

Mandhana scores maiden T20I ton, leads India to a 97 run win

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

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MANN KI BAAT

PM highlights public health gains, grassroots change, dwells on Emergency anniversary



HT NEWS DESK
NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

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

In the 123rd edition of his monthly talk show Mann ki Baat, PM Modi recalled the nationwide enthusiasm surrounding the 10th International Yoga Day, observed on June 21. He noted in detail the wide-scale participation across the country and abroad, with the headline events in Visakhapatnam witnessing three lakh people perform yoga, and 2,000 tribal students conducting 108 Surya Namaskars.

Similar events were held in Telangana (featuring 3,000 Divyang participants), on the Chenab Bridge in J&K, aboard Indian Naval ships, and in cities across the world including New York and

Paris, Modi said while stressing that "this time the theme was also very special, 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health'. This is not just a slogan; it is a direction which makes us realize the essence of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. I am sure, the grandeur of this year's Yoga Day will certainly inspire more and more people to adopt yoga."

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

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

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PM Modi extends best wishes to devotees going on Yatras



HT NEWS DESK
NEW DELHI, JUN 29

In the 123rd episode of his monthly radio show, 'Mann Ki Baat', on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended heartfelt wishes to devotees embarking on various religious yatras across the country.

He also lauded those who, with a selfless spirit of service, contribute to the smooth and safe conduct of these spiritual journeys.

"When one embarks on a pilgrimage, the first feeling that arises is 'Let's go, we have been called!' This emotion is the soul of our pilgrimage. These pilgrimages are a means of discipline of the body, purification of the heart, of mutual love and brotherhood and a means to

connect with God," the Prime Minister said.

He added that beyond personal spiritual fulfilment, pilgrimages also represent collective service.

"There is another significant aspect to these journeys. These pilgrimages are also a great ritual of opportunities for service. Whenever a pilgrimage takes place, more people engage in serving the pilgrims than those who go on the pilgrimage. Everywhere, free community kitchens and food stalls are organised, people arrange for drinking water alongside the roads with a spirit of service, medical camps and facilities are set up, and many people even arrange lodging and rest houses for pilgrims,"

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>>> SHRI AMARNATH JI YATRA-2025

Lt Governor visits Nunwan and Chandanwari Base camps

HT NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 29

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha visited the Nunwan and Chandanwari base camps, today and reviewed the arrangements for the holy pilgrimage of Shri Amarnath Ji, which is scheduled to begin from July 03.

At Nunwan Base camp, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated a foot overbridge for smooth movement of



pilgrims. The new facility will ensure efficient security checks and reduce the waiting time

for devotees. The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the administrative and

security officials deput-ed for the holy Yatra, and took

CONTINUED ON >> PAGE 2

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

HT NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 29

The Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today met the family members of Kashmiri Civilians killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists in the last 3-decades. It's a historic step to finally recognize and honour the thousands of innocent civilians in Kashmir who were brutally killed by Pakistani terrorists.

Save Youth, Save Future Foundation, a non-profit organisation is playing a crucial role in documenting the families of terrorism



victims. Over 40,000 people, including civilians, security personnel, and even children, have lost their lives to terrorism since 1990. In majority of cases, FIRs were not filed in Common Kashmiris' killing by terrorists.

The Lieutenant Governor said Government of India launched this initiative to enable fami-

lies affected by terrorism to share their pain and expose the conspiracies of the terror ecosystem.

"For decades, these families were marginalised and their voices were not heard. Justice was denied. Their pain was ignored, and the truth deliberately suppressed. Hundreds of families have gained

strength and support to say their loved ones were killed by Pakistani terrorists. It's shocking, before 2019 terrorists' funeral processions were allowed while thousands of common Kashmiris killed by terrorists, remained forgotten and unacknowledged," the Lieutenant Governor

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

HT NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUN 29

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

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

Responding to the Right To Information application filed by Jammu-based activist Raman Kumar, the Jammu and Kashmir Home Department said, an amount of Rs 242.77 crore was given to the Union Territory administration headed by the Lt Governor between 2020-21 and 2024-25. However, 46.58 per cent of the money remains unspent. It said Rajouri district accounted for

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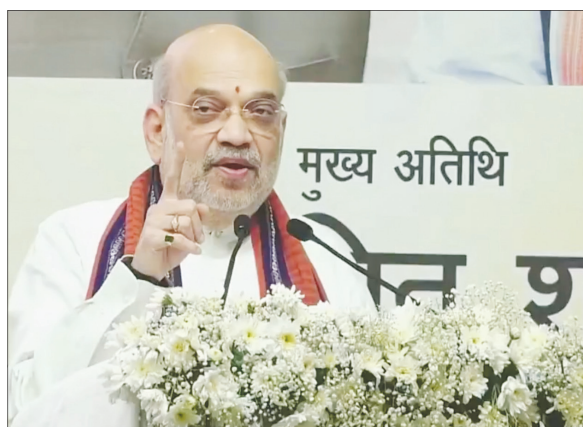
India has set USD 1 Bn turmeric export target by 2030: Amit Shah

HT NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, JUNE 29

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

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

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



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

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

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

CONTINUED ON >> PAGE 2

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

HT NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUN 29

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

In a letter to all states and Union Territories, Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India Mritunjay Kumar Narayan has said that for

the Census, all villages and towns are divided into uniform enumeration blocks and for each block, an enumerator is assigned to avoid any miss or repetition during the population count.

According to norms, the Census can be conducted only three months after the freezing of boundary limits of administrative units such as districts, sub-districts, tehsils, talukas and police stations.

Narayan said from

April 1, 2026, the House-listing Operation, the appointment of supervisors and enumerators and the work division among them will be done, and on February 1, 2027, the Census of the population will begin. It is important that once enumeration blocks are finalised, boundaries of administrative units are not changed, the letter said.

In his letter addressed to chief secretaries, Narayan asked them to direct all departments to make

any proposed changes in the boundaries of municipal corporations, revenue villages, tehsils, sub-divisions or districts before December 31.

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

Any changes in the existing boundaries

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

HT NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUN 29

While delivering a thought-provoking keynote address at the Doctor's Day Conclave organized by the Times Now, Union Minister of State

(Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, who is also a noted Professor of Medicine and Diabe-



logist, emphasized that India stands at the crossroads of a health-tech revolution and at the threshold of a grand new chapter, with its economy moving from the 10th to the 4th largest globally and the further ascent

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

medical discipline: Space Medicine.

Dr Jitendra Singh called for a "synergized, inclusive and futuristic healthcare ecosystem" in alignment with the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

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FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Mann Ki Baat: PM...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LG visits Nunwan and...

stock of the security arrangements and preparations of stakeholder departments.

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

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

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

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

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board; Shri Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shri VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Shri Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid, Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag and other senior officers of District Administration, SASB, Police and Security Forces.

India has set USD 1 Bn...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LG met Families of...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Boundaries of...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The reference date for Population Census - 2027 will be 00:00 hours of the first day of March 2027. For the Union Territory of Ladakh and the non-synchronous snow-bound areas of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the reference date will be 00.00 hours of the first day of October 2026, a notification had said. This Census will be carried out after 16 years as the last one was done in 2011.

Nearly half of central...

the highest utilisation of funds to the tune of Rs 78.05 crore followed by Poonch (Rs 44.56 crore), Samba (Rs 42.09 crore), Kathua (37.20 crore), Jammu (17.51 crore), Kupwara (Rs 14.85 crore), Bandipora (Rs 4.33 crore) and Baramulla (Rs 4.15 crore).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The bunkers proved to be a lifesaver for the border residents during the intense Pakistani shelling last month, minimising human loss, even as massive damage was caused to residential houses, besides the loss of livestock.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Doctor's Day conclave | India...

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

Addressing the theme of health and demographic change, the Minister spoke of India facing a "bi-phasic challenge" – a rising number of elderly citizens due to increased life expectancy, alongside a youthful population. He explained: "While more than 70% of India is under 40, the elderly population is also growing rapidly. In 1947, the average life span was 50-55 years; today it is nearing 80".

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

Highlighting India's recent global achievements, Dr. Jitendra Singh proudly stated that India has emerged as a global leader in preventive and precision healthcare. He noted that India developed the world's first DNA vaccine for COVID-19 and an HPV vaccine to help prevent cervical cancer. Further, India successfully conducted its first gene therapy trial for haemophilia, with the results published in the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine.

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

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

Touching upon the need for integrated institutions, Dr. Jitendra Singh revealed that IIT Kanpur and IISc Bengaluru are planning to establish medical schools within their campuses. He also lauded India's affordable healthcare models like Ayushman Bharat and institutions like Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute in Trivandrum, which integrates research, manufacturing, and clinical care.

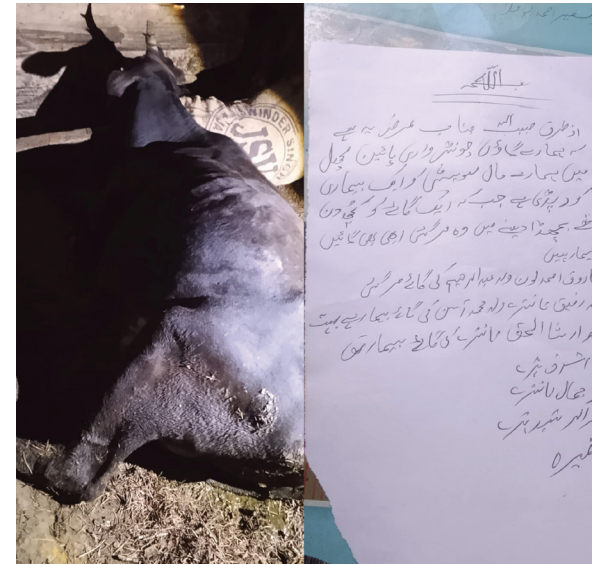
In the context of cancer care, Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasised India's move toward targeted radiation therapy and highlighted Tata Memorial Centre as a pioneer in 100% digital and cashless hospital systems.

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

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

Concluding his address, Dr. Jitendra Singh underscored the need for a transformative approach to India's healthcare

Outbreak of Sudden Diarrhea and High Fever Leaves Dozens of Animals Ill; Cow and Calf Die in Machil's Chotiware Payeen



DR. AB QAYOOM KUPWARA/MACHIL, JUN, 29

A distressing situation has unfolded in the remote border area of Chotiware Payeen in the Machil sector of Kupwara, where dozens of livestock have fallen severely ill due to a sudden outbreak of acute diarrhoea and high fever. The outbreak has already claimed the lives of a cow and her calf, leaving local residents in shock and fear for the safety of their remaining animals. Farooq Ahmad Lone, a resident of Chotiware Payeen told Headlines Today, that his cow was the only source of livelihood for his economically vulnerable family. "This morning, I lost all hope. Due to the non-availability of veterinary care and medicines from the Animal Husbandry Department Kupwara, my cow died yesterday evening in front of my eyes," Lone said with tears. According to locals, this mysterious viral disease started affecting animals in the village around seven days ago and has since spread rapidly. Despite multiple requests made to the concerned authorities, no timely veterinary assistance has reached this far-flung border village. Mohammad Rafiq Tantray, Mohammad Jamal, Mohammad Ashraf, Abdul Rashid, and several other locals jointly appealed to Deputy Commissioner Kupwara Ayushi Sudan for urgent intervention.

"We are helplessly watching our animals suffer. We request that a team of veterinarians and animal health experts be deputed immediately, along with life-saving medicines, to control this outbreak and safeguard the remaining livestock," they said. In response, District Animal Husbandry Officer Kupwara, Dr. Shabir Ahmad, told Headlines Today that the matter had not been officially brought to his notice. "The area falls under the jurisdiction of Block Veterinary Officer (BVO) Lolab Sogam, and I will confirm the situation with him. We will depute a team immediately to Machil for assessment and necessary treatment. As per my knowledge, a veterinary team had visited there recently during a vaccination drive," he added. Meanwhile, Professor Kaiser Mohi-ud-Din Malik, Head of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Kupwara, stated that although the KVK has limited animal health manpower, they would do their best to assist. "We have only one animal scientist, but we will visit Machil on Tuesday to collect samples, examine the affected animals, and submit a report on the cause of this disease outbreak," he assured. The local residents now await the administration's urgent action, fearing further loss of livestock if timely medical intervention is not provided.

future. He called for wider synergy across sectors, emphasizing the importance of collaboration between academia, research institutions, industry, and government. He also advocated for early-stage integration of the private sector in both research and healthcare delivery to ensure sustainability and scalability. Furthermore, he urged institutional innovation, citing proposals by premier institutes like IIT Kanpur and IISc Bengaluru to establish medical schools within their campuses – a step he believes will foster interdisciplinary excellence and create a new model of holistic education and healthcare. "Let us not hand over everything to the technocrats. A bit of the doctor must remain. We must carry forward both the science and the soul of medicine," he said.

PM Modi extends...

he said. PM Modi expressed joy over the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra after a long gap.

"Kailash Mansarovar means the abode of Lord Shiva. In every tradition – be it Hindu, Buddhist, or Jain – Kailash is considered to be the centre of faith and devotion," he noted.

Highlighting the spiritual vibrancy across India, he added, "The holy Amarnath Yatra is going to start from July 3, and the holy month of Sawan is also just a few days away. Just a few days ago, we have also seen the Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath ji."

The Jagannath Rath Yatra, one of the most sacred festivals of the country, draws lakhs of devotees from across the country, who converge at the temple town to take part in it every year.

He praised the scale and unity reflected in these events. "Whether it is Odisha, Gujarat, or any other corner of the country, millions of devotees participate in this pilgrimage. From North to South and from East to West, these pilgrimages reflect the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat,'" he said.

"When we undertake these pilgrimages with full devotion and discipline, then we also receive their rewards," the Prime Minister said, concluding with a message of goodwill.

"I extend my best wishes to all the fortunate devotees going on the various Yatras. I also commend those who are engaged in making these Yatras successful and safe with a spirit of service," he said.

Awareness and outreach event held at Panchayat Ghill Kunan, Gandoh under Dharti Aabha Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan

HT NEWS SERVICE DODA, JUNE 29

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



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

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

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

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

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

HT NEWS SERVICE RAJOURI, JUNE 29

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

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

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

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



declared safe for consumption.

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

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

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

On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, a

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

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

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

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

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

HT NEWS SERVICE BANDIPORA, JUNE 29

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

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

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

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

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

Satish Sharma Visits base camp Bhagwati Nagar

HT NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JUNE 29

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

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

The Minister also visited the Langar Hall and appre-



ciated the selfless services rendered by the Langar staff.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HT NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JUNE 29

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

Ms. Ashu Gupta, Regional Director, Evaluation &



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

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

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

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

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

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



HT NEWS SERVICE KISHTWAR, JUNE 29

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



HT NEWS SERVICE KISHTWAR, JUNE 29

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

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

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

es being provided to the community.

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

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

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

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



HT NEWS SERVICE UDHAMPUR, JUNE 29

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

Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan.

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

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

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

FROM EDITORS DESK

Jehangir Bukhari

Embracing
Amarnath Yatra 2025
Amid Contemporary
Security Scenario

SET to begin on July 3, 2025, the spiritual odyssey of the Amarnath Yatra draws near. India stands at a crossroads of devotion and vigilance. This 38-day pilgrimage, traversing the Batal and Pahalgam routes to the revered cave shrine of Lord Shiva, is far more than a religious journey: it's a testament to faith, endurance, and collective resolve.

The ice-formed Shivling inside the Amarnath cave symbolizes Lord Shiva and is believed to embody the timeless essence of immortality revealed to Goddess Parvati. Pilgrims, through this arduous trek, reaffirm their spiritual covenant and their unity with nature's formidable beauty.

Despite its sanctity, the Yatra faces formidable security challenges. After the Pahalgam terror attack in April that claimed lives and rattled the pilgrimage, registrations have dipped by roughly a clear reflection of pilgrim concerns. In apt response, authorities have launched Operation Shiva: a multi-layered security framework featuring:

Deployment of approx. 50,000 CRPF personnel, along with Army, NDRF, and local J&K Security forces. Layered Security strategy reflects not just a defensive posture but a collaborative spirit between state forces and residents of regions like Pahalgam.

The administration, under Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, alongside the Shrine Board, has also prioritized logistical upgrades. Besides addressing Health issues, E-KYC booths and on-site registration centers at Katra and Nowgam, supplemented by better lodging, enhanced medical support, and improved tracks.

Temporary insulated shelters, food depots, langars, and teashops along the routes ensure comfort against harsh alpine nights.

These measures are more than administrative, they are invitations to pilgrims, affirming that faith and safety can coexist.

The Yatra holds deeper significance this year. As security jitters and geopolitical tensions linger, the pilgrimage becomes more than a ritual. It's a profound reaffirmation of solidarity. Each step taken by devotees is an assertion that fear will not eclipse faith, that communal harmony is stronger than hostility, and that human spirit can flourish even at 3,800 m within the Himalayas.

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

DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

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

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

This water crisis is not limited to rural areas or the poor. In 2019, when a modern city like Chennai faced "Day Zero" and had to run water trains, it became clear that this problem is no longer at the doorstep, but inside the house. And yet we forget it every time, considering it a seasonal problem.

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

Even today, most farmers in the



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

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

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

It is time for India to stop treating water as a "free resource" and look at it as a "life value". This requires some deep and concrete reforms. First, there should be a price for water - whether it is for drinking or irrigation. The culture of free water has turned consumption into waste. Pricing water can strike a balance between social justice and environmental prudence.

Second, micro irrigation systems

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

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

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

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

Seventh, water conservation has to be made a 'people's movement' - as the Prime Minister had called for. But this call should not be seen only

in speeches but also in budget and administrative commitment. The Jal Shakti Ministry should not only be a tap-connecting ministry, but it will have to lead water policy, water education and water awareness.

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

And most importantly - we must understand that the water crisis is not just a matter of scientists and bureaucrats. It is a crisis of the common citizen. Every home, every hand must take the responsibility that water will not be wasted, and every drop will be respected.

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

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

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

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

Author Introduction:

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

Dr. Satyawan Saurabh is a Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, Radio and TV panelist.

Beyond the blackboards: Future-proofing skill education for the Gen next



VIJAY GARG

The Central Government's decision to introduce vocational education from Grade 6 under the 'Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan' signals a long-overdue shift towards skill-based learning. However, unless this reform is backed by robust infrastructure and industry collaboration its purpose may be defeated.

The Union Government's initiative to integrate vocational education starting from Grade 6 under the 'Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan' is a progressive step aimed at addressing the ongoing gap between academic learning and employability. As India strives to become a \$5 trillion economy, it is essential to equip its youth with skills early on. However, without a solid strategy, strong alignment with industry needs, and adequate infrastructure, this initiative risks becoming another well-intentioned yet poorly executed reform.

The Stark Skills Gap

The India Skills Report 2024

indicates that only 47.2 per cent of Indian youth are deemed employable, primarily due to a mismatch between the skills taught in educational institutions and those needed in the job market. A mere 4.1 per cent of individuals aged 15 to 59 have received any formal vocational training, compared to over 75 per cent in Germany and 50 per cent in China. This highlights the urgent need for a comprehensive overhaul of India's vocational education system, from early integration in schools to the development of market-relevant skill training programs.

Learning from Global Leaders

India has the opportunity to learn valuable lessons from the German Dual System, which effectively combines classroom education with practical apprenticeships in various industries. Approximately 50 per cent of German students opt for vocational pathways after completing secondary school. Similarly, China boasts 11,300 vocational institutions and nearly 31 million enrolments, producing 10 million skilled graduates each year.

These graduates support sectors ranging from services and manufacturing to artificial intelligence (AI). South Korea's impressive 96 per cent employment rate among vocational graduates is a result of rigorous standardisation and quality assurance. These examples serve as replicable blueprints,

particularly in terms of industry collaboration and co-creating curricula.

Patchy Progress Across States

West Bengal's Utkarsh Bangla Scheme, which offers vocational courses in nearly 2,000 schools, is an ambitious model. Annually, over 600,000 students are trained across various sectors, including electronics, hospitality, information technology, and healthcare.

However, limited engagement with industry partners diminishes job placement opportunities.

In contrast, states like Punjab, Haryana, and Tamil Nadu maintain close collaboration with industries and polytechnic institutes, facilitating smoother transitions from school to work.

States such as Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have taken a step further by aligning their vocational courses with future-oriented fields, including renewable energy, AI, robotics, and wellness. This initiative aligns with the Skill India Digital Vision 2024.

Infrastructure and Implementation

The National Education Infrastructure Survey 2023 reveals that 38 per cent of Government secondary schools still lack essential laboratory and workshop facilities. In Punjab, urban areas generally perform better, while rural regions continue to struggle with faculty shortages and outdated equip-

ment.

The poor effectiveness of previous initiatives, such as the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), highlighted that high enrollment numbers did not necessarily lead to employment, primarily due to inadequate training quality. A phased implementation model - starting with urban centres and gradually expanding to rural districts - can ensure that infrastructure, faculty, and educational content develop in tandem.

Bystander to Stakeholder

A 2023 survey by FICCI and EY reveals that 70 per cent of employers in India are facing skill shortages, yet only a small percentage are actively participating in vocational training programs. In Gujarat, effective Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) have successfully developed demand-driven courses and updated curricula.

Karnataka's collaboration with major tech companies, such as Infosys, Wipro, and Bosch, to train high school students in coding, data analytics, and mechatronics serves as a scalable model for other states. On the other hand, West Bengal remains dependent on Government-led initiatives and needs to enhance industry collaboration, not only for curriculum design but also for internships, apprenticeships, and certifications.

Quality Through Accountability

Since 2015, the Skill India Mission has certified over 1.3 crore individuals; however, only about 50 per cent of these individuals have secured employment. One of the main challenges is inconsistent quality. There is an urgent need for third-party audits, employer-validated certifications, and real-time tracking of placements to ensure transparency and accountability.

Singapore's Workforce Skills Qualification (WSQ) system is considered a benchmark, as industry councils update training modules quarterly in response to labour market needs. India must invest in similar National Skill Registries and adaptive learning platforms aligned with the vision outlined in the National Education Policy.

A Five-Point Reform Agenda for the Future

1. Curriculum Modernisation: Shift the focus from traditional trades to high-growth sectors such as electric vehicle (EV) maintenance, renewable energy, robotics, artificial intelligence (AI), and healthcare technology.
2. Mandatory Industry Partnerships: Each school offering vocational courses must partner with an industry or sector skills council to co-design the curriculum and conduct evaluations.
3. Digital-First Infrastructure: Utilise the upcoming Skill India Digital Platform to provide virtual

labs, remote mentorship, and modular learning opportunities, even in rural areas.

4. Quality Assurance Mechanisms: Establish a National Vocational Education Quality Council (NVEQC) to oversee standards, conduct audits, and implement employer feedback systems.

5. Incentivising Adoption: Offer tax benefits to companies that provide apprenticeships and performance-linked grants to schools based on their placement records.

Need for Deeper Reforms

India boasts one of the youngest populations globally. To transform this demographic dividend into a developmental advantage, practical skills must start early. Integrating vocational education from Grade 6 is a positive step; however, without significant reforms, it risks repeating past mistakes.

Vocational education should not be considered a fallback option for students who struggle academically. With the right policy initiatives, infrastructure improvements, and strong corporate partnerships, vocational education can lead India's human capital revolution. It is time to move from intention to implementation, as skills will become the new currency in the future of work.

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

Your Dream Doesn't Have an Expiry Date



JASWINDER PAL SHARMA

In a world that often values immediate results and quick successes, it's easy to feel discouraged when our dreams seem distant or unattainable. However, one of the most empowering truths is that your dream doesn't have an expiry date. No matter how long it takes or how many setbacks you face, your aspirations are valid and waiting for you to pursue them at your own pace.

The Timeless Nature of Dreams

Dreams are deeply personal and often rooted in our passions, values, and desires. Unlike perishable goods, dreams are timeless. They don't come with a "use by" date. Whether you're 20, 40, or 60, it's never too late to chase what truly ignites your soul. Many successful people achieved their dreams later in life, proving that age and timing are just numbers.

Overcoming the "Too Late" Mindset

A common barrier to pursuing dreams is the belief that it's "too late" or "I missed my chance." This mindset can paralyze action and foster regret. Remember, every moment is an opportunity to start anew. If you've ever felt that you've missed your window, remind yourself that every day is a fresh chance to move closer to your goals.

Embracing Patience and Persistence

Some dreams require time, effort, and perseverance. The path to fulfillment isn't always linear; setbacks and failures are part of the journey. Embracing patience and persistence is crucial. Celebrate small victories along the way and recognize that progress, no matter how slow, is still progress.

Reinventing and Evolving Your Dreams

As you grow and change, so might your dreams. It's okay if your goals evolve over time. Your aspirations are not static; they can adapt with your experiences and insights. This flexibility allows you to pursue passions that resonate more deeply as you gain clarity and wisdom.

Practical Steps to Keep Your Dreams Alive

1. Revisit Your Dreams Regularly: Reflect on what truly matters to you and whether your current pursuits align with your passions.
2. Set Small, Achievable Goals: Break down your big dreams into manageable steps to maintain motivation.
3. Surround Yourself with Support: Connect with people who inspire and encourage your journey.
4. Learn Continuously: Acquire new skills or knowledge that bring you closer to your goals.
5. Be Patient and Compassionate: Recognize that progress takes time, and setbacks are part of growth.

Final Thought

Your dreams are a vital part of your identity and happiness. They are not bound by time or circumstances. No matter where you are in life, remember: your dream doesn't have an expiry date. It's always worth pursuing, and with dedication and belief in yourself, you can turn your aspirations into reality—whenever the time feels right.

Jaswinder Pal Sharma
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Geetanjali

Where the mind is without fear
and the head is held high;
Where knowledge is free;
Where the world has not been
broken up into fragments by
narrow domestic walls;
Where words come out from
the depth of truth;
Where tireless striving stretches
its arms towards perfection;
Where the clear stream of reason
has not lost its way into the dreary
desert sand of dead habit;
Where the mind is lead forward by thee
into ever-widening thought and action—
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father,
let my country awake.
"Geetanjali"

Rabindranath Tagore

From the stove to the moon - a journey from the heat of the stove to the poetry of the moon

BOOK REVIEW

SONAL SHARMA
REVIEWER

Priyanka Saurabh's poetry collection 'Chulhe se Chaand Tak' is not just poetry, it is the journey of a woman's soul. This is the voice that was suppressed for centuries, but it still kept burning - with rotis, between plates, and through the ink dissolved in tears.

The poems in this collection bridge the gap between tradition and resistance, which patriarchy has deepened over generations. In these poems, the woman is not just an 'inspiration', but she is poetry itself - which has emotion, rhythm and anger as well.

A cry from the soul of a woman: 'A journey from the stove to the moon'

The title poem of the collection is the soul of this compilation. It is the story of an anonymous, unseen woman who is not recorded in history but has been the foundation of every home. The opening lines of the poem itself shock the reader: "The number of wars in history that I could not create, She has fought so much - silently, but with full strength."

This poem tells us that every daily activity of a woman is a struggle - the dough kneaded in the plate, the utensils cleaned, the ashes of the eyes - everything is a symbol of revolution. When she reaches the moon from the stove, it is not just a geographical but a spiritual and ideological flight. The poem says:

"When the poem recognized this, Then the first complete story of a woman was written." The silent sobs of patriotism: 'From the veil to the echo' This poem considers the death of a martyr not just as the death of an individual but as a void for the entire society. This work is not a heroic tale but a bundle of emotions in which the pain of every member resonates:

But all said and done, it remains the most coveted award that carries global heft and credibility, odd derelictions notwithstanding. Now there is a case of an individual making a brazen pitch for a Nobel Peace Prize for himself - i.e., American President Donald Trump. His plea that he was a deserving candidate for "doing great things" has been met with incredulous guffaws - even support.

Trump's conviction is based on the precedence of four previous Presidents of the USA - i.e., Theodore Roosevelt (for mediating the Treaty of Portsmouth between Russia and Japan), Woodrow Wilson (for ending World War I and founding of League of Nations), Jimmy Carter (for yeoman services in advancing democracy, human rights and global conflict resolutions, post-retirement), and Barack Obama (for promoting nuclear non-proliferation).

This has emboldened Trump to re-posit the long-standing case (as he believes) of the Abraham Accords and summit diplomacy with Kim Jong-Un from his previous tenure, to what he believes has been a continuation of stellar



Name of the book:

From the stove to the moon (Hindi poetry collection)

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Language: Hindi

Type: Poetry Collection

Page Number: 111

Print Type: Paperback / Traditional Print

"Sister's Rakhi is martyred, Who now searches for the wrist only in photographs. A mother's love is martyred, Which burns like a lamp on Diwali - without any answer."

Here, Priyanka has given such a poetic shape to the breaking fabric of a soldier's family that it seems more credible and poignant than any reportage.

Redefining love: "Those women were lucky"

This poem creates a new language of love in contemporary feminist discourse. It does not make women an object of worship, but gives them a touch of equality. Priyanka Saurabh writes:

"The man who does not worship in love, But could give a touch of equality.

who does not consider a woman 'less',

I could never say 'never'."

The most important thing about this poem is that it presents 'love' without glamour, in a very intimate way - where the woman becomes a person and not just a shadow woven into relationships.

Mahabharata of introspection: "You are not Shakuni, but why do you pretend to be one?"

This work is a self-critical presentation, which communicates with the reader. The poem is not addressed to anyone else, but to oneself - an attempt to recognize the conspiracy within oneself:

The Mahabharata within you, It is still incomplete, ongoing. Wake up from the war inside you,

And accept your shadow."

This poem in very few words creates that restlessness which urges to change the individual, not the society.

The tragedy of education and bias: 'Dronacharya's class policy'

Priyanka's poem exposes our socio-educational structure. Through an iconic symbol like 'Dronacharya', she succeeds in showing that justice demands not only education but also courage: "Distributing knowledge was my duty,

But justice was lost somewhere. Class policy held him captive."

This poem talks about the failure of teachers who limit knowledge to a particular class. Crafts and language

Priyanka's language is simple but powerful. She speaks through symbols - paraat, dupatta, bangles, veil, rakhi, shadow - all these become living characters of her poetic world. She has woven each poem not just in verses but in consciousness.

There is no pretentious style in her poems. She weaves deep meanings with ease. This collection does not run after rhyme or ornamentation, but seeks the essence.

'Chulhe se chaand tak' is the voice of that woman who for centuries was kept as just an 'inspiration'. This collection says that now is the time when the woman herself should become a poem - a weapon - and write the definition of her dreams.

This poetry collection is a must for every reader who wants to live poetry and not just read it. It has tears, resistance, and most importantly - hope.

This collection is a powerful signature among the new female voices in Hindi poetry, which resonates in the mind of the reader for a long time.

Trump's Quest for a Nobel: A Deal Too Far?

BHOPINDER SINGH

Now, in a move that has sparked both disbelief and debate, US President Donald Trump is aggressively lobbying for the Nobel Peace Prize. But can a figure as polarising as Trump ever align with the Nobel's spirit?

Alfred Nobel's will (1895) established the foundational principle of the prize "for the greatest benefit to humankind". Specifically, the famous will mandates the Nobel Peace Prize to be bestowed on someone who "shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, the abolition or reduction of standing armies and the holding and promotion of peace congresses".

It is a tall ask, and it has therefore been given to achievers like Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Kofi Annan etc., who have shaped the destiny of societies across the world.

However, like all awards, it has had its share of questionable winners like Henry Kissinger (who oversaw US bombings in Laos and Cambodia, after the award), Menachem Begin (who was involved in activities like Irgun bombings), Abiy Ahmed (who subsequently participated in a brutal civil war) etc.

Equally contentious has been the track record of certain denials of the Nobel Peace Prize to luminaries like Mahat-

ma Gandhi (ostensibly owing to technicalities) or Eleanor Roosevelt - or even an odd case of Vietnamese Le Duc Tho, who refused to accept the Prize, as peace had not been established in Vietnam, conclusively.

But all said and done, it remains the most coveted award that carries global heft and credibility, odd derelictions notwithstanding. Now there is a case of an individual making a brazen pitch for a Nobel Peace Prize for himself - i.e., American President Donald Trump. His plea that he was a deserving candidate for "doing great things" has been met with incredulous guffaws - even support.

Trump's conviction is based on the precedence of four previous Presidents of the USA - i.e., Theodore Roosevelt (for mediating the Treaty of Portsmouth between Russia and Japan), Woodrow Wilson (for ending World War I and founding of League of Nations), Jimmy Carter (for yeoman services in advancing democracy, human rights and global conflict resolutions, post-retirement), and Barack Obama (for promoting nuclear non-proliferation).

This has emboldened Trump to re-posit the long-standing case (as he believes) of the Abraham Accords and summit diplomacy with Kim Jong-Un from his previous tenure, to what he believes has been a continuation of stellar

Now, in a move that has sparked both disbelief and debate, US President Donald Trump is aggressively lobbying for the Nobel Peace Prize. But can a figure as polarising as Trump ever align with the Nobel's spirit?

performances in his second tenure. But he senses a bias in the Nobel Committee, as he expressed his frustration by saying, "No, I won't get a Nobel Peace Prize no matter what I do, including Russia/Ukraine, and Israel/Iran, whatever those outcomes may be, but the people know, and that's all that matters to me." He has unabashedly added ostensible mediation in the four-day India-Pakistan standoff to buttress his claim. But the truth is that none of the claims of having "mediated successfully" have proven to be sustainable or attributable to him personally. If anything, the motor-mouth has been a major global disruptor and hardly a beacon for "best work for fraternity between nations".

Further, Trump's unilateral approach towards renegotiating the crucial Iran Nuclear Deal, the UN Human Rights Council, or withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord has had a dan-

gerously destabilising impact across the board. Added to the questionable track record is the obvious falling short of the Nobel spirit when a nominee actively propagates and beseeches his fitment for the Prize. At the end of the day, the author (that too, ghostwritten) of The Art of the Deal, who thrives on his businessman's transactional nature, does not perhaps understand that the ethos and spirit of the Nobel Prize is holistic and does not preclude human rights, sufferings, and diminutions accompanying the so-called sovereign "Deals" and "Agreements" that Trump boasts of.

The jury evaluating the suitability of a nominee like Trump cannot ignore his inglorious track record, including acts like separating migrant families, brutal handling of public protests, and his other incendiary comments. Trump is the first former US President convicted of a felony and is infamously called by monikers like "Insurrectionist-in-Chief", "The twice-impeached President", "Grifter-in-Chief" etc., and with that sort of polarising public perception - the only practical recourse left to someone like Trump is through coercive demands or threats to the Norwegian Nobel Committee itself!

Towards the same, Trump has left no major pulpit or opportunity to stake a personal claim - however hankering, inelegant, and undignified it

looks. Proposing his name for the Nobel are a bunch of extreme right-wing politicians and now joined in the "cause" by the Pakistani Field Marshal Asim Munir. The Nobel Committee is already under a lot of flak for its past choices, and therefore someone like Trump could be the death knell for the award.

Peace laureates must be seen as inclusive leaders, champions of democracy and human rights per se, besides championing their specific cause or people. Whereas Trump has patently pooh-poohed legality, constitutionality, and ideals of democracy - besides peddling misinformation and polarisation as a means to divide and rule.

When compared to a former awardee of the Nobel Peace Prize like the statesman Nelson Mandela, who stood for forgiveness, moral endurance, inclusivity, and social justice - the contrasting and jarring narrative à la Trump is about "Deals", deterrence, and personal achievements! There is a reason why Trump cannot be Gandhi (who didn't get the Prize), Mandela, or even Barack Obama (who has a lot to justify). The businessman struggles to comprehend that recognition cannot be bought - it has to be earned.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. Views are personal)

Grievance redressal camp held at Jagti

Dr. Karwani reviews Jagti migrant camp development works

HT NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

the roster of duty and take stock of all development works/ problems of migrants, including grievances related to immovable properties in Kashmir Valley. They were asked to maintain close coordination with the Additional Deputy Commissioner of the concerned districts, appointed as Nodal Officers for the purpose in terms of a Government Order in this regard recently.

The Jammu Municipal Corporation was asked to redress the complaints of inmates regarding the quality of sanitation work and asked to deploy additional manpower to further improve day to day sanitation facility viz. collection, transportation and disposal of garbage and refuse in the migrant camps.

The Department of Youth Services & Sports was asked to expedite the proposal for the maintenance of open spaces/ playgrounds, organize physical education activities and also promote Scouts and Guides activities in the migrant camps.

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

The Health Department was asked to orga-

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

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

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

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

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

The Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs was asked to look into the complaints of some inmates about the distribution of ration and the demand of residents for supply of flour in the ration depots.

It was further impressed that the modalities for integration of the ration cards of the Kashmiri/Jammu Migrants into the National Food Security Act (NFSA) database, be expedited to enable them to avail the benefit of various Government Schemes.

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

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

Regarding the allotment of flats in the migrant camps, Dr Karwani assured the public that the allotments will be made to the poor and underprivileged sections of the society in a transparent and accountable manner, with preference given to widows, persons with disabilities and those suffering from life consuming diseases, solely dependent on relief assistance. He asked the public to stay cautious against criminal elements and middlemen trying to exploit innocent and gullible persons with the promise of providing them flats or getting their work done. He strongly emphasised on zero tolerance against corruption.

Public was asked not to approach any middlemen/agent and instead avail the service of daily grievance redressal mechanism of Relief Organization, wherein all officers and officials of Relief Organisation are connected daily at 12 noon from head office and all Zones.

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

Dharti Aaba Abhiyan continues at Mujhpathri of Khansahib Budgam

HT NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JUNE 29

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

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

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

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

Tribal community acknowledged the importance of holding such out-

reach events and raised various issues, many of which were addressed on the spot.

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

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

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

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

DA-JGUA: Buffer camp organized at PHC Wangath for tribal welfare & health outreach

HT NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, JUNE 29

As part of the ongoing Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA), a dedicated Buffer camp was held today at PHC Wangath, Block Kangan, with a focused thrust on tribal health services and welfare saturation.

The camp aimed to bring essential healthcare, social welfare schemes, and awareness initiatives directly to the doorstep of tribal communities, especially Gujar and Bakarwal populations residing in the upper belts of Wangath and nearby hamlets.

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

HT NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUNE 29

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

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

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



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

Addressing the gathering, Satish Sharma lauded the initiative and highlighted the government's commitment towards promoting youth driven innovation, physical fitness and peace-building activities. "Peace and innovation are the twin engines of

progress in any society. Jammu and Kashmir, with its vibrant youth and rich potential, can lead the way in shaping a resilient, inclusive and innovative future," he said.

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

impactful initiative. During the event, a special 'Innovation Showcase' corner was set up where young entrepreneurs and university startups displayed breakthrough ideas in areas like green energy, sustainable tourism and social tech.

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

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

HT NEWS SERVICE
REASI, JUNE 29

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rana visits Manigam, Baltal, Domail Camps

HT NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, JUNE 29

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

He visited the transit camp Manigam, Baltal base camp and Domail camp to

assess the ongoing preparations.

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

Rana emphasized the importance of proper water tap connections, regular water testing and immediate corrective measures

to ensure water safety. He directed the officials to keep water tankers on standby mode and ensure adequate water supply especially for community kitchens, huts, bathroom/toilets and livestock.

The Minister also reviewed arrangements for firewood availability, flood protection management and manpower deployment. He stressed the need for close

coordination among the stakeholders to ensure all arrangements are in place well in advance.

Rana appreciated the efforts of the officers of Jal Shakti and Forest departments for timely execution of works. He assured that the government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, is committed towards facilitating a peaceful and smooth Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

Final arrangements for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025 reviewed in district Ramban

HT NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JUNE 29

Ahead of the upcoming Dry Run for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025, Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan along with Senior Superintendent

of Police, Kulbir Singh and Additional Deputy Commissioner, Varunjeet Singh Charak conducted a comprehensive inspection of the final arrangements from Nashri to Banihal.

The inspection focused on reviewing the readi-

ness of essential facilities, including Langers, toilets, accommodation, healthcare, drinking water and power supply at key locations such as Chanderkote, Lamber, Banihal and other designated points along the route.

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

HT NEWS SERVICE POONCH, JUNE 29

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

KV Dulhasti Kishtwar hosts annual day & prize distribution ceremony

HT NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JUNE 29

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

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

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



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

only in the Teaching-Learning efforts but also fir setting new standards in shaping the growth and development of the students. The Chief guest blessed the occasion with his kind

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

Vi Launches New Vi Max Family Plan with Bundled Netflix Subscription

HT NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JUNE 29

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

Single Plan with Netflix and up to 18 More OTTs

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

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



now get Netflix for the two of you

With Vi Max Postpaid Family Plan at ₹871

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

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

Highest Data Benefit in the Industry

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

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

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

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

Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, Patna, Chandigarh, and Bengaluru. The company plans to strategically roll out 5G in all 17 priority circles, where it has acquired 5G spectrum, by August this year.

Under the industry-first 'Choice' proposition that offers Postpaid customers the freedom to choose their preferred benefits across entertainment, travel, and mobile security, the plan offers two 'Choice' benefits:

In entertainment, Vi customers can choose from Amazon Prime, JioHotstar, SonyLIV, or access to 17 OTT platforms (including Zee5, Fancode, Discovery+, SonyLIV, JioHotstar, etc.) through the Vi Movies & TV platform

In travel and device security, the Vi Max Family Plan 871 also lets customers choose from the following:

Norton Mobile Security (12 months) - complimentary protection for your mobile device

EaseMyTrip Travel Benefit - exclusive discounts on flights, perfect for planning holidays and family travel

This launch follows Vi's recent move to allow up to a total of eight secondary members at an additional Rs 299 per member, under one Family Plan.

NCEEA-2025 concludes with roadmap for sustainable farming innovations



HT NEWS SERVICE RAMBAN, JUNE 29

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

Held from June 27-29, the conference brought together experts to discuss eco-friendly pest management, climate-resilient farming, and region-specific agrotechnologies. Organized by the Entomological Science Academy in collaboration with SKUAST

Jammu and IIT Jammu, the event emphasized aligning agricultural education, research, and extension with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to foster innovation and employability.

In a special virtual address, Poonam Jasrotia, ADG (Plant Protection & Biosafety), ICAR, New Delhi, highlighted the need for region-specific technologies to enhance hill agriculture, particularly for indigenous crops such as Anardana, Kasrod, Kaladi, potatoes, and minor fruits. She stressed the importance of advanced pest surveillance, precision farming, and value-added processing to boost productivity.

The conference outlined several key recommendations, including the promotion of bio-

logical control using local bioagents and the mainstreaming of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). It advocated integration of entomology with cutting age technologies like AI, genomes and biotechnology. Participants called for stronger biotech research to develop stress-tolerant crops, the integration of renewable energy with Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA), and improved agrotech support for Ramban's unique crops.

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

to nurture future-ready agro-entrepreneurs.

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

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

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

HT NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JUNE 29

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

In a letter addressed to the Hon'ble Minister, NDA Chief Functionary Sushil Singh Charak highlighted the growing concern among students who were unable to appear for the Common University



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

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

"We have requested the reinstatement of at least a 20% quota for Non-CUET

candidates at the University of Jammu, Cluster University of Jammu, and affiliated colleges for the current academic session."

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

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

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

HT NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUNE 29TH

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

The Baramulla squad, demonstrating exceptional resilience and strategic prowess under the guidance of Hockey J&K, delivered a compelling performance. Arshdeep Singh (Sr.) initiated their scoring in the 10th minute, with Arshdeep Singh (Sr.) swiftly doubling the lead in the 30th. Despite a spirited comeback from Singhpora Sports Club,



featuring goals from Hardeep Singh (12th minute, penalty stroke) and Jaipal Singh (58th minute), it was Manmeet Singh's crucial 44th-minute goal that ultimately sealed the championship for Baramulla. Sumeetpal Singh of General Bikram Singh Hockey Club was deservedly recognized for his outstanding play, earning him the Player of the Match award.

The closing ceremony was notably graced by MLA Baramulla, Janab Javaid Hassan Beigh, who commended the players' dedication and announced a substan-

tial Rs 10 lakh grant for ongoing stadium maintenance. Distinguished guests included Gurdeep Singh Sangral, President, Hockey J&K, and Ex-DIG S. Keerat Singh Ji, a revered patron whose generous sponsorship provided the cash prizes: Rs 25,000 for the champions and Rs 15,000 for the runners-up.

A significant appeal was made by the players for the long-promised Astro Turf installation, a project sanctioned over 15 years ago but hampered by persistent land allocation challenges. Responding to this critical demand, MLA

Beigh pledged a resolution within two to three months, assuring the development of a world-class hockey stadium for Baramulla.

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

Kishtwar gets first Phaco Unit at District Hospital

HT NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JUNE 29

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

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

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



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

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

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

Mandhana scores maiden T20I ton, leads India to a 97 run win

UNI
NOTTINGHAM, JUNE 29

Standing in as captain for the injured Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana led from the front in style, scoring her maiden T20I century in the first match against England at Nottingham. Her brilliant 112 helped India to a commanding 97-run victory.

While it marked a significant personal milestone, Mandhana admitted that



format is something which, for me as a batter, I need to keep pushing and keep improving.

"It's not a very natural format for me because I like to time the ball, not a big hitter of the ball, and for the last six years, it's always a work in progress and it's still a work in progress."

The 28-year-old expressed her desire to build on this knock and notch up more big scores in the format.

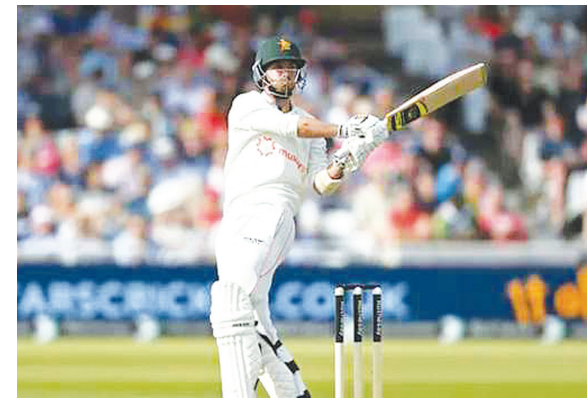
T20Is don't come naturally to her due to her preference for timing over power-

hitting. "It's a nice feeling because, of course, this

UNI
BULAWAYO, JUNE 29

South Africa took firm control of the first Test against Zimbabwe at Queens Sports Club today, building a commanding 216-run lead by stumps on Day 2, despite a defiant century from Zimbabwe's veteran batsman Sean Williams.

After declaring their first innings at an impos-



ing 418 for 9, South Africa struck early in Zimbabwe's reply, reducing the hosts to 23 for 2. But Williams, batting at No. 4, staged a valiant fightback with a superb 137, his sixth Test century, to help Zimbabwe post 251. South Africa then reached 49 for 1 in their second innings at close of play, with Wiaan Mulder (25*) and Tony de Zorzi (22*) holding firm.

Indian Women's Hockey Team lose to China 0-3

UNI
BERLIN, JUNE 29

China registered a determined 3-0 win against Indian Women's Hockey Team here, pushing them on the brink of a relegation from the FIH Hockey Pro League.

It was a disappointing outing for India who missed converting from the chances, including a penalty stroke in the fourth quarter when Deepika hit the post yesterday.

"We are giving away too many soft PCs," was Chief Coach Harendra Singh's half-time analysis. From only six chances in the circle for China, they scored thrice with goals from Yang Chen (21'), Ying Zhang (26') - both these goals from PC while Anhui Yu (45') scored a field goal.

"Execution and good structure are what helped us win today," was China's immediate reaction to the victory which continues to firmly place them in the fourth position on the points table while India remains in the ninth place. A favorable result in the upcoming game between seventh-placed Germany and eight-placed England would give some hope for India.

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