

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Severe and continuous headache
- Diarrhoea
- Persistent vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool
- Redness in eyes

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 12 | ISSUE NO: 154 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. L-29/JK-497/25-27 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

Mann Ki Baat: PM highlights public health gains, grassroots change, dwells on Emergency anniversary

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today highlighted India's public health milestones, growing grassroots participation and women-led development efforts, while reflecting upon the 50th anniversary of the Emergency.

In the 123rd edition of his monthly talk show Mann ki Baat, PM Modi recalled the nationwide enthusiasm surrounding the 10th International Yoga Day, observed on June 21. He noted in detail the wide-scale participa-



tion across the country and abroad, with the headline events in Visakhapatnam witnessing three lakh people perform yoga, and

2,000 tribal students conducting 108 Surya Namaskars.

Similar events were held in Telangana (featur-

ing 3,000 Divyang participants), on the Chenab Bridge in J&K, aboard Indian Naval ships, and in cities across the world including New York and Paris, Modi said while stressing that "this time the theme was also very special, 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health'. This is not just a slogan; it is a direction which makes us realize the essence of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. I am sure, the grandeur of this year's Yoga Day will certainly inspire more and more people to adopt yoga."

He lauded the World

Health Organisation's recent declaration of India as Trachoma-free, attributing the achievement to improved sanitation and access to clean drinking water under initiatives such as the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Jal Jeevan Mission.

He also cited an ILO (International Labour Organisation) report which states that over 64% of India's population now benefits from some form of social protection, up from fewer than 25 crore beneficiaries in 2015. Nearly 95 crore people are now

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"Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025" LG visits Nunwan and Chandanwari Base camps



J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 29

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha visited the Nunwan and Chandanwari base camps, today and reviewed the arrangements for the holy pil-

grimage of Shri Amarnath Ji, which is scheduled to begin from July 03.

At Nunwan Base camp, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated a foot over bridge for smooth movement of pilgrims. The new facility will ensure

efficient security checks and reduce the waiting time for devotees.

The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the administrative and security officials deputed for the holy Yatra, and took

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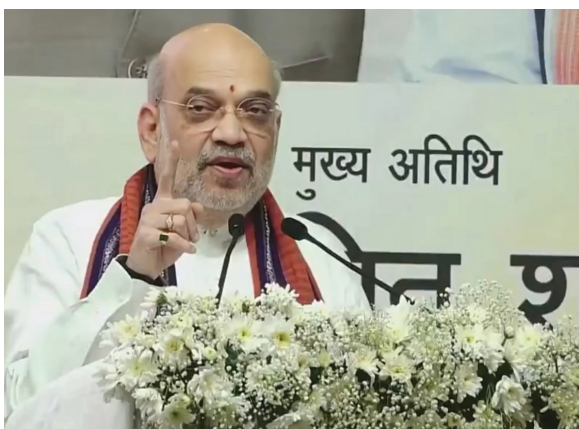
India has set USD 1 Bn turmeric export target by 2030: Amit Shah

J I NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, JUNE 29

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said the Centre has set a target of achieving USD one billion in turmeric exports by 2030.

Addressing a gathering after the inauguration of the National Headquarters of Turmeric Board in Nizamabad, he said the board would focus on packing, branding, marketing and export of the commodity.

The turmeric board would work towards ensuring remunerative prices for farmers, export



of their produce, besides research and development, he said.

"You will be surprised to know that the Indian government has set the

goal of exporting USD one billion worth of turmeric by 2030. And, we have also made full preparations to achieve the

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LG met Families of Common Kashmiris who were brutally killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists since 1990s

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 29

The Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today met the family members of Kashmiri Civilians killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists in the last 3-decades. It's a historic step to finally recognize and honour the thousands of innocent civilians in Kashmir who were brutally killed by Pakistani terrorists. Lieutenant Governor bowed to the family members and paid tributes to the common Kashmiri citizens who fell victim to the bullets of Pakistani terrorists. Save Youth, Save Future



Foundation, a non-profit organisation is playing a crucial role in documenting the families of terrorism victims. Over 40,000 people, including civilians, security personnel,

and even children, have lost their lives to terrorism since 1990. In majority of cases, FIRs were not filed in Common Kashmiris' killing by terrorists.

The Lieutenant Gov-

ernor said Government of India launched this initiative to enable families affected by terrorism to share their pain and expose the conspiracies of the terror ecosystem.

"For decades, these families were marginalised and their voices were not heard. Justice was denied. Their pain was ignored, their stories untold, and the truth deliberately suppressed. Hundreds of families have gained strength and support to say their loved ones were killed by Pakistani terrorists. It's shocking, before 2019 terrorists' funeral processions were allowed while thousands of common Kashmiris killed by terrorists, remained forgotten and unacknowledged," the Lieutenant Governor

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Boundaries of Administrative units to be frozen on Dec 31, 2025 for census

J I NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUN 29

The Centre has asked states and Union Territories to make any proposed changes in the boundaries of administrative units before December 31, when they will be considered final for the census exercise.

In a letter to all states and Union Territories,

Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India Mritunjay Kumar Narayan has said that for the Census, all villages and towns are divided into uniform enumeration blocks and for each block, an enumerator is assigned to avoid any miss or repetition during the population count.

According to norms, the Census can be conducted

only three months after the freezing of boundary limits of administrative units such as districts, sub-districts, tehsils, talukas and police stations.

Narayan said from April 1, 2026, the Houselisting Operation, the appointment of supervisors and enumerators and the work division among them will be done, and on February 1, 2027, the Census of the

population will begin.

It is important that once enumeration blocks are finalised, boundaries of administrative units are not changed, the letter said.

In his letter addressed to chief secretaries, Narayan asked them to direct all departments to make any proposed changes in the boundaries of municipal corporations, revenue vil-

lages, tehsils, sub-divisions or districts before December 31.

He asked the states and UTs to ensure that no changes should be made in the boundaries of administrative units between January 1, 2026, and March 31, 2027, during which Census exercise will take place.

Any changes in the existing boundaries

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Nearly half of central funds for border bunkers in J&K lie unused, reveals RTI

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 29

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has not utilised nearly half of the central funds allocated for building underground bunkers for border residents over the last five years, according to information obtained through a Right to Information

(RTI) application.

The revelation comes amid heightened calls for civilian safety, following last month's Operation Sindoor and the intense cross-border shelling.

Responding to the Right To Information application filed by Jammu-based activist Raman Kumar, the Jammu and Kashmir Home Department said,

an amount of Rs 242.77 crore was given to the Union Territory administration headed by the Lt Governor between 2020-21 and 2024-25. However, 46.58 per cent of the money remains unspent.

It said Rajouri district accounted for the highest utilisation of funds to the tune of

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Doctor's Day conclave | India at crossroads of health-tech revolution: Dr Jitendra

J I NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUN 29

While delivering a thought-provoking keynote address at the Doctor's Day Conclave organized by the Times Now, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, who is also a noted Professor of Medicine and Diabetologist, emphasized that India stands at the crossroads of a health-

tech revolution and at the threshold of a grand new chapter, with its economy moving from the 10th to the 4th largest globally and the further ascent continuing.

The Minister cited Indian astronaut Shubanshu Shukla's mission to the International Space Station, carrying indigenous life science kits, as a milestone that may soon give birth to a new medical discipline: Space Medicine.

Dr Jitendra Singh called for a "synergized, inclusive and futuristic health-

care ecosystem" in alignment with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

"Very soon, we might have a dedicated stream in medical academics called Space Physicians. This is the future we must be ready for," said Dr. Jitendra Singh.

Addressing the theme of health and demographic change, the Minister spoke of India facing a "bi-phasic challenge" – a rising number of elderly citizens due to increased life expectancy, alongside a youthful population. He explained: "While more



than 70% of India is under 40, the elderly population is also growing rapidly. In 1947, the average life span

was 50-55 years; today it is nearing 80".

Dr. Jitendra Singh noted the dual burden of

disease, as India simultaneously tackles both communicable and non-communicable illnesses, particularly in the post-COVID era. To address this, he stressed mass screening, early detection, and prevention, calling for greater public-private partnerships and optimal use of technologies like AI, telemedicine, and machine learning.

Highlighting India's recent global achievements, Dr. Jitendra Singh proudly stated that India has emerged as a global leader in preventive and

precision healthcare. He noted that India developed the world's first DNA vaccine for COVID-19 and an HPV vaccine to help prevent cervical cancer. Further, India successfully conducted its first gene therapy trial for haemophilia, with the results published in the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine.

The Minister also announced the launch of Nafithromycin, the country's first indigenously developed antibiotic molecule, marking a significant milestone in India's

pharmaceutical innovation landscape.

He attributed these successes to early-stage collaboration with private industry, stating "These achievements were possible because of seamless integration of public and private sectors from the outset."

Touching upon the need for integrated institutions, Dr. Jitendra Singh revealed that IIT Kanpur and IISc Bengaluru are planning to establish medical schools within their campuses.

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Rangyug Set to Stage Chanchlo, a Soul-Stirring Dogri Production, at Abhinav Theatre

JINNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 29

In a press conference held today, Rangyug – known for its impactful theatre for self-realization and social change, and regarded as one of the pioneering performing arts foundations of the region – announced the premiere performance of its new Dogri play Chanchlo.

The performance, sponsored by the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, is scheduled for Sunday, 6th July 2025 at 6:00 PM at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu. Entry is free for all. Theatre lovers, students, artists, and citizens from all walks of life are warmly invited to witness this soulful and mesmerizing



cultural evening.

The press conference was addressed by Shri Deepak Kumar, Director, Rangyug, along with team members Dr. Juhie Mohan, Ashish Sharma, and Shivan Gupta, who shared their insights on the production process and Rangyug's continued commitment to meaningful theatre.

Chanchlo is the Dogri adaptation of Nadira Zaheer Babbar's

acclaimed Hindi/Marathi play Sakubai – a powerful story that highlights the unseen struggles and inner strength of domestic workers in urban households. Adapted into Dogri by Dr. Juhie Mohan, the play brings this iconic narrative closer to the regional culture and language of Jammu.

What makes this production truly unique is its ability to express a

wide emotional spectrum through humour, satire, pain and deep reflection – all brought alive through powerful and seamless storytelling.

Addressing the media, Deepak Kumar, the director and designer of the play, shared: "Chanchlo is not just a performance – it is a mirror to our society and a tribute to the dignity of labor, womanhood, and marginalized voices."

This premiere show offers the full performance of the play, being presented to the public for the first time in Jammu. With Chanchlo, Rangyug continues its commitment to socially relevant, language-driven, and artistically rich theatre – marking yet another bold step in its four-decade-long journey.

Karra reinforces Rahul Gandhi's promise to safeguard J&K's future

JINNEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA, JUNE 29

Leading Congress workers' convention in Baramulla district of north Kashmir, J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) Chief Tariq Hameed Karra on Sunday reinforced Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's promise to ensure protection of people's rights and restoration of Statehood to J&K.

Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq movement is the Party's reiteration to bring back dignity and honor of J&K which has been snatched by Modi Govt aiming to rule it (J&K) directly from the Centre thereby assaulting the constitutional and democratic rights of people, JKPCC Chief rued.

The enthusiastic party workers accorded a rousing ovation to JKPCC Chief Tariq Hameed Karra, Former Minister Taj Mohi U Din, Haji Abdul Rashid Dar and other senior leaders on their arrival at Dak Bunglow. The convention reiterated Congress Party's resolve to continue fighting vigorously for restoration of Statehood, pledging to intensify the fight for protection of democratic and constitutional rights in J&K.

As part of statewide movement launched for



the restoration of Statehood, JKPCC Chief Tariq Hameed Karra addressed a largely attended worker's convention at Dak Bunglow Baramulla in North Kashmir, reinforcing Rahul Gandhi's promise to continue his fight for restoration of Statehood to J&K. Karra reiterated that Congress will stand solidly behind people while channeling Rahul Gandhi's reiteration to restore J&K's dignity and statehood.

J&K is witnessing an unprecedented situation in absence of the Statehood even the elected Govt is not being allowed to function and perform its legitimate duty towards the people who voted for change. It is essential to restore the rights, dignity and constitutional privilege of people, at the earliest, Karra urged the Centre Govt, adding that Rahul Gandhi' unwavering stand for the people of J&K gives us courage and strength in our fight

for justice, he elaborated.

Referring to the current national scenario, JKPCC Chief said that India under Modi dispensation is confronted with international isolation due to the deeply flawed and failed foreign policy. India was once considered a strong global voice, now stands stuck in diplomatic estrangement, JKPCC Chief regretted.

Speaking on the occasion, Former Minister Taj Mohi U Din termed Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq a great initiative of JKPCC and said restoration of Statehood to J&K must happen at the earliest. The prolonged delay by Centre is very unfortunate, urging the Centre to fulfil its promise made at the floor of parliament and respect the Supreme Court directive.

Haji Abdul Rashid Dar hailed the movement Hamari Riyasat Hamara launched by JKPCC under the leadership of President Tariq Hameed Karra. He

said J&K has been pushed to wall in every respect, the delay in restoring statehood is adding more problems to the public. The Centre should explain as to why they are delaying the process of restoring statehood because people want to know about the fate of their future, which seems bleak under BJP rule.

Addressing the convention DCC President Baramulla Mir Iqbal expressed gratitude to Party workers for their overwhelming participation. He assured the leadership that DCC Baramulla will soon be conducting similar programmes in different areas of the district to reiterate Party demand for restoration of statehood with constitutional guarantees.

MLA Adv Irfan Hafeez Lone also addressed the convention and highlighted the significance of the movement. He said Congress Party is committed to continue its fight for safeguarding public rights, it will continue to highlight the failures of BJP Govt and its wrong policies towards J&K.

Senior Leaders Nissar Ahmad Mundo, GSO Abid Kashmiri, Fayaz Ahmad Mir, Dr. Audil Farooq Mir Lasjan, Suhail Bukhari and others also addressed the convention.

BJP leaders listened to PM Modi's 123rd 'Mann Ki Baat' at 6000 booths across J&K

JINNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 29

Senior leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, along with party workers and supporters, enthusiastically participated in the mass listening of the 123rd episode of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship radio programme "Mann Ki Baat" at approx. six thousand booths across various districts of the Union Territory.

Tributes were also paid to the BJP ideologue Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee after the holding of Mann Ki Baat. It was emphasized that coming from Bengal, Dr. Mookherjee sacrificed his life on the soil of Jammu & Kashmir, championing the cause of Ek Pradhan, Ek Nishan, Ek Samvidhan, and removing the immediate binding of "Permit requirement" to move in and out of J&K.

BJP Jammu & Kashmir President Sat Sharma (CA)



led the event at Suchetgarh border, where he was joined by MLA Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat and District Jammu Border President Rinku Chaudhary. The programme saw the participation of a large number of party activists and local residents. Following the broadcast, Sat Sharma addressed an organizational meeting of senior party leaders of the Jammu Border District and emphasized the relevance of "Mann Ki Baat" in inspiring social change and connecting with the grassroots.

Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma said, "Prime Minister Naren-

dra Modi's Mann Ki Baat is not just a programme; it is a national movement that empowers citizens, highlights local heroes, and promotes collective action. It reflects the pulse of the people and their aspirations. Listening to it on the border among our dedicated workers is a moment of pride."

Furthering the Prime Minister's vision for environmental consciousness, BJP leaders also planted saplings under the campaign "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" in Suchetgarh.

BJP General Secretary (Organization), Ashok Koul, joined the party workers at Jammu West,

Ward No. 41, Booth No. 5 to listen to the programme. He remarked, "Mann Ki Baat is a mirror to India's changing social landscape. It carries the transformative power of ideas and action. Through this initiative, the Prime Minister continues to motivate every citizen to contribute to nation-building."

At Booth No. 62, Village Sangar, in Vijaypur Assembly Constituency, MP Lok Sabha Jugal Kishore Sharma and MLA Chander Parkash Ganga also participated in the listening session, further energizing the cadre and public engagement.

Uniting for Heart Health: Bridging the Cardiovascular Care Gap in Rural India: Dr Sushil

JINNEWS SERVICE

POONCH, JUNE 29

To Strengthen their campaign to aware the common populace about the ill effects of cardiovascular diseases Head Department of cardiology GMCH Jammu in Collaboration with management of Gurudwara Sant Bhai Bahadur Singh Ji held a day long Cardiac awareness Cum health Check-up Camp at Dharamsal Khari Poonch . The camp was inaugurated by SSP Poonch Shafket Hussain, Dr Sushil Sharma along with ADC Tahir Mustafa , S. Harcharan Singh, S. Hardev Singh ,Sunil Sharma (President Bar Association Poonch) , Naresh Chander Raj (Ex Councillor MC), Mohinder Singh (Ex Councillor MC) and others prominent members of the area . The camp offered free medical consultations, distribution of essential medicines, and on-site diagnostic evaluations, aiming to detect and manage conditions early, especially among underserved populations.

While interacting with the people Dr Sushil stated that cardiovascular disease (CVD) continues to be the leading cause of mortality globally, and India is no exception. While urban India has witnessed significant advancements in cardiac care, rural India lags dangerously behind. In 2025, despite the existence of several healthcare policies, cardiovascular health in rural regions remains a pressing concern .With over 65% of India's population living in rural areas, the burden of CVD is disproportionately high in these regions. As per the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) 2024 report, cardiovascular diseases account



for nearly 28% of total deaths in rural India. This alarming statistic is driven by a lack of timely diagnosis, poor access to trained specialists, and inadequate follow-up care. We need to work together to bridge the cardiovascular care gap in rural India and improve health outcomes for millions of people.

He elaborated that over 80% of India's cardiologists are located in major cities. This urban-centric distribution leaves rural areas with few or no specialists. As a result, patients are often forced to travel long distances for even basic cardiac consultations or procedures. Most rural health centers lack essential diagnostic tools such as ECG machines, echocardiography, TMT facilities, and even basic lab equipment. Many centers also struggle with power shortages, insufficient medical staff hampering emergency care and routine screenings alike. Low awareness about symptoms of heart disease, and risk factors such as hypertension, diabetes, smoking, and obesity, leads to late presentation and complications. According to ICMR data from 2023, nearly 40% of rural adults with high blood pressure were unaware of their condition. The lack of struc-

tured EMS systems in rural areas means patients suffering from acute events like myocardial infarctions (heart attacks) often miss the critical "golden hour" for intervention. The resulting complications include irreversible damage, heart failure, and sudden death. He Added.

Dr Sushil Sharma in his concluding remarks told that cardiovascular care in rural India stands at a tipping point. The burden is heavy, but so is the potential for impact through dedicated, inclusive, and coordinated efforts. This community-driven medical camp not only delivers immediate care but also sets an example of how medical science and social responsibility can unite to uplift underserved populations. As India progresses, ensuring equal access to life-saving heart care should be viewed not merely as a health objective – but as a moral imperative. Events like these show us that when doctors and communities come together, healing reaches even the most forgotten corners.

Chairman of the Gurudwara S.Harcharan Singh emphasizes on mental health with spirituality, highlighting the profound impact of mental wellbeing .By combining Spiri-

tual practice like meditation and prayer can calm the mind and reduce feelings of overwhelm. It also featured a Gurmat Samagam by the Istri Sat-Sang Sabha, encouraging a holistic approach that combines medical care with spiritual wellness. Others members of the Gurudwara Committee Hardev Singh . Santokh Singh, Harvinder Singh , Dilbagh Singh, Harbans Singh , Rajinder Singh , Ranjeet Singh , Manmeet Singh and Inderjeet Singh appreciated the efforts of Dr Sushil and his team for conducting cardiac awareness cum health Checkup camp in their premises and shows their heartfelt gratitude.

Other who were part of this camp include Dr Parvez Ahmed Khan (CMO Poonch) , Dr Anil Mahajan , Dr DP Gupta , Dr Anitpal Singh , Dr Rahul Sudan, Dr Jaspreet Singh Raina, Dr Harpreet Singh and Dr kamaljit Singh . Paramedics and volunteers include Randhir Singh (Shanty) Rajkumar, Shubham Sharma, Maninder Singh , Paramveer Singh , Rajinder Singh , Vikas kumar , Sumit Sharma, Nirvair Singh Bali, Sukhjyot Singh , Nirjyot Singh and numerous volunteers of the Gurudwara.

Sham Lal Sharma Felicitates Meritorious Students, Calls for Equal Opportunity and Youth Empowerment

JINNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JUNE 29

A felicitation ceremony was held today at Jagdamba Palace, Jammu North, to honour the outstanding achievements of students who excelled in the recent Class 10th and 12th board examinations. Over 55 meritorious students from various schools across the Jammu North Constituency were recognised for their academic brilliance and dedication.

The event was graced by the Hon'ble MLA Jammu North, Shri Sham Lal Sharma Ji, who felicitated each student with certificates and mementoes, applauding their hard work and perseverance.

In his address, Shri Sham Lal Sharma extended heartfelt congratulations to the students, their parents, and teachers for their vital role in shaping the future of the nation. He emphasized the need for holistic education, encour-



aging students to grow not only academically but also in character, values, and civic responsibility.

Shri Sharma strongly advocated for gender equality in education, highlighting the importance of equal opportunities for both boys and girls. He reiterated his support for initiatives like "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao", stating that, "When girls are educated and empowered, they contribute significantly to economic growth, healthcare, and social progress." However, he also voiced concern over ongoing discrimination and violence against girls,

stressing that such challenges limit their potential and hinder national development.

He urged parents to actively engage in the overall development of their children, especially in nurturing the health, education, and empowerment of the girl child.

Addressing the challenges facing youth today, Shri Sharma encouraged students to stay away from drugs and social evils, and adopt a healthy and disciplined lifestyle. He called upon the younger generation to become brand ambassadors of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan,

and to take pride in keeping their surroundings clean and hygienic.

Concluding his speech, he inspired the students to align themselves with the vision of a "Viksit Bharat by 2047", contributing towards building a progressive, inclusive, and self-reliant India.

Sham Lal Sharma reaffirmed his commitment to fostering an environment where education, equality, and youth development remain top priorities. He assured the gathering that his office would continue to support such initiatives that celebrate merit and promote a culture of learning and civic engagement.

The event ended with a note of gratitude to the organisers and was followed by a community lunch, bringing together students, parents, educators, and local citizens in celebration of academic achievement and shared commitment to nation-building.

Balaji Action Buildwell to provide employment to Udhampur youth

JNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JUNE 29

Balaji Action Buildwell (Action Tesa) a manufacturer of high quality Particle Board, MDF Board, HDHMR, Boilo Board (Plain & Prelam), Embossed, UV High Gloss Board, Ornamented and HDF Wooden Flooring having its manufacturing unit in Sitarganj Uttarakhand organized a contractors meeting with Ashok Enterprises here.

Around 130 contractors attended the meeting and showed keen interest in the company's products. The meeting was conducted by RM Vipin Chaudhary, BDM

Sunmeet Singh, ME Baljit Singh, BDE Karan Pajagotra along with other team members and owner of Ashok Enterprises Tushar Khajuria was also present in the meeting.

Action Tesa is the number 1 company in India in terms of quality and gives guarantee against borer, powder and termite attack. Action Tesa uses the latest technology based manufacturing process, we focus on consumer satisfaction and it has always been the company's endeavor to provide the best quality and widest range of Particle Board, MDF, HDHMR, Boilo (Plain and Prelam),

HDF, UV High Gloss and Action Tesa also provides HDF wooden flooring.

Giving information on this occasion, Regional Manager Vipin Chaudhary said that the company is also running a drive for placement of youth in which the youth will be provided three months training by the company which will be given free by the company, after which the youth will be placed at various places.

He appealed to the youth of Udhampur to come forward and fill the form, after which they will get a call from the company after which the further process will start.

Massive irregularities in AIR Jammu music auditions

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

A major controversy has come to light surrounding the music auditions held by All India Radio (AIR) Jammu on June 23 and 24.

Advocate Dogra Harish Kaila, President of Nami Dogri Sanstha, has alleged serious procedural fraud and demanded immediate cancellation of the auditions, seizure of records, and arrest of the person responsible. He has also urged the Home Minister of India and the Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting to intervene in the matter.

According to Advocate Kaila, the auditions were shockingly conducted by a tabla player affiliated

with AIR Jammu who has neither performed on tabla for the past 15 years nor holds any recognized qualification in the instrument. Despite these facts, the same individual was appointed as a practical examiner for B. Mus examinations at the Institute of Music & Fine Arts, which Kaila claims is a mockery of academic and cultural standards.

What makes the issue even more alarming is Kaila's accusation that this individual has performed Pakistani songs at official functions organized by AIR and in venues such as Governor House and Abhinav Theatre. "How can someone who sings Pakistani songs at official govern-

ment events be trusted with representing Indian music and evaluating our youth? This is a serious national concern," said Advocate Kaila.

He further demanded that all audition-related records be immediately seized and investigated. "The process must be declared null and void. The guilty individual must be handcuffed and arrested," he said, adding that "No Work, No Pay" – a core principle of Central Government institutions – must be enforced in this case. "If he hasn't worked on tabla for 15 years, why is he still drawing a salary?" he asked.

Advocate Kaila also demanded a public press briefing by the Station

Head of AIR Jammu and the Vice Chancellor of Jammu University, clarifying who authorized these questionable appointments and under what authority.

He called on the CEO of Prasar Bharati to explain the rules and whether a Official Tabla Player, without academic or recent professional credentials, is allowed to conduct official auditions and practical exams.

The revelations have caused widespread anger among local musicians and cultural circles, who are now demanding a high-level inquiry and complete transparency to protect the sanctity of national cultural institutions.

SMVDU Student Secures Top Ranks in UPSC and BPS Exam for Architect Post



JNEWS SERVICE
KATRA, JUNE 29

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) has achieved a remarkable milestone with Ms. Juh Kumari, a student of the School of Architecture (session 2014-19), being selected by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) for the prestigious post of Deputy Architect (Group A) in the Central Public Works Department, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs. Ms. Juh Kumari secured an impressive All India Rank of 32 in the examination, showcasing her exceptional skills and knowledge in the field of architecture. Furthermore, she topped the Assistant Architect examination conducted by the Bihar Public Service Commission (BPS), securing the highest marks in written and ranking 5th. In the same examination, Ms. Trikuti Mishra, a student of the School of Architecture (session 2018-23), achieved a commendable rank of 82nd. Notably, both students had also excelled in the GATE examination, securing good ranks. Ms. Juh Kumari and Ms. Trikuti Mishra attributed their success to the guidance and mentorship provided by Ar. Vinod Kumar, Assistant Professor at the School of Architecture, SMVDU. The Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, Prof. Pragati Kumar, along with Ar. Abhinav Gupta (Head, School of Architecture and Landscape Design), Ar. Navin Gupta (Deputy Head, School of Architecture and Landscape Design), and all faculty members of architecture, congratulated the students on their outstanding achievement and wished them a bright future. This achievement underscores SMVDU's commitment to providing quality education and nurturing talented individuals who can make a significant impact in their respective fields.

Indian Army conducts expedition to Sari Pass in Barot Valley

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

50 years of raising, a team from Fiery Fifteen Battalion of Indian Army's Tiger Division conducted Trekking Expedition to Sari Pass in Barot Valley, Himachal Pradesh to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of sacrifices made by the gallant soldiers of Indian Army during Indo-Pak War of 1965. A team of 15 brave soldiers from the Tiger Division completed a commemorative expedition of 108 kms. The expedition was flagged off from the revered TIGER WAR MEMORIAL by GOC Tiger Division on 14 June 2025 after paying homage to the unwavering spirit of the soldiers who made supreme sacrifice while protecting the nation



in victory of India over Pakistan in the 1965 War.

As the nation looks up to the 60th Anniversary of Operation RIDDLE (Indo-Pak War 1965), this expedition stands as a poignant reminder of the valour, patriotism and selfless ser-

vice that epitomises the sacrifices of Indian Armed Forces.

The expedition team enroute interacted with school children, youth, veterans and Veer Naris infusing the spirit of patriotism and belongingness.

Vi Launches New Vi Max Family Plan with Bundled Netflix Subscription

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

India's leading telecom operator Vi today announced the launch of its new Vi Max Family Postpaid Plan, which offers the highest data benefit in the industry. The plan also offers an unparalleled OTT experience including a Netflix subscription and access to up to 18 more OTT platforms in a single monthly bill, providing great value at a competitive price.

Single Plan with Netflix and up to 18 More OTTs

Entertainment is one of the major drivers for data consumption in India. Catering to the growing demand for best-in-class OTT experience, Vi has added a Netflix subscription as a fixed recurring benefit to Vi Max Family Plan 871, as well.

With Netflix Basic subscription, Vi Postpaid users will be able to enjoy world-class entertainment on any one of their devices - mobile or television. Customers on this plan can enjoy a variety of content from Netflix spanning across genres and categories, including iconic global originals such as Squid Game, Wednesday, Stranger Things, blockbuster films like Lapataa Ladies, Pushpa 2, Jawan, Chha-



va, Sikander and many more titles, local original films and series like The Kapil Sharma Show, Test, Jewel Thief, The Royals, Khakee: The Bengal Chapter, Black Warrant, Heeramandi, Rana Naidu amongst others. The plan also gives you access to enjoy all live events on Netflix including WWE.

Along with Netflix, users can also access up to 18 more OTT platforms, all included within this plan, making it the most comprehensive entertainment-led Postpaid plan available.

Highest Data Benefit in the Industry

Priced at just Rs 871, the Vi Max Family Plan includes two connections, a primary and a

secondary. In this plan, Vi offers the highest data quota in the industry with a massive 120GB monthly data pool shared between the two members. With 70GB for the primary member, 40GB for the secondary member, and 10GB as shared data, this is the industry's largest data offering, in this price range.

Further, Vi is the only operator that offers Unlimited Night Data (12 am - 6 am) and Data Roll-over up to 400GB (200GB for each member), ensuring a worry free data experience.

Further enhancing the experience is Vi's ongoing offer of Unlimited 5G data for customers on 5G handsets in the recently launched locations

Mann Ki Baat a movement uniting India under PM Modi's vision: Rohiin Chandan

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Rohiin Chandan has hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's iconic popular radio show, Mann Ki Baat, as a transformative platform that continues to inspire millions across India and beyond. In a statement, Chandan described the monthly broadcast as a historic initiative that fosters a direct, heartfelt connection between the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the common masses, cementing its place as a cherished part of India's cultural and social fabric.

"Mann Ki Baat is not just a radio program; it is a movement that resonates deeply with the heart of the nation," said Rohiin Chandan. "Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has created a unique platform that bridges the gap between the government and the people, inspiring every citizen to contribute to the vision of a Viksit Bharat (Developed India). Its ability to connect with people from all walks of life—be it farmers, youth, women, or entrepreneurs—makes it truly special and a historic milestone in Indian governance."

Chandan emphasized that Mann Ki Baat has



Bharat Abhiyan, Fit India, and Atmanirbhar Bharat, transforming them into mass movements. "The program's impact is profound because it speaks directly to the aspirations of 140 crore Indians. It is a testament to PM Modi's commitment to inclusive governance," Chandan remarked.

Reflecting on its historical significance, Chandan noted that Mann Ki Baat has completed over 100 episodes, with each broadcast leaving an indelible mark on the nation's consciousness. He credited the program's success to PM Modi's ability to communicate with empathy and clarity, making complex ideas accessible to all. "This is a program that remains in the hearts of the people, uniting them under the shared dream of a prosperous and self-reliant India," he said.

Chandan also urged citizens to continue engaging with Mann Ki Baat, which airs on the last Sunday of every month at 11 AM, and to share their ideas and stories through the program's dedicated platforms. "Let us all join hands in making Mann Ki Baat a beacon of inspiration and unity, as we work together to build a stronger, more vibrant India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he concluded.

redefined public communication by showcasing stories of unsung heroes, highlighting grassroots innovations, and promoting cultural unity. He noted that the program's simplicity and sincerity have made it a powerful tool for motivating individuals to take part in nation-building. "From celebrating the achievements of our athletes to promoting environmental conservation and local artisans, Mann Ki Baat reflects the pulse of India. It is a platform where every voice matters, and every story inspires," he added.

He praised the program's role in addressing pressing national issues, such as health, education, and self-reliance, while also amplifying the Prime Minister's call for collective action. He highlighted how Mann Ki Baat has encouraged initiatives like Swachh

'Piano Vaadak' portrays the pain of unrecognized artists

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

'Piano Vaadak' (Piano player), a play in Hindi based on a Russian story of Anton Chekhov dramatized by Satyendra Sharat and directed by Neeraj Kant was presented here today at Natrang Studio Theatre in its weekly Sunday Theatre Series. The intellectual and thoughtful warmth of the play was good to counter the coldest day of the city and was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by the audience.

The story of the play very beautifully depicted the situation and humiliation which the artists, who have not been successful in making name, glory and money, have to face. The callous materialistic society values the status of a person much more than his intellect, talent and



ability. The play unfolds the condition of two genuine struggling artists (one writer and one musician) but it speaks about all those who are consistently trying to sustain their identity with lot of efforts but still could not muster the respectability and status which they deserve. The unreceptive circumstances

make them adjust in order to survive but this compromise kills them from within and converts them to clerks and subordinates rather than artists. The pianist is invited to score music in a very big party organized by a high status man for the high status gentry was belittled by one and all, not because he did

not know his art well, but just because he appeared too ordinary to be a part of that party. Some of the ladies approached him, showered fake praises and then embarrassed him at the same time with their true reflections about him. This insult shocks him so deeply as he was not expecting such uncalled

for behavior from those so called well civilized people. He narrates the whole story to his writer friend in despair who is also in a miserable and pathetic condition as he is and they both console each other. The emotional quotient of the play was very well translated on stage by the young artists.

Natrang actors who performed in this well designed play included Kananpreet Kaur, Aryan Sharma, Priyal Ashok Gupta, Prerna Sharma, Adaksh Bagal, Kushal Bhat and Kartik Kumar. The lights of the play were designed and executed by Neeraj Kant whereas the music of the play was scored by Kushal Bhat. The sets of the play were designed by Pawan Verma. The show was coordinated by Mohd. Yaseen whereas Simran Bhagat did the presentations.

Summer Cricket Coaching Camp for youngsters concluded

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

Mr. Ramesh Pargal, renowned Senior Ranji Trophy player was the chief Guest on the occasion of valedictory function of three weeks long Summer Cricket Coaching Camp for boys and girls in the age group of 12 to 16 years held at Parade Ground, Jammu. This 6th camp of its kind was organized by Parade Sports Association in collaboration with Laxmi Cricket Club to groom the budding cricketers. Total 47 players were reregistered who undergone the extensive training. The Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour were welcomed with the presentation of bouquets by the President

and the Chairman of the association.

The camp was organized under the guidance of Mr. Vijay Sabarwal and Mr. Desh Rattan Dubey. Mr. Harsh Nayyar was the Chief Organiser of the camp. Mr. Sanjay Sharma former Skipper of Jammu and Kashmir Ranji Trophy and Mr. Randhir Singh Jamwal were the experts of the camp. Mr. Vikram Dogra was the coach and trainer of camp. The young and budding bowlers and batsmen were trained for Physical fitness.

Fielding and running between the wickets were the important parts of the daily training. Mr. Kapil Dev Mahajan, and Mr. Pawan Kumar Gupta were the organizing secretaries of



the camp. Mr. Vikram Singh Bhadwal and Mr. Vikrant Singh were the organizers of the camp.

Medical checkup of all the players was undertaken by a senior Ayurvedic consultant, Dr. Anil Kumar Mahajan and necessary advice was given to all the players individually for proper maintenance of

their health. Along with a list of do's and don'ts regarding diet and routines for the players to be observed was provided to each player.

During the camp on the occasion of International Yoga Day, Yoga and Meditation sessions were conducted by the Yoga experts Mr. Sharad Chander Mangotra and Mr. Vishal Dubey in



which the players learned and practised different Yoga and Meditation techniques for development of their mind and body.

All the players were provided feed-back forms which they submitted on the last day of the camp wherein the suggestions given by them and their

parents for betterment of next camp were noted. All the players took oath to refrain from the drug abuse and plant a tree in this Monsoon.

Dr. Anil Kumar Mahajan, the General Secretary of the association detailed about the activities of Parade Sports Association and Laxmi Cricket Club.



Mr. Vijay Sabarwal, The President of the association presented the welcome address.

Certificates, smart shirts and lowers along with a hat were given to each of the participant by the Chief Guest Spaeking on the occasion, the Chief Guest appreciated the selfless efforts of senior cricketers

to boost the moral of budding cricketers. Mr. Sanjay Sharma, the Senior Vice President of the Association detailed the outcome of this 6th Cricket Coaching Camp while Mr. Vijay Sabarwal, the President of the association presented the vote of thanks. The programme concluded with efforts of senior cricketers the National Anthem.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Mann Ki Baat: PM...

covered by welfare schemes – a figure the PM described as indicative of saturation-based governance.

Referring to women-led Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Telangana, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, the Prime Minister commended grassroots entrepreneurship and health awareness efforts, such as millet-based products and low-cost sanitary pads.

Marking 50 years since the imposition of the Emergency (1975-77), Modi played archival audio clips of former PM Morarji Desai, Babu Jagjivan Ram, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee, describing the period as one of repression. He recalled the suspension of civil liberties, arrests under MISA, media censorship and judicial curbs, and lauded the people's resistance that led to the restoration of democracy.

"We countrymen have observed the 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas'. We should always remember all those people who fought the Emergency with fortitude. This inspires us to remain constantly vigilant to keep our Constitution strong and enduring," he added.

Other segments highlighted the Bodoland CEM Football Cup in Assam as he talked about footballers like Halicharan Narzary and Durga Boro who were mentioned as symbols of youth aspiration and transformation in a region once marked by conflict.

Referring to young footballers from Bodoland who have risen to national prominence despite limited resources, the PM noted that their journeys were marked by perseverance and resilience. "Many of them practised with limited resources; many forged their way through difficult circumstances, and today many young children of the country kickstart their dreams, inspired by their names," he said.

Emphasising the importance of fitness and well-being, Modi reiterated one of his earlier suggestions for tackling rising obesity by reducing oil consumption by 10% in daily diets. "When you're fit, you will be more super hit in life," he remarked, highlighting concerns over lifestyle-related health issues.

The PM also touched upon the spiritual and community dimensions of religious yatras, referring to the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, the Amarnath Yatra from July 3, and the Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath, all of which he framed as symbols of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'.

Reflecting on the overwhelming response in Vietnam to the display of Buddha's sacred relics from Nagarjunakonda (Andhra Pradesh), which drew 1.5 crore visitors across nine locations, he described it as an example of India's cultural and spiritual diplomacy, and urged citizens to visit Buddhist heritage sites within the country.

Praising environmental efforts across India from Gujarat to Maharashtra, the PM mentioned Pune's Ramesh Kharmale, who spends weekends planting trees and digging trenches on the Junnar hills. He also referred to the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation's "Mission for Million Trees", including a 'Sindoor Van' to honour martyrs of Operation Sindoor.

In Maharashtra, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district's Patoda village, a Carbon neutral panchayat with zero littering, wastewater treatment, and eco-friendly cremation practices also found mention in the PM's radio speech with listeners being urged to join campaigns like "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam", which promotes tree plantation in a parent's name.

Modi noted that July 1 marks Doctors' Day and Chartered Accountants' Day, hailing doctors as guardians of health and CAs as stewards of India's economic life.

LG visits Nunwan and...

stock of the security arrangements and preparations of stakeholder departments.

The Lieutenant Governor also reviewed the progress of Disaster Management Centre & Yatri Niwas at Nunwan and functions of various services for pilgrims including lodging, langar, power & water supply, sanitation, health facilities, traffic management, fire & emergency services and deployment of security personnel.

He directed the Telecom companies to deploy dedicated nodal officers at both the axis to ensure uninterrupted tele-connectivity.

During his visit, the Lieutenant Governor also interacted with the doctors and the medical team at the Chandanwari Base Camp Hospital and reviewed the healthcare arrangements for the pilgrims.

"It is our top priority to ensure that devotees of Shri Amarnath Ji complete their pilgrimage with ease and their stay is safe and comfortable," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board; Shri

Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shri VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Shri Syeed Fakhrudin Hamid, Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag and other senior officers of District Administration, SASB, Police and Security Forces.

India has set USD 1 Bn...

goal of exporting USD one billion to international markets. The (Turmeric) board that will be formed will work to ensure that the highest price of turmeric reaches the farmers," he said.

Shah further said, during the 2023 assembly elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised to establish a Turmeric board in Telangana, and orders in this regard were issued later.

Earlier, Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy and other leaders received Amit Shah when he arrived at Hyderabad's Begumpet airport.

Taking to X, BJP's Telangana unit earlier on Sunday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi who had earlier announced the establishment of the turmeric board has now fulfilled the dream of farmers as per the word given to them.

PM Modi has allocated Rs 200 crores to improve the quality of turmeric crop, carry out research and to improve farmers' income, it said.

The establishment of the Turmeric Board has been a major demand of the turmeric farmers in Nizamabad and it was also a key election issue.

BJP Lok Sabha member from Nizamabad D Arvind, who had promised to set up the turmeric board, had defeated BRS MLC and then Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's daughter K Kavitha in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. He was re-elected in 2024. (Agencies)

LG met Families of...

said. The Lieutenant Governor asked the family members of terror victims who are entitled for Government jobs to submit their cases to concerned Deputy Commissioners. He assured them speedy process of appointment within a month and financial assistance, hand-holding to family members who want to start their own business venture.

"In cases where FIRs were not registered, directions will be given to register FIRs in those cases. Action will also be taken to free the land and property of terror victims' families encroached by terrorist sympathisers or separatist elements," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that Government of India and security apparatus is committed to bring voices of victims to the forefront and ensure justice.

"I know, for years truth was buried under pressure of terror ecosystem. Now, the families are exposing Pakistan and their supporters inside Kashmir. It will be ensured that the real culprits, whether they are in Jammu and Kashmir or hiding in Pakistan, are given the harshest punishment," the Lieutenant Governor observed.

The Lieutenant Governor further said: "We must expose the people wearing masks in the society. We must break the society's silence and must speak up against those committing atrocities".

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that while our country is progressing by leaps and bounds day by day, the neighbouring country, known as the global terror hub and breeding ground for terrorists, is yearning for bread.

"Today Pakistan is counted as the biggest beggar in the world and our country has become the fourth largest economy in the world. While our youth today are making a name for themselves in innovation and entrepreneurship, Pakistan is sending its youth to terror training camps. It aims to kill common Kashmiris. But, we have drawn a new line with Operation Sindoor and we will give a befitting response to any misadventure by the enemy," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said under the leadership of Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi, all efforts are being made to ensure accelerated inclusive development and security officials are working to ensure that these families receive the justice, recognition, and support they deserve after years of suffering in silence.

"I also assure all the families affected by Pakistan-sponsored terrorism that your culprits will not be spared," the Lieutenant Governor said.

More than 80 terror victim families interacted with the Lieutenant Governor and exposed the terrorists and their backers. These families from South Kashmir have been enduring tremendous hardships after losing their family members in barbaric terror acts perpetrated by terror outfits.

During the interaction, these families countered decades of false propaganda and Pakistan's role in

fuelling terrorism in Kashmir valley. They said a fake and dangerous narrative was promoted, one that portrayed Pakistani terrorists as victims and Indian security forces as aggressors but real victims, common Kashmiris' killed by Pakistan terrorists were ignored and neglected due to influence of separatist outfits and the ecosystem.

Boundaries of...

must be intimated to Census Directorates in the states and Union Territories and Registrar General of India by December 31, 2025, it said.

"For Census 2027, boundaries of administrative units will be frozen on December 31, 2025," the letter said.

To ensure a fair workload for enumerators, an administrative unit is divided into manageable sections for the Census called "blocks".

A block is a clearly defined area within a village or town on a notional map for census purposes.

These are termed Houselisting Blocks (HLBs) during Houselisting Operations and Enumeration Blocks (EBs) during Population Enumeration and serve as the smallest administrative units for the Census.

India's 16th Census with caste enumeration will be carried out in 2027 with the reference date of October 1, 2026, in snow-bound areas like Ladakh and March 1, 2027, in the rest of the country.

The Census will be conducted in two phases. In phase one i.e. houselisting Operation (HLO), the housing conditions, assets and amenities of each household will be collected.

Subsequently, in the second phase i.e. Population Enumeration (PE), the demographic, socio-economic, cultural and other details of every person in each household will be collected.

In the Census, caste enumeration will also be done, a Government statement had said.

For Census activities, about 34 lakh enumerators and supervisors and around 1.3 lakh Census functionaries would be deployed.

It is the 16th Census till now and the eighth after independence.

The ensuing Census will be conducted through digital means using mobile applications. Provision of Self-enumeration would also be made available to the people.

Very stringent data security measures would be kept in place to ensure data security at the time of collection, transmission and storage, the statement had said.

The reference date for Population Census - 2027 will be 00:00 hours of the first day of March 2027. For the Union Territory of Ladakh and the non-synchronous snow-bound areas of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the reference date will be 00:00 hours of the first day of October 2026, a notification had said.

This Census will be carried out after 16 years as the last one was done in 2011. (Agencies)

Nearly half of central...

Rs 78.05 crore followed by Poonch (Rs 44.56 crore), Samba (Rs 42.09 crore), Kathua (37.20 crore), Jammu (17.51 crore), Kupwara (Rs 14.85 crore), Bandipora (Rs 4.33 crore) and Baramulla (Rs 4.15 crore).

India shares a 3,323-km border with Pakistan, of which 221 km of the International Border (IB) and 744 km of the Line of Control (LoC) fall in Jammu and Kashmir.

On February 25, 2021, India and Pakistan announced the implementation of a renewed ceasefire along the borders of Jammu and Kashmir, which came as a major relief to the people living along the IB and the LoC.

India and Pakistan had initially signed a ceasefire agreement in 2003, but Pakistan frequently violated the agreement, with more than 5,000 violations reported in 2020 – the highest in a single year.

The Centre initially sanctioned the construction of 14,460 individual and community bunkers for Rs 415.73 crore for border residents facing Pakistani shelling along the LoC and the IB in 2018-19.

While 7,298 bunkers were sanctioned for the population along the LoC in the twin districts of Poonch and Rajouri, 7,162 underground bunkers got approved for villages along the IB in Jammu, Kathua and Samba districts.

Later, the government sanctioned more than 4,000 bunkers to cover a more vulnerable population, including the areas falling in the north Kashmir districts of Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara.

According to Jammu and Kashmir chief secretary Atal Dulloo, so far, 9,500 bunkers have been set up along the India-Pakistan border in the Union Territory.

The bunkers proved to be a lifesaver for the border residents during the intense Pakistani shelling last

month, minimising human loss, even as massive damage was caused to residential houses, besides the loss of livestock.

Sharing the reply of the Home Department with PTI here, Kumar expressed surprise over the non-utilisation of funds during the relatively peaceful years along the borders.

"Only 53.42 per cent of the funds were utilised between 2020-21 and 2024-25," he said.

The Home Department said, "Total funds amounting to Rs 24,277.85 lakh (Rs 242.778 crore) have been given by the government of India to the government of Jammu and Kashmir through the Finance Department J&K during the financial year 2020-21 till date for construction of bunkers for civilians in border districts of Jammu and Kashmir." It said, an amount of Rs 6,918.31 was released for 2020-21, Rs 4,170 for 2021-22, Rs 8,189.54 for 2022-23 and Rs 2,500 each for 2023-24 and 2024-25.

However, the reply said that the J&K administration has only spent Rs 12,967.869 lakh (Rs 129.678 crore) for the construction of bunkers for civilians – Rs 4,881.108 lakh in 2020-21, Rs 3,318.548 lakh in 2021-22, Rs 2,275.313 lakh in 2022-23, Rs 846.64 lakh in 2023-24, and Rs 1,646.26 lakh in 2024-25.

A total of 27 people, mostly civilians, lost their lives and 70 were injured in intense Pakistani shelling and drone attacks on forward villages in Jammu and Kashmir after Indian armed forces launched missile strikes on terror infrastructure across the border during the intervening night of May 6 and 7 under Operation Sindoor to avenge the April 22 Pahalgam attack that left 25 tourists and a local service provider dead.

Poonch and Rajouri accounted for most of the civilian casualties, prompting requests for the construction of more safety bunkers along the borders.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited the shelling-hit areas in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions within two days after India and Pakistan reached an understanding to halt military actions with immediate effect on May 10. He asserted that his government will formulate a policy to build individual bunkers for the people.

"Community bunkers had been built, but they were not used for so long. No new bunker has come up in many years. Wherever I went, people said we should build individual bunkers," he said.

"The government will frame a policy on that, and a scheme will be formulated for the people in these areas which are closer to the LoC and the border, and that would then be taken up with the central government," he added.

He said the community bunkers are a lifeline during moments of crisis.

"We will ensure the construction of more such safer spaces to protect and support our people living in border areas," he said. (Agencies)

Doctor's Day conclave | India...

He also lauded India's affordable healthcare models like Ayushman Bharat and institutions like Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute in Trivandrum, which integrates research, manufacturing, and clinical care.

In the context of cancer care, Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized India's move toward targeted radiation therapy and highlighted Tata Memorial Centre as a pioneer in 100% digital and cashless hospital systems.

He also shed light on India's hygiene innovations during massive public gatherings like Kumbh Mela, where radiation-based faecal sludge treatment plants (FSTPs) ensured sanitation for over 40 crore pilgrims without health hazards.

On climate-related health resilience, Dr. Jitendra Singh mentioned the recently launched Mission Mausam, focusing on early warning systems for health-related impacts of climate disasters.

Concluding his address, Dr. Jitendra Singh underscored the need for a transformative approach to India's healthcare future. He called for wider synergy across sectors, emphasizing the importance of collaboration between academia, research institutions, industry, and government. He also advocated for early-stage integration of the private sector in both research and healthcare delivery to ensure sustainability and scalability. Furthermore, he urged institutional innovation, citing proposals by premier institutes like IIT Kanpur and IISc Bengaluru to establish medical schools within their campuses – a step he believes will foster interdisciplinary excellence and create a new model of holistic education and healthcare.

"Let us not hand over everything to the technocrats. A bit of the doctor must remain. We must carry forward both the science and the soul of medicine," he said.

Dr Manohar for equitable distribution of development funds for both Jammu and Kashmir regions

JNEWS SERVICE
BILLAWAR, JUNE 30

Dr. Manohar Lal Sharma, former Minister, has expressed strong resentment over the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' (MoRTH) recent approval of 10,637 crore for 19 large road and tunnel projects in Jammu and Kashmir. Notably, all of these projects are located in the Kashmir Valley, completely ignoring the Jammu region.



importance for the region's development.

Dr. Manohar Lal Sharma has strongly condemned the discrimination faced by the Jammu region, stating that it is a clear example of neglect and disregard for the region's infrastructure needs. He has urged the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to revisit its decision and allocate funds for projects in Jammu province. The people of Jammu region hope that their concerns will be addressed, and they will receive the necessary infrastructure development to promote economic growth and improve their quality of life, added Dr Manohar.

"Once again, Jammu

region has been completely ignored in the allocation of critical development funds," former Minister said while pointing out that the region has been "consistently overlooked" under the BJP's watch. He attributed this to the "gross failure" of local BJP leaders, who, he claimed, have failed to advocate effectively for the region's interests at the central level. "The people of Jammu gave the BJP a clear mandate, but their expectations have been dashed. Over the last decade, the region's voice has been silenced and its aspirations sidelined," he added.

"Out of 19 mega projects sanctioned, there's virtually nothing for Jammu. We have 29 MLAs from Jammu region—why didn't they raise their voice when these proposals were being discussed and framed? Their silence speaks volumes about their priorities," Dr Manohar said, demanding accountability for their alleged failure to repre-

sent Jammu's interests. Dr. Manohar has emphasized the need for equitable distribution of development funds for both Jammu and Kashmir regions. This approach would help eliminate discrimination and ensure balanced progress across Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Manohar highlighted key points to consider including allocating funds based on regional needs and priorities can promote balanced development and reduce disparities. Investing in infrastructure projects, such as roads, bridges, and public transportation, can improve connectivity and facilitate economic growth. Ensuring representation from both Jammu and Kashmir regions in decision-making bodies can help address concerns and promote inclusive development. By advocating for equitable development funds, Dr. Sharma aims to promote fair and balanced progress in Jammu and Kashmir, ultimately benefiting the entire region.

NCEEA-2025 concludes with roadmap for sustainable farming innovations

JNEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JUNE 29

The three day National Congress on Entomology and Emerging Agrotechnologies (NCEEA-2025) in which 115 participants from all over the country took part, concluded on Sunday at the scenic alpine meadows of Sanasar, here with a strong set of recommendations to transform Indian agriculture through sustainable practices for Viksit Bharat.

Held from June 27-29, the conference brought together experts to discuss eco-friendly pest management, climate-resilient farming, and region-specific agrotechnologies. Organized by the Entomological Science Academy in collaboration with SKUAST Jammu and IIT Jammu, the event emphasized aligning agricultural education, research, and extension with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to foster innovation and employability.

In a special virtual address, Poonam Jasrotia, ADG (Plant Protection & Biosafety), ICAR, New Delhi, highlighted the need for region-specific



technologies to enhance hill agriculture, particularly for indigenous crops such as Anardana, Kasrod, Kaladi, potatoes, and minor fruits. She stressed the importance of advanced pest surveillance, precision farming, and value-added processing to boost productivity.

The conference outlined several key recommendations, including the promotion of biological control using local bioagents and the mainstreaming of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). It advocated integration of entomology with cutting age technologies like AI, genomes and biotechnology. Participants called for

stronger biotech research to develop stress-tolerant crops, the integration of renewable energy with Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA), and improved agrotech support for Ramban's unique crops.

Emphasis was also placed on developing robust post-harvest value chains, researching emerging threats like invasive species, and fostering agro-ecosystem conservation. Collaborative platforms linking farmers, scientists, and industries were proposed to nurture future-ready agro-entrepreneurs.

Rakesh Kumar Gupta, President of the Entomo-

logical Science Academy, reaffirmed the society's allegiance to sustainable and technology driven agricultural growth in J&K and beyond. The academy expressed gratitude to SKUAST Jammu's Vice Chancellor and university officials for their support in organizing the event.

Special gratitude and appreciation was extended to Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohd. Aiyas Khan for his gracious presence and also for the support district administration Ramban, under his leadership, provided. The organisers also appreciated PY Resorts, Sanasar, for logistic support and outstanding arrangements.

NDA urges higher education minister to consider Non-CUET candidates in J&K undergraduate admissions

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

The Nations Development Association (NDA), a registered NGO working for equitable educational access in Jammu & Kashmir, has submitted a formal representation to the Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Government of J&K, seeking urgent intervention on the admission grievances of Non-CUET candidates.



In a letter addressed to the Hon'ble Minister, NDA Chief Functionary Sushil Singh Charak highlighted the growing concern among students who were unable to appear for the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) due to unavoidable circum-

stances, including unrest in border areas, internet disruptions, and logistical barriers. He pointed out that the absence of a 20% Non-CUET quota, which was provided in 2023, has left many deserving candidates in distress this year.

"While we respect the intent behind CUET as a standardized admission process, it is unjust to deny access to higher education to those who missed it due to genuine hardships," said Charak. "We have requested the

reinstatement of at least a 20% quota for Non-CUET candidates at the University of Jammu, Cluster University of Jammu, and affiliated colleges for the current academic session."

NDA emphasized that equitable access to education is a constitutional and moral responsibility, and called upon the administration to ensure justice, inclusivity, and fair play in the admission process.

The Association expressed confidence that under the Hon'ble Minister's leadership, the Higher Education Department will take a compassionate and student-centric decision to safeguard the academic future of thousands of youth across the region.

KV Dulhasti Kishtwar hosts annual day & prize distribution ceremony

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

Kendriya Vidyalaya Dulhasti Kishtwar conducted the Annual Function and Prize Distribution Function at Vidyalaya auditorium.

Shri Suresh Kumar, Group General Manag, HoP Dulhasti NHPC Kishtwar and Chairman, VMC KV Kishtwar was the Chief Guest of the event.

Programme started with ceremonial lamp lighting. Principal Shri Vijaiender Kumar Machhrate presented the Annual report, highlighting the vidyalaya's achievements in various domains. A colorful and impressive cultural programme was presented by the students of the vidyalaya which mesmerized the audience.



Chief guest gave away the prizes on this occasion to the meritorious students and achievers in different activities. Staff members were also felicitated for their incredible contributions not

only in the Teaching-Learning efforts but also fir setting new standards in shaping the growth and development of the students.

The Chief guest blessed the occasion with his kind

motivation and appreciated the performance of children in various cultural events which were presented. The programme was concluded with vote of thanks by Shri Ashok kumar PGT English.

General Bikram Singh Hockey Club Baramulla Triumphs in Prestigious Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji 11th Valley Championship 2025

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 29TH

In a highly anticipated and thrilling finale, General Bikram Singh Hockey Club Baramulla has been crowned champions of the 11th annual Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji Valley Hockey Championship 2025. They secured a decisive 3-2 victory over Singhpora Sports Club, concluding a tournament that not only showcased the region's burgeoning hockey talent but also profoundly honored the legacy of the Sixth Guru Sahib of the sikhs. Organized by Hockey Jammu & Kashmir, the event captivated audiences and reinforced the sport's growing prominence.



Arshdeep Singh (Jr.) initiated their scoring in the 10th minute, with Arshdeep Singh (Sr.) swiftly doubling the lead in the 30th. Despite a spirited comeback from Singhpora Sports Club, featuring goals from Hardeep Singh (12th minute, penalty stroke) and Jaipal Singh (58th minute), it was Manmeet Singh's crucial 44th-minute goal that ultimately sealed the championship for Baramulla. Sumeetpal Singh of General Bikram Singh Hockey Club was deservedly recognized for his outstand-

ing play, earning him the Player of the Match award.

The closing ceremony was notably graced by MLA Baramulla, Janab Javaid Hassan Beigh, who commended the players' dedication and announced a substantial 10 lakh grant for ongoing stadium maintenance. Distinguished guests included Gurdeep Singh Sangral, President, Hockey J&K, and Ex-DIG S. Keerat Singh Ji, a revered patron whose generous sponsorship provided the cash prizes: 25,000 for the champions and

15,000 for the runners-up.

A significant appeal was made by the players for the long-promised Astro-Turf installation, a project sanctioned over 15 years ago but hampered by persistent land allocation challenges. Responding to this critical demand, MLA Beigh pledged a resolution within two to three months, assuring the development of a world-class hockey stadium for Baramulla.

Under Gurdeep Singh Sangral's visionary leadership, Hockey J&K continues its steadfast commitment to nurturing young talent and revitalizing the Valley's rich hockey tradition. The success of the Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji 11th Valley Championship stands as a powerful testament to the sport's vibrant resurgence across Jammu & Kashmir. - (Press release ends)

Kishtwar gets first Phaco Unit at District Hospital

JNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JUNE 29

In a significant boost to healthcare infrastructure in the region, the first-ever Phacoemulsification (Phaco) Unit in District Hospital Kishtwar was inaugurated on Saturday by MLA Kishtwar, Shagun Parihar in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma & Shashi Kant Giri i/c HoP Kwar Project, CVPPL.

The state-of-the-art Phaco Unit, aimed at providing advanced cataract surgeries and enhanced ophthalmic care, marks a historic milestone—not only for the district but for the entire Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, as this is the first such unit to be installed in any district hospital across the UT.

The installation of this vital healthcare asset has been made possible under the Environment Management Plan of the Kwar Hydro Electric Power Project, at an estimated cost of 50 lakh.



Speaking on the occasion, MLA Shagun Parihar lauded the initiative and stated that this is the first of its kind at District Hospital Kishtwar, emphasizing improved healthcare and ensuring access to modern medical facilities for all.

This Phaco unit is expected to significantly reduce the burden on patients needing eye surgery, enabling quicker (stitch-less and painless cataract surgery), safer and more efficient treatment within the district.

Jaspreet Singh Group Sr. Manager (Env.) from Kwar Project & Dr. Yudhvir Singh Kotwal, Medical Superintendent district hospital Kishtwar besides other Senior Officers and Hospital Staff was present on the Occasion.

EDITORIAL

Reviving Kashmir's tourism dreams

The Vande Bharat Express trains between Katra and Srinagar are scripting a powerful success story—one that signals not only a breakthrough in connectivity but also a turning point for the revival of tourism in Kashmir. Barely a month after Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the semi-high-speed trains on this scenic yet sensitive route, the service has seen an overwhelming response, with bookings running full through the end of July. In a region that had seen dwindling footfalls post the Pahalgam terror incident, the Vande Bharat Express is rekindling hope and mobility in more ways than one. The occupancy figures speak volumes. According to data available through the IRCTC, train numbers 26401 and 26403—running twice daily in each direction—are fully booked, with even the waiting lists maxed out. This surge in demand reflects not just the novelty of the train, but its necessity. With the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway frequently disrupted due to landslides and shooting stones, the railway has emerged as a safer and faster lifeline, one that connects the plains to the Valley with clockwork precision. More than a transport upgrade, Vande Bharat's success is a barometer of people's aspirations. For pilgrims headed to Katra, for tourists eager to explore the paradise that is Kashmir, and for locals commuting between cities, the train service is a game-changer. It's no surprise then that the popularity of this train has cut across sections—drawing not just travellers, but also senior political leaders like Dr. Farooq Abdullah and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who have personally experienced the ride and vouched for its efficiency. Importantly, this service has set in motion a ripple effect. The tourism industry, which was on the brink after security concerns dampened confidence, is now witnessing a revival. Hoteliers, travel operators, and local businesses have already reported a renewed interest among tourists, with many now planning their itineraries around train availability. The success of Vande Bharat on this route proves that secure, dependable infrastructure is a cornerstone of economic and tourism growth in Jammu and Kashmir. However, this early success also underlines an urgent challenge: capacity. With both daily trains running at full occupancy, thousands of potential travellers are left in the lurch. The "regret" status across most days in July on the IRCTC app reflects a demand that far outpaces the current supply. The time to act is now. The UT administration's proposal to formally seek increased frequency of trains must be taken seriously by the Railway Ministry. The announcement that a direct train between Srinagar and Delhi is expected by the end of the year adds another layer of optimism. Such long-haul connectivity will not only boost tourism further but also integrate the Valley more closely with the national mainstream. The Vande Bharat Express is more than a train; it's a symbol of progress, accessibility, and renewed faith in development. It has re-energized tourism, restored confidence in public travel, and offered a dependable alternative to the weather-prone highway. Now, the government must build on this momentum—by expanding services, ensuring safety, and capitalizing on the economic potential this route clearly holds. The tracks have been laid. The journey has begun. It's time to accelerate.

OMKAR DATTATRAY

It is every body's knowledge that the original constitution of India signed and drafted under the leadership of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar did not contain terms secular and socialist. These two words were incorporated later on in 1976 through 42 amendment to the constitution and these two words were added to the preamble of the constitution. Everybody and all political parties as well as leaders know it that there two words are superfluous and are not needed and so good bye should be bidden to them. There, is need for the review of the constitution to the extent of deleting these two most controversial words from the preamble of the constitution. The Indian constitution, adopted in 1950 stands as the bedrock of the world's largest democracy. It defines the framework of governance, the rights and duties of citizens, and the core values upon which the nation is built. Over the decades, the constitution has undergone several amendments to reflect the evolving aspirations of the people and dynamic political landscape. Among these changes, the 42nd Amendment Act 1976 stands out as one of the most controversial. It was through this amendment, that words "socialist" and "secular" were inserted into the preamble of the constitution during emergency era under the Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. While intended to reflect the ideological aspirations of the ruling government at the time, the inclusion of these terms has remained a subject of intense debate. A growing segment of society and constitutional thinkers now argue that the time has come to consider the deletion of these words to restore the original spirit of the constitution as

envisaged by the framers. The framers of the Indian constitution deliberately avoided inserting explicit ideological labels into preamble. When the constitution was originally adopted on January 26, 1950, it did not describe India as either "socialist" or "secular." This was not an oversight. It was the conscious decision based on the understanding that India republic should remain flexible and inclusive of diverse political, social, and economic viewpoints. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar the principal architect of the constitution believed that it was neither prudent or necessary to insert economic, or religious ideologies into the guiding philosophy of the constitution. The inclusion of such terms, he felt, would restrict the freedom of future generations to determine the nation's path through democratic processes. The addition of "socialist" and "secular" during emergency was done without adequate public discourse and in a political atmosphere characterised by suppression of dissent and a stifling of democratic norms. This has led many to question the legitimacy of the amendment. Critics argue that the terms were introduced more as political tools rather than as genuine reflections of national consensus. The emergency was a period when civil liberties were curtailed, the press was censored, and opposition voices were jailed. Therefore, decision taken in that period, especially ones, that tamper with foundational elements like preamble deserve closer scrutiny and possibly reconsideration. The term "socialist" implies a specific economic ideology that emphasizes state ownership, redistribution of wealth, and a controlled market. While socialism may have been appealing during the post-independence era when

India struggled with poverty and inequality, the global and national economic scenario has changed drastically. Since liberalisation of the economy in 1991, successive governments, irrespective of party affiliations, have embraced free market principles, privatization and globalization. The Indian economy today is largely capitalist in nature, with private enterprise playing a dominant role in growth, employment and innovation. Retaining socialist in preamble thus appears incongruous with the prevailing economic direction of the country. It creates an ideological confusion and places a label on the constitution that is increasingly disconnected from the realities of the Indian economy. Similarly, the term "secular" has also generated considerable controversy. At its core, secularism means the separation of religion from the affairs of the state, ensuring that government treats all religions with equal respect and does not favour or discriminate against any faith. However, in practice, Indian secularism has often been criticised for being inconsistent and selectively applied. There are numerous instances where state policies and actions seem to cater to specific religious groups, sometimes at the cost of others. Such practices have led to the accusations of "Pseudo-secularism," where the state, while claiming neutrality, ends up appeasing certain communities for political gain. This has resulted in erosion of public trust and growing disillusionment with the concept of secularism as it is applied in India. Furthermore, India's civilizational ethos has always been rooted in religious pluralism and tolerance. Long before the word "secular" was inserted into the constitution, India demonstrated an ability to accommodate a

diverse range of faiths, philosophies and belief systems. From, Zoroastrians seeking refuge to Jewish communities living peacefully for centuries, India has upheld the spirit of co-existence. The removal of the term "secular" from the preamble of the constitution would not mean, the abandonment of religious tolerance, rather it would mean, the abandonment of an ambiguous term that has been misused and politicised beyond recognition. The constitution already provides a robust, protections for religious freedom under article 25 to 28. These, provisions are strong enough to safeguard the religious rights without needing an ideologically loaded term in the preamble. Another important argument in favour of deleting these words is to restore the constitution in its original form and intent. Legal and constitutional purists argue that the preamble should reflect the foundational principles upon which the constitution was built and not the ideological references of a temporary political regime. The fact that "socialist" and "secular" were added during a period of democratic backsliding casts doubt on the democratic legitimacy of their inclusion. It is also important to note that the Preamble is meant to encapsulate the essence of the constitution in a concise manner. By inserting specific ideological terms, we risk transforming a unifying document into a platform for political contention. Opponents of this viewpoint argue that deleting "socialist" and "secular" would signal a regressive step and could be interpreted as a departure from India's commitment to equality and religious neutrality. However, this fear is largely misplaced. The Indian judiciary has repeatedly affirmed the secular character of the constitution, even before the

term was officially added. Similarly, India can continue to pursue policies of social justice and equitable development without being labelled a socialist state. The real challenge lies not in words but in implementation. Upholding fairness, promoting inclusive growth, and ensuring religious harmony do not require ideological branding in the preamble, they require will power, integrity, and democratic functioning. It is also essential to consider the democratic process in this discussion. If there is a broad based political and public consensus on removing these terms, then such a change can be achieved through a constitutional amendment following due procedure laid down in article 368. Open and transparent debate both in parliament and public forums is the way forward. The constitution is not a static document it is a living entity meant to evolve with time. But, such evolution must reflect the genuine will of the people and not be driven by the transient interests of a particular political regime. To sum up it can be said, the debate over deleting "socialist" and "secular" from the preamble of the Indian constitution is not about rejecting the values of equality, justice, or religious tolerance. Rather, it is about reaffirming the foundational spirit of the constitution, promoting ideological neutrality, and strengthening democratic processes. India's greatness lies in its diversity, and its ability to harmonise different viewpoints. Restoring the original Preamble would be a step towards greater clarity, unity and constitutional integrity.

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

Crisis on every drop of water: Why is India's land thirsty despite policies?

DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

The water crisis in India has become such an irony that it makes one wonder why this country is yearning for every drop of water despite so many plans, announcements and policies. When a country has 18% of the world's population and has only 4% of the fresh water resources, then the possibility of a crisis is justified, but if this same country has been beating the drum of water conservation and water management plans for decades and yet drought, thirst and waterborne diseases fall on its lot - then this is not just a natural crisis, it is a collective failure of policy, administration and civic consciousness.

If we understand the water situation in India in terms of statistics, the horror is clearly visible. The Niti Aayog report says that India is the world's largest consumer of groundwater - India alone extracts about 25% of groundwater. More than 11% of groundwater blocks are in a state of 'over-exploited'. 21 major cities like Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad have been warned that groundwater will be exhausted by 2030. On the other hand, 70% of water sources are polluted. This water contaminated with fluoride, arsenic, nitrate and heavy metals is affecting more than 23 crore people. Every year about 2 lakh deaths occur only due to waterborne diseases - this is not just a statistic, it is the height of our insensitivity.

This water crisis is not limited to rural areas or the poor. In 2019, when a modern city like Chennai faced "Day Zero" and had to run water trains, it became clear that this problem

is no longer at the doorstep, but inside the house. And yet we forget it every time, considering it a seasonal problem.

The question is that policies were made - National Water Policy (2012), Jal Jeevan Mission, Atal Bhujal Yojana, Namami Gange, Jal Shakti Abhiyan - but why is the water level still falling? The answer is simple - our policies do not reach the ground, and there is no change in our behavior.

Even today, most farmers in the country grow water-guzzling crops. In water-scarce states like Punjab and Haryana, paddy and sugarcane are cultivated only because the government provides MSP and free electricity. The result - rapid exploitation of groundwater, erosion of fields, and depletion of water sources. On the other hand, modern water conservation measures like drip irrigation or sprinklers are limited to only 9% of farms. Farmers know, but do not adopt - because there is a gap between policy and practice.

Talking about cities, leakage and wastage is everywhere, from pipelines to tanks. Smart metering is still a new word for most municipalities. Measures like recycling and rainwater harvesting are visible at some places, but are not adopted en masse.

The most worrying thing is that water crisis is still considered only a 'natural problem'. Whereas it is clearly a 'policy and moral' crisis. Unless this attitude changes, no plan will be successful.

It is time for India to stop treating water as a "free resource" and look at it as a "life value". This requires some deep and concrete reforms.

India, with 18% of the world's population and only 4% of fresh water resources, is facing a severe water crisis.

Overexploitation of groundwater, pollution, unbalanced agriculture, and climate change are the major causes. Despite government schemes and policies, the situation is worsening due to lack of implementation and public participation.

First, there should be a price for water - whether it is for drinking or irrigation. The culture of free water has turned consumption into waste. Pricing water can strike a balance between social justice and environmental prudence.

Second, micro irrigation systems need to be taken out of planning papers and made a reality on the ground. For this, technical training, affordable availability, and a support system at the local level will have to be created. Third, groundwater management should not be the responsibility of the government alone but also of the village panchayats and local communities. Atal Bhujal Yojana can be promoted as a successful model in this direction.

Fourth, farmers need water-

based crop guidance, not just crop insurance or subsidies. This will happen only when the MSP framework promotes water-conserving crops. The country needs policy interventions that increase farmer incomes and also save water.

Fifth, make water recycling compulsory in cities. Municipalities that do not recycle wastewater should be brought to justice through both penalties and incentives. Rainwater harvesting should be made compulsory in large buildings, and compliance should be monitored.

Sixth, water conservation should not be taught as just an environmental chapter in children's school curriculum, but as a behaviour change. If the next generation considers water 'precious', then today's thirst can save the dry earth of the future.

Seventh, water conservation has to be made a 'people's movement' - as the Prime Minister had called for. But this call should not be seen only in speeches but also in budget and administrative commitment. The Jal Shakti Ministry should not only be a tap-connecting ministry, but it will have to lead water policy, water education and water awareness.

At the same time, the role of the private sector also needs to be understood and enhanced. Promoting PPP models in services such as water ATMs, pipeline management, smart metering, and water recycling can not only bring in investment but also technological innovations.

And most importantly - we must understand that the water crisis is not just a matter of scientists and bureaucrats. It is a

crisis of the common citizen. Every home, every hand must take the responsibility that water will not be wasted, and every drop will be respected.

In this era of climate change, when the amount of rainfall has become erratic, and the Himalayan glaciers are melting rapidly - we must consider water not as 'infinite' but as 'limited and fragile' resource. Water has been given the status of a deity in the cultural tradition of India - but the irony is that today the same water is flowing in the rivers in the form of excreta, or is poisoning the groundwater through dirty drains.

Therefore, today's India is not just facing a 'water crisis', but it is also playing with its future. An India submerged in water crisis will weaken on every front of development - be it health, agriculture, industry or social harmony.

Ultimately it can be said that water crisis is not just a problem of water - it is also a test of system, culture, education and intentions. If we do not take care even now, history will be witness to the fact that we lost a resource which was the basis of life and every drop of which was more precious than gold.

Now the time has come to come out of the barrage of policies and adopt a practical movement to save every drop of water. Because in the coming years, 'water' is going to become the biggest issue of 'politics', 'economic power' and 'social justice'.

Dr. Satyawan Saurabh - Independent thinker, social analyst and known for his in-depth writing on contemporary issues. Special interest in education, rural India and climate issues.

Grievance redressal camp held at Jagti

Dr. Karwani reviews Jagti migrant camp development works

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

A public grievance redressal camp was held under the chairmanship of Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K Dr. Arvind Karwani at Mini Township Jagti-Nagrota Jammu to review the ongoing development works in the migrant camps at Jammu and to take stock of the various day to day issues being faced by the migrants.

Vijay Kumar Sharma, Deputy Commissioner (Relief), Shiwani Bhan, CAO (Relief), Kailash Devi, Assistant Commissioner (Relief), Sanjeev Kumar Assistant Commissioner (Relief) and senior officers from various line departments viz. Jal Shakti, Public Works, Power Development Department, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Youth Services & Sports, Floriculture, Gardens & Parks, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Jammu & Kashmir e-Governance Agency, Health, Education, Urban Environmental Engineering and Revenue.

Tehsildar Nagrota, SDPO Nagrota, Tehsildars/Camp Commandants of Relief Organization and Incharges Sub-District Hospital Jagti and Higher Secondary School were present.

Dr. Karwani patiently listened to the grievances of the public, which mainly included about repair/renovation of flats, allotment of shops, allotment of flats, water supply, sanitation, maintenance of parks and power supply. He emphasised upon the officers to ensure due adherence to the recent directions issued by the General Administration Department, wherein responsibilities of Transit Migrant Camps at Jammu and Kashmir have been

assigned to various Government Departments. It has been provided in the order that officers not below the rank of Executive Engineer shall liaise / coordinate about the execution/maintenance of works/projects pertaining to their department with the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K.

Dr Karwani reviewed the ongoing development works of various Government Departments. The Jal Shakti Department was asked to expedite the construction of borewells in the Jagti and Nagrota migrant camps to augment the water supply. The officers of the Jal Shakti Department apprised that on the basis of complaints of camp inmates related to the potability of the drinking water, the quality testing of samples was done and reports in this regard are all satisfactory.

The Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Department, apprised about the progress of works going on in the migrant camps viz. Migrant Camp Jagti, Migrant Camp Nagrota, Migrant Camp Muthi - Buta Nagar and Migrant Camp Purkhoo. He was directed to expedite the completion of approved works of repair and renovation works and make street lights functional. It was further directed that the repair/renovation of boundary walls in all migrant camps and water proofing works in the residential flats be completed on priority. PWD(R&B) assured that the ongoing work on multi facility community hall involving financial implications of about Rs 6.5 crore will be completed by the end of the year.

It was apprised that a major repair renovation project with financial implications of about Rs 84 crore has been framed to



address the long pending demand of camp inmates for a major repair and renovation of more than five thousand flats, community halls, school buildings and other infrastructure in migrant camps. Dr Karwani assured the public that efforts are in progress to get approval of the Government and requisite funds for the purpose.

The Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) further apprised that Kandoli-Jagti connecting road is in the process of work allotment, which will soon address the concern of residents of Jagti and Nagrota regarding dilapidated condition of road and consequent hindered movement.

Dr Karwani emphasised that work monitoring committees headed by the concerned camp commandant and including the representatives from public work under the close supervision of Deputy Commissioner(Relief), to prioritize the repair/renovation works and ensure satisfactory work completion of all works. The site engineers were directed to ensure close supervision on ground to ensure the quality of works being executed and time bound completion, as per the stipulated deadline.

The Deputy Commissioner Relief and Assistant Commissioners Relief were asked to ensure weekly visits in the camps assigned to them as per

nize special health camps at migrants camps in Jammu on monthly basis and also deploy specialist doctors on rotation basis in Nagrota, Purkhoo and Muthi/Butanagar camps on weekly basis.

UEED was asked to examine and furnish a proposal of planning, designing and construction of works of sewerage and drainage in all the migrant camps and deal with issues of public health, to protect the inhabitants of migrant camps from the adverse environmental factors.

JAKEDA was asked to expedite the proposal for installation and maintenance of solar lights and promotion/implementation of schemes of the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India in the migrant camps.

The Department of Rural Development and Panchayati was asked to promote skill development programmes to enhance employability and support rural entrepreneurship.

The Executive Engineer Jammu Power Development Corporation was asked to deploy additional linemen at migrant camp Jagti, particularly for the summer months.

The Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs was asked to look into the complaints of some inmates about the distribution of ration and the demand of residents for supply of flour in the ration depots. It was further impressed that the modalities for integration of the ration cards of the Kashmiri/Jammu Migrants into the National Food Security Act (NFSA) database, be expedited to enable them to avail the benefit of various Government Schemes.

The Department of Floriculture, Gardens & Parks was asked to expedite the proposal for development of open spaces and undertake maintenance of existing parks and implement various centrally sponsored schemes.

The Health Department was asked to orga-

nize special health camps at migrants camps in Jammu on monthly basis and also deploy specialist doctors on rotation basis in Nagrota, Purkhoo and Muthi/Butanagar camps on weekly basis.

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Regarding the allotment of shops, Dr Karwani asked the camp inmates to submit their claims/objec-

tions against the provisional list issued by the Relief Organisation (M) in the camp office/head office, against dated receipt. He directed the committee of officers headed by the Deputy Commissioner Relief to scrutinize carefully all the claims/objections thoroughly and ensure no genuine claimant is left out.

Regarding the allotment of flats in the migrant camps, Dr Karwani assured the public that the allotments will be made to the poor and underprivileged sections of the society in a transparent and accountable manner, with preference given to widows, persons with disabilities and those suffering from life consuming diseases, solely dependent on relief assistance.

He asked the public to stay cautious against criminal elements and middlemen trying to exploit innocent and gullible persons with the promise of providing them flats or getting their work done. He strongly emphasised on zero tolerance against corruption. Public was asked not to approach any middlemen/agent and instead avail the service of daily grievance redressal mechanism of Relief Organization, wherein all officers and officials of Relief Organisation are connected daily at 12 noon from head office and all Zones.

Tehsildar Nagrota and SDPO Nagrota were asked to organise awareness camps in Migrant Camps at Jagti and Nagrota against the menace of drugs and take action on the complaints of some locals about movement of anti-social elements in the camps. SDPO Nagrota was asked to increase deployment of police to keep watch on anti-social and criminal elements and safeguard entry and exit points in the camps.

Pavitra Charri of Shree Hudh & Trisandhya Mata Yatra 2025 departs for Dachhan



JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JUNE 29

In a spiritually charged atmosphere, the Pavitra Charri (Holy Mace) of the revered Shree Hudh Mata and Trisandhya Mata Yatra 2025 commenced its onward journey to Dachhan, accompanied by a large number of enthusiastic devotees.

The Holy Mace, which arrived in Kishtwar on Saturday, was ceremoniously received and revered at Shree Gori Shankar Mandir, Sarkoot, where it rested overnight. The following day, the Yatra resumed with full fervor, marking a significant spiritual event in the region's calendar.

Leader of Opposition, Sunil Sharma, MLA Kishtwar, Shagun Parihar and Deputy Commissioner

Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma flagged off the Pavitra Charri (Holy Mace) towards Dachhan.

A large number of local residents and devotees, along with senior officers from the civil and police administration, gathered to pay their respects, offer prayers and seek blessings.

The district administration under the leadership of the DC Kishtwar has made elaborate arrangements to ensure the smooth and safe conduct of the Yatra. All necessary facilities have been put in place to facilitate the devotees along the sacred route.

The Shree Hudh Mata and Trisandhya Mata Yatra hold immense religious significance and continue to inspire devotion and unity among the people of the region and beyond.

DC Kishtwar conducts extensive tour of Sub Division Chatroo to assess infrastructure and public facilities



JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JUNE 29

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today conducted a comprehensive tour of Sub Division Chatroo to review the status of ongoing projects, assess the condition of public infrastructure and address issues faced by the local population.

During the visit, the DC inspected several key sites including the TRC Chatroo, Swimming Pool Chatroo, Tehsil Office Building Chatroo, Guest House Chatroo and TRC Mughal Maidan.

He also reviewed the functioning of the Fisheries Unit at Mughal Maidan, taking stock of the services

being provided to the community.

The DC directed the SDM Chatroo to desilt the swimming pool and ensure it is filled with fresh water.

The Deputy Commissioner also paid obeisance at the Maa Ashtadash Buja Parna Chingam Temple and took stock of the facilities. The Deputy Commissioner also emphasized the promotion of tourism in the area, noting the significant potential for tourism development.

The DC was accompanied by SDM Chatroo, Nayeem Ur Rahman, Tehsildar Chatroo Shuja Hameed, AEE R&B Chatroo Nissar Ahmad Sheikh besides other senior officers and concerned staff.

Dharti Aaba Abhiyan continues at Mujhpathri of Khansahib Budgam

JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JUNE 29

As part of the ongoing Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan, a mass awareness programme was today conducted at panchayat Mujhpathri, a tribal area in block Khansahib of district Budgam.

The Abhiyan, which has been underway since June 15, aims to achieve 100 percent saturation of government welfare schemes across 25 key interventions spanning 17 line departments in tribal villages.

All concerned departments actively participated in the Gram Sabha held today and provided awareness on scheme eligibility and processes, especially in areas where saturation

gaps were identified.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from the local tribal community, who welcomed the initiative and engaged in meaningful interaction with departmental representatives.

Tribal community acknowledged the importance of holding such outreach events and raised various issues, many of which were addressed on the spot.

Students of Government Model Middle School Mujhpathri added cultural vibrancy to the programme by performing Gojri folk music and other cultural presentations, emphasizing the need to preserve tribal culture and heritage.

On-spot registration for various government schemes was carried out, including PMAY-G, Kisan Credit Cards, Swadesh Darshan Guest Houses, HADP Scheme, JJM FHTCs, and PMJAY health cards.

Officers from various departments, including the Block Development Officer Khansahib, Zonal Education Officer Khansahib, and Block Medical Officer Khansahib were present and spoke on the importance of community participation in government schemes for inclusive development.

Dharti Aaba Abhiyan continues to strengthen the government's commitment to last-mile delivery and empowerment of tribal populations across Budgam.

District administration Rajouri acts swiftly to contain gastroenteritis cases in Dhar Sakri

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JUNE 29

In light of the reported cases of gastroenteritis in Dhar Sakri village of Kotranka sub-division, the District Administration Rajouri, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, has undertaken swift and effective measures to safeguard public health and prevent further spread of the illness.

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, is continuously receiving updates from the District Administration and personally monitoring the steps being taken to address the situation.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, visited Dhar Sakri yesterday and is keeping a close watch on the response measures being implemented in the affected area.

Following the initial reports, a team comprising the AEE, JE and water testing laboratory staff was deputed to the site. Water samples were collected from four natural springs (bowls) and one tap connection. Upon testing, E. coli contamination was found in two springs, while the tap water was



declared safe for consumption.

As a precautionary measure, the District Administration, in coordination with the Superintending Engineer, Jal Shakti Department, has issued a public health advisory urging residents to avoid using untreated spring water and to consume only safe, treated water.

Though the PHE Department does not supply water from these bowls, it has taken proactive steps as a matter of social responsibility by thoroughly cleaning and chlorinating the contaminated bowls with bleaching powder. Additionally, all contaminated springs have been sealed to prevent public access.

Residents have been sensitized and made aware of the health risks associated with unsafe water sources. An alternate safe water supply has been ensured for the affected population.

On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, a

medical team was deputed by the Chief Medical Officer, which has established a temporary health centre at HS Sakri to provide immediate medical check-ups and treatment to the affected people.

Additionally, in a district-wide sanitation effort, all Ground Service Reservoirs (GSRs) have been cleaned and disinfected by officials of the Jal Shakti Department, ensuring the safety of the drinking water supply across Rajouri.

Further, rural sanitation teams have been constituted and grassroots level officials from the Health Department, Jal Shakti Department and Rural Sanitation Wing have been deputed to the affected and adjoining areas to intensify awareness, surveillance and sanitation measures.

The District Administration continues to monitor the situation closely and remains committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all residents.

Plantation drive organised under the banner of "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam"

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JUNE 29

A plantation drive was conducted at historic Chowgan Ground, Kishtwar under the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" Government of India initiative, commemorating the International Year of Cooperatives.

The event was organised by the Cooperative Department in collaboration with the Municipal Council Kishtwar under the guidance of Deputy Registrar, Cooperative Societies, Kishtwar, Mr. Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal.

The event was graced by Deputy Commission-

er Kishtwar, Mr. Pankaj Kumar Sharma as the Chief Guest, who emphasized the importance of environmental conservation and the significant role cooperatives and urban bodies play in promoting sustainable and community-driven development.

MC Bandipora holds Swachhata Rally under weekly 'Swachhata Tyohaar' Initiative

JI NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JUNE 29

In continuation of its weekly cleanliness campaign under the banner of Swachhata Tyohaar, Municipal Council (MC) Bandipora on Saturday organized a vibrant awareness rally to promote the importance of cleanliness, hygiene and proper waste segregation.

The rally commenced from the Municipal Council office and culminated at Nishat Park, with enthusiastic participation from municipal staff, volunteers, students, and members of the general public.

Holding placards and raising slogans, the participants spread the message of adopting clean habits and keeping the surroundings litter-free.

On the occasion, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Municipal Council Bandipora emphasized the significance of community involvement in making the district cleaner and greener.

He informed that such awareness activities are conducted every Saturday to instill a sense of responsibility among citizens towards sanitation and environmental well-being.

Proxy Govt of BJP proves total failure in J&K: Bhalla

JINNEWSERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla Sunday strongly criticized the BJP government's performance in Jammu and Kashmir over the past 11 years, highlighting its failures on various fronts. Addressing a huge gathering in Bhour Camp Ward-73, RS Pura constituency, Bhalla stated that the government has proved to be a failure in addressing key issues affecting the people of J&K. The programme was organized by Amrit Bali, former General Secretary JKPCC. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Pawan Bhagat, former Secretary JKPCC, S. Rajinder Singh, Senior Leader, S. Gurmeet Singh, Block President, Sunil Salathia, Block Senior Vice President, S. Baldev Singh, S. Gurcharn Singh, Madam Santosh Sharma, Samandeep Singh, Jagmohan Sharma, Kapoor Lal, Romesh Kumar, Gurbaksh Singh.

Bhalla pointed out that the government has failed to address the issue of unemployment, leaving thousands of young people without job opportunities. He criticized the government's lack of investment in infrastructure development, including roads, transportation, and public facilities. Bhalla highlighted the government's failure to improve the healthcare sector, leaving people without access to quality medical care. He pointed out that the government has failed to increase power generation capacity, leading to frequent power outages and shortages.

Bhalla criticized Union government's failure to

establish new industries, leading to a lack of economic growth and job opportunities. Bhalla slammed the government for trying to impose property tax on the people of J&K, adding to their financial burden. He criticized the government's decision to set up toll plazas, which he said has increased the financial burden on the people. Bhalla opposed the government's decision to introduce smart meters, which he said has led to increased electricity bills for the people.

Bhalla expressed concern over the revival of terrorist activities in the Jammu region, which was previously peaceful. He criticized the government's failure to maintain law and order, ensuring the safety and security of the people. Bhalla's remarks highlight the growing discontent among the people of J&K with the BJP government's performance. The Congress party is determined to highlight these issues and work towards bringing about positive change in the region.

Bhalla said people of Jammu and Kashmir, including POJK refugees, are bearing the brunt of misgovernance due to the government's failure to address their needs and provide effective governance. One of the major concerns is the deliberate delay in granting statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, which has left the people without a legitimate voice in the governance of their own state. The people of J&K are without proper representation in the governance of their state, leading to a lack of accountability and transparency. The delay in granting statehood has also led to economic



stagnation, with a lack of investment and development in the region. The misgovernance has also led to social unrest, with people becoming increasingly frustrated with the lack of progress and development in the region, added Bhalla.

Bhalla said Congress party demands that the government take immediate action to grant statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring that the people of the region have a legitimate voice in the governance of their own state. This will help to address the issues of misgovernance and ensure that the people of J&K receive the benefits of good governance. The BJP government's handling of the POJK refugee issue has been criticized for being deceptive and ineffective. The government has made promises to reclaim PoJK and provide citizenship and fiscal compensation to refugees, but these promises remain unfulfilled as it failed to implement Congress set and approved package of 9926 crores ensuring nearly 30 lacs per refugee family.

Bhalla said despite claims of reclaiming PoJK,

the government has not taken concrete steps to address the issue, leaving refugees in uncertainty. Some PoJK refugees have been excluded from relief packages, with 5,300 refugees reportedly left out of a Rs 2,000-crore package. While 20,523 PoJK refugees have received benefits under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDDP), 561 cases are pending or have been rejected due to documentation issues or court cases.

Bhalla argued that the government's rhetoric on PoJK is aimed at garnering political mileage rather than addressing the genuine concerns of the refugees. The refugees continue to wait for justice and repatriation, with their plight seemingly forgotten in the political rhetoric. The BJP government should consider issuing a white paper highlighting the sections of society that have benefited from their policies and initiatives. The government should highlight the sectors that have seen significant economic growth, such as the IT industry or small and medium-sized enterprises.

The government should showcase its achievements

in infrastructure development, including roads, highways, and public transportation. The government should highlight its social welfare schemes, such as healthcare initiatives, education programs, and poverty alleviation schemes, Bhalla fired several questions while addressing gathering.

Bhalla asked Govt to acknowledge the criticisms and challenges faced by certain sections of society, such as concerns of marginalized communities, including Dalits, Adivasis, and other minority groups, discuss its efforts to address economic inequality and promote inclusive growth and should highlight its initiatives to promote social justice and protect human rights. By presenting a balanced view, the government should demonstrate its commitment.

Bhalla said Congress party has been actively highlighting public grievances in Jammu and Kashmir through various programs and protests. However, the current government seems to be more focused on maintaining its hold on power rather than addressing the concerns of the people. The lack of eco-

nomical growth and development in Jammu and Kashmir has led to widespread unemployment and poverty. The region's infrastructure, including roads, healthcare, and education, requires significant improvement.

The Congress party has been highlighting the social injustices faced by marginalized communities in Jammu and Kashmir. The government's response to these issues has been inadequate, leading to growing frustration among the people. The Congress party's efforts to raise awareness and mobilize public opinion are crucial in holding the government accountable and pushing for positive change in Jammu and Kashmir, added Bhalla.

Claiming that Kashmir Division has been allotted Rs 1000 crores more than Jammu division in the School Education sector, Bhalla said that Jammu region was still facing huge discrimination. He said that Jammu Division has been allocated Rs 4474 crore while Kashmir Rs 5439 crore in School Education sector. There is difference of nearly Rs 1000 crores. During previous budget, Jammu division

was allotted Rs 4563 crores which indicates that Rs 89 crores less were allotted to Jammu this year while Kashmir division was provided Rs 4931 crores. The funds of Kashmir division were increased by Rs 508 crores and Jammu's reduced by Rs 98 crores.

Again, in the Higher Education sector, Rs 260 crores were provided for Universities/ Colleges in Jammu while Rs 343 crores in Kashmir Division. It has been observed that while Government colleges are being provided funds at the rate of Rs 7-8 crores while the private Colleges/ Universities @ Rs 30 to 44 crores. He asked what was the criteria for providing funds to the Government and private institutions. Referring to Health sector, Bhalla said Rs 8800 crores are the budgetary allocations for this sector while Rs 1536 crore have been allocated to Jammu division and Rs 2402 crores to the Kashmir division. It is interesting that Rs 4800 crore have been kept at the disposal of Commissioner /Secretary concerned.

Bhalla said government has drastically curtailed public spending, pushing large sections of society to the brink. Contractors have lost interest in taking up new projects because their bills remain unpaid and are gathering dust in government offices," he said. "Retired employees are yet to receive their gratuities, and the government treasuries are virtually empty. Even the Constituency Development Funds (CDF) meant for legislators have not been released, further eroding public trust in the political system's ability to deliver development," Bhalla.

Bhalla further noted that tourism, a vital sector of the region's economy, has come to a standstill in the aftermath of the recent Pahalgam terror attack. "Instead of offering relief packages to taxi drivers and tour operators, the government has reduced its own spending. This is clearly impacting the private sector—real estate is in a slump, construction activity is largely on hold, roads are deserted, and markets remain empty. Businesses are collapsing, entrepreneurs are going bankrupt, and small traders are unable to service their debts," he said.

Bhalla resented slashing funds for Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRI), a move that has stirred resentment among the District Development Council (DDC) members, who argue it will hit grassroots development in the union territory (UT). The DDC members, who frame work plans under District Capital Expenditure (Capex), as per the Panchayati Raj Act, said the cut in PRI is "injustice" with the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the rural areas of the UT, where these funds are spent for the construction of lanes and drains.

In Jammu and Kashmir, which has 4291 panchayats, each panchayat is allocated Rs 23 lakh for carrying out basic development in rural areas. Jammu and Kashmir has cut the funds by around 7 lakh and allocated plans worth Rs 16.66 lakh to each panchayat. In the absence of the elected panchayat members in Jammu and Kashmir, the work plan is framed by DDCs at the Gram Sabha level and approved for execution by the rural development department, added Bhalla.

ZNS NIST academy opens grandly in Akhnoor; A new chapter in skill empowerment begins

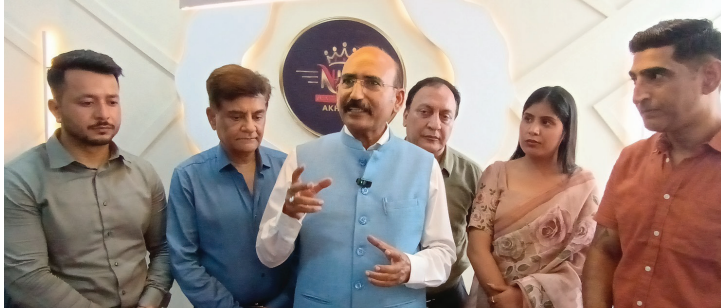
JINNEWSERVICE
AKHNOOR, JUNE 29

ZNS NIST Academy, a premier institute of Fashion and Beauty education in Jammu & Kashmir, proudly marked the grand opening of its newest branch in Akhnoor. With existing centres in Gandhi nagar, Udhampur, Bari Brahmana, and Kathua, this fifth branch stands as a testament to ZNS NIST's growing commitment to skill development and youth empowerment across the region.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by Chief Guest Mohan Lal Bhagat (MLA Akhnoor) and Guests of Honour Sohail Kazmi (Senior Journalist) and Dr. R.D. Sood (Medical Director, Sood Eye Centre). The distinguished guests extended their heartfelt congratulations to the Founders Shabir Malik and Nusrat Malik, as well as Franchise Owner & Director Irfan Choudhary, for this impactful venture in Akhnoor.

In his address, Mohan Lal Bhagat emphasized the critical need for skill-based education in today's com-

petitive world. "ZNS NIST is creating an empowering platform where creativity meets opportunity. Especially for our youth and women, this is the right time to learn, grow, and



lead through entrepreneurship," he stated.

Sohail Kazmi, who has been associated with ZNS NIST for over seven years, highlighted the role of skill education in professional personality development. "For our youth, the sky is the limit. Institutes like ZNS NIST are shaping futures and opening doors to careers in beauty and fashion," he said.

Dr. R.D. Sood echoed similar sentiments, commending ZNS NIST for providing top-notch courses and exposure to students aspiring to join the fashion and beauty industries.

Franchise Owner & Director Akhnoor Irfan Choudhary expressed his vision for the new centre: "This is an era of skills. ZNS NIST Akhnoor is here to offer the best in skill-based learning with high standards and modern training."

The inauguration was also attended by several notable personalities and supporters of the ZNS NIST journey, including:

Dr. Sanjeev Kumar (Joint Director, Sheep Husbandry), Mamta Gole (Centre Head, ZNS NIST Kathua),

Ravinder Singh (Senior Journalist), Shivam Singh & Meenakshi Bhagat (MD, The Chatterbox, Shivangi Dogra (Centre Head, ZNS

NIST Udhampur), Heena (Centre Head, ZNS NIST Akhnoor), Inderjeet Singh Raina (Founder, Sampark PR Agency).

ZNS NIST Academy continues to be a leader in providing quality education in beauty, fashion, and personal grooming, having empowered over 2000+ students and supporting hundreds of startups across Jammu & Kashmir.

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Young generation getting away from spiritual and Sanatan culture, religious education is necessary: Sahni

JINNEWSERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni has suggested Hindus to impart Sanatan and religious education to their children from childhood.

Today, in the religious city of Katra, on the occasion of Guru Purnima and Gupt Navratri, a grand Kalash Yatra was organized before the Shrimad Bhagwat Katha from Shri Raj Mata Mandir to Holy Bhumika Temple, Katra led by Saint Raja Ram Vohra with the blessings of Swami Shri Rajewara Nand Ji Maharaj.



On this occasion, Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni, while explaining the importance of Kalash Yatra in Sanatan Dharma,

said that this is an auspicious and sacred Shobha Yatra through which blessings of God and happiness and prosperity along with positive energy are sought.

This spreads divine energy at the Katha venue. Sahni said that today's youths are getting attracted towards western culture and are getting away from Sanatan Dharma. Parents and elders should also bring their children to religious functions. We have started adopting short cuts in the name of development and modernity. Sahni has advised Hindus to give education of their religion and scriptures to their children along with academic education. Sahni honored Saint Raja Ram Vohra and story teller Acharya Manoj Krishna with Maa ki Churnari.

NSF celebrates 124th birth anniversary of Rajendra Nath Lahiri

JINNEWSERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

National Secular Forum (NSF), University Unit organized a program in University Campus, and on the Birth anniversary of Rajendra Nath Lahiri who laid his life for the country.

A programme in this connection was organized wherein Dr Vikas Sharma Coordinator Jammu District and Zonal Secretary JKNC was the Chief Guest while Sh TR Sharma KAS (Retd) Presided over the

function. Dr Sukhdev Singh State President NSF was the guest of honour.

The activists of NSF paid tributes to Rajendra Nath Lahiri and garlanded the portraits of the son of soil, who laid down his life for the sake of the country.

Speaking on the occasion Dr Vikas Sharma threw light on the life history of Rajendra Nath Lahiri and appreciated the efforts of NSF.

Dr Vikas also said that Rajendra Nath Lahiri known simply as Rajen-

dra Lahiri, was an Indian revolutionary, who was a mastermind behind the Kakori conspiracy. He was an active member of the Hindustan Republican Association, aimed at ousting the British from India.

Dr Vikas Sharma, further said that the sacrifices of such great people could not be ignored, which had secured freedom for the country and its people. He urged the young generation to strengthen the hands of J&K National Conference (JKNC) enabling it

to redouble its efforts to get the status of Jammu and Kashmir statehood restored.

Dr Sukhdev Singh, in his speech said that He was the mastermind behind the Kakori train robbery on 9 August 1925. He was arrested and sent to jail for ten years rigorous imprisonment. When the legal proceedings started in Lucknow for the train robbery, he was also included in the Kakori conspiracy case and tried with several other revolutionaries.

PM Modi's vision of Women-Led Development resonates across J&K: Rekha Mahajan

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

Senior BJP leader Rekha Mahajan today listened to the 123rd episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat' along with party workers and local residents at the residence of Subhash Choudhary, Ward No. 58, Booth No. 112 in Jammu South constituency.

Former Mandal President and Vice Chairman of the Cantonment Board Bharat Bhushan, Mandal General Secretary Gurcharan Ji, Shakti Kendra Pramukh Subhash Ji, Vijay Dogra and other BJP karyakartas were also present on the occasion.

Speaking after the programme, Rekha Mahajan praised PM Modi for highlighting the transformative power of Women-Led



Development, calling it a defining force shaping a new and empowered India. She said that under the visionary leadership of the Prime Minister, women from all walks of life have emerged as agents of change, not just for their families, but for entire communities.

She lauded the inspiring stories shared by the Prime

Minister—whether it was the women of Meghalaya promoting eco-friendly Eri Silk through Self Help Groups, or the remarkable transformation of tribal women in Telangana's Bhadrachalam producing millet-based biscuits and affordable sanitary pads, or the branding of traditional jowar rotis by women in Karnataka's Kalaburgi. "These stories

are a testament to the fact that women are now at the forefront of economic and social progress, thanks to Modi ji's consistent encouragement and support," she said.

Rekha Mahajan noted that the Prime Minister's emphasis on local art, culture, and products through campaigns like Vocal for Local and Atmanirbhar Bharat is empowering women to preserve heritage while contributing to economic growth. "The Prime Minister rightly said that our mothers, sisters and daughters are scripting new success stories across India. This is not just development—it is a movement powered by self-confidence and self-reliance," she added.

The senior BJP leader further emphasized the need to strengthen and promote women-led initia-

tives in Jammu & Kashmir as well, stating that the UT has immense potential in handicrafts, agri-business, and micro-enterprise sectors. "J&K's women are talented, hardworking, and resilient. With the right support and training, they can lead a silent revolution, just like their counterparts in other parts of the country," she asserted.

Rekha Mahajan urged all party workers to spread awareness about such success stories and encourage more women to join Self Help Groups, skill development programs, and entrepreneurship schemes initiated by the Modi government.

The event concluded with chants of Bharat Mata Ki Jai and a collective commitment to strengthening the vision of Women-Led Development in every corner of the nation.

Meeting of Jammu-Kashmir Sant Samaj Nayas held in Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

Today, a core group meeting of the Jammu-Kashmir Sant Samaj Nayas was held in Jammu, conducted by Mahant Rajesh Bittu Ji and presided over by Mahant Shanti Giri Ji Maharaj. Saints from Kathua, Samba, udhampur, and Jammu participated. Key topics included preparations for the Shri Amarnath Yatra, especially the traditional welcome and full-scale langar service organized by Mahant Shanti Giri Ji at Lakhanpur, the main entry point for pilgrims, which starts from July 1st. Discussions also focused on expanding the Sant Samaj's leadership structure and the postponement of the planned Kumbh event at Dhari Prayag due to heightened security arrangements for the



Amarnath Yatra. Mahant Rajesh Bittu has appealed to devotees of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Yatra, as well as local administrators and the government, to consider utilizing temples in Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, and Ramban regions for pilgrim accommodation. He emphasized that the Sant Samaj warmly welcomes all yatrias. He also extended special thanks to the Deputy

Commissioner of Kathua and DIG Jammu for their significant support and cooperation in facilitating the arrangements.

Dignitaries present included Param Adarniya Mohan Giri Ji, Narayan Das Shastri Ji Maharaj, Mahamantri Mohan Bharti Ji Maharaj, Jasmer Baba Ji, Rajesh Giri Ji Maharaj, and Sai Das Ji Maharaj. The meeting emphasized unity and service for upcoming religious events.

J&K PM Vishwakarma artisans participate in MSME Day Celebration at New Delhi

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

MSME-Development & Facilitation Office, field office of Union Ministry of MSME implements various schemes and activities for the benefit of MSME Sector in Jammu & Kashmir. The activities including Entrepreneurship Awareness Program, Intellectual Property Rights Awareness Program, Procurement Marketing Support Scheme Awareness Program, PM-Vishwakarma Seminar, PM-Vishwakarma Awareness Workshop, Entrepreneurship & Skill Development Program, Management Development Program, Reimbursement of Barcode Expenditure, Reimbursement of Stall Charges, To and From Charges, Advertising Expenditure for participating in various exhibitions conducted in all



parts of the Country. PM Vishwakarma scheme is implemented in Jammu & Kashmir with active participation of Government of Jammu & Kashmir. The scheme is meant for upliftment of skilled artisans of 18 trades who preserve the cultural identity and play vital role in economy of J&K. The scheme offers the benefit like training with stipend, Loan up to 3 Lakhs, incen-

tive of Re.1 towards digital transaction and toolkits worth Rs.15,000/-. Training has been completed at various centers in various districts of J&K. As on today J&K has received 492403 applications, 13308 Loan applications sanctioned for the value of 123 crores, 40779 toolkits delivered, 129067 skill training completed. Union Ministry of MSME celebrated MSME Day at

New Delhi and PM Vishwakarma artisans from Jammu & Kashmir was invited for the MSME day celebrations at New Delhi and grand arrangements were made for their travel from Anantnag and Srinagar districts to Srinagar airport and New Delhi & back on Union Ministry's expenses. Nodal officer named Mr.Rajesh Kumar was appointed by G Velladurai IEDS Joint Director for accompanying the artisans to New Delhi and back. The artisans expressed their fullest satisfaction about the arrangements for their travel and stay at New Delhi. The MSME day celebrations were inaugurated by Smt.Droupadi Murmu, Hon'ble President of India in the august presence of Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi, Union Minister of MSME and Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, Union Minister of State (MSME).

Kesri demands J&K Govt to upgrade Arnia Hospital on a priority basis

JI NEWS SERVICE
ARNIA, JUNE 29

A meeting was held by Shiv Sena Hindustan members in Arnia, under the chairmanship of Jammu and Kashmir President Pt Rajesh Kesri. The meeting highlighted the need for upgrading the Arnia Hospital to provide better healthcare facilities to the local population. The meeting was attended by several prominent members of Shiv Sena Hindustan, including state Vice-President Balbir Kumar, Balwant Fouji, Sanjeev Sharma, Ashok Gupta and others. The organization has urged the government to take immediate action to address the healthcare needs of the people in Arnia and ensure that they receive quality medical care.

Kesri emphasized the need for a dedicated gynecology department with at least five delivery rooms and a specialist gynecologist to cater to the health-



care needs of women in the region. He highlighted the challenges faced by pregnant women in accessing timely medical care, particularly in emergency situations. Kesri pointed out that the people of Arnia, being a border area, face significant difficulties in accessing medical facilities in Jammu, especially for expectant mothers.

Kesri has demanded that the government upgrade the Arnia Hospital on a priority basis to ensure the safety and well-being of mothers and children.

He emphasized that maternal healthcare is a critical aspect of public health and that the government needs to take immediate action to address the gaps in healthcare services in the region. He said Jammu and Kashmir government should prioritize healthcare in border areas, ensuring that residents have access to quality medical facilities and services, said Kesri.

Kesri demanded key considerations include healthcare services should be easily accessible to people living in border

areas, with minimal travel time and adequate transportation options. Border areas require robust emergency care services, including ambulance services and emergency response systems. The government should ensure that specialized care services, such as gynecology, pediatrics, and surgery, are available in border areas, added Kesri.

Kesri observed that healthcare infrastructure in border areas should be strengthened, including hospitals, clinics, and community health centers. The government should ensure that border areas have an adequate healthcare workforce, including doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals. By prioritizing healthcare in border areas, the Jammu and Kashmir government can improve the health and well-being of residents, reduce healthcare disparities, and promote overall development in these regions, said Kesri.

Sindhu Darshan festival celebrated with cultural fervor at JNV Kargil

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

Under the aegis of the Cultural Ministry of India, the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, had organized the "Cultural Journey - Sindhu Darshan Festival" from June 13 to June 29, 2025. This festival is being held across various states in North India—such as Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, etc.—and showcases dance, music, folk art, drama, and more performed by artists from different Indian states. Upon the festival's arrival in Kargil, the venue chosen was the PM Shri School Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Khumbathang. The school's Headmistress, Mrs. Bindu Gulia, along with all teaching, non-teaching staff, and students, accorded a grand welcome. All dignitaries were welcomed by being draped in Ladakhi traditional "khata" scarves. The entire school was immersed in the colors of Indian culture as performances from across the country took the stage. The program commenced with Punjab's folk dance



Bhangra, followed by presentations representing each state:

From Uttar Pradesh came a Radha-Krishna-themed dance set in Vrindavan. A Rajasthani artist performed balancing eight pots on his head and sword dance. Assam's Bihu dance mesmerized everyone. Haryana's folk dance and music had everyone grooving. Jharkhand's artists presented the colorful Chhau dance, donning vibrant masks, drawing much attention.

Accompanying the tour was Assistant Director Mr. Ravinder Sharma, who extended his gratitude to the Headmistress of PM Shri School Jawahar Navo-

daya Vidyalaya Kargil and all involved for making the event a success. In his address, Office Secretary Mr. Jagjeet Singh explained the objectives of the journey and praised the enthusiasm and spirit of the students. Mr. Tsewang Rigzin, Kargil Programme Coordinator of the Ladakh Cultural Academy, also welcomed and felicitated the Headmistress and all dignitaries on behalf of the Academy.

At this occasion, the school's Headmistress, Mrs. Bindu Gulia, welcomed everyone and expressed her happiness that her school was chosen as the venue. She commended all the artists and

conveyed her wish to hold this event at the school every year.

The vote of thanks was delivered by the senior teacher, Mr. Rajesh Mishra.

Also present at the event were: Mr. Ravinder Sharma, Mr. Jagjeet Singh, Mr. Tsewang Rigzin, Mrs. Bindu Gulia, Mrs. Shakeela, Mr. Rajesh Mishra, Mr. Sandeep, Mr. Sangarop, Mr. Pratap Kumar Rawat, Mrs. Santosh, Mrs. Aradhana Singh, Ms. Muskaan, Mr. Anil Kumar, Mr. Gaurav, Mr. Satyaprakash, Mr. Yasir, Mr. Simranjot Singh, Dr. Nahid, Mr. Tarif, Mr. Mudassar, Mr. Riyaz, and Mr. Muhammad Ishaq, Mr. Firoz Ahmed, among others.

Daily Jammu Tawi Aarti to begin at scenic riverfront ahead of Amarnath Yatra

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29:

The Shri Raghunath Ji Corridor Vikas Council is proud to announce that the Jammu Tawi Aarti will now be held daily at the beautifully developed Aarti Ghat on the newly inaugurated Tawi River Front, a key initiative by Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL). The daily Aarti will commence on July 1, 2025, and continue until the conclusion of the Shri Amarnath Yatra.

Addressing the media in Jammu, the Council's office bearers emphasized that the initiative aims to preserve Sanatan cultural identity, promote the cleanliness and sanctity of the revered River Tawi, and create an immersive spiritual atmosphere for pilgrims and tourists visiting the temple city. The Aarti is expected to become a central attraction during the Yatra, inspiring the youth and future generations to reconnect with Jammu's rich traditions.



The Council aspires to position Jammu as a self-sustained pilgrimage and tourist hub by drawing the attention of devotees visiting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi and Baba Amarnath Ji to the city's cultural and religious heritage, particularly its Dogra traditions. Hoteliers, lodge owners, and sarai managers have been urged to actively inform Amarnath pilgrims about the daily Aarti and encourage their participation. To facilitate this, the local administration has arranged transportation for Yatra pilgrims staying at the Bhagwati Nagar base camp, ensuring convenient to-and-fro travel to

the Aarti venue.

The Shri Raghunath Ji Corridor Vikas Council said they highly appreciate J&K Tourism deptt, Jammu Smart City Limited and Jammu Municipal Corporation besides the Vishav Hindu Parishad for coordinating with the council towards this initiative.

The Shri Raghunath Ji Corridor Vikas Council remains committed to the development, preservation, and promotion of the spiritual and cultural legacy surrounding Shri Raghunath Ji Temple and its environs. The Council continues to work towards enriching the spiritual experience of devotees

and establishing Jammu as a year-round destination for cultural tourism.

The Council said it extends all the best wishes to Amarnath pilgrims for success in their pilgrimage.

Prominent attendees at the announcement included Council President Rajesh Gupta, Senior Vice President Mr. Baldev Khullar, General Secretary Rajesh Dewan, Vice Presidents Jitendra Gupta and Anoop Jain, Treasurer Vijay Gupta, and Executive Members Bharat Bhushan, Ankush Sethi, Tanishq Mahajan, Ramesh Kumar Tak, and Sachin Raina.

Dr. Rameshwar lauds CM Omar for sanctioning funds to promote Bani Fair

JNEWS SERVICE
BANI, JUNE 29

The historic Bani Fair, which preserves the rich hill culture and local traditions, has received special support from the Jammu and Kashmir government this year. A fund of Rs 1,00,000 has been sanctioned by the NC government for the successful organization of the fair.

This was by MLA Bani, Dr. Rameshwar Singh while addressing the gathering during the Bani Fair.

This fund has been released under the leadership of the National Conference government, headed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. Notably, this support has been made possible due to the dedicated efforts of Dr. Rameshwar Singh. Currently serving as an independent MLA from Bani,



Dr. Singh has extended his support to the National Conference government in J&K.

Dr. Rameshwar stated that Omar Abdullah approved the fund in recognition of the cultural and tourism significance of the Bani Fair, with the

aim of further enhancing its scale and grandeur. He emphasized that the Chief Minister has taken a personal interest in this event and is closely monitoring the cultural development of the region.

Following the announcement, local residents and the Pahari Culture Forum expressed their gratitude to CM Omar Abdullah, and MLA Dr. Rameshwar Singh. They also appealed for the fair to be elevated to the national level in the coming years so that its cultural identity can extend beyond the borders of the Union Territory.

Dr. Rameshwar Singh assured the public that the fair will be organized on an even larger scale in the future and will open new avenues for local tourism.

CVPPPL signs PPAs with Karnataka Discoms

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

In a significant development, Chenab Valley Power Projects Limited (CVPPPL) has signed Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with Karnataka DISCOMS on 26th of June, 2025 at Bengaluru for off-take of power from its Pakal Dul (1000MW),

Kiru (624MW) and Kwar (540MW) HE Projects in the presence of senior officers of NHPC, PCKL and Karnataka Discoms - BESCOM, HESCOM, GESCOM, CESC Mysore and MESCOM.

The above PPAs are valid for a period of 40 years from the date of Commercial Operation of the projects.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Tarun Kumar Sharma, S/o Vijay Kumar, hereby inform the general public that I am applying for the correction of my name in my Class 10th mark sheet, where it has been wrongly mentioned as "Tarun Kumar" instead of "Tarun Kumar Sharma." If any person has any objection to the proposed correction, they may kindly convey the same to the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Sd/-
Tarun Kumar Sharma
S/o Vijay Kumar

PDP has a comprehensive vision for socio-economic growth of Jammu region: Karan Singh

JNEWS SERVICE
RS PURA, JUNE 29

J&K Peoples Democratic Party (JKPDP) Suchetgarh constituency incharge Karan Singh today asked workers to gear up for the Urban Local Bodies and Panchayat elections which are expected to be held soon in Jammu and Kashmir. While addressing the party workers at Rathana here today, Singh said the party needs to be ready for the election to take the state forward.

"We have to make our party ready so that we win the municipality election with success and take this state forward," he added. "We have a comprehensive vision for developing this historic Jammu District in every sphere of life," he said, reminding that during tenure as Chief Minister from 2002 to 2005, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed had initiated many revolutionary steps for development of Jammu District. He said that people are wise enough to compare the present govt and the previous dispensation and appealed to the masses to reject those who put the state on the path of non-development and corruption.

BJP J&K Marks 'Mann Ki Baat' with Tribute to Dr. Mookerjee's Sacrifice



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 29

The BJP Jammu & Kashmir unit observed the 123rd episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' with patriotic fervor, followed by a solemn tribute to Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee on the occasion of Balidan Diwas at Booth No. 10, Belicharana B falling under Bahu Constituency, Satwari.

The programme was led by Advocate Ishant Gupta, State IT Incharge, BJP J&K, who was the Chief Guest and Main Speaker and was coordinated by Ranjeet Singh, Booth Incharge and Mandal IT Incharge. A formal vote of thanks was delivered by Suraj Raina District Executive Member BJP Jammu South, who appreciated the presence of all dignitaries and enthusiastic participation by BJP karyakartas and local residents.

During the programme,

attendees listened attentively to PM Modi's 123rd 'Mann Ki Baat', where he addressed key national issues. The PM highlighted India's recent health achievement of being declared Trachoma-free by the WHO, and shared that 64% of the Indian population is now covered under social protection schemes, as recognized by the ILO. PM Modi also remembered the Emergency of 1975, calling it a dark chapter in India's democracy, and praised citizens for defending democratic values.

Addressing the gathering, Ishant Gupta said, "Dr. Mookerjee's sacrifice was not just a moment in history—it was a defining act of courage that laid the foundation for a united India. His dream of 'Ek Vidhan, Ek Nishan, Ek Pradhan' was fulfilled with the abrogation of Article 370, and it is now our responsibility to uphold

that legacy with commitment and pride."

He emphasized that Dr. Mookerjee's unwavering stand for One Nation, One Constitution continues to guide BJP's mission in J&K and across the country.

Gupta was accompanied by Sh. Rajinder Mehta, State Executive Member, BJP IT Department, who echoed similar sentiments. Mehta lauded the youth for participating in such programs and urged them to take inspiration from both PM Modi's vision and Dr. Mookerjee's dedication to national integration.

The programme concluded with floral tributes to Dr. Mookerjee and the chanting of patriotic slogans. Prominent attendees included Rahul Chauhan BJYM Mandal President, Satwari, Maan Singh, Rajinder Singh Chauhan, Ram Kaur, Jagveer Kaur, Bimla Devi, America Devi, among others.

Every episode of PM's "Mann Ki Baat" enhances knowledge: Balbir

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

Jammu and Kashmir BJP spokesperson and former Vice Chairman Balbir Ram Rattan said that every episode of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Mann Ki Baat" programme on last Sunday of every month is not only connected with public sentiments, but also provides people with new information, inspiration, and ideas for social welfare. He said the programme motivates every section of Indian society to move forward in a positive direction.

Balbir Ram Rattan said that in "Mann Ki Baat", Prime Minister Narendra Modi communicates with the common people in such a simple language that it touches the hearts of citi-



zens. Be it about environmental protection, discussions on women empowerment, promotion of new technologies, or honouring unsung heroes of the country – every topic spreads knowledge, compassion, and motivation.

He added that through "Mann Ki Baat", Prime Minister Narendra Modi also provides a national platform to individuals and institutions who are doing commendable work

in their respective fields but have not received due recognition. This is a true reflection of the spirit of democracy, where every positive effort is acknowledged.

Balbir Ram Rattan further stated that "Mann Ki Baat" is no longer just a radio programme but has taken the shape of a mass movement, in which common people share their experiences, suggestions, and stories. This has made the programme not just a one-way communication but an inclusive and participative platform.

He emphasized that every citizen should listen to "Mann Ki Baat" and try to bring changes in their life and society by learning from the messages conveyed in it.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) JAMMU & KASHMIR
PROJECT DIVISION-II JAMMU
E-MAIL: sarfrazahm.741220@jk.gov.in, xenprojectdivision2@gmail.com

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Short e-NIT No. 03 of 2025-2026/PROJECT DIV-II JAMMU, Dated 26-06-2025

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 (R&B) JAMMU & KASHMIR, Railways, MES and other State / Central Governments for each of the following works :-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Hiring of Consultancy Services complete as per scope of work for Strengthening of Hill along Circular Road below Mubarak Mandi Heritage Structures (Panjirthi to DC Office Road via Circular Road Jammu).	PWD(R&B) JAMMU & KASHMIR (R&B) PROJECT DIV-II JAMMU	12.00	600.00	2% of Advertised Cost	02 Months	08.07.2025 at 1100 Hrs	Consultancy firms registered with NHAI/BRO/Railways/ CPWD or any other Govt/Semi-govt organization for slope stabilization works / Geo-Technical/ Structural Engineer having expertise in Hill Slope protection works.

Head of Account : UT CAPEX
Position of AAA : ACCORDED
Position of Technical Sanction : ACCORDED

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	26.06.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 27.06.2025 to 07.07.2025 up to 1600 Hrs.
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	02.07.2025 at 1130 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) JAMMU & KASHMIR (R&B) PROJECT DIV-II JAMMU
4	Date of clarifications of pre-bid meeting	02.07.2025 to 04.07.2025
5	Bid submission Start Date	27.06.2025
6	Bid Submission End Date	07.07.2025 up to 1600 Hrs.
7	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	08.07.2025 on or after 1100 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) JAMMU & KASHMIR (R&B) PROJECT DIV-II JAMMU
8	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) JAMMU & KASHMIR (R&B) PROJECT DIV-II JAMMU and upload the same i.e treasury challan / receipt.** Earnest money/Bid security in shape of **CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) JAMMU & KASHMIR (R&B) PROJECT DIV-II JAMMU** The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of LI be submitted to the **Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) JAMMU & KASHMIR (R&B) PROJECT DIV-II JAMMU** at the time of allotment.
No :- **EE/PD-II/2025-26/400-404**
Dated :- **26-06-2025**

(Er. Sarfraz Ahmed Chowdhary)
Executive Engineer
PWD(R&B) Project Division-II
Jammu

DIP/J-2784/25
Date: 29-6-25

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer, Mechanical & Hospital Division Udhampur
(E-mail- xenmdudh@gmail.com)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor, of Jammu & Kashmir (UT) e-tenders are invited in two cover system, from reputed and registered firms for the job mentioned below:-

S.NO.	Description of work	N.I.T No	Estimated/ Approved Cost (in Lacs)	Earnest Money/ Performance Security	Cost of tender documents	Time of completion	Eligibility Criteria of Bidder	Tender Receiving Authority
01	Establishment of Pasteurized Compost Making unit (Capacity 35MT in Public Sector) at Reasi Tender ID: 2025_PWDJK_279985_1	e-NIT No: MHDU/TS/13 of 2025-26 Dated: 27-06-2025 Due on: 11-07-2025	94.86 (Lacs)	Earnest Money 2% of estimated amount, amounting to Rs. 1,89,721/- only shall be submitted by all Participating Bidder in the shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG. Performance Security 5% of the contract value shall be submitted by the lowest Bidder before the allotment of work order in the shape of CDR/FDR/TDR/BG. (Irrevocable)	Rs.5000/- (Fixed Amount) in the shape of challan through J&K Govt. Treasury indicating treasury Voucher No. & date and also indicating the name of work duly credited to MH-0059(PWD) Misc. Revenue and uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt on e-tendering portal OR The bidder may deposit tender fee in shape of e-challan through Account No. 002801020000009, J&K Bank, Udhampur, of Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Udhampur	90 ninety days)	Registered/ Reputed Civil /Mechanical contractor having sufficient experiences for the similar nature work	Executive Engineer Mechanical & Hospital division Udhampur

Position of Funds:- (Partially available)
Position of AA/Tech. Sanction :- (Accorded)

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, terms & conditions, Bill of Quantities can be seen / downloaded from the J&K govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in

No: MHDU/TS/ 794
Dated:- 27.06.2025

-sd-
(Er. Daljeet Singh)
Executive Engineer
Mechanical & Hospital Division
Udhampur

DIP/J-2769/25
Date: 29-6-25

MLA Marh Surinder Kumar launches "Mission Yuva" App

JI NEWS SERVICE
MARH, JUNE 29

MLA Marh Surinder Kumar Saturday launched the "Mission Yuva" app at DC Office Jammu, a significant initiative aimed at empowering the youth of the region. This app is designed to provide young individuals with new opportunities in the fields of startups, skill development, and self-reliance. The app serves as a digital gateway for young people, enabling them to access various resources and opportunities that can help them build a secure and self-reliant future.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA said that by providing access to skill development and startup opportunities, the app aims to empower the youth to take charge of their careers and contribute to the economic growth of the region. The app's focus on self-reliance will help young individuals develop the skills and confidence needed to succeed in their chosen fields. The launch of the "Mission Yuva" app is a significant step towards harnessing the potential of the region's youth. By providing them with the necessary tools and resources, the app can help unlock their potential and contribute to the region's economic and social development, added MLA.

MLA observed that "The 'Mission Yuva' app



is a crucial step towards empowering our youth and providing them with new opportunities in startups, skill development, and self-reliance. This app will serve as a digital gateway for our young people, enabling them to build a secure and self-reliant future. The "Mission Yuva" app is a timely initiative that can help address the needs and aspirations of the region's youth. By providing them with access to skill development and startup opportunities, the app can help create a more empowered and self-reliant generation, added MLA.

MLA Surinder said that Prime Minister's vision to make India a developed nation by 2047 is a call to action for the country's youth. As the future leaders and citizens of India, young people have a crucial role to play in realizing this dream. Youth must focus on acquiring skills that are relevant to the

changing job market and economy. Young people should be encouraged to think creatively, innovate, and start their own businesses, contributing to economic growth and job creation. The youth must be aware of the importance of sustainable development and work towards protecting the environment and conserving natural resources, added MLA.

MLA maintained that access to quality education and training programs can equip young people with the skills and knowledge needed to contribute to India's development. Leveraging technology and innovation can help young people find solutions to pressing problems and create new opportunities for growth and development. By taking an active role in India's development, the youth can help realize the Prime Minister's vision and create a brighter future for the country, said MLA.

ICC Jammu hosts 10K & 5K "Run for Peace & Innovation" with Over 400 Participants

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Jammu, under the leadership of its Chairman Sh. Rahul Sahai, successfully organized the ICC Jammu 10K & 5K Run, themed "Run for Peace & Innovation." The run commenced from the Jammu University Sports Complex to Satwari and back, witnessing enthusiastic participation from over 400 runners. Participants included students, entrepreneurs, professional athletes, and prominent citizens from Jammu, Punjab, Bengaluru, and even the USA—highlighting the event's wide reach and growing relevance.

The event was graced by the Hon'ble Minister for Youth Services, Sports & IT, Sh. Satish Sharma, Maj Gen Mukesh Bhanwala, GOC 26 INF DIV, flagged off the run as the Chief Guests, accompanied by several eminent dignitaries including Prof. Omesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu; Ms. Anuradha Gupta, Director General Youth Services, J&K; Sh. Vikas Gupta, Director Tourism, Jammu; Sh. Ajaz Qaiser, Joint Director Tourism; Sh. Kiran Radurappa, CEO of Posspole, Bengaluru; Sh. Daud Iqbal Baba, Director Sports & Physical Education, Jammu University; and Sh. Debmalya Banerjee, Regional Director, ICC Northern Region.

Sh. Rahul Sahai, Chairman ICC Jammu, extended a warm welcome to all dignitaries, participants, and media representatives. He stated, "This run is not just about fitness—it is a symbolic stride toward positioning Jammu as a hub of innovation, startups, and entrepreneurial spirit."

Addressing the gathering, Hon'ble Minister Sh. Satish Sharma said, "It is heartening to see Jammu running for peace and innovation under the



leadership of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, a 100-year-old national institution. I congratulate the Chamber for this visionary initiative and assure full government support to nurture innovation and startups in Jammu & Kashmir."

Prof. Omesh Rai, Vice Chancellor of Jammu University, congratulated ICC for launching this impactful initiative and appreciated the choice of Jammu University as the venue. He lauded Sh. Abhyuday Jindal, ICC National President, Sh. Rahul Sahai, and Sh. Debmalya Banerjee for their leadership. He also noted that the theme of peace and innovation resonates with the university's core values, and assured continued institutional support.

All the dignitaries applauded resolve and commitment of runners who ran for the cause in this weather. Results of Run are In the 10 Km category, under the Under-18 Boys, Sumant Sudan secured the first position with a time of 1 hour 4 minutes and 26 seconds, followed by Aditya Khajuria who completed the run in 1 hour 23 minutes and 36 seconds.

In the 18 to 35 age group (Male), Raghav Sharma emerged victorious clocking 41 minutes and 3 seconds, closely followed by Deepak Sharma at 41

minutes and 18 seconds, and Pankaj Sharma at 42 minutes and 34 seconds. Among the females in the same category, Rimpi Devi finished first in 1 hour 4 minutes and 42 seconds, with Sonia Sharma and Gurdinder Kour coming in second and third respectively, at 1:07:02 and 1:21:23.

For the 36 to 45 (Male) group, Ram Rakha Sangra claimed first place with a time of 42 minutes and 48 seconds, while Abhishake Gupta and Kuldeep Kumar followed with times of 45:14 and 46:53 respectively. In the female section, Kirti topped the group at 57 minutes and 7 seconds, followed by Shreeja Sathia at 1:05:06 and Seema Sharma at 1:10:56.

In the 46 to 55 Male category, Amit Kumar led with a time of 43:15, trailed by Vijay Sharma at 44:28 and Hemanshu Parkash at 48:38. For the females, Manminder Kaur was the fastest at 48:34, Tina Sahi secured second with 59:47, and Seema Kharyal took third with 1:12:29.

Among the seniors aged 56 & Above, Sham Suri led the men's category with a time of 52:14, while Satbir Singh and Ajay Gandotra followed with close timings of 52:24 and 52:55. In the female category, Rekha Katoch finished first in 1:11:19, Asha Chandan came second in 1:34:18,

and Bhawna Kaul third in 1:52:12.

In the 5 Km race, under the Under-18 Boys, Aryan Sharma took the lead with a swift finish of 23 minutes and 46 seconds. Rahil Manhas followed with 25:07, and Himanshu Kumar clocked 28:21 for third place. In the Under-18 Girls, Shabu Devi clinched the top spot with 28:26, followed by Shabnum Bano at 32:27 and Shivali Devi at 36:00.

In the 18 to 35 Male category, Rajat Sanmotra won with an excellent time of 22 minutes flat, followed by Bharat Kumar at 22:01 and Eklove Sharma at 23:28. In the female section, Tanisha Bandal clocked 44:39 for first place, with Monika Sharma at 49:24 and Aditi Sharma at 50:48 securing the next positions.

For the 36 to 45 age group, Abhishek Sharma topped the men's category with a time of 25:44, followed by Amit Bamba and Ashish Sharma. In the women's division, Dr. Kuljit Kour completed her run in 41:37 to secure first, while Shweta Mittal and Supriya Arora followed with times of 44:05 and 49:02 respectively.

Among the 46 to 55 Male participants, Krishna Moorthi led with 28:59, followed by Jatinder Singh and others. In the female category, Bhavna Salathia finished first at 37:51, fol-

lowed by Rashi Rakwal and Meenakshi Anand.

In the 56 & Above category, Dr. Sanjeev Mohan finished strong in the men's section with a time of 33:25, followed by Anand Kumara and Capt. Shamsheer Singh. Anita Verma topped the female group with a commendable time of 48:04.

Special recognition was given to Mr. Kiran Radurappa, CEO of Posspole, who travelled from Bengaluru to connect with youth and budding entrepreneurs. He expressed his commitment to guide and mentor Jammu's innovators, and assured Posspole's continued engagement with the region. Mr. Debmalya Banerjee highlighted ICC's rich 100-year legacy, its expanding footprint in Jammu & Kashmir, and its roadmap for future development initiatives in the Union Territory.

Sh. Rahul Sahai expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Jammu administration, traffic police, sponsors, supporters, and all ambassadors of the run who contributed to the event's smooth and successful execution.

The event concluded on a high note with a clear and resonant message of peace, unity, innovation, and community-driven progress. Dignitaries collectively echoed the call to action:

JKAP-8th Battalion, social forestry dept launch major plantation drive in Marh

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

As a part of ongoing efforts to enhance green cover and to promote ecological balance, a Plantation Drive was organized on 29.06.2025 by JKAP-8th Battalion Miran Sahib Jammu in collaboration with the Social Forestry Department at Ghu Manhasan, Marh, District Jammu under the over all supervision of Sh. Suram Singh-JKPS(SSP) Commandant JKAP-8th Bn.

In the said initiative over 1000 saplings of various native and environment-friendly species were selected for their resilience and ecological benefits. Officers and staff from both departments, actively participated in the said drive.

Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Suram Singh-JKPS(SSP) highlighted the significance of community involvement in forest conservation efforts. He said that this collaboration with the Social Forestry Department is a vital step toward restoring the natural environment and mitigating the impacts of climate change.



Besides the other benefits the aim of said plantation is also to prevent the soil erosion and to protect the land from the adverse affects of flood, during the coming rainy season, despite increase in he beauty of area adjoining back of the Tawi river.

The Social Forestry Department provided technical support, saplings, and expert guidance for the drive, ensuring scientific planning and plantation of the species suitable for the region.

Said green initiative aims not only to improve the local environment but also to raise awareness among the public about the critical role trees play in maintaining ecological balance. During the drive 300 souls of JKAP8th Battalion participated despite the number of personnel of the social forestry team including the officers of Social forestry department, for this noble cause the team was headed by Sh. Majid Sofi (Range officer).

Shri Kailakh Trust delegation meets senior advocate Nar Hari Singh to promote Sanskrit

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

Delegation from Shri Kailakh Trust Meets Senior Advocate of Central Government at Supreme Court, Nar Hari Singh, to Discuss Sanskrit Promotion

Jammu and Kashmir takes pride in erudite and dedicated advocates like Nar Hari Singh, who are enhancing the prestige of the Union Territory on the global stage. - Mahant Rohit Shastri

Jammu & Kashmir - A delegation from Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, Raipur (Thather), Jammu and Kashmir, paid a courtesy visit today to Senior Advocate Nar Hari Singh, representing the Central Government at the Supreme Court. On this occasion, there was an in-depth discussion on the efforts made by the Trust in the preservation and promotion of Devavani Sanskrit.

Senior Advocate Nar Hari Singh praised the initiatives of the Trust and stated, "In today's modern era, where traditional languages and cultural values are in decline, Shri Kailakh Trust is making a commendable effort



to reconnect Sanskrit, a divine language, with the masses. The Trust's President, Mahant Rohit Shastri - a state award-winning young scholar - is spreading awareness in society through his dedication, knowledge, and commitment to Sanskrit promotion. This is highly praiseworthy."

On this occasion, Mahant Rohit Shastri said, "It is a matter of great pride for Jammu and Kashmir that intellectual and dedicated advocates like Nar Hari Singh are enhancing the image of our region at the international level. We are proud that he belongs to our Union Territory and has played a significant role in the Indian judicial

system. Such personalities are a source of inspiration."

The meeting was also attended by Shri Kailakh Trust Vice President Sunil Sharma and Trust Member Mahesh Singh Jasrotia. Together, they presented the Trust's publication 'Sara Sanskrit Bodh' to Nar Hari Singh Ji and shared thoughts on organizing joint programs in the future that integrate law, culture, and Sanskrit.

Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust is continuously working for the promotion of Sanskrit, astrology, and Indian traditions, and remains committed to bringing about positive social change through meaningful dialogues with such learned individuals.

Zonal body constituted for Khour Zone at ABRSM Meeting



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

A zonal-level meeting was convened for the constitution of Zonal Body for Zone Khour under the esteemed presidency of Sh. Rakesh Kumar, State Executive Member, ABRSM. The meeting focused on the formation of zonal committee and a fruitful discussion on various welfare issues concerning the teaching fraternity was also held.

Prominent participants present in the meeting are:
Ved Parkash (General Secretary, District Jammu), Rajinder Singh (Senior Vice President, District Jammu), Tarsem Lal (zone Akhnoor president) and Ajeet Raj (Member, District Committee).
Additional dignitaries

who are assigned with new roles in organisation are:

- Ashwani Kumar - Zonal President
 - Joginder Paul - Senior Vice President
 - Jagdish Lal - Vice President
 - Kuldeep Raj - Secretary
 - Tarsem Lal - Assistant Secretary
 - Sanjay Sharma - Assistant Secretary
 - Rahul Khajuria - Media Person
 - Ravi Kumar - Executive Member
 - Ajay Sharma - Vice President (Rahoti Mandal)
 - Deepak Sharma - (Social Media Role)
- The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to enhance coordination among teachers and work unitedly for their rights and welfare.

SBBDT urges immediate action on stalled development at Bawa Bhair Devsthan

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

Shri Bawa Bhair Devsthan Trust (SBBDT) today expressed concern over the un-attending development projects of the Devsthan and adjoining areas, due to which it said, devotees are facing a lot of hardships.

Addressing a meeting of trust activists at shrine complex Bawa Bhair in katal Batal tehsil Nagrotra District Jammu, former

Deputy Commissioner B.S. Jamwal, NMC

President Subash Shastri, Bawa Bhair Devsthan Trust President Balwant Singh, General Secretary

Ramesh Sharma, DBPS President Ved Parkash Sharma and other representatives of various social, religious said that with the efforts of the Trust in the past, a proposal for construction of road from Village Aithem to Devsthan was got prepared for

onward submission to the concerned quarter along with all require qualifying documents in light of the parameter set force by the Union Government but so far no progress on ground has been observed.

They urged all legislators of Jammu region to take up the issue of construction of road from Village Aithem to the LG, Chief Minister and high ups of UT JK Administration.

Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Jammu celebrates 19th National Statistics Day

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

The Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Jammu, under the guidance of Director General Economics & Statistics, J&K, Satvir Kour Sudan commemorated the 19th National Statistics Day today, aligning with the nationwide observance dedicated to the birth anniversary of Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis, the pioneer of modern statistics in India. The theme for 2025 is "Celebrating 75 Years of National Sample Survey" marking the significant contribution of the National Sample Survey in providing reliable and timely statistical data that supports evidence-based decision-making and governance in India.

Ms. Ashu Gupta, Regional Director, Evaluation &



Statistics, Jammu presided over the function & delivered the welcome address, acknowledging the dedication and contributions of the officers and officials from the Directorate of Economics & Statistics and the Regional Directorate of Evaluation & Statistics Jammu and School of Applied Economics & Statistics Jammu. She underscored the significance of the day's theme and its relevance to the current

statistical landscape. She also highlighted the pivotal role of the National Sample Survey in shaping data-driven policies and programs over the past seven and a half decades and emphasized upon the importance of accurate data collection and analysis in the formulation of effective governance strategies.

The function was also graced by Director (Central), Directorate of Eco-

nomics & Statistics Suneel Pandita, Principal, School of Applied Economics & Statistics, Jammu, Deepa Sharma, Deputy Directors, DES, Mudassar Yaqoob Zargar and Rajesh Singh who participated in discussions about the advancements in statistical methodologies and the integration of technology in data collection and analysis. Celebration included other activities like speeches, group song and slogan making competition.

While giving vote of thanks, Rakesh Kumar (Deputy Director) lauded the joint efforts of officers/Officials of Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Regional Directorate of Evaluation & Statistics, Jammu & School of Applied Economics & Statistics, Jammu in delivering data that drives policy, planning and upliftment across Jammu & Kashmir.

Yoga at World's highest Rail Bridge highlighted by PM Modi in Mann Ki Baat

JINNEWS SERVICE
REASI, JUNE 29

In the latest edition of Mann Ki Baat, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi highlighted a remarkable celebration of International Day of Yoga that took place at one of India's most iconic locations—the Chenab Rail Bridge in Reasi, Jammu & Kashmir. The bridge, known as the world's highest railway arch bridge, served as a stunning and symbolic venue for the yoga event capturing the spirit of unity and wellness that Yoga Day represents.

The event was organised by the District Administration Reasi under the lead-

ership of Deputy Commissioner Ms. Nidhi Malik. With enthusiastic participation from local residents, officials and yoga practitioners, the program was a resounding success. The backdrop of the Chenab Bridge set against the dramatic Himalayan landscape offered a powerful visual representation of the connection between physical health, natural beauty and national pride.

DC Reasi Nidhi Malik emphasised that this momentous occasion being mentioned by the Prime Minister in Mann Ki Baat is a matter of great pride for Reasi district. It reflects not only the commitment of the local administration to

national initiatives but also their ability to turn infrastructure and geography into opportunities for positive engagement. The recognition places Reasi firmly on the national stage and highlights its potential as a center for innovative and meaningful public events.

Beyond national recognition, the event is expected to have a significant impact on the district's future. Tourism in Reasi, already buoyed by attractions like the Vaishno Devi Shrine and the Chenab Bridge is likely to receive a substantial boost. With growing interest in wellness tourism and adventure travel, such events promote the district as a

destination that combines spiritual, physical and scenic experiences. This can lead to increased economic opportunities for local communities, including job creation in tourism, hospitality and allied sectors.

The success of this unique yoga event is a milestone for Reasi district and serves as an inspiring example for other regions aiming to blend culture, wellness and tourism. The District Administration's effort in making this event a reality has not only brought pride to Jammu & Kashmir but also set a benchmark for imaginative and impactful public engagement.

Rana visits Manigam, Baltal, Domail Camps

JINNEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, JUNE 29

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment, and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today conducted an extensive review of arrangements along the Baltal axis for the upcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANJY), 2025.

He visited the transit camp Manigam, Baltal base camp and Domail camp to assess the ongoing preparations.

Deputy Commissioner

Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, Camp Officers and Officers from the concerned departments briefed the Minister about the arrangements being made.

Rana emphasized the importance of proper water tap connections, regular water testing and immediate corrective measures to ensure water safety. He directed the officials to keep water tankers on standby mode and ensure adequate water supply especially for community kitchens, huts,

bathroom/toilets and livestock.

The Minister also reviewed arrangements for firewood availability, flood protection management and manpower deployment. He stressed the need for close coordination among the stakeholders to ensure all arrangements are in place well in advance.

Rana appreciated the efforts of the officers of Jal Shakti and Forest departments for timely execution of works. He assured

that the government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, is committed towards facilitating a peaceful and smooth Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

The Government aims to provide a memorable experience for the pilgrims from across the country and abroad, he said.

The Minister was accompanied by Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti Kashmir, DFO Ganderbal, SE, Executive Engineer and other senior officers.

Satish Sharma Visits base camp Bhagwati Nagar

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Transport, Information Technology & Science and Technology and ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, today conducted a comprehensive visit to the Bhagwati Nagar Base Camp, Jammu, to oversee the arrangements for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025.

During his visit, the Minister conducted a thorough inspection of the entire base camp infrastructure and facilities, including electricity, water supply, accommodation and health care facilities for the pilgrims. He inspected the four accommodation halls, ensuring that basic amenities such as clean drinking water, air conditioners and fans have been properly installed and are functional.

The Minister also visited the Langar Hall and appre-



ciated the selfless services rendered by the Langar staff.

Accompanied by the Director FCS & CA, Regional Transport Officer (RTO), Jammu and General Manager of J&K Road Transport Corporation (RTC) and enforcement team of Transport Department, Sharma visited the RTC counter and issued several directions to streamline transport arrangements for the Yatra. These included strict monitoring of traffic violations by the vehicles participating in the Yatra, verification of fitness certifi-

icates and driving licenses of all drivers and transport vehicles arriving from outside the UT and timely issuance of fitness certificates to all RTC buses and other vehicles deployed for Yatra duty and deployment of officers and officials of Transport Department at Bhagwati Nagar Base Camp.

The Minister appreciated the Transport Commissioner, J&K, and Regional Transport Officer, Jammu, for installation of hoardings displaying the notified fare structure for various categories of vehicles.

These hoardings have been placed at Bhagwati Nagar Base Camp, Jammu Airport, Railway Station, Taxi Stand, General Bus Stand, and Ban Toll Plaza to guide the visiting pilgrims.

The Minister also inspected the designated parking space at the base camp, which has a capacity to accommodate 1,500 vehicles.

The visit concluded with a high-level meeting in the conference hall, where a threadbare discussion was held with the officers regarding the arrangements.

During the meeting, the Minister asked the RTC to ensure fitness of all bus drivers and associated staff before their deployment, utilisation of only fit and latest-model buses for ferrying the yatrins, installation of CCTV cameras in all buses to ensure safety and surveillance. He also called for coordinated efforts for conducting a successful Yatra.

JINNEWS SERVICE
DODA, JUNE 29

As part of the ongoing Dharti Aabha - Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, a comprehensive awareness and outreach event was organised at Panchayat Ghill Kunan in Block Gandoh. The programme was conducted under the overall direction of the Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh and the close supervision of District AYUSH Officer, Dr. Ajay Kumar Tikoo. The staff of AYUSH Health and Wellness Centre (AHWC) Kota played a pivotal role in coordinating the event.

Block Development Officer Gandoh, Masooda Banoo attended the programme as the Chief Guest



and interacted with participants. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from members of the tribal community, who availed free consultations focused on holistic and preventive healthcare. More than 52 beneficiaries received free AYUSH medicines and awareness was raised about the significance of traditional systems of medicine in promoting physical and mental well-being.

To ensure wider outreach, various information stalls were installed to educate attendees about multiple government-sponsored schemes aimed at the socio-economic upliftment of Scheduled Tribe communities. Departments including Social Welfare, Agriculture, Horticulture, ICDS and Rural Development displayed schemes related to livelihood genera-

tion, education, women empowerment, nutrition and sanitation. IEC material was distributed, and officials provided on-the-spot assistance to help community members understand eligibility and application processes.

This multi-departmental event exemplified the integrated approach of the Dharti Aabha Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan in bringing essential services and welfare benefits to the doorsteps of remote tribal populations. It not only addressed healthcare needs but also promoted awareness of sustainable development opportunities, furthering the goal of inclusive and participatory tribal development in Doda district.

Awareness Program under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan held at Panchayat Sundla



JINNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JUNE 29

District Administration Udhampur, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai, today organized an awareness-cum-service delivery programme at Panchayat Sundla in Block Khoon as part of the ongoing Dharti

Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan.

The event witnessed overwhelming participation from the local tribal community and was graced by Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Dr. Ashwini Hansa as the chief guest. A host of citizen-centric services were made available at the

doorstep of beneficiaries during the programme. These included Aadhaar enrolment and updation drives, Ayushman Bharat Card registration, issuance of Caste certificate and facilitation of other welfare schemes aimed at ensuring inclusive development of tribal populations. A Gram Sabha was

also convened during the program which served as a platform for community members to raise public grievances and developmental concerns. Officials interacted with the participants and assured time-bound redressal of genuine issues raised during the Sabha.

Satish Sharma flags off "Run for Peace and Innovation" at University of Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

In a powerful demonstration of youth empowerment, innovation and communal harmony, the "Run for Peace and Innovation" was organised today at the University of Jammu by the Department of Tourism in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce, India.

Minister for Food, Civil

Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, flagged off the run in presence of senior officials, academicians, entrepreneurs and hundreds of enthusiastic students.

The run brought together diverse participants from across the region including students, innovators, sportspersons, peace advocates, and professionals, all united in a common

vision of promoting peace, creativity and inclusive progress. The initiative aimed at fostering a spirit of harmony while encouraging the youth to engage in innovative thinking for nation-building.

Addressing the gathering, Satish Sharma lauded the initiative and highlighted the government's commitment towards promoting youth driven innovation, physical fitness and



peace-building activities. "Peace and innovation are the twin engines of progress

in any society. Jammu and Kashmir, with its vibrant youth and rich potential,

can lead the way in shaping a resilient, inclusive and innovative future," he said.

The Minister emphasized that such events offer a vital platform for young minds to connect, collaborate and lead in both social and entrepreneurial arenas. He further appreciated the Department of Tourism and the Chamber of Commerce for their collaborative efforts in organizing a socially impactful initiative.

During the event, a special 'Innovation Showcase' corner was set up where

young entrepreneurs and university startups displayed breakthrough ideas in areas like green energy, sustainable tourism and social tech.

The run concluded with a cultural program and prize distribution ceremony, where the Minister felicitated the top performers. He appreciated all the participants for being ambassadors of peace and progress.