

3

DC Ganderbal reviews
Muharram arrangements

4

CS reviews business
performance of J&K Bank

5

Gender, Grit, and Altitude: Women on
Everest Rewrite the Rules of Risk,
Leadership, and Sustainability

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PM Modi arrives in Canada for G7 summit, says will emphasise priorities of Global South



Calgary: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said he

will discuss important global issues and emphasise the priorities of the Global South as he meets world leaders at the G7 Summit in Canada's Kananaskis.

Modi arrived here Monday evening (local time), his first visit to Canada in a decade, with discussions with world leaders to be focussed on crucial global issues, including energy security, technology and innovation.

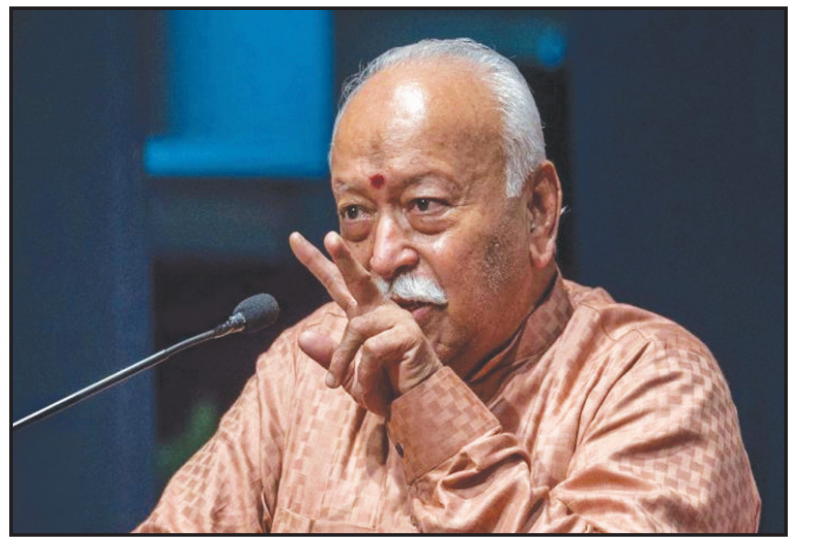
"Landed in Calgary,

>P2

Bhagwat stresses on forgetting Mutual differences so that Hindu Society, Country remain United

HAMIRPUR (HP): RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has stressed that the Hindu society and the country can remain united if people forget mutual differences.

Speaking at a function at Tipper village in the district Monday night, Bhagwat, who is on a four-day visit here to take part in the north zone development camp of the RSS workers, said it is our duty to protect Hindu religion, Hindu society and Hindu culture.



Addressing the volunteers, he said, "The Sangh is about to complete

>P2

Indian students moved out of Tehran for safety reasons: MEA



New Delhi: Amid escalating tensions between Israel and Iran, Indian students in Tehran have been moved out of the city for reasons of safety, through arrangements made by the

Embassy, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Tuesday.

The MEA, in a statement said, the Indian Embassy

>P2

ACB files disproportionate assets case against Patwari in Kupwara

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau has filed a case against a patwari for amassing wealth disproportionate to his known sources of income in Lolab area of Kupwara district.

Jammu food guide According to a statement, a verification was conducted by ACB into the allegations of accumulation of disproportionate assets raised by one Ayoub Khan S/o Gulsheer Khan R/o Doniwari Lolab, Patwari in revenue department on receipt of a complaint.

The statement reads that it was alleged in the com-

plaint that the patwari is leading a grandiose lifestyle besides being the owner of large number of orchards and agricultural land, houses at Bemina, Srinagar/Doniwari Lolab, and possessing number of cars and has spent hefty amount on admission of his wards in professional colleges as donations etc.

"The discreet verification revealed that during the check period, the patwari has incurred huge expenditures and accumulated/raised various assets, which were prima facie dis-

>P2

Amarnath Yatra routes declared 'No flying zone' from July 1 to Aug 10



Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir government on Tuesday declared the Amarnath yatra routes as 'No Flying Zone' as part of beefed up security meas-

ures for the annual pilgrimage.

The Amarnath yatra has two routes – the traditional Pahalgam route and the

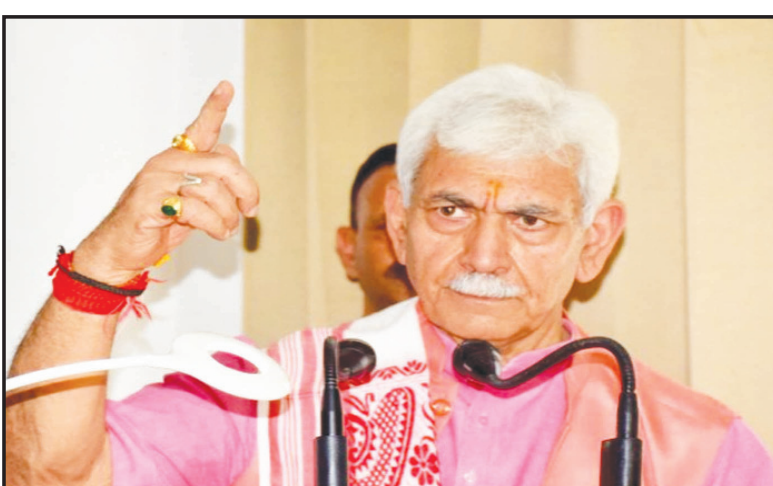
>P2

Art 370 repeal, Chenab bridge inauguration Reflect Physical, Emotional joining of J&K and India: LG

New Delhi: Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha said that two dates June 6, 2025, and August 5, 2019, will hold historical significance in the region's integration with the rest of India, marking it as "physical and emotional unification".

Speaking at the launch of photojournalist Ashish

Sharma's new coffee table book, Reimagining Jammu and Kashmir: A Pictorial Journey, Sinha said the two dates would play a pivotal role in restoring an "unbroken flow of life" to the Union Territory, which had remained "stagnant for the past seven decades." Addressing a packed hall at Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA),



Sinha drew a parallel between the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, and the completion of the Kashmir-to-Kanyakumari railway link on June 6, 2025.

"August 5 will always be remembered as the day Jammu and Kashmir were fully integrated constitutionally. Likewise, June 6 will be remembered for the

physical unification — when the last link in the Kashmir-Kanyakumari railway corridor was completed," he said.

On June 6, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unfurled the national tricolour on the Chenab Bridge, the world's highest railway arch bridge, connecting the northernmost

>P2

PM Modi arrives...

G7 Summit. Will be meeting various leaders at the Summit and sharing my thoughts on important global issues. Will also be emphasising the priorities of the Global South,” Modi said in a post on X Monday evening.

PM Modi is on a four-day, three-nation tour to Cyprus, Canada and Croatia. He arrived Monday evening (local time) in Canada from Cyprus on the second leg of his visit, at the invitation of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney.

The Kananaskis gathering on June 16-17 is the Prime Minister's 6th consecutive participation in the G7 Summit. "At the invitation of PM @MarkJCarney, PM @narendramodi arrives in Alberta, Canada for the G7 Summit. PM will be participating in @G7 discussions on the future of energy security, including diversification, technology, infrastructure and investment, to ensure access and affordability in a changing world. PM will also hold several bilateral meetings on the sidelines," Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal posted on X.

Prime Minister will also hold several bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the Summit, coming over a month after India's Operation Sindoor that targeted terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam attacks.

Carney's invitation to Modi to attend the G7 Summit signalled the new government's intent to repair the ties with New Delhi that plummeted to an all-time low over the killing of pro-Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

In October last year, India recalled its high commissioner and five other diplomats after Ottawa attempted to link them to the Nijjar case. India also expelled an equal number of Canadian diplomats.

India had accused Justin Trudeau's government of allowing pro-Khalistani elements to operate from Canadian soil.

Carney, an economist and political newcomer, took charge as Canada's new prime minister in March following the exit of Trudeau from the top office.

After Trudeau's exit, New Delhi said it hoped to rebuild ties with Canada based on "mutual trust and sensitivity".

In the last few months, the security officials of India and Canada resumed contact and both sides were looking at the possibility of appointing new high commissioners.

Describing India and Canada as "vibrant democracies", the external affairs ministry said last week that New Delhi believes the forthcoming meeting between the prime ministers of the two countries on the sidelines of the G7 Summit will offer an important opportunity to exchange views and "explore pathways" to reset bilateral ties.

During PM Modi's last visit in 2015, bilateral ties were elevated to the level of strategic partnership.

Bilateral trade in goods in 2024 stood at USD 8.6 billion. India exported USD 4.2 billion and imported USD 4.4 billion worth of goods. Bilateral trade in services in 2024 stood at USD 14.3 billion, with India exporting USD 2.5 billion and importing USD 11.8 billion worth of services.

The G7 summit comes amidst rising geopolitical tensions, including escalating tensions in the Middle East in the wake of the strikes between Iran and Israel, as well as a trade war triggered by US President Donald Trump's tariff policies.

Canada assumed the annual rotating presidency of the G7 on January 1, 2025, with this marking the 50th anniversary of the G7 Summit.

The Group of Seven (G7) is an informal grouping of the world's advanced economies - France, the US, the UK, Germany, Japan, Italy and Canada and the European Union. Its members meet annually at the G7 Summit to discuss global economic and geopolitical issues.

India, the fifth-largest economy in the world, has regularly been invited to the Outreach session of the G7 Summit in the past few years.

India has attended eleven G7 Summit Outreach sessions till date: 2003 (France); 2005 (UK); 2006 (Russia); 2007 (Germany); 2008 (Japan); 2009 (Italy); 2019 (France); 2021 (UK); Germany (2022), Japan(2023), and Italy (2024).

According to a statement, the Outreach Segment of the 51st G7 Summit will have one session.

The summit is expected to deliberate on pressing challenges facing the globe including the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the situation in West Asia.

Canada hosts one of the largest Indian diasporas abroad, accounting for nearly 4.5% of its population. This includes nearly 1.8 million Canadians of Indian origin (of which the Sikh population is roughly 770,000), and 1 million Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), who are in Canada in various capacities - students, skilled workers, temporary workers etc.

Indian students have historically been the largest group of international students in Canada, comprising 41% in 2022. However, the recent tightening of immigration has impacted both Indian students' opportunities and Canadian universities' finances.

Bhagwat stresses...

100 years of its establishment. Hundred years ago, the idea of the Sangh was not recognised. It was neglected, yet it continued to work. Now the idea of the Sangh is recognised by the society, the society works actively.”

He said for the preservation of the culture of our society, there is a need to forget mutual differences and unite, so that Hindu society and the country can remain united.

He added that it is our duty to protect Hindu religion, Hindu society and Hindu culture.

A total of 212 volunteers are participating in the Karyakarta Vikas Varg-Pratham which began on May 30.

The closing ceremony would be held on June 19, a spokesperson said here on Tuesday. (Agencies)

Indian students...

remains continuously in touch with the community with a view to extending all feasible assistance.

"Indian students in Tehran have been moved out of the city for reasons of safety, through arrangements made by the Embassy," it said.

Other residents who are self-sufficient in terms of transport have also been advised to move out of the city in view of the developing situation, it said.

Separately, some Indians have been facilitated to leave Iran through the border with Armenia, the MEA said.

Further advisories may be issued given the fluid situation, it said.

In a post on X, the Indian Embassy in Iran said, "All Indian Nationals and PIOs who can move out of Tehran using their own resources, are advised to move to a safe location outside the city."

In another statement, the MEA said a 24x7 control room has been established in Ministry of External Affairs in view of the ongoing developments in Iran and Israel.

The contact details of the control room are as under: 1800118797 (Toll free) +91-11-23012113 +91-11-23014104 +91-11-23017905 +91-9968291988 (Whatsapp) situationroom@mea.Gov.In.

In addition, the Embassy of India in Tehran has set up a 24x7 emergency helpline, the MEA said and shared contact details.

"For calls only: +98 9128109115, +98 9128109109; For WhatsApp: +98 901044557, +98 9015993320, +91 8086871709; □Bandar Abbas: +98 9177699036; Zahedan: +98 9396356649; cons.Tehran@mea.Gov.In (email)," it said.

ACB files disproportionate...

proportionate to his known sources of income,” it reads.

“The details of assets/expenditures revealed during verification are purchased land at Hamdaniya Colony Bemina Srinagar & constructed double floor house on the said land, constructed a double floor house at Doniwari Lolab,Kupwara, purchased a Venue Hyundai car & a two-Wheeler, huge expenditures incurred on re-payment of Bank loans., expenditure on education of his children i.e, MBBS admission outside country & admission in Nursing stream at Nursing College Amritsar,” it reads.

It added that the verification revealed that immediately after receipt of complaint against suspect, he started securing frequent Bank loans i.e, to the tune of Rs 75 lac in order to disguise his illegal /unknown sources of income & to hoodwink enquiry officer.

“The acts of omission & commission on part of suspect patwari constitute cognizable offence of criminal misconduct punishable under section 5 (1) (e) r/w section 5 (2) of the J&K P.C Act Svt, 2006 against the accused public servant. Accordingly, case FIR No. 03/2025 under section 5 (1) (e) r/w 5(2) of the J&K P.C Act Svt, 2006 was registered on 16-06-2025 against the accused patwari”.

The statement reads that immediately after registration of the case search warrants were obtained from Anti-Corruption court Baramulla and searches were conducted at different places belonging to accused person

“During searches various incriminating material including the receipts of purchase of gold articles, receipts of purchase of iPhone 15 & 15 pro & other items pertaining to the investigations of the case, were recovered and seized in the presence of magistrates & witnesses as per procedure under law. Further investigations are going on,” it added.

Amarnath Yatra routes...

shorter Baltal route.

The declaration issued by Jammu and Kashmir Home Department on the orders of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said flying of any kind of aviation platforms and devices, including UAVs, drones, balloons, is prohibited from July 1 to August 10.

However, the restrictions will not be applicable in the cases of medical evacuation, disaster management and for surveillance by security forces. A detailed SOP for such exceptions will be issued subsequently.

The order said in view of the Shri Amarnathji Yatra, which is scheduled from July 3, various security arrangements are being undertaken for smooth and peaceful conduct of the yatra.

“All stakeholders have discussed the prevailing security scenario in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and have proposed additional logistics provisions,” the order said.

It said the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has also advised that the entire route of Shri Amarnathji Yatra may be declared as ‘No Flying Zone’ from July 1 to August 10.Jammu food guide

“Therefore, with a view to ensure strengthened security during the Shri Amarnathji Yatra, 2025, all the routes of Shri Amarnathji Yatra are hereby declared as ‘No Flying Zone’, including both Pahalgam axis & Baltal axis,” the order said.

The beefed up security measures come in the backdrop of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 people dead.

The Amarnath yatra attracts thousands of pilgrims from all over the country reach year.

Art 370 repeal...

stretch of India’s national railway network.

He also shared the update on X and said, “Delighted to launch ‘Reimagining Jammu & Kashmir’ a coffee table book by Photojournalist Ashish Sharma. Under leadership of Hon’ble PM Sh Narendra Modi Ji, J&K has regained its identity of ‘Paradise’ post 2019 & Ashish’s watchful photographic journey captures that transformation.” The LG, in his address, highlighted the efforts made by the J-K administration, under the guidance of Prime Minister Modi, to build not “temporary” but a lasting peace in the Union Territory.

He emphasised that his guiding principle, which he has also communicated to the security forces in the Valley, is “Begunah ko chedna nahi, aur gunheghar ko chodna nahi” (the innocent should not be harassed, and the guilty should not be spared).

“Our mission and vision should be the same, centred around the common man... and if we follow this principle, the common man will also stand with us,” he explained.

While acknowledging that Pakistan continues to engage in nefarious activities, including the Pahalgam attack on April 22, Sinha stressed that separatism, stone-pelting, and shutdowns have become things of the past in the Valley.

Sinha claimed that the number of locally recruited terrorists has dropped to its lowest ever at just eight.

“Only eight local terrorists are currently active in J-K. Yes, Pakistan has been sending infiltrators from outside, which led to incidents like the Pahalgam attack,” he added.

On the occasion, Sinha also lauded the efforts of Ashish Sharma behind the coffee table book, which he noted remarkably showcases J-K’s extraordinary journey and unprecedented growth across all sectors.

“Books are documents of the time, especially coffee table books present progress through captivating photographs. We can see J-K is on the move through Ashish’s camera,” he concluded.

He asserted that J-K’s industries, start-ups and agriculture sectors have witnessed “rapid growth” over the five successive years.

“Youth are fulfilling their dreams through entrepreneurship & around one million availed opportunity of self-employment within 4 yrs & it has been ensured that no section of society is left behind,” he added in his post.

Former union minister Meenakshi Lekhi and IGNCA president Ram Bahadur Rai were among the eminent personalities present at the book launch.

Published by Bloomsbury, the 226-page book “Reimagining Jammu and Kashmir”, priced at Rs 2,999, celebrates the region’s rich cultural heritage, iconic landmarks, and hidden treasures, while also highlighting its evolving and dynamic present.

An accompanying photo exhibition is on display from June 16-25 at Darshanam’?I gallery of the IGNCA, the statement said.



Controller LMD reviews functioning of Legal Metrology Department



SRINAGAR: After assuming charge as Controller, Legal Metrology Department, J&K, Rajinder Singh Tara, today convened a comprehensive district wise review meeting regarding review of all the aspects related to consumer welfare and functioning of the department.

The meeting was attended by the Joint Controller Legal Metrology Kashmir, Deputy Controllers and all the Assistant Controllers of the districts.

A detailed overview of functioning of the department was undertaken and all the field officers were enjoined upon to work towards overall interest of the consumer welfare and prevent unfair trade practices.

The officers who attended the meeting highlighted the role of the department towards safeguarding the consumer rights by conducting regular inspections, registering of offences and imposing penalties under the provisions of Legal

Metrology Act and rules.

The Controller was apprised of the ten online services being provided by the department through the J&K Single Window System as part of Business Reform Action Plan and Ease of Doing Business (EODB). The Controller was further informed that verification camps are being regularly conducted for standardisation of Weights and Measures throughout UT. Besides, consumer awareness camps are also being organized for creating awareness about the legal provisions and remedies available under the Legal Metrology Act.

The Controller, Legal Metrology, after reviewing the achievements, emphasised the importance of accuracy of weights and measures in commercial transactions for realising the exact value of money being paid by each consumer. He stressed the vital role and responsibility of Legal Metrology depart-

ment in protecting consumer rights on day to day basis. He also took stock problems and bottlenecks faced by each of the district, assuring the officers that necessary steps will be taken to resolve them.

He further highlighted the importance of trade-wise and locality-wise updated data regarding the business establishments. He directed all the officers to complete the process within one month so that no trader is left uncovered from the reach of the department.

The field officers were directed to ensure the disposal of online applications within the time period as specified under J&K Public Service Guarantee Act. It was further emphasized that a proactive approach should be adopted and more activities like trader awareness camps, verification camps be organised in coordination with the trader associations so that each trader can understand the intricacies of the provisions of the law.

In addition, the roadmap for the upcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025 was earmarked and the concerned officers were directed to redouble their efforts for effective market checking and enforcement/inspections along yatra route. The Assistant Controllers of Anantnag and Ganderbal were instructed to set up the dedicated consumer welfare cells in co-ordination with their respective district administrations.

PAC holds maiden meeting at Srinagar

Chairman underlines vital role of committee in ensuring transparency, efficiency in public expenditure

SRINAGAR: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Jammu and Kashmir Assembly today held its maiden meeting at Assembly complex.

The meeting was presided over by the Chairman of Committee, Sham Lal Sharma and attended by MLAs Tariq Hamid Kara, Nazir Ahmad Khan, Altaf Ahmad Wani, Javid Hassan Beig, Muzaffar Iqbal Khan and Qaysar Jamshaid Lone; members of the Committee.

During the meeting, the Chairman briefed the members about the roles and responsibilities of PAC. He underlined the vital role of the Committee in ensuring transparency and efficiency in public expenditure. He elaborated



on the responsibilities of the Committee like examining audit reports from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), scrutinising government expenditures and recommending corrective measures to improve the fiscal discipline.

The Chairman urged the members to approach their responsibilities with diligence, impartiality and commitment to public interest,

underlining that the committee serves as a watchdog over public funds and government operations. He expressed confidence in the members ability to work in coordination and contribute effectively to the Committee's performance.

The members actively participated in the discussions, sharing their suggestions and feedback on various issues.

Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan

Mega Awareness/ Enrollment camp held at village Lohikote for saturation of Government schemes

KUPWARA: On the instructions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, mega awareness cum enrollment camp was held at village Lohikote in Mawar block to provide mass awareness about various centrally sponsored schemes under the ongoing 'Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan.'

The Abhiyan, aimed for saturation of centrally sponsored schemes in far flung tribal villages of the district, was attended by a large number of people.

The Abhiyan will continue till June 30 for coverage of the targeted beneficiaries. During this period,

Awareness and Benefit Saturation Camps will be organized in 14 blocks of district Kupwara, targeting 14 tribal villages of these blocks for awareness and saturation of the individual benefit oriented schemes.

On the occasion, Block Development Officer (BDO) Mawar highlighted the aim and objectives of Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan before the participants. He said the Abhiyan is not only a measure of saturating government schemes in tribal areas but also at raising awareness, bridging gaps in services delivery and fostering socio-economic and politi-

cal empowerment to advance tribal inclusive socio-economic development.

Meanwhile, around 95 beneficiaries were enrolled under various government schemes during the camp. The beneficiaries expressed their gratitude towards the District Administration for reaching out at their doorsteps for redressal of their pending issues.

Block Development Officer Mawar, Block Medical Officer, Zonal Education Officer, Agriculture Officer, besides representatives from line departments were present in the camp.

Awareness Camp under DAJGUA held at Border Village Churanda in Uri Tehsil

MLA Uri attends the camp, appreciates efforts of the administration in reaching remote tribal areas

BARAMULLA: As part of the ongoing Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), district administration Baramulla organized a tribal awareness camp at the border village of Churanda in Uri Tehsil.

The campaign, scheduled from June 15 to 30, focuses on spreading awareness among tribal communities and ensuring saturation of key welfare schemes.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from the local tribal population. Various departments had set up IEC stalls offering on-the-spot information and services related to health, education, livelihood, and sanitation.

To draw public attention and promote cultural heritage, a traditional Gatka



performance was held during the camp. The energetic display captivated the audience and created a vibrant atmosphere.

Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Uri, Dr. Sajad Shafi, attended the camp and appreciated the efforts of the administration in reaching remote tribal areas. He emphasized the importance of grassroots-level awareness for inclusive growth and development.

Additional District

Development Commissioner (ADDC) Baramulla, Gh. Rasool Mir, highlighted the objectives of DAJGUA and encouraged tribal families to take full advantage of the schemes available under the campaign.

Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Baramulla, Chaudhary Mudasir Hussain, also spoke on the occasion, urging the public to actively participate in awareness programmes and assured continued support from the administration.

Other senior officers from various departments were also present and interacted with the locals.

The ongoing IEC campaign under DAJGUA will continue in other tribal areas of the district, aiming to ensure last-mile service delivery and tribal empowerment.

Series of activities organized under Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyan across Anantnag

ANANTNAG, JUNE 16: In a concerted effort to combat substance abuse among youth, Youth Services and Sports (YSS), in collaboration with the Education department Anantnag, organized a series of impactful activities under the Nasha Mukh Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan across various educational institutions in the district.

Campaign witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and community members. Activities conducted during the day included awareness rallies, interactive sessions, essay writing and debate competitions, as well as pledge-taking ceremonies, all aimed at sensitizing participants about the grave consequences of drug abuse.

The primary objective

of the campaign was to educate young minds about the harmful effects of substance abuse on individual health, families, and society at large, and to empower them to act as ambassadors of change within their communities.

Special awareness sessions were conducted by subject experts, teachers, and even students, during which real-life stories and case studies were shared to illustrate the dangers of addiction and the importance of preventive measures.

District administration underscored the need for community-driven action against drug abuse and urged educational institutions to continue their awareness efforts by establishing early intervention systems to identify and support at-risk

individuals.

More awareness programmes have been scheduled on selected focus days to ensure sustained public engagement and outreach under the Nasha Mukh Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan.

Special awareness sessions were conducted by subject experts, teachers, and even students, during which real-life stories and case studies were shared to illustrate the dangers of addiction and the importance of preventive measures.

District administration underscored the need for community-driven action against drug abuse and urged educational institutions to continue their awareness efforts by establishing early intervention systems to identify and support at-risk individuals.

CS for leveraging technology, global tie-ups to popularise J&K handicrafts



SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting to review the ongoing and proposed initiatives of the Handicrafts & Handloom Department aimed at promoting and preserving the rich craft heritage of Jammu & Kashmir, while simultaneously improving the socio-economic condition of artisans and weavers.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh; MD, JKTPD; Directors of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir and Jammu, besides other senior officers.

Underscoring the global demand for authentic and

high-quality handmade products, the Chief Secretary stressed the need to safeguard the interests of genuine artisans by leveraging modern technological interventions. He called for widespread use of Geographical Indications (GI), QR code tagging, traceability tools and digital authentication mechanisms to clearly distinguish the original handmade products from counterfeits.

He directed the department to aggressively follow up with the Government of India for expediting approvals of dozens of project proposals submitted for promotion of various crafts across the UT. He emphasised the need to designate a senior nodal officer to spearhead the coordination and ensure timely

clearances of these projects.

The Chief Secretary also called for fast-tracking the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the World Craft Council. He said this partnership is expected to significantly elevate the global footprint of J&K's traditional crafts by establishing a World Craft Hub and Living Crafts Museum, envisioned as an international centre for craft preservation, innovation, and exchange.

Dulloo further highlighted the need for consistent promotion at national and international levels, leveraging not just conventional marketing channels but also digital and social media platforms. He remarked that the market for our crafts is vast, and we must

tap into its full potential to uplift the lives of our artisan community. Reviewing the progress on Ekta Malls being established in Jammu and Srinagar, the Chief Secretary urged for their timely completion. These malls are envisioned as dedicated platforms to showcase and sell indigenous products, enabling artisans to directly connect with consumers. Commissioner Secretary, I&C, Vikramjit Singh, during his presentation, elaborated on the post-2020 policy reforms that have led to structured support for artisans, improved market access and revitalised the traditional craft economy in the UT. He noted that these initiatives paved the way for GI protection, upgraded infrastructure and financial

empowerment of the artisan community.

He highlighted flagship interventions like the Credit Card Scheme for Artisans (CCSA), Financial Support Scheme for Cooperatives/SHGs, Karkhandar Scheme, Raw Material Banks, and Artisan Education Schemes—all aimed at holistic upliftment of artisans and weavers across J&K.

Regarding the key infrastructure and promotional projects, Director, Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, Masrat-ul-Islam, provided a detailed overview of recent initiatives, including the establishment of Craft Villages, Common Facility Centres (CFCs), Flatted Factories, De-hairing Plants, Bamboo Clusters and Craft-Based Resource Centres in various districts.

The meeting was informed that J&K remains the only UT/State in the country to offer GI tagging for its entire craft basket. Each GI-certified product features a QR code label embedded with crucial details like artisan identity, material used, and place of origin. Recent procurement of a high-resolution digital microscope worth Rs30 lakh has significantly reduced the GI application backlog—from 1709 in February 2025 to just 150 in June 2025.

So far, 15 crafts from Kashmir and 3 from Jammu have been granted GI status,

with several more under proposal. With respect to Kashmir Sozni, Hand Knotted Carpet, Pashmina, Kani Shawls, Paper Mache, Walnut Wood Carving, Khatamband, Crewel, Namda, Kashmir Tweed, Gabba, Wagguv, Chain Stitch, Shikara, and Bat making had received the GI with 6 more submitted this year.

Similarly, for Jammu GI Crafts included Basohli Pashmina, Rajouri Chikri Wood, Basohli Painting had already received GI tag in 2023 with 4 more proposed for 2025-26 and 6 in pipeline.

With respect to capacity building and export performance, it was informed that currently 634 craft training centres operate across the UT, offering formal training in various handicrafts and handloom traditions including Massive Carpet Training Centres.

Exports of handicrafts from J&K have also shown remarkable fluctuations, peaking at Rs 1116.37 crore in 2022-23, with Rs 733.59 crore reported in 2024-25, reflecting the sector's critical contribution to the economy.

The department continues to actively participate in national-level expos and trade fairs, generating a revenue of Rs 9.64 crore from 15 exhibitions last year. The department is collaborating with JKTPD to provide

Mohan Lal Bhagat holds public darbar at BJP headquarters



J A M M U : Mohan Lal Bhagat, MLA from Akhnoor, held a Public Darbar at the Jammu & Kashmir BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, where over 20 deputations from different areas presented their concerns and grievances.

Deputations from Pargwal Akhnoor, Sungal Thathi Akhnoor, Wazir Lane Talab Tillo, Muthi, Nagrota, Domana, Mishriwala, Ustad Mohalla, Rajouri, Jawala Raipur, Reasi, Gandhi Nagar, Trikuta Nagar, Channi, Marble Market and other

areas visited BJP headquarters to share their issues.

Concerns raised included land disputes, road improvement and widening from Pakiwalla to Pangari, GREF-related works, construction of a playground at Bela, repair and installation of street lights, electric pole replacements, irregular water supply in Jagti, repair of Domana Link Road, lanes and drains restoration, installation of new hand-pumps (Mark 2), replacement of draining gratings, repair of tree guards at Park No. 64, transformer replacement, retention of SPOs, and issues of illegal

mining, among others.

Responding with urgency and commitment, MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat personally interacted with officials of the concerned departments during the Darbar and urged them to take prompt action to resolve the issues, especially those concerning public utilities, basic infrastructure, and social welfare.

Speaking on the occasion, Mohan Lal Bhagat termed the Public Darbar as a platform to bring governance to the people's doorstep. He said that the BJP believes in direct dialogue with citizens and resolving their issues without delay. Development is meaningful only when it is inclusive, responsive, and people-centric. Every grievance raised here is being followed up with the concerned department, he said and assured that all the genuine concerns will be addressed in a time-bound manner.

Romesh Khajuria slams UT Govt over poor functioning of Power Department

JAMMU: Dr Romesh Khajuria, Member: National Working Committee, Gau parkoshat Muslim Rashtriya Munch, Member, CoA & Former Chairman: Wool & Woollens Export ProMotion Council (WWEPC).

Ministry of Textiles, Govt of India & Former Chairman: Carpet Export P r o M o t i o n Council(CEPC), MoT, GoI Slams J&K UT Govt over poor functioning of Power Distribution Department.

Dr Romesh Khajuria in a press statement said that few structures of wires & poles damaged on 13 June 2025 due to small wind storm most of which is still not repaired even after four days, worsened is the situation in Rehal Dhamalian where a electricity pole fallen on the ground and in the name of repairing power supply is



passing through the wires fixed on temporary bamboo pole of around 5ft height wires touching almost the ground less than 2 ft above the ground, which is very dangerous this mis adventure by power department can cause human loss and can turn to any on towards incident anytime. Dr Khajuria further stated that even repeated requests/communications to the senior officers of the power department

nothing has been done so far.

Dr Khajuria while criticising the functioning of the the govt stated that most of the transformers in the area are in poor condition its accessories like leads & equipments are in miserable conditions and are disrupting power supply frequently and people of the are badly affected. It's unfortunate for providing such poor & mis adventure services.

Intussusception in Children-More worrisome if detection and treatment delayed

FOR ages Kashmir valley has been little different be it its landscapes, unique culture, generous hospitality and perspective on inclusiveness. But when it comes to the medical issues of the regional population it is no different from the rest of the country owing to its lack of awareness about healthy lifestyle among masses which the author has experienced during his outdoors and free medical camps across the remote and rural Kashmir.

Onesuch disease burden which comes to my mind as a practitioner in the valley for the past decade & half is 'INTUSSUSCEPTION' literally means telescoping of one portion of intestines into the other portion causing varying degrees of intestinal obstruction. In early childhood the commonest cause of bowel obstruction is intussusception and is one of the common abdominal emergencies in children younger than 2 years. Early diagnosis helps to reduce mortality and morbidity. The objective of the study was to find out the pattern of clinical manifestations in children with intussusception and the outcome.

Intussusception is one of the common pediatric surgical emergencies in children below 2 years of age. With an estimated occurrence of 1-4 per 1000 live births. The reported incidence of intussusception varies by time and geographic location. The incidence varies from 1 to 4 per 1000 live births. The male: female ratio is 3:1. Mostly in children intussusceptions occur in the first year of life and rarely occur before 2 months of age, reaches its peak in 5 to 7 month and start decline. Intussusception was first described by Barbet of Amsterdam in 1674, after three centuries its sonographic features were described in 1977. Since then ultrasonography is the main diagnostic tool of this condition and has got high specificity and sensitivity.

How the patient presents: On enquiring from the parents/guardian the patient with intussusception is usually an infant, often one who has had an upper respiratory infection, who presents with the following symptoms: Vomiting: Initially, vomiting is non-bilious and reflexive, but when the intestinal obstruction occurs, vomiting becomes bilious. Abdominal pain: Pain in intussusception is colicky, severe, and intermittent. Passage of blood and mucus: Parents report the passage of stools, by affected children, that look like currant jelly; this is a mixture of mucus, sloughed mucosa, and shed blood; diarrhea can also be



For ages Kashmir valley has been little different be it its landscapes, unique culture, generous hospitality and perspective on inclusiveness.

an early sign of intussusception. Lethargy: This can be the sole presenting symptom of intussusception, which makes the condition's diagnosis challenging. Palpable abdominal mass on Physical examination of the child. The hallmark physical findings in intussusception are a right hypochondrium sausage-shaped mass and emptiness in the right lower quadrant (Dance sign). This mass is hard to detect and is best palpated between spasms of colic, when the infant is quiet. The classical triad of symptoms, vomiting, abdominal pain, and passage of red "currant jelly" stool are occurring in only one third of patients. In 60% of cases sausage shaped mass will be palpable in the right hypochondrium.

How to investigate the child with intussusception: Now commonest mode of diagnostic tool in childhood intussusception is ultrasonography, which is highly specific and accurate. The most specific plain radiographic findings are the target and meniscus signs but 25-50% of case only it is demonstrable. So the role

of plain radiography nowadays is used to rule out other complications like intestinal perforation and pneumoperitoneum. Contrast enema examination requiring x-ray exposure has been the gold standard for the diagnosis of intussusceptions in the past. Ultrasound totally replaced fluoroscopy due to its superior performance, a high level of patients' comfort and safety. It also helps pediatricians to differentiate from similar conditions and helps to find out the lead points. Many small bowel intussusceptions reduce spontaneously. In hydrostatic reduction, exerting pressure on the apex of intussusceptum in the colon until complete reduction obtained. Pushing it from the pathologic into the normal position. There are so many techniques of nonsurgical reduction were tried but the use of ultrasound guidance instead of fluoroscopy allows an even more liberal approach to enema therapy. It is a very safe, because the whole procedure is visualized with real time ultrasound, and also a non-opera-

tive method and no risk of radiation exposure. The high success rate of this procedure has emerged as a useful alternative to surgery and fluoroscopy. Untreated intussusception is potentially fatal. If left untreated, ileal-colic intussusceptions may lead to intestinal ischemia, gangrene, perforation, peritonitis, shock and death. Case fatality rates also vary widely by region. Deaths from intussusception are more common in developing countries. Delayed diagnosis and intervention is a significant contributing factor for increased morbidity and mortality.

Treatment: Surgical reduction is indicated in the presence of refractory shock, suspected bowel necrosis or perforation, peritonitis, and multiple recurrences with lead point. In those required surgery delayed presentation was a feature. Delayed diagnosis has got an important predictive value in the management of intussusceptions, determining the way of reduction and its outcome. In ileo-ileal intussusception reduction hydrostatic reduction might not be possible. Such intussus-

ceptions can develop insidiously after surgery and require exploration if they do not reduce spontaneously. Ileo-ileal disease is common with Henoch-Schönlein purpura and other unidentified disorders and usually resolves without the need for any specific treatment. If manual operative reduction is impossible, resection of the intussusception is necessary, with end-to-end anastomosis. Recurrence rate after reduction of intussusception is about 10% and after hydrostatic reduction 5-8% none has recurred after surgical resection. Chronic intussusception can occur in milder form in which the symptoms at recurrent intervals, likely to occur with or after acute gastroenteritis and can happen in older children as well as in infants.

Summary for parents to remember

Avoid or limit constipating diet in children especially during weaning period around 5-6 months of age. Report to physician in case of refusal to feeds, irritability, excessive cry and other symptoms like Vomiting, blood in stool and abdominal pain. Commonest type of

intussusception is ileo-colic. Ultrasound guided hydrostatic reduction using saline is a simple and effective technique. It can be used to diagnose intussusception to reduce it and to confirm reduction. It is less time consuming, cost effective, has no radiation hazard, almost no complication and minimal hospital stay. Untreated intussusception is potentially fatal. Occurrence of sequence of events in the signs and symptoms guide one to early diagnosis and decision for early intervention to save the gut and the life of the child.

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Adhyaksh, Swasthya Ayaam, Sewa Bharti J&K Adhyaksh National Medicos Organization Prant J&K

Life Member ASI, JKASI, PESI, SELSI, AMASI, NMO Bharat, Neurotherapy Association LMNRTI, Udaasin Akhara

Mission Director JJM J&K urges Chief Engineers to expedite Har Ghar Jal certification of reported villages

SRINAGAR: Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K Khurshid Ahmad Shah, on Monday convened a review meeting of Jal Jeevan Mission of J&K through virtual mode.

The meeting was attended by chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Kashmir, Mohammad Taj Chowdhary, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Jammu, Vikas Sharma Superintending Engineers Hydraulic circles Jammu, Udhampur-Reasi, Rajouri, Poonch, Kathua, Doda/Kishtwar/Ramban, Srinagar/Ganderbal, Anantnag-Kulgam, Budgam, Baramulla-Bandipora and Kupwara-Handwara, Executive Engineers of all civil and Mechanical divisions and the officers in Mission Directorate.

At the onset, MD enquired about the status of scheme completion under the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission in J&K.

The chair was informed by both Chief Engineers that the 3200 odd schemes



being executed under JJM 1486 Schemes stand completed, the details of which can be accessed by the public on JJM portal.

The rest of the schemes are in advanced stages of completion, the chair was informed.. The MD enjoined upon the Chief Engineers to expedite the process of

scheme completion within set timelines so that the mission of providing "Har Ghar Jal Sey Jal" becomes a reality in J&K soon.

The chair took a detailed review of mapping of pipelines laid under PM Gati Shakti.

The Mission Director was informed that 42000 KM's of pipeline laid has been mapped & uploaded so far under PM Gati Shakti. The MD directed the officers to complete the targets within the set timelines and upload the same on the portal so that the information is put in public domain.

The MD also took a division wise review of Har Ghar Jal certification of reported villages.

He directed the Executive Engineers to remove the discrepancies in schemes completed and Villages certified evident in the Power Point presentation.

The chair also directed Superintending Engineers of respective circles to take a detailed review of their respective districts regarding Har Ghar Jal Certification. He was assured that in the coming week a fresh impetus will be given to Har Ghar Jal certification of reported villages.

The chair also discussed expenditure reconciliation and variations in State and central share under JJM.

Capacity Building Programme of FPOs in J&K commences at SKUAST-J

JAMMU: A five days "Capacity Building Programme for Chief Executive Officers and Chairman/Board of Directors of Farmers Producer Organizations (FPO's) across J&K" commenced at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Jammu on Monday.

The programme is jointly organized by SKUAST, Jammu and Department of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu in collaboration with MANAGE-Hyderabad in the Division of Agricultural Extension Education, Faculty of Agriculture, Chatha from 16-20, June 2025. The capacity building programme has been organized under HADP-20 project entitled "Innovative Extension Approaches for Revitalizing Agriculture in Jammu & Kashmir".

Prof. Rajinder Peshin, Director Education, SKUAST, Jammu and Dr. K. C Gummagolmath, Director Monitoring & Evaluation, MANAGE, Hyderabad were guest of honour on the occasion. Dr. A. S. Reen, Director Agriculture, Jammu was guest of honour and Mrs. Urmil Lata, Deputy General Manager, NABARD, Jammu was special guest on the occasion.

Prof. Rajinder Peshin, Director Education, SKUAST, Jammu stressed upon evaluation of capacity building programmes of FPO's for identifying the potential strengths and weakness for planning futuristic training programmes. He also emphasized on establishing synergy



among members of FPO's, development departments, agricultural universities and other stakeholders for the achievement of objectives of FPO's.

Dr. K. C Gummagolmath, Director Monitoring & Evaluation, Manage, Hyderabad said that the capacity building programme has been meticulously planned

to strengthen the organizational, financial and managerial capabilities of CEO's and BOD's in Jammu and Kashmir to ensure sustainable agriculture growth, increased farmers' income and effective functioning of FPO's. Dr. A. S. Reen, Director Agriculture, Jammu in his address highlighted the role of FPO's in building socio-

economic resilience of farmers in agriculture eco-system. He further said that FPO's are instrumental in creating enhanced market access and bargaining power of the farmers.

He reiterated that FPO's are playing a crucial role in improving input supply, reduced cost, value addition, diversification as well as access to finance and technology.

At the outset, Prof. Vinod Gupta, Professor & Head Division of Agricultural Extension Education and PI of the project formally welcomed all the dignitaries and participants. He highlighted the importance of this training programme with reforms to farming community. He also stated that capacity building of CEO's and BOD's will definitely help the FPO members to focus on their business activities.

Urmil Lata, Deputy General Manager, NABARD, Jammu stressed upon the active participation of the farmers in FPO's for their socio-economic development. She also emphasized the farmers to take advantages of demand driven welfare schemes of the government.

During the training programme, experienced faculty and resource persons from MANAGE, Hyderabad will provide training to the participants.

The training programme was attended by 35 CEO's and BOD's of FPO's across J&K.

The inaugural function was attended by Prof. P. S. Slathia, Prof. Poonam Parihar, staff members and project staff. Vote of thanks was extended by Prof. Jasbir Singh Manhas.

Foundation Day of ancient Raja Mal Dev Temple, Kali Jani, Jammu celebrated

JAMMU: The Foundation Day of the Ancient Raja Mal Dev Temple, Kali Jani, Jammu, was celebrated today with traditional fervor, deep devotion, and enthusiastic community participation.

The day began with a sacred Havan at 7:00 AM, invoking divine blessings for peace, prosperity, and the well-being of all. This was followed by a spiritually uplifting Kirtan session at 11:00 AM, during which devotees engaged in devo-

tional singing and hymns, creating an atmosphere of devotion and unity.

The celebrations culminated in a Bhandara (community feast) at 12:00 noon, which was open to all attendees, symbolizing communal harmony and shared faith.

The Management Committee of the Temple expressed heartfelt gratitude to the devotees and local residents for their continued support and participation.

They cordially invited all



members of the community to continue engaging with the temple's spiritual activities and to seek the divine blessings of Raja Mal Dev Ji. Prominent citizens and

Committee members were present on this auspicious occasion, including Satish Tandon, Raman Tak, Sonu Kumar, Arun Jangotra, and Sachin Kumar, among oth-

ers.

Their presence added to the sanctity and communal spirit of the celebrations.

The Foundation Day served not only as a reli-

gious observance but also as a celebration of the region's rich cultural heritage and the enduring spiritual significance of the Ancient Raja Mal Dev Temple.

Shakti Vijay Brigade organizes Ex-Servicemen Rally at Tangdhar



KUPWARA: The Shakti Vijay Brigade conducted a large-scale Ex-Servicemen (ESM) Rally at Tangdhar today, which drew the participation of over 400 military veterans, their families, and officials from the Army and various civil departments.

The rally aimed at addressing the concerns and welfare needs of the veteran community in the Karnah region.

Multiple grievances were registered during the event, many of which were resolved on the spot by concerned authorities. Unresolved matters were documented and will be forwarded to higher author-

ities for appropriate redressal.

A key highlight of the rally was a virtual meeting through video conference with JAKRIF Record, where numerous service-related record issues were settled instantly, providing much-needed relief to the veterans. The event was attended by Deputy Commander, Shakti Vijay Brigade, SDM Karnah Zaffar Ahmad Lone, Director ECHS Col (Veterans), CRO JAKLI Record, representatives from ECHS Baramulla, Ex-Servicemen Cell Tangdhar, SBI, J&K Bank, Agriculture Department, Forest Department, and the Indian Post Office, among

others.

A special facilitation was arranged for all four Veer Naris, as well as families of battle casualties (non-fatal) and widows of physical casualties, who were honoured and supported by the 104 Shakti Vijay Brigade during the event.

The rally reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of the Indian Army and the civil administration to safeguard the welfare and dignity of ex-servicemen and their families.

Such initiatives play a crucial role in bridging gaps and ensuring that the veterans continue to receive the respect and assistance they deserve.

"Shiksha Ke Champions" Award Ceremony & Career Counseling Mela held in Doda



DODA: In a significant step towards promoting academic excellence and guiding youth towards promising career paths, Viksit Bharat Welfare Society organized the "Shiksha Ke Champions Award Ceremony & Career Counseling Mela" at the Community Hall, Doda.

The event was held in the presence of Anil Thakur (JKAS), Additional Deputy Commissioner, Doda, who served as the Chief Guest. In his address, he lauded the efforts of the organization in recognizing meritorious students and underlined the importance of education as a transformative

force in nation-building.

Yasir Hussain Wani, Executive Officer, Doda, attended the event as the Guest of Honor and motivated students to pursue their goals with dedication and clarity, stressing the value of early career planning and perseverance. The ceremony was further enriched by the presence of distinguished educationists Retired Principal Tanveer Wani and Hafizullah Khurwani, who attended as Special Guests and delivered motivational messages focused on discipline, self-confidence, and educational commitment.

The major highlight of the event was the felicitation of Class 12th toppers from across Doda district, who were awarded tro-

phies and certificates in recognition of their outstanding academic performance. Their parents and teachers were also acknowledged for their vital role in the students' success.

The event also featured a vibrant Career Counseling Mela, where reputed institutions such as Baba Farid Group of Institutions (Bathinda), SVIET College (Chandigarh), Arni University (Himachal Pradesh), and University Guru (MBBS Counseling Services) participated. Students were provided with free personal guidance, insights into higher education options, scholarship opportunities, and assistance in planning their academic futures.

Speaking on the occasion, the organizing team stated that the initiative aimed to bridge the gap between talent and opportunity by empowering students with both recognition and resources.

The program was efficiently managed by Atul Sudan, Rumit Gupta, Kulveer Singh, Kunal Koul, along with media partners Rayees Ahmed Gattu (Fair Voice News), Yawar Khurwani (Today News Line), and Mateen Iqbal (Enquirer Today).

Women are crying for justice in Tehsil Khawas, Rajouri

RAJOURI: Prof (DR) Mohd Mazammal Hussain, National Joint Secretary, Public Grievances, of All India Council of Human Rights, Liberties and Social Justice, expressed his serious concern and profound sorrow over serious issue related to the women in Khawas tehsil of District Rajouri, they approached this office indicating their helplessness.

This issue contains a heart wrenching story, the reflection of which is authenticated by the documents contained some orders and communicated letter of revenue department. The issue has been examined by the district administration and dealt with fact finding figures which can be figure out by the common man. Most appreciable approach of Mr Dil Mir (JKAS) Additional Deputy Commissioner Kotranka who has performed a commendable role in the issue, though his repeated orders are not implemented so far.

A retired Naib tehsildar namely Abdul Hameed R/O Phalni, Budhal has structured a drama to grab the land of a widow of said Mohd R/O Village Gadyog tehsil Khawas, during his posting in that area, in order to quench his wherewithal thrust he made the documents of land making his own son namely Mohd Iqbal as adopted son of the same widow, whereas the widow had two daughters namely Jannu 62 and saleema 60 After some time widow died leaving behind her Two daughters. Later on the similar land was sold out to Mohd Aslam R/O Targain, Budhal without any sale deed and took cost of the land measuring about 42 (forty two) kanals by so called adopted son who happened to be an advocate and practicing in Munsif Court of kotranka.

When this foul play was smelled out by the Revenue Department. Mr Mohd aslam managed stay order issued by the Munsif court Kotranka, and forcibly acquired the land of aforesaid women in the light of the stay order, later on that stay order was proved as fake stay order, the police did not bother to investigate the matter consequently these women were evacuated from their parental home. Mohd Aslam managed all these forged documents for the eye wash of the district administration but all in vain.

Meanwhile these women contacted Mr Muneer Mughal, President All India Backward



Classes Union, Budhal, he represented the issue submitting to the Additional Deputy Commissioner Kotranka, Budhal. The Additional Deputy Commissioner along with team of revenue officers/officials visited the occasion. And issued a notice to return the land to the victim women and they got back to their own home.

Unfortunately, Mohd aslam and his family has again acquired the same land forcibly by assaulting physically both the women mercilessly in broad day light, the whole happening was a shameful matter as no any persons intervened to protect the poor women when mohd aslam and family assaulted physically, even the police did not bother to intervene and investigate or registered FIR against the culprits, where as concerned police is well aware of the facts and in charge police post (Choki Officer) Mr Showket Ali Sub inspector has shown indifferent attitude related to the issue.

Repeatedly the victim women approached to the Additional DC Kotranka and Tehsildar concerned communicated the concerned police authorities vide order

No:1. ADC/KTR/2024-25/1734-36, dated 18/02/2025, 2. No: ADC/KTR/2024-25/1822-85, dated 10/03/2025, 3. No: ADC/KOT/2024/2014-16, dated 22/03/2025, 4. No: ADC/KOT/2025-26/66-68 dated 10/04/2025, and 5. No: ADC/KTR/2025-26/264-67, dated 16/05/2025 to evict the

illegal occupants from home of these victim women and also repeatedly communicated to the concerned Superintendent of police to implement the order in letter and spirit. Unfortunately, no action has been taken so far and order of Additional District Magistrate remained un implemented till date.

Prof Hussain on behalf of All India Council of Human Rights, liberty and Social Justice expressed heart felt sorrow while seeing the plight of the victim women and condemned the inhuman, brutal, and avaricious act of Mohd Aslam and stated that such type of barbaric actions could not be chaptered in the humanity, we stand with victims every time in this heart wrenching situation which needs attention of UT Administration especially hon'ble Lt. Governor shri Manoj Sinha for effective direction to the Police department to implement order of the Magistrate and intervention for the protection of human rights and maintenance of peace in the such remote and backward areas

It is also worthwhile to indicate that the prevailing Government has provided infinite numbers of facility to women in every field through out the nation and will provide the justice to the victim women of Khawas tehsil also as we expect.

Prof Hussain requested the educated youths of the area to enlighten the masses about legal awareness and instill the youths about human rights protection.

Centre taking necessary steps for safety of J&K students, traders stranded in Iran: BJP leader Raina



JAMMU: The Centre has taken necessary steps to ensure safety and security of students and businessmen from Jammu and Kashmir stranded in Iran, BJP leader Ravinder Raina asserted on Monday.

Raina, a former president of J&K BJP unit, said many students and their parents have contacted him and he wanted to assure them that they would not be allowed to face any problem and if there is a need, they will be safely evacuated.

"We are very much concerned about the safety and security of our students

studying in Iran.

Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already taken steps to ensure safety of the Indian students and the traders stranded there," the BJP leader said. He said External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is in constant touch with the government of Iran and the Indian High Commission is also looking after this issue seriously.

"Many of our students in Iran and parents contacted me and I assure them and also the businessmen that the Government of India will not let them face any kind of problem.

They are our children

and the children of our country," he said. He said it is the duty of the government to protect them and take care of their security.

"Our prime minister has said that in case of need, they will be brought back to the country," Rana said. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday said he spoke to the External Affairs Minister regarding students from the Union Territory and was assured that necessary steps will be taken to ensure safety of all Indian students.

Indian nationals in Iran were on Sunday asked to exercise due caution and maintain contact with the Embassy of India in Tehran through its social media accounts in view of the current situation in the country following the launch of strikes by Israel.

On Friday last had launched Operation Rising Lion to strike at Iran's nuclear, missile and military complex.

The strikes left key military commanders and nuclear scientists dead. Iran retaliated by launching waves of drones and ballistic missiles at Israel.

Rajouri Police crackdown on narcotics trafficking in Thannamandi; one person apprehended with heroin like substance

JAMMU: In yet another significant success in the fight against drug trafficking, Rajouri Police has intensified its efforts under its zero-tolerance policy against narcotics Acting on specific inputs a naka checkpoint was laid at Churung Bridge by a police team from Police Station Thanamandi led by Dy.SP (Prob.) Ahtesham Ahmed Khan SHO PS Thanamandi, under the close supervision of SDPO Thanamandi Sh Parupkar Singh (JKPS)

During the naka checking one individual was found moving in a suspicious manner and was promptly apprehended A personal search of the suspect led to the recovery of 8 grams of heroin-like narcotic substance

The accused has been identified as Sheraz Ahmed

@ Raja S/O Mohd Azam, resident of Thanamang, Darhal Rajouri In this regard a case FIR No. 82/2025 under relevant sections of the NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Thanamandi, and further investigation is underway Police are actively working to trace the forward and backward linkages of the drug network involved

This operation once again underscores the Rajouri Police's unwavering commitment to eradicating the menace of drug trafficking and protecting the youth from the clutches of drug abuse The District Police continues to carry forward its relentless campaign against narcotics and urges the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities in their areas

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Awareness programme on 'Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan Pakhwada organised by NSS SKUAST-Jammu



JAMMU: Under the able guidance of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Jammu Prof. B.N.Tripathi and Dean Students Welfare Prof. Sudhakar Dwivedi, National Service Scheme and Health Centre SKUAST-Jammu in collaboration with Narcotic Control Bureau Jammu, organised an awareness programme on "Drug Free India" campaign to commemorate International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and 'Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan Pakhwada'.

On the outset Prof.Sudhakar Dwivedi, DSWin his address threw light on the menace of drug abuse in educational institutes. He said drug abuse and illicit trafficking are serious challenges that threaten the health, safety and well-being of individuals and communities worldwide.

Dr. Subhash c Kashyap NSS coordinator welcomed the guests and invited speakers from

Narcotic Control Bureau of Jammu office. He said NSS volunteers can play a pivotal role to make society aware about the ill effects of drug addiction on family and society.

Dr. Anil Kumar GuptaMedical Officer of SKUAST-JAMMU talked in detail about the different types of drugs and highlighted the significance of the awareness about drug abuse for the young students of SKUAST-Jammu.He cautioned the students to take care of their health and don't fell prey to drug peddlers.He stressed upon the students not to purchase over the counter medicine without prescription because that might lead to drug addiction in long run.

On the occasionMs. Rashmi Chaudhary and Mr. Amit TomarOfficials from NCB Jammu were the invited speakers. Ms. Rashmi Chaudhary gave an impressive power point presentation on the topic, 'Drug Free India' and made the students aware about various drugs and intoxi-

cants. She also talked about various laws enforced to check illicit trafficking of drugs in India. She explained thatyounger generation in particular is prone to this menace now a days. She emphasised that young NSS volunteers can bring a change in the society by making aware the society about drug abuse and drug addiction. A student interaction session was also organised in which students were tested for awareness of various types of drugs and their ill effects. A pledge for NO TO DRUG, YES TO LIFE was also taken by participants. Theproceeding of the programme was well coordinated by Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap, NSS Coordinator, Dr. Narinder Panotra and Dr. Rakesh Kumar NSS Instructors of IBT and Faculty of Agriculture. The programme was a part of NSS regular activities.The programme ended with vote of thanks by Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap and serving of refreshments to students.

Forest Deptt seizes two vehicles transporting illegal khair billets, tunu wood in Bhalwal



JAMMU: In a decisive crackdown on illegal timber trade, the Forest Department successfully seized two vehicles found transporting illicit Khair billets and tunu wood in Tehsil Bhalwal. The operation was conducted in Block Manawar during night hours on June 15, based on specific intelligence inputs.

Under the close supervision of the Range Officer Jammu and overall guidance of the Divisional Forest Officer Jammu, the team intercepted a Maruti SX4 (Registration No.

JK02AM-5101) and a truck (Registration No. PB06BH-2502). Upon inspection, both vehicles were found to be carrying Khair billets and tunu wood without any valid documentation, in clear violation of the Indian Forest Act (IFA).

The operation was led by Block Officer Manawar, Vikram Charak, with support from Beat Guard Vipan Jamwal, Rajeshwar Singh, Tarun Khajuria, and staff members from Nagrota-I - Raiz Ahmed, Ashok Kumar, and Mohd Akbar.

As per legal procedures, the forest produce and the

vehicles involved in the illegal transportation have been seized and taken into official custody. Confiscation proceedings against the offenders have already been initiated.

The Forest Department reiterated its firm commitment to the protection of forest resources and the enforcement of environmental laws. Authorities have urged the public to report any suspicious activity related to timber smuggling or unauthorized extraction of forest produce. These vigilant actions are vital for preserving ecological balance and curbing environmental degradation.

BJYM holds protest against imposition of Urdu in Naib Tehsildar recruitment



BISHNAH: Against the decision of the Omar Abdullah-led government to make Urdu a compulsory language in the recruitment for the post of Naib Tehsildar, the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) organized a massive protest demonstration in Bishnah today.

The protest witnessed enthusiastic participation from local youth, students and BJYM karyakartas, who raised slogans against linguistic discrimination and demanded justice for the educated youth of Jammu.

The protest was led by BJYM J&K President Arun

Prabhat Singh, accompanied by District leaders, Mandal office bearers and youth from various parts of the region.

While addressing the gathering, Arun Prabhat made a strong and passionate statement. He said, "the government's decision to enforce Urdu as a compulsory language for Naib Tehsildar recruitment is not only unjustified but deeply discriminatory. It sidelines the deserving youth of Jammu who have no academic background in Urdu. This move reflects the same old appeasement policy that we, the youth of Jammu, outright reject."

"BJYM is the voice of

the youth, and we will not allow any policy that marginalizes our youth based on linguistic barriers. We demand the immediate rollback of this notification. Our agitation will continue — democratically but aggressively — until justice is delivered," he said.

Former MLA Ashwani Sharma said, "This is a direct attack on the aspirations of Jammu's youth. Imposing Urdu as a mandatory requirement is an outdated, divisive tactic aimed at sidelining our educated generation. The youth of Jammu will not accept this discrimination silently. I stand in complete solidarity with BJYM and support their every step in this democratic fight for equal opportunity."

The protest march passed through key locations of Bishnah, with protestors carrying placards that read: "Language Must Be a Choice, Not a Compulsion," "Stop Discriminating Against Jammu Youth," and "Equal Opportunity for All."

Protestors emphasized that administrative posts like Naib Tehsildar should be based on merit and efficiency, not forced linguistic qualifications.

Prominent BJYM leaders present at the protest included Sh. Ashwani Sharma (Former MLA), Shubham Manhas, Rankaj Sadotra, Manoj Sharma, Shammi Khajuria, Banny Sharma, Rakesh Manhas, Abhishek Khajuria, and Shivam Sadotra.

Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan awareness camp organised at Town Hall Doda

DODA: To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, commemorated as Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh, the District Administration Doda organised a special awareness and benefit saturation camp under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA)—India's largest tribal empowerment campaign, here in the Town Hall. The nationwide 15-day campaign is being observed from 15th to 30th June 2025 across the country, including the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The event was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and witnessed enthusiastic participation from tribal community members, students and officials of line departments.

Addressing the gathering, the DC highlighted the life and contribution of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, who played a historic role in safeguarding tribal rights and identity. He informed that 15 tribal villages have been identified across Doda district for focused welfare interventions under government-sponsored schemes. He emphasised that road connectivity remains the most critical need for tribal welfare, as it ensures access to healthcare, IT services, and educational support to tribal households residing in remote areas.

The DC directed the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to prioritise medical outreach in these areas and stressed the need for timely



disbursal of tribal scholarships and benefits.

He said the District Administration plans to establish tribal product sale centres across the district to promote and market hand-made tribal goods, enhancing local livelihood opportunities. Additionally, he directed the Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) to ensure full saturation of schemes under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in tribal belts. He also urged all officers to deliver services and information transparently and effectively during the ongoing Dharti Aaba celebrations.

Earlier, Chief Planning Officer Manesh Kumar

Manhas shared key insights about ongoing government schemes and strategic planning for the empowerment of tribal communities.

Information stalls and banners were displayed by the departments, offering detailed guidance on flagship schemes related to education, healthcare, housing, livelihood and skill development. Tribal community members also highlighted key issues and suggestions during the interaction. The camp served as an effective platform to spread awareness about tribal rights and entitlements, promoting inclusive development in alignment with the vision of Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh and Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan.

Pawar hails bravery of Armed Forces during Operation Sindoor

JAMMU: Senior Congress leader and former MLA Indu Pawar on Monday paid rich tributes to the Indian Armed Forces for their extraordinary courage and sacrifices during Operation Sindoor, describing their action as a symbol of India's unwavering resolve against terrorism and external threats.

Speaking at the Jai Hind Sabha organised by DCC Samba under presidency of Sanjeev Sharma along with other senior Congress leaders including former minister Yash Pal Kundal, Working President DCC Babbal Gupta, Ex-Councilor Kuber Singh, Mandip Chaudhary & several others, She lauded the role & bravery of armed forces who always achieved the target.

Pawar said the recent operation launched by Indian forces in response to the Pahalgam terror attack had once again proved that India will never bow before the forces of terror.

Later "Jai Hind Yatra was taken out which witnessed enthusiastic participation of large number of people including congress workers holding the national flag (Tiranga) in their hands & raised spirited slogans of Jai Hind.

"Our soldiers displayed unparalleled bravery during Operation Sindoor, not only neutralising threats across the border but also sending a strong and clear message that India will not tolerate attacks on its people or its sovereignty," she said.

Pawar underscored that the bravery of the Indian forces in the face of cross-border terrorism was not just a tactical success but a moral victory for the entire nation. "Each soldier who participated in this operation upheld the highest traditions of the Indian Army - courage, discipline, and commitment to the motherland. The entire country is proud of their valour and sacrifice," she added.

She said the Congress party has always stood in

full support of the Indian Armed Forces and will continue to do so, beyond politics. "National security and respect for our soldiers is above all political considerations. We salute the bravery of our jawans and assure their families that the nation stands firmly behind them", She said.

She called upon the youth to draw inspiration from the armed forces, adding sacrifices made by our soldiers are a call to all Indians - especially the youth - to contribute to the nation with dedication, honesty, and a spirit of service."

She praised the spirit of the people of Samba district, who have always stood shoulder to shoulder with the Army and security forces. "This border belt has produced many heroes and continues to show immense patriotism. The enthusiasm with which the Jai Hind Sabha and Yatra were organized here reflects the people's deep connection with the ideals of the Indian Armed Forces."

Principal Secretary Culture inaugurates Writers' Reading cum Interaction space facility at Writers Club Jammu

JAMMU: Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary, Department of Culture, J&K, today inaugurated the Writers' Reading cum Interaction space facility at the Writers Club, Jammu. The event was organised J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages and witnessed the presence of several eminent writers and intellectuals from the Jammu region.

Harvinder Kaur, Secretary, Academy, Sonali Arun Gupta, Additional Secretary, Dr. Javaid Rahi, Divisional Head, JKAACL Jammu, Padma Shri Prof. Lalit Mangotra, and noted art historian Dr. Lalit Gupta were in the presidium.

In his address, Brij Mohan Sharma, stated that the new reading- cum Interaction space facility will serve as a vital hub for writers, thinkers, and intellectuals of the region.

He urged the literary community to actively use the space to enhance their literary and cultural pursuits. Mr. Sharma further informed that Abhinav Theatre will soon be equipped with a centralized air-conditioning system, and Kala Kendra Jammu will also have air-conditioned galleries to enhance the visitor experience.

He also invited meaningful suggestions from writers and artists to improve the functioning of various cultural institutions



under the Department of Culture.

Welcoming the guests, Harvinder Kaur highlighted that the main objective of the newly inaugurated facility is to provide a dedicated space for writers of the Jammu to engage in discussions and explore emerging literary trends.

The interactive session with the Principal Secretary saw the participation and suggestions from prominent literary personalities including Prof. Lalit Mangotra, Inderjeet Kesar, Lalit Gupta, Ashok Kumar, Nirmal Vinod, Aruna Sharma, Shyam Bihari, Swarn Mala, Prof. Raj Kumar, Sheikh Mohammad Kalyan, Sunita Barhwal, Sanjeev Bhasin, Sanjay Sharma, Vijay Verma, Baljeet Singh Raina, Deepak Kumar, Harjeet Singh Uppal and others.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Sonali Arun Gupta on behalf of JKAACL.

Here's how you can help smokers kick that butt

According to a study, when smokers who are trying to quit are allowed to regulate their nicotine intake, it helps them kick the habit.

Led by the Queen Mary University of London, the research has been published in the journal *Addiction*.

In the first study to tailor nicotine dosing based on smokers' choices while trying to quit, the results suggest that most smokers who use stop-smoking medications can easily tolerate doses that are four times higher than those normally recommended.

The author of the study Dunja Przulj from the Queen Mary University of London said: "Smokers determine their nicotine intake while they smoke, but when they try to quit, their nicotine levels are dictated by the recommended dosing of the treatment. These levels may be far too low for some people, increasing the likelihood that they go back to smoking."

"Medicinal nicotine products may be under-dosing smokers and could explain why we've seen limited success in treatments, such as patches and gum, helping smokers to quit. A change in their application is now needed," he said.

"Our findings should provide reassurance to smokers that it is okay to use whatever nicotine doses they find helpful."

The new study examined 50 smokers in a tobacco dependence clinic in Argentina, and is the first in the world to try a combined approach of 'pre-loading' nicotine prior to the quit date, and tailoring nicotine

levels based on patient feedback.

Participants started on one daily 21mg nicotine patch four weeks prior to their quit

smoke as they desired throughout the pre-quit period, and were offered additional o r a l



date. The dose was increased weekly by another 21mg patch unless participants reported adverse effects or did not wish to increase the dose, up to a maximum of four patches totalling 84mg/day. The dose was reduced by 21mg/day each week from one week after their quit date, until it reverted back to the standard dose (21mg/day) four weeks later.

Participants were advised to continue to

nicotine replacement therapies.

The team found that:

-Of the 50 participants, 90% progressed to at least three patches, while 72% progressed to four patches.

-82% of participants achieved four weeks validated abstinence from smoking, and experienced no significant increase in withdrawal symptoms, including urges to smoke.

-Cigarette consumption, smoke intake and enjoyment of smoking declined significantly during the pre-quit period, and the intervention was rated as helpful and easy to adhere to.

-During the pre-quit period, the number of cigarettes smoked per day reduced significantly from 20/day at the start to 6/day by the quit date.

-The number of adverse effects increased as patch dose increased. The most common of these were nausea, followed by vomiting, but were mainly mild and well tolerated.

-Two participants rated their adverse effects as 'severe', both at the 63mg dose. One reported headaches, nausea and feeling faint; the other experienced nausea and blurry vision. Both reduced their dose back to 42mg/day. -Only 6 per cent of participants dropped out of treatment and none dropped out because of patch side effects.

Professor Peter Hajek from Queen Mary University of London said: "Smokers are perfectly capable of determining which doses of nicotine they find helpful. There is no risk of dangerous overdose because nicotine includes an effective safety valve in the form of nausea." < "Our results also suggest that one of the reasons e-cigarettes are so much more popular and potentially more effective than other nicotine replacement treatments is that smokers can adjust their nicotine intake according to their needs," concluded Prof Hajek.

FSSAI bans plastic, newspaper packaging of food items

THE country's top food regulator has prohibited the use of recycled plastic or newspaper and magazine pages for packaging of food items, in a bid to crackdown on use of packaging material that poses a health risk. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has framed new food packaging regulations that are in the process of being notified. The regulations will come into effect from July 1.

"The packaging of food regulations have been sent for publishing and will raise the bar for food safety in India. Packaging is an integral part of the process and we have framed regulations to address the it," said Pawan Agarwal, CEO, FSSAI.

Acknowledging the importance of packaging in the food sector and its

limits of contaminants for plastic packaging materials. There is a suggestive list of packing materials for different food product categories.

The main concern for the food regulator is the unorganised sector that found to be making use of hazardous packaging material in the surveys that were commissioned by the regulator.

Of the



380 samples picked up from the unorganised sector, 51 samples were found to be non-comforming, taking overall rate to 13.4%, according to a survey report that FSSAI

commissioned. The food

items in these instances were found contaminated even with heavy metals such as cadmium, lead, etc. "The surveys that we commissioned have shown that the packaging material used by the organized sector is largely safe but it's the unorganised sector that is a cause for concern for us, especially loose packaging material," he said.

The Big Scoop

'TILGUL ghya aani god god bola'. (Here, have tilgud and speak sweetly) One of the most important festivals in Maharashtra, Makar Sankranti, celebrated on January 14, is incomplete without exchanging the til-gud (sesame-jaggery) sweets while mouthing this phrase. But what if this traditional sweet was offered in the form of an ice cream? This simple thought led to Parag Chaphekar and Sanmish Marathe's experiment two years ago, resulting in the launch of tilgud ice cream under their brand Icestasy Projects. "People in Mumbai lapped up the idea when we launched the flavour in 2017 ahead of Makar

Sankranti. It was a fine departure from the tradition without compromising on the flavours that are synonymous with the festival," explains Chaphekar. What made the flavour popular, however, was not its quirkiness alone. The ice cream, made using jaggery and sesame, also offers bits of tilgul that add the crunch associated with the sweet.

While Chaphekar and Marathe, who co-own Icestasy along with Milind Salvi, are currently busy with orders for the tilgul flavour ahead of the festival, it is only a small part of their diverse range. "With options such as besan laddoo, puranpoli, ukadiche modak among others, it may seem that

Icestasy is focussing on Maharashtrian sweets. But we personalise almost any flavour based on the demand or need. We also have on our menu black sesame, ginger, and cutting chai biskoot among other flavours," says Chaphekar.

Mumbai-based Icestasy, however, is not available on retail but Chaphekar and Marathe sell to restaurants across Mumbai and other cities of India. Among their clients are restaurants such as Burma Burma in Delhi and Mumbai and Pune's Pandora, with celebrity chef Ajay Chopra formerly at its helm. "Since experimenting and customising is our core strength.

Which vitamin deficiency causes depression

Sumit Mahajan Neurotherapist

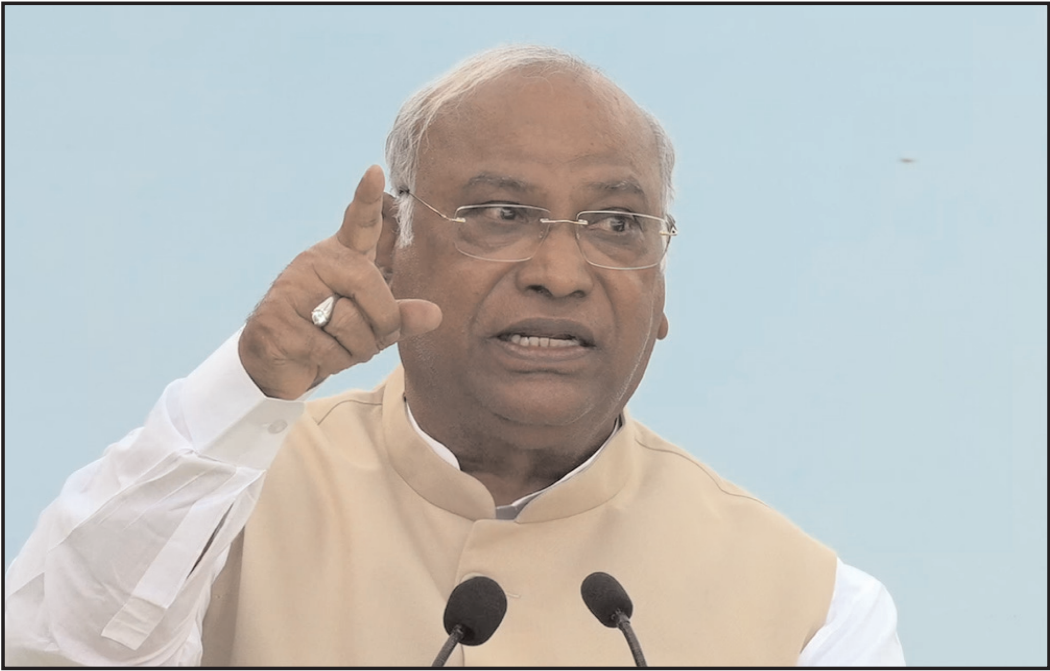
Do not let there be deficiency of B-12, Vitamin B-6 and Folate
Use spinach, beetroot, butternut squash, mushroom and potato
Cashews-almonds Ginger and lemon Ashwagandha and asparagus
Eggs, fortified cereals, milk, clams, oysters, salmon and tuna fish

SUMIT Mahajan Neurotherapist told that many important hormones and chemicals are produced in our brain. These include happy hormones, hormones that make you feel sad, hormones that bring sadness, and hormones and chemicals that maintain communication between the body and the nervous system. Our brain needs vitamin B12 to maintain the secretion and production process of all these hormones and

chemicals. If the brain does not get the right amount of this vitamin, then the person slowly starts moving towards depression. To avoid the effects of depression, some changes need to be made in lifestyle and diet. A patient of depression should drink plenty of water and consume more fruits and vegetables that have high water content. Eat apples on an empty stomach Apples are rich in fiber. Almonds are also

beneficial Almonds also contain magnesium, potassium and other essential elements. Curd is also anti-depression Curd refreshes the mouth. Fennel and papaya are also beneficial Eating blueberries, strawberries, blackberries is very good for the brain. They contain antioxidants that enhance brain function and help reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety. Some studies say that drinking blueberry juice can prevent postpartum depression.

Making cuts in implementation of MGNREGA 'crime against Constitution': Kharge



New Delhi: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday alleged that the Modi government is trying to destroy MGNREGA and said making cuts in the implementation of this scheme is a "crime against the Constitution".

The Congress president shared on X a media report which claimed that for the first time, the government has capped spending under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) at 60 per cent of its annual allocation for the first half of the financial year 2025-26.

In a post in Hindi on X, Kharge said, "The Modi government is trying to destroy MGNREGA, the life-line of the poor. The Modi government has now fixed the limit of MGNREGA expenditure at 60% for the first 6 months of the year".

Making cuts in the implementation of MGNREGA, which ensures the Right to Work under the

Constitution, is a "crime against the Constitution", he said.

Posing questions from the Congress' side, Kharge asked whether the Modi government is doing this only because it wants to snatch about Rs 25,000 crore from the pockets of the poor, which it has to spend separately in the next financial year when the demand is high at the end of the year.

"Since MGNREGA is a demand-driven scheme, what happens if there is a surge in demand during the first half in case of disasters or adverse weather conditions? Will not imposing such a cap hurt the poor who depend on MGNREGA for their livelihood?" Kharge said.

What happens if the limit is crossed and will states be forced to deny employment despite demand, or will workers have to work without payment, he asked.

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whether the Modi government is doing this only because it wants to snatch about Rs 25,000 crore from the pockets of the poor, which it has to spend separately in the next financial year when the demand is high at the end of the year.

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What happens if the limit is crossed and will states be forced to deny employment despite demand, or will workers have to work without payment, he asked.

Is it not true that according to a recent report, only 7 per cent of families have received the promised 100 days of work, Kharge further asked.

"Why were nearly 7 crore registered workers excluded from MGNREGA on the condition of AADHAAR based payment? Why was the MGNREGA budget allocated the least in the total budget in 10 years? Why is the anti-poor Modi government hell-bent on oppressing MGNREGA workers?" he said.

The axing of expenditure on MGNREGA is a severe blow inflicted by the Modi government on the lives of every poor, Kharge said, adding the Congress will vehemently oppose this.

"We are firm on our two demands -- First, a minimum wage of Rs 400 per day should be fixed for MGNREGA workers. Second, there should be employment for at least 150 days in a year," he said.

Air India Ahmedabad Plane Crash: Investigators Find Cockpit Voice Recorder, Crucial

Ahmedabad, Jun 16: The Air India flight AI-171 that crashed in Ahmedabad on June 12 shortly after its takeoff has shocked the nation and claimed 270 lives. However, in a crucial development, the Cockpit Voice Recorder has been found.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr. PK Mishra, on Sunday, visited the site of the crash.

According to a release from the Prime Minister's Office, the officials have confirmed the recovery of the Cockpit Voice Recorder.

The recovery of the voice recorder is crucial for the investigation, as it could help determine the cause of the ill-fated crash.

Black Boxes Of Air India Flight

As per reports, the second black box of the flight AI-171 was also found. Earlier, the first black box was recovered from the roof of the crash site.

The release from the PMO, informing of Dr. Mishra's visiting and chairing a high-level review meeting in Ahmedabad, stated that the officials confirmed that the Flight

Data Recorder (FDR) was secured.

Flight Crash- Deaths, DNA, More

The aircraft that was travelling from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick crashed into the building of BJ Medical College, resulting in more damage, injuries, and deaths.

Air India earlier confirmed that out of the total 242 passengers on board, there was only one survivor who had reportedly jumped from the flight and miraculously saved himself. Other than the passengers, the crash also led to the demise of people in the Medical College building, and the death toll now stands at 270. Amongst the passengers, there were British nationals, Portuguese nationals, Indians, and one Canadian.

Reactions and condolences poured in from the international community. Former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani was also on the flight.

Tata Group also sprang into action after the incident.

On the other hand, the DNA

Maharashtra Weather Update: Red Alert Issued In Raigad As Heavy Rains Batter State; Mumbai On Yellow Alert

Mumbai: The Indian Meteorological Department has issued alerts for various regions of Maharashtra as the monsoon becomes active. A red alert has been issued for Raigad district, while orange alerts are in effect for Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Pune ghat section, Satara ghat section, and Kolhapur ghat section. A yellow alert has been issued for Mumbai, Palghar, Thane, Nashik ghat section, Nagpur, Bhandara, Gondia, and Gadchiroli.

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The weather bureau has predicted thunderstorms



with lightning in several districts, including Buldhana, Akola, Amravati, Washim, Yavatmal, Wardha, Nagpur, Bhandara, Gondia, Chandrapur, and Gadchiroli. The intensity of rains is expected to increase throughout the day, causing disruptions in

traffic and daily life.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has issued a warning of heavy rains in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, including Mumbai city and suburbs, for the next three hours. Residents are advised to contact the BMC's main

control room helpline number 1916 in case of emergencies.

Taking to the social media platform, BMC wrote, "The Indian Meteorological Department has issued a warning of heavy rains in Mumbai Metropolitan Region (Mumbai city and

suburbs) for the next three hours. For help in an emergency or official purposes, contact the BMC's main control room helpline number 1916."

Meanwhile, Heavy rainfall has caused disruptions in traffic and daily life in several areas, including Vasai-Virar, where many low-lying areas have been submerged. The Central, Western, and Harbour Railways in Mumbai are running late by 5 to 10 minutes due to the rain.

The state government has asked the respective Divisional Commissioners and District Collectors to keep vigil and be prepared to conduct relief and rescue works. The state emergency operations centre at Mantralaya is in touch with all districts to streamline relief and rescue efforts.

According to the state government sources, a cyclonic circulation is prevailing over South Central Maharashtra and the Bay of Bengal, which has led to the activation of the monsoon. The monsoon is expected to advance over

Vidarbha, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha as the weather conditions are conducive for its progress.

"There is a cyclonic circulation over South Central Maharashtra and its vicinity at a height of 7.6 km above sea level. Cyclonic circulation is also prevailing over the Bay of Bengal at a height of 3.1 to 7.6 km above sea level. Due to this, the monsoon has now become active. The Meteorological Department has predicted that the monsoon will advance over Vidarbha, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha as the weather is conducive for the advance of the monsoon," said state government sources.

Mumbai and Pune cities have been receiving continuous rain since the night. Heavy rain has been recorded in the Pune area, with 113 mm of rain recorded in the Varandha Ghat Shirgaon area. The weather bureau has predicted that the intensity of rain will decrease in Mumbai and Thane on Tues.

Tehran Wants To Kill US President Donald Trump? Israeli PM Netanyahu Claims...

Tehran: Hostilities between Iran and Israel have been on the rise, and amid the tensions, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has stated that Iran's regime sees the United States President Donald Trump as their "number one enemy" and went on to claim that they want to kill him.

In an interview with Fox News, Netanyahu said that Trump is a "decisive" leader.

According to the news agency ANI, Fox News quoted the Israeli PM as saying, "They want to kill him. He's enemy number one."

"He's a decisive leader. He never took the path that others took to try to bargain with them in a way that is weak, giving them basically a pathway to enrich uranium, which means a pathway to the bomb, padding it with billions and billions of dollars," Netanyahu added.

The Israeli Prime Minister explained his claim and said that Trump has made it very clear that Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon.

"He took up this fake agreement and basically tore it up. He killed Qasem Soleimani. He made it very clear,

including now, 'You cannot have a nuclear weapon, which means you cannot enrich uranium.' He's been very forceful, so for them, he's enemy number one," Fox News quoted Netanyahu as saying.

He called himself the US President's "junior partner" in threatening Iran's ability to weaponise nuclear arms.

Netanyahu Also On Iran's Radar?

Israeli PM Netanyahu told Fox News that he was also a target of Iran's regime and added that a missile was fired into the bedroom window at his home.

Netanyahu emphasised that his country was facing an "imminent threat" of nuclear destruction and was left with no choice but to act aggressively in the "12th hour."

"We were facing an imminent threat, a dual existential threat," he stated.

Iran Rushing To Weaponise... : Netanyahu

Israeli PM said, "One, the threat of Iran rushing to weaponise their enriched uranium to make atomic bombs with a specific and declared intent to destroy us."

"Second, a rush to increase their ballistic missile arsenal to a capacity of 3,600 weapons a year... Within three years, 10,000 ballistic missiles, each weighing a ton, coming in at Mach 6, right into our cities, as you saw today... and then in 26 years, 20,000 [missiles]. No country can sustain that, and certainly not a country the size of Israel, so we had to act," he said.

Iran-Israel Conflict he tensions between the two nations rose, and Iran has since retaliated with a large-scale ballistic missile attack on Israeli cities.

As per ANI, Netanyahu told Fox News that he believes Israel's offensive measures have set back the Iranian nuclear program "quite a bit." He added that his country is prepared to do whatever is necessary to eliminate the nuclear and ballistic missile threat Iran poses to the world.

Operation Rising Lion

Netanyahu also described the operation, codenamed 'Operation Rising Lion', as "one of the greatest military operations in history."

UK PM Keir Starmer appoints MI6 spy agency's first-ever female chief

LONDON: Prime Minister Keir Starmer has announced the "historic" appointment of Blaise Metreweli as the first female chief of the UK's Secret Intelligence Service, commonly known as MI6, in the 116-year history of the organisation.

Commonly referred to as 'C', the international spy agency's chief has operational responsibility for MI6 and is the only publicly named member of the organisation, accountable to Foreign Secretary David Lammy.

Metreweli, 47, has been promoted from current role as Director General, or 'Q', responsible for technology and innovation in MI6 and has previously held a director-level role at MI5 – the UK's domestic security service.

"The historic appointment of Blaise Metreweli comes at a time when the work of our intelligence services has never been more vital," Starmer said on Sunday.

"The United Kingdom is facing threats on an unprecedented scale – be it aggressors who send their spy ships to our waters or hackers whose sophisticated cyber plots seek to disrupt our public services," he said.

Metreweli will succeed Sir Richard Moore, who leaves the service in the autumn later this year.

"I'd like to thank Sir Richard Moore for his dedicated service, and I know

Blaise will continue to provide the excellent leadership needed to defend our country and keep our people safe – the foundation of my Plan for Change," added Starmer.

The new spy chief expressed her pride and honour in leading the security service which she has been a part of since 1999 as a career intelligence officer, having joined the Security Service as a case officer.

"MI6 plays a vital role – with MI5 and GCHQ [Government Communications Headquarters] – in keeping the British people safe and promoting UK interests overseas. I look forward to continuing that work alongside the brave officers and agents of MI6 and our many international partners," said the new 'C'.

Metreweli, who studied Anthropology at Pembroke College, Cambridge University, has spent most of her career in operational roles in the Middle East and Europe.

"With a wealth of experience from across our national security community, Blaise is the ideal candidate to lead MI6 into the future," said her boss David Lammy.

"At a time of global instability and emerging security threats, where technology is power and our adversaries are working ever closer together, Blaise will ensure the UK can tackle these challenges head on to keep Britain safe and secure at

home and abroad," he said.

"Every day, our intelligence services work behind the scenes to protect our national security and compete with our adversaries. That's why I am proud that we are investing an extra GBP 600 million in our intelligence community so they can continue to defend our way of life," added Lammy.

Metreweli will be the 18th chief of MI6 when she takes charge from Moore.

"I am absolutely delighted by this historic appointment of my colleague, Blaise Metreweli to succeed me as 'C'. Blaise is a highly accomplished intelligence officer and leader, and one of our foremost thinkers on technology. I am excited to welcome her as the first female head of MI6," said the outgoing 'C'.

Cabinet Secretary Christopher Wormald said the new C's experience and leadership in the intelligence community will help MI6 protect the "foundation of our national security and project our interests overseas".

"Blaise will be an excellent chief, who will embody the values of the Service and act as a fine role model to its staff. I would also like to thank Sir Richard Moore for his excellent leadership of the Service over the past five years and his contribution to UK national security during that time and over his long career," said Wormald.

224 Killed In Iran, IRGC Officials Dead, Israel Intercepts Aerial Strikes | Key Points In Middle-Eastern Nations' Conflict

Tehran: The conflict between Israel and Iran has been escalating as the nations have exchanged several missile attacks, injuring and killing many. The situation has prompted several leaders from around the world to react.

The tensions reportedly began after Israel began its operation codenamed 'Operation Rising Lion' targeting alleged nuclear and military sites of Iran. Following this, Tehran also launched a ballistic missile attack on the former.

United States President Donald Trump has also repeatedly given his take on the situation, and in a post on the social media platform Truth Social, he emphasised that

Israel and Iran should make a deal.

Here are the top developments in Israel-Iran tensions:

1- 224 Iranians Killed

Iranian Health Ministry official Hossein Kermanpour, in a post on X, said that 224 people in Iran have been killed in Israel's strikes.

2- 3 IRGC Officials Dead

According to ANI, Iranian state media confirmed that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' (IRGC) intelligence chief, Brigadier General Mohammad Kazemi, and his deputy, Hassan Mohaqiq, were killed in an Israeli strike. The Times of Israel reported.

The Times of Israel,



while quoting state media, also reported that another IRGC intelligence officer, Mohsen Bagheri, was also killed in the strike in Tehran.

3- Trump's Mediation

US President Trump, while emphasising on a deal between the two nations wrote in a post,

"Iran and Israel should make a deal, and will make a deal, just like I got India and Pakistan to make, in that case by using TRADE with the United States to bring reason, cohesion, and sanity into the talks with two excellent leaders who were able to quickly make a decision and STOP!"

"Likewise, we will have PEACE, soon, between Israel and Iran! Many calls and meetings now taking place. I do a lot, and never get credit for anything, but that's OK, the PEOPLE understand. MAKE THE MIDDLE EAST GREAT AGAIN!" he added.

4- Israel Intercepts 100 UAVs

Israel Defense Forces (IDF), in a post on X, said that Iran sent more than 100 Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) at Israel and were intercepted.

5- Israel's Strikes In Iran

On Monday (IST), IDF also posted that it concluded a "wide-scale wave of strikes on numerous weapon production sites belonging

to the Quds Force, the IRGC, and the Iranian military, in Tehran."

Indians In Iran

Earlier, in a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that the Indian Embassy in Tehran is monitoring the security situation and engaging Indian students in Iran to ensure their safety. The statement added, "In some cases, students are being relocated with Embassy's facilitation to safer places within Iran. Other feasible options are also under examination. Further updates will follow."

The Embassy is also in touch with 'community leaders' regarding safety, the statement said.

Adani Green Energy tops ESG ratings in power sector by NSE

NEW DELHI: Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) has been ranked first in the ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) ratings in utilities/ power sector by NSE Sustainability Ratings & Analytics Ltd, an entity of the National Stock Exchange (NSE).

Additionally, AGEL is also among the top five entities in ESG ratings assessed from the top 100 listed companies by revenue across the NSE.

NSE recently launched its ESG ratings for listed companies.

NSE's Rating Rationale states AGEL performs well across environment, social and governance parameters. Environmental initiatives are well-integrated, supported by socially responsible practices and effective governance. It demonstrates a mature sustainability approach.

According to NSE Sustainability Ratings & Analytics Ltd, AGEL received an impressive ESG score of 74, the highest within the utilities and power sector. This underscores AGEL's commitment to sustainable practices and its continuous efforts to uphold environmental, social, and governance standards.



AGEL excelled in governance with a score of 76, reflecting the company's robust governance practices, well-organised board structure, and ethical conduct. Its mature approach to risk management further highlights AGEL's commitment to

transparency and accountability.

Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group, highlighted AGEL's dedication to governance and sustainability in its FY25 annual report, stating, "Our governance is of global standards, and our compliance

frameworks are robust and non-negotiable."

The company also earned a high social score of 73, demonstrating its focus on health and safety measures for employees, customer safety, and community welfare initiatives. AGEL's responsible sourcing and efficient supply chain management further reinforced its position as a leader in socially responsible practices.

NSE Sustainability Ratings & Analytics Ltd evaluates companies based on over 2,000 data points, providing a transparent and materiality-based methodology aligned with national and international standards. AGEL's performance reflects its strategy, culture, and values centred on sustainable practices.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) officially approved NSE Sustainability Ratings & Analytics Ltd as a Category 1 ESG Ratings provider on August 13, 2024, further validating the credibility of these assessments.

The detailed analysis highlights transparency and consistency in ESG assessments that have been derived from publicly available information disclosed by AGEL.

Grainspan invests Rs 520cr on grain-based ethanol plants, benefits from Centre's interest subsidy

AHMEDABAD: Encouraged by the Union Food Ministry's interest subsidy scheme, Grainspan Nutrients has invested Rs 520 crore to set up two grain-based ethanol plants in Ahmedabad and is supplying green fuel for blending with petrol.

The two plants, which use maize and rice as feedstock, have a total installed capacity of 350 kilolitres per day.

Grainspan's first grain-based ethanol plant, located at Bhamsara Village in Ahmedabad district, became operational in May 2023 with a capacity of 110 kilolitres per day. This plant was Gujarat's first grain-based ethanol facility.

Enthusied by the success, the company last month commissioned its second facility, which has been built at a cost of Rs 360 crore with an installed capacity of 240 kilolitres per day at the same location.

The company supplies ethanol to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) under the Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP).

"There are three grain-based ethanol plants in Gujarat, of which two facilities are being operated by us. We were the first to set up such a plant in the state, thanks to the central government subsidy," Grainspan Nutrients Pvt Ltd CEO Manoj Khandelwal said here.

He said there is an immense growth potential in ethanol production in India, not only to meet domestic demand but exports also.

Grainspan, which has been into manufacturing of food ingredients since 2014, forayed into ethanol a few years back to diversify its business taking advantage of interest subsidy.

The decision has helped the company increase its turnover which touched Rs 760 crore last fiscal.

Grainspan Ingredients Pvt Ltd CFO Pankit Shah said the company has invested a total of Rs 520 crore in these two plants, which are fully operational.

"The first plant has been set up with the help of Central Government interest subsidy. We have taken a loan of Rs 120 crore for the first plant," he said, adding that there is no interest subsidy on the second plant.

In the 2024-25 Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) that runs from November to October, Grainspan Nutrients will supply around 8 crore litre to OMCs at a fixed rate of nearly

Rs 72 per litre.

In the next ESY, the figure will reach 12 crore litres generating a topline of more than Rs 800 crore.

Apart from grain-based, Gujarat has 13 sugarcane-based distilleries.

Till June 8 of the current ESY, the ethanol blending has reached 18.9 per cent in the state with the supply of nearly 33 crore litres of green fuel.

The Centre has notified various ethanol interest subvention schemes from 2018 to 2022 (in 2021 ethanol production from grain was also included under these schemes) to encourage sugar mills and distilleries to enhance their ethanol production capacities.

Under all these subvention schemes, the government is facilitating project proponents to avail loans from banks/financial institutions. It provides interest subvention at 6 per cent or 50 per cent of the interest, whichever is lower, for a period of five years including one-year moratorium period.

A new interest subvention scheme for cooperative sugar mills has also been notified in March 2025 for conversion of their existing sugarcane-based plants into multi-feed-based ethanol plants.

Grainspan CFO said that the company's turnover rose 20 per cent to Rs 758 crore last fiscal, of which Rs 416 crore came from the food business and Rs 342 crore from ethanol.

Pan-India, many companies and cooperatives have taken advantage of the interest subsidy incentive to set up new or expand ethanol-making capacities with sugarcane and grain (maize and rice) as feedstock.

As a result, India's total ethanol-making capacity has jumped over four times in the last 11 years of the current government.

Till year 2013, ethanol distillation capacity in the country was 421 crore litres.

At present, the ethanol production capacity in the country has reached 1,810 crore litres, which includes 816 crore litres of molasses-based capacity, 136 crore litres of dual feed capacity and 858 crore litres of grain-based capacity.

Additional capacity has led to an increase in percentage of ethanol blending with petrol.

Till year 2013, supply of ethanol to OMCs was only 38 crore litres with blending levels of only 1.53 per cent in 2013-14 ESY.

CAG creates separate vertical for auditing of 1,600 state public sector units

NEW DELHI: Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has set up a separate unit for auditing of about 1,600 public sector undertakings (PSUs) run by various state governments for faster auditing and achieving greater efficiency.

"Very recently a separate vertical has been created. An order has been issued. Once this vertical comes up, one location will have positions for auditing only state PSUs of a particular state," Deputy CAG K S Subramanian (HR, IR, Coord and Legal) said.

This will help in faster auditing of state PSUs and improving efficiency of public enterprises, he said, adding, this is similar to the Central Public Sector Enterprises which are audited by a separate vertical.

Currently, state PSUs are audited by members of senior management which has to do auditing of 4-5 states rather than one particular region, Subramanian said, adding, it takes time.

A separate vertical would help in consolidation of information of all state PSUs and it will be easy for stakeholders to compare, Deputy CAG A M Bajaj said.

There are about 700 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), 1,600 State Public Sector Enterprises (SPSEs), 485 Central Autonomous Bodies (CABs), and more than 700 State Autonomous Bodies.

Riding on the back of

digital transformation, the office of CAG is working on expanding scope of remote auditing to enhance efficiency, transparency, and collaboration.

The planned integration of Generative AI and OCR in voucher verification reduces errors, boosts accuracy, and generates audit leads, while the Standardized Risk Assessment Model, powered by tools like IDEA and Tableau, ensures data-driven, risk-focused audit planning nationwide, Bajaj said.

"Our initial efforts at remote/hybrid audit of GST, stamp duty and registration and public works have been highly successful and encouraging. This has spurred us to fast-track such hybrid audits across the country by engaging with the executives to ensure that they achieve end-to-end digitisation of their work processes," he said.

In fact, he said, this would be one of the important agenda items at the upcoming State Finance Secretaries Conference planned in September 2025.

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In fact, he said, this would be one of the important agenda items at the upcoming State Finance Secretaries Conference planned in September 2025.

Clarifying the issue of hiring of empanelled CA firms for auditing of central autonomous bodies, he said the move will not undermine the autonomy of apex audit body but strengthen the auditing process.

He said the office of CAG is in the process of hiring CA firms for 30 stations or cities, and the list would be finalised in the next two weeks for co-option with the CAG team for auditing of central autonomous bodies.

"We have been auditing every year (autonomous bodies), but need has been felt to augment our audit effort with expert professionals wherever required," he said when asked for a reaction on a CPM MP objecting to hiring of CA firms claiming that it would dilute the independence of the CAG.

Madurai MP S Venkatesan (CPM) wrote a letter to President Droupadi Murmu on June 3 objecting to the CAG's move, claiming that it dilutes the independence of the CAG and principles envisaged by the Constitution.

The co-option of CA firms will strengthen the auditing process, he said, audit responsibilities have gone up manifold and autonomous bodies have become very big.

When Will Gautam Gambhir Join Indian team In England After Returning Home Due To Family Emergency? Know Here

Lodon: Indian men's head coach Gautam Gambhir returned to India due to a family emergency on Saturday June 14. He had to fly to India as his mother had suffered a heart attack. So the talking point is when will the former cricketer return back to England to join the ShubmanGill led Indian team for his coach duties. According to Sports Tak, Gambhir's mother's condition has improved, pacemaker was implanted, she is still at hospital under all the precautionary health guidance and measures but Gambhir can now return to England. The same report states that Gambhir will return to England tonight to join the team.

India's First Battle At Leeds

The first match of a series is always crucial as it always sets the right



momentum for a long series ahead. India will face England in a 5-match Test series starting from June 20 at Headingley, Leeds. This will mark a new era for the team as it will be newly appointed captain Shubman Gill's first test as a skipper.

He is India's 37th Test captain and took the baton from Rohit Sharma who called it a day from this format. Along with Rohit, even Virat Kohli has announced his retire-

ment and this series will be a perfect stage for youngsters to prove their metal.

While the rest of the squad seems settled with KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal that did incredibly well in Australia confirmed as openers, the headache for coach and captain will be how to fit both Karun Nair and Sai Sudarshan in the squad. Gill who batted no.3 in Australia is yet to confirm his batting position too. Shardul Tahkur or

Nitish Reddy, is also a tough pick for the management specially after Thakur's brilliant hundred in the Intrasquad game.

India Test Squad -
Shubman Gill (c), Rishabh Pant (wk), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Karun Nair, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Ravindra Jadeja, Dhruv Jurel (wk), Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav

England Test Squad For First Test -
Ben Duckett, Joe Root, Zak Crawley, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (c), Jacob Bethell, Chris Woakes, Ollie Pope, Jamie Smith, Samuel James Cook, Brydon Carse, Shoaib Bashir, Josh Tongue, Jamie Overton

Kuldeep Yadav Reveals Who Now Sits On Rohit Sharma's Seat In Team Bus

Mumbai: India's left-arm wrist spinner, Kuldeep Yadav, has opened up about a small yet sentimental shift in the Indian cricket team who now sits on Rohit Sharma's seat on the team bus after the legendary opener's retirement from Test cricket.

Rohit's Retirement Leaves A Void

Rohit Sharma, one of India's most beloved cricketers, retired from Test cricket last month ahead of the England series. Known not just for his batting but also for his camaraderie off the field, Rohit's presence will be missed especially on the team bus, where he had a designated spot.

Speaking to India Today, Kuldeep Yadav revealed that he now sits on Rohit's seat, but clarified that it's not about replacing Rohit's legacy.

"Uspe main baithta hu (I sit there). I can never take Rohit bhai's

place," Kuldeep said.

Kuldeep added that he prefers sitting there because it brings him closer to Ravindra Jadeja, his current spin partner.

"It's just that I am spending more time with Jaddu bhai. It's important as a spinner for me because Ash bhai is not there," he explained.

With Ravichandran Ashwin no longer in the mix, Kuldeep believes it is essential to build strong coordination with Jadeja, especially in a spin-friendly setup.

Chance for Kuldeep in England?

Kuldeep's role in the upcoming England tour is still uncertain. He last played a Test in England during the 2018 tour, and wasn't part of the playing XI in 2021.

India has named three spinners in the squad: Kuldeep Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja, and Washington Sundar.

'His Decision To Prioritise IPL Over National Team...' Mitchell Johnson Slams Josh Hazlewood For Prioritizing RCB Over Australia

Sydney: Former Australian cricketer and part of World Cup winning team Mitchell Johnson has questioned their current premier fast bowler Josh Hazlewood after Australia's World Test Championship final loss. South Africa defeated Australia by five wickets at Lords' Cricket Ground winning the WTC for the first time becoming the third team to win the prestigious mace. Johnson slammed Hazlewood for prioritizing Indian Premier League (IPL) over national duties. Hazlewood returned to IPL despite not being 100% fit. He played a major role in RCB's win against Punjab Kings in the final breaking their 17-year long trophy drought. The decision has not been taken well by his former teammate and Johnson has questioned his credibility focusing money over the nation.

Mitchell wrote in his column in West Australian regarding the concerns and the reasons for Australia's defeat.

"We've seen concerns about Hazlewood's fitness in recent years, and his

decision to prioritise returning to the delayed Indian Premier League over his national team preparations raised eyebrows," he wrote.

Despite Australia's pace trio wreaking havoc in the first inning bundling SA out for 138 in the first inning, they were unable to get the batters out in the second innings and a tricky total of 282 was chased. Hazlewood finished the game with figures of 2/85 in 34 overs which is nowhere close to his legacy.

Johnson also asked the selectors to break the Quartet of Australian bowling lineup- Josh Hazlewood, Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon as he believes they have past their prime and management should look beyond them.

"Our successful 'big four' bowling attack of Mitchell Starc, Hazlewood, Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon can't be taken for granted as a lock going forward either. If veteran players are sticking around just for the Ashes as a send-off, it does beg the question of whether that's the right mindset.

India To Face Pakistan For First Time After Operation Sindoor, Know The Match, Venue And Confirmed date

Mumbi: Arch Rivals India and Pakistan will be up against each other for the first time after Operation Sindoor done by India. The Operation was in response to innocent lives taken at Pahalgam by terrorists. The high escalating tension has created a clear growing rift and the diplomatic relations between the two neighboring countries are worse than ever.

This will be the first time both the countries will engage in a cricket match post the tensions. Cricket has been both a messenger of peace and also a stage to settle the scores often. India has been way ahead of any Pakistan team irrespective of the format, age group or gender. So the epic rivalry returns. Here's the Date, Venue and more -

Hybrid Model To Continue

The 2025 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup is all set to be played from September 30. Hosts India will face Sri Lanka in the tournament opener at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.



Notably as both India and Pakistan have decided not to travel or play in either of the countries, confirmed by BCCI and PCB during Champions Trophy 2025, Pakistan will play all of their games in Colombo, Sri Lanka under a hybrid mode.

India VS Pakistan On October 5

The Indian women's cricket team will lock horns with Pakistan Women's team on October 5 at the Premadasa International

Cricket Stadium in Colombo. Amidst all the tensions between the two countries, the battle will be one for ages where viewership records will see a new high. The round-robin stage of the tournament runs until October 26. The semifinals are set for October 29 and 30, with the final on November 2.

World Cup: The Countdown Starts

The last time both the teams clashed was during T20 World Cup 2024

where India W comfortably defeated Pakistan W by 6 wickets. Arundhati Reddy was the Man of the match of that game taking 3 wickets for 19 runs in her four over spell.

India Women are currently at English soil to play a five-match T20 series against England women. After this series, the team will then play a 3-match ODI series against England Women. After this assignment Harmanpreet Kaur and Co. will play a 3-match ODI series against Australia at home.

CM Omar Abdullah calls for joint efforts to restore, revive J&K Tourism

Highlights adventure tourism, infrastructure boost, new destinations



SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today held an interactive session with a visiting delegation of the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) and acknowledged their continued interest and efforts in promoting Jammu and Kashmir as a premier tourist destination.

The interaction was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Commissioner Secretary Tourism Yasha Mudgal, Director Tourism Kashmir Raja Yaqoob Farooq, President IATO Ravi Gosain, senior officials, key tourism stakeholders and IATO office bearers.

"We are very grateful to IATO for coming here and organizing this visit, because trust works both ways. Your presence assures us that we are on the right path," the Chief Minister remarked while addressing the gathering.

Referring to the tragic incident in earlier this year, the Chief Minister said, "To call it unfortunate would be an understatement. It impacted not just 26 families directly but affected the confidence of many more. Just when the season had begun to look promising, the downturn by mid-June was quite telling."

Highlighting the resilience of the tourism sector, Omar Abdullah expressed optimism about the revival. "Since the 2022 season, we've seen a surge in tourist vehicles. It was encouraging to see Srinagar bustling with activity, taxis with luggage on rooftops heading to Pahalgam, Gulmarg, and beyond."

He stressed that the goal is not to have tourists visit Kashmir just once. "We want them to return again and again. That's why your feedback is essential—for improving the experience, enhancing infrastructure and expanding the adventure tourism potential."

Touching on the progress of developing nine new destinations, the Chief Minister said the government is working closely with the Government of India to develop and operationalize them. "Destinations across both Jammu and Kashmir hold immense tourism potential, and both regions will be equally promoted."

On infrastructure and connectivity, the Chief Minister noted the popularity of the new train services to Kashmir and promised to take up the issue of capacity constraints with the Ministry of Railways. "The demand is growing, and we will explore increasing train length and frequency."

He also underscored the importance of reopening destinations that were temporarily shut post-tragedy. "We have begun this process. It's a matter of restoring confidence—for tourists and for ourselves."

Addressing the scope for adventure tourism, Omar Abdullah mentioned new ideas being explored in places like Betab Valley in Pahalgam and Gulmarg. "Zip-lining, mountain biking, and summer trekking could redefine these locations. We're in touch with national-level adventure infrastructure providers to bring these ideas to life."

He also welcomed IATO's proposal for a promotional tourism event later this year. "We look forward to sending a sizable delegation from J&K, both government and private stakeholders, to showcase the valley's offerings."

President IATO Ravi Gosain, in his address, assured full support from the Association in promoting Kashmir across domestic and international markets. "We are committed to showcasing Kashmir's beauty and culture to the world," he said.

The Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to the visiting delegation and reaffirmed the government's commitment to elevating Kashmir's tourism potential through partnership, innovation and sustained promotional efforts.

Earlier during the interaction, the visiting IATO delegation also shared their observations, feedback and valuable suggestions regarding their visit to the Valley and the way forward for tourism revival in the aftermath of the tragic April 22 terror attack at Baisaran that targeted tourists.

They appreciated the efforts of the government in restoring a sense of security and normalcy, while also emphasizing the need for sustained confidence-building measures, better infrastructure and targeted promotional campaigns to reassure both domestic and international travelers. The delegates reiterated their commitment to partner with the government in repositioning Jammu and Kashmir as a safe, premier and vibrant travel destination.

Committee on Public undertakings holds introductory-cum-review meeting

SRINAGAR: The Committee on Public Undertakings of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened an introductory-cum-review meeting at the Assembly Complex, Srinagar.

The meeting was presided over by Committee Chairman, Ali Mohammad Sagar and attended by the members including Ali Mohammad Dar, Baldev Raj Sharma, Mir Mohammad Fayaz, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Showkat Hussain Ganai, Said U Din Bhat and Tanvir Sadiq.

The Chairman emphasised the importance of proactive participation from all members and officials in strengthening the operations and efficiency of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

He highlighted the urgent need to take concrete steps for revival of loss-making Corporations. He stressed the importance of robust audits and evaluations to ensure added transparency and accountability. He instructed the concerned departments to submit the status of public undertak-



ings along with audit reports to enable informed decision-making and reforms.

"The aim of the Committee is to ensure that our public undertakings are functional, contributing to economic development and creating business and employment opportunities for the people," said the Chairman.

During the session, the Principal Accountant General informed on the audit procedures and offered recommendations to further enhance the performance of public sector corporations in Jammu and Kashmir.

Emphasis was given on holding Corporation wise review meetings, while members of the Committee committed to work collectively for improvement in the sector.

They also gave their suggestions regarding various issues pertaining to the sector.

Also present in the meeting were JPN Singh, Principal Accountant General J&K, Srinagar; Manoj Pandita, Secretary Legislative Assembly, Director General Accounts and Treasuries, Director General Expenditure Finance and other concerned officers.

Rana reviews water supply schemes in Pir Panjal region

SRINAGAR, Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, today conducted a comprehensive review of functioning of Water Supply Schemes in Pir Panjal Region at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting, which was attended by Director Finance, Director Planning,

Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti, aimed to assess the current status of water supply infrastructure and identify the areas for improvement.

During the review, the Minister emphasized the importance of meticulous planning for the ensuing year to ensure uninterrupted water supply to the residents of the region. He directed the concerned departments to prepare detailed plans, taking into account the region's specific needs and challenges.



The Minister also stressed the need for regular water quality tests to ensure the provision of safe drinking water to the public. He directed the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) officials to prioritize water quality monitoring and take corrective measures wherever necessary.

The meeting also reviewed the progress on the ongoing projects of Water Supply Schemes in the region.

Rana expressed concern over delays and directed the concerned officers to fast-track the completion of these projects, ensuring high-quality workmanship.

The Minister also

reviewed the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission in the Pir Panjal Region. He emphasized the importance of community participation and involvement in ensuring the sustainability of water supply schemes.

The Minister reaffirmed the commitment of J&K Government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah towards providing safe and reliable drinking water to the residents of J&K including the Pir Panjal Region. He assured that his department would work tirelessly to address the region's water supply challenges and ensure the well-being of its residents.

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