

Inaugurates Nutraj's State-of-the-art flagship Nuts & Dryfruit processing plant at Samba

J&K will occupy its rightful place in developed UTs of India: LG

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday inaugurated the Nutraj's State-of-the-art flagship Nuts & Dryfruit processing plant at Samba.

The Lieutenant Governor congratulated Gagan Jain, Director, VKC Nuts Private Limited and all the members on the commencement of the new facility for Processing of Nuts, Dryfruit and value-added products.

He said, the cutting-edge industrial unit will drive J&K UT's growth and aspirations and also act as an engine of economic and social progress for Samba and adjoining areas.

"First of its kind unit in border area is proof of our resolve to take UT to the pinnacle of progress. This Unit is already creating local jobs and boosting local income and I am confident it will improve living stan-



Lt Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurating Nutraj's flagship Nuts & Dryfruit processing plant at Samba.

dards while increasing disposable income for families," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, highlighted the key reforms and progressive policies of the J&K Administration fostering industrial growth and ensuring sustainable and inclusive economic development.

"J&K is on the move. The

rise of Crown Jewel of India is one of the greatest stories of the 21st Century. I sincerely believe, with a large pool of skilled human resources and tremendous potential for growth, J&K will occupy its rightful place in developed UTs of India," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the New Industrial Policy in April 2021, the

first planned industrialization after independence under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ensured industrial transformation.

"J&K has become one of the most advanced UTs in the country in terms of modern physical infrastructure and digital infrastructure.

The rapid growth of infrastructure and increased connectivity in J&K UT between 2021 and 2024 was evident in economic activity, exports and GDP growth. Millions of our citizens are fulfilling their decade-long aspirations," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor asked the Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Jammu to work in collaboration with the VKC NUTS Private Limited for walnut production, benefiting the farmers engaged in the sector. He further

asked the VKC Nuts Private Limited to facilitate the export of local Cherry production.

Nutraj's flagship Nuts & Dryfruit processing unit will provide direct employment to over 400 local youths, 70% of which will be women.

Keshav Dutt Sharma, Chairman, DDC, Samba; Members of Legislative Assembly - Surjit Singh Slathia, Chander Parkash Ganga, Dr Devinder Kumar Manyal; Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industries and Commerce Department; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Rajesh Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Samba; Heads of various departments and trade organisations and prominent citizens from different walks of life were present.

CAVA U19 Men's Volleyball Championship 2025

Kuldeep Magotra to represent Indian team as Manager

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Volleyball Association of J&K (VAJK), Kuldeep Magotra has been appointed Manager of the Indian Under-19 men team heading for CAVA U19 Men's Volleyball Championship 2025, scheduled to be held in Tashkent from June 10 to 16, 2025.

The appointment has been made by the Adhoc Committee of the Volleyball Federation of India (VFI) considering the experience of administrator from J&K.

Kuldeep Magotra, former member of J&K State Sports Council, has also been honoured by VFI earlier in various capacities to represent India as Technical delegate in 1986 in the 5th Asian Junior Volleyball Championship held at Bangkok (Thailand), as Manager in 7th Asian Senior Volleyball Men Championship at Seoul (South Korea) in 1989, in SAF Games held at Kathmandu (Nepal) in 1999, in International Volleyball popularly known as 'Rashid Gold Cup Championship at Dubai in 2006, Indian Junior Women Volleyball team in 15th Asian Junior Volleyball Women Championship being held at Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam from



September 12 to 20, 2010, in 18th Narsultan Nazar Bayen President's Cup International Men's Volleyball Tournament at Amity (Kazakhstan) in August 2011, in 18th Asian Senior Men's Volleyball Championship at Tehran in August 2015 and AVC Cup for Men Volleyball Championship at Thailand in 2022.

Besides aforesaid achievements, Kuldeep Magotra, an awardee of J&K State Sher-e-Kashmir Gold Medal in the year 1987, also nominated as Competition Director in Khelo India School Games (KISG) volleyball event at Delhi in 2018,

Magotra's vast experience in hosting four National Championships i.e. Sub-Junior in 2008, two Juniors in 1990 and 2022, Senior in 1995 J&K State as 'Organising Secretary' has been recognized by Sports fraternity" as well as Adhoc Committee of the Volleyball Federation of India.

The Volleyball Association of J&K has complimented Kuldeep Magotra on his selection for this prestigious International assignment and wished the Indian Volleyball team for best performance.

Yogatvam hosts yoga session at Mubarak Mandi



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Building on the momentum of last week's soulful gathering, Yogatvam once again brought the community together this morning for a rejuvenating Free Yoga Session at the historic Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex.

From 6:00 AM to 7:30 AM, the serene courtyard of the heritage site came alive as yoga enthusiasts

of all ages assembled for an energizing start to their Sunday.

The session was skillfully led by experienced yoga instructor Sahil Mehra, who guided participants through a holistic practice aimed at fostering physical vitality, mental clarity, and spiritual connection.

Organized by Yogatvam - a community-driven initiative inspired by the

teachings of Yoga Guru Sanjay Asin Ji - the event reflected the organization's mission to make traditional yoga accessible, inclusive, and rooted in both wellness and cultural reverence.

The turnout this Sunday saw familiar faces alongside new participants, with many sharing a deep sense of peace and gratitude for the opportunity to practice in such a

meaningful and majestic setting. Mubarak Mandi, with its rich history and tranquil ambiance, once again served as the perfect backdrop for this celebration of unity, breath, and mindful movement.

Participants lauded Yogatvam's continued efforts in creating safe, welcoming spaces for collective well-being and expressed eager anticipation for future sessions.

Dy CM inspects progress on Indripatan-Pargwal, Rathua bridges

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, on Sunday conducted an extensive tour of Pargwal and Gho Manhasan to inspect the progress on development works being executed there.

During the tour, the Dy CM visited the site of ongoing under construction bridge between Indri Pattan to Pargwal which is a 1,640-metre span double-lane bridge over the Chenab River in Sajwal. He said that on completion of the bridge, the distance between Sajwal and Indri Pattan will be reduced to 5 km from present 47 km.

"The bridge will provide an alternative route for the population of Pargwal, Sajwal, Indri Pattan and adjoining villages which will not only save their time and money but also help them



Dy CM, Surinder Choudhary conducting tour of Pargwal.

during cross-border firing or in natural calamities, he added."

Expressing concern over delay in completion of a vital bridge over River Chenab, the Deputy Chief Minister said that this has resulted in trouble for thousands of border residents and it has caused a lot of inconvenience to the local populace.

Choudhary directed the

concerned officials to clear all the bottleneck, if any, and expedite the pace of works for timely completion of the prestigious project. He asked the executing agency to complete the work by or before December 2025 otherwise strict action shall be initiated against all the concerned involved in the project. He cautioned that laxity or further delay in completion of

the work and poor quality of material will not be spared.

While inspecting the development works in Gho Manhasan, the Dy CM was apprised regarding the progress on construction of over 100 meter concrete bridge and approach road along with protection wall on both sides to be completed with an estimated cost of total Rs 560 lakh. He was further apprised that the construction of bridge has been completed while work on approach road is in progress and will be completed soon.

The Deputy Chief Minister exhorted upon the executing agency to gear up their men and machinery and complete the work with in one month. He instructed them to ensure regular inspection of the project site to keep a check on quality parameters of each work.

MP Jugal Kishore applauds Palli PACS initiative

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: In a significant gesture underscoring support for grassroots entrepreneurship and cooperative led rural development, Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma on Sunday paid a surprise visit to the newly inaugurated Co-operative Crumbs Bakery-n-Café, an initiative of the Palli Primary Agriculture Cooperative Credit Society (PACS).

During the visit, the MP interacted with the staff and management of the unit, expressing appreciation for the innovative step taken by the cooperative in promoting self-reliant rural development. He commended the initiative as a commendable example of community-led economic empowerment and praised the role of the Cooperative Department in fostering sustainable livelihood opportunities, particularly for women and youth in the region.

"This venture not only reflects the entrepreneurial spirit of our rural population but also strengthens the cooperative framework essential for achieving the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat," Sharma remarked during his inter-



MP Jugal Kishore Sharma paying surprise visit to newly inaugurated Co-operative Crumbs Bakery-n-Café at Samba.

action.

The MP assured continued support for such people-centric enterprises and emphasised the need for replication of similar models across the region to further deepen the cooperative movement and generate employment at the grassroots level.

Hockey selection trials on June 11,12

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Hockey J&K has announced the selection trials for the JKUT Sub-Junior Women's Hockey Team, which will participate in the upcoming 15th Hockey India Sub-Junior Women National Championship scheduled to be held in Ranchi, Jharkhand from July 3 to July 14, 2025. The selection trials will take place on June 10 and 11, 2025, starting from 4:00 PM onwards at the KK Hakku Hockey Stadium, Jammu.

Following the trials, a coaching camp will be organized starting June 12, 2025, to prepare the selected team for the national

championship. Hockey J&K has invited all interested and eligible players to report on time at the venue with the required documents.

To be eligible, players must be registered on the Hockey India MU Portal and must be born on or after January 1, 2009. Each player is also required to carry a valid ID proof, such as Aadhaar Card or Passport, at the time of reporting.

For further details, players or guardians may contact Gurdeep Singh, President Hockey J&K at 9906875724, or Dr. Taran Singh, General Secretary Hockey J&K at 9419147284.

India announces Squad for CAVA U-19 Men's Volleyball Championship 2025

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Adhoc Committee of Volleyball Federation of India has officially announced the squad for the upcoming CAVA U19 Men's Volleyball Championship 2025, scheduled to be held in Uzbekistan from June 10 to 16, 2025.

The Indian U19 squad comprises 12 talented players from across the country, selected for their skill, fitness, and performance. The lineup features a strong combination of attackers, blockers, universals, setters, and liberos, making it a balanced team for the international stage.

The Team: Rajat Singh, Mahendra Dhurwe, Ashish Kumar, Sunil Muwal, Nandamudi Mourya, Vignesh Shanmugan, Adarsh Rai, Aadhi Krishna Nediara, Kunal Das, Akhilan Kamaraj, Alok Manoj Todkar and Nikhil Jat.

The official contingent includes Kuldeep Magotra (Manager), Lakshminarayan K R (Head Coach), Surinder Kumar and Mohd Javeed (Assistant Coaches), Uttkarsh Kulshreshtha (Doctor/Therapist), and Narender Kshatriya (Referee).

In the championship, India will play against

Iran on June 10, against Kyrgyzstan on June 11, against Uzbekistan-I on June 12, against Uzbekistan-II on June 14. The coaching staff expressed confidence in the team's preparation and its potential to perform well in the international arena. The players have undergone rigorous training and fitness sessions in preparation for this prestigious championship.

The entire nation eagerly awaits the performance of these young stars, hoping for a podium finish and international recognition in Central Asia Volleyball Association (CAVA) events.

Tribal lands being looted under 'pro-corporate' policies: Dipankar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RANCHI: CPI (ML) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya on Sunday alleged the tribal lands are being looted in the country under "pro-corporate" policies.

He said that the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation would continue its struggle to protect 'Jal, Jungle, Jamin' (water, forest, land) of tribals.

"Today, the looting of Adivasi land in the country has become an organised process. Governments are undermining legal protections like CNT-SPT under pro-corporate policies," he said addressing the two-day national council meeting of the Adivasi Sangharsh Morcha (ASM) here.

He alleged the plunder of minerals and encroachment on forest areas are being justified in the name of development.

"Those who raise their voices against this loot face repression, arrests or false cases. Birsu Munda taught us that where there is oppression, rebellion will erupt. We must move forward with this spirit," he added.

Leaders across parties hail Haryana Guv Dattatreya at autobiography launch

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

HYDERABAD: Former President Ram Nath Kovind on Sunday praised Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya as a rare leader without any foes or rivals in public life.

Speaking after releasing Dattatreya's autobiography in Telugu 'Prajala kathe, naa atna katha' (story of people is my life story), he said Dattatreya is a personality who is a friend to all.

A galaxy of leaders, cutting cross political lines, including former Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, his Telangana counterpart A Revanth Reddy, Governors of various states and Union Minister G Kishan Reddy attended the event.

"I think, in his (Dattatreya) dictionary of life, perhaps, there are no words like enemy or rival," Kovind said.

Hailing Dattatreya for his tireless efforts to uplifting the poor and aiding those in need, Kovind also recalled his incarceration during the Emergency.

"During imprisonment, he used to encourage his fellow

jail inmates saying they will get released from jail soon."

Kovind further said the initiatives undertaken by Dattatreya as Union Labour Minister like minimum wages, minimum pension and increase in gratuity are benefiting lakhs and crores of workmen even today.

Venkaiah Naidu said Dattatreya never had a personal life, as his life has always been intertwined with people.

Noting that some politicians switched party loyalties like "diapers are changed for children", he emphasised that remaining committed to an ideology is as important as honesty and integrity which is exemplified by Dattatreya.

Describing Dattatreya as a 'gentleman politician', Chandrababu Naidu praised Dattatreya's service (as a volunteer of RSS) in Krishna district of Andhra during the devastating cyclone of 1977 and also his jail term during the Emergency.

Lauding Dattatreya's humble nature and his contributions as a Lok Sabha member, Union Minister and as Governor, the Andhra CM said the Haryana Governor's life serves as a role model in

many ways.

The Andhra CM also said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is striving to make India a top-ranking nation in the world and called for efforts to make Telugu people the most prosperous community in the world.

Describing Dattatreya as 'ajatshatru' (one who has no enemy), Revanth Reddy said the Haryana Governor commands respect across all parties in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, much like former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the national level.

Revanth Reddy, who started his political journey with the ABVP and later served in the TDP before joining the Congress, said he maintains friendships in all parties.

He recalled a conversation during the lunch with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the CMs on the occasion of the recent NITI Aayog meeting in Delhi.

"Pointing to Chandrababu Naidu ji, he (PM Modi) said your colleague is here. I said I had my schooling in yours (BJP), college with him (Naidu) and now doing job with Rahul Gandhi ji," Revanth Reddy said.

HPS students shine at 10th District Level SpeedBall Championship 2025

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Students of Humanity Public School (HPS) Bassi Kalan, Bari Brahmama, showcased their talent and brought laurels to the school by winning gold, silver and bronze medal in 10th District level speed ball Tournament 2025 organized by J&K Sports Speed ball Association held recently at King Ways Hall, Jammu.

60 students of Humanity Public School were participated in the competition out of which 41 students



brought medals. All the winners have shown an incredible performance in the competition and successfully secured 12 Gold, 14 Silver and 15 Bronze medal. HPS

stole the show by standing at the first position and received overall Championship Trophy for securing maximum medals in the competition. Anju,

School coach assisted the students during the competition.

Principal, Gaurav Charak and the Vice-Principal Anku Charak congratulated and applauded the students for their excellent performance and also felicitated them during the school assembly in the presence of Incharges and other staff members.

They also congratulated the Sports Incharge Mahan Singh, the school coach Anju and all the students and the teachers on the success of the winners.

Encroachers can't claim right to continue occupying public land: Delhi HC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court has held that encroachers cannot claim a right to continue occupying public land till their rehabilitation claims are not resolved, as this would unduly impede public projects.

The high court made the observation while granting liberty to the DDA to proceed with the demolition action at Bhoomiheen Camp in South Delhi's Kalkaji in accordance with law.

Justice Dharmesh Sharma said the writ petitions were not only flawed due to the misjoinder of multiple parties with multiple causes of action, but also failed to meet the essential threshold provided by the Delhi

Slum and JJ Rehabilitation and Relocation Policy for being considered eligible for relocation and rehabilitation.

"None of the petitioners have any legal right to continue occupying the JJ cluster incessantly, to the detriment of the public at large," the court said in its order passed on June 6.

The court passed the judgment on a batch of petitions, involving around 1,200 people, seeking direction to the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to suspend any further demolition activity, maintain the status quo at the site, and refrain from physically evicting the petitioners from their respective 'jhuggi jhopri'

clusters.

The petitioners also sought a direction to the DUSIB to conduct a proper and comprehensive survey of the affected residents and rehabilitate them in accordance with the 2015 policy.

The high court said there can be no gain-saying that the petitioners have no vested right to seek rehabilitation, as it is not an absolute constitutional entitlement available to encroachers such as themselves.

"The right to rehabilitation arises solely from the prevailing policy that binds them. The determination of eligibility for rehabilitation is a separate process from the removal of encroachers from public land.