

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Severe and continuous headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit
- Redness on the skin

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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>>> PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

Some reportage speculative, misleading about sketches, identities of terrorists: NIA

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUN 23 (KNO)

A day after arresting two accused charged for harbouring the terrorists who carried out April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday said that it has taken a note of media coverage, and has seen some reportage is speculative and therefore of misleading nature.

In a statement issued to the news agency, a NIA spokesman said, "Such reports circulating in sections of the media and on social media platforms are regarding the sketches and identities of the terrorists involved in the terror attack at Pahalgam."

He said, "It is reiterated that, as stated in the official press release dated 22 June 2025, two accused persons have been arrested in con-

nection with the attack. During their interrogation, they have disclosed details about the identities of the three armed terrorists involved."

"The NIA has gathered a substantial body of evidence regarding the identities of the terrorists. This includes eyewitness accounts from victims, video footage, technical evidence, and the sketches released by the Jammu and Kashmir Police. All this evidence is being carefully analysed and NIA has not reached any conclusions at this stage," the spokesman said, adding, "The NIA assures that the investigation is being carried out with the highest standards of professionalism, and all aspects of the terror attack are being thoroughly examined. The identities and further details of the terrorists will be made public at an appropriate time." KNO

Court sends 2 terrorist aides to 5-day remand

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 23 (KNO)

A local court in Jammu on Monday granted five-day remand of two terrorist aides, who were arrested for harbouring the Pakistani terrorists behind the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, to National Investigation Agency (NIA), officials told the news agency.

The two men - Parvaiz Ahmad Jothar from Batkote, Pahalgam, and Bashir Ahmad Jothar of Hill Park, Pahalgam - were arrested by NIA on Sunday in the first breakthrough in the investigations into the terror attack that left 26 persons, mostly tourists, dead and 16 others injured.

According to the NIA, the arrested accused have disclosed the identities of

the three armed terrorists involved in the attack, and have also confirmed that they were Pakistani nationals affiliated to the banned terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba.

The two accused were produced in the court of Additional District and Sessions Judge, Jammu, Ritesh Kumar Dubey, and were sent to NIA custody for five days till June 27, a court official said.

Parvaiz and Bashir had knowingly harboured the three-armed terrorists at a seasonal dhok (hut) at Hill Park before the attack, according to NIA investigations.

The two men had provided food, shelter and logistical support to the terrorists, who had, on the fateful

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J&K Gets Major Infra Boost; 19 Road and Tunnel projects worth Rs 10,637 Crore Approved

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 23

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha has expressed his gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari for giving approval to 19 mega road and tunnel projects worth 10, 637 crore with length of 296 kms for J&K UT.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has approved the Action plan of 2025-26 in respect of National Highways of J&K and sanctioned major projects include construction of Peer-Ki-Gali tunnel on NH-701A (Rs 3830 Cr), Construction of Sadhana tunnel on NH-701 (Rs 3330 Cr), Construction of Zaznar Shopian section of



NH-701A (Rs 852 Cr), 4-L flyover from Lal Chowk to Parimpora (Rs 700 Cr), Construction of Trehgam Chamkote section of NH-701 (Rs 966 Cr), Construction of 4-Lane Magam Flyover on Narbal-Gulmarg section of NH 701-A (Rs 445 Cr), Construction

of Qazigund Bypass (Rs 95 Cr), Construction of 2-L bridge over Rambiara at Shopian on NH-444 (Rs 71 Cr) and various other, including road safety projects.

"Many strategically important projects will improve logistical support

and troops mobility. Projects will improve Infrastructure in the Union Territory and connect various tourist destinations. Construction of tunnels will reduce the travel time, ensure all-weather connectivity and spur economic growth," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Ministry has also sanctioned preparation of DPR/Feasibility Study for various NH works to be up in next 3 years. These include widening and upgradation of NH-444 from Srinagar to Qazigund (63 kms), Construction of 2L+PS road from Shopian to Magam on NH-701A (75 kms), Construction of 10.80 Km long Panjtarni tunnel including approach (31 kms), Development of Domail - Katra -Bamla of NH-144 to 4-L specifications (82 kms).

LG Sinha addresses Cluster University Jammu's Mega Job Fair-2025 at Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 23

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today addressed Mega Job Fair-2025 organised by Cluster University of Jammu in collaboration with Desh Bhagat University Punjab, at Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government PG College for Women Gandhi Nagar Jammu.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor commended the significant initiative by Cluster University Jammu and Desh Bhagat University Punjab for bringing together a wide array of reputed national companies, offering employment opportunities to youth of J&K UT.

He also extended his felicitations to the companies that participated in Mega Job Fair and conveyed his best wishes to



the selected candidates. "Cluster University's job fair aims to bridge the gap between education and employment. It will provide an opportunity to our young generation to showcase their skills and empower them to start their careers so they can effectively contribute in building Viksit Jammu Kashmir and Viksit Bharat," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address,

highlighted the reforms, guided by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, which are shaping the education landscape to align with the needs of the industries and creating robust employment avenues for the youth of Jammu Kashmir.

"Employment generation, self-employment through entrepreneurship and improving employability of the youngsters through educational trans-

formation has been our top priority. Our efforts to attract industries in J&K since 2021 have helped in connecting young job seekers directly with employers," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He observed that the presence of local private companies at today's Job Fair serves as a testament to the significant strides being made in industrialization and expansion of trade and business activities in the UT of Jammu Kashmir.

"The operationalisation of new industries is also offering youth better exposure about diverse roles and positions in industries suited for their skills and experience. The overwhelming response from the private sector to recruit youth from J&K is a positive indicator for our economy," the

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'Operation Sindoor' achieved all its objectives: Rajnath Singh

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUN 23 (KNO)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said that 'Operation Sindoor' launched by India last month in retaliation against the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead, achieved all its objectives.

Addressing a gathering at an event held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan complex here, the Defence Minister, according to the news agency said, "Operation Sindoor achieved all



objectives. It also succeeded in injecting fear into the minds of terrorists."

Pertinently, to avenge the terror attack, India launched "Operation Sin-

door" on May 6, 2025, to destroy terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, while security agencies also cracked down on terrorist

sympathisers to destroy terror infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir.

The strikes carried out by the Indian Air Force deep inside Pakistan and the PoK destroyed nine terrorist camps, following which skirmishes broke out between India and Pakistan armies that continued for 4-days.

The hostilities ended on May 10 after the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) from Pakistan called his counterpart in New Delhi and requested for a ceasefire. KNO

Under PM Modi's rule India witnessing convergence between public, private sectors: Dr Jitendra Singh

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUN 23 (KNO)

Emphasizing that India never lacked talent but previously lacked policy support, Union Minister of State at Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Dr Jitendra Singh on Monday said that country under PM Modi's rule is witnessing convergence between public and private sectors.

Addressing a news conference here, Dr Singh, according to the news agency, said, "In other countries, there is no hard demarcation between public and private in scientific work. We have started moving in that direction."

He said that India has transformed into a global leader in science and technology over the past decade driven by a politi-



cal climate that enabled scientific risk-taking and innovation. "The last 11 years turned technology into the engine of India's growth story. More importantly, we are no longer a technology follower but a technology leader."

The Minister said that India is now setting global best practices in science and innovation rather than waiting to adopt them from abroad.

He credited this shift

to a "supportive political dispensation" after 2014 that allowed scientists the freedom to experiment even when success wasn't guaranteed.

"What a scientist needs most is the liberty to try and that space was given to us by the hon'ble Prime Minister," he said, adding, "Opening up space and nuclear sectors to private participation has encouraged global collaborations." KNO

Amid heatwave, J&K braces for light to moderate rains from Wednesday

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 23 (KNO)

The weatherman here has predicted a major relief from the scorching heat, saying there is a forecast of intermittent light to moderate rain and thundershower at many places of Kashmir from Wednesday.

According to the forecast details obtained by the news agency, hot and humid weather conditions are expected to continue tomorrow with the possibility of brief spells of rain and thundershower at scattered places.

As per an Independent Weather Forecaster, Aadil Maqbool, the hottest day of the season is expected tomorrow as Srinagar City may touch 36 degrees Celsius.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that intermittent spells of light to moderate rain and thundershower are expected at many places with the possibility of heavy rain at isolated places of Jammu division from June 25 to June 27.

He added that between June 28 to 30, there is a possibility of intermittent rain and thundershower at scattered places while from July 01 to 02, there is a possibility of intermittent rain and thundershower at scattered places.

In this regard, the MeT has issued an advisory, stating that there is a possibility of moderate to heavy rain with intense showers at a few

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Chief Secretary reviews urban transformation, livelihood generation schemes of H&UDD



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 23

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a crucial meeting of Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) to comprehensively review the progress on various works and schemes pivotal to transform the lives of people across the urban areas of J&K.

The significant deliber-

ations saw the participation of officers including Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Commissioner JMC/SMC; MD, J&K Housing Board; MD, NULM and other concerned officers while Deputy Commissioners from all districts joined the proceedings virtually.

During the extensive review, the Chief Secretary emphasised on prompt completion of Smart City

works that have been ongoing for several years. He observed that many of these projects are in their final stages of completion so it is imperative that we push for their swift conclusion now to ensure the intended benefits reach our citizens without further delay.

Reviewing the housing schemes under Pradhan Mantri Awas

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

DA-JGUA: Special camp organised at village Kachnambal, Kangan to strengthen tribal welfare

JJ NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, JUNE 23

In a continued effort to bring governance and welfare services to the doorstep of tribal communities, a special camp under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA) was organised today at Village Kachnambal, Block Kangan, as part of the PM JANMAN (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan) framework.

The event, organised by the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) team, witnessed enthusiastic participation from local tribal residents, reflecting growing awareness and engagement with government-led empowerment initiatives. The camp aimed to saturate eligible beneficiaries with welfare schemes and promote



inclusivity through direct service delivery.

A comprehensive range of services was provided on-site, including, Aadhaar enrolment and updates, registration under Ayushman Bharat - PM-JAY, issuance of Scheduled Tribe (ST) certificates, PM-KISAN scheme enrolment, Jan Dhan account facilitation, Sickle Cell disease screening and awareness, linkages with other PM JANMAN and tribal welfare schemes.

Alongside service facilitation, IEC team conduct-

ed interactive awareness sessions to inform and educate the tribal population on key schemes related to health, education, skill development, social protection, and livelihoods. Participants were encouraged to raise questions, share feedback, and receive clarifications from on-ground officials.

The camp also included community engagement activities, promoting tribal heritage and encouraging community pride in indigenous identity. Multilingual IEC materials were

distributed to ensure clarity and accessibility across all age groups.

The program saw active involvement of sectoral officers, PRI members, frontline workers, and CSC representatives, showcasing effective coordination and convergence at the grassroots level.

The camp concluded with a collective reaffirmation to further the mission of social justice, empowerment, and tribal prosperity under the DA-JGUA initiative in district Ganderbal.

Shri Machail Mata Yatra-2025

DC reviews arrangements for pilgrims, pays obeisance at Temple shrine

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JUNE 23

Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma visited the revered Shree Chandi Mata Darbar in Machail today, where he paid obeisance and took stock of the arrangements for Shri Machail Mata Yatra 2025, scheduled to commence on July 25, 2025.

The DC evaluated key infrastructure and amenities including sanitation, water supply, electricity and road connectivity, expressing satisfaction with the progress made so far.

He informed the road to Machail is complete upto Chishoti and work on the Chishoti Bridge is in full swing. He acknowledged certain bottlenecks but reaffirmed that the work



is progressing at full speed and will be completed in a time-bound manner.

While the official Yatra will start on July 25, a large number of pilgrims have already begun visiting the Holy Shrine of Machail Mata.

Interacting with local residents and the pilgrims, the DC took direct feedback from them and stated that this year a significant increase in pilgrim turnout is expected. He urged devotees to maintain cleanliness and adhere to

all necessary guidelines to support the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

The DC directed the concerned officers to ensure round-the-clock monitoring and address issues promptly to deliver a safe, comfortable and spiritually enriching experience to the pilgrims.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Pawan Kotwal, SDM Dr Amit Bhagat besides other Senior Officers and concerned Staff accompanied the DC.

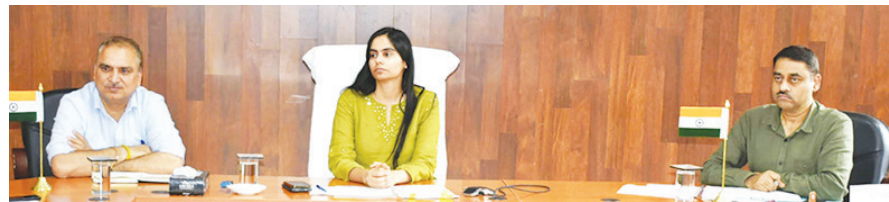
Power shutdown

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 23

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that in order to execute the work of erection of hybrid module and preventive maintenance, the power supply to Sangaldan, Gool, Thentharka, Dharan, AFCON and adjoining areas will remain affected on June 24 from 10 am to 4 pm. Similarly, the power supply to Dachhan, Ikhal and adjoining areas will remain affected on June 24, 25 and 26 from 8 am to 4 pm. Likewise, the power supply to Parade, Pacca Danga, Gummat, Raghunath Bazar, Prem Nagar, Gujjar Nagar, Shadi Chowk, Lakhdatta Bazar, Jogi Gate and adjoining areas will remain affected on June 24 from 6 am to 9 am. Similarly, the power supply to District Reasi, Rajouri, Poonch and part of District Jammu will remain affected on June 24 from 5 am to 9 am.

PM Surya Ghar Bijli Yojana

DC Reasi calls for speeding up registration, installation process



JJ NEWS SERVICE
REASI, JUNE 23

Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in the district.

The DC reviewed the number of registrations, applications received, and the current status of installations under the scheme. It was informed that a total of 1026 registrations have been done with 140 installations completed and 26 in the queue.

Taking serious note of

the slow installation, the DC directed the XEN JPDCL to fix responsibility and take strict action against those who have failed to meet the targets.

Emphasizing the importance of coordinated efforts, DC Nidhi Malik asked stakeholder departments to increase outreach to encourage maximum number of to avail the benefits of the scheme. The meeting also featured discussions on vendor selection processes to ensure quality and timely service delivery.

Furthermore, DC Reasi reviewed the functional-

ity status of solar panels installed on government buildings. The ACD informed that 21 solarisation units have been installed, out of which 12 are currently functional. The DC instructed the ACD to verify the status of these units through the concerned BDOs and coordinate with JKEDA for prompt repairs wherever necessary.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Sukhdev Samyal, CPO Narinder Kumar, Executive Engineer of JPDCL, CEO, all AEEs, JES and other concerned officers.

JKEDI commences week-long Management Development Programs

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 23

The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Monday commenced Management Development Programs (MDP) in 11 Districts of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme. The initiative is being funded by the Union Ministry of MSME and implemented in the Union Territory by the Industries and Commerce Department.

The Management Development Programmes (MDPs) were inaugurated in district Kathua, Kishtwar, Reasi, Samba, Udhampur, Anantnag, Bandipora, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Poonch and Rajouri. A total of 222 candidates including 168 women have been registered for the MDP, who shall undergo a 30-hour training over six days.

At Udhampur and Poonch, the program was inaugurated by Mohinder Kumar Sharma, Deputy Director, District Employment and Counselling Centre, Udhampur and Abdul Majid Tantray, Deputy Director, District Employment and Counselling Centre, Poonch respectively.

At Rajouri, Baramulla and Kishtwar districts, the MDPs were inaugurated by Ujwal Mahajan, Princi-



pal Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Rajouri, Javed Ahmad Ganie, Principal, Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Baramulla and Zubair Ahmad, In-charge Principal, Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Kishtwar respectively.

At Bandipora, Samba, Reasi, Anantnag, Ganderbal and Kathua, the MDPs were inaugurated by the JKEDI course team.

The MDPs coordinated by JKEDI District Centres witnessed participation from the local MSMEs, who will be provided with the real time know-how of running and managing the businesses. The programme will help the MSMEs of the area to enhance their skills and interact with the experts from different line departments.

The program aims to strengthen the managerial, financial and strategic skills of the entrepreneurs and small business owners, empowering them to scale up operations, enhance competitiveness and create sustainable enterprises. This flagship

initiative is being implemented in alignment with the broader objectives of the Government of India's RAMP program to bolster the MSME ecosystem.

The MDP curriculum has been meticulously designed by subject matter experts and includes modules on business planning, marketing strategies, digital tools, financial literacy, compliance, innovation and leadership. The program also includes mentorship sessions, case studies and hands-on workshops to provide real-world insights.

Over the next six days, the local entrepreneurs, MSME operators and aspiring business leaders will engage with industry professionals, JKEDI faculty and certified trainers in an interactive learning environment. The simultaneous launch of MDPs in 11 districts ensures equitable access to resources and training opportunities, particularly in remote and underdeveloped areas.

The MDPs under RAMP initiative in the remaining nine districts of Jammu and Kashmir shall begin on June 25 and June 30, 2025.

Distt admin B'pora intensifies IEC campaign against drug abuse across panchayats



JJ NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JUNE 23

As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan (NMJKA), district administration Bandipora on Monday organised a series of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) programmes across multiple panchayats in the district to raise awareness on the harmful effects of drug abuse and to promote a collective resolve for a drug-free society.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, presided over an IEC event at Garoora-B and addressed participants on the importance of community participation in tackling substance abuse. He emphasized that the menace of drug addiction can only be defeated through united efforts at the grassroots level.

DC urged parents, teachers, youth, and civil society members to remain vigilant and proactive in guiding the younger generation away from the trap of addiction.

The IEC programmes were simultaneously held across various blocks including Naidkhai,

Hajin, Tulail, Bonakoot, Arin, Aloosa, and Bandipora, covering locations viz. Shahgund-A, Gundi Preng, Zaidigay-B, Kralpora, Kudara, Kema, and Garoora-B. These awareness events witnessed active participation from local communities including youth, women, and elders.

Resource persons from departments such as Health, Education, Police, Social Welfare, Youth Services & Sports, Excise & Taxation, and JKNRLM conducted engaging sessions highlighting the psychological, social, and economic consequences of drug abuse.

They also informed participants about available rehabilitation services, helpline support, and government initiatives aimed at prevention and recovery.

District administration reiterated its commitment to carry the anti-drug awareness campaign to every corner of the district as part of a mission-mode approach under Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan, ensuring that every individual becomes a stakeholder in building a drug-free society.

DAJGUA Day 9: Pulwama admin organises mega awareness & Saturation Camp at Shar Pampore

JJ NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, JUNE 23

As part of the ongoing nationwide flagship initiative Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), district administration Pulwama today organised a mega awareness and benefit saturation camp at Shar Pampore.

The event aimed to bring essential services and individual entitlements directly to the doorsteps of tribal communities, in line with the campaign's vision of inclusive development.

A wide range of departments including Health, Education, Social Welfare, Rural Development, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Mission Poshan, Forest, among others had set up dedicated service stalls. These stalls offered real-time enrolment, scheme consultations, and awareness dissemination, ensuring effective last-mile service delivery.

DDC Member Pampore, Tazeem was also present on the occasion. Addressing the gathering, she lauded the initiative's



grassroots impact and its role in empowering tribal communities through targeted outreach. She interacted with the public, heard their concerns, and assured sustained coordination for timely implementation of welfare schemes.

To enhance access to quality healthcare among tribal households, Health department had established a dedicated medical camp where a team of doctors and paramedics provided free consultations and on-spot treatments.

Special focus was laid on raising awareness regarding sickle cell disease and water-borne illnesses, with health experts educating the community on preventive healthcare, hygiene practices, and early symptom recognition. The camp also featured testing for key health indicators including sickle cell screening, basic diag-

nostics, and water-borne disease assessments to enable early detection and timely intervention.

The camp was also attended by officers including Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Awantipora; Chief Medical Officer, Pulwama; Block Development Officer, Pampore and other field functionaries.

ADC Awantipora inspected departmental stalls and reviewed the progress of service delivery. He appreciated the inter-departmental coordination and stressed on the need to ensure that every eligible beneficiary is covered under the ongoing saturation drive.

The camp saw an overwhelming response from tribal residents, leaders and youth representatives, who commended the initiative for delivering crucial services and support at the grassroots level.

32,336 PMAY (G) houses, 95 Panchyat Ghars completed in Ramban

JJ NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JUNE 23

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan today conducted a comprehensive review of the progress achieved under various schemes and projects of the Rural Development Department.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather; Assistant Commissioner Development Shrinath Suman; Assistant Commissioner Panchayats Ashfaq Ahmed; Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Block Development Officers and representatives from the banks.

The Deputy Commissioner took a block-wise review of the progress from the concerned BDOs and stressed on the need

to accelerate the pace of development and timely completion of the ongoing projects.

To strengthen the monitoring mechanism, the Deputy Commissioner instructed BDOs to submit daily progress reports to his office. He further directed officials to identify bottlenecks in implementation and take immediate corrective measures to overcome the same.

Focusing on financial facilitation and beneficiary support, the DC directed bankers to establish help desks at their respective branches to ease payments and services to MGNREGA Job Card holders and the beneficiaries of the welfare schemes. The CPO was tasked with compiling relevant data to clear existing pendency in coordination

with BDOs and banks.

Earlier, the ACD presented a detailed PowerPoint briefing on the physical and financial achievements across the 11 blocks of the district. He informed that a total of 32,336 houses have been completed under PMAY-G and 52,352 Job Card holders are currently registered in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA). The ACP informed that 1,418 Individual Household Latrines (IHLLs) have been completed under SBM-G in the district. He further briefed that the district has a total of 143 Panchayats of which Panchayat Ghars have been completed in 95 Panchayats, while work on 23 is in progress.

30 farmers deputed for capacity building programme in Kulgam

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JUNE 23

In order to promote employment generation in the floriculture sector, a group of 20 progressive farmers from the district was deputed to SKUAST-Kashmir for capacity building training under HADP project, Cluster-Based Floriculture Entrepreneurship of Employment Generation scheme.

The group was flagged-off from the premises of the mini-secretariat Kulgam jointly by the Assistant Commissioner Revenue Kulgam, Riyaz

Ahmad Shah and Chief Agriculture Officer, Farooq Ahmad Reshi.

It was informed that the training programme aims to foster a sense of attachment among the progressive farmers of the district towards the floriculture industry, which offers a viable option for crop diversification and reduces dependency on traditional farming practices.

As part of the training schedule, the group will visit KVK Pombay on 24 June, 2025 and the Lavender Farm at Sirhama, Anantnag on 25 June, 2025.

Distt admin B'pora organises NMBA pledge ceremony to strengthen fight against drug abuse

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JUNE 23

As part of the ongoing campaign under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), district administration Bandipora on Monday organised a mass pledge-taking ceremony at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Bandipora to reaffirm commitment towards a drug-free society.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, administered a pledge to the participants, urging all government functionaries to lead by example in spreading awareness against substance abuse. Senior officers of the district administration also participated in the pledge taking ceremony along with their subordinate staff.

The event was conducted as a significant activity under the month-long awareness calendar



initiated by the district administration from June 2 to June 26, aimed at reinforcing public resolve against drug addiction.

On the occasion, DC reaffirmed the administration's commitment to support this mission

by involving all sections of society in the fight against drug abuse. The campaign underscored the importance of a united and community-driven response to combat the growing menace of substance abuse.

Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan pledge emphasized the role of youth in nation-building and their responsibility in shaping a drug-free society. It highlighted the importance of individual commitment alongside

community, family and peer efforts to combat substance abuse.

The pledge called upon all citizens to unite in the mission of making our district and Jammu and Kashmir UT, free from drug addiction. It reinforced the idea that change must begin from within and urged everyone to contribute their best efforts to eliminate drug abuse and create a healthier, empowered nation. Similar functions were organised at Sumbal and Gurez sub-divisions of the district with full fervor and enthusiasm, witnessing active participation from officials and staff at all levels.

DC Srinagar reviews progress on implementation of Mission Yuva in the district

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 23

In order to review the progress on the implementation of Mission Yuva, a meeting was held here under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, General Manager DIC, Hamida Akhtar, SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar, Deputy Director Employment, Dr. Sheeba, DSEO, Shah Ismail Bangroo, Purnima Kaku from NABARD, LDM, Nilofar

Jan and Officers from EDI, NABARD, NRLM, Agriculture and other concerned Departments.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed appraisal of the key activities in implementation of the Mission Yuva initiative in Srinagar District since its inception aimed at ensuring proper handholding and accessible support for aspiring youth to promote entrepreneurship and self-employment ecosystem in the District.

On the occasion, the DC stressed on conducting an impactful awareness campaign for one week in all Gram Panchayats to identify and cover the eligible youth under the initiative.

Similarly, the DC asked for launching a comprehensive IEC campaign in all Municipal Wards in next 2 weeks under the scheme.

The DC underscored the importance of seamless coordination among various Departments for effective implementation of the scheme. He set a clear timeline for verification of the applications, DPR formulations and simultaneous uploading of the cases on the designated portal by the respective Department.

The DC emphasized conducting DLIC meetings on a weekly basis for approval of the cases with timely disbursement by the Banks. Stressing adherence

to the scheme's guidelines in letter and spirit, the DC highlighted the importance of continuous monitoring to enhance the initiative's impact and foster a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem in Srinagar. He emphasized that the initiative represents a vital step towards boosting self-employment and entrepreneurship and highlighted the role of the line Departments in facilitating entrepreneurship, business development, and financial linkages.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner was given a detailed appraisal about the execution of the Mission Yuva in the District by Deputy Director Employment.

RKS approves annual development plan for Govt Hospital Sarwal



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 23

A meeting of the Governing Body of Rogi Kalyan Samiti, Government Hospital Sarwal was held today under the chairmanship of MLA Jammu West Arvind Gupta to review and approve an array of developmental initiatives proposed for the financial year 2025-26.

The proposed initiatives aim to enhance hospital infrastructure and elevate the standard of patient care in a phased and sustainable manner.

The meeting was attended by key members of the Governing Body including Medical Superintendent Dr Sunil Kailu; District AYUSH Officer; Deputy Medical Superintendent; Executive Engineer PWD, Bakshi Nagar Division; Executive Engineer PDD Canal Road; Assistant Executive Engineer PHE, Bakshi Nagar, besides Civil

Society representatives Arun Khanna, Suresh Sahni, Veenu Khanna and Babu Ram Jandiwal and hospital staff.

In his address, the MLA lauded the consistent dedication of medical professionals and stakeholders in advancing healthcare delivery. He emphasized the critical role of collaborative action in ensuring accessible, efficient and compassionate healthcare services for the people of Jammu.

The meeting focused on comprehensive areas of improvement, including infrastructure upgrades, procurement of essential medical equipment, strengthening staffing structures and implementing innovative healthcare technologies. Esteemed members actively contributed insights and suggestions, reinforcing their shared commitment to continuous improvement.

Power-Packed Cricket action unfolds on Chowgan Grounds

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JUNE 23

The District Youth Services & Sports department (DYSS) today hosted the Inter-Zonal District Level Cricket Tournament for Under-14 and Under-17 boys and girls here on the iconic Chowgan Grounds.

The tournament brought together talented youth from five zones—Drabshalla, Kishtwar, Nagensi, Paddar and Inderwal—who competed with exceptional enthusiasm, teamwork and competitive zeal. The event served as a platform to encourage healthy competition, identify emerging talent, and promote sports at the grassroots level across the

district.

District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO) Jaffer Haider Sheikh interacted with the young players, offering motivational words and advice on discipline, consistency and the core values of sportsmanship. His presence significantly uplifted the morale of the participants.

The tournament was closely supervised by ZEPOs from Kishtwar and Nagensi zones along with the other officials from the Youth Services & Sports Department. Matches were conducted in accordance with guidelines and safety protocols, ensuring a secure and inclusive sporting environment.

SUMMER SPECIAL TRAINS-2025															
For the convenience of rail passengers, Railways have decided to run the following Summer Special Express Trains as per schedule given below:-															
Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Frequency	Day	Period								
04088	New Delhi	15:50	Patna Jn	08:40	Daily		upto 10.07.2025	05057	Gorakhpur Jn	22:45	Delhi Jn	12:50	Weekly	Thu	06.02.2025 till further advice
04087	Patna Jn	10:00	New Delhi	03:20			upto 11.07.2025	05058	Delhi Jn	14:00	Gorakhpur Jn	06:25		Fri	07.02.2025 till further advice
04064	New Delhi	09:30	Sheikhpura	04:30	Bi-weekly	Mon, Thu	upto 10.07.2025	01701	Jabalpur	19:40	Ayodhya Cantt	11:00	Weekly	Wed	upto 25.06.2025
04063	Sheikhpura	06:00	New Delhi	01:10		Tue, Fri	upto 11.07.2025	01702	Ayodhya Cantt	13:30	Jabalpur	04:15		Thu	upto 26.06.2025
04066	New Delhi	21:35	Saharsa Jn	22:00	Bi-weekly	Mon, Thu	upto 10.07.2025	03309	Dhanbad Jn	10:10	Jammu Tawi	22:40	Bi-weekly	Tue, Sat	upto 28.06.2025
04065	Saharsa Jn	23:55	New Delhi	23:30		Tue, Fri	upto 11.07.2025	03310	Jammu Tawi	23:30	Dhanbad Jn	13:00		Wed, Sun	upto 29.06.2025
04022	New Delhi	14:00	Gorakhpur	05:00	Weekly		upto 11.07.2025	02397	Gaya	14:15	Anand Vihar (T)	07:10	Weekly	Sun	upto 29.06.2025
04021	Gorakhpur	07:00	New Delhi	23:10		Sat	upto 12.07.2025	02398	Anand Vihar (T)	08:20	Gaya	00:30		Mon	upto 30.06.2025
04081	New Delhi	23:45	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:40	Tri-weekly	Mon, Wed, Sat	upto 12.07.2025	03257	Danapur	07:30	Anand Vihar (T)	00:30	Weekly	Sun	upto 27.07.2025
04082	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	21:20	New Delhi	09:30		Tue, Thu, Sun	upto 13.07.2025	03258	Anand Vihar (T)	05:00	Danapur	20:45		Mon	upto 28.07.2025
04012	Delhi Jn	19:30	Darbhanga Jn	20:30	Bi-weekly	Tue, Fri	upto 11.07.2025	03697	Gaya	14:15	Delhi Jn	07:45	6 Days a week	Exc-Sun	upto 30.06.2025
04011	Darbhanga Jn	22:00	Delhi Jn	22:40		Wed, Sat	upto 12.07.2025	03698	Delhi Jn	08:55	Gaya	00:30		Exc-Mon	upto 01.07.2025
04024	Delhi Jn	19:30	Varanasi Jn	09:45	Tri-weekly	Mon, Thu, Sat	upto 10.07.2025	05577	Saharsa Jn	20:00	Anand Vihar (T)	00:30	5 Days a week	Except Thu, Sat	upto 30.06.2025
04023	Varanasi Jn	18:35	Delhi Jn	08:50		Tue, Fri, Sun	upto 11.07.2025	05578	Anand Vihar (T)	05:15	Saharsa Jn	10:30		Except Sat, Mon	upto 02.07.2025
04026	Delhi Jn	23:05	Raxaul Jn	19:00	Weekly	Thu	upto 10.07.2025	02393	Rajendra Nagar (T)	19:45	New Delhi	12:10	6 Days a week	Except Thu	upto 30.06.2025
04025	Raxaul Jn	22:00	Delhi Jn	17:45		Fri	upto 11.07.2025	02394	New Delhi	18:30	Rajendra Nagar (T)	10:00		Except Fri	upto 01.07.2025
04018	Anand Vihar (T)	09:00	Muzaffarpur Jn	04:30	Weekly	Thu	upto 10.07.2025	02877	Ranchi	23:55	New Delhi	03:00	Weekly	Fri	upto 27.06.2025
04017	Muzaffarpur Jn	06:15	Anand Vihar (T)	03:10		Fri	upto 11.07.2025	02878	New Delhi	04:00	Ranchi	05:00		Sun	upto 29.06.2025
04020	Anand Vihar (T)	19:30	Barauni Jn	18:00	Weekly	Sun	upto 06.07.2025	05736	Katihar Jn	21:00	Amritsar Jn	09:45	Weekly	Wed	upto 25.06.2025
04019	Barauni Jn	20:00	Anand Vihar (T)	19:00		Mon	upto 07.07.2025	05735	Amritsar Jn	13:25	Katihar Jn	23:45		Fri	upto 27.06.2025
04096	Anand Vihar (T)	04:59	Jaynagar	05:20	Bi-weekly	Mon, Thu	upto 10.07.2025	09183	Mumbai Central	22:50	Varanasi Jn	10:30	Weekly	Wed	upto 25.06.2025
04095	Jaynagar	07:30	Anand Vihar (T)	08:10		Tue, Fri	upto 11.07.2025	09184	Varanasi Jn	14:30	Mumbai Central	04:20		Fri	upto 27.06.2025
04098	Anand Vihar (T)	05:00	Sitamari	02:30	Bi-weekly	Tue, Fri	upto 11.07.2025	03223	Rajgir	06:05	Haridwar Jn	06:05	Weekly	Fri	upto 27.06.2025
04097	Sitamari	03:45	Anand Vihar (T)	01:30		Wed, Sat	upto 12.07.2025	03224	Haridwar Jn	07:20	Rajgir	23:15		Sat	upto 28.06.2025
04094	Anand Vihar (T)	23:55	Jogbani	07:30	Weekly	Thu	upto 10.07.2025	03221	Rajgir	14:00	Martyr C Tushar M	07:05	Weekly	Mon	upto 30.06.2025
04093	Jogbani	09:30	Anand Vihar (T)	16:00		Sat	upto 12.07.2025	03222	Martyr C Tushar M	03:15	Rajgir	15:00		Wed	upto 02.07.2025
04207	Lucknow Jn	08:05	New Delhi	18:30	Weekly	Mon	upto 07.07.2025	05742	New Jalpaiguri	13:40	Ayodhya Cantt.	09:30	Weekly	Sun	upto 29.06.2025
04208	New Delhi	20:20	Lucknow Jn	06:35		Mon	upto 07.07.2025	05741	Ayodhya Cantt.	11:40	New Jalpaiguri	09:30		Mon	upto 30.06.2025
04217	Varanasi Jn	06:25	Lucknow Jn	11:45	Daily		upto 30.06.2025	03311	Chandigarh	23:50	Dhanbad Jn	09:00	Bi-weekly	Tue, Fri	upto 29.06.2025
04218	Lucknow Jn	16:30	Varanasi Jn	21:50			upto 30.06.2025	05113	Chhapra	15:45	Anand Vihar (T)	14:25		Wed	upto 16.07.2025
04219	Shahganj Jn	22:35	Ayodhya Dham Jn	01:40	Daily		upto 10.07.2025	05114	Anand Vihar (T)	16:00	Chhapra	14:00	Weekly	Thu	upto 17.07.2025
04220	Ayodhya Dham Jn	02:10	Shahganj Jn	04:40			upto 10.07.2025	05301	Mau Jn	04:00	Ambala Cantt	00:30		Thu	upto 17.07.2025
02270	Lucknow Jn	14:15	Chhapra	21:30	06 days a week	Except Tuesday	upto 11.07.2025	05302	Ambala Cantt	01:40	Mau Jn	22:00	Weekly	Fri	upto 18.07.2025
02269	Chhapra	23:00	Lucknow Jn	06:30		Sun	upto 06.07.2025	05193	Chhapra	14:00	Martyr C Tushar M	23:05		Mon	upto 14.07.2025
04604	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	18:15	Varanasi Jn	19:00	Weekly		upto 06.07.2025	05194	Martyr C Tushar M	00:10	Chhapra	08:00	Weekly	Wed	upto 16.07.2025
04603	Varanasi Jn	05:00	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	06:00		Tue	upto 08.07.2025	07363	Hubballi Jn	20:30	Yog N Rishikesh	23:30		Mon	24.02.2025 till further advice
04206	Varanasi Jn	14:50	Chandigarh	07:45	Weekly	Sat	upto 05.07.2025	07364	Yog N Rishikesh	06:15	Hubballi Jn	06:30	Weekly	Thu	27.02.2025 till further advice
04205	Chandigarh	09:30	Varanasi Jn	01:20		Sun	upto 06.07.2025	01491	Pune	17:30	Hazrat Nizamuddin	18:10		Fri	upto 27.06.2025
04518	Bhatinda Jn	20:50	Varanasi Jn	17:30	Bi-weekly	Mon, Fri	upto 11.07.2025	01492	Hazrat Nizamuddin	22:10	Pune	23:55	Weekly	Sat	upto 28.06.2025
04517	Varanasi Jn	20:50	Bhatinda Jn	17:00		Tue, Sat	upto 12.07.2025	09101	Vadodara Jn	16:45	Haridwar Jn	14:30		Sat	upto 28.06.2025
04302	Yog N Rishikesh	15:20	Muzaffarpur Jn	13:00	Weekly	Tue	upto 15.07.2025	09102	Haridwar Jn	16:45	Vadodara Jn	12:00	Weekly	Sun	upto 29.06.2025
04301	Muzaffarpur Jn	15:00	Yog N Rishikesh	14:20		Wed	upto 16.07.2025	07023	Charlapalli	20:45	Hazrat Nizamuddin	02:00		Weekly	Sun
04610	Jammu Tawi	06:20	Varanasi Jn	05:10	Weekly	Thu	upto 09.07.2025	07024	Hazrat Nizamuddin	04:00	Charlapalli	06:30	Weekly	Tue	upto 01.07.2025
04609	Varanasi Jn	09:00	Jammu Tawi	07:45		Fri	upto 10.07.2025	07621	H Sahib Nanded	08:45	Hazrat Nizamuddin	14:00		Weekly	Sat
04304	Yog N Rishikesh	15:20	Gorakhpur	06:20	Weekly	Sat	upto 12.07.2025	07622	Hazrat Nizamuddin	21:40	H Sahib Nanded	00:35	Bi-weekly	Fri, Sun	upto 29.06.2025
04303	Gorakhpur	09:00	Yog N Rishikesh	00:55		Sun	upto 13.07.2025	09309	Indore Jn	17:00	Hazrat Nizamuddin	05:00		Bi-weekly	Fri, Sun
04602	Firozpur Cantt Jn	15:10	Patna Jn	18:00	Bi-weekly	Wed, Sat	upto 12.07.2025	09310	Hazrat Nizamuddin	08:20	Indore Jn	21:00	Bi-weekly	Sat, Mon	upto 30.06.2025
04601	Patna Jn	20:50	Firozpur Cantt Jn	23:55		Thu, Sun	upto 13.07.2025	09003	Mumbai Central	10:30	Delhi Jn	10:00		Bi-weekly	Tue, Fri
04608	Amritsar Jn	20:10	Darbhanga Jn	02:30	Weekly	Fri	upto 11.07.2025	09004	Delhi Jn	13:05	Mumbai Central	13:30	Bi-weekly	Wed, Sat	upto 28.06.2025
04607	Darbhanga Jn	04:00	Amritsar Jn	10:30		Sun	upto 13.07.2025	09425	Sabarmati	17:20	Haridwar Jn	17:00		Bi-weekly	Thu, Sun
04211	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	16:35	Sultanpur Jn	23:00	Weekly	Tue	upto 24.06.2025	09426	Haridwar Jn	21:00	Sabarmati	22:30	Bi-weekly	Fri, Mon	upto 30.06.2025
05559	Raxaul Jn.	05:30	Udhna Jn.	12:35		Sat	upto 26.07.2025	09603</							

DC Srinagar reviews status of Rooftop Solar Installations under PM Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojna

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 23

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Monday chaired a meeting of Engineers of KPDCL here at the Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex to review the status and progress of installation of Solar Rooftops under PM Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojna (PM-SGBY).

Besides Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, the meeting was attended by Executive Engineers, AEEs & JEs of KPDCL, Lead District Manager (Banks) and other Officers of Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL).

At the outset, the DC took a firsthand appraisal of the progress made in installation of Solar Rooftops under



PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in all 4 Electric Divisions of the District.

On the occasion, the DC emphasized the benefits of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli scheme and urged KPDCL functionaries to generate awareness among the people about the benefits of installing Rooftop Solar plants under PM Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojna.

The DC said that the scheme must be implemented in the district in such a way that we ensure scheme benefits percolate down to common public throughout Srinagar.

The DC stressed on the coordinated efforts by the KPDCL Engineers to accelerate the pace and progress in the scheme implementation.

Kathua district achieves major headway in execution of PMGSY projects

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, JUNE 23

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Surinder Mohan today chaired a meeting to review the status of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) projects. The meeting was held in the VC Room of the DC Office Complex.

Reviewing the performance of the PMGSY Kathua Division, the Executive Engineer informed that of 124 projects sanctioned under Phase I work on 123 has been completed, while all 6 schemes under Phase-II stand completed. Similarly 6 out of 8 schemes sanctioned under Phase-III have been completed. Additionally, 10 new schemes have been earmarked under Phase-IV for implementation.



The ADCD was also apprised that out of 13 bridge projects taken up in the division, 5 have been completed, while utility shifting is pending on 5 other bridges.

In the PMGSY Division Billawar, of 122 schemes sanctioned under Phase-I, 114 have been completed. The remaining 8 schemes—4 each in Billawar and Bani Sub-Divisions—are pending due to forest clearance and other related issues, even as all schemes sanctioned under Phase-II and Phase-

III have been completed. The Division has received sanction of 5 new schemes under the Phase-IV.

The ADCD instructed the concerned Executive Engineers to expedite the execution of all pending works and ensure their timely completion. He emphasized on resolving bottlenecks to achieve the set targets within stipulated time frame.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Kathua, Ranjit Thakur and other concerned officers.

DC launches intensive awareness, benefit saturation campaign under Dharti Aaba Abhiyan in Rajouri

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JUNE 23

In a major initiative aimed at bridging developmental gaps in tribal areas, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today launched an intensive campaign under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJ-GUA) across the district.

As part of this campaign, awareness and benefit saturation camps were held across the 30 villages the other day. The campaign witnessed overwhelming public participation, reflecting the people's trust and growing awareness about govern-



ment initiatives for tribal upliftment.

As many as 30 senior officers were deputed to oversee the camps and focus on gap analysis in service delivery and developmental initiatives.

Similar special camps were also organised today at five key locations of Larkuti, Soker, Gundha,

Khawas, Panjah and Thatpali Ponthal, spanning across five blocks of the district.

"The primary objective of these camps is to ensure 100% saturation of welfare schemes, generate awareness about entitlements and collect real-time feedback from the tribal population," the DC said.

Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan: Awareness campaigns held across Rajouri District to combat drug abuse



JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JUNE 23

A series of impactful awareness programs were organized today across the Rajouri district under the aegis of Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan.

The events organised on the directions of Deputy Commissioner

Abhishek Sharma, witnessed enthusiastic participation from the general public, who actively engaged in discussions and activities, highlighting the dangers of drug abuse and encouraging collective action against it. Resource persons from multiple departments addressed the gather-

ings, providing valuable insights into the health hazards and the disastrous consequences of substance abuse on the society.

Speakers emphasized the importance of a drug-free lifestyle and how each individual can play a role in building a healthier and stronger nation.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Court sends 2...

afternoon, selectively killed the tourists on the basis of their religious identity, making it one of the most gruesome terrorist attacks ever, the NIA said. KNO

LG Sinha addresses...

Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the progressive Industrial Policy and several key interventions that have attracted private investment in J&K UT over the past few years.

He said the industries had availed the benefits of Rs 28,400 cr worth incentives under New Industrial development scheme in just two and a half years.

"Rs 25,000 crore worth of investment plans are currently at various stages of implementation. Projects worth Rs 10,000 crore have been completed and have commenced production. The remaining Rs 15,000 crore worth of projects, presently at different stages, will start this year.

Nearly, Rs 60,000 cr worth proposals are pending. These have been stalled due to some reasons, and I hope a decision will be made on them in the near future," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The Lieutenant Governor also attributed the exponential growth registered in the employment generation and entrepreneurship sector in J&K to the dedicated efforts of all stakeholders.

He highlighted their crucial role in successfully implementing schemes and programs like PM's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), Hausla, Tejaswini, Mumkin, and Mission Youth, along with other initiatives focused on youth empowerment and livelihood generation.

Interacting with the representatives of the participating companies, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted that efforts are being made to provide youth with employment opportunities. He said the new Industrial policy has emphasised on employment to local youth on priority.

Atomic North Private Limited has established a BPO in a village in Kathua, providing employment to approximately 375 youths. The company has a potential to employ up to 1000 youth. I have urged them to start a BPO in Udhampur. JSW Group is also bringing a BPO to Jammu, he further said.

The Lieutenant Governor distributed job offer letters to selected candidates. He also handed over approval for BBA BCA courses to Cluster University, from AICTE.

Mega Job Fair 2025 is a significant step towards empowering youth and enhancing employment oppor-

tunities for the youth. As many as 57 reputed companies from across the country participated and 3759 candidates were registered for the Job Fair.

Prof K.S. Chandraseker, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu; Dr. Sandeep Singh, President, Desh Bhagat University, Punjab; Dr. Geetanjali Andotra, Principal GCW Gandhi Nagar, Heads of various departments and educational institutions, representatives of various reputed companies, youth and people from different walks of life were present.

Amid heatwave, J&K...

places, mainly in Jammu division from June 25 to 27. It added that flash floods at a few vulnerable places with landslides, mudslides and shooting stones are expected.

Water logging in low-lying areas of the plains of Jammu division and a rise in water level in rivers and local nullahs are expected, the advisory reads, adding that farmers are advised to suspend irrigation, spraying and fertiliser application from June 25 to June 27.

Meanwhile, the maximum temperature continued to settle above normal in Kashmir while it remained below normal at a few places of Jammu division.

In Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, the mercury settled at 34.6 degrees Celsius, while in Jammu, the winter capital of the region, a maximum temperature of 36.6 degrees Celsius was recorded on Monday.

Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, recorded 33.4 degrees Celsius while Pahalgam, a famous tourist destination, recorded 28.8 degrees Celsius. In Kupwara, the mercury settled at 33.5 degrees Celsius, and Kokernag and Gulmarg, a famous ski resort, recorded 32.6 degrees Celsius and 25.2 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Banihal in Jammu division recorded 30.5 degrees Celsius while Katra recorded 32.5 degrees Celsius. Batote and Baderwah recorded 29.1 degrees Celsius and 32.0 degrees Celsius, respectively—(KNO)

Chief Secretary reviews...

Yojana (Urban) [PMAY(U)], being implemented through the J&K Housing Board, the Chief Secretary called for intensified efforts on completing houses under Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC), Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS), Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) and Economically Weaker Section (EWS) verticals. He asked the Housing Board to proactively engage with the beneficiaries to ensure dwelling units are completed within stipulated timeline.

The performance of e-buses, introduced under the FAME project, also came under scrutiny.

Shia Federation holds Extraordinary General Body at Mendhar

JI NEWS SERVICE
MENDHAR, JUNE 22:

An extraordinary General Body meeting of the Shia Federation—a prominent non-political, socio-religious welfare organization of Jammu province—was convened today in Mendhar. The gathering saw participation from representatives of 35 Anjumans in the presence of dozens of independent observer from across the province and was presided over by renowned religious scholar and preacher, Molana Syed Zakir Hussain Jafri.

The meeting focused on two major agenda items:

1. Approval of Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

The General Body unanimously passed a set of constitutional amendments to the Federation's charter, which had been in effect since 2007.

2. Formation of an Ad-Hoc Committee

The body resolved to constitute an ad-hoc committee to manage the Federation's affairs for a three-month period. This interim arrangement will remain in place until fresh elections are held under the revised constitutional framework.

A significant development during the session was the successful passage of a vote of no confidence against the current President, Mr. Ashiq Hussain Khan.

The motion, initiated by 10 Anjumans and passed unanimously by all 35 Anjumans of the General Body present on the occasion, marked a strong expression of disapproval.

Members criticized Mr. Khan for attempting to retain his position through nomination, bypassing the formation of an election commission and neglecting the democratic processes defined in the Federation's constitution.

Additionally, a unanimous resolution was passed requesting Mr. Khan to immediately cease using the Federation's name in any personal or public capacity—including on public platforms, news channels, and social media. Members urged him to refrain from any actions that might create divisions within the community.

As part of the transitional process, the General Body unanimously elected Syed Nazir Hussain Shah as Chairman of the ad-hoc committee. Shah, known for his administrative capabilities, will oversee the organization's operations and facilitate the upcoming elections during his three-month tenure.

The Presidents of following Anjumans which constitutes the electoral College of the Federation were present in the meeting:

1. Anjuman e Jafria Poonch 2. Anjuman e Jafria Gulpur 3. Anjuman Tanzeel Ul Momineen Mandi 4. Anjuman e Kazmia Qasba 5. Anjuman e Jafria Degwar 6. Anjuman Aal e Mohammad Sathra 7. Anjuman e Jafria Surankote 8. Anjuman e Jafria Moh. Sadat Nagar 9. Anjuman Ansar ul Mehdi Surankote 10. Anjuman e Jafria Sangla 11. Anjuman Hussaini Lapara 12. Anjuman Haideri Sanai 13. Anjuman e Hussaini Banola Salwah 14. Anjuman Saneye Batool Salwah 15. Anjuman e Haideri Mendhar 16. Anjuman Azaadaraan e Hussain Mendhar 17. Anjuman e Kazmia Rellan 18. Anjuman e Imamia Kasyote 19. Itrat Society Gursai Mohri 20. Anjuman Maasumia Hundi Gursai 21. Anjuman Sajjadiya Bai Dhara Gursai 22. Anjuman Mehdi Aakhir ul Zaman Khankah

23. Anjuman Imam Mehdi Chottey Shah Mendhar

24. Anjuman Imamia Jammu 25. Anjuman Haideri New Plot Jammu 26. Anjuman Imamia Chanderkot 27. Anjuman e Kazmia kaini Chajjla 28. Anjuman Gulshan e Zahra Gali Sayedan 29. Anjuman Kazmia Gohlad 30. Anjuman Pasdaraan-e-Abbass Dhair

Besides, Five other Anjumans participated in the meeting on virtual mode.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Syed Munir Hussain Shah, President of the host Anjuman. During his address, he briefed the participants about the formation of the Federation, recalling his role as one of its founding members. He emphasized that the entire exercise undertaken by the General Body was aimed at unifying the community and promoting its welfare and growth in all aspects of life.

DC inaugurates Intensified Diarrhoea Control Programme at DH Bandipora

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JUNE 23

In a significant step towards combating water-borne diseases, the Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF) campaign was formally inaugurated today by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, at District Hospital Bandipora.

On the occasion, DC administered a pledge to health officials and field workers, urging them to ensure comprehensive outreach and proactive engagement with communities to minimize the impact of diarrhoeal diseases. He emphasized the importance of preventive care, timely treatment, and community awareness in reducing the burden of such illnesses in the district.

The inaugural event witnessed the presence of Chief Planning Officer, Medical Superintendent DH Bandipora, District Health Officer

along with other senior medical professionals and health workers.

The programme kicked-off with an awareness session aimed at educating the public on the importance of hygiene, sanitation, and the timely use of Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) and Zinc in treating diarrhoea, especially among children.

"This campaign is not just about treating diarrhoea, but about preventing it through awareness and preparedness. Our aim is to reach every household with key messages about hygiene and the correct use of ORS and Zinc," said Medical Superintendent DH Bandipora.

The IDCF campaign, observed across the country, will continue in Bandipora district over the coming weeks, with intensified activities including door-to-door visits, community education drives, and distribution of IEC (Information, Education and Communication) material.

Distt admin Pulwama intensifies awareness campaign under Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan

JI NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, JUNE 23

Continuing its mission to combat the menace of drug abuse, district administration Pulwama today organised a series of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) camps at various panchayats across all the blocks of the district.

During the sessions, resource persons sensitised participants, especially the youth, about the harmful physical, psychological, and social impacts of substance abuse.

The sessions focused on key areas such as early detection of drug addiction, importance of community vigilance, and the supportive role of families in rehabilitation. Special emphasis was placed on educating participants



about the availability of local counselling and de-addiction services.

To enhance outreach, a wide range of IEC materials, including brochures, posters, and pamphlets with key messages on prevention, support systems, and helpline numbers, were also distributed among the participants. Participants were also encouraged to become ambassadors of change within their communities.

The programmes witnessed active participation from officials of Health,

Education, Social Welfare, Rural Development, and Police. Representatives from Panchayats, Self Help Groups (SHGs), civil society, students, and local youth also took part in the events with enthusiasm.

The campaign will continue in the coming days with similar initiatives planned across educational institutions, panchayats, and urban areas of the district, aiming to strengthen awareness and ensure community-level engagement in the fight against drug addiction.

DC Kathua reviews anti-flood measures

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, JUNE 23

Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rakesh Minhas today chaired a high-level meeting to review and strategize anti-flood measures in view of the imminent monsoon season.

The meeting focused on ensuring robust coordination among the stakeholder departments for effective planning and execution of flood mitigation efforts.

A key decision taken during the meeting was the establishment of a 24x7 Composite Control Room at the DC Office Complex, which will become operational from July 1, 2025. The control room will facilitate real-time coordination and communication among all concerned departments. The general public can contact the Control Room on 01922-238796 to report any flood-related incidents or issues.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for synergy among departments, including Revenue, Police, Health and Irrigation & Flood Control. He underscored that coordinated efforts are key to timely response and risk mitigation during potential flood events.

A detailed review of ongoing flood control measures was undertaken, covering desilting of kulls



and nallahs, strengthening of embankments and establishment of flood shelters. The Irrigation and Flood Control Department apprised the DC of the status of these initiatives and ongoing efforts to enhance the district's flood defense infrastructure.

The DC directed the concerned departments to expedite the pace of work and ensure completion of flood prevention measures before the onset of monsoon. He further instructed departments to procure essential flood-response equipment, including wireless sets, dewatering pumps, waterproof tents and to ensure proper cleaning and functioning of drainage systems in Kathua town and other vulnerable rural areas.

Block Development Officers (BDOs) were asked to work in close coordination with field functionaries to implement necessary anti-flood measures at vulnerable spots.

It was informed that Early Warning Systems have been installed at Panjirthi and Rajbagh Barrage, which will significantly improve alert

mechanisms. Additionally, siren systems installed at Jakhole and Ujh Barrage will be activated during extreme weather warnings to alert residents in nearby areas.

The DC also stressed the need to sensitise Chowkidars, Lambardars, and other community stakeholders to raise awareness about evacuation protocols and flood safety measures.

The mechanism for issuing timely alerts to residents living near riverbanks and low-lying nallah areas was discussed in detail. The DC highlighted the importance of prompt information dissemination, early warning systems and comprehensive community outreach to educate people about flood risks and necessary precautions. The meeting was attended by ADDC Kathua Surinder Mohan, ASP Rahul Charak, ACD Akhil Sadotra, SE Hydraulic, XENS of Irrigation and Flood Control and representatives from the Army, CRPF, SDRF and Civil Defence. SDM Bani, SDM Hiranagar and other concerned officers joined the meeting virtually.

DIPR Kulgam organizes mega awareness programme on drug abuse at Bus Stand Laroo

JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JUNE 23



JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JUNE 23

To curb the rising menace of drug abuse and to raise public awareness, department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Kulgam, in collaboration with the district administration, today organized a mega awareness programme at Bus Stand Laroo.

The programme aimed to sensitize the general public, particularly youth, about the devastating impacts of drug addiction and the significance of building a drug-free society. Traditional folk

artists and local cultural performers conveyed powerful anti-drug messages through impactful and engaging performances.

Resource persons from concerned departments delivered insightful talks, highlighting the psychological, social, and legal consequences of substance abuse. They also apprised the audience about various government-run de-addiction and rehabilitation programmes in the district.

Among others, officials from the Social Welfare department, Information and representatives from other allied departments were present at the event.

DC Ramban convenes introductory meeting with Civil Society Members

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JUNE 23

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired an introductory meeting with members of Civil Society to promote public engagement in governance and developmental activities.

The meeting was attended by members of Bar Association, prominent Citizens, besides heads of social, religious and business organizations.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather and other officers of the District Administration were also present.

During the interaction, the Deputy Commissioner reiterated the District Administration's commitment to strengthening a public-centric governance system in the district, emphasizing that efforts are being made to reach



out to people at their doorsteps to ensure quality and efficient services delivery.

He appealed to the participants to actively participate in the planning and execution of developmental works, emphasizing that public involvement is crucial for achieving holistic and sustainable development in the district. He assured that visible progress would be ensured on the ground through participatory governance and a focused developmental mission.

Responding to issues of public importance raised by the participants, the Deputy Commissioner and ADC briefed them about the steps being taken to resolve the same. They said that district adminis-

tration is always available for the public and they are free to come up with matters of public-interest.

Seeking community support for the smooth and successful conduct of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, the Deputy Commissioner underlined the district's role in facilitating and welcoming Yatris passing through the district. He called upon the civil society to join the District Administration to welcome the Yatris.

The participants appreciated the initiative and assured full cooperation to the District Administration in implementing welfare schemes and ensuring greater community participation in development and governance processes.

Distt admin B'pora intensifies fight against Child Labour with joint awareness & inspection drive at Aloosa

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JUNE 23

As part of the ongoing Pan India Child Labour Eradication drive, and on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, district administration Bandipora today conducted a comprehensive awareness and inspection campaign in Aloosa, Bandipora.

A joint team comprising officials from Child Welfare Committee (CWC), District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Childline, Labour department, and district Police Bandipora, all working in tandem to combat the persistent issue of child labour carried out the drive.

The joint teams engaged with local communities, shopkeepers, and establishments to raise awareness about the severe legal and social ramifications of employing children. Emphasis was placed on sensitizing the public to the provisions of the Child



and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, urging them to prioritize child right to education and a safe environment.

Beyond awareness, campaign involved meticulous inspections aimed at identifying instances of child labour. The participating departments leveraged their respective expertise to ensure a thorough sweep, with a clear mandate to take legal action against anyone found violating child labour laws.

This drive in Aloosa is a crucial component of district administration

Bandipora's broader commitment to eradicating child labour, aligning with the national directive for intensified efforts. District administration Bandipora, has been actively promoting a child-friendly environment, recognizing that child labour deprives children of their fundamental rights and perpetuates cycles of poverty.

Chairperson CWC Bandipora highlighted their role in ensuring the rehabilitation and reintegration of rescued children, providing them with access to education, healthcare, and a nurturing environment.

Dharti Aabha awareness camps held at Chilly Pingal, Dhadkaie in Gandoh

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JUNE 23

A vibrant celebration under the ongoing Dharti Aabha Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan was successfully organized at two key locations of District Doda—Playground Katha, Panchayat Haddal, Block Chilly Pingal and Panchayat Dhadkaie A & B, Block Gandoh, Tehsil Bhalessa.

The events were conducted under the guidance of the Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and supervised by the Block Development Officer Chilly Pingal and District Ayush Officer Dr. Ajay Kumar Tikoo.

At Playground Katha, the programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from the local tribal community, ex-PRI members and frontline workers. The departments of Health, AYUSH, ICDS, Social Welfare, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Education and RDD set up informative stalls and offered on-the-spot services and demonstrations related to key government schemes to empower the



tribal population.

Simultaneously, an awareness camp was organized at Panchayat Dhadkaie A and B by the staff of AHWC Kota. The camp saw active participation from the Scheduled Tribe (ST) population, where 51 beneficiaries received AYUSH

medicines for various ailments, reinforcing the government's commitment to inclusive healthcare access.

Both events reflected a united effort towards sustainable grassroots development, focusing on tribal welfare, health equity and awareness.

Traffic awareness programme held at Laroo Bus Stand

JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JUNE 23

To promote road safety and responsible driving habits among commuters and transporters, Assistant Regional Transport Office (ARTO) Kulgam today organized a traffic awareness programme at Laroo Bus Stand.

The event witnessed participation from drivers, transport workers and members of the general public. Programme aimed to educate participants about traffic rules, importance of wearing helmets and seatbelts, avoiding overloading, and



the dangers of drunk and rash driving.

Speaking on the occasion, ARTO Kulgam, Dr Showkat Ahmad emphasized the need for collective responsibility in ensuring road safety. He urged drivers and com-

muters to strictly adhere to traffic regulations, for their own safety and for the safety of others. The awareness programme included interactive session and on-spot counseling of drivers regarding safe driving practices.

10-Day internship for college students begins at SDRF 2nd Battalion Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 23

A 10-day Training Internship Programme for students of Government MAM College Jammu was inaugurated today here at the SDRF 2nd Battalion headquarters. The programme aims to enhance disaster preparedness and response capabilities among youth.

The inauguration was led by Commandant, SDRF 2nd Battalion Zahid Naseem Manhas in the presence of Dy. SP (Bn. Adjutant) Manzoor Husain.

In his address, the Commandant emphasized the importance of strengthening the capabilities of stu-

dents to become effective first responders during the disasters. He highlighted the role of the SDRF as a vital organization for collective preparedness and swift response during emergencies.

Instructions were issued to the instructors to provide comprehensive and practical training to the participating students. The objective of the internship is to equip students with the knowledge and skills required to mitigate the impact of disasters in their localities, thus playing a crucial role in minimizing potential losses. Earlier, Dy. SP (Training) Dinesh Gupta delivered the Welcome address.

EDITORIAL

Gratitude in parallel, governance in silos?

In a political spectacle that speaks volumes about the evolving power dynamics in Jammu and Kashmir, both the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha have separately expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for sanctioning an ambitious Rs 10,637 crore package for road, tunnel, and flyover infrastructure projects in the Union Territory. This instance—where both constitutional heads of the same region issue parallel statements of thanks—raises more questions than it answers. The Centre's approval of 19 critical infrastructure projects, including the much-anticipated Peer-Ki-Gali and Sadhana tunnels, and urban mobility upgrades such as the four-lane flyovers in Srinagar and Magam, should ordinarily be a moment of collective celebration and coordinated planning. Yet, the absence of a joint front by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) and the Raj Bhawan hints at the underlying friction in the bifurcated administrative setup of J&K—a region that has, since 2019, walked a tightrope between elected governance and central oversight. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was quick to frame the development as the fruit of his government's "aggressive follow-up," attributing the success to his administration's persistent lobbying with the Union Government. The language of ownership and credit was unmistakable in his social media post, casting the development as a personal and political milestone. Meanwhile, the Lieutenant Governor's Office—constitutionally still very much in the picture—issued a separate expression of gratitude, without any apparent coordination with the elected government. This simultaneous but siloed messaging reflects a troubling duality in governance. While the people of J&K yearn for unified leadership and coherent direction, what they witness is a power structure that functions more like two parallel governments—each eager to claim credit, but not necessarily to collaborate. The opposition, unsurprisingly, seized the opportunity with a mix of sarcasm and skepticism. "Obviously, both governments of a UT are so profusely grateful," one leader quipped, casting a shadow of doubt over the unity of intent behind these grand announcements. If infrastructure development is to be the engine of progress, then political maturity must be its fuel. Celebrating these projects should not descend into a game of who thanked the Prime Minister better or first; it should instead focus on ensuring timely execution, local employment generation, and lasting impact. This acknowledgment is not just symbolic—it speaks to an ongoing identity crisis in J&K's governance. Is it a Union Territory under central command, or is it a quasi-state with functional autonomy? And more importantly, are the political players willing to rise above party lines to put the people first? In the end, roads and tunnels may connect mountains and valleys, but it is political cohesion that truly connects a government to its people. If the leadership—elected and appointed—can't even share a common platform to celebrate development, how can they be trusted to navigate the region through more complex challenges? The people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve better than two power centers sending out separate thank-you notes. They deserve a united leadership, speaking in one voice, working towards one goal: progress without pettiness.



BY SHAHID AHMED HAKLA POONCHI

In cities across India, a common scene has become a symbol of silent conflict—municipal teams clearing roadside areas, while handcart owners watch their goods being taken away, damaged, or destroyed. These anti-encroachment drives, meant to maintain public order, often end up causing emotional and economic devastation for thousands who earn their living through street trading.

It is a complex issue. On one hand, city authorities are doing their job—trying to ensure roads remain decongested and public spaces are safe. On the other hand, handcart owners, many of whom are poor and marginalized, have no designated space or licenses, and rely on their carts to survive.

This is not just a question of law—it is a question of humanity, of inclusion, and of how we treat our weakest citizens.

What Actually Happens During These Drives

Municipal drives are often conducted as part of routine efforts to maintain cleanliness and order in public spaces. Officers, along with sanitation staff or local police, reach areas where roadside carts operate. However, due to the sudden nature of these drives, many cart-pullers—some just beginning their day—may find themselves unprepared, highlighting the need for better coordination and communication on both sides.

Some plead, some beg, others simply watch helplessly. "Please don't take this—this is for my

children," they cry. But often, the response is swift and harsh. Carts are pushed aside, baskets of fruits dumped, stalls loaded into trucks. There are no formal receipts, no fines issued, and no clear explanation given. This sudden force turns daily work into devastation in minutes.

This method, while effective in clearing spaces, leaves behind broken livelihoods—and more importantly, damaged trust between citizens and the institutions meant to serve them.

Hardships of the Handcart Owners

Most handcart owners are informal workers with no stable income, fixed space, or official identity. They push heavy carts over long distances, carry perishable goods, and sit under harsh weather conditions for 10-14 hours a day. Their investment is small—a few thousand rupees—but it's often all they have.

A fruit seller in Jammu said, "I don't block the road. I just stand in a corner to earn my daily bread. But one morning, they threw my bananas into the drain. I cried not because I lost money—I cried because I felt invisible."

Their stories are not uncommon—and neither are their struggles. Most of them have no access to formal vending zones, licensing systems, or legal awareness.

The Role of Municipal Corporations: Duty With Dignity

Municipal corporations are not villains in this story. They have a duty to maintain cleanliness, safety, and urban order. Encroachment on footpaths, traffic bottlenecks, and sanitation issues are real concerns. No city can function if every space is taken over informally.

But while their duty is justified, the method often isn't. Throwing away someone's livelihood is not regulation—it feels like punishment. Instead of abrupt removal or destruction, authorities can choose measured steps:

1. Issue warnings
2. Impose fines
3. Seize goods temporarily
4. Identify repeat offenders separately
5. Provide vending alternatives where possible

This way, order is maintained—without cruelty.

Even some officials agree that a more balanced approach is needed. "We understand their pain," said a senior Jammu Municipal official. "But the city has to function. We are ready to cooperate if handcart owners come forward for registration and follow rules."

Urban planners too have voiced the need for more compassion. Prof. Neeraj Sharma, an expert on inclusive cities, says, "Street-level earners are part of urban India. Ignoring them or crushing them is not development—it's displacement. We need co-existence strategies, not confrontation."

Real Examples From Across India

Jammu (January 2025)
Over 100 street vendors and shopkeepers staged a protest outside the residence of former CM Farooq Abdullah after the Jammu Municipal Corporation conducted a major anti-encroachment drive. The vendors alleged their goods were confiscated without warning and demanded an immediate halt to the operation.

Srinagar (January 28, 2022)

During a Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) drive at Jahangir Chowk and Hari Singh High Street, several street vendors had their carts forcefully seized or vandalized. Multiple videos went viral showing vendors screaming:

"Look how they are snatching our livelihood, where will we go? I've a family to feed."

"I'm a father of four girls... please don't do this, where will I go?"

Nagpur, Maharashtra (May 2025)

The Sitabuldi hawking zone,

used by around 1,000 vendors, was cleared in an anti-encroachment drive. Licensed hawkers were relocated to areas with poor footfall, with allegations that many returned after paying bribes Ranchi, Jharkhand (June 2025)

Over 100 vendors were evicted from major public roads. Though officials claimed prior warning, traders—including Ram Avadhesh and Rekha Mandal—argued they were given no viable alternatives.

Guwahati, Assam (June 2025)

Street vendors in Ganeshguri, Bhangagarh, and Jalukbari faced repeated evictions. Despite fines (up to 10,000) or confiscation, many returned within days—pointing to the cyclical nature of these drives.

A National Picture: Data and Reality

Over 2.5% of India's urban population earns a living through mobile street trading (Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs).

The National Policy on Urban Street Vendors estimates that over 10 million families rely on informal cart-based trade.

A study in Delhi found that 70% of roadside sellers were evicted without any notice or paperwork.

In 2013, the Supreme Court of India upheld the rights of informal traders, saying: "The right to livelihood is a facet of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution."

Yes, Cities Need Development—but It Must Be Inclusive

There's no question that urban areas must be organized. Public walkways must be free, traffic must move smoothly, and sanitation must be ensured. But in the process, we cannot erase people—especially those who rely on informal work for survival.

Development is not just about removing the poor—it's about including them with dignity. Simply throwing their belong-

ings away doesn't eliminate the problem—it deepens inequality, and pushes them into debt, depression, and distrust.

If a cart is illegal or in the wrong place, seize it, fine it—but do not humiliate the person behind it. Create clear policies, provide designated vending spaces, and let people earn with self-respect.

Solutions That Serve All

We need a new approach that protects both public order and the right to livelihood:

Establish vending zones with proper facilities

Create transparent licensing systems

Give prior written notices before action

Train municipal staff in humane enforcement

Provide low-cost stalls or carts on rent

Set up grievance cells for street workers

Let handcart owners be seen as part of the economy—not a problem to be erased.

Policy Suggestions

Fast-track implementation of Town Vending Committees (TVCs)

Launch mobile registration and ID drives for cart-based traders

Include informal earners in Smart Cities Mission planning

Partner with NGOs for rehabilitation and alternate site planning

A City That Cares is a City That Grows

Urban development is necessary. But it must be done with care, consultation, and compassion. We cannot build smart cities by breaking the backs of those who serve us through the most basic forms of trade.

Let us create spaces for them—not sweep them away. Let us impose rules—not cruelty. Let us regulate—not ruin. Because in the end, no city is truly developed if its poorest are left behind on the footpaths of silence.

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Swami Buddha Amarnath: Ancient Shiva Shrine of peace, devotion and communal harmony in Pir Panjal



OMKAR DATTATRAY

Jammu and Kashmir and to be specific Kashmir has been a land where Shivism flowed and rituals and traditions of Shivate philosophy thrived. So, there are many Shiv temples and natural shrines and caves found in the length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir and Shree Buddha Amarnath temple in Poonch is one of the famous temples which is frequented by a large number of devotees especially on the auspicious days which are dedicated to Lord Shiva. Buddha Amarnath, also known as Swami Budda Amarnath Ji Mandir, is an ancient Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, located in the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. It is situated in village Rajpura, near Mandi, and is known for its scenic and natural beauty and also for natural white stone Shivling and annual Raksha Bandhan Mela [Budda Amarnath Ji Mela]. The temple is considered older than the Amarnath cave shrine in Kashmir. The temple is nestled in the Pir Panchal, mountain range, about 25 Kms

northeast of Poonch city. It is located on the banks of sacred river Pulsata and pilgrims often bathe in it before entering the temple. The shrine is important for Hindus, with the legend stating that Lord Shiva narrated the secret of immortality =Amar Katha to Goddess Parvati here. It believed that this temple is older than even the Amarnath cave shrine Kashmir and hence the name "Buddha Amarnath." "The main attraction is the natural shivling of white stone inside the temple. A major festival, the Buddha Amarnath mela is held during Raksha Bandhan attracting thousands of devotees. The temple is known for communal harmony it fosters, with members of all communities participating in the arrangements for the yatra. The temple has four doors meaning that the temple is open for the people of all faiths and backgrounds. Poonch is the nearest major city, located 20kms from the temple. Many devotees undertake the yatra on foot, following a route that passes through picturesque landscapes. In essence, Buddha Amarnath is a significant pilgrimage site for Hindus, known for its natural beauty, religious importance, and the communal harmony surrounding the annual yatra. This holy place [Buddha Amarnath] has a great religious and spiritual importance for Hindus. As per Hindu mythology, at this very place, the Lord Shiva had start-

ed narrating the Amar Katha to Mata Parvati ji which ended at Swami Amarnath cave located near Pahalgam Kashmir. This temple is considered older than the Sawami Amarnathji of Kashmir. That is why the shrine is known as Swami Buddha Amarnath. As per Hindu mythology, one must visit this sacred place before performing the yatra of Amarnath in Kashmir. A number of legends are famous in and around Poonch city regarding the eruption of this ancient temple As per one legend, Mahatma Pulsat—the grandfather of king Ravana of Shri Lanka mediated at this place for a pretty long time. He was a devotee of Lord Shiva. There are a number of references in Neel Mat Puran about Pulsat Rishi. As per these references, Pulsat was also an artist and sculptor. He carved a number of images of God. One of the references in Neel Mat Puran says, "By seeing the Goddess erected by Pulsat, one is free from all sins and gets highest knowledge and the temple erected by him gives one's merit of the gift of cows and also releases from the diseases." Since the Pulsat was a great Rishi, a sculptor and very popular among the inhabitants of this area, therefore, after his death the people converted this small temple into a shrine. Later on, this shrine was named as Swami Buddha Amarnath. Even now a number of idols of ancient times are available in

this area. It is possible that these idols may have been installed by Pulsat Rishi. Swami Buddha Amarnath Yatra is a centuries old yatra. However, it was regularized during Dogra rule of Raja Moti Singh and Jagat Dev Singh in between 1852 to 1939. Swami Buddha Amarnath temple is situated in between the main belt of Pir Panchal range in Rajpura Mandi which is 23 kms on the North East of Poonch town. The sacred place is located on the confluence of two gushing streams namely Nallah Gagri and Pulsat Nadi. This place is surrounded by snow bound lofty mountains, thick belt of forests in the eastern side, lush green pastures and crystal, clear streams and nallahs. The climate of this attractive and charming spot is very pleasant and cool. At present Swami Buddha Amarnath temple is connected with a motorable road and it is 244 kms away from Jammu. The original temple has been constructed with one big stone. There are four doors in the temple on northern, southern, eastern and western side which indicates that the doors of this shrine are open for all four varnas. There is a natural Shivling of white stone -chakmak inside the temple. A number of ancient idols collected from nearby villages are also installed in the premises of the temple where there used to be four holy springs near the temple in past. At present, the water of

three springs has been diverted to fourth one which is on the southern side of the temple. The water of these springs is considered as holy from the religious point of view. The pilgrims first take bath in this spring and then enter in the temple for darshan and prayers. The procession of Chari Mubarak starts from Dashnami Akara Poonch amid chanting of bhajans and religious slogans. A guard of honour from police contingent is also paid to Chari Mubarak at the gate of akhara. The Swami ji is carried in a paliki by the devotees, along with sacred mace. Thousands of devotees and hundreds of Sadhus accompanying the procession which leads towards Swami Buddha Amarnath on foot. Dedicated to Lord Shiva, the Buddha Amarnath temple in Rajpura village in Mandi Tehsil of Poonch district is one of the oldest shrines of Jammu region and has been attracting devotees in large numbers during Buddha Amarnath Yatra every year. May Lord Shiva shower his blessings upon the people of Jammu and Kashmir so that militancy is eliminated for ever and people of various faiths live in harmony and brotherhood. Thastastuo. We hope so and in near future peace and normalcy will prevail in J&K and people will live like brothers.

The author is a columnist, social, KP activist & Freelancer

Job insecurity, lack of childcare, poor health behind rising fertility crisis: UNFPA

Job insecurity, lack of reliable childcare, and poor health are the barriers behind the rising fertility crisis, according to the latest report by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) released on Tuesday.

The State of World Population (SOWP) report showed that millions of people are not able to realise their real fertility goals -- that is a person's ability to make free and informed choices about sex, contraception, and starting a family. It called for a shift from panic over falling fertility to addressing unmet reproductive goals.

The report, which included a UNFPA-YouGov survey across 14 countries, including India, with 14,000 respondents reveals multiple barriers to reproductive autonomy in India.

Financial limitations (40 per cent) were one of the biggest barriers to



reproductive freedom. This was followed by job insecurity (21 per cent), housing constraints (22 per cent), and the lack of reliable childcare (18 per cent) that is making parenthood feel out of reach.

Further, health barriers like poor general well-being (15 per cent), infertility (13 per cent), and limited access to pregnancy-related care (14 per cent) added to the burden. Climate change and political and social instability are also increasing

anxiety about the future, preventing people from planning a family. About 19 per cent faced partner or family pressure to have fewer children than they wanted.

"India has made significant progress in lowering fertility rates -- from nearly five children per woman in 1970 to about two today -- thanks to improved education and access to reproductive healthcare," said Andrea M. Wojnar, UNFPA India Representative.

"This has led to major reductions in maternal mortality, meaning million more mothers are alive today, raising children and building communities. Yet, deep inequalities persist across states, castes, and income groups," Wojnar added.

While India has made remarkable progress in lowering fertility rates and enhancing reproductive healthcare, the SOWP report showed several inequalities in fertility health among states.

The report showed that states such as Bihar, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh continue to experience high fertility rates, while others, like Delhi, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, have sustained below-replacement fertility.

This duality reflects differences in economic opportunities, access to healthcare, education levels, and prevailing gender and social norms, said the report.

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 widespread 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.

As of 2025, life expectancy at birth is projected to be 71 years for men and 74 years for women.

The UN report also placed India in a group of middle-income countries undergoing rapid demographic change, with the population doubling time now estimated at 79 years.

"India has made significant progress in lowering fertility rates -- from nearly five children per woman in 1970 to about two today -- thanks to improved education and access to reproductive healthcare," said Andrea M. Wojnar, UNFPA India Representative.

"This has led to major reductions in maternal mortality, meaning million more mothers are alive today, raising children and building communities," Wojnar added.

Study finds how genetic factors influence ADHD symptoms, autistic traits, anxiety

Researchers have identified genetic factors that trigger symptoms of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism, and anxiety.

The international study led by King's College London, UK, examined how individuals' varying sensitivity to environmental factors can influence levels of ADHD symptoms, autistic traits, anxiety and depression symptoms, psychotic experiences and neuroticism.

Researchers from 23 universities around the world combined data from up to 21,792 identical twins (10,896 pairs) from 11 studies to discover genetic variants linked with environmental sensitivity. This is the largest genome-wide association study (GWAS) of identical twins to date.

They identified several genetic factors that were linked with differences in environmental sensitivity



within identical twin pairs. The interaction between these genetic factors and environmental exposures could explain differences in susceptibility to psychiatric and neurodevelopmental conditions, said the researchers in the paper, published in the journal *Nature Human Behaviour*.

"Differences in individuals' sensitivity to life experiences can explain why the same negative or positive experiences may have varying effects on people's mental health, depending

on their genetic makeup. Our findings suggest that specific genetic variants influence how environmental exposures impact psychiatric and neurodevelopmental symptoms," said Dr Elham Assary, Postdoctoral Researcher at King's.

Among the genetically identical twins, the researchers found that genes linked with growth factors -- biological molecules that play important roles in neurodevelopment, immune function, and the central nervous

system -- were associated with variation in autistic traits.

Genes related to reactivity to stress were linked to variation in depression symptoms. Genes involved in regulating catecholamines -- a group of hormones involved in response to stress -- were linked to variation in psychotic-like experiences, the team said.

"These findings confirm that genes influence psychiatric and neurodevelopmental traits partly through affecting how people respond to the world around them. Some people are more sensitive to their circumstances, and this can be positive in good circumstances but can make life more challenging than for others in stressful circumstances," said Professor Thalia Eley, Professor of Developmental Behavioural Genetics at King's.

Oral, gut bacteria worsening Parkinson's disease: Study

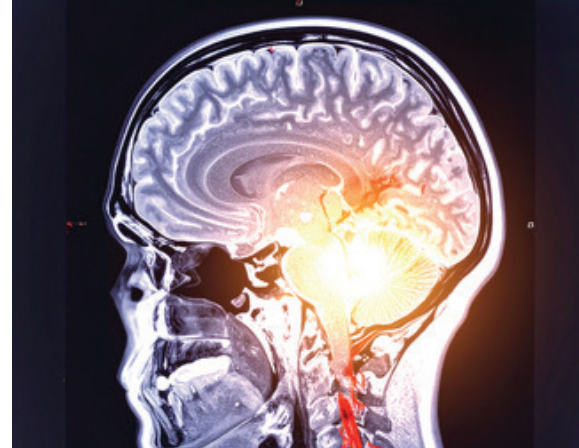
Bacteria in the mouth and gut may play a significant role in the progression of cognitive decline in Parkinson's disease, according to a study.

Specific changes in the gut microbiome have been associated with the shift from mild memory issues to dementia, a common and distressing symptom of the disease.

While Parkinson's is currently very difficult to diagnose in its early stages, these changes in the microbiome could potentially act as early warning signs of Parkinson's, said the researchers from King's College London.

It may help doctors detect and treat the disease before symptoms become severe.

"The human gut and oral bacterial communities are increasingly linked to neurodegenerative diseases. Disruptions in the gut-brain axis could trigger



inflammation and immune responses that contribute to neuronal damage," said Dr. Saeed Shoaie, group leader of the Quantitative Systems Biology (QTS) Lab at King's College London, UK.

In the study, published in the journal *Gut Microbes*, researchers analysed gut and mouth bacteria collected from 228 samples of stool and saliva.

This included two groups of patients with

Parkinson's -- those with mild cognitive decline and those with dementia -- showing different stages of the disease. These were compared with a healthy control group with no Parkinson's diagnosis.

The results showed clear differences in the types and functions of bacteria between the groups. In people with cognitive impairment, the gut contains more harmful bacteria, many of which likely come from the mouth.

This process, known as "oral-gut translocation," involves oral bacteria moving into the gut, where they don't normally belong.

These bacteria were found to release specific molecules known as virulence factors, toxins that can damage gut tissue, promote inflammation, and possibly affect the brain.

"We don't yet know if the bacteria are causing the cognitive decline or if changes in the body due to Parkinson's allow these bacteria to grow. But our findings suggest they may play an active role in worsening symptoms," said Dr. Frederick Clasen, research associate at King's.

Using artificial intelligence (AI), the team linked these toxins specifically to cognitive decline in Parkinson's. These tools helped pinpoint bacterial species and functions that weren't obvious by traditional analysis alone.

Global AI collaboration revolutionises personalised cancer treatment

An international team of scientists has unveiled an artificial intelligence (AI) technique that securely analyses global cancer samples, paving the way for more personalised and privacy-protected cancer treatments.

This innovative approach promises to accelerate personalised cancer treatment by enabling clinicians to match therapies to individual patients better, Xinhua news agency reported.

The study involved the analysis of protein profiles, known as proteomes, from 7,525 cancer samples collected by 30 collaborating research groups across six countries, including Australia, the United States, Canada, Spain, Greece, and Austria.

Strict privacy laws and technical differences in lab methods have long made it difficult to combine large cancer datasets, said the researchers led by Australia's Children's Medical



Research Institute (CMRI). To overcome these obstacles, the CMRI team in Sydney used federated deep learning, training AI models locally so that only insights -- not sensitive data -- were shared with a central server, which allowed them to build an accurate global diagnostic tool without transfer-

ring patient information between institutions, according to the study published in *Cancer Discovery*.

"It was a very exciting moment when we first saw that the results from data with highly restricted access were just as accurate as the results obtained when the data was all

stored in one place," said CMRI Director and Head of the Cancer Research Unit Roger Reddel.

The method successfully integrated proteomic data obtained through different techniques, further enhancing diagnostic precision, said Reddel, also the study's senior author.

The research, part of CMRI's ProCan programme, aims to use proteomic data to guide cancer treatment, he said, adding this AI-driven approach marks a major step forward in precision oncology by enabling large-scale data analysis.

"The purpose of CMRI's ProCan research programme is to develop proteomic tests that will assist cancer clinicians to choose the best treatment available for each of their patients. By overcoming several major barriers to assembling and analysing large cancer proteomic datasets, we have made a major step towards achieving this goal," Reddel said.

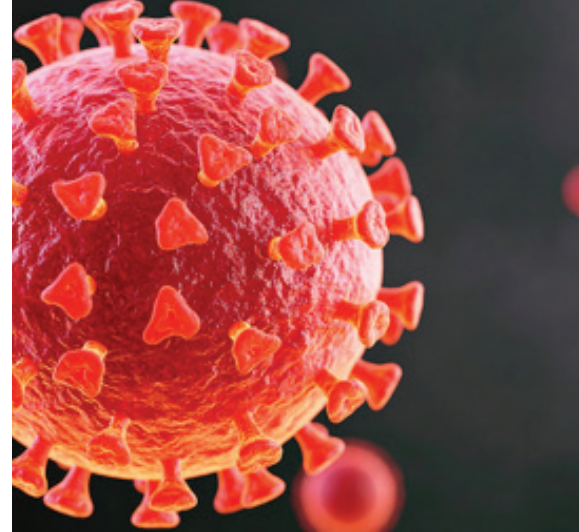
Covid-19 virus protein triggers immune attack on healthy cells

Amid a fresh wave of Covid-19, Israeli researchers have discovered that a protein from the SARS-CoV-2 virus can cause the immune system to attack healthy cells mistakenly.

The study, published in the journal *Cell Reports*, sheds light on how severe Covid complications may occur and suggests new ways to prevent immune-driven damage from the virus, Xinhua news agency reported.

Researchers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem found that the virus's nucleocapsid protein (NP), which normally helps package the virus's genetic material inside infected cells, can spread to nearby uninfected epithelial cells.

Once on the surface of these healthy cells, NP would be mistakenly identified by the immune system as a threat. The immune system then deploys anti-NP antibodies, which mark these



uninfected cells for destruction.

The process triggers the classical complement pathway, a part of the immune response that leads to inflammation and tissue damage, contributing to severe Covid symptoms and possibly long Covid.

Using lab-grown cells, advanced imaging, and samples from Covid-19 patients, the research-

ers found that NP binds to a type of molecule on cell surfaces. The binding causes the protein to cluster on healthy cells, further confusing the immune system.

The study also found that the drug enoxaparin -- a common blood thinner and heparin analog -- blocks NP from sticking to healthy cells.

In both lab tests and patient samples, enoxa-

parin helped prevent immune attacks by occupying the binding sites that NP uses.

According to the researchers, the discovery may offer new hope for reducing immune-related complications in Covid and potentially other viral infections.

Meanwhile, a newly identified Covid variant known as NB.1.8.1 has been recently spreading rapidly across multiple parts of the world, raising fresh concerns.

The variant, which belongs to the Omicron family, was first detected in January 2025 and has since reached countries including India, the US, the UK, Australia, China, Maldives, and Egypt.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has officially labelled it a "Variant Under Monitoring," meaning it is spreading fast enough to warrant attention, but not enough to be classified as a major threat.

MLA Bani inaugurates Police Station Link Road



JNEWS SERVICE
BANI, JUNE 23

In a major relief to the residents of Bani, MLA Dr. Rameshwar Singh today inaugurated the newly constructed link road connecting the police station to the Mela Ground and SDM office. The 300-meter-long stretch has been built at an estimated cost of Rs 5 lakh. The condition of this road had been extremely poor for years, causing daily inconvenience

to locals. After multiple public appeals, this long-pending demand has finally been fulfilled.

Dr. Rameshwar Singh, while cutting the ribbon to mark the inauguration, said "This road was a basic necessity for the people. Keeping their long-standing demand in mind, the work was prioritized and completed. Our focus remains on strengthening basic infrastructure to ensure convenience for the public and accelerate

regional development." He further assured that more development projects will be initiated in the Bani area and public issues will continue to be addressed on a priority basis.

Local residents expressed gratitude to Dr. Rameshwar Singh for fulfilling this long-awaited need, saying the new road will greatly ease access to the police station, Mela Ground, and administrative offices.

KSS Faridabad, others organize literary program on Kashmir Shivism, life and teachings of Acharya Abhinavagupt



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 23

Kashmiri Sewak Samaj Faridabad in conjunction with Kakini Foundation and Ishwar Ashram trust organised a literary program on the Kashmir Shivism and on the life and teachings of Mahamaheshwara Acharya Abhinavagupt in J N Kaul auditorium of Sharika Bhawan Faridabad today on 22nd of June 2025.

Shri Kashi Akhoon Vice- President of Kashmiri Sewak Samaj gave a brief introduction of the program in his welcome address and greeted the Chief Guest and other dignitaries. He thanked the Faridabad community for their continuous support for KSS. He announced that KSS will be holding many events on the teachings and life of Acharya Abhinavagupt and Kashmir Shaivism.

Mr Sunil Raina in his speech gave an account of the universities which has started courses on Kashmir Shivism and the account of the learned people who contributed during last few

years in Kashmir Shaivism.

Major General Ramesh Kumar Raina was the Chief guest of the function. In his speech he thanked KSS Faridabad, Kakini foundation and Ishwar Ashram trust for arranging the Literary program at Sharika Bhawan. He requested the community to get connected with our roots in Kashmir and stressed to visit our shrines to keep our culture and heritage alive.

Former Vice Chancellor Dr Raj Nehru OSD to Chief Minister of Haryana gave a guest lecture on the Kashmir Shivism. The hall thundered with clapping all the time of his speech.

Dr Rajnish Mishra Prof JNU and authority on Kashmiri Shivism gave an insight of the teachings of Acharya Abhinavagupt. He volunteered to have much more function in the Faridabad for the benefit of the community.

Dr Anushree Munshi of Ishwar Ashram trust in his presentation elaborated the role of Abhinavagupt and Swami Lakshman joo and role of Swami ji for reviving the Kashmir

Shavism. Shri. C L Kaul in his presentation on the life history of Acharya Abhinavagupt and his works for on Kashmir Shaivism.

It is worth to mention that Dr Shashi Shekhar Toshkhani ji was honoured with Mahamaheshwar Acharya Abhinavagupt Samman today with Cash prize of Rs 51000/- and trophy for his contribution to Kashmir Shaivism and for advocating Kashmiri Pandit cause after Forced exodus from Kashmir.

On this world Santoor day, Pt Prabhakar Mukerjee a renowned Santoor Artist mesmerised the audience by his santoor music.

Special issue of Shardha Tarangini, dedicated to Acharya Abhinavagupta was released by the honourable dignitaries on this day.

The word of thanks was delivered by Commodore Sanjay Kaul and concluding remarks by Shri Vinod Dhar. The hall was jam packed and the audience were deeply involved in this spiritual program till the end at 9.45 Pm.

Indian Army organizes Medical, Veterinary Camp for Locals at Lancha, Reasi

JNEWS SERVICE
REASI: 23 JUN 2025

A Medical & Veterinary Camp was organised at Lancha under Sadbhavana by the Indian Army, to provide the much needed medical assistance to the people residing in far flung areas. The aim of the camp was to provide free medical services to both men and animals, and mobilise the Civil Administration for provisioning of basic healthcare in remote areas.

During the conduct, a lecture on Lifestyle dis-



eases was delivered by RMO, who also carried out medical inspection of the patients present, and provided free medicines. Moreover, the locals were also briefed about the importance of timely vaccination, de-worming and balanced nutrition for ensuring the

good health of animals. Problems and queries of locals were addressed by the Civil Veterinary Doctor from Lancha. The initiative is likely to go a long way in strengthening the connection with AWAM and assist local people in leading a healthy life.

Hands-on Training held for Digitization of Jamabandis in Poonch

JNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JUNE 23

In line with the directions of Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, the Revenue Department today conducted a comprehensive hands-on training session

for field-level officials to facilitate the digitization of Jamabandis through the newly launched Web Halris portal.

The training, aimed at modernizing land administration and ensuring transparency in revenue records, was conducted




in three dedicated batches for Tehsildars, Patwaris and MTS staff. The sessions were held under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Muhammad Sayeed.

Addressing the participants, ACR Muhammad

Sayeed stressed the importance of timely and accurate digitization of land records. He urged all concerned officials to expedite the process, highlighting its role in improving public service delivery and accessibility.

A master trainer led

the sessions, imparting in-depth knowledge of the Web Halris platform, including practical demonstrations and technical guidance. The training ensured that all officials with computer proficiency are now equipped to manage digital land records effectively.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION KHOUR
SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. 04 of 2025-2026 / Khour Dated 21-06-2025

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 works :-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in RS.)	Earnest Money 2% of the adv. cost (in RS.)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Macadamization of following roads with Paver 1) Link road from BRO main road to Fayal mohalla Upper Jogwan. 2) Link road from Kachrial to Panjot and allied links of Samwan 3) Internal links at Upper Pallanw,ala Mohalla Gharu ram , Jia Lal and Radha Biradri 4) link road from BRO main Road to Samwan and allied Links 5) link road from Khour-Pallanwala road to internal links of Lower Pallanwala 6) link road from B.R.O road Pallanwala to panchayat Bhagwan Chak & allied links. 7) link road from BRO main road to Mohalla Romesh Singh and Main road to Baba Abo Dev Sathan Pyt. Platan. 8) link road from B.R.O Road to Sailanwali & allied links. 9) Road from Baldoh to Bucha Mandi and allied Links of Kallah (under Action plan of City and Town Programme 2025-26.) (1st Call)	PWD (R&B) Division Khour	121.73	3000	2,43,460/-	60 days	(1400 Hrs) on or after 01-07-2025	"A" Class/HotMix Plant Owner
2	Macadamization of following roads with Paver :-1) link road from Badhan to Gair and allied links of Panchayat Manchak 2) link road from main BRO road to internal links of village matoo. Datyal Bus stand , shiv mandir Danpur and Choudhary Hakikat Singh Mohalla 3) Road from BRO road To internal link of Taroti 4) Link road from Nursery to Bakore Bus Stand Middle School (under Action plan of City and Town Programme 2025-26.) (1st Call)	PWD (R&B) Division Khour	56.58	1500	1,13,160/-	60 days	(1400 Hrs) on or after 01-07-2025	"A" Class/HotMix Plant Owner
3	Macadamization of following roads with Paver :-1) link road from Lower Masyal to upper Masyal and allied Links 2) link road from B.R.O road to chak malal & allied links. 3) link road from Jourian to Kaleeth & internal links of Panchayat Kaleeth. 4) link road from BRO Road to Upper Kotmaira & allied links. 5) Road in patches from BRO main Road to Pahariwala and allied Links 6) Link road in patches from petrol pump chak malal to Mohalla Brahmana (Community Hall) (under Action plan of City and Town Programme 2025-26.) (1st Call)	PWD (R&B) Division Khour	80.03	1500	1,60,060/-	60 days	(1400 Hrs) on or after 01-07-2025	"A" Class/HotMix Plant Owner
4	Macadamization of following roads with Paver:-1) link road from Thakra to Rishi Colony . Balance Length 2) link road from Padli to Village Nandwal & allied Links 3) link road from Jattan De Kothe around the village connecting main road Hamirpur 4) link road from Khour to Hamirpur and allied links of village hamirpur 5) link road from main road to internal links of village Pangali and bhopur 6) link road from BRO Main Road in Patches from Degree College to Nai Basti 7) link in Patches from BRO Main Road Aizal malal to narayana Road 8) Link road from Gigrial to Kharota 9) Link road from PMGSY Road to Peer baba Budwal and internal Links (under Action plan of City and Town Programme 2025-26.) (1st Call)	PWD (R&B) Division Khour	116.57	3000	2,33,140/-	60 days	(1400 Hrs) on or after 01-07-2025	"A" Class/HotMix Plant Owner

Position of AAA / TS :- Accorded
Major Head of Account :- Under Macadamization of Cities & Towns Roads for the Year 2025-26

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	21-06-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 23-06-2025 to 30-06-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	26-06-2025 at 1300 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Khour
4	Bid submission Start Date	23-06-2025
5	Bid Submission End Date	30-06-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	01-07-2025 on or after 1400 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) division Khour
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

No :- EE/PWD/KHR/769-78
Dated : 21-06-2025

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

DIP/J-2533/25
Date: 23-6-25

Real journey begins now, serve humanity with purpose: VC SKUAST-K to future doctors

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 23

In a proud celebration of academic excellence, SKIE Classes Srinagar one of Kashmir's premier coaching institutes hosted a grand felicitation ceremony at Tagore Hall Srinagar to honour its top NEET 2025 qualifiers. The prestigious event drew an impressive gathering of achievers, parents, educationists, doctors and prominent intellectuals, making it a memorable day of recognition and inspiration.

The event was graced by Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-Kashmir, as the Chief Guest. Other distinguished attendees included Advocate Zafar Ahmad Shah Senior Counsel, G.N. Var (President PSAJK & Chairman CCAK), Prof. Dr. Saleem ul Khan (HoD, Community Medicine, GMC Srinagar), Dr. Talib, Dr. Maroof and several other eminent personalities from the academic and medical fraternity.

SKIE Classes proudly announced "that more than 110 of its students under different categories had successfully qualified NEET 2025, a remarkable milestone that underlines the institute's consistent commitment to academic excellence".

The ceremony included the distribution of certificates and mementos to the achievers, accompanied by thunderous applause and standing ovations from the audience.

Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, in his



inspiring address to NEET 2025 achievers, said "We have gathered here to celebrate the excellence of our youth, and I must begin by congratulating all NEET 2025 qualifiers, their parents and teachers. Your journey from primary school to success in this competitive exam is a story of dedication and perseverance."

He added, "I especially acknowledge Dr. Saddam, the head of SKIE Classes, whom I have personally mentored. He is not only an alumnus of our university but also a tireless mentor guiding Kashmir's youth with passion and purpose."

Prof. Ganai continued, "Our university, since its inception in the 1980s, had secured just four patents in 40 years. But in the last three and a half years, we've obtained 84 patents. This transformation shows that education is no longer just about earning degrees, it's about critical thinking, innovation, and creating meaningful impact."

He urged the students "The real journey begins now. The medical field of the 21st century demands

not just doctors, but innovators, knowledge creators, and social reformers. You must strive to make Jammu and Kashmir proud not just by treating patients, but by transforming communities."

"Let me share the example of a foreign country where the best doctors are those with the fewest number of patients not because they are less skilled, but because they educate and empower people to stay healthy. That's the kind of service our society truly needs."

Prof. Ganai emphasized, "I urge you to embrace new technologies like Artificial Intelligence in medicine and explore emerging fields such as telemedicine, mental health, and rural healthcare. We need more psychiatrists, rural doctors and public health specialists who can bring real change."

He concluded with a heartfelt message "My dear students, you are the light of tomorrow. Don't stop. The future of this state and this nation rests in your hands. Strive not just for success, but for service, for

excellence, and for humanity."

Senior Counsel Advocate Zaffar Ahmad Shah, in his address, said "Today, I am filled with happiness, and the reason is simple the success of our children in the NEET 2025 examination assures us that the future of Kashmir is in safe hands. Competing among thousands across the nation, our students have proven not only the national level, but globally."

Adv. Shah further said, "As a lawyer, I understand the value of hard work, and what these students have achieved reflects their commitment and brilliance. But let me remind you becoming a doctor is not just about acquiring a degree. It is a service, not a product. A doctor must first be a good human being, honest, dedicated, empathetic and always ready to listen with a smile. It's your character, not just your knowledge, that will heal the world."

"In this digital age, you are the children of the 21st century, your competition is global. A doctor in America can treat a patient in Africa. You must work



hard, dream big and think beyond borders. But never forget where you come from. The world may need you, but so does Kashmir."

He appealed especially to young girls, "Your professional journey is vital to our society. Don't let it end with degrees. We need your talent in hospitals, in research, in service. Let your education uplift your community."

Adv. Zaffar Shah concluded, "To all the achievers here today, you are not just celebrating a result you are inspiring the next generation. When others see you succeed, they begin to believe in their own possibilities. So carry forward this torch of hope and excellence with pride, with purpose, and with responsibility."

G.N. Var, President of PSAJK and Chairman of CCAK, extended heartfelt congratulations to all NEET 2025 qualifiers, says "This is a proud moment for Kashmir. These young achievers have not only brought laurels to their families but have also renewed our faith in the power of education."

Commending the exceptional performance of one of the valley's top coaching centres, he said "SKIE Classes has become a beacon of aspiration for thousands of students in the Kashmir Valley. They are delivering national-level coaching right here in Srinagar, enabling our students to compete with the best across India."

He emphasized that the responsibility of education lies with the entire society "Our job is not just to applaud success, but to build systems that nurture every child's potential. Education must not remain limited to classrooms, it must become a community commitment."

Dr. Saleem ul Khan, Head of the Department of Community Medicine at GMC Srinagar, said "To all the wonderful students, this moment is not the end, it's just the beginning of a bright and promising journey. Your hard work, determination and dreams are what will shape the future. I have full faith that each of you, with the right guidance and support, will achieve great things."

Dr. Khan added "What makes me even more hopeful is seeing institutions like SKIE Classes standing beside you, not just as educators, but as a family that truly cares. The love, warmth and sense of belonging I've felt here today is remarkable. I assure you, we will continue to work sincerely at every platform, including the Medical Council, to support our youth and build a better tomorrow."

SKIE Chairman Dr. Saddam Sir in his address "Today, as we honour our NEET qualifiers 2025 and MBBS graduates, I feel immense pride, not just in their success, but in their resilience and journey. These students have worked tirelessly for years and their dedication deserves more than applause, it deserves heartfelt appreciation. Their success is a reflection of not just their own hard work but of the silent efforts of teachers, staff, parents and even those who work behind the scenes, our unsung heroes like the gatekeeper who opens the door every morning."

Dr. Saddam further said "At SKIE, we may not have grand resources, but we offer something greater sincerity, commitment and heartfelt prayers. To my students, I say: you may outgrow this institution, but never outgrow humility. Always honour your parents they are next to God. Never speak to them in a raised voice, no matter your status".

He said "To our new doctors, let every patient be your own. Treat with compassion, not just with medicine. Remember, healing lies in the hands of those who see their patients through the eyes of kindness".

He concluded with a heartfelt message "Let me tell you, there are two things that will never betray you in life the love of Allah and the love of books. Stay connected to both and you will never lose your way. May Allah bless you all with honour, humility and endless success in this life and the hereafter. Ameen."

The program ended with a heartfelt vote of thanks. Deep appreciation was expressed to all the dignitaries, teachers, staff, students and parents whose presence and support made the event a great success.

The gathering left a strong message when education, guidance and hard work come together, they can light the way to a brighter future for Jammu & Kashmir. As applause filled Tagore Hall, one thing was certain: the journey of SKIE Classes and its shining students has only just begun.

Raksha Mantri releases curated collection of 51 speeches of President Droupadi Murmu delivered during her second year in office

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 23

Raksha Mantri releases curated collection of 51 speeches of President Smt Droupadi Murmu delivered during her second year in office 'Wings to Our Hopes (Volume-II)' will be a guiding light to building Viksit Bharat: Shri Rajnath Singh "President Murmu is the best example of women-led development in India" The book will introduce the President's public welfare ideas to future generations, says I&B Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnav



described the compilation of speeches - ranging from address to the nation as well as at universities, on innovation, contribution of women in the development of the country, equality and the cultural heritage - as the essence of the Government's vision of making India a developed nation by 2047. "The book will become a guiding light to build Viksit Bharat with progressive thoughts while preserving our glorious heritage. President Smt Droupadi Murmu knows the importance of diversity in our country and recognises the pain of the deprived. This book proclaims the spirit of equality," he said. Shri Rajnath Singh added that the book is an amalgamation of the knowledge and ideas of President Smt Droupadi Murmu on diverse fields - from civilisation to culture, religion to science, art to literature, education to health and past to future.

He termed this inclusiveness as a reflection of the character of India, which can prove to be beneficial for future generations. Raksha Mantri made special mention of some of the President's thoughts, dubbing them as national priorities of the Government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

These include: ○ Development along with heritage is the identity of our culture and civilisation. ○ Morality is the pillar of our personal and public life. Everyone, especially public servants and officers, must possess the spirit of selfless service and philanthropy. ○ The justice system and administration need to be sensitive towards common people. ○ Innovation needs to be encouraged in all dimensions of development. India is playing a leading role with the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam in improving the modern world-system.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PROJECTS DIVISION JAMMU MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, TOWN HALL JAMMU NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Fresh RFP No 17(P) of 2025-26 (2nd Call)

Name of work: Engagement of consultant for providing consultancy services for construction of Multipurpose Hall near Indira Chowk, Jammu.

For & On behalf of the Commissioner, JMC, applications are invited through e-tendering mode on **Percentage basis** from the interested & eligible Architectural Firms/Landscape Architects in response to this request for "Engagement of consultants for providing consultancy services for Construction of Multipurpose Hall near Indira Chowk, Jammu".

Approved Cost for Consultancy Services	Rs. 4.39 Lacs
Period of downloading EOI document	From Date 21-06-2025 upto 03-07-2025 till 1600 Hrs
	Place(s) http://jktenders.gov.in
Last Date & Time of uploading Bids	03-07-2025 upto 1600 Hrs
Time and date for opening Technical Bid/ Bids	04-07-2025 at 1400 Hrs
Place of opening bids	Office of the Executive Engineer, Projects Division, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Town Hall, Jammu.
Officer inviting bids	Executive Engineer, Projects Division Jammu Municipal Corporation, Jammu Address: Jammu Municipal Corporation, Town Hall, Jammu

(Er. Lokesh Gupta)
Executive Engineer,
Projects Division
Jammu Municipal Corporation

No.:- JMC/PD/25-26/Tech/578-85
Dt.:- 21-06-2025

DIP/J-892-P/25
Date: 23-6-26

Shah to chair 25th meeting of Central Zonal Council in Varanasi on Tuesday

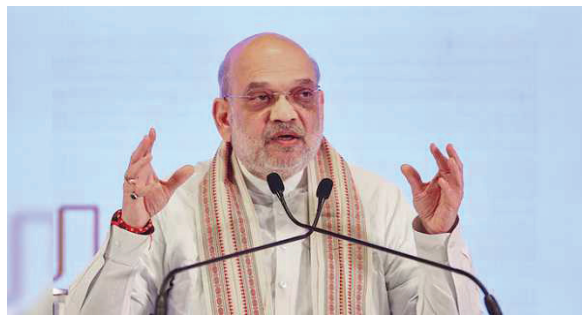
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, will chair the 25th meeting of the Central Zonal Council on Tuesday in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

The meeting will be attended by Chief Ministers of the member states along with two senior ministers from each state.

The Central Zonal Council comprises the states of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh. This meeting is being organised by the Inter-State Council Secretariat under the Ministry of Home Affairs, in collaboration with Uttar Pradesh government.

Under Sections 15 to 22 of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, five Zonal Councils were estab-



lished. The Union Home Minister is the chairperson of these five Zonal Councils, and the Chief Ministers or Lieutenant Governors of the states and Union Territories are their members. Among these members, the Chief Minister of one member state (rotating every year) acts as the vice-chairperson. From each member state, the Governor nominates two ministers as members of the council,

a Home Ministry statement said.

The role of the Zonal Councils is advisory; however, over the past few years, these councils have proven to be an important factor in promoting healthy bonds of mutual understanding and cooperation in various fields. With the cooperation of all state governments, central ministries, and departments, a total of 61 meetings of the various

Zonal Councils and their permanent committees have been held in the last eleven years.

The Zonal Councils also discuss broad issues of national importance, including the speedy investigation of cases of sexual offences against women and children and the implementation of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSC) for their swift disposal; providing brick-and-mortar banking facilities within the designated area of every village; implementation of the Emergency Response System (ERSS-112); and various regional-level common interest issues such as strengthening nutrition, education, health, electricity, urban planning, and the cooperative system.

SC declines urgent listing for clarification plea by Bhima Koregaon accused Hany Babu

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to grant an urgent hearing to a plea filed by former Delhi University professor Hany Babu, an accused in the Bhima Koregaon case, seeking a clarification that he could approach the High Court for bail after withdrawing his earlier plea in the top court.

A vacation bench comprising justices KV Viswanathan and NK Singh directed that the matter be listed after the court reopens following the summer break, and declined to entertain the application during the limited working days of the vacation.

During the mentioning, the counsel for Babu argued that several co-accused in the case had



been granted bail by the Supreme Court either on merits or due to prolonged incarceration.

The application was filed seeking a clarification following a May 20 observation by the Bombay High Court, which stated that Babu should seek clarity from the Supreme Court about his liberty to approach the High Court for bail after withdrawing his special leave petition.

Justice Viswanathan questioned the delay in

filing the application. "The order was passed on May 2. The court was fully functional till May 23. Why was the application not moved earlier?" he asked.

In response, the counsel submitted that obtaining certified copies of the court's orders took time. However, Justice Viswanathan remarked, "Even in urgent matters, we have filed and got cases listed without certified copies."

Babu was arrested by the National Investiga-

tion Agency (NIA) in July 2020 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for alleged Maoist links in connection with the Bhima Koregaon violence. His bail plea was rejected by the Bombay High Court in September 2022.

In May 2024, he withdrew his bail petition from the Supreme Court stating a change in circumstances, intending to move the High Court afresh.

However, the High Court noted that the Supreme Court's order did not explicitly grant him liberty to re-approach the lower court, prompting the present application for clarification.

The Supreme Court's refusal to list the matter urgently means the issue will now be heard only after the court's summer recess concludes.

Minister Hardeep Puri leads Indian delegation at memorial in Ireland, to mark 40th anniversary of Kanishka bombing

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri led the Indian delegation at Cork, Ireland, on the 40th anniversary remembrance to honour the memory of the 329 people killed in the horrific bombing of Air India Flight 182 Kanishka on June 23, 1985, carried out by Canada-based Khalistani separatists.

Besides, Union Minister Puri, the Indian delegation comprises Arvinder Singh Lovely, BJP MLA from Delhi, Baldev Singh Aulakh, Minister of State in the UP Government, Gurveer Singh Brar, BJP MLA from Rajasthan, Narinder Singh Raina, BJP MLA from Jammu and Kashmir, Trilok Singh Cheema, BJP MLA from Uttarakhand and Tarun Chug, National General Secretary, BJP. The Indian Ambassador Akhilesh Mishra was also present on the occasion.

The Prime Minister of Ireland Micheal Martin, Canada's Minister of Public Safety Gary Anandasangaree and family members of the victims were also



present.

Canada-based Khalistanis of the terror group Babbar Khalsa had planted a bomb on the Kanishka Air India flight which took off from Montreal to London, from where it was to fly onward to New Delhi and Mumbai. The bomb blew up the aircraft in the Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of Ireland near Cork.

The remembrance was held at the Ahakista Memorial in Cork.

All the dignitaries and others gathered laid wreaths at the memorial site.

Of the 329 people killed,

268 were Canadian citizens, 27 were British citizens, and 22 were Indians. The tragedy is considered Canada's deadliest terrorist attack.

Minister Puri said: "Terrorism and extremism remain a very real present-day threat. Whether the act was committed on 9/11, 26/11, or Pahalgam, the effects are exactly the same."

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, in a post on X, said: "On the 40th anniversary of Air India 182 'Kanishka' bombing, we honour the memory of the 329 lives lost in one of the worst acts of terror-

ism.

"A stark reminder of why the world must show zero tolerance towards terrorism and violent extremism."

The Khalistani terrorists had planned a second bombing -- on Air India 301 from Narita International Airport, near Tokyo, to Delhi -- but the bomb, which had arrived in a suitcase on another flight, exploded in the baggage handling room.

For weeks prior to the bombing of Kanishka, Khalistanis had been calling for the boycott of Air India, as "something big would happen".

Modi Govt using technology to exclude vulnerable groups from welfare schemes: Jairam Ramesh

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 23

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Monday accused the Modi government of systematically using technology to exclude the most vulnerable sections of society from accessing their rightful social welfare entitlements.

In a post on X, the Rajya Sabha MP highlighted a series of technological measures which he claimed, have turned out to exclusionary in nature. "Aadhaar was weaponised to block crores of workers from MGNREGA. Acid attack survivors had to battle in court just to enroll in Aadhaar. Adivasis across the country still lose rations to tech



glitches," he said.

Ramesh also expressed concerns over the use of facial recognition technology (FRT) for delivering benefits under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), warning that it could further become a hurdle for pregnant women.

"All over the world, evidence has emerged that FRT discriminates against

class and colour of the skin," he said.

He also cited the failures of other technological platforms such as the Aadhaar-based Payment System (ABPS) and the National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) app.

Ramesh pointed to findings from the 365th Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women,

Children, Youth and Sports, which noted that the introduction of ABPS in the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) had severely impacted the ability of eligible pregnant and lactating women to receive benefits.

"The number of beneficiaries paid has dipped drastically, from 96 lakh women in FY19-20 to 27 lakh women in FY23-24," he said.

"Still, the Modi government continues to introduce discriminatory technologies," he said, adding that "Digital India should empower, not disempower".

"It must not remain a Preach Inclusion Practice Exclusion (PIPE) dream," he added.

Shivakumar backs DK Suresh after ED summons

AGENCIES
BENGALURU, JUN 23

Amid intensifying political tremors over the Aishwarya Gowda gold fraud case, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Monday delivered a forceful response to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) summons issued to his brother, former MP DK Suresh - vowing to fight the probe "even without anyone's backing."

Unfazed and unapologetic, Shivakumar hit out at what he suggested was selective targeting. "A case was filed against me - what happened then? Who came forward to protect us? No one," he declared, speaking to reporters here.

Now, as the ED tightens its net in the high-stakes gold scam, Shivakumar dismissed the latest developments as attempts to craft political drama. "They say someone made a statement claiming fraud. Suresh is a public representative. He may visit his constituency, meet people, and cooperate however he wants. That doesn't mean this needs to be blown out of proportion," he said.

TMC leads by over 47,000 votes in Kaliganj bypoll; Mamata thanks voters and party workers

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, JUNE 23

The Trinamool Congress (TMC) was leading by over 47,000 votes in the by-election to the Kaliganj Assembly seat in West Bengal's Nadia district after 18 rounds of counting on Monday.

TMC candidate Alifa Ahamed, daughter of the late MLA Nasiruddin Ahamed, secured 85,043 votes, while her nearest rival, the BJP candidate, garnered 37,177 votes. Congress candidate Kabil Uddin Shaikh, backed by the CPI(M), was trailing in third place with 13,125 votes. Counting began at 8 am with postal ballots, and the process remained peaceful, according to election officials.

The by-election was necessitated following the sudden demise of sitting TMC MLA Nasiruddin Ahamed in February this year. To retain the seat, the party nominated his daughter, Alifa Ahamed.

Voting was held on Thursday, with a voter turnout of 69.85 per cent recorded till 5 pm. Barring a few isolated incidents, polling was largely peaceful.

Trinamool leader and



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed her gratitude and respect to the general public and party workers for the party's success in the by-election.

She wrote on X handle, "In the Kaliganj Assembly constituency by-election, people from all religions, all communities, all castes, and all walks of life exercised their right to vote and have overwhelmingly blessed us. I bow my head in gratitude to them. The true architects of this victory are the people - Ma, Mati, Manush (Mother, Motherland, and People)."

"My colleagues in Kaliganj have worked tirelessly for this. I sincerely congratulate them as well. My respects and salutations to everyone. Remembering the late MLA Nasiruddin Ahmed, I dedicate this victory to the Ma, Mati, Manush of Bengal," she added.

Iran plans temporary suspension of cooperation with IAEA due to its 'political stance'

AGENCIES
TEHRAN, JUNE 23

The Iranian parliament plans to pass a bill to temporarily suspend cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) due to its "politicised stance", said Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, the Speaker of the Majlis (the unicameral parliament) of the Islamic Republic, reports Sputnik.

"We plan to adopt a bill in parliament that would suspend Iran's cooperation with the IAEA until we receive objective guarantees of professional conduct from this international organisation," he said during a speech to lawmakers.

"The world has clearly seen that the IAEA has not fulfilled a single one of its obligations and has turned into a political tool."

A parliamentary bill to suspend Iran's cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog is under consideration, said Parliament presidium member Ruhollah Motefakerzadeh on June 23, according to state news agency Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), reports Strait Times.

UDF wrests Nilambur seat from ruling LDF in by-election

AGENCIES
MALAPPURAM, JUNE 23

Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) candidate Aryadan Shoukath wrested the Nilambur Assembly constituency from the ruling CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) by a margin of 11,077 votes in the by-elections on Monday.

Shoukath secured 77,737 votes, LDF's M Swaraj 66,660, Independent and former Nilambur MLA PV Anvar 19,760 and BJP-led NDA's Adv Mohan George 8,648 votes, respectively.

Ten contenders are in the fray with 2,32,057 voters in the final list. A turnout of 75.27 per cent was recorded on June 19. As many as 1,74,667 people reached the polling booth and exercised their right to vote. Out of 1,13,299 male voters, 81,007, out



of 1,18,750 female voters, 93,658 and two out of eight transgenders exercised their right to vote.

UDF secured leads in Nilambur municipality in seven panchayats -- Vazhikadavu-1,829 votes, Moothedam (2,067 votes), Edakkara (1170), Pothukallu (307), Chungathara (1,287) and Amarambalam 704 votes. The LDF secured lead of 118 votes from only Karulai panchayat.

In the 2021 Nilambur assembly election, LDF-backed Independent PV Anvar (secured 81,227 votes) defeated VV Prakash of UDF (polled 78,527 votes). But in the 2025 election, the UDF showed a mere decrease of vote share of 44.51 per cent in the 2025 election from 45.34 (2021 election). But the LDF vote share decreased to 38.16 (2025 election) from 46.90 (2021 election) in this election. The NDA vote share remains almost the same as in 2021. In 2025 it recorded 4.95 vote share; it was 4.96 in the 2021.

The Nilambur by-election was necessitated following the resignation of Left Democratic Front (LDF) backed Independent MLA PV Anvar in January 2024. He defected from LDF and joined All India Trinamool Congress and

became the state convenor of AITC.

LDF-backed Independent MLA Anvar has been representing Nilambur assembly constituency for the last 8.5 years (2016-2024).

In the 2016 assembly elections, LDF-backed Independent PV Anvar defeated INC's Aryadan Shoukath by a margin of 11,504 votes from Nilambur constituency on Aryadan Shoukath maiden electioneering to Assembly elections, after his father Aryadan Muhammed won from Nilambur constituency six times consecutively from 1987 to 2011.

In the 2021 assembly elections, LDF-backed Independent candidate PV Anvar defeated Indian National Congress (INC) candidate V V Prakash by a margin of 2700-odd votes.

Bumrah equals Kapil's record of most fifiers by an Indian away from home

AGENCIES
LEEDS, JUN 23

Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has equalled legendary all-rounder Kapil Dev's record of most five wicket hauls by an Indian away from home. He claimed another five wickets in the ongoing India-England Test match being currently played in Headingley.

Bumrah collected figures of 5/83 during England's first innings at Headingley, with the fast bowler joining Dev on 12 for the most five-wicket hauls by an Indian player away from home in Test cricket. Bumrah howev-



er will consider himself unlucky as the Indian fielders let him down dropping several catches of his bowling otherwise he could have many more wickets.

Bumrah received high praise from former batting great Sachin Tendulkar took to social

media platform 'X' to congratulate him and pointed out that his wicket haul could have been bigger if not for dropped catches. "Congratulations Bumrah! A no-ball and 3 missed chances stood between you and nau (nine) wickets," Tendulkar posted.

Need to move on quickly from WTC final loss: Travis Head

AGENCIES
CANBERRA, JUN 23

Travis Head doesn't want Australia to dwell on their loss to South Africa as they get set to commence their new World Test Championship campaign.

Australia batter Travis Head wants his team to move on quickly from their recent loss to South Africa in the ICC World Test Championship Final as the side gets set to commence the new cycle against the West Indies in Barbados.

The Aussies have little time to lick their wounds following their five-wicket loss to the Proteas at Lord's in the Ultimate Test earlier this month, with their new World Test Championship campaign commencing with a three-match series against the West Indies in the Caribbean commencing on Wednesday.

Head believes the quick turnaround from the World Test Championship Final to the West Indies series is a positive for his side and has urged his teammates not to dwell on the loss to the Proteas when they take on the Caribbean side.

"There's added motivation to go out there and play well," Head said of the first Test in Barbados.

"We didn't play well (against South Africa) and it's unfortunate.

"We put two years of hard work into one week and didn't quite go to plan



and the opposition played really well, so there's another motivation.

"We've got two more years to build, and this is another first look at it so I think if you dwell on it for too long or if you look back you forget about what's moving forward.

"As hard as that is, we play so much cricket and are so used to that but of course we care and of course it's not ideal but at the end of the day you can't change it so you have to move on you have to get back on the horse and you have to play good cricket.

"I think a lot of guys are wanting to do that we've had a little bit of time to reflect and I've got time to prep and we're going to another Test series that we're hopeful to play well in."

Australia will be without the services of key batter Steve Smith for the opening Test against the West Indies, with the veteran right-hander still recovering from the finger injury he picked up while fielding during the loss in the World Test Champion-

ship Final.

Former No.1 ranked Test batter Marnus Labuschagne is also missing having been dropped by the Aussies, with teenager Sam Konstas and fellow batter Josh Inglis named as their replacements for the first Test at Kensington Oval.

Head expects Labuschagne to work his way back into the Test setup quickly and is also predicting Inglis to thrive when filling in for the injured Smith.

Inglis scored a century on debut against Sri Lanka at the start of the year and Head believes the 30-year-old is capable of performing well once more.

"It feels like he's played a lot more than he has for Australia as he has been in the squad for a long time and he has been around the group for a long time," Head noted.

"Once he gets his extended stay on the team I think he will excel.

"He's been waiting for a good amount of time to get a crack and it's exciting for Josh."

FIH Pro league: Men's team ends campaign with a spirited 4-3 win against Belgium

AGENCIES
ANTWERP, JUN 23

Indian Men's Hockey Team showed character as they snatched a thrilling 4-3 win against hosts Belgium to end their campaign at the FIH Hockey Pro League (Men) 2024-25 here in Antwerp on Sunday.

It was goals by Sukhjeet Singh (21', 35'), Amit Rohidas (36') and Harmanpreet Singh (59') that ensured India's win, and ended their outing in the eighth place, 14 points ahead of Ireland. For Belgium, Arthur de Sloover (8'), Thibaut Stockbroeckx (34') and Hugo Labouchere (41') scored.

It was a memorable outing for Sukhjeet and Dilpreet Singh who completed their 100 international caps.

Belgium was quick to get off the blocks, pressing high and looking to catch Indian defenders off guard. Their tactics paid off early with Arthur de Sloover scoring a stunning goal to go one up in the match. He fired it into the top right corner of the post, leaving no room for Indian goalie to defend. The goal cer-



tainly dislodged India's momentum, who until then showed glimpses of attacking intent with quick bursts in their variation.

India's first real opportunity came in the 20th minute when they earned the first PC of the match and with Skipper Harmanpreet Singh back on the pitch today, confidence was high in the Indian set-up. A good injection from Hardik, but the powerful flick was well-blocked leading into a quickfire counter attack by the Belgians. But Pathak, at the other end, prevented a potential 2-0 lead with a fine save.

Only a minute later, India converted a sensational PC and this time it was a clever variation which saw Sukhjeet step up and deflect the ball into the post with preci-

sion. He only had to angle Harmanpreet's flick which comfortably beat the Belgian goalie. This was an important equaliser which saw India build on their attack. Nearing the end of the second quarter, Abhishek came close to scoring what would have been a stupendous goal but missed the margin by inches.

After the ten-minute half-time break, Belgium struck early through Thibaut Stockbroeckx who scored in the 34th minute. But India responded almost immediately with Sukhjeet pumping his second goal of the match.

It was an assist from the midfield, to Abhishek just a little outside the top of the D. Though Abhishek missed holding on to the ball, Sukhjeet picked it up efficiently to smash it into

the goalpost. A minute later, Amit Rohidas put India ahead by 3-2 when he scored from a PC in the 36th minute.

There was plenty of drama coming up in the game, keeping the hockey buffs on the edge of their seats. Belgium earned a PC and made complete use of the opportunity. This time, it was Hugo Labouchere putting his name on the scoresheet, scoring his maiden international goal making it an evenly-fought contest between India and Belgium.

Seconds later, India found the back of the net after a bit of a scramble inside the D to hold on to the ball. It was eventually Shamsheer Singh who put the ball inside the net after a couple of attempts. However, an immediate video referral by Belgium saw the goal being disallowed.

Going into the final quarter in this high-octane encounter, India started with a PC. But was narrowly missed as the score continued to read 3-3. The contest remained pulsating with India being relentless in their pursuit for that one elusive win in their otherwise disap-

pointing outing in terms of results in the European leg of Pro League. With minutes left for the final hooter, an important video referral by India saw them being awarded a penalty stroke. Though Sloover protested, and eventually was handed the yellow card, there was a clear push from him and it was only a matter of Harmanpreet clearing the goal and putting India ahead by 4-3 and finally ending their campaign with a win.

"We made a good comeback today. We had the confidence in us in every game we played. There was a lot of room for improvement in how we played today, narrowed down on the small errors we were making and rectified them today. There has been lots of learnings from here and we will bounce back next edition," expressed Sukhjeet Singh, who was awarded the Player of the Match.

Please see attached images from India Vs Belgium Men's match.

All the FIH Pro League 2024-25 (Men and Women) matches will be streamed live on Jio Hotstar and broadcast on Star Sports Select.

Morgan, Cook, Moeen & Bell lead England Champions into WCL 2025

AGENCIES
LONDON, JUNE 23

England's most celebrated names—Eoin Morgan, Alastair Cook, Moeen Ali, and Ian Bell—gear up for the second season of the World Championship of Legends, scheduled from July 18 to August 2 in the United Kingdom.

Representing the England Champions, these cricketing greats are set to ignite the field with class, experience, and unmatched legacy.

Joining this powerhouse line-up are stalwarts like Liam Plunkett, Ravi Bopara, Samit Patel, Chris Tremlett, and more—forming a squad that perfectly blends strategic brilliance and firepower.

Morgan said, "Leading England to World Cup glory was a defining moment in my career—but



playing in WCL with legends I've shared the field with is a different kind of pride. We're bringing back memories and making new ones. England Champions are here to compete, entertain, and win."

Praveen Sharma, Owner of England Champions, said, "We're proud to field a team that defines English cricket's golden era. These legends shaped an entire generation of cricket and now, they're back on home soil—where it all began. We're here to win,

and to inspire."

Stuart Cain, Chief Executive of Edgbaston, shared,

"Having legends like Morgan, Cook, Moeen, and Bell back at Edgbaston is special—not just for fans but for the spirit of the game. This is more than nostalgia. It's about celebrating greatness and bringing world-class cricket back to where it belongs. We're thrilled to be part of WCL's journey again."

Harshit Tomar, Founder

& CEO of the World Championship of Legends, said, "WCL isn't just another T20 league—it's where stories are retold and legends relive their prime. England Champions brings together names that changed the face of English cricket. With Morgan and Cook leading the charge, this team is among the strongest and most exciting of the tournament."

Sanctioned by the England & Wales Cricket Board, the World Championship of Legends is a premier global T20 league that merges star power with top-tier competition. Celebrating the legends of the game, WCL brings together cricketing icons and passionate fans from around the world—creating an unforgettable showcase of talent, nostalgia, and sporting excellence.

McCartney Kessler wins Nottingham Open

AGENCIES
LONDON, JUNE 23

McCartney Kessler claimed her first grass-court WTA Tour title with a 6-4 7-5 win over Dayana Yastremska in a rain-affected Nottingham Open final.

The American, 25, was on the cusp of taking the first set - leading 5-4 with a break - when the covers were pulled across the court on Sunday.

Once play resumed after a lengthy delay, Kessler picked up from where she left off as she wrapped up the opening set before getting a break in the seventh game of the second that looked to have her on course to take the match.

Lalit Upadhyay announces international retirement

AGENCIES
ANTWERP, JUN 23

Veteran forward Lalit Kumar Upadhyay on Monday announced his retirement from international hockey, bringing the curtains down on a remarkable career that spanned over a decade—from 2014 to 2025.

Lalit, announced his decision through a social media post shortly after India's final match of the European leg of the FIH Pro League 2024-25 season against Belgium. He featured in four matches during the tour, and his final appearance for 'team India' was against Australia on June 15.

Lalit was an excellent playmaker who would also

score goals on a regular basis, in total he played 183 matches for the senior national team, scoring 67 goals. Over the years, he became a trusted name in India's forward line, known for his versatility, on-field intelligence, and calm demeanour in high-pressure situations.

From making his debut at the 2014 Hockey World Cup to standing tall on the Olympic podium twice, Lalit's career is a timeline of some of Indian hockey's biggest milestones in the modern era. He was a crucial part of the squad that scripted history at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, helping India clinch a long-awaited Bronze medal, and repeated the feat

at the Paris 2024 Olympics, reinforcing his reputation as a big-match player.

Apart from Olympic glory, Lalit was instrumental in India's victories at the 2016 Asian Champions Trophy, 2017 Asia Cup- where he netted four goals- and multiple other podium finishes. His medal-laden career includes a Bronze at the Odisha Men's Hockey World League Final 2017, Silver at the FIH Men's Champions Trophy 2018, Bronze at the 2018 Asian Games, and Gold at the 2018 Men's Asian Champions Trophy. He was also part of the squads that finished third in the FIH Pro League 2021-22 and won Gold at the Asian Games 2022 in Hangzhou.

AGENCIES
ANTWERP, JUN 23

Goals by Ambre Ballenghien (40') and Lien Hillewaert (43') saw Belgium register a 2-0 win against Indian Women's Hockey Team on Sunday in Antwerp. This win ensured Belgium remained in the third place only behind Netherlands and Argentina who are in the first and second position respectively.

After yesterday's 1-5 debacle, India began this quarter showcasing aggressive play with a clear intent to overcome the disappointment of the previous loss. They tried to find space backed by good pace as India built on a good momentum. They even won a PC early in the quarter but could not convert. Meanwhile, with six minutes left for the first hooter, a defensive



error gave away Belgium their first PC of the match. A slow attempt by the hosts eventually led to the umpire awarding a penalty stroke. But a good video referral by India, showed that it was Jyoti's stick, and the video umpire ruled it as long corner.

The second quarter witnessed some brave surge by Indian attackers, moving forward with pace and vigour. Skipper Salima Tete led the charge as she took a couple of shots on

goal herself but Belgian defence was resurgent. At half-time, India had two PCs while Belgium had one, and 10 circle entries as oppose to India's eight. It was an evenly played out match until half-time break, with India looking for that elusive win.

In the third quarter though, they seemed to lose the plot. Though India began the quarter optimistically, with a PC being awarded to them. They couldn't make a good exe-

cution but Belgium made no such mistake when they won a PC in the following minutes.

Andre Ballenghien took the shot from left which was deflected by India goalie Savita. But the ball rebounded and was perfectly lofted into the post. It was a much-needed 1-0 lead for the hosts. India responded quickly with a PC but failed to equalise.

Belgium, riding on the 1-0 lead, came back to pump another one into India's post through a PC. They played a similar variation, sending the ball to the left and Lien Hillewaert was perfectly positioned to get the right deflection with no Indian defender posing a threat to her shot.

In a blink of an eye, Belgium were 2-0 up with goals coming in the 40th and 43rd minute. This really put India under the

pump for the final quarter.

Staring at a relegation with just two wins in the entire season, India had their task cut out. But there was no respite in the fourth quarter either. Deepika and Jyoti traded chances in this quarter, trying to find India a goal. But they remained goalless despite Neha, Salima, Navneet and Rutuja being in the right places, pushing for that much-needed goal. India made 22 circle penetrations in the game, almost same as Belgium, but had no luck in conversion. Belgium did well to defend their 2-0 lead till the last minute to seal the winning points and remain in the third place in the current pool standings.

India will desperately look for back-to-back wins against China when they play against their next weekend to avoid relegation.

Dharti Aabha Janbhagidari Abhiyan programme organised at Pehlipora Keller

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, JUNE 23

As part of the nationwide initiative to uplift tribal communities through on-spot service delivery, the ongoing Dharti Aabha Janbhagidari campaign was conducted today at the Pehlipora area of Keller, Shopian.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone who graced the occasion as the chief guest.

Different departments had set up stalls, providing services to the people on the spot, as well as informing and educating people on government schemes.

Speaking on the occasion, ADDC said that the event focuses on creat-



ing awareness among the tribal population about their constitutional rights, welfare schemes and entitlements under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 and other government initiatives along with extending services to the local tribal community across 25 government interventions and

programs. ADDC appreciated the efforts of all participating departments and stakeholders for organising such an inclusive programme. He stressed upon the need for active participation of tribal communities in developmental processes. DDC Member, Choud-

hary Fazlul Din sensitized the participants about various welfare schemes meant for tribal population and stressed upon them to come forward and avail the benefits.

Artists from the department of Information and Public Relations, Shopian presented a skit on the Forest Rights Act, educating participants about the forest entitlements scheme which provides land, grazing, and other forest resources rights to the forest dwelling STs and other traditional forest dwelling communities.

The event was attended by various district/sectoral and local officers along with an appreciable gathering of tribal community members and stakeholders departments.

Mission YUVA: DLIC approves 33 proposals at Doda

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JUNE 23

The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) on Mission YUVA meeting was convened, here today.

District Development Commissioner, Harvinder Singh chaired the meeting aimed to review the progress of Mission YUVA and to scrutinize and approve applications seeking financial assistance received on DLIC portal.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, General Manager DIC, District Social Welfare Officer, Assistant Director Employment, District Nodal Officer JKEDI, District Development Manager NABARD and LDM.

A total of 33 cases, verified by the Small Business



Development Unit (SBDU), were presented before the Committee and all were approved for financial assistance and handholding support after thorough scrutiny of eligibility criteria, business feasibility and the socio-economic background of the applicants.

Speaking at the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh underscored the significance of promoting self-employ-

ment among local youth, particularly those from underprivileged and marginalized communities. He directed the stakeholder departments to ensure timely disbursement of financial assistance, regular monitoring and proper mentoring to support the long-term success of the approved ventures. He also emphasized the need for increasing the outreach to encourage wider participation in the scheme.

Awareness workshop on PMFME scheme held at Makerkote

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JUNE 23

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

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 along with officers from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry departments, representatives from NRLM, AGMO Batote Raju Zutshi, GMI Inderjit Singh attended the event. Officers explained that the PMFME scheme supports food processing businesses by offering financial help, training and support for branding and marketing. "The beneficiaries are offered 35% subsidy, support for preparing the project report, getting bank loans and completing required registrations such as FSSAI and Udyam" the participants were informed. The AMO encouraged participants to avail the scheme and contribute to the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission. The workshop ended with an interactive session where experts responded to the queries of the participants clearing their doubts on different aspects.

Major DAJGUA outreach camp held at Panchayat Chamoti- Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JUNE 23

A multi-departmental IEC (Information, Education and Communication) outreach camp was held today here at Panchayat Ghar Chamoti, Block Drabshalla under the aegis of Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gramin Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA).

The ongoing 15-day IEC awareness campaign aims to empower tribal communities socially and economically. The camp brought together the departments of Health, Agriculture, Education, ICDS, Employment, Rural Development and Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) under one roof to provide information and services directly to the tribal population.

Each department set up dedicated stalls offer-



ing on-the-spot support for scheme enrollments, application submissions, distribution of informative materials in local languages and one-on-one consultations. This ensured that tribal populace from remote areas could access government benefits and services easily.

Officers addressed the public issues on the spot, offering solutions and clear timelines, reinforcing the administration's focus on transparency and accountability.

Field-level officials highlighted the impor-

tance of regular interaction with the community and stressed that DAJGUA is helping bridge the gap between the administration and tribal citizens. The camp encouraged a two-way communication process—where officials not only informed but also listened to the unique needs of the tribal people.

The outreach received an overwhelmingly positive response from the tribal community and local residents, who appreciated the district administration's sincere and people-centric approach.

Dharti Aaba Abhiyan: Mass awareness prog. held at tribal village Gojithiji of Checkshera Khansahib

JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JUNE 23

As part of the ongoing Dharti Aaba Abhiyan, various activities were successfully conducted today at Village Gojithiji in Checkshera Panchayat, a remote tribal area falling within block Khansahib of district Budgam.

The abhiyan, a flagship campaign aimed at ensuring saturation of government schemes in tribal areas, focuses on convergence across 25 key interventions involving 17 line departments, with an objective of cent percent saturation and doorstep delivery of welfare schemes in tribal regions.

Today's Gram Sabha witnessed increased participation from local residents, especially members of the tribal community, who



enthusiastically engaged with departmental representatives and voiced their appreciation for the outreach initiative.

All participating departments ensured active presence and shared detailed information about the eligibility and benefits of their respective schemes. Emphasis was laid on identifying saturation gaps and enrolling uncovered beneficiaries under schemes such as, PMAY-G (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin), Kisan Credit

Card (KCC), Swadesh Darshan Guest Homes, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Jal Jeevan Mission (FHTC), Ayushman Bharat PMJAY Health Cards.

On-the-spot registrations for these schemes were also carried out, ensuring immediate access and follow-up for eligible beneficiaries. To celebrate the cultural richness of the tribal community, students of Government Secondary School, Gojithiji Khansahib, presented vibrant

cultural performances, including Gojri folk music, to highlight the importance of preserving indigenous heritage and identity.

The entire awareness programme was hosted at the premises of Govt. Secondary School, Gojithiji Khansahib Budgam.

Dharti Aaba Abhiyan will continue its momentum in the coming days, reaching more tribal villages in Budgam to ensure inclusive and participatory development at the grassroots level.

Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra

JMC Commissioner reviews arrangements at lodgement centres across Jammu City

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 23

Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav, who is also Chief Executive Officer Jammu Smart City Limited today conducted an extensive inspection of the lodgement centres set up for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY-2025) pilgrims across Jammu city.

During the visit, the Commissioner assessed arrangements at prominent lodgement centres including Shri Ram Mandir (Purani Mandi), Geeta Bhawan Parade, Mahajan Sabha, Shalimar Road, Trikota Complex, Yatri Niwas at Bhagwati Nagar, among other designated facilities established for the comfort and convenience of the pilgrims arriving for the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Dr. Yadav reviewed in detail the infrastructure and services put in place at each centre, including accommodation, sanitation, food, drinking water, provision of power supply



and medical support. He emphasized that timely and efficient provisioning of all essential services must be ensured.

Issuing directions to the concerned departments, the Commissioner stressed on providing clean lodging spaces, hygienic food, clean potable drinking water, proper sleeping arrangements and well-maintained sanitation facilities to all pilgrims. Dr. Yadav also informed that Information, Education and Com-

munication (IEC) activities will be carried out at the lodgement centres to sensitize the devotees about hygiene and sanitation practices. Joint Commissioner (Health & Sanitation) Abdul Sattar, Executive Engineer (Projects) Lokesh Gupta, Executive Engineer (Division 1) Rajesh Kumar, Executive Engineer, Electrical Simarpal Singh and other officials of JMC accompanied the Commissioner during the tour.

Empowering remote students; Sakeena Itoo dedicates buses to 5 GDCs in Kashmir



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 23

Minister for Health & Medical Education, Social Welfare and Higher Education, Sakeena Itoo, today dedicated buses to five Government Degree Colleges (GDCs) in Kashmir, aiming to strengthen access to education for the students from remote areas.

The colleges that received the buses included GDCs Kupwara, Sopore, Tangmarg, DH Pora and Tulail. The flagging off ceremony was held at Abdul Ahad Azad Memorial College, Bemina.

Advisor to Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Tangmarg Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah and MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar were present on the occasion.

Speaking at the event, the Minister emphasized the importance of transport facilities in ensuring accessible and inclusive education. "This initiative is aimed at empowering the students, particularly those from far-flung areas, by facilitating their daily commute to the colleges, assured the Minister".

She added that a similar initiative had recently been undertaken in the Jammu division, where five colleges were also provided buses.

Highlighting government's initiatives towards improving the education sector, the Minister said, "We are focused on raising the standards of education and ensuring that students at government institutions have access to all necessary facilities, including reliable

transport."

She further stated that efforts are underway to extend such support to more colleges across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the function, the Minister interacted with the Principals, faculty members, NCC cadets and students. She appreciated the support of J&K Bank for providing the buses under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, describing the gesture as a significant contribution towards students' educational journey.

Present on the occasion were the MD Motor Garage, Divisional and CSR Heads of J&K Bank, Director Finance Higher Education, Director Colleges, Principals of various colleges and other senior officials.

Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan IEC events held across Ramban



JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JUNE 23

The District Administration Ramban on Monday organized a series of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign events across all 11 blocks of the district to promote Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan and Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan.

The campaigns aimed to educate and sensitize the public, especially the young generation, about the ill effects of drug abuse and to foster a collective commitment to building a drug-free society.

Mass awareness programmes were held across numerous panchayats including Sangaldan B, Trigam Lower B, Sarbagni A, Ghari, Kalimasta, Dharam A, Takiya Tethar, Rakhjarogh, Bagna, Senabathi A, and Gandhri. The events witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers and local communities, as well

as officials from the Health, Police, Social Welfare and Information Departments.

At Gool, the event stood out with the active engagement of civil society members, government officials and youth, presenting a united front against the menace of substance abuse.

Resource persons and subject experts delivered insightful lectures on the physical, mental and social consequences of drug addiction. They also highlighted the available helplines, rehabilitation services and the government support mechanism available to help individuals battling substance abuse.

The awareness drives concluded with mass pledge ceremonies, where participants vowed to protect the youth and society at large from the menace of drugs. The events reaffirmed the community's dedication to fostering a healthier, safer and drug-free Ramban.