

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
- Severe muscle and joint pain
- Severe stomach pain
- Severe fatigue
- Severe skin rash
- Severe vomiting
- Severe diarrhoea
- Severe bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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US strikes 3 Iranian nuclear sites, inserting itself into Israel's war with Iran

AGENCIES
DUBAI, JUNE 22

The United States attacked three sites in Iran early Sunday, inserting itself into Israel's war aimed at destroying the Iranian nuclear programme in a risky gambit to weaken a longtime foe that prompted fears of a wider regional conflict as Tehran accused Washington of launching "a dangerous war."



US President Donald Trump asserted that Iran's key nuclear sites were "completely and fully obliterated" in an address to the nation from the White House.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the

time for diplomacy had passed and that his country had the right to defend itself.

"The warmongering, a lawless administration in Washington is solely and

fully responsible for the dangerous consequences and far reaching implications of its act of aggression," he said at a news briefing at a conference in Turkiye in the first com-

ments by a high-ranking Iranian official since the strikes.

Araghchi also said that "there is no red line" that the US has not crossed - and that "the most

dangerous one was what happened only last night when they crossed a very big red line by attacking nuclear facilities only."

He added that he will be travelling to Moscow later on Sunday to meet with President Vladimir Putin as the US enters its regional war with Israel.

The Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran confirmed that attacks took place on its Fordo, Isfahan and Natanz sites, but it insisted that its nuclear programme will not be stopped.

Iran and the UN nuclear watchdog said there were no immediate signs of radioactive

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India Army chief reviews security grid in Kashmir, assesses preparedness for Amarnath Yatra

AGENCIES
SRINAGAR, JUNE 22



Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi reviewed the security grid in the Kashmir regiArmy Chief on and assessed the preparedness for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Yatra 2025.

In a post on X, the Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADG-PI) shared that General Upendra Dwivedi was briefed on the current operational dynamics and the broader strategic landscape. The briefing included a demonstration on the integration of advanced technologies into operations, which enhances

decision-making, surveillance, and response mechanisms.

"General Upendra Dwivedi, #COAS, reviewed the security grid in the Kashmir region and assessed preparedness for the upcoming Shri

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>> Pahalgam attack

NIA arrests two men for harbouring terrorists

AGENCIES
SRINAGAR, JUN 22



In a major breakthrough, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested two men for harbouring the terrorists who had carried out the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 people dead, the agency said on Sunday.

According to the NIA, the two men - Parvaiz Ahmad Jothar from Batkote and Bashir Ahmad Jothar of Hill Park in Pahalgam - have disclosed the identities of the three armed terrorists involved

in the attack. They have also confirmed that the assailants were Pakistani nationals affiliated to the proscribed terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

"Parvaiz and Bashir had

knowingly harboured the three armed terrorists at a seasonal dhok (hut) at Hill Park before the attack," the NIA said.

The two men had provided food, shelter

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In phone conversation with Iran President Pezeshkian, PM Modi calls for de-escalation

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday conveyed to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian India's "deep concern" over Iran's conflict with Israel and called for immediate de-escalation of the situation through "dialogue and diplomacy".

The phone conversation between Modi and Pezeshkian came hours after the US bombed three major nuclear sites - Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan - in Iran, bringing itself into the Israel-Iran conflict.

In a social media post, Modi said he expressed "deep concern" at the recent escalations and that dialogue and diplomacy are the way forward for early restoration of regional peace.

"We discussed in detail about the current situation. Expressed deep concern at the recent escalations," Modi said.

"Reiterated our call for immediate de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy

as the way forward and for early restoration of regional peace, security and stability," the prime minister added.

The US attack on the Iranian nuclear facilities triggered fears of a wider regional conflict, with many leading countries and blocs calling for restraint.

Soon after American B-2 bombers struck the Iranian installations, US President Donald Trump said the Iranian nuclear facilities were "completely and totally obliterated".

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said

the US has committed a "grave violation" of the UN Charter, international law and the nuclear non-proliferation treaty by attacking Iran's "peaceful nuclear installations".

"The events this morning are outrageous and will have everlasting consequences. Each and every member of the UN must be alarmed over this extremely dangerous, lawless and criminal behaviour," he said.

Iran reserves all options to defend its sovereignty, he said in a statement. The 27-nation European

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Last 11 years saw democratisation of civil services, youth aspiration: Dr Jitendra Singh

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22



In an exclusive interview to Doordarshan News, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the last 11 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi saw democratisation of Civil Services with democratisation of youth aspiration.

While at one time, the IAS and Civil Services were

confined only to a handful of States like Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Kerala etc, today, Dr Jitendra Singh pointed

out, we get toppers from the States which earlier hardly figured in the civil services list.... toppers

from Punjab, Haryana and J&K. He cited the case of Parsanjit Kour, the young girl from Poonch, a border district in J&K, who made it to All India Rank 11 in the Civil Services Exam of 2022 in very first attempt or the boy from Punjab, Anmol Sher Singh Bedi who was All India Rank 2 in the Civil Services Exam of 2016.

This, the Minister said, has restored faith in the

objectivity and equal opportunity offered by the system and, thus also led to democratisation of youth aspiration.

"This is the true essence of democracy - where every mother, regardless of her socio-economic standing, has the confidence to believe that her child can reach the top", said Dr Jitendra Singh. Dr Jitendra Singh said, the

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Incriminating material and live ammunition recovered in J&K Baramulla, one arrested

AGENCIES
SRINAGAR, JUNE 22

Police on Sunday arrested a suspect and recovered incriminating materials, including live ammunition, during a search operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district. Jammu food guide

Police said acting on credible input, a raid was

conducted at the residence of Mohammad Maqbool Dar alias Javaid Dar a resident of New Colony, Sariwarpora Pattan, in connection with 2024 FIR of Police Station Pattan, registered under Sections 10 & 13 of UAPA and 121 & 121-A IPC.

"During the search operation, police recovered posters affiliated

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Engaging with states to ensure effective implementation of UMEED portal for Waqf properties: Govt

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22



The Minority Affairs Ministry on Sunday said it has been actively engaging with states and union territories to ensure effective implementation of the UMEED portal, stressing that details of all registered Waqf properties across India are to be mandatorily uploaded on this platform within six months.

In line with this effort, the ministry said, Minority Affairs Secretary Chandra Shekhar Kumar visited Mumbai on June 21 to hold a comprehensive review meeting with the state secretary, senior officials and Maharashtra State Waqf Board CEO.

This marks his second such visit following a similar review in Bihar last week, it said.

During the meeting, Kumar apprised the offi-

cial of the rules to be rolled out shortly to support the statutory requirements of the portal, the statement said.

He encouraged proactive participation and invited suggestions from state authorities to streamline the implementation process, it said.

The CEO of the Waqf Board requested the Centre to revisit and ease certain leasing provisions related to Waqf properties.

Kumar assured that the request will be examined sympathetically, reaffirming the Centre's commitment to empowering Waqf Boards and enhancing Waqf property management, the statement said.

Apart from reviewing UMEED implementation, the Secretary also assessed the status of projects under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJKV) in Maharashtra.

He directed the state officials to submit all pending proposals to the ministry within one week for necessary action.

Kumar also held a meeting with officials of the Haj Committee of

India (HCoI) in Mumbai, congratulating them on the smooth and successful conduct of Haj 2025.

He noted with satisfaction that this year recorded the lowest number of deaths and health-related incidents among Indian Haj pilgrims.

Kumar attributed this achievement to improved coordination between the Ministry, Haj Committee of India, deputations, Saudi authorities and

local support systems. The secretary especially acknowledged the effectiveness of the Haj Suvidha App, which played a crucial role in enhancing pilgrim experience and easing on-ground challenges.

He affirmed that insights from this year's Haj operations will be used to further improve arrangements for Haj 2026.

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BJP committed to deliver healthcare to every doorstep: Sat Sharma

J1 NEWS SERVICE
GADIGARH, JAMMU, 22 JUNE 2025:

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, organized Ayushman Bharat Card Distribution Camps at the Mandal level across the Union Territory.

A significant event under this campaign was held at Gadigarh in BJP District Jammu South, where Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) cards were distributed to eligible beneficiaries.

J&K BJP President Sat Sharma spearheaded the programme, who personally handed over the Ayushman Bharat Cards to the beneficiaries. The camp aimed to extend the benefits of free healthcare insurance to the citizens, thereby supporting the vision of universal health coverage.

Speaking at the occasion, Sat Sharma said,



“Ensuring the last-mile delivery of public welfare schemes like Ayushman Bharat is our top priority. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership, healthcare has become accessible to even the most marginalized sections of society. This is not just a scheme but a commitment to safeguard lives.”

Sat Sharma said, “The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation, reinforcing BJP’s commitment to Seva, Sushasan aur Gareeb Kalyan (Service, Good Gov-

ernance, and Welfare of the Poor).”

Ayodhya Gupta, J&K BJP Secretary and District Prabhari, emphasized the significance of spreading awareness about the scheme. “We are reaching out to every home so that no deserving person is left behind. These health cards are a lifeline in times of crisis,” he stated.

District President Naresh Singh Jasrotia applauded the efforts of party workers and said, “The efficient implementation of Ayushman Bharat in our district

showcases BJP’s dedication to public service. We are witnessing positive change at the grassroots level.”

BJP Health & Medical Cell Convenor Puneet Mahajan highlighted the government’s efforts in strengthening the healthcare infrastructure. “This initiative not only empowers the common man but also ensures dignity and security for families facing medical challenges,” he remarked.

The event also saw the presence of senior leaders Rekha Mahajan, District General Secretaries Rakesh Sangral and Kulbeer Charak, Mandal President Pushkar Sharma, Jasmeet Kour Pandey, Kunti Devi, Rajat Sharma, Pankaj Bral, Ravinder Singh, Meetu Sharma, Sakshi Sharma, Gurdial Singh, Ved Prakash, Ashwani Charak, and others.

Local residents expressed gratitude for the scheme and the BJP’s continued support.

Induction of Urdu in Naib Tehsildar Exam unconstitutional and unacceptable: Arun Prabhat

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 22 JUNE 2025:

Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) held a press conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, in strong opposition to the Jammu and Kashmir Government’s controversial decision to include Urdu as a compulsory subject in the recently notified Naib Tehsildar recruitment 2025. During his address Arun Prabhat lambasted the current National Conference government for intentionally killing the spirit of equal opportunity and meritocracy. This biased decision reveals a mindset which for decades kept Jammu and Kashmir’s issues burning, using the region selectively to further their narrative.

Over the past 75 years, this would be exploited by many, in ways more than one. We are all witness to how Urdu derived from Persian has affected the revenue records in Jammu



and Kashmir. Majority of people in Jammu and Kashmir, some of whom claim to be well-versed with Urdu, fail to be well-versed with the land record, leading to corruption by some black sheep in the government departments.

Referring to the discriminatory intentions and biased deeds of the National Conference in the past, he reminded the Naib Tehsildar’s recruitment process of 2008, when the selected candidate’s list had been deliberately withheld. The selected candidates had been provided justice through judiciary

as result of which their seniority was delayed by one and half years. Exhibiting a biased stance again in 2019’s Naib Tehsildar’s recruitment, conducted by the Jammu Kashmir Services Selection Board, 126 out of 817 candidates failed due to the Urdu paper 122 of them were from the Jammu region.

He further questioned that if there is no Urdu language eligibility criteria for Tehsildar, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Assistant Commissioner Revenue and Divisional Commissioner who directly deals with the revenue related matters in the UT, then why is it compulsory

for the Naib Tehsildar’s recruitment. This exhibits the biased intent of the NC government.

In his concluding remarks he cautioned the current government of Jammu Kashmir which is being led by chief minister Omar Abdullah, that if this biased decision has not been taken back, the protests which are being performed since 10th of June, will be intensified and take a form of a mass agitation and this fight for justice will not take pause until the justice is delivered to the youth of Jammu Kashmir. He also condemned the mum stance of the cabinet minister namely Surinder Chaudhary and Satish Sharma who unfortunately represent Jammu province.

Others who were present among others were Monu Slathia, Kanav Sharma, Rajat Manhas, Luv Deval Sharma, Rohit Mehra, Rajat Sharma, Nitesh Sharma and others.

PM Modi’s vision empowered every citizen, transformed J&K Post-370: Dr. Pardeep Mahotra

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 1 JUNE 2025:

A Mohalla Sankalp Sabha was organized by J&K BJP, under ongoing campaign ‘Viksit Bharat Ka Amritkaal - Sewa, Sushasan, Gareeb Kalyan Ke 11 Saal’ at Kabir Colony, Talab Tillo, Jammu.

The event was chiefly addressed by Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra highlighted the transformative achievements of the Narendra Modi-led government over the last 11 years. He stated, “The vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation for a Viksit Bharat. Under his leadership, every section of society, especially the poor, marginalized, and youth has witnessed empowerment and inclusion through transparent governance and people-centric policies.” He further emphasized that initiatives like Ayushman Bharat, Ujjwala Yojana, Digital India, and hous-



ing for all have drastically improved the quality of life for the common citizen.

“In Jammu & Kashmir, the abrogation of Article 370 paved the way for full integration, unprecedented development, transparent governance, and massive infrastructure growth. Peace, tourism, and investment have seen a sharp rise. With reforms like GST, Swachh Bharat, Jal Jeevan Mission, and global leadership through G20, India is confidently moving towards becoming a Viksit Bharat,” said Dr. Pardeep Mahotra.

Neelam Nargotra, former JMC Councilor and BJP District Secretary, also

addressed the gathering and praised the central government’s focus on women empowerment and grassroots development. “The Modi government has brought women into the mainstream through schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, PM Awas Yojana, and direct benefit transfers,” she said, calling upon the residents to stay connected with the party’s outreach efforts.

Arun Dubey, General Secretary of BJP Talab Tillo Mandal, conducted the proceedings and remarked, “These Sankalp Sabhas are not just events but platforms for direct dialogue between

the public and the party, reflecting our commitment to participatory governance.”

Rahul Nargotra, Mandal Vice-President, extended the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the participants and reaffirming the Mandal’s commitment to the BJP’s ideology and grassroots connectivity.

Prominent among those present were Sonali Gupta, Mandal Secretary; Sachin, Vice-President SC Morcha Talab Tillo Mandal, Bishambhar Singh Chib, Rekha Devi, Rajkumari, Bachno Devi and other local party activists who ensured successful conduct of the programme.

Khatana applauds PM Modi for UN recognition of Yoga, calls for grassroots fight against drug menace

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 21

Senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha MP, Er. Ghulam Ali Khatana, while addressing a large gathering on the occasion of International Yoga Day in Jammu, lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi for achieving global recognition for Yoga through the United Nations.

“Only a visionary leader like Narendra Modi could make this happen. This recognition not only honours Indian heritage but also strengthens our cultural identity across the globe,” said Khatana.



Highlighting the significance of Yoga for physical and mental well-being, he emphasized, “The health of our citizens is the true wealth of the nation. A healthy population contributes immensely to the overall development of the country.”

Urging everyone to

adopt Yoga and regular physical exercise as a daily routine, Khatana also raised concern over the growing drug menace. “Though Jammu & Kashmir Police is doing commendable work in curbing drug abuse, we need active community participation at the grassroots

level,” he noted.

He proposed the formation of Anti-Drug Committees at the panchayat and municipal ward level, modeled on the lines of Village Defence Committees (VDCs), to intensify the fight against narcotics.

The MP also participated in the mass Yoga session and distributed mementoes to children who performed exceptionally well during the event. He extended his gratitude to Vishal Yog Sansthan and the J&K Government’s Department of Culture for organizing the grand event and mobilizing an impressive turnout.

Shiv Sena Hindustan holds meeting to address electricity issues in Arnia

J1 NEWS SERVICE
ARNIA, JUNE 22

A meeting was held in Arnia Town, chaired by Shiv Sena Hindustan J&K President Pt Rajesh Kesri, where members of Shiv Sena Hindustan, including farmers and village heads, gathered to discuss pressing electricity issues in the area. The meeting highlighted the frequent power cuts in Arnia Block, which are affecting farmers who require electricity to irrigate their crops, particularly rice. The meeting was attended by prominent members, including Balwant Saini, Satpal, Suresh Kumar, Rajesh Kumar, Brahm Singh, Raj Kumar, and Vijay Luthra, among others.

Kesri speaking on the occasion said that despite the installation of smart meters, power cuts con-



tinue, and bills are not being delivered to households, causing difficulties for residents, especially in border areas where people may not have access to smartphones. Shiv Sena Hindustan demands that the government provide more electricity to farmers to enable them to irrigate their crops effectively. Kesri requested that the government resume manual

delivery of electricity bills to households, especially in border areas where residents may not have access to smartphones.

Kesri said that meeting emphasized the importance of electricity for farmers, who rely on it to irrigate their crops and sustain their livelihoods. Kesri criticized the government for its failure to provide adequate power

supply to the farming community, particularly during the paddy cultivation season, which is affecting not only agriculture but also education and healthcare sectors. The lack of power supply is hindering farmers’ ability to irrigate their crops, leading to potential crop damage and losses.

Frequent power cuts are affecting farmers’ ability to irrigate their crops, leading to potential crop damage and losses. The power shortage is also impacting education and healthcare sectors, which may have long-term consequences on the community. Kesri’s criticism emphasizes the need for the government to take responsibility for addressing the power supply issues and finding solutions to support farmers and other affected sectors.

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RS PURA, JUNE 22

Senior BJP leader Adv Devraj Sharma today along with hundreds of others celebrated International Yoga Day 2025 at Miran Sahib in RS Pura constituency. Speaking on the occasion, Devraj said an invaluable gift of ancient Indian tradition, Yoga has emerged as one of the most trusted means to boost physical and mental well-being. Yoga is a timeless gift from India’s ancient heritage to the world. It nurtures both the body and the mind, offering a path to physical vitality and inner peace. The International Day of Yoga aims to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practising yoga. Yoga is the integration of mind and body, thinking and action - a holistic approach that is beneficial to our health and well-being.



encouraging people to adopt a yogic lifestyle. By emphasising yoga’s benefits, the occasion aims to inspire individuals to make yoga a regular practice, cultivating inner serenity, mental clarity and overall health. Ultimately, the day celebrates yoga’s transformative power of yoga in nurturing overall well-being. Observed annually on June 21, International Yoga Day celebrates the transformative gift of yoga, originating from ancient Indian tradition. By integrating the mind, body and spirit, yoga cultivates a profound sense of balance and harmony, nurturing both physical vitality and mental serenity, added Sharma.

Sharma said that the theme of International Yoga Day 2025 is “Yoga for One Earth, One Health” which emphasises the importance of yoga in fostering a harmonious balance between physical, mental and environmental well-being. This year marks the 11th anniversary of this global celebration. International Yoga Day promotes awareness about yoga’s numerous health benefits while encouraging people to adopt a yogic lifestyle. By emphasising yoga’s benefits, the occasion aims to inspire individuals to make yoga a regular practice, cultivating inner serenity, mental clarity and overall health. Ultimately, the day celebrates yoga’s transforma-

tive power of yoga in nurturing overall well-being, added Sharma.

Later under Devraj leadership, a Chopal program was organized to commemorate 11 successful years of the Central Government’s historic achievements in service, good governance, and welfare of the poor. The objective of the program was to highlight the achievements of the Central Government under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi and to showcase the government’s commitment to service, good governance, and welfare of the poor. All attendees appreciated the policies and programs of the Central Government and resolved to take them to the grassroots level.

Impressive Hind rally at Akhnoor by Congress

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 22

A impressive "Jai Hind Sabha" followed by "Jai Hind Yatra" as part of AICC campaign, was organised by Congress party at Akhnoor today which was led by Working President Shri Raman Bhalla, former minister Mula Ram, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, Former minister Yash Pal Kundal, Former MLA Th. Balbir Singh, Former MLC Incharge HQ Ved Mahajan, Incharge President DCC Rural Hari Singh Chib, Seva Dal Chief Vijay Sharma, Kissan cell Chairman Bharat Priye, Social media Chairman Jatin Raina, Congress Contesting candidate Akhnoor Prof Ashok Bhagat, Kuldeep Sharma and Several army Veterans. A rally carrying national flag was also taken out raising slogans in favour of armed forces.

Addressing a large gathering Working President Shri Raman Bhalla lashed out at the BJP and centre government for politicizing Operation Sindhoor while taking no action against BJP senior leaders who insulted the armed forces. Operation Sindhoor



was the achievement of brave armed forces & of the nation & not of any political party, he added.

Bhalla said that Modi government & BJP has failed to answer the vital questions regarding the security failures at Pehalgam, why Pakistan was informed about the operation Sindhoor, how US announced ceasefire and how Pakistan got IMF aid after Pehalgam attack. He questioned the failures foreign policy of Modi government.

Accusing BJP of denying legitimate right of statehood to people of Jammu Kashmir Bhalla

said that statehood is the right of people of Jammu and Kashmir and centre government can't deny it for too long as people will come on roads and Congress will lead from the front.

He said all sections of people are suffering due to dual control system in J&K due to lust of power and proxy rule of BJP's through LG rule and demanded immediate restoration of statehood.

Senior congress leader and former Minister Mula Ram hit out at BJP govt for betraying people on statehood after getting mandate in Jammu over false assur-

ance of restoring it soon after Assembly elections. People will have to fight now to get back their status and rights.

He appreciated the congress candidate Ashok Bhagat and local congress leaders for organising a mega show today and also securing around 25000 votes in last assembly elections and said that Congress is the only strong force against BJP's divisive politics.

Chief Spokesperson Mr Ravinder Sharma said that people stood behind government and forces to teach Pakistan a lesson after Pehalgam but US president suddenly announced ceasefire and now he has invited Pak army chief for Lunch besides terming Pakistan as partner in fight against terror. This is very surprising and contrary to the claims of Modi government regarding isolation of the terror country

Pakistan.

Yash Pal Kundal lambasted BJP for its devious and rule policy and asked people to be united to get back right to statehood and land, jobs for locals.

Hari Singh Chib appreciated the party workers and local congress leaders for their dedication towards party against all odds. SENIOR leaders Th Balbir Singh, Ved Mahajan, vijay Sharma, Bharat Priye and others spoke and paid rich tributes to martyrs.

Congress candidate prof Ashok Bhagat launched an offensive on the BJP for failing to fulfil the promise of statehood besides regularisation of daily wages and others and demanded a special employment package in the army, para military forces for border belt.

Later a large jai hind rally in the honour of armed forces was taken out in Akhnoor area raising slogans in favour of armed forces. Several prominent leaders took part including Bansi Lal Gupta Mohan Lal KP Singh Prem Lal Baldev Raj ZEO, Master. Om parakash Master Des, Ram Lal & others.

Rohiin Chandan Highlights Media's Pivotal Role in Shaping Modern India

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 22



Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Rohiin Chandan underscored the transformative influence of media in today's era, emphasizing its unparalleled role in shaping public opinion, fostering accountability, and driving societal progress. Chandan lauded the media's ability to act as a bridge between the government and the people, while also urging for responsible and ethical journalism to strengthen India's democratic fabric.

In a statement, Chandan highlighted that the media has emerged as a powerful force in the digital age, with its reach and impact amplified by the advent of social media platforms, 24/7 news cycles, and citizen journalism. "In today's era, the media is not just a medium of information but a catalyst for change," he stated. "It has the power to inform, educate, and inspire millions, while holding those in power accountable. The media's role in shaping narratives and influencing public perception is unmatched,

making it a cornerstone of our democracy."

He emphasized the media's role in amplifying government initiatives, such as Make in India, Digital India, and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which have gained widespread visibility through effective media coverage. He credited the media for bringing the government's vision and achievements to the masses, enabling citizens to engage with policies that impact their lives. "The media has played a critical role in ensuring that the benefits of government schemes reach every corner of the nation. From rural electrification to women's empowerment programs, the media has been a partner in progress," he remarked.

However, Chandan also called for greater responsibility in media practices, cautioning against sensationalism and misinfor-

mation that can erode public trust. He urged media houses to prioritize factual reporting and constructive dialogue to foster unity and informed decision-making. "With great power comes great responsibility. The media must uphold the highest standards of ethics and integrity to ensure that it remains a force for good," he said.

Rohiin also acknowledged the challenges posed by the rapid proliferation of digital platforms, which have democratized information but also created avenues for fake news and divisive narratives. He advocated for collaborative efforts between the government, media, and technology companies to combat misinformation and promote digital literacy among citizens.

Chandan concluded by reiterating the BJP's commitment to fostering a free and vibrant media environment. "A strong media is the backbone of a strong democracy. We value the media's role in questioning, critiquing, and informing, and we will continue to support its independence," he affirmed.

Bali Bhagat raises concern over injustice to "Arms and Ammunition industry" in J&K

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 22

Bali Bhagat, senior BJP leader and former Minister has raised serious concern over the persistent and unjust difficulties being faced by arms and ammunition manufacturers and dealer's and in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Expressing deep anguish over the indefinite suspension of valid licenses, he said that the government's inaction is crippling a lawful industry and pushing hundreds of families into economic distress.

The former minister was speaking after interacting with a delegation of Gun Manufacturers Association headed by Its President Sanjay Sharma accompanied by Satish Sharma and Sumit Dasgotra.

The association members submitted a memorandum to the former Minister wherein the stakeholders have meticulously detailed how despite complying with all legal mandates under the Arms Rules, 2016—including timely submission of documents and obtaining Unique Identifi-



fication Numbers (UINs)—the Home Department and District Administration have failed to issue the necessary Form VIII licenses. "The dealers are being penalized for administrative lapses that are no fault of theirs," they said.

According to the Association's memorandum, licensing authorities have consistently failed to update renewals on the National Database of Arms Licenses (NDAL) system, even though the licensees fulfilled all required formalities. "RTI replies clearly show that the District Magistrates manually renewed licenses up to

2025, but never uploaded the data. Despite this, the J&K Home Department issued a circular in 2023 directing the suspension of all such dealers—completely overlooking the legal provisions that protect dealers from departmental errors," Bhagat added.

The former minister termed the situation a "bureaucratic injustice," lamenting the fact that over 200 dealers and manufacturers, who have lawfully invested in this trade, are today struggling to make ends meet. "The total industry loss is estimated to have crossed Rs

100 crore, and the human cost—families going without income—is incalculable," he said.

Bali Bhagat asserted that the issue is not just administrative but one of constitutional rights and fair governance. "Punishing those who follow the law, instead of holding erring officials accountable, sends a wrong message and erodes trust in the system," he stated.

The former minister appealed to the Hon'ble Home and Defence Ministers to take cognizance of the matter and ensure justice is delivered. He urged the Centre to direct the concerned authorities to immediately restore operations of all arms and ammunition dealers holding valid UINs and expedite the issuance of Form VIII licenses. He also backed the Association's call for an independent inquiry to identify those responsible for this gross administrative failure.

"Jammu's arms manufacturing industry has a long and respectable history. It must not be allowed to perish due to indifference and systemic negligence," he added.

Operation Sindhu shows India's commitment to its citizens: Langeh

JNEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JUNE 22

Former MLA and BJP District President Ramban, Neelam Langeh has lauded the Government of India for the successful and timely execution of Operation Sindhu, which has ensured the safe evacuation of over 800 Indian nationals from Iran amid escalating regional tensions.

In a press release issued here today, the senior BJP leader commended Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Ministry of External Affairs for their swift and decisive action in safeguarding Indian lives abroad. "Operation Sindhu is a shining example of India's deep commitment to the safety and dignity of its citizens, regardless of where they are in the world," he stated.

Langeh noted that the evacuation of Indian students, pilgrims, and professionals from conflict-affected areas in Iran demonstrates the government's proactive diplomacy and humanitarian resolve. "The coordination between the Indian Embassy in Iran, MEA officials, and airline authorities was remarkable. It reflects a government that puts people first," he said.

Govt sanctions Rs 5.63 crores for macadamization of roads in Basohli, Billawar

JNEWS SERVICE
BASOHLI, JUNE 22



In a major push to strengthen road infrastructure in the region, the government has sanctioned Rs 5.63 crores for the macadamization (blacktopping) of various roads under the PWD (R&B) Divisions of Basohli and Billawar. The sanctioned amount includes Rs 2.89 crores for roads falling under the Basohli Division and Rs 2.74 crores for those under the Billawar Division, under the City and Town Road Macadamization Scheme.

This was announced by Col (Retd) Mahan Singh, DDC Chairman Kathua, during a public meeting held at Marta Nagrota. He informed that the identified roads under both divisions will be taken up for blacktopping work shortly. In addition, similar allocations have also been made for Kathua and Hiranagar PWD divisions to further improve road connectivity across the district.

Col Mahan Singh acknowledged that the plan formulation has been slightly delayed due to the late release of funds this

year. However, he assured that every effort will be made to ensure that the allocated funds are fully utilized within the current financial year. He said the recent sanctioning of 13 new PMGSY roads, mostly in the hilly and kandi belts of Kathua district, along with the macadamization of 15 existing PMGSY roads and the current PWD road projects, would significantly boost the rural and urban road network in the region.

Speaking to media persons, the DDC Chairman also highlighted that several roads under the NABARD scheme are in advanced stages and will be completed in the coming months. He reiterated the importance of robust connectivity for the development of remote areas and underlined the role of these infrastructure projects in transforming

the quality of life for residents.

Col Mahan Singh strongly advocated for the early sanction and construction of the proposed Kathua-Doda National Highway via Basohli, Bani, and Bhaderwah. He said this crucial project will not only open new avenues of development in the hilly areas of Kathua and Doda districts but will also serve as a strategic corridor connecting key routes such as the Jammu-Pathankot National Highway, Pathankot-Dalhouse Road, and Dhar-Udhampur Highway to the Kashmir Valley—without having to pass through the often congested Jammu-Srinagar Highway.

He added that the proposed highway would benefit all six assembly constituencies of Kathua—namely Kathua, Hiranagar, Jasrota, Billawar, Basohli, and Bani—as well as the three constituencies of Doda district—Bhaderwah, Doda East, and Doda West. Once completed, the highway would significantly ease traffic pressure and play a transformative role in the region's connectivity and economic development.

Arvind, Johal review arrangements for Mann Ki Baat broadcast at World's Highest Railway Bridge in Reasi

JNEWS SERVICE
REASI, JUNE 22

Arvind Gupta, Senior BJP leader, MLA Jammu West, and Prabhari Reasi district along with Sarabjit Singh Johal, President BJP Kissan Morcha J&K and Adv Pawan Dev Singh, General Secretary Reasi district, today visited the world's highest railway bridge over the Chenab River in Reasi to oversee preparations for a special public programme dedicated to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming 'Mann Ki Baat' episode scheduled for June 29.

During the visit, Arvind Gupta said that the iconic Chenab Railway Bridge, a



marvel of engineering and a symbol of the New India vision under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, was a fitting location to listen to the monthly address by

the Prime Minister. "This bridge not only connects Kashmir to the rest of India physically, but also emotionally integrates the region with the mainstream

national narrative," he remarked.

The MLA informed that a special programme will be organised at the Chenab Bridge site, where locals, party workers, and BJP Kissan Morcha members will gather to listen live to the Prime Minister's Mann Ki Baat broadcast. The event aims to reinforce the spirit of unity, national pride, and development ushered in by Modi-led initiatives, especially in Jammu & Kashmir. He also mentioned that glimpses of the special programme at the Chenab Bridge site will be telecast live on June 29, adding to the significance

of this symbolic gathering. Sarabjit Singh Johal, while speaking on the occasion, highlighted the enthusiastic participation of farmers and grassroots workers in the upcoming programme. He noted that the Mann Ki Baat broadcast has been a consistent source of inspiration for rural and farming communities, and the venue chosen reflects the changing aspirations of the people of J&K under Modi's governance.

Both the senior leaders expressed confidence that the programme would witness large public participation and serve as a moment of pride for the people of Reasi and the entire Union Territory.

Operation Sindhu reflects a New & Bold India that stands by its citizens: Nitish

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 22

Nitish Mahajan, President of BJP Trikuta Nagar Mandal, today hailed the Government of India's swift and successful execution of Operation Sindhu, which has so far facilitated the safe return of over 800 Indian nationals from Iran amid rising regional tensions.

In a statement issued today, the senior BJP leader praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decisive leadership and the prompt

action of the Ministry of External Affairs for ensuring the well-being of Indian citizens stranded in Iran due to escalating conflict in the region. "The safe evacuation of 827 Indians, including students and pilgrims, showcases the government's unwavering commitment to protecting its people, no matter where they are in the world," he said.

He specifically acknowledged the commendable efforts of the Indian Embassy in Iran and MEA officials,

who worked around the clock to coordinate the evacuation flights. "Each evacuation—from Mashhad, Ashgabat, and other points—reflects the strength of India's diplomatic outreach and humanitarian concern," he added.

Nitish also appreciated India's gesture of including Nepalese and Sri Lankan citizens in its evacuation efforts. "This highlights our cultural and humanitarian ethos of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—the world is one family," he noted.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

US strikes 3...

contamination at the three locations following the strikes.

Satellite images taken after the American attack, analysed by The Associated Press, show damage to the entryways to the Fordo facility, which is dug deep into a mountain, while light gray smoke lingered in the air.

The images by Planet Labs PBC also appeared to show damage to the mountain itself, apparently blocking its entry tunnels, which means Iran would have to dig out the facility to reach anything inside.

It was not clear whether the US would continue attacking Iran alongside its ally Israel, which has been engaged in a war with Iran for nine days. Countries around the globe are calling for diplomacy and no further escalation. Trump acted without congressional authorisation, and he also warned there would be additional strikes if Tehran retaliated against US forces.

“There will either be peace or there will be tragedy for Iran,” he said.

Iran’s Foreign Ministry said Washington had “betrayed diplomacy” with the military strikes in support of Israel, and said that “the US has itself launched a dangerous war against Iran” now.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its right to resist with full force against US military aggression and the crimes committed by this rogue regime, and to defend Iran’s security and national interests,” the ministry said in a lengthy statement.

Hours after the American attacks, Iran’s paramilitary Revolutionary Guard said it launched a barrage of 40 missiles at Israel, including its Khorramshahr-4, which can carry multiple warheads.

Israeli authorities reported that more than 80 people suffered mostly minor injuries, though one multi-story building in Tel Aviv was significantly damaged, with its entire facade torn away to expose the apartments inside. Houses across the street were almost completely destroyed.

Following the Iranian barrage, Israel’s military said it had “swiftly neutralised” the Iranian missile launchers that had fired, and that it had begun a series of strikes toward military targets in western Iran.

The US helped Israel strike Iran’s toughest nuclear site

Iran has maintained that its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes only, and US intelligence agencies have assessed that Tehran is not actively pursuing a bomb. However, Trump and Israeli leaders have argued that Iran could quickly assemble a nuclear weapon, making it an imminent threat.

The decision to directly involve the US in the war comes after more than a week of strikes by Israel that significantly degraded Iran’s air defences and offensive missile capabilities, and damaged its nuclear enrichment facilities.

But US and Israeli officials have said American B-2 stealth bombers and the 30,000-pound (13,500-kilogram) bunker-buster bomb that only they have been configured to carry offered the best chance of destroying heavily fortified sites connected to the Iranian nuclear programme buried deep underground.

Trump appears to have made the calculation – at the prodding of Israeli officials and many Republican lawmakers – that Israel’s operation had softened the ground and presented a perhaps unparalleled opportunity to set back Iran’s nuclear programme, perhaps permanently.

“We have completed our very successful attack on the three Nuclear sites in Iran, including Fordow, Natanz, and Esfahan,” Trump said in a post on social media, using common alternate spellings for two of the sites. “All planes are now outside of Iran air space. A full payload of BOMBS was dropped on the primary site, Fordow. All planes are safely on their way home.”

Trump added in a later post: “This is an HISTORIC MOMENT FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ISRAEL, AND THE WORLD. IRAN MUST NOW AGREE TO END THIS WAR. THANK YOU!”

Israel announced Sunday that it had closed its airspace to both inbound and outbound flights in the wake of the US attacks.

The White House and Pentagon did not immediately elaborate on the operation. US military leaders are scheduled to provide a briefing at 8 am Eastern.

The attack used bunker-buster bombs on Iran’s Fordo nuclear fuel enrichment plant that is built deep into a mountain, a US official said. The weapons are designed to penetrate the ground before exploding. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss military operations.

In addition, US submarines launched about 30 Tomahawk missiles, according to another US official who also spoke on condition of anonymity.

The International Atomic Energy Agency wrote on X that there has been “no increase in off-site radiation levels” after the strikes but that it would continue to monitor the situation.

Trump’s turn to strikes departs from some previous statements

The decision to attack was a risky one for Trump, who won the White House partially on the promise of keeping America out of costly foreign conflicts and scoffed at the value of American interventionism.

But Trump also vowed that he would not allow Iran to obtain a nuclear weapon, and he had initially hoped that the threat of force would bring the country’s leaders to give up its nuclear program peacefully.

For months, Trump said he was dedicated to a diplomatic push to persuade Iran to give up its nuclear ambitions. And he twice – in April and again in late May – persuaded Netanyahu to hold off on military action against Iran and give diplomacy more time.

After Israel began striking Iran, Trump went from publicly expressing hope that the moment could be a “second chance” for Iran to make a deal to delivering explicit threats on Khamenei and making calls for Tehran’s unconditional surrender.

He has bristled at criticism from some supporters who have suggested that further US involvement would be a betrayal to those who were drawn to his promise to end US involvement in expensive and endless wars.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised Trump’s decision to attack in a video message directed at the American president.

“Your bold decision to target Iran’s nuclear facilities, with the awesome and righteous might of the United States, will change history,” he said. Netanyahu said the US “has done what no other country on earth could do.”

Fears of a broader war

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called the strikes a “dangerous escalation,” as world leaders began chiming in with calls for diplomacy.

“There is a growing risk that this conflict could rapidly get out of control – with catastrophic consequences for civilians, the region and the world,” he said in a statement.

Iranian-backed Houthis rebels in Yemen, who had threatened to resume attacks on US vessels in the Red Sea if the Trump administration joined Israel’s military campaign, called on other Muslim nations to form “one front against the Zionist-American arrogance.”

Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had warned the United States on Wednesday that strikes targeting the Islamic Republic will “result in irreparable damage for them.” And Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei declared “any American intervention would be a recipe for an all-out war in the region.”

The Israeli military said Saturday it was preparing for the possibility of a lengthy war, while Iran’s foreign minister warned before the US attack that American military involvement “would be very, very dangerous for everyone.”

Israeli strikes on Iran have killed at least 865 people and wounded 3,396 others, according to the Washington-based group Human Rights Activists. The group said of those dead, it identified 363 civilians and 215 security force personnel.

Trump’s decision for direct US military intervention comes after his administration made an unsuccessful two-month push – including with high-level, direct negotiations with the Iranians – aimed at persuading Tehran to curb its nuclear program.

During his previous administration, Trump pulled the US unilaterally out of the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, prompting Tehran to begin enriching uranium to higher levels and restrict the access of IAEA inspectors to its facilities. (Agencies)

India Army chief reviews...

leading to smarter decisions, enhanced surveillance and response mechanisms,” the post stated.

#GeneralUpendraDwivedi, #COAS, reviewed the security grid in the Kashmir region and assessed preparedness for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Yatra 2025. He was briefed on the current operational dynamics and the broader strategic landscape including a demonstration on integration of... pic.twitter.com/Mtg3SDOPRx

– ADG PI – INDIAN ARMY (@adgpi) June 22, 2025
The Chief of Army Staff also praised the Chinar Corps soldiers for their relentless efforts in fighting terrorism, maintaining peace, and improving the lives of the local population in the region.

“The #COAS lauded All Ranks of #ChinarCorps for their unwavering commitment in ensuring peace and stability through decisive counter-terror operations and initiatives aimed at development of the region & upliftment of local population,” the post further reads.

NIA arrests two men...

and logistical support to the terrorists, who selectively killed the tourists on the basis of their religious identity on April 22, making it one of the most gruesome terrorist attacks ever.

The NIA has arrested the duo under Section 19 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

Further investigations are going on.

In phone conversation...

Union urged all sides to step back and return to the negotiating table.

“I urge all sides to step back, return to the negotiating table and prevent further escalation,” EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas said.

The EU foreign ministers will be discussing the situation on Monday.

The UK and many other nations have also appealed for calm.

However, China and Russia are yet to officially react to the unfolding situation arising out of the US bombing. (Agencies)

Last 11 years saw...

11 years have been nothing short of transformational for India. “What generations longed for over decades has been made possible in just over a decade,” he stated, adding that PM Modi has wiped the tears of the past and replaced them with eyes full of hope and future aspirations.

Each passing year, the Minister said, has marked a new milestone—be it in infrastructure, governance, technology, or youth empowerment—creating unprecedented opportunities for every Indian.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh stated that under PM Modi’s leadership, citizens’ self-esteem has been restored. Referring to the PM’s historic 2016 call of “Start-Up India, Stand-Up India”, he emphasized how it broadened the employment horizon beyond

traditional government jobs.

“It was only then people realized that job doesn’t only mean “Sarkari Naukri”, but also innovation, enterprise, and startups,” the Minister noted.

India’s biotech sector, he highlighted, is a perfect example—growing from just 50 StartUps in 2014 to over 10,075 in 2024, with a leap in valuation from \$10 billion to nearly \$170 billion. He credited this to strong public-private partnerships, and forward-thinking policies like Bio-E3 and the National Quantum Mission.

Dr. JitendraSingh celebrated the integration of Northeast and Jammu & Kashmir into India’s mainstream development.

“For decades, these regions waited for railways—but under PM Modi, trains now run in valleys that were once isolated,” he said.

The Minister recounted the first-time commissioning of Jammu station in 1972 and the long gap in progress until PM Modi fulfilled this dream over half a century later, even flagging off Vande Bharat trains.

Citing emotional examples, Dr Jitendra Singh mentioned the young crew staff girls from Manipur lost in the tragic Ahmedabad air crash as symbols of how far the region has come—from isolation to being part of the international aviation and hospitality industry.

Dr. Jitendra Singh reaffirmed India’s leadership in the fields of space and biotechnology, highlighting the nation’s growing global stature in science and innovation. He announced that India’s astronaut, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, will serve as the Mission Pilot on the Axiom-4 mission, where he will conduct cutting-edge space biology experiments using indigenously developed biotech kits by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT). Dr. Singh further shared that India is steadily progressing towards establishing its own ‘Bharat Antariksh Station’ by 2035, marking a significant milestone in the country’s space ambitions. He emphasized that the world is now actively collaborating with India and recognizing its scientific capabilities, a testament to the country’s rise as a trusted global science partner.

Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted several landmark governance reforms that have transformed citizen-centric service delivery over the past decade. He noted that CPGRAMS, India’s public grievance redressal mechanism, has evolved into a global model, handling over 26 lakh grievances in 2024 compared to just 2 lakh in 2014, with an impressive 96% disposal rate.

The Minister also spoke about the introduction of the Digital Life Certificate (DLC) for pensioners, which, through facial recognition technology, has eliminated the need for elderly citizens to physically visit banks for verification—a first-of-its-kind initiative in government. Furthermore, he cited progressive pension reforms, including the provision of family pension for widowed and divorced daughters, and the flexibility for women officers to nominate parents or children as beneficiaries, instead of being limited to their spouses—reflecting a more inclusive and compassionate approach to governance.

Highlighting the clean record of the Modi government, Dr. Jitendra Singh proudly stated “In the last 11 years, not a single charge of corruption has surfaced against any member of the Union Council of ministers. Compare that to the previous regime, where scams were the norm, he said.

The Minister also pointed out a cultural shift in politics, where the government no longer classifies citizens into vote banks, ensuring 100% saturation of schemes, including PM Awas Yojana homes in non-traditional voter areas.

On the current situation in Jammu & Kashmir, Dr. Jitendra Singh assured that normalcy has returned, and tourism is thriving. “Visit Pahalgam today, where a tragic incident occurred recently—you’ll find it crowded with people,” he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh also touched on the Lithium reserves in J&K, calling them a potential economic game-changer, and emphasized that the youth of the region are aspirational and determined not to miss the bus.

Concluding his remarks, Dr. Jitendra Singh said “The real driving force behind Viksit Bharat 2047 will be the citizens of India. It is their support, aspiration, and participation that will shape the next 25 years of Bharat’s journey.”

Incriminating material...

and further investigation is underway.

“In view of the nature of the recovery, additional provisions—Section 23 of UAPA and Section 7/25 of the Arms Act—have also been invoked in the case,” police said.

Engaging with states...

The Ministry of Minority Affairs remains committed to ensuring efficient administration of waqf properties and a dignified pilgrimage experience for all Hajis through digital empowerment and responsive governance, the statement said.

Following the launch of the Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development Act, 1995 (UMEED) Central Portal on June 6, 2025, the Ministry of Minority Affairs has been actively engaging with states and union territories to ensure the effective implementation of this statutory platform, it said.

As per the mandate of the UMEED portal, details of all registered Waqf properties across India are to be mandatorily uploaded within six months.

The government launched the portal on June 6 to create a digital inventory after geo-tagging all Waqf properties, with Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju calling it a historic step that would ensure that community-owned Waqf assets are utilised effectively and fairly for poor Muslims.

The UMEED portal will serve as a centralised digital platform for real-time uploading, verification, and monitoring of Waqf properties. (Agencies)

Op Sindhu: Another special flight brings back Indians from Iran; so far 1,428 evacuated

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

As part of Operation Sindhu, another special flight arrived from Iran today, bringing 311 Indian nationals stranded in that country, amid the fighting with Israel. Another flight is expected to arrive later tonight.

With the current flight, so far 1,428 Indian nationals have been evacuated.

The MEA spokesperson said in a post on X: “Operation Sindhu continues.

“311 Indian nationals arrived in New Delhi on a special flight from Mashhad at 1630 hrs on 22nd June.

“1428 Indian nationals have now been evacuated from Iran.”

On Saturday night, a flight had arrived bringing 290 Indian nationals back from Mashhad in Iran.

One flight is expected to arrive at 11.30 tonight, bringing back more Indian nationals.

India launched Operation Sindhu to evacuate its nationals from Iran and Israel, amid the raging fighting between the two nations.

Bengal: Six killed in Trekker-dumper collision in Murshidabad Distt

AGENCIES

KOLKATA, JUNE 22

At least six people were killed, of them four women and a child, and over dozen sustained multiple wounds in a head-on collision between a Trekker and a dumper in West Bengal’s Murshidabad district on Sunday, official sources said.

All the victims were occupants of the Trekker, who were returning home after having a holy dip at a water body in Birbhum’s Sainthia, police said.

The mishap occurred at Gokarna village on Kandi-Baharampur State Highway when the Trekker, with some 22 people on board including the driver, met with the accident.

The impact of the collision was so severe that the four-wheel Trekker vehicle turned into a mangle of steel.

The injured have been admitted to the Murshidabad Medical College and Hospital with critical wounds of several people, all the residents of Rukunpur village under Harihar police station.

The victims had hired the Trekker early this morning and travelled to Ahmedpur under Sainthia in Birbhum district for taking holy bath there.

The dead include four women, a child and the driver.

The driver of the dumper and his assistant abandoned the heavy loaded vehicle on the road and fled.

Egyptian FM postpones his two-day India visit, amid escalating tensions in Middle East

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty has postponed his planned two-day visit to India, which was to begin on Monday, amid the rapidly escalating tensions in the Middle East.

This is the second time this year that the Egyptian foreign minister is postponing his India visit. In February, Egyptian FM Abdelatty had postponed his visit to India.

Badr Abelatty was expected to hold talks with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal during his latest New Delhi visit.

FM Badr Adbelatty was in Turkey on Saturday to attend the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) meeting and held talks with his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi there, to discuss the diplomatic efforts being undertaken to de-escalate the current conflict and achieve a ceasefire.

On Sunday, US President Donald Trump said he had “obliterated” Iran’s main nuclear sites in strikes overnight, joining an Israeli assault in a major new escalation of conflict in the Middle East, even as Tehran vowed to defend itself.

Iran called the US attack a grave violation of international law that would have “everlasting consequences”.

“Iran reserves all options to defend its sovereignty, interest and people,” wrote Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in a social media post, noting that the Israeli and US attacks on Iran came despite ongoing talks between Washington and Tehran.

Maha: Gadkari takes swipe at Congress over Hindutva

AGENCIES

NAGPUR, JUNE 22

Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari took swipe at the opposition Congress party over its misinterpretation of Hindutva.

In a public interview conducted by senior journalist Dr Uday Nirgudkar here on Saturday night, he made it clear that taking to the streets with saffron flags or doing some actions is not Hindutva but it is a value-based lifestyle.

He said, “we also pray for world welfare during worship. Unity in diversity and tolerance of all religions is the true form of Indianness. This is Hindutva.”

When asked about his role in the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections to be held in the year 2029, Gadkari replied that, “what we saw in 11 years was just a news reel, the real film is yet to start.”

FICCI FLO J&K celebrates Int'l Yoga Day with a Soulful Evening of Wellness & Healing

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 22

On the occasion of International Yoga Day, FICCI FLO Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh Chapter, under the leadership of Chairperson Arti Chowdhary, organized a special wellness session focused on holistic well-being and inner balance at the prestigious Amar Singh Club, Jammu.

The event brought together members of FICCI FLO JKL and wellness enthusiasts from across the region for an enriching hour of Yoga, Pranayam, Meditation, Chakra Balancing, Energy Healing, and Aura Scanning. Participants were guided through these practices to deepen their understanding of the ancient science of Yoga and its powerful healing potential. The Yoga session was led by Shelly Kaur Reen, Yoga Expert. Chairperson Arti Chowdhary, in her address, emphasized the importance of integrating yoga and meditation into daily life, especially in today's fast-paced world. "Yoga is not just an exercise but a way to reconnect with ourselves, to pause, breathe, and heal. On this International Yoga Day, we aim to spread awareness about the holistic benefits of yoga, beyond physical health—extending to mental clarity and spiritual balance," she said.



The hour-long session, held from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM, was curated to offer participants a calm and rejuvenating experience while deepening their understanding of energy healing practices and the significance of Chakra alignment. Notably, Adv. Gunarjit Chugh, a Certified Pranitic Healer and Pranitic Healing Instructor, contributed his expertise to the event. The event was supported by Amar Singh Club as the venue partner. Attendees were encouraged to carry their own yoga mats, reinforcing the value of personal responsibility and mindfulness.

FICCI FLO JKL continues its commitment to empowering women through wellness, knowledge-sharing, and community engagement. The chapter believes that personal well-being is a crucial step toward leadership and impactful societal contribution.

Attendees were encouraged to carry their own yoga mats, reinforcing the value of personal responsibility and mindfulness. FICCI FLO JKL continues its commitment to empowering women through wellness, knowledge-sharing, and community engagement. The chapter believes that personal well-being is a crucial step toward leadership and impactful societal contribution.

Natrang's 'Ghor Kalyug' stirs audience with bold take on modern apathy

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 22

Natrang presented a thought-provoking new Hindi play 'Ghor Kalyug', written and directed by Neeraj Kant, as part of its popular weekly theatre series Sunday Theatre. The play drew a powerful response from the audience for its bold commentary on the emotional detachment and erosion of traditional values in contemporary society.

The play revolves around Rajan, a media professional, and his family's emotionally distant reaction to the death of his ailing father. Upon waking up late one morning, Rajan is informed by his wife, Savita, that his father has passed away. Rather than showing grief, Rajan responds with calculated pragmatism, calling a funeral assistance committee to handle the last rites and delegating all responsibilities to Savita



and their servant, Bhola. As the story unfolds, the audience is drawn into the contrasting reactions within the household. Rajan's young daughter, Veera, is deeply affected and refuses to go to school, while Savita manages the situation with cold efficiency, relying solely on paid services. Rajan, meanwhile, faces emotional conflict at work, where his boss dismisses his father's death as irrelevant in the cut-

throat world of sensational media. His attempt to give personal grief professional relevance is shut down, highlighting the growing dissonance between human emotions and public apathy.

The play's climax intensifies at home when even the father's ashes are returned by the funeral service agency. Frustrated, Rajan suggests finding an organization for ash immersion. But when Bhola is asked to carry

out the task, he refuses, condemning the family's complete outsourcing of intimate rituals. Bhola's monologue becomes the emotional high point of the play, as he mourns the disappearance of human connection, cultural responsibility, and emotional authenticity in modern life. Declaring his wish to escape this heartless "Kalyug," Bhola leaves the audience with a stark and stirring critique of today's mechanical existence.

Today's play was decorated with the participation of Pawan Verma (Recipient of J&K State Award and National Fellowship from Ministry of Culture) who performed brilliantly. Others who have significant performances included Aryan Sharma, Adaksh Bagal, Kushal Bhat, Prerna Sharma, Priyal Ashok Gupta and Kartik Kumar. The lights of the play were executed by Neeraj Kant and the show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen.

Army reaches out to Veterans, Veer Naris in remote Reasi Village

JNEWS SERVICE
REASI: 22 JUN 2025

The Indian Army organized a special interaction program with Ex-servicemen and Widows at the remote location of Batsiyala in district Reasi on 21 Jun 25. The event was aimed at recognizing the invaluable contributions of the veterans and families of brave hearts who laid down their lives in the service of the nation. The program witnessed partici-



ipation from a large number of ex-servicemen and Veer Naris and widows from the region. The army representatives addressed various

issues related to welfare schemes, pensions, medical facilities and resettlement opportunities available to veterans and their

families. This outreach effort reaffirms the Army's unwavering commitment to the welfare and well-being of its veterans and braveheart families, especially in remote and far-flung areas. It also served as a platform to strengthen the bond between the serving soldiers and the veteran community. The Indian Army continues to honour its brave soldiers and their families and remains dedicated to supporting them in every possible manner.

J&K Special Olympic Bharat Organises One-Day Free Bocce (Raffa) Camp at Hotel Asia

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 22, 2025:

Under the banner of J&K Special Olympic Bharat, a one-day free Bocce (Raffa) Camp was successfully organized at Hotel Asia, Jammu. The event was coordinated by Mr. Sunny Nanda, Assistant Director of J&K Special Olympic Bharat.

Specially-abled children actively participated in the camp, enthusiastically playing Bocce shots and enjoying the joyful and inclusive atmosphere. The event served as an important step in promoting inclu-



sive sports and boosting the morale of the athletes. The Chief Guest for the occasion was Dr.

Ashwani Jojra, Founder President and Area Director of Special Olympics Bharat. In his address, Dr. Jojra praised the

efforts of the organizers and encouraged the children to continue participating in sports for their overall development.

Mr. Sahil Badyal, Manager of Special Olympics Bharat J&K, was also present at the event and extended his full support to the initiative.

The event concluded with refreshments and a token of appreciation for all participants and volunteers, reinforcing the commitment of the Special Olympics Bharat J&K to empowering children with special needs through sports and community engagement.

PHDCCI delegation meets Municipal Commissioner to Discuss Draft City Logistics Plan

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 22

A delegation of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry Jammu Region Chapter (PHDCCI) comprising of its Chairman Rakesh Wazir, Former Chairman Vikrant Kothiala, and Deputy Resident Director Kartik Pratap Singh, while speaking and elaborating in the meeting convened by Municipal Commissioner Jammu, Devansh Yadav, wherein other officer including Addl. District Development Commissioner, Jammu Sher Singh, Project Director National Highway Authority of India Anuj Kumar, Joint Commissioner Municipal Corporation Jammu Sudha Sharma and others were also present, to deliberate on the Draft City Logistics Plan and propose actionable measures to ease congestion in the city discussed in detail the measures to ease ease out the traffic in Jammu.



and advocated for a long-term, planned approach to city growth—on the lines of Chandigarh—anticipating Jammu's needs for the next 40 years. He also highlighted the urgency of more roads and the timely completion of ring roads to effectively decongest traffic.

Mr. Wazir further noted that with the Katra-Srinagar rail corridor now operational, and within 2-3 months it will start from Jammu also and as a result now more traffic will come to Jammu/Katra and it becomes significantly important to develop the places of Tourist interest around Jammu so that Tourists may be able to spend more time while visiting these places and Jammu must be ready to capitalize on this enhanced connectivity for economic and logistical growth.

Mr. Wazir further said that people should be

encouraged to use more and more parkings rather than parking their vehicles on main roads.

He also requested him for introducing of more e-Way buses in more areas of Jammu and especially between Jammu & SMVD Narayana Hospital, Kakryal.

Former Chairman Vikrant Kothiala stressed the importance of creating multiple access points from the ring road into the city. He pointed out that at present, RS Pura is the only major connection, and suggested the need for new approach roads from areas like Marh, Chatha, and the Camp area of Talab Tillo. This, he said, would improve traffic flow and make the ring road more effective. He also recommended promoting nearby tourist destinations to help distribute visitor movement more evenly across the region.

Army conducted cleanliness drive at Lam Rajouri

JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 22 JUN 2025

In a continued effort to support the Swachh Bharat Mission, the Indian Army conducted a 'Cleanliness Drive' on 21 Jun 2025 at Lam. The initiative saw enthusiastic participation from the Army personnel, reaffirming the Army's commitment to environmental sustainability and community well-being. The drive focused on cleaning the surroundings, removing plastic waste and raising aware-



ness about hygiene and cleanliness among local

residents. With an aim to spread the aware-

ness of cleanliness and environmental hygiene,

an interactive session was also organised. This event served as an excellent platform for spreading awareness about the importance of cleanliness and hygiene in our day-to-day life. It is not only just cleaning but involves educating locals about health hazards and the harmful effect of littering on the environment also. A total of 28 locals & 13 personnel took part in the cleanliness drive. The Indian Army continues to uphold its tradition of service, both on and off the battlefield.

Army conducted Medical Patrol at Chakalsalta, Rajouri

JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 22 JUN 2025

In its ongoing efforts to provide essential medical services to remote areas, the Indian Army conducted a medical patrol in Chakalsalta, on 21 Jun 2025. The patrol, comprising Army medical personnel, provided free medical aid and treatment to 05 Teachers and 46 Students. The medical patrol was part of the Army's initiatives to reach out to remote areas and provide medical services to those in need. This effort aims to build trust and strengthen the bond between



the Army and local communities, ensuring their health and well-being. The Army's medical team provided comprehensive medical check-ups, distributed essential medi-

cines, and offered health and hygiene advice to the villagers. This medical patrol demonstrates the Army's commitment to serving the community and promoting health-

care in remote and inaccessible areas. By conducting such medical patrols, the Indian Army is bridging the gap in healthcare services and making a positive impact

on the lives of people in remote areas. The Army's selfless efforts have been well-received by the local populace, who appreciate the medical aid and treatment provided.

EDITORIAL

'Wahrat' Brings Scorching Realities as Kashmir Faces Extreme Heat

The commencement of the 21-day harsh summer spell known locally as 'Wahrat' has turned the serene valleys of Kashmir into unexpected cauldrons of heat, setting temperature records and reshaping the region's familiar summer rhythms. Traditionally associated with intense warmth, this year's Wahrat has come with unprecedented ferocity, with Srinagar – the summer capital – surpassing Jammu in daytime temperatures, a rare occurrence that underscores the changing climate dynamics in the region.

Srinagar touched a scorching 34.8°C on Saturday, slightly easing from Friday's blistering 35.5°C, yet remaining significantly above normal. Even more telling was the night temperature – a sweltering 23.2°C – marking the fourth highest minimum temperature in 134 years, a statistic that should not be taken lightly. Nighttime heat is particularly concerning, as it offers little relief to residents and places additional stress on public health and agriculture.

Other parts of the valley did not fare much better. Kokernag recorded its second-highest June temperature ever at 34.2°C, while Qazigund saw its hottest June day since 1988. Even traditionally cooler tourist spots like Pahalgam and Gulmarg faced elevated mercury levels, diminishing the usual summer refuge they offer to both locals and visitors. For a region renowned for its cool climate and lush greenery, this sudden and intense heat wave is not just uncomfortable – it's alarming.

Beyond discomfort, the soaring temperatures have serious implications. Higher temperatures mean increased glacier melt in the upper reaches, heightened risk of flash floods, reduced water availability downstream, and greater stress on power and irrigation systems. The MeT Department's advisory warning of possible flash floods, mudslides, and shooting stones in the coming days, particularly in the Jammu division, adds to the anxiety. Meanwhile, farmers – the backbone of Kashmir's rural economy – have been urged to wrap up agricultural operations before June 20, a clear sign of how unpredictable weather is impacting seasonal planning.

Experts have pointed to changing climate patterns, urban expansion, and global warming as contributors to this extreme heat. Independent weather forecasters like Aadil Maqbool and Faizan Arif Keng have provided valuable historical context, showing that temperatures previously thought to be outliers are becoming alarmingly frequent. The fact that several of these records date back to the 1970s, 1980s, and early 2000s – and are now being matched or broken – points to a sustained warming trend that can no longer be ignored.

This should serve as a wake-up call for both policymakers and citizens. The need for heat-resilient infrastructure, timely weather advisories, robust water management systems, and climate-conscious urban planning has never been more urgent. It is also vital to increase public awareness on how to stay safe during heatwaves – especially among the elderly, children, and those with pre-existing health conditions.

The Wahrat period is a cultural and climatic marker in Kashmir's seasonal cycle, but its current intensity has pushed the valley into uncharted territory. As cloud cover and sporadic rainfall are forecasted for the days ahead, there is a brief window of relief – but the broader challenge of adapting to a warming world looms large.

Kashmir, known for its natural beauty and temperate climate, is feeling the sting of a planet in flux. The need for comprehensive climate action – both global and local – is no longer a matter of debate. It is a necessity for survival.

India's quiet power: How yoga became the world's breath of unity

CHAITANYA K PRASAD

In a world constantly jostling for attention, through missiles, money, and media, India has managed to slip something quietly into the global bloodstream: yoga. Not just the stretch-on-a-mat version that floods Instagram, but the real thing, an ancient, rooted philosophy that has slowly become one of the most persuasive tools of soft power diplomacy in the 21st century. It's not flashy, it doesn't demand loyalty, but it lingers; and that's where its magic lies.

For the past 10 years, yoga's rise has been deliberate, strategic, and honestly, quite beautiful to watch. The turning point came in 2014 when Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed the idea of an International Day of Yoga at the United Nations.

177 countries backed it, not because they wanted to do India a favour, but because yoga had already embedded itself in their societies. That was the win, not just the declaration itself, but the global readiness to accept that this was more than India's past; it was part of humanity's future.

In 2024, that symbolic circle came full with PM Modi leading the Yoga Day celebrations at the UN Headquarters in New York, in the very halls where he had first proposed it.

Over 180 nationalities came together in a collective breath, a rare moment of unity in a fragmented global order. American singer Mary Millben's soulful rendition of India's national anthem at the event added a layer of cultural grace that moved many to tears.

It wasn't just a diplomatic spectacle; it was a deeply human



moment, where art, breath, and belief converged into something much larger than protocol. In that gathering of movement and stillness, India didn't just host the world, it held it.

Since then, June 21 has transformed from a cultural celebration into something much deeper, a show of presence, not power; of balance, not bluster. And that's what makes yoga such an exceptional soft power tool.

It doesn't yell, it invites. It doesn't push a product; it offers a practice. While other cultural exports often come dressed in capitalism or carry subtle imperial agendas, yoga feels clean, disarming even. Its strength lies in its quietness.

From New York to Nairobi, Tokyo to Toronto, the sight of thousands moving together in breath and stillness is not just aesthetic, it's symbolic. In a time where nations scream over each other, yoga listens, and people respond.

Back home, the Ministry of Ayush has played a crucial role in deepening this influence. From local wellness programs and school modules to international MOUs and yoga certification frameworks, the past two decades have seen real, measurable investment in making yoga accessible, authentic, and global. This isn't just brand-

ing, it's cultural stewardship, and it matters. Because when a country not only preserves but exports its deepest values, and does so with humility, it earns something far more valuable than visibility; it earns trust.

This year, the International Day of Yoga 2025 campaign is themed "Yoga for One Earth, One Health", a line that captures, in five words, everything the world is craving: connection, sustainability, healing.

After years of pandemic panic, mental health breakdowns, and climate anxiety, the idea that the health of our bodies is directly tied to the health of our planet doesn't feel like a philosophy anymore; it feels like a necessity.

Ayush's campaigns this year reflect that urgency. Over 30,000 organisations are joining the 'Yoga Sangam', turning parks, schoolyards, hospitals, and railway platforms into yoga grounds. These aren't token events; they're public declarations that India's contribution to global peace and wellbeing will not be transactional, it will be transformative.

And then there's YogAndhra 2025, one of the most ambitious state campaigns we've seen in years. Two crore people, a month-long activation, a mass event along the Visakhapatnam coastline; it's massive, and honestly, deeply moving.

Not because of the numbers, but because of what they represent: ordinary people coming together, voluntarily, in a moment of pause.

That's the real diplomacy, not the flags, not the official handshakes. Just breath, stillness, surrender; and in that shared silence, India speaks louder than any press release ever could.

What makes all of this even more powerful is the tenor of yoga itself. It's not ornamental, it's foundational. Yoga doesn't demand performance, it demands presence.

And in a hyper-digitised, algorithm-driven world, that's revolutionary. Yoga has no nation, but it does have an origin; and every time someone anywhere rolls out a mat and begins their practice, they are, whether they know it or not, engaging with India, not politically, but spiritually and philosophically. That's legacy, and that's how soft power works.

Health diplomacy is another layer in this story that often gets overlooked. In a time when the world is buckling under non-communicable diseases, burnout, and post-pandemic trauma, India's offering isn't just ancient, it's relevant.

Yoga is preventive and sustainable; it teaches you to listen to your body, manage your mind, and regulate your breath.

That's public health without a prescription. It's affordable, scalable, and deeply human. The fact that international bodies like the WHO are now aligning with Ayush to explore integrative health models is no coincidence; it's recognition.

But to fully understand yoga's impact, you have to go beyond the policy speak.

Yoga isn't about flexibility;

it's about balance. It's not about how you look, it's about how you feel. It doesn't sell transformation in 21 days; it teaches you to surrender to slow, patient evolution.

When someone in Buenos Aires Berlin or Bengaluru sits in silence, they're not just accessing a wellness tool; they're entering a cultural portal, one that leads, always, back to India.

And that's what makes yoga such a rare diplomatic asset. It doesn't just generate influence; it generates affection. It's not transactional. It's not about lobbying.

It's about resonance, and resonance lasts. India, through yoga, is not trying to dominate global narratives. It's anchoring them, centring them, reminding the world that wellness, at its core, is not a luxury; it's a right. And that stillness, in a fractured, frantic world, is not weakness; it's power.

So as India gears up for another powerful edition of IDY, it's not just about the scale of participation or the number of countries involved. It's about what yoga continues to signify: that even in a global order shaped by conflict, chaos, and competition, there is space, sacred, silent, strong; for something slower, deeper, and more human. Yoga isn't just India's cultural gift; it's its geopolitical signature. Not loud, but lasting.

And maybe that's the whole point. In a world obsessed with speed and spectacle, yoga reminds us that the real revolution begins when we learn to just stop, breathe, and listen; to ourselves, and each other.

(The writer is former Civil Servant. Views are personal. Inputs provided by Zoya Ahmad & Vaishnavie Srinivasan)

Mainstreaming Climate Resilience and Disaster Management

DINESH KUMAR TYAGI

Recent incidents of floods in North East India and cloudburst in Sikkim have resulted in loss of human lives, damage to houses, roads and other infrastructure. It has disrupted normal life and has significant impact on business and industries in these states. The incident of forest fire in Uttarakhand – reported to be 11,256 incidents in the year 2023-2024 and spread in many districts – has caused heavy damage to the biodiversity of the region. These incidents highlight the need to look into the approach followed by Government in dealing with disaster and climate resilience and whether there is need for course correction to contain such massive loss of life, property, business, beside other long-term impacts on the environment and ecology.

As per the Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, 2025 (GAR) published by UN Office on Disaster Risk Reduction, the economic cost of disaster is increasing every year. From an average of \$70-80 billion a year (1970-2000), the annual cost is now \$180-200 billion. The real cost of disaster is estimated to be \$2.3 trillion when other related aspects are taken into account. India itself suffered economic losses of about \$12 billion in 2023 against an average of \$8 billion (2013-2021). Some estimates project the loss of about 2 per cent GDP due to disaster in the medium term. The trend is showing substantial increase in losses and likely to increase in future. Disaster happens almost in all countries across the world and has become a very regular phenomenon, thus affecting the community, infrastructure, flora and fauna, environment and economy. In India, the Disaster Management Act, 2005 provides the framework for effective man-

agement of the disasters which include, besides the responses to deal/manage after the occurrence of event, provision for implementing measures in prevention of danger or threat of any disaster. Section 6 of the Act inter alia authorises the NDMA/SDMA – national/state authority – to lay down guidelines to be followed by all departments by integrating the disaster plan in their existing schemes and programmes. It also prescribes for making disaster plan at various level/department of the Government and also allocating the resources in their budget proposal for the same.

Has the Act and its provisions been able to enthuse every departmental functionary at all levels to appreciate and understand the need to take steps necessary for mitigating and addressing the causes and factors leading to disaster? Though the response of the administrative machinery has been laudable after the event (disaster/calamity) has happened, their support in addressing the causes/factors has not been very encouraging. The seriousness to be taken by every department of the Government in designing and developing programmes and making them integral part of their functioning does need a lot of improvement. The committee approach at various levels has not been able to mainstream the disaster mitigation and related issues addressed appropriately and with desired sincerity in view of large scale and long-term consequences.

There are six main types of disasters – earthquake, floods, storms, heatwaves, forest fire and droughts – which accounted for more than 95 per cent of direct losses noticed/accounted in disasters across the world. The losses include environmental, human displacement cost, health impact, and other social

cost including loss of education and business. Disaster impacts almost every walk of life. Almost every sector of the economy – from agriculture, forest, fisheries, small and medium industries and labour – are affected in disaster. In case of special children and Divyang, disaster is a way of life for them as they encounter it every day. This means that every department/institution of the Government needs to design programmes/schemes for mitigation of disaster. For example, a disaster by flooding will require measures from Irrigation Department (to design control measures), Public Works, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Food and Civil Supplies, Education, Forest, Social Welfare/Revenue, Education, Police, Health. This reflects the need for dovetailing the disaster and climate resilience programmes in every department so as to facilitate preventative as well as effective management aspects of such events.

Central level and state level bodies with mainly coordination function do not seem to suffice this requirement. Most Government bodies think that disaster and climate resilience are issues to be addressed by Disaster Department or Forest and Environment Departments.

The exigencies of dealing with climate resilience are not integral to their functioning. Disasters destabilise national economy, strain public finances, deepen poverty and inequality and disrupt long-term development gains, beside social and psychological impact on the community. One example of the disaster is on children – most vulnerable section of the society. At least 242 million pre-primary and upper-secondary students have experienced school disruptions due to climate events in 2024 across 85 countries or territories and three-quarters

(74 per cent) of those affected students are in low- and lower-middle-income countries.

In India too, schools are generally the first one affected in any disaster – closed or used as shelter. Nowadays extreme weather events such as heatwave, pollution especially in the urban areas are having serious and long-term impact on the students. The main events leading to nationwide school disruptions in 2024 in at least 20 countries were heatwaves, tropical cyclones, storms, and floods largely influenced by ongoing climate change. It is estimated that globally 90 per cent of children are exposed to one or more major climate and environmental hazard.

Another major sector affected by disaster and climate change is Health. Globally around 4.2 million premature deaths take place due to air pollution. The emergence of new strain of virus – COVID – also poses serious disaster impacting large and vulnerable population. Unpreparedness of the Health Department infrastructure and, in some cases, a total collapse was noticed during the COVID outbreak.

With such long-term consequences, can disaster management be left to a "postmortem approach" – deal with it after occurrence of the disaster event – or does it need to be looked at differently in view of the serious impacts these disasters have on communities and nations? Presently, climate resilience approach has not been integrated in a manner that every department of the Government follows a focused and continuous approach in addressing the same. At one point of time, a similar approach as adopted by the NDMA Act was followed for dealing with matters relating to North Eastern States. North Eastern Council (NEC) was set

up as a statutory body in 1972. Persuading every department to provide for specific component of their schemes for NE states despite issuance of guidelines/advisory was not found to be very effective. Despite NEC having all state Governors, Chief Ministers, Union Minister (Chairman) as members, the approach of exciting/persuading every department in Government was not found to be highly satisfactory. It was thereafter decided in 1998-99 to prescribe allocation of 10 per cent of total budget of each department for NE states. The unutilised portion of earmarked funds is maintained in a "non-lapsable pool" of resources. Ministry of Development of NE implements various schemes/programmes from the non-lapsable pool. Re-appropriations or diversion of funds from such allocation is strictly prohibited.

This has really helped and supported in mainstreaming the developmental issues related to NE states. Some of the most affected states – coastal, hilly, adjoining main rivers – do take a proactive approach in bringing stakeholders to appreciate the impact/consequences of such disaster on community, flora and fauna and other economic consequences. However, mainstreaming climate resilience in every agency of Government functioning still remains a challenge. The impact of climate disruption and disaster on future generations is going to be far more due to the significant environmental changes noticed due to various factors such as receding glaciers, rising temperature, forest fire, pollution of land and sea, water crisis and certain emerging technologies such as AI.

(The writer is a retired IAS officer. Views expressed are personal)

Healthy lifestyle can boost metabolic health even without weight loss: Study

People can improve their health through dietary and lifestyle changes even if they do not lose weight, according to an international study.

The research, conducted by the universities of Ben-Gurion (Israel), Harvard (US), and Leipzig (Germany), focused on individuals described as "weight loss resistant" -- those who adopt healthy habits but struggle to shed pounds, Xinhua news agency reported.

"We have been conditioned to equate weight loss with health, and weight loss-resistant individuals are often labeled as failures," said lead author Anat Yaskolka Meir, post-doctoral research fellow in the Department of Epidemiology at Harvard Chan School.

"Our findings reframe how we define clinical suc-



cess. People who do not lose weight can improve their metabolism and reduce their long-term risk for disease. That's a message of hope, not failure," Meir added.

Published in the European Journal of Preventive Cardiology, the study challenges the long-standing belief that weight loss is the primary sign of a successful diet. Researchers found that even partici-

approximately one-third of the participants had not lost weight, despite closely following the programme.

However, they showed improvements in metabolic health, including higher levels of "good" HDL cholesterol, lower levels of leptin (a hormone primarily produced by fat cells), and reductions in abdominal fat, confirmed through MRI scans.

Researchers also identified 12 genetic markers that may influence whether a person is likely to lose weight through lifestyle changes, an insight that could help personalise future diet plans.

The findings suggest that healthy eating and exercise can provide significant health benefits even without weight loss, including reduced risk of heart disease and diabetes, the researchers said.

Study finds gene mutation causing iron deficiency in Crohn's disease patients

Researchers have found a genetic mutation that can worsen iron deficiency and anaemia in patients with Crohn's disease.

Crohn's disease is a chronic inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) that can affect the small intestine and the large intestine.

While it is characterised by chronic inflammation, leading to symptoms like abdominal pain, diarrhoea, fatigue, and weight loss, it can also cause anaemia.

Iron-deficient anaemia is most common among Crohn's patients and leads to chronic fatigue, reducing the quality of life, particularly during disease flare-ups.

Biomedical scientists at the University of California, Riverside School



of Medicine found that mutation in the gene PTPN2 (protein tyrosine phosphatase non-receptor type 2) -- found in 14-16 per cent of the general population and 19-20 per cent of the IBD population -- is responsible for this.

The study, performed on serum samples from IBD patients, reports that patients carrying a loss-of-function mutation in the

PTPN2 gene exhibit significant disruption in blood proteins that regulate iron levels.

A loss-of-function mutation is a genetic change that reduces or eliminates the normal function of a gene or its product, a protein.

"This discovery sheds light on a critical mechanism that links a patient's genetics to their ability to

absorb and regulate iron, which is essential for maintaining healthy blood and energy levels," said Declan McCole, a professor of biomedical sciences at UCR who led the study.

"Our findings offer an explanation for why some IBD patients remain iron-deficient despite oral supplementation," McCole said.

When the researchers deleted the PTPN2 gene in mice, the animals developed anaemia and were unable to absorb iron effectively.

The findings, published in the International Journal of Molecular Sciences, showed it was due to reduced levels of a key iron-absorbing protein located in the intestinal epithelial cells -- the cells responsible for taking up dietary nutrients.

Depression, bipolar disorder after 40 may signal dementia risk: Study

Mood disorders like depression, bipolar disorder, or mania after the age of 40 may not be just mental health conditions but can precede motor or cognitive symptoms in various neurodegenerative diseases, according to a study on Monday.

Growing evidence suggests these late-life mood disorders (LLMDs) could be early warning signs of neurodegenerative diseases like dementia, even when they appear years before memory loss or other cognitive symptoms become apparent, said researchers from the National Institutes for Quantum Science and Technology (QST), Japan.

The study, published in the Journal of the Alzheimer's Association, explored the presence of abnormal tau protein -- a hallmark of several neurodegenerative diseases -- in the brains of 52 participants with LLMDs and



47 healthy controls. The researchers used advanced brain imaging techniques to examine 52 participants with LLMDs and 47 healthy controls.

They employed a positron emission tomography (PET) scan using two different tracers, which can detect various forms of tau protein and amyloid beta accumulation and analysed brain tissue samples from 208 autopsy cases to examine the relationship between late-life mood symptoms and the subsequent development of neurodegenerative diseases. They found that about 50 per cent of

mild cognitive decline, these results support the evidence that neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's and non-Alzheimer's tau-related pathologies, can initially manifest as psychiatric symptoms," said Dr. Shin Kurose from QST.

Further, many participants also had tau accumulation in the frontal regions of the brain -- crucial for emotional regulation and cognitive function.

The study revealed that these abnormal proteins could be detected years before traditional cognitive symptoms of dementia appeared. As revealed by the autopsy cases, mood symptoms preceded cognitive or motor symptoms by an average of 7.3 years.

Timely identification of late-life depression and bipolar disorder would allow for earlier intervention with disease-modifying treatments, the team said.

participants with LLMDs showed tau accumulation in their brains, compared to only about 15 per cent of healthy controls.

Similarly, nearly 29 per cent of participants with LLMDs had detectable amyloid deposits versus just 2 per cent of controls. The autopsy findings further supported these results, showing a significantly higher prevalence of diverse tau protein-related pathologies in individuals who had experienced late-life mania or depression.

"Because most of the participants with LLMDs in our study had no or

India's population reaches 146 billion, sees decline in fertility rate: UN

While India continues to be the most populous country, with an estimated 1.46 billion people in 2025, the country's total fertility rate has fallen to 1.9, below the replacement level of 2.1, according to the latest report by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) released on Tuesday.

The 2025 State of World Population (SOWP) report underscores that the real crisis lies not in population size, but in the wide-

spread challenges to support individuals' right to decide freely and responsibly if, when, and how many children to have.

The UN report estimates "India's population at present at 1,463.9 million".

"India is now the world's most populous nation, with nearly 1.5 billion people -- a number expected to grow to about 1.7 billion before it begins falling," the report said.

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in India is currently

2.0 children per woman. This means that on average, a woman in India would be expected to have 2 children during her childbearing years (typically ages 15-49). This rate has remained constant since 2020, according to the Sample Registration System (SRS) report for 2021.

However, the new report showed it has declined to 1.9 births per woman, which means that, on average, Indian women are having fewer

children than needed to maintain the population size from one generation to the next, without migration.

Despite the slowing birth rate, India's youth population remains significant, with 24 per cent in the age bracket of 0-14, 17 per cent in 10-19, and 26 per cent in 10-24.

While 68 per cent of the population accounts for the 15-64 age bracket, the elderly population (65 and older) stands at seven per cent.

Childhood trauma can have lasting brain consequences, cause psychiatric disorders

Childhood adversity may have a profound connection with lifelong vulnerability causing psychiatric disorders and other brain consequences, according to a study.

The study showed that early life experiences become biologically embedded and create lasting changes in brain structure and immune function.

"The immune system doesn't just fight infections -- it plays a crucial role in shaping our mental health throughout life," said Sara Poletti, senior researcher at IRCCS Ospedale San Raffaele Milan, Italy.

"Childhood trauma can fundamentally reprogramme these immune responses, creating vulnerability to depression, bipolar disorder, and other psychiatric conditions decades later," she added.

By identifying specific inflammatory markers associated with childhood trauma, the study provides potential targets for novel interventions.



The research calls for precision medicine approach to transform psychiatric treatment from symptom management to addressing underlying biological mechanisms.

The paper, published in the journal Brain Medicine focussed on the use of an immunomodulatory agent (interleukin 2) to treat mood disorders.

Mood disorders have been recognised by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a major source of disability, morbidity, and mortality worldwide.

Among mood disorders, major depressive disorder (MDD) and bipolar disorders (BD) are the most frequent and disabling ones.


The lifetime prevalence is about 12 per cent for MDD and 2 per cent for BD.

Recent years have seen evidence increasing for the role of immune dysregulations in mood disorders with a focus on the inflammatory response system (IRS). It suggests that an activation of the IRS should be considered as one of the main patho-

logical underpinnings of mood disorders.

"I aim to further elucidate the role of the immune system and its interaction with the environment in psychiatric disorders," Poletti said.

Her vision includes developing prevention strategies to reduce mental illness odds, particularly for individuals with trauma histories. This preventive focus represents a paradigm shift from reactive to proactive psychiatric care.



UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION BILLAWAR
Email:- xenpwwbillawar@gmail.com
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 30 of 2025-26 Dated 20-06-2025. (Second Call)
[Previous e-Nit: - 05 of 2025-26 Dated:-03-05-2025]

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State/Central Governments for each of the following work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of Tender document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money/Bid-Security in shape of CDR/FDR /BG	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contr.
1	Construction of Science Lab at High School Lohal, Distt Kathua. (Under PM Shri 2024-25)	PWD (R&B) Division Billawar	17.54	600	2% of Adv. Cost	06 Months	28/06/2025 (1200 hours)	"B" & "C"
2	Construction of Library room at High School Lohal, Distt Kathua. (Under PM Shri 2024-25)	PWD (R&B) Division Billawar	24.19	600	2% of Adv. Cost	09 Months	28/06/2025 (1200 hours)	"B" & "C"

Position of AAA :-Accorded
Technical Sanction :-Sanctioned

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	20-06-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 20-06-2025 to 27-06-2025 upto 1600 Hrs
3	Bid submission Start Date	21-06-2025 at 1000 hours
4	Bid Submission End Date	27-06-2025 upto 1600 hours
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	28-06-2025 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Billawar.
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. name of work e-NIT No. & dt: duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Billawar and upload the same i.e treasury challan Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Billawar. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Billawar within 07 (Seven) days after the date of receipt of the Letter of Acceptance.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder needs not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential- submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Billawar. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Billawar

Dated:- 20-06-2025
No:- 643-660
DIP/J-2486/25
Date: 21-06-25

SMVDU hosts expert session on entrepreneurship with Adityajay Khajuria

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 22

SMVDU-TBIC, in collaboration with the Entrepreneurship Development Cell (EDC) and the School of Mechanical Engineering, SMVDU hosted an inspiring interactive session featuring Mr. Adityajay Khajuria, a distinguished entrepreneur and global business leader. The event served as a significant platform for aspiring entrepreneurs to gain first-hand insights from an industry expert with extensive international experience. The session was attended by students and faculty members from various schools of the university, reflecting wide interest across disciplines. Mr. Adityajay Khajuria, the Co-Founder and Director of Ajasby Engineering Sales India and Arabian Equip-



ment UAE, addressed the participants during the expert session. Under his leadership, these ventures have evolved into global enterprises with operations spanning India, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand, delivering products and services to clients in over 30 countries. His strategic vision and commitment to innovation have played a key role in expanding the reach of Indian engineering solutions in international markets. Hailing from Samba,

Jammu & Kashmir, and currently based in Gurugram and Dubai, Mr. Khajuria addressed the gathering with an engaging talk on "The Path an Entrepreneur Should Follow." Drawing from his own journey from being a company employee to becoming a successful entrepreneur, he spoke about the key qualities needed for entrepreneurial success—vision, perseverance, adaptability, and innovation. His candid reflections and practical

advice resonated deeply with the audience. The session commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Sanjay Mohan, CEO, SMVDU-TBIC & Chief Coordinator, EDC, who emphasized the importance of industry-academia interaction in fostering an entrepreneurial mindset among students. The session concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Ankush Raina, Faculty, School of Mechanical Engineering, who expressed gratitude to the speaker and participants for their active involvement. The event was collectively coordinated by Dr. Sanjay Mohan, CEO, SMVDU-TBIC and Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Head, School of Mechanical Engineering. The coordinators also extended their gratitude to the University authorities for their continued support in organizing such impactful events.

Annual FASTag Pass to ease highway travel: Dr. Parneesh

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 22

Senior BJP leader Dr. Parneesh Mahajan has welcomed the announcement of the Rs 3,000 Annual FASTag Pass by Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Nitin Gadkari, calling it a revolutionary step in making highway travel affordable, efficient, and seamless for private vehicle owners.

In a press release issued here today, the senior BJP leader said that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the dynamic efforts of Nitin Gadkari, India's road and transport



infrastructure is witnessing a historic transformation. "This initiative is a milestone in public-centric governance. It will offer significant financial relief to the middle class and daily commuters by eliminating repetitive toll charges and reducing travel time," he stated.

Dr Parneesh emphasized that the initiative, exclusively for non-commercial private vehicles, will prove especially beneficial for regions like Jammu & Kashmir where connectivity is steadily improving. "With continuous efforts from the BJP-led government, road infrastructure in J&K has seen unprecedented progress. The FASTag pass complements these developments, providing residents an affordable and streamlined travel experience," he added.

Termining the Annual FASTag Pass a step towards digital India, he noted that the move will

also ease congestion at toll plazas and enhance transparency in toll collection. "This plan is a testament to the government's commitment to innovation, convenience, and citizen empowerment," he said.

Dr. Parneesh Mahajan lauded Nitin Gadkari's relentless drive to modernize India's highways, asserting that schemes like this reflect the BJP's mantra of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayas. He urged the public to adopt this cost-effective travel solution and support the government's efforts in building a modern, connected Bharat.

Week-long Activities organized at GDC Thannamandi to Celebrate International Yoga Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE
THANNAMANDI, JUNE 22

In a spirited celebration of the International Yoga Day, Government Degree College Thannamandi organized a series of engaging and meaningful activities throughout the week starting from Monday, June 16, 2025. The events were conducted under the able guidance of Principal Prof. Dr. Farooq Ahmed, with active participation from the NCC and NSS Units, faculty members, and students of the college. The week-long celebration commenced with a Yoga Pledge Ceremony and Yoga Practice Session at the college sports complex, emphasizing the importance of physical and mental well-being through yoga. Through-



out the week, the college community took part in several events, including: Daily Yoga Sessions led by the Chief Librarian Mr Anuj Bali, Poster-Making and Essay Writing Competitions on the theme "Yoga for Health" and Group Discussions highlighting the holistic benefits of yoga.

The grand finale was held on June 21st at the college badminton ground, where a large yoga demonstration led by instructor Mr Mehtab Khan was conducted. Students, faculty, and staff—along with members of the NCC and NSS Units performed a collective yoga session in

unison, symbolizing unity, discipline, and wellness.

The successful execution of the week-long activities was made possible through the dedicated efforts of the organizing team, which included: Dr Ashaq Malik, Dr. Nazakat Hussain, Dr. Gulshan Rashid, Mr. Anuj Bali, Dr. Altaf Hussain (NCC Officer), Prof. Supriya Gupta, Prof. Fatima Parveen, Dr. Ashraf, Mr. Paramveer Singh, Mr. Zabar, and Mr. Shafiqat Shabir. On the occasion, Prof. Dr. Farooq Ahmed addressed the participants, stating, "Yoga is not merely a form of physical exercise but a philosophy of life that brings harmony between the mind, body, and spirit. Such events instil discipline and promote a healthy lifestyle among our youth."

Adv Devraj organizes International Yoga Day 2025 celebrations at Miran Sahib

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RS PURA, JUNE 22

Senior BJP leader Adv Devraj Sharma today along with hundreds of others celebrated International Yoga Day 2025 at Miran Sahib in RS Pura constituency. Speaking on the occasion, Devraj said an invaluable gift of ancient Indian tradition, Yoga has emerged as one of the most trusted means to boost physical and mental well-being. Yoga is a timeless gift from India's ancient heritage to the world. It nurtures both the body and the mind, offering a path to physical vitality and inner peace. The International Day of Yoga aims to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practising yoga. Yoga is the integration of mind and body, thinking and action - a holistic approach that is beneficial to our health and well-being.

Sharma observed that International Yoga Day promotes awareness about yoga's numerous health benefits while encouraging people to adopt a yogic lifestyle. By emphasising yoga's benefits, the occasion aims to inspire individuals to make yoga a regular practice, cultivating inner serenity, mental clarity and overall



health. Ultimately, the day celebrates yoga's transformative power of yoga in nurturing overall well-being. Observed annually on June 21, International Yoga Day celebrates the transformative gift of yoga, originating from ancient Indian tradition. By integrating the mind, body and spirit, yoga cultivates a profound sense of balance and harmony, nurturing both physical vitality and mental serenity, added Sharma.

Sharma said that the theme of International Yoga Day 2025 is "Yoga for One Earth, One Health" which emphasises the importance of yoga in fostering a harmonious balance between physical, mental and environmental well-being. This year marks the 11th anniversary of this global celebration. International Yoga Day promotes awareness about yoga's numerous health benefits while encour-

aging people to adopt a yogic lifestyle. By emphasising yoga's benefits, the occasion aims to inspire individuals to make yoga a regular practice, cultivating inner serenity, mental clarity and overall health. Ultimately, the day celebrates yoga's transformative power of yoga in nurturing overall well-being, added Sharma.

Later under Devraj leadership, a Chopal program was organized to commemorate 11 successful years of the Central Government's historic achievements in service, good governance, and welfare of the poor. The objective of the program was to highlight the achievements of the Central Government under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi and to showcase the government's commitment to service, good governance, and welfare of the poor. All attendees appreciated the policies and programs of

the Central Government and resolved to take them to the grassroots level.

Devraj highlighted the remarkable work done by the country under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi in the areas of service, good governance, and welfare of the poor. The program discussed various welfare schemes and programs launched by the Central Government, which have brought positive changes in the lives of the poor and underprivileged sections of society. He said that it has been 11 years of poverty alleviation and has invoked a paradigm shift in thought process and governance. He said that India has embarked on a new journey of development towards Amrit Kaal, focusing on service, good governance and welfare of the poor people.

Calling it a golden period, Devraj said that the Government took a tough stand on terrorism, and never waited to act against terror attacks and quoted the prompt action taken during Operation Sindoor and the surgical strike. He recalled India's commitment during Covid and said that not only did India produce two vaccines but also served as the pharmacy for the world.

India stands strong for its people under Operation Sindhu: Purnima

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 22

BJP J&K Spokesperson and former Deputy Mayor Jammu, Adv Purnima Sharma has hailed the Central Government's swift and effective response in bringing back over 800 stranded Indian nationals from Iran under Operation Sindhu, calling it a testimony to India's unwavering resolve to protect its people.

In a press release issued here today, Purnima Sharma praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership and the Ministry of External Affairs for acting promptly in a time of international crisis. "Operation



Sindhu is not just a rescue mission—it is a bold statement that India stands firmly with its citizens, no matter where they are or how difficult the circumstances," she said.

She expressed deep appreciation for the MEA's coordination and the efforts of the Indian Embassy in Iran, which facilitated multiple evacu-

ation flights from cities like Mashhad and Ashgabat, ensuring the safe return of students, pilgrims, and workers. "The timely response and meticulous planning have saved lives and brought relief to hundreds of families across the nation," she added.

Purnima also applauded India's decision to assist in evacuating nationals from neighboring countries like Nepal and Sri Lanka. "This highlights India's regional leadership and humanitarian outlook. We are not only taking care of our own but also stepping up for our neighbors in times of need," she noted.

Highlighting the growing global stature of India

under the Modi government, she remarked, "Today, the world recognizes India as a responsible power that values human life and acts swiftly in the face of adversity. Operation Sindhu reinforces our diplomatic strength and people-centric governance."

Purnima Sharma said that the success of Operation Sindhu is yet another milestone in India's journey as a confident and compassionate nation. "This mission will be remembered as a powerful example of how the government rose to the occasion and brought its people home with dignity and care," she said.

JKPDP senior leaders organize workers' meeting in Jinder Kalan, RS Pura

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RS PURA, JUNE 22

JKPDP senior leaders Narinder Sharma, Incharge RS Pura constituency, and Karan Singh, Incharge Suchetgarh constituency, organized a workers' meeting at village Jinder Kalan. Prominent among those present on the occasion included Bachan Lal, Raj Kumar, Rattan Lal, Anil Kumar, Puran Chand.

The meeting provided a platform for party workers to share their grievances and concerns. The senior leaders listened attentively to the grievances and concerns of the party workers, demonstrating their commitment to addressing their issues. Sharma and Singh assured the workers that their grievances would be highlighted before the concerned authorities, and efforts would be made to address them in a time-bound manner.

Narinder speaking on



the occasion said that the meeting aimed to strengthen the bond between the party leadership and workers, ensuring that their concerns are heard and addressed. He assured gathering to highlight their grievances before the authorities taking forward agenda of Party President Mehbooba Mufti who is committed to effective representation and timely resolution of issues. The meeting was a significant step in fostering a sense of trust and confidence among party workers, and it underscored the party's dedication to addressing the concerns of its workers

and the community, added Narinder. Narinder said that meeting reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen the hands of JKPDP President Mehbooba Mufti, who has been a bold voice in Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting public issues and advocating for the rights of the people. The meeting participants expressed their solidarity with Mehbooba Mufti, acknowledging her efforts in raising public concerns and working towards the welfare of the people. The gathering pledged to strengthen Mehbooba Mufti's hands, recognizing

her leadership and commitment to addressing the issues faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir, added Narinder.

Karan Singh speaking on the occasion said that meeting reflected the trust and confidence of the party workers in Mehbooba Mufti's leadership and their commitment to work together to address the challenges faced by the people of the region. He stated that the workers are committed to strengthen their grassroots presence and reconnect with the public. The party aims to highlight its achievements and reaffirm itself as a viable democratic alternative. Singh stressed that party is preparing for the upcoming Municipal, Panchayat elections with renewed vigour. "Our well-structured grassroots network will be activated in line with the political vision of our founder, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed," Singh said.

Zone Miran Sahib celebrates 11th International Yoga Day

J1 NEWS SERVICE
MIRAN SAHIB, JUNE 22

The 11th International Yoga Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm in all schools of Zone Miran Sahib. As part of the celebrations, various offline and online activities were organized on June 20, 2025, including painting and essay writing competitions, as well as rallies on the theme "Yoga for One Health, One Earth."

The activities were conducted under the guidance of Cluster Head Principal GGHSS Miran Sahib, Ashok Kumar, and ZEO Miran Sahib, Smt Verthana Sharma. A large number of community members participated in the program, showcasing the community's interest in yoga and its benefits. The 11th International Yoga Day was celebrated offline and online with zeal and zest in all schools, highlighting

the importance of yoga in daily life.

Theme "Yoga for One Health, One Earth" emphasizes the significance of yoga in promoting overall health and well-being, as well as its impact on the environment. The celebration was a grand success, thanks to the efforts of the school authorities and the enthusiastic participation of students and community members.

Cluster Head Principal GGHSS Miran Sahib, Ashok Kumar speaking on the occasion said an invaluable gift of ancient Indian tradition, Yoga has emerged as one of the most trusted means to boost physical and mental well-being. Yoga is a timeless gift from India's ancient heritage to the world. It nurtures both the body and the mind, offering a path to physical vitality and inner peace.

DDC conducts late evening visit to Border Village in Doongi Block

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JUNE 22

To resolve public issues at the grassroots level, District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma undertook a late evening visit to a border village in the Doongi block. The visit formed part of the district administration's sustained efforts to ensure timely redressal of grievances and efficient services delivery in far-flung areas.

The DDC gave a patient hearing to the issues raised by the locals. They projected demands related to road connectivity, electricity, water supply, healthcare and education.

The DDC also interacted with local entrepreneurs who have benefitted under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). He reviewed the



implementation of the scheme at the grassroots level and lauded the spirit of self-reliance being fostered among rural youth through agricultural entrepreneurship. He encouraged them to further expand their ventures and assured continued support from the administration.

The District Development Commissioner was accompanied by senior

officers of the civil administration and other concerned officials.

He assured the residents that their issues would be followed up rigorously and necessary interventions would be made on priority. The locals appreciated the visit of the District Development Commissioner and expressed gratitude for bringing governance to their doorstep.

International Yoga Day celebrated at District Jail Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JUNE 22

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kishtwar, in collaboration with District Jail Authorities, organized a special yoga session for jail inmates to mark the International Yoga Day.

The event was conducted under the guidance of Secretary DLSA Slahuddin Ahmed with active participation and coordination from Superintendent District Jail Susheel Kumar, Advocate Sanveer Singh, Assistant LADC and Adv. Vinay Shan.

The session was effectively facilitated by Lekh Raj Parihar, a trained Yoga Instructor.

Adding a unique and inspiring dimension to the event, a young 6th standard student Aadiya Parihar participated in the yoga demonstration, showcasing the practice of yoga transcends age and status.

The session saw enthu-



siastic participation from both the jail staff and the inmates. The Expert team guided participants through different asanas and breathing exercises good for mental peace,

discipline and general wellness.

The importance of yoga in rehabilitation and self-discipline was also highlighted during a brief address to the inmates.

Dharti-Abha 2.0 Campaign concludes in Block Vijaypur

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBHA, JUNE 22

The Dharti-Abha 2.0 Campaign, a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, concluded successfully in Block Vijaypur.

Aimed at strengthening governance and ensuring inclusive development in tribal regions, the campaign focused on bridging developmental gaps, raising awareness about welfare schemes and facilitating redressal of grievances through institutional mechanisms.

Conducted under the dynamic leadership of District Development Commissioner Rajesh Sharma, the seven-day outreach saw active participation from all 17 line departments. Special emphasis was laid on the



tribal village of Rakh Barotian, where data-driven planning and community feedback guided developmental interventions.

A key highlight was the event was a comprehensive Gram Sabha, enabling targeted gap assessment using data provided by the Ministry. Awareness stalls were also established at Block Headquarters Vijay-

pur, offering information on welfare schemes and serving as grievance redressal hubs.

With over 900 beneficiaries engaged, the campaign facilitated door-step governance and tribal empowerment. Rakh Barotian in particular, stood out as a model of inclusive outreach and administrative responsiveness.

DC Poonch inspects progress of work on Casualty Building at SDH Surankote

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JUNE 22

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today conducted an inspection of the under-construction Casualty Building at Sub District Hospital (SDH) Surankote. He was accompanied by SDM Farooq Khan, Tehsildar Mohammad Akbar and other concerned officers.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of construction work and assessed the overall facilities at the hospital. Emphasizing the importance of timely completion, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Sub Divisional Magistrate to personally oversee the progress of the project and ensure its completion within 20



days. The Deputy Commissioner reiterated the administration's commitment to strengthening

health infrastructure and improving service delivery for the people of the region.

Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan: Awareness and Benefit Saturation Camps held across Anantnag

JI NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, JUNE 22

As part of the ongoing Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan, the district administration Anantnag organized a series of mega awareness and benefit saturation camps at various panchayats across the district.

These camps, part of a 15-day outreach campaign aimed at empowering tribal communities, witnessed enthusiastic participation from the local tribal population.

Resource persons from various government departments engaged directly with attendees, providing comprehensive information on a wide range of welfare schemes and government services.

During the events, officials created awareness about social security, livelihood, and skill development initiatives besides addressing several public grievances on the spot, ensuring immediate redressal of pressing local issues.

Officers from various

line departments underlined the importance of ensuring last-mile delivery of government services, especially in remote and underserved tribal areas. They reiterated the administration's commitment to bridging service delivery gaps and facilitating easier access to welfare schemes for marginalized sections of society.

Under the Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan, district administration is conducting similar awareness camps across identified tribal locations throughout the district. These camps will continue until June 30, 2025, with the objective of ensuring that no tribal household is left out.

The outreach initiative aligns with the government's vision of inclusive development and participatory governance. It focuses on awareness, facilitation, and grievance redressal at the grassroots level, thereby empowering tribal communities through informed engagement.

Mission Yuva Anantnag holds IEC campaign

JI NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, JUNE 22

In a collaborative move, Mission Yuva, an initiative aimed at youth empowerment emerged as the centerpiece of the International Yoga Day celebrations held at Anantnag.

The Yoga Day event was held at the Shaheed Humayun Muzzamil Memorial Government Degree College where Mission Yuva had set up its informative desks and selfie points witnessing huge rush of youngsters. These enthusiastic youngsters enquired about Mission Yuva programme and its benefits. They also clicked selfies at Selfie points.

The aim of the initiative was to give empowering career advice and make youngsters aware of the offerings of the Mission Yuva to them.

Notably, Mission Yuva is a flagship programme of the government which promotes development among youth.

DC Budgam reviews implementation of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JUNE 22

Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohiud-Din Bhat chaired a review meeting today to assess the progress of the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Chief Planning Officer, Executive Engineer of KPDC, all AEEs, JEEs and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, DC reviewed the number of registrations and applications received under the scheme, as well as the status of promotional and awareness activities.

The meeting was informed that as of June 20th 2025, applications received under the scheme are 10,420; vendors selected 1,218; SRT Systems Installed 211, Subsidies approved 183 and Subsidy approvals under process are 17 in the District. Addressing the



meeting, he emphasized the need for coordinated efforts by all officers and officials of line departments to adopt strategic approach and mobilise public participation to maximize the benefits of the scheme.

DC stressed on the importance of expediting the processes so that maximum population avails the benefits from the scheme.

He directed all stakeholders to work in union to achieve the targets set under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, thereby promoting sustainable energy solutions

and reducing dependency on conventional power sources.

Besides, he directed all the officers from the PDD to set the targets and encourage the people to register and install the solar system to minimize their monthly electricity bills. Bhat directed Exen KPDC Budgam to establish the control room in his office to monitor the daily progress achieved under the scheme.

He also directed concerned to reach all the area of the district and organise camps to aware the people about the benefits of the scheme.

DC attends Annual Bhandara at Baba Budh Giri Ji Ashram -Poonch



JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JUNE 22

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today visited the revered Baba Budh Giri Ashram at Behramgala, where he actively participated in the Annual Bhandara and also took part in a Havan.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by SDM Surankote Farooq Khan, Tehsildar Mohammad Akbar and other officers.

The Deputy Commissioner interacted with the Ashram Committee members and devotees, con-

gratulating them for the successful conduct of the religious event.

Several developmental and infrastructural demands were raised by the Committee, including the construction of a Langer Shed, a 100-metre link road to the Mandir and repair of old stairs, among others.

The Deputy Commissioner assured the committee that the district administration is committed to addressing these demands, ensuring that pilgrims from Poonch and other areas have a safe and comfortable experience at the Ashram.

DC Ramban orders inquiry into fire incident at BDO Office Sangaldan

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JUNE 22

In response to a fire incident at the BDO Office Sangaldan on Saturday, Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan, along with ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak, today visited the site to assess the situation.

They were joined by local SDPO and Tehsildar.

The Deputy Commissioner took stock of the damage caused by the fire and directed for immediate restoration work. He

also instructed the concerned officers to take measures for the resumption of administrative function.

To determine the cause of the fire and establish accountability, the Deputy Commissioner constituted an inquiry committee. The Committee has been asked to conduct a thorough investigation and furnish the report at the earliest. Restoration efforts and safety protocols have been initiated to ensure minimal disruption of official work.

Power shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 22

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that in order to execute the work of erec-

tion of hybrid module and preventive maintenance, the power supply to District Reasi, Rajouri, Poonch and part of District Jammu will remain affected on June 23 from 5 am to 9 am.

Sakeena Itoo inaugurates Shaheed Wali Mohammad Itoo Memorial cricket tournament at Kulgam



JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JUNE 22

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, inaugurated the Shaheed Wali Mohammad Itoo Memorial Cricket Tournament at DH Pora here today.

Speaking on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo paid heartfelt homage to Shaheed Wali Mohammad Itoo, highlighting his lifelong commitment to public service, community welfare and youth empowerment. "This tournament

is more than just a sporting event, it is tribute to the values Shaheed Wali Mohammad Itoo stood for," she remarked.

The Minister said that this tournament will serve as a platform for nurturing the young talent and fostering community spirit. She added that Government is committed to provide the youth constructive opportunities and space to showcase their sporting skills. The opening ceremony witnessed an enthusiastic turnout from the local youth, sports enthusiasts and community leaders.

Maoists will not get respite even during monsoon: Home Minister Amit Shah

AGENCIES
RAIPUR, JUNE 22

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday reiterated the government's resolve to eradicate Maoism by March 31 next year and announced that the rebels will not get a breather even during monsoon.

Speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony of National Forensic Science University (NFSU) and Central Forensic Science Laboratory's Raipur campus, HM Shah said, "Unlike previous years, when the anti-Maoist operations used to get slowed down during monsoon, I want to assure the people that we will not let the rebels sleep even during rains."

The Home Minister also hailed Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and his deputy Vijay Sharma for sharpening the operations against Maoism in the state. "They have encouraged police forces, and I congratulate the two on behalf of the Central gov-



ernment," he said.

HM Shah also appealed to the Maoists to surrender and join the mainstream by availing the state government's rehabilitation package.

"I assure all those rebels who have surrendered that the Centre and State government will fulfil their commitment to them," he said.

Earlier, he called upon Chhattisgarh youth to become adventurous in setting up enterprises and start-ups for bringing about a new wave of investment in the state.

He highlighted the launch of 'Mind-to-Market' i-Hub incubation set-up in the state, claiming that

it would hold the hands of startup launchers and nurture youth to become MSME owners.

Crediting the creation of Chhattisgarh to former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, HM Shah praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for shaping the modern-day state.

Addressing the inauguration event, the Home Minister said that Sunday marked a significant day as three key projects impacting the criminal justice system of the state were being launched.

"The foundation stone of NFSU and CFSL is being laid, along with the launch of the transit campus of the University in which

180 students will start their education in courses like B.Sc and M.Sc in cyber and forensic science, among others," he said.

"I want the youth to trust PM Modi and understand that their degree from NFSU will be a guarantee for their job," he said.

The NFSU campus is proposed to be built at a cost of Rs 145 crore by the Centre, while the CFSL will be built at a cost of Rs 123 crore.

HM Shah said PM Modi's vision for Viksit Bharat 2047 cannot be achieved without timely delivery of justice and the three new criminal laws -- Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, 2023, effective July 1, 2024 -- are a step in that direction.

The setting up of a forensic university and lab is a step in the direction of timely justice and establishing an evidence-based criminal justice system in which verdict is delivered within three years, he said.

Middle East air travel hit hard as airlines avoid region after US strikes on Iran

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

Air travel across the Middle East continues to face major disruptions after the United States launched airstrikes on Iranian nuclear facilities on Sunday.

Airlines are now avoiding large parts of the region's airspace due to growing security concerns, causing delays, longer flight times, and increased costs.

According to flight tracking service FlightRadar24, commercial planes are being rerouted to avoid flying over countries like Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Israel.

Instead, they are taking longer paths over safer areas such as the Caspian Sea, Egypt, or Saudi Arabia.

This change is leading to higher fuel consumption and more expensive flight operations.

"Following the U.S. strikes, commercial flights continue to avoid high-risk zones, adhering to airspace restrictions introduced last week," FlightRadar24 shared on social media platform X.



The situation in the region remains tense with increased missile and drone attacks. Safe Airspace, an aviation risk monitoring group, warned that the US strikes could lead to higher risks for

American airlines flying near the Middle East. While there are no direct threats to civilian planes yet, the group said Iran might respond by targeting US military bases or using its allies, like Hezbollah.

Safe Airspace also warned that other Gulf nations, such as Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, could face increased danger. The group advised air-

lines to remain extremely cautious. In Israel, the country's main airlines -- El Al, Arkia, and Israir -- have stopped running rescue flights meant to bring Israeli citizens back home.

El Al also announced that its regular commercial flights will stay suspended until at least June 27.

Israeli airspace remains closed, although land borders with Jordan and Egypt are still open. The conflict has stranded thousands of people. Nearly 40,000 foreign tourists in Israel are trying to leave, with many seeking to cross into Jordan by land or reach Cyprus by sea.

Israel's Tourism Ministry is helping to organise their evacuation. Several countries have already begun pulling out their citizens.

Not Nitish Kumar, Tejashwi is under tension over pension hike: Nityanand Rai

AGENCIES
PATNA, JUNE 22

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai launched a sharp attack on RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, claiming that the latter is under "tension" over the Nitish Kumar government's social security pension hike, not the other way around.

Refuting Tejashwi Yadav's claim that the pension increase from Rs 400 to Rs 1,100 was the result of opposition pressure, Rai said, "It is not Nitish Kumar who is in tension, as Tejashwi suggests. It is Tejashwi himself who is feeling the pressure due to this welfare move. The Chief Minister acted out of commitment, not compulsion."

He further took a jibe at



the Grand Alliance heavily in the upcoming Assembly elections.

"The Grand Alliance will lose all Assembly seats in Vaishali, including Hajipur, Mahnar, Rajapakar, Mahua, Raghapur and Lalganj due to Tejashwi's negligence and failure to deliver," Rai asserted.

Earlier in the day, Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav once again on Sunday claimed that the pension hike announced by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is a direct result of opposition pressure.

Tejashwi Yadav, while uploading a post on social media, stated, "We promised to increase the social security pension to Rs 1,500 per month, indexed to inflation. After resisting for 20 years, Nitish Kumar finally had to bow to pres-

sure and raise it to Rs 1,100. He is simply copying our vision."

Tejashwi asserted that the opposition's persistent pressure on issues like employment and welfare schemes has forced the NDA to abandon its reluctance and imitate RJD's promises.

"Nitish Kumar didn't care for the elderly, widowed, or disabled for two decades. Now, scared of our growing popularity, he has reluctantly increased the pension amount. But even in copying, he failed to match our commitment," Tejashwi said. He accused the NDA of running a reactionary government, focused on electoral gains rather than long-term planning, and called Nitish Kumar "tired" and bereft of original ideas.

PM Modi speaks with Iranian President, reiterates call for de-escalation

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Sunday and reiterated call for immediate de-escalation and diplomatic measures to restore regional peace in the Middle-East.

"Spoke with President of Iran @drpezeshkian. We discussed in detail about the current situation. Expressed deep concern at the recent escalations. Reiterated our call for immediate de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy as the way forward and for early restoration of regional peace, security and stability," said PM Modi in a message on X.

PM Modi's call for restoring dialogue and diplomacy came on a day when the United States bombed three nuclear facilities of Iran, triggering wave of reactions from global powers. Iran strongly condemned the United States' strikes on its nuclear facilities, calling it a "brutal military aggres-



sion" and gross violation of international law and the UN Charter.

In the aftermath of coordinated US airstrikes on three nuclear sites, Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan, Iran also urged the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to take immediate action.

In its official statement, Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs declared, "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs

of the Islamic Republic of Iran condemns in the strongest terms the brutal US military aggression against Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities, which was committed in flagrant and unprecedented violation of the most fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter and the rules of international law, and holds the warmongering and law-breaking US government responsible for the

extremely dangerous effects and consequences of this great crime."

Earlier, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) announced that the Israeli Air Force (IAF) began a series of strikes targeting military sites in western Iran following a missile attack conducted by Iran earlier that day.

"The IAF has begun a series of strikes towards military targets in western Iran," the IDF posted on X.

"Additionally, this morning, the IAF struck missile launchers ready to launch toward Israeli territory, soldiers in the Iranian Armed Forces, and swiftly neutralised the launchers that launched missiles toward Israeli territory a short while ago," it added.

Iran launched more than 30 ballistic missiles at Israel on Sunday, the IDF had said earlier in the day.

Israeli authorities claimed their offensive against Iran was a pre-emptive measure to stop Tehran from acquiring nuclear weapons - an ambition Iran has consistently denied.

Air India flight from Birmingham to Delhi diverted to Riyadh after bomb threat

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

An Air India flight from the UK's Birmingham to Delhi was diverted to Riyadh on Saturday night after a bomb threat was reported on board, the airline said on Sunday.

The airline confirmed that flight AI114 landed safely in Riyadh, where security checks were carried out.

According to flight tracking website Flightradar24, the aircraft took off from Birmingham at 8.26 p.m. and was en route to Delhi when it had to make the emergency diversion.

Air India later issued a statement saying that all passengers were safe and efforts were underway to arrange their travel to

their final destinations. "The inconvenience caused to our passengers due to this unforeseen disruption is sincerely regretted. Alternative arrangements are being made to fly the passengers to their destinations," a spokesperson for the airline said.

The Tata Group-owned airline has recently taken steps to enhance safety measures following a



tragic crash in Ahmedabad on June 12.

As part of its response, Air India has introduced more rigorous pre-flight safety checks and temporarily reduced the number of flights to ensure smooth operations.

The airline also explained that factors such as airspace restrictions in the Middle East, night curfews at airports

in Europe and East Asia, and general air traffic congestion are contributing to delays and cancellations.

This is not the first time Air India has faced such a situation recently. On June 13, another Air India flight, AI379, travelling from Thailand's Phuket to New Delhi had to return to Phuket shortly after take-off due to a bomb threat.

The plane, carrying 156 passengers, circled the Andaman Sea before safely landing back at Phuket International Airport.

Thai airport authorities confirmed the emergency landing but did not share more details about the nature of the threat. Air India has not made a public statement about that incident.

BrahMos-armed frigate 'Tamal' to be commissioned on July 1 at Russian port

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

The Indian Navy is all set to commission its latest stealth multi-role frigate on July 1 at Kaliningrad in Russia, the Ministry of Defence announced on Sunday.

Christened "Tamal", the warship is the eighth in the series of Krivak class frigates inducted from Russia over the past two decades. Tamal is the second ship of the Tushil Class, which are the upgraded versions of their predecessors, Talwar and Teg classes, which have three ships each.

The ceremony will be presided over by Vice Admiral Sanjay J. Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, as the Chief Guest, in the presence of many high-ranking Indian and Russian government and defence officials, the official statement said.

India, as part of the broader contract for Tushil class, is also building two similar frigates called the Tripud class at Goa Shipyard Limited with transfer of technology and design assistance from the Russian side. By the conclusion of this series of ships, the Indian Navy will be operating ten ships with similar capabilities



and commonality in equipment, weapon and sensor fit over four different classes.

Tamal's construction was closely overseen by an Indian team of specialists from the Warship Overseeing Team stationed at Kaliningrad, under the aegis of the Embassy of India, Moscow. At the Naval Headquarters, the project was steered by the Directorate of Ship Production under the Controller of Warship Production and Acquisition.

Tamal has been built at Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia, and is the last warship to be inducted from a foreign source, in

systems.

The force multipliers include Air Early Warning and Multi Role helicopters, which can operate from the deck of Tamal. The combat capability of the ship is augmented by a host of Network Centric Warfare capabilities and an advanced Electronic Warfare suite. Tamal punches well above its weight with a very high tonnage to firepower ratio, extended endurance, and a top speed in excess of 30 knots. The crew, comprising over 250 personnel, have undergone rigorous ashore as well as afloat training in extremely challenging winter conditions of St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad. Tamal has successfully completed extensive sea trials undertaken over three months, proving its systems, weapons and sensors.

The frigate also features modern communication and data-link systems, navigation equipment and critical infrastructure, making the ship a powerful asset for naval operations. The major Indian OEMs involved were BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited, Bharat Electronics Limited, Keltron, Nova Integrated Systems from Tata, Elcome Marine and Johnson Controls India.

Women's College Anantnag celebrates 11th International Yoga Day

JI NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, JUNE 22

Government Degree College for Women, Anantnag, celebrated the 11th International Yoga Day on Saturday with great fervor and a historic turnout.

The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of students of the college, teaching and non-teaching faculty besides gazetted and non-gazetted staff.

Principal, Dr. Masood

Ahmad Malik, highlighted the vital role of yoga in maintaining both physical and mental well-being. He emphasized the relevance of yoga in today's fast-paced and stress-laden world, calling it a timeless practice that fosters holistic health.

Yoga session was led by a certified yoga instructor deputied by the District Youth Services and Sports. Under his expert guidance, participants engaged in

various yoga asanas with enthusiasm and ease, regardless of their experience level.

The collective practice created an inspiring and serene atmosphere, showcasing unity and dedication to a healthier lifestyle.

Celebrations paid tribute to the global spirit of International Yoga Day and reinforced the growing importance of yoga in cultivating a balanced, healthy, and mindful community.

Rana commends engineers for prompt restoration of Awantipora canal

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 23

Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, commended the remarkable achievement of Engineers of Jal Shakti Department for prompt restoration of a major breach in the Awantipora Canal at Village Waghama, bringing relief to the distressed farmers.

The breach, measuring around 40 meters in length and 20 meters deep, had occurred on the night of June 16-17, 2025, disrupting irrigation supplies to nearly 2,000 hectares of paddy land in Anantnag and Pulwama districts.

Following a visit from MLA Bijbehara, who assessed the situation and called for urgent action, the Jal Shakti Department sprang into action. A high-level meeting chaired by Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra,



was convened to discuss restoration options.

The experts worked tirelessly to explore solutions, and the department mobilised resources, deploying heavy earth-moving machinery to create a 130-meter canal detour and undertake temporary restoration works. The restoration work was completed within a record four days, ensuring resumption of irrigation supplies to the affected areas.

The Minister lauded the Additional Chief Secretary who supervised and led Department's Engineers who worked day and night

to restore the canal, reiterating the department's dedication towards supporting the farming community.

The farmers and public representatives have hailed this achievement, acknowledging the department's commitment towards ensuring adequate and assured irrigation supplies.

The restoration has brought relief to hundreds of farmers, enabling them to continue agricultural activities without major disruptions during the critical paddy transplantation season.

Suresh Sharma inaugurates key development works at Kabir Sabha, Maira Mandrian



JI NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, JUNE 22

Prominent BJP leader and District Development Council (DDC) member Pandit Suresh Sharma inaugurated developmental works worth Rs 3 lakh at Kabir Sabha, Maira Mandrian today. The completed projects include tile installation and essential preservation works aimed at improving the infrastructure and upkeep of the Sabha premises.

Addressing a gathering organized by Kabir Sabha on the occasion of Sant Kabir Das Ji's 627th Prakash Utsav (Birth Anniversary), Suresh Sharma expressed gratitude for the community's trust. He

stated, "Last year during this very event, the local community had raised a demand for these development works. I am proud to fulfill that promise today by dedicating these completed projects to the people."

He further remarked, "Under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, numerous welfare schemes are being implemented across the nation, touching lives and empowering every section of society."

Speaking on the spiritual significance of the day, Sharma added, "Sant Kabir Das Ji's teachings on truth, equality, and humility continue to illuminate our

path even today. By walking the path shown by him, we can build a more meaningful and fulfilled life."

Members of Kabir Sabha extended heartfelt thanks to Suresh Sharma for his commitment and urged him to continue prioritizing the community's development needs.

Several distinguished individuals were present at the event, including Dr. K.C. Bhagat, Ram Lal Sharma, Master Chanchal Singh, Akshay Magotra, Tarseem Lal, Ravi Kumar, Sabha President Thoru Ram, Pritam Lal, Sewaram, Ashok Kumar, Sudesh Kumar, Vijay Kumar, Shakti Kumar, and many other respected community members.

Rana visits Shopian; listens to people's grievances

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, JUNE 22

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today visited several areas in Shopian district and listened to people's grievances.

MLA Zainapora, Showket Hussain Ganie along with officers accompanied the Minister during his visit to places like Burihalan, Hirpora.

The people raised several issues while seeking Minister's intervention in speedy redress of the same.

The MLA, on the occasion, projected several grievances and demands pertaining to welfare and development of people of his constituency. He raised the issue of macadamisation of roads, upgradation of rural health infrastructure, better sanitation facilities and increasing supply time of water among other things.

A delegation of people



demanding implementation of Forest Rights Act guaranteed under the constitution and demanded fair review and scrutiny of their rejected claims to forest rights.

Another delegation from Hirpora complained about the shortage of portable water in their area and sought intervention of the Minister to address their concern immediately.

Likewise, another delegation raised the issue of better drainage facilities and complained that the roads get choked in rainy season giving a tough time

to the commuters.

The Minister assured the delegations that government is abreast with the problems faced by people and has taken slew of measures to address those on priority.

The Minister also took stock of the grievances pertaining to the departments under his control. He assured that the government would ensure outcome-based disposal of the issues raised by the people. He also assured that the issues pertaining to other departments will be forwarded to the concerned for timely action.

Varmul Gindo 2025 Ignites Baramulla with Spirit, Sportsmanship and Unity

JI NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, JUNE 22

Varmul Gindo 2025 is not just a sports event—it is a vibrant celebration of youth, energy, and community spirit in the district of Baramulla. Launched with great enthusiasm, this month-long multi-sport festival is a joint initiative of the J&K Sports Council, District Sports Association Baramulla, and the Indian Army. The festival aims to promote athletic excellence, foster unity, and engage the community through spirited and healthy competition.

With over 1,600 participants competing across more than 20 sports disciplines, the event has brought together schools, sports clubs, and enthusiasts from every corner of the district. The tournament officially kicked off on June 17 with a thrilling volleyball match between Elite Club and Khelo India at the Showkat Ali Indoor Stadium. Elite Club clinched a 3-1 victory in front of a spirited crowd, setting the tone for the



exciting weeks ahead.

The following days saw intense snooker and volleyball action. On June 18, snooker matches began at B-Town Club, where Azam defeated Ahmad and Mohammad Zaid triumphed over Azhar. On June 19, Salman beat Anees, and Azam secured another win by overcoming Sajad. In volleyball, Elite Club continued its dominant run with a 3-0 win against Welkins.

The momentum carried forward on June 20, with more gripping snooker fixtures. Zaid defeated Amir in Match 1, while Momin got the better of Reyaz in Match 2. Both matches showcased the rising talent and growing interest

in cue sports in the region.

On June 21, another electrifying volleyball showdown took place between Elite Club and Spartan Baramulla. In a tightly contested four-set match, Elite Club emerged victorious once again, maintaining its unbeaten streak in the tournament.

The festival has drawn enthusiastic crowds to each venue, with spectators turning out in large numbers to support their local heroes. From the quiet focus around snooker tables to the echoing cheers across volleyball courts, Varmul Gindo 2025 is successfully weaving a fabric of unity, passion, and sportsmanship throughout Baramulla.

Tony urges CM Omar to expedite PMAY cases in Rural, Urban areas

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 22

Senior Congress leader and DDC Member Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony, today made a fervent appeal to the administration to expedite the pending cases under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in both rural and urban areas, particularly for families living below the poverty line. He expressed the deep concern over the plight of homeless and shelterless people as the monsoon season is fast approaching, posing serious risks to their lives and dignity.

While interacting with the residents of various

panchayats in Suchetgarh constituency, Tony said that a significant number of deserving beneficiaries are still awaiting the construction of their houses under PMAY. "It is extremely unfortunate that despite clear eligibility and sanctioned cases, funds are yet to be disbursed, leaving the poor to fend for themselves under the open sky," he said.

He emphasized that the current delay in execution and disbursement is unacceptable, especially at a time when the region is bracing for heavy rains. "This is not just a matter of administration, but a humanitarian crisis in the making. Scores of fami-

lies with small children, elderly members, and women are compelled to live in makeshift shelters or under tarpaulins, which could collapse any moment during a downpour," Tony added.

The senior Congress leader appealed to the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, to immediately take cognizance of the issue and direct the concerned officers to release pending funds and clear all bottlenecks to ensure timely construction of PMAY houses. "This is the time for the administration to rise to the occasion and prove that the welfare of the poor is their top priority," he asserted.

11th International Yoga Day celebrated in RS Pura under supervision of SDM RS Pura



JI NEWS SERVICE
RS PURA, JUNE 22

The 11th International Yoga Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Chakroi Ground, Sub Division RS Pura, under the supervision of SDM RS Pura, Smt Anuradha Thakur. MLA Suchetgarh, Prof Gharu Bhagat, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Block-level officers of Sub Division RS Pura and community members actively participated in the program. The event aimed to promote yoga and its benefits among the masses. The program saw active participation from the community, highlighting the importance of yoga in daily life. The celebration was a grand success, thanks to the efforts of the Sub Division RS Pura team and the enthusiastic participation of the community. MLA Gharu Bhagat observed that International Yoga Day promotes awareness about yoga's numerous health benefits while encouraging people to adopt a yogic lifestyle. By emphasising yoga's benefits, the occasion aims to inspire individuals to make yoga a regular practice, cultivating inner serenity, mental clarity and overall health. Ultimately, the day celebrates yoga's transformative power of yoga in nurturing overall well-being, added SDM.

being. Observed annually on June 21, International Yoga Day celebrates the transformative gift of yoga, originating from ancient Indian tradition. By integrating the mind, body and spirit, yoga cultivates a profound sense of balance and harmony, nurturing both physical vitality and mental serenity, added MLA.

SDM RS Pura, Smt Anuradha Thakur, addressed the media and expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest and all dignitaries present for participating in the mega event. SDM said that the theme of International Yoga Day 2025 is "Yoga for One Earth, One Health" which emphasises the importance of yoga in fostering a harmonious balance between physical, mental and environmental well-being. This year marks the 11th anniversary of this global celebration. International Yoga Day promotes awareness about yoga's numerous health benefits while encouraging people to adopt a yogic lifestyle. By emphasising yoga's benefits, the occasion aims to inspire individuals to make yoga a regular practice, cultivating inner serenity, mental clarity and overall health. Ultimately, the day celebrates yoga's transformative power of yoga in nurturing overall well-being, added SDM.

SKUAST-Jammu signs agreement for establishing Bayer Learning Centre

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 22

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu has taken a significant stride in strengthening its industry-academia partnership by establishing the Bayer Learning Centre (BLC) under the dynamic leadership of Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor. This collaborative initiative with Bayer Crop Science aims to provide hands-on learning opportunities to students, aligning agricultural education with modern industry practices. The agreement to establish the BLC was formally signed between Mr. Gulshan Singh Rana, Head Market Development and Commercial Capability, Bayer Crop Science and Prof. S.K. Gupta, Director Research, SKUAST-Jammu. The initiative was coordinated by Prof. Sanjay Guleria, Dean, Faculty of Basic Sciences and Incharge, Counselling and Placement Cell.

The BLC will function as a field-based learning and demonstration platform, enabling students to gain practical exposure to innovative agricultural

technologies. SKUAST-Jammu will provide land, agricultural tools, machinery, and infrastructure support. It will also ensure regular academic guidance, faculty coordination, and management of produce generated from BLC demonstrations. Bayer will contribute by supplying essential inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, crop protection products, and micronutrients, and will bear the operational cost including labour charges. Additionally, Bayer will offer incentives or stipends to students actively involved in the centre's activities and will provide technical support through literature, expert visits, and training programs.

Both institutions will jointly develop an annual work plan, co-brand the centre, and document success stories and learnings for broader dissemination. The agreement is valid for an initial period of five years and may be extended with mutual consent. Prof. N. Tripathi emphasized that the BLC represents SKUAST-Jammu's strong commitment to experiential learning, skill development, and making students future-ready and industry-aligned.

Satish Sharma launches plantation drive in Hiranagar; emphasises importance of afforestation, ecological balance

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 22

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, inaugurated a plantation drive in Hiranagar the other day.

The event, held in collaboration with the Forest Department, witnessed wide participation from students, youth volunteers, environmentalists, government officials and locals.

MLA Hiranagar and several prominent local dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

Speaking at the event, the Minister said that the environmental health of Jammu and Kashmir, especially areas like Hiranagar with a delicate ecological balance, requires continuous and committed efforts from all stakehold-



ers. He emphasized that large-scale afforestation and community involvement are key towards safeguarding the region against deforestation, soil erosion, water scarcity and climate change.

"Forests are not merely natural assets; they are lifelines that sustain biodiversity, conserve water and purify the air. In the face of climate change and increasing environmental threats, it is our moral duty to plant more trees and

protect what nature has blessed us with," said the Minister.

The Minister also reiterated his government's commitment to green initiatives, noting that various departments under his charge, particularly Youth Services & Sports, will be directed to actively promote the environmental awareness and eco-friendly practices among the youth. He stressed the need to inculcate the values of environmental steward-

ship through school and college-level programs, including nature camps, eco-clubs and green volunteering activities.

Satish Sharma appreciated the efforts of the Forest Department and local administration for organizing the plantation campaign and called for such drives to be made a seasonal movement rather than a one-time activity.

MLA Hiranagar, while addressing the gathering, assured full cooperation in mobilizing the local resources for long-term ecological restoration.

Several community leaders also shared their views and pledged to support future plantation efforts in the area.

SDM Hiranagar, RTO Kathua, District Youth Services Sports Officer and senior officers of forest department and other allied departments were also present.

MD JKRLM visits Kupwara, conducts comprehensive review of works executed by JKRLM

J I NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, JUNE 22

Mission Director, Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) Dr Shubhra Sharma today visited Ramahal, Bategam, Trehgam and Dragmulla blocks of district Kupwara and conducted comprehensive review of works executed by JKRLM.

During the visit, the MD also interacted with the Cadre and Self Help Groups (SHGs) of JKRLM and gathered first hand appraisal from them about the implementation of various schemes of JKRLM. She also examined several initiatives set up in the district, evaluating their effectiveness and identifying opportunities for further enhancement.

She toured the agriculture based livelihood and dairy units at Bategam and Deedikoot (block Kupwara), engaging with women farmers and entrepreneurs. She also visited the Hallow brick unit, inaugurated a restaurant set up by Self-Help Group members associated with the Mission at Ramhall, and explored the Tarath-



pora Hitech poly house, AMC and Boutique in the same block.

The MD also inaugurated Integrated Farming Cluster (IFC) Nutnussa project in Drugmulla, marking another milestone and symbolizing the district's focus on agro-based industries and sustainable development.

Expressing her appreciation, the MD stated, "Kupwara is the best example

of women empowerment, where local women are leading initiatives and transforming their communities. We are committed to supporting these efforts and fostering further growth."

Furthermore, the MD directed officials to strengthen the upcoming marketing platform to facilitate better sales and visibility for local products and entrepreneurs, ensur-

ing sustained economic progress. She further asked them to strengthen the digital transactions among the SHG members. MD impressed upon the officials to prioritise group enterprises and CLF based enterprises in convergence with other line departments which will be run as business entities for the benefit of the women SHG members.

She impressed upon the officials that the NRLM programme can be successful only when its converged with other departments and directed the field staff to conduct awareness on convergence with other line departments.

Addressing the SHG members associated with JKRLM, the MD stressed upon the SHG members to avail the benefits envisaged under the Mission and strive for economic upliftment.

The Mission Director was accompanied by State Project Managers, District Program Manager (DPM) Block Program Managers (BPMs) and the Management Information System team (MIS) besides other officials.

Dr. Abid Rasheed reviews medical facilities for Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025 along Pahalgam axis

J I NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, JUNE 22

As part of ongoing preparations for the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025, Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, today visited the Pahalgam axis of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

The Secretary reviewed preparedness of the healthcare facilities at Nunwan Base camp, Sub District Hospital Pahalgam and the 100 bedded Base Hospital at Chandanwari.

Dr. Abid Rasheed was accompanied by Director Health Services Kashmir Dr Jehangir Bakshi, Director Family Welfare Dr Mushtaq Rather, Officer Incharge of Yatra from the Department, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Anantnag, Medical Director Yatra (Pahalgam axis) and other Nodal officers of the



Health Department.

The visit included a comprehensive inspection of the medical infrastructure and facilities being put in place for the annual pilgrimage.

During the inspection, Dr. Abid Rasheed reviewed key components of health-

care preparedness, including availability of essential medicines, deployment of medical and paramedical staff, readiness of medical emergency response systems and overall adequacy of healthcare infrastructure for Yatra duties.

The Secretary was

informed that medical stations enroute the Holy Cave are functional with deployment of advance medical teams. Further, the deployment of staff including doctors, paramedics and other staff shall be carried out in three phases for effective service delivery during the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Emphasizing the need for uninterrupted healthcare services, Dr. Abid Rasheed directed the officials to ensure 24/7 medical facilities, especially at high-altitude camps and other critical points along the Yatra route.

He also stressed the importance of a robust referral system for timely shifting of critical cases to higher-level healthcare institutions. He instructed the medical teams to maintain adequate stocks of drugs and other equipment.

DC Jammu reviews flood preparedness measures ahead of Monsoon

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 22

Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya chaired a meeting of senior officers today to review the flood preparedness and mitigation measures in the district ahead of the monsoon season.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Joginder Singh, Sub Divisional Magistrates, officers from the Flood Control Department, PHE, PWD, Health, Police and other concerned departments.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner



took a detailed review of the status of flood protection works, availability of machinery and readiness of the disaster response teams. He directed the concerned departments to ensure the timely completion of all ongoing works related to flood management and to keep all nec-

essary equipment in a state of readiness.

The DC emphasised the importance of inter-departmental coordination and directed the officers to identify vulnerable areas, particularly low-lying and flood-prone zones, and to take all precautionary measures to

safeguard life and property. He further instructed the Health Department to keep medical teams and ambulances on standby and to ensure adequate stock of essential medicines.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for regular monitoring of water levels in rivers and nullahs and called for the establishment of control rooms at the district and tehsil levels for prompt response to any emergency situation. He also directed the officials to spread awareness about safety measures during floods.

DAJGUA Campaign catalyses inclusive governance in Kishtwar's Tribal Belt on Day 8

J I NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JUNE 22

To ensure inclusive development and last-mile service delivery to the tribal community, District Administration Kishtwar hosted a vibrant multi-departmental camp was at Panchayat Ghar Neeju Kukerwas, Block Drabshalla, on the day 8 of the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gramin Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA).

The initiative—aimed at socio-economic empowerment of tribal communities—brought together several departments including Health, Agriculture, Education, ICDS, Employment, Rural Development, and Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA),



offering an array of services to the tribal community members. Their joint presence not only enhanced awareness of welfare schemes among the Scheduled Tribe (ST) population but also facilitated direct access to key entitlements and services.

Each department established dedicated facilitation kiosks offering real-time assistance in beneficiary enrollment, application processing, multilingual informational material,

and personalized consultations—thereby ensuring that critical services reach the remotest corners.

A key highlight of the day's proceedings was the grievance redressal forum, which allowed residents to voice their concerns regarding infrastructure gaps, healthcare access, education challenges and delays in scheme implementation. Officers engaged in open dialogue, offering immediate assurances and timelines for

resolution, reflecting the administration's commitment to responsive and accountable governance.

Field-level officers emphasized the significance of sustained community engagement and highlighted DAJGUA's role in narrowing the divide between administration and tribal citizens. The platform fostered mutual dialogue—enabling officials not only to disseminate information but also to listen, learn, and adapt to community-specific realities. The outreach received widespread acclaim from Tribal Community and local inhabitants, who lauded the district administration's proactive, empathetic and ground-level connect.

Awareness Workshop on PMFME Scheme held at Chamalwas-Banihal

J I NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JUNE 22

The Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing, with the support of the District Administration Ramban, organized a one-day awareness workshop on the PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme at Chamalwas-Banihal.

The workshop was held to spread awareness among farmers, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Cooperatives, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and unemployed youth about the benefits of the PMFME scheme.

Area Marketing Officer Tehsin Chib and the officers from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry departments, representatives from J&K Bank, NRLM, AGMO Batote Raju Zutshi, GMI Inderjit Singh, and DRP-PMFME provided an in-depth knowledge about



the scope of agro entrepreneurship in the rural areas and government incentives available under the scheme.

The Officers explained that the PMFME scheme helps people start food

processing businesses by giving financial help, training, and expert support for branding and marketing. "A 35% subsidy is available under the scheme, and help is also provided for preparing project reports,

to the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission. The workshop ended with an interactive session where participants asked questions and heard about successful local businesses started under the scheme.