



Amit Shah orders multi-layered security shield for Amarnath Yatra

Directs tech-driven security cover for pilgrims

Chairs high-level meet in Delhi, says pilgrim safety priority of PM Modi-led Govt

Asks officials to ensure seamless coordination, strict weather monitoring

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jun 12: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting in the national capital to review security preparedness for the upcoming Amarnath Yatra, with a strong focus on ensuring a safe and smooth pilgrimage for devotees.

During the meeting, Shah stressed that the



safety of pilgrims remains the top priority of the PM Modi-led government.

Shah directed officials to put in place a comprehensive, multi-layered security grid along the Yatra routes through close coordination between Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), the Jammu and Kashmir Police, and other security agencies.

The meeting was attended by the National Security Advisor (NSA), Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, the Army Chief, Director General of CRPF, and other senior officials.

During the meeting, he said emphasis was laid on integrating modern technology with traditional security mechanisms. Officials were asked to ensure extensive deployment

of drones, CCTV surveillance, and advanced monitoring systems to further strengthen situational awareness and threat response capabilities.

The Home Minister also instructed that senior officers from CAPFs and the Jammu and Kashmir Police be deployed at key camp locations to maintain continuous oversight of arrangements on the ground throughout the duration of the Yatra.

Reviewing logistical preparedness, the Home Minister underlined the need for robust arrangements for registration of pilgrims, accommodation, healthcare services, and disaster management. He called for seamless coordination among departments to ensure that essential services are delivered efficiently.

In a move to streamline management and enhance accountability, | More on P6

CM Omar flags airport closure concerns with Defence, Civil Aviation ministers

Seeks to save autumn tourism from October airport shutdown

KT News Desk

New Delhi, Jun 12: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has separately met Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Minister for Civil Aviation Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu in New Delhi and raised concerns over the proposed closure of Srinagar International Airport from October 1 to 16, 2026, scheduled under Phase III of the runway resurfacing project.

During the meetings, the CM underscored the importance of maintaining uninterrupted air connectivity to J&K, particularly during the peak autumn tourism season when the Valley attracts a large number of visitors from across the country.

While acknowledging that the resurfacing works are essential for operational safety and fully respecting the operational assessment of the Indian Air Force, CM Omar Abdullah expressed concern over the timing of the final phase of the project, which coincides with one of the busiest periods for the tourism sector.

The CM informed the Union Ministers that air services to the Valley have already been curtailed since April owing to the earlier phases of the resurfacing programme.

He noted that a complete suspension of flights during the first half of October would



adversely affect tourism, hospitality, transport, handicrafts and allied sectors that sustain thousands of livelihoods across J&K.

Highlighting the broader economic implications, CM Omar Abdullah said the proposed closure could lead to large-scale travel disruptions and cancellations, causing inconvenience to residents and visitors alike while impacting business activity during a crucial tourism season.

In his meeting with the Defence Minister, the CM requested that the Indian Air Force examine the possibility of shortening or phasing the final stage of the runway works without compromising safety or operational requirements.

He requested that, in the

event of a complete closure of Srinagar Airport becomes unavoidable, minimal civil flight operations, commensurate with the operational capacity of the Awantipora Air Base, may be permitted from the air base during the closure period to ensure essential air connectivity for the region.

Recalling his earlier tenure as CM, Omar Abdullah noted that during the runway resurfacing works in September 2010, civil flights had successfully operated from Awantipora under a co-ordinated arrangement involving the Ministries of Defence and Civil Aviation.

"We are working on possible alternatives to minimise the disruption and maintain a basic flight schedule as was done in the past | More on P6

LG Sinha calls on Home Minister in New Delhi

KT News Desk

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi. MHA posted on X: "Jammu and Kashmir

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha met with the Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri@ Amit Shah today."

Earlier, the Union Home Minister chaired a high level meeting in the National Capital and reviewed Amarnath Yatra preparations. The meeting was attended by Jammu

and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, the Union Home Secretary, Army Chief, Intelligence Bureau Director, senior officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs, security agencies and the Jammu and Kashmir administration. KNO

BREIF NEWS

LG Sinha, CM Omar express grief over JKAS officer's demise

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday expressed deep grief over the untimely passing of Muhammad Younis Mir, an officer of the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS). Mir, a 2019-batch Junior Scale JKAS officer, was presently serving as Assistant | More on P6

Over 42 lakh inoperative bank accounts in J&K

The number of inoperative bank accounts in Jammu and Kashmir has crossed the 42 lakh mark, official data has revealed. According to the figures, the total number of inoperative accounts in the Union Territory surged to 4212670 as on December 31, 2025, marking an increase | More on P6

MeT forecasts rain, storms across J&K

Srinagar records 31.5°C, Jammu 41.8°C Sajid Raina

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast rain, thunderstorms and gusty winds across Jammu and Kashmir over the coming days, while warning of flash floods and mudslides in | More on P6

Driver dead, 2 sisters injured as school bus falls into gorge at Chadoora

Naveed Ul Haq Ganaiee

A driver was killed while two minor sisters sustained injuries after a school bus met with an accident in the Chadoora area of central Kashmir's Budgam district on Friday, officials said. A school | More on P6

BJP won't topple J&K Govt, it will collapse on its own: LoP Sunil Sharma

Yogesh

Jammu, Jun 12: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly and senior BJP leader Sunil Sharma on Friday said the present government in the Union Territory would "collapse on its own," asserting that the Bharatiya Janata Party would neither play a role in toppling it nor in forming it.

Speaking to reporters in Jammu, Sharma, termed the political situation in the UT as unstable, claiming the government was bound to fall due to internal contradictions.

Targeting the National Conference, he said the party had built its politics around Article 370 but was now sending mixed signals to the public.

Referring to recent developments, including meetings between Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sharma said the party's stand appeared inconsistent.

He said that the NC's relevance and clarity had weakened over time, alleging



erosion in its support base.

Sharma also claimed that senior leaders, including Farooq Abdullah, had changed their tone following recent political engagements, indicating a shift in the party's position.

The BJP leader further alleged that there were back-channel attempts to engineer defections, while maintaining that his party had no involvement in such efforts.

"The government will fall on its own. The BJP will neither form it nor make it fall," Sharma said, adding that the present dispensation would not complete its full term, without specifying any timeline. KNO

Hi-tech security grid, mock drills mark final push for Amarnath Yatra in Anantnag

SSP Anantnag says 28 elevated bunkers, watchtowers established along yatra route

Over 400 advanced CCTV cameras, sniper deployments in place

Umair Gul Ganaie

Anantnag, Jun 12: Authorities have stepped up Amarnath Yatra preparations in south Kashmir's Anantnag district with advanced surveillance systems, mock drills, and a strengthened security grid ahead of the pilgrimage beginning July 3.

With over 400 CCTV cameras, facial recognition technology, elevated bunkers and specialised security units deployed along the route, officials say extensive measures are in place to ensure a safe and smooth yatra.

The annual Amarnath Yatra attracts thousands of pilgrims from across the country and remains one of Jammu and Kashmir's largest religious pilgrimages.

Authorities intensified preparations for the Amarnath Yatra with hi-tech surveillance systems being installed and mock drills conducted to ensure a safe and smooth pilgrimage.

As part of the arrangements,



advanced surveillance infrastructure, including CCTV cameras and monitoring equipment, has been set up at key locations along the Yatra route and base camps.

Security agencies, police, and the civil administration are working in close coordination to strengthen security and emergency response mechanisms.

Officials said mock drills are being conducted at various

locations to assess preparedness and improve coordination among different agencies in handling potential emergencies.

A mock drill was conducted on Friday at the Nunwan Base Camp in Pahalgam.

Speaking to the news agency KNO, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Anantnag, Amod Nagpure, said the Amarnath Yatra is scheduled to commence | More on P6

Cong high command sets up 3-member panel to probe J&K unit's infighting

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Jun 12: The Congress high command today constituted a three-member committee to look into reports of "indiscipline and anti-party activities" in its Jammu and Kashmir unit.

As per an order issued by AICC General Secretary K.C. Venugopal, a copy of which is in possession of news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Congress President has approved the proposal for the committee with immediate effect.

Rajya Sabha MP Shaktisinh Gohil has been appointed as convener of the panel. The other members are Dr. Amar Singh and Rafeek Khan.

"The committee will look into the reported indiscipline and anti-party activities in Jammu and Kashmir," the press release reads.

The move comes close on the heels of the Congress high command summoning J&K's top leaders to New Delhi and giving a dressing down to a few of them over infighting and dissent within the party. Once a major player in J&K politics, Congress has been reduced to the fringes of J&K politics. KNO

Knee-deep in hope, Kashmir farmers carry forward Thaejkaad tradition

Push to complete paddy transplantation before June 21 despite heat, water shortages

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Jun 12: Despite intense heat and water shortages in some areas, Kashmir's annual paddy transplantation season, Thaejkaad, is underway in full swing as farmers rush to complete the process before the June 21 deadline.

Farmers across the Valley are working collectively to ensure timely transplantation, preserving a centuries-old agrarian tradition while confronting challenges posed by rising temperatures and shrinking water resources.

Thaejkaad, a key phase in Kashmir's agricultural calendar, begins after paddy saplings grown in nurseries are transplanted into prepared fields.

While the practice remains

central to the Valley's farming heritage, experts warn that declining paddy acreage, water scarcity and land-use changes have increased Kashmir's dependence on rice imports from outside Jammu and Kashmir.

Across the Valley, vast stretches of green paddy nurseries have transformed into busy agricultural landscapes.

Fields are alive with activity as farmers, labourers, and family members wade through muddy waters, carefully transplanting young paddy saplings in neat rows.

This year too, alongside local farmers, a large number of non-local labourers have joined the transplantation drive.

While agriculture in many parts of Kashmir increasingly



depends on migrant workers, the current season has witnessed remarkable community participation.

Men, women, and even children from farming households are actively contributing to the labour-intensive process, working collectively

to ensure timely completion of transplantation.

Ghulam Muhammad Bhat, a veteran farmer from Litter in south Kashmir's Pulwama district, said that weather remained dry this year and paddy plantation is going as per schedule though there

are some areas where people are suffering due to water shortages.

"Although temperatures have been unusually high, farmers are leaving no stone unturned to finish the work before June 21. Completing transplantation within this period is considered essential for obtaining a good harvest," he said.

Bhat said that in areas where irrigation facilities remain functional, many cultivators have hired experienced non-local labourers to accelerate the transplantation process.

"Every piece of cultivable land is valuable. We are trying to utilise every available patch before moisture levels decline further. Timely transplantation is critical for the success

of the crop," he said.

Throughout south, central, and north Kashmir, the sight of people standing knee-deep in waterlogged fields has become common.

The rhythmic movement of workers planting saplings against the backdrop of Kashmir's picturesque countryside presents a timeless image of the Valley's agrarian life.

For farmers, however, Thaejkaad represents much more than an agricultural task.

Many describe it as a cherished cultural tradition passed down through generations.

"Agriculture is closely linked with our identity and heritage. Thaejkaad is not merely about planting rice, it is a season | More on P6

Govt committed to strengthen healthcare infrastructure, patient care across J&K: Sakeena Itoo

Announces additional block for Gousia Hospital Khanyar

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUNE 12: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, Friday said that the government is committed towards strengthening the healthcare infrastructure and ensuring quality patient care across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister, as per an official statement, made these remarks during her day-long tour of healthcare institutions and medical facilities in the Khanyar and Hazratbal constituencies.

She was accompanied by MLA Khanyar, Ali Mohammad Sagar and MLA Hazratbal, Salman Ali Sagar besides others.

During the tour, the Minister visited the Urban Public Health Centre (UPHC) at S.R. Gunj and inspected the ongoing upgradation works. She directed the concerned authorities to expedite completion of the remaining works, including the rooftop, approach road and lift facility, so that the upgraded facility can be dedicated to the public at the earliest.

Sakeena Itoo said that the health centre is a significant project designed while preserving the area's local heritage which will greatly enhance healthcare services for the residents.

The Minister also visited Gousia Hospital, Khanyar, where she announced construction of an



additional block on a nearby identified site to improve healthcare facilities for the local population and address the issues of space constraints and parking.

She directed the concerned departments to ensure all required formalities are completed promptly and the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is prepared for the project.

Inspecting the Sub-District Hospital (SDH) at Habbak Chowk, Hazratbal, the Minister announced that work on the approved 50-bedded hospital block will commence

shortly.

"I am thankful to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for approving this important project. I also appreciate the consistent efforts of local MLA Salman Ali Sagar in pursuing this matter and securing its approval," she said.

The Minister stated that the government is focused on ensuring better patient care and modern healthcare facilities so that the people, particularly the economically weaker sections, do not have to depend on private hospitals for

quality treatment.

She highlighted that significant improvement has been witnessed in the health sector. She informed that around 400 new doctors are being deployed across Jammu and Kashmir to address the staff shortages and improve service delivery.

"We are identifying and addressing the existing gaps in the healthcare system. Our objective is to provide accessible, affordable and quality healthcare to every citizen," she said.

The Minister assured that the

foundation stone for the new projects would be laid soon and that regular monitoring would be undertaken to ensure their timely completion and dedication to the public. She also appealed to the public to contribute towards maintaining cleanliness and sanitation in healthcare institutions, stressing that community participation is essential for better healthcare outcomes.

Speaking on the occasion, the local legislators expressed gratitude to the Minister for her proactive approach towards strengthening the healthcare services and infrastructure in their respective constituencies.

Later, the Minister visited Burzahama and directed the concerned authorities to identify suitable land for construction of a Primary Health Centre (PHC) to cater to the healthcare needs of the local population.

During her tour, several individual and public delegations met the Minister and apprised her of various issues and demands. She assured them that all their genuine concerns would be examined and addressed on priority.

Senior officers including MD KPDCI, VCLMA, Director School Education Kashmir, Principal GMC Srinagar, Chief Engineer R&B, ADC Srinagar and other senior officers from concerned departments also accompanied the Minister during the tour.

Saurabh Bhagat reviews e-Office 2.0 implementation, telecom connectivity, CSC Initiatives



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUNE 12: Commissioner Secretary, Information Technology and Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Departments, Saurabh Bhagat, Friday chaired a review meeting with the Deputy Commissioners and senior officers to assess the progress of key digital governance and citizen service delivery initiatives being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of e-Office 2.0 implementation was undertaken. The Commissioner Secretary, as per an official statement, emphasized the need for complete adoption of digital workflows across the government offices to enhance efficiency, transparency and accountability in public administration. He directed all the concerned officers to ensure effective

utilization of the platform and further strengthen digital governance practices.

He reviewed the status of telecom connectivity and related infrastructure projects being executed across the Union Territory. He also had detailed discussion on improving digital connectivity, facilitating seamless implementation of telecom initiatives and addressing the issues requiring inter-departmental coordination. He asked the Deputy Commissioners and concerned departments to expedite the pending matters and ensure timely progress of the ongoing projects. The functioning of Common Service Centres (CSCs) and other citizen-centric digital service delivery platforms was also reviewed. Emphasis was laid on strengthening the last-mile delivery of services, expanding access to digital facilities in remote and underserved areas and improving the overall quality of citizen services.

The Commissioner Secretary reviewed the Aadhaar-related service delivery issues and directed the concerned stakeholders to ensure seamless access to Aadhaar-enabled services for citizens. He emphasized timely resolution of the operational issues, improved coordination among implementing agencies and strengthening mechanisms for efficient public service delivery.

DC Kulgam reviews functioning of Revenue Department

KT News Desk

KULGAM, JUNE 12: A comprehensive review meeting of the Revenue Department was held Friday under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam to assess the progress of various revenue-related initiatives and ensure timely delivery of public services.

During the meeting, a detailed review was conducted regarding the digitization of revenue records across the district.

Emphasis was laid on clearing the backlog of mutations and expediting the process of attestation and updation of revenue records.

The progress achieved in the sub-parcellization of cadastral maps was also reviewed, with directions issued for accelerating the work to ensure accurate land record management.

The Deputy Commissioner, as per an official statement, reviewed the status of live uploading of Jamabandies on the JK Zameen Sudhar Portal and stressed the need for maintaining accuracy and timeliness in data entry.

The disposal of grievances received



through the JK Zameen Sudhar Portal was also examined, and officers were directed to ensure prompt redressal of public complaints.

The meeting further reviewed the generation and distribution of Property Cards under the SVAMITVA Scheme. Concerned officers were instructed to complete the remaining work within the stipulated timelines so that citizens can fully benefit from the scheme.

Progress regarding the disposal of applications received through the JanSugam and Revenue Plus portals under the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA) was also discussed. The

Deputy Commissioner emphasized timely disposal of applications and directed officers to adhere strictly to prescribed service delivery timelines. In addition, the status of other public grievances pertaining to the Revenue Department was also reviewed.

He instructed all revenue officers to maintain close monitoring of pending cases and ensure efficient, transparent, and citizen-centric service delivery.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of the Revenue Department, including district and tehsil-level functionaries.

Aadhar saturation, operationalization of Aadhar centres reviewed in Anantnag

KT News Desk

ANANTNAG, JUNE 12: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Anantnag, Vikas Ahlawat, Friday chaired a meeting at DC Office to review the progress of Aadhar saturation and the operationalization of Aadhar centres across the district.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by the District Programme Officer (Poshan), Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, District Informatics Officer (NIC), Lead District Manager, and representatives of Aadhar agencies associated with ICDS and Education Departments.

During the meeting, a detailed review of the current status of Aadhar enrolment and updation was undertaken. The ADCDC emphasized the need to ensure complete Aadhaar coverage and the smooth functioning of all Aadhaar Centres to facilitate timely and hassle-free services to the public.

Ahlawat directed all concerned departments to update the email to Gov mail and ensure mandatory biometric updation in an expedient manner. Education department was asked to update the mismatch between school records and Aadhar Cards while Health and Education Departments were instructed to immediately make the non-functional kits operational. Further, directives were issued to LDM to make all inactive Aadhar centres functional within next 15 days.

NMBA GDC Bandipora organises rally, pledge ceremony, essay competition

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, JUNE 12: Government Degree College Bandipora on Friday organised a series of activities under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) to raise awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse and to promote a drug-free society.

Under the guidance of the Principal, Prof. Suresh Kumar Dogra, the Red Ribbon Youth Club in collaboration with the NCORD Cell organised an awareness rally on substance abuse under the patronage of Dr. Mehrajuddin Talie. Students and faculty members participated enthusiastically in the rally, carrying NMBA banners and raising anti-drug slogans to spread awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse.

The rally, as per an official statement, aimed to sensitise the public, particularly the youth, about the social, economic and health consequences of substance abuse and to encourage collective

efforts towards building a drug-free society.

Meanwhile, the NSS Unit and Red Ribbon Youth Club of the college jointly organised a pledge ceremony under the leadership of the Principal as part of the NMBA campaign.

During the ceremony, students and faculty members pledged to stay away from drugs and actively spread awareness against substance abuse.

In another activity, the Department of Political Science, HKM Degree College Bandipora, organised an Essay Writing Competition on Drug De-addiction under the patronage of Dr. Ajaz Ahmad. The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, who highlighted through their essays the social, psychological and economic impact of drug addiction and emphasised the importance of preventive measures and awareness.

The programmes reflected the continued commitment of educational institutions towards strengthening awareness and preventive outreach under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW (R&B) DIVISION SHOPIAN
e-mail:- rnbdivisonshopian@gmail.com
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
NIT No: 17/1837-46/RnB/SPN /e-Tendering/2026-27
Dated:- 12-06-2026

For and on behalf of the 1st Governor Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage % basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Major Head of Account	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit in RS.	Class of Contractor	Time of Completion (In days)	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs.)	AAA No / Dt	TS No / Dt
1	Upgradation of Keygam to Haji Check Road	UT Capex Budget (Road Sector) 2025-26	195.512	391024	AAY	18 Months	2600/-	16-SE/PS of 2026 Dated:- 29-04-2026	CE(R&B) SK/TS/26 of 2026-27 Dated:- 03-06-2026.

Position of funds :- Committed
Project Authority= PW(R&B) Department South Kashmir
1. The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below:

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	12-06-2026	
2	Document downloading Start Date.	13-06-2026	From 10.00 A.M
3	Document Downloading End Date.	29-06-2026	upto 2:00 P.M
4	Bid submission Start Date.	13-06-2026	From 10.00 A.M
5	Bid Submission End Date.	29-06-2026	upto 2:00 P.M
6	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	30-06-2026	at 10:00 A.M

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document/Tender Fee to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling

JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG) .
3. All the bidders must deposit Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG)
4. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in cash to the designated authority / Account which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period.
5. The date and time of bid opening shall be notified on the Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and automatically communicated to bidders via an e-mail message sent to their e-mail address. Responsive bidders' bids will be opened online on the same Web Site in the

Office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B) Circle Pulwama/Shopian HQ: Pulwama (tender receiving authority). 5. (A). Bids for the work shall be valid for 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
6. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
6.1 Bidders are advised to download the bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as the "Bidders Manual Kit" option on the website www.jktenders.gov to familiarize themselves with the bid submission process.
6.2 In order to participate in the bidding process, bidders must obtain a 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' under the Information Technology Act of 2000. Any approved Vendor can provide bidders with a digital certificate.
6.3 Bidders must submit their bids in electronic format with a digital signature online. No physical bids will be accepted. 6.4 Bids will be opened online in accordance with the time schedule specified in Para-1.
Bidders must upload online scanned copy of all required documents (within the document upload limits) with their technical bid.
Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.
7 The department will not be held responsible for any delays in online submission due to unanticipated circumstances.
8 The original EMD /Fee receipt (Cost of tender document) and other Uploaded bid documents shall have to be produced on demand by the successful bidder at the time of contract signing.
9 Bidders are advised not to change the contents of the BOQ (Bill of Quantities). They should never attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
10 Bidders should be fully cognizant that if the documents uploaded/submitted on the basis of which the contract was awarded are later discovered to be fake/not genuine, the contract will be cancelled and the Contractor/bidder will be blacklisted from participating in this Division/ Department for a period of three years, in addition to the performance security deposited for the said work being forfeited.
11 Price escalation and Taxes: -The bidder's percentage shall be deemed to include price escalation up to the completion of the work but excluding GST which shall apply as per GST guidelines. Taxes shall be deducted from the contractor's bills on the gross amount of the bill at the time of recovery at the rates in effect at the time of recovery.
NOTE:- Bidders are advised to quote the rates without GST. GST @18% shall be added by the allotting authority at the time of allotment.
12 Bidders are advised to use the "My Documents" area in their R&B e-Tendering portal user account to store any required documents.
13 All bidders must UPLOAD the following information and documents with their bids, in addition to the qualification criteria / qualification information, (All documents pertaining to the bid must be in English):
• All bidders must submit copies of original documents defining their constitution/legal status, place of registration, and principal place of business, as well as their cell phone number and e-mail address.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW (R&B)
DIVISION SHOPIAN

DIPK-2092/26
DATED: 12-06-2026

Aharbal closure continues to hurt livelihoods

Umair Gull Ganie

Kulgam, Jun 12: The prolonged closure of Aharbal tourist destination in south Kashmir's Kulgam district has severely impacted the livelihoods of local tourism stakeholders, prompting renewed calls for its reopening.

While tourism operators and traders report mounting financial distress, Cabinet Minister Sakina Itoo has urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to reopen the destination, while authorities have strengthened security with the installation of a 360-degree surveillance camera.

Known as the 'Niagara of Kashmir', Aharbal is a major tourist attraction and a key source of income for hundreds of local families.

The destination has remained shut following security concerns, even as tourism activities resumed in many other parts of the Valley.

Stakeholders associated with the famous Aharbal tourist destination are continuing to press for the reopening of the famous tourist destination, saying the prolonged closure has left many families struggling to make ends meet.

Aharbal has remained closed to visitors even as tourism activities have resumed in several other parts of the Valley following the



Pahalgam terror attack last year.

Local tourism operators, transporters, shopkeepers, and tea stall owners said the shutdown has resulted in a sharp decline in earnings during the peak tourist season.

"We sit with our cabs every day, but there are no tourists to take around. The season is

slipping away, and with it our only chance to earn enough for the year," said a local driver.

A shopkeeper from the area said the closure has pushed many families into financial distress.

"Our business depended largely on visitors coming to Aharbal. Now, the shutters remain

down most of the time. We are not asking for charity, we only want the destination to reopen so that we can earn our livelihood again," he said.

They said the issue is no longer confined to tourism promotion alone but has become a matter of survival for many households whose income is directly linked to tourist footfall.

Cabinet Minister Sakina Itoo has written to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, urging him to consider reopening Aharbal Waterfall at the earliest.

In her communication, a copy of which lies with KNO, Itoo writes, "I would like to draw your kind attention towards Aharbal Waterfall, situated in the south-western part of the Kashmir Valley in Sub-District Damhal Hanjipora, District Kulgam. The destination is widely known as the 'Niagara Waterfall of Kashmir' owing to its breathtaking natural beauty and immense tourism potential.

It is submitted that the tourist destination remained closed during the last year due to prevailing circumstances. However, the law-and-order situation in the area has considerably improved and remains peaceful at present. Consequently, a large number of tourists and visitors are desirous of visiting Aharbal during the ongoing tourist season. In view of the improved situation

and considering the importance of tourism for the local economy and livelihood of the people associated with the tourism sector, I request your goodself to kindly consider reopening the Aharbal tourist destination for visitors at an early date. The reopening of the destination will greatly benefit local residents, tourism stakeholders, and tourists alike."

Authorities have stepped up surveillance measures at the Aharbal.

A PTZ 360-degree CCTV camera has been installed at Aharbal.

Chief Executive Officer Aharbal, Muhammad Rouf Rehman said that Aharbal is a sensitive area and continues to remain closed following the Pahalgam terror attack, due to which local residents are facing financial and economic hardships.

He said a high-resolution 360-degree camera has been installed to strengthen security and surveillance at the Aharbal.

"The camera will rotate on all axes of Aharbal and capture live footage," Rouf said. He said that the system will help deter elements attempting to disturb peace and ensure better monitoring of the area.

He said the Tourism Development Authority, Aharbal, is fully prepared and ready to receive tourists once the destination is declared open—(KNO)

J&K security situation improved, time to review AFSPA: Sakeena Itoo

Rehan Qayoom Mir

Srinagar, Jun 12: Cabinet minister Sakeena Itoo on Friday said the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) should be reconsidered in view of an improved security environment in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking to reporters here after visiting health facilities, Itoo said AFSPA should not continue indefinitely if ground conditions have improved. "If peace has returned and incidents like stone-pelting have stopped, then AFSPA should be withdrawn from Jammu and Kashmir first," she said.

The minister said the restoration of statehood remains a legitimate demand of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. "Statehood is our right. We are demanding what existed earlier," she said, adding that the issue has already been taken up at the highest political level.

Itoo referred to recent engagements between the elected government and the Centre, saying Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had discussed the matter with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and that a formal resolution seeking



restoration of statehood has already been forwarded to New Delhi.

She added that a protest programme at Jantar Mantar in the national capital is also planned to press for the demand further.

Raising concern over the administrative burden on the education sector, the education minister said nearly 14,000 teachers have been deployed for census-related duties, which has significantly

impacted classroom teaching across the Union Territory. "A formal written communication has been sent to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha seeking intervention," she said.

Itoo, who is also the health minister, said the under-construction Srinagar Area Hospital is expected to be completed and handed over within a month, after which full operationalisation will be ensured with manpower and equipment. She later visited Gousia

Hospital Srinagar along with MLAs Ali Mohammad Sagar and Salman Ali Sagar, where she reviewed healthcare delivery and infrastructure gaps.

The hospital, she said, caters to nearly 10,000 patients every month but is facing severe space constraints.

The minister also announced an additional medical block in the adjoining area, stating that a detailed project report (DPR) will be prepared and a prefabricated structure will be taken up initially to avoid disruption in services.

"The government has initiated measures to strengthen the health sector over the past one and a half years, including the appointment of around 500 doctors, with 400 more expected to join shortly," she said.

Itoo said efforts are underway to improve accountability and responsiveness in hospitals, while acknowledging the pressure faced by frontline healthcare workers. "We are continuously working to improve infrastructure and patient care across Jammu and Kashmir," she said—(KNO)

NC biggest obstacle to J&K's progress: Jamal Siddiqui

NAVEED UL HAQ GANAIE

Budgam, Jun 12: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Minority Mocha National President Jamal Siddiqui on Friday accused the National Conference (NC) of hindering Jammu and Kashmir's development and integration with the rest of the country.

Reacting to the NC's proposed Jantar Mantar protest seeking restoration of statehood, Siddiqui said the party had isolated J&K in the past and remained a major barrier to its progress.

The remarks come amid renewed political debate over Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, with the NC pressing for its restoration while the BJP highlighting post-2019 security, infrastructure, and connectivity gains in the Union Territory.

Speaking to reporters in central Kashmir's Budgam district, Siddiqui while reacting to the NC's proposed protest at Jantar Mantar seeking restoration of statehood, said the people of Jammu and Kashmir had witnessed the condition in which the NC had left the region. "They had kept Jammu and Kashmir



isolated from the rest of the country and cut off from our brothers and sisters across India. It took immense efforts by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP workers to unite Jammu, Kashmir, and the rest of the nation," he said.

Siddiqui said that the distances and divides that once existed have disappeared and alleged that the NC could not tolerate the growing integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the country.

"I believe the biggest stumbling block in the path of Jammu and Kashmir's development is the NC and the

Abdullah family. The people should remove this obstacle as soon as possible. If this hurdle is removed, Jammu and Kashmir can truly progress and realise its potential as paradise on earth," he said.

The BJP leader congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for what he described as efforts to bring Jammu and Kashmir into the mainstream.

Referring to security and infrastructure developments, Siddiqui said incidents of stone-pelting and frequent shutdowns due to terrorism had declined significantly.

He said major improvements had been made in road, rail, and air connectivity across Jammu and Kashmir.

"With the construction of tunnels and bridges, road connectivity has improved considerably. Rail infrastructure has seen major development, and Vande Bharat trains are operating in the region. Air travel facilities have also improved, helping connect Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of the country," he said.

WContinued on
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Baramulla achieves 90% RDD flagship schemes' implementation

Waris Fayaz

Baramulla, Jun 12: Director Rural Development Department (RDD) Kashmir, Riyaz Ahmad Wani, on Friday said the implementation of major flagship schemes in Baramulla district has crossed 90 per cent.

"This reflects the commitment and hard work of officials at the grassroots level," Wani, as told media persons here.

He said the government programmes, including MGNREGA, PM Gramin initiatives, rural sanitation schemes and other developmental projects, have achieved more than 90 per cent progress.

"The progress under these flagship programmes is appreciable. I congratulate the ground officials for their efforts and dedication. However, there is always scope for improvement," he said.

The Director said that certain loopholes identified during the review process have been pointed out and would be addressed in the coming days to further strengthen implementation and ensure better outcomes. "We have identified the loopholes and will soon plug them to enhance efficiency and service delivery," he said.

Wani also appealed to people, particularly unemployed job card holders, to actively avail the benefits offered under the schemes.

Highlighting the ongoing agricultural season, he urged beneficiaries to participate in desiltation works of irrigation canals being undertaken under MGNREGA. "At present, desiltation of irrigation canals is being carried out as the farming season is in full swing. People, especially unemployed job card holders, should come forward and benefit from these works to support their livelihoods," he said—(KNO)

Karnataka Assembly Panel meets J&K Speaker



KT News Desk

Srinagar, June 12: In a significant move towards fostering legislative cooperation, the Committee on Petitions of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly held a high-level meeting with the Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly (JKLA), Abdul Rahim Rather and members of the J&K Assembly's Petitions Committee.

The joint session focused on sharing the institutional best practices, evaluating the operational dynamics of house committees and discussing bilateral developmental strategies.

During the extensive deliberations, the delegations from J&K and Karnataka held detailed discussion on the functional mechanisms of their respective Petitions Committees. They emphasized the critical role these committees play in addressing the genuine public grievances, ensuring administrative accountability and translating public petitions into actionable legislative oversight.

Beyond procedural workflows, the meeting served as an important platform to discuss the ongoing development works across both regions. The leaders exchanged insights on executing high-impact public welfare projects and explored new avenues for strategic liaisoning. Both sides agreed that sustained dialogue and institutional partnerships between different states/UTs legislatures are vital for strengthening the democratic frameworks and accelerating governance reforms.

The Speaker JKLA said that the cross-learning initiatives between progressive states and UTs like Karnataka and Jammu and Kashmir provide valuable perspectives on handling the regional development challenges and maximizing the efficacy of house committees.

The discussions focused on the pivotal role of the Committee on Petitions in ensuring executive accountability and addressing the public grievances. Both sides exchanged best practices regarding the scrutiny of government policies, the handling of public petitions and implementation of the

committee recommendations.

The committees also discussed the mechanisms for monitoring development works, highlighting the necessity of rigorous field inspections and the role of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in providing technical support for oversight.

Recognizing the value of shared learning, the leaders agreed to establish a formal channel for liaison. This initiative aims to facilitate the exchange of legislative knowledge and innovative governance practices between J&K and Karnataka.

The Speaker underscored that such interactions are vital for a healthy democracy. He said that robust legislative oversight is the most effective instrument for the public welfare and transparent governance.

The Karnataka delegation expressed their appreciation for the warm hospitality and the insightful exchange of ideas. They said that the unique challenges and success of the J&K Assembly provide valuable lessons for the legislative bodies across the country.

'Excessive screen time harms physical, mental, emotional health'

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Jun 12: The Department of Community Medicine at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar has issued a public awareness advisory cautioning people about the harmful effects of prolonged screen time on physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

Medical experts said that excessive use of smartphones, tablets, computers, and other digital devices is increasingly contributing to a range of health problems across all age groups, particularly among children, adolescents, and young adults. According to the advisory, one of the most common consequences is Digital Eye Strain, which develops when individuals spend extended periods focusing on screens without adequate breaks.

Medical experts said that screen use reduces the natural blinking rate, sometimes by 50 to 60 per cent, leading to dry, irritated, and fatigued eyes, with symptoms including headaches, blurred vision, burning sensations, neck discomfort, and shoulder pain.

The advisory also highlights the growing prevalence of "Tech Neck", a condition caused by poor posture while using digital devices. Experts explained that the human head typically weighs around 5 kilograms, but when tilted forward at angles between 45 and 60 degrees while looking at a phone or laptop, the effective load on the neck can increase to more than 20-25 kilograms. "This excessive strain on the cervical spine can lead to chronic neck pain, back pain, shoulder stiffness and, over time, early spinal degeneration," the advisory states.

Another major concern is the impact of screen exposure on sleep patterns. Screens emit blue light, which suppresses

the production of melatonin - the hormone responsible for regulating sleep - leading to delayed sleep onset, reduced sleep quality, and disrupted circadian rhythm, with consequences including insomnia, daytime fatigue, poor concentration, and mood-related issues.

According to the advisory, excessive screen exposure during childhood may negatively affect brain development, interfering with critical cognitive, language, and social development. Children with high screen exposure may experience delayed language development, reduced attention spans, weaker executive functioning skills, and lower academic performance.

Health professionals expressed concern about the decline in physical activity, saying that sedentary screen time contributes to weight gain, reduced fitness levels, and increased risk of obesity, Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular diseases. The advisory additionally draws attention to psychological effects, linking high screen time to increased levels of anxiety, stress, depression, loneliness, and reduced self-esteem.

To minimise health risks, the department recommends following the 20-20-20 rule (every 20 minutes, look at an object 20 feet away for 20 seconds), taking movement breaks every 30 to 60 minutes, avoiding screen use one to two hours before bedtime, maintaining proper posture, and balancing digital activities with outdoor recreation and physical exercise.

"Your body was designed to move, not to scroll continuously," the advisory states, urging people to limit recreational screen time. "Use screens. Don't let screens use you," the advisory concludes—(KNO)

EDITORIAL

Beyond the Turf

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's assertion that Jammu and Kashmir is building a stronger hockey ecosystem deserves appreciation. The government's recent efforts to revive and strengthen the sport through modern infrastructure, grassroots competitions, and talent identification programmes reflect a welcome commitment to youth development and sporting excellence.

The establishment of synthetic hockey turfs at Srinagar, Pulwama, and Poonch, along with ongoing work at Bandhu Rakh and K K Hakku Stadium in Jammu, marks a significant step forward. For decades, one of the biggest challenges facing aspiring athletes in Jammu and Kashmir has been the lack of adequate facilities. By addressing this gap, the administration has laid a strong foundation for the future of hockey in the region.

Equally encouraging is the growing

emphasis on school-level competitions such as the ALFA Hockey Inter-School Tournament, which provide young players with opportunities to showcase their talent and gain competitive experience. Such initiatives are essential for creating a sustainable pipeline of athletes capable of representing Jammu and Kashmir at national and international levels.

However, infrastructure alone cannot produce champions.

While new grounds and synthetic turfs are important, equal attention must now be directed towards investing in human resources. Coaches, trainers, sports psychologists, physiotherapists, nutritionists and talent scouts are the backbone of any successful sporting ecosystem. Without qualified personnel to nurture and guide young athletes, even the best infrastructure risks remaining underutilised.

The government must therefore expand

coaching programmes, create specialised training centres and ensure that schools have access to qualified hockey coaches. Partnerships with national hockey institutions and former players can help bring expertise and mentorship to aspiring athletes across the Union Territory.

Most importantly, greater investment must be made directly in players, particularly those from economically weaker backgrounds. Many talented youngsters are forced to abandon their sporting ambitions due to financial constraints, lack of equipment, travel expenses or limited access to professional training. Scholarships, stipends, free equipment, hostel facilities and structured development programmes can help ensure that talent is not lost simply because of circumstance.

Special emphasis must also be placed on encouraging girls to take up hockey. Across

Jammu and Kashmir, countless young girls possess the determination and ability to excel in sports, yet social barriers, limited opportunities and inadequate support often prevent them from reaching their potential. Dedicated girls' leagues, female coaching staff, safe training environments and targeted scholarship schemes can help create pathways for greater participation.

The success stories of women athletes from Jammu and Kashmir in recent years demonstrate what is possible when talent is given the right support. Hockey too can become a powerful platform for empowering young women, building confidence, promoting health and creating role models for future generations.

The Lieutenant Governor is right in describing sports as a vehicle for youth empowerment and nation-building. In a region with a young population and immense

sporting potential, investment in sports is also an investment in social development, discipline and opportunity.

The government's efforts thus far deserve recognition and support. Yet this journey cannot stop with the construction of stadiums and playing surfaces. The true measure of success will be seen when boys and girls from villages, towns and cities across Jammu and Kashmir begin consistently earning places in national teams and competing at the highest levels.

That goal is achievable, but only through sustained commitment. The administration must continue building infrastructure while simultaneously investing in people – coaches, support staff and, above all, young athletes themselves. If this momentum is maintained, Jammu and Kashmir can indeed emerge as a cradle of hockey talent and a model for sports development in the country.

Antyodaya in Action

Ensuring Dignity, Opportunity, and Growth for All

Press Information Bureau

For generations, India's most deprived communities have waited at the margins, underserved for long. This has changed over the last 12 years, with the Government adopting Antyodaya as its mantra. Inclusive, and quality education, skilling programmes, livelihood support, infrastructure, and cultural recognition have reached these communities at an unprecedented scale. The guiding objective is clear: to ensure that those who were left behind are placed at the forefront of opportunity and progress.

Antyodaya as a Governance Framework
"Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen," Mahatma Gandhi once advised, "and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him." For decades, this powerful idea was mostly found in books, while millions of Indians were left out of the country's progress.

However, the past twelve years have seen a major change. India has moved from just talking about this ideal to putting it into action. This has ensured that those who were last in line become first in access to opportunity, dignity, and development. The focus has moved from fragmented delivery to saturation-based inclusion.

Tribal habitations saw greater infrastructure expansion. Students from deprived communities gained wider educational access. Sanitation workers received stronger institutional recognition and safety support. Backward and nomadic communities entered the focus of targeted welfare planning.

The change has also been visible geographically. Tribal regions, aspirational districts, and remote habitations became central to development planning and monitoring. Convergence across ministries strengthened last-mile delivery in areas once considered difficult to reach.

Tribal Communities at the Centre of Development

India's tribal communities have always been rich in culture, traditional knowledge, and resilience. What they lacked was equal access to infrastructure and services, like transport, education, healthcare, water, power and employment opportunity. The past 12 years have been about closing that distance – consciously, measurably, and at scale.

The shift has especially been visible in remote habitations including in areas inhabited by Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG). Areas once seen as difficult to reach have become central to development planning and last-mile delivery.

Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN)

In Gariyaband district of Jharkhand, the women of the Kamar PVTG community grew up watching their elders heal with forest herbs. It was a knowledge passed down quietly from mothers to daughters. For years, they sold those herbs raw at whatever price the market offered. The knowledge was theirs. But, the earnings rarely were.

PM JANMAN changed this. Under its Van Dhan Vikas Kendra initiative, 87 of these women came together to build something different. They set up a licensed unit to make Ayurvedic oils, powders, and medicines under the brand Chhattisgarh Herbs, with AYUSH certification. Skills were sharpened through entrepreneurship and digital literacy training. Sales have reached 159.59 lakh since inception. The women now lead production, packaging, and marketing without leaving their village. What was once quiet, inherited wisdom has now become a thriving business.

Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) is a programme targeted towards the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). They are among India's most isolated communities. Many lived without pucca housing, clean water, electricity, or road

access. The government launched PM JANMAN in November 2023 to fill these gaps through coordinated effort of all concerned ministries. The programme targets 75 PVTG communities across 18 states and 1 UT, working through 11 interventions implemented by 9 ministries. Total budgetary outlay is 24,104 crore.

The 11 interventions cover housing, road connectivity, piped water supply, mobile medical units, Anganwadi Centres, hostels, electrification, mobile towers, multipurpose centres, Van Dhan Vikas Kendras, and vocational skilling.

Skilling and Livelihoods through Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs)

A key component of PM JANMAN is the establishment of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs), which support PVTG communities in collecting, processing and selling forest-based products. It thereby creates local employment and income-generation opportunities. National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE) are implementing skilling and entrepreneurship training across 15 states with the support of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED).

Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), now known as PM-JUGA was launched in October 2024. It combines the efforts of 17 ministries and focuses on filling long-standing gaps in tribal-majority villages and PVTG habitations.

Under PM JUGA, the emphasis has increasingly moved from isolated interventions to coordinated, mission-mode delivery across sectors and ministries.

Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)
Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) have emerged as a key intervention for expanding educational opportunities among Scheduled Tribe students. Established in tribal-dominated areas, these residential schools provide quality education, modern infrastructure and holistic development support from Classes VI to XII.

In the past 12 years, the expansion of Eklavya Model Residential Schools has transformed tribal education infrastructure across remote districts. The network grew rapidly after 2018, bringing modern residential schooling and quality education closer to Scheduled Tribe communities that remained underserved for generations.

As of 2026, over 1.56 lakh students are enrolled in 499 schools. 323 more schools are under construction.

Many students enrolled in EMRS became first-generation learners entering structured secondary education systems.

New campuses introduced facilities that were previously unavailable in several remote regions, including smart classrooms, science and computer laboratories, libraries, sports infrastructure, digital learning facilities, and separate hostels for boys and girls

From a Himalayan Village to IIT: Jatin Negi's Story

Sangla village in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district borders Tibet. Winters mean two months without electricity and roads cut off by snow. It is here that Jatin Negi grew up.

He joined an Eklavya Model Residential School in Class 6. Structured learning, regular tests, and teachers who pushed him beyond textbooks changed everything. When his father passed away in Class 12, his teachers held him steady. He took a year off, studied relentlessly, and cleared JEE Advanced with an All-India Rank of 421. He is now studying at IIT Jodhpur.

His village had never heard of an IIT. Jatin's story is one of 597 – the number of EMRS students who cleared JEE and NEET in 2024-25, up from just 2 in 2022-23.

Support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)
Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) play a key role in documenting and preserving tribal

languages, culture, traditions and indigenous knowledge systems. Supported across 29 States and UTs, they undertake research, record oral histories, document cultural practices, and promote awareness of tribal heritage through museums, archives, publications, festivals and outreach activities. TRIs also contribute to policy development and capacity building, ensuring that tribal knowledge informs both scholarship and governance. These efforts are further supported under the Tribal Research, Information, Education, Communication and Events (TRIECE) scheme. It funds research on subjects such as endangered languages, traditional medicine, community forest rights and PVTG livelihoods through institutions including IITs, IIMs, AIIMS, TERI and the Bhasha Research Institute.

Recognising Tribal Heritage and Freedom Fighters

In the past 12 years, the Government has sanctioned 111 Tribal Freedom Fighter Museums across 10 states to honour tribal leaders who fought against colonial rule. Four museums have been inaugurated in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh (2 museums), and Chhattisgarh. Seven more are under construction across Mizoram, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Gujarat, Goa, and Manipur.

Janjatiya Gaurav Divas is observed every year on 15 November, the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. It honours not just one leader, but the entire history of tribal resistance against colonial rule that mainstream India had long overlooked. The 150th Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda was observed as Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh from 15th November 2024 to 15th November 2025.

Justice and Dignity for Scheduled Castes
Scheduled Caste (SC) communities have been at the centre of a targeted development strategy in past 12 years. This strategy combines economic empowerment, educational access, and dedicated budgetary support – moving beyond symbolic inclusion towards substantive equity.

Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyudaya Yojana (PM-AJAY)

Launched in 2021, PM-AJAY focuses on integrated development of Scheduled Caste-majority villages. The scheme supports infrastructure creation, skill development, and livelihood opportunities in underserved SC communities.

Under PM-AJAY, the Adarsh Gram component takes an area-based approach to develop SC-majority villages through convergence of schemes, village development plans, and gap-filling support for critical local needs.

It covers 47,334 villages across 597 districts in 26 States. The programme reaches more than 4 crore Scheduled Caste citizens and over 83 lakh households.

The programme has also strengthened village-level planning and infrastructure monitoring. More than 25,000 villages have completed infrastructure assessment exercises. This has helped in identifying gaps in roads, water supply, education, sanitation, and connectivity more systematically. A stronger emphasis has also been placed on youth participation and livelihood generation. Skill development, SHG participation, and village infrastructure creation has increasingly become part of a broader push towards long-term economic participation.

Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes (DAPSC)

The Development Action Plan for Scheduled Castes (DAPSC) has created a dedicated framework for SC-focused spending across the nation. DAPSC is not a standalone scheme. It brings together schemes and interventions implemented by different Ministries and Departments for the welfare and development of SC communities. The framework ensures that Ministries earmark dedicated funds for schemes benefiting SC communities.

The framework today spans 38 Ministries and departments. It supports 239 schemes across

education, housing, healthcare, skills, livelihoods, electrification, and social justice.

Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS)

Launched in February 2019, SHREYAS supports SC, OBC and EBC students in pursuing higher education, research, competitive examinations and overseas studies. The scheme brings together multiple interventions that reduce financial barriers and expand access to quality educational opportunities. In 2025-26 alone, the Top Class Education component supported 4,156 SC students in premier institutions such as IITs, IIMs, AIIMS and NITs, with 30% of seats reserved for SC girls. During the same time period, the Free Coaching Scheme assisted 990 students preparing for competitive examinations, while the National Overseas Scholarship supported 72 students pursuing higher studies abroad. At the research level, fellowship schemes benefited 4,153 SC scholars and 1,969 OBC scholars during 2025-26 itself.

Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas (SHRESHTA)
Access to quality residential schooling remains vital for Scheduled Caste students from low-income families. The SHRESHTA scheme, launched in June 2022, supports this need by enabling education from Classes IX to XII.

The scheme has two modes:
Mode-I supports admission of meritorious SC students in private residential schools through National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS).

Mode-II supports residential schools run by voluntary organisations and institutions. Eligible SC students with annual family income up to Rs 2.5 lakh can appear for NETS.

In 2025-26, SHRESHTA supported 19,754 Scheduled Caste students across 288 schools and institutions. The scheme worked through two routes of residential education.

Two Girls, One Scheme, One Resolve

There is a particular kind of determination that grows in children who know their families cannot afford for them to fail. Doli and Urmila have never met. One is from Himachal Pradesh, the other from Rajasthan. Separated by geographical distance but joined in similar stories.

Doli's father is a daily wage labourer. The risk of her dropping out from school was very real. Without support it would not have been possible for her to continue her studies. Under SHRESHTA's Mode-I, which provides direct financial support to SC students in quality schools, she stayed enrolled at Dalhousie Public School through the years that mattered most. She secured admission to IIT Delhi, where she is today pursuing Civil Engineering. "SHRESHTA gave me support, motivation, and the confidence to pursue my goals despite limitations."

Urmila's father farms a small plot in Balrao district, Rajasthan. Her support came through Mode-II – which empowers and funds quality residential schools to admit SC students. When she appeared for her Class XII boards, she scored 99.60%, securing first rank across Rajasthan.

Two girls, two families, two different edges of the same cliff – held back from it by the same scheme, working through different pathways. SHRESHTA did not discover their talent. It simply refused to let circumstance extinguish it.

Scholarships for School and Higher Education
The Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship schemes support Scheduled Caste students at different stages of education. The Pre-Matric Scholarship helps students in Classes IX and X stay in school. It also supports children from vulnerable families engaged in occupations such as manual scavenging and hazardous cleaning. The Post-Matric Scholarship helps students pursue higher and post-secondary education by covering educational expenses. Both schemes are implemented through a fully digital Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system.

Recent Progress

Under the pre-matric scholarship scheme, Rs 359.47 crore was released in 2025-26, benefiting 17.14 lakh students through DBT.

Through efforts under post-matric scholarship scheme, Scheduled Caste enrolment in higher education reached 66.23 lakh in 2021-22, a 44 percent increase since 2014-15.

Enrolment of SC female students rose to 31.71 lakh, reflecting a 51 percent increase since 2014-15.

The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of SC students in higher education increased from 18.9 percent in 2014-15 to 25.9 percent in 2021-22. The GER of SC female students rose from 18.1 percent to 26 percent during the same period.

The GER of SC students in Classes XI-XII improved from 52.9 percent in 2019-20 to 61.5 percent in 2021-22.

Together, these schemes have helped improve retention, expand access to higher education and strengthen educational outcomes for Scheduled Caste students across the country.

From 2021-22, the scheme has become end-to-end digital mode. Funds reach verified students directly.

Upliftment of Backward and Nomadic Communities

Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Economically Backward Classes (EBCs), and Denotified and Nomadic Tribes (DNTs) had also remained on the edges of formal development. In the past 12 years, this scenario has changed. Scholarships, skilling, livelihoods, and legal identity have reached communities that had waited the longest.

PM-YASASVI – PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India

Launched in 2021-22, PM-YASASVI supports OBC, EBC and DNT students through five components: Pre-Matric Scholarship, Post-Matric Scholarship, Top Class School Education, Top Class College Education, and OBC Hostels. All benefits are transferred directly to Aadhaar-seeded bank accounts. At least 30% of seats are reserved for girl students across components.

Pradhan Mantri Dakshata Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi Yojana (PM DAKSH)

PM-DAKSH, launched in 2020-21, provides free, certified skill training to marginalised communities. The scheme connects them directly to wage employment and self-employment.

Who are covered:
Scheduled Castes – no income ceiling
OBCs – family income up to Rs 3 lakh
EBCs – family income up to Rs 1 lakh
Denotified and Nomadic Tribes – no income ceiling

Sanitation workers and waste pickers – no income ceiling
PM-DAKSH has successfully trained over 2.08 lakh beneficiaries since the scheme started.

Vanchit Ikai Samooch aur Vargon ko Aarthik Sahaita (VISVAS) Yojana

VISVAS helps SCs, OBCs and Safai Karamcharis access affordable credit for income-generating activities. The scheme provides an interest subsidy of up to 5 percent per annum on eligible loans, with benefits transferred directly to beneficiaries through DBT. By lowering borrowing costs, it promotes entrepreneurship, self-employment and livelihood opportunities.

Scheme for Economic Empowerment of DNTs (SEED)

Launched in February 2022, SEED is a dedicated scheme for the welfare of De-notified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNT/NT/SNT). The scheme supports four key interventions: free coaching for competitive examinations, health insurance coverage, community-level livelihood initiatives, and financial assistance for housing.

Full article on : https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?No_teld=158876&ModuleId=3®=48&lang=1

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Govt committed to building a vibrant, robust education system in J&K: Sakeena Itoo

Directs B.Ed College Operators to streamline infrastructure, create quality facilities for students

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUNE 12: Minister for School Education, Sakeena Itoo, on Friday chaired a meeting with representatives of the Private B.Ed College Association of Jammu and Kashmir at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, to discuss issues concerning the Teacher Education Institutions across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department, Special Secretary, Higher Education Department and other senior officers.

The Minister, as per an official statement, emphasized the need for strengthening the infrastructure and creating quality, student-centric facilities in private colleges to ensure the delivery of high-standard teacher education. She directed the managements of private B.Ed colleges to submit undertakings



for addressing all identified shortcomings, including land-related deficiencies, within a period of two years. She made it clear that no further relaxation would be granted beyond the

stipulated timeframe. The Minister stressed that quality infrastructure, adequate facilities and compliance with the prescribed norms are essential for nurturing competent

future educators and enhancing the overall standards of teacher education in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the representatives of the Private B.Ed

College Association expressed gratitude to the Minister for taking up the issue of admissions in private colleges with the Union Government and relevant authorities to facilitate its early resolution.

The Minister reiterated the government's commitment to building a vibrant and robust education system through the collective contribution of both government and private educational institutions. She said that the administration remains focused on ensuring quality education and improving academic outcomes for students in J&K.

The meeting also discussed several other issues and concerns raised by the representatives.

The Minister assured them that all their genuine demands and grievances would be examined sympathetically and addressed on priority.

Mobile Passport Van to provide passport services in Kargil on June 15-16



KT News Desk

Srinagar, June 12: The Passport Seva Project (PSP) under the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has introduced Mobile Passport Van Services to ensure seamless passport facilities for applicants residing in different jurisdictions, including remote and far-flung areas. Under this initiative, the Regional Passport Office (RPO), Srinagar, will operate a Mobile Passport Van in Kargil district for facilitating passport-related services to applicants.

The Mobile Passport Van, as per a PIB statement, will remain stationed for two days at the Tourist Facilitation Centre, Bemathang, Kargil on June 15 and 16, 2026. Applicants from Kargil and adjoining areas can avail passport services by booking appointments through the official Passport Seva website. Applicants are required to

visit the website and select "Passport Van" as the service option while choosing their preferred appointment slot for the specified dates.

Speaking on the initiative, Shri B. S. Rawat, Passport Officer, Srinagar, said that the Mobile Passport Van Service reflects the Government of India's commitment to extending citizen-centric passport services to people living in remote regions and ensuring greater accessibility, transparency and convenience in passport delivery mechanisms.

The applicants should report to the designated location at the scheduled time on the date of appointment and may contact the Mobile Passport Van Team Registration Number PB65BF1377 for any further assistance. For more information, applicants may visit the official Passport Seva website at passportindia.gov.in or contact the Regional Passport Office, Srinagar.

DDC Kulgam assesses MGNREGA works in Chansar, Shouch Panchayats

KT News Desk

KULGAM, JUNE 12: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Friday conducted an extensive field inspection of various Panchayats, including Chansar and Shouch, to assess the proposed works identified under PRI/Capex and MGNREGA for the financial year 2026-27.

The DDC, as per an official statement, was accompanied by the Chief Planning Officer Kulgam, Block Development Officer Kulgam, Assistant Executive Engineer REW Kulgam, and other field functionaries of the Rural Development Department.

During the visit, the DDC inspected several proposed development sites and reviewed the planning and prioritization of works aimed at strengthening rural infrastructure and improving public service delivery.

Interacting with officials and field functionaries, the DDC stressed the importance of maintaining the highest standards of quality, transparency, and accountability in the execution of developmental works.

He directed the concerned officers to ensure that all projects are planned and implemented strictly in accordance with approved guidelines and



timelines.

The DDC also interacted with labourers engaged under MGNREGA and reviewed the progress of ongoing works, appreciating their contribution towards rural development while emphasizing the importance of timely completion of projects.

Highlighting the significance of regular field monitoring, the DDC instructed that inspections across Panchayats

of the district should continue on a routine basis to ensure timely execution of works, adherence to quality standards, and optimal utilization of public resources.

During the visit, the DDC also visited educational institutions in the area to assess the facilities available to students and emphasized the need for quality infrastructure to support better learning outcomes.

World Blood Donor Day-2026 celebrated at SKIMS Medical College Bemina

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUNE 12: Jammu & Kashmir State Blood Transfusion Council (JKSBTC), and J&K AIDS Control Society (JKACS), Friday celebrated World Blood Donor Day-2026 at SKIMS Medical College, Bemina, with great enthusiasm and participation from healthcare professionals, voluntary blood donors, civil society organizations, students, and members of the public.

The event, as per an official statement, was graced by Dr. Krishan Kumar, Director, National Blood Transfusion Council (NBTC), Government of India; Dr. Megha Pravin Khobragade, Deputy Director General, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Government of India; Dr. Fazlul Qadir Parrey, Principal, SKIMS Medical College Bemina; Dr. Jehangir Bakshi, Director Health Services Kashmir and Director, JKSBTC among other distinguished guests.

The programme commenced with the inauguration of a voluntary blood donation camp by the dignitaries, reaffirming the commitment of the health sector towards ensuring the availability of safe and adequate blood for all patients in need.

The representatives of JKSBTC and JKACS highlighted the significance of World Blood Donor Day as a global occasion



dedicated to recognizing the invaluable contribution of voluntary blood donors. They emphasized that every unit of donated blood has the potential to save multiple lives and plays a crucial role in supporting emergency care, surgeries, maternal health services, treatment of thalassemia patients, and other critical medical interventions.

Director, NBTC, Dr. Krishan Kumar, thanked the Voluntary Blood Donors for their selfless contributions towards saving lives and strengthening public health services. He described blood donors as the true heroes of society whose generosity offers hope and a second chance at life to countless patients.

In his address, Dr. Jehangir Bakshi, Director JKSBTC, highlighted the special significance of the event in view of the forthcoming holy month of Muharram. He noted that the message of sacrifice, humanity, and service to mankind associated with

the teachings of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) resonates strongly with the spirit of voluntary blood donation. He called upon the youth and community organizations to transform blood donation into a mass humanitarian movement and ensure that no patient suffers due to the non-availability of blood.

Principal SKIMS, Bemina, Dr. Fazlul Qadir Parrey acknowledged the growing culture of voluntary blood donation in Jammu & Kashmir and appreciated the active participation of youth, religious organizations, civil society groups, and educational institutions in organizing blood donation drives throughout the year.

Addressing the gathering, the dignitaries underscored the importance of strengthening voluntary blood donation and promoting regular, non-remunerated blood donation as the safest and most sustainable source of blood supply.

Nitu Gupta leads 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' at Wakura

KT News Desk

GANDERBAL, JUNE 12: In a significant initiative aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture and safeguarding soil health, Secretary, Agriculture Production Department (APD) in Nitu Gupta, Friday participated in the 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' organised by the Chief Agriculture Officer, Ganderbal at Eidgah Wakura.

The programme, as per an official statement, brought together farmers, agricultural experts, and officials from Agriculture and allied departments to raise awareness about scientific and sustainable farming practices, government welfare schemes, and measures for preserving agricultural land and soil fertility.

During the event, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah presented an overview of the agricultural landscape of Ganderbal district and highlighted ongoing developmental initiatives being undertaken for the welfare of the farming community.

Addressing the gathering, the Secretary underscored the critical importance of maintaining soil health through scientific nutrient management and environmentally sustainable agricultural practices. She urged farmers to adopt natural and climate-resilient farming methods to improve productivity while

preserving the ecological balance of agricultural ecosystems. "The long-term sustainability of agriculture depends on the health of our soils. Farmers must be encouraged to adopt balanced fertilizer application, reduce excessive chemical inputs, and embrace sustainable farming practices that enhance soil fertility and ensure food security for future generations," she said.

The Secretary further stressed the need for greater awareness and effective implementation of farmer-centric schemes to improve agricultural incomes and strengthen the rural economy. She encouraged farmers to make full use of the support available under various Central and UT government programmes. The Secretary also interacted extensively with farmers and listened to their concerns and suggestions regarding agricultural development and service delivery.

As part of the campaign, Soil Health Cards were distributed among farmers to encourage informed nutrient management and enhance crop productivity. Awareness sessions were conducted on Natural Farming, Organic Farming, the National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO), Kisan Credit Card (KCC), PM-KISAN, Pradhan Mantri Fasal BimaYojana (PMFBY), and the balanced and judicious use of fertilizers.

Market for Textile & Clothing Div Com Jammu inaugurates Liaison Officers' training programme



KT News Desk

JAMMU, JUNE 12: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar inaugurated a two-day "Liaison Officers' Training cum Refreshers Programme" on the Market for Textile and Clothing (MTC): National Household Survey at the Convention Centre Jammu on Monday. The event was organised by the Textiles Committee, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.

The two-day programme, as per an official statement, brought together liaison officers from the northern region to enhance their knowledge on data collection techniques, data quality improvement, and the incorporation of new fibres, products and upcoming sustainability aspects to cater to the needs of survey users.

Among those present at the programme were Director (Market Research) Textiles Committee Dr Tapan Kumar Rout, Director (Handicrafts and Handloom Jammu) Mohammad Nazir Sheikh, Chairperson (NGO Support) Dr Navneet Kour, various liaison officers and entrepreneurs from the Jammu region.

Speaking at the inaugural session, the Divisional Commissioner said that the

Jammu region holds rich potential for handloom and local textiles. He noted that the data collected by the liaison officers will play a key role in policy formulation and boosting the handloom and textile sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Textiles Committee has been mapping textiles consumption in the household sector under a National Household Sample Survey titled "Market for Textiles and Clothing", covering 13,540 households across 364 centres including 111 urban and 253 rural centres.

The process involves collecting data on textiles consumption from the target audience through a structured questionnaire using scientific tools and a personal interview method. The collection of data at a panel centre is carried out by liaison officers selected from the sample centres or nearby areas.

The liaison officers collect data in two customised questionnaires called Demographic Particular Returns and Monthly Purchase Returns. The report generated from the data is cross-checked with secondary data and the findings are published in an annual report titled "Market for Textiles and Clothing - National Household Survey".

NMBA: Awareness walks, rallies organised across Bandipora

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, JUNE 12: Various educational institutions across district Bandipora on Friday organised awareness walks, rallies and outreach activities under the ongoing Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) as part of the 100-day anti-drug campaign.

Awareness walks and rallies were conducted by Higher Secondary School Chintimulla, HSS Nowgam, HSS Khoraghal, HSS Gadakhud, BHSS Aloosa, PM SHRI GHS Sumbal, Government High School Kanzalwan, Government High School Naidkhai, HS Ketson, HS Koraghal, HS Panar and other institutions to sensitise students and the general public about the harmful effects of substance abuse.

During the programmes, students and staff members, as per an official statement, participated enthusiastically by carrying placards, banners and posters bearing anti-drug messages and raising slogans promoting a healthy and drug-free society. The rallies were taken through local areas to spread awareness

among the public, particularly the youth, regarding the social, physical and mental consequences of drug addiction.

At HSS Gadakhud, a foot march was organised from the school to Mill Stop under the supervision of the Principal. Students, faculty members and civil society representatives participated in the rally and pledged to strengthen the fight against drug abuse.

Similarly, awareness rallies and pledge activities held at various institutions focused on encouraging students to stay away from drugs and act as ambassadors of awareness within their communities. Participants reiterated the message of "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life" through public outreach and awareness campaigns.

The activities witnessed active participation from students, teaching faculty and members of the community, reflecting the continued commitment of educational institutions across Bandipora towards promoting awareness and preventive action under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

Anti-drug campaign intensified in Budgam

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, JUNE 12: As part of the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), District Administration Budgam conducted a series of awareness, enforcement, and community engagement activities across the district to strengthen the fight against drug abuse and illicit cultivation.

The Excise Department Budgam, as per an official statement, with the assistance of the Revenue Department, carried out a destruction drive at Village Mazhama, Tehsil Magam, and eradicated wild cannabis spread over 3 kanals and 4 marlas along roadsides, irrigation land, and riverbanks. The department also conducted a survey and awareness campaign in Village Bugam, Tehsil Chadoora, covering around 65 kanals, during which 2 kanals of wild bhung cultivation were identified. Awareness material was distributed and locals were sensitized about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

The Health Department, in collaboration with the ICDS

team, organized an NMBA awareness programme at Shogapora, while a drugs awareness programme was conducted at Khag with the participation of officials from various departments, social activists, chemists, and senior citizens.

Further strengthening the campaign, the Doodganga Range of Pir Panjal Forest Division organized awareness programmes at Lashkhalan Buzgoo and Nilnag, where participants pledged to lead a drug-free life and spread awareness about the adverse effects of substance abuse. A plantation drive under the theme "Ek Ped Nashe Ke Virudh" and a green rally in collaboration with Government High School Buzgoo Nilnag were also organized to promote a healthy and drug-free society.

The District Administration Budgam remains committed to creating awareness, mobilizing communities, and eliminating the menace of drug abuse through sustained outreach and enforcement initiatives under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

Livelihood creation, financial inclusion central to border village development: Secretary RDD

KT News Desk

Srinagar, June 12: Secretary Rural Development Department (RDD) & Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad on Friday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess progress on the development plans of Nangali Sahib and Shahpur villages in Poonch district under the Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II). The meeting reviewed the status of DPR preparation, baseline surveys, gap analysis and convergence planning aimed at transforming the two strategic border villages into vibrant, self-reliant and resilient communities.

Emphasising a convergence-driven and evidence-based approach, the Secretary directed all departments to comprehensively assess gaps in infrastructure, livelihoods, education, healthcare, financial inclusion and public service delivery while finalising the DPRs. He also called for the integration of digital infrastructure and technology-enabled solutions and stressed active field engagement by district officers through surveys, consultations and regular monitoring.

Highlighting the importance of sustainable livelihood generation, Asad directed the creation of a comprehensive database of village youth capturing educational qualifications, skills and employment status to facilitate targeted skilling and employment interventions. He stressed convergence with schemes such as NRLM, Mission YUVA, Himayat, Tribal Affairs, Agriculture and Horticulture to expand livelihood opportunities for women and youth.

The Secretary advocated strengthening Self-Help Groups, dairy and livestock-based enterprises, plantation activities under MGNREGA and value-addition initiatives capable of generating sustainable rural incomes.

Expressing concern over limited banking access in Nangali Sahib, Aijaz Asad directed officials to explore the establishment of banking facilities in or near the village and enhance financial inclusion through Bank Correspondents and Bank Sakhis. He also called for saturation of eligible beneficiaries under PMJBY and PMSBY.

The Secretary directed departments to maximise

convergence under existing Central and UT schemes.

He underscored that the objective of VVP-II extends beyond asset creation to improving livelihoods, service delivery and quality of life in border areas.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, presented findings of a district-wide gap analysis covering all 133 border villages.

The analysis revealed that 121 villages are already connected under PMGSY, while the remaining 12 have been proposed for road connectivity.

Telecom coverage has achieved full saturation across all border villages.

The meeting also reviewed village-specific development proposals. Nangali Sahib, located about three kilometres from the International Border and known for the historic Gurudwara Nangali Sahib, has a proposed development package of Rs 4.35 crore covering education infrastructure, sports facilities, solar lighting, water supply systems, e-library facilities, recreation infrastructure and horticulture interventions.

Shahpur, situated within

0-0.5 km of the Line of Control, has a proposed development plan of Rs 5.56 crore focusing on community bunkers, school infrastructure, smart classrooms, multipurpose halls, sports facilities, solar lighting, drinking water systems and plantation activities.

The Secretary reiterated that strategic border villages require focused, coordinated and sustainable interventions to strengthen livelihoods, improve living standards and enhance socio-economic resilience.

He directed all departments to expedite finalisation of DPRs to ensure timely commencement of implementation.

The meeting was attended by the District Development Commissioner, Poonch; Heads of Departments of RDD; Directors of School Education, Social Welfare, Rural Development and Health Services, Jammu; Directors of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Sheep Husbandry; Chief Engineer, PW(R&B), Pir Panjal Division; Superintendent Engineer, REW Jammu; Assistant Commissioners Development and Panchayats, Poonch; Executive Engineers and other concerned officers.

JKLA's Ethics Committee convenes meeting to review institutional framework

KT News Desk

Srinagar, June 12: The Ethics Committee of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, under the chairmanship of MLA Nizamud-Din Bhat, convened a high-level meeting on Friday to review the institutional framework and reinforce its mandate on legislative accountability.

Legislators Peerzada Feroze Ahamad, Satish Kumar Sharma and Arvind Gupta were present in the meeting.

During the session, the committee emphasized that its primary objective remains upholding the dignity of the House while ensuring that robust checks and balances are maintained within the democratic framework of Jammu and Kashmir.

As a vital permanent panel of the House, the Ethics Committee is explicitly designed to oversee the moral and ethical conduct of the state's lawmakers. It holds the mandate to oversee the Code of Conduct for Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and examine specific cases of



ethical violations or potential misconduct referred to it by the Speaker or the House.

Crucially, the committee also acts as a vital bridge to the public by providing an official, structured mechanism to probe citizens' complaints against the legislature, thereby preserving the integrity, dignity and credibility of democratic traditions within the Assembly.

The Chairman stressed that the faith of the public is the bedrock of our democratic institutions.

By rigorously monitoring ethics and addressing the grievances impartially, this committee ensures that the conduct of every lawmaker remains aligned with the highest standards of public trust, he said.

Awareness programme held on World Day against child labour

KT News Desk

Doda, June 12: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Doda, in collaboration with the Labour Department, Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and Women Helpline on Friday organised an awareness programme on World Day Against Child Labour at Green Model Higher Secondary School Doda.

The programme aimed to create awareness regarding the eradication of child labour and to promote the protection, welfare and educational rights of children through collective community participation.

Advocate Tahir Hussain Dar and Abhi Kumar acted as Resource Persons and delivered informative lectures on the harmful effects of child labour, the importance of education and the legal safeguards available for the protection of children under various welfare legislations.

Representatives from the Labour Department, CWC and Women Helpline also participated in the programme and apprised the participants about various child protection mechanisms, welfare schemes and support services available for children in need of care and protection.

DC Reasi reviews HADP implementation

KT NEWS DESK

Reasi, June 12: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the implementation and progress of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the district.

During the meeting, a detailed presentation was presented highlighting the physical and financial achievements

registered under various HADP projects being implemented by the agriculture and allied departments. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of beneficiary-oriented schemes, infrastructure development works, fund utilisation and targets fixed for the current financial year.

The meeting was informed that the programme has created substantial livelihood opportunities and strengthened the agriculture sector through

focused interventions in protected cultivation, farm mechanisation, apiculture, sericulture, mushroom cultivation, dairy development, mutton production, poultry, fisheries and fodder development.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the functioning of Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) and stressed the need to ensure efficient service delivery to farmers and greater outreach of digital agriculture initiatives. Progress achieved under

farmer registration, e-KYC, Daksh Kisan and other technology-driven platforms was also assessed.

Emphasising the importance of fully functional KKGs, Kumar Abhishek directed the officers concerned to appoint Krishi Udyamis against all pending KKGs to ensure operationalisation of every Kisan Khidmat Ghar in the district. The DC further assigned area-wise responsibility for KKG supervision among the agriculture and

allied departments to strengthen monitoring, coordination and handholding support.

The Deputy Commissioner also called for expediting the registration and enrolment of farmers on the Daksh Kisan Portal to facilitate access to training programmes, advisory services and other digital agriculture initiatives.

The Chair directed Chief Animal Husbandry Officer to promote the establishment of additional poultry units in

areas with limited scope for crop cultivation to generate sustainable livelihood opportunities for rural households.

Further instructions were given to the departments concerned to complete output tracking of established units within the stipulated timeframe to ensure effective monitoring and assessment of outcomes.

The meeting also reviewed the status of bank-linked cases, Kisan Credit Cards (KCC),

Prime Minister's Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) and other agriculture-based livelihood programmes aimed at enhancing farmers' income and promoting sustainable rural development in the district.

Among those present were Additional District Development Commissioner Krishan Lal, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer and other officers concerned.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Amit Shah orders

Shah directed that all individuals associated with the Yatra, including local service providers, be properly registered.

He also called for the issuance of QR code-based identity cards and the setting up of veterinary camps for health checks of animals used during the pilgrimage.

The meeting also stressed that the movement of pilgrim batches should be strictly regulated in accordance with weather forecasts to minimise risks along the route.

Apart from the Yatra routes, Shah asked officials to ensure enhanced security arrangements at other major tourist locations across Jammu and Kashmir so that visiting pilgrims can travel safely and without disruption.

The annual Amarnath Yatra, which draws thousands of devotees each year to the Himalayan shrine, is set to commence on July 3, with authorities working to ensure tight security and smooth management amid challenging terrain and weather conditions. KNO

CM Omar flags

when the airport closed for similar reasons in 1998 & 2010," the CM said.

During his meeting with the Union Civil Aviation Minister, the CM sought intervention to facilitate discussions with the Ministry of Defence on reviewing the timing of Phase III, including the possibility of shortening, phasing or shifting the closure to a leaner travel window without compromising safety requirements.

He also requested that contingency arrangements be explored in coordination with the Ministry of Defence and the Indian Air Force to ensure continued air connectivity to the Valley in the event the closure remains unavoidable.

The CM emphasised that any alternative operational arrangement would require extensive inter-agency coordination and advance planning, and therefore needed to be initiated well ahead of the scheduled closure period.

On Thursday, CM Omar Abdullah also met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and urged immediate restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. KNO

Hi-tech security

on July 3 and all necessary arrangements have been put in place to ensure its smooth conduct.

He said around 140 companies of CAPF have been deployed from Anantnag town up to the cave shrine.

Besides, specialised units of J&K Police, including Markhor, Snow Leopard teams, MRTS, SOG and QRTs, have been stationed at strategic locations.

"We have divided the entire district into 19 security zones, each supervised by senior police officers. Checking and frisking have been intensified, while preventive measures are also being taken against individuals with questionable backgrounds or suspected links to anti-national activities," he said.

The SSP said extensive area domination and sanitisation operations are underway in hilly and forested areas in coordination with the

Army and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs). "All routes, tracks, ravines and streams are being thoroughly checked to eliminate any security loopholes and ensure a secure pilgrimage," he said.

Nagpure said more than 400 advanced CCTV cameras have been installed across Anantnag district and are being monitored from police control rooms.

"The facial recognition system introduced last year has been further strengthened. The database has been expanded and additional facial recognition cameras have been installed at new locations," he said.

The SSP said police have also launched the 'Pehchan App' to verify all service providers associated with the Yatra.

"Each registered service provider has been issued a unique QR code. Pilgrims, tourists and security personnel can scan the code, even without internet connectivity, to verify their credentials," he said.

The SSP said that 28 elevated bunkers and watchtowers have been established along the entire Yatra route, compared to 14 last year.

"In addition, sniper deployments have been organised at various vulnerable locations to strengthen the security grid," he said.

Expressing confidence over the arrangements, Nagpure said the combined efforts of the police, district administration and local residents would ensure the safe and successful conduct of this year's pilgrimage.

"I appeal to all devotees to undertake the pilgrimage without fear. Anantnag Police and the people of the district are ready to welcome them," he said. KNO

Knee-deep in

associated with blessings, prosperity, and a connection to our ancestors. It carries immense cultural and emotional significance for farming families," said Gulam Nabi Bhat, a farmer from central Kashmir's Budgam district.

Farmers explained that paddy cultivation follows a carefully structured process. Initially, seeds are sown in dedicated nurseries known locally as Thaejwaan.

After around 40 days, the saplings reach an appropriate height and are ready for transplantation.

During this period, the main fields are ploughed, levelled, and enriched with organic manure.

Once preparations are complete, the painstaking task of transplanting each sapling into the main field begins.

However, this year's transplantation season has been overshadowed by growing concerns over water scarcity in certain areas.

Reduced water levels in streams, canals, and rivers have adversely affected irrigation systems, leaving several schemes either partially functional or completely defunct.

Residents of Shaar village in the Khrew area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district said they were unable to cultivate paddy due to the non-availability of irrigation water.

As an alternative, many farmers have shifted to crops such as maize, moong, and other

pulses that require comparatively less water.

Agriculture experts and officials from the Department of Agriculture have also been encouraging farmers in water-stressed regions to diversify towards less water-intensive crops, including pulses and vegetables, to minimise losses and make better use of available resources.

Officials said that although adequate irrigation water remains available in most parts of Kashmir, a few pockets continue to face difficulties.

They assured that efforts are underway to address these issues and improve water supply wherever possible.

An official of the Agricultural Department, who wished not to be named, while expressing concern over the steady decline in paddy cultivation across the Valley emphasised the need to safeguard agricultural land from conversion into orchards, residential colonies, and commercial structures.

"Kashmir was once largely self-sufficient in rice production. However, shrinking paddy acreage due to land-use changes has significantly affected local production," the official said.

He said that the Valley now relies heavily on rice imports from other states to meet domestic demand.

"Currently, more than 65 percent of the rice consumed in Kashmir is sourced from outside J&K. Unfortunately, this dependence has been increasing with each passing year," he said.

He said that the ongoing Thaejkaad season stands as a powerful reminder of Kashmir's enduring agricultural traditions, resilience in the face of adversity, and the urgent need to protect both its water resources and fertile paddy lands for future generations—(KNO)

LG Sinha, CM Omar

Director, Handicrafts and Handloom, in the Industries and Commerce Department.

In a condolence message, the Lieutenant Governor said: "Saddened to learn of the untimely demise of Shri Mohammad Younis Mir. He was a committed officer who served the people of Jammu Kashmir with utmost dedication. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family in this difficult hour. I pray to the Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed soul and give strength to the family members to bear this loss."

Chief Minister Omar also expressed profound grief and sorrow over the demise of young JKAS officer Muhammad Younis Mir, who passed away after a brief illness.

In his condolence message, CM Omar conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family, relatives, friends and colleagues of the departed officer and prayed for strength and fortitude for them to bear this irreparable loss.

The CM also prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and a place for him in the highest ranks in the hereafter. KNO

Over 42 lakh

of 618596 compared to 3594074 accounts as

on December 31, 2024.

As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines, savings or current accounts are treated as inoperative if there are no customer induced transactions for a period of over two years.

The data shows that J&K Bank tops the list with 2256047 inoperative accounts, followed by J&K Grameen Bank (770365), Punjab National Bank (347734), State Bank of India (200928) and HDFC Bank (100,902).

The number of inoperative accounts in the other 20 banks operating in J&K is below one lakh each, with YES Bank reporting only 21 accounts.

According to documents, the issue of inoperative accounts in banks was discussed during the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary on April 06 this year.

The SLBC decided that banks shall make serious efforts in reducing the number of inoperative and frozen accounts for enabling hassle free credit of Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) benefits. KNO

MeT forecasts rain

vulnerable areas.

Even as temperatures remained above normal across the Jammu and Kashmir, the weather department advised caution amid the likelihood of lightning, hailstorms, strong winds and brief intense showers through next week.

The Valley and Jammu region have witnessed intermittent rainfall in recent days, with the MeT Department urging people to avoid risky outdoor activities and stay away from vulnerable structures during adverse weather conditions.

On Friday, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar forecast light to moderate rainfall, thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds across Jammu and Kashmir over the next several days, while warning of possible flash floods and mudslides in isolated areas.

According to the weather department, Jammu recorded the highest maximum temperature in J&K at 41.8 degrees Celsius, which was 3 degrees Celsius above normal, while Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 31.5 degrees Celsius, 3.5 degrees Celsius above normal.

The department said weather conditions on June 12 would remain partly to generally cloudy with one or two spells of light to moderate rain and brief intense showers at many places.

Thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds of 40-50 kmph, gusting up to 60 kmph, are also likely at a few places.

For the period from June 13 to June 17, the weather is expected to remain partly to generally cloudy with light rain, brief intense showers, thunderstorms and gusty winds at scattered places.

Similar conditions are likely to continue on June 18 and 19.

The MeT Centre advised people to remain cautious as there is a possibility of thunderstorms, lightning, hailstorms and strong winds during the day.

It also warned that brief intense showers at isolated locations in both Kashmir and Jammu divisions could trigger flash floods and mudslides.

People have been advised to stay away from loose structures, electric poles, overhead wires and old trees.

The department also recommended suspension of boating and Shikara operations during periods of adverse weather.

Among other stations in Kashmir, Qazigund recorded 30.2 degrees Celsius, Kupwara 30.2 degrees Celsius, Kokernag 29 degrees Celsius, Pahalgam 25.9 degrees Celsius and Gulmarg 21.6 degrees Celsius.

In Jammu division, Kathua recorded 41.6 degrees Celsius, Katra 38.3 degrees Celsius, Batote 31.3 degrees Celsius, Banihal 29.2 degrees Celsius and Baderwah 27.2 degrees Celsius.

Rainfall during the previous 24 hours was reported from several places, including Batote (27.6 mm), Baderwah (28.2 mm), Doda (18 mm), Jammu (12 mm), Kishtwar (8 mm), and Sonamarg (7 mm), according to the department.

The minimum temperature settled at 13.6 degrees Celsius in Srinagar and 24.1 degrees Celsius in Jammu, both below their respective seasonal normals. KNO

Driver dead, 2

bus belonging to IPTS School Khansahib lost control and plunged into a deep gorge in the Negoo Jabbad area of Brenwar, Chadoora.

The deceased driver has been identified as Shahid Ahmad Lone, a resident of Kachwari, Khansahib.

He died on the spot due to the impact of the crash.

"The injured students have been identified as two sisters Zeenat Ul Islam and Ifra Rashid, daughters of Abdul Rashid Gosi from Checke-Quds, Khansahib. They were rescued from the accident site and shifted to Sub-District Hospital Chadoora before being referred to SMHS Hospital Srinagar for advanced treatment," the official said.

Soon after the incident, residents, police personnel and rescue teams rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam Athar Aamir Khan and Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Budgam Hariprasad K.K. visited SMHS Hospital Srinagar. They met the injured children and their attendants and reviewed the medical treatment being provided to them.

The attending doctors informed the DC and SSP that both children are stable and recovering well.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the hospital authorities to ensure the best possible medical care and all necessary assistance to the injured children during their recovery.

"The district administration is closely monitoring the situation," DC Khan said, adding that all required medical facilities and support are being provided to the injured children and their families. Police said they have taken cognisance of the incident and initiated an investigation to ascertain the cause of the accident. KNO

Govt bars industrial, commercial users from buying diesel at retail pumps

ANI

New Delhi, June 12: The Centre has barred industrial, commercial and institutional consumers from purchasing diesel from retail fuel stations, seeking to protect supplies meant for ordinary consumers amid an abnormal surge in diesel sales at petrol pumps due to diversion from bulk channels.

In a notification issued on June 11, the Petroleum Ministry said industrial, commercial and institutional consumers have increasingly shifted to retail outlets to buy fuel because of the price difference between retail and bulk sales, leading to pressure on supplies intended for retail customers.

The ministry said it had observed that "abnormal increases in sales of Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel through Retail Outlets in certain parts of the country are driven by shifting of industrial, commercial and institutional consumers to Retail Outlets owing to the price difference between retail and bulk sale prices." According



to the notification, this trend is resulting in the "diversion of supplies intended for retail consumers" and creating the possibility of "localised shortages and disruption of essential services to common man."

To address the issue, the Centre has issued the Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Temporary Regulation of Supply through Retail Outlets) Order, 2026, under the Essential Commodities Act.

Under the order, the government can direct public sector oil marketing companies and other authorised fuel retailers to prevent institutional, industrial

and commercial customers from sourcing petrol and diesel from retail outlets. Such consumers will be required to meet their fuel requirements through their own consumer pumps.

The government has directed retail outlet dealers to dispense high-speed diesel only into vehicle tanks or Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)-approved containers and limit sales to 200 litres per customer or vehicle per day.

"Retail Outlet dealers shall dispense HSD only in a vehicle tank, or PESO-approved containers, and not exceeding 200 litres in a day to a customer/

vehicle and this HSD cannot be resold," the notification said.

The ministry said the measure was necessary because "such bulk procurement through Retail Outlets has the potential to adversely affect the availability of Motor Spirit and High-Speed Diesel for bona fide retail consumers and may lead to hoarding, diversion and other malpractices."

The notification linked the move to global developments, stating that the prevailing geopolitical situation affecting some regions of the world has impacted international petroleum supply chains, shipping logistics and the availability of petroleum products.

Government stated that any restrictions imposed under the order would initially remain valid for a period not exceeding 90 days unless revoked earlier or extended through a subsequent order.

The ministry said violations of the order would attract penalties under the Essential Commodities Act and other applicable laws.

'India EMS sector set for long-term growth on localisation, value-add push'

ANI

New Delhi, June 12: Despite weak demand in consumer electronics, 360 ONE Capital remains optimistic about the long-term growth of India's electronic manufacturing services (EMS) sector, citing increasing localisation, semiconductor opportunities and a shift towards value-added manufacturing. In a sector update report, the brokerage said the industry is undergoing a structural transformation that is expected to support growth in the years ahead. "We remain positive on the structural growth story of the sector, with themes such as increasing RAC penetration, backward integration, value-added manufacturing, semiconductors, etc., providing a strong runway for growth," the report said. According to the report, the Indian EMS industry is gradually moving beyond basic assembly operations and expanding into higher-value manufacturing activities. "There is a structural shift underway in the Indian EMS sector, from being a mere manufacturer/assembler to becoming a value-added player through backward integration into components and value-added manufacturing of PCBs and OSAT," it said.



The brokerage also highlighted the role of government policies in strengthening the domestic electronics manufacturing ecosystem. "The government's push to make India self-reliant and a global manufacturing hub is evident from policy initiatives such as ECMS, ISM 2.0, etc. These supportive policies are expected to lay a strong foundation for

the industry in the years ahead, enabling players to undertake increasingly complex manufacturing activities," the report said.

The positive outlook comes even as parts of the consumer EMS segment witnessed demand pressures in the fourth quarter of FY26.

"The Electronic Manufacturing Services (EMS) sector continued its growth trajectory, albeit at a lower pace as the consumer EMS space witnessed subdued growth/de-growth, whereas industrial EMS companies continued to see strong growth," the report noted.

NAREDCO set to take prominent role at NREC-2026

ANI

New Delhi, June 12: The newly formed NAREDCO NextGen NCR, the youth wing of the National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO), is set to take a prominent role at the National Real Estate Conclave (NREC) 2026, being held alongside Bharat Buildcon 2026 at Yas-hobhoomi, New Delhi, on June 19. The chapter will bring together emerging developers, entrepreneurs and industry professionals to discuss the future of urban development, technology adoption and sustainable growth in India's real estate sector.

Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Siddharth Jain, President, NAREDCO NextGen NCR, said, "India's urban growth story is entering a defining phase, and NCR remains at the centre of this transformation. The future of real estate will depend on how effectively we address infrastructure, sustainability, technology and quality of urban

living. Through NAREDCO NextGen NCR, we aim to create a platform where emerging industry leaders can engage with policymakers and stakeholders to contribute meaningfully towards building future-ready cities and communities. The next generation of developers has a unique opportunity to redefine the way our cities are planned, built and experienced."

The National Real Estate Conclave is expected to witness participation from leading policymakers, government officials, investors, developers and urban development experts. The inaugural session will feature addresses by Shri Manohar Lal, Hon'ble Union Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs; Shri Srinivas Katikithala, Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs; Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, IAS (Retd.), Former Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh; Dr. Niranjana Hiranandani, Chairman, NAREDCO; and Shri Parveen Jain, President, NAREDCO.

Petroleum Ministry Signs MoU with Assam, Nagaland to Boost Production

ANI

New Delhi, June 12: The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas on Friday signed an MoU with Assam and Nagaland to boost domestic oil and gas exploration. The agreement aims to revive production in Nagaland after 31 years and tap the Northeast's rich hydrocarbon potential, providing investment certainty and creating jobs, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said.

Puri shared the development via his social media account, noting "With the signing of a historic tripartite Memorandum of Understanding between Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Nagaland and Assam, India's quest towards increasing domestic exploration and production of hydrocarbons under the visionary leadership of PM Sh @narendramodi Ji takes a giant leap as a new basin opens up for fresh wildcat exploration!"

Adding that North East India gave birth to India's petroleum industry; the Minister said Nagaland will produce oil and gas again after 31 years. "The North East gave birth to India's petroleum industry; today, it stands ready to power the next chapter of India's energy journey as Nagaland will produce oil and gas again after 31 years," he added.

With Assam holding nearly 22 per cent of India's crude oil and 15 per cent of its natural gas, and Nagaland's Naga-Schuppen Belt rich in untapped hydrocarbons, the outlook for exploration and production in the Northeast is highly promising.

Over 3Cr women-led enterprises registered under Udyam Portal: FM Sitharaman

ANI

New Delhi, June 12: Women are becoming India's growth engine with over 3 crore women-led enterprises registered under Udyam Portal, said FM Nirmala Sitharaman in a series of tweets on Friday.

Highlighting achievements of PM Modi's Mudra Yojana, she noted, MUDRA loans worth more than Rs 16 lakh crore have been disbursed. "With over Rs 16 lakh crore disbursed under PM MUDRA Yojana to women, entrepreneurship is becoming a powerful driver of women-led development across the nation," she noted.

As per the tweet over 32 crore women have been able to connect to formal banking through PM Jan Dhan Yojana. Furthermore, women's credit footprint has deepened with loans reaching Rs 76 lakh crore in 2025 from Rs 16 lakh crore in 2015.



"Greater access to credit, savings and opportunities is helping women shape India's growth story and empowering them," she said.

Over 10 crore rural women are actively participating

in Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and over 43 lakh women have enrolled in STEM education programs.

"PM @narendramodi's focus on women-led development has helped create this momentum,

with 10 Cr+ rural women connected through 91 lakh+ SHGs, 3 Cr+ women-led enterprises registered on the Udyam Portal, and 48% of recognised startups having at least one woman director," she added.

PM Modi in one of the tweets highlighted "Over the last 12 years, the NDA Government has worked to further women-led development. And, this is visible across sectors."

He stressed, Indian women are playing a major role across sectors from "financial inclusion and entrepreneurship to education, healthcare, sanitation, housing, sports, science and governance."

"The efforts of the NDA Government are rooted in dignity, opportunity and empowerment. They have helped create an environment where women can realise their full potential and contribute even more strongly to nation-building," he said.

Hoax bomb threat delays Lucknow-Delhi flight

PTI

Lucknow, June 12: A Lucknow-Delhi flight was delayed on Friday after a hoax bomb threat was received shortly before it was to take off, sources said.

The IndiGo flight carrying around 180 passengers was scheduled to depart from Lucknow for Delhi at 10.45 am.

Sources told PTI the crew of the aircraft received information about a possible bomb threat on board.

Following the alert, the aircraft was held back at the apron and security personnel began checking the plane and other areas as part of the precautionary measures, they said.

Another source told PTI that a tissue paper with "bomb" written on it was found inside the lavatory of the aircraft, leading to the panic but it was a hoax.

No bomb or any harmful substance had been found in the aircraft during the inspection, the official said, adding further legal and security procedures were underway.

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS SOPORE

In the case of: **Rubeena Bano D/o: Hamid Sheikh R/o: Shahabad.**

Versus
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore
(Registrar of Birth and Death) ...Non Applicant

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE
Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Self namely Rubeena Bano D/o: Ab Hamid Sheikh as 03-07-1994 at Home.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he /she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation. If the date fixed is declared holiday, the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1ST CLASS SOPORE


In the case of: **Shahzada Begum W/o: Javid Ahmad Teli R/o: Chankhan.**

Versus
C.E.O Municipal Council Sopore/BDO Sangrama/BDO Sopore
(Registrar of Birth and Death) ...Non Applicant

NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE
Whereas, the above titled case is under process in this court, seeking direction therein to the non-applicant u/s 13(3) of the Registration of Births & Deaths Act, 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant's Son namely Uzair Javid S/o: Javid Ahmad Teli as 17-02-2012 at Home.

Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large is informed that in case any one has any objection for issuance of direction with respect to the registration of aforementioned Birth event he /she shall file the same before this court in person or through counsel within 7 days from the date of the publication of this proclamation. If the date fixed is declared holiday, the matter will be taken on the next working day.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class, Sopore



Mohammad Younis

We, the officers of the J&K Administrative Service, express our deepest sorrow on the sudden and untimely demise of our fellow officer, Mohammad Younis, today in Srinagar.

In losing him, the service has lost a bright, capable, and compassionate administrator who exemplified the highest ideals of public service. To his colleagues, he was an exceptional peer—always dependable, gracious, and deeply committed to his duties.

The entire JKAS fraternity stands in solidarity with his family during this profound tragedy.

We offer our sincerest condolences to his loved ones and pray they find the courage to navigate this immense grief. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Thai Princess Bajrakitiyabha dies after more than 3 years in coma

Agencies

Bangkok, June 12: Thailand's Princess Bajrakitiyabha, who had been in a coma for more than three years, has died, the royal household has announced. She was 47.

BBC reported that she collapsed in December 2022 while exercising her dogs. Her doctors attributed it to a severely irregular heart-beat, caused by a mycoplasma infection in her heart.

With her death, the Thai royal family has lost its most visibly accomplished member, and someone who might have played a pivotal role in an as yet unclear succession.

She was the eldest of King Vajiralongkorn's seven children, born on 7 December 1978 to his first wife and cousin, Princess Soamsawali.

"The medical team provided the closest and most intensive care possible, but her condition continued to decline progressively," the palace said in a statement on Friday morning, adding that she passed away at 19:48 local time (12:48 GMT) the previous day in Chulalongkorn Hospital.



She trained as a lawyer, getting two post-graduate degrees from Cornell University in the US. She worked briefly at the Thai mission to the United Nations in New York, before returning to Thailand to work in the Attorney-General's offices in Bangkok and elsewhere in the country.

From 2012 to 2014 she was Thailand's ambassador to Austria, where she built a relationship with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

She started speaking out on the need for penal reform, with a particular focus on vulnerable women who end up in prison; Thailand has one of the world's

highest numbers of female inmates.

Once back in Thailand she became the UNODC's Ambassador for the Rule of Law in South East Asia, and continued to advocate reform of Thailand's criminal justice system, in which severe sentences are often handed down on people convicted of relatively minor drug possession charges.

In 2021 her father made her a chief of staff in his private bodyguard, giving her the rank of general.

Princess Bajrakitiyabha was also a fitness enthusiast who often took part in

long-distance runs.

Her abilities, and the trust her father appeared to have in her, made her an inevitable topic of speculation about the royal succession.

King Vajiralongkorn, who is 73 years old, has not yet named an heir. Thai custom dictates that the heir should be a male, but a 1974 amendment to the constitution does allow a female to take the throne.

The king has five sons, but four by his second marriage were disowned in 1996 and have lived since then with their mother in the US. His fifth son, Dipangkorn, by his third wife, is the presumed heir, although questions have been raised about his ability to perform the role of monarch, in a country where the royal institution carries so much influence.

For many Thai royalists, Princess Bajrakitiyabha seemed the most promising figure to succeed her father, either as queen or as a regent to help Prince Dipangkorn.

Her death leaves the question of the succession in Thailand unanswered, and the severity of the country's lese majeste law rules out any public discussion of it.

South Korea court sentences ex-President Yoon to 30-year jail term over drone incursion

Reuters

Seoul, June 12: A South Korean court sentenced former President Yoon Suk Yeol to 30 years in prison on Friday for charges linked to his ordering an incursion of military drones over North Korea to help create a pretext for his failed December 2024 martial law declaration.

The Seoul Central District Court found Yoon guilty of aiding the enemy and abuse of power, saying he had conspired in the October 2024 drone incursion over Pyongyang from the outset, according to a court statement. The ruling adds to a series of judgments against the ousted conservative leader, once South Korea's top prosecutor, whose martial law order plunged Asia's fourth-largest economy into its deepest political turmoil in decades.

Yoon had denied any



wrongdoing over the drone incursion.

His lawyers said he neither ordered nor later approved the operation, which they said was unrelated to martial law and instead a response to months of North Korean launches across the border of balloons stuffed with

rubbish. Prosecutors had sought a 30-year prison term for Yoon in April.

In February, a South Korean court sentenced Yoon to life in prison after finding him guilty of leading an insurrection linked to the martial law attempt.

Germany's Hamburg airport evacuated after security breach

Agencies

Berlin, June 12: German police evacuated Hamburg Airport on Friday following a security breach that forced hundreds of travellers to vacate the terminals and triggered an extensive search expected to last for hours. A Federal Police spokesperson said the airport was cleared entirely so specialized teams could sweep multiple secure zones.

Authorities noted it was too early to predict when normal operations would resume. The incident began when an individual pressed an emergency button on a door in Terminal 2, gaining unauthorized access to the airport's secure airside zone, the Bild newspaper reported.

The suspect was subsequently detained and taken to an airport police station.

Despite the arrest, authorities ordered a comprehensive sweep of the secure perimeter as a precaution, the daily reported. All passengers past security checkpoints were forced to leave the secure zone, and those already boarded on aircraft were ordered to disembark, halting all departures.

Swiss pharma hub Basel frets over population cap threat

Reuters

Basel, June 12: For decades, economic growth in Basel has outpaced that of Switzerland as its globe-straddling pharmaceutical and biotech industries have turned the city on the border with Germany and France into one of the most prosperous in Europe.

Drawn by work, four in every 10 residents of the city on the River Rhine that is home to pharma giants Roche (ROPC.S), opens new tab and Novartis (NOVN.S), opens new tab are foreigners; gross domestic product per capita is almost 2-1/2 times higher than the Swiss average. That may change if Swiss voters on Sunday back a proposal to cap the population which business groups



say will put the country's economic success at risk, and strain ties with the European Union, its main trade partner. "It would mean uncertainty from day one," said Conradin Cramer, head of the cantonal government of the city of Basel, noting that major employers would need to reconsider their plans. "And that would be poison

for our economy."

Tapping in to concern over pressure on public services and housing, as well as crime, the proposal from the right-wing Swiss People's Party stipulates that Switzerland's population must not reach 10 million by 2050. Already above 9 million today, that is forecast to occur by about 2042.

Football World Cup 2026 Quinones stars as Mexico defeats South Africa 2-0

Agencies

Mexico City, June 12: Javier Aguirre's side took less than five minutes to create the game's first chance amid an electric atmosphere at Mexico City Stadium. Israel Reyes whipped a cross in from the right, and Raul Jimenez got power behind the bouncing ball, forcing Ronwen Williams to tip it around his post smartly.

It merely maintained deadlock for a few minutes. Erik Lira burgled the adidas Trionda from Sphephelo Sithole, and Quinones struck it through Williams' legs from just inside the box.

Bafana Bafana will have been relieved to go in at half-time at a one-goal deficit, their captain having produced a superb save from a Jimenez header and the post having denied Quinones.

South Africa's task got significantly steeper shortly into the second half. Jimenez, racing through on goal, was felled on the edge of the penalty area by Sithole, who was sent off.

The Mexican fans, including boxing megastar Canelo Alvarez, erupted as 17-year-old Gilberto Mora was sent on, and within 60 seconds they were celebrating a second goal. Quinones played a slick one-two with Jimenez and fed Roberto Alvarado, whose devilish delivery was nodded home at the back post by the Mexico No9.

The contest concluded with another two red cards, South Africa substitute Themba Zwane and Mexico centre-back Cesar Montes seeing red. The



latter failed to spoil the home supporters' mood: El Tri were up and running.

Gilberto Mora, at 17 years and 240 days, became the sixth-youngest player to make a World Cup appearance. Pele (17 years and 235 days), Salomon Olembe (17 years and 185 days), Femi Opaunmi (17 years and 101 days), Samuel Eto'o (17 years and 99 days) and Norman Whiteside (17 years and 41 days) were his junior.

"I'm happy and excited to score my first World Cup goal, in such a spectacular stadium with amazing fans. It's important for me to acknowledge what my team-mates did to secure the first three points. We've felt the support of the fans these past few days. We're united and today it really showed," said Julian Quinones, Mexico forward.

"It was a really beautiful feeling, something

Korea Republic hits back to defeat Czechia 2-1

Goals from Hwang Inbeom and Oh Hyeongyu sealed a comeback win for Korea Republic in their Group A opener against Czechia

Agencies

Guadalajara, June 12: Hwang Inbeom scored one and created the other as Korea Republic came from a goal down to defeat Czechia and start their FIFA World Cup 2026™ campaign with victory at Guadalajara Stadium.

Korea had the better of the first half and frequently threatened, but were unable to find a way past Czechia goalkeeper Matej Kovar in the first 45 minutes.

Kovar saved a fierce left-footed strike from Lee Kangin in the 14th minute, before Son Heungmin sent a couple of decent opportunities off target and then couldn't quite connect with another chance in first-half stoppage time. Son was denied again 11 minutes into the second period, once more finding Kovar in his way.

Czechia then took the lead against the run of play in the 59th minute, captain Ladislav Krejci soaring through the air to meet a long throw from the right by Vladimir Coufal and thundering a header past a helpless Kim Seunggyu in the Korean goal.

Hwang restored parity with a delicious effort eight minutes later though, cutting inside before dinking



home after a sublime ball into his path from Lee Kangin, and Oh Hyeongyu then completed the turnaround when he tucked in Hwang's low ball in from the right in the 80th minute. Czechia threw everything they had at finding an equaliser of their own, but the closest they came was when Adam Hlozek forced Kim into a phenomenal stop in the 82nd minute, leaving Korea to celebrate a third consecutive World Cup win over European opposition, following victories over Portugal in 2022 (2-1) and Germany in 2018 (2-0).

Ladislav Krejci's header for Czechia was the country's first World Cup goal in almost 20 years to the day. Their previous effort came when Tomas Rosicky stabbed home the third in a

3-0 group stage win against USA on 12 June 2006.

"It was our first game and a very difficult one. The win itself makes me happy, but what's even more positive is that our boys won by not giving up. I knew that we were more than capable of winning, so at 1-1 I told the boys to keep playing the way we've been playing. Now, Mexico is another important match. We will spend the next week to prepare properly," said Hong Myungbo, Korea Republic coach.

"I cannot explain my emotions in words. My body temperature today had gone up to 38 degrees, because I wasn't feeling well. I wondered if I could even play. It was possible thanks to our staff and the medical team," said Oh Hyeongyu, Korea Republic forward.

SHOW Timings

INNOX SRINAGAR

Call: 95416 13868
For assistance with tickets

HAI JAWANI TOH ISHQ HONA HAI (HINDI) (ATMOS) (UA16+)	12:55 PM
DISCLOSURE DAY (ENGLISH) (UA13+)	01:40 PM, 07:50 PM
OBSESSION (ENGLISH) (A)	10:30 AM, 02:50 PM
GOVERNOR (HINDI) (UA13+)	07:35 PM
BHARAT BHHAGYA VIDDHAATA (HINDI) (UA16+)	11:00 AM
BACKROOMS (ENGLISH) (A)	05:10 PM
MAIN VAAPAS AAUNGA (HINDI) (ATMOS) (UA16+)	11:00 AM, 04:35 PM, 07:00 PM
HAUNTED ECHOES OF THE PAST (3D HINDI) (A)	04:10 PM