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Biggest Ever, Most Successful Anti-Terror Operation was Carried out in Shape of 'OPERATION SINDOOR': PM Modi

PM Further Reiterated that Proxy Wars Will Not be Tolerated Anymore'

■ HT News Network/UNI

Bhopal, , May 31 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said proxy wars by terrorists will not work and bullets will be answered with cannon balls, adding that 'sindoor' has become a symbol of valour following India's response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

He also described Operation Sindoor as the biggest and most successful anti-terror operation in the country's history.

Speaking at the 'Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Mahila Sashaktikaran Maha Sammelan' here on the occasion of the legendary queen's 300th birth anniversary, Modi said, "Through a decisive response, Bharat gave a message that proxy war by terrorists will not work. Bharat, a land of culture and values, sees sindoor as a symbol of women's power. Today, that same sindoor has become a symbol of our valour and resistance to terrorism." "If you fire bullets, then rest assured that they will be answered with cannon balls," Modi said.

"India is a country of culture and traditions, and sindoor is a symbol of women power in our tradition. Hanuman ji, who is immersed in Ram Bhakti, also sports sindoor. We offer sindoor in Shakti Puja. This sindoor has become a symbol of bravery," he said.

Earlier this month, Indian armed



forces carried out missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir under Operation Sindoor. The operation was conducted two weeks after the massacre of 26 civilians in Kashmir's Pahalgam.

Sindoor or the vermilion mark symbolises the marital status of Hindu women, and its sindoor or the vermilion mark symbolises the marital status of Hindu women, and its use as the operation's name resonated powerfully in light of the April 22 Pahalgam massacre.

"In Pahalgam, terrorists not only shed the blood of Indians, but also attacked our culture. They tried to divide our society and the biggest thing is that they challenged the women power of India," Modi said. "This challenge has sounded the death knell for terrorists and their handlers."

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Upper reaches receive untimely snowfall, rains lash plains J&K sees cold day as mercury settle below normal; Weatherman predicts improvement from today

■ HT News Network/UNI

SRINAGAR , MAY 31 (UNI) Amid the dip in mercury, the higher reaches of Valley have received fresh snowfall on Saturday while the intermittent rains lashed plains including Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir. According to the news agency—, the fresh and untimely snowfall has occurred at multiple places in the higher reaches of Kashmir including Affarwat in Gulmarg, Tulail and Razdan Top areas of Gurez valley, Sadhna Top, Zojila Pass, Sinthan Top, Pir Ki Gali and parts of Warwan Valley in Kishtwar.



The rains, however, lashed the plains of Kashmir since the intervening night of Friday-
SEE FULL ONPAGE 02.

Fresh Snowfall: Mughal road among other roads closed

Advisory issued for NH-44; Officials urge caution

SRINAGAR, MAY 31: The fresh snowfall has led to the closure of multiple roads across Jammu and Kashmir including Mughal Road and SSG Road while an advisory has been issued for Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44). The National Highway-44 remained open for two-way passenger traffic on Saturday even
SEE FULL ONPAGE 02.

UN Glaciers' Meet: India Says Pakistan Violating Indus Water Treaty Through Terrorism

■ HT News Network

NEW DELHI, MAY 31: : India has said that Pakistan should stop blaming it for the breach of the Indus Water Treaty, as the unrelenting cross-border terrorism from its soil is interfering with the treaty's implementation.

Addressing the plenary session of the first UN conference on glaciers in Tajikistan's Dushanbe on Friday, Minister of State for Environment Kirti Vardhan Singh said that Pakistan itself was violating the treaty through terrorism.

"We are appalled at the attempt by Pakistan to misuse the forum and to bring in unwarranted references to issues which do not fall within the purview of the forum. Westrongly condemned such an attempt," he said. Singh said it is an undeniable fact that there have been fundamental changes in circumstances since the
SEE FULL ONPAGE 02.

Jammu all set to manufacture anti-cancer drugs: Dr Jitendra Singh

Finalize month long activities to commemorate 11 years of PM Modi led Govt

■ HT News Network/KNO

New Delhi, May 31 (KNO): Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, on Saturday announced that Jammu is all set to manufacture medicinal and anti-cancer drugs.

Dr Singh, who is a Member of Parliament from Udhampur-Kathua-Doda Lok Sabha constituency, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), convened a comprehensive



constituency-level meeting via video conferencing today to finalize a month-long series of activities commemorating 11 years of the government led by Prime

Minister Narendra Modi.

Dr Singh also announced the upcoming cannabis cultivation initiative in collaboration with IIM Jammu and private partners to manufacture medicinal and cancer drugs in the Jammu region.

He said that Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have been empowered to generate employment and income. Moreover, he highlighted the development of an AI-based agricultural decision-
SEE FULL ONPAGE 02.

Aga Ruhullah Dismisses Resignation Rumors, says agenda to uphold electoral promises

■ HT News Network/KNS

SRINAGAR, MAY 31 (KNS): Member of Parliament for Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, on Saturday dismissed reports about his resignation from the National Conference, calling them mere rumors. Speaking to the media, he said, "Reports about my resignation
TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Dy CM visits border areas in Nowshera division; assesses, addresses public grievances

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, MAY 31: In a significant outreach initiative aimed at addressing the public grievances in border areas, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted an extensive tour of Nowshera division.

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister met several public delegations who apprised him of various issues, including road connectivity, water supply, electricity, healthcare facilities and other devel-



opmental concerns. The Deputy Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the concerns raised by the residents. He reaf-

firmed the government's commitment to well-being of the border population. He emphasised that providing basic amenities at the doorsteps of the people is top priority for the administration. He issued on the spot directions to the concerned officers for prompt redressal of issues raised by the delegations.

Speaking on the occasion, the Dy CM reiterated the government's resolve to ensure equitable development across all regions, with special focus on welfare of border residents. He assured that con
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Despite 77% Govt school dominance, JK enrolls only 54% students: MoE

■ HT News Network/KNO

SRINAGAR, MAY 31: Despite having a share of more than 77 percent of government-run schools in Jammu and Kashmir, the School Education Department has managed to enrol only 54 percent of students—thus raising a question on quality and functioning of the department.

According to the news agency—the Ministry of Education (MoE) for Government of India (GoI) in a recent report has said, "The UT has 77.32 percent government schools out of the total number of schools. However, a matter of concern is that only 54.06 percent of students
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BJP nominates Salathia, Gupta as deputy leaders of opposition, Jasrotia chief whip

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 31: Bharatiya Janata Party on Saturday nominated two deputy leaders of opposition and a chief whip in J&K Legislative Assembly.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) BJP vice-president and Samba MLA Surjit Singh Salathia and Udhampur West MLA Pawan Gupta were nominated as the deputy leaders of the opposition, while Jasrota MLA, Rajiv Jasrotia has been nominated as the party's chief whip.

'World No Tobacco Day'

J&K has 6th highest prevalence of tobacco use in India

■ HT News Network/KNO

Srinagar, May 31: On the occasion of World No Tobacco Day, worrying data has emerged that places Jammu and Kashmir among the top six states and union territories in India with the highest prevalence of tobacco use.

According to health officials, more than 20 per cent of the population in J&K is

engaged in some form of tobacco consumption.

An official informed the news agency that smoking tobacco in the region stands at a prevalence rate of 20.8%. This ranks J&K sixth in the country, following Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Meghalaya, and Mizoram. However, the use of smokeless tobacco is significantly lower in the region at just 4.3%, making it the second-lowest in the

country after Himachal Pradesh.

According to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS 2) data, 35.2% of men and 5.1% of women in J&K smoke tobacco, with an overall adult prevalence of 20.8%. In terms of smokeless tobacco, 6.8% of men and 1.5% of women—4.3% of all adults—are current users. Altogether, 39.7% of men and
TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Proper security in place for Kheer Bhawani mela: IGP Kashmir

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, MAY 31: Inspector General of Police, Vidhi Kumar Birdi on Saturday said that preparations have been made for the upcoming Kheer Bhawani Mela with the main function scheduled for June 3.

Speaking with reporters, as per news agency, the IGP said that devotees from various districts of the Puri Valley are expected to attend the event, and the Jammu and Kashmir Police along with paramilitary forces and traffic management teams have made necessary arrangements to ensure smooth conduct.

He said these arrangements have been planned so that
TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Sakeena Itoo reviews developmental profile of Kupwara district Reiterates Govt's commitment to inclusive growth, equitable development of J&K

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, MAY 31: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social welfare and Education Sakeena Itoo today chaired the district development board meeting here and took comprehensive assessment of overall developmental profile of district Kupwara.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; MLAs Saifulah Mir, Javid Ahmad Mirchal, Sheikh Khursheed, Mir Mohammad Fayaz and Qaisar Jamsheed



Lone; Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan; Director General Rural Sanitation,

Directors of various departments like Social Welfare, Tourism, Youth Services & Sports,

School Education, Handicrafts and Industries and Commerce, Rural Development, Urban Local Bodies, Horticulture, Colleges, Health Services, Family Welfare, Ayush, Agriculture, Sheep Husbandry and Horticulture P&M, Managing Directors of J&K Housing Board and KPDCI, Mission Directors of JJM, Poshan and Skill Development Mission, Principal GMC Handwara, Executive Director J&K Rehabilitation council, CEO JKEDA, Chief Engineers of PHE, I&FC, PMGSY, PWD R&B North,
TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Police arrests 02 in Facebook donation fraud in Srinagar

■ HT News Network/KNS

SRINAGAR MAY 31 (KNS): In a swift and decisive action, Srinagar Police busted an online fraud racket involving a fake medical donation appeal on social media platform (Facebook). On 30th May 2025, Police Station Nowhatta received a written complaint from Muneer Ahmad Misger son of Mohammad Sadiq Misger resident of Mughal Masjid, Nowhatta, stating therein that an unidentified journalist had uploaded a photograph of his sister on Facebook with a fabricated story to appeal for public donations for a surgery that never occurred. The act, carried out with malicious intent, amounted to cheating and exploitation.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 21/2025 was registered under sections 318(2) and 319(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and investigation was initiated.

During the course of the investigation, the administrator of the Facebook page involved in the fraudulent post was identified as Mohammad Lateef Lone son of Ali Mohammad Lone, resident of Tujan, Pulwama and arrested. Another accused namely Amir Yousuf Khan son of Mohammad Yousuf Khan, resident of Bandipora, presently residing in Gulab Bagh, Zakoora, was
TURN ON.....PAGE 02



CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

AGA

are just rumors. My focus is on fulfilling the commitments made to the people. I have individual responsibilities, and so does my party."

He said that the party is committed to the people both politically and in terms of governance. "We are dedicated to working for the people and fulfilling our promises.

Our political agenda belongs to the people and the one we presented during the elections and for which we received their votes. It is our duty to represent that political sentiment and agenda without delay, he said.

When I have something to say, I don't keep it a secret. I neither speak one thing behind closed doors and another outside nor do I give cryptic messages. I have always been straightforward in my communication, he added. (KNS)

PM

The operation was conducted two weeks after the massacre of 26 civilians in Kashmir's Pahalgam.

Sindoor or the vermilion mark symbolises the marital status of Hindu women, and its use as the operation's name resonated powerfully in light of the April 22 Pahalgam massacre.

"In Pahalgam, terrorists not only shed the blood of Indians, but also attacked our culture. They tried to divide our society and the biggest thing is that they challenged the women power of India," Modi said.

"This challenge has sounded the death knell for terrorists and their handlers. Operation Sindoor is the biggest and most successful operation in the history of India against terrorists. While the Pakistan army could not even imagine, our army destroyed the terrorist hideouts," he added.

Talking about the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, also known as the Women's Reservation Bill, which aims to reserve one-third of the total seats in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies, the PM said, "This time, 75 women have become members of Parliament. Our effort is to increase this number." This is the spirit behind the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. Women reservation in Parliament and state assemblies had remained pending for a long time, but has been achieved now, he said.

"This means the BJP government is empowering our sisters and daughters at every level and in every field," he said.

He also said the world is witnessing the capability of India's daughters in the defence sector today.

"To achieve this, the government took many steps in the last decade. From school to the battlefield, the country today has unprecedented faith in the bravery of its daughters," he said.

Referring to Lieutenant Commanders Roopa A and Dilna K, who recently returned to India after circumnavigating the globe in a sailing boat, the PM said the two brave daughters of the Navy completed the 250-day voyage.

"They circumnavigated the earth by travelling thousands of kilometres in a boat that runs not on a motor but on wind. Imagine staying at sea for 250 days," he said.

He also praised Ahilyabai Holkar, describing her as the guardian of India's heritage. She protected the country's temples and pilgrimage sites when they were being attacked, he said.

"Our government is working on the mantra of 'Nagrik Devo Bhava' (citizen is god), which was the philosophy of Ahilyabai Holkar," he added.

Rani Ahilyabai Holkar was born on May 31, 1725, at Chondi village in Maharashtra's Ahilyanagar. She ruled the Malwa region of central India from 1767 to 1795, as the queen of the Holkar dynasty in the Maratha Empire.

"When we talk of girls' marriageable age, some people in the country see secularism in danger. They think it is against our religion. But Devi Ahilyabai thought about the marriageable age of girls in those times," he said.

"She got married at an early age. She knew the way to girl's progress. In Malwa Sena, she created a special battalion of women. These people of the western world do not know. They curse us in the name of the rights of women and try to portray us in a bad light. Women were in our army even 250-300 years ago. At village level, she created safety groups for women," Modi noted.

"When the country was in shackles of slavery 250-300 years ago, it was not easy to do something so impactful that future generations would remember it. But Devi Ahilyabai did it. She never separated devotion to God from service to the people," he said.

She was a great guardian of India's heritage. When temples and pilgrimage sites were being attacked, she took the initiative to rebuild and preserve them, including Kashi Vishwanath, he added.

"I consider myself fortunate that the same Kashi has given me the opportunity to serve. When you visit Kashi today, you will find signs of Ahilyabai's work. She created a model of governance where the poor and deprived were given priority," he added.

Earlier, Modi released a commemorative stamp and Rs 300 coin to mark her birth

anniversary. (UNI)

RAINS

Saturday, bringing down the mercury further in Jammu and Kashmir.

The region amidst the fresh wet spell has witnessed cold days with Srinagar recording a maximum temperature of 14.5 degree Celsius, which was 12.2 degree Celsius below than normal.

Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, recorded 13.0 degree Celsius, which was 12.6 degree Celsius below normal while Pahalgam recorded 8.2 degree Celsius and 14.8 degree Celsius below normal.

Kokernag, Kupwara and Gulmarg have recorded a maximum temperature of 12.0 degree Celsius, 12.8 degree Celsius and 6.8 degree Celsius respectively.

Jammu region has also recorded the cold day with winter capital recording a maximum temperature of 32.9 degree Celsius while Banihal and Batote recorded 14.6 degree Celsius and 18.1 degree Celsius respectively. Bhaderwah has recorded a maximum temperature of 18.4 degree Celsius while Katra recorded 28.6 degree Celsius.

Meanwhile, an independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng told KNO that the weather conditions would improve from tomorrow while short spells of showers can continue during the next three days.

"Temperature will remain near normal to below normal during the next three days," he added—

INDIA

Indus Waters Treaty was signed, which requires a reassessment of the treaty's obligations.

These changes include technological advancements, demographic changes, climate change and the ongoing threat of cross-border terrorism, he said.

The minister said that the treaty's pre-amble states it was concluded in the spirit of goodwill and friendship, and that honouring the treaty in good faith is essential.

"However, the unrelenting cross border terrorism from Pakistan interferes with an ability to exploit the treaty as per its provisions.

"Pakistan, which itself is in violation of the treaty, should desist from putting the blame of the breach of the treaty on India," he said.

At the International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation, Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said his country would not allow India to cross the red line by holding the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance and endangering millions of lives for narrow political gains.

"India's unilateral and illegal decision to hold in abeyance the Indus Waters Treaty, which governs the sharing of the Indus Basin's water, is deeply regrettable," Pakistani newspaper Dawn quoted Sharif as saying.

Following the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which killed 26 people, India announced the suspension of the treaty as part of several punitive measures against Pakistan. Fine dining reservations

The Indus Waters Treaty, signed in 1960 between India and Pakistan with the World Bank as a signatory, governs the sharing of the Indus River system's waters between the two countries.

The three-day UN conference on glaciers, which ends on Saturday, aims to highlight the important role of glaciers in maintaining global ecological balance and addressing water-related challenges.

The conference is being attended by over 2,500 delegates from 80 UN member states and 70 international organisations. (AGENCIES)

DR JATENDERA

making system for J&K, aimed at transforming traditional farming practices.

Dr Singh said that as part of the Gram Krishi Seva Yojana, four Agromet Observatories have been commissioned in Ladakh, Srinagar, Jammu, with four new district-level Agromet units in Kupwara, Baramulla, Kathua, and Reasi, backed by SKUAST.

Dr Singh laid out a comprehensive schedule for the month-long celebrations marking 11 years of the Modi Government. The planned activities include public exhibitions, media interactions, professional meets, and coordinated grassroots-level efforts aimed at ensuring widespread public engagement and awareness. These initiatives are designed to showcase the government's achievements and encourage active citizen participation in the vision of a Viksit Bharat.

Dr. Jitendra Singh called upon officials to ensure that the "Viksit Bharat Krishi Sankalp Abhiyaan" reaches every district and mandal.

He also asked the officials to ensure 100% saturation of flagship schemes like Ayushman Bharat. "Don't leave any beneficiary unregistered. Every citizen must experience the impact of the Modi Government's transformative schemes," he stated.

Highlighting recent strides in science-driven agriculture, Dr. Jitendra Singh showcased a series of transformative initiatives reshaping the agri-economy of the region.

HT - NEWS

the government has implemented a slew of measures to curb tobacco consumption. "Thousands of challans have been issued and lakhs of rupees collected in fines from violators found smoking in public places," he said.

He added that many individuals in the Kashmir Valley have quit smoking over the years, supported by widespread counselling and pharmacotherapy sessions. Awareness drives are also being carried out across the region to inform the public of the serious health risks associated with tobacco use.

"If we are able to make people aware and conscious about the dangers of tobacco, there won't be a need for enforcement," he said, emphasising the importance of education over punishment.

In line with national guidelines under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003, enforcement drives are being conducted regularly. Officials have also been directed to make sure that educational institutions and tourist destinations remain tobacco-free zones.

J&K has also imposed a complete ban on the sale of loose cigarettes, beedis, and tobacco, aiming to limit accessibility and deter casual consumption.

Health experts warn that smokers and tobacco users are 2.5 times more likely to develop tuberculosis (TB), with tobacco use known to raise the risk of TB, cause recurrence, and impair treatment. Officials urged the public to quit tobacco now for a healthier future.

Globally, tobacco remains the leading cause of preventable deaths, claiming over seven million lives annually, with more than one million deaths occurring in India alone.

Kashmir has also witnessed a rising trend in tobacco-related illnesses, particularly lung cancer, which is now the second most common cancer in the region. Hospital data indicates that men are disproportionately affected, with a direct link between smoking duration, frequency, and the development of cancer.

Though the risk of cancer persists even after quitting, experts assure that the chances decrease significantly over time, making early cessation critical—(KNO)

SAKEENA

district and sectoral officers.

During the meeting, Minister Sakeena, who is also Minister in-charge of Kupwara district, took detailed assessment of all the ongoing developmental activities in the district. She also took stock of progress on implementation of various beneficiary oriented schemes in the district. She also reviewed the performance of Aspirational Districts Programme in Kupwara, which primarily focuses on areas like education, health, infrastructure and financial inclusion.

The Minister minutely evaluated the performance of all departments like PWD (R&B), Jal Shakti, Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Education, Tourism, Health and other vital sectors. She also reviewed financial progress under district Capex as well as other Centrally Sponsored schemes.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, Minister Sakeena highlighted that the Omar Abdullah led Government is committed for the welfare and upliftment of the people especially living in far flung areas. She underlined that district Kupwara, being a border district, needs special focus for its overall development and this government will give prime focus in its development across all sectors.

During the deliberations, the Minister emphasized on the need for cent percent saturation of all beneficiary-oriented schemes, underlining that no eligible individual should be left out of the welfare net. She directed the concerned departments to ensure timely identification, registration and inclusion of all entitled beneficiaries, particularly from marginalized and underserved communities.

"Our Government's focus is clear, we are committed to uplifting the socio-economic conditions of the people of J&K through inclusive growth and equitable development. Kupwara holds immense potential and the administration must ensure that the benefits of all centrally and UT sponsored schemes reach the grassroots", Sakeena stated.

While reviewing the performance of key sectors like PWD, Health, Rural Development and Education, Minister Sakeena delved upon the officers to speed up the pace of works and ensure completion of all ongoing projects within the stipulated time frame.

Regarding flagship programmes like PMAY, MGNREGA, Ujjwala, Jal Jeevan Mission and other social welfare schemes, Minister Sakeena impressed upon the officers for regular field-level monitoring for smooth implementation of these schemes. She instructed the district administration and other stakeholders to conduct regular outreach camps and grievance redressal sessions to bridge gaps in service delivery.

During the meeting, the Minister also heard various developmental issues of the MLAs and passed on the directions to the

concerned officers for prompt redressal of these issues.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan briefed the Minister about the district profile and latest achievements and ongoing projects in the district. The DC informed that Rs.456.69 crore have been expended under District CAPEX Budget till March 2025.

Regarding macadamization of roads, the Minister was informed that 1958.80 kms of road length have been macadamized by different departments in the district during last two financial years.

Under JJM, it was informed that out of the 156000 households, 129000 households have been connected with Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) and work is apace to connect the rest of the households.

Under Rural Development Department, it was informed that 100% expenditure have been made under MGNREGA till March 2025. 10024 houses have been completed under PMAY-G and 718 houses are under construction. 42640 houses have been surveyed under PMAY-G 2.0 Survey 2025-26.

The Minister was also informed about PMAY-Urban, Health Sector, Education, ICDS, KPDCI, Agriculture, Employment & Skill Development, NRLM and Social Welfare.

Later, Minister Sakeena also distributed Appointment Orders among the newly recruited Anganwari Workers. She also distributed Motorized Tricycles among Specially abled persons.

DYCM

certed efforts are being made to address the challenges faced by the people, improving their living standards.

The Deputy Chief Minister was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Nowshera, Pritam Lal Thapa; District Mineral Officer, Mohd Rafiq; Tehsildar Nowshera; Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Nowshera and other officers of the district administration.

BJP

Jammu West MLA Arvind Gupta has been nominated as the treasurer, while Chenani MLA Balwant Mankotia and Doda West MLA Shakti Raj Parihar have been nominated as the spokespersons, he added—

IJP

devotees do not face any issues and their safety is maintained.

Responding to concerns following the recent Pahalgam attack, he said the police have always made security arrangements and conducted reviews for the Amarnath Yatra.

"Strict security measures were in place during the event last year and the same will be in place this year as well," he added—

ROADS

as heavy rainfall lashed the region, causing difficulties for commuters. Heavy Motor Vehicles (HMTVs) were allowed to ply from Jammu towards Srinagar, traffic authorities said.

An official from the Traffic department told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that despite the inclement weather, passenger traffic is moving smoothly in both directions on NH-44.

"HMTVs have been allowed to move from Jammu towards Srinagar. However, the entire highway stretch has witnessed heavy rain, which has made the road slippery at several points," the official said.

He added that commuters have been advised to strictly follow lane discipline and avoid overtaking to prevent congestion and possible accidents.

Regarding the Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri (SSG) Road and Sinthan Top Road, the official said traffic movement is stopped and the clearance operation is ongoing.

The road will be operational again after receiving clearance and a green signal from road maintenance agencies. "Currently, no movement on these roads is permitted until the roads are cleared, and for that, operations are ongoing by the concerned agencies," he said.

Meanwhile, the historic Mughal Road, which connects Shopian in South Kashmir with Poonch and Rajouri districts in Jammu region, remained blocked due to fresh snowfall at Peer Ki Gali. "There is no traffic movement on the Mughal Road as the area received fresh snowfall, making the stretch unsafe for travel," the official said.

Moreover, the authorities have urged travellers to remain in touch with the traffic control units and follow regular updates and advisories before planning their journey—Meanwhile, the historic Mughal Road, which connects Shopian in South Kashmir with Poonch and Rajouri districts in Jammu region, remained blocked due to fresh snowfall at Peer Ki Gali. "There is no traffic movement on the Mughal Road as the area received fresh snowfall, making the stretch unsafe for travel," the official said.



EDITORIAL

May's freak weather points towards environmental concerns in Kashmir

The month of May has witnessed freak weather across the Kashmir valley with the day temperature reaching 34.5 degrees Celsius and the same plummeting to 14.5 degrees Celsius on the last day of the month i.e., Saturday. Not only has the day temperature seen both the upward and downward trend during this month but some other disturbing weather patterns were also witnessed. These include gusty winds, hailstorm and continuous rainfall at a tremendous speed.

Environmentalists across the globe have over the years issued stern warnings about the changing weather patterns and Kashmir valley is no exception in this respect. Erratic weather has become the order of the day in the valley and the people are very much worried about the same. Over the past one week or so the Kashmir valley has been greeted with spells of rain, hailstorm and devastating winds. Before this the valley witnessed abnormal day temperature with a large section of people demanding early summer vacation for the schools.

The unprecedented heat wave led to a change in the school timings and as on date the children have to leave early in the morning for their schools. With the day temperature plummeting more than 12 degrees below the normal level on May 31 the woollens were out and people could be seen wearing sweaters, jackets as well as uppers. Due to the inclement weather conditions most of the people preferred to remain indoors and as such there was less movement of masses on the roads.

One can expect the temperatures both day as well as night to go down and it is not so worrisome. The cause of worry is the frequent spells of hailstorm across the length and breadth of the valley and also the high intensity winds that lead to devastation both on the human as well as material front. Few days back a woman lost her life after a tree fell on her in the Tral area. The high intensity winds have led to damages to properties of different forms.

Climate change is a global phenomenon and it has to be understood by one and all. The people more so the common masses and also those who are at the helm should take measures that will bring about stability. Since deforestation has taken place in an unprecedented manner it is important that trees are planted in a good number so that parity is restored and there is no more damage to the environment.

Dominance of Chaupals in Haryana – Roots of democracy or chains of tradition?



DR SATYAWAN SAURABH

In the socio-cultural life of Haryana, Chaupal has not been just a place to sit but a tradition, a power structure and an informal justice system. When the village elders sit under a peepal tree or on a paved platform and discuss, it is called "Chaupal" in common language. But this Chaupal is not limited to just conversations but has become an institution that decides the social direction. But today the question is whether this dominance is positive or is it becoming an obstacle in the way of a democratic and just society?

Historical background: The role of Chaupals

When the Panchayats were not fully developed in Haryana, the importance of Chaupals was even greater. Any village matter – be it a land dispute, fixing a marriage relation or deciding to boycott someone – everything was done in the Chaupal. It was a symbol of local self-governance, which was based on the principle of collective dialogue. But as time changed, the institutions of democracy, Panchayat elections, police-administration and courts became stronger, the role of Chaupals should have also changed. But even today in Haryana, Chaupals remain the "informal court" of social decisions.

Chaupal vs Constitution: A clash

The Constitution of India gives equal rights to every citizen – discrimination on the basis of caste, sex, religion or class is prohibited. However, decisions in the Chaupals are often based on caste hierarchy. For example: "A boy from this caste should not marry a girl from that caste." "He has married without the panchayat, so he will be boycotted." These decisions are against the basic spirit of the Constitution. Women and Dalits in particular rarely get a chance to speak in the Chaupal. In most cases, the Chaupals become a bastion of patriarchy and casteism.

Social control or social exploitation?

Chaupals sometimes play the role of social control that acts before the law. For example, when a girl uses a mobile phone, the Chaupal pronounces – "ban mobile phones." Or "those who have married for love should be expelled from the village." Such decisions fall under the category of social exploitation. Even

today, incidents of honour killings are reported in Haryana, which have their roots in the decisions of the Chaupal. The basic reason for this dominance is that Chaupals are often monopolized by elderly men, where youth, women or socially marginalised people cannot raise their voice.

Do Chaupals also have a positive role?

It would be wrong to say that Chaupals play only a negative role. In some areas, Chaupals are also a democratic form of resolving mutual disputes, maintaining social harmony, and taking collective decisions. Such as: water conservation, de-addiction campaign, or collective efforts to promote education. Making rules to prevent wasteful expenditure in marriages. But this role is constructive as long as it ensures everyone's participation and is in accordance with the Constitution.

Political use and abuse

Chaupals have been used extensively in Haryana's politics. Leaders go to Chaupals to do public relations, but at the same time they also use them as a means of caste mobilization and social polarization. Concepts like "Choudhary ji's decision is more important than all" in Panchayat elections or Assembly elections harm the democratic process.

Women and Chaupal: Entry prohibited?

Participation of women in Haryana's Chaupals is still very limited. Even though women have got reservation in Gram Panchayats, when the same woman Sarpanch goes to the Chaupal to present her views, she is silenced. This is a double standard – empowerment on paper and neglect on the ground.

Many social activists fighting for women's rights have faced direct opposition from the Chaupal culture. That is why the dominance of Chaupals is becoming an obstacle to women's participation.

Thinking of the new generation and distance from the Chaupals

Today's young generation, influenced by the internet, social media and urban life, is distancing itself from the Chaupal culture. They find this system outdated and biased. The youth ask questions: "Whom should I love, how will an elder decide this?" "I will decide my career path, not the Chaupal." The democratic consciousness of this generation is challenging the dominance of the Chaupals. This is the direction of democracy, which needs to be strengthened in the villages.

Can there be a new form of Chaupals?

The solution is not to completely reject the Chaupals, but there is a

need to redefine them. For example: Women, Dalits and youth should get equal rights to speak in the Chaupals. Decisions should be tested on the basis of rules and laws. Chaupals should be used in social campaigns, rural development and promotion of education. If Chaupals become an extension of democracy, then they can remain relevant even today.

Chaupal: Tradition or symbol of patriarchy?

The basic concept of Chaupals has been mutual dialogue, consultation and dispute resolution. But now this place often seems to be a hub of social oppression and caste dominance instead of justice. In the villages of Haryana, most of the Chaupals are dominated by men only. Women can neither speak nor sit there. This inequality is not just gender based, it is also caste and economic class based. Ignoring the words of backward classes, Dalits and minorities has become a part of the old traditions of these Chaupals.

The truth of the data:

Haryana tops the list of honour killing cases. Of the 25 cases registered in the country in 2021, 17 were from Haryana. Khap or Chaupal played a role in most of these cases. According to the report, 60% of rural disputes are first resolved in the Chaupal, 80% of the decisions of which do not involve women. A report by the Haryana State Women's Commission (2020) shows that 72% of rural women are deprived of their rights due to the conservative system of Chaupal.

'Balla village' of Karnal district, Nalwa village of Hisar district

In 2016, the Chaupal of Balla village in Karnal decided to expel a loving couple from the village citing 'same gotra'. The woman was estranged from her family and the boy was threatened with death. When the matter went to court, the court found it to be a violation of Article 21 (life and personal liberty) of the Constitution. But by then society had pronounced its 'punishment'. This case shows that even today Chaupals can ignore the law in the guise of their tradition. In 2019, a Dalit family faced social boycott in the Chaupal of Nalwa village in Hisar only because their daughter had married an upper caste youth. The Panchayat not only prevented the entire family from coming to the Chaupal, but also prohibited them from filling water from the village well and purchasing from ration shops.

Positive example: Bibipur village, 'Dhosi village' of Bhiwani, Rewari district

But not every Chaupal is a symbol of fanaticism. Bibipur village in

Bhiwani changed the definition of Chaupal. The Sarpanch there, Sunil Jaglan, made the Chaupal a platform to raise the voice of women. The 'Selfie with Daughter' campaign started from here. A women's forum was set up in the Chaupal, where women also participate with equal rights. There was an open debate and decisions were taken on issues like de-addiction, child marriage, education and toilets. This Chaupal of Bibipur shows that when the society wants, tradition can be combined with modern values. According to the Haryana Panchayat Development Report (2021), Chaupals in 78% of the villages of the state are not operated under any legal framework, due to which they often take decisions outside the scope of the Constitution. Digital Chaupal was started for the first time in 2022 in the village Chaupal on the demand of the youth. In this, the problems of the village were linked to the block office through video conference and women also got equal participation. Its direct effect was that quick decisions and solutions were taken on issues like toilet construction, scholarship distribution and MNREGA wages in the village.

Criticism of Chaupals in the media

"Khap panchayats in Haryana still control social behaviour, bypassing constitutional rights." "In a Rohtak village, a girl was punished for wearing jeans – the chaupal gave the verdict, women were expelled." While Haryana's chaupals are symbols of dialogue and community, they have also become an obstacle to democracy and equality. These chaupals now need to introspect. They should adapt tradition, but with inclusiveness, gender equality and constitutional values. The chaupal of Bibipur is an ideal, while the chaupal of Balla is a warning. It is now up to the villages of Haryana to choose which path they take – the path of democracy or the shadow of tradition?

We need participation, not domination

The Chaupals of Haryana are the mirror of the society – but when the mirror itself becomes blurred, the image also gets spoiled. If the dominance of the Chaupals suppresses equality, justice and democratic values, then it is necessary to challenge it. But if it is made inclusive, sensitive and democratic, then it can become the strongest institution of rural India. We have to decide whether the Chaupals will remain a platform for dialogue or the throne of power? Till the time the Chaupals do not become the voice of everyone, their dominance will remain a threat to democracy.

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

Planting Trees can minimize pollution in Cities

SAHIL MANZOOR
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Development is essential for every nation. While only a few countries today are economically strong and offer ample employment through beneficial schemes, others are steadily progressing. In the near future, many more nations may join the ranks of developing or developed countries.

With powerful and effective communication tools now available, business ideas can be exchanged seamlessly across the globe. Most trade-related deals are conducted virtually – through emails, messaging platforms, video conferencing, and more. For the progress of any nation, development in infrastructure – such as roads, transportation, trade, and

commerce – is vital. At the same time, it is crucial to manage cities responsibly, keeping environmental concerns in mind.

Governments have established dedicated bodies to address environmental issues and regularly issue guidelines to safeguard natural resources. However, development should not be seen merely as the construction of massive tunnels, skyscrapers, highways, rail networks, and dams. True development requires proper planning, effective management, and inter-agency coordination – always considering environmental sustainability.

A proactive and intellectual workforce in the government sector works to resolve public grievances and ensure the delivery of basic amenities. In this context, I want to emphasize the importance of planting trees in cities and major business hubs, where traffic and human activity are particularly high.

With rising demands, traffic volumes continue to grow, significantly polluting the environment. Similarly, manufacturing industries release pollutants into the air,



water, and soil. While we cannot halt industrial and urban activity overnight, we can certainly take steps to reduce the environmental damage it causes. One such solution is tree plantation – a simple yet effective measure to mitigate environmental risks.

The environment plays an indispensable role in our daily lives. It includes everything around us – plants, animals, birds, air, water bodies, and soil. Understanding the value of our environment is the first step toward protecting it. Unfortunately, many development

activities – such as road widening, bridge and building construction, and the development of factories and hydroelectric projects – can harm the environment. For example, cutting down trees for construction can lead to soil erosion, which reduces soil fertility and

increases the risk of flash floods.

How to Maintain Temperatures in Cities

Cities, the heart of economic activity, often experience elevated temperatures. This is largely due to the emission of greenhouse gases from vehicles and industries. These gases trap heat in the atmosphere, leading to the urban heat island effect – making cities significantly warmer than their surrounding rural areas.

Managing cities sustainably is a critical responsibility for the administration. Key areas include maintaining clean air, preserving water bodies, building efficient drainage systems, and ensuring the safe disposal of solid waste from homes, hospitals, and businesses.

Tree plantation offers a natural and highly effective way to combat urban heat and pollution. Trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen, help regulate temperature, and improve air quality. Planting more trees in urban areas can significantly cool the environment, reduce noise pollution, and even improve mental health and well-being among residents.

Smoking – A Deterrent to Our Youth and Society



JAVOID BHAT

As the world observes World No Tobacco Day, the spotlight falls on the growing tobacco crisis and its devastating impact on communities. In fact, smoking is a deterrent to the progress, health, and future of our society, especially in regions like Kupwara, which has alarmingly ranked among the highest in tobacco consumption in Jammu & Kashmir. From school-aged youth to adults, the number of daily smokers is on the rise, posing a serious threat to public health.

Smoking is a curse that continues to destroy countless lives across the world. It not only harms the smoker but also endangers those around them through secondhand smoke. Smoking leads to deadly diseases such as lung cancer, heart problems, and respiratory disorders, cutting short the lives of millions every year. It is a drain on both health and wealth, consuming hard-earned money while offering nothing in return but pain and suffering. Young people, often misled by peer pressure or advertisements, fall into its trap and become lifelong addicts. Smoking pollutes the environment, weakens families, and burdens healthcare systems. Truly, it is a curse that society must fight together—through awareness, education, and strong willpower—to protect future generations.

Teenagers are especially vulnerable to smoking due to a combination of peer pressure, curiosity, and the desire to appear mature or "cool." At this impressionable age, they are often influenced by friends, social media, and even movies that glamorize smoking without showing its harmful consequences. Many teens are unaware of how quickly nicotine can lead to addiction, trapping them in a dangerous habit that affects their health, studies, and future. Smoking during adolescence can cause lasting damage to the lungs and brain, and increases the risk of serious diseases later in life. It is crucial to educate teenagers early about the risks of tobacco use and to create supportive environments—at home, in schools, and in communities—that help them make healthy, smoke-free choices.

Health officials emphasize that tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death, killing over 8 million people worldwide each year. The theme of World No Tobacco Day 2025, "Protecting Youth from Tobacco Industry Manipulation," serves as a wake-up call.

On this World No Tobacco Day, local schools, NGOs, and health workers organized awareness drives, rallies, and street plays across Kupwara to highlight the dangers of smoking and promote a smoke-free lifestyle.

It is time for every citizen, parent, teacher, and policymaker to unite against tobacco. Smoking must not be allowed to choke the voice of our youth or stain the soul of our society.

Let us remember: Smoking does not clean our society—it clouds it.

Javaid Bhat is Teacher and a regular contributor to Headlines Today

Love Is on the Land of Respect



ALJAZ AHMAD
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Love is not a fleeting flame,
Nor just a sweet and whispered name.
It blooms where hearts choose to connect—
Where roots run deep in pure respect.

It walks not proud, nor speaks in haste,
It listens more than it lays waste.
In every word, in every glance,
It gives the soul a second chance.

It does not ask for pride or war,
But lifts us higher, evermore.
No chains, no games, no silent threats—
Just truth that neither shames nor forgets.

For love, when placed on selfish ground,
Will wither fast and not be found.
But love that's sown in honest soil,
Will grow through storms and human toil.
So hold your love with open hand,
Let kindness be what you demand.
For where respect and care reflect,
There blooms the love we all protect.

Turn intent into action for a child marriage free India by 2030

RAVIKANT

Last year on Akshaya Tritiya, something remarkable happened in Rajasthan. A day that had long been associated with a surge in child marriages passed without a single reported case in the state. That wasn't a coincidence. It was the result of strong judicial intervention, clear Government directives, and the grit of a network of NGOs that responded with urgency. The Rajasthan High Court, in response to a petition by the Just Rights for Children (JRC) network, ruled that village heads would be held accountable for any child marriage in their jurisdiction. The state administration acted swiftly, activating enforcement mechanisms at every level.

It was a moment that proved the power of coordinated action. That breakthrough was more than just a one-day victory; it signalled what's possible when law, governance, and community align. But the challenge goes beyond Akshaya Tritiya, and the question is no longer whether this change is possible, but whether this change can be seen across all religions, faiths, and all auspicious occasions when child marriage sees a surge. The question is how to make it consistent, how to scale it nationally, and how to sustain the momentum so that India can truly become child marriage-free by 2030 – a goal the Government has already committed to achieving. India is not lacking in laws or intent.

The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act is clear. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act is well drafted. The Government of India's recent nationwide campaign for a 'Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat' shows a new level of resolve. Networks like Just Rights for Children, who have long been working to end child marriage, have actively been supporting the cause, and the judiciary is taking firm steps. The over 250 NGOs of the network have been following a strategic roadmap outlined in Bhuvan Ribhu's best-seller, 'When Children Have Children: Tipping Point to End Child Marriage'. Notably, hearing the petition by Just Rights for Children's partner, SEVA, the Supreme Court passed a judge-



ment last year on Child Marriage, which is a roadmap for action to end Child Marriage.

The judgement emphasised a prevention-protection-prosecution strategy and community-driven approach; guidelines issued to various ministries for the complete elimination of child marriage; a multi-sectoral coordination, training and capacity building of the law enforcement officers needed to be there.

What we need now is to turn this intent into action at every level of society, especially at the last mile – in our panchayats, schools, and households. One of the most commendable recent steps has come once again from Rajasthan. In March 2025, the state Government issued an order that makes it mandatory to print the date of birth of both the bride and groom on every wedding invitation card. It may appear like a small bureaucratic detail, but it's a transformative move. With this step, age becomes public information – subject to scrutiny by relatives, neighbours, vendors, and authorities. It empowers communities to intervene early and gives law enforcement a tangible way to identify and prevent illegal child marriages. This is a smart, low-cost, high-impact innovation that should be replicated across all states. There's an irony we must acknowledge: poverty is often cited as the main reason

families marry off their children early. But India also runs some of the largest social welfare programmes in the world – from free education for girls to scholarships, health insurance, and livelihood support schemes. The disconnect isn't in the intention or the policy. It's in awareness and last-mile delivery. Far too often, families simply do not know about the schemes they are eligible for.

This is where panchayats and grassroots networks must play a stronger role. Panchayats are not just local governance bodies – they are the bridge between citizens and the state. When empowered and informed, they can help families access schemes, encourage education, and intervene when early marriages are being planned.

And as Rajasthan has shown, when panchayats are held accountable, they become effective watchdogs as well. Education is another key pillar. Without ensuring that every girl stays in school till the age of 18, we will not be able to end child marriage. The dropout rates after Class 8 remain high in many parts of the country, and this is precisely the age when girls become vulnerable. Investing in education – not just by building schools but also by ensuring safe transport, toilets, books, and digital tools – is an investment in a child marriage-free future. Several states, including Bihar, West Bengal, and Odisha, have introduced conditional cash transfers to encourage families to keep their daughters in school. These schemes have had measurable success. The central Government's Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign has also done important work in shifting public perception around the value of girls. These are efforts that must be strengthened and expanded.

At the same time, enforcement must remain strong. Child marriage is not a tradition – it is a punishable crime. And everyone who facilitates it, knowingly or unknowingly, must be made aware of the consequences. This includes priests, band players, transporters, and tent owners. Sev-

eral state Governments have rightly asked all such vendors to take pledges to refrain from supporting child marriages.

These are necessary steps – part of the broader cultural shift that's already underway. The positive shift in Rajasthan has also been supported by civil society groups such as the Just Rights for Children (JRC), which works across 416 districts with over 250 NGO partners. Their model combines legal intervention, awareness building, school outreach, and community mobilisation.

Posters in temples and mosques, awareness drives in schools, and legal aid in high-risk districts – these are the kinds of actions that make a real difference. And the Government has welcomed this support, recognising that the fight against child marriage needs every hand on deck. India has reached a turning point. The laws are in place. The Government's commitment is visible and sincere. Civil society is energised. And there are already success stories to learn from. What we need now is scale.

Every village should have a working group on child marriage prevention. Every panchayat should have data on at-risk children. Every district should have a rapid response mechanism for suspected cases. This is not about doing more, it's about doing smart and doing together.

Let's stop thinking of child marriage as an issue we'll tackle eventually. Let's treat it as a national emergency – one that deserves the same focus we give to infrastructure, health, or digital access. Because at its core, child marriage is not just a violation of a child's rights – it is a threat to India's future.

We already have what we need: committed leadership, strong laws, innovative state initiatives, and an active civil society. If we now add stronger local governance, better delivery of welfare schemes, and consistent public awareness, we will reach the tipping point. India can become child marriage-free by 2030. That's not a dream – that's a deadline. And with the right push, we're closer than ever.

(The writer is National Convenor, Just Rights for Children. Views are personal)

Growth expected in domestic textile industry



VIJAY GARG

After promoting tourism and technology, the Prime Minister has now resolved to take the Indian textile industry to new heights.

At an investors' conference held in Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh, he named Madhya Pradesh the 'Cotton Capital' in the textile industry sector. The reason for this is that 25 percent of the country's total organic cotton production comes from here. Indigenous sarees are produced on a large scale in areas like Chanderi, Maheshwari and Khajuraho. This industry has been running for centuries with the help of knowledge tradition and indigenous equipment. If technology-based modernization is done with adequate capital investment in it, not only will production increase, but a global market will also be available for these products.

A study of religious and historical texts, including the Rigveda, reveals that India has been a leader in cotton production, cloth making and dyeing since ancient times, hence, various ways of wearing and wrapping clothes have been prevalent here. The

Rigveda and other Sanskrit texts also provide a detailed description of clothes. These texts describe different types of attire. In India, there is diversity in clothing styles based on geography, climate, season, zodiac sign, caste and religion. Different attires were worn on occasions of celebrations, sports, dance and war. The tradition of cotton production and making clothes from it is more than five thousand years old in India.

The artisans used to spin cotton on a spinning wheel to make clothes. They were also skilled in the technique of dyeing the threads and cloth. It is clear that India has been an expert in making and wearing various types of clothes since ancient times. That is why it got the name of cotton textile industry. This industry holds an important place among the major textile industries in the world due to its wide value chain, availability of local raw materials and expertise in manufacturing art. On the one hand, small artisans are engaged in textile manufacturing. On the other hand, big entrepreneurs who make clothes with modern machines are also active. When the British set their eyes on this industry under the pretext of trade, they destroyed this traditional handicraft and started producing clothes with machines brought from Britain. In 1818, the first cotton textile industry was established in

Fort Gloucester near Kolkata. After this, the foundation of the Bombay Spinning Mill was laid in Mumbai in 1854. Today, 10 crore people are earning their livelihood through about 3400 textile industries in the country. Apart from this, large-scale cloth production is also done through handloom, handicrafts, small-scale electric looms and traditional methods.

These small and cottage industries provide employment to lakhs of people at the local level. The industry includes cotton, natural and man-made fibres, silk-based fabrics and woven fabrics. Textiles account for 4.5 per cent of India's total exports and contribute 15 per cent to export earnings. However, imports of foreign textiles have weakened this domestic industry. Exports have also declined. Countries like Bangladesh and Vietnam have overtaken India in textile exports. Madhya Pradesh has already been a leader in textile manufacturing. Large textile industries like JC Mills in Gwalior, Hukamchand Mills in Indore and Vinod Mills in Ujjain were active till the seventies. But strikes by employee organisations almost destroyed them.

Birla's textile industry is still present in Nagda. Apart from this, saris are being manufactured on a large scale using hand spinning wheels in Chanderi and Maheshwar. The original Chanderi saree has a GI

tag, which certifies its authenticity and quality. This protects the customers from fake sarees. Recently, Aryapratap Singh in Gwalior has started manufacturing clothes based on Vedic science. Nowadays, there is increasing interest in Vastu and astrology among the youth, keeping this in mind, the production of clothes with symbols of Vedic astrology, planets and constellations has been started.

Their price ranges from Rs 80,000 to Rs 4 lakh. Computer science engineer and CEO of God Company Arya Prakash Singh says that he designs clothes based on the date, place, time and palm lines of the customers. They are designed according to the effect of color, gemstone and metal on the zodiac sign. The branding and marketing of these clothes is being done through social media, website and Instagram. Arya Pratap got this inspiration from reading Ramayana and watching films and serials based on it. It is our ignorance that we consider Western countries as leaders in science and technology, while in reality India, especially Britain, was much ahead when Britain took over our textile industry.

At that time, our artisans were experts in making fine yarns of 2400 to 2500 counts. They could make a yarn 29 yards long in one grain weight. Even with today's most modern technology, only

yarns of 400 to 600 counts can be made. Yarns of 2400 to 2500 counts were made in Murshidabad. The British cut off the thumbs of the artisans to put an end to this art, after which the British textile industry was established in India. This technique was not recorded in books, but was ingrained in the minds of the artisans through knowledge-tradition and home training.

This rich tradition of Indian textile industry was affected by the oppression of the British. Evidence of their cruelty is found in their diaries. The cloth that was sent to Britain from Surat was forcibly made by the artisans. Heavy fines were imposed for not completing the work on time. The company paid the artisans so little that if they had sold the same goods to Dutch, Portuguese or Arab traders, they would have been able to sell them.

Then they would get a very high price. The artisans were forced to such an extent that they could not even leave this profession. Many restrictions were imposed on their freedom. Investing in this industry will not only revive it but will also provide employment to millions of people. This is an opportunity to revive the ancient prosperity of India.

Vijay Garg Retired Principal
Educationalist street kour Chand
MHR Malout Punjab



DC Doda reviews venue preparation for Lavender Festival 2025

HT News Network

BHADERWAH, MAY 31: In preparation for the upcoming Lavender Festival 2025, Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, conducted a thorough inspection of the venue at the Sports Stadium, Government Degree College Bhaderwah. The visit aimed to assess the progress of ongoing logistical and infrastructural arrangements to ensure the successful hosting of the much-awaited event. During the inspection, the DC reviewed various aspects including sanitation, provision of power supply, drinking water, stage setup, parking and public convenience facilities. He issued on the spot instructions to the concerned departments to accelerate the remaining works, emphasizing the need to create a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere for tourists, guests and locals expected to participate in large numbers. The inspection was attended by



ADC Bhaderwah, SDPO Bhaderwah, Executive Engineer R&B Bhaderwah, DIO, EO Municipal Committee Bhaderwah and other district officers. "The proposed Lavender Festival 2025 will not just celebrate the blooming lavender fields of Bhaderwah but also serve as an initiative to promote eco-tourism, local handicrafts, traditional cuisine and the natural beauty of the region. It will also act as a symbol of unity, sustainable development and cultural pride" said the DC.

Plastic-Free Tomorrow Starts Today: DYSS Kishtwar sparks district-wide clean-up movement

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, MAY 31: In a powerful prelude to World Environment Day 2025, the Department of Youth Services & Sports Kishtwar, under the dynamic leadership of District Youth Services & Sports Officer Jaffer Haider Sheikh, launched a series of district-wide plastic Clean-Up drives across Kishtwar, Nagseni, and Marwah Zones. The initiative, themed "Ending Plastic Pollution," saw enthusiastic participation and resonated deeply with the global call to safeguard the planet. With the active involvement of over 535 students — including 289 boys and 246 girls, the campaign transformed into a vibrant movement of youth led environmental action. From schoolyards and village lanes to public markets and riverbanks, students, teachers and sports staff joined forces to clean, educate and inspire. In Zone Kishtwar, students from multiple government schools conducted large-scale



drives, collecting and segregating plastic and non-biodegradable waste, while echoing the message with creative slogans and eco-friendly posters. Zone Nagseni witnessed active involvement of school eco-clubs, led by Physical Education Masters and teachers, who orchestrated impactful street plays, awareness sessions and recycling demonstrations. Students took a solemn oath to reduce single-use plastics and promote sustainable living.

Despite its remote location, Zone Marwah stood out with its festival-like clean-up drive, as students, teachers and local residents united in an inspiring show of community spirit and environmental commitment.

This campaign marks an early but emphatic start to World Environment Day celebrations, aligning with the vision of the Directorate of Youth Services & Sports, J&K. It reflects a deep-rooted commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable development within the district.

The department expressed sincere appreciation to all Zonal Physical Education Officers, school heads, staff and students whose dedication and energy made the event a resounding success.

As heaps of collected plastic waste was responsibly disposed of, a clear message echoed across the district: Kishtwar stands united against plastic pollution — leading by example, one clean-up at a time.

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 Dublicate. 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

ازدفتر نائب تحصیلدار کیواڈہ (ای)
مشتوم درخواست محتاج: محمد نعمان خان ولد محمد عبداللہ خان ساکن وار پورہ تحصیل زینلدارہ ڈسٹرکٹ کیواڈہ قرار حاکم یوم پیدائش DOB اطلاع بابت خاص وعام
معاملہ مندر پیر عنوان الصد رسائل نے ایک مصفاہ اسات بعض حصول اندراج کرنے یوم پیدائش بحق مندر پیر ذیل اشخاص جس کی یوم پیدائش سکونت مندر پیر ذیل ہے محمد نعمان خان ولد محمد عبداللہ خان ساکن وار پورہ تاریخ پیدائش 17/05/23 ہے اس بارے میں اگر کسی بھی شخص کو کوئی نذر یا اعتراض جو تو وہ سات دان کے اندر اندر دفتر محتاج میں اپنا اعتراض پیش کریں میعاد زمرے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا
تحرییر الصد نائب تحصیلدار کیواڈہ

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have change my name from Fahmida Banoo to FAHMEEDA In future i will be known as FAHMEEDA If any body is having any objection, he/ she my contract Passport office Srinagar within 7 days. After 7 days no objection will be excepted.

FAHMEEDA
W/O Gh. Rasool Bhat
R/o Mandoora Tral
Distt. Pulwama
7006244165

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

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 forits 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 962292863 within 7 days .

PUBLIC NOTICE

Its being informs rhat my name in my bank ac no 0122040150000654 jk bank pahalgam is wrongly mentioned as meema Akhter but the actual name as par Aadher is Meema jan
C/O GH jan dedard R/O pahlagam
I m going to update it in mu bamk account .if anyone gave quries they may contact jk bank pahlgam within 7 days

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer WAGOORA)/ chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of SHEIKH TAZEEM MUDASIR & SHEIKH ASRAR MUDASIR S/O SHEIKH MUDASIR AHMAD R/O KREERI Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 22/07/2015 & 11 /02/2018 and event has been shown to be occurred at home for issuance of delay order .In this connection .
if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
KREERI

From Classrooms to Communities: Sopore Law College Ignites Legal Awareness in Dangerpora Sopore

AASHIQ AHMAD

Sopore:31/05/2025: Sopore Law College, in its continued effort to spread legal awareness and empower local communities, organized a Legal Literacy Program and a Door-to-Door Awareness Campaign at Government Higher Secondary School, Dangerpora Sopore. The initiative was held under the guidance of Course Coordinator Ms. Nadiya Riyaz and faculty member Mr. Irfan Ahmad, with active participation from law students of the college. The students engaged with the school community through informative sessions and skits focusing on critical social and legal issues including domestic violence, acid attacks, Consumer Protection Act and child labour. The program aimed at sensitizing students and the local population about their legal rights and the importance of collective responsibility in addressing these societal challenges. Through skits and presentations, the law students conveyed strong messages and created a lasting impact on the audience. In addition to the school event, a door-to-door awareness drive was also conducted in the surrounding areas to further the reach of the initiative. Pamphlets were distributed, and locals were briefed about basic legal rights, protections under the law, and the steps to seek legal aid in case of abuse or injustice. The staff of Govt. Hr. Sec. School Dangerpora expressed heartfelt gratitude to the administration of Sopore Law College, especially **Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and the Principal, for choosing their institution as a platform for this vital community outreach. They appreciated the professionalism and commitment of the faculty and students in executing the program.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for Pesticides License the name and style LONE AGRO WORLD BULGAM if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of PLANT PROTECTION OFFICER (PPO) LAL MANDI SRINAGAR within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

NAMEZAREEFA BANO
D/OGH AHMAD GANAIE
R/O SALOOSA DIST ..BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information to the general public that I want to apply for new fertilizer licence & Seed licence under name & style LONE AGRO WORLD BULGAM if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She contact Chief Agriculture office Baramulla within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name...ZAREEFA BANO
D/O GH AHMAD GANAIE
R/O SALOOSA

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 mamal pahलगam.
Mohd ashraf lawe
R/o mamal pahलगam

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/OMUKHTA BANDAY R/O KREERI
DISTT..... BARAMULLA

Awareness camps under Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan held across District Ramban

HT News Network

RAMBAN, MAY 31: A series of farmers' awareness events were organized today across district Ramban under the aegis of "Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan"- a landmark initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India aimed at transforming the agricultural landscape through awareness and outreach. The events were held at Sana, Sanasar and Chilla Panchayats of Block Batote, witnessing enthusiastic participation from the local farmers.



The programme was held under the guidance of Chief Agriculture Officer Dr. Vinay Kumar Jandial and Scientist KVK, Dr. Raj Kumar.

The proceedings focused on educating and empowering the farmers with scientific knowledge and

information about government support mechanisms. The campaign marks a significant step towards the modernization of Indian agriculture, reaffirming the commitment to equip farmers with tools, techniques and access to welfare schemes

to ensure global competitiveness and sustainability. Field functionaries of the Agriculture and allied departments played a crucial role in mobilizing farmers, managing logistics and ensuring a strong on-ground presence.

DC Udhampur felicitates Class 10 toppers

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, MAY 31: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai today felicitated the top-performing students of Class 10 Board Exam from Bright Career High School Garhi. The felicitation ceremony was held in the Mini Conference Hall DC Office Complex. Addressing the students, the DC congratulated them for their excellent performance and commended their dedication and commitment towards studies. She also appreciated the efforts of the teachers and the support of the parents, which played a vital role in their success. She expressed hope that their success would serve



efforts of the teachers and the support of the parents, which played a vital role in their success. She expressed hope that their success would serve

as an inspiration for other students to strive for academic excellence and work diligently towards their future goals. The Principal and staff

members of Bright Career High School Garhi expressed their gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner for her encouragement and recognition of the student's achievements. The felicitation ceremony was held in the Mini Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

Addressing the students, the DC congratulated them for their excellent performance and commended their dedication and commitment towards studies. She also appreciated the efforts of the teachers and the support of the parents.

Eid-Ul-Azha arrangements discussed at Bhaderwah

HT News Network

BHADARWAH, MAY 31: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bhadarwah, Sunil Kumar Bhutyal today discussed the arrangements for Eid-ul-Azha at a meeting, held in his Office Chamber.

The meeting was attended by officers from the line departments, Police and Municipal bodies as well as representatives of religious organizations and the Beopar Mandal.

The meeting took a detailed review of security and other arrangements, including availability of essential commodities. The enforcement departments were asked to ensure sale of mutton, chicken, vegetables, fruits, milk items at approved rates, while MC was directed to maintain sanitation in the Town.

Tehsildar, Live Stock Development Officer, Food Safety Officer, Executive Officer, MC and TSO were asked to conduct joint market inspections to keep check on overpricing and ensure availability of quality food items at approved rates. The meeting took a detailed review of security and other arrangements, including availability of essential commodities. The enforcement departments were asked to ensure sale of mutton, chicken, vegetables, fruits, milk items at approved rates.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my dob has been incorrectly mentioned on his Adhar card, 275489020352as DOB 17/06/1965 while his correct DOB IS, 01/06/1970 , Name, Ab Majeed Dar now I have applied for the correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection concerned authority /UIDAI office within a period of 07 days after that no objection will be accepted.

Name: AB MAJEED DAR. DOB , 01/06/1970
S/O MOHD RAMZAN DAR
R/O: BATAPORA TEHSIL HANDWARA DIST KUPWARA





District Administration Ramban conducts 2nd Civil Defense Exercise “Operation Shield”

HT News Network

RAMBAN, MAY 31: To enhance community preparedness and response during emergencies, the District Administration Ramban, in collaboration with the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), today conducted a training session-cum-mock drill as part of the 2nd Civil Defense Exercise – “Operation Shield.” The Mock Drill Exercise was held at Government Model Higher Secondary School (GMHSS) under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary and

was presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Varunjeet Singh Charak. Among others present were Tehsildar Ramban, Deep Kumar, Dy. SP DAR (In-charge Civil Defence Ramban), Principal GMHSS Ramban, Kewal Krishan Sharma, officers from the Fire & Emergency Services, SDRF experts, staff and students of the host institution. The mock drill focused on sensitizing young students about effective rescue and safety techniques during natural and man-made disasters, with dem-



onstrations and interactive sessions led by SDRF and Fire & Emergency Services teams. Students were educated on evacuation methods, basic first aid, fire-fighting and handling panic situations. Speaking on the occasion, ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak emphasized that the choice of a school as the venue was intentional. “Young students are the best ambassadors of safety and awareness. Training them today ensures a resilient and informed society tomorrow,” he said. He urged the students to carry forward the knowledge to their families and com-

munities, strengthening the district's disaster response mechanism. Dy. SP DAR, while addressing the gathering, highlighted the role of the Civil Defense and SDRF in crisis response and encouraged greater participation of citizens in such preparedness initiatives. He reiterated the importance of timely drills and training to minimize casualties and damage during unforeseen events. The event concluded with a Q&A session where students actively engaged with officials and experts, showcasing their keen interest.

Awareness Programme By NCC Cadets under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan

Amir Iqbal Khan



Bhadarwah, May, 31 To give furtherance to the nationwide Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, the NCC Cadets (Junior Division) of PMSHRI Higher Secondary School Bhalra, Bhaderwah today organised an awareness program under the aegis of 10 J&K BN NCC, Bhaderwah. In this connection, in order to raise awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse, a Poster cum Drawing Contest along with a Debate Competition were held. On this occasion, Cadets and students enthusiastically expressed their views through creative posters, expressive drawings and powerful speeches. The cadets who took active part in the program included Aryaveer Kotwal, Rettish Kumar, Vikas Kotwal, Kush Kumar, Mohd Aayat and others. The audiences appreciated the commitment, creativity and passion of the participants applauded their missionary zeal. All the Staff members including Dr. Nitan Singh Kotwal (Teacher) and Om Parkash (Senior Lecturer) were present on the occasion who encouraged the cadets for their impressive performances and enthusiasm. Later, the cadets sang the NCC Song raising impactful slogans demanding a Drug-Free India. The programme which was organised by Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Koul (Associate NCC Officer & Zonal Cultural and Counseling Incharge) was guided by Irshad Ahmed (In-charge Principal)

World No Tobacco Day observed at Directorate of Health Services Jammu

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 31: World No Tobacco Day was observed today at the Directorate of Health Services Jammu under the guidance of the Director Dr Abdul Hamid Zargar. The event was organized by State Tobacco Control Cell Jammu Division, under the aegis of National Tobacco Control Programme with technical support from Vital Strategies India Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi. The programme was attended by several senior officers of the Directorate of Health Services and associated Offices including Deputy Director Dentistry Dr. Sanjay Sharma; State Malariologist Dr. D.J. Raina; Chief Medical Officer Dr. Harbaksh Singh; AD Schemes Dr. Ila Gupta and State Epidemiologist Dr. Harjeet Rai. A presentation was given by the Nodal Officer, NTCP on



the Tobacco Epidemic, its epidemiology, health and environmental consequences of Tobacco use and Tobacco Control Laws, with a special focus on this year's theme – “Unmasking the Appeal: Exposing Industry Tactics on Tobacco and Nicotine Products.”

DC Poonch reviews progress of Mission Yuva implementation

HT News Network

POONCH, MAY 31: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, today chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation status of Mission Yuva, a government initiative aimed at promoting entrepreneurship. The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, General Manager DIC, Deputy Director Employment & Counselling Centre, Assistant Labour Commissioner, District Nodal Officer JKEDI and District Manager NRLM.



At the outset, the Assistant Director, Employment gave a briefing on the scope of the flagship scheme through a PowerPoint presentation, highlighting its

objectives and current progress. The AD informed that the Mission Yuva is being implemented in a phased manner. “Initially, aware-

ness camps were held across the district to engage and inform the youth. This was followed by the invitation of applications through the Mission Yuva mobile app and official portal. The scheme has now entered its third phase, focusing on the preparation of Detailed Project Reports for the proposed entrepreneurship ventures” he added. He informed that as of now 29 applications have been received under the scheme. The preparation of the DPRs will be taken up by the District Nodal Officer, JKEDI (Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute).

JKEDI trains 228 aspirants, including 107 women under RAMP scheme

HT News Network



JAMMU/SRINAGAR, MAY 31: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Saturday successfully concluded its first batch of Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programs (ESDPs) in eight districts of Udhampur, Anantnag, Bandipora, Budgam, Ramban, Shopian, Reasi and Kulgam under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme. The initiative, being funded by the Union Ministry of MSME, is being implemented in the Union Territory by the Industries and Commerce Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir. Launched on May 5, 2025, the four week programs trained a total of 228 aspiring entrepreneurs, including 107 women, reflecting a significant step towards gender inclusivity in the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem. The intensive 104-hour curriculum aimed at enhancing the managerial, financial and strategic capabilities of the participants through classroom sessions, field visits, expert interactions and practical workshops. The ESDPs were designed to enable the participants to scale operations, improve competitiveness and establish sustainable enterprises. The ESDP curriculum, developed by the domain experts, featured modules on business planning, marketing strategies, digital tools, financial literacy, legal compliance, innovation and leadership. The participants also benefited from mentorship sessions, case studies and real-world exposure through field visits to successful business ventures. Valedictory sessions were held at all three locations. All the sessions were attended by faculty members and officials from JKEDI, who played an active role in training delivery and program monitoring.

DC reviews progress of Mission YUVA implementation in Udhampur

HT News Network

UDHAMPUR, MAY 31: To review the progress achieved in the implementation of Mission YUVA, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai chaired a meeting here in the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex. At the outset, Assistant Director, Employment, Priyanka Gupta delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation, providing an overview of Mission YUVA, an initiative of the Jammu

and Kashmir government focused on empowering youth and fostering entrepreneurship. The initiative, she said, is part of the government's broader effort to create a thriving hub of enterprises and holistic employment in Jammu and Kashmir. The structure, role and responsibilities of the Small Business Development Units (SBDU) and Business Help Desks (BHDs) were also elaborated. The DC took a detailed review of the progress and performance of the SBDUs and BHDs. She directed the

concerned officers to expedite the implementation process, activate YUVA Doots and set clear targets for application submissions. Stressing the importance of grassroots-level outreach, the DC instructed the concerned departments to organize awareness programmes and sensitize the public at the Panchayat level. Emphasizing a proactive and mission-driven approach, she urged all stakeholders to work collectively to maximize youth enrollment under the Mission YUVA initiative.

Div Com Jammu bids warm farewell to retiring officials

HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 31: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar along with officials of his office today accorded a warm farewell to the retiring officials- Mushtaq Ahmad, Naib Tehsildar and Ram Ji, MTS, here at a simple but impressive ceremony. The Divisional Commissioner lauded the services rendered by the retiring officials during their tenure in the Divisional Commissioner Office. Mushtaq Ahmad, who worked as Naib Tehsildar in the Court of Divisional Commissioner, was appreciated for his contribution in early disposal of revenue cases. The entire staff of Div Com Office wished the retiring officials a healthy life ahead.

Empowering women priority of Omar led Govt in J&K, Rattan Lal

HT News Network

Jammu, May 31: Reaffirming the growing trust in the visionary leadership of National Conference, a significant number of women today joined the party fold under the leadership of Bimla Luthra, senior NC leader and former MLA, at a joining programme held at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu. The event was marked by enthusiasm and a renewed sense of purpose, with women from different parts of the region aligning themselves with the party's pro-people agenda. The women were welcomed into the party fold by Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of National Conference, Bimla Luthra and other senior leaders of the Party. Addressing the gathering, Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of National Conference, praised the commitment of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's government in delivering on its electoral prom-



ises. “The present government headed by Omar Abdullah has demonstrated unwavering commitment to empower women through swift and effective implementation of various welfare schemes,” he said. He highlighted key initiatives taken by the NC-led government within the first

five months of its tenure, including free travel for women in government-operated buses, enhancement of marriage assistance from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000 for AAY families, provision of 200 units of free electricity per month for AAY households, and doubling of the monthly ration quo-

ta from 5 kg to 10 kg per person for AAY beneficiaries. “The National Conference leadership has always prioritized the welfare of the general public, especially the women of Jammu and Kashmir,” Gupta added. “Under Omar Abdullah's visionary leadership, we are witnessing transformative governance that is restoring democratic values and addressing the aspirations of the people.” Bimla Luthra underscored that the National Conference has always stood firmly for gender equality and women's welfare, not just in words but through concrete actions and policies. She pointed to various historic initiatives taken by the NC leadership over the years that have significantly improved the status of women in the region. Bimla Luthra praised the present government led by Omar Abdullah for continuing this legacy by rolling out schemes aimed specifically at enhancing the economic, social, and political participation of women across Jammu and Kashmir.

Second National Lok Adalat held at Ramban

HT News Network

Ramban May 31: As per NALSA's annual Calendar of Activities and on the directions of J&K Legal Services Authority, Second National Lok Adalat of the year 2025 was held at District Court Complex Ramban and other Sub-ordinate Courts today by District Judiciary, Ramban. The event was conducted under the patronage of Sh. Deepak Sethi, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Ramban and the assistance of Ms. Priyanka Mahajan, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Ramban. Worthy Chairman, inaugurated the Lok Adalat at the District Court Complex in Ramban, where he emphasized the importance of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in ensuring quick and affordable justice. In the said National Lok Adalat, eight benches were constituted across all Courts of District Ramban for amicable and speedy settlement of the cases. A total no. of 1289 cases i.e. 1227 Post-litigation and 62 Pre-litigation cases were taken up, out of which 803 Post-litigation and 37 Pre-litigation cases were disposed off with a settlement amount of Rs. 1,08,76,319/- in Post-litigation cases. Thus, a total settlement award amount of Rs. 2,09,23,820/- was settled out.



Commissioner's post in Food and Drug Administration lying vacant for 3 months in J&K: RTI activist

HT NEWS NETWORK/ UNI
JAMMU

The position of commissioner in Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has been lying vacant since the retirement of Hashmat Ali Yauto in February, an RTI activist said on Saturday, questioning the delay in filling the vacancy. Jammu-based RTI activist Raman Kumar Sharma had filed two applications in April with the health and medical education department using Jammu and Kashmir government's RTI portal, asking who had been appointed to the post of commissioner after Yauto's retirement

and reason for the delay in appointing a new officer in his place. "The Health & Medical Education Department transferred the applications to the Food Safety Department and finally it was responded to on May 19, confirming that the post is still lying vacant and that the matter is with the General Administration Department (GAD)," Sharma told PTI on Saturday. He said no timeline or proposal was shared in the reply. Yauto, an IAS officer, retired as commissioner of the FDA on superannuation on February 28.

The FDA commissioner is responsible for enforcing food safety laws, licensing, inspections, and ensuring the availability of safe and standard quality food and medicines to the public. According to the amended J&K Reorganisation Act, the Lt Governor has been granted powers to transfer IAS officers while the postings of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officers remain with the Chief Minister's Office (CMO). "It is shocking that almost three months have passed and the government has neither appointed a new officer nor assigned the charge

to anyone in an officiating capacity," Sharma said. He said the absence of the chief has raised serious concerns about the functioning and accountability of the department. In the past, Sharma said even the Jammu & Kashmir High Court had to intervene in the matter, underlining the importance of filling the post without delay due to its direct link with public health and safety. "This is a critical post. The government's delay is disappointing," he said, adding, "there is no transparency and the silence of the authorities is worrying." (PTI)

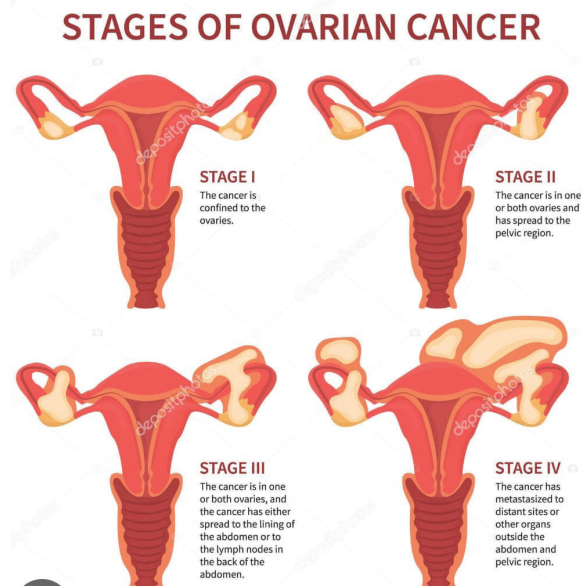
Ovarian cancer on rise among young women in Kashmir: Top Oncologist

PARVEZ UD DIN
SRINAGAR

In an alarming development with regard to women health, ovarian cancer cases among young women are on the rise in Kashmir, a leading oncologist has said.

In a special conversation with Dr. Shamima Wani, Professor and Head of the Department of Oncology, GMC Srinagar, delved into the increasing trend of ovarian cancer in young women in Kashmir, its factors and available treatments. Ovarian Cancer On Rise Among Young Women In Kashmir:

Dr Shamima said that in ovarian cancer, small cysts start forming in one or both ovaries, which later turn cancerous. "But not every cyst can be cancer. Ovarian cancer is a cancer that arises from the uncontrolled division of ovarian cells which if left untreated, can also engulf the surrounding tissues. There are three types of ovarian cancer, including epithelial ovarian cancer, germ cell tumors and stromal cell tumors," she explained. Dr. Sham said that the number of ovarian cancer patients has been increasing in the Kashmir Valley in the last few years. Compared to breast cancer and other cancers, ovarian cancer is now seen more in women here, she said. "70 percent of patients admitted to the oncology department of GMC Srinagar are affected by this



cancer (ovarian cancer). Our data show that the number of ovarian cancer patients is increasing compared to breast cancer," warned the oncologist. Dr Shamima said that the cancer, which was traditionally seen among women above 50 years of age, is also found in women aged 30 to 40 years. She said that epithelial ovarian cancer was most common, which was earlier seen in elderly women, but now it is not limited to women of any particular age. Over the causal agents, Dr. Shamima Wani said that there are many reasons behind this including

late marriage, obesity, late or no childbearing, changes in diet and lifestyle and use of some hormonal drugs. "Apart from this, continuous formation of eggs in the ovaries can also cause ovarian cancer. The formation of eggs in the ovaries should stop for some time. The continuous formation of eggs in the ovaries has negative effects on the ovaries due to which the risk of cancer also increases". Regarding the causes of ovarian cancer in young or unmarried girls, Dr. Shamima said that these include changes in lifestyle and diet, especially

pesticides in vegetables and fruits. As for treatment, she said that 80 percent of ovarian cancer patients are reported at stage three, while 20 percent of patients at stage one and two.

"In such a case, complete treatment is possible only in stage one and two. Treatment at stage three is not completely possible. However, even in this stage, 70 percent of patients can be cured, but there is no guarantee that the cancer will not return," she said. Along with breast cancer, the number of patients suffering from ovarian cancer is also increasing in Jammu and Kashmir, especially in the Kashmir Valley. Among them, the number of young women is not less, she said.

According to experts, in the past few years, there has been an increase in gynecological cancers in Kashmir compared to other states and UTs of the country. Ovaries are an important part of the female reproductive system. The female reproductive system has two sets of ovaries on either side of the uterus. The ovaries contain ova or eggs which are released for each menstrual cycle. The ovaries are the reproductive glands of women which are dedicated to producing eggs and the female hormones estrogen and progesterone.

SOURCE - KASHMIR NEWS TIMELINE

HT-HEALTH

MRI facility sanctioned for GMC Anantnag under CSR initiative, project worth Rs 19.70 crore to ease patient burden in South Kashmir

TARIQ YOUSUF
ANANTNAG

In a major healthcare boost for south Kashmir, Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag is set to receive its first-ever Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) facility, sanctioned under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID). The development comes in response to sustained efforts by the Deputy Commissioner of Anantnag, Syed Fakhrudin Hamid, who had written to POWERGRID urging the installation of the MRI facility at GMC Anantnag. In response, the corporation approved the project and entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HLL Lifecare Limited for the supply and installation of a 1.5 Tesla MRI



machine. The total cost of the project has been pegged at Rs 19.70 crore, and the installation is expected to be completed by December 31, 2025. In an official letter, POWERGRID confirmed its commitment to funding the project and ensuring timely payments to all vendors involved, adding that HLL Lifecare will not bear any financial liability related to delays or claims. GMC Anantnag, operational since 2019, caters to hundreds of patients daily from across south Kashmir. In the absence

of an in-house MRI facility, many patients are routinely referred to tertiary hospitals in Srinagar or private diagnostic centers, often paying between Rs 5,000 to Rs 8,000 for an MRI scan. This not only adds to the financial burden of the patients but also puts pressure on Srinagar's already overstretched healthcare infrastructure. Sources said GMC had earlier submitted quotations worth Rs 18 crore through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) for the MRI machine under the CSR proposal. While

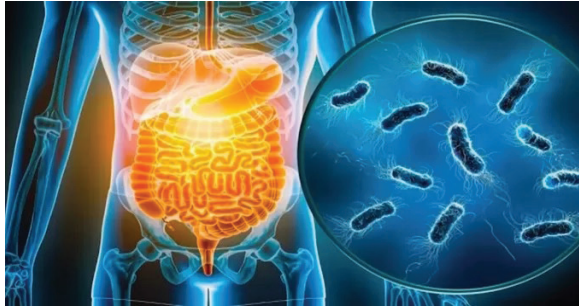
the possibility of a 3.0 Tesla MRI was initially considered, the 1.5 Tesla model was finalized due to feasibility and cost-effectiveness. With the upcoming installation, the referral rate to Srinagar hospitals is expected to drop, offering timely diagnostic support to patients and significantly reducing travel-related hardship. The district administration has expressed gratitude to POWERGRID, particularly its Chairman and Managing Director R.K. Tyagi, and Superintending Engineer South Kashmir, Er Altaf Khan, for their unwavering support in pushing the project forward. Health officials termed the development a "game-changer" for the region, calling it a long-overdue facility that will bridge a critical gap in public healthcare services in south Kashmir.

Digestive health deeply connected to immunity, mental well-being: Doctors

JAHANGEER GANAIE
SRINAGAR

Digestive health plays a critical role in maintaining overall well-being, according to doctors. They say digestive health has a close connection with the immune system, mental health and energy levels. Speaking to the news agency, the doctors said that a balanced diet, proper hydration and limiting processed foods are essential for preserving gut health and promoting a healthier lifestyle.

Dr Tariq Ahmad, a gastroenterologist based in south Kashmir, said gut health goes beyond digestion and plays a pivotal role in immune function and emotional stability. "Over 70% of the immune system resides in the gut, making it a key player in defending the body against infections," he said. He elaborated, "The gut is home to trillions of microorganisms that are essential for digesting food, producing vitamins,



and protecting against pathogens. A disrupted gut microbiome can impair immunity, cause fatigue, and even affect mood and mental clarity." Dr Ruqaya Akhter, a psychiatrist, said there is a strong connection between the gut and the brain, often referred to as the "gut-brain axis". "Many neurotransmitters like serotonin, which influence mood and sleep, are produced in the gut. An unhealthy digestive system can contribute to anxiety, depression and cognitive issues," she said. Doctors recommend staying well-hydrated and avoiding ultra-processed foods high in sugars, preservatives, and artificial

additives. These substances can disturb the delicate balance of gut flora, leading to inflammation and sluggish digestion. "Artificial sweeteners, excessive fat intake, and lack of dietary fibre negatively impact gut bacteria. This can slow digestion and reduce nutrient absorption, directly affecting energy levels and vitality," they added. Incorporating more whole foods, fruits, vegetables and fermented items into the diet is encouraged to nourish beneficial gut bacteria, the health experts said, adding that regular physical activity and stress management are also vital components of digestive health.

Digestive health refers to the proper functioning of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract, which includes the stomach, intestines, and associated organs. A well-functioning digestive system ensures the body absorbs essential nutrients and eliminates waste efficiently. "Digestive health is not just about avoiding bloating or constipation," doctors said. "It is deeply connected to immunity, mental health, energy, and even skin health. The gut houses nearly 70% of the immune system and a vast community of microorganisms known as the gut microbiome, which influences everything from mood to metabolism." According to data from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), up to 30% of Indians suffer from some form of gastrointestinal disorder. While medications can help manage symptoms, prevention through healthy lifestyle and dietary habits remains key. KNO

All medico-legal and post-mortem reports to be processed through MedLeaPR portal

JAHANGEER GANAIE/ KNO
SRINAGAR

The Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department announced on Wednesday that all medico-legal reports and post-mortem reports will now be processed and issued through the MedLeaPR portal. According to an official order issued by the department—copy available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Dr Arsalan Rashid has been appointed as the nodal officer for the Jammu division, while Dr Azia Manzoor has been designated as the nodal officer for the Kashmir division. "Medico-Legal Reports (MLRs) and Post-mortem Reports (PMRs) play a crucial role in criminal prosecutions. Currently, these reports are primarily handwritten by doctors, which

can lead to issues of illegibility and disputes over authenticity during court trials. To address this, a technical solution has been developed in the form of the MedLeaPR system, whereby such reports are issued via an online portal," the order states. Further, the order references Government Order No. 22-JK (HME) of 2025, dated January 10, 2025, which confirms that the Medico-Legal Manual prepared by an inter-departmental committee, including members from the Departments of Health, Law, and Home (Police, Prosecution, and Forensic), has been notified. The order states that, in addition to current modes, all reports will now be issued through the JK MedLeaPR Portal. "A dedicated portal has been created for this purpose, which, after security

clearance, has gone live at https://medleapr.jk.gov.in (https://medleapr.jk.gov.in). Medical practitioners responsible for submitting MLRs and PMRs are already registered on the portal. Additionally, 160 master trainers have been trained across various medical institutes and districts. Each institute and district has designated a MedLeaPR Nodal Officer, with Dr Azia Manzoor Bhat, Assistant Professor in the Department of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology at Government Medical College, Anantnag, appointed as the overall in-charge and single point of contact. This appointment is supported by Government Orders No. 390-JK(HME) of 2024, dated June 20, 2024, and No. 450-JK(HME) of 2024, dated July 8, 2024," the order adds. "It is now ordered that all Medico-Legal and Post-

mortem reports shall be processed and issued exclusively through the MedLeaPR portal hosted at the State Data Centre, J&K. In exceptional and urgent cases where technical issues prevent online reporting (reasons to be recorded in writing on the report), reports may be issued offline. However, such reports must be registered online on the portal retroactively as soon as possible." Both Nodal Officers will coordinate with relevant stakeholders, including doctors, to facilitate the seamless use of the platform. They will monitor and evaluate the progress within their divisions, address operational issues faced by doctors, support the trained master trainers, ensure all reports are entered online, and upload offline reports retrospectively.

AYUSH Shopian conducts School Health Camps to promote student well-being

HT NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN

In alignment with the directions of the Director Ayush J&K, Dr. Nuzhat Bashir Shah, Ayush Health and Wellness Centre (AHWC) at Wachie and Reshinagri successfully conducted school health check-up camps, focusing on the holistic well-being of school children. These health camps were organized as part of AYUSH's ongoing commitment to preventive and promotive healthcare. The initiative included comprehensive gen-



eral health assessments, dental check-ups, and basic blood investigations, aiming to evaluate and enhance the overall health of students.

A total of 22 students underwent detailed health screenings during the camps. The dedicated medical teams from AHWC Wachie and Reshinagri ensured a thorough examination process and provided personalized health advice to the students where required. The camps played a crucial role in the early detection of health concerns and helped raise awareness among students about the importance of personal hygiene and preventive care. The initiative was well-received by the school authorities and parents, who appreciated the proactive steps taken by the AYUSH department in safeguarding the health of school-going children.



ISRO reflects a successful 2024

UNI
CHENNAI, MAY 31

As the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is gearing up for mega launches including Chandrayaan, Gaganyaan and Indo-US Nissar Mission, besides sending country's first Astronaut to International Space Station (ISS) on board Axiom-4 mission, the Space Agency looked back with pride its achievements made in 2024.

In an update on its website, ISRO said there were five launches from the spaceport of Sriharikota that proved successful that included precise injection of eight Indian spacecrafts, one foreign satellite and six rocket bodies, including POEM 3 and 4.

They included PSLV-C58/XPoSat, PSLV-C59/PROBA-3, PSLV-C60/SPADEX docking experimental mission, GSVL-F14/INSAT-3DS, and SSLV-D3/EOS-08 mission, all of them successfully injected the payloads in their designated orbits.

ISRO's GSAT-20 was launched by Falcon-9 Block 5 of SpaceX from



Cape Canaveral. TSAT-1A was also launched by Falcon-9.

"Consequently, a total of 8 Indian satellites, 1 foreign satellite, and 6 rocket bodies (including POEM-3 and POEM-4) were placed in their intended orbits", It said reflecting back on its achievements of 2024. It said a total of 136 Indian spacecraft, including those from private operators/academic institutions, were launched in Earth-orbit till December 31, 2024.

As of that date, the number of operational satellites owned by the Indian government is 22 in LEO (Low Earth Orbit) and 31 in GEO (Geo-synchronous Earth Orbit).

In addition, two Indian deep space missions, namely, Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter (CH2O) and Aditya-L1 at Sun-Earth Lagrange's point were also active.

The propulsion module of Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft continued to operate in a high Earth orbit (more than 1 lakh km away) after being relocated from its lunar orbit since November 2023.

ISRO Chairman Dr. V. Narayanan, releasing the Indian Space Situational Assessment Report (ISSAR) for 2024 compiled by ISRO System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operations Management (IS4OM), said the upper stage of PSLV-C3 underwent an accidental break

up in 2001 and generated 371 debris.

While most of these fragments have re-entered the atmosphere, 41 PSLV-C3 debris were still in orbit by the end of 2024.

On Atmospheric re-entry, it said among the intact Indian upper stages, 34 rocket bodies re-entered the Earth's atmosphere till 2024 end, and five of such re-entries took place in 2024.

All LVM3 rocket bodies have decayed, only the one from LVM3 M2 OneWeb India- mission remain in orbit.

Among GSVL rocket bodies, only GSVL-F12 and GSVL-F14 rocket bodies are in orbit.

A total of 31 Indian satellites have re-entered the atmosphere till the end of 2024.

In the year 2024 alone, 9 Indian satellites re-entered the atmosphere. Among them was Cartosat-2 which re-entered the atmosphere on February 14, 2024, the first-ever LEO satellite of ISRO to be de-orbited at end-of-life to reduce its post-mission orbital life from more than 30 to less than 4 years.

MLA Abbas Ansari gets 2-year jail term in hate speech case

UNI
MAU (UP), MAY 31

Abbas Ansari, MLA from Mau Sadar seat and son of former mafia Mukhtar Ansari, was sentenced to two years imprisonment along with a fine of Rs 11,000 by a special court here on Saturday in a hate speech case, a prosecution officer said here.

Prosecution officer Haredra Singh said that the MP-MLA court of Judge Dr Krishna Pratap Singh convicted Abbas Ansari and his associate, Mansoor Ansari, in the hate speech case. After being convicted, both people were taken into custody



by the police.

He said that Abbas Ansari was found guilty under various sections and sentenced to two years imprisonment and a fine of Rs 11000, added to the total amount of different sections.

"MLA Abbas Ansari's election agent and associ-

ate, Mansoor Ansari, was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment and a fine of Rs 1000," he said.

During the 2022 assembly elections, Abbas Ansari, contesting from the Mau Sadar assembly seat, was addressing an election meeting at Pahadpura ground in the

city area on the evening of March 3, 2022.

During the address, he said that the administrative officers of the district will be stopped after the elections and taught a lesson.

He said that no one will be transferred after the formation of the Samajwadi Party (SP) government. Everyone will be kept here, and accounts will be settled.

Taking cognizance of this matter, an FIR was registered at the city police station on the complaint of Sub-Inspector Gangaram Bind. Sadar MLA Abbas Ansari and others were accused in the case.

Siddaramaiah govt tried to free rioters: Union Minister Karandlaje

UNI
BENGALURU, MAY 31

In a sharp escalation of her attack against the Congress-led government in Karnataka, BJP MP and Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje on Saturday accused the Siddaramaiah administration of attempting to shield and rehabilitate criminals by seeking to withdraw 43 serious criminal cases linked to communal violence, arson as well as attacks on police personnel in Hubballi-Dharwad.

Addressing reporters here, Karandlaje said the Congress government's move to drop the cases, including those which involved charges of rioting, attempted murder, and destruction of public property, was halted only after the High Court intervened.

"These 43 cases involved more number of accused. Had the High Court not stepped in, these criminals would have been out on the streets, ready to target our youths again. What kind of government tries to protect such elements?" she asked.

Karandlaje alleged that the government's intent was clear: to appease vote banks by quietly clearing criminal records of politically aligned elements.



She said the move not only undermined the morale of the police force but sent a dangerous message to lawbreakers that political patronage could override justice.

"We are seeing a dangerous collapse of law and order in Karnataka. In Hubballi-Dharwad, a police station was torched, shops were set on fire, and innocent people were assaulted. Instead of ensuring justice, the Congress cabinet moved to withdraw the very cases that were meant to bring the perpetrators to book," she added.

According to Karandlaje, the Congress government had prepared a proposal to drop the 43 cases and place it before the Cabinet, but public outcry and a legal petition forced the Karnataka High Court to halt the decision.

The MP further ques-

tioned the silence of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM DK Shivakumar on the issue, alleging that senior ministers were either complicit or indifferent. She said this is the first time Karnataka has seen a government so determined to protect the guilty rather than the victims.

She also alleged that Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara was himself embroiled in legal troubles related to the Ranya Rao case and was in no position to uphold law and order in the state.

Karandlaje linked the attempted case withdrawals to a broader breakdown in governance. "District ministers are not visiting the districts. The CM is holed up in Bengaluru or flies to Mysuru in a chopper. No reviews are being conducted, no accountability exists. Offi-

cials are operating without direction or fear of consequence," she alleged.

She warned that if such trends continue unchecked, Karnataka would become a haven for criminal elements emboldened by political protection. "This government is not for the people. It is for a select few – those with influence, those with muscle. The rest of Karnataka is being left to fend for itself," Karandlaje said.

The Karnataka government has yet to issue a formal response to the High Court's intervention or to Karandlaje's allegations. The Karnataka High Court on Thursday set aside the Government order, directing public prosecutors to withdraw 43 criminal cases registered/pending against persons accused of various offences including rioting, attempt to murder, stated to include highly influential persons including politicians, in breach of Section 321 of Criminal Procedure Code.

Among them were criminal prosecutions related to the Hubballi riots, where mobs allegedly attacked a police station, as well as cases involving serious charges such as attempt to murder, rioting, and assault on police officers.

Seven killed in Arunachal landslide

UNI
ITANAGAR, MAY 31

Seven people died in a landslide on National Highway-13 between Bana and Seppa in Arunachal Pradesh's East Kameng district late Friday night amid heavy rains, leading to shock and major traffic disruption in the region.

Sources said a vehicle carrying seven people was swept away by a massive landslide on the Bana-Seppa stretch of NH-13 and plunged into a deep gorge. The vehicle was traveling towards Seppa when the rain-triggered landslide struck it.

Arunachal Pradesh Home Minister and local



MLA Mama Natung has expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives in his Assembly constituency.

In a message, Natung extended his condolences to the bereaved families, stating: "It's very painful to hear about the tragic loss of seven lives in my

Assembly constituency. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families."

The Minister urged citizens to remain cautious during the monsoon season and avoid travel during nights, especially in landslide-prone areas.

"I request everyone to

remain vigilant and avoid traveling at night during the monsoon season. My thoughts and prayers are with the affected families. Om Shanti Shanti," Natung added.

Authorities have launched rescue and clearance operations at the site, while local administration has urged citizens to exercise caution and restrict travel during extreme weather conditions.

Meanwhile, sources said that rescue teams have recovered all seven bodies, but their identities are yet to be established.

The northeastern state has been experiencing incessant rains since Thursday.

Justice Sindhu Sharma inaugurates 2nd National Lok Adalat at District Court Jammu 28 benches settle 81759 cases

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, MAY 31: In Compliance to the directions of Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, 2nd National Lok Adalat was held today here at District Court Jammu under the Chairmanship of Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Pr. District & Sessions Judge, Jammu) Y. P. Bourney and under overall supervision of Secretary DLSA Smriti Sharma.

Justice Sindhu Sharma, Judge High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Administrative Judge for District Jammu inaugurated the 2nd National Lok Adalat 2025 at District Court Complex Janipur Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Justice Sindhu Sharma emphasized the importance of National Lok Adalat in amicable settlement of long pending disputes. "Alternative dispute resolution is a vital tool in the Justice delivery system which ensures speedy and one time settlement of disputes" she said and added that the general masses can take the benefit of Lok Adalats as the award passed by the Lok Adalat Benches attains finality.

Later, Justice Sindhu Sharma also distributed MACT Cheques among the claimants.

A total of 28 benches were constituted in different Courts of the district to deal with the matters of Civil nature, Bank Recovery, Criminal Compoundable, MACT, Matri-



monial, NI Act u/s 138, Revenue Cases, BSNL Cases, Electricity Bills, Other Civil Cases and Others Traffic Challans cases. In all, 84559 cases were taken up, out of which 81759 were settled, recovering an amount of Rs. 10,46,96,873/-.

Motor Accident Claims Tribunal, Jammu also settled cases which included Rajiv Kumar vs United India Insurance Co in which an amount of Rs. 18,85,869/- was awarded in favour of the claimant after settlement. The amount was paid as compensation by the respondent. In another case titled Bimla Rani Vs Oriented Insurance Co. an amount

of Rs. 22,09,181/ was awarded in favour of the claimant after settlement. Three cases were settled by the Ld. Addl. Sessions Judge Anti Corruption Jammu (Addl. MACT Jammu). In a case titled Swarna Devi vs Reliance, an amount of Rs. 15,20,000/- was awarded in favour of the claimant after settlement. The amount was paid as compensation by the respondent. Similarly, in a case titled Mohd Sultan vs IFFCO Tokyo an amount of Rs. 20,00,000/- was awarded in favour of the claimant after settlement. The amount was paid as compensation by the respondent.

Manipur Governor visits flood-affected areas

UNI
IMPHAL, MAY 31

Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Saturday visited various flood-affected areas of Imphal city. He went around different locations on the banks of the Imphal river, assessing its overall condition. The key locations that were visited included Kangla Nongpok Thong, Lairikyengbam Leikai, and Singjamei Bridge.

The Governor was accompanied by the chief secretary, commissioner (home), superintendent of police (Imphal East), and other senior officials.

During the visit, the Governor instructed the officials to monitor the river situation closely and to implement preemptive measures. Directions have been given to deputy commissioners to arrange evacuation and



temporary relief measures for affected people. SDRF and NDRF units have also been alerted.

Meanwhile, in an appeal by the state Information department, it was informed that many houses, offices and institutions have been inundated due to breaches in river-

banks. Similarly, landslides have been reported from many hill districts.

According to the weather forecast issued by the Indian Meteorological Department, Meteorological Centre, Imphal, heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to continue at isolated places till June 1.

Afghan govt issues 575,000 electronic national IDs to citizens in two months

UNI
KABUL, MAY 31

The National Statistics and Information Authority (NSIA) of Afghanistan said nearly 575,000 national electronic identity cards (IDs) have been distributed to Afghan citizens over the past two months, local media Tolonews reported Saturday. According to the NSIA, the services provided included the issuance of 1,978 new paper ID cards and 509 replacement cards, the verification of 2,068 existing documents, and the correction of citizenship information of 3,088 people via the remote portal. In order to ensure timely and equitable services for citizens, electronic ID distribution centers have been extended to remote areas and districts, facilitating easier access to identification for residents.



MI's legacy faces PBKS dream run in IPL Q2

UNI
AHMEDABAD, MAY 31

The stakes couldn't be higher. The lights at Narendra Modi Stadium are ready to blaze, and the roar of over a lakh fans will rise as Punjab Kings and Mumbai Indians lock horns in Q2 encounter for a place in the IPL 2025 final.

But amid the drama and unpredictability that defines T20 cricket, one quiet, clinical force looms large – Jasprit Bumrah. The seasoned MI pacer, with 18 scalps at a stingy economy of 6.36, has been in menacing form and could well be the difference in Sunday night's Qualifier 2.

Mumbai are surging



into this clash on the back of a dominant 20-run win over Gujarat Titans in the Eliminator. With five titles to their name, they are no strangers to pressure – and this current unit, under the leadership of Hardik Pandya, looks locked in.

The batting lineup is humming. Rohit Sharma found rhythm at just the right time, scoring a com-

posed 81 off 50, while Jonny Bairstow, thrust into the spotlight as Will Jacks's replacement, wasted no time – hammering 47 off 22 balls and setting the tone early.

Suryakumar Yadav, meanwhile, continues to defy cricketing logic with 673 runs at a jaw-dropping strike rate of 167.83.

Tilak Varma, Hardik, and Naman Dhir add steel

to the middle order, while Deepak Chahar could come in as the Impact Player to make early inroads with the ball. Bumrah's deadly precision and the left-arm swing of Trent Boult give MI an edge with the new ball, but Mumbai will still be wary of their unsettled fourth bowling option, with Richard Gleeson underwhelming last game.

Punjab, on the other hand, are nursing fresh scars. Their 101 all-out collapse against RCB in Qualifier 1 was a brutal reality check after a consistent season. Now, they must dust themselves off and step into a ground where playoff inexperience and scoreboard pressure can swallow teams whole.

HT-SPORTS

Karun Nair's unbeaten 186 against Lions pushes India Test case

UNI
LONDON, MAY 31

India batter Karun Nair pushed his case for a Test recall against England by scoring 186 not out for India A on day one of the first unofficial Test against England Lions.

The 33-year-old famously scored 303 not out against England in Chennai in 2016, only to be dropped three Tests later after six matches.

Nair, who has played county cricket for Northamptonshire since his last international, has been included in India's squad for the upcoming Test series and dominated a youthful bowling attack in Canterbury.

The right-hander was dropped on 89 and 134, but put on 181 with Sar-



faraz Khan and 177 unbroke-
n with Dhruv Jurel on Friday.

Sarfaraz, a surprise omission from India's Test squad, made 92 and Jurel, who was included, ended the day on 82 not out. Test opener Yashasvi Jaiswal was caught behind off 19-year-old Hampshire seamer Eddie Jack for 24.

The pick of the Lions bowlers was left-arm-er Josh Hull, who made his England debut in the third Test against Sri Lanka last year, the BBC reported.

He had India A skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran lbw for eight and Sarfaraz caught down the leg side.

The four-day match continues on Saturday and

is followed by a second unofficial Test from June 6 in Northampton.

England all-rounder Chris Woakes and new India Test skipper Shubman Gill are in the respective squads for the second match as they prepare for the highly anticipated five-Test series which begins on June 20 at Headingley.

Ecuador names Valencia, Plata in squad for World Cup qualifiers

UNI
QUITO, MAY 31

Brazil-based forwards Enner Valencia and Gonzalo Plata have been included in Ecuador's squad for World Cup qualifiers against Brazil and Peru despite injury concerns, the Ecuadorian football federation said.

Internacional's Valencia has missed the Porto Alegre club's past six games due to a hamstring strain, while Flamengo's Plata has been sidelined since April with a knee injury.

"They are in a complicated situation but they are currently in the process of recovering," Ecuador manager Sebastian Beccacece told reporters on Friday.

The Argentine coach recalled Leonardo Campana and Angelo Preciado, who missed Ecuador's last double header of qualifiers in March with injuries.

As expected, the 28-man squad includes Brighton left-back Pervis Estupinan, Paris Saint-Germain center-back Willian Pacho and Bayer Leverkusen defender Piero Hincapie.

WADA president vows to keep calling out U S anti-doping system flaws

UNI
WARSAW, MAY 31

World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) President Witold Banka vowed to continue speaking out forcefully about what he sees as serious flaws in the American anti-doping system, following his re-election to a third and final term as head of the global watchdog.

Banka, a former Polish sprinter and Minister of Sport and Tourism, along with China's former Winter Olympic champion Yang Yang, was re-elected during a virtual



Foundation Board meeting on Thursday.

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) later, in a social media post, called it the "ultimate 'bait and switch,' first promising governance reforms following the Russian

anti-doping scandal and then quietly changing the rules the second the world looked away."

On Friday, WADA's president responded to USADA's criticism. "I'm not particularly surprised that such words were said

in the USA." Banka told Polish outlet Sportowe Fakty.

"Representatives of this country actually tried to undermine my leadership in WADA and attempted to change the leader. The American government stopped its contribution to WADA, lost a representative on the board of our institution and ultimately also influence on the elections."

"I'll continue to speak boldly about the shortcomings of the American anti-doping system," he added.

Liverpool announces Frimpong signing

UNI
LONDON, MAY 31

Premier League champions Liverpool has announced the signing of Dutch international right back Jeremie Frimpong.

The 24-year-old joins from Bayer Leverkusen for 35 million euros (40 million U.S. dollars) just hours after Real Madrid announced the signing of Trent Alexander-Arnold from Liverpool, with Alexander-Arnold arriving in time for the FIFA Club World Cup at a cost of between 10 and 15 million euros.

Frimpong said on the Liverpool website on Friday that when he learned of

interest from the Premier League champions, he told his agent to "just get this done."

"Liverpool fans, I'm going to give my all, my energy, my work-rate and hopefully we can win together, we celebrate together, get everything together."

"I'm just excited to be here. Thank you guys for accepting me and I won't let you guys down and I'll give you the energy that you guys want," he added.

Frimpong began his career in the Manchester City youth system, before joining Celtic and then moving to Bayer Leverkusen.

AIFF announces amendments to regulations on status & transfer of players

UNI
NEW DELHI, MAY 31

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has announced a set of amendments to its Regulations on the Status and Transfer of Players (RSTP), which will come into effect from June 1.

The reforms focus on enhancing player welfare, supporting women's football and youth football

more effectively, and improving regulatory transparency.

A standout feature of the updated regulations is the increased attention to the rights and well-being of female players. The AIFF has introduced provisions addressing menstrual health, allowing female players to take leave from training during the onset of their menstrual cycle.

Expanded clauses now also cover pregnancy, adoption, and family leave for both players and coaches, aiming to create a more inclusive environment for women in the sport.

The amendments also introduce structural reforms in player transfers and youth development.

New limitations on the number and duration of player loan deals have been set to ensure fairness.

Top players advance as Zheng cruises into French Open last 16

UNI
PARIS, MAY 31

Paris Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen of China advanced to the women's singles Round of 16 at the French Open for the second time, as top seeds continued to shine at Roland Garros.

The eighth seed spent under 90 minutes on Friday to beat 18-year-old Canadian qualifier Victoria Mboko 6-3, 6-4 in their first career meeting, marking her second appearance in the last 16 at Roland Garros after her breakthrough run in

2022.

"I was born in China in a really hot place, which is called Wuhan. So I handled the hot weather quite well," Zheng said in her post-match interview.

"Last year, when I played the Olympic Games, it was hotter than this. So actually I like this condition, but I want to say thanks to all the crowd who suffered here under the sun today with me."

Zheng also praised her young opponent. "I want to say congrats to the opponent because I feel she played really well, and I think we pushed

each other to play our best tennis. And sometimes we had really good points. It was not an easy match."

Top seed Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus also continued her strong showing with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Serbia's Olga Danilovic, advancing into the tournament's fourth round for the third consecutive year. Four-time winner Iga Swiatek of Poland overcame a spirited challenge from Romania's Jaqueline Cristian in straight sets, stretching her tournament's winning streak to 24 matches.

Bopanna-Pavlashek beat local favourites to enter third round

UNI
PARIS, MAY 31

India's Rohan Bopanna and Czech partner Adam Pavlashek showcased resilience and tactical prowess to edge past France's Fabien Reboul and Sadio Doumbia 6-2, 7-6(5) in a gripping second-round men's doubles encounter at the French Open on Court 14.

The Indo-Czech duo dominated the opening set, leveraging their powerful serves and strategic net play to secure a 6-2 lead. Bopanna's experience and Pavlashek's agil-



ity were evident as they broke the French pair's serve twice, capitalising on early opportunities.

However, the Frenchmen, buoyed by the home crowd, mounted a formidable comeback in the second set. Doumbia and Reboul tightened their

service games and applied pressure on returns, leading to a closely contested set that culminated in a tiebreak.

Despite the momentum shift, Bopanna and Pavlashek maintained composure, clinching the tiebreak 7-5 and sealing the

match in straight sets.

Statistically, the match was evenly poised. Bopanna and Pavlashek recorded 8 aces to the French duo's 5 and had a slightly higher first-serve win percentage at 72% compared to 68%.

Both teams converted three break points, but the Indo-Czech pair's ability to win crucial points, especially in the tiebreak, made the difference.

This victory marks a significant step for Bopanna and Pavlashek as they advance to the third round, continuing their quest for a maiden Grand Slam title together.

India women's football team suffer narrow defeat against Uzbekistan

UNI
BENGALURU, MAY 31

India suffered a 0-1 defeat at the hands of Uzbekistan at the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence, in the first of two FIFA International Friendlies here.

After a goalless first half, Diyorakhon Khabibullaeva (56') scored the only goal of the match to hand Uzbekistan the win on Friday night.

Keeping true to his words, India head coach Crispin Chettri introduced some fresh blood into the team, handing out three debuts against a strong Uzbekistan side. Attackers

Manisha Naik and Malavika debuted from the starting XI, while midfielder Priyadharshini came off the bench in the second half for her first cap.

An even start to the match saw India earn a few corners, while goalkeeper Panthoi Chhanu did well to keep the Uzbekistan attackers at bay in the opening exchanges. Panthoi, who marched in as the Blue Tigresses' captain on Friday, did especially well to collect the ball from Nilufar Kudratova in the eighth minute, after the Uzbekistan forward was played through behind the India defence.

As the game wore on,



India began to gain more composure, building their own attacks in the Uzbek third. Soumya Guguloth, on the counter, threaded a pass through to Dangmei Grace, who had raced past the Uzbekistan back

line, and only had the goalkeeper to beat. However, Maftuna Jonimqulova rushed out of her line and snatched the ball from the India forward's feet.

A little after the half-hour mark, Diyorakhon

ran on to an aerial through ball, and had just Panthoi to beat. However, India centre-back Shilky Devi showed good presence of mind to contain the Uzbekistan forward with her physical presence,

allowing Panthoi time to snatch the ball.

With the score level, India coach Chettri brought striker Pyari Xaxa into the game instead of Manisha Naik, thus pushing Grace into midfield. The move seemed to have been working in the initial stages of the second half, as India began to enjoy long bouts of possession in the Uzbekistan half. However, it also left them more susceptible to a counter-attack, which resulted in the deciding goal.

Maftuna Shoyimova, who was freed down the left flank, sent in a pinpoint cross into the India box, as Diyorakhon tapped

it in from close range in the 56th minute, to give her side the lead.

Diyorakhon had a chance to double the lead on the hour mark when she tried to volley another cross, this time from the left, but the forward could not connect with the ball, as Panthoi plucked it out of the air.

India went searching for the equaliser with Pyari being the focal point. Phanjoubam Nir-mala Devi sent in a looping cross from the right, which was headed goalwards by Pyari. However, the header lacked power and rolled wide with around 20 minutes to go.



EID; MARKETS SAY IT ALL : FESTIVE LOOK MISSING FROM THE SCENE

**When Markets Weep and Wallets Run Dry and Poverty Dims the Spirit of Eid-ul-Adha , No Bakra, No New Clothes ,
The Bitter Truth of Eid-ul-Adha in Poor Households and a Deserted Look at Shrinking Festive Spirit: Writes NAWAAB IBN AHAD**



When Markets Weep and Wallets Run Dry and Poverty Dims the Spirit of Eid-ul-Adha, No Bakra, No New Clothes, The Bitter Truth of Eid-ul-Adha in Poor Households and a Deserted Look at Shrinking Festive Spirit.

In the quaint bosoms of Kashmir's villages, where time itself treads softly between walnut trees and cobbled paths, there is a fragrance not of perfumes, but of shared sorrows and quiet resilience. It is here—away from the roaring politics, beyond the glare of news channels—that humanity has quietly preserved its last breath. And yet, as this year's Eid-ul-Adha draws near, the fragrance of festivity is faint, the perfume of joy diluted by poverty's ever-expanding shadow.

not long past, when these very streets shimmered under lanterns, when young children pointed excitedly at colorful bangles, and bakers pulled golden loaves from their tandors with songs on their lips. Today, that warmth is missing. The echoes of joy are replaced by the low hum of worry. The sound of shopping bags rustling has been drowned out by the silence of despair. "When Markets Weep and Wallets Run Dry" is not just a poetic phrase—it is a lived reality this Eid. Whose evil gaze has cast this shadow, once the sanctuary of artisans and the beating heart of commerce? Whose unseen malice dried the springs of its wealth, the perennial flow of income. What unseen affliction has replaced its rhythm of resilience with the silence of survival? Today, the land thirsts—not only for rain, but for economic sustenance. Its pockets once jingled with the melodies of merriment and modest luxury; now they lie deflated, their fabric worn thin, like the seasonal streams that vanish under the heat of indifference.

Village shopkeepers, who once smiled with modest pride as customers gathered in pre-Eid rushes, now sit behind counters gazing into the distance—waiting, hoping, disillusioned. The shelves remain full, but the eyes are empty. The bags are unpacked, the hands unlifted, the pockets unstirred. Villagers who once exchanged Eid greetings along with coins and kindness now shuffle past each other with unspoken heaviness, unable to ask, unable to give. The goats that once paraded through the lanes as symbols of devotion are now scarcely seen. And when they are, they walk not through crowds of excited children, but down lonely paths, watched with tearful longing by many who can no longer afford the rites of sacrifice.

In the tranquil lanes of Kashmir's rustic villages, where morning mist clings gently to deodar leaves and sparrows chorus in symphony with silence, there exists a rhythm—a serene, old-fashioned harmony that modernity has not yet stolen. Here, humanity lives not in skyscrapers or bank accounts, but in the way a neighbor places firewood outside another's door on a wintry night or in the hand that shares a piece of bread with someone whose hearth has gone cold. These are the lands where traditions still breathe through the lattice of simplicity; where culture has not been sacrificed at the altar of consumerism, and where hearts remain softer than the riverbeds of the Lidder in spring.

In these valleys, the village folk continue to nourish the essence of togetherness, holding dear the age-old



customs of sharing grief and joy like grains of harvested rice, bundled and distributed with humility. Eid-ul-Adha, the festival of submission and sacrifice, often painted in hues of celebration and piety, now arrives as a paradox—a dual spectacle of jubilation and sorrow, of roasted lambs on some tables and empty plates on many others.

While the essence of Eid speaks of devotion, offering, and compassion, the scenes unfolding in the heart of Kashmir this year draw a picture steeped in melancholy. Markets that once danced with life—bustling with buyers, brimming with bright fabrics, perfumed with the aroma of spices and sweets—now stand hushed, lonely, and sunken. The bazaars of Valley, all seem to echo with the same dirge: poverty has sewn a veil over festivity. Once the land of abundant exchange, where even outsiders thrived in Kashmir's generous economic fabric, is now retreating inward, gasping for breath in a tightening noose of inflation, joblessness, and unseen sorrow.

Yet, even in this bleakness, a light survives—faint but warm—burning in the hearts of the village people. The committees at the village level, though modest in strength and means, continue to hold the lamp of social duty. These grassroots councils, often unsung and unnoticed, have become the unseen hands that carry food to widow's doors, whisper hope into orphaned hearts, and knock on doors not for votes, but for mutual concern. It is they who raise the cry when someone sleeps hungry, and it is they who remind us that while governance may rest in tall offices, grace lies in the act of remembering one's neighbour.

The teachings of Islam have long proclaimed the sacredness of neighborly compassion. The Prophet Muhammad said, "He is not a believer whose stomach is filled while the neighbor to his side goes hungry." This is no metaphor—it is a mission. Eid is not complete with feasting alone; it is crowned only when the poor-

est among us smile even once. True Qurbani lies not merely in the shedding of an animal's blood, but in the slitting of one's ego, in the sacrifice of selfishness, in the elevation of empathy.

This Eid, for some, is a celebration; for others, it is a wound—open, raw, and silently bleeding. The tears that fall from old eyes are not only for loved ones lost, but for dignity withering under the burden of inflation. These tears, like droplets of dew, glisten on the cheeks of the forgotten, becoming diamonds on the petals of their resilience.

We must awaken to our duties—not just as Muslims, but as human beings woven into a shared fabric of fate.

The wealthiest among us must not forget those whose shoes are torn, whose gas cylinders are empty, whose hearts are full of quiet longing. Charity is not a burden; it is a blessing. The Quran says, "And spend in the way of Allah from what We have provided you before death approaches one of you." Let us not be delayed by convenience. Let our generosity arrive before the despair deepens.

Eid-ul-Adha is not about how grand our feast is—it is about how wide our arms are open. The true spirit of the festival lies in sharing—not just meat, but warmth; not just new clothes, but the assurance of being seen and remembered. Let us not forget those who have lost their jobs, those who sleep in rented rooms with broken roofs, those whose children look at butcher shops with silent yearning. Kashmir needs us—not just its governments, but its people. Let us revive the role of our local committees, empower the youth to lead kindness drives, and ensure no one in our village sleeps in darkness while another house glows in festival lights. Let us knock on doors not with pride, but with concern; let us distribute not only meat, but messages of unity, of remembrance, of brotherhood. In this Eid, let our sacrifices be deeper than rituals. Let us shed not just the blood of animals, but the indifference we've grown accustomed to. Let our hearts expand to include the widow across the road, the shopkeeper who hasn't sold a shirt in weeks, the father who fears his children will wake up on Eid morning and ask: "Isn't today a day of joy?"

Yes, it is a day of joy—for those who make it so for others. In Kashmir, the land of fading chinars and buried laughter, we still have one wealth intact—our shared humanity. Let us cling to it. Let us revive it. Let this Eid be a return to the soul of what Eid means: submission to God, and sacrifice for His creation.

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Justice Sindhu Sharma e-inaugurates 2nd National Lok Adalat at Leh

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, MAY 31: Justice Sindhu Sharma, Judge High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, Ladakh Legal Services Authority, today virtually inaugurated the 2nd National Lok Adalat at the District Court Complex, Leh. Present on the occasion were Manoj Parihar, Member Secretary and Principal District and Sessions Judge Leh, Tsewang Phunstog besides CJM Leh, Phuntsog Angmo, Secretary DLSA/ Special Mobile Magistrate Leh, Senior Prosecuting officers, Legal Aid Defense Counsels, executive members and other members of the bar, panel lawyers, PLVs and litigants. On the occasion, Justice Sindhu Sharma applauded that though Ladakh region is geographically vast and climatically harsh but the people of Ladakh are peace loving which is implied by less litigation in the region. Another reason for fewer litigations in the region is that the people of Ladakh prefer to solve their disputes amicably even today.

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