have to wait until the second

round of fixtures for their first league game at the Hill Dickinson Stadium, when they will face Brighton.

Pep Guardiola's Manchester City will hope to bounce back from a rare trophyless season with a strong start against Wolverhampton Wanderers at Molineux, according

to a BBC news.

The season, which consists of 380 games over 33 weekends and five mid-week rounds, will conclude on May 24.

The Premier League has said the start date of August 15 - 82 days on from the end of the 2024-25 season - "allows for the maximum player rest time available".

During the festive period, clubs will not be asked to play twice in less than 60 hours.

It will be the first season with the new Premier League TV deal in place, with every game outside of the Saturday 3pm blackout to be broadcast live by either Sky Sports or TNT Sports.

## Full schedule unveiled for ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026

AGENCIES  
DUBAI, JUNE 18

The full schedule for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 has officially been revealed on Wednesday with renowned venues up and down the country set to host 24 days of thrilling international sport.

The tournament will open with England taking on Sri Lanka under lights at Edgbaston June 12, kicking off a whirlwind month of world-class action that will see 12 teams battling it out for the prestigious trophy, currently held by New Zealand.

Hundreds of thousands of cricket fans will have the opportunity to witness nail-biting showdowns between the likes of Australia and South Africa, India and Pakistan, and New Zealand and the West Indies, as the tournament travels the length of the country, firmly propelling women's cricket into the mainstream.

With the semi-finals and final already confirmed to take place in London, at The Oval and Lord's respectively; iconic venues such as Headingley, Old Trafford Cricket Ground, Bristol County Ground and Hampshire Bowl will also play their part in showcasing world-class cricket throughout the earlier stages of the landmark tournament.

England captain, Nat Sciver-Brunt, said, "World Cups are always special, but this one already feels different - it has the potential to be truly game-changing. It's going to be a huge moment for our sport and a brilliant opportunity to inspire young people and captivate fans across the country. Playing on home soil, for the biggest prize, against the best players in the world, it's going to be unmissable.

I can't wait to be a part of it."

The tournament will not only give fans across the nation a chance to see world-famous cricketers in action but will also affect lasting change by inspiring countless women and girls across the country to get involved with cricket.

Tournament Director, Beth Barrett-Wild, com-



### ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 Groups:

Group 1: Australia, South Africa, India, Pakistan, Qualifier, Qualifier  
Group 2: West Indies, England, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Qualifier, Qualifier

Full ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 Schedule:  
Friday June 12: England v Sri Lanka, Edgbaston 18:30 BST  
Saturday June 13: Qualifier v Qualifier, Old Trafford Cricket Ground 10:30 BST  
Saturday June 13: Australia v South Africa, Old Trafford Cricket Ground 14:30 BST  
Saturday June 13: West Indies v New Zealand, Hampshire Bowl 18:30 BST  
Sunday June 14: Qualifier v Qualifier, Edgbaston 10:30 BST  
Sunday June 14: India v Pakistan, Edgbaston 14:30 BST  
Tuesday June 16: New Zealand v Sri Lanka, Hampshire Bowl 14:30 BST  
Tuesday June 16: England v Qualifier, Hampshire Bowl 18:30 BST  
Wednesday June 17: Australia v Qualifier, Headingley 10:30 BST  
Wednesday June 17: India v Qualifier, Headingley 14:30 BST  
Wednesday June 17: South Africa v Pakistan, Edgbaston 18:30 BST  
Thursday June 18: West Indies v Qualifier, Headingley 18:30 BST  
Friday June 19: New Zealand v Qualifier, Hampshire Bowl 18:30 BST  
Saturday June 20: Australia v Qualifier, Hampshire Bowl 10:30 BST  
Saturday June 20: Pakistan v Qualifier, Hampshire Bowl 14:30 BST  
Saturday June 20: England v Qualifier, Headingley 18:30 BST  
Sunday June 21: West Indies v Sri Lanka, Bristol County Ground 10:30 BST  
Sunday June 21: South Africa v India, Old Trafford Cricket Ground 14:30 BST  
Tuesday June 23: New Zealand v Qualifier, Bristol County Ground 10:30 BST  
Tuesday June 23: Sri Lanka v Qualifier, Bristol County Ground 14:30 BST  
Tuesday June 23: Australia v Pakistan, Headingley 18:30 BST  
Wednesday June 24: England v West Indies, Lord's Cricket Ground 18:30 BST  
Thursday June 25: India v Qualifier, Old Trafford Cricket Ground 14:30 BST  
Thursday June 25: South Africa v Qualifier, Bristol County Ground 18:30 BST  
Friday June 26: Sri Lanka v Qualifier, Old Trafford Cricket Ground 18:30 BST  
Saturday June 27: Pakistan v Qualifier, Bristol County Ground 10:30 BST  
Saturday June 27: West Indies v Qualifier, Bristol County Ground 14:30 BST  
Saturday June 27: England v New Zealand, The Oval 18:30 BST  
Sunday June 28: South Africa v Qualifier, Lord's Cricket Ground 10:30 BST  
Sunday June 28: Australia v India, Lord's Cricket Ground 14:30 BST  
Tuesday June 30: TBC v TBC (Semi Final 1), The Oval 14:30 BST  
Thursday July 2: TBC v TBC (Semi Final 2), The Oval 18:30 BST  
Sunday July 5: TBC v TBC (The Final), Lord's Cricket Ground 14:30 BST

## Seagulls swoop to sign Italian international Coppola

AGENCIES  
LONDON, JUNE 18

Premier League club Brighton and Hove Albion has signed Italian international central defender Diego Coppola from Hellas Verona for an undisclosed fee.

Coppola has agreed a five-year contract with 'the Seagulls' and will help cover for the loss of Spain international Dean Huijsen, who signed for Madrid earlier in the summer for 50 million pounds (68 million U.S.



dollars).

Coppola, who is currently with the Italian U-21 side at the European Championships in Slovakia, made his debut for

Hellas Verona in 2021 and made 81 first team appearances for the club.

"Diego is an exciting addition for the club. Although he is still young,

he is tall, strong and mobile, and he will give us a real physical presence," commented Brighton head coach Fabian Hurzeler on the club website on Tuesday.

Hurzeler highlighted the "impressive progress" the defender has made, adding he "deserved his call-up to the Italian national team."

Coppola is Brighton's second signing of the summer, with striker Charalampos Kostoulas also arriving from Greek outfit Olympiakos.

## Alcaraz, Draper into second round at Queen's club

AGENCIES  
LONDON, JUNE 18

Top two seeds Carlos Alcaraz and Jack Draper both advanced to the second round of the men's singles at the Queen's Club Championships.

Spain's Alcaraz arrived in London fresh off his second consecutive French Open title.

The world No. 2 over-



lucky loser Alex Walton to win his first grass-court match of the season 6-4, 7-6(7) on Tuesday.

Alcaraz had initially been scheduled to face fellow Spaniard Alejandro Davidovich Fokina in the

opening round, but the world No. 28 withdrew just hours before the match due to illness following his recent wedding.

"I didn't know his game, which shot is his best," Alcaraz talked about his opponent Walton from Australia.

"What I tried is not to think about him but myself. I tried to play as good as I can and that's all."

thousands of fans, who with every ball bowled and run scored, will be contributing to lasting change. It's our opportunity to give women's cricket, and women's sport, the stage it deserves."

The newly expanded competition will see 12 teams descend on England and Wales in 2026. Eight countries are already sure

of their place, with the final four participants to be decided through an ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier next year.

England and Wales were awarded hosting rights for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 in 2022, with the seven host venues selected subsequently following evaluation of various criteria.

## Javid Dar reviews healthcare facilities in GMC Baramulla, Medical Blocks of Rafiabad, Sopore

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 18

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative, and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today chaired a review meeting to assess the status of health sector in the district, with emphasis on Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla and healthcare infrastructure in Rafiabad.

The meeting, held at the Civil Secretariat Srinagar, was aimed to identify the critical gaps, evaluate service delivery mechanisms and explore strategies to strengthen the healthcare systems in GMC Baramulla and Medical Blocks of Rafiabad constituency.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Health & Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, MD, NHM J&K, Baseer-ul-Haq Choudhary and other senior functionaries of the Health Department.

The Minister undertook a detailed review of GMC Baramulla, which is the most important tertiary healthcare institution in the district catering to a large patient population. He emphasised the urgent need for augmenting the



infrastructure, equipment, human resources and specialised services at the facility to ensure quality healthcare for the people of Baramulla and adjoining areas.

The review also focused on upgradation of Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Sub-District Hospitals (SDHs) in Rohama, Sopore and other parts of Rafiabad.

The Minister stressed the importance of filling up of the faculty and paramedical staff vacancies, improving diagnostics and ensuring proper functionality of essential services.

“Our priority is apt evaluation of service delivery systems across all levels, from accessibility to quality of care and patient satisfaction,” the Minister said, while directing the department to take time-bound steps for filling the critical requirements of the healthcare facilities.

He called for enhanced coordination among the departments to address the existing bottlenecks and promote integrated healthcare delivery models. “Strengthening healthcare institutions such as GMC Baramulla is integral to improving service delivery across the district”, the Minister emphasised.

## Sakeena Itoo reviews performance, functioning of DFCO

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 18

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the functioning and performance of Drug and Food Control Organisation (DFCO) of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; Commissioner Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Smita Sethi; Director Finance Health and Medical Education department, State Drug Controller and other concerned officers.

The Minister held detailed assessment of the operational efficacy of the organisation in regulating and monitoring the standards of drugs and food products across the UT.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, the Minister directed the organisation to adopt a proactive approach in monitoring the pharmaceutical as well as food supply chains effectively.



“Public health is a non-negotiable priority. There must be no compromise when it comes to the quality of medicines and food items reaching our citizens”, asserted the Minister.

She stressed upon the officers to conduct frequent checks of unlicensed pharmacist shops and take strict action against the unregistered shops. She asked the Commissioner FDA to submit a report on a monthly basis regarding the action taken on violations as well as activities. She also asked them to coordinate with Social Welfare, Education and other departments regarding conduct of workshops and camps for creating awareness among the people about spurious and sub-standard drugs.

The Minister urged for

stronger collaboration between DFCO and law enforcement agencies to effectively tackle the violations. She also asked them to organise capacity-building workshops for the inspectors and field officers to stay updated with regulatory reforms and evolving industry standards. While reviewing other aspects of DFCO, the Minister called for regular upgradation of laboratories besides checks and balances on Blood banks and storage facilities. She also called for faster integration of digital platforms to ensure transparency, better reporting mechanisms and prompt grievance redress.

During the meeting, Commissioner FDA gave a detailed presentation on achievements and activities of the organization.

## DLIC Kupwara approves 26 cases under Mission YUVA



J I NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, JUNE 18

In a concerted effort to promote youth entrepreneurship and self-employment, District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) Kupwara, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today approved 26 cases under the Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan) scheme.

The meeting was held at the Mini Meeting Hall of the DC Office, Kupwara, and was convened to evaluate and approve applications received from aspiring entrepreneurs under the Mission YUVA initiative. The scheme is designed to provide financial assistance and capacity-building support to youth for launching and sustaining their entrepreneurial ventures. During the meeting, concerned officials presented a detailed appraisal of

the applications received. After thorough scrutiny and discussion, 26 eligible cases were approved by the Committee for further financial assistance and handholding support. Speaking on the occasion, DC highlighted the pivotal role of Mission YUVA in enabling local youth to pursue self-employment opportunities and contribute to the economic development of the district. She emphasized the need for effective implementation and directed the District Employment & Counseling Centre Kupwara to ensure wider dissemination of the scheme among eligible youth and encourage greater participation.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Kupwara, Mufti Fareed ud din; ADC Handwara, Javid Naseem Masoodi; GM DIC, Sameer Jaan; CPO, LDM and other members of the Committee.

## Committee on Estimates to examine fund utilization in J&K

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 18

The Committee on Estimates today resolved to conduct a comprehensive review of fund utilization in Jammu and Kashmir.

The decision was taken during an introductory-cum-review meeting conducted by the Committee at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar.

The meeting was presided over by Chairperson of the Committee, Shamim Firdous and attended by members including Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Abdul Majid Bhat (Larmi), Pawan Kumar Gupta, Chandrakumar Ganga, Pyare Lal Sharma and Arjun Singh Raju.

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita welcomed the participants and deliberated regarding functions on the Committee.



Also present were Director General, Accounts and Treasuries, Fayaz A Lone, Director General, Budget MS Malik and officers from the concerned departments.

The Chairperson emphasized that the Committee would examine whether the funds allocated for various developmental projects as per budgetary provisions have been properly utilized.

She stated that the Committee will also recommend effective and alternative policy measures to enhance the administrative efficiency and economy. Besides, it will formulate a report suggesting improvements in the organizational structure, economics, efficiency and administrative reforms in line with the policy objectives of the Estimates Committee.

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 18

The Committee on Petitions, Jammu and Kashmir Assembly, today held its first meeting at the Assembly complex, Srinagar.

The meeting was presided over by the Committee Chairman, Pirsada Farooq Ahmad Shah which was attended by the members including Mushtaq Guroo, Salman Sagar, Waheed Ur Rehman Para, Mian Mehar Ali, Vijay Kumar and Thakur Randhir Singh also participated in the meeting.

The Chairman outlined the roles and responsibilities of Committee members, expressing confidence in their ability to work collaboratively and contribute effectively to the Committee's success. He emphasized the importance of coordination and teamwork in achieving the Committee's objectives.

The Chairman assured that the Committee will thoroughly examine every petition, pursuing each to



its logical conclusion and ensure prompt resolution of genuine public concerns. He added that the Committee will also report to the House on specific complaints raised during evidence, recommending suitable remedial measures as necessary.

The Chairman emphasized that the Committee will function strictly within its mandated framework and will regularly meet to formulate and implement a course of action for prompt resolution of petitions referred to it. He urged upon all the

members to discharge their duties diligently and uphold the decorum and responsibilities entrusted to them. He emphasized on the seamless contribution from all members and concerned officers for the vibrant functioning of the Committee. The Members actively participated in the discussions, sharing their suggestions and feedback on various pertinent issues.

Earlier, Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita, deliberated on various aspects regarding the functioning of the Committee.

## DC Kupwara chairs Rent Assessment Committee meeting, approves 22 cases

J I NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, JUNE 18

In order to finalize various Rent Assessment cases of the buildings under utilization of different Government departments, a meeting of the District Rent Assessment Committee (DRAC) was held under the chairpersonship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan here.

As many as 23 rent cases of buildings presently used by various Government departments in the district were put forth before the Committee for fixing of monthly rent. The Committee deliberated on all the rent assessment cases in

detail and each case was examined thoroughly keeping in view various administrative and other requirements.

Out of the total 23 cases, 22 cases were approved while one case was reverted for want of formalities.

On the occasion, DC impressed upon the officers to ensure that vacant government buildings are occupied for official purposes and rented accommodation remains the last option. The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Kupwara, Medical Superintendent DH Handwara, CAHO, Executive Engineers and other concerned officers.

## Javid Dar reviews Muharram arrangements in Pattan

J I NEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, JUNE 18

Minister for Agricultural Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, today chaired a review meeting at ITI Pattan held to ensure smooth and peaceful observance of the approaching Muharram.

The meeting was attended by the Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; MLA Pattan, Javid Riyaz; MLA Wagoora-Kreeri, Irfan Hafeez Lone; MLA Sopore, Irshad Ahmad Kar; MLA Baramulla, Javid Hassan Beigh; Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa besides concerned district officers and local representatives.

The Minister had a comprehensive review of the



arrangements being made by various departments. He emphasized the need for inter-departmental coordination to ensure availability of all basic facilities during Muharram days. He asked the officers to maintain close liaison with the local representatives and community leaders to address the public needs effectively.

Javid Dar laid special focus on ensuring an uninterrupted supply of drink-

ing water and electricity, timely sanitation drives, deployment of health teams and availability of essential items.

He directed the concerned authorities to take up repair of roads along the procession routes on a priority basis and ensure all street lights are functional in the identified areas.

Advisor to Chief Minister exhorted upon the officers to remain available on

the ground, stressing the importance of community-level coordination. He asked the departments to set up quick-response teams for addressing the emergency issues during the mourning period.

The Members of Legislative Assembly from Baramulla, Sopore, Pattan and Wagoora-Kreeri shared area-specific feedback and put forth demands related to firewood distribution, sanitation support, avail-

ability of drinking water and traffic regulation. They called for special attention in high-footfall zones and assured full cooperation from the local volunteers.

The Deputy Commissioner briefed the meeting about the district-level preparedness, informing them that action plans are already under execution. These included sanitation drives, deployment of response team setups, road inspections and firewood arrangements in coordination with the local committees.

The police and civil officers also shared updates on their respective action points and assured readiness for maintaining law and order and regulating the traffic during the processions.

## Secretary reviews implementation, progress on IT projects

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 18

Secretary, Information Technology, Dr. Piyush Singla, today chaired a meeting to review implementation and progress on various projects in the IT Department.

Pertinently, the e-Office 2.0 rollout marks a major stride towards paperless governance. It has brought over 480 Administrative Departments, HoDs and DC offices besides state universities such as the University of Jammu, University of Kashmir, SMVDU, BGSBU and SKUAST-Jammu under a unified digital umbrella, with more than 30,000 active users and 4000+

VPN-enabled users.

The Secretary appreciated the successful implementation of e-Office 2.0 across the administrative units in the Union Territory. He emphasized the role of e-Office 2.0 in enhancing transparency, efficiency and accountability in government operations. He appreciated the department's forward-looking roadmap to scale up this digital transformation to block and tehsil level, with a projected user base exceeding 25,000 new users.

He also commended the efforts of the IT Department in building capacity through regular training sessions, infra-

structure modernization and handholding support to various departments, making Jammu & Kashmir one of the leading UTs in e-Governance adoption. The review highlighted progress on related initiatives such as the Digital Jammu & Kashmir Mission, Mobile Dost App, Auto-Appeal System and over 1212 e-services integrated under the e-UNNAT unified platform.

The IT Department reaffirmed its commitment towards strengthening the digital backbone of governance, ensuring last-mile service delivery through robust infrastructure, skilled manpower and citizen-centric innovations.