



Time to Reopen Tourist Destinations Closed After Pahalgam Massacre : CM Omar

Says joint efforts by all 3 Govts must for safety of tourists; Asks schools colleges to organize picnics at major destinations

HT News Network

GULMARG, MAY 28: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said that holding back-to-back meetings at tourist resorts Gulmarg and Pahalgam is an effort to instill public confidence and encourage people to visit Kashmir.

The Chief Minister made these remarks while chairing a high-level meeting in Gulmarg to assess the functioning of various departments.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Ministers Sakeena Itoo, Javed Ahmad Rana, Javed Ahmed Dar, Satish Sharma, Advisor



to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Member of Legislative Assembly Gulmarg Farooq Ahmad Shah, Additional Chief Secretary to CM

Dheeraj Gupta.

All Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla,

senior police officers, heads of several departments, CEO Tourism Development Authority Gulmarg and other officials were also present.

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Minister said that if the Prime Minister can convene a meeting to review tourism in Jammu and Kashmir and tour operators from Maharashtra and Gujarat can visit the region voluntarily—not because they were invited, but because they want to contribute to the normalization process—then it is imperative for the state government to take the matching steps.

“These meetings are not symbolic; they are part of a larger effort

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Statehood demand alive, not shelved: CM Omar

HT News Network

GULMARG, MAY 28: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said that the demand for the restoration of Statehood has not been shelved, but alive.

Rejecting any notion of strained ties with the Centre, Omar as per the news agency—remarked “You would only need a thaw if there was a freeze. I never said there was a freeze. I'm simply saying we need to intensify cooperation moving forward.”

He added that his administration has already highlighted the demand for restoration of statehood in official forums, including a formal submission during the NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting.

Omar made it clear that while he



refrained from using the special session of the Assembly to raise the issue of statehood, the dialogue on the matter is very much alive. “The conversation hasn't stopped. It is ongoing—and we remain committed,” he said.

On the recent terror attack, CM said that for the first time, the people of Kashmir themselves came forward to condemn a terror attack without wait

SEE FULL ON.....PAGE 02

NC to lead 4 House Committees, BJP 2 Congress, PC, CPI (M) one each

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 28: The Speaker of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Wednesday constituted nine House Committees, including three financial panels, to discharge various functions as per the Rules of

Procedure and Conduct of Business in the J&K Assembly. Details available with news agency—reveal that Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather today constituted nine House Committee to perform different functions.

As per details, MLAs from the ruling National

Conference (NC)—led alliance will chair six committees, while opposition members will head the remaining three.

Among the ruling coalition, NC MLAs have been appointed as chairpersons of four committees, with Congress and

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Mock Drill: 'Operation Shield' to be held in J&K, Chandigarh UTs, other frontier States today

Exercise will simulate air raids, drone attacks, evacuations

HT News Network/KNO

SRINAGAR, MAY 28: Along with four states, the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Chandigarh are also set to participate in the

Civil Defence Exercise, 'Operation Shield,' on Thursday, the government said.

According to a circular issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), a copy of which lies with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the exercise is part of a nation-

wide initiative under the Ministry of Home Affairs to enhance the civil defence preparedness along India's western border states.

This mock drill will be conducted across various districts of Jammu & Kashmir and will also involve

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

NEWS BRIEF

Police arrest 4 drug peddlers in Sopore

SRINAGAR, MAY 28: Continuing its unwavering drive against the drug menace, Police on Wednesday said to have arrested four drug peddlers in Sopore and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

“Based on specific inputs received from the public, Police in Sopore launched a series of well-coordinated operations leading to the arrest of four drug peddlers and seizure of narcotic substances, including codeine-based syrup and brown sugar-like substances,” a police

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

3 live mortar shells recovered, defused in Jammu's Transport Nagar

JAMMU, MAY 28: Three unexploded mortar shells were recovered near the Regional Transport Office (RTO) in Narwal area of Transport Nagar in Jammu on Wednesday.

The shells, believed to be remnants of Pakistan's ceasefire violation during ‘Operation Sindoor’, prompted an immediate response from the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Indian Army's Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS).

Local residents alerted authorities to the suspicious objects, leading to a rapid deployment of security forces to secure the area.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Volunteers clear blocked Gurez-Bandipora road

SRINAGAR, MAY 28: A team of volunteers cleared dozens of stranded vehicles at Chandaji Gurez-Bandipora Road, allowing them to safely ply toward their destinations after strong winds and heavy rain blocked traffic movement late last night.

“A pine tree fell on the road near Chandaji Mode due to a strong wind and heavy rain the other day. By 4:30 PM, around 40 vehicles, including cars, trucks and two ambulances were stuck on both sides of the tree,” a team of volunteers said as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

The volunteers quickly gathered a

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Lieutenant Governor interacts with members of Kashmir Women's Organisation

HT News Network



SRINAGAR, MAY 28: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today interacted with the members of Kashmir Women's Organisation at Raj Bhawan.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his felicitations to everyone associated with the Organisation dedicated to Women Empowerment. He said Nari Shakti have continuously demonstrated excellence in every sector contributing to J&K UT's growth and prosperity.

“Today, our daughters are scripting new history. They are emerging as role models and accomplishing new heights of success in

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Let enemies' fuel terror, we'll fuel tourism: Minister Satish Sharma

'Terror won't derail us; J&K India's crown'

HT News Network

GULMARG, MAY 28: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport and Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma Wednesday said the people of Jammu and Kashmir continue to choose peace and tourism over terrorism, even as external threats persist.

Speaking with reporters, the Minister as per the news agency—said that the people



of Jammu and Kashmir have shown unmatched bravery in standing up to decades of

militant threats.

“Let the enemy choose terrorism. We will continue choosing tourism,” Sharma said, underlining the government's resolve to welcome visitors and ensure that normalcy and hospitality remain defining features of the region. “If we lose hope, that's their win. We will not let that happen,” he added.

The Minister saluted the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Indian Railways launches cargo train to Mumbai to export Kashmir's cherry

Growers hail rail transport as game-changer for fruit exports

HT News Network/KNO

SRINAGAR, MAY 28 In a significant step towards revolutionising Kashmir's horticultural logistics, Indian Railways is set to launch a dedicated cargo train service from Katra to Mumbai starting June 3. This initiative is specifically designed to facilitate cherry exports, promising to cut transportation costs significantly and broaden market access for local cherry growers.

For decades, Kashmir's cherry farmers have relied heavily on expensive air cargo to transport their fragile produce to distant



markets. Given the perishable nature of cherries, swift and safe transit has always been a challenge, often eating into farmers'

profits. Now, for the first time, a full parcel van—secured through a VP (Value Payable) indent—will carry a 24-ton consignment of fresh cherries from Katra railway station to Bandra in Mumbai. The train is expected to cover this journey in approximately 30 hours, offering a faster and more economical alternative to air freight.

Bashir Ahmad Basheer, President of the All Kashmir Fruit Growers Union, speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that this is a transformative moment for cherry growers. “Until now, air transport was

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

J&K's Lithium To Contribute To India's 'Net Zero By 2070' Target: Dr Jitendra

HT News Network/UNI

NEW DELHI, MAY 28: Addressing the “Battery Summit 2025” here today, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Minister of State for PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh referred to recent discoveries of vast Lithium reserves in Jammu & Kashmir's Reasi district which promise to contribute to India's “Net Zero by 2070” target and called for intensified efforts to explore and harness such hitherto unutilised resources across the country. Jammu dining guide

The Minister emphasised that a robust echo system will help India propel to number 3 economy from

the recently achieved Rank 4 while low carbon technologies will be key to India achieving Net Zero 2070 target.

Speaking on the theme, “Addressing Challenges, Driving Innovation and Scaling Solutions”, Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted that exploring the unexplored reserves and resources, and innovation in low carbon energy sectors will drive economic value and also reduce carbon footprint, aligning with India's ambitious Net Zero by 2070 goal.

In this context, the Minister also referred to recent discoveries of vast Lithium reserves in Jammu & Kashmir which promise to contribute to achieving Net Zero 2070 target and called for intensified efforts to



explore and harness such hitherto unutilised resources.

“The Department of Science and Technology (DST) is playing a pivotal role in advancing India's clean energy transition through innovations in battery manufacturing, e-mobility, and sustainable technol-

ogy ecosystems,” said Dr. Jitendra Singh.

A major announcement at the summit was the launch of the Battery Aadhaar Initiative under DST, described by the Minister as a “game changer” in enabling traceability, efficiency, and scalability in India's battery ecosystem.

Dr. Jitendra Singh underlined the success of several forward-looking initiatives driving India's clean energy transition, including the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Schemes for Advanced Chemistry Cells, the E-Mobility Transition, and flagship programs such as the PM-eDrive and FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles) Schemes. He also highlighted the Dedicated MAHA-EV

Mission under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) as a significant step toward strengthening the electric vehicle ecosystem and promoting sustainable transportation solutions. Jammu dining guide

Recounting India's journey in climate negotiations, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted the significant transformation from being perceived as a reluctant participant to emerging as a global leader in climate commitments. He attributed this remarkable shift to the launch and success of key initiatives such as Net Zero 2070, which outlines India's long-term decarbonization goals; Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), aimed at promoting sustain

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

CM

to initiate a return to normalcy and restore confidence," he said. "We must do this with sensitivity and without appearing forceful."

He emphasized the importance of participating in major tourism events outside J&K. "Our absence from such events can send the wrong signal. Tour operators, both from within and outside J&K, have expressed the need for our visible presence at upcoming tourism trade fairs. We are already taking part in major events like those in Ahmedabad and Kolkata, and participation in all major events is being planned carefully," CM said.

Quoting the Urdu couplet "Dil na-umeed to nahi, nakaam hi to hai; Lambi haigham ki shaam, magar shaam hi to hai," the Chief Minister reflected on the importance of optimism during adversity. "These lines, which I also quoted at the recent NITI Aayog meeting, serve as a reminder that even in dark times, hope must prevail. What happened recently marks one of the most difficult phases in recent years, but we have endured worse over the past four decades—and always found a way to bounce back."

He noted that this was the first time such an administrative meeting was held outside the twin secretariats of Jammu and Srinagar. "In my previous tenure, we took the Cabinet to remote areas, but senior-level departmental reviews were confined to the capitals. Holding this meeting here is to transition away from the unfortunate events of the last six weeks."

Addressing the issue of the closed off-beat destinations, he said the list of 48 such tourist spots is under review and will be revised gradually. "Some of these places were never closed even during the worst days. We'll have to take measured steps to reopen them."

CM also spoke of involving schools and colleges to promote local tourism. "Earlier, during peak tourist season, we would discourage student excursions due to overcrowding. Now, we must encourage them. Let the children come and experience these places. It's another step towards normalcy."

Referring to his participation in the recent NITI Aayog meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said he had urged the PM and other ministers to consider J&K, especially the Valley, as a venue for central PSU board meetings and conferences—particularly in the summer when most seek respite from the heat. "We had several parliamentary committee meetings scheduled in the Valley which were cancelled after April 22. I've requested the Centre to work with the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats to bring those meetings back. Some ministers have already committed to doing so."

On the livelihoods impacted after the Pahalgam attack, he expressed concern for those most vulnerable. "The number of people dependent on tourism has grown significantly in recent years. While larger businesses might endure a downturn, smaller players—like shikara operators, taxi drivers, and homestay owners—face immediate financial distress. For them, daily earnings mean daily survival. We're working on an assistance package to support them."

He also pointed to the opportunity presented by the current lull in tourism. "Normally, peak season leaves us with little space to focus on development. Now, we can push pending infrastructure and tourism-related projects."

Touching upon upcoming religious events like Mela Kheer Bhawani, Eid, Muharram, and the Amarnath Yatra, he said this year's pilgrimage will be especially challenging. "From a security and logistical standpoint, we must ensure the Yatra is conducted smoothly. I am confident, given your experience, that all necessary arrangements will be made."

Earlier, Deputy Chief Minister and the Ministers shared departmental updates and assured full cooperation. Divisional Commissioner Kashmir presented a detailed review specific to the division.

The Chief Minister reviewed CAPEX works, emergency preparedness, tourist safety, sports and adventure tourism, mobile connectivity, and sectors like health and rural development. The preparedness for upcoming religious festivals was discussed in detail.

Later, the Chief Minister also met delegations from various trade associations in Gulmarg and interacted with visiting tourists.

STATE

ing for political or religious leaders to lead the response.

Referring to the April 22 Pahalgam incidents, Omar noted that this public outcry marks a clear departure from the past. "No politician, no religious leader can take credit for this. The people condemned it on their own," he said, highlighting a significant shift in public sentiment, CM said while acknowledging that the revival of tourism will take time—

NC

CPI (M) securing leadership of one panel each.

From the opposition camp, BJP legislators will lead two committees, while the Peoples

Conference (PC) will chair one.

According to details, the Speaker constituted Public Accounts Committee (PAC), Estimates Committee, Public Undertaking Committee, Committee on Environment, Committee on Subordinate Legislation, Committee on Government Assurances, Committee on Privileges, Committee on Petitions and Committee of Ethics.

These committees would be respectively headed by Sham Lal Sharma (BJP), Shamima Firdous (NC), Ali Muhammad Sagar (NC), Muhammad Yosouf Tarigami (CPI-M), Justice Hasnain Masoodi (NC), Sajad Gani Lone (PC), Peerzada Farooq Ahmad Shah (NC), Nizamuddin Bhat (Congress) and Surjeet Singh Slathia (BJP).

On the other, independent MLAs and PDP legislators have not been assigned leadership roles in any committee, as all of them are serving their first term in the Assembly.

J&K Assembly has six independent MLAs and three from PDP.

According to details, Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi and Peerzada Farooq Ahmad Shah are the only two first-time legislators appointed as committee heads.

Sources told KNO that they have been nominated as heads of the committees on the basis of their extensive experience in the judiciary and administration, respectively.

Leader of Opposition and firebrand BJP leader, Sunil Sharma is not part of any House Committee. Sharma had earlier recused himself from the committee constituted by the Speaker to examine the issue of salaries of MLAs—

DRILL

neighbouring states, including Gujarat, Haryana, and Chandigarh.

"The exercise aims to test and improve responses to potential threats such as air raids, missile attacks, and drone strikes. It will simulate a range of emergency situations, including the recall of Civil Defence wardens, volunteers, and youth groups like NCC and NSS to assist local administration in implementing defence measures," the circular states.

One key scenario will simulate an attack on a military station by enemy drones, requiring civil administration support to evacuate families to safer locations.

Medical teams will also be augmented to handle mass injuries, and there will be a demonstration of emergency response coordination between civil defence control rooms and the Air Force.

The exercise will begin at 5 PM and will engage local authorities, military units, and civil volunteers in the implementation of various defensive measures.

The Directorate General Fire Service Civil Defence & Home Guards (DGFS-CDHG) has directed all district civil defence departments to coordinate the event, which is expected to involve several key stakeholders from local administrations, youth organizations, and emergency services.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has said that the exercise is crucial for enhancing preparedness in vulnerable areas, particularly following the first civil defence exercise held in May, where critical gaps were identified and addressed.

In addition to the recall of Civil Defence wardens and volunteers, there will be a mock evacuation of civilians and a demonstration of medical preparedness, including the requirement of 30 units of blood for mass casualties. The exercise will also involve coordination between civil defence and military forces to strengthen response measures for any hostile attack.

The exercise will be monitored by Umesh Sharma, Additional Director General of Civil Defence, who issued the official directive for the event.

Earlier on May 5, 2025, the Government of India had announced nationwide civil defence mock drills, following the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead.

These drills were scheduled for May 7, 2025, just 24 hours before Operation Sindoor, a retaliatory military strike on terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and PoJK—

SATISH SHARMA

bravery of Indian soldiers, stating that they neutralized terror camps with precision to avoid civilian casualties, even as enemy forces retaliated by targeting civilian areas. "The people of India, especially in Jammu and Kashmir are strong and have been tackling this for decades. Terrorism won't derail us," he emphasized.

Calling for a unified front, minister Sharma urged all sections of society — from civil society to bureaucrats and administration to come together in the fight against terrorism. "Our befitting reply will be to keep tourism alive and growing. They want us to be terrorized, but we'll respond by staying strong and peaceful," he said.

In a pointed message to the national media, the Minister appealed for more sensitivity and constructive coverage. "Jammu and Kashmir is India's crown. We proudly say we remain at number one in uniting the nation — the rest is up to their sensitivity," he remarked, asking the media to focus on the reality and

growing tourism flow in the region.

He assured that the government is committed to ensuring smooth conduct of the Amarnath Ji Yatra, Kheer Bhawani Mela, and Eid celebrations. "There are no people more loving and hospitable than those of Jammu and Kashmir," he said, reiterating that peace and tourism are the state's strongest answers to terrorism—

SIA

the UT," police said

Police said Mir is a member of a cross-border narco-terror module linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) which is involved in smuggling narcotics and small arms into Sopore and distributing them across the Valley.

His arrest, in connection with FIR 19/2022, marks the eight in the case, with seven operatives already in custody.

LG

diverse fields. They are pillars of our socio-economic progress and driving force behind accelerated development," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the Indian Constitution has given equal rights to women without any discrimination.

"In the last few years, we have intensified the efforts through dedicated programmes and initiatives for women empowerment. Our aim is to ensure that our daughters have greater opportunities in key sectors so that they can contribute in the journey of Viksit Bharat and Aatm-Nirbhar Jammu Kashmir," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor conveyed his best wishes to all the members of Kashmir Women's Organisation for their future endeavours.

Earlier, the members of the delegation briefed the Lieutenant Governor on several initiatives of their organisation aimed at women empowerment and encouraging their political participation and community engagement.

TRAIN

the only feasible option due to the fruit's short shelf life. But the high costs made it unaffordable for many. Rail transport offers us a lifeline—lower costs, minimal handling, and access to wider markets," he said.

"This development was made possible through sustained coordination between Northern Railways, the Horticulture Department and grower associations," he added.

However, despite the optimism, growers have raised some concerns.

One major issue is the requirement for upfront payment for a full 25-ton parcel, regardless of the actual quantity shipped. "That's a challenge," Basheer said. "Cherry harvesting varies daily, and guaranteeing full loads every time is difficult. We are currently in discussions with railway officials to make the system more flexible and accommodating for smaller consignments."

Nevertheless, the industry remains hopeful. If this pilot run proves successful, it could pave the way for regular, dedicated freight services for a range of fruits from Kashmir, including apples, pears, and plums.

Such a shift could have far-reaching impacts—improving cold chain logistics, reducing wastage, and boosting incomes for thousands of families dependent on horticulture across the valley.

Basheer said this initiative can provide a much-needed logistical boost and contribute to the economic upliftment of horticulture-dependent communities in Kashmir—

DR JATENDRA

able individual and community behaviors; and the International Solar Alliance (ISA), a collaborative platform that underscores India's leadership in promoting solar energy and global clean energy partnerships. "These efforts have elevated India's esteem at global forums and affirmed our leadership in sustainability and climate action," he stated.

Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the remarkable progress India has made in the domain of science and innovation over the past decade. He noted that India has significantly improved its position in the Global Innovation Index, rising from the 81st rank to the 39th. The country has also witnessed an exponential growth in its startup ecosystem, expanding from just 350 startups in 2014 to over 1.7 lakh in 2025, making it the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world. Complementing this growth, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has seen a 926% increase in its budget, soaring from 2,777 crore to 28,509 crore, reflecting the government's strong commitment to fostering innovation and research.

The Minister emphasized the government's commitment to strengthening the innovation ecosystem by opening up the space, nuclear, and science sectors to private participation.

Highlighting initiatives under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (NRF), he noted that 60% of its funding will come from the private sector, despite significant government support. Key missions such as

HT - NEWS

the National Quantum Mission, AI Mission, and National Supercomputing Mission were described as strategic levers for future leadership.

Guiding the summit's roadmap, Dr. Jitendra Singh outlined three key priority areas essential for sustaining India's momentum in science and clean energy innovation. He emphasized the indigenization of technology to reduce dependence on imports and strengthen self-reliance, the importance of boosting domestic manufacturing to build resilient supply chains and generate employment, and the need for creating a robust innovation ecosystem that fosters collaboration between academia, industry, and government to drive transformative research and scalable solutions.

Dr. Jitendra Singh applauded the efforts of WRI India for championing sustainable practices, particularly through the Battery360 Alliance, and acknowledged the support of UNEP, NITI Aayog, and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in India's clean energy journey.

The summit was graced by the presence of several key dignitaries who are instrumental in driving India's science, technology, and sustainability agenda. These included Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST); Mr. Ashok Lessels from the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP); Dr. Anita Gupta, Head of the Centre of Excellence for Science and Technology (CEST) Division at DST; and Mr. Madhav Pai, CEO of WRI India. Their participation underscored the collaborative spirit of the summit and the shared commitment to accelerating clean energy innovation.

POLICE

spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

In the first operation, Sopore police arrested a drug peddler namely Rameez Ahmad Mir, son of Gulam Hassan Mir, resident of Adipora Sopore alongwith 13 bottles of codeine-like substance with tampered labels at Adipora Crossing. In another operation, drug peddler namely Waseem Ahmad Mir, son of Gulam Hassan Mir, resident of Adipora Sopore was arrested at Malpora-Warpora Crossing and brown sugar-like substance was recovered from his possession.

Moreover, at Chijhama Crossing, two persons identified as Javid Ahmad Bhat, son of Mohammad Subhan Bhat, and Rayees Ahmad Baba, son of Bashir Ahmad Baba, both residents of Marzipora were arrested while transporting codeine-based substances in a truck bearing registration number (JK05E-4845). Vehicle used in the commission of crime has also been seized, police said.

Accordingly, police said that cases under relevant sections of law have been registered at respective police stations and investigations are underway.

"Police remain committed in eradicating the drug menace from society and safeguarding the lives of the youth. The public is urged to continue supporting the police by reporting drug-related activities in their localities," the statement added—

SHELL

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Bomb Disposal Squad was called in and successfully defused the three RPG shells through a controlled mechanism, ensuring the safety of the surrounding community. The operation was completed without incident, and no casualties were reported.

"These mortar shells posed a significant threat to the safety of civilians in the Narwal area. Thanks to the quick action of local residents and the expertise of our Bomb Disposal Squad, the danger has been neutralized," said a spokesperson for the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Authorities have urged citizens to remain vigilant and report any suspicious objects immediately, emphasizing the importance of community cooperation in maintaining safety.

Meanwhile, the police have registered a case under relevant sections of the law and are conducting further investigations to ascertain the origin and circumstances surrounding the shells. This incident follows recent reports of cross-border shelling, highlighting ongoing security challenges in the region—

"These mortar shells posed a significant threat to the safety of civilians in the Narwal area. Thanks to the quick action of local residents and the expertise of our Bomb Disposal Squad, the danger has been neutralized," said a spokesperson for the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Authorities have urged citizens to remain vigilant and report any suspicious objects immediately, emphasizing the importance of community cooperation in maintaining safety.

Meanwhile, the police have registered a case under relevant sections of the law and are conducting further investigations to ascertain the origin and circumstances surrounding the shells. This incident follows recent reports of cross-border shelling, high-

lighting ongoing security challenges in the region—

GUREZ

team of eight members including Peerzada Mudasir, Lone Sajad, Javid Khan, Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, Ishfaq Ahmad, Mohd Arif and Muzaffar Lone.

By 11:00 PM, they reached the site with the necessary tools. After about 30 minutes of work, they removed the tree and reopened the road, allowing the stuck vehicles to move.

The travellers, who had been stuck for almost seven hours, expressed their relief and thanks to the volunteers—

‘Miraculous’ event at Lakhdata Bazar Hanuman Temple captivates devotees in Jammu City

Jammu, May 28: The historic Lakhdata Bazar Hanuman Temple in Jammu city has become the center of spiritual fervor following a reported miraculous event that has left devotees and locals in awe.

On intervening night of May 27 and May 28, worshippers at the revered temple claimed to have witnessed a divine manifestation of Lord Hanuman, an extraordinary occurrence that has sparked widespread devotion and discussion across the city.

According to eyewitness accounts, devotees present at the temple reported seeing Lord Hanuman appear in a divine form, radiating a powerful spiritual presence.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the event, described as deeply moving, has drawn significant attention, with many flocking to the temple to offer prayers and seek blessings.

The news has also spread rapidly on social media, with hashtags such as #AmazingJammu and #TemplesofJammu trending as devotees share their experiences and reverence for the sacred site.

The Lakhdata Bazar Hanuman Temple, a cherished spiritual landmark in Jammu, has long been a place of solace and devotion for countless worshippers.

This reported miracle has further solidified its significance as a beacon of faith, attracting visitors from across the region to partake in the divine atmosphere.

Temple authorities have urged devotees to maintain peace and order while visiting, ensuring that all can experience the sanctity of the site. Local officials are monitoring the situation to support the influx of visitors and ensure safety—

‘60% women still use cloth, only 50% use sanitary pads’

Srinagar, May 28: A considerable proportion of women in Jammu and Kashmir continue to rely on traditional cloth for menstrual protection, which poses risks of infections that could lead to infertility, according to medical experts.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), doctors stressed the importance of maintaining menstrual hygiene and encouraged women, especially young girls, to shed any feelings of shame associated with purchasing sanitary pads. They said proper hygiene practices are essential to prevent health complications.

Dr Shabeena Akhter, a gynaecologist based in south Kashmir, said that while the number of women using cloth instead of sanitary pads is decreasing, many still prefer traditional methods. "Menstrual hygiene plays a crucial role in preventing infections such as urinary tract infections (UTIs) and reproductive tract infections (RTIs), which can have serious health consequences," she said.

"Regular changing of menstrual products and maintaining cleanliness are vital to mitigating these risks," she added. Dr Akhter advised girls that there should be no shame in buying sanitary pads, as this reduces the chances of infections that may lead to infertility.

Dr Barjashta Bahar, another gynaecologist, said that affordability is not the main issue for most women; rather, lack of awareness about hygienic practices is. "Many women do not realise how unhygienic menstrual cycles can affect their health," she said.

Dr Bahar added that societal stigma surrounding menstruation continues to foster shame, silence, and discrimination. "By promoting open discussions and education about menstruation, we can break down these barriers and empower women and girls to manage their periods with dignity and confidence," she asserted.

"Good menstrual hygiene management (MHM) is fundamental in enabling women and girls to reach their full potential," she said.





Dy CM inspects progress on 250 bedded IPD, Lab block in SKIMS Srinagar Sets 3 month deadline for completion of pending works

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 28: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted an extensive inspection of the ongoing development and construction works at SKIMS Medical College and Hospital Bemina, Srinagar.

The works included construction of 250 bedded IPD block and College Laboratory block to be raised at an estimated cost of Rs 83.94 crore and Rs 88.23 crore respectively.

The visit was aimed at

assessing the pace and quality of the construction activities being undertaken to upgrade the hospital's infrastructure.

It was informed that IPD block will have 7 stories with facilities like wards in Orthopedic, Medicine, Psychiatry, Labour, Obstetrics, General Surgery along with administrative block, medial record section, board room and lecture theatre.

While inspecting the construction work on the IPD block, the Dy CM exhorted upon the executing agency to expedite the pace of work and ensure that all pending tasks



are completed without further delay.

The Dy CM directed the concerned officials to complete all the pending works within three months.

Highlighting the significance of infrastructure development in health sector, the Dy CM asked the officials to ensure strict adherence to set deadlines besides addressing any bottlenecks hindering the timely completion of such vital projects. He asked for ensuring strict adherence to all quality parameters while maintaining the timeliness for project completion.

The Deputy Chief Minister also called for regular monitoring and evaluation of ongoing works to ensure transparency and accountability. He emphasized the need for proper coordination among the executing agencies and called for close monitoring to avoid unnecessary delays.

Director SKIMS, Professor Mohammad Ashraf Ganai; Principal MCH Bemina Dr. Fazal Kadir Parray; Chief Engineer (R&B), Sajad Naqeeb; CE MED Kashmir Bodh Raj besides senior doctors and staff members were also present on the occasion.

Former Batamaloo Legislator Noor Muhammad Rejoins PDP

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 28, : Former Batamaloo legislator Noor Muhammad has re-joined the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), sources confirmed on Tuesday. According to sources privy to the development, Noor Muhammad had conveyed his willingness to return to the party fold, and PDP President Mehbooba Mufti has responded positively to the proposal.

"Noor Muhammad expressed his desire to rejoin the PDP, and Mehbooba Mufti has shown readiness to welcome him back," said a senior party insider. Sheikh Noor Muhammad joined the party in presence of party president Mehbooba Mufti. The move comes amid a slow but steady trend of former PDP members returning to the party, which saw a mass exodus of leaders in the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. Several key figures had distanced themselves from the party during that politically turbulent period. Notably, just a day earlier, former legislator from Pulwama, Ajaz Ahmed Mir, rejoined the PDP in the presence of Mehbooba Mufti, signaling what many see as a potential revival phase for the party. [KNT]

Female Protesters in Budgam's Labertal Snatch Smart Meters, Demand Reliable Power First

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 28, KNT: Villagers of Labertal village in central Kashmir's Budgam district resisted the installation of smart electricity meters, snatching the devices from installation teams and barring officials from proceeding, in a clear sign of growing public frustration over inadequate power supply and rising costs. The protesters argue that introducing smart meters in an area plagued by daily power cuts is not only unreasonable but deeply unfair. "Provide us with electricity first, then talk about smart meters," shouted one protester, as dozens of locals gathered to block the meter installation drive. Eyewitnesses told the news agency Kashmir News Trust that the smart meter installation team had barely begun work when locals intervened, confiscated several meters, and forced officials to leave the area. The confrontation was tense but non-violent, driven by what residents say is long-standing neglect by the power department. "We are not against development or modernization," said a local resident, "but we won't accept a system that increases our bills when we don't even have power for half the day." Notably, similar demonstrations had been held in various parts of Budgam and elsewhere in the Valley, where people allege that smart meters, once installed, result in inflated monthly bills and offer no improvements in power supply. [KNT]

'Library on Wheels' Rolls into Rainawari to Empower Girls Through Books

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 28, KNT: The 14th edition of Alisha's Library on Wheels was inaugurated today at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Rainawari, bringing a mobile collection of competitive exam books to female students aiming for ambitious careers. Co-founded by US-based student Alisha Madhuvarshi and CISF officer Rakesh Nikhaj, the initiative is dedicated to delivering quality reading materials to children in underserved areas, especially those with limited access to educational resources. The Rainawari unit features an almirah stocked with the latest books for UPSC, SSC, Banking, Law, and other competitive exams, along with a seating area for six students. "This is about creating opportunity, one book at a time," said Alisha, addressing students virtually.

Mission YUVA: DC Srinagar presides orientation/training programme (Training-II) for YUVA DOOTS

Highlights importance of youth-led development and grassroots entrepreneurship initiative

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 28: A day-long training-cum-orientation programme for YUVA DOOTs (Youth Ambassadors) under Mission Yuva initiative was held at the Kashmir Government Polytechnic College (KGPC), Gogjibagh, with the participation of YUVA doots who have been assigned the task of implementation of Project YUVA.

The programme was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat under the aegis of Mission YUVA, aiming to build a strong network of grassroots youth mobilizers for entrepreneurship development.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Srinagar, Rifat Aftab, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Deputy Director Employment, Dr. Sheeba Inayat, other concerned Officers and members of Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) and Business Help Desks (BHDs) Committees attended the training programme.

Addressing the Training programme, DC highlighted the importance of youth-led development and grassroots entrepreneurship. He emphasized the importance of youth-led initiatives in promoting self-reliance and economic sustainability at the grassroots level. He also encouraged Yuva Doots to act as catalysts of positive change with-

in their communities. While highlighting the importance of the programme, DC said that such trainings are pivotal to provide detailed insights into the operational structure of the programme, roles and responsibilities of YUVA doots and the support framework available at the district level. He urged the YUVA doots on targeted mobilization, focusing on aspirants most likely to benefit from the initiative. DC underlined that with a well-defined action plan and comprehensive training, YUVA doots are now equipped to begin their grassroots outreach activities, promoting entrepreneurship and youth-led development across district Srinagar under Mission YUVA initiative.

DC Srinagar reviews preparations for auspicious festivities of Eid-ul-Azha

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 28:- In connection with celebrations of upcoming Eid-ul-Azha festivities in the District, a meeting of all Sectoral/Zonal Officers was today held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat at Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex, here to review the preparations made by different Departments for seamless conduct of the auspicious religious festival.

Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, Superintendent of Police, Umar Shah and Assistant Commissioner Revenue Umar Gulzar, the meeting was attended by Superintending Engineers of PHE, KPDC, R&B, all Tehsildars, Officers of Food Safety, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, FCS&CA, SMC, Fire & Emergency, Legal Metrology, and other Departments.

At the outset, DC reviewed the facilities regarding the basic amenities of line Departments at the important religious places including Masjid and Shrines where huge congregations of devotees are expected to offer prayers. The DC stressed on ensuring



all the required arrangements up to the best satisfaction of the visiting devotees.

While reviewing the availability of sacrificial animals and poultry birds in the District, the DC directed concerned Officers of Animal Husbandry and Sheep Husbandry to ensure availability of sufficient quantities of animals and poultry birds to cater to the local demand on the religious occasion.

Regarding the proper and scientific disposal of hides, he directed SMC Officers to publicize the collection centers of hides in every Municipal Ward of the Srinagar City and adequate deployment of vehicles for collection of fleeces.

NCORD meeting: DC Ganderbal calls for strengthened anti-Narcotics measures

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, MAY 28: To assess and reinforce the district's anti-narcotics efforts, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired the monthly meeting of the District-Level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) at the V.C. Room of Mini Secretariat Ganderbal.

During the meeting, DC reviewed the Action Taken Report on directives issued in the previous NCORD meeting. Emphasizing the need for a more aggressive and collaborative approach, he called for enhanced strategies focusing on prevention, surveillance, and community engagement. Key directives were issued to various departments, including the enforcement of computerized billing systems in medical establishments, installation of CCTV cameras, strict action against drug peddlers, and the intensification of awareness campaigns to curb drug abuse. DC also reviewed the awareness initiatives



conducted under the Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir campaign. He instructed the concerned departments to expand their outreach by organizing awareness drives, sports events, and creative programs, particularly targeting vulnerable sections of society. While addressing the officers, DC stressed that all decisions made during the meeting must be implemented in letter and spirit. He urged for seamless inter-departmental coordination to achieve the shared goal of a drug-free Ganderbal. The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Chief Education Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Medical Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, District Officer Youth Services and Sports, Tehsildars, Block

Hakeem Yaseen appeals to HM Amit Shah for special relief packages for border victims, farmers, and tourism sector in Kashmir

HT News Network

Srinagar, May 28: President of the Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, Hakeem Muhammad Yaseen, on Wednesday strongly appealed to Union Home Minister Amit Shah to announce a comprehensive and time-bound special package for the residents of border areas recently affected by intense cross-border shelling from Pakistan.

In a statement issued here, Hakeem Yaseen expressed deep concern over the prevailing humanitarian situation in the border belts of Jammu and Kash-

mir, particularly in areas along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB), where several civilian families have been forced to flee their homes in the wake of recent cross border shelling.

"The recent spate of cross-border firing has left many families shattered. Their homes have been damaged, crops destroyed, and normal life completely disrupted. The government must step in immediately with a targeted relief and rehabilitation package. We are hopeful that Union Home Minister Amit Shah will treat this matter with urgency and prioritize assistance for these vulnerable



populations," Yaseen said.

Yaseen also underscored the serious crisis gripping Kashmir's tourism sector in the aftermath of the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam that claimed the lives of several civilians, includ-

ing tourists. He said the attack had instilled fear and uncertainty among travelers, resulting in mass cancellations of bookings and a sharp dip in tourist footfall—crippling an already struggling sector.

"Tourism is the backbone of Kashmir's economy. Thousands of families directly or indirectly depend on this sector for their livelihoods. From hotel owners to shikarawalas, ponywallahs, handicraft sellers, and transporters—everyone is suffering. Unfortunately, there has been little to no support from the government," he said. Yaseen pointed out that many people associated with the hotel and

travel industry have taken heavy loans from banks to run their businesses and now face the risk of defaulting. "I strongly urge the Union Home Minister to consider waiving EMLs and outstanding bank loans of those working in the tourism and hospitality sector. Without such relief, hundreds of businesses may collapse, pushing families into economic distress," he added. Referring to the plight of farmers and orchardists, Hakeem Yaseen said the recent windstorms and hailstorms had destroyed vast stretches of orchards across the Valley, especially in districts like Budgam, Shopian, and Pulwama.

EDITORIAL

Unauthentic Yet powerful Social Media Turns Catastrophic for Fourth Estate

Mass Communication has undergone drastic transformation amid the contemporary Social media Scenario. Journalism has become Casualty number one to the Powerful yet ill effects of Social media. The way we absorb and communicate information and news online has changed drastically since social media was born.

Social media has allowed news to be accessed in real time and Social media can also be used to identify trends and make predictions. However the non Serious but highly Powerful Social Media Scenario has somewhat tarnished the image of Professional Mass Media Practitioners.

As a journalist one feels ashamed to see the journalistic ethics being grounded and tarnished in the worst ever manner. Although a negligible number of professional People have carved their niche even amid this mad race however a mushroom growth of pseudo Journalists has definitely tarnished the image of the entire Media Community.

In a vibrant democracy Media is considered to be the fourth estate or pillar of the democratic setup which acts as a catalyst to give shape to government policies and the Socio-Political and administrative setup of the country. It acts as a critique to guide government policies towards a Positive direction. So as to contribute in the Positive growth of a democratic Nation. However the contemporary scenario is putting across a dismal picture of the otherwise sensitive profession. Mushroom growth of social media channels without any know-how of basics of media ethics and professional qualifications or expertise is proving cancerous for the noble profession.

Here the authorities have a role to play to put this all important house in order. Which they should rather start to do so, as sooner the better sense prevails.

Although Authorities have issued advisory for the unauthorized social media handlers, however Senior journalists attribute the unethical reportage to the encroachment of social media into the mainstream journalism. Mainstream media and social media has sort of amalgamated. Anyone with a Facebook page, a smart phone and a logo is reporting senselessly on any sensitive issues without any journalistic ethics.

Pertinently there are set guidelines from Press Council of India (PCI) for reporting on any serious or sensitive issue.

Reason for all this menace is the absence of any accountability mechanism in place for social media platform.

Impartial observers of the scene are of the opinion that the media houses should take up the issue with the DIPR and the Concerned Government Authorities not to encourage these pseudo Journalists who resort to unethical journalism, and bring a bad name to the noble profession.

According to the guidelines issued by the Press Council of India (PCI), newspapers and news agencies must not place stories about any sensitive issue prominently and unduly repeat such stories. The need of the hour is for the authorities to Act, and Act now. The concerned nodal agencies should check on the people who are not even remotely associated with the journalism profession and are misusing the social media platforms for their vested interests. As these pseudo journalists are not only defaming the noble profession but also hampering a big dent on the reputation of Journalism as a profession which is otherwise the fourth Estate of Vibrant Democracy like India.

The Heatwave: A Geographer's Insight into Kashmir's Rising Thermal Extremes

DR. MASOON A. BEIG masoongeog@gmail.com

The Kashmir Valley, which has historically experienced mild summers and snowy winters, is presently seeing an unexpected shift in its climate, with heat waves returning and getting stronger. With meteorological data indicating a worrying rise in the greatest temperatures from important locations in the area, such as Srinagar, Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Qazigund and Kokernag, this has been increasingly noticeable since 2020.

Breaking all time record Temperature in valley hit new heights on 22 May, setting new records and taking the region to its limits of heat. Srinagar saw a sizzling 34.4°C, a new high, while Qazigund recorded 33.4°C, Kokernag 33.2°C, and even the cooler Pahalgam reaching 27.8°C. These were record highs for some of these places during the month of May. The scorching temperature forced individuals to stay indoors, particularly in cities where concrete infrastructure made the heat more unbearable by trapping it. Outdoor events were significantly curtailed as the suffocating conditions lasted. In turn, the administration made official announcements of heat wave warnings and public health alerts, calling on citizens to drink plenty of fluids, stay away from direct sunlight, and keep a special eye on vulnerable populations like children and the elderly. In the interest of health and students' safety, the Directorate of School Education changed school hours for both government and private schools. The classes would start earlier in the morning to escape the hottest part of the day. Hospitals are gearing up to handle patient flow with cases of increase in dehydration, heat stress, and sunstroke, especially among children and elderly.

This is not the first time but the frequency of heatwaves have been observed in valley from past few years when in August 2020, Srinagar had 35.7°C, the highest August temperature in almost four decades. This was again followed by an abnormal peak in July 2021 when Srinagar



reached 35.0°C, which was the highest July temperature in eight years. This further intensified in June 2023, when the same city reached 35.0°C, tying for the highest June temperature in the last ten years. In September 2023, Srinagar reported an abnormal high of 34.2°C, the second highest-ever temperature for September since 1891, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Early 2024 saw January's unprecedented average maximum of 11.7°C tie the highest January ever in 1902 and 2001. The situation took a turn for the worse in May 2024, when several records were broken across the valley. On May 23, Srinagar reported 32.2°C, the highest May temperature in more than a decade. Qazigund recorded an all-time high of 34.0°C on May 27, breaking the previous record of 33.6°C set in 1981. Pahalgam, a popular hill resort, recorded 28.6°C in the same month, its second-highest in 23 years, after 30.8°C recorded in 2000. Kokernag reported 31.6°C in May 2024, the second-highest in 22 years. Once again in July 2024, Srinagar reached 36.2°C, the highest July day in the past 25 years. This dramatic upward

trend in summer temperatures is typical of a larger pattern associated with regional climate change. A number of scientific studies blame this trend for being caused by global warming due to greenhouse gas emissions. The Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that Himalayan places such as Kashmir are heating up at almost twice the global average. This is exacerbated by domestic factors like widespread deforestation, hasty urbanization, and growing infrastructure. The construction of highways, railways, transmission lines, housing colonies, and industry units has decreased natural cover and enhanced land heat absorption.

Glacier and snowpack melting in the higher Himalayas has added to this warming via decreased albedo—less snow results in more solar radiation being absorbed instead of reflected. Satellite imagery from ISRO and studies by the Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE) indicate that key glaciers feeding the Jhelum and Lidder rivers have shrunk by over 15% in the last two decades. This not only contributes to local warming

but also reduces water availability during peak summer months.

Land use changes are playing a significant role as well. Wider urban habitations and lesser forest cover have formed urban heat islands, particularly in lower-altitude towns such as Anantnag, Pulwama Baramulla, and Budgam. Heatwaves are no longer limited to Srinagar; rural and hill districts, earlier regarded as cool belts, are witnessing excessive heat. Statistics provided by the Jammu and Kashmir State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) indicate that the number of heat stress calls and hospitalizations for heat exhaustion grew more than 200% between 2020 and 2025.

Another underappreciated culprit is the build-up of black carbon—fine aerosol particles from fossil fuel combustion, biomass burning, and diesel emissions. Research by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) indicates that black carbon loading on snowfields has sped up glacier melting and caused local warming in Kashmir. This contributes to warming's feedback loop: increased melt results in increased heat absorption,

which results in additional melting.

The consequences of increasing heatwaves are threatening. Agriculture, the backbone of Kashmir's economy, is under serious threat. Apple orchards in Sopore and Shopian, saffron fields in Pampore, and rice paddies in Anantnag are suffering from heat stress. Premature ripening, flower drop, and decreased yields have been observed by field experts at SKUAST-Kashmir. Water supplies are being stressed by premature snowmelt, which disturbs the magnitude and timing of river flow. This has impacts on irrigation, hydroelectric power generation, and domestic supply.

Public health effects are increasing too. Heat illnesses like dehydration, sunstroke, and heat-induced cardiovascular disease have increased, particularly in May and July, as per a 2025 report by the Directorate of Health Services. The susceptible group—elderly, children, and outdoor workers—are disproportionately affected.

Tourism, a vital source of income for the region, is not spared. The reputation of Kashmir as a cool summer destination remains shaken when heatwaves overlap with tourist peak season. Even upper-altitude spots like Pahalgam and Gulmarg witnessed temperature hikes putting impact on tourism sector.

The increasing heat wave trend in Kashmir Valley is an environmental crisis that is a combination of global climate disturbance as well as local mismanagement of natural resources. The combined effect of global warming, glacial melting, land-use alteration, and pollution has altered the climatic character of the valley. If left unabated, the valley could see irreparable ecological, economic, and public health impacts over the next few decades. Urgent policy action, sustainable development planning, and community-based climate adaptation are essential to safeguard Kashmir's environmental heritage and human well-being.

The Author is Environmental Geographer and teaches Geography at Altaf Memorial Government Degree College Kelam Kulgam

Seven bodies and one question: When will we all wake up?



PRIYANKA SAURABH

Seven members of a family committed mass suicide in Panchkula. Hands tremble while writing these lines, and the mind repeatedly returns to the place - behind that closed door, where the hope of an age had died. It is an easy rush to simply call that scene a "mass suicide". In fact, it is a collective social failure, in which all of us - neighbors, relatives, institutions, governments - are somehow complicit.

Screams of silence

When someone commits suicide, he does not just lose his life, he loses society. He indicates that he cried out a lot, suffered a lot, endured a lot - and then, exhausted, he chose silence.

Praveen Mittal and his family were also probably not silent, we just ignored their voices.

"Why didn't he tell me?"

Perhaps I did not tell you because every time it broke, we were all busy with our mobile phones.

Perhaps I didn't tell him because we still associate poverty, debt, and failure with shame, not sympathy.

We are all a little guilty There is not a single reason behind every suicide, but a social structure - in which a person breaks down financially, becomes emotionally lonely, and then goes away quietly under the blanket of self-respect.

This incident was also similar. A businessman who was once self-reliant, today got ruined under the burden of banks and moneylenders. His children, who wanted to see the world, buried their future.

Was there no neighbor, relative or friend close enough to understand his pain?

Silence is also a crime

We often think of crime as only being 'committed' - but the truth is

that those who do not do anything at the right time are also complicit in the crime.

If one friend, one brother, one customer, one neighbor—if one thing had said in time, "Let's do something," perhaps these seven lives could have been saved.

Is suicide an option? No, but sometimes it seems like it.

In our country, mental health is still considered a 'weakness'. Financial crisis is considered a 'punishment for karma'. And asking for help is like a crime.

When an independent person gives up, it means that he has not lost courage but has given up hope from the society.

Could this family have been prevented from committing suicide?

Yes. Absolutely yes.

If government schemes were working properly.

If the loan waiver process was humane.

If the neighbors had any sympathy.

If a relationship was so alive that it would knock on the door.

What can we do?

1. Be empathetic - The next time

someone is quiet, ask how they are doing.

2. Help - It is not necessary that you can give lakhs of rupees, but a shoulder, a word, a way can be a great support.

3. Do not abandon your loved ones in trouble - When someone is in trouble, do not distance yourself from them. This is the time when companionship is needed the most.

4. Demand from the government and administration - Suicide incidents should not just be investigated, lessons should be learnt from them and the social security structure should be strengthened.

5. Teach your children that defeat does not change a person, but a person can change defeat.

The role of the media: empathy or sensationalism?

The media covered this incident extensively. The headline on every channel was -

"Commotion due to mass suicide of seven people!"

"Painful things written in the suicide note!"

But the question is - did the media see it as a humanitarian

crisis, or a TRP opportunity?

It is very easy to sensationalize this phenomenon,

But it is important to understand that someone's death should not be made news,

Saving someone's life is more important.

The media should use such incidents as a catalyst for policy change, social reform, and mental health awareness, rather than simply presenting them as interesting content.

After every suicide, one question remains before us - what now?

Now crying will not change anything. Now regret will not erase the guilt.

Now is the time to bring back living sensitivity into the small spheres of our lives.

Every neighbor, every friend, every relative - take a vow now:

"I will never let anyone close to me die alone like this."

Last point: Staying silent is now a crime

Today, as we grieve after this tragedy, a question stands before us -

"Will we be able to prevent the

next Praveen Mittal story from happening?"

Maybe yes-

If we bring some pause in our life,

If we consider relationships not just a formality but a medium of empathy,

If we accept that keeping quiet is also a kind of crime.

Don't light the candles this time.

Make a resolution-

"I will never let anyone close to me break down so much that he chooses to die rather than live."

In the end, what is needed is not a prayer—a promise.

This time don't light candles, take a resolution.

So that next time no Praveen Mittal dies.

No child should consume poison.

No mother should see her dreams hanging from the gallows with her own eyes.

And if you still can't do anything, Don't do this much -

Don't keep quiet.

Author is a Research Scholar in Political Science, Poet, freelance journalist and columnist.

GUFTAR AHMED CHOUDHARY: ADVOCATE FOR THE POWERLESS



MUZAMIL ARIF

In Rajouri’s dawn, where shadows grew,
He rose with dreams the mountain knew.
A tribal heart with warrior grace,
Justice carved upon his face.
In the heart of Rajouri’s ancient land,
Where rivers carve through rocky sand,
Guftar grew with humble grace,
Rooted deep in his homeland’s embrace.
From humble roots, a giant grows,
A light that through the darkness shows.
For Gujjar, Bakarwal, his fight is strong,
To right the past and heal the wrong.
With heart ablaze and spirit true,
He fights for justice bold and new.
For education, health, and equal right,
He shines a beacon in darkest night
Guftar walks the rugged land,
With steady heart and helping hand.
For every tribe, he stands so tall,
A friend and leader to them all.
From tents and trails, his journey starts,
With passion burning in his heart.
A voice for those who have no say,
He paves a brighter, fairer way.
No throne he sought, no crown, no gold,
Just stories of the meek, retold.
He lifted flags not stitched with pride,
But sewn with tears the poor can’t hide
Praise be to Guftar, strong and bright,
Whose eyes reflect the mountain light.
He walked through shadows, calm and deep,
To wake the hopes that lay asleep.

From court to street, from mic to field,
He taught the weak they need not yield.
And when the winds of power roar,
Guftar stands stronger than before.
When darkness veiled the land in pain,
And silence ruled like heavy rain,
Guftar stood tall, a beacon bright,
Champion of the forgotten fight.
He lifts the weak, gives hope to all,
Breaks down each cold, dividing wall.
With every step, his spirit grows,
A river strong that onward flows.
In the hills where silence grows,
A voice for those no one knows,
Guftar stands with heart so wide,
Champion, friend, and tribal guide.
For Gujjar souls and Bakarwal trails,
He breaks through injustice’s veils,
With every step, a promise made,
To lift the weak, bring light to shade.
No stone unturned, no voice denied,
He stands with those pushed aside,
A beacon bright in darkened skies,
The strength behind the voiceless cries.
When hunger struck and shadows grew,
His Mission EHSAAS brought help through.
A friend to the poor, the weak, the small,
He stands a champion for one and all.
So here’s to the son of Rajouri’s soil,
Whose tireless efforts never spoil.
A legacy of hope, a future bright,
Guftar Choudhary, a guiding light.

Written by POET AND AUTHOR
MUZAMIL ARIF BHALESSI A WELL
KNOWN WRITER whose work delves into
the complexities of human nature and
society. With a keen eye for detail and an
inquisitive mind, he tackle(s) the issues
that matter most in today’s world.

EXPLORING NATURE- RAFIABAD: NATURALLY CAPTIVATING

ABBASI RAYEESA

rayeesarashid52@gmail.com

Nestled in the foothills of majestic mountains, Rafiabad stands as a testament to nature’s unspoiled beauty. This tranquil heaven offers visitors a rare opportunity to experience profound peace and reconnect with their inner selves amidst breathtaking landscapes. From verdant forests alive with birdsong to clear flowing rivers that whisper ancient stories, Rafiabad invites travellers to discover a world where natural splendour needs no enhancement—a place of authentic beauty where the rhythm of life moves in perfect harmony with the earth. Rafiabad presents itself as nature’s masterpiece, where mountains stand like silent guardians overlooking the valley. Below, rivers carve their eternal paths through the landscape, their crystalline waters singing timeless melodies that soothe the soul. Each season paints the landscape with different hues, ensuring that beauty remains constant while perpetually changing. The morning mist embraces the mountains like a delicate veil, gradually lifting to reveal the day’s splendour. The air here carries a unique quality—crisp, clean, and rejuvenating. It flows gently through the valley, carrying with it the fragrance of wildflowers and pine. This natural perfume envelops visitors, offering an olfactory experience as rich as the visual panorama that surrounds them. Every vista tells a story of growth, rest, and inner peace. The natural rhythm of this place teaches valuable lessons about patience and resilience, offering visitors a mirror in which they can find reflections of their truest selves. Forests dense with ancient trees create sanctuaries of contemplation. Their rustling leaves speak a language that resonates with something primitive within us, inviting



silent dialogue between human consciousness and the wisdom of the natural world. The flowing waters that traverse Rafiabad do more than shape the physical landscape—they metaphorically wash away the visitor’s worldly concerns, offering a sense of renewal that is both profound and rejuvenating. In this sacred space, the constant bustle of modern life fades into insignificance. Visitors find themselves deeply present, attuned to subtle beauties often overlooked in busier environments. Time seems to adopt a different quality—expanding and contracting according to natural rhythms rather than mechanical schedules. Dawn in Rafiabad arrives as a gentle whisper, with first light painting the eastern sky in delicate watercolours of pink and gold. As morning unfolds, sunlight spills over mountain ridges, illuminating the valley in progressive stages—a natural theatre of light that transforms ordinary scenes into extraordinary visions. The afternoon brings its own character, as sunlight filters through forest canopies, creating dappled patterns on forest floors and meadows. Butterflies dance from blossom to blossom in this golden light, their ephemeral beauty a reminder of life’s precious transience. Perhaps most spectacular are Rafiabad’s evenings, when the setting sun

bathes everything in amber light, lengthening shadows and softening contours. As darkness falls, the sky transforms into a vast canvas of stars, their brilliance undiminished by artificial light. On clear nights, the moon casts its silvery glow across the landscape, rendering familiar scenes mysteriously new. Forests offer cool sanctuary from the sun’s warmth, while rivers invite refreshing respite. Trees don their finest garments in brilliant gold, oranges, and red. The harvest brings abundance, while the air carries a pleasant crispness. Snow transforms the landscape into a pristine wonderland. Silence blankets the valley, broken only by the occasional call of winter birds or the soft fall of snow from laden branches. Each season in Rafiabad offers its own unique spectacle, ensuring that the region remains a place of wonder year-round. Visitors returning in different seasons often express amazement at how the same location can present such varied aspects of beauty, each perfect in its own way. This living canvas changes moment by moment, yet maintains a perfect balance. From the smallest insects to the tallest trees, every element contributes to the holistic beauty that makes Rafiabad so extraordinary. Visitors often find themselves slow-

ing their pace to observe these intricate details, discovering worlds within worlds. To visit Rafiabad is to embark on two journeys simultaneously—one through physical space and another through interior landscapes. As daily concerns recede against the backdrop of natural grandeur, visitors often report a profound sense of reconnection with aspects of themselves long forgotten in the rush of modern existence. This region offers more than momentary escape—it provides lasting perspective. The lessons written in rivers, mountains, and changing seasons translate into wisdom that travellers carry home with them. Many find that long after leaving Rafiabad’s physical boundaries, its essence remains as an internal compass guiding them toward greater authenticity and peace. For those seeking respite from life’s complexities, Rafiabad stands as an invitation to simplicity and presence. Here, in this perfect confluence of natural elements, visitors discover that beauty requires no enhancement, peace needs no orchestration, and the human spirit thrives when given space to breathe in harmony with the world as it naturally exists.

The writer is pursuing a BA (6th Semester) at the Government Degree College (GDC) Dangiwacha

SOURCE: KASHMIR READER

In Loving Memory of Haji Gh. Ahmad Kumar Sahab: A Life of Purpose, Service, and Compassion



MUZAMIL SHOUC

WADIPORA, HANDWARA

In a world that often moves too fast to notice quiet greatness, there are rare individuals whose presence becomes a blessing to everyone they encounter. Haji Gh. Ahmad Kumar Sahab was one such soul—a visionary educator, social reformer, and above all, a compassionate human being who lived a life defined by selfless service and unwavering integrity. As we mark his passing on May 27, 2024, we celebrate not only his extraordinary accomplishments but also the indelible legacy he leaves behind.

The Teacher Who Taught More Than Textbooks

Born in Handwara, Haji Gh. Ahmad Kumar Sahab began his academic journey with excellence, completing his 10th grade from High School Handwara in 1958. He went on to pursue F.Sc. from Intermediate College Sopore, graduating in 1961. That same year, he joined the Education Department as a teacher—a career choice that became a lifelong calling.

While teaching, he continued his own education, earning a B.A. in 1963, an M.A. in Urdu in 1965, and a B.Ed. in 1968 from Kashmir University. He also completed a diploma in Primary Teaching Education at the prestigious Regional College in Ajmer.

Although selected for an engineering program, he chose to devote his life to education and social upliftment. His professional journey spanned several notable institutions: High School Zachaldara (Handwara), Higher Secondary School Kangan (Ganderbal), Government High School Wakkah (Kargil), Teacher Training School Kargil, Boys Higher Secondary School Kupwara, Qalamabad, and S.P. Higher Secondary School Srinagar. He also served as Tehsil Planning Officer for Handwara for three years before retiring as Vice Principal of Boys Higher Secondary School Handwara in 1998.

In 1975, he received the Best Teacher State Award, a fitting tribute to a career that transformed thousands of lives.

A Second Career in Social Service

Retirement did not slow him down. If anything, it became a new chapter of intensified service. He took up leadership roles in various educational institutions, including Principal of MET Sopore, Principal of Lighthouse Public School Handwara, and Chairman of Public Model High School Wadipora.

But his heart lay in humanitarian work.

In 1975, he joined the J&K Yateem Trust (JKYT) as a full-time worker and trustee. Over decades, he raised funds door-to-door for orphans, widows, and destitute families. His most notable contribution came in 2005, when he established Gulistan-e-



Banat, a home and school for orphaned girls in Handwara. Under his leadership, the institution provided education, shelter, and hope to hundreds of children.

He was also instrumental in founding the Banat Institute of Technical Education, Waripora Handwara, offering vocational training to youth in the region. As one of

seven board members of JKYT, his vision and dedication left a lasting imprint on social welfare across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Man Behind the Mission

To those who knew him, Kumar Sahab was a man of quiet strength and limitless compassion. He was a devoted husband, a loving father, a wise grandfather, and a loyal friend. His personal relationships reflected the same values he brought to his professional life: humility, sincerity, and an unwavering commitment to doing good.

I remember the summers we spent together in the garden, where he patiently taught me how to plant seeds and tend to vegetables—lessons far deeper than agriculture. He believed in the beauty of simple things, and in doing them well.

In February 2023, we took our final trip together to Hyderabad. From Mecca Masjid and Charminar to the Golconda Fort and Salarjung Museum, he experienced everything with childlike wonder. I still hear his words after tasting Hyderabad biryani: "Yeth biryani chu waryah asal mazzeh" (This biryani is truly delicious), he said with a smile that warmed the whole room.

As time went on, his health began to decline. He underwent emergency surgery in Srinagar, and while the operation was successful, his strength slowly faded. In his final days, he said to me, "Pan-nis gharas thaev ze khayaal. Woen chun zindagi peth baroos." (Take care of your home; there is no certainty in this life.)

A Legacy Carved in Hearts

On May 27, 2024—a Monday etched forever in our memories—he breathed his last. The world lost a noble soul, and we, a guiding light.

He was honored with the Tak Zainagiri Memorial Award in Social Service, one of the highest recognitions bestowed by the J&K Yateem Trust. His closest companions throughout his journey—his daughter Mtr. Fareeda Shouq, Dr. Fayaz Ahmad Bhat, Mr. Ghulam Rasool Wani, and Mr. Abdul Majeed Dar—played vital roles in carrying forward his mission.

He also shared enduring friendships with individuals such as Ghulam Rasool Rajpore (Rajpora), Ghulam Rasool Lone (Handwara), Ramji Pandita, Brijnath Bhat, and Somnath Pandita—now residing in Jammu, Delhi, and Canada—and his most trusted friend, Ghulam Nabi Haji from Sopore.

Their collective efforts and his leadership gave countless families dignity and hope.

"There are some people in this world who make it a better place simply by being in it."

Haji Gh. Ahmad Kumar Sahab was one of them. His life was a testament to what one person can do with a heart full of faith, a mind dedicated to knowledge, and hands always ready to serve.

We never stop missing the people who shaped our lives. But grief, as deep as it runs, is only the echo of love that never ends.

May Allah (SWT) grant him the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and give his family and all those who loved him the strength to carry his legacy forward.

"Hain loug wahi jahan mein achay, aatayu hain jo kaam doosroon ke."

(The best people in the world are those who live for others.)



Dr Jitendra Singh To Inaugurate 'Lavender Festival' At Bhaderwah On June 1

Jammu, May 28: The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu, is set to organize the 3rd Lavender Festival on June 1st and 2nd at the Government Degree College, Bhaderwah, in District Doda. Addressing the media during the curtain raiser event of Lavender Festival organised at Jammu, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, told that 3rd Lavender Festival will be inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, MoS Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Vice President CSIR, Jammu dining guide Dr. Ahmed also said that under the CSIR-Aroma Mission, a flagship programme of Union Ministry of Science & Technology, which was closely

mentored by Dr. Jitendra Singh Union Minister and Vice President CSIR, CSIR-IIIM has played a pivotal role in empowering rural communities through the cultivation of lavender by engaging over 5,000 farmers and young entrepreneurs in remote areas, providing free Quality Planting Material (QPM) and complete technological support, covering cultivation, processing, value addition, and marketing. Under this mission, more than 50 distillation units across J&K were installed to support local-level processing of lavender produce. He added that the Tehsil Bhaderwah in District Doda has emerged as a model region under the mission, where farmers have sold quality planting material (QPM) of Lavender worth over 1 crore. Local growers have produced 1,500 kilograms of lavender oil and 93,000 kilograms of dried lavender flowers, which were successfully marketed. A total business



turnover of 10.5 crore has been recorded, highlighting the mission's substantial socio-economic impact. The initiative has not only boosted income levels but also fostered women's empowerment, with increased participation of women in lavender farming and related enterprises. Director, CSIR-IIIM also pointed out that this year's festival will be unique in many ways, as it celebrates the

growing success of lavender cultivation under the CSIR-Aroma Mission, not only across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir but also in extended regions such as Uttarakhand and the North-Eastern states. The primary objective of the Lavender Festival is to celebrate this success and further promote agri-based entrepreneurship in aromatic crops. Several farmers who earlier practiced

traditional farming have successfully transitioned to lavender cultivation, with many now running their own entrepreneurial ventures. The event will bring together a diverse group of participants, including, Farmers, Scientists and Researchers, Startups and Industrialists, Policy makers and civil society representatives from across the country. The festival will also host an Agri Startup Expo, showcasing innovations in value-added products and technologies related to lavender. Prominent startups participating in the Expo include: M/s JK Aroma, M/s Heopcl, M/s Ridayu Botanics Pvt. Ltd, M/s NITCO (Doda Herb Producers), CSIR labs, Aroma and Floriculture Mission, M/s Hapico Industries Pvt. Ltd., M/s Gleen Biotech Pvt. Ltd., M/s Essential Ayurveda, M/s Gaurico, M/s JCM Meera World, Jammu dining guide- Jammu and Kashmir tourism. The organizers have issued invita-

tions to all stakeholders, academicians, scientists, policy makers, startups, early-stage entrepreneurs, industry representatives, students and members of civil society. The Lavender Festival aims to serve as a catalyst in transforming the agro-economy of the region, with potential for long-term national economic impact. During the press briefing, "Lavender Festival 2025" portal was launched, and the Lavender Festival Brochure was also released. The Festival is being organized under the patronage of Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Director General CSIR & Secretary to GoI, DSIR, and overall supervision of Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu, assisted by his team of HoDs and Scientists including Er. Abdul Rahim, Dr. Asha Chaubey, Dr. Dhiraj Vyas, Dr. Shashank Singh, Dr. Sumit Gandhi, Dr. Naveed Qazi, Dr. Suphla Gupta, Dr. Saurabh Saran, Dr. Raj Kishore, Ajay Kumar.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER LAHDC-KARGIL

Where an application has been received from Shri/ Smt. MOHD JAVED S/O MOHD IBRAIM R/O PASHKUM HPA Cancellation with P.N.B Handwara Srinagar. Now therefore, it notified for general information that objection, it any the proposed HPA cancellation of vehicle NO. JK07-5221 Shall be filled in writing in the office of the ARTO Kargil with in a period of 07 days from date of publication of this notice in the Daily NewsPaper.

NO ARTO/ K /2020/
Date:- 27-05-25

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change then Name in my electricity Connection From Haji Habibullah Dar S/O Ghulam Mohammad Dar to my brothers Name i.e Mohd Aslam Dar S/O Haji Habibullah Dar bearing consumer I'd 0206050002182. Anybody having any objection in this regard, may file his/her objection in the office of Concerned PDD Department within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection shall be entertained.

Name.... Mohd Aslam Dar S/O Haji Habibullah Dar
Under consumer I'd 0206050002182

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application for issuance of OBC certificate in favour of SHABIR MOHI UD DIN HAJAM S/O GHULAM MOHI UD DIN HAJAM R/O RESHIPORA AUTHOORA Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of OBC (Other Backward class in his/her / their favor.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of RESHIPORA AUTHOORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the HAJAM community having annual income 100000 // (one lakh only) the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1...GHULAM MOHI UD DIN HAJAM Father 47 years Labour
- 2...MISRA BEGAM wife 45 years Housewife
- 3... BILAL AHMAD son 25 years student
- 4...Mohd SHAFI son 22 years student
- 5...SHABIR MOHI UD DIN HAJAM son 18 years student

if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to be informed that the dob of my daughter jasmeen ashraf have been wrongly in her school records as 25/09/2021 but her correct dob is 30/09/2011 now I want update it her school record if anyone has queries plz inform to office of government middle school manal pahelgam.

Mohd ashraf lawe
R/o mamal pahelgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is being informed that By mistake My DOB in my aadhar card having aadhar card number 482637460010 is wrongly mentioned as 20/09/2004 The actual DOB as per school records. Is 02/01/2005 NOW I want apply for its correction if any body having any objection in this regard he/she may contact Rubeena Bashir c/o Bashir Ahmad Mir R/O Iaripora Khalam Pahalgam Ph 9622292863 within 7 days .

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is being informed that By mistake My DOB in my aadhar card having aadhar card number 482637460010 is wrongly mentioned as 02/01/2005 The actual DOB as per school records. Is 20/09/2004 NOW I want apply for its correction if any body having any objection in this regard he/she may contact Rubeena Bashir c/o Bashir Ahmad Mir R/O Iaripora Khalam Pahalgam Ph 9622292863 within days .

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, SHOWKAT AHMAD AHANGAR have changed the name of my daughter Sana Jan to BAREEN SHOWKAT R/o Old Gargibal Nehru Park Srinagar. Vide Affidavit dated 21-05-2025 before notary public Srinagar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that I have applied for my Ward's dob certificate, namely, Imad Rashid Bhat DOB 06/10/2019 Taimor Rashid Bhat DOB 28/04/2022 Parentage Ab Rashid Bhat R/O LACHIPORA Handwara. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection at Municipal Committee Handwara within a period of 07 days after that no objection will be accepted.

NAMELY: IMAD RASHID BHAT. TAIMOR RASHID BHAT
Parentage: AB RASHID BHAT
R/O: LACHIPORA Handwara

PUBLIC NOTICE

My daughter's name wrongly mentioned In Date of Birth certificate as RIDA WASEEM D/O WASEEM AHMAD WANI R/O SHRAKWARA JAHINGEERPIRA bearing id NO 101002640108 while her correct name is RIDA WASIM D/O WASIM AHMAD WANI R/O SHRAKWARA JAHANGEEPPORA .which needs to be corrected ...if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his / her objection in the office of SDH kreeri / BMO office kreeri within seven days from publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name ... WASIM AHMAD WANI
F/O RIDA WASIM
R/O SHRAKWARA JAHANGEEPPORA

HEARTFELT DEMISE.

With profound grief and sorrow, we regret to inform the sad demise of Shugufta Mushtaq, W/O: Hakeem Mushtaq Ahmad R/O: Khawaja Pora, Nowshera. Fateh Khawani for the deceased will be held at their ancestral graveyard inside the premises of Khawaja Habibullah Nowsheri Shrine, at Nowshera, Srinagar on Friday, 30th May 2025 at 2:30 PM after Nimaaz e Jumma, in'sha'Allah.

Bereaved:

Hakeem Mushtaq Ahmad (7889836792) - Husband
Hakeem Junaid Mushtaq (9622555558) - Son

Note: Ladies are requested not to bring any kind of eatables.

ازدفتر نایب تحصیلدار پہلگام

درخواست منجانب سارا احمد بیچوان ولد غلام محمد بیچوان ساکن لاری پور لہ پہلگام
بغرض حصول **ST** سرٹفکٹ

اشتہار ہمارا آگاہی ہر خاص و عام
سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول **ST** سرٹفکٹ دفتر خراجین میں کی ہے
رپوٹ کے مطابق سائل دھڑرا اکا باندہ ہے
افراد کثیرہ ذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

غلام محمد بیچوان ولد قاسم بیچوان 57 مہ مہوری 6000
بیتیم جانم زو بیہ غلام محمد 50 گھر کام
نسار احمد پسر 17 زیر تعلیم

اسکے علاوہ اوکو کوئی افراد کثیرہ میں موجود نہیں ہے اور کثیرہ کی کل آمدنی 5000
تک ہے زیر کار کوئی سرٹفکٹ اجراء کرنے میں کسی کو کوئی عذر ہوتا وہ سات
یوم کے اندر اندر دفتر خراجین میں کرے

نایب تحصیلدار

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the R/C of my Vehicle Scooty Having Registration No :- JK 01AF -3694 From Barzullah To Iqbal park Srinagar. Now I have applied for its Duplicate. if any body having objection he/she may contact RTO office, Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objections will be accepted.
Name :- Tanveer Ahmad
S/O :- Late Gulzar Ahmad Mir
R/o Barzullah

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my husband name MUKHTA BANDAY S/O MOHD AKBAR BANDAY R/O KREERI . Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 02120400000210 wants to be registered on my name SYEEDA BEGUM W/O LATE MUKHTA BANDAY R/O KREERI . If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....SYEEDA BEGUM
S/O ...MUKHTA BANDAY R/O KREERI
DIST.....BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

My son's name , parentage name & residence has been wrongly written as SEHRAN UMAR S/O UMAR RASHID SHEIKH R/O TARZUA SOPORE while his correct name , parentage & residence is SEHRAN UMAR BHAT S/O UMAR RASHID BHAT R/O KREERI which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his/her objection in the office of HANFIA MODEL HR. SEC SCHOOL KREERI within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name.....UMAR RASHID BHAT
S/O SEHRAN UMAR BHAT
R/O ...KREERI

DC Samba reviews IEC activities under Nasha Mukht Bharat Campaign

HT News Network

SAMBA, MAY 28: Deputy Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma today chaired a review meeting at the DC Office to assess the IEC (Information, Education and Communication) activities under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized the importance of coordinated departmental efforts to tackle the menace of drug abuse through impactful awareness campaigns. It was decided to organize a marathon along with vol-



leyball and cricket matches as part of the ongoing outreach initiatives aimed at engaging youth and promoting a drug-free society.

Concerned departments were instructed to mobilize students, youth, and local residents for these events and ensure smooth

execution through mutual coordination. The DC urged officials to sustain the momentum of the campaign and intensify IEC activities across the district.

The meeting was attended by officers from Revenue, Education, Social Welfare, Excise, Youth Services & Sports, Cooperative, and Sports Council departments.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to strengthen community-based efforts under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

World Environment Day 2025

GDC Ramgarh organises Pledge Ceremony as part of Pre-Campaign Activities

HT News Network

SAMBA, MAY 28: In alignment with the district-wide pre-campaign initiatives for World Environment Day (WED) 2025, Government Degree College (GDC) Ramgarh conducted a Pledge Ceremony to promote awareness on this year's global theme, "Ending Plastic Pollution Globally." The event was held under the guidance of the Principal of the college Prof. (Dr.) Meeru Abrol and coor-

minated by the Department of Environmental Science, led by HoD Dr. Shivali Panjotga. Faculty members including Dr. Snobar, Prof. Sandeep Kumari, Ashok Kumar, Prof. Brham Dutt, Darpan Malhotra and students participated enthusiastically and took solemn pledge to eliminate plastic usage and advocate for sustainable practices. They vowed to contribute towards a clean, healthy and plastic-free India and avoid the use of plastic in

their daily lives, to educate others on the harmful effects of plastic pollution and to commit themselves to protecting the planet for a secure and brighter future.

This initiative marks the beginning of a two-week pre-campaign launched across Samba district as directed by the Deputy Commissioner. The campaign would focus on awareness drives, cleanliness campaigns, workshops, webinars, and other environment-

focused activities involving different departments and stakeholders. The College Principal Dr. Meeru Abrol appreciated the initiative and commended the active participation of students and faculty. She encouraged everyone to continue their involvement in future environmental activities, workshops, cleanliness drives, and webinars that are scheduled as part of the World Environment Day 2025 campaign.

Symposium on "Nasha Mukht Bharat" organized at GHS Gurha Brahmana

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 28: To spread awareness among the youth about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to promote the message of a "Nasha Mukht Bharat" (Drug-Free India), a symposium competition was organized today by the Cultural Unit, Department of Information & Public Relations Jammu at Government High School Gurha Brahmana.

As many as seven students participated in the event, delivering powerful speeches that highlighted the dangers of drug addiction and the importance of leading a healthy, productive life. The competition served as a vibrant platform to engage the students in a meaningful dialogue on



substance abuse and the role of youth in building a drug-free society.

The Headmaster of the school Shahida Mir lauded the efforts of the Information Department for organizing such a thought-provoking and socially relevant program and appreciated the active participation of the students. She emphasized that such initiatives play a crucial role in shap-

ing responsible citizens.

The first prize was bagged by Man-deep Kour, second prize by Simran-deep and third prize by Sakshi Pandey, while consolation prize was given to Sonia Singh. The performances were judged by a panel comprising Payal Bajaj, Sunita Jamwal and Nirmal Sharma. The event was attended by staff members of school, officials from the Information Department, and a large number of enthusiastic students, who appreciated the initiative and pledged to contribute to the mission of a Nasha Mukht Bharat. The programme was conducted under the directions of Joint Director Information Jammu, Deepak Dubey and under the supervision of Cultural Officer Jammu, Mukesh Kumar Sharma.

MVD conducts enforcement drive in Banihal

RAMBAN, MAY 28: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, a comprehensive early morning enforcement drive was conducted in Banihal to address public transport-related issues and ensure strict compliance with road safety norms. The drive was led by ARTO Kuldeep Singh, along with a team of MVI and AMVI officials.

The team continued checking drives on the National Highway and surrounding link routes to curb violations by vehicle operators. As part of the initiative, a road safety audit of school buses operated by private schools

in Banihal was also carried out to ensure the safety of school-going children. In addition to the enforcement measures, an awareness program was organized at Alam Shah Convent Higher Secondary School, Banihal, where students and staff were sensitized about road safety rules and the importance of adhering to traffic regulations.

During the drive, several vehicles were challaned and seized for various violations. Another round of checking was also carried out in Magerkot, Ukhral, and Alinbass areas, resulting in the seizure and challaning of vehicles in the Ukhral region.



AYUSH Kulgam, KVK Pombay organize day-long seminar DC Kulgam inaugurates, presides over the programme

HT News Network

KULGAM, MAY 28: AYUSH Department Kulgam in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Pombay Kulgam, today organized day-long seminar on 'Promotion & Conservation of Medicinal Plants and Developing Entrepreneurship in the Medicinal Plant Sector' at KVK Pombay.

Programme was inaugurated and presided over by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Amir Khan.

The event witnessed participation from progressive farmers, agri-entrepreneurs and officials from allied

departments.

In his address, DC highlighted the livelihood and income generation potential of traditional/ herbal medicines, and stressed the need for integrating modern agri-technologies.

He also emphasized the importance of linking farmers and youth with sustained technical support to develop a robust ecosystem for entrepreneurship in the medicinal plant sector.

Technical sessions were held during the seminar, where subject experts shared insights on best practices, marketing opportunities, and support.



Technical officer from the Jammu and Kashmir Medicinal Plants Board provided a detailed overview of the achievements and future roadmap for the promotion and conservation of medicinal plants, with a special focus on entrepreneurship development.

KVK Head, Prof Manzoor Ahmad Ganie assured full technical support and handholding to farmers and aspiring entrepreneurs in the medicinal plant sector.

Technical officer from the Jammu and Kashmir Medicinal Plants Board provided a detailed overview of the achievements and future roadmap

for the promotion and conservation of medicinal plants, with a special focus on entrepreneurship development.

During the programme, multiple stalls showcasing medicinal plant products, farming tools and technologies were put on display.

Additionally, progressive farmers shared their success stories, inspiring others with their experiences and achievements in the field of medicinal plant cultivation.

ACR, Kulgam Riyaz Ahmad Shah, Nodal Officer AYUSH, Dr. Abdul Rehman and other officers also attended the programme.

One-day CBP held on 'Child Protection and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education' at DCC Baramulla

HT News Network

BARAMULLA, MAY 28: Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority (JKLSA), in partnership with UNICEF India, conducted a one-day Capacity Building Programme (CBP) on 'Child Protection and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)' today at the District Court Complex (DCC) Baramulla.

The programme, organized under the NALSA (Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme-2024, aimed to raise awareness and strengthen the capacity of key stakeholders on critical issues related to child protection. Special emphasis was placed on addressing the risks posed by explosive remnants of war, a persistent and serious concern in border and conflict-affected regions.

Member Secretary, Jammu and



Kashmir Legal Services Authority (JKLSA), Shazia Tabasum, Secretary DLSA Baramulla, Javid Ahmad, President Bar Association Baramulla, Adv. Nelofer, Representative from UNICEF India, Judicial Officers, Lawyers, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) and various other stakeholders were present during the workshop.

Speaking on the occasion, Member Secretary JKLSA, said that the need for holding today's program is to uphold the rights of the most vulnerable sections of our society — our children. She further said that judicial officers have a pivotal role to play in this connection ensuring justice for children, in alignment with international laws and

standards.

Earlier, Secretary DLSA emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts in safeguarding the rights of children and equipping communities with the knowledge needed to mitigate risks associated with explosive ordnance. He stressed the need for sensitization at grassroots levels, especially in vulnerable areas.

Meanwhile, Advocate Nelofer spoke on the legal frameworks surrounding child protection, physical impact of unexploded ordnance on vulnerable children, and the role of legal aid institutions in preventing and responding to such threats. Various speakers and subject-matter experts shared valuable insights with the participants, emphasizing the importance of an integrated inter-departmental approach.

Ayush Anantnag organizes Yoga event at Historic Martand Temple

HT News Network

ANANTNAG, MAY 28: To promote health and wellness through traditional practices, District Ayush Office, Anantnag, today organized a grand yoga event at famous and historic Martand Sun Temple under the theme of 'Harit Yoga,' symbolizing harmony between nature and human well-being. Set against the majestic backdrop of the ancient Martand Temple, the event witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of people, including students, youth, local residents, and officials from various departments, including Ayush, Sports, Education, Health, Rural Development, and Social Welfare. The serene and spiritually enriching



location further elevated the experience, making it both a cultural and wellness-oriented celebration.

Speaking on the occasion, officials emphasized the importance of yoga as an ancient Indian practice that fosters balance between the body, mind, and soul. "Yoga is not merely a physical exercise but a holistic approach to health, inner peace, and sustainable living," said a senior Ayush officer present

at the event.

The 'Harit Yoga' theme also underscored the need to integrate yoga with environmental consciousness. As part of the initiative, participants were sensitized about the importance of green living and maintaining ecological balance. The gathering highlighted how a healthy body, peaceful mind, and clean environment are interlinked in achieving holistic well-being. Several yoga demonstrations were conducted by trained instructors, and sessions included breathing techniques, stretching exercises, meditation, and discussions on the benefits of regular yoga practice. Officials encouraged people to incorporate yoga into their daily routines for enhanced physical fitness.

DC Shopian visits Mughal Road, assesses landslide clearance operations

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, MAY 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today visited the Mughal Road to assess its traffic worthiness following landslides due to the heavy rainfall during intervening night of 27-28 May, and to take stock of the clearance operations from the Shopian side. During the inspection, DC took on ground appraisal of the removal of rockfall and slide debris at vulnerable spots prone to continuous landslides. DC directed the Beacon authorities and other concerned engineers to gear up their activities by putting more men and machinery into the service for making the historical Mughal Road operational at an earliest. DC was accompanied by ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; ACR, engineers from Beacon and other concerned.

Fine of Rs.23k imposed on erring FBOs under FS&SA at Handwara

HT News Network

KUPWARA, MAY 28: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi who is also Adjudicating officer Handwara today imposed a fine of Rs.23,000 on various erring Food Business operators (FBOs) for violations of various provisions of Food Safety and Standard Act (FS&SA) 2006. The fine was imposed on the erring traders (for miss branded and sub standard food) during the proceeding of cases related to the FS&SA Act 2006 which were listed before the Adjudicating officer. The Adjudicating officer warned them to abide by the legal regulations adding that non-compliance of Food safety and standards Act-2006 and rules thereunder by the food business operators will be dealt with more strictness in coming time.

Free screening camp for Cleft Lip & Palate patients organized at Distt. Hospital Kulgam

HT News Network

KULGAM, MAY 28: A free awareness and screening camp for patients with cleft lip, cleft palate, nasal, facial, and cranial deformities was successfully organized today at District Hospital Kulgam. The camp was held under the supervision of Dr AG Raina, Medical Superintendent, conducted by Maaya Cleft and Craniofacial Centre Srinagar, and headed by Dr Mohammad Shakeel, Head of Department Maxillofacial Surgery SKIMS Medical College Srinagar Bemina in collaboration with District Early Intervention Centre District Hospital Kulgam.

DLSA Ganderbal conducts awareness program on POSH Act, 2013

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, MAY 28: District Legal Services Authority, (DLSA) Ganderbal, in collaboration with the Tehsil Administration, Gund, successfully conducted a legal awareness program on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, at Gund. The program aimed to educate participants about the prevention, prohibition, and redressal mechanisms available to women facing workplace harassment. It also sought to raise awareness among employees and employers about their rights and responsibilities, legal mechanisms to report harassment, and legal protections for victims of sexual harassment. Program included a workshop for Internal Complaints Committees (ICC) and Local Complaints Committees (LCC) to sensitize them on their duties under the PoSH Act. Participants were

informed about the importance of creating a safe and respectful work environment, free from harassment and discrimination.

Block Development Officer (BDO) Gund, delivered a comprehensive awareness program on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act) and made the participants aware about the importance of creating a safe and respectful work environment, free from sexual harassment.

Assistant LADCs of Ganderbal, introduced the participants to the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013. They elaborated on key aspects, including, definition of 'workplace' under the Act, forms of behavior that constitute 'sexual harassment' and scope and applicability of the POSH Act.

They also underscored the importance of Internal Com-

plaints Committees (ICCs) in workplaces, stressing the legal requirement for employers to constitute ICCs through a written order, ensuring that workplaces with multiple locations or divisions have appropriate committees in place to address complaints of sexual harassment.

As part of the day-long program, DLSA Ganderbal disseminated IEC material of NALSA's Handbook on the POSH Act titled SPEAK-UP to the participants and Adhikar Mitras (PLVs) for dissemination to their respective areas. This handbook was designed to educate & inform the women in general and working women in particular about the rights, remedies, and procedures under the Act, empowering them to create a safe and respectful work environment.

The program witnessed active participation from officials, employees, and representatives from various organizations.

Handicrafts & Handloom Deptt. Bandipora organises Awareness programme at Aloosa

HT News Network

BANDIPORA, MAY 28: Handicrafts & Handloom Department Bandipora today organized an Awareness programme at Aloosa Bandipora. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 100 artisans and weavers of the district. Detailed presentations were given by Handloom Training Officer, AHTO, Auditor INDUSCOS and other departmental officers and officials on various government schemes designed for the welfare and empowerment of artisans. Guest speakers including Manager JK Bank Aloosa & DIC Officials delivered insightful talks on crucial subjects including marketing, e-commerce, packaging, branding, GI tagging, and the export potential of local crafts. Artisans & Cooperatives among the participants also shared their success stories, inspiring fellow participants. The programme was also attended by Craft Instructors and other officials of Handicrafts Department Bandipora. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 100 artisans and weavers of the district. Detailed presentations were given by Handloom Training Officer, AHTO, Auditor INDUSCOS and other departmental officers and officials on various government schemes designed for the welfare and empowerment of artisans. Guest speakers including Manager JK Bank Aloosa & DIC Officials delivered insightful talks on crucial subjects including marketing, e-commerce, packaging, branding, GI tagging, and the export potential of local crafts.

DLRC/DLRAC meeting for Q4 of FY, 2024-25 held at Shopian DDC stresses for enhancing performance under priority sector lending

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, MAY 28: To review the performance of financial institutions, sponsoring departments and Skill Training, District Level Review Committee cum District Consultative Committee (DLRC/ DCC) and District Level RSETI Advisory Committee (DLRAC) meeting for Quarter 4th ended March 31, 2025 of FY 2024-25 of district was held today at Mini Secretariat, Shopian.

The meeting was chaired by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta.

Lead District Manager, Farooq Ahmad Dar at the outset presented the achievements of the district in deposits & advances, priority & non priority sector advances and CD Ratio. Against the financial target of Rs.2243.47 crores and physical



target of 38543 beneficiaries under DCP 2024-25, the banks have disbursed Rs.1853.01 crores to 59162 beneficiaries during 2024-25, he apprised. DDC took bank wise and department

wise appraisal of financial and physical performance against the targets of lending for self employment, livelihood generation, social infrastructure, education, etc.

Progress under key government schemes like PMEGP, KCC, Mission Youth, JKREGP, Svandhi, NRLM, NULM, SUI and Social Security schemes was undertaken on the occasion comprehensively.

DDC took serious note of the underperformance of priority sector advances and asked for enhancing the priority sector lending in agriculture infrastructure, education, export credit, renewable energy and social infrastructure and asked them to speed up lending.

He also called for organising the result oriented awareness and outreach camps across the district for improving performance of enrollment under social security schemes and sponsorship cases.

On the occasion, DLRAC District Level RSETI Advisory Committee meeting was also held for 4th Quarter progress of the institute.

DC listens to people's issues at Village Trown- Doda

Assures prompt, quality redressal of grievances

HT News Network

DODA, MAY 28: Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh on Wednesday chaired a Public outreach camp at Village Trown in Block Bhalla to address the issues faced by local residents. A large number of locals, PRI representatives, and officers from the line departments attended the event, which also featured the IEC campaign under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan. People raised several important demands, seeking up-gradation, blacktopping of roads,

augmentation of drinking water, improvement of Power supply scenario and improved sanitation in the area. The locals demanded replacement of damaged electric poles under the RDSS scheme, timely payment of MGNREGA wages and establishment of a bank branch in the area. Other demands projected by locals included streamlining of revenue department services, timely compensation for crop damage, the appointment of the principal in local school, renovation of infrastructure and the deployment of teachers at the Higher Secondary and Middle



Schools. The DC assured that all genuine concerns would be addressed promptly and directed concerned officers to take immediate action. Later, the DC inspected several government institutions including the Higher Secondary School, Primary School, Health Centre, and the Sheep Husbandry and Extension Centre in the area. He assessed staff availability, infrastructure condition, provision of library and sanitation facilities in the schools. He interacted with teachers and students, assuring timely redressal of academic and infrastructure issues. At the Health

Centre, he checked medicine availability, staff attendance, and cleanliness, and instructed for 24x7 emergency services. He also reviewed the livestock services at the Sheep Extension Centre and emphasized promoting self-employment schemes through livestock rearing. The DC directed the concerned officers to ensure cleanliness and proper display of information on public welfare schemes at all government offices. He also instructed for timely registration of job card holders for MGNREGA benefits and clarified that only GST-registered vendors.

MC intensifies crackdown on polythene use, encroachments in Doda Town

HT News Network

DODA, MAY 28: Municipal Council Doda today carried out a rigorous anti-polythene and anti-encroachment drive across various parts of the town. Led by Executive Officer Yasir Wani, enforcement teams conducted thorough inspections across various market areas. During the drive, approximately 10 kilogram of banned polythene was seized and a compound fine amounting to 1,200 was imposed on traders found in possession of the banned material or encroaching on public pathways. The team appealed to traders, vendors, and the general public to abide by the ban on single-use plastic, refrain from encroachments, and support the administration in maintaining the town's cleanliness and ecological health.

Infrastructure up-gradation, face-lifting initiated at GHS Pranoo

HT News Network

DODA, MAY 28: Chief Education Officer (CEO) Mohammad Hafiz, today visited Government High School Pranoo to inspect the progress of the ongoing face-lifting and infrastructure development works. The CEO praised the efforts of the school staff in maintaining amicable academic ambience while simultaneously contributing to the development of the school's physical infrastructure. He commended the dedication and active involvement of the teachers and support staff in creating a more conducive environment for students. Emphasis was laid on the importance of fostering a student-friendly and academically enriching atmosphere and the faculty was urged to continue working as a team to promote holistic development and ensure that students benefit from both quality education and improved infrastructure.

Symposium on "Nasha Mukh Bharat" organized at GHS Gurha Brahmana

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 28: To spread awareness among the youth about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to promote the message of a "Nasha Mukh Bharat" (Drug-Free India), a symposium competition was organized today by the Cultural Unit, Department of Information & Public Relations Jammu at Government High School Gurha Brahmana. As many as seven students participated in the event, delivering powerful speeches that highlighted the dangers of drug addiction and the importance of leading a healthy, productive life. The competition served as a vibrant platform to engage the students in a meaningful dialogue on substance abuse and the role of youth in building a drug-free society. The Headmaster of the school Shahida Mir lauded the efforts of the Information Department for organizing such a thought-provoking and socially relevant program and appreciated the active participation of the students. She emphasized that such initiatives play a crucial role in shaping responsible citizens. The first prize was bagged by Mandeep Kour, second prize by Simrandeep and third prize by Sakshi Pandey, while consolation prize was given to Sonia Singh. The performances were judged by a panel comprising Payal Bajaj, Sunita Jamwal and Nirmal Sharma. The event was attended by staff members of school, officials from the Information Department, and a large number of enthusiastic students, who appreciated the initiative and pledged to contribute to the mission of a Nasha Mukh Bharat.

MLA Pawan Gupta inaugurates Macadamization work on Nagrota Link Road

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, MAY 28: Member Legislative Assembly Udhampur West Pawan Kumar Gupta today inaugurated the macadamization work on Nagrota Link Road including its connecting stretches, covering a total length of 1 kilometer. This much-awaited road improvement project has been undertaken by the Public Works Department (PWD) and marks another significant step forward in the infrastructural development of the region. The project costing 30.00 lakh has been sanctioned to enhance the quality of road connectivity for the residents of the area, meeting a longstanding demand of the locals. The inauguration ceremony witnessed the enthusiastic presence of local residents and several prominent political



and community figures. The gathering welcomed MLA Pawan Kumar Gupta amid drum beatings, slogans, and heartfelt appreciation for his continuous efforts towards

grassroots development. Speaking at the occasion, MLA Pawan Kumar Gupta stated "Our mission is clear – to deliver tangible development at the doorstep of every citizen. The macadamization of Nagrota Link Road is not just a road project; it's a pathway to better connectivity, improved safety, and enhanced opportunities for the people of this area. I remain committed to addressing the needs of every corner of Udhampur." He further emphasized that basic infrastructure such as roads, electricity, water supply, and healthcare remain top priorities in his development agenda, and more such initiatives are already in the pipeline. Residents expressed their satisfaction and gratitude for the timely execution of the project and hoped for continued support in resolving other civic issues as well.

PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana DC reviews implementation in District Kishtwar

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, MAY 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rajesh Kumar Shavan today chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation and progress of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in District Kishtwar. At the outset, the Executive Engineer JPDCL briefed the Deputy Commissioner about the current status of applications received and consumer registrations under the scheme. Reviewing the procedural progress, the Deputy Com-



missioner expressed concern over the slow progress of linkage of registration details of employees with the banks. Terming this initiative of PM as a highly economical

energy option, the Deputy Commissioner urged the government employees to take lead and avail this scheme. He asked the Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) of all the govern-

ment departments to register and link 100 percent employees with the banks for availing loans. Furthermore, he instructed the Executive Engineer to widely circulate the step-by-step procedure for availing the scheme from registration to vendor selection, bank linkage and final installation and commissioning. The meeting was attended by ACR Idrees Lone; CPO Shah Nawaz Bali; Executive Engineer JPDCL Er Latif Wani; AEE JPDCL Er Sudheer Sharma, besides district and sectoral officers.

ADC Nowshera convenes Public outreach camp at Border Village Kalal

HT News Network



RAJOURI, MAY 28: In a major people centric initiative, a Public Outreach camp was today conducted at the border village of Kalal, Tehsil Nowshera, on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma. The camp was organized to provide a platform to the residents of the far-flung border area to voice their concerns and seek on-the-spot redressal of their grievances. The Public Outreach camp was presided over by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Nowshera, Pritam Lal Thapa who was accompanied by all sectoral officers of the Nowshera Sub-District. The officers listened to the issues of the general public, demanding road connectivity, augmentation of water supply, up-gradation of power infrastructure, irrigation facilities, and effective implementation of welfare schemes. The officers assured timely resolution of the issues raised at the camp. The ADC reiterated the commitment of the district administration to ensure participatory governance and equitable development, especially in the border and remote areas. He directed the officers to resolve the issues projected during the camp on priority and submit an action-taken report in the coming days. The ADC reiterated the commitment of the district administration to ensure participatory governance and equitable development, especially in the border and remote areas.

JMC plans range of activities across Jammu City on World Environment Day

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 28: The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) is set to celebrate World Environment Day on June 5, 2025, with a range of events and activities planned throughout the city. Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav informed that the corporation is working diligently to ensure city-wide participation in this environmental initiative. This year's theme focuses on controlling plastic pollution and preventing it from entering water bodies

like taps and rivers. Special emphasis is being laid on raising awareness about the harmful effects of plastic waste and encouraging citizens not to dispose of garbage in drains. Plastic use will be actively discouraged, and a citywide campaign is being organized to educate the public about responsible waste management. In this initiative, Swachhata Champions will be engaged as key partners to mobilize local communities. Citizens will also be encouraged to donate reusable goods at Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (RRR) centres,

which will then be distributed among the needy, combining environmental awareness with social welfare. Additionally, schools across Jammu will host "Waste to Art" competitions to educate students on the importance of reusing waste materials and inspire creative approaches to sustainability. As part of the 'Hum Badenge Aadat' programme, nature walks will be conducted to promote the segregation of dry and wet waste among residents and highlight the importance of adopting eco-friendly habits.

3-Day Aghar Jitto Mela scheduled from June 10

DDC Reasi finalises arrangements for annual event; Listens to public grievances, assures quality redressal

HT News Network

REASI, MAY 28: District Development Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik today chaired a meeting at Aghar Jitto- Block Katra to review and finalize preparations for the 3-Day Aghar Jitto Mela, scheduled to be held from June 10 to June 12, 2025. The DDC also convened a public grievances redressal camp and listened to people's issues and resolved many issues of public importance on the spot. The meeting focused on critical aspects such as sanitation, drinking water, electricity, medical aid, security, traffic management, and accommodation for pilgrims. DDC Reasi emphasized inter-departmental coordination and directed all concerned departments to ensure timely completion of preparatory tasks. SDM Katra Piyush Dhotra has been designated as the Mela Officer.



The DDC instructed Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Social welfare, PDD PM Surya to put up their stalls to provide different services and disseminate information about respective schemes to provide on spot benefits to the visiting public. The Health Department was asked to deploy sufficient medical teams along with ambulances for emergency response, while the Police Department was tasked to ensure

foolproof security and smooth traffic flow during the festivities. The EO MC Katra was asked to take measures for maintaining proper sanitation and install mobile toilets. The Fire and Emergency Services Department was asked to station fire tenders at the venue. Additionally, the XENs of PHE and PDD were directed to ensure adequate water and power supply throughout the mela.

She also gave instructions to the Legal Metrology Department and Food Safety Department to conduct market inspections to keep tab on rates, quality and hygiene of food items being sold during the Mela. The Tourism department was asked to start publicity campaign to attract maximum footfall during the Mela. The DDC appealed to local residents and volunteers to extend their support to the administration in maintaining cleanliness, discipline, and ensuring the successful conduct of the Mela. ADC Rakesh Kumar, CPO Narinder Kumar, CEO, XEN PDD, DIO (info) and representatives of local religious organizations attended the meeting. Earlier, chairing the grievance redressal camp in the area, the DDC took stock of people's issues and had a detailed interaction with the local residents regarding their issues and grievances in presence of District Development Council member Katra, former Sarpanches and Panches

Covid-19 cases on the rise: A wake up call for caution



BY TYIMA BILAL

COVID-19, caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, first emerged in Wuhan, China, in late 2019. It rapidly spread across the world, leading the World Health Organization (WHO) to declare it a global pandemic in March 2020. After a period of relative calm since the major waves of 2020-2022, COVID-19 is once again making headlines in 2025. Health officials and the public alike are expressing concern as the number of cases begins to rise steadily in various regions. This month alone, global reports confirm that COVID-19 cases have crossed the 1,000 mark, sparking fears of a potential new wave.

As of May 27, 2025, India has reported a total of 1,010 active COVID-19 cases, marking a gradual increase in infections across several states. Kerala remains the most affected, accounting for 430 cases, followed by Maharashtra with 210 cases, Delhi with 104, and Gujarat with 83.

The Silent Surge: Health authorities have identified two new Omi-

cron sub variants, NB.1.8.1 and LF.7, currently classified as Variants Under Monitoring by the World Health Organization. These variants have been detected in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat, respectively. While most cases are mild and manageable at home, the public is advised to remain vigilant and adhere to recommended safety measures.

Unlike previous waves, this surge is gradual and less dramatic, but health experts warn that it should not be ignored. It hasn't overwhelmed hospitals, nor has it triggered widespread panic. But health experts are united in their message: we must not ignore it. The rise is believed to be linked to a new subvariant of the virus, which appears to spread more quickly, especially in densely populated areas. While most cases so far are mild, particularly among vaccinated individuals, the threat to vulnerable groups such as the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions remains significant.

Dr. Rakesh Nanda, a public health specialist, stated, "This isn't a time to panic, but it is definitely a time to be careful. We've seen how quickly small numbers can escalate if we let our guard down."

THE PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE: In response to the uptick in infections, many governments and health organizations are taking

precautionary steps:

- Surveillance & Testing: Testing centers are being reactivated, and surveillance is being strengthened to track new cases and variants quickly.
- Mask Advisories: Masks are being recommended again in high-risk areas like hospitals, public transport, and crowded places.
- Vaccination Boosters: Booster doses are being encouraged for the elderly, healthcare workers, and those with weakened immunity.
- Public Awareness Campaigns: Authorities are using media to remind citizens about hygiene, symptoms, and precautionary measures.
- Healthcare Readiness: Hospitals are preparing isolation wards, restocking medical supplies, and ensuring staff are on standby.

SAFETY MEASURES YOU SHOULD FOLLOW:

1. Wear a Mask: Use a mask in crowded, enclosed, or poorly ventilated areas. Ensure it covers both nose and mouth snugly.
2. Practice Hand Hygiene: Wash hands regularly with soap for at least 20 seconds. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap is unavailable.
3. Maintain Physical Distance: Keep at least 1 meter (3 feet) from others, especially in public places.
4. Avoid Touching Face:

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

5. Stay Home if Unwell: Isolate if you experience symptoms like fever, cough, or fatigue.

Get tested and follow local health guidelines.

6. Get Vaccinated and Stay Updated: Complete the full vaccination schedule, including booster shots if recommended.

7. Ensure Good Ventilation: Open windows or use fans in indoor settings to improve airflow.

8. Cough/Sneeze Etiquette: Use a tissue or your elbow to cover coughs and sneezes. Dispose of tissues properly.

CONCLUSION: CAUTION NOT PANIC:

The rise in COVID-19 cases may not be as loud as before, but it speaks volumes, a quiet reminder that health is fragile, and responsibility is shared. This is not a return to panic, but a return to mindfulness. In every mask worn, in every hand washed, and in every act of care, we find strength not just to protect ourselves, but to protect each other.

Let this be our wake-up call not to fear, but to compassion, caution, and collective action. Because in the quiet steps we take today, we shape a safer tomorrow.



SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

"Skin cycling", also known as skin fasting or skin detoxing, is all about taking a cyclical approach to your facial skincare routine to improve skin quality, texture and tone and strengthen the skin's protective moisture barrier. It's a term used to describe the way products are applied to the skin. Skin cycling is a four-night skincare practice in which you rotate your skincare products to avoid irritation--and then repeat it all over again.

Skin cycling is also about strategically using skin products for maximum benefits and minimum damage.

Skin cycling suggests that you should change skincare products each night while maintaining the same daytime routine.

Using specific products on different days regenerates the skin and improves skin quality, but it's important for all skin types to tailor their routine to suit their skin needs.

The cycle typically spans three to four nights that strategically plans out when you should exfoliate, when you should use retinol and when you should give your skin a little break. It's designed to help you use products exactly when your skin needs them and is ready for them, for the maximum, glow-boosting results. It involves alternating the use of a physical or chemical exfoliant, a retinol-based product, and a hydrating cream or concentrate strategically alternated for optimal impact.

The theory behind this approach is that you can

Skin Cycling

optimise skin regeneration and enhance skin quality by utilising specific products on different days.

Every day of the cycle: Cleanse

Wash your face with a gentle cleanser to remove dirt, grime and makeup every morning and evening. Always remember to moisturise and use SPF in the morning.

Night 1--Exfoliate-----

On the first night of your skin cycling routine, first you'll cleanse and pat dry, then exfoliate. Exfoliation removes the dead skin cells from the surface layer of your skin and unclogs pores for a more even, smoother complexion.

Opting for a gentle exfoliating scrub for the face holds significant merit, as other products will perform more effectively because they can penetrate more deeply into the skin in a controlled, predictable way.

After the exfoliation ritual, you'll want to moisturise to lock in hydration and promote overall skin health.

While exfoliation improves the look of their skin, over-exfoliation can disrupt your skin's natural balance and barrier and can lead to irritation, redness, breakouts, or flaky skin as a result. Chemical exfoliants are more gentle than physical scrubs.

Physical exfoliants contain microparticles. As they're massaged gently into the skin, they help to remove dead skin cells (impurities). This type of exfoliation is more abrasive and is only suitable for non-sensitive skin types.

Chemical exfoliants contain AHAs or BHAs, which promote gradual cell renewal. In other words, they speed up the cell replacement process.

2--Retinol

Retinoids are one of the powerful ingredients to include in your skin cycling routine that work to boost your skin's renew-

al process. Choosing the right retinol product for your skin is key. Retinoids are a common treatment for acne as well as an anti-ageing product. Retinol contains vitamin A derivatives that can help treat age spots, reduce the appearance of fine lines, wrinkles and expression lines, as well as the loss of firmness and brightness.

On the second day, after removing makeup and cleansing, apply a hydrating cream to the sensitive areas of the face--under the eyes, around the corners of the nose, and on the marionette lines--to act as a buffer and prevent dryness and irritation. Then, apply your retinoid over the whole face, down the neck, and across the décolletage and leave it to act on your skin overnight.

You should start with a lower percentage concentration of retinol, allowing your skin to get used to it gradually. Stronger retinoids should be used for oily or acne-prone skin. The number of moisturising nights in each cycle should be increased for a longer recovery for dry or sensitive skin.

Retinisation (the period over which your skin adapts to a retinoid) can last up to three months.

So if you notice some sensitivity at the start, use nourishing and calming products to alleviate any negative effects, but if you notice a burning sensation/irritation, please consult a dermatologist. Always use sunscreen during the day.

Night 3---Recovery

Day three is dedicated to giving your skin a break from exfoliation and active ingredients.

This night is aimed at recovery, so apply moisturiser after thoroughly cleansing the skin.

Use gentle, nourishing products like hydrating serums, soothing masks, and lightweight moisturisers. This phase helps your skin repair and maintain

its natural barrier.

I will recommend cleansing, leaving the skin damp, and then applying a serum that contains ingredients like hyaluronic acid, ceramide, glycerin, and/or niacinamide. A moisturising serum provides additional hydration to particularly dry skin.

If you suffer from dry skin, get in-depth nourishment from an intensive nourishing hydrating cream.

Hydrate for only one night if you have oily or acne-prone skin and use a lighter cream or a concentrate.

Hydrate for two or three nights if you have sensitive, dry or easily irritated skin. Hydrating more nights allows for longer repair and recovery.

Avoid products with strong active ingredients or exfoliants. Try to keep your skincare routine simple to avoid overstimulation.

Night 4 Maintenance----

The fourth night in a skin cycling process is dedicated to hydration and rebalancing. The fourth night focuses on maintaining your skin's health with balanced, non-irritating products. Use this to apply basic skincare essentials, such as cleansers, moisturisers, etc. Look for ingredients that nourish, hydrate, and protect the skin barrier. It will restore the skin's barrier, pH, and microbiome, and your skin will be primed for when you cycle back into the actives. This phase helps your skin maintain its condition and prepares it for the next exfoliation cycle and active treatment.

Skin cycling is helpful for people who may be struggling to find a good regimen because they're using too many products or not giving products adequate time to work

The author is international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India

mpox virus circulating in West Africa long before 2022 global outbreak: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The virus responsible for mpox (formerly known as Monkeypox) was circulating for about eight years ago in West Africa before the 2022 global outbreak, according to a study.

The study, published in the journal Nature, highlights the need for improved global surveillance and medicines, given the threat of impending pandemics.

Using genomic tracing, the researchers estimate that the virus's ancestor first emerged in southern Nigeria in August 2014 and spread to 11 states before human infections were detected in 2017.

"We could have very easily prevented the 2022 multi-country outbreak if countries in Africa were given better access to therapeutics, vaccines, and surveillance technologies," said Edyth Parker, from the Kristian Andersen Lab at Scripps Research.



the fact that there's ongoing zoonotic transmission means there's also a continual risk of re-emergence."

Further, the study estimated that the ancestor of the human-transmitting mpox virus emerged in animals in November 2013 and first entered the human population in southern Nigeria in August 2014.

It also showed that southern Nigeria was the main source of subsequent cases of human mpox: though the virus spread throughout Nigeria, continual human-to-human transmission only occurred in the country's south.

Two of the zoonotically transmitted viral samples from southern Nigeria were related to the Cameroonian viruses, suggesting that viruses are traveling across the border. Overall, the study shows the importance of better access to diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics in Africa, the researchers said.

Because the virus involved in the 2022 outbreak had an unexpected number of genetic mutations, scientists thought that mpox might have been circulating in Nigeria for much longer than expected.

However, due to a lack of genomic data, it was unclear when and where the virus had first emerged, and what had driven its emergence.

To understand, the team analysed 118 viral genomes from human mpox cases that occurred in Nigeria and Cameroon between 2018 and 2023.

All of the sequences were identified as Clade IIb -- the mpox strain endemic to West Africa.

They found that most of the viral samples from Nigeria were the result of human-to-human transmission (105/109), while the remaining four were caused by zoonotic spillover.

In contrast, all nine mpox samples from Cameroon were derived from isolated zoonotic spillover events.

"Mpox is no longer just a zoonotic virus in Nigeria; this is very much a human virus," Parker said. "But

WHO adopts historic Pandemic Agreement to bridge global healthcare gaps, inequities

AGENCIES
GENEVA

In a historic move, the World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday formally adopted the world's first Pandemic Agreement, after three years of negotiations.

The Agreement, adopted by consensus by member countries of the WHO at the ongoing 78th World Health Assembly, aims to bridge global healthcare gaps and inequities in case of future pandemics.

Amid the Covid-19 outbreak, which killed millions of people worldwide, the WHO Member States in December 2021 established the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body

(INB) to draft and negotiate a convention, agreement, or other international instrument, under the WHO Constitution, to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response.

After 13 formal rounds of meetings, nine of which were extended, and many informal and inter-sessional negotiations on various aspects of the draft agreement, the proposal was finalised in April this year.

The Pandemic Agreement aims to prepare governments for future pandemics following the Covid-19 outbreak, which killed millions of people between the years of 2020 and 2022.

"The world is safer today thanks to the lead-

ership, collaboration, and commitment of our Member States to adopt the historic WHO Pandemic Agreement," said Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

"The Agreement is a victory for public health, science and multilateral action. It will ensure we, collectively, can better protect the world from future pandemic threats. It is also a recognition by the international community that our citizens, societies, and economies must not be left vulnerable to again suffer losses like those endured during Covid-19," Ghebreyesus added. The WHO Pandemic Agreement is the second international legal agreement

negotiated under Article 19 of the WHO Constitution, the first being the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, which was adopted in 2003 and entered into force in 2005.

The resolution includes launching a process to draft and negotiate a Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing System (PABS) through an Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG).

Once the Assembly adopts the PABS annex, the WHO Pandemic Agreement will then be open for signature and consideration of ratification, including by national legislative bodies. After 60 ratifications, the Agreement will enter into force.

Young professionals in India increasingly facing workplace stress: Report

AGENCIES
CHENNAI

Amid evolving workplaces, young professionals in India are increasingly experiencing stress and mental well-being, according to a new report on Tuesday.

The report by ADP, a global technology company, highlights the shifting emotional landscape of

work, where generational differences in stress levels are increasingly evident.

The report showed that young professionals (aged 27-39) have the highest stress levels, with 11 per cent saying they experience high stress, above the national average of 9 per cent. Just 51 per cent of workers aged 18-26 reported better stress management.

On the other, older workers (aged 55-64) reported better stress management, with 81 per cent saying they feel stress less than once a week.

Work overload was found as the major trigger for younger employees -- 16 per cent of those aged 18-26 report stress due to heavy workloads, twice as many as their older counterparts aged between



55 to 64 (8 per cent). Further, 67 per cent reported being judged

for using flexible working arrangements, while 65 per cent said they are

being monitored at work, which may intensify feelings of pressure.

"These findings reveal how today's workforce, particularly younger professionals, are navigating a complex and emotionally demanding work environment. The impact of stress and the feeling of being judged or closely monitored highlight the need for organisations to create

a more supportive environment for their employees," said Rahul Goyal, Managing Director of ADP India and Southeast Asia.

While overall stress levels among Indian employees have decreased slightly, from 12 per cent in 2023 to 9 per cent in 2024, the percentage of employees who feel they are thriving at their jobs has declined slightly from

22 per cent in 2023 to 20 per cent in 2024.

"Offering flexibility is just one part of the solution -- what truly matters is building a culture of trust, empathy, and psychological safety. By prioritising employees' mental well-being, companies can foster a healthier, more engaged, and productive workforce," Goyal said.



Stalin urges Nirmala to advise RBI to reconsider new gold loan restrictions

UNI

CHENNAI, MAY 28

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K.Stalin on Wednesday wrote to Union Finance Minister Ms Nirmala Sitharaman urging her to advise the RBI to reconsider the new gold loan restrictions which would disrupt the rural credit delivery system.

In a Demi-official to Ms Nirmala, copies of which were released to the media here, Mr Stalin stressed the need to to reconsider the proposed restrictions in the RBI (Lending against Gold collateral) Directions, 2025.

He expressed Tamil Nadu's grave concern regarding the draft directions issued by the RBI on lending against gold collateral, which seek to prohibit banks from accepting gold as security for agricultural loans up to Rs.2 lakhs.

It is imperative that gold continue to be accepted as collateral for agricultural and allied loans up to Rs.2 lakhs, in recognition of its practical utility and the prevailing rural credit realities.

He said this proposal is likely to result in serious disruptions to the rural credit delivery system in Tamil Nadu and across many parts of South India, where gold-backed loans serve as a primary source



of timely, short-term agricultural credit, especially for small and marginal farmers, tenant cultivators, and those engaged in allied sectors such as dairy, poultry, and fisheries.

Mr Stalin suggested that a balanced regulatory approach, one that upholds credit discipline while preserving financial access for the vulnerable, would be more appropriate and equitable and sought her early intervention in this matter of critical importance to the farming community and the rural economy.

Citing the implications on disruption of Access to Formal Credit, the Chief Minister said Small and marginal farmers often lack formal land titles or verifiable income documentation. For such households, pledging household gold has been a viable and dignified route

to access institutional credit. The proposed prohibition would directly curtail this essential channel, effectively excluding a large segment of genuine and needy borrowers from the formal financial system.

On Increased Reliance on Informal Lending Channels, he said with formal avenues constrained, rural borrowers may be compelled to turn to informal and unregulated moneylenders who typically charge exorbitant interest rates. This would expose them to exploitative practices, deepen indebtedness, and erode the progress made in formal financial inclusion.

On Operational Challenges for Lenders and Borrowers, he said the new requirement for documented assessment of repayment capacity, particularly for small-tick-

et agricultural loans, is likely to be impractical in the rural context. It may create procedural hurdles, lead to misclassification of credit, attract audit objections, and increase compliance burdens on both banks and borrowers.

About the Negative Impact on Seasonal and Input Credit Flow, he said the gold-backed loans provide a swift and flexible mechanism for meeting seasonal agricultural expenses. Any restriction on this channel could delay or reduce credit flow during critical periods such as sowing and harvesting, thereby affecting farm operations, productivity, and rural economic cycles.

The new norms would also lead to adverse effects on Priority Sector Lending (PSL).

He said a significant share of PSL credit to the agriculture sector is currently extended through gold loans. Curtailling this mechanism would impair the ability of banks to meet their PSL targets and could lead to a slowdown in overall rural credit expansion.

It is imperative that gold continue to be accepted as collateral for agricultural and allied loans up to Rs.2 lakhs, in recognition of its practical utility and the prevailing rural credit realities.

Cabinet approves continuation of MISS for FY 2025-26



UNI

NEW DELHI, MAY 28

The Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday approved continuation of Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) for FY 2025-26 with existing 1.5 percent Interest Subvention (IS).

Addressing the media after the Cabinet meeting, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, "The cost of working capital of the farmers has been reduced by the Interest Subvention Scheme. Special emphasis has been laid on providing a capital of Rs two lakh for an interest rate of four percent, under the scheme."

MISS is a Central Sector Scheme aimed at ensuring the availability of short-term credit to farmers at an affordable interest rate through Kisan Credit card (KCC).

Under this scheme, farmers received short-term loans of up to Rs three lakh through Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) at a subsidised interest rate of seven percent, with 1.5 percent interest subvention provided to eligible

lending institutions.

Moreover, farmers repaying loans promptly are eligible for an incentive of up to three percent as Prompt Repayment Incentive (PRI) effectively reducing their interest rate on KCC loans to four percent.

For loans taken exclusively for animal husbandry or fisheries, the interest benefit is applicable up to Rs two lakh.

However, no changes have been proposed in the structure or other components of the scheme.

There are more than 7.75 crores of KCC accounts in the country. The continuation of this support is critical to sustaining the flow of institutional credit to agriculture, which is vital for enhancing productivity and ensuring financial inclusion for small and marginal farmers.

Given the current lending cost trends, median MCLR and repo rate movements, retaining the interest subvention rate at 1.5 percent remains essential to support rural and cooperative banks and ensure continued access to low-cost credit for farmers.

Op Sindoor was necessary and precisely targeted, not a call for war: Tharoor

UNI

NEW DELHI, MAY 28

In a powerful statement underscoring India's measured response to terrorism, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, while strongly defending 'Operation Sindoor' emphasised that the mission was a "necessary and precisely targeted and "not a call for war".

The All-Party Delegation led by Shashi Tharoor reached in Panama to convey India's strong message of zero-tolerance against terrorism.

Citing the harrowing plight of 26 women whose "Sindoor" (vermilion) was wiped off from their foreheads by terrorists, Tharoor said, "India's response was carefully, precisely and calibrated strikes on terror bases—avoiding civilian, military, or government targets entirely".

He said, "These terrorists came and wiped the Sindoor off their foreheads. Infact there were some women who cried and asked the terrorists "kill me too" and they said No! Go back and tell what happened to you."

Drawing an emotional parallel between the colour of "Sindoor" and the blood of the terrorists, Tharoor said, "We heard that cry and India decided that the colour of the Sindoor, the vermilion colour on the forehead of our women also match the colour of the blood of the killers, the perpetrators, the attackers".

Emphasising India's commitment to restraint, Tharoor said, "India is not a war-mongrel state. Even when we conducted those attacks on nine terror bases, our government said very clearly, without any doubt we are not looking for any escalation."

He highlighted that no Pakistani military, government, or civilian targets were struck. "These were carefully, precisely, calibrated strikes. We hit only terror bases. We did not hit any military facility of Pakistan, no government facilities, no civilian homes. Very precise



targeting meant that even within the compounds of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) with specific buildings and we did so at night between 1:05 and 1:30 AM. Why, because we did not want to have too much of collateral damage".

Meanwhile, senior Congress leader Udit Raj took a dig at Shashi Tharoor by calling him as "spokesperson of BJP".

He said, "Alas! I could prevail upon PM Modi to declare you as super spokesperson of BJP, even declaring as foreign minister before landing in India".

On his social media handle X, Udit Raj asked Tharoor as to how he could "dismiss the proud legacy of the Congress by saying that before PM Modi, India never crossed LOC and International border."

Udit Raj said, "In 1965 Indian Army entered Pakistan at multiple points, which completely surprised the Pakistanis in the Lahore sector. In 1971, India tore Pakistan in two pieces and during UPA Govt several surgical strikes were unleashed but drum beating was not done to encash politically. How could you be so dishonest to the party which gave you so much?"

Earlier, the All Party Delegation was warmly received by Ambassador Dr Sumit Seth and other officials at the airport.

The delegation also called on the President of the National Assembly of Panama, Dana Castañeda, who was accompanied by senior members of Parliament Edwin Vergara and Julio de la Guardia. Tharoor explained the mission to her and received strong assurances of understanding and support for India's war against terror.

Govt notifies Rules under Inter-Services Organisations Act to bring jointness in Armed Forces

UNI

NEW DELHI, MAY 28

The government has notified Rules under the Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control & Discipline) Act 2023 with an aim to bring greater jointness and Command efficiency in Armed Forces.

The Rules notified through a Gazette Notification came into effect from May 27, 2025, a Defence Ministry statement said on Wednesday.

This significant step aims to bolster effective command, control, and efficient functioning of Inter-Services Organisations (ISOs), thereby strengthening jointness among the Armed Forces.

The Bill was passed by both Houses of Parliament during the Monsoon Session of 2023. It received the assent of the President on August 15, 2023, and the Act came into force with



effect from May 10, 2024, as per the Gazette Notification dated May 08, 2024.

Subsequently, the ISOs were notified through Gazette Notification No SRO 72 dated December 27, 2024.

The Act empowers the Commanders-in-Chief and Officers-in-Command of the ISOs to exercise command and control over the service personnel serving under them, ensuring effective maintenance of discipline and administration within the organisations. This is achieved without altering the unique service conditions applicable to each branch of the Armed Forces.

The newly notified subordinate Rules, framed under Section 11 of the Act, are intended to facilitate the effective implementation of the provisions laid down in the legislation. These Rules are a critical enabler for the functioning of the ISOs and establish a comprehensive framework for discipline, administrative control, and operational synergy.

With the notification of these Rules, the Act is now fully operational. This will empower the heads of the ISOs, enable the expeditious disposal of disciplinary cases, and help avoid the duplication of proceedings.

Pradhan urges Yadav to develop Industrial, coal, heat-affected areas as urban forests

UNI

BHUBANESWAR, MAY 28

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has urged Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, to take immediate steps to develop urban forests under the "Nagar Van Yojana" (NBY) in Odisha's industrial, coal mining, and heat-affected regions.

During a meeting with Yadav in New Delhi on Wednesday, Pradhan proposed the development of urban forests in the industrial belt of Sambalpur-Jharsuguda-Brajrajnagar, the coal mining areas of Angul-Dhenkanal, and the heat-prone regions of Titilagarh and Balangir under the NBY initiative.

Pradhan also sought Yadav's personal intervention to develop the Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary as part of a tiger reserve,



alongside the proposed expansion of the Sambalpur Zoo.

In his letter to the Environment Minister, Pradhan noted that the above-mentioned regions are experiencing extreme heat as a result of climate change, which is adversely impacting public health. He praised the Ministry's Urban Forest Scheme, designed to support the development of green spaces in areas managed by municipal corporations, councils, and urban local bodies (ULBs).

Aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "One Earth, Many Efforts" vision, Pradhan emphasised that the establishment of urban forests would significantly contribute to environmental sustainability and the overall well-being of communities.

Highlighting the Prime Minister's call for "Life-style for Environment (LiFE)", Pradhan reiterated the importance of both individual and collective action in addressing climate challenges.

SC restricts SIT probe against Ashoka varsity prof to two FIRs, bars scope expansion

UNI

NEW DELHI, MAY 28

The Supreme Court today limited the scope of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the case against Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad, clarifying that the investigation must be confined strictly to the two FIRs already filed in connection with his social media posts related to 'Operation Sindoor'.

A Bench of Justices Surya

Kant and Dipankar Datta passed the directions while hearing concerns raised by senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Mahmudabad, about the possibility of the SIT expanding the ambit of the investigation beyond the present FIRs.

"We direct that investigation of SIT shall be confined to contents of the two FIRs subject matter of these proceedings. The investigation report, before it is filed before the jurisdic-

tional court, shall be produced before this court," the Bench ordered, extending the interim protection granted to Mahmudabad until further orders.

The court firmly told the Additional Advocate General (AAG) for Haryana that the scope of the SIT cannot go beyond the two FIRs under examination in this case. Sibal had also objected to the authorities seeking access to Mahmudabad's digital devices.

Justice Kant remarked, "Both FIRs are on record. What is the need for devices? Don't try to expand the scope. SIT is free to form its opinion, but don't go left and right."

Sibal also sought a relaxation of bail conditions that currently prevent Mahmudabad from commenting on the issues under investigation. Responding, the court clarified that those restrictions were temporary and designed as a "cooling-off

period".

"He is free to write on other subjects. We do not want a parallel media trial. There is no impediment on his right to free speech otherwise," Justice Kant said, while advising Sibal to revisit the request for relaxation on the next hearing date.

The bench also asked the Haryana government to respond to the National Human Rights Commission's (NHRC) cognizance of the FIR registration pro-

cess in Mahmudabad's case. "You tell us about that also," the court told the Haryana AAG.

Professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad was arrested on May 18 over social media posts that allegedly violated provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including sections about promoting communal disharmony, endangering national sovereignty, and outraging the modesty of women.

UNI

MOSCOW, MAY 28

NATO buildup of contingents along Russian border concerning, says FM Sergey Lavrov

NATO's build-up of its contingents along the Russian border is an issue of significant concern, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Wednesday.

"We are following with concern the build-up of NATO contingents along the entire line of contact with Russia.

"Incidentally, it has lengthened significantly since the admission of formerly neutral Sweden and Finland to the alliance, and it is unclear why they were unhappy with their life in neutral status," Lavrov said at the 13th International Meeting of High Representatives in Charge of Security Issues in Moscow.

A new round of negotiations between Russia and Ukraine will be announced soon, Lavrov.

"At these talks on May 16 in Istanbul, we insist-

ed on the abolition of all these discriminatory laws and we will continue to do so at the next round of direct talks, which we will announce very soon," Lavrov said.

There is hope that Iran and the United States will make progress in nuclear negotiations and the process is moving in the right direction, Lavrov said.

"The right to enrichment in the framework of peaceful use of nuclear energy programs is key (in the negotiations between Iran and the United States).

"Judging by the comments of the parties, following the results of the next round, there is hope that progress will be achieved and that everything is moving in the right direction," Lavrov said.

At the same time, the situation around the Iranian nuclear program remains difficult, the minister added.

RCB eye final as dangerous Hazlewood, David return

UNI
CHANDIGARH, MAY 28

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have received a timely boost ahead of the IPL 2025 Qualifier 1 clash against Punjab Kings here on Friday, with the return of their crucial overseas stars Josh Hazlewood and Tim David, a development that could prove decisive in the high-stakes encounter at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Cricket Stadium, Mullanpur.

The playoffs always bring a different intensity, and RCB's strengthening bowling attack and finishing power with Hazlewood and David back in the fray significantly ups their chances of toppling a strong Punjab Kings side, who have been one of the most consistent teams throughout the season.

Hazlewood, the leading wicket-taker for RCB this season with 18 wick-



ets from 10 matches, brings experience, discipline, and control to the pace attack. His ability to contain runs and pick crucial wickets in the middle overs will be vital in curbing Punjab's deep batting lineup. Alongside Hazlewood, seasoned campaigner Bhuvneshwar Kumar and the all-round prowess of Krunal Pandya add further depth and variety to the attack.

Tim David's return is equally important. Known for his power-hitting in the death overs, David pro-

vides the finishing touch RCB have often lacked. His ability to clear the boundaries quickly can shift momentum dramatically, especially in crunch play-off situations.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's batting is anchored by the imperious Virat Kohli, who has been in scintillating form throughout the tournament. The veteran batsman has amassed over 600 runs at an average of 60.20, striking consistently to keep RCB in commanding positions. His eight fifties,

including one in the last game, highlight his dominance.

Supporting Kohli is Jitesh Sharma, whose blistering unbeaten 85 off just 33 balls in the last game exemplifies his match-winning potential. Phil Salt provides brisk starts at the top, while Rajat Patidar, despite recent fitness niggles, has contributed crucial runs at a strike rate above 140. Mayank Agarwal and Romario Shepherd have also stepped up, bringing valuable depth and flexibility. Punjab Kings, however, cannot be underestimated. The team finished top of the league standings with nine wins from 14 matches, their best campaign since 2014. Their batting is balanced and resilient, featuring a potent opening pair in Prabhsimran Singh and Priyansh Arya, who have laid solid foundations time and again.

Manolo Marquez names 28-member travelling squad for Thailand friendly

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, MAY 28

Indian men's senior national football team head coach Manolo Marquez confirmed that all 28 players participating in the ongoing camp in Kolkata will travel to Thailand for the FIFA friendly against the hosts, scheduled for June 4.



>> APGC Junior Championship

Ranveer places T-4th, Kashika T-10th after opening round

AGENCIES
HONG KONG, MAY 28

Ranveer Mitroo led the Indian charge by carding a brilliant two-under 69 to be placed tied fourth after the opening round of the Asia-Pacific Golf Confederation (APGC) Junior Championship here at the Hong Kong Golf Club on Tuesday. The Indian Golf Union (IGU) sent a four-member team to compete in the prestigious tournament.

Ranveer, 16, began his round with birdies on the second and fifth holes before stumbling upon a bogey on the ninth hole. The Delhi amateur bogeyed on the 16th after six straight pars, but the



junior India No. 1 for 2024 showed glimpses of top form by making quick amends with back-to-back birdies on the remaining two holes for his eventual tally.

Pleased with his round, Ranveer said, "The round was pretty okay. I made some good recoveries

but also some silly errors. My approach for tomorrow is to rest well and analyse my statistics of today, to avoid making the mistakes I made today. I think an overall improvement in decision-making and execution is something I would want to work on."

Gambhir hails BCCI's IPL finale tribute to armed forces

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, MAY 28

Team India Coach Gautam Gambhir on Wednesday lauded the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for its initiative to honour the armed forces, terming the gesture "unbelievable" and a reflection of national unity.

"I've often been critical of the BCCI on many matters, but this initiative is truly commendable," Gambhir told reporters here. "Anything done to recognise the armed forces deserves our full support."

He said the BCCI's decision carried a powerful message and reminded the nation to collectively salute the armed forces for their "unconditional service."

"Our soldiers serve, protect, and sacrifice for us without expecting anything in return," Gambhir noted, adding that the move deserves widespread appreciation not just for the cricketing body, but more importantly for the brave men and



women in uniform.

"This is a moment when the entire nation stands as one. The BCCI's gesture sends a strong message of unity and respect. We must all salute our armed forces who have always stood by the country, selflessly," he said.

Gambhir's remarks come in the backdrop of the BCCI dedicating the IPL 2025 closing ceremony to the armed forces, following the recent Operation Sindoor carried out in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

The tribute will be held at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on June 3 and will feature a 45-minute ceremony involving performances

by military bands and cultural acts honouring the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Top military officials, including the service chiefs, have been invited to attend the finale. The BCCI has stated that this initiative is aimed at highlighting the nation's gratitude for the selfless service and bravery of the armed forces.

BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia, while confirming the plans, said that while cricket unites the country, the sacrifices made by the armed forces ensure that such unity and celebration are even possible. "There is nothing greater than the nation and its sovereignty, integrity, and security," he said.

Sorling re-elected ITTF president

AGENCIES
DOHA, MAY 28

Petra Sorling was re-elected president of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) here, the ITTF announced on its official website on Tuesday.

The Swede received 104 votes, narrowly defeating the other candidate, Khalil Al-Mohannadi of Qatar, who received 102.

According to the ITTF website, the AGM had to be suspended after it was disrupted by outsiders. As a result, it will need to be reconvened specifically for the election of vice presidents, with Sorling expected to announce the new date in due course.

The continuation of the election must take place no later than November 2025 to comply with the ITTF Constitution, which stipulates a four-year term for the Executive Board.

>> Four Nations Tournament

Indian Jr. women edge past Argentina in shootout

AGENCIES
ROSARIO (ARGENTINA), MAY 28

The Indian Junior Women's Hockey Team clinched a hard-fought 2-0 win in the shootout against hosts Argentina after a 1-1 draw in regulation time in their third match of the Four Nations Tournament.

Kanika (44') scored India's lone goal during regulation time, while Lalrinpuui and Lalthantluangi netted in the shootout to secure the victory.



Argentina got off to a strong start, with Milagros Del Valle (10') giving the home side the lead in the first quarter. India

responded in the third quarter when Kanika found the equaliser in the 44th minute to bring her side back into the contest.

Nakamura, Erigaisi leads Norway Chess after Round 2

AGENCIES
STAVANGER, MAY 28

The much-anticipated clash between world no. 1 Magnus Carlsen and world no. 2 Hikaru Nakamura began with a deceptively quiet classical game.

Carlsen emerged satisfied from the opening, noting in the confessional booth that "White had to prove equality." However, after a series of precise moves on both sides, the game inevitably dissolved into a draw.

In the Armageddon, Carlsen got a dangerous attack out of the opening and seemed to have everything under control. However, Armageddon can be unpredictable, and after a mistake in the endgame Nakamura found a brilliant move, winning the game.

Fabiano Caruana responded to his opening round setback, grinding out an impressive black-piece victory against China's Yi Wei in a complex battle. The American grandmaster showcased his trademark precision in a game that balanced on a knife's edge before tilting in his favor.

The all-Indian encounter saw Erigaisi prevail over World Champion Gukesh Dommaraju in a tension-filled contest. Erigaisi seized early initiative, but Gukesh's resilient defense created a somewhat equal endgame. As the clock became a decisive factor, the position erupted into chaos before Erigaisi finally broke through to secure the victory.

Anna Muzychuk claimed a convincing victory over Humpy Koneru in today's Norway Chess Women action. The Ukrainian star gained a structural advantage from the opening and methodically increased the pressure. However, both players made several mistakes in the endgame. Eventually, it was Koneru who made the last mistake, as a result of which Muzychuk won the game.

Both other two games, Vaishali Rameshbabu against Tingjie Lei, and Sarasadat Khademalsharieh against Ju Wenjun, ended in draw. Both Lei Tingjie and Wenjun Ju won their Armageddon games, winning the extra points.

Adani Sportsline's state-level tennis tournament concludes with record participation

AGENCIES
AHMEDABAD, MAY 28

An exciting finish to the GSTA Tennis Tournament 2025, organised by Adani Sportsline, showcased an impressive display of talent and thrilling tennis action here at the Sabarmati Riverfront Sports Park from May 24 to 27. The tournament witnessed the highest-ever participation for a GSTA Level 1 tournament in Gujarat over the past three years, with 268 registered participants across multiple categories. From young prodigies to seasoned players, the event drew spirited participation from junior players' parents, sports lovers, and local tennis clubs alike.

Participants competed across various age groups in mixed, boys, girls, men's, and women's categories.

In the Under-8 category, Viaan Sutariya emerged victorious with a 5-2 win over Joshi Shravya. The Boys Under-10 final saw a gripping

ping contest, as Aaryan Nayak trounced Gujarat's No. 1 ranked U-10 player, Shashwat Patel, in a thrilling tiebreaker 7-6 (4). Patel, who also holds the No. 3 ranking in the state in the Boys U-12 category, was back on court in the U-12 final but fell short against Arnav Pandey, who clinched the match 7-4.

Parte Shlok dominated the Boys Under-14 final with a commanding 7-1 win over Vedang Dave, while in the Boys Under-16 category, Palash Sutariya registered a hard-fought 7-5 victory against Darsh Shah.

Among the girls, top-seeded Dhanvi Dabhi lived up to her reputation. Ranked No. 1 in Gujarat in the Girls Under-10 and No. 3 in the Under-12 category, she overcame a spirited challenge from Tvisha Shah to win 7-5. However, Shah was unable to bounce back in the Girls Under-12 final, where Reona Pancholi registered a convincing 7-0 win.

In the girls Under-14 final, Harsha Deshpande—training



under the Adani Sportsline Academy, defeated Raghavi Jajoo 7-2 with a strong all-round per-

formance. Prapti Tiwari clinched the Girls Under-16 title with a 7-5 win over Vani Shah and returned

later in the day to also secure the Women's Singles crown, defeating Foram Nayak in a close tie-

break finish, 7-6(3), to complete a memorable double.

The senior categories evoked more excitement.

In the men's singles final, Vimal Thakor outplayed Jignesh Thakor 8-3, while in the 45+ Singles, Parag Shah held his nerve in a closely contested match against Abhilash Nair, eventually winning 7-6 (6). The Men's Doubles final saw the team of Jignesh Thakor and Manan Thakor combine effectively to defeat Krishna Leuva and Rahil Mehta 7-2.

The 35+ singles saw Harsh Lakhisarani take home the title with a 7-5 win over in the last match of the competition.

With professionally managed match formats at state-of-the-art facility, the tournament not only delivered high-quality tennis action but also provided an inclusive and vibrant platform for players of all ages. This initiative reinforces Adani Sportsline's vision of nurturing a culture of active living and community engagement through sport.

DDC, MD JJM jointly review Jal Jeevan Mission at Shopian 21 schemes completed, 32 on verge of completion

HT News Network

SHOPIAN, MAY 28: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta and Mission Director (MD) Jal Jeevan Mission J&K, Khursheed Ahmad Shah today held joint review meeting of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) schemes & works at Mini Secretariat Shopian.

A detailed presentation was made by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Shopian regarding the status of implementation of the mission in the district. He informed that 62 schemes at an estimated cost of Rs 243.47 crores have been planned to cover all its 0.45 lakh rural households with Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) by building adequate infrastructure in the shape of 03 bore-wells, 34 Rapid sand Filtration Plants, 03 Over Head Tanks and 110 Pipe Networks.

It was further informed that 21 schemes involving 60 works have been completed till date covering 28 villages, 32 schemes are at an advanced level of completion (above 75%) and the rest 09 are under execution with more than 50% work per-



formance. Har Ghar Jal reporting and certification issues of FHTCs, availability of pipes, water testing performance of District Lab Shopian and sub division Lab Zainapora especially schools and AWCs, FTK training of

women, geo-tagging of scheme assets, uploading on Dashboard JJM 2.0 and Gati Shakti Portal was also reviewed.

The meeting discussed the timelines for completion of the schemes and instructions were issued for focusing on the

immediate completion of remaining schemes.

Importance was laid on prioritising the completion of Rapid Sand Filtration Plants (RSFPs) so that quality water as per the JJM specifications is provided to the households.

DDC reiterated the significance of Har Ghar Jal slogan and asked the field functionaries to improve performance so that the approved quantity and quality of water supply is provided to the populace.

Mission Director JJM impressed upon all the officers of Jal Shakti Department to work with utmost dedication and sincerity and provide FHTCs to the remaining 7251 households.

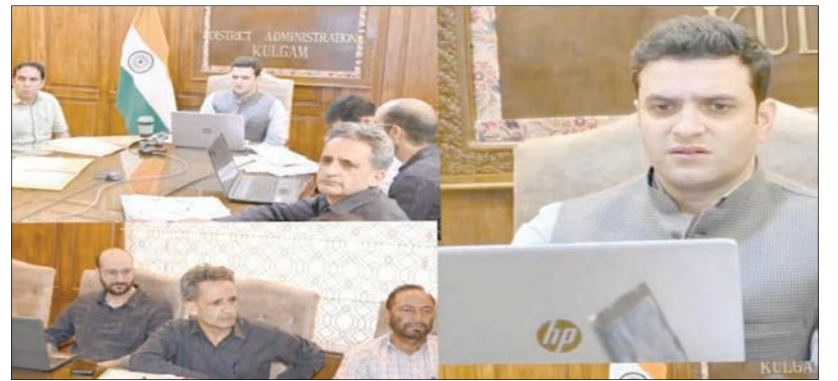
The meeting was also attended by ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti, M Taj Choudhary; Ex. Engineer, DIO, Shopian, AEEs, JE and other officials.

Earlier, Mission Director prior to the meeting took an extensive tour of the district and inspected the Water supply schemes Mughalpora Panjal, Batmaran Wanpora, Keegam Sheerpathri and Transit accommodation.

DC Kulgam reviews progress of works under ABDP in Manzgam Block

HT News Network

KULGAM, MAY 28: Deputy Com-



missioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan on Wednesday convened a meeting at DC Office complex here to review the progress of the key indicators taken up under Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDP).

During the meeting, DC evaluated the current status of key performance indicators across several sectors, utilizing data from relevant portals.

The sectors reviewed included Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Allied Services, Basic Infrastructure, Drinking Water, Sanitation, and Social Development.

DC emphasized on strict adherence to guidelines of the programs and regular updating of data on the portal to reflect accurate progress on the

dashboard.

In a focused directive, DC instructed the Block Development Officer Manzgam to engage with other depart-

ments to personally monitor the progress of all the indicators.

He stressed the necessity for concerned officers to enhance efforts in areas requiring improvement.

He called for immediate action to elevate the performance indicators and achieve 100% saturation by ending June 2025.

DC underscored the importance of channeling resources towards the modernization and overall development of the aspirational blocks and panchayats. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Viqar Ahmed Giri, ACD Reyaz Ahmad Shah, CPO Zahid Sajad, CMO, CEO, CAHO, CAO, CHO, LDM, AD CAPD, BDO Manzgam and other officers attended the meeting.

Bollywood celebrity Huma Qureshi visits Suchetgarh; vows to inspire more artists to visit J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAY 28: As part of a broader initiative led by the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, a series of celebrity visits across Jammu has been launched to show solidarity with the armed forces and civilians besides inspiring revival of tourism in the region.

The first in this initiative was the visit of renowned Bollywood actress Huma Qureshi, who arrived in Jammu to extend her support and amplify the message of peace, resilience and hope. During her visit, Qureshi engaged in an exclusive interaction with



the stakeholders from the Jammu and Katra Hotel and Restaurant Associations.

The stakeholders appealed her to promote the scenic beauty, hospitality and cultural richness of Jammu through word-of-mouth and her public plat-

forms. They emphasized that celebrity endorsements can play a vital role in rebuilding tourist confidence and encouraging footfall in the region.

The actress also visited the family of late Raj Kumar Thapa, Additional District

Development Commissioner (ADDC) Rajouri, who tragically lost his life in a recent attack. She offered her heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and paid tribute to his sacrifice for the nation.

Later in the evening, a cultural programme was organized at the Indo-Pak border, Suchetgarh symbolizing unity and national pride. The event showcased local cultural performances and featured a touching interaction with Army jawans, BSF jawans and affected families aimed at honoring the brave soldiers and showing solidarity with affected families.

District Health Society Kupwara organizes Cycle Rallies under Hypertension campaign

HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, MAY 28: District Health Society Kupwara, in collaboration with the School Education Department and the Youth Services & Sports (YS&S) department, today organized cycle rallies across various locations in the district as part of the ongoing Hypertension campaign.

The main event was held at the D.C office Kupwara, where Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad, flagged-off the rally.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of students and volunteers, all aiming to promote awareness about hypertension and healthy living practices.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Kupwara, Dr. Ramzan; Medical Superintendent SDH Kupwara along with officers from the School Education, YS&S department and other officials were also present to lend their support to the campaign.

Cell. 9149442151 | 9419007973

AZIZ

AUTO MOBILES

ALL INSURANCE CLAIMS ARE ACCEPTED HERE
ALSO INSURANCE FACILITY ARE AVAILABLE HERE.

BAJAJ ALLIANZ | RELIANCE | HDFC ERGO | DIGIT | ICICI LOMBARD | LIBERTY INSURANCE ETC

BAJAJ Allianz | Reliance General Insurance | HDFC ERGO GENERAL INSURANCE | digit INSURANCE | ICICI Lombard GENERAL INSURANCE | Liberty Insurance

SERVICE AVAILABLE: DAINTING PAINTING WASHING MECHANICAL WORK

KREERI

Increasing business profitability by reducing printing cost

LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS

ONE STOP SOLUTION FOR ALL PRINTING NEEDS

LUBAAB Printing services means I get my job back on time, always accurate and of the highest quality

When you need a Company that can handle a complex workload, save your money and deliver on time..... leave it to

LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS

Also visit us for: Newspapers & News Magazines

Specialists in: Non Woven & Paper Bags

Mobile: 9999038812
9419008414
Tel: 0194 2496287
Email: jahangirbukhari@gmail.com
Humhama, Budgam/Srinagar

- Prepress
- Sheet Fed
- Bindery
- Finishing
- Promotions

Our Printing Services

- Flyers
- Posters
- Business Cards
- Envelopes
- Brochures
- Booklets
- Catalogues
- Post Cards
- Presentation folders
- letterheads
- Magazines
- Newsletters
- Raised printing
- Wedding Cards
- Invoices
- Note pad
- Forms
- Labels
- Scratch coupon
- Signs/Banners
- Pen/Caps
- T-Shirts
- Calenders
- Embroidery
- Door Hangers