

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:

- Headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Present warning
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Severe ten pain or more, local or not
- Nausea

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

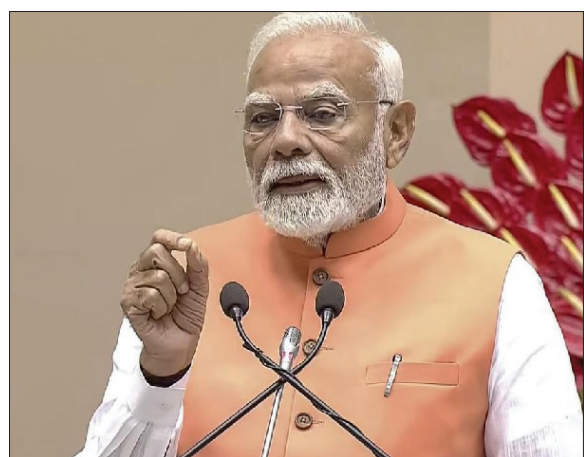
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Today's India takes decisions based on what is right for national interest: PM Modi

JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUN 24 (KNO)

Stating that today's India takes decisions based solely on what is right for national interest, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that 'Operation Sindoor' has clearly demonstrated India's firm and uncompromising policy against terrorism on the global stage.



Addressing the centenary celebration of the historic conversation between two of India's greatest spiritual and moral leaders Sree Narayana Guru and Mahatma Gandhi here, PM Modi while referring to "Operation Sindoor," according to the news agency said, "The world has recently witnessed the strength of India and its uncompromising policy against terrorism on the global stage."

He affirmed that India has made it evident—no shelter is safe for terrorists who spill the blood of Indian citizens.

PM Modi said that the country's dependence on foreign nations for military needs is steadily decreasing. "India is becoming self-reliant in the defence sector," he added.

The Prime Minister noted that this shift was clearly evident during Operation Sindoor, where Indian forces compelled the enemy to surrender within 22 minutes using domestically manufactured weapons.

He expressed confidence that in the coming times, Made-in-India weapons will earn global recognition and acclaim. **OUR GOVT TURNED SERVICE INTO ITS MISSION**

Listing the achievements of his government, PM Modi urged people to recall the conditions 10-11 years ago, when despite decades of independence, millions of citizens were forced to live in extremely difficult circumstances.

The Prime Minister pointed out that millions

of families lacked shelter, countless villages had no access to clean drinking water, and even minor illnesses could not be treated due to lack of healthcare and in cases of serious illness, there was no way to save lives.

He said that millions of poor people—Dalits, tribals, women—were deprived of basic human dignity.

PM Modi emphasized that these hardships persisted across generations, leading many to give up hope for a better life. He questioned how a nation could progress when such a large population lived in pain and despair.

PM Modi stressed that their government made compassion a

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

CM Omar vows to develop Gulmarg as world-class golf destination

JI NEWS SERVICE
GULMARG, JUN 24

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday reaffirmed his government's resolve to reestablish Gulmarg as a premier global golf destination, promising focused attention on golfing infrastructure, international-level tournaments and tourism-friendly facilities.

Speaking at an award ceremony for golfers and hoteliers at the Gulmarg Golf Championship, **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**



Don't threaten us with Assembly dissolution over Statehood: CM

JI NEWS SERVICE
GULMARG, JUN 24 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday asserted that statehood is not the privilege of elected representatives but the constitutional and democratic right of the people of the region. **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

No local involved in Pahalgam terror attack: CM

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 24 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that there was no local involvement in the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, and that all the terrorists responsible for killing 26 innocent people were foreigners. **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

Lt Governor Sinha chairs 75th Meeting of SMVDSB

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATRA, JUN 24 (KNO)

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired the historic 75th Meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra Tuesday.

The meeting was attended by the newly constituted Board, comprising members including Mahamandleshwar Shri Swami Vishveshwaranand Giri Maharaaj, Shri Baleshwar Rai, Dr. Ashok Bhan, Smt. Sudha Murty, Smt. Gunjan Rana,



Dr. K.K. Talwar, Shri Kulbhushan Ahuja, Shri Lalit Bhasin and Shri Suresh Kumar Sharma.

Dr. Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and Shri Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer,

SMVDSB also attended the meeting.

The Lieutenant Governor extended a warm welcome to the new members of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, highlighting the trust **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

Landslide hits new Vaishno Devi track

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 24

The yatra on landslide-hit new tracks and chopper service due to fog remained suspended on Tuesday for the pilgrims of the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine nestled in the Trikuta Hills of Katra town in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Officials here said that the new track was closed due to a landslide and mudslide on Monday triggered by heavy rain near Hemkoti.

"The men and machinery are on the job to clear

the debris," they said, adding that the yatra is not being allowed on the new track.

They said that the battery car service that is operational on the new route is also affected.

Officials further added that the yatra is smoothly progressing from the old traditional route.

They stated that the chopper service from Katra to Sanjhi Chhat also remained suspended due to dense fog for the sixth consecutive day.

"The service will resume after the **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

'Govt likely to dole out IPP policy soon'

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 24 (KNO)

The Jammu and Kashmir government has drafted a Independent Power Producer (IPP) policy of Small Hydro Power (SHP) and Large Hydro Power (LHP) project and is likely to be rolled out soon to attract the private power producers.

A top official informed the news agency, "The government has drafted a new policy titled Independent Power Producer (IPP) policy to attract the

Policy to attract private power producers for setting-up of SHP, LHP projects

private power producers from across the country for setting-up of private hydro power projects that will be given on lease for

forty years."

"Discussions have been done and a draft of the policy has been finalized. The final policy is likely to be rolled out soon for the public," the official said.

The official further said that "There will be two types of projects. One category, Small Hydro Power (SHP) projects will comprise power plants up to 25 Megawatts and another category is of Large Hydro Power (LHP) projects that will cover all above the 25 MWs to 100 MWs of projects."

Earlier, the government reviewed the draft Jammu and Kashmir Hydro **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

It also said that in accordance with the draft policy, it will cover all the hydro power projects from 0-100 MWs.

"All the SHP projects (Up to 25 MWs) will be funded and governed by the Ministry of Renewable Energy and the LHP projects (above 25 MWs) will come under the domain of the Ministry of Power for Government of India," the official said.

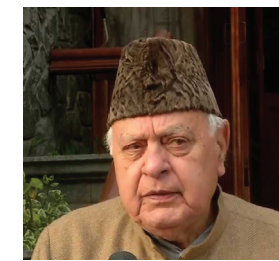
Earlier, the government reviewed the draft Jammu and Kashmir Hydro **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

Iran-Israel ceasefire a positive step: Dr Farooq, hopes for peaceful Amarnath Yatra

JI NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, JUN 24 (KNO)

Former Chief Minister and National Conference (NC), president, Dr Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday expressed relief over the ceasefire between Iran and the United States and called it a positive step for global peace.

Speaking to reporters in Anantnag's Dooru, Abdullah, as reported by news agency said innocent



people were being killed in the escalating conflict and the ceasefire was a result of "global pressure" on America, driven by humanitarian and economic concerns.

"I am thankful to the Almighty. If there is indeed a ceasefire, it is a good thing. Innocent people were being killed," Dr Abdullah said.

"Nobody has surrendered before anyone – neither Iran nor America – but out of humanity, they decided to halt the violence. It would have impacted their own economies and also the economies of the rest of the world. There was

immense global pressure on America to bring an end to this."

The NC chief said world peace is interconnected, and conflicts in one region can have ripple effects globally.

He extended his wishes for a smooth and peaceful Amarnath Yatra, expressing hope that pilgrims would witness the warmth of the people of Kashmir and the natural **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

Ahead of expected wet spell, Sgr sees season's hottest day again at 35.5°C

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUN 24 (KNO)

As Jammu and Kashmir braces for the three-day wet spell from tomorrow, Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, has once again surpassed the previous records of two decades after the mercury settled at 35.5 degrees, which is the highest June temperature since 2005.

According to the details available with the news agency, Srinagar has recorded a day temperature of 35.5 degrees, which is the hottest day of the season so far. Similar day temperature was recorded on June 20, breaking the previous

record of 20 years.

In Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, the mercury settled at 33.6 degrees while Pahalgam recorded 30.6 degrees. In Kupwara, a maximum temperature of 34.7 degrees while Kokernag and Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, the mercury settled at 33.2 degrees and 26.0 degrees respectively.

Jammu division, however, continued to witness below or around normal temperatures with Jammu recording a maximum temperature 34.1 degrees.

Banihal recorded a day temperature of 30.6 degrees and Batote, Katra and Bhaderwah recorded a maximum temperature of 28.2 degrees, 30.7

degrees and 33.2 degrees respectively.

Pertinently, Jammu and Kashmir is expected to witness a three-day wet spell from tomorrow.

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.

Between June 28 to 30, he said there is a possibility of intermittent rain and thundershower at scattered places while from July 01 to 02, there is a possibility of **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

Graffiti of foreign flag removed by police outside Imambara in Srinagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 24

Police on Tuesday removed graffiti resembling a flag of Israel, in Zadibal area of Srinagar.

This comes a day after police detained two persons for installing US and Israeli flags on the outskirts of Srinagar city.

Police Station Zadibal received information about graffiti resembling a foreign flag (Israel) painted on the road outside of Imambara Zadibal.

Police said a Police team acting swiftly reached the location and ensured immediate removal of

the graffiti to maintain communal harmony and public order.

"Preliminary inquiry revealed the involvement of three local teenage girls, all students residing in the area," police said.

"Given their age and the sensitivity of the act, their parents were called to the Police Station and the minors were counselled in their presence," police added.

They were sensitised about the implications of such actions and the need to uphold communal harmony and responsible civic behaviour. Police said legal action X **CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4**

Pahalgam terror attack: 2 held for harbouring terrorists remanded in 5-day police custody

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 24

The two suspects arrested on charges of harbouring terror perpetrators were produced before the NIA Special Court in Jammu and remanded in five days of police custody.

As per the official release, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) reiterated that the two accused have been arrested in connection with the attack.

During their interrogation, they revealed details about the identities of the three armed terrorists involved, NIA said.

The investigating agency has gathered substantial evidence

about the identities of the terrorists, it said, adding that it included 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, it read.

The NIA said the investigation was being carried out with the highest standards of professionalism, and all aspects of the terror attack are being thoroughly examined, adding "the identities and further de-tails of the terrorists will be made public at an appropriate time."

SANJY-2025: Online coordination & orientation conference on disaster management held at Anantnag

J I NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, JUNE 24

An online coordination and orientation conference on Disaster Management was held with all stakeholders involved in the upcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANJY) 2025.

The session was chaired by Major General Sudhir Bahl (Retd.), Lead Consultant for Medical Emergencies (ME), Incident Response System (IRS), and Mock Exercises, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

The primary objective of the conference was to ensure effective coordination among all agencies responsible for managing potential hazards and emer-



gency situations during the Yatra.

Major General Bahl delivered a comprehensive presentation outlining the structure of the proposed mock exercise, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the deployed teams in response to various emergency scenarios. He

emphasized the need for all stakeholders to remain fully prepared and vigilant to mitigate any eventuality.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anantnag, Sandeep Singh Bali, assured that the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) is well-prepared

to handle any disaster like situation. He also noted that comprehensive training has been imparted to various stakeholders.

Notably, further mock exercises are scheduled to be conducted on June 28 at various locations to enhance the preparedness of all involved agencies.

Mission Shakti hosts 5 day Civil Defence Training at Palash, Parisha R.S. Pura

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 24

Mission Shakti District Hub for the Empowerment of Women Jammu (Social Welfare Department) today inaugurated Five day Civil Defence Training Program at Palash and Parisha, R.S. Pura to equip inmates, staff and locals with essential knowledge and skills on emergency response and

personal safety.

The training is part of Mission Shakti DHEW's ongoing efforts to build self-reliant and resilient communities, especially in border and rural areas.

The training witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents, staff, and children of Palash & Parisha, reflecting the community awareness prepared-

ness and civil safety.

Deputy Controller CD Zul Haq, Chief Warden Parmjit Kumar, Deputy Chief Warden R. Vijay Magotra, expert trainers from the Civil Defence Department imparted hands-on training focusing on basic first aid, fire safety, evacuation drills, and rescue methods used to assist victims during natural or man-made emergencies.



KPDCI revises timing of shutdown of 33 kV SH Pora line, 33 kV Kawdara line & 33 kV Mattan-Pahalgam line
J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 24

In view of ongoing extreme heat wave conditions, the office of the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCI has revised the timing of power shutdown of several 33kV lines. As per the schedule, the shutdown of the 33kV SH Pora line and 33 kV Kawdara line, previously scheduled for 28.06.2025 & 30.06.2025 from 10:00 AM to 06:00 PM, has been revised to 08:00 AM to 01:00 PM on the aforementioned dates, purely in the interest of public convenience. Similarly, the shutdown of the 33kV Mattan Pahalgam line, previously scheduled for 25.06.2025, from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM, has been revised to 08:00 AM to 01:00 PM on the aforementioned date, purely in the interest of public convenience.

Baramulla hosts first District-Level Goat Show at Multi-Facilitation Centre Rafiabad

J I NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, JUNE 24

Department of Sheep Husbandry, Baramulla successfully organised first-of-its-kind District-Level Goat Show and Goat-Associated Value-Added Products awareness event at the Multi-Facilitation Centre (MFC), Chijhama Rafiabad here today.

Director, Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir, Dr. Rafiq Ahmad Shah was the Chief Guest at the event. In his address on the occasion, the Director appreciated the department's efforts, highlighting the importance of such events in promoting scientific goat farming and youth engagement. He assured that similar programmes would be conducted in the future given the positive public response it received.

Speaking at the event, the District Sheep Husbandry Officer Baramulla, Dr. Showkat Ahmad, emphasised the tremendous potential of goat farming in the district, particularly in light of the growing demand for goat milk and chevon. He stressed the need to explore systematic avenues for adopting goat farming on commercial level value addition, processing of goat milk and meat products, which could significantly enhance farmers' income, generate local employment, and open new market linkages.

On the occasion, the Director also visited various stalls and interacted with the participants.

The event had enthusiastic participation of livestock breeders, farmers, students, officials from the district administration, media

personnel and representatives of various agri-allied departments. During the event, more than 70 participants from Sheep Development Blocks of Rohama, Rafiabad, Sopore, Dangerpora, and Baramulla showcased around 80 elite goats including Bucks, Does, and Weaners for exhibition and competition.

Prominent goat breeds on display included Beetal, Barbari, Jamunapari, Kagani, Jakhrana, and Boer, reflecting the region's rich livestock genetic diversity. A team of experts judged the animals on standard parameters like body conformation, body condition score, breed characteristics, production traits, reproductive traits, temperament, and behaviour. The Best Buck, Best Doe, and Best Weaner in each category

were awarded first, second, and third prizes, along with certificates of appreciation.

A wide range of interactive stalls was set up by all key line departments like Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries, who actively engaged with visitors on their stalls. These stalls disseminated information on flagship government schemes, innovative farming practices, and allied sector services aimed at rural livelihood generation.

Among the key attractions of the exhibition was a dedicated stall showcasing value-added goat milk products like paneer, ghee, butter, lassi, and fresh goat milk. Visitors were informed about the nutritional value, health benefits, and business potential of these products, making this segment a standout component of the event.

DC Srinagar reviews progress on heritage conservation projects in the District

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 24

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today chaired a meeting of the District Level Coordination-cum-Implementation Committee for the revival, restoration, preservation and maintenance of architectural and heritage sites here at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner was apprised about the progress of ongoing conservation projects undertaken in Srinagar District for preservation, revival, restoration and maintenance.

The DC took a comprehensive review of the

status of the each project taken up under the initiative including restoration, conservation and development of Aali Masjid Eidgah, Khankahi Naqashband Sahib, Zeastha Devi Zeathyar temple, Baba Ghulam-U-Din Shrine Brein Nishat, Narayanmuth Shivji temple Tulsibagh, Ram Mandir Safakadal, Syed Mohammad Hussain Mazandarani, Vicharnag temple and Mangleshwar Bheirev Asthapan Baddam.

On the occasion, the DC laid emphasis on collaborative efforts by all line Departments in restoration practices to conserve architecture of the sites on heritage pattern. He also directed

them to expedite efforts closely to ensure the effective implementation of heritage preservation projects.

During the meeting, the DC also discussed the new conservation projects identified for current fiscal. The DC asked them to prepare DPRs and estimates at the earliest ensuring all revival, restoration works are carried out while preserving the rich art, culture and heritage of Kashmir.

The DC stressed upon the stakeholder Departments to ensure speedy execution of the works on the heritage conservation projects so that they are completed in a time bound manner.

DHS reviews status of ABHIM works in District Ramban
J I NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JUNE 24

Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar today visited District Hospital Ramban and Sub District Hospital (SDH) Banihal to review the status of work taken up under Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (ABHIM).

A Central government initiative, the ABHIM aims to strengthen the healthcare system, focusing on primary, secondary, and tertiary care, and building resilience against future pandemics.

The DHS inspected ongoing work of District Integrated Public Health Lab at District Hospital Ramban and the status of Block Public Health Unit at SDH Banihal. Meanwhile, Dy. Director Dentistry Dr. Sanjay Sharma reviewed the work of Critical Care Block at DH Poonch under ABHIM.

DC Ramban reviews progress of PWD, PMGSY Works

J I NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JUNE 24

Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of developmental works being executed by the Public Works Department (R&B) and PMGSY in the district.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, Executive Engineers of PWD (Ramban and Banihal), Executive Engineers of PMGSY (Ramban and Banihal), AEEs and AEs from both departments.

During the review, the Deputy Commissioner directed the departments to ensure proper maintenance of the newly completed and already functional roads, buildings, and other infrastructure assets. He emphasized the need to maintain quality standards in the execution of the ongoing developmental projects and instructed for strict monitoring to avoid any compromise on the quality of work.

The DC issued clear directions to take stern action against contractors causing unwarranted delays in the execution of projects of public impor-



importance. He stressed the importance of accountability and timely delivery to ensure public convenience and optimal utilization of resources.

The meeting was informed that 7 NABARD funded road projects have been completed in PWD Division Ramban, while 6 are stalled due to forest clearance and other land related issues.

It was further informed that 14 NABARD road projects have been sanctioned for PWD Division Banihal. The DC directed officials to expedite the tendering process, pursue forest clearance and other issues affecting the execution of the projects.

Reviewing the progress of PMGSY Works, the DC expressed satisfaction and appreciated the progress

made in project completion in both divisions.

Taking note of forest clearance issue hindering the projects, the DC directed the Chief Planning Officer to furnish a detailed report on all such pending cases for timely intervention at appropriate levels.

The Executive Engineers were asked to coordinate with the concerned SDMs and Forest Department to secure clearances. The SDMs were further instructed to intervene promptly to resolve local issues amicably by involving civil society.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed both departments to focus on achieving financial and physical targets to avoid last-minute rush and ensure timely completion of all projects.

Rana emphasizes collective efforts towards water conservation for posterity

J I NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JUNE 24

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, stressed the need for collective efforts to conserve water for present and future generations.

He was speaking during a meeting of officers held in Poonch during which threadbare discussions were held on various agricultural schemes and related issues.

Rana emphasized the importance of studying successful water conservation models from other parts of the country that can be replicated in Jammu and Kashmir. "There is a need to recalibrate water policies and accelerate water conservation efforts to address the challenges faced by our region," he said.

The Minister underscored the crucial role of local community involvement in water conservation, stating that locals, NGOs and other stakeholders should be engaged in promoting judicious use of water resources and implementing water-saving practices. He called



upon the officers to raise awareness about rainwater harvesting, drip irrigation, irrigation scheduling and other conservation efforts in their respective areas.

The meeting also focussed on assessing progress, addressing challenges and sharing best practices in water conservation and groundwater management.

Rana emphasized the government's focus on revolutionizing agriculture in Jammu and Kashmir, with an emphasis on enhancing farmers' income, productivity and

sustainability.

During the meeting, the Minister also outlined the efforts to improve and modernise the agricultural practices, increase productivity and benefit farmers in the Mendhar region.

Chief Agricultural Officer, Poonch, Jog Raj Salathia, briefed the Minister about the progress on the ongoing and upcoming agricultural schemes and initiatives to promote sustainable agriculture. The meeting also addressed the challenges facing the field staff in implementing government schemes.

DAJGUA camp held at Panchayat Chapper-A



J I NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JUNE 24

A Two Day awareness and benefit saturation camp Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) concluded today at Panchayat Ghar Chapper-A in Block Latti.

The program was conducted under the overall supervision of Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Dudu who is also the Nodal Officer for the Abhiyan.

Stalls were set up by the departments to provide on-the-spot services to the Tribal community and facilitate their registrations for different welfare and developmental schemes and services. The public participated with great enthusiasm availing themselves of the schemes and services.

Adding a cultural touch to the program, students from Government Higher Secondary School Latti presented a vibrant cultural programme.

The officials from department of Agriculture, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Health, Social Welfare, Revenue and others briefed the public about key government schemes viz. PM-KISAN, MGNREGA, Ayushman Bharat, Kisan Credit Card and other welfare initiatives.

The Block Development Officer elaborated on the objectives of the Dharti Aaba Abhiyan. He emphasized the campaign's mission to achieve 100% saturation of individual entitlements and to ensure the last-mile delivery of benefits to Tribal people.

AIDS victims deserve compassion, not condemnation: Sakeena Itoo

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 24

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, flagged off Mobile Integrated Counselling and Testing Centre (ICTC) Vans of Jammu and Kashmir AIDS Control Society (JKACS) here today.

The initiative was aimed to strengthen the health-care outreach and awareness among the people of underserved areas and vulnerable communities.

Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; Director SKIMS; Project Director, JKACS; Director Family Welfare and Immunization; Director AYUSH; Principal GMC Srinagar; Chief Medical Officers; senior officers of JKACS; health department and other concerned officers were present on the occasion.

Addressing a gathering of health professionals, the Minister emphasized



on the urgent need of destigmatizing HIV/AIDS persons and ensure support-oriented approach for the affected individuals. "People living with HIV/AIDS need to be handled with compassion and dignity. It's not just about medical intervention, it's about restoring hope and trust through proper counselling, awareness and community support", she stated.

She remarked that people affected by this virus need to be counselled, sensitised and looked after properly, so that those hiding this due to stigma associated with it, can also come forward and seek proper medical treatment.

The Minister further said that these ICTC Vans are high end vehicles which will contribute effectively in fighting this virus. She added that these mobile ICTC Vans are aimed at expanding the reach of HIV/AIDS testing and counselling services to remote and underserved areas of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly targeting the high-risk groups and marginalized populations.

"The launch of these mobile vans is a testament to Government's resolve to bring best healthcare services to the doorsteps of the most vulnerable. No one should be denied access due to geography or stigma," said the Minister. Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed

called upon all to redouble their efforts for completely wiping out this virus from the region as J&K has minimal cases of this virus. He also spoke in length about the role of every individual in eradicating this virus from the society.

Earlier, in her welcome address, Deputy Director, JKACS, Dr. Monika Vali, spoke about the broader aspects of mobile ICTC Vans.

She further said that this initiative will also help in early detection of this virus among affected individuals as well as strengthen prevention measures due to awareness.

On the occasion, the Minister was also briefed about the specialities of these mobile ICTC Vans. He was informed that these Vans are equipped with facilities for confidential counselling, blood sample collection, rapid testing and IEC (Information, Education and Communication) awareness campaigns.

DDC Kathua reviews progress of PWD Sector projects

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, JUNE 24

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Dr. Rakesh Minhas today chaired a meeting of the Public Works Department (R&B) to review the progress of ongoing and proposed developmental works in the District.

The review focused on the projects taken up under NABARD, CRIF, UT Capex, District Capex, City & Town and MPLAD.

While reviewing the physical and financial status of works in Billaوار Sub Division, the DDC was informed that 16 schemes are being executed under the City & Town component, while 6 new projects have been identified for execution in the current financial year. "Under NABARD funding, 4 schemes were sanctioned—3 have been completed and work is in progress on the remaining one. In addition, 3 road projects are being executed under the Central Road Infrastructure Fund (CRIF), and 3 others under the District Capex Budget", the meeting was told.

The DDC laid emphasis on expediting the pace of work on Sukrala Mata-Jourian Mata Road and the 100-bedded Community Health Centre (CHC) at Billaوار. He directed the Executing Agencies to ensure strict adherence



to quality standards and timelines.

Reviewing the road up-gradation and other infrastructure development projects in Basohli Sub Division, the DDC asked the functionaries to resolve bottlenecks to ensure timely delivery of public assets. He laid thrust on timely completion of the 50 Bedded Hostel at ITI Bani and Compound Wall of ITI Basohli.

Assessing the status of ongoing projects in Hiranagar Sub Division, the DDC was informed that 19 projects under the City & Town Scheme were completed in the last fiscal, while 11 new projects have been earmarked for the current year, for which the tendering process has been initiated. Similarly 6 NABARD funded projects and 2 bridge projects have been completed in the area. A detailed review of works under UT Capex, MPLAD, and the Health sector was also held. Regarding the

Kathua Sub Division, the DDC was informed that all 24 previous year City & Town scheme works have been completed, while 22 new works are being taken up in the current fiscal. The Department has also completed 18 NABARD, 1 CRIF, 5 UT Capex, and 7 MPLAD works.

The Deputy Commissioner also took a detailed review of projects nearing completion, including the JPDCL Division Office, Polytechnic College Hostel, ADMO Office & District Drug Store, Poultry and Hatchery Buildings and Regional Cultural Centre of JKAACL. He impressed upon the executing agencies to speed up the pace of work and pursue forest and other mandatory clearances on a priority basis to prevent undue delays. The meeting was attended by ADDC Surinder Mohan, CPO Ranjit Thakur, XENs of Basohli, Billaوار, Hiranagar and Kathua subdivisions and other concerned officers.

Agriculture Minister tours Srinagar city; assesses Muharram, Shri Amarnathji Yatra arrangements

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 24

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, today conducted an extensive visit to Shia-dominated areas in Srinagar to review the arrangements being put in place for peaceful and smooth conduct of Muharram processions.

Accompanied by MLA Lal Chowk, Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed and senior officers from various departments, Javid Dar visited several Imambaras including Balhama, Pandrethan and Guru Bazar.

The Minister emphasized the importance of close coordination among the departments to ensure that all arrangements are ensured well in advance. He stressed the need for uninterrupted electricity and potable water supply, sanitation, medical facilities and effective traffic management.

The Minister also interacted with the caretakers, organizers and devotees, listening to their concerns and suggestions as well.

Javid Dar directed the officials to address the public grievances on priority to ensure a peaceful and comfortable experience for the devotees. He assured that the Omar Abdullah led government is committed towards facilitating peaceful and smooth conduct of religious events in the region.

The Minister also visited transit camp at Panthchowk, setup for the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra, to review the boarding and lodging, sanitation and medical facilities put in place for the yatrias.

The Minister's visit aimed to ensure a peaceful and successful conduct of Muharram and Shri Amarnath Yatra while also addressing the needs and concerns of the local community.

Div Com Kashmir visits ICCC, HMT; directs operationalization of Command Centre

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 24

With the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra approaching, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, today visited the Integrated Command & Control Center (ICCC) at HMT to assess functioning of the centre for hassle-free Yatra.

During the visit, he informed that all designated officials from the relevant departments were deployed to the ICCC urgently for round the clock functioning of the command centre and effective surveillance and dissemination of real-time information especially exigencies.

He emphasized the need for the operation of hunting line numbers to ensure that pilgrims have access to urgent assistance.

Div Com also called for the daily compilation of surveillance data and call logs reports.

Meanwhile, he also reviewed final arrangements in a meeting with officers to ensure smooth and peaceful conduct of the Yatra.

The meeting was attend-



ed by Director of FCS&CA, Dr Owais Ahmad; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo; Commissioner SMC, Faz Lul Haseeb, and representatives from various departments such as ULB, IMD, PHE, KPDCL, I&FC, PWD, R&B, SDRF,

NDRF, Fire & Emergency, SRTC, and the Police.

In the meeting, Div Com assessed preparations across departments to ensure a seamless and spiritual experience for the yatrias.

Director FCS&CA

informed the meeting that sufficient quantities of essential supplies have been allocated for the Yatra camps, and this will be adjusted as per need as the Yatra progresses.

Chief Engineer KPDCL shared that all base camps have been equipped with electricity, and street lighting has been installed to eliminate dark areas. Additionally, officials from Jal Shakti confirmed that water connections have been installed at all camp areas and that all sanitary facilities have been linked to the water supply.

Div Com also reviewed fire safety protocols, and issued a directive to the Fire & Emergency department to ensure accessibility to fire extinguishers.

Health department was instructed to ensure the installation of sufficient oxygen booths and other medical setups at the camps and enroute to the holy cave. Regarding the registration of service providers and ponies, it was reported that over 23,000 service providers and 14,000 ponies have been registered to facilitate SANJY pilgrims.

Abdul Rahim Rather inaugurates additional Block of GHSS Pakarpora

JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JUNE 24

Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, inaugurated the additional accommodation Block of Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Pakarpora here today.

The project was completed at a cost of Rs 1.60 crore by R&B Division, Charar-i-Sharif. The Speaker also inspected different blocks of the institution and had assessment of existing infrastructure.

The Speaker, on the occasion, distributed certificates among the best performing students of the institution. He assured the students that in coming days efforts would be made to establish library and a play field in the institution.

DDC reviews performance of Rural Development Department in Poonch

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JUNE 24

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting with the officers of the Rural Development Department (RDD) to review the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and progress of developmental works.

The meeting focused on evaluating the physical and financial progress of key RDD schemes, such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) - a rural housing scheme, and other vital community projects. The meeting also assessed the status of



sanitation projects under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and the construction of Panchayat Ghars and bunkers in the district.

After a thorough review, the District Development Commissioner asked for speeding up estimation of MGNREGA works. He stressed on

timely payment of wages to Job card holders and Aadhar seeding of their accounts to maintain transparency.

To expedite project completion, the Deputy Commissioner directed Block Development Officers (BDOs) to immediately start all new works and ensure completion within the set timeframe. He further stressed on speedy completion of the remaining PMAY-G houses to ensure 100% saturation of the rural housing scheme.

The Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) was asked to closely monitor the departmental projects to ensure timely completion. The meeting was attended by ACD, ACP, XEN REW, BDOs, and other concerned officers.

Principal Secretary SWD emphasizes enhanced early education, nutrition under ECCE

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 23

Principal Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Anil Kumar Singh, today chaired a joint review meeting of the Social Welfare and School Education Departments to assess the implementation of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting, held at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar, focused on enrolment trends and the function-



ing of Anganwadi Centres and Kindergarten Centres across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Principal Secretary laid emphasis on ensuring

quality early education and adequate nutrition for children under ECCE, underscoring the importance of foundational literacy,

physical development and socio-emotional growth before formal schooling begins. He reviewed the operational status of Anganwadi Centres and Bal Vatikas, highlighting the need for a holistic approach in nurturing young children.

Special attention was given to weeding out duplicate entries from the enrolment lists and ensuring that all eligible beneficiaries are covered under the ECCE framework.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Today's India takes...

central part of its thinking and turned service into its mission. He added that as a result under the PM Awas Yojana, millions of poor, Dalit, distressed, oppressed, and deprived families have been provided with permanent homes.

GOVERNMENT ON MISSION TO ENSURE HOME FOR EVERY POOR CITIZEN

He reiterated the government's goal of ensuring a home for every poor citizen and these homes are not just brick-and-cement structures but reflect the full concept of a home, equipped with all necessary amenities. That is why the houses built under the PM Awas Yojana come with gas, electricity, and sanitation facilities.

Talking about the Jal Jeevan Mission, under which clean water is being delivered to every household, the Prime Minister, as per KNO, highlighted that even in tribal regions where government services had never reached, development is now assured.

He added that for the most marginalized tribal communities, the PM Janman Yojana was launched and many regions are witnessing transformation because of this initiative.

PM Modi remarked that as a result, even those at the lowest rungs of society have found renewed hope. "These initiatives are not only changing their lives, but also seeing themselves playing a vital role in nation-building", he added.

INDIA NOW LEADING GLOBAL MOVEMENTS

He noted that today, India is expanding this philosophy with the spirit of global welfare. Highlighting the recent celebration of International Yoga Day and mentioned that this year's theme was 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health', symbolizing the vision of one planet and universal well-being, the Prime Minister stated that earlier, India had also launched global initiatives like 'One World, One Health' for the welfare of humanity.

He underlined that India is now leading global movements in the direction of sustainable development, such as 'One Sun, One Earth, One Grid'. Recalling that during India's presidency of the G20 Summit in 2023, the theme was 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', the Prime Minister affirmed that these efforts are rooted in the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and inspired by saints like Sree Narayana Guru.

FROM SPORTS TO SPACE, WOMEN MAKING NATION PROUD

The Prime Minister stated that Sree Narayana Guru consistently emphasized the importance of women's empowerment, and the government is progressing with the mantra of Women-Led Development. He pointed out that even decades after independence, there were several sectors in India where women were outrightly banned from entry.

He affirmed that the government removed these restrictions, enabling women to gain rights in new areas.

PM Modi highlighted that today, from sports to space, women are making the nation proud in every field. Noting that every section and segment of society is now contributing to the dream of a developed India with renewed confidence.

The Prime Minister, according to KNO, mentioned initiatives such as the Swachh Bharat Mission, environmental campaigns, the construction of Amrit Sarovars, and millet awareness drives.

He emphasized that these efforts are progressing through the spirit of public participation, powered by the strength of 140 crore Indians.

NEW NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY MODERNISED EDUCATION

The Prime Minister, highlighted that after several decades, a new National Education Policy has been implemented. "This policy not only modernises and makes education more inclusive but also promotes learning in the mother tongue," he said.

PM Modi emphasised that the greatest beneficiaries of this initiative are the underprivileged and marginalised sections of society.

He stated that in the past decade, the number of new IITs, IIMs, and AIIMS established across the country has surpassed the total created in the first 60 years after independence.

As a result, new opportunities in higher education have opened up for poor and disadvantaged youth.

The Prime Minister noted that over 400 Eklavya residential schools have been opened in tribal areas in the last 10 years. He observed that children from tribal communities, who had been deprived of education for generations, are now progressing.

He further stated that education has been directly linked to skills and opportunities. Missions like Skill India are empowering the youth to become self-reliant.

Underlining the country's industrial progress, PM Modi said major reforms in the private sector, and schemes like Mudra Yojana and Stand-Up India are delivering the greatest benefits to Dalits, backward classes, and tribal communities—(KNO)

Don't threaten us...

Speaking to reporters, Omar, as per the news agency took strong exception to recent media reports, suggesting that the restoration of statehood would only come after fresh assembly elections.

"It's good if statehood is restored as soon as possible. Even I read in a newspaper that it will get restored, but only after fresh assembly elections. Let them hold elections, who has stopped them?" the Chief Minister said.

He dismissed the reports as "planted stories" aimed at creating confusion and cast elected legislators as obstacles to progress.

"I know it is a planted story, designed to create fear. The aim is to suggest that MLAs will say no to elections and wait for five years. But let me be clear, statehood is not for any MLA or government; it is for the people of Jammu and Kashmir. And we MLAs will not be a bottleneck to it," he said.

CM Omar also said that if they are being threatened with dissolution of the assembly for asking for statehood, then they can go ahead and do it. "The day statehood is restored, I will myself tell the Governor to dissolve the assembly. But don't threaten us," he said.

Calling for an end to speculative reporting and politi-

cally motivated narratives, the Chief Minister said the time had come for the Centre to uphold its commitment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "These planted stories should be stopped. They will not work. People know the truth. Statehood is our right, and they have to give it to us without conditions and without delay." . KNO

CM Omar vows...

the Chief Minister—who also holds the Tourism portfolio—said, "We want to make Gulmarg a world-class golf destination once again. Special attention will be given to golf, golf infrastructure, and tournaments so that Jammu and Kashmir can be marketed as a pre-eminent golfing destination across the globe."

Acknowledging the effort required, Omar Abdullah said the necessary investment is justified given the economic and tourism potential of Gulmarg. "These are high-spending tourists who don't just play golf—they stay in hotels, go sightseeing, and shop. It's about creating a holistic experience that brings them back year after year," he remarked.

He recalled the past glory of Gulmarg Golf Course, once a favourite among India's top golfers. "The names of the most iconic professional and amateur golfers still adorn the walls of the Gulmarg Club. Sadly, the decline in the situation led to the neglect. But we are determined to bring it back," he said.

The Chief Minister lauded the role of the local MLA and emphasized the need for a tourist-friendly attitude towards visitors. "We must see every tourist not as a one-time visitor, but as a potential repeat guest. Their satisfaction should be our benchmark," he asserted, stressing the need to cater to every kind of visitor—from golfers and horse riders to winter sports lovers and those who simply wish to relax in hotels.

Earlier in the day, CM Omar Abdullah inspected the newly constructed Gulmarg Convention Center, describing it as a "magnificent property" with an auditorium, meeting halls, guest rooms, and dining spaces. He floated the idea of introducing evening leisure options such as cinema screenings, coffee shops, and restaurants to make Gulmarg an "all-encompassing destination."

Highlighting policy reforms, the Chief Minister revealed that the government is actively considering the establishment of a Jammu and Kashmir Golf Development Authority to manage and maintain all major golf courses across the Union Territory—including Srinagar, Pahalgam, Gulmarg, and venues like Sidhra in Jammu. "We need dedicated synergy and professional upkeep of our greens and fairways. There should be a clear distinction between fairways and roughs," he added.

Commending his father and former CM Dr. Farooq Abdullah—a passionate golfer and someone who has built the golf infrastructure in J&K, he said that he would love to do something good for this sport.

The Chief Minister also commended MLA Gulmarg Farooq Ahmad Shah, the driving force behind the tournament, expressing hope that such initiatives will become a recurring feature in Gulmarg's tourism calendar.

Later, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for a 726-meter ski drag lift at Kongdoori, to be constructed at an estimated cost of 6.84 crore. He also laid the foundation for the development and beautification of the water body, popularly known as Seven Springs at Kongdoori, with the project costing 50 lakh.

At Kongdoori, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah interacted with tourists and enquired about their holiday experience in Kashmir. The visitors expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister for his proactive role and leadership in reviving tourism in the region.

A group of ponywalas also called on the Chief Minister and apprised him of various concerns, particularly the reopening of tourist spots in and around Gulmarg. The Chief Minister assured them that all the issues raised would be addressed in a phased manner.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited the Gulmarg Convention Centre to inspect the ongoing works. He urged officials to expedite the remaining tasks and ensure the centre is made operational at the earliest to boost tourism and facilitate major events.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister flagged off the Cyclothon, encouraging youth participation in sports and promoting eco-friendly tourism across the Valley.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by his Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani; MLAs Farooq Ahmad Shah, Javed Riyaz Bedar, Mubarak Gul, and Tanveer Sadiq; Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta; Deputy Commissioner Baramulla; Managing Director, J&K Cable Car Corporation; Chief Executive Officer, Gulmarg Development Authority; and other concerned officials.

No local involved...

Speaking with reporters in Gulmarg, CM Omar, per news agency said during the ongoing probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), two individuals have been arrested for sheltering the attackers.

"It is possible that these individuals acted under duress. Although they provided food to the terrorists, it could have been done under coercion. Let the investigation continue, following its conclusion, the chargesheet and other legal proceedings will be presented by the NIA," CM Omar added.

On the Iran-Israel war, the Chief Minister stressed the urgent need for a lasting ceasefire. "The sooner the ceasefire, the better. The conflict lasted for 12 days and caused significant destruction," he said, expressing hope that the ceasefire would be implemented promptly.

He also highlighted the government's concern for the safety of students from Jammu and Kashmir studying in the region. "A major concern for us was bringing back our children who were studying there. At times, planes faced difficulties because the airspace was closed, but today we are hopeful that a large group of our students will return, and after that our evacuation process will be complete," he said. KNO

Lt Governor Sinha...

and responsibility entrusted to them. He underscored the Board's crucial role in managing the Shrine and preserving its spiritual and cultural heritage.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed confidence that the new members would make significant contributions to the Board's initiatives, furthering its objectives and enhancing the Shrine's stature.

He also acknowledged the dedicated services and significant contributions of former Board Members, and appreciated their valuable contribution in the decision-making processes during their tenure.

The Board conducted a comprehensive review of its past decisions; ratified actions taken since the last meeting and made several key decisions on 21 significant agenda items having far-reaching implications for the Board's functioning and enhancement of pilgrim services.

The Board took several important decisions regarding various ongoing and new projects including the construction of the Exit Track and remodelling of the Manokamna area at Bhawan, development of a helipad in Katra, New Vaishnavi Bhawan, cottages near the Sports Stadium in Katra, widening of the yatra track from Sanjichhat to Bhawan, operationalization of the Board's Medical College at Kakryal and other initiatives to enhance facilities and services for pilgrims.

The meeting reviewed the status of the new helipad project at Village Hutt, a collaborative effort with Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board, being executed by the Border Roads Organization (BRO). Noting delays and revisions, the Board expressed serious concern and directed BRO to complete the project by ending October-2025. The helipad aims to enhance pilgrim facilities to Shiv Khori Shrine by providing a seamless and convenient experience for devotees.

The Board also reviewed the progress on renewable solar energy initiatives in the Shrine area and directed the CEO SMVDSB to present a comprehensive plan for key installations, in an effort to reduce the carbon footprint. The Board approved a comprehensive sewerage network covering 100% of establishments within the Shrine area to enhance sanitation infrastructure.

The Lieutenant Governor reviewed the Yatri Feedback System and directed its expansion to cover all services with monthly monitoring and active encouragement of pilgrim participation, to ensure continuous improvement in service delivery.

The Board also directed CEO SMVDSB to explore the possibility of engaging volunteer services to assist pilgrims by addressing their queries and providing guidance along the Yatra route, enhancing their overall experience and support during the pilgrimage.

The Lieutenant Governor further directed for identifying vulnerable spots along the pilgrimage route and implementing necessary measures to address and mitigate potential risks of landslides and shooting stones, ensuring a safer environment for devotees.

The Board appreciated the enhancement of security measures in the Shrine area with the inauguration of an Integrated Command and Control Centre at SGC, Katra and 7 Sub-Control Centers by the Lieutenant Governor, besides, facilitating security agencies with advanced security equipments to ensure robust security and real-time crowd management for prioritizing devotees' safety and security.

The Board approved the dedication of 5 temples constructed in Reasi District to the public in July-2025 and accorded the approval of construction of 5 new temples with a focus on maintaining uniform architectural design across all locations to reflect the Shrine Board's heritage and aesthetic standards.

The Board reviewed and approved financial assistance for institutions under the SMVD Charitable Society, including Gurukul, Hospital, Sports Complex, College of Nursing and Medical College to support their operations and activities through grants-in-aid.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated several pilgrim-centric facilities including Battery Car Parking stand, Outer Cave Shed, Self Service Kiosk / Digital Cash Register and Smart Lockers. The Board observed that significant infrastructure projects have been initiated by the Shrine Board to enhance pilgrim experience. A Battery Car Parking stand at Bhawan to provide convenience and accessibility to pilgrims, particularly the elderly and disabled. The basement of about 1000 sqft of parking stand serves as a storage area for materials from the Material Rope-way. Additionally, fabrication of a laminated glass shed outside the Cave area to facilitate smooth pilgrimage regulation in all weather conditions while preserving the area's scenic beauty.

300 Smart lockers near the Skywalk area at Bhawan offering a convenient and secure storage solution were also dedicated to the devotees. These smart lockers are linked with RFID Cards allowing devotees to store their belongings safely and securely.

In addition, the Lieutenant Governor also inaugurated an additional dormitory block at SMVD Gurukul, constructed at a cost of Rs.71.82 lakh which accommodates an additional 32 students, enhancing the institution's capacity and infrastructure to support the growing number of students.

Earlier, Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB gave a detailed presentation on varied activities of the Shrine Board and the action taken with regard to the implementation of various decisions of the previous meetings of the Board. KNO

Landslide hits...

weather improves," they said.

The yatra to Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine that remained hit due to border tension during Operation Sindoor has improved in June.

'Govt likely to...

Power Policy 2025, emphasising the Union Territory's significant potential in hydropower generation and its role in economic development.

The officials had said that the draft policy aims to attract private investment in hydropower generation by revising the existing framework. It proposes categorising hydroelectric projects into two segments: Small Hydroelectric Projects (up to 25 MW) and Large Hydroelectric Projects (above 25 MW and up to 100 MW).

The Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA) has been designated as the nodal agency for projects up to 10 MW, while the Jammu

Emergency Day reminds us of murder of democracy: Balbir Ram

JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 24



BJP spokesperson and former Vice Chairman, Balbir Ram Rattan, stated that June 25th marks a dark chapter in the history of Indian democracy. It was on this day in 1975 that the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, heading the Congress government, imposed Emergency on the nation.

"We remember this day as the murder of democracy," he said.

Balbir said that the Emergency was the biggest assault on the Indian Constitution and civil liberties. For 21 months, from June 25, 1975, to March 21, 1977, the country suffered a dark and oppressive regime. Freedom of the press was taken away, millions were jailed without trial, and political opponents were crushed.

He emphasized that all this was done solely to preserve the power of one person – Indira Gandhi, who had been declared disqualified by the Allahabad High Court on charges of electoral malpractice. Driven by greed for power, the Congress strangled the Constitution and pushed the country into an undeclared dictatorship.

Balbir recalled that the leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party at that time strongly opposed the Emergency and fought valiantly for the restoration of democracy. Leaders like Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Lal Krishna Advani, Nanaji Deshmukh, and Jayaprakash Narayan endured the torture of jail but did not bow before dictatorship.

He stated that today, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country is governed by the principles of democracy, transparency, and accountability. The episode of Emergency serves as a grim reminder of how vigilantly we must protect our democracy.

Balbir called upon the youth of the nation to learn from that terrifying period and always remain aware and active in safeguarding democracy.

and Kashmir Power Development Corporation Limited (JKPDCL) will oversee the projects above 10 MW.

Pertinently, the government in 'Draft Hydropower Policy 2022' had said, "Jammu & Kashmir is bestowed with an estimated hydro-power potential out of which 14,867 MW has already been identified by Central Electricity Authority."

"While so far only 3,505 MW (~23% of estimated potential) has been exploited, the achievement with respect to harnessing of small-hydropower (up to 25 MW) has been particularly dismal," it reads.

It also said that the objective of this policy Draft Hydropower Policy 2022' is to lay down a framework for optimum harnessing of hydropower resources of the J&K, particularly the small hydropower, and at the same time to promote entrepreneurship and private sector investment so that hydropower can be promoted as an attractive economic enterprise while enhancing the availability of cheap and clean electric power for the J&K. KNO

Iran-Israel ceasefire...

beauty of the region.

Dr Farooq added, "We hope that devotees have a dashan of Bholenath happily, return to their homes with good memories and say how good the people are and what beauty the Almighty has blessed this place with."

The former CM welcomed the Centre's recent push in sanctioning infrastructure projects in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly tunnels and roads that are expected to boost connectivity and development in remote areas.

"It is good to see that the Centre has sanctioned many projects, including tunnels and roads. We hope more will be sanctioned in the coming time," he said.

Dr Abdullah also urged the government to take a humanitarian view regarding incarcerated separatist leader Shabir Shah's health. He said either the government should provide him with the best medical treatment or release him on parole.

"Shabir Shah should be released on parole to get better treatment, or the government should treat him very well. If he dies in jail, it will become yet another allegation against the Government of India," he warned.

The NC chief stressed that human rights must be safeguarded irrespective of political ideology, especially when a person's life is at stake. Dr Abdullah said he stands with the statement of Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Umar Farooq, what he said in his last Friday speech. KNO

Ahead of expected...

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 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. KNO

Graffiti of foreign...

shall follow strictly in accordance with the juvenile justice framework.

Labour Commissioner reviews SANJY Registration Camp Sonmarg, labour welfare measures at Zojila Tunnel

JI NEWS SERVICE
SONMARG, JUNE 24

Labour Commissioner, S. Charandeep Singh, today conducted a field visit to Sonmarg to review the ongoing registration of service providers for Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANJY) 2025.

He inspected the labour welfare measures at major infrastructure sites, including the Zojila and Z-Morh Tunnels.

At the SANJY Registration Camp in Sonmarg, the Labour Commissioner interacted with the service providers and reviewed the registration process being facilitated by the Labour Department. He directed the Nodal Officer (Assistant Labour Commissioner, Ganderbal) to ensure that registration of all the service providers is carried out in a smooth, efficient and hassle-free manner. He emphasized timely issuance of RFID cards to the registered individuals, as per the schedule prescribed by the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board.

Pertinently, a total of 9,224 service providers



have been registered at the Ganderbal Axis, so far. Across all registration points, the Labour Department has achieved 88.6% of its target, having registered 23,787 out of the total target of 26,850 service providers.

Later, the Labour Commissioner visited the under-construction Zojila and Z-Morh Tunnels, two vital infrastructure projects in the region.

At these worksites, he interacted with both the workers and the management representatives to assess the implementation of labour laws and welfare schemes.

During the interaction, he enquired about the key aspects of worker welfare. These included timely payment of wages, occupational safety and health standards, provision of transit accommodation for non-local workers, aware-

ness and registration under the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Act, coverage under social security schemes such as Employees' State Insurance (ESIC) and Provident Fund (PF).

The Labour Commissioner stressed upon the management to ensure strict adherence to all applicable labour laws. He inspected the on-site health facilities and reiterated that the welfare of workers must remain a top priority, especially in large-scale infrastructure projects.

This visit underscores the commitment of the Labour Department, J&K, towards ensuring not only the seamless organization of the SANJY but also the protection of workers' rights and welfare in alignment with statutory labour frameworks.

SWD organises Nukkad Natak on Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, JUNE 24

To generate public awareness about the ill effects of substance abuse, the District Social Welfare Department today organized a Nukkad Natak (street play) here at Shaheedi Chowk to promote Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

The street play was presented by a group of local artists. Through their powerful and expressive performances, the artists conveyed the adverse impact of substance abuse on individuals, families and society, while urging the youth to stay away from narcotics and support the cause of a drug-free nation.

To reinforce the message, T-shirts with the slogan "Say No to Drugs" were distributed among the youth. The initiative aimed



to motivate young citizens to become ambassadors of change and actively participate in spreading awareness against drug abuse.

The event served as an

effective medium to sensitise the community on the importance of combating substance abuse and building a healthier, addiction-free society.

Committee on Public Undertakings reviews functioning of JKSPDC

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 24

The Committee on Public Undertakings of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today held a review meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to examine audit paras related to the Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC).

The meeting was presided over by Committee Chairman, Ali Mohammad Sagar and attended by members including Saifulah Mir, Ali Mohammad Dar, Baldev Raj Sharma, Shakti Raj Parihar, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Showkat Hussain Ganai, Saif Ud Din Bhat and Tanvir Sadiq.

Secretary Legislative Assembly Manoj Kumar Pandita outlined the agenda.

The Chairman called for expediting all ongoing hydroelectric and power projects across Jammu and Kashmir, noting the Union Territory's vast yet under-utilised potential for power generation. He stressed the need for timely completion and commissioning of projects to benefit the public.

The Chairman underlined the role of robust audits in ensuring transparency and accountability. He directed the officers



to prepare and submit all relevant audit reports to the Committee for appropriate reply to the audit para's.

He also instructed that the joint representation submitted by the employees of various PSUs be referred to the General Administration Department (GAD) for comments.

Highlighting the importance of efficient Public Sector Undertakings, the Chairman emphasised active cooperation from the members and the officials to strengthen the sector.

"It is the responsibility of this Committee to ensure people do not suffer due to delay in execution and completion of projects. Instead responsibility shall be fixed on company or officers for making any kind of delay in execution of the PDD projects in J&K," said the Chairman.

During the session, Principal Secretary, Power Development Department, H. Rajesh Prasad, provided a detailed overview of the current power generation scenario in J&K. He informed the Committee that out of the identified 15,000 MW of hydropower potential, 3,500 MW has been harnessed, so far.

The Committee emphasized the need for corporation-wise review meetings and reiterated their collective commitment towards improving the sector.

The members also shared suggestions and raised issues concerning the power sector.

Also present were the Principal Accountant General J&K; Director General, Accounts and Treasuries; Director General, Expenditure Finance Department; Managing Director, JKSPDC; Director Finance, PDD; CEO, JAKEDA and other concerned officials.

e-KYC drive intensified in Ramgarh to streamline PDS



JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JUNE 24

To enforce transparency and improve targeting under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Samba has intensified its e-KYC verification campaign in the Municipal area of Ramgarh through a door-to-door exercise.

The drive is being conducted by Tehsil Supply Officer (TSO) Ravi Kumar under the overall supervision of

Assistant Director FCS&CA Rahul Gupta in line with the directives of the Director, FCS&CA, Jammu UT of J&K.

The initiative aims at 100% Aadhaar seeding of beneficiaries, elimination of ineligible and duplicate entries for effective and transparent ration supply through the Public Distribution System (PDS).

Local residents and fair price shop dealers have extended active cooperation, making the verification process smooth and result-oriented.

Dharti Aabha Abhiyan Massive awareness prog. held at tribal Checkshera, village of Gojithiji Budgam

JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JUNE 24

As part of the ongoing Dharti Aabha Abhiyan, a large-scale awareness and outreach programme was successfully conducted today at panchayat Checkshera, village Gojithiji, a remote tribal settlement under block Khansahib.

The programme focused on saturation of government schemes across 25 interventions, specifically targeting tribal communities.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents, with greater turnout, reflecting the growing interest and engagement of the tribal population in the Abhiyan.

All concerned line departments actively participated in the Gram Sabha, wherein their representatives elaborated on the eligibility criteria and

benefits of various government schemes, and identified areas where 100% saturation was yet to be achieved.

A significant highlight of the programme was the on-spot registration and facilitation of schemes including PMAY-G (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin), Kisan Credit Cards (KCC), Swadesh Darshan Guest Homes, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) - Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC), PMJAY Health Cards (Ayushman Bharat).

Adding cultural vibrancy to the event, students of Government Secondary School Gojithiji presented captivating performances, including Gojri folk songs and other traditional cultural items, highlighting the importance of preserving tribal heritage and identity.

Director FCS&CA reviews arrangements for SANJY-2025 at Anantnag



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 24

Director FCS&CA, Dr Owais Ahmed, conducted a tour of Nunwan and Chandanwari camps established in district Anantnag for Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025.

He took stock of the arrangements made at the said camps, and it was apprised that sufficient stock of food grains and petroleum products have been made available as per the requirement for yatris and other service providers

associated with functioning of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Officer directed the concerned officials to ensure that there shall be no shortage of food grains and additional food grains are also kept available to meet out any exigency.

It was further directed that officials of FCS&CA deputed at these camps, for the said task, shall remain available 24*7 to address any related issues faced by the pilgrims and the service providers at the stations.

Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra 2025 from July 27 DC Poonch discusses arrangements

JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JUNE 24

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting to discuss the arrangements for the annual Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra, scheduled to commence from July 27, 2025.

At the outset, Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik briefed the participants on the preparations being made. He said the arrangements are being made as per the established protocols and past practices.

The meeting was attended by religious leaders, prominent citizens and local stakeholders. They underlined numerous requirements for smooth conduct of the yatra.

The concerned departments were asked to make arrangements for



accommodation of yatris, provision of toilet and sanitation at base camps and halt points, medical aid, uninterrupted water and power supply, public address for announcements, transport and parking arrangements, sheds, overall cleanliness and

other related facilities.

The Deputy Commissioner assured all stakeholders that the administration is committed to make the Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra 2025 a peaceful, safe and well-managed spiritual experience for all pilgrims.

ADDC Reasi reviews progress achieved under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, JUNE 24

A review meeting to assess the progress of the Awareness and saturation camps in 44 selected tribal villages under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan was held here today.

The ADDC took a detailed review focusing on the number of beneficiaries who have availed the government schemes and services during the camps. It was informed that regular awareness camps are being organized in 44 identified tribal villages to inform and sensitize tribal com-



munities about key welfare schemes.

The ADDC emphasized the need of 100% saturation of benefits under schemes such as Ayushman Bharat, PM Jan Dhan scheme, PM KISAN, besides services like Aadhaar enrollment and issuance of Domicile and other certificates. He directed the District officers, Tehsildars and BDOs to work collectively to ensure all beneficiaries are covered under the outreach camps. He fur-

ther directed to seek the support of ASHA workers in identifying the eligible individuals who are yet to receive Aadhaar, Ayushman Cards, or other welfare entitlements.

The meeting was attended by CPO Narinder Kumar, ACD Vijay Kumar, ACR Nitin Verma, CMO, all BDOs, DIO (info) and other concerned officers.

Mission Vatsalya DC Doda sanctions Rs 1.28 cr Sponsorship Assistance for 201 Beneficiaries

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JUNE 24

Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh has sanctioned over Rs.1.28 crore as Non-Institutional Care Sponsorship benefit to support 201 eligible children under the centrally sponsored Mission Vatsalya scheme.

The financial assistance has been facilitated through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) via J&K Bank, ensuring transparency and timely credit to beneficiaries.

However, the release of the funds was marked by presentation of a symbolic (dummy) cheque to highlight the total amount of Rs 1,28,53,020, disbursed under the scheme.

The initiative aims to



provide crucial financial assistance to children living in vulnerable conditions, including orphans, children who have lost one parent, those with disabilities, those battling life-threatening illnesses, and children from economically disadvantaged

families. The support will help address their essential needs such as education, healthcare, and nutrition, enabling them to lead safe, healthy and dignified life. The event was coordinated by District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) Tariq Qazi.

EDITORIAL

A Tunnel of Hope Through the Pir Panjal

The recent sanction for the construction of a tunnel on the historic Mughal Road has ignited a wave of hope across both sides of the Pir Panjal range – in South Kashmir’s Shopian district and the twin districts of Rajouri and Poonch in the Jammu region. More than just an infrastructure project, this tunnel signifies the promise of year-round connectivity, economic revitalization, and regional integration long yearned for by the people.

For decades, the Mughal Road has stood as a symbol of historical legacy and modern-day neglect. Tracing its roots back to the time of the Mughal emperors Akbar and Jahangir, it once served as a vital artery of travel between Kashmir and the rest of the subcontinent. Today, while it serves as a crucial alternative to the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, it remains vulnerable to seasonal closure – cut off for nearly five months during harsh winters due to heavy snowfall around Pir Ki Gali.

The proposed tunnel is a long-pending demand whose time has finally come. It promises to transform the region from one of seasonal isolation to a zone of sustained activity. For residents, especially in far-flung and economically fragile areas, this means more than connectivity – it means access to education, healthcare, trade, and opportunity.

Voices from the ground echo this optimism. Fruit traders like Abdul Qayoom see it as a lifeline for Kashmir’s horticulture sector, currently battered by delays and transportation losses during road closures. Tourism stakeholders, too, are hopeful. From the scenic heights of Pir Ki Gali to the cascading waters of Noori Chamb, the region boasts unexplored potential that can finally be tapped with year-round access. The tunnel could become a catalyst for hospitality infrastructure, creating employment and drawing sustainable tourism.

Moreover, the strategic significance of this tunnel cannot be overstated. In a region prone to natural disasters and border tensions, an all-weather Mughal Road enhances mobility for defence and disaster-response agencies. It strengthens national resilience and ensures that a disruption on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway no longer paralyzes the Valley.

However, the joy of the announcement must be met with a note of caution. As Waqar Fayaz, a social activist, rightly pointed out, this tunnel must not become another languishing infrastructure dream. Timely execution, transparent oversight, and sustained funding will be critical. Delays have plagued similar projects in the region, eroding public trust and diluting potential benefits.

In conclusion, the tunnel on the Mughal Road is not just a passage through mountains – it is a bridge between aspirations and achievement, between two regions often left at the periphery of development narratives. If implemented efficiently and inclusively, this tunnel could reshape the destiny of the Pir Panjal region, offering not just physical connectivity but socio-economic transformation. It is indeed, as many have called it, a tunnel of hope.

How India’s Rural Revolution Redefined Global Development

VIJAY GARG

Some statistics stop you in your tracks. They don’t just tell you a story – they change the very narrative of a nation. One such number is this: India’s extreme poverty rate has fallen from 27.1 per cent in 2011-12 to just 5.3 per cent in 2022-23. That means 269 million Indians – nearly the population of an entire continent – have broken free from the clutches of extreme poverty in just over a decade. Behind this staggering statistic lies not just good luck or economic growth, but a quiet revolution led by Prime Minister Modi. Eleven years of determined, ground-level governance, hard-nosed reforms, and the revival of India’s most ignored strength – its cooperative economic framework.

This isn’t just a policy shift; it’s a transformation of mindset, of machinery, and of the meaning of development itself. For too long, poverty alleviation was viewed as charity or top-down welfare. But under PM Modi’s leadership, poverty reduction has become an outcome of empowerment, not entitlement. And the beating heart of this transformation?

The recent World Bank report gives global recognition to this

shift, but Indians have been living it daily. It acknowledges what we on the ground already knew: that this isn’t mere statistical luck. It is the result of deliberate structural reforms, institutional innovations, and a relentless push to bring prosperity to the last mile. For the first time, the World Bank is forced to rethink the way poverty is measured and tackled – not with foreign aid or fiscal sops, but through farmer-centric systems, rural institutions, and localised wealth creation.

Let’s not forget: this isn’t about cities. The most significant poverty reduction has taken place in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh – states that are as rural and agrarian as they are populous. That’s no coincidence. These are also the very states where cooperative movements have taken deep root over the past decade, where PACS are being digitised, where FPOs are thriving, and where rural women lead dairy and seed cooperatives with pride. Over the past eleven years, PM Modi has not just created schemes – he’s reformed governance itself. Ministries have become mission-oriented. The Ministry of Cooperation was established not as an afterthought, but as a

declaration that India’s villages matter. Cooperative societies are no longer marginalised – they are central to our economic planning. With the creation of three new national-level multi-state cooperative institutions for export, seed, and organic produce, the message is loud and clear: Bharat will rise from its grassroots.

And this is no longer an emotional or cultural belief – it is an economic reality. Procurement planning is now integrated with production. Farmers are no longer growing in the dark. They know in advance who will buy their produce, at what price, and when. This pre-season certainty has changed the game. Add to this the rural warehousing revolution, where PACS are being upgraded into service and storage hubs, and you have a system where value doesn’t leak – it stays with the farmer.

This transformation is not just an Indian success story – it is a model that challenges the very foundations of global development thinking. For years, institutions like the World Bank, IBRD, and various climate finance bodies have equated development with billion-dollar urban projects, often disconnected from rural realities. However, India has shown that structural

poverty reduction, economic dignity, and climate resilience can go hand in hand when rooted in cooperative – led governance.

Investment in agriculture – especially in procurement infrastructure – has reoriented India’s supply chain around the farmer. This is no longer a system of distressed sales and middlemen. It is a model of forward-planned procurement, storage, and distribution anchored by local institutions. This subtle but powerful disruption in the supply chain has already begun reshaping how development is financed, measured, and delivered. Warehousing reduces post-harvest losses – that’s climate action. Local procurement cuts down on emissions and transport costs – that’s mitigation. Community irrigation saves water – that’s adaptation. But most importantly, these are models of development that are owned, run, and sustained by the people themselves. This is why the upcoming High-Level Political Forum at the United Nations, beginning July 5, must pause and reflect. The SDG playbook can no longer ignore India’s cooperative-led success. Suppose the world is serious about achieving SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger),

SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth). In that case, it must look beyond outdated aid paradigms. It must look towards India. India has proven that poverty isn’t defeated by dependency – it is crushed by dignity. When farmers are seen not as beneficiaries but as entrepreneurs, when supply chains revolve around producers, and when communities build their resilience, transformation becomes inevitable. The World Bank report isn’t the end of the story – it’s the beginning of a new chapter. A chapter where the world rethinks its assumptions, where financial institutions align with grassroots wisdom, and where rural India shows the way forward. Let us send a message from Bharat to the world: Poverty is not destiny. Prosperity is not a privilege. With the right structure, spirit, and support, any nation can rise. But for that to happen, the world must finally listen to Bharat’s voice – from its villages, its cooperatives, and its people.

Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational columnist Eminent Educationist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab

Modern Times, Ancient Roots: Can They Coexist?

SHOWKAT AHMAD LONE
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Modernisation refers to the transformation from traditional, rural, and agrarian societies to modern, urban, and industrial ones. While modernisation brings technological advancements, improved education, and better living standards, it also deeply affects cultural and traditional values. Modernisation refers to the process of adopting new ideas, technologies, and lifestyles to improve living standards and societal development. Traditions, on the other hand, are the customs, beliefs, and practices passed down from generation to generation, reflecting the cultural identity of a community.

With modernisation, societies experience rapid changes in communication, education, fashion, and family structures. While this brings growth and global

awareness, it also creates tension between modern values and age-old traditions. For example, traditional joint families are often replaced by nuclear families due to urban lifestyles. Similarly, traditional attire and languages are being replaced with Western clothing and English, especially among the youth. Some age-old practices are being questioned or abandoned due to increased awareness and education. However, not all effects are negative. Modernisation has helped eliminate harmful practices like child marriage and gender inequality. It also offers tools to preserve traditions, such as the digital archiving of folk music, literature, and rituals.

Traditions are the soul of every culture, reflecting the values, beliefs, and lifestyles of past generations. However, in today’s fast-paced, modern world, many of these traditions are undergoing major changes. With the rise

of technology, urbanisation, and global connectivity, modern life has brought both progress and pressure. On the one hand, it has improved education, healthcare, and communication. On the other, it has led to a gradual fading of traditional practices, languages, and customs.

Festivals are now often celebrated more for show than for their spiritual or cultural meanings. Joint families are turning into nuclear ones, and traditional arts and crafts are being replaced by mass-produced goods. Even food habits, clothing, and languages are shifting to modern and global trends.

Yet all is not lost. Modern platforms like social media and digital archives are helping preserve and promote traditional music, crafts, and rituals. Many young people are now proudly reconnecting with their roots while embracing modern lifestyles. Modernisation

need not mean the end of tradition. Instead, it offers an opportunity to evolve traditions in a way that keeps them relevant and respected. Balancing the old and new is the key to a rich and meaningful cultural future.

As the world races toward modernisation, a common question arises: do modern lifestyles and traditional values clash, or can they coexist? “Our ancient roots are not chains, but anchors to wisdom.” Modernisation brings with it technology, scientific thinking, and new ways of living. It encourages progress, equality, and innovation. On the other hand, tradition carries the wisdom, beliefs, and practices passed down through generations. It offers identity, stability, and a sense of belonging.

In many cases, these two forces seem to be in conflict. For example, modern education may challenge traditional beliefs, and fast-

paced urban life can lead to the weakening of age-old customs and family bonds. Yet modernisation and tradition don’t always have to clash. They can coexist if balanced wisely. Modern tools like digital media are now being used to preserve traditional arts, languages, and festivals. Young people are learning to honour their cultural roots while also embracing global ideas and opportunities.

In conclusion, modernisation and tradition are not enemies. When blended thoughtfully, they can enrich one another – modernisation adds progress, while tradition adds depth and identity. The key lies in respecting the past while shaping the future. Modernisation need not mean the end of tradition. Instead, it offers an opportunity to evolve traditions in a way that keeps them relevant and respected. Balancing the old and new is the key to a rich and meaningful cultural future.

Does Elon Musk nurse Political Ambitions?



OMKAR DATTATRAY

The richest man of the world, the industrialist and the friend of the most powerful man of the world and the American president Donald Trump, Elon Musk has now strained relations with his old friend and there are fissures between the two. Both of these powerful and rich man respectively are levelling charges and counter charges upon one another and it is now obvious that nothing is good between the two friend and they are at a dagger drawn. Elon Musk, a prominent businessman has increasingly shown interest in politics, particularly in the United States and Europe. While he has previously supported a democratic, candidates and even voted for a Republican in 2022, his political contributions and vocal statements have since shifted towards right-leaning and far-right viewpoints. This includes promoting conspiracy theories and falsehoods about democrats, election fraud, and immigration. He also voiced support for Ukraine, while simultaneously advocating referendums and peace deals on Russian-occupied territories.

In Germany, he has expressed support for the far-right Alternative for Germany. As Elon Musk’s public fallout with US President Donald Trump continued the tech billionaire posted on X asking his more than 200 million followers whether it was time to create a new political party that, “actually represents the 80% in the middle.” More than 4,00,000 people have already responded, with 83.4 percent in favour of creating a third, middle party. In response to a social media post by a prominent conservative suggesting Republican’s may need to choose between him and Trump, Elon Musk replied, “Just some food for thought as they consider this Trump has 3.5 years left as president – I will be around for 40+ more.” Musk also criticised Trump for being ungrateful, pointing out that he had spent hundreds of millions of dollars to support Trump’s re-election. It is time to create a new political party in America that actually represents the 80% in the middle,” Elon Musk asked as he scorched Donald Trump over the Big Beautiful Bill. Elon Musk, the world’s richest person, and Donald Trump, most powerful politician has a knock-down, drag-out fight and the world is watching it. Tensions between US President Donald Trump and tech billionaire Elon Musk have reached breaking point, and the bromance is over between the two is over. Amid this fallout, Elon

Musk’s estranged baby mama Ashley St.Clair made a cheeky offer to president Trump as the two teed off against each other on social media. The feud, expectedly, received attention from many, including a post from Ashley St.Clair. After Elon Musk’s continuous attack on Donald Trump’s big beautiful bill, the tech billionaire launched an all-out attack on US president, saying without his support Trump would have lost the election. Trump said that he likely still would have won Pennsylvania without Musk’s help because Democratic vice president Kamala Harris did not choose the state’s governor, Josh Shapiro, to be her running mate. But if they would have picked him, I would have won Pennsylvania, I would have won by a lot’ Trump said. Musk publicly said that was laughable. “Without me, Trump would have lost the election. Dems wolf control the House and the Republicans would be 51-49 in Senate.” the Tesla CEO said in a post on X. This comes after US President questioned his relationship with the tech billionaire indicating their close alliance may be no more. Trump said, he doesn’t know if he and Elon Musk will still have “a good relationship “after the former DOGE head has spent days blasting the GOP’s spending bill.” Elon and I had great relationship, I don’t know if we will anymore. The president noted that Musk has not said anything “about me that’s bad “but

added he had rather the billionaire “criticise me than the bill.” Trump argued Musk was upset because “we took the EV mandate,” in reference to the electric vehicle tax credit legislation would kill. I would have won Pennsylvania regardless of Elon – I’m very disappointed with Elon. He knew this bill better than anyone and he only developed a problem when he found out I would cut the EV mandate. The war of words between Donald Trump and Elon Musk intensified, with Tesla and Space X CEO responding bluntly to the UD president’s criticism over his opposition to Trump’s signature economic bill. Elon Musk has reemerged at the helm of his sprawling tech empire after months spent in Washington as the head of Department of Government Efficiency -DOGE under US president Donald Trump. Called the face of futuristic innovation, Musk became entangled in politics, leading to growing concerns over his prolonged absence from companies like Tesla, Space X, Xai and X (formerly Twitter). Elon Musk has a duel personality and he has graduated from a business titan to political power player and now he is ambitious enough to contest election in future and has eye on the top world cop position. During his political stint, Musk was a close ally of President Trump, often referred to as his “first buddy.” He played a central role in executing controversial budget cuts and

regulatory rollbacks, especially those affecting green energy. While these moves served the administrations agenda, they alienated many of Musk’s core supporters and business partners, especially in the electric vehicle -EV market. Elon Musk and Donald Trump’s once close alliance has broken down in full public view. The Tesla CEO has proposed creating a new political party – “The American Party” to represent what he calls the 80% in the middle. This comes after Musk sharply criticised Trump’s legislative agenda, leading to threats from Trump to cut off government contracts. Their falling-out marks a dramatic turn in US politics, with potential implications for both the tech industry and the Republican party. Elon Musk and Donald Trump once stood on the same political platform. Now, they are locked in an explosive feud that is playing out across social media – and reshaping America’s political landscape. Musk floated the idea of a new centrist political movement. In short it seems that Elon Musk has got political ambitions to grab the top post in America in the future elections and he also wanted Vice president JD Vance to be elevated to the presidency and Musk also threatens to bring impeachment motion against Donald Trump.

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

Study identifies significant gaps in testing for genetic risk of womb cancer

Patients with womb or uterine cancer are not being tested for a genetic condition that increases their chance of developing further cancers, according to a study.

Lynch syndrome is an inherited condition that leaves individuals more susceptible to womb and bowel cancer. While it affects one in 300 people, only five per cent are aware they have it.

Researchers from the University of Edinburgh said that diagnosis of Lynch syndrome is important as it enables patients to take action to reduce their cancer risk. It not only improves outcomes but also reduces healthcare costs.

The study, published in the journal *BMJ Oncology*, looked at more than 2,500 womb cancer cases across the UK and Ireland between 2022 and 2023.

While 91 per cent of tumours were tested for



markers of Lynch syndrome, test results were not routinely communicated to the wider clinical team, meaning follow-up genetic counselling and blood tests were not arranged.

Two-thirds of the patients eligible for genetic counselling were referred for appointments.

Those who were referred faced long waiting lists, resulting in high drop-out rates. Only 48

per cent of womb cancer patients who should have had further testing ultimately received a blood test, the study found.

Gaps in testing mean that many womb cancer patients with Lynch syndrome go undetected, leaving them at risk of developing bowel cancer. Family members are also left vulnerable to cancer risk; unaware they may have the condition.

"Despite clear guid-

ance and excellent rates of tumour testing, too many women with Lynch syndrome are still being missed because they're not referred for definitive blood testing in a timely way. This not only denies them the chance to reduce their future cancer risk but also prevents their relatives from being tested and protected," said Dr Neil Ryan, clinical lecturer at the University of Edinburgh's Centre for Reproductive Health.

"Tumour testing is only cost-effective if it leads to diagnosis -- we urgently need to make mainstream testing truly mainstream," he added.

Early detection would allow the use of preventative measures to reduce the risk of future cancers, such as taking aspirin and having regular colonoscopies to prevent bowel cancer, or hysterectomies to prevent womb cancer, the researchers said.

A handful of almonds daily can help you fight metabolic syndrome

Suffering from metabolic syndrome? A handful of almonds daily may help improve your health, according to a study.

People with metabolic syndrome have at least three of the conditions like abdominal obesity, high blood pressure, high blood sugar, low levels of "good" cholesterol, and high levels of triglycerides.

Scientists at Oregon State University (OSU), US, showed that eating 2 ounces of almonds -- about 45 nuts -- daily led to signs of better cardiometabolic and gut health.

Metabolic syndrome



has also recently been linked with cognitive dysfunction and dementia.

"Evidence suggests that people with metabolic syndrome are three times as likely to suffer a heart attack or stroke and twice as likely to die from coronary heart disease compared to people without this condition," said Emily Ho, director of OSU's Linus Pauling Institute.

"Poor diet and inactivity contribute to the development of metabolic syndrome, and gut health and chronic inflammation may also play roles," Ho said.

For the study, the team devised a 12-week clinical trial involving two groups of people aged 35-60 with metabolic syndrome.

One group ate 320 calories worth of almonds every day. The other ate

crackers with the same caloric value but without many of the healthy fats, protein, and micronutrients found in almonds.

At four weeks and again at 12 weeks, blood samples from the almond snackers showed, as expected, a marked increase in vitamin E -- an antioxidant and anti-inflammatory compound found in almonds.

In addition to vitamin E, almonds have polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fats, fibre, polyphenols, biotin, copper, potassium, and magnesium.

The researchers also saw changes in other important health biomarkers among people in the almond group, including declines in total cholesterol, LDL cholesterol (often referred to as "bad" cholesterol), and waist circumference.

Almond snacking also appeared to help limit gut inflammation, an indicator of gut health.

Study finds why some people with memory problems often overeat

A team of US scientists has discovered a specific group of brain cells that could explain why people with memory problems often overeat.

The team showed that people who also keep forgetting about recent meals can trigger excessive hunger and can lead to disordered eating.

Researchers from the University of Southern California showed that the group of brain cells can create memories of meals, encoding not just what food was eaten but when it was eaten.

During eating, neurons in the ventral hippocampus region of the brain become active and form what the team of researchers call "meal engrams" -- specialised memory traces that store information about the experience of food consumption.

While scientists have long studied engrams for



their role in storing memories and other experiences in the brain, the new study, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, identified engrams dedicated to meal experiences.

"Meal engrams function like sophisticated biological databases that store multiple types of information such as where you were eating, as well as the time that you ate," said Scott Kanoski, Professor of biological sciences at the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences.

Kanoski added that the findings could eventually inform new clinical approaches for treating obesity and weight management.

Current weight management strategies often focus on restricting food intake or increasing exercise, but the new research suggests that enhancing meal memory formation could be equally important.

The research team used advanced neuroscience techniques to observe the brain activity of laboratory

rats as they ate, providing the first real-time view of how meal memories form.

The meal memory neurons are distinct from brain cells involved in other types of memory formation.

When researchers selectively destroyed these neurons, lab rats showed impaired memory for food locations but retained normal spatial memory for non-food-related tasks, indicating a specialized system dedicated to meal-related information processing.

The study revealed that meal memory neurons communicate with the lateral hypothalamus, a brain region long known to control hunger and eating behaviour. When this hippocampus-hypothalamus connection was blocked, the lab rats overate and could not remember where meals were consumed.

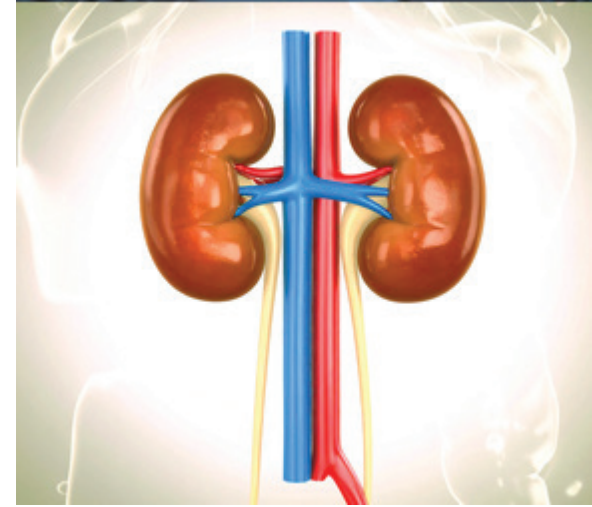
Prior Covid vaccination proved beneficial for acute kidney injury patients: Study

Vaccinated patients hospitalised with Covid-19 who developed acute kidney injury had better outcomes than unvaccinated patients with the same condition, according to new research on Friday.

The study led by researchers from the University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA) showed that patients with prior vaccination were less likely to stay on dialysis after discharge, and more likely to survive than unvaccinated patients.

Acute kidney injury, or AKI, is common among people infected with Covid, with rates running as high as 46 per cent. It can lead to a mild decrease in kidney function or, if severe enough, to dialysis. The long-term renal and survival outcomes of these patients, however, have not been well understood.

The findings, published in the peer-reviewed journal *Kidney Medicine*, sug-



gest that Covid vaccination can reduce long-term kidney function decline and mortality risk.

"The Covid vaccine is an important intervention that can decrease the chances of developing complications from the Covid-19 infection in patients hospitalised with acute kidney injuries," said lead author Dr. Niloofer Nobakht, Associate Professor of Medicine at

the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

"It is important for individuals to discuss the benefits of getting vaccinated for Covid-19 with their doctors as it can decrease the chances of needing dialysis, which can severely affect the quality of life of patients and lead to further complications including death," Nobakht added.

The researchers anal-

ysed about 3,500 patients hospitalised with Covid between March 1, 2020, and March 30, 2022.

Of those patients, 972 developed acute kidney injury, with 411 (42.3 per cent) unvaccinated and 467 (48 per cent) having received at least two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna mRNA vaccines or one dose of Johnson & Johnson's vaccine.

They found that 65 (15.8 per cent) unvaccinated patients were more likely to need a type of dialysis called continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) compared with 51 (10.9 per cent) vaccinated patients.

In addition, unvaccinated patients had 2.56 times the odds of needing CRRT after hospital discharge, 5.54 times the risk of dying in the hospital, and 4.78 times higher risk of dying during long-term follow-up compared with vaccinated patients.

Blood transfusion cornerstone of effective healthcare, emergency response: WHO

Blood transfusion is the cornerstone of effective healthcare and emergency responses, said Saima Wazed, Regional Director for WHO South-East Asia on Friday, ahead of the World Blood Donor Day.

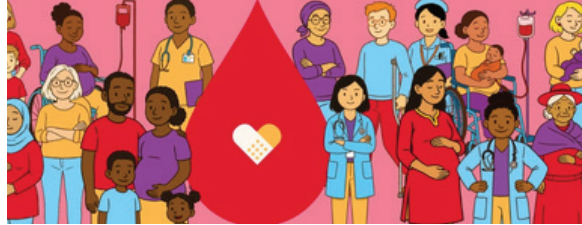
World Blood Donor Day is marked annually on June 14. This year the theme is "Give blood, give hope: together we save lives."

The day honours the silent heroes among us -- voluntary, unpaid blood donors -- whose simple yet powerful act of donating their blood saves countless lives each day.

Wazed noted that to build resilient national health systems it is essential to have the critical and continuous need for safe blood and blood products.

Yet many people, especially in low- and middle-income countries, do not have access to safe and timely transfusion services.

"Blood transfusion is a



cornerstone of effective healthcare and emergency response. From mothers experiencing complications during childbirth, to children suffering from severe anaemia to patients undergoing surgery or living with chronic blood disorders like thalassemia, haemophilia, and sickle-cell disease -- blood saves lives," said the Regional Director.

"In crisis situations, such as natural disasters or conflict, timely access to safe blood is often the difference between life and death," she added.

Wazed said that strong national systems and a stable base of voluntary, unpaid donors who are willing to give blood regularly are key to achieving

universal access to safe blood.

Meanwhile, the Regional Director noted that all countries in the WHO South-East Asia have developed national blood policies aligned with the global health body's recommendations on blood safety.

These policies advocate for nationally coordinated blood transfusion services based on 100 per cent voluntary non-remunerated blood donations (VNRD), and adherence to national or internationally recognised blood standards.

"Currently, nearly 50 per cent of our Member States have achieved close to 100 per cent VNRD coverage, contributing significantly to the

blood supply required for national health systems. Across our region, approximately 82 per cent of all donated blood is sourced from voluntary, unpaid donors, reflecting strong community engagement and donor motivation," Wazed said.

Further, Wazed stated that all blood collected in the SE region is screened for transfusion-transmitted infections (TTIs) and tested for the necessary serological parameters.

She urged all governments, health authorities to renew support for national blood transfusion programmes.

"On World Blood Donor Day 2025, let us remember that each blood donation is not just a medical act -- it is an act of compassion, commitment, and hope. It is a lifeline to someone, somewhere, who may never meet their donor, but whose life was touched forever," Wazed said.

Haemophilia B gene therapy safe, effective for long-term: Study

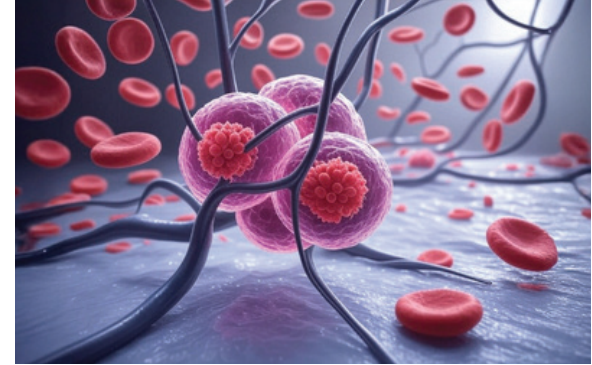
A gene transfer approach to treating the bleeding disorder haemophilia B remains safe and effective long-term, according to a study by UK-based scientists.

Haemophilia B is a rare genetic disorder caused by insufficient levels of a circulating protein called factor IX, which promotes blood clotting.

Scientists from the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and University College London used a one-time gene therapy intervention to address the disorder.

Their finding, based on 13 years of follow-up data, published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* shows an almost 10-fold reduction in annualised bleeding rate. It supports the long-term viability of gene therapy for the disease's treatment.

"The key benefit is that gene therapy is a one-time, simple intravenous infusion that's very



straightforward to do and potentially has positive effects for a lifetime," said Andrew Davidoff, from the St. Jude Department of Surgery chair.

Haemophilia B is an X-linked genetic disorder affecting 1 in approximately 25,000 male births. While the disorder can range in severity, frequent spontaneous bleeding and life-threatening haemorrhages occur due to insufficient blood-clotting factor IX.

Treatment for haemophilia B has traditionally been expensive for lifelong supplementation of the

clotting factor, but gene therapy offers a potentially transformative means to address the disorder.

The study included 10 adults with severe haemophilia B who received the gene therapy drug between March 2010 and November 2012.

After initial safety and efficacy successes reported in 2014, the patients were followed over 10 additional years and have all maintained a steady level of factor IX and an excellent benefit in terms of freedom from bleeding.

In the field of gene therapy, questions remain

regarding the enduring viability of these treatments, with key stakeholders, including patients and families, waiting to see what the long-term outcomes will be, such as durability and stability of expression.

"For these 10 patients, the factor levels are stable and have been at the same level across these 13 years," said principal investigator Ulrike Reiss, St. Jude Department of Haematology.

"Further, we have not seen any side effects or toxic events in the long-term follow-up."

The lack of toxic events is noteworthy. Upon administering the gene therapy, over 90 per cent ends up in the liver.

While a small degree of liver inflammation was noted shortly after vector administration, it was curbed by steroid administration and did not return after initially resolving, the team said.

IYC President Uday Bhanu felicitates J&K Deaf Sports Association at IYC HQ

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 24

Indian Youth Congress (IYC) National President Shri Uday Bhanu Chib today met and felicitated the Jammu & Kashmir Deaf Sports Association team at the IYC Headquarters, following their stellar performance at the 27th National Deaf Senior Sports Championship.

The J&K team, with Team Manager Shri Ranjodh Singh (Vice President & Chairman, JKPYC Sports Cell) and Mohd Saleem (Vice Chairman, J&K Sports Association of the Deaf), secured an impressive 12 medals across various categories, reflecting their unwavering dedication, hard work, and sporting excellence.

In a special gesture, President Uday Bhanu Chib arranged an online interac-



tive session with Olympian Bajrang Punia, who lauded the athletes' achievements and motivated them to continue striving for greatness in their sporting careers.

The National IYC President commended the team's spirit and said, "These young athletes from J&K have proved that passion and perseverance can overcome any challenge.

IYC stands with them and all differently-abled sportspersons who continue to make India proud."

State General Secretary of JKPYC, Anirudh Sawhney, also congratulated the athletes and support staff, appreciating their efforts and commitment to representing the Union Territory with pride on the national stage.

ADC Jammu reviews Muharram arrangements

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 24

Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Ansuya Jamwal today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for the Muharram processions and related congregations.

The meeting was attended by Dy. SP Traffic City Jammu Anubhuti, SE PWD Sunil Gandotra, ExEn JPDCL Avneet Gupta and AK Chibber, Information Officer Monika, Health Officer JMC Dr Vinod Sharma, besides other concerned

officers. Representatives of various religious bodies also participated in the meeting and shared their inputs.

During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held regarding security, traffic management, sanitation, health care, power and water supply and other necessary arrangements to ensure the peaceful and smooth conduct of Muharram observances.

The Police and Traffic departments were directed to ensure adequate deployment of personnel to imple-

ment traffic diversions and crowd management along the designated procession routes.

The Jammu Municipal Corporation was asked to deploy additional sanitation staff and ensure cleanliness along the procession routes. Arrangements for water tankers and waste management were also discussed.

The Health Department was directed to keep ambulances and medical teams on standby. Emergency medical arrangements will be made at key locations

during major processions.

The PHE and PDD departments were instructed to ensure uninterrupted supply of water and electricity during the observances. Street lighting and drainage systems are also being checked and repaired wherever necessary.

The ADC stressed on close inter-departmental coordination for effective implementation of all arrangements. Nodal officers have been designated from each department to monitor and respond to any emerging issues.

The administration assured full support to the organisers and participants while appealing to the public to cooperate with the authorities and adhere to the prescribed guidelines and routes.

Representatives of religious bodies were requested to coordinate with the administration for smooth conduct of congregations.

The district administration reiterated its commitment to ensure that Muharram is observed with dignity, safety and communal harmony.

Dr. Karan Singh inspects renovated Shiv Gauri Temple in Pahalgam

JNEWS SERVICE
PAHALGAM, JUNE 24

Dr. Karan Singh ji, Hon'ble Chairman Trustee of Jammu & Kashmir Dharmarth Trust, today visited the historic Shiv Gauri Temple in Pahalgam to inspect the recently completed renovation and restoration work. He was accompanied by his daughter-in-law, Smt. Chitrangada Raje Singh, and grandson Sh. Martand Singh, who is also a Trustee of the Dharmarth Trust.

During the visit, Dr. Karan Singh ji interacted with temple staff, local officials and expressed satisfaction over the peaceful atmosphere in Pahalgam following the recent terror-related incidents in the region. He emphasized that maintaining peace and communal harmony in the area is vital, especially ahead of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Yatra.

Notably, the Shiv Gauri Temple, originally constructed by Dr. Karan



Singh ji in 1962, has been restored to its pristine glory by the Dharmarth Trust in July 2024. The Trust undertook the task as part of its ongoing efforts to preserve and promote the rich spiritual and cultural heritage of Jammu & Kashmir.

Dr. Karan Singh ji appealed to the people

across the country to participate in the Shri Amarnath Yatra in large numbers and experience the spiritual grace of the sacred pilgrimage. He reiterated the Trust's commitment to ensuring all facilities for the devotees and enhancing the overall spiritual environment of the region.

SKJVST felicitates entire team of Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jammu



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 24

Shri Kailakh Trust felicitated the entire team of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jammu, on their third consecutive victory.

Securing leadership of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the third time proves that Shri Arun Gupta and his entire team are fully living up to the trust of the business community.

A grand and dignified felicitation ceremony was organized by Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sans-than Trust, Raipur (Thather), Jammu & Kashmir, at Chamber House, Jammu. In this event, Shri Arun Gupta, the newly elected President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Jammu, was honored for his historic third-time victory. This honor symbolizes the remarkable work

being carried out by the Chamber under his leadership and the trust he commands among the business community.




On this special occasion, the Chamber's Senior Vice President Anil Gupta, Junior Vice President Rajiv Gupta (Kaka), General Secretary Manish Gupta, Secretary Rajesh Gupta, and Treasurer Rajesh Gupta were also felicitated. They were presented with certificates of appreciation and mementoes in recognition of their dedication and contribution to the organization.

Presiding over the ceremony, Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust, stated in his address that attaining the leadership of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the third time proves that Shri Arun Gupta and his entire team

have truly earned the trust of the business community. Their efforts in voicing the concerns of traders and taking constructive steps for development are indeed commendable.

In his speech, President Shri Arun Gupta expressed gratitude for the honor bestowed by the Trust and praised its contribution in promoting Sanskrit language and Sanatan traditions in the region. He assured that the Chamber would continue to work hand in hand with such religious and cultural organizations.

Anil Gupta, President of Swami Vivekananda Charitable Trust, Jammu Ambphalla, also shared his views, emphasizing that religious and social organizations must collaborate with business groups for the welfare of society. This, he said, forms the foundation of a healthy society.

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

Short e-NIT No. 05 of 2025-2026 / Khour Dated 23-06-2025

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 Sohal to Mirsar Gurha Jagir. (Paver). 2) Link road from Sohal to Gurha Jagir Mohalla Pattian (Virender Kumar) (Paver). (under Action plan of City and Town Programme 2025-26.) (Ist Call)	PWD (R&B) Division Khour	22.00	600	44000/-	60 days	(1400 Hrs) on or after 02-07-2025	A,B, & C Class/Hot Mix Plant Owner
2	Macadamization of following roads with Paver 1) Link road from main link road to Chanjua(Paver). 2) Link road from main road Jourian (Water Tank) Naiwala to Dabra (Paver). (under Action plan of City and Town Programme 2025-26.) (Ist Call)	PWD (R&B) Division Khour	33.00	600	66000/-	60 days	(1400 Hrs) on or after 02-07-2025	A&B Class/Hot Mix Plant Owner
3	Macadamization of following roads with Paver :-1)Link road from Potha road to H/o Janak Raj via shiv mandir and Bhagwati resort (Paver). 2) Link road A-2 to village Indri.(Paver). (under Action plan of City and Town Programme 2025-26.) (Ist Call)	PWD (R&B) Division Khour	19.00	600	38000/-	60 days	(1400 Hrs) on or after 02-07-2025	A,B, & C Class/Hot Mix Plant Owner
4	Macadamization of following roads with Paver :-1)Link road from Police Nakka on Malla bridge to Middle school Malla Ward No. 7 (Paver). 2) Link road from main road to old Tubewell ward no. 7 (Paver). (under Action plan of City and Town Programme 2025-26.) (Ist Call)	PWD (R&B) Division Khour	22.00	600	44000/-	60 days	(1400 Hrs) on or after 02-07-2025	A,B, & C Class/Hot Mix Plant Owner
5	Macadamization of link road from Pangrain to Jadh Bhagta via Malma Pond. (Paver) (under Action plan of City and Town Programme 2025-26.) (Ist Call)	PWD (R&B) Division Khour	10.00	600	20000/-	60 days	(1400 Hrs) on or after 02-07-2025	A,B, C & D Class/Hot Mix Plant Owner
6	Macadamization of link road PMGSY link road to Master Charan Dass kerri mohalla (Paver). (under Action plan of City and Town Programme 2025-26.) (Ist Call)	PWD (R&B) Division Khour	9.00	600	18000/-	60 days	(1400 Hrs) on or after 02-07-2025	A,B, C & D Class/Hot Mix Plant Owner
7	Macadamization of link road from main Jourian road to Purani Muthi (Paver). (under Action plan of City and Town Programme 2025-26.) (Ist Call)	PWD (R&B) Division Khour	25.00	600	50000/-	60 days	(1400 Hrs) on or after 02-07-2025	A,B, & C Class/Hot Mix Plant Owner
8	Macadamization of road with Paver Link road to mohalla Rattan lal at Balli and allied links of nathal Panchayat (under Action plan of City and Town Programme 2025-26.) (Ist Call)	PWD (R&B) Division Khour	20.00	600	40000/-	60 days	(1400 Hrs) on or after 02-07-2025	A,B, & C Class/Hot Mix Plant Owner
9	Macadamization of road with Paver Link road to House of Kewal kumar at Thandi Choi ward no. 06 Serh (under Action plan of City and Town Programme 2025-26.) (Ist Call)	PWD (R&B) Division Khour	8.00	600	16000/-	60 days	(1400 Hrs) on or after 02-07-2025	A,B, C & D Class/Hot Mix Plant Owner
10	Macadamization of link road from main road Narbera Dhakkar to Mohalla Rajput and allied links of Panchayat Battal. (Paver) (under Action plan of City and Town Programme 2025-26.) (Ist Call)	PWD (R&B) Division Khour	12.00	600	24000/-	60 days	(1400 Hrs) on or after 02-07-2025	A,B, C & D Class/Hot Mix Plant Owner
11	Macadamization of link road to Mohalla Ex Sarpanch Sh. Naresh Paul, Yashpaul and allied links of Panchayat Malla. (Paver). (under Action plan of City and Town Programme 2025-26.) (Ist Call)	PWD (R&B) Division Khour	16.00	600	32000/-	60 days	(1400 Hrs) on or after 02-07-2025	A,B, & C Class/Hot Mix 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

S. No	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	23-06-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 24-06-2025 to 01-07-2025 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	24-06-2025
5	Bid Submission End Date	01-07-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	02-07-2025 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/797-806
Dated : 23-06-2025

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

DIP/J-2563/25
Date: 24-6-25

Director inaugurates newly constructed Medical Unit at NIT Srinagar

J NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 24

Director National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia on Tuesday inaugurated a newly constructed Medical Unit on the campus aimed at providing enhanced healthcare services to students, faculty, and staff on campus.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman, Dean Planning and Development Dr. Yashwant Mehta, Medical Officer Dr. Gawhar Nabi, Executive Engineer Dr. Syed Mohsin, AR (Director's Office & Legal) Mohammad Hazik, Dental Surgeon Dr. Urnaib Riyaz, Dr. Tasaduq Nazk (Physiotherapist), Mohammad Abrar Khan (Sr Pharmacist), Mr. Fairouz Malla (Counsellor), and several other faculty and staff members.

two-storey health centre is equipped with comprehensive medical services, including a Medical Officer, Dental Surgeon, Physiotherapist, X-ray Technician, Lab Technician, a state-of-the-art diagnostic laboratory, a counselling cell, and two ambulances.

Built under the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) grant at a total cost of Rs 5.8 crore, the project commenced on August 26, 2022, and was completed on May 15, 2025.

Following the formal inauguration, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia inspected all the facilities, including the OPD section, dental clinic, physiotherapy wing, diagnostic lab, and counselling area. He interacted with the medical staff and reviewed the infrastructure and operational arrangements.

Director NIT Srinagar Prof. Kanaujia appreciated the quality of work



and called for regular monitoring, maintenance, and a robust feedback mechanism from students to ensure that the facility remains efficient and responsive to evolving healthcare needs.

He also stressed the importance of health awareness and preventive care within the campus community.

Speaking at the occasion, Prof. Kanaujia said this upgraded medical unit

is a significant addition to the institute's infrastructure and will help ensure timely and quality medical care on campus.

"It reflects our unwavering commitment to the well-being of our students, faculty, and staff. Good health forms the foundation of strong academic performance," he added.

Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman said the newly inaugurated health centre is a significant milestone

in the institute's journey toward strengthening campus infrastructure.

"This facility reflects our commitment to building a campus where health and education go hand in hand. A strong academic institution must also have strong support systems and this health centre is a vital part of that vision," he said.

Prof. Rehman expressed gratitude to the Ministry for its continued support. This medical unit, funded

under the EWS grant, is not just a building; it's an assurance of care, safety, and preparedness for our entire community," he said.

Medical Officer Dr. Gawhar Nabi said the new facility provides 24/7 OPD and IPD services, dental care, physiotherapy, and advanced laboratory diagnostics.

The laboratory is equipped with cutting-edge technologies, including a Fully Automatic Biochemistry Analyzer (Response 910), SD Biosensor F200 (HbA1c), Olympus Microscope, Remi Centrifuge, Snibe Maglumi 800 (Hormone Analyzer), and Sysmex XN330 (CBC Analyzer)bc,

"I am personally thankful to the Director, Registrar, and the entire administration of NIT Srinagar for their consistent support and guidance throughout this initiative," Dr. Gawhar added.

Day 3: Lolab Premier League: spectacular performances, big crowds, unforgettable action



J NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, JUNE 24

Great cricketing action continued on the third day of the Lolab Premier League with seven matches played across the venues.

In the matches held at Chandigam, MCC Laspipora put up a total of 126/6 and restricted Game Changers Khurhama to only 120/10 to win the tie.

Irfan Ahmad, of Lassipora was adjudged Man of the Match. In the second match Sogam Warriors, Sogam defeated Azhar

Sports Diver with Muneer Mir walking away with the Man of the Match award.

At Tarich, Handwara II defeated Rising Star Suri-gam in a largely one-sided tie.

At Tekipora, Young Lords Diver started the day with a win against FBCC Lalpora by a margin of 6 wickets with Junaid Ul Islam as the Man of the Match.

In the second match Friends II Sogam powered by a great innings by Towseef, won against Lolab Super Gaints

Vibodh hails Modi Govt for approval of Mughal Road Tunnel

J NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JUNE 24:

Akhnoor Ex-Servicemen Association raises concern over traffic diversion; demands traffic from old steel bridge at Akhnoor

Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir General Secretary and Former MLC Vibodh Gupta today expressed profound gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari for approving the construction of a crucial 9 km tunnel on Mughal Road, a project estimated at a cost of Rs 3,830 crore.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP office in Rajouri, Vibodh Gupta, flanked by District President Dev Raj Sharma and Prabhari Jugal Dogra, extended heartfelt congratulations to the people of Rajouri-Poonch.



"This vital project will ensure all-weather connectivity from Rajouri to Srinagar, effectively ending the months-long closures that have historically plagued this essential route," stated Vibodh. He emphasized that the tunnel is a significant step towards boosting tourism and unlocking new employment opportunities in the twin border district of Rajouri-Poonch aligning perfectly with the vision of Viksit Bharat and Viksit Rajouri-Poonch.

Vibodh launched a scathing attack on past governments asserting, "For decades of deliberate neglect and empty promises, parties like the National

Conference and Congress shamefully betrayed the aspirations of the people of Rajouri-Poonch. They made promises regarding the development of Mughal Road, Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for the Pahari Tribe, and lifting the ban on inter-district recruitment but never delivered. It is only under the decisive leadership of the Modi government that all these long-cherished aspirations have been fulfilled, unleashing an era of historic development and true empowerment in Rajouri-Poonch."

Vibodh highlighted the unwavering commitment of the Modi government to the development and

prosperity of Rajouri-Poonch. He maintained that the approval of the Mughal Road tunnel is not just about connectivity; it's a testament to the Modi government's unwavering commitment to the ground realities and needs of our people.

Vibodh asserted that the Modi government is committed to undertake several more transformative projects to further boost tourism in Rajouri-Poonch which includes improving connectivity to Shikarimarg, the beautification of seven pristine lakes, and the development of comprehensive religious circuits initiatives that will elevate Rajouri-Poonch as a prominent tourist destination

BJP Districts President Dev Raj Sharma said that Modi government is dedicated to the holistic development of Rajouri-Poonch, ensuring that

every possible step is taken to enhance the welfare and progress of its people. He underscored key initiatives, including the granting of Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to the Pahari Tribe and the political and educational empowerment of the Gujjar Bakerwal Tribe, alongside extensive infrastructure development such as the all-weather connectivity of Mughal Road.

Prabhari Jugal Dogra stated, "The transformative projects sanctioned under Prime Minister Modi's leadership are a clear indication that Rajouri-Poonch is no longer an afterthought but a priority in the national development agenda. He said that the consistent efforts to empower our tribes and build crucial infrastructure like this tunnel are dismantling the legacy of neglect left by parties more interested in power than in progress.

Indian Army conducts Medical Patrol to extend Healthcare support in remote areas at Nagalban, Poonch

J NEWS SERVICE
POONCH: 24 JUN 2025

As part of its ongoing commitment to serve remote communities and strengthen civil-military relations, the Indian Army conducted a Medical Patrol in the remote village of Nagalban, located in the Poonch District. This initiative was aimed at providing essential medical care to underserved populations residing in border and far-flung areas where access to basic healthcare remains a challenge. During the patrol, Army medical personnel offered free medical consultations, distributed essential medicines, and spread awareness about preventive healthcare, personal hygiene, and common seasonal illnesses. Local villagers, especially elderly



residents, women, and children, greatly benefited from the timely intervention and compassionate care provided by the Army medical team.

Individual health concerns were addressed on the spot, while critical cases were guided for referral to nearby civil hospitals for further treatment. The effort was met

with heartfelt appreciation from the local population, who expressed their gratitude for the Army's dedication to their welfare. Such initiatives not only help in improving healthcare access in inaccessible regions but also further strengthen the enduring bond between the Indian Army and the people.

Dual governance, administrative chaos harmful for J&K, Nation: Ajay Sadhotra

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 24

Sounding the alarm over the deepening crisis in governance and democracy, Ajay Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary of JKNC and former Minister, today said that dual governance and administrative chaos unleashed by the BJP-led Central Government is not only detrimental to Jammu and Kashmir but also poses a grave threat to the democratic fabric of the entire nation.

The former Minister was speaking while addressing a meeting of party functionaries at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan in Jammu.

Coming down heavily on the BJP-led Central Government for its hollow celebrations marking 11 years in power, the senior NC leader termed the event as an exercise in deception and a mockery of the suffering people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that while the BJP is celebrating, the ground reality in J&K reflects a picture of neglect, betrayal, and administrative failure.

Ajay Sadhotra said the dual governance model imposed in J&K has only resulted in administrative uncertainty, policy paraly-



sis, and disconnect with the people. "Such chaos is dangerous not just for J&K, but for the entire nation. J&K today stands as a classic example of how democracy has been stifled under BJP rule," he said.

Adv. Rattan Lal Gupta, in his address, emphasized that restoration of statehood is the only viable solution to end this democratic suffocation and crises. "By not restoring statehood and delaying bye elections of Nagrota and Budgam Assembly Constituencies and four seats of Rajya Sabha, the BJP is insulting the democratic aspirations and mandate of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Highlighting the deteriorating situation in the Jammu region, he stated, "In the last 11 years, ter-

rorism has resurfaced across the Jammu region, which was once considered peaceful. The gruesome terror attacks in Dhangri and Reasi are testimony to the worsening security scenario.

On the development front, Rattan Lal Gupta said there has been no significant progress in infrastructure. "Despite tall claims, no new power or water infrastructure has been created in Jammu and Kashmir even though the BJP was in power both in the UT and at the Centre. Even senior IAS officer Ashok Parmar had levelled serious allegations of rampant corruption in the Jal Shakti Department, which reflects the inefficiencies and policy failures within the administration."

He asserted that the present Omar Abdullah-

led Government is making all possible efforts to create adequate infrastructure aimed at providing 24x7 power and water supplies to the general public.

Regarding industry and employment, Adv. Gupta said the BJP's so-called industrial revolution has failed to materialize. "MoUs worth Rs 84,000 crore were signed on paper, but on the ground, industrial units are either shutting down or lying idle. Unemployment is at its peak. Youth are frustrated due to repeated recruitment scams, including in JKSSB and Police Sub-Inspector exams during the 10 years of BJP's rule. Even the promised border battalions were never raised," he stated.

Bimla Luthra, former MLA, said that the present NC Government is com-

mitted to empowering the women of J&K and ensuring their active participation in all spheres of public life.

Earlier, party functionaries welcomed Vijay Luthra who has been nominated as Joint Secretary of JKNC of Jammu Province by Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu JKNC as directed by Dr. Farooq Abdullah, President JKNC.

Vijay Luthra thanked the party functionaries and assured them of his commitment to strengthen the organization at all levels.

Among those who were present included: Sheikh Bashir Ahmad, Pardeep Bali, Ayub Malik Provincial Secretaries Jammu, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, S. Tejinder Pal Singh Provincial President YNC Jammu, Rakesh Singh Raka, Dilshad Malik Vice President Central Zone, Laxmi Datta Senior leader, Ashwani Charak Block President Jammu East, S. Gurnam Singh Block President Jammu West, Sapna Gill Block President Jammu East Women Wing, Sahil Kerni District President Jammu Urban YNC, Jatin Bhat, S. Arunpal Singh, Rajeshwar Singh, Rajat, Virajmahanoori and others.

Suri sounds alarm on critical medicine shortage for haemophilia patients in J&K

J NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 24

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) executive member Raman Suri has raised serious concerns over the persistent non-availability of essential medicines for haemophilia patients in government medical colleges and hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir. Highlighting the plight of approximately 800 registered haemophilia patients in Jammu and Srinagar, Suri emphasized that the exorbitant cost of these medicines makes them unaffordable for most, leaving patients in distress and at risk.

"The lack of medicines for haemophilia treatment is a grave issue that continues to haunt patients in Jammu and Kashmir," said Raman Suri. "These patients, already burdened by a lifelong condition, are forced to endure immense hardship due to the unavailability of critical drugs. Many have to travel hundreds of kilometers to hospitals in the capital, as district hospitals lack both medicines and basic information about haemophilia care."



Raman Suri pointed out that the Jammu and Kashmir Medical Supply Corporation, responsible for procuring these medicines, is well aware of the patients' struggles, yet shortages persist. "It is unacceptable that patients are left to suffer despite repeated instances of such failures," he added.

He recalled past efforts to establish haemophilia care centres in districts like Rajouri, Doda, and Kathua, which have not been operationalized due to a lack of commitment

from authorities. The absence of medicines and proper care facilities at the district level has left patients in a dire situation, with many unable to access timely treatment. This forces them to undertake arduous journeys to urban centers, adding financial and physical strain to their already challenging lives.

Suri urged the authorities to take immediate action to ensure a regular supply of haemophilia medicines and to make them accessible at district hospitals. "The government must fix accountability and ensure that no patient has to run from pillar to post for life-saving treatment," he demanded. "Haemophilia care centres must be revived and made functional across districts to alleviate the suffering of these patients."

The BJP leader called for a robust system to address these systemic failures, emphasizing that the health and dignity of haemophilia patients must be prioritized. "It is the responsibility of the administration to act swiftly and decisively to save lives," Suri said.

Sree Narayana Guru is guiding light for nation-builders: PM Modi

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday marked the centenary of the historic conversation between Sree Narayana Guru and Mahatma Gandhi at a special celebration held at an event here.

In his address, Modi underscored the historic significance of the 1925 meeting between the two legends, which he described as a pivotal moment that shaped the future of India's freedom movement.

He stated, "This meeting not only showed a new direction for our struggle for independence but also infused the movement with a deeper meaning, reinforcing the dream of an independent India," and asserted that Sree Narayana Guru's teachings have a timeless relevance, particularly for those who are committed to the service of the nation and society.

"India's speciality is that whenever our country gets entangled in the



whirlpool of difficulties, some great personality is born in some corner of the country to show a new direction to society," the PM said, while adding that some of them work for the spiritual upliftment of society, while others accelerate social reforms in the social sphere.

"The ideals of Sree Narayana Guru are a great treasure for all of humanity. Those who work with the resolve to serve the nation

and society, Sree Narayana Guru is like a guiding light for them," he said.

The PM also expressed his deep connection to the ideals of Sree Narayana Guru, particularly in relation to his work for the oppressed and marginalized communities.

PM Modi noted, "Whenever I make decisions for the betterment of the exploited and poor, I always remember Guru Ji. A hundred years back,

under British rule, people used to fear speaking against those deteriorated societal conditions. Sree Narayana Guru did not fear anything because he believed in harmony and equality; he believed in truth, service and cordiality. This very inspiration shows us a way of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas'; this very belief gives us the strength to make an India where the person standing at the last is our first priority," he added.

Emphasising India's global leadership, Modi further noted the country's role in promoting initiatives like World Yoga Day and the One Sun, One World, One Grid project, which aims to create a sustainable energy future. "India is leading the way in global movements focused on environmental sustainability, health, and unity. In 2023, during India's leadership of the G-20, we embraced the theme 'One Earth, One Family, One Future,' reflecting our shared global responsibility," the PM added.

Indian Railways to hike passenger fares from July 1

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

The Indian Railways is likely to increase the fares of its long-distance passengers from July 1.

The Indian Railways has decided to increase the fares of Mail Express trains by 1 paise per km for sleeper class and 2 paise per km for AC classes from July 1.

According to sources, there will be no increase in the rate of general unreserved class tickets for distance up to 500 km, while for distance beyond 500 km, the fare rate is proposed to be increased by half paise per km. Similarly, there will be no increase in the rates of suburban and monthly or quarterly season tickets.



It is noteworthy that the passenger fares of the railway were last increased in the year 2014. The increase in fares was affected by 14.2 per cent and 6.5 per cent in all classes of passenger fares with effect from June 25 that year.

In the year 2019, the passengers in the unreserved class in Mail Express trains were increased by 2 paise per kilometer. The fare

for sleeper class has been increased by 2 paise and for first class by 2 paise. The fare for second class trains was increased by 01 paise per km and for sleeper class by 01 paise. While the fare of the first class was increased by 1 paise. The fare was increased by a uniform 0.4 paise per kilometer in all AC classes. This increase came into effect from January 2020.

Shrinete slams Modi Govt over US travel advisory on India

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete on Tuesday slammed the Narendra Modi government over the recently issued "US travel advisory" that warns American citizens, especially women, against travelling alone in India, citing incidents of rape, violence and the potential for terror attacks.

"It is deeply ironic and damaging that such an advisory has been issued for India, a nation striving for global leadership. This has far-reaching implications on our international standing," Ms Shrinete said while addressing a press conference here.

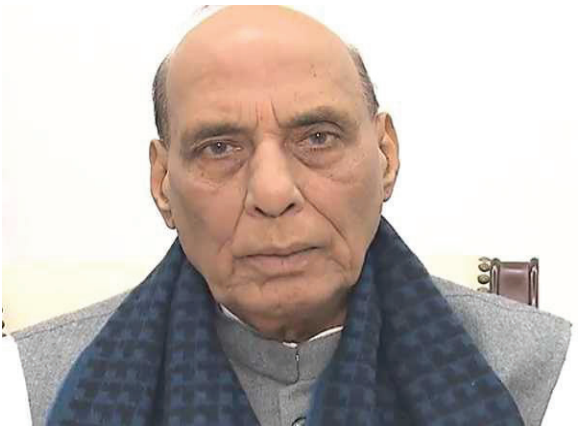
Rajnath to attend SCO Defence ministers' meeting in China

New Delhi, June 24

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence ministers' meeting in Qingdao, China, where he will outline India's vision for global peace and security and emphasise the need for collective action to combat terrorism.

The Defence Minister will lead a high-level Indian delegation from June 25 to 26, a Defence Ministry statement said on Tuesday.

During the meeting, the defence ministers are expected to discuss a number of issues, including regional and international peace and security, counter-terrorism efforts and cooperation among the Ministries of Defence



of SCO member states.

Rajnath Singh is expected to highlight India's continued commitment to the principles and mandate of the SCO, outline India's vision towards achieving greater international peace and security, call for joint and consistent efforts to eliminate terrorism and extremism in the region, and stress on the need for

greater trade, economic cooperation and connectivity within SCO.

He will also hold bilateral meetings with the defence ministers of some participating countries, including China and Russia, on the sidelines of the meeting.

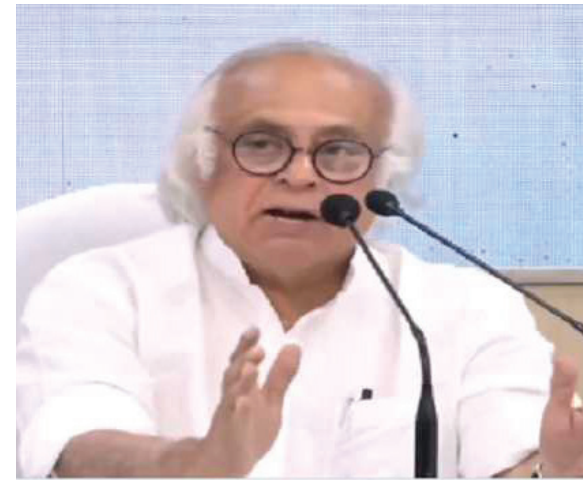
India attaches special importance to SCO in promoting multi-lateral-

ism, political, security, economic and people-to-people interactions in the region. SCO pursues its policy based on the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity of nations, non-interference in internal affairs, mutual respect, understanding and equality of all member-states.

SCO is an inter-governmental organisation established in 2001. India became a full member in 2017 and assumed the rotating Chairmanship in 2023. The SCO membership includes Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran and Belarus, besides India.

China has assumed the Chair of the SCO for 2025 under the theme 'Upholding the Shanghai Spirit: SCO on the Move'.

Jairam Ramesh slams PM Modi's 'silence' on Gaza



AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh today criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for maintaining "deafening silence" on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Referring to US President Donald Trump's announcement of a ceasefire in the US-Israel conflict with Iran, Ramesh stated that no such ceasefire has been extended to Palestinians in Gaza, where he alleged that Israel's "genocide contin-

ues unabated".

"President Trump has announced a ceasefire in relation to the US-Israel war on Iran. But there is still no ceasefire in Gaza where the Israel genocide continues unabated," the Rajya Sabha MP said in a post on social media platform X.

He further added, "Prime Minister Modi's silence on this catastrophe that has overtaken the Palestinians for well over eighteen months is deafening and has diminished India's moral and political standing".

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader slams Fadnavis, Shinde



AGENCIES
MUMBAI, JUNE 24

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and MP Sanjay Raut on Tuesday lashed out at state Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and his deputy Eknath Shinde over alleged neglect of the Marathi language and their bid to promote Hindi language, accusing them of being enemies of Maharashtra.

Fadnavis is the Chief Minister of this Marathi state and he should first work to improve poor condition of the Marathi schools, he said.

Criticising further, Raut said that Fadnavis should

see how the Marathi language can gain strength and how the Marathi people can live with dignity in Marathi soil.

The Sena (UBT) leader cautioned the Chief Minister to take care that he does not become a slave of industrialist Gautam Adani and Lodha Builders.

There is no need for Maharashtra to take Hindi seriously, he asserted and said that people of Maharashtra and Mumbai know Hindi.

"If there was emnity between Maharashtra and Hindi, would Hindi films, literature and schools be running in the state," he questioned.

IAEA chief Rafael Grossi proposes meeting with Iranian FM, urges cooperation between Iran-Israel



AGENCIES
VIENNA, JUNE 24

Rafael Grossi, chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) says he has written to Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi proposing a meeting between the two, and urged cooperation after a ceasefire between Iran and Israel was announced, reports Times of Israel.

Soon after the announcement of the truce, Iran reportedly fired ballistic missiles at

Israel, which Jerusalem said were intercepted successfully. While Iran has denied the attack, Israel, calling the attack a grave violation of the ceasefire, has said that it will retaliate forcefully.

Grossi, in a post on X/Twitter, said that Iran resuming cooperation with the agency could lead to a diplomatic solution to the long-standing controversy over Tehran's nuclear program.

Iran has said that its nuclear program is not aimed at weaponisation.

While both the IAEA and Moscow have said that there is no evidence of any nuclear weapons in Iran, its uranium enrichment levels still far exceeded what was required for civilian use.

Tehran's further refusal to allow international inspectors from checking its nuclear facilities, and expanding its ballistic missile capabilities, has made the US and Israel only more certain that Iran is headed towards weaponisation of its nuclear program.

India welcomes reported ceasefire between Israel, Iran, says willing to play role in peace efforts

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

India on Tuesday welcomed the reports of ceasefire between Israel and Iran and the role played by US and Qatar in bringing it about, reiterating that there is no alternative to dialogue and diplomacy to resolve multiple conflicts in the region.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said India stands ready to play its part in these efforts and hopes that all concerned parties will work towards sustained peace and stability.

"We welcome reports of a ceasefire between Iran and Israel and the role played by the US and Qatar in bringing it about," the spokesman said while expressing 'deep concern' at the prospects for overall and sustained regional security and stability.

CM Reddy calls for strong coordination between party and Govt to strengthen Congress in Telangana

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, JUNE 24

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy emphasised the need for strong coordination between the Congress party and the government to ensure continued success and future electoral victories in the state.

Speaking at the he Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Political Affairs Committee (PAC) meeting held at Gandhi Bhavan here on Tuesday, Revanth Reddy said that both the party and the government must function as a unified team and that the coming 18 months would be a golden period for the government to deliver impactful governance and development.

He urged party leaders to prioritise grassroots-level organization by forming committees at the booth, village, and mandal levels, noting that a strong party presence at the booth level is essential for effective implementation and outreach of government schemes.



Stressing the importance of party-building, the Chief Minister said that leadership roles would be granted only to those who actively work at the ground level and that the party had already given positions to individuals who stood by Congress during challenging times.

Revanth Reddy instructed leaders to focus on expanding the party's base and to prepare for upcoming challenges, including issues such as delimitation, the Women's Reservation Bill, and the possibility of

simultaneous (Jamili) elections. He also emphasised the need for readiness in the upcoming Jubilee Hills by-election and called for disciplined conduct among party leaders. He reiterated the government's commitment to social justice, highlighting its resolve in resolving social issues and launching numerous welfare schemes.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, who also addressed the meeting, declared that Congress is synonymous with agriculture. He highlighted the government's major initiatives in the farming sector, including

a Rs 2 lakh farmer loan waiver, 24-hour free electricity supply, investment assistance, farmer insurance, and a Rs 500 per quintal bonus for those cultivating fine rice (Sanna). Bhatti said that within just nine days, Rs 8,675 crore had been deposited into the accounts of over 67 lakh farmers as part of the Rythu Bharosa scheme, covering 1.49 crore acres of cultivable land.

He added that Rs 17,091 crore had been paid to power companies on behalf of 29.40 lakh farmers under the free electricity scheme. A total of Rs 21,763 crore has been disbursed so far under the Rythu Bharosa scheme.

Farmers cultivating fine grains have received Rs 1,199 crore as bonus, and 42.16 lakh farmers have been provided life insurance coverage under the Rythu Bima scheme. Under the Indiramma Atmiya Bharosa scheme, Rs 50 crore has been credited to landless agricultural laborers.

Messi set for PSG reunion as Inter Miami progress

AGENCIES
FLORIDA, JUN 24

Lionel Messi will face former club Paris St-Germain at the Fifa Club World Cup as Inter Miami drew 2-2 with Palmeiras to reach the knockout stages.

A point was sufficient for both sides to progress and Tadeo Allende and Luis Suarez had Inter cruising at 2-0 in front of 60,914 fans at Hard Rock Stadium.

However the Brazilian club scored two goals in the final 10 minutes - from Paulinho and Mauricio - to



ensure they went through as winners of Group A on goal difference on Monday. Inter finished second

to set up the meeting with PSG, where Argentina forward Messi played from 2021 to 2023, according to

a BBC news.

Elsewhere in Group A, Egyptian side Al Ahly conceded an 89th-minute equaliser to draw 4-4 with Porto. Wessam Ali's hat-trick for Al Ahly was cancelled out by goals from Rodrigo Mora, William and Samu Aghehowa before Mohamed Romdhane put Al Ahly 4-3 up in the 64th minute.

However, Brazilian winger Pepe's dramatic late equaliser at MetLife Stadium ensured both sides exited the group phase with two points apiece.

Ostrava Golden Spike 2025 athletics: Neeraj will aim to keep the momentum going

AGENCIES
OSTRAVA (CZECH REPUBLIC), JUN 24

India's ace javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, who is fresh from his Paris Diamond League win will be aiming to keep the winning momentum going as he competes in the Ostrava Golden Spike 2025 athletics competition on Tuesday.

Chopra, who is the reigning javelin throw world champion will be looking for another win today before his title defence in September.

Starting in 1961, the Golden Spike is a World Athletics Continental Tour Gold



label meet, in effect being one of the most prestigious global athletics competitions in the world.

Neeraj Chopra was scheduled to compete at the event both in 2023 and 2024 but had to withdraw

on each occasion due to injury.

Neeraj is keen to compete in the competition because he will be competing on the home turf of his new coach, legendary javelin thrower Jan Železný.

Železný is a world record holder, who also plays a key role in organising the Golden Spike.

A total of nine athletes will feature in the Javelin event- Jan Výchyla, Martin Konečný and Alexandr Čača of Czech Republic, Marc Anthony Minichiello from the United States, South Africa's Douw Smit, Finland's Toni Keränen, Germany's Thomas Röhler and Grenada's Anderson Peters.

Neeraj is likely to face stiff competition from two-time world champion and Paris 2024 Olympic bronze medallist Anderson Peters and Rio Olympics gold medallist Thomas Röhler.

Pride myself on it: Josh Inglis accustomed to switching roles

AGENCIES
BARBADOS, JUNE 24

Australia wicketkeeper-batter Josh Inglis hasn't yet been told where he is batting in this week's first Test against the West Indies but nor does it really bother him.

Having batted in different spots - five and six - in his two Test innings to date, Inglis has also shuffled up and down the order in Australia's white-ball teams, occupying every spot in the top seven in his 61 international matches across all formats.

And for Western Australia's Sheffield Shield side he has batted everywhere from three to eight except No.4, with his best returns coming from No.6 where he averages almost 55 from 18 innings with four centuries.

He ascertains that he will line-up between three and five in Wednesday's series opener in Barbados (midnight Thursday

AEST), but he says that could also change depending on the pitch conditions and the situation of the match. The West Australian hit a sensational century on Test debut against Sri Lanka in January from No.5 before sliding down a spot in the second Test of the series when left-hander Alex Carey went in ahead of him to partner Steve Smith to ensure it remained a left- and right-hand batting combination.

"I think it's just because I have done it, I feel comfortable going into different positions," Inglis told reporters after Australia's main training session at Bridgetown's Kensington Oval on Monday.

"I've batted at the top in white-ball cricket and in the middle, so I've become accustomed to moving around a fair bit and something I pride myself on."

After nailing his opportunity in his long-awaited Test debut having trav-

elled with the squad for the best part of the past four years before earning his Baggy Green, Inglis accepts his omission for last week's World Test Championship final loss was the result of a "conditions based" call.

The 30-year-old replaces the injured Smith for the first Test against the Windies after the star batter dislocated his finger in the WTC final, while Sam Konstas also returns to the XI for omitted opener Marnus Labuschagne. Smith is a chance to return for the second Test in Grenada from July 3 if he can tolerate batting while wearing a split on his right little finger. Australia announced the two changes last Friday and Inglis said the longer lead in had been beneficial to ensure he was ready to go.

"With 'Smudge' (Smith) getting injured there was an opportunity for someone else to come in," Inglis said.

"I took a lot of con-

fidence from (from Sri Lanka); my debut Test match, it was nice to go out there and get a hundred. "But it's only one game, so I've got to start again from here."

Without Smith or Labuschagne, Inglis is also set to feature in a new look slip cordon for Australia, sandwiched between the towering figures of Beau Webster at second slip and Cameron Green in the gully.

"It will depend on who's bowling ... (but) I'm not sure who else we have to go in there," Inglis said.

"Beau will go two, 'Greeny' in the gully and I'm like a bail between two stumps with those two, it should be good viewing on camera.

"I really enjoy my fielding actually and I've done a fair bit of it. I only started keeping when I was 14 or 15 so I grew up doing a lot of fielding and it's something I really enjoy as I always like to be in the game."

Hayley Matthews closes in on top ranking after South Africa heroics

AGENCIES
DUBAI, JUNE 24

Hayley Matthews' heroics against South Africa has seen the West Indies star close in on top spot on the latest ICC Women's T20I Batter Rankings.

Matthews scored 147 runs across the three T20I contests at home to lead the West Indies to a drought-breaking 2-1 series triumph and in the process closed in on Beth Mooney for the mantle as the No.1 ranked batter in the shortest format.

The 27-year-old improved to a career-best mark of 770 rating points and now trails Mooney by just 24 rating points at the top of the list for T20I batters.

A trio of South Africa batters make ground up the rankings following the latest update, with



Tazmin Brits (up two spots to sixth), Nadine de Klerk (up three places to 51st) and Annerie Dercksen (up six spots to equal eighth) all gaining places after some good efforts against the West Indies.

It's a similar story on the updated list for T20I bowlers, with South African pair Nonkululek Mlaba (up six spots to equal eighth) and Ayabonga Khaka (up four places to equal 38th) among the biggest winners.

West Indies are boosted by the efforts of spinner Afy Fletcher, with the veteran gaining three places to 12th on the rankings for T20I bowlers for her two wickets apiece in the second and third T20Is, while Matthews maintains her place at the top of the list for T20I all-rounders, according to an ICC news.

The final match of the ODI portion of the series between West Indies and South Africa also saw some changes to the latest

ODI rankings, with Brits the big winner up the list for batters.

Brits was the leading run-scorer across the three ODI contests with 184 runs and was rewarded by rising six spots to 21st overall on the list for ODI batters. This is her career-best rating.

Her opening partner Laura Wolvaardt, who smashed 75 in the final ODI, moved out of her tie at the second spot, and now the Proteas skipper is just two points behind Smriti Mandhana at the top.

Veteran quick Marizanne Kapp gains two spots to move to seventh on the latest rankings for ODI bowlers, while South African teammates Mlaba (up three rungs to 20th) and Masabata Klaas (up six places to equal 37th) also make some ground.

Healy keen to lift back to back World Cup titles

AGENCIES
CANBERRA, JUN 24

Australia skipper Alyssa Healy is keen to lead her side to back-to-back ICC Women's Cricket World Cup titles.

Having faced fitness issues over the last few months, Australia captain Alyssa Healy is aiming to go the full stretch in the upcoming ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in India later this year.

"According to science, the ODI World Cups is one of the heaviest loads that we go through as cricketers," Healy told AAP.

"My aim is to play every game of that World Cup. So to make sure I can do that is important."

Healy's injury troubles began when she suffered a foot injury towards the end of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024, followed soon after by a knee injury in the Women's Big Bash League.

This restricted the player's participation in Australia's upcoming contests, and while she featured sporadically in a successful Women's Ashes triumph Down Under, she missed out on engagements against New Zealand, and the Women's Premier League in India.

With recovery on the



right track, the next step in Healy's quest for World Cup appearance is expected to be Australia A's face-off against India in Queensland in August.

A win in the World Cup would make Australia the first side to have won back-to-back titles in the tournament since 1988. For Healy, since taking over the side after Meg Lanning's departure in 2023, her goal has been to place them in the best possible position to repeat their 2022 World Cup glory.

"That was one of my goals, putting a timeline on it and saying this is where I could take this group, even not knowing what I was going to do personally," Healy said.

"It definitely was a big focus of mine, to get the group to a place to compete at this World Cup, and win the trophy

"It's not so much about the captaincy, or ticking one more box [at a per-

sonal level]. It's just that I want to win a World Cup for Australia, and no one has gone back-to-back, which is a real motivator."

With her focus directed on the global tournament in India, any talks of retirement were secondary for Healy.

While mindful of her age and the demands of the game, Healy wanted to make up for lost time in the coming months.

"It's [retirement date] probably shifted a little bit," Healy said. "It's [injuries have] made me realise that I still want to do a little bit more than maybe what I thought. At the same time, sometimes there's stuff in life that are a little bit more important than pulling on the green and gold. So it's just a constant reassess."

"But at the moment I definitely want to play a home summer. I want to bring the World Cup home, but also to play against India [in 2026 at home]."

Dilip Doshi passes away in London

AGENCIES
LONDON/NEW DELHI, JUNE 24

Veteran Indian cricketer and former left-arm spinner Dilip Doshi passed away in London on Tuesday following a cardiac arrest. He was 77.

The news of Doshi's demise has sent a wave of grief across the cricketing community. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) expressed deep condolences, remembering him as a cricketer who defied conventions and left a lasting mark on Indian spin bowling.

Doshi, who made his Test debut at the relatively late age of 32, went on to claim 114 wickets in 33 Test matches. He also played 15 One Day Internationals (ODIs), taking 22 wickets. Known for his classical left-arm orthodox bowling, Doshi was part of India's celebrated spin tradition during the early 1980s.

One of the highlights of his career came in the 1981 Melbourne Test, where his disciplined bowling played a key role in India's historic victory against Australia. His accuracy and flight troubled even top-order batsmen.

FIFA Club World Cup: PSG, Miami, Palmeiras, Botafogo advance

AGENCIES
NEW YORK, JUN 24

Paris Saint-Germain, Botafogo, Inter Miami and Palmeiras reached the FIFA Club World Cup round of 16 on Monday while Atletico Madrid was eliminated on goal difference.

Porto and Al Ahly also bowed out after a frenetic 4-4 draw in New Jersey, where Wessam About Ali struck a hat trick for the Egyptian side.

In Pasadena, Botafogo progressed despite a 1-0 loss to Atletico Madrid in sweltering heat at the Rose Bowl. Needing to win by at least a three-goal margin to advance, the Spanish club dominated for long periods but struggled to find a way past the Brazilian side's low defensive block.

Antoine Griezmann finally broke Botafogo's resistance three minutes from time when he capitalized on lax defending to sweep a first-time effort for past goalkeeper John Victor after Julian Alvarez's cross.

But it proved too little too late as the Colchoneros were sent packing from the tournament.

"The team did what was needed to get to the next stage," Botafogo's former Manchester United defender Alex Telles said after the match.

"Some people said we were only here to see Mickey Mouse at Disney-



land, but we've made it out of the group of death. It shows the work done by this incredible group of players."

Botafogo, which finished second in Group B, will meet Brazilian rivals Palmeiras in the next round at Philadelphia's Lincoln Financial Field on Saturday.

Atletico Madrid manager Diego Simeone said he was disappointed but not concerned by his team's early exit.

"We have the feeling of frustration at not being able to progress," the Argentine said. "We are calm. We are more than clear about what needs to be improved and this helps us to do so. I'm proud of the work that the players have done. We gave absolutely everything we have. We won two games out of three. And sadly, we are out."

In Seattle, Paris Saint-Germain comfortably secured its passage to the next stage with a 2-0 victory over Seattle Sounders. The European cham-

pions opened the scoring in the 35th minute when Vitinha's long-range effort deflected in off teammate Khvicha Kvaratskhelia.

Achraf Hakimi doubled the lead just after the hour, controlling Bradley Barcola's cross before rifling a shot past Swiss goalkeeper Stefan Frei.

PSG will vie for a place in the quarterfinals against Inter Miami in Atlanta on Sunday.

"We want to go as far as possible, and I think the players are ready," PSG manager Luis Enrique told a post-match news conference. "The real competition starts now, and it will be very difficult."

In Miami, Brazil's Palmeiras recovered from two goals down to earn a 2-2 draw with Inter Miami.

Tadeo Allende handed Inter Miami the lead with a clinical finish following a counterattack before Luis Suarez made it 2-0 by dancing around Bruno Fuchs and firing a shot past goalkeeper Weverton.

Pant sanctioned following Day 3 incident in Leeds

AGENCIES
LEEDS (UK), JUN 24

India's wicket-keeper-batsman Rishabh Pant has been handed an official reprimand for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during the Headingley Test.

Pant, who had an exceptional outing with the bat during the Headingley Test with his two hundreds in the game, was reprimanded for his on-field conduct during England's first innings with the bat.

Pant was found to have breached Article 2.8 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "showing dissent at an Umpire's decision during an International Match."

In addition to this, one demerit point has been added to Pant's disciplinary record, for whom it was the first offence in 24 months.

In the 61st over of England's innings, when Harry Brook and Ben Stokes were batting, Pant was seen having a discussion with the umpires regarding the condition of the ball.

When the umpires refused to change the ball after checking it with the ball gauge, the wicket-keeper showed his dissent by throwing the ball on the ground in front of the umpires.

ADC Ansuya Jamwal spearheads drug awareness drive in a meeting with transporters

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 24

In order to address the escalating menace of substance abuse, Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Ansuya Jamwal, convened a significant drug awareness consultation with the Transporters Union at Panchayat Bhawan, here today. The deliberations centered on the mounting challenge of drug addiction among youth and the pivotal role that transport associations can assume in early intervention and community mobilisation.

The meeting witnessed participation from Regional Transport Officer Jammu Jasmeet Singh, Chairman Transporters Welfare Union Karan Singh, District Health Officer Dr Samina Nazir, SHO Police Station



Trikuta Nagar Rajesh Jasrotia, Education Department resource person Shefali Gupta, alongside other Police officials and union representatives.

Addressing the assembled union representatives, the ADC articulated a compelling vision for collective responsibility in combating the drug epidemic. "Substance abuse transcends individual boundaries to emerge as

a comprehensive social catastrophe that systematically undermines familial structures, economic stability and generational prospects," she observed.

"The imperative before every transport union is to embrace this challenge as a societal mission, recognising that individuals whose physiological systems have been compromised by substance abuse cannot be expected to maintain

the operational standards essential for public safety, particularly in transportation services."

The ADC underscored the critical importance of familial and community vigilance in safeguarding vulnerable demographics. "Heightened attention to behavioural indicators—including social withdrawal, academic absenteeism or emotional detachment—represents the first line of defence against substance abuse infiltration."

Ansuya Jamwal comprehensively outlined the institutional support mechanisms available for intervention and rehabilitation. "When confronted with suspected substance abuse cases, whether involving immediate family members or community associates, decisive action becomes

essential," she stated. "The child helpline 1098 provides immediate assistance, while the dedicated de-addiction and rehabilitation helpline 14446 offers comprehensive guidance. These emergency contacts must achieve widespread circulation within your professional networks."

The ADC concluded her address by reaffirming the administration's unwavering commitment to evidence-based intervention while encouraging proactive community engagement. "The transformation of every citizen into a collaborative partner in this anti-drug campaign represents our fundamental objective. Through timely intelligence sharing and coordinated community action, we can effectively preserve lives and secure futures."

Land Record Modernization

2-day training program for Revenue Officials concludes at Reasi

J1 NEWS SERVICE
REASI, JUNE 24

A two-day training programme aimed to equip revenue officials with the technical knowledge and practical skills for the land record digitization concluded here today.

The Patwaris and MTS personnel from across the district attended the training organised under the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP).

Designated master trainers conducted sessions and imparted hands on training to officials on the use of specialised software for uploading land record data, with a focus on the protocols for verifying and authenticating digitised documents.

The programme was



organised by the District Administration Reasi under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik.

The Deputy Commissioner urged officials to diligently apply their newly acquired skills, emphasising that accurate and updated land records form the backbone of an efficient and citizen-friendly revenue

system. The programme concluded with an interactive session where participants shared feedback and queries related to field-level implementation. The officials appreciated the hands-on learning approach and expressed their commitment to accelerating the digitisation efforts in their respective jurisdictions.

Mian Altaf inaugurates 2 day Gojri Cultural conference at Tagore Hall, Srinagar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 24

Member of Parliament Anantnag- Rajouri, Mian Altaf Ahmad, today inaugurated a two day Gojri Cultural Conference at Tagore Hall, Srinagar.

The event, being organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), witnessed participation from a large number of tribal writers, poets and artists from across J&K.

A distinguished panel comprising Er. Khursheed Ahmed, Member of Legislative Assembly, Dr. Javaid Rahi, Chief Editor Gojri and G.D. Tahir, former Director of Doordarshan Srinagar shared the presidium.

In his presidential address, Mian Altaf Ahmad



emphasized the cultural importance of Gojri language saying that it as the third-largest spoken language in Jammu and Kashmir. He called for its inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution and pledged to raise the matter with the Government of India.

He highlighted the wide presence of the Gujar community across all districts and acknowledged the significant contributions made by Gojri poets, scholars and artists. Commending the Academy's initiative in reviving such a crucial

event after a long hiatus, he expressed hope that the conference would help bridge the regional and cultural gaps within the Gujjar community.

Speaking on the occasion, Er. Khursheed Ahmed underscored the importance of documenting the traditional knowledge systems of the Gujjar and Bakewal communities, calling on institutions like the Tribal Research Institute and JKAACL to act swiftly to preserve this invaluable heritage.

G D Tahir, in his remarks, advocated for establish-

ment of Gojri departments in Kashmir University and Jammu University. He stressed the need for greater institutional efforts to safeguard this historic language and its traditions.

Dr. Javaid Rahi, in his welcome address, shared that over 200 Gojri writers, poets and artists from various parts of J&K are participating in the conference. He emphasized that the event aims to provide a platform for the tribal voices to share, discuss and reflect on their literary and cultural contributions.

The proceedings of the

inaugural session were conducted by noted Gojri writer Naseem Akhter. A cultural touch was added by renowned folk singer Mohd Rafi from Shopian, who soulfully recited Seharris of Hazrat Mian Niam-ud-Din Larvi (RA).

The inaugural session was followed by a paper reading session chaired by eminent scholars Professor M K Waqar and M Mansha Khaki. The papers were presented by Molvi Mohi-ud-Din and Ibrahim Misbahi, focusing on various aspects of Gojri language and literature.

Chingus Road Mishap: DC meets injured, visits accident site

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JUNE 24

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today visited the Government Medical College Hospital to enquire about the condition of the persons injured in a road accident near Chingus on Jammu- Rajouri - Poonch National Highway. The road mishap claimed two lives and left seven others injured.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the medical staff and directed them to provide prompt and quality treatment to the injured persons. He assured every possible support from district administration to the families of the injured persons.

Later, the DC visited the

site of the accident to take stock of the situation. He was accompanied by the Superintending Engineer R&B, officers from Traffic Police, Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO), and representatives of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

Taking serious note of the fatal accident, the Deputy Commissioner sought an action taken report from all concerned departments and directed them to implement immediate and long-term corrective measures to prevent such mishaps in future. He specifically instructed

for strict enforcement of traffic rules, installation of signage at vulnerable locations, regular monitoring and checking of high-speed vehicles, identification and corrective

measures along accident-prone stretches.

"The safety of the people is our topmost priority and there will be zero tolerance against negligent driving and traffic violations," the Deputy Commissioner said while reiterating the administration's commitment to ensuring road safety.

He further stressed the importance of coordinated action among the enforcement agencies, including police, transport, and road construction departments, to minimize road accidents and safeguard public lives.

The Deputy Commissioner assured that robust measures will be taken to enhance road safety across the district, and such incidents will be met with stringent administrative response.

CS pushes forward J&K's IT revolution with BISAG-N

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 24

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess progress on various digital initiatives spearheaded by the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) across the government departments.

The meeting besides the Administrative Heads was attended by DG, Planning; Commissioner, State Taxes; Director, Employment; MD, JKTDC; CEO, JaKeGA; IT professionals from BISAG-N and representatives from other departments.

The Chief Secretary took stock of the progress made on development of every new initiative taken up with the dates for their rollout for public usage. He observed that such IT measures would make lives of common citizens largely amenable.

Dulloo underscored the need for developing respective dashboards for people-centric interventions like Mission YUVA and Sehat Mobile app simultaneously. This will help in having peek into their uptake among the

masses besides devising subsequent action plans as per the requirements on ground.

He also accentuated the importance of linking the learning of skill development courses with U-Dise data so that the trajectory of every student is known for chiselling his/her career in a better shape.

The review highlighted significant advancements in e-governance, agricultural development, public services and infrastructure mapping, reaffirming J&K's commitment towards digital transformation.

Earlier, the IT Secretary Piyush Singla gave a detailed overview of ongoing, completed and upcoming initiatives, outlining plans for collaboration with BISAG-N to drive project completion. He also detailed out the objectives that have to be achieved after the accomplishment of these projects.

Afterwards, the BISAG-N presented a detailed overview of its extensive portfolio of projects, emphasizing both the ongoing endeavours and



new initiatives aimed at enhancing efficiency, transparency and citizen-centric service delivery.

The major IT projects related to Revenue Department reviewed in the meeting included ongoing digitization of Revenue Maps (5670 villages completed), development of Jamabandi portal, Mutation Register, Oracle Database Migration and a GIS portal for Ground Truthing (targeted for completion on June 30, 2025).

A key focus of the meeting was establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Emerging Technologies. This envisages development of high-performance computing (GPUs), robotic kits, drone/UAV innovation capabilities and cloud infrastructure. The revised DPR has been submitted and funding is being pur-

sued from MeitY, J&K government and J&K Bank, the meeting was informed.

About JK Samadhan 2.0, it was informed that the progress is satisfactory, with the dashboard and heat map for the latter already developed. These systems empower the citizens to register and track their grievances efficiently.

The initiatives named Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKG) and Daksh Kisan for the Agriculture Production Department are under nearing completion.

KKG serves as a one-stop solution for the farmers, offering services like booking cold storage, custom hiring centers, expert video calls and access to farm inputs. While Daksh Kisan provides a comprehensive Learning Management System (LMS) with over 121 certificate courses

in multiple languages for the farmers and agripreneurs.

The core Mission Yuva app, a single platform for youth skill enhancement, job vacancies, entrepreneurship ideas and e-courses, was also said to be in the final phase of completion. The Yuva Baseline Survey, which collects data

on entrepreneurs, is also finished and its database has been shared with the government departments. Besides, work is in progress on the dashboard for all services, capacity building module and ONDC App.

With respect to Sehat Mobile Application, it was given out that the same has been completed and undergoing capacity building. The SEHAT App guides the patients on health facilities, services and opportunities for healthcare professionals, ensuring optimal resource utilization.

Regarding development of Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), this app for the Agriculture Production Department was also said to be complete and under maintenance, which is

going to allow the farmers to record and monitor farm output.

The PM-Gati Shakti State Master Plan platform, as disclosed in the meeting, aims at bringing together all departments for integrated planning of infrastructure and connectivity projects. The status was said to be complete and under maintenance across all departments.

The meeting also had discussions on a comprehensive mobile application for education stakeholders, an AI-based learning advisor, a teacher transfer portal and integrated litigation management services.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed progress on Jalshakti Mob app, Real time Mining Surveillance app, JKIP portal, Chief Minister Assurances Monitoring Dashboard, J&K Tourism app, GIS based Land bank, Mission YUVA and ONDC Integration and many others relevant to different departments.

The Chief Secretary expressed satisfaction with the progress and reiterated the government's commitment towards leveraging the technology for good governance and citizen welfare across the UT.

SANJY-2025: DC Srinagar, SMC Commissioner visit Yatra Transit Camp Pantha Chowk



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 24

In connection with the upcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2025, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo along with Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb undertook a visit to Yatra Transit Camp, Pantha Chowk here on Tuesday.

The visit was focused on ensuring robust arrangements for the smooth and seamless conduct of the annual pilgrimage, set to commence on July 3, 2025.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Aadil Fareed, Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid, SDPO Panthachowk Zohaib & senior Officers of Police and District Administration Srinagar accompanied the DC during the visit

On the occasion, the

DC reviewed the boarding, lodging, bedding, registration, sanitation, medical facilities at the Pantha Chowk Transit Camp, a halt site for pilgrims traveling to the Amarnathji cave. He also took stock of other amenities to ensure they meet the needs of the yatries.

During the visit, the DC issued directives to Officers to expedite preparations and ensure all arrangements are put in place well ahead of the Yatra-2025. Emphasizing pilgrim comfort, he stressed the need for seamless coordination among Departments to enhance services at the Camp. Special attention was laid on ensuring proper sanitation facilities, availability of clean drinking water, electricity and setting up of Langars (community kitchens) to provide nutritious meals and the