

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 pain
- Severe muscle pain
- Stomach pain
- Redness in eyes
- Small red spots on the body
- Difficulty breathing
- Unusually tired or weak

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Idea of complete India can't be imagined through half-baked foreign languages: Amit Shah

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 19 (KNO)

Asserting that Indian languages are the soul of nation's identity, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that time has come to reclaim the country's linguistic heritage.



Speaking at a book launch ceremony in New Delhi, Shah, according to the news agency, said that the idea of a complete India cannot be imagined through half-baked foreign

languages. "To understand our country, our culture, our history, and our religion, no foreign language can suffice," he added.

as the jewels of our culture, Shah said, "Without our languages, we cease to be truly Indian."

Taking a dig at English speaking people, the Union Home Minister said, "In this country, those who speak English will soon feel ashamed—the creation of such a society is not far away. Only those who are determined can bring about change. I believe that the languages of our country are the jewels of our culture."

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CM Omar reviews essential services, supplies for summer season in Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 19 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday chaired a high-level meeting at the Civil Secretariat Jammu to review the delivery of essential services and supplies and the steps taken by the Administration during the current summer season in Jammu division.



The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, Ministers Sakina Itoo, Satish Sharma and Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, several Administrative Secretaries, Inspector General of Police Jammu, heads of the various departments were also present.

Srinagar based officers attended the meeting through virtual mode.

During the meeting, Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar briefed the Chief Minister and gave a presentation on the functioning of different line departments and their action plan for summer preparedness.

It was informed that JPDCL has maintained sufficient buffer stock of transformers and also devised time-slots for power curtailment to prevent overload on grid stations.

He emphasized adherence to the curtailment schedule of PDD with minimum power outages and preventing overheating of power lines and transformers.

The functioning of Jal Shakti and Jammu Municipal Corporation was also discussed with regard to adequate supply of water tankers, water sprinklers, anti smog guns and proper maintenance of water coolers to provide relief to the citizens.

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Pahalgam buzzes with tourists weeks after Operation Sindoor: Union Tourism Minister

AGENCIES
SRINAGAR, JUN 19

Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Thursday said the scenic town of Pahalgam in south Kashmir is once again bustling with tourists over a month after the Operation Sindoor.



The Union minister, who arrived in Srinagar on Wednesday, visited Pahalgam today.

"A peaceful day in Pahalgam, buzzing with tourists and calm barely a month after Operation Sindoor. It speaks volumes of the resilience of the people and the vision & commitment of PM @narendramodi ji for the development of the region," Shekhawat posted on X while sharing a video of his interaction with tourists in Pahalgam.

"Tourism driven growth, grassroots development, and renewed confidence- this is Naya Kashmir, the shining crown of New India," he

added. The April 22 Pahalgam terror attack which left 25 tourists and a local dead has dealt a crushing blow to Kashmir's tourism industry. After the attack, India launched "Operation Sindoor" which brought the two countries to the brink of war.

"A heavy heart but one filled with hope in Pahalgam this noon. Visited the site of the dastardly terror attack and interacted with locals and tourists who have brought the region back to its lively spirit and everyday rhythm. The

strength of the people, their unwavering hospitality, and the quiet resolve to not let fear define them. This is the real soul of Kashmir," the Minister said in a separate post.

The Union Minister also held an interaction with local hoteliers in Pahalgam.

"..Gave me great joy to interact with tourists soaking in the valley's beauty, and to spent time with local hoteliers and hospitality entrepreneurs understanding both their challenges and

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Kashmir surpasses decade-old records; Sgr sees highest June temp in 20 years at 35.2 degrees

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 19 (KNO)

Amid the forecast of an intense heatwave until Saturday, the Kashmir region has witnessed an unexpected rise in the maximum temperature, surpassing decades-old records at three stations.

According to details obtained by the news agency—Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded the highest June temperature in the last two decades. The station recorded a maximum temperature of 35.2 degrees Celsius, which was the season's hottest so far.

Independent Weather Forecaster Faizan Arif Keng stated that with 35.2 degrees Celsius, Srinagar has surpassed the previous records of the last two decades. "It was the hottest June

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CM Omar, Union Minister Shekhawat hold talks to boost tourism in J&K



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 19 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday evening held a detailed meeting with Union Minister for Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, to discuss strategic measures for strengthening the tourism sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

The one-on-one meeting focused on a broad range of initiatives aimed at boosting tourism infra-

structure, promoting heritage and cultural sites, and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities.

Both leaders underscored the significance of tourism as a key driver of economic growth and cultural exchange in the region.

During the interaction, Union Minister Shekhawat emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts, stating that

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CM Omar inaugurates college building, campus of GDC Purmandal



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JUN 19 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday inaugurated the newly constructed college complex of Government Degree College (GDC) Purmandal in Samba district.

The event was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Minister for Higher Education Sakeena Itoo, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Vijaypur Chander Parkash Ganga, MLA Gulabgarh Er Khurshid Ahmad, Additional Chief Secretary Higher Educa-

tion Department Shantmanu, ACS to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Director Colleges, Deputy Commissioner Samba and Principal of GDC Purmandal.

In his address, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah described the occasion as a proud and fortunate moment, marking a significant milestone for higher education in the region.

The Chief Minister lauded Minister Sakeena Itoo for her consistent efforts and commitment in both the health and education sectors, particularly in the

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Chief Secretary explores ways to boost JK's skill ecosystem with Union Secy MSDE

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 19 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Thursday met with Union Secretary of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Atul Kumar Tiwari, to discuss strategies for enhancing the skill development and entrepreneurship initiatives across the Union Territory.



Present on the occasion were Regional Director, V Babu, MSDE; Director, National Council for Vocational Education & Training, Colonel Gunjan Chowdhary; Secretary SDD, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan; Director, Employment, Shahzad Alam besides other concerned officers.

The productive discussions centered on leveraging the new central schemes and strengthening the existing programs to create a more robust skill ecosystem in J&K.

The Union Secretary provided a comprehensive overview of the newly launched Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at

modernizing the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) across the nation. He said that this innovative scheme would operate on a Hub and Spoke model with identified Centres of Excellence (CoEs) serving as the central hubs. He encouraged the UT to actively

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Ensure foolproof security arrangements for Muharram, International Yoga Day: IGP Kashmir directs officers

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 19 (KNO)

Inspector General of Police Kashmir, V K Birdi on Thursday directed the officers to ensure foolproof security arrangements for Muharram and International Yoga Day.

Chairing a high-level security review meeting here, Birdi, according to the news agency, asked the officers to put all the arrangements in place for peaceful conduct of both the events.

Referring to the Muharram arrangements, IGP Birdi told the officers to increase surveillance upon anti-national elements and mischief mongers, and also increase vigil during night proces-

sions. The IGP directed the officers to hold coordination meetings with all the stake holders, seeking their cooperation for the smooth conduct of all the events.

He also directed the district heads to devise comprehensive security strategies and route plans in their respective districts so as to prevent any untoward event.

The meeting was attended by IG CRPF Srinagar, JD SIB Srinagar, DisG of Kashmir Zone, CID Kashmir, SSB Srinagar, CRPF South/North Srinagar, BSF; SSSP of Kashmir Zone, PCR Kashmir, Traffic City, Railways, Traffic Rural, APCR,

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Iran Israel Conflict: '2nd batch of 500 Kashmiri students to board flights today'

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 19 (KNO)

In view of the escalating war between Iran and Israel, at least 500 students of Kashmir studying in Iran are likely to board the flights to India from Turkmenistan on Friday.

The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) in this regard said that around 600 Indian students, including 500 from Kashmir, have been safely relocated from Qom to Mashhad, a border city in Iran, as part of the ongoing evacuation efforts.

National Convenor of Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) Nasir Khuehami told the news agency, "This is the second group of students



who were earlier moved to Qom, where they remained for three days. Their evacuation process is currently underway."

"The students are from various institutions, including Islamic Azad University, Iran University of Medical Sciences, and Shahid Beheshti University. From Mashhad,

they are expected to be taken to Turkmenistan, from where they will likely board flights to Delhi tomorrow," he said.

JKSA further said that the association is in constant communication with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Indian Embassy in

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Ministers participate in plantation drive at Baramulla

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, JUNE 19

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana and Minister for Agricultural Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar today participated in an extensive plantation drive held at Baramulla.

Local MLAs and senior officers were also present on the occasion.

The plantation drive aims to promote the green initiatives and environmental sustainability in the district.

Javed Rana emphasized the importance of individuals' contribution in protecting the environment. He said that this initiative aligns with the global efforts to combat climate change and promote eco-



friendly practices. "Environmental sustainability is crucial for maintaining ecological balance and ensuring a healthy environment for future generations", he added.

He stated that similar initiatives have been undertaken in other parts of the country, such as the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign, which symbolizes respect for the ecosystem and commitment towards environmental sustainabil-

ity. Javid Dar, while speaking on the occasion, highlighted that the government's participation in the plantation drives demonstrates its commitment towards environmental conservation and sustainability.

"By engaging in such initiatives, the government aims to foster a sense of responsibility among the citizens and promote eco-friendly practices", he maintained.

Prelude to Int'l Yoga Day: Doda gears up with enthusiastic Yoga Events

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JUNE 19

In the run up to International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2025, the District Administration Doda, under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and Director Ayush J&K organised a series of yoga programmes across the region.

These events were conducted under the close supervision of District Ayush Officer Dr. Ajay Kumar Tikoo, with the aim to promote holistic well-being, fitness, and awareness about the physical and mental benefits of yoga among all age groups.

A major highlight of the day was the Yoga Mahakumbh, a grand yoga session held at the Bhaderwah Campus of the University of Jammu.

Around 200 students and faculty members actively participated in the energising event. The ses-



sion featured key asanas, pranayama (breathing techniques), and meditation, encouraging youth to integrate yoga into their daily routine for a balanced and healthy lifestyle.

In addition to this, several community-level yoga events titled Yoga Samavesh were held at AAM Udyanpur, Gurekhra, Kota, Hambal, and GAD Kandote. The sessions brought together people from rural and remote areas to practice yoga collectively, thereby fostering a sense of unity, wellness, and cultural pride. To ensure inclusivity and

reach, GAD Kandote also hosted an online yoga session, allowing wider participation from those unable to attend physically.

The signature events mark a strong beginning to the upcoming International Day of Yoga 2025 and reflect the district's unwavering commitment to the nationwide movement for fitness and mental wellness through yoga. The combined efforts of the administration, Ayush Department, and local communities underscore Doda's role in embracing and promoting India's rich yogic heritage.

DC inspects ongoing works in Poonch Township



J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JUNE 19

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today conducted an on-site inspection of the ongoing footpath construction work from Nakha Wali Chowk to the Post Office and Hathi Gate in the heart of Poonch city.

The Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) apprised the Deputy Commissioner of the project's current status and key details. It was informed that the project is being executed at an

estimated cost of Rs 66.64 lakh. The DC reviewed the quality and pace of the construction, ensuring that the work adheres to the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and complies with prescribed engineering standards.

Emphasizing the significance of improved civic infrastructure for public convenience, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to expedite the work and ensure its timely completion, while maintaining the highest standards of quality.

DAJDUA programme held at Malathi – Medical, Awareness Camp benefits Tribal Communities

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JUNE 19

As part of the ongoing Dharti Aabha Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJDUA), a comprehensive Medical and Awareness Camp was organized at Government High School Malathi to benefit the tribal community of Chilly Paine and Muksiyas areas of Tehsil Bhalessa-Doda.

The event was held under the overall guidance of the District Development Commissioner Harvinder Singh, while the medical camp was conducted under the supervision of District AYUSH Officer Dr. Ajay Kumar Tikoo. The chief guest was the local DDC Member and the event was graced by the presence of the BDO, adding significance to the outreach initiative aimed at tribal welfare.

During the camp, the officials from the government departments interacted with local tribal residents to address their demands related to healthcare, access to government schemes, and awareness about traditional medicine and nutrition. Special



emphasis was placed on sensitizing the community about the upcoming International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2025. They were encouraged to adopt yoga and Ayurveda-based lifestyle practices for improved well-being. Active community participation in the IDY celebrations was also promoted.

Multiple departments set up stalls and service points to ensure holistic support to the tribal community. The ICDS Department distributed nutrition kits and provided counseling to pregnant and lactating women, while the Health Department conducted health check-ups and immunizations. The Education Department spread awareness about school enrollment drives and scholarship schemes

for tribal students. Revenue officials assisted with essential documentation, and the Rural Development Department disseminated information on MGNREGA job cards, PMAY housing benefits, and sanitation programs.

The AYUSH Department played a significant role by distributing free Ayurvedic medicines to over 120 beneficiaries and providing consultations for common ailments. The department also promoted preventive healthcare and holistic wellness, aligning with the Abhiyan's core goal of "Reaching the Unreached." The camp proved to be a successful step toward empowering tribal communities through integrated government services and awareness-driven outreach.

Public participation essential for effective Govt planning: Speaker Legislative Assembly

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JUNE 19

Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today emphasized on the crucial role of public participation in ensuring effective and result-oriented development plan formulation.

Chairing a day-long public interaction program at Bugroo Khansahib in Charar-i-Sharief Constituency, the Speaker underscored the importance of engaging the citizens in governance. "Public participation is essential for effective and tangible plan formulation. People must actively take part in government initiatives while the officials should ensure that the public is meaningfully involved in the planning and implementation processes," maintained the Speaker.

Deliberating on the government's commitment to holistic development, the Speaker assured that genuine public demands would be prioritized and addressed through robust developmental planning.



During the event, the local delegations from Bugroo, Kremshore, Dreygam, Lanur, Nambalhar, Arampora, Khasipora and adjoining areas highlighted issues related to infrastructure, public services and basic amenities.

The Speaker directed the concerned officers and departmental heads to ensure prompt service delivery and strengthen the existing grievance redressal mechanism. He emphasized the need for responsive and grassroots-focused governance.

"The government is endeavoring hard to take the administration at the doorsteps of the common masses. In this regard, continuous efforts are being made in collaboration

with the respective district administrations," he added.

The Speaker asserted that decentralization will not only ensure active participation and coordination of the public but also seamless implementation of developmental projects and flagship programmes in all areas. He added that such initiatives where the government reaches the people at their doorsteps to address their genuine issues shall continue till no one is left uncovered.

Among others DDC members from Charar-i-Sharief and Khansahab, SDM Khansaheb, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer and other district officers participated in the outreach programme.

Ramban Admin organises Mass Yoga session at Sanasar ahead of Int'l Yoga Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JUNE 19

To promote physical and mental well-being through Yoga, the District Administration Ramban today organized a Mass Yoga Session at the breathtakingly beautiful Sanasar meadow.

The event was held as a prelude to the International Yoga Day 2025 and served to emphasize the importance of incorporating Yoga into daily life.

The session, conducted at the panoramic location to promote the tourist destination Sanasar—known for its serene surroundings and pristine environment—witnessed enthusiastic participation from Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Varunjeet



Singh Charak; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Shokat Hayat Mattoo; and other senior officers of the district administration. The department of AYUSH, Youth Services and Sports, Information, Health, Education and other departments coordinated the event.

The initiative aimed at disseminating the message of "Yoga for

Wellness", encouraging citizens to adopt a healthier lifestyle rooted in traditional practices. By choosing the scenic high-altitude meadow of Sanasar, the district administration not only highlighted the district's natural heritage but also created an atmosphere of positivity and spiritual upliftment for the participants.

Arrangements for historic mela at Devsthan Jadsarkote discussed at Udhampur

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JUNE 19

To discuss the arrangements for the smooth conduct of Historic Jadsarkote mela which is commencing from June 25 2025, the Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai today convened a meeting of officers of various departments, here in the Mini Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Chief Medical Officer, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, Executive Engineer JPDCL and other senior officers besides representatives of the mela committee attended the meeting.

Detailed discussions were held on the arrangements for security, sanitation, health care, trans-



port, traffic management, drinking water and power supply, Installation of departmental stalls, maintenance of road, checking of rates etc.

The DC directed all the departments to work in coordination to finalize the necessary arrangements well before the commencement of the mela. She urged the local mela Committee members to extend full support to make the mela a grand success as public participation is of great importance in promoting

tourism and economy of the area.

Executive Engineer PHE was asked to make adequate arrangements regarding drinking water supply at the mela site while Xen PDD was directed to provide uninterrupted power supply during the mela days. The Chief Medical Officer was directed to deploy a team of doctors at the venue. Similarly, the meeting discussed the deployment of security personnel by the Police Department for the mela days.

Ramban: BLOs imparted Training ahead of Special Summary Revision-2025



J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JUNE 19

The District Election Office Ramban today organized comprehensive training sessions for Booth Level Officers (BLOs) across the district in connection with the Pre-Revision activities of the Special Summary Revision (SSR) 2025 of the Photo Electoral Roll.

The training sessions were held at the Assembly Constituency level at identified locations in Ramban, Banihal, and Gool, witnessing the participation of all 365 BLOs along with the supervisory staff.

The training session at Ramban was conducted under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), while Sub Divisional Magistrate

(SDM) presided over the session at Banihal. At Gool, the training was led by the Tehsildar.

During the sessions, Master Trainers imparted detailed guidance to the BLOs on key activities, including app updation for accurate data management, submission of the Advance Monthly Format (AMF) and the distribution of BLA Form-2 to recognized National and State political parties to ensure smooth coordination during the revision process.

The training aimed at equipping BLOs with the necessary knowledge and tools to carry out the SSR 2025 duties effectively and in accordance with the guidelines of the Election Commission of India.

CEO KDA visits Achabal, Chattapal; emphasizes cleanliness

J1 NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, JUNE 19

Chief Executive Officer, Kokernag Development Authority (KDA), M Rouf Rahman paid a surprise visit to Achabal today.

He urged the officials to ensure proper sanitation and maintenance in the Achabal Garden and adjoining market areas to enhance the overall experience for tourists, pilgrims, and local residents.

CEO highlighted the scenic importance of Achabal in the Kokernag tourism circuit, and emphasized that a clean and well-managed environment plays a key role in attracting more footfall, boosting local livelihoods and promoting sustainable tourism.

Later, CEO visited Chhattapal to inspect KDA huts and interacted with KDA employees of the Achabal-Chhattapal sector. The visit was aimed to review readiness for tourist accommodation and encourage staff to maintain high standards of hospitality and upkeep.

DIPR Shopian organises IEC camp on drug abuse at GHSS Keller

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, JUNE 19

Department of Information and Public Relations Shopian, in collaboration with the Education department today organised an Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign at Government Higher Secondary School Keller, Shopian under the banner of UT-wide Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan.

The mega awareness programme through the medium of skit/dramatic performances by students and artists, ladhishah, nukkad natak, speech awareness talks and interactive sessions educated students and the community about the perils of drug abuse and promoting a drug-free lifestyle.



The event saw enthusiastic participation from students, school staff and officials from the education and other departments.

On the occasion, artists conveyed powerful messages about the devastating effects of substance abuse, resonating with the audience in a culturally relatable manner. Expert

sessions led by resource persons from education and health delved into the root causes of addiction, including depression, curiosity, peer pressure, etc.

The programme was presided over by ADDC Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone and attended by District Information Officer, Showkat Hussain Ganie,

and Principal, GHSS Keller, Tanseema Jan.

Students participated with great enthusiasm, vowing to raise awareness among their classmates. "The performances were impactful, presenting a clear picture of how devastating drugs can be and why it is important to avoid them," shared one of the students. IEC campaign also included distribution of pamphlets and presentation of engaging relatable drama to supplement efforts towards curbing drug addiction, a growing concern in the region.

By leveraging cultural mediums and alongside expert-led discussions, the initiative effectively engaged the youth, fostering awareness and resilience against substance abuse.

Javed Rana inaugurates WSSs worth Rs 15.68 cr under JJM in Baramulla

JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, JUNE 19

In a major stride towards strengthening the rural infrastructure and ensuring safe drinking water for all, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana, today inaugurated three Water Supply Schemes (WSS) under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Baramulla district.

Among others present were MLA Baramulla Javid Hassan Beigh, MLA Uri Sajad Shafi, MLA Pattan Reyaz Bedar and Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Minga Sherpa along with senior officers of Jal Shakti Department, engineers and local representatives.

The three schemes inaugurated included WSS Kitchama, WSS Kanispora and Retrofitting of WSS Khadniyar established with an expenditure of Rs 353.37 lakh, Rs 1065.96 lakh and Rs 149.23 lakh respectively. These schemes have been designed to provide



Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) and improve access to potable water in the respective panchayats household thereby benefitting more than 13000 rural residents.

WSS Kitchama, a gravity-based scheme, covers a population of 2,435 with 314 household tap connections, while WSS Kanispora, a lift-based scheme, will benefit 8,722 people through 1,246 FHTCs. WSS Khadniyar (Retrofitting) caters to 2,224 people with 303 FHTCs.

Speaking on the occasion, Javed Rana said that the Jal Jeevan Mission is a historic initiative by the Government of India to bring piped drinking water to every rural household.

He added that the schemes inaugurated today are a testimony to the government's unwavering commitment towards improving the basic amenities and living standards of people in far-flung and underserved areas.

The Minister emphasized that providing clean and safe drinking water is not just an infrastructure goal but a critical step towards ensuring health, dignity and empowerment of rural communities, especially women. He remarked that with completion of these schemes, thousands of families in Kitchama, Kanispora and Khadniyar will now have direct access to potable water at their doorstep.

DAJGUA Day 5: Pulwama admin organises mega outreach camp at Gulshanpora, Tral

JI NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, JUNE 19

Continuing its efforts to ensure last-mile delivery of services and welfare measures, district administration Pulwama today organised a mega outreach camp at Gulshanpora, Tral under the nationwide flagship initiative Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA).

The initiative aimed at empowering tribal communities through awareness and saturation of government schemes, saw enthusiastic participation from locals and multi-departmental engagement on the ground.

A wide range of government departments including Health, Education, Social Welfare, Rural Development, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Mission POSHAN, Forest, and others set up dedicated stalls at the venue to deliver on-the-spot services.

The event was also attended by Member of Legislative Assembly Tral, Rafiq Ahmad Naik and DDC Member, Manzoor Ahmad Ganie, who actively interacted with the public and listened to their concerns and assured them of continued support and coordination for effective implementation of government programmes at the grassroots level.

On the occasion, MLA also distributed Ayushman Bharat Cards, Birth Certificates and other certificates among the beneficiaries, highlighting the government's focus on inclusive welfare delivery and outreach.

Officers including Tehsildar Tral, BDO Aripal and other field functionaries were also present to facilitate real-time registration, enrolment, and awareness dissemination.

The camp recorded a significant turnout and witnessed a surge in enrolments under various government schemes. Special health camps were organised by the Health department to provide basic diagnostic services, free consultations, and focused awareness sessions.

Day 5 of DA-JGUA witnesses enthusiastic participation at Satrina, Kangan

JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, JUNE 19

As part of the ongoing Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA), the fifth benefit saturation and awareness camp was held today at Panchayat Satrina, Block Kangan, district Ganderbal.

Organized by the IEC team, the camp witnessed overwhelming participation from the tribal community, signifying deep grassroots engagement and growing awareness about government welfare programs.

The outreach focused on on-the-spot service delivery and comprehensive awareness generation to empower beneficiaries with both access and information.

A wide range of citizen-



centric services were provided, including Aadhaar enrolment and updates, Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY registration, issuance of Scheduled Tribe certificates, Agri allied scheme enrolment, Jandhan account opening, Sickle Cell disease screening and awareness and access to multiple other mission-aligned benefits.

In addition to the service delivery, interactive IEC sessions were held

to inform and educate attendees about schemes related to healthcare, education, skill development, and livelihood opportunities. These sessions also provided a platform for community members to raise queries and clarify doubts regarding their entitlements.

A key highlight of the day was the cultural performances that showcased rich tribal traditions, fostering a sense of pride and

unity among participants. Informational material in local languages was widely distributed to ensure inclusivity and broader impact.

The camp saw the active involvement of sectoral and block-level officers, PRIs, frontline workers, and CSC representatives, highlighting robust inter-departmental coordination and field-level convergence. Local leaders and community elders appreciated the initiative, describing it as a meaningful step towards bridging policy and grassroots empowerment.

The day concluded with a reaffirmed collective resolve to work towards inclusive development, equitable service delivery, and sustained tribal empowerment across Ganderbal district.

Distt Admin Kulgam dedicates Library to students to enrich their knowledge, support academic pursuits

JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JUNE 19

A library developed by the district administration Kulgam was today dedicated to students here at Kulgam to support their academic pursuits, broaden their knowledge, and foster personal growth.

The facility was dedicated to students in presence of Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Kulgam; Mohammad Afzal Parrey; MLA Kulgam, M.Y. Tarigami and Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan.

Addressing the gathering, DDC Chairperson described the facility as more than just a building, referring to it as a temple of knowledge. He highlighted the transformative power of books in shaping individuals and cultivating enlightened communities. MLA Kulgam in his address emphasized the crucial role of books in shaping thoughts and character, particularly among the youth.

"Books are our closest companions and empow-



er us with knowledge, insight, and the ability to question constructively," he added. Deputy Commissioner Kulgam appreciated the efforts of the R&B department and the Planning Wing in establishing the facility well in time. Reflecting on his own educational journey, he highlighted the immense value that libraries offer to students. A library is not just a place to read, it is a space to grow, reflect and transform, he said. He also

assured that additional facilities and resources would be incorporated in the library. The inauguration ceremony witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of students. Present on the occasion were Joint Director Planning (JDP), Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Executive Engineer R&B, Tehsildar Kulgam, and other senior officers and officials.

Javid Dar reviews Muharram arrangements in Sumbal Bandipora

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JUNE 19

Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar today conducted a comprehensive review of the arrangements being put in place for Muharram at Sumbal, Bandipora.

The meeting was attended by MLA Sonawari, Hilal Akbar Lone; Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri and HoDs, senior officials from line departments besides representatives from various Shia associations and delegations.

While addressing the meeting, the Minister emphasized the need for timely execution of all essential services. He stressed the inter-departmental coordination to ensure peaceful, safe and successful conduct of religious events during Muharram. He directed all the concerned departments to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply, adequate health facilities, proper sanitation and traffic management across all major congregation points. He exhorted upon the Fire



& Emergency Services to remain on alert and fully equipped throughout the Muharram period.

The Minister reiterated the government's commitment towards extending all necessary support to ensure smooth arrangements at the grassroots level.

During the interaction, various religious leaders and community members put forth their concerns regarding essential services. These included adequate supply of electricity and drinking water, macadamization of roads, installation of Solar Lights, availability and distribution of ration and regulation of religious processions.

The Minister assured that all genuine grievances would be addressed on priority. He directed the officials for continuous monitoring to ensure seamless public service

delivery.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Manzoor Ahmad Qadri briefed that a comprehensive plan is being put in place to facilitate peaceful and smooth conduct of religious events. He informed that a control room has been established for round-the-clock grievance redressal and coordination.

Later, Javid Dar inaugurated High-Density Orchard (Mother Block) developed by the Horticulture Department at Shilvat, Sumbal at a cost of Rs 19.69 lakh.

The Minister inspected major Water Supply Schemes at Shadipora and Shilvat developed by the Jal Shakti Department. He was informed that the Water Supply Scheme at Shadipora has been implemented at a project cost of Rs 638.69 lakh while the Shilvat WSS project is worth Rs 656.12 lakh.

Chairman DLSA Shopian visits Spl. Jail Pulwama

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, JUNE 19

Chairman DLSA (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Shopian, Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary today visited Special Jail Pulwama to review the condition of prison besides enquiring about the facilities available for the inmates.

Jail visit was conducted in accordance with the directions of NALSA and J&K Legal Services Authority (JKLSA).

Chairman DLSA was accompanied by SSP Shopian, Anayat Ali Choudhary; Additional Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; Secretary DLSA Shopian, Mudasar Farooq, Principal Magistrate JJB Shopian, Bazila Bashir; Chief LADC Shopian, Rafie Ahmad Ganie; Deputy LADC, and Assistant LADC.

During the visit, Chairman DLSA inspected the jail premises and the facilities available for inmates lodged therein and interacted with the inmates placed in different barracks and inquired about their health, provision of food.

The visiting team also inspected the facilities like medical clinic, cooking area and washrooms in the jail where they enquired about the condition of jail inmates whose trials are pending outside the district Shopian. He directed the LADCs to record the grievances of jail inmates on spot so that the same can be timely redressed.

MVD Reasi seizes 12 vehicles, E-Challanes 21 for violation of rules

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, JUNE 19

Acting on the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik and Higher authorities from the transport department, the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Reasi today carried out a comprehensive enforcement drive at Katra and Balani.

The drive was a direct follow-up to the complaints of citizens during the recent Public Grievances Redressal Camp about unauthorized auto operations and traffic violations.

During the operation, the MVD team checked 130 vehicles and e-challaned 21 for various violations.

Special focus was placed on unauthorized

and document-deficient auto-rickshaws and e-rickshaws. As a result, 12 such vehicles were seized for non-compliance. Additionally, 7 driving licenses were recommended for suspension, and a fine of Rs 1.55 lakh was imposed on violators. The drive was conducted under the supervision of ARTO Neeraj Sharma, along with MVI Tushar Anthal, AMVI Surinder Rana and MVTA Sikander.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DSTE/JAT acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on <https://www.ireps.gov.in> against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-JAT-6-25-26 Closing Date/Time 07/07/2025 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

NIT HEADER

Contract Type	Works		
Name of Work	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of Hitachi Make Electronic Interlocking Systems installed at 18 stations from BRML-SGDN Section of Jammu division for Three (03) years		
Tender Closing Date Time	07.07.2025 15:00	Date Time of Uploading Tender	14.06.2025 13:58
Advertised Value (Rs.)	21683389.89	Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	14.06.2025
Earnest Money (Rs.)	258400.00	Period of Completion	36 Months

Tender Notice No: 433-Sig-JAT-6-25-26 Date:- 17.06.2025 Closing Date/Time : 07.07.2025 15:00 1843/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

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

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost. (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
251-Elect-T-08-2025-26	Provision of Condensers and Evaporating coil for Roof mounted AC package unit for LHB AC coaches over Firozpur Division.	Rs. 33,88,896.00P	Rs. 67,800.00P	6 Months	08.07.2025 after 15:00 Hrs	www.ireps.gov.in

No. 251-Elect/T. Notice No. 08-Elect/2025-26 Dated: 17.06.2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1821/25

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Idea of complete India...

Without our languages, we cease to be truly Indian." He said, "To understand our country, our culture, our history, and our religion, no foreign language can suffice."

"I am fully aware of how difficult this battle is, but I am also fully confident that Indian society will win it. Once again, with self-respect, we will run our country in our own languages and lead the world too," he said.

Outlining the 'Panch Pran' (five pledges), coined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Shah said that these five pledges have become the resolve of 130 crore people of the country.

"Modi Ji has laid the foundation of the 'Panch Pran' (five pledges) for the Amrit Kaal. Achieving the goal of a developed India, getting rid of every trace of slavery, taking pride in our heritage, staying committed to unity and solidarity, and igniting the spirit of duty in every citizen – these five pledges have become the resolve of 130 crore people. That is why by 2047, we will be at the pinnacle, and our languages will play a major role in this journey," he said.

Speaking on the book, 'Main Boond Swyam, Khud Sagar Hoon' authored by former civil servant, IAS Ashutosh Agnihotri, the Union Home Minister emphasised that a change is needed in the training of administrative officers. "Rarely are they trained to introduce empathy in our system. Maybe because the British era inspired this training model. I believe that if any ruler or administrator rules without empathy, then they cannot achieve the real objective of governance," Shah said.

He also praised literature, saying that it is the soul of our society.

"When our country was consumed in an era of pitch-black darkness, even then literature kept the lamps of our religion, freedom, and culture lit. When the government changed, no one opposed it. But whenever someone tried to touch our religion, culture and literature, our society stood against them and defeated them. Literature is the soul of our society," he added. KNO

Pahalgam buzzes with...

opportunities. The quiet determination of the local hospitality business community to keep Kashmir welcoming and vibrant is truly heartening," Shekhawat said.

The Union Minister also met Sajjad Ahmad Bhatt, the courageous young man who carried an injured young tourist on his back for several kilometres after the Pahalgam terror attack.

"In a moment of fear and chaos, he chose courage & humanity above all. His selfless act is the real reflection of the spirit of Kashmir - brave, compassionate, and unwavering," the Minister said.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday evening held a detailed meeting with the Union Minister for Tourism, to discuss strategic measures for strengthening the tourism sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

The one-on-one meeting focused on a broad range of initiatives aimed at boosting tourism infrastructure, promoting heritage and cultural sites, and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities.

Both leaders underscored the significance of tourism as a key driver of economic growth and cultural exchange in the region, an official spokesman said.

During the interaction, Union Minister Shekhawat emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts, stating that such engagements reflect "our collective commitment to transform Jammu and Kashmir into a global tourism destination that celebrates its culture, nature, and people."

Chief Minister expressed appreciation for the Centre's continued support and reiterated the Government of Jammu and Kashmir's resolve to revive and reimagine the tourism sector to unlock its full potential for inclusive development.

CM Omar reviews...

Taking cognizance of the water scarcity issues in some newly populated areas, the Chief Minister directed Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation and Jal Shakti Department to provide relief to the residents immediately with water tanker services.

He further directed for expediting the pace of work on Water Supply schemes nearing completion to alleviate the water supply issues in areas with water shortage.

The Chief Minister further reviewed the forest fire response mechanism of the Forest department and readiness of Fire & Emergency services to tackle any such situation.

It was informed that adequate quantity of medical supplies are maintained by the Health department across the region while advisories on heat related illnesses are also being issued with special focus on vulnerable population and other IEC activities being carried out.

The Chief Minister was also apprised of the preparedness of Irrigation & Flood control with regard to desilting of irrigation canals and flood mitigation plan. 24x7 Control Rooms have also been established for the upcoming monsoon season.

The meeting was informed that the department of Food & Civil Supplies has maintained sufficient stock available under various schemes.

The Chief Minister also took stock of the broad arrangements put in place for the forthcoming Muharram and Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

The Divisional Commissioner apprised the Chief Minister about the routes decided for Muharram along with other elaborate arrangements pertaining to power, water supply, health and other essential services for the people participating in Muharram processions across the division.

He also apprised the Chief Minister on the ongoing preparations for Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025 with detailed arrangements right from Lakhampur-the gateway to Jammu Kashmir- to Lambar in Banihal, Ramban. He informed about the RFID, registration

centres, lodgement centres, langar facilities, and other key preparations made by the administration for smooth conduct of Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025.

The Chief Minister asked the concerned officials to provide wide publicity to the cut-off timings for traveling on Jammu- Srinagar National Highway which will be same for the pilgrims and tourists during the period of Shri Amarnathji Yatra-(KNO)

CM Omar, Union...

such engagements reflect "our collective commitment to transform Jammu and Kashmir into a global tourism destination that celebrates its culture, nature, and people."

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed appreciation for the Centre's continued support and reiterated the Government of Jammu and Kashmir's resolve to revive and reimagine the tourism sector to unlock its full potential for inclusive development. KNO

CM Omar inaugurates...

appointment of new doctors and assistant professors, and in the upgradation of schools.

Responding to the memorandum of demands presented by the students, the Chief Minister assured appropriate action, especially regarding the introduction of new academic courses.

He emphasized the critical importance of health and higher education in the sustained development of any society.

"We want the Jammu region to evolve into a hub for tourism—especially religious tourism—which will transform the lives of local communities," he said.

He also assured that demands related to road development in the area would be prioritized.

"I will not consider my mission fulfilled until the day students from outside J&K come here to pursue their education. Today, many of our students are compelled to study outside the state, and during global crises, they face great difficulties," he said.

The Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister for facilitating the safe return of students from J&K who were studying in Iran, and assured parents of continued efforts to ensure student safety abroad.

He further committed to upgrading government schools in Jammu and Kashmir to improved standards, underlining the government's dedication to strengthening the education sector.

"Government jobs alone cannot eliminate unemployment. Real change will come when our students are trained in world-class skills. And we will not stop until our goals for the youth are fully implemented" he asserted.

The Chief Minister also expressed hope that on his next visit, the college will offer more streams and will rank among the top educational institutions of Jammu and Kashmir.

On the occasion, CM Omar Abdullah also handed over keys of five buses—donated by J&K Bank under its Corporate Social Responsibility initiative—to five Government Degree Colleges in Jammu division.

Commending J&K bank for the initiative, he said J&K Bank plays a vital role in J&K's economy, and he is glad it's also supporting educational infrastructure—initiatives like these will surely benefit students.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary expressed gratitude to CM Omar Abdullah and Minister Sakina Itoo for ensuring the establishment of a GDC in a remote area like Purmandal, calling it a transformative step for the local population.

Minister for Higher Education Sakina Itoo congratulated the local community on the completion of the college building, recalling that the foundation stone was laid by the Chief Minister in 2013.

She informed that over 500 assistant professors have recently been appointed to strengthen the higher education framework in the Union Territory.

Appreciating the launch of five college buses, she reaffirmed the government's commitment to introducing more subjects and constructing a hostel for students at the college.

"The younger generation must take the lead in fighting societal evils like drug abuse," she urged.

Earlier, Additional Chief Secretary of the Higher Education Department, Shantmanu, highlighted the major features of the GDC campus, which includes plans for a four-storey academic block, a large playground and landscaped surroundings. KNO

Kashmir surpasses...

day in the last 20 years since June 25, 2005," Faizan said. He added that the all-time highest temperature in June was recorded on June 29, 1978.

Faizan said that Qazigund recorded a temperature of 34.7 degrees Celsius, the highest June temperature in 37 years. "This is the third all-time June temperature for Qazigund. The second highest is 35.3 degrees, recorded on June 27, 1988, and the all-time highest is 35.7 degrees, recorded on June 26, 1988," he added.

Kokernag has also surpassed previous figures, recording the all-time second-highest June temperature after a gap of 27 years, at 33.8 degrees Celsius. A similar day temperature was recorded on June 29, 1999. "The all-time highest temperature in Kokernag stands at 34.9°C, recorded on June 25, 2005," he said.

Moreover, another independent weather forecaster, Adil Maqbool, predicted a further rise in mercury, saying the day temperature could touch 35.5 degrees Celsius tomorrow or even 36 degrees in Srinagar and other lower areas of Kashmir. He added that mostly dry and hot weather will continue to dominate until June 21.

Furthermore, Pahalgam recorded a day temperature of 29.6 degrees Celsius, while Kupwara and Gulmarg recorded 33.1 degrees Celsius and 25.9 degrees Celsius, respectively. However, some parts of Jammu division continued to record below-normal temperatures, including Jammu city and Katra, where the mercury settled at 36.5 degrees Celsius and 33.1 degrees Celsius, respectively.

In Banihal, Baderwah, and Batote, maximum tem-

Samsung R&D Institute, Noida and IIT Madras Sign MoU to Drive Research on AI for Indian Languages, HealthTech, Generative AI

JINNEWSERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 19

Samsung R&D Institute, Noida (SRI-N) has deepened its industry-academia engagement through an MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) to drive collaborative research, accelerate technology development and nurture future-ready talent. The partnership will focus on pioneering advancements in AI for Indian languages, Health-Tech and emerging areas such as Generative AI, reinforcing Samsung's commitment to build a stronger innovation ecosystem aligned with the vision of 'Make in India' and 'Digital India'.

The five-year MoU that

was signed by Kyungyun Roo, Managing Director, SRI-N and Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras, aims to provide a wide range of collaborative activities, including sponsored research projects, consultancy projects, technology licensing, trainings, facility development and sponsorship of student fellowships in future.

"At SRI-N, we are continuously working towards creating technologies that empower people and communities. Our collaboration with IIT Madras marks an important step towards co-creating solutions that are meaningful, inclusive, and future-ready. Together, we aim to enhance the Galaxy AI ecosystem with deeper integration of

Indian regional languages and contribute to breaking language barriers across the country. In addition, we are engaging in co-development of emerging technology and enhancement of skill sets," said Kyungyun Roo, Managing Director, Samsung R&D Institute, Noida.

Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras, echoed the excitement surrounding this collaboration. "We are proud to partner with SRI-N and this alliance will sponsor revolutionary research and technological development through effective utilization of AI technology. In the fast-changing tech landscape, the MoU will upskill beneficiaries to develop strong connection between theoretical

knowledge and practical industry solutions required to mitigate risks and address uncertainty," he said.

This strategic partnership between Samsung India and IIT Madras adds to SRI-Noida's growing network of academic collaborations, having already established long-term strategic MoUs with premier institutes including IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur, IIT Bombay and IIT Ropar. Samsung and these institutes are charting an expansive roadmap toward a smarter, more connected world. By combining industry-scale resources with academic rigor, these partnerships are cultivating a thriving ecosystem for future breakthroughs.

Ministry of Women and Child Development organizes first of its kind National Consultation on Gender Budgeting

JINNEWSERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 19

As part of its continued commitment to advancing gender-responsive governance in the spirit of Viksit Bharat@2047, the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, organized a National Consultation on Gender Budgeting at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi today. Senior Officers from 40 central Ministries/Departments and 19 States, Representatives of UN Women, Asian Development Bank and Experts from National level Institutes participated in the day-long consultation.

The consultation, first of its kind, was organized with the key objectives to



deliberate on the measures to strengthen the gender budgeting processes across all sectors; and share initiatives and good practices on gender budgeting by the Central Ministries/Departments and States under their specific schemes.

The event was graced by the Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Smt. Annpurna Devi,

who launched a web portal titled Gender Budgeting Knowledge Hub developed by the Ministry. The Hub is a digital repository of all information related to gender budgeting processes, intended for use by central and state government ministries/departments, as well as other stakeholders.

Addressing the gathering, the Union Minister

said that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, gender budgeting has moved from being a fiscal exercise to becoming a strategic instrument for inclusive governance. Our government believes that when we invest in women, we are not merely allocating resources—we are shaping a more just, empowered, and Viksit Bharat. Today, women are no longer seen as beneficiaries, but as nation builders, innovators, and leaders steering India's growth story. Gender budgeting is not just a policy tool—it is our collective commitment to ensuring that every rupee spent carries the promise of equity, dignity, and opportunity for all.

peratures of 30.6 degrees Celsius, 31.6 degrees Celsius, and 28.2 degrees Celsius, respectively, were recorded today.

According to the weather forecast, Kashmir is set to witness an intense heatwave for the next two days, followed by heavy rains at isolated places. Generally dry weather with the possibility of brief spells of rain and thundershowers with gusty winds at isolated places is expected until Friday.

Between June 21 and 22, Director of MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said that generally cloudy weather with intermittent spells of rain and thundershowers is expected at many places. He added that on June 23 and 24, the weather is expected to remain dry, with a brief spell of light rain and thundershowers at isolated places. From June 25 to 27, generally cloudy weather with the possibility of intermittent light to moderate rain and thundershowers at many places is forecasted.

The MeT has also issued an advisory urging farmers to continue farm operations until June 20. 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 and 22. "Flash floods are expected at a few places, along with landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones," it added. KNO

Chief Secretary...

participate in this scheme and submit detailed proposals to harness its benefits for modernization of ITIs in the region.

The Union Secretary highlighted the considerable scope for J&K to enhance its engagement in other crucial Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) such as the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) and Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP). He reiterated the Ministry's unwavering commitment towards providing full support to J&K in maximizing the uptake of these vital programs.

The Chief Secretary, on his part, underscored the critical need for a holistic vision for skill development in the UT to tide over the problem of unemployment. He emphasized the importance of seamlessly linking skill acquisition with sustainable livelihood opportunities and integrating education with entrepreneurship to foster a dynamic and self-reliant workforce. Efforts will also be made to strengthen the convergence between various Centrally Sponsored Schemes to ensure greater adoption and more impactful outcomes for J&K, he added.

Among the key components discussed in the meeting included prioritizing submission of detailed proposals

for modernization of J&K ITIs under the new Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

Moreover, it was decided that the J&K government and the MSDE will establish a joint coordination mechanism to ensure efficient implementation and rigorous monitoring of all skill development initiatives in the UT. This collaborative effort between the J&K government and the Union Ministry for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship is expected to significantly boost skill development, create new employment avenues and foster an entrepreneurial spirit among the youth of J&K in the times to come. KNO

Ensure foolproof...

CID CIK, Security, DC SB Srinagar; SP PC Srinagar, SP CID SBK, SP Telecom and other officers.

The participating officers briefed the chair on the security arrangements planned for the smooth and peaceful conduct of Muharram processions, and other significant events.

The security measures related to the management of Muharram processions, crowd control, traffic regulation and maintenance of law & order during the period were also discussed.

The IGP Kashmir also reviewed the arrangements for the International Yoga Day and took stock of the security and logistical preparations for the event.

The meeting concluded with a strong commitment from all the officers to ensure smooth and peaceful conduct of the forthcoming events. KNO

Iran Israel Conflict...

Iran to ensure the safety and smooth evacuation of the students.

According to JKSA, at least 90 students of Kashmir studying in Iran reached India from Armenia on Thursday.

Besides Kashmiri students, nearly 20 other students from other states have also reached India from the same batch.

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

The Embassy of India, Tehran in an official communique to different universities said, "We have made arrangements for their evacuation. They may be permitted to leave the University, as being facilitated by the Embassy of India, Tehran. The Embassy of India, Tehran takes this responsibility for this planned movement and security of the Indian students." KNO

ADDC Kulgam conducts review meeting with Business Help Desk and YUVA Doots at DH Pora

JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JUNE 19

Continuing the district administration's efforts to boost youth empowerment and self-employment under Mission YUVA, Additional District Development Commissioner Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan today chaired a detailed review meeting with Business Help Desk (BHD) members and YUVA Doots from Block Manzgam, Pombay, DH Pora & DK Marg (Cluster-I) at SDM Office, Damhal Hanjipora.

The review meeting focused on evaluating progress and performance of grassroots level functionaries engaged in implementation of Mission YUVA.

In a notable step towards accountability, ADDC conducted a one-on-one appraisal of each YUVA Doot and Business Help Desk member, seeking detailed feedback on their field activities, youth



engagement efforts and challenges encountered, if any.

During the meeting, he assessed impact and effectiveness of outreach camps being conducted under Udyam Jagriti 3.0, number of youth mobilized, applications fetched etc. Each field worker presented their individual progress and practices adopted to reach the target group.

ADDC emphasized upon the importance of on ground visibility and urged all YUVA Doots and BHDs to expand their outreach, especially in uncovered and far-flung areas. He stressed the need for continuous follow-up and personalized guidance to aspiring youth entrepreneurs.

Speaking on the occasion, ADDC said that one-on-one feedback approach today has given us valuable insights into field realities. He reiterated the district administration's commitment of facilitating seamless service delivery and inter-departmental coordination.

The meeting was attended by Tehsildar DH Pora, Career Counselling Officer, District Employment and Counseling Centre Kulgam, all BHD members, YUVA Doots & other key stakeholders.

The review concluded with a collective commitment to intensify efforts, enhance youth outreach and ensure effective on-ground implementation of Mission YUVA initiatives.

Awareness programme, health camp organised at NRLM Office Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JUNE 19

A Training-cum-Awareness Programme and a Health Camp was organized today at the Training Hall NRLM Office.

The event was a collaborative effort under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) - Umeed, aimed at promoting health awareness and empowering Self Help Group (SHG) members with essential healthcare knowledge and services.

The programme was attended by the Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma as the Chief Guest.

The Deputy Commissioner lauded the initiative and emphasized the importance of generating health and hygiene awareness among rural women to ensure the holistic development of communities. He encouraged SHG members to actively adopt healthy practices and make use of available healthcare services.

The BPM NRLM (Umeed)



highlighted the role of such initiatives in strengthening grassroots awareness and building healthier, self-reliant communities.

Expert medical support was provided by Dr. Nazir Hussain, Medical Officer, and Dr. Soniya Sharma, Community Health Officer (CHO), who conducted comprehensive health check-ups and interactive sessions.

They discussed preventive healthcare measures, nutrition, and addressed health-related queries raised by participants.

The programme witnessed active participation from SHG members

of CD Blocks Thakrie and Trigam, who expressed appreciation for the initiative and took part in the sessions with great enthusiasm.

As part of the camp, nutritional supplements including protein products were distributed among the participants to support their well-being.

The event was attended by BMO Dr. Anil Kumar Sharma; MO Dr. Nazir Hussain; MO Dr. Soniya Sharma; Block Programme Manager NRLM (Umeed) Ab Hamid Lone; besides other staff of the concerned departments.

Clearance work underway to facilitate road widening at Bafliaz



JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JUNE 19

The District Administration Poonch, under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, has started the removal of structures along the Rajouri-Thanamandi-Surankote (RTS) road near Bafliaz.

The drive is being carried out under the supervision of the Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Tehsildar Surankote, in coordination with the Officer Commanding (OC) of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). Structures falling within the proposed alignment of the road are being removed to facilitate seamless progress of

the widening of this vital project.

The upgraded road is expected to significantly reduce travel time, enhance transport safety and open up new avenues for economic growth. It will also improve access to the historic Mughal Road, boosting connectivity between Poonch and the Kashmir Valley.

Personnel from the Revenue Department, BRO and local police were also deployed on-site to ensure smooth and peaceful execution of the drive. The District Administration appealed to the public for cooperation, emphasizing the long-term developmental benefits of the initiative.

HP&M Deptt organises awareness workshop on PMFME Scheme at GPC Chanderkote

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JUNE 19

The Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing, under the guidance of District Administration, on Thursday organized a one-day awareness workshop on the PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme for young technocrats and members of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) at Government Polytechnic College Chanderkote.

The event was attended by Area Marketing Officer (AMO) Tehsin Chib; Principal of the Polytechnic College, Vivek Mahajan; AGMO Batote; GMI Raju Zutshi; and District Resource Person (DRP-PMFME) Mudassar Rashid. A large number of individuals including students, FPO



members from Bungus Valley, women, and unemployed youth participated in the workshop.

The officials and experts briefed the participants on various aspects of the PMFME scheme. They emphasized that the scheme is proving a game changer in rural entrepreneurship by providing financial and technical support to individuals and groups interested in food processing.

The AMO urged the participants to take full advantage of the scheme

and become part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative launched by the Prime Minister of India.

The District Resource Person provided detailed information on the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR), required documentation for bank loans, and necessary certifications including FSSAI license and Udyam registration.

The District Nodal Officer PMFME highlighted that the scheme is especially benefiting women and unemployed youth,

enabling them to become self-reliant and even job creators. He informed that 17 processing units have already been established under PMFME in Ramban, generating employment for over 150 people.

The officials elaborated that the central government scheme, being implemented by the J&K Agriculture Production Department, offers 35% subsidy, easy access to bank finance, assistance in documentation and DPR preparation, and full hand-holding support including branding and marketing.

The workshop concluded with an interactive session where queries from participants were addressed, and successful case studies from within the district were also shared to motivate aspiring entrepreneurs.

DDC Poonch reviews performance of Banks

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JUNE 19

District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal today chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting to review the performance of Banks regarding implementation of Annual Credit Plan (ACP) and dispensation of loan cases under government sponsored schemes for the Quarter ending March 2025 of FY 2024-25.

At the outset Lead District Manager Lead Bank Ravi Kumar informed the house that different Banks in district Poonch have achieved Total business of Rs. 6419.76 crore.

The deposits have risen from Rs.3816.86 crore as on 31st March 2024 to Rs. 4218.75 crore as on 31st March 2025 showing a YoY growth of 10.53. Similarly the advances have gone up from Rs.2072.81 crore as on 31st March 2024 to



Rs.2201.01 crore as on 31st March 2025 showing YOY growth of 6.18%, while CD ratio of the district stands at 52.17% as on 31.03.2025.

Total Credit Disbursement made by the banks up to March 31 2025 of the FY-2024-25 stand at Rs.1158.70 crore against annual target of Rs. 725.03 crore thereby achieving 160% of the target.

The Priority Sector credit disbursement stands at Rs.495.52 crore against the target of Rs.571.10 crore thereby achieving 87% of the target. Achievement under Non-Priority Sector is Rs.663.18 crore against target of Rs.153.91 crore thereby achieving

431% of the target.

The Chairman DLRC directed the stakeholders to improve priority sector lending to aid self-employment through various schemes of Central and UT Govt.

The implementation of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna was also discussed and the chairman directed banks to finance solar energy scheme to achieve the objective of free power to all.

Lead District Officer, RBI Jammu Navjot Singh; DDM NABARD Chandher; Cluster Head J&K Bank Aijaj Ahmed; Regional Manager, Grameen Bank Gagandeep Singh; Direc-

tor RSETI Vikas Padha; GM DIC Khalid Hussain; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Dr. M.A. Malik; District Sheep Husbandry officer Dr. Bisharat Ahmed Ganie; Chief Agriculture officer Jograj Singh; Executive Engineer, JPDCL Aftab Ahmed; Employment Officer Shuja Mohammad; Project Officer DUDA Bharat Singh Na; Fisheries Development Officer Bharat Busha; DPM NRLM Sakib Shafi; District Officer KVIB Mohammad Ghayas Khan, besides District Coordinators of all Banks and other District Officers attended the meet.

DAJGUA: Outreach prog. held at tribal village Frestwar Shalnar to promote scheme saturation in tribal areas



JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JUNE 19

As part of the ongoing outreach under the Dharti Aabha Abhiyan, a Gram Sabha was conducted today at Panchayat Frestwar Village Shalnar, a tribal area in Block Khansahib.

The program is aimed at achieving 100% saturation of government schemes in tribal villages, with a focus on 25 interventions across 17 line departments.

During the event, all line departments actively participated and engaged with the local community. Representatives from

various departments briefed the public on the eligibility and benefits of their respective welfare schemes. Emphasis was laid on identifying and addressing gaps to ensure full coverage under each intervention.

Gram Sabha witnessed enthusiastic participation from the tribal population. Locals appreciated the efforts of the administration and highlighted the need for such focused outreach programs, which help in bridging awareness gaps and enabling access to entitlements.

In addition to the awareness drive, on-spot regis-

tration for several schemes was carried out. These included Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), Kisan Credit Cards, Swadesh Darshan Guest Homes, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Jal Jeevan Mission's Functional Household Tap Connections (JJM FHTC), and Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY Health Cards. The event served as a vital platform for direct communication between citizens and government functionaries, reinforcing the administration's commitment to inclusive development in tribal areas.

DC Srinagar holds introductory meeting with sectoral/ district officers

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 19

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today chaired an introductory meeting with sectoral and district officers of Srinagar at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex here.

While chairing the maiden meeting after assuming the charge, DC directed the Officers to work with utmost dedication and commitment for the welfare of people of the district. He emphasized the swift execution of works under set timelines for holistic development of the district besides, implementation of Government policies and schemes on ground in an effective and timely manner.

DC called on the Officers to be responsive and accessible to people and foster quick decision making abilities in resolving public grievances. He stressed on maintaining close coordination among departments for holistic and well planned devel-



opment of the district. He stressed them to ensure punctuality & discipline conduct as well.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed; RTO Kashmir, Irfan Qazi; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; General Manager DIC, Hamida Akhtar, besides, Superintending Engineers of PDD, PHE, R&B, SMC, Chief Medical Officer, Sub Divisional Magistrate East/West, District Statics & Evaluation Officer, CMO, CEO, all Tehsildars, all Executive Engineers, and all district & sectoral officers were present on the occasion.

DM Samba lifts temporary ban on holding Dangal competitions

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JUNE 19

District Magistrate, Samba, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 ordered the immediate lifting of the temporary ban on the organization and conduct of all Dangal/Kushti events in District Samba, with effect from today, the 19th day of June, 2025. Organizers of such events are directed to ensure compliance with all applicable safety guidelines, including provisions for adequate hydration, medical facilities, and crowd management, to safeguard participants and attendees. This order shall come into force with immediate effect and supersedes the previous order dated 13/06/2025.

Kishtwar gets its first Indoor Shooting Range



JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JUNE 19

In a landmark development, an Indoor Shooting Range was officially inaugurated today at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Boys Kishtwar by the Member Legislative Assembly Shagun Parihar.

The MLA was the chief guest on the occasion. The state-of-the-art shooting facility has been established through a collaborative effort of the Mechanical & Hospital Sub-Division and the Department of Youth Services & Sports (YS&S).

This initiative aims to provide world-class training infrastructure to young aspirants and promote precision sports like rifle shooting in the region.

In celebration of this

milestone, the Department of Youth Services & Sports Kishtwar inaugurated a District-Level Inter-Zonal Tournament for U/14 and U/17 boys and girls in Wrestling, Table Tennis, Handball and Rifle Shooting.

The competitions are being hosted across designated venues, encouraging extensive participation from talented students.

Adding to the celebration, demonstration matches in Table Tennis and Wrestling were held, offering a glimpse into the immense talent and passion of the district's young athletes.

The event was attended by DYSSO Jaffer Haider Sheikh; the host school Principal Ashok Kumar; AEE Mechanical Umar Ahanger and various officials from the Sports Department.

EDITORIAL

11 Years of Empowering Shram Shakti & Building a Future-Ready Bharat

A perennial crisis that refuses to end

Despite the passage of decades, successive governments, and an expenditure running into thousands of crores, the power infrastructure in the Jammu region remains riddled with chronic inefficiencies. Every summer, without fail, the story repeats itself—unscheduled power cuts, overheated transformers, overloaded grids, and public suffering. It's a tale as old as time, yet nothing seems to change. Jammu and Kashmir is currently grappling with a power shortfall of nearly 700 MW, even as the mercury soars to 45°C in parts of Jammu, Samba, and Kathua. The region's total demand has surged to 2800 MW, with Jammu accounting for the lion's share at 1600 MW. And yet, our own generation remains stagnant at a paltry 900 MW, despite Jammu and Kashmir's much-touted hydel potential. This exposes not just a technical gap, but a glaring failure of governance and vision. What is perhaps more disturbing is the staggering cost at which this inefficiency is being maintained. The power purchase bill of the UT has now crossed a whopping Rs 9,000 crore annually, and is expected to climb further. This is not just a financial burden—it is a monumental irony that a region endowed with abundant water resources and hydropower potential is forced to buy electricity at such exorbitant rates. The Power Development Department (PDD), however, continues to deny "forced curtailments", but the reality on the ground tells a different story. Reports from multiple districts speak of unscheduled power cuts, delayed transformer replacements, and rotational blackouts even in urban centers. In rural areas, the situation is far worse, with broken transformers taking up to three days to be replaced, further compounding public hardship. The state of infrastructure is equally dismal. The Barn and Bishnah grid stations—key pillars of the Jammu region's power supply—are overloaded and in desperate need of upgradation. Transmission lines like Barn-Kishanpur, Sarna-Hiranagar, and Jatwal-Chowadi are reportedly buckling under the strain. These are not new problems; these are known, documented failures that have been allowed to fester year after year. While authorities continue to reassure the public about buffer transformer stocks and efforts to enhance grid capacity, these measures often come too little, too late, when the crisis has already peaked and public patience has worn thin. This is not merely about technical glitches or load balancing—it is about institutional lethargy and misplaced priorities. A critical point often lost in the official narrative is that this problem is not seasonal. Come winter, Kashmir faces a similar crisis due to low river discharge. The cyclical nature of these shortages exposes the fragile foundation of the UT's energy policy, which is heavily reliant on external purchases rather than sustainable internal capacity building. To be fair, some progress has been made in reducing power liabilities—from a staggering Rs 40,000 crore to about Rs 5,000 crore—but that does little to comfort the common citizen sweltering in the dark. Nor does it excuse the decades of neglect that have left our power system in shambles. The time for patchwork solutions is over. What Jammu and Kashmir needs is a long-term, accountable, and mission-driven plan to tap into its vast hydropower reserves, strengthen its grid infrastructure, and ensure equitable distribution of electricity. Public-private partnerships, fast-tracked projects, and decentralized solar initiatives can be part of the solution—but only if there is the political will to make it happen. Until then, the power crisis in Jammu will remain not just a summer story, but a perennial symbol of systemic failure.



DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA
(UNION MINISTER OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS)

As India marches toward its centenary of independence in 2047, employment generation and social protection have been placed at the core of our mission for Viksit Bharat. Over the past 11 years, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's workforce has been at the centre of policy, planning, and progress. This shift has led to historic improvements in employment generation and the expansion of social protection coverage.

In 2014, India's employment landscape was fragmented, social security coverage was limited, and a vast majority of workers particularly those in the unorganised sector, remained outside the protective ambit of welfare schemes. Recognising the scale and urgency of this challenge, Modi government undertook bold and structural reforms.

Flagship initiatives such as Make in India, Skill India, Digital India, and massive infrastructure development drives created unprecedented momentum for employment generation. According to RBI KLEMS data, only 2.9 crore jobs were created between

2004 -2014. In comparison, over 17 crore jobs were generated between 2014 - 2024. As per PLFS data, the employment rate (WPR) rose from 46.8% in 2017-18 to 58.2% in 2023-24, while the unemployment rate (UR) declined from 6% to 3.2% during the same period. Not just this, employment generation in formal sector has also seen a substantial progress, with EPFO data showing that more than 7.5 crore formal jobs have been created over the last seven years.

Empowering Yuva and Nari Shakti

At the heart of India's growth journey lies the empowerment of Yuva and Nari Shakti. As a testament to this, the female employment rate (WPR) increased from 22% in 2017-18 to 40.3% in 2023-24, while the unemployment rate dropped from 5.6% to 3.2% during the same period. This shift has been even more significant in rural India, where female employment grew by 96%, and in urban areas, by 43%. These outcomes are the result of transformative reforms and focused initiatives implemented by the Modi Government in last 11 years. Today, more than 70 Centrally Sponsored schemes across 15 ministries are dedicated to supporting women entrepreneurship, making them atmanirbhar.

Youth employability in India has also seen a significant rise, growing from just 33% in 2013 to around 55% in 2024. This progress is result of robust digital public infrastructure. Platforms such as the National Career Service (NCS) portal have emerged as one-stop solutions for employment-related

services. Launched in 2015, so far, NCS has connected over 5.5 crore job seekers with 46 lakh employers, mobilizing more than 5 crore job vacancies. As a result, the youth employment rate (WPR) rose from 31.4% in 2017-18 to 41.7% in 2023-24, while youth unemployment dropped significantly from 17.8% to 10.2% in the same period, lower than the global average of 13.6%. Through digital skilling programs, entrepreneurship initiatives, and innovation-driven platforms, India's youth are evolving from job seekers to job creators.

Recognizing the Unorganised Workforce

One of the most transformative achievements of the last 11 years has been the recognition of India's vast unorganised workforce. In 2021, Modi Government launched the e-Shram Portal, a first-of-its-kind national digital database for unorganized workers. In just 4 years over 30.8 crore unorganised workers, including gig and platform workers have been onboarded of this platform. This dynamic portal serves as a one-stop solution, connecting workers to various welfare schemes. Currently, over 13 Central Government social welfare schemes are integrated with e-Shram, offering seamless single sign-on and multilingual access. This is not just technological progress, it is a shift to a governance model that puts the worker first.

In addition, recognising the rise of the digital economy, we have also brought Gig and Platform workers into the policy fold. This year's Union Budget included a major announcement to onboard them onto

the e-Shram portal and extend healthcare coverage under the Ayushman Bharat PM-Jan Arogya Yojana. With this, Modi Government is ensuring that this emerging workforce receives adequate protection and access to opportunities.

Reforming ESIC and EPFO

During the last 11 years, significant measures have been undertaken to reform legacy institutions such as the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), which were long plagued by inefficiencies and red tapism. These reforms have brought not only unprecedented transparency but also greater efficiency to the system. Initiatives such as the introduction of the Universal Account Number (UAN), Aadhaar integration, simplified auto-claim settlement, convergence with various schemes, and robust grievance redressal mechanisms have transformed service delivery and enhanced the ease of living for our workforce.

As a result of this, EPFO membership has grown from 11.78 crore in 2013-14 to 34.63 crore in 2024-25. The number of registered establishments rose from 7.96 lakh to 27.05 lakh during the same period. Additionally, the number of claims settled reached over 6 crore in 2024-25, the highest ever in EPFO's history.

Meanwhile, ESIC has also seen substantial expansion, now covering nearly 700 districts from just 393 in 2013-14. The number of insured persons has increased from 1.95 crore to 4.09 crore between 2013-14 and 2024-25. Benefi-

ciaries have also doubled from 7.89 Crore to 15.87 Crore during the same period. Today, ESIC offers advanced healthcare services such as chemotherapy, robotic surgeries, and digitised health records, significantly enhancing healthcare access for workers.

Expanding Social Protection Coverage

As a result of Modi Government's consistent efforts, India has made significant strides in expanding social protection coverage. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), India's social protection coverage has more than tripled rising from 19% in 2015 to 64.3% in 2025. Today, over 94 crore citizens are covered under at least one social welfare scheme, making India the second-largest welfare system in the world in terms of beneficiary count. India's social protection model is a testimony to our belief in "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" where economic growth and social security go hand in hand.

Over the past 11 years, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has undertaken significant measures to empower our Shram Shakti and lay the foundation for a Viksit Bharat. By prioritising employment generation, expanding social protection, strengthening institutional delivery, and leveraging digital infrastructure, the government has placed workers at the heart of the development agenda. As we move towards realising the vision of Viksit Bharat, India is not only preparing to be the world's largest workforce but also one of the most skilled, protected and empowered one.

Is the Humanity on the Brink of World War?



OMKAR DATTATRAY

There is war between Israel and Iran and both countries are attacking each other with missiles, drones and fighter jets and none among the two warring nations is thinking about the ceasefire but both are determined to create chaos, confusion and destruction in the middle east. It is very threatening that now it seems that the world cop America is thinking to directly enter into the war by supporting Israel. The million-dollar question is that the world is on the brink of third big war which will destroy many countries of the world. It is strange and immature that Pigmy sized nation Pakistan may support Iran in this war and it will result in catastrophe for Pakistan. Donald Trump has left G20 meeting in Canada and since left for America amid mounting tension and war between Israel and Iran and has asked Iran to go for a ceasefire. Trump also said, can directly enter war by siding with Israel and if that happens, then there is likelihood of China and Russia and other big powers to side Iran and it can escalate and it has the potential of turning into a big war that will result in devastation and ruin to the countries at war and to other countries siding with either Israel or Iran. All this will result in world war which may be a doom for humanity. Israel-Iran conflict risks drawing in great power rivals, with growing number of Americans and Europeans believing conflict will erupt in next 10 years. Majority of US citizens are against America joining war and Trump will



have to take the republicans into confidence before taking any step and jumping in war. As of now there is political consensus about joining Israel-Iran war and the majority of American citizens are against involving the country in war and big war is not in the interest of any country more so America and therefore US should stay away from war rather exert its pressure on the warring nations to go for immediate ceasefire. Israel-Iran should emulate India-Pakistan and go for a ceasefire and end the conflict otherwise escalation of war has the potential of turning this war into world war which will unfold nothing but doom for the world. The parallels between the period just before the Second World War and today have led many to predict we are on the brink of another global conflict. The true similarity may in fact be with 1914, and the events leading up to the First World War, said Sean O'Grady in The Independent. "If you take the view that the 7 October atrocities committed by Hamas were the equivalent destabilizing, provocative moment as the assassination of Arch duke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo in July 1914 -the spark that lit a global conflagration -then you would be tempted to view recent events as a long-running set of national revivals in a volatile region, which are about to draw

in the great powers of our time. "Whatever the historical comparisons," wars in Europe and the Middle East "and "increasing cooperation among China, Russia, North Korea and Iran", all raise the prospect of a large-scale conflict within the next 10 years, said the Atlantic Council, a view backed by a growing number of US and European citizens, according to recent YouGov polling.

Middle East—It has been hoped a ceasefire agreed between Hamas and Israel in January would mark a reset for the Middle East following a tumultuous period that started with the militant group's deadly 2023 attack on Israel, followed by the invasion of Gaza, the weakening of Hezbollah in Lebanon and the fall of the Assad regime in Syria. But what some thought could be the start of a long process of de-escalation in the region turned out to be merely a short pause, before the resumption of fighting in Gaza followed by a further ramping up of tensions -this time against Iran. Decades -long concern over the country's nuclear programme finally erupted, when Israel launched a massive pre-emptive attack against nuclear and military installations as well as top members of the regime. Iran has called the attack a "declaration of war", and Israel's actions have

been condemned by Russia and China, although both have so far shied away from offering anything other than strong words. Now, in what the Economic Times called a "chilling "and unexpected "escalation of nuclear rhetoric", an Iranian general has claimed that Pakistan would retaliate with a nuclear strike on Israel if Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu authorises a nuclear attack on Iran. This would likely to draw a response from India. As it stands, there is "no question of the Israelis deploying their nuclear weapons, and not much chance of the Americans engaging directly against Iranian territory or its forces", said The Independent's Sean O'Grady. " Things could still escalate -but it would need something dramatic to occur, such as the Russians and North Koreans gifting Iran a nuclear weapon and a missile delivery system to take it so far as Israel. Or America bombing Tehran or the holy sites." At such a point, we could again contemplate how the great powers and their satellites might line up in a total war."

Russia—Donald Trump ran for a re-election last year with a promise to bring about a quick end to war in Ukraine, and since entering the White House has repeatedly used the threat of the conflict escalating into World War three as a way to get both sides around the negotiating table. But months of diplomacy, bullying and flattery appear to have yielded little progress. Having suffered a hugely embarrassing breach of Russia's defences in a recent mass drone attack by Ukraine which destroyed scores of Russian warplanes and bombers, Putin will be hoping to use the current unrest between Israel-Iran to his advantage. Fears of a global crisis could also serve as the pretext to mobilize even more men and expand the war. That is the view of Russian General Aпти Alaudinov, who took to Telegram to declare it was

time to call up "realistically one million people " and "start preparing them for the fact that the war has already begun, which we already know is happening -Worlds War Three." He said it was important to remind the world of Russia's vast nuclear arsenal so that no one dares to play with us the way they played with all the other countries, and row with Iran."

China—It has long been assumed that the greatest threat to geopolitical stability is rising tension between China and the US, which could force other countries to align with either superpower. This risked pushing the globe to "the brink of a third world war", the Strait Times reported. Politicians, military chiefs and industry leaders "can no longer afford to ignore the prospect of a full -scale invasion", said the Daily Mail. In such a scenario, the US -Taiwan's most powerful protector -may be forced to respond in its defence. It would, "shake the foundations of the world as we know it and could well trigger a Third World War.

North Korea -Since 2019, Kim Jong Un has "focussed on modernising his nuclear and missile arsenal," said Sky News. For more than 50 years, America's nuclear umbrella has served its purpose as a global deterrent but that stability is now shaky. Allies of the US have watched President Trump pull much-needed military support from Ukraine and they are reacting by increasing their own neglected defence resources, including, in the case of South Korea, considering "home-grown nuclear weapons." In brief now the current war scenario between Israel and Iraq may escalate further and it can result in world- war third. But the super powers should assert and use their influence to avoid world war.

The author is a columnist, social, KP and Freelancer

Scientists develop real-time genome sequencing to combat deadly superbug

AGENCIES
SYDNEY

Australian scientists have made a breakthrough in combating *Staphylococcus aureus*, commonly known as golden staph -- a superbug that causes more than a million deaths worldwide each year.

The world-first initiative has demonstrated that real-time genome sequencing during severe infections allows doctors to quickly identify resistance mutations, and personalise treatment, Xinhua news agency reported.

It will also help curb the spread of antibiotic resistance, said researchers from the Melbourne-based Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity (Doherty Institute).

Collaborating with seven local hospitals, scientists from the



Doherty Institute said that traditionally, hospital laboratories identify bacteria using standard tests that reveal only the species type, offering limited insight into antibiotic resistance or genetic changes.

In contrast, genome sequencing provides a comprehensive genetic profile, uncovering mutations that can influence how bacteria respond to treatment.

Previously, research into bacterial evolution

was typically carried out retrospectively, often years after patients had completed treatment.

In contrast, this new method enables clinicians to monitor bacterial changes in real-time, providing immediate and actionable insights for patient care, according to the study published in *Nature Communications*.

Comparing golden staph samples from patients at the start of infection and at treatment failure, researchers

found that in a third of cases, the bacteria developed mutations making standard antibiotics ineffective, said lead author Stefano Giulieri at the Doherty Institute and the University of Melbourne.

"In one case, after initially controlling a golden staph infection, the patient returned to the hospital two months after stopping antibiotics," Giulieri said.

Giulieri added that resistance increased 80-fold within two months, but genomic insights enabled clinicians to successfully adapt treatment and cure the infection.

These findings represent a major step toward targeted therapy for bacterial infections and open the door to future clinical trials that could make this approach standard practice in hospitals worldwide, said the researchers.

Study shows how blood sugar response to carbs can signal prediabetes risk

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Blood sugar responses after food, especially carbohydrates, may indicate metabolic health status as well as signal the risk of prediabetes, according to a study.

Researchers from Stanford University in the US explained that the differences in blood sugar response patterns among individuals were associated with specific metabolic conditions such as insulin resistance or beta cell dysfunction -- both can lead to diabetes.

The findings, published in *Nature Medicine*, suggest that this variability in blood sugar response could lead to personalised prevention and treatment strategies for prediabetes and diabetes.

"This study suggests that not only are there subtypes within prediabetes, but also that your subtype could determine



the foods you should and should not eat," said Michael Snyder, Professor in Genetics at Stanford Medicine.

In the study, 55 participants without a history of Type 2 diabetes underwent metabolic testing for insulin resistance and beta cell dysfunction. The participants were also subjected to multi-omics profiling, which included tests for triglyceride levels, metabolites in the plasma of the blood, measures of liver function, and gut microbiome data.

Just under half of the participants, 26 in total, had prediabetes.

The results showed that

many participants had a blood glucose spike after eating rice or grapes, regardless of their metabolic health status.

The blood glucose responses to foods containing the highest amounts of resistant starch -- potatoes and pasta -- varied depending on the participants' metabolic dysfunction.

Participants whose blood sugar spiked after eating bread were more likely to have hypertension or high blood pressure.

The comparison of the blood glucose responses to potatoes versus grapes was associated with insu-

lin resistance, suggesting that this ratio could serve as a real-world biomarker for insulin resistance in the future.

"Such a biomarker would be useful because insulin resistance is amenable to lifestyle and medication interventions that can reduce the risk for diabetes in high-risk individuals. At present there is no easy way to diagnose it in the clinic," said Tracey McLaughlin, professor of endocrinology at the varsity.

The researchers also found that eating fibre or protein before the rice lowered the glucose spike, and eating fat before the rice delayed the peak of the spike.

However, these changes in blood glucose response occurred only in the metabolically healthy participants who were insulin-sensitive or had normal beta cell function, said the team calling for further research.

Study shows monoclonal antibody can lower common lung infection risk

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

A single dose of the long-acting antibody nirsevimab developed to prevent respiratory syncytial virus infections in infants can halve hospitalisations for bronchiolitis, according to a study.

Bronchiolitis is an acute viral infection that affects the respiratory system of children under one year of age mainly in the first six months of life with greater frequency between November and March.

It is often associated with respiratory syncytial virus infection (in about 3 out of 4 cases) that can cause respiratory failure, especially in children under one year of age -- among babies under six months old.

In a first, the real-world study analysed the concrete impact of nirsevimab by comparing European countries -- Spain, the UK, and Italy -- with different



health policies.

The data, collected from 68 Catalan hospitals in Spain and five hospitals in the UK and Italy, showed that in children under 6 months in Catalonia, hospitalisations for bronchiolitis have almost halved compared to the average of previous seasons.

Emergency room admissions for the same age group were also significantly reduced. In contrast, no significant reduction emerged in the other European centres where nirsevimab was not administered.

The study, published in the journal *Lancet Regional Health - Europe*, "represents an important step in assessing the real effectiveness of new preventive strategies against RSV, comparing for the first time countries with different approaches to its implementation," said Danilo Buonsenso, a researcher in General and Specialist Paediatrics at the Catholic University, US.

Further, the study showed that nirsevimab's effect was less pronounced in older children (between

six and 23 months), suggesting that the greatest efficacy is concentrated in the first few months of life.

In May, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommended all countries use nirsevimab along with a maternal vaccine -- RSVpreF -- to protect babies against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), the leading cause of acute lower respiratory infections in children globally.

While the vaccine can be given during routine antenatal care, nirsevimab is given as a single injection of monoclonal antibodies that starts protecting babies against RSV within a week of administration. It lasts for at least 5 months and can cover the entire RSV season in countries with RSV seasonality.

The global health body recommends that infants receive a single dose of nirsevimab right after birth or before being discharged from a birthing facility.

Statins may reduce death risk in sepsis patients: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Statins, typically used to lower blood pressure may also help lower the risk of death among patients suffering from deadly sepsis by 39 per cent, according to a study on Friday.

Sepsis occurs when the immune system overreacts to an infection, causing such a strong inflammatory response that vital organs begin to shut down. It is life-threatening, as in about 15 per cent of cases, sepsis worsens into septic shock, characterised by dangerously low blood pressure and reduced blood flow to tissues.

The risk of death from septic shock is even higher, between 30 per cent and 40 per cent.

The earlier patients with sepsis are treated, the better their prospects. Typically, they receive antibiotics, intravenous fluids, and vasopressors to raise blood pressure.



However, the large cohort study published in the journal *Frontiers in Immunology* has shown for the first time that supplementary treatment with statins could boost their chances of survival.

"Our large, matched cohort study found that treatment with statins was associated with a 39 per cent lower death rate for critically ill patients with sepsis when measured over 28 days after hospital admission," said Dr Caifeng Li, Associate Professor at Tianjin Medical University General Hospital in

China.

Statins are best known for their protective effect against cardiovascular disease, which functions by lowering 'bad' LDL cholesterol and triglycerides, and raising 'good' HDL cholesterol.

"Statins have anti-inflammatory, immunomodulatory, antioxidative, and antithrombotic properties. They may help mitigate excessive inflammatory response, restore endothelial function, and show potential antimicrobial activities," said Li.

The researchers built a

statistical model for the study and analysed 6,070 critical patients who received statins and another 6,070 who did not.

The results showed that the 28-day all-cause mortality rate was 14.3 per cent in the statin group and 23.4 per cent in the no-statin group, indicating a relative reduction of 39 per cent.

However, the duration of mechanical ventilation (MV) or continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) increased by an average of 3 hours and 26 hours, respectively, in the group receiving statins. This prolonged duration of MV and CRRT in the statin group may be attributed to a trade-off between 28-day all-cause mortality and the duration of MV or CRRT.

"These results strongly suggest that statins may provide a protective effect and improve clinical outcomes for patients with sepsis," Li said.

Study shows how Covid virus shields itself during replication

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

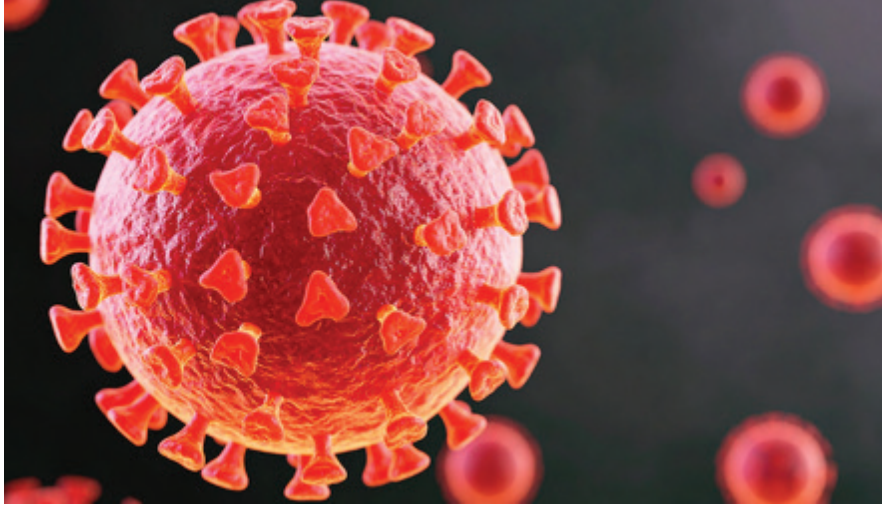
US researchers have identified a mechanism that SARS-CoV-2 -- the virus that causes Covid-19 -- uses to protect itself inside the body as it works to replicate and infect more cells.

Without this protective mechanism, viral infection is dramatically reduced, said the team from the Texas Biomedical Research Institute and the University of Chicago.

The finding, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, not only provides a potential target for new Covid therapies but also offers insights that could inform future vaccine and antiviral development.

The study builds on earlier work from Texas Biomed that identified ORF3a, a type of viral protein most important for the virus's pathogenicity, or ability to cause disease.

Specifically, the team found that SARS-CoV-2



ORF3a appears to play a vital role in protecting structural proteins, most notably the spike protein that facilitates spread into other cells, as they are assembled on the surface of viral particles.

It does this by driving the formation of a dense group of proteins that surround the spike protein and provide protection while in transit, much like security detail protecting a person or an armoured

vehicle carrying cash to the bank, the researcher said.

Jueqi Chen, Assistant Professor at the University of Chicago, termed these protective complexes "3a dense bodies" or 3DBs for short.

It appears that 3DBs help prevent the spike protein from being cut into smaller components.

When ORF3a is missing, these 3DBs fail to form, and the spike pro-

tein often arrives damaged, severely impairing the nascent virus's ability to infect new cells, the expert said.

"ORF3a could therefore be a good target for drugs to block the virus," said Luis Martinez-Sobrido, Professor at Texas Biomed.

"This discovery could also be instrumental for vaccine development, as we illustrated previously," Martinez-Sobrido added.

Early periods, later menopause linked to slower brain ageing in women

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Women with early onset of periods, and later menopause -- which means a longer reproductive span -- can have a healthier brain ageing in life, according to a study.

The study showed how a woman's reproductive years may shape brain health later in life and also reduce the risk of dementia.

It also suggested the role of oestradiol (or the lack thereof) in the development of dementia.

Oestradiol levels rise at puberty, remain high during most of a woman's reproductive life, and then decline sharply around menopause. This drop in oestradiol has been linked to an increased risk of dementia and other age-related brain conditions.

"These findings support the idea that oestradiol -- the most potent and prevalent form of oestrogen during a woman's



reproductive years -- may help protect the brain as it ages," said lead researcher Eileen Lueders, Associate Professor from the University of Auckland's School of Psychology.

The research may point toward the potential for health interventions such as hormone treatment in the years leading up to menopause and immediately afterward to combat an increased risk of Alzheimer's for some women.

The team applied a machine learning

approach to analyse both cross-sectional and longitudinal data from a sample of 1,006 postmenopausal women who underwent structural magnetic resonance imaging twice, approximately 2 years apart.

Women with earlier menarche, later menopause, and a longer reproductive span (that is, the time interval between menarche and menopause) showed less brain ageing.

While the study, published in the journal *GigaScience*, adds to the

growing evidence that oestradiol may play a protective role in brain health, Lueders cautions that the effects were small, and oestradiol levels were not directly measured.

Other factors -- like genetics, lifestyle, and overall health -- also influence brain ageing.

Lueders hopes future studies will include more diverse participants and directly measure hormone levels to better understand how oestradiol and other factors contribute to brain health in women.

Purnima Sharma nominated North Zone President of 'Eternal Hindu'

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 19

To revive the world's most ancient and glorious civilization – Indian culture – and to organize and empower society through temples, Eternal Hindu, under the aegis of Shashwat Hindu Pratishthan, has nominated prominent social worker and former Deputy Mayor of Jammu, Purnima Sharma, as the North Zone President of the organization.

On her nomination, BJP spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan, Media Incharge Dr. Pradeep Mohita, and Media Associate Sanjay Bakshi extended their congratulations and expressed hope that Purnima Sharma would further accelerate the organization's work through her association with Eternal Hindu.

They stated that this



responsibility not only acknowledges Purnima Sharma's leadership skills and social commitment but also reflects the visionary mission of Shashwat Hindu Pratishthan, which is dedicated to re-establishing temples as the core of community life.

Speaking on her new role, Purnima Sharma said that the goal of Eternal Hindu is to strengthen the temple-based roots of Indian culture. The organization believes that temples are not merely places

of worship but have historically served as hubs for social organization, cultural preservation, and nation-building. Purnima Sharma added, "I accept this responsibility not merely as a position, but as a pledge toward culture and the nation. Temples are the center of our consciousness, our roots, and our soul. Under the campaign 'Two Hours for Temples – A Mission for Nation-Building', we aim to revitalize temples as vibrant centres for every section of society, she said.

Hakeem slams J&K Govt for ignoring Iran-Return Students at Delhi Airport

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 19

President of the Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen, has expressed deep shock and disappointment over the Jammu and Kashmir government's failure to receive students who arrived at Delhi Airport early this morning after being evacuated from Iran.

Termed it "highly unfortunate," Hakeem Yaseen said that while state governments from across India warmly welcomed their respective students at the airport, there was no official representative from the Jammu and Kashmir administration to receive the students from the Union Territory.

"It is painful to note that not a single officer or representative from J&K was present at Delhi Airport to receive our children. The students were left unattended, with no guidance



or support. Other states made proper arrangements, but our students were completely ignored," Yaseen said.

Highlighting the inconvenience faced by the students, Yaseen strongly opposed the idea of transporting them back to the Valley in deluxe RTC buses. "How can these students—exhausted and stressed after days of uncertainty—be expected to travel over 600 kilometers by road? It is inhumane," he said, demanding that special flights be immediately arranged to fly them back to Srinagar.

He added that the parents of the students were

deeply anxious back home and expected the government to show a more compassionate and responsive approach. "There appears to be a complete communication breakdown within the J&K administration. Even if there was a protocol issue regarding the Lieutenant Governor, someone from the administration could have gone to receive them. This is not acceptable," he said.

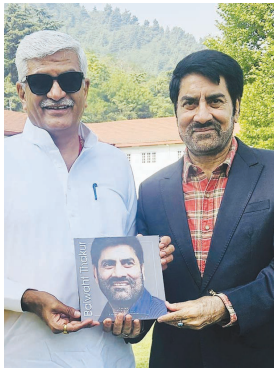
Hakeem further lamented the lack of basic facilities for the students at the airport. "There were no sleeping arrangements, no proper statements from officials, and no organized support. It was chaos, and it did not reflect well on the functioning of the UT government," he added.

Reiterating his demand, the PDF Chief urged the government to act swiftly and responsibly by arranging immediate air transport for the safe return of these students to Kashmir and called for accountability from those in charge of the evacuation plan.

Balwant Thakur meets Union Culture and Tourism Minister: shares cultural concerns

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR 19TH JUNE, 2025

Eminent Cultural personality and former Cultural Diplomat of India to South Africa and Mauritius, Padmashri Balwant Thakur met Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Hon'ble Union Minister for Tourism and Culture, Government of India at Srinagar and shared his cultural concerns relating to the development of art and culture in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. On the occasion he also presented a copy of the monograph detailing his enterprising creative journey as a playwright, theatre director and cultural administrator/ambassador. With over 45 years of his experience of arts creation and cultural administration at local, national and international levels, Balwant Thakur has developed a vision for culture for the UT of Jammu & Kashmir in particular and for the nation in general. He stressed on the dire need of the professional



handling of cultural institutions in the larger interest of the preservation and promotion of both tangible and intangible heritage. Balwant Thakur worked as Secretary J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages for over a period of eight long years and is credited for bringing a new cultural renaissance in Jammu and Kashmir. Following this he remained as the Regional Director of Indian Council for Cultural Relations of over Six years and brought Germany, Russia, Spain, Poland, Zambia, Laos, Tunisia, Malaysia, and Mauritius, Bangladesh to

perform in Jammu. In the similar fashion he took the culture of J&K to England, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Bhutan, Japan and France. Later he headed Indian Cultural centres based in Johannesburg (South Africa) and Mauritius. There has been a time when the cultural presentations of Jammu & Kashmir has been in a huge demand within India and outside the country as well. But now Jammu and Kashmir is not getting that prominence may be because of the poor level of presentations being produced these days. The reasons for quality deterioration are also required to be addressed. For that, regional, zonal and national institutions responsible for ensuring excellence are required to be professionally strengthened and creatively equipped.

Hon'ble Minister Sh. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat gave a patient hearing and desired to utilise his vast global experience for the betterment of the culture.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, REW POONCH

TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 06 of REW POONCH 2025-26 Dated:-18-06-2025 1st Call

For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, the Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch, as his representative invites tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt/CPWD/MES for the following work under:

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Estt. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor	Position of Funds
1	Community Compost Pit Moh. Chalai W.No 01 Near Kaif Panchayat Lassana Upper Block Lassana Under SBM Year 2025-26	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	0.77	200	1540	20 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 01-07-2025 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/ Demanded
2	Community Compost Pit Moh. Makhon Wala Chowk Nr L/o Mir Hussain Panchayat Kalai Block Lassana Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
3	Community Compost Pit Moh. Katha W.No 01 Near L/o Javid Panchayat Malhan Block Lassana Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
4	Community Compost Pit Moh. Kals W. No 02 Panchayat Malhan Block Lassana Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
5	Community Compost Pit Moh. Jabri Nalla W.No 06 Near L/o Haji Ashraf Panchayat Nehrian Block Lassana Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
6	Community Compost Pit Moh. Loona Bela Near L/o Ghulam Mohd S/o Aubda Panchayat Seri Chowana -A Block Lassana Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
7	Community Compost Pit Moh. Bajjaran Lassana Lower Panchayat Lassana Lower Block Lassana Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
8	Community Compost Pit Moh. Kolian Lassana Upper Panchayat Lassana Upper Block Lassana Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
9	Community Compost Pit Moh. Hari Budha Lower Panchayat Hari Budha Lower Block Lassana Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
10	Community Compost Pit Moh. Mughlan Shindara Lower Panchayat Shindara Lower Block Lassana Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
11	Community Compost Pit W.No. 01 Panchayat Fazlabad Lower-B Block Buffliaz Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
12	Community Compost Pit W.No. 05 Panchayat Fazlabad Lower-A Block Buffliaz Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
13	Community Compost Pit W.No. 07 Pari Wala Doga Panchayat Bhunikhait Block Buffliaz Under SBM Year 2025-26	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	0.77	200	1540	20 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 01-07-2025 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/ Demanded
14	Community Compost Pit W.No. 07 L/o Yasar Khan Panchayat Buffliaz-B Block Buffliaz Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
15	Community Compost Pit W.No. 03 Panchayat Fazlabad Upper Block Buffliaz Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
16	Community Compost Pit W.No. 04 Panchayat Fazlabad Upper Block Buffliaz Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
17	Community Compost Pit W.No. 04 Moh Upper Zamindaran Panchayat Bhunikhait Block Buffliaz Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			
18	Community Compost Pit at Thanda Pani Near L/o Waqar Ahmed Bara Bagla Panchayat Chandimarh-A Block Buffliaz Under SBM Year 2025-26		0.77	200	1540	20 days			

NOTE: The Contractors registered with DDC, Poonch in reference to GOVT. Order No: 238-F of 2021. Dated 07-09-2021 can participate upto an amount of Rs 3.00 Lacs, in local Panchayat works.

- After opening of the tender if the rates quoted by the lowest bidder are found to be high & value of work is more than the advertised cost, he/she is advised to negotiate his/her quoted rates with the department / offer his/her consent within five days after opening of the tenders, failing which the work shall be put to fresh tender.
- In Pursuant to Finance Department of J&K Government order No. 238-F of 2021 Dated:- 07-09-2021 issued vide endorsement No. FD-Code/327/2021-22 Dated:- 07-09-2021. The Participation Rules shall be as under. The participation in the tendering process of works up to an amount of Rs. 3.00 Lakhs is restricted to resident of concerned Panchayat only in 1st Call, for subsequent call the bidders from adjoining Panchayats can participate too, after production of the residence proof certificate for local bidders or adjoining area certificate issued from Concerned BDO's as the case may be under his seal & signature with dispatch no. & date, and after 3rd call the participation is open to all for participation.
- Bid must be accompanied with cost of Tender Document in shape of Treasury Challan Debited to MH 0515 REW and earnest money in the shape of CDR @ 2% of the advertised cost in favour of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch failing which the tender will be rejected outright. The tender fee will be accepted only in the form of Treasury Voucher and No other mean will be accepted. It is mandatory to mention the name of work, e-Nit No on Treasury Challan. The date of the Earnest Money & Tender Fee must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission date) pledged to Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch.
- Successful bidder will submit 3% additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/ B.G. The total 5% will be released after completion of defect liability period of the work.
- As per Order issued by this office vide No. XEN/REW/P/4058-61 Dated:-21-02-2025. The Extra CDRs shall be released after successful completion of works.**
- The lowest bidder shall have to provide the CDR/FDR/B.G. within weeks' time for the issuance of allotment failing which he/she will be recommended for black listing. The CDR issue date to be uploaded, shall not before the date of e-NIT and no other CDR shall be accepted as replacement, under rules.
- The successful bidder / Contractor who fails to start work within seven (07 Days) from the date of issuance of Allotment will be imposed a penalty of Rs 200 / Day starting from 8th day, deductible from the running/final bills of contractor.
- The tender receiving authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tender without assigning any reason there off.
- No tender document will be accepted displaying firm/company name without proprietor name against which the tender documents will be submitted.
- After opening of Financial Bid, within 05 days, if the successful Bidder doesn't approach with the CDR, the 2nd Lowest bidder, shall be approached for the negotiation and allotment of work at rates quoted by L1.
- The already defaulted contractors are not allowed to participate in any tendering work of REW Division Poonch.**
- Subletting of allotted work is not allowed and will attract strict legal action, even cancellation of contract with imposition of costs and penalty etc, if any successful bidder is found involved in same at any stage.

NOTE: No PRI member shall be allowed to take part in Tendering process

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18-06-2025.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 18-06-2025 to 30-06-2025, 1855 Hrs
3	Bid submission Start Date	18-06-2025 from 1800 Hrs onwards
4	Bid Submission End Date	30-06-2025 up to 1855 Hrs
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) (in case of holiday, the bid shall be opened on next day)	01-07-2025 on or after 1000 Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer REW, Poonch
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) (of only successful technical bidders)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

No:- XEN/REW/P/49-56

Dated:- 18-06-2025

DIP/J-2391/25

Date: 19-6-25

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Rural Engineering Wing
Poonch

Su-Kam Power Systems organizes an inspiring Business Partners Meet in Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 19

Su-Kam Power Systems strengthens partnership and expands presence in Jammu with well-attended Business Partners Meet. The event showcased Su-Kam's commitment to deeper market penetration and fruitful collaborations with its valued Business Partners.

Jammu, 18th June 2025: Su-Kam Power Systems Limited, one of India's leading power solution providers, hosted a motivating Business Partners Meet in Jammu. The event, held in Jammu, witnessed the presence of distinguished guests and notable dignitaries from the city.

Over 300 dealers and distributors from Jammu actively participated in the meet, making it a resounding success. Among the other key persons present on the occasion included Mr. Ashok Choudhary (All India Head - Sales & Mar-



keting), Mr. Dheeraj Kumar (Regional Sales Head) from Su-Kam Power Systems Limited and Mr. Nikhil Kaul (Director), Mr. Himanshu Sharma (Director) and Karunesh Bharti (Director) from Jammu HEV's Pvt Ltd, Jammu an authorized business partner of Su-Kam.

During the meeting, Su-Kam announced the launch of several innovative and technologically advanced products. These include Lithium E-Rickshaw batteries, Hybrid Inverters, Off-Grid Inverters, and the Toque series of Home UPS systems. Each product is designed with cutting-edge technology to enhance performance and reliability across various applications.

Sharing his perspective on the event, Mr. Sanchit Sekhwal Goyal, Director of Su-Kam Power Systems Limited, said, "Organizing this impactful Business Partners Meet was an important step for us. It provided us with the opportunity to strengthen our relationships with valued partners in Jammu while also showcasing our diverse product range. The event served as a platform to engage in meaningful discussions about our future plans and initiatives. Our commitment remains steadfast in expanding our presence in Jammu and delivering innovative power solutions to address the evolving demand."

The demand for Su-Kam

products in Jammu and across India has been consistently growing. Su-Kam Power Systems has been at the forefront of the industry, with a rich experience of 37 years in renewable energy solutions. The company has received numerous accolades and acknowledgments, attributing its success to its government-approved R&D center and extensive network of dealers, distributors, and service providers.

The aim of the Business Partners Meet in Jammu was to foster stronger partnerships, showcase Su-Kam's product portfolio, and provide a platform for discussions on future plans and initiatives. Su-Kam Power Systems aims to further expand its presence in Jammu and contribute to the development of the green energy sector, focusing on renewable sources, e-mobility, and other sustainable energy product segments.

Announcement of Newly Elected Executive Committee of Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat, Jammu Prant

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 19

Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat, Jammu Prant organized a formal assembly on June 15, 2025, to announce its newly elected executive committee.

On this important occasion, Sh. Shailendra Dubey, Kendriya Karyakarini Sadasya (renowned entrepreneur and TV panelist), graced the event as the Chief Guest. Sh. Gagan Sharma, Prant Sampark Ad-hikari, was present as the Special Guest on stage.

The session was also joined virtually by Sh. Naveen Jain, Kshetriya

Sangathan Mantri (Financial Controller, Agricultural University Hisar), and Sh. Mohinder Dev, Member of the National Executive Committee.

Sh. Naveen Jain announced the names for key leadership positions—Sh. Thakur Das Sharma as Adhyaksh, Sh. Rajeev Bhardwaj as Sangathan Mantri, and Sh. Sanjeev Dubey as Sachiv. He offered his blessings and guidance to the newly formed executive body.

Following this, the newly elected members were invited onto the stage and introduced by Sh. Sanjeev Dubey. Sh. Manish Sabharwal,

Jammu Vibhag Adyakhsh introduced Sh. Sanjeev Dubey to the assembly. Subsequently, Sh. Rajeev Bhardwaj elaborated on the activities and growth of Akhil Bhartiya Grahak Panchayat in Jammu & Kashmir.

Sh. Shailendra Dubey addressed the gathering, sharing insightful thoughts on the organization's core objectives, consumer rights, and its role in the years ahead.

Sh. Gagan Sharma also shared his thoughts, congratulating the newly elected committee and encouraging further strengthening of the organization's reach and

impact.

In the concluding segment, Sh. Shailendra Dubey formally announced the newly elected executive committee of Jammu Prant for the next three years and provided an overview of the responsibilities associated with various posts. The newly elected committee was warmly welcomed with a round of applause.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Sh. Thakur Das Sharma, who expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, speakers, and participants for their valuable presence and contribution to the success of the event.

JMC Seizes 25 unauthorized rehries in anti-encroachment drive across Jammu city

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 19

In a determined move to ensure smooth traffic flow and pedestrian convenience, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has intensified its anti-encroachment efforts on the directions of Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav. The Enforcement and Revenue Wings of JMC, under the supervision of Joint Commissioner (R&E) Subah Mehta, carried out a comprehensive anti-encroachment drive across multiple areas of the city.

The drive was conducted in the areas including Gangyal, Kunjwani, Digiana, Indira Chowk via BC Road, Jewel Chowk, Vinayak Bazar, and Maheshpura Chowk. During the drive,



as many as 25 unauthorized rehries, along with material, were seized for illegal occupation of public pathways and roads.

The enforcement

teams also conducted an awareness and sensitization campaign during the drive, urging the people in general and rehri wala and shopkeepers and other stakeholders in particular

to not to install rehries or display goods in a manner that obstructs pedestrian movement or contributes to traffic congestion.

The shopkeepers were specifically cautioned against placing goods outside their shops, as such actions not only inconvenience the public but also violate municipal regulations. They were warned that any such encroachments would lead to seizure of goods, besides action as warranted under the provisions of the J&K Municipal Corporation Act 2000.

The Jammu Municipal Corporation reiterated its commitment to maintaining civic order and ensuring the unhindered use of public spaces, and has appealed for cooperation from all stakeholders in this ongoing initiative.

India-France Joint Military Exercise 'SHAKTI-VIII' commences in France

JINNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI: 19 JUN 2025

The 8th edition of the biennial Indo-French Joint Military Exercise SHAKTI commenced today at Camp Larzac, La Cavalerie, France. The Indian Army contingent, comprising 90 personnel, is primarily represented by a battalion of the Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, along with personnel from other arms and services. The French contingent, also comprising 90 personnel, is represented by the 13th Foreign Legion Half-Brigade (13 DBLE).

Exercise SHAKTI is a bilateral training engagement between the Indian and French Armies aimed at enhancing interoperability, operational coordination, and mutual understanding. The 2025 edition focuses on joint operations in a sub-con-



ventional environment under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, with training conducted in semi-urban terrain.

The opening ceremony was graced by key dignitaries, including India's Military Attaché to France, Brigadier Veeresh Thapar, and Colonel HV Kalia, the Indian contingent commander. Representing the French side were Colonel Benjamin Brunet, Commander of the 13 DBLE, and Lieu-

tenant Colonel Castillo, Deputy Commander. Both sides conveyed their best wishes to the participating troops and expressed confidence that the exercise would foster deeper cooperation and mutual respect between the armed forces of India and France.

In their remarks, the dignitaries highlighted that Exercise SHAKTI-VIII would not only enhance the operational preparedness of both armies

but also contribute significantly to the growing Indo-French defence partnership.

Over the course of the exercise, participating troops will engage in joint tactical drills, share best practices and operational insights, and strengthen bonds of camaraderie and trust. The culmination of the exercise will reaffirm the shared commitment of India and France towards peace, stability, and global security.

Indian Army provides Humanitarian Assistance to Civilians Involved in Road Accident at Galuthi, Rajouri

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 19 JUN 2025

On 17 Jun 25, at 1800h when an Operation Team of Galuthi Battalion was undertaking Highway Domination Patrol between Bhimber Gali and Bhata Dhurian, they witnessed a vehicle accident near a bend 100m ahead of Tarakote Ziyarat. A white colour Maruti Suzuki Alto with Regn No JK 11C 4314 had veered off the road and crashed down into the jungle below the Highway. There were four occupants in the vehicle out of which two were Ladies, One male and a one year old baby. Both ladies alongwith the baby had climbed out of the overturned car and were lying on the roadside crying for help. All three of them seemed to have suffered minor injuries.

It was raining heavily at the time and all three of them in a lot of distress. The Operation Team immediately got down from their Light Bullet Proof Vehicles, deployed around the accident site, sanitized the area and approached the ladies for



asst. Since it was raining heavily, a civil vehicle passing nearby was stopped and the ladies were ushered inside the vehicle. To stop the bleeding immediate First Aid was administered to the ladies by the Nursing Assistant from the Operation Team.

After making sure that they hadn't suffered any major injuries/ internal trauma, the Operation Team Commander contacted the Medical Officer

inside Indian Army Camp. All three of them were ushered to the Medical Inspection (MI) Room and first aid was given to the two ladies and the baby. After making sure that they received proper Medical care at the MI Room they were handed over to the Police at Bhimber Gali Chowk where the ladies thanked the Operation Team for the timely medical assistance.

Capacity Building Training Programme for BLOs, Supervisors held at Reasi

JINNEWS SERVICE
REASI, JUNE 19

A capacity building training programme for field functionaries was organised by the District Election Office Reasi today at the DC Office Complex as the preparatory exercise for the special summary revision of electoral roll- 2025. The training aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of Booth Level Officers and Supervisors from all three Assembly Constituencies of the district. Participants joined the programme through both physically and through virtual mode, ensuring wide coverage and participation.

The session focused on crucial aspects of electoral roll management, including the conduct of House-to-House verification and the correct procedures for filling Forms related to Addition, Deletion, Correction and transposition of entries in the electoral rolls. A dedicated doubt-clearing session was also held to address queries raised by the participants.

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 19

Two faculty members from the Civil Engineering Department at NIT Srinagar, Dr. Vivek and Dr. Sandeep Samantaray, have co-edited a reputed research book titled "Waste Utilization in Geotechnical Practice". Wiley, a leading international academic publisher, has published the book.

It focuses on using different types of waste materials in geotechnical engineering work, such as improving soil, building embankments, and supporting foundations. The book highlights how waste can be safely and effectively used in construction, offering both environmental and economic benefits.

Dr. Vivek said the book was completed after several years of hard work and multiple revisions. "It is a proud moment for us. This book is the result of long efforts, and it reflects our goal of promoting sustainable and practical solutions in civil engineering," he said.

"We hope this book will serve as a useful reference for engineers and researchers who are working to reduce environmental damage while building strong and durable infrastructure. It's a small step toward greener engineering practices," Dr Vivek added.



Dr. Sandeep Samantaray said the motivation behind the book was to address two major challenges: waste disposal and the need for sustainable construction.

"Across the world, engineers are looking for safe ways to use waste instead of sending it to landfills. In this book, we have shown how materials like fly ash, slag, construction debris, and other types of waste can be reused in geotechnical projects without compromising safety or strength," he said.

Dr Sandeep said their focus was not just on the science, but also on practicality. This book talks about real-world applications, how to test waste materials, understand their behavior, and use them responsibly in different construction settings," he said.

"Jammu and Kashmir is a region with challenging terrain and environmental concerns. We believe the knowledge shared in this

book will help in designing infrastructure that is both strong and environmentally friendly," Dr Sandeep added.

Both faculty members expressed their gratitude to the NIT Srinagar administration, including the Director and the Registrar, for their continuous encouragement, institutional support, and research-friendly environment, which made this publication possible.

The book explains the properties of various waste materials, how to test and use them in construction, and what environmental impacts they may have. It also looks at the cost benefits and rules related to using waste in building projects. The authors believe this book can help address the growing problem of waste disposal while supporting safer and more eco-friendly development.

Improper waste disposal can pollute underground

water and take up large areas of land. The book shows how some of this waste can be used as an alternative to traditional building materials, which can help reduce environmental harm and cut construction costs.

Dr. Vivek has 8 international and national patents granted in transportation engineering and has published more than 19 research papers. His research focuses on pavement materials, road design, and the use of geotextiles.

Dr. Sandeep has taken part in over 50 international conferences and published 40 journal papers. He also holds 11 patents. His main research interests are in watershed management, waste materials, and sustainable environmental planning.

Apart from Dr. S. Samantaray and Dr. Vivek from NIT Srinagar, this book has been edited by Dr. S. Samantasinghar, Dr. A. S. Sahoo, and Dr. D. P. Satapathy from Bhubaneswar, and Dr. S. K. Mohanty from SM Consultants, Bhubaneswar, respectively.

The book is now available through Wiley's global publishing platform and is expected to help students, engineers, researchers, and professionals working in the field of civil and environmental engineering.

Former Mayor seeks removal of old telephone poles in Delhi

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 19

Former Mayor of Delhi, Shyam Sunder Agrawal, wrote to Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, requesting the removal of thousands of old telephone poles in Delhi. Agrawal stated that these poles, which are no longer in use due to advancements in technology, are being used for large-scale encroachments. He pointed out that each pole costs thousands of rupees, and some unscrupulous elements are cutting and selling them to scrap dealers. Agrawal suggested that if these poles are removed through an agency, it would not only prevent encroachments but also generate revenue for the department. The former mayor also highlighted that cable operators are using these poles for tying their wires, resulting in a web of cables that pose a risk during the rainy season. He cited instances of accidents occurring due to electric shocks from these wires and emphasised the need for their immediate removal.

Sonia discharged from hospital after stomach ailment treatment

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 19

Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi was discharged from Sir Ganga Ram Hospital on Thursday after receiving treatment for a stomach-related ailment. Hospital sources said that Gandhi's health has improved, and she is doing well. She left the hospital for her residence along with her son and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi. According to the hospital, 78-year-old Gandhi is in stable condition. She had also undergone a medical check-up at the hospital last week. Notably, the former Congress president was admitted to the hospital on Sunday night following complaints of abdominal discomfort.

Odisha govt has failed to curb crimes against women; has pushed state into darkness: Congress

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 19

Accusing the BJP-led government in Odisha of failing to curb the rising crimes against women, the Congress on Thursday strongly condemned the recent horrific gangrape incident in Gopalpur, stating that the state has been plunged into "darkness."

"A kind of darkness has engulfed Odisha. Women were promised security, but today, they have been left vulnerable. This is not the Odisha we know," Congress MLA Sofia Firdous said here during a press conference.

The Barabati-Cuttack MLA along with All India Mahila Congress president Alka Lamba and Odisha Mahila Congress president Meenakshi Bahinipati addressed the media here.

Highlighting the state's cultural legacy of celebrating womanhood through festivals like 'Raja Parba' dedicated to fertility and



the strength of women, Firdous alleged that three gangrape cases have been reported during the ongoing festival.

"In Gopalpur, on the day of Raja Parva, a girl visiting the beach with her friend was allegedly gangraped by 10 men. In such a scenario, every girl in Odisha is left asking: when will we get justice?" she said.

Meanwhile, Alka Lamba slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him of making false promises to women voters during election campaigns.

"The Prime Minister seeks votes from half the population by promising safety and security. But the reality on the ground tells a different story," she alleged.

Backing her claims with data, Lamba said, "On average, 15 rape cases are reported every day in Odisha. In just 10 months, over 4,500 women and girls have lodged complaints seeking justice and in 11 months, 28,000 women and daughters have fallen victim to various crimes".

She further alleged,

"In Bhadrak, a nurse has come forward detailing the sexual harassment and assault she faced. In Balasore, a minor girl was raped and murdered. Reports suggest that seven women are raped daily in Balasore district alone".

Meanwhile, Meenakshi Bahinipati while alleging that crimes against women, including incidents of rape and murder, were on the rise under the BJP government in Odisha said that the recent gang rape of the tourist is shameful.

She said, "In response, members of the Odisha Mahila Congress staged a protest and gheraoed the Vidhan Sabha to raise their concerns. A formal letter was also submitted to the Chief Minister, highlighting the deteriorating safety of women in the state. Following the protest outside the Vidhan Sabha, several Congress leaders were suspended from the Assembly," she said.

Kharge wishes Rahul on birthday, lauds his dedication to constitutional values, justice



AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 19

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday extended birthday wishes to leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on his 55th birthday, praising his unequivocal dedication to the Constitution and his relentless advocacy for justice.

In a post on social media handle X, Kharge said, "Warmest birthday greetings to Shri Rahul Gandhi. What sets you apart is your unequivocal dedication to the Constitution's values and your deep compassion for social, political and economic justice for the millions whose voices often go unheard".

"Your actions consistently reflect the Congress party's ideology of unity in diversity, harmony, and compassion. As you

continue your mission to bring truth to power and support the last person standing, I wish you a long, healthy, and happy life ahead," Kharge said.

Meanwhile, the Congress party on X extended greetings to Rahul Gandhi with a poster mentioning him as "Jannayak".

"Through your fearless integrity and tireless commitment, you remind us all that real change is fuelled by compassion and empathy. You are a true crusader for justice. A voice for the voiceless and a relentless advocate for equality," the party said.

It further added, "May this year bring you joy and renewed strength to champion the ideals you stand for and usher in the changes that you are committed to. Thank you for your deep resolve and unblemished hope".

"Happy Birthday Rahul Gandhi ji," the party said.

Iran fires barrage of ballistic missiles at Israel, hits major hospital in south

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV, JUNE 19

Israel's Soroka hospital in Beer Sheva and seven sites in the centre of the country were hit during a ballistic missile attack from Iran on Thursday morning.

Iran fired a barrage of some 30 ballistic missiles early Thursday, scoring a direct hit on Israel's main southern hospital, the Soroka Medical Center. The two other impacts were felt in the central cities of Holon and Ramat Gan that wounded dozens of people, including six in serious condition.

The Magen David Adom emergency service said that a man, 80, and two women, both in their 70s, were among six people

seriously hurt. Two people were moderately injured, and at least 42 others suffered light injuries from shock waves and shrapnel at the various impact sites. In addition, 18 people were lightly injured as they scrambled to bomb shelters when sirens went off, Israeli news sites reported.

Following the missile strike on Soroka Hospital in Beersheba, there was a suspicion of a leak of hazardous materials on an upper floor of the building. The police have begun evacuating and removing people from the area, Israeli news sites reported.

Doctors were in shelters with patients at the time of the impact.

The hospital's director general Prof. Shlomi



Kodesh told the media, "A missile hit the old surgical ward building at Soroka. It's a relatively old building that had been evacuated in recent days."

He added, "There is widespread damage to other buildings at the hos-

pital. All patients and all staff were in shelters. The several injured we have are lightly hurt, mostly from the blast shockwave."

The Ministry of Health issued a directive to hospitals to prepare to receive patients from Soroka.

Iran said it did not aim for Soroka, claiming that the target was a military base near the hospital.

A person who was at the scene, said: "There is almost no place in the hospital that was not damaged. The ceilings fell, the medical teams rushed to get the patients into a protected space."

There are no Israeli military facilities in the vicinity of Soroka Hospital. The IDF's Southern Command base is located over two kilometers away, and there is an under-construction army base just over a kilometer away. The Soroka hospital has over 1,000 beds and provides services to the approximately 1 million residents of Israel's south, according to the

hospital's website.

Many hospitals in Israel activated emergency plans in the past week, converting underground parking to hospital wards and moving patients underground, especially those who are on ventilators or are difficult to move quickly.

The barrage of dozens of missiles from Iran was fired Thursday morning, after a quiet night. At least seven impact sites are currently known, including in the centre and south.

Air raid sirens were activated across the country following the wave of missile launches from Iran.

Israel began attacking Iranian nuclear and military sites last week, citing the immediate existential threat they pose.

SC closes plea on 'Thug Life' ban; says films with CBFC OK cannot be stopped by mobs

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 19

The Supreme Court on Thursday closed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) challenging the unofficial ban on the Tamil film 'Thug Life' in Karnataka, after the state government assured the court that no official ban had been imposed and that full protection would be provided for the film's release if the producers chose to screen it.

A bench comprising justices Ujjal Bhuyan and Manmohan recorded the Karnataka government's affidavit stating that it would ensure law and order during the film's screening and found no need to pass further directions or impose costs.

However, the court strongly criticised the increasing trend of artistic expression being suppressed by protest groups. "Just because someone is offended, should a movie, a stand-up act, or a poem be stopped?" the bench asked during the hearing, expressing concern over rising instances of mob threats stalling lawful artistic work.



The PIL was filed by Mahesh Reddy, who sought directions for the release of 'Thug Life' in Karnataka. The film, featuring and co-produced by Kamal Haasan, was withheld from release in the state after backlash over his alleged comment that Kannada originated from Tamil. Protest threats were reportedly issued by various groups, prompting the producers to delay the release.

The court reminded the state that a film certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) cannot be prevented from release due to mob pressure. It added that such disruptions undermine the rule of law.

While the state agreed to provide protection, the petitioner's counsel argued that no action had been taken against individ-

uals or groups who issued threats.

The state countered that there was no official ban, and hence, judgments related to state-imposed bans did not apply.

Justice Bhuyan questioned the state's silence on threats: "What action are you taking against those who issued threats?" The state replied that it was duty-bound to act and would do so.

The Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC), which was also made a party, denied issuing threats and said it had only written to the producers highlighting the public protests and suggesting an apology.

Justice Bhuyan sharply criticised the KFCC for not reporting mob entry into their premises. "You succumbed to mob pressure. You are hiding behind

them," he observed.

Senior advocate Sanjay Nuli, appearing for Karnataka Sahitya Parishad, argued that language is an emotional issue and that an apology by the actor would help ease tensions.

The court, however, firmly rejected the idea that artistic work must be subjected to such conditions. "If someone is hurt, file a defamation case. You can't take the law into your hands," Justice Manmohan said.

Raj Kamal Films' counsel Satish Parasaran pointed out that a state minister had also made inflammatory statements and said the production company had suffered financial losses of around Rs 30 crore due to the delay.

In its order, the court stated it was unnecessary to frame new guidelines or impose penalties in light of the State's assurance.

However, it directed the Karnataka government to take swift legal action, both civil and criminal, against anyone attempting to block a certified film's release through threats or violence.

"The rule of law demands that any CBFC-

cleared film must be released, and the state must ensure this," the court said. It also transferred a related petition pending before the Karnataka High Court to itself for better coordination of legal proceedings.

Though the petitioner's counsel urged the court to direct the state to act against those who had issued threats, the bench declined, noting that those individuals were not party to the current proceedings and that it could not pass orders based on media reports alone.

The court also disapproved of the Karnataka High Court's earlier suggestion that Kamal Haasan should apologise. "It is none of the business of the High Court to demand an apology. This is a matter of fundamental rights," Justice Bhuyan said. "The Supreme Court's role is to protect those rights and uphold the rule of law."

The film 'Thug Life' was released globally on June 5, 2025, except in Karnataka. The PIL had requested police protection for theatres screening the film and sought action against those issuing threats.

Honeymoon murder case

Sanjay Verma none other than Raj: Meghalaya Police

AGENCIES
SHILLONG, JUNE 19

Meghalaya Police on Thursday confirmed that "Sanjay Verma" is none other than Raj Singh Kushwaha, the mastermind of the Raja Raghuvanshi, husband of Sonam Raghuvanshi, in the cold-blooded murder case last month.

"It has been confirmed that Sanjay Verma is none other than Raj Singh Kushwaha. Raj used this fictitious name to avoid any suspicion, suspicion," Vivek Syiem, the district police chief of East Khasi Hills, said.

Sonam, the prime accused in the murder case, was in constant contact with her lover Kushwaha over the phone prior to and after her marriage with Raja on May 11.

Call detail records (CDRs) from Sonam's mobile number 97701-17734 showed that she was in frequent contact with Kushwaha, alias Sanjay Verma, via a registered mobile number, 78793-76225.

The mobile conversation between the two lasted for hours between March and



April 2025. Sonam spoke to Kushwaha 234 times in 21 days.

Raj had allegedly plotted the murder of the Indore-based businessman with his lover Sonam, and his three friends Akash Rajput, Vishal Singh Chauhan and Anand Kurmi hacked Raja to death on May 23 at the Wei Sawdong parking lot.

All five were arrested, and the crime scene was recreated on Tuesday. Police have seized the second murder weapon that was used for the murder.

The SIT of Meghalaya Police, which is currently in Madhya Pradesh's Indore, are actively work-

ing to analyse and piece together new digital evidence in their ongoing investigation.

The investigators had questioned Sonam's family members for nearly two hours and recorded their statements.

On Tuesday, the SIT also interrogated Raja's family members and recorded their statements. Another SIT would be headed to Uttar Pradesh.

Sonam surrendered at the Nanganj Police Station in Ghazipur district on June 8 after the SIT arrested Akash Rajput from Lalitpur in Uttar Pradesh in connection with the honeymoon murder case.

India's Covid cases below 6K; three deaths in past 24 hrs

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 19

India's active Covid-19 caseload fell to 5,976 on Thursday, marking the fourth straight day of decline, down from 6,483 the previous day, according to data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. In the last 24 hours, three Covid-related deaths were reported—two from Delhi and one from Kerala. All three individuals were elderly and had pre-existing chronic health conditions like kidney disease and acute rheumatoid arthritis. While the overall national trend remains encouraging, health authorities continue to monitor localised outbreaks, driven in part by emerging subvariants such as LF.7, XFG, JN.1, and the newly detected NB.1.8.1. The authorities have also advised people to adopt Covid norms like wearing masks in crowded areas and maintaining hygiene and focusing on immunity.

India brace for Bazball storm in Leeds Test

AGENCIES
LEEDS, JUNE 19

India's new Test captain Shubman Gill will lead a young and evolving side into a stern trial by fire as the test series gets underway against England at Leeds on Friday, marking the start of the ICC World Test Championship 2025-27 cycle for both teams.

Gill's first assignment as skipper comes against a confident England outfit helmed by Ben Stokes, whose team has embraced the aggressive 'Bazball' style in recent years.

England begin the series as firm favourites on home soil, particularly at Headingley, where they have won 34 out of 81 Tests. The venue is known to favour teams batting second, adding weight to the toss.

India's young squad, full of potential but short on recent experience in English conditions, will depend heavily on its pace unit to make inroads. Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj lead the attack, with Prasad Krishna or Akash Deep in the mix to provide bounce and seam



movement. All-rounders Shardul Thakur and Ravindra Jadeja offer depth and variety.

At the top, Yashasvi Jaiswal – who amassed over 700 runs in the recent home series against England – is expected to open alongside either KL Rahul or skipper Shubman Gill in an effort to blunt the new ball.

However, the team management may weigh conditions before finalising the combination, with Abhimanyu Easwaran and the in-form Sai Sudharsan also in contention as part of a 'horses-for-courses' approach.

Karun Nair returns after a strong County campaign, while the middle-order responsibility lies with Rishabh Pant, whose

match-turning ability is as thrilling as it is unpredictable.

England, starting a new WTC cycle, appear well settled. Joe Root, who has scored 1574 runs in 15 home Tests against India at an average nearing 75, remains the key figure in the batting order. Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett are expected to provide rapid starts, while Harry Brook and Ollie Pope solidify the middle.

The English attack includes experienced Chris Woakes, with Brydon Carse and Josh Tongue offering fresh pace options. Spinner Shoaib Bashir, in good form, is likely to play a holding role on a surface that may later assist turn.

Forecasts suggest overcast conditions for the first

two days – favourable for seamers – followed by brighter weather, aiding batsmen on Days 3 and 4. Headingley typically sees an average first-innings score of around 304, and batting first may prove risky unless the new ball is negotiated well.

Having lost four of their six Tests at Headingley, India will need to defy history and conditions alike to make a strong start.

With pride, history, and vital WTC points at stake, the Test series promises a gripping contest between two giants of the game.

India Predicted Playing XI:

Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Karun Nair, Shubman Gill (c), Rishabh Pant (wk), Dhruv Jurel, Ravindra Jadeja, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Prasad Krishna/Akash Deep, Mohammed Siraj

England Predicted Playing XI:

Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (c), Jamie Smith (wk), Chris Woakes, Josh Tongue, Brydon Carse, Shoaib Bashir

Pant shares India's batting line-up change for England Tests

AGENCIES
LEEDS, JUNE 19

As India prepares for the crucial Test series against England, newly appointed vice-captain Rishabh Pant has affirmed a significant change in the team's batting order for the first Test, revealing that Shubman Gill will take up the No.4 spot, while Pant himself will bat at No.5.

"I think there is still discussion going on, who is going to play No.3. But definitely No.4 and No.5 are fixed," Pant began.

"I think Shubman is going to bat at No.4 and I'm going to stick to No.5 as of now. And rest, we are going to keep on discussing about that," he said.

This change signals a major reshuffle in India's top order, triggered by the double retirements of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. Shubman Gill, who began his career as an opener and was later moved to No.3, will now take up the No.4 position along with the



responsibility of filling a massive void left by Kohli.

The No.3 position, however, remains up for grabs wherein Sai Sudharsan is considered a strong contender for the spot, along with the returning batter Karun Nair. Both the players have been in outstanding form leading up to the red-ball series against England, making the selection an intriguing decision for the team management.

India have picked a young squad led by a new Test captain and will be without the experience of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Ravichandran Ashwin. This would be the first time

since 2011 when India will play a Test match without at least one of those three stalwarts being present, an ICC report said.

"Obviously, it's a new start for us, big people have left. Yes, there will be a gap, but at the same time, it's an opportunity for us to build a new culture from here or take a culture forward from there, just adding to it," said Pant, acknowledging the gap in experience.

"I think being in a great frame of mind, helping the new players to learn and improve themselves in overseas conditions and sharing knowledge with

each other, having that care and love in the dressing room for each other – that is something we are looking forward to do," he said.

Shubman Gill is set to captain the side for the first time, with Rishabh Pant serving as his deputy. Despite their relative inexperience in leadership roles, Pant believes that his strong camaraderie with the new skipper will be a big positive for this fresh-looking Indian team.

"I think me and Shubman have a really good camaraderie off the field – especially off the field. If you're good friends off the field, it eventually comes on the field," Pant said.

"It's much better for cricket always, and that is something I've always believed in. Me and him, we get along really well together. We keep on having conversations, and the kind of comfort zone we have with each other – I think that is really going to be special for us," he added.

Juventus hits five, Madrid held at FIFA Club World Cup

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, JUNE 19

Manchester City and Juventus eased to wins while Real Madrid stumbled and Salzburg found a late winner at the FIFA Club World Cup.

In Philadelphia, Phil Foden scored one goal and set up another as Manchester City secured a 2-0 victory over Morocco's Wydad Casablanca on Wednesday.

Despite resting key players, the Premier League side controlled the match from the outset with Foden firing home in the second minute after Savinho's effort was parried away by goalkeeper Mehdi Benabid.

Jeremy Doku doubled the lead just before half-time when he volleyed home at the far post following Foden's corner.

Pep Guardiola's team



cruised through much of the second half but failed to extend its lead, even after introducing Erling Haaland, Rodri and Ilkay Gundogan from the bench.

City finished the match with 10 men after Rico Lewis was shown a straight red card for catching Samuel Obeng in the face with his boot during a sliding challenge.

"We are pretty pleased with what we saw today from those who played," Guardiola said. "We have new players; some players played in different positions. We have so many players that we need to give minutes to. Otherwise,

they never can get it. The next game, 10 new players are going to be there to try to win again."

In Miami, Federico Valverde missed a late penalty as Real Madrid was held to a 1-1 draw by Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal.

The Spanish side took the lead just after the half hour through Gonzalo Garcia, who finished a swift counterattacking move by side-footing home after Rodrigo's perfectly weighted through ball.

Ruben Neves equalized from the penalty spot after Raul Asencio brought down Marcos Leonardo just before half-time.

Uruguayan midfielder Valverde squandered a chance to restore his side's lead when his stoppage-time penalty was saved by Yassine Bounou.

"I didn't enjoy the first

half too much but in the second half we were better," Real Madrid manager Xabi Alonso said.

"We were better balanced, had better possession and pushed them deeper. The only thing we were missing was a goal. I'll take that with me, and we'll build on that."

In Cincinnati, Karim Onisiwo scored late as Austria's Salzburg clinched a 2-1 victory over Mexican side Pachuca. Israel international midfielder Oscar Gloukh opened the scoring by curling a 20-yard shot into the far corner.

Bryan Gonzalez equalized with a rasping free-kick that beat goalkeeper Christian Zawieschitzky at his near post. Salzburg wrestled back the lead when Onisiwo rose highest to nod home from Mads Bidstrup's cross.

India battle to 2-2 draw but fall short in shootout against Argentina in FIH Hockey Pro League

AGENCIES
LONDON, JUNE 19

After a grueling 2-2 draw, the Indian Women's Hockey Team missed out on the bonus point, going down 0-2 to Argentina in the shootout at the FIH Hockey Pro League 2024/25 match at the Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre here.

Earlier in the contest, goals from Navneet (50') and Deepika (60') helped India come back from a two-goal deficit after Agustina Gorzelany's (27', 37') brace had given Argentina a comfortable lead on Wednesday.

Neither of the experienced sides managed to test the goalkeepers in the opening quarter. Argentina's high press restricted the Indian attack, but India found space through quick stick work and sharp passing, frequently looking to fire the ball into the circle.

Sharmila Devi made a promising run into the circle early on but was forced out of bounds by the Argentine defence, while Sunelita Toppo made a shrewd interception and surged forward,



only to see the ball go out of play.

Despite Argentina's organised defensive structure, India ended the first half with nearly twice as many circle entries. In the second quarter, Argentina's Victoria Miranda made a powerful injection into the final third from midfield, but a crucial touch from Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke took care of the threat.

India won their first penalty corner of the night in the 25th minute. While Deepika's first two attempts were closed down, she smartly laid off the third to Navneet, who unleashed a powerful tomahawk but it was expertly blocked by goalkeeper Cristina Cosentino.

Argentina converted their first penalty corner

of the night when Agustina Gorzelany struck cleanly to give her side a 1-0 lead in the 27th minute.

The third quarter began with India under sustained pressure in their own half. Argentina's wide play stretched the Indian defence, but India managed to win their fourth penalty corner in the 35th minute. Manisha's thunderous strike was blocked by Valentina Raposo, and Navneet Kaur followed up with another powerful shot just seconds later but was once again denied by Cosentino.

Argentina continued to make the most of their set-pieces, with Gorzelany converting yet another penalty corner in the 37th minute to double their lead. Victoria Granatto nearly made it 3-0 from

close range, but Indian goalkeeper Savita produced a courageous save to keep India in contention.

Deepika nearly pulled one back with an electric shot from just outside the circle, but Cosentino reacted sharply to parry the ball away.

India were finally rewarded for their persistence in the final quarter. In the 50th minute, Navneet Kaur made a skillful run after receiving the ball on the edge of the circle. She beat a defender and smashed it into the back of the net to bring India back into the contest at 1-2.

India pushed forward in search of an equaliser in the closing minutes and earned a penalty corner with less than five minutes on the clock. Deepika was on target yet again, scoring from the set-piece to level the score and complete India's fightback.

Following the 2-2 deadlock at full time, both teams competed in a shootout for the bonus point. India couldn't find the back of the net while Brisa Bruggesser and Sophia Cairo scored against Savita.

India U23 men's team lose match against Tajikistan in friendly match

AGENCIES
TURSUNZODA (TAJIKISTAN), JUNE 19

The India U23 men's national team suffered a 2-3 defeat at the hands of hosts Tajikistan U23s, after being reduced to 10 men in a friendly match at the Talco Arena, here.

The Blue Colts led 1-0 at half-time.

Suhail Ahmad Bhat (33') and Parthib Sundar Gogoi (85') put India in the lead twice, but Ansor Khabibov (59') and Muhammadqbol Davlatov (90+1') restored parity on both occasions, before Muhammadali Azizboev (90+5') struck the winner late in injury time on Wednesday.

India midfielder Ayush Chhetri was sent off 10 minutes into the second half.

In an even start to the game, India arguably had the clearer chance. Winger Mohammed Sanan sent in a cross towards Vinith Venkatesh at the far post. The latter's side-footed volley, however, lacked direction.

Tajikistan had to wait till the half-hour mark for their first real chance of the game, when they earned a free-kick on their left flank. Faridun Davlatov rose above the sea of



heads inside the India box to head it, but his effort went over.

India capitalised on a counter-attacking opportunity just minutes later, and took the lead. In the 33rd minute, Macarion Louis Nickson, breaking at speed down the right, sent a pin-point low cross at the feet of an onrushing Suhail inside the Tajikistan box. The striker, with a single touch, put the ball past the goalkeeper, as the Blue Colts took the lead.

Behind by a goal, the hosts looked determined to draw level before the half-time whistle, and came close on a couple of occasions. With five minutes of regulation time left in the first half, Ansor Khabibov broke free on the left and crossed it towards Shahboz Khabibov at the

near post. India goalkeeper Priyansh Dubey, however, rushed in to punch the ball out.

An injury-time free-kick from the right flank saw Faridun come close once again as he headed the ball, but a wall of Indian legs came in the way, before the ball was eventually cleared out of the area.

While the second half began much in similar fashion, with both sides feeling out the cracks and crevasses in the others' defence, India suddenly found themselves at a disadvantage when midfielder Chhetri was shown a yellow card for the second time, for a tackle from behind.

With the man advantage, the hosts soon equalised, Khabibov turning in a cross from Muso Khak-

horov in the 59th minute. Despite the increasing number of Tajikistan attacks, India managed to take the lead a second time, when Mohammed Aimen intercepted a ball near the half-line, catching the Tajikistan defence by surprise. He played an accurate through ball to Gogoi, who expertly rounded the keeper and scored.

India's delight was not to last too long, however, as the hosts scored from two set-pieces in injury time. Muhammadqbol drew Tajikistan level, turning in a free-kick from Abubakar Sulaymonov, before Azizboev nodded in a corner to complete a remarkable comeback for the hosts.

India U23: Priyansh Dubey (GK), Pramveer, Dipendu Biswas (Muhammed Saheef 82'), Bikash Yumnam (C), Suhail Ahmad Bhat (Parthib Sundar Gogoi 70'), Mohammed Sanan K (Mohammed Aimen 64'), Lalrinliana Hnamte (Chingangbam Shivaldo Singh 70'), Ayush Chhetri, Macarion Louis Nickson (Lalremthuanga Fanai 64'), Tekham Abhishek Singh, Vinith Venkatesh (Korou Singh Thingujam 70').

Aaliyah Alleyne & Qiana Joseph found guilty of breaching ICC Code of Conduct

AGENCIES
DUBAI, JUNE 19

West Indies women's players, Aaliyah Alleyne and Qiana Joseph have been found guilty of breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct in the second Women's ODI against South Africa at the 3Ws Oval in Barbados over the weekend.

Both were found to have breached Article 2.8 of the ICC Code of

Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel which relates to "showing dissent at an umpires decision during an international match."

Alleyne was fined 10 per cent of her match fee and had one demerit point added to her disciplinary record after gesticulating with open arms and delaying her departure from the field when she was given out by the on-field umpires.

Joseph committed the same offence in a more forceful manner and was fined 50 per cent of her match fee and had two demerit points added to her disciplinary record.

Both Alleyne and Joseph admitted their respective offences and accepted the sanctions proposed by Akhtar Ahmad of the Emirates ICC International Panel of Match Referees and, as such, there was no

need for a formal hearing.

On-field umpires Jacqueline Williams, Nimali Perera, third umpire Candace la Borde and fourth umpire Maria Abbott levelled the charges.

Level 1 breaches carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand, a maximum penalty of 50 per cent of a player's match fee, and one or two demerit points.

Kishtwar: Gram Sabha meeting convened on Day 5 of DAJGUA campaign

J I NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JUNE 19

The “Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan” (DAJGUA) campaign entered fifth day of the 15 day impactful outreach initiative, reinforcing the government’s commitment to inclusive development and grassroots empowerment of tribal communities.

The day’s camp, organized at Government High School Pathernaki, Panchayat Piyas, Block Nagseni, began with the recitation of the National Anthem, setting a tone of unity and purpose.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from locals and was graced by DDC Member Nagseni Faisal Hussain and BDO Abhilash Sharma, who actively engaged with the community.

A brief overview of the DAJGUA initiative was presented, highlighting its focus on saturation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), doorstep delivery of government services, and real-time grievance redressal.

The camp featured informative stalls from



departments including Agriculture, Health, ICDS, Social Welfare, Revenue, Sheep Husbandry, Horticulture, Fisheries, Ayush, Rural Development, Forest, and Jal Jeevan Mission, where representatives explained their flagship schemes and provided on-the-spot benefits.

DDC Member Faisal Hussain inspected the

stalls, interacted with the officials and beneficiaries to ensure effective services delivery.

Additional highlights included the distribution of pamphlets by the Ayush and Rural Development Departments, plantation of tree saplings by the Forest Department, and distribution of seeds under the Poshan Vatika

initiative to promote nutritional security.

The Jal Shakti Department conducted on-the-spot water quality testing, while the Social Welfare Department distributed notebooks to students.

The event also featured cultural performances by local students, celebrating tribal heritage and community spirit.

Jal Shakti, Agricultural Production Ministers review development projects at Baramulla; push for faster implementation

J I NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, JUNE 19

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment, and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana and Minister for Agricultural Production, Rural Development, and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, co-chaired a comprehensive review meeting in Baramulla. The meeting focused on assessing the progress on various developmental projects under the District Capex Budget 2024-25, State Plan and the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs).

The review aimed to enhance the mechanisms for closer monitoring of public services, ensuring transparency, accountability and expedited project execution at the district level.

The meeting was attended by the MLA Baramulla, Javid Hassan Beigh; MLA Wagoora-Kreeri, Irfan Hafiz Lone; MLA Sopore, Irshad Rasool Kar; MLA Pattan, Riyaz Bedar; MLA Uri, Dr. Sajad Shafi; Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa besides HODs and district officers



from all the concerned departments.

During the meeting, the Ministers conducted a comprehensive review of sector-wise schemes and sought detailed status reports from the Heads of Departments (HoDs) of the concerned departments.

The Jal Shakti Minister, issued strict directions to all Heads of Departments (HoDs) for ensuring regular site visits to monitor the progress on the ongoing works being done under various developmental schemes.

Javed Ahmad Rana fur-

ther instructed the concerned department heads to ensure timely execution and completion of all developmental projects while maintaining both quality and accountability throughout the implementation process.

Regarding the pressing issue of drug abuse in the society, Javid Ahmad Dar urged the healthcare services and law enforcement agencies to engage the drug-affected individuals with care and compassion and help them reintegrate into society through counseling, treatment and sustained support.

During the meeting, MLAs from various constituencies of the district put forth key public grievances and developmental demands. These included macadamization of roads in their constituencies, access to potable water and street lighting.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa provided a comprehensive presentation outlining the district’s overall developmental landscape highlighting both the financial and physical progress achieved across various sectors.

Furthermore, Deputy Commissioner provided a sector-wise update of the projects undertaken by different departments. He highlighted the district’s significant progress, achieving 94 percent in implementation of centrally sponsored schemes and 88 percent of the targeted expenditure for the financial year 2024-25.

Later, the Ministers, accompanied by the MLAs and officers, participated in a plantation drive held within the premises of Dak Bungalow Baramulla.

Dharti Aaba camp held at Kariya- Ramban

J I NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JUNE 19

To empower tribal communities through information and access to welfare schemes, the District Administration Ramban organized an Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan awareness and schemes Saturation camp here at village Kariya, Panchayat Ballawat, Block Ramban.

More than 300 tribal community members attended the programme held under the overall supervision of Block Development Officer (BDO) Tanzeel Rounyal along with officers and officials representing various government departments.

The departments showcased respective initiatives and schemes, providing a platform for direct inter-



action between the tribal beneficiaries and government officials. These interactions helped clarify doubts and offered guidance on how to avail themselves of the benefits under various flagship programmes.

The programme played a crucial role in promoting the saturation of government schemes, ensuring that no eligible beneficiary is left out. It also facilitated on-the-spot redressal

of grievances and dissemination of vital information related to health, education, social welfare, skill development, agriculture, and tribal welfare schemes.

Speaking on the occasion, BDO Ramban emphasized the importance of bringing governance to the doorsteps of marginalized communities and underlined the District Administration’s commitment to inclusive development.

Rana releases booklet on Eco-parks in Baramulla

J I NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, JUNE 19

Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, today released a comprehensive booklet showcasing the eco-parks developed across Baramulla district by the Jhelum Valley Forest Division.

The event was held in Baramulla in presence of local MLAs and senior officers.

The booklet provides an insightful overview of the district’s eco-parks, highlighting their significance in promoting environmental conservation and sustainable development. These eco-parks serve as exemplary models for eco-tourism, conservation and community engagement, fostering ecological awareness and responsible land use.



By showcasing the district’s eco-parks, the booklet aims to promote eco-tourism, highlighting their natural beauty and biodiversity. Besides, it envisages awareness generation about the importance of environmental conservation and the role of eco-parks in preserving the region’s natural heritage.

Rana emphasized the need for community involvement, calling for enhancing community participation in eco-park development and recog-

nizing the crucial role local communities play in conservation efforts.

The release of the booklet underscores the JK Government’s unwavering commitment towards preserving the region’s natural beauty and promoting sustainable development. By developing and promoting eco-parks, the Government aims to create a balance between economic growth and environmental conservation, ensuring a better future for the people of Baramulla district.



ANTI MALARIA MONTH



- Do not allow water to stagnate in and around your surroundings.
- Keep water tanks and other water containers tightly covered with lids.
- Empty water coolers once in a week.
- Discard/destroy junk items like old tyres, coconut shells etc.
- Empty air coolers, drums, flower pots and bird baths weekly.
- Use mosquito repellents and bed nets while sleeping.
- Use netted screens on doors and windows.
- Wear full body clothes to prevent mosquito bites.
- Improve basic sanitation.

Symptoms

- High grade fever with chills, sweating, headache, vomiting, convulsions, weakness.

Visit nearby Health Institution if any of above diseases is suspected.

Don’t go for **self medication**

In case of high fever do tepid sponging & take adequate amount of home made fluids to maintain hydration

Investigations & Treatment are free of cost in Govt. institutions



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