



'A dream realised after 127 years' June 6 to mark historic day for Kashmir with first direct train set to reach valley



■ HT News Network/KNO

JAMMU, JUN 04: June 6, 2025, is poised to be inscribed in golden letters in the history of Jammu and Kashmir, as the country's most iconic and advanced Katra-Srinagar stretch of the prestigious Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project is set to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the Katra-Srinagar rail section was the most critical component of the ambitious USBRL project, considered a transformative infrastructure initiative aimed at connecting the Kashmir Valley with the rest of India through a robust, all-weather railway network.

The vision to connect the Kashmir Valley with the rest of India through a railway line is rooted in the late 19th century during the reign of Maharaja Pratap Singh. In 1898, he first articulated the vision of a railway line connecting Jammu, the winter capital of the princely state, to Srinagar, the summer capital nestled in the Kashmir Valley. In 1905, he approved the construction of a narrow 762 mm gauge railway via Reasi, which would eventually evolve into the modern USBRL project. By 1905, after years of deliberation, surveys, and consultations with British engineers, Maharaja Pratap Singh approved the construction of a railway line from Jammu to Srinagar.

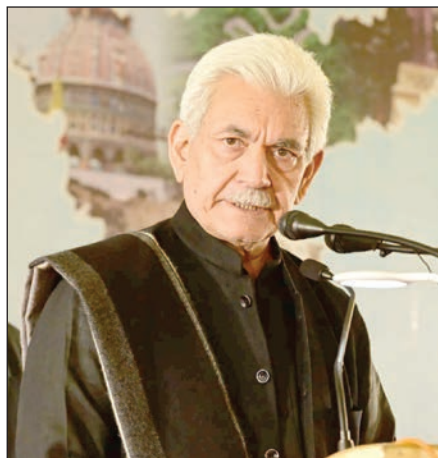
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Historic Kashmir Rail Link to Usher a New Era for J&K: LG Manoj Sinha

Says Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has created an inclusive & vibrant future for Jammu Kashmir: LG Sinha

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUNE 4: The Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today said that Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Connecting Kashmir to Kanyakumari will usher a new era for Jammu Kashmir Union Territory. The Lieutenant Governor said that world's highest Chenab Railway Bridge, a network of 36 tunnels and 943 other bridges for year-round connectivity reflects a rising Kashmir's dreams and commitment of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in shaping Jammu Kashmir Union



Territory's new chapter. "Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has created an inclusive and vibrant future for Jammu Kashmir. Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Jammu Kashmir has witnessed a new dynamism in every sector and inclusive growth has ensured no section of society is left behind. Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision and speedy implementation of development projects on the ground has left a significant imprint on Jammu Kashmir's growth and what earlier seemed impossible has been made possible," the Lieutenant Governor said.

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Vande Bharat Train timetable announced Only 4 stations between Jammu to Srinagar

■ HT News Network/KNO

SRINAGAR, JUN 04: The Ministry of Railways has released the timetable for the newly introduced Vande Bharat Express train services between Jammu Tawi and Srinagar, marking a major milestone in enhancing rail connectivity in Jammu and Kashmir. The semi-high-speed trains will operate with limited halts, stopping only at four key stations along the route—Jammu Tawi, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, Banihal, and Srinagar.

According to the Ministry's notification, a copy of which lies with the news agency—, two pairs of Vande Bharat Express trains have been approved for the route under train numbers 26401/02 and 26403/04. These trains will run six days a week, with each taking one day off for maintenance and operational efficiency. From Srinagar, train number 26402 will depart at 14:00 hrs and reach Jammu Tawi at 18:50 hrs, except on Tuesdays. Another train, 26404, will

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In five years, JK utilizes only 70% of funds for SED: MoE

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUN 04: The Ministry of Education (MoE) that in the past five years Jammu and Kashmir have utilized only 69.90 percent of the total available funds for the School Education Department. The official document available with the news agency—reads that under Cumulative Budget and Expenditure "An analysis of the budget and expenditure over the last five years indicates that in the financial year 2024 -25, the UT has been able to utilise only while the percentage of budget utilisation against the approved outlay stands at only 55.38 percent."

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"8th wonder if they resolve issue of reservation": Sajad Lone on cabinet sub- committee

Terms Congress, PDP demand for KP reservation as political stunt; elected government invisible

■ HT News Network/KNO

Srinagar, Jun 04: Peoples Conference president Sajad Gani Lone on Wednesday said that it would be the eighth wonder of the world if the cabinet sub-committee, constituted by the J&K government to rationalise the existing reservation policy, were to present any concrete suggestions to resolve the issue.



Addressing a news conference here, as per news agency, Lone said

that he doesn't expect government will come up with some concrete solution to the issue. "The question of resolving reservation is beyond the comprehension and intellect—if any exists—of the present government. It would be an eighth wonder of the world if they managed to come up with something (concrete)," he said.

He said the present government

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Srinagar youth dies mysteriously in Delhi, family demands probe

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUN 04: Tragedy struck a Srinagar family after their 30-year-old son, Zubair Ahmed Bhat, died under mysterious circumstances in New Delhi, who have demanded a thorough investigation into his death. Zubair, a resident of Sehgar Ali Kadal in Srinagar's downtown, had travelled to Delhi on May 27 for work-related purposes.

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Dy CM inspects healthcare facilities at GMC, Super Speciality Hospital

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, JUNE 04: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, conducted an extensive inspection of Government Medical College (GMC) and Super Speciality Hospital (SSH) Jammu at late hours to assess the patient care facilities, evaluate ongoing works and ensure effective functioning of other healthcare services for the people of Jammu and surrounding



regions. During the inspection at GMC and Super Speciality Hospital, the Dy CM visited the Cancer Care Unit and Cardiac Care Unit.

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Monsoon Session of Parliament from July 21 to Aug 12

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 4 (UNI) The Monsoon Session of Parliament will be held from July 21 to August 12, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said here on Wednesday. According to sources, a special discussion is likely to be held on Operation Sindoor and the 50th anniversary of the Emergency. Moreover, an impeachment motion is likely to be brought against Justice Yashwant Varma in connection with

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Dr Jitendra Calls For Time Bound Redressal Of Pension Related Grievances

■ HT News Network/PIB

NEW DELHI, Jun 4: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh today



called for a time bound redressal mechanism of Pension related grievances, aligning it with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's broader governance model that places the citizen at the Centre. Speaking at the 13th All India "Pension Adalat" held in New Delhi, Dr.

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MeT predicts pleasant weather on Eid-ul-Adha in J&K No rains expected, heatwave unlikely; maximum temp settles below normal

■ HT News Network/KNO

SRINAGAR, JUN 04: The weatherman here has predicted pleasant weather conditions on Eid-ul-Adha in Jammu and Kashmir, saying the temperature may rise in the next few days. However, there is no possibility of a heatwave. Speaking to the news agency—, Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said there is no forecast of any wet weather for the next five days, including three days of Eid-ul-Adha. "A brief spell of rain at isolated pockets cannot be ruled out," he said, adding that there is no forecast

of any large-scale rainfall during the next five days, adding, "There is no Western Disturbance and no major activity during the Eid days." Moreover, the MeT Director said the maximum temperature would rise in the next few days, but there is no possibility of heatwave conditions till Eid-ul-Adha. Pertinently, light rains continued to lash many areas of Kashmir on Wednesday, settling the temperature below normal across Jammu and Kashmir. In Srinagar, the summer capital, the mercury settled at 23.5 degrees Celsius, which is 3.2 degrees Celsius below normal. Gulmarg, a famous ski resort,

recorded 4.1 degrees Celsius below normal temperatures, while Pahalgam recorded 7.8 degrees Celsius below normal temperatures. Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, recorded 2.2 degrees Celsius below normal while Kupwara and Kokernag saw 4.5 and 3.0 degrees Celsius below normal temperature respectively, the data prepared by the Meteorological department (MeT) said. The Jammu division also recorded below normal temperatures on Wednesday, with the lowest recorded in Banihal at 20.7 degrees Celsius, which was 7.1 degrees Celsius below normal. Jammu saw 5.4 degrees Celsius below normal while

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Population Census-2027 to be conducted in two phases along with enumeration of castes

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 4 (UNI) Population Census-2027 will be conducted in two phases along with enumeration of castes and the reference date will be March one, 2027. For the Union Territory of Ladakh and the non-synchronous snow-bound areas of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the reference date will be October one, 2026. The notification for intent of conducting Population Census with the above reference dates will be published in the official gazette tentatively on June 16 as per provision of section 3 of Census Act 1948. The Census of India is conducted under the provisions of the Census Act, 1948, and the Census Rules, 1990. The last Census was conducted in 2011 in two phases—Phase I—House Listing (HLO) (April one to September 30, 2010) and Phase II Population Enumeration (PE) (February nine to February 28, 2011) with reference date of March one, 2011. Census 2021 was also proposed to be conducted in two phases in a similar manner with phase I during April-September 2020 and second phase in February 2021. All the preparations for the first phase of the Census to be conducted in 2021 were completed and field work was

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Terror Attack Aftermath Not a single person in Pahalgam has earned a penny in weeks, say stakeholders

■ HT News Network/KNO

PAHALGAM, JUN 04 (KNO): Even 43 days after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead, this picturesque town in South Kashmir continues to reel under its impact. According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the terror attack has left the hundreds of people associated with the tourism industry jobless. "Not a single person here has earned a penny in weeks. Some haven't made even 10 rupees in over a month," a local told KNO. Stakeholders—including horsemen, hoteliers, drivers, and shopkeepers—have urged the administration to reopen parks and gardens in the area as the poorest of the poor are bearing the brunt of the prolonged shut-down. The once-bustling tourist destination has been eerily silent following the terror attack at Baisaran Valley, nearly 6 kms from main Pahalgam town. The stakeholders told KNO that the terror attack led to widespread cancellations of travel plans by visitors and the subsequent closure of major tourist attractions like Betaab Valley, Aru Valley, and Chandanwari. "The situation, marked by uncertainty and heightened security, has pushed the region's vital tourism economy to the brink," they

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Sakeena Itoo reviews developmental scenario of Bandipora district Visits GDC Bandipora, takes stock of academic activities

HT News Network

BANDIPORA, JUNE 04: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, on Wednesday chaired an extensive review meeting with Heads of Departments (HODs) and District Officers here to assess the progress on developmental activities across Bandipora district.

MLA Bandipora Nizam Uddin Bhat; DDC Vice-Chairperson Kousar Shafeeq, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Manzoor Ahmad Qadri; Director Social Welfare Kashmir, Director School Education Kashmir, Director Colleges J&K, Mission Director

Poshan J&K, Director Health Services Kashmir, Director Ayush J&K, Director Family Welfare and Immunization J&K, Executive Director Rehabilitation Council J&K, DPOICDS Bandipora, CEO Wullar Manasbal Development Authority, ACR Bandipora and other concerned officers were present on the occasion.

During the meeting, Minister Sakeena emphasized on the need for efficient implementation of government schemes and urged officials to ensure timely delivery of services to the people. She took feedback from sectoral heads and directed departments to collaborate closely to resolve any bottlenecks.

The Minister appreciated the



efforts of the district administration and field officers in implementing welfare measures and assured full support from the government in expediting projects for the benefit

of the public.

During the meeting, key issues like road widening projects on Bandipora-Sumbal and Bandipora-Sopore routes, non-functional lift at

District Hospital Bandipora, and staff shortages in Health and Education department were discussed.

During the meeting, the Minister laid e-foundation of Lift Irrigation Scheme for augmentation of supplies to New Reshi Khul and Dehgam Khul. She also e-inaugurated Composite School at N.M. HSS Kaloosa, Bandipora. Earlier, the Minister accompanied by MLA Bandipora Nizam Uddin Bhat, DDC Vice-Chairperson Kousar Shafeeq, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Manzoor Ahmad Qadri and other dignitaries visited Government Degree College (GDC) Bandipora, where she inspected infrastructure facilities and reviewed the pace of ongoing developmental works.

Principal, GDC Bandipora, Dr. Gazala Firdous welcomed the dignitaries and highlighted the achievements and developments of the institution since its establishment.

MLA Bandipora, Nizam Uddin Bhat expressed gratitude to the Minister for her visit and raised key infrastructural demands, including the need for a separate library block, auditorium, and development of the college playfield. He stressed that world-class infrastructure is essential for students to excel globally.

In her address, the Minister praised the scenic location of the college but noted the poor condition of the approach road, calling it a challenge for both students and staff.

Judicial Academy organises training programme on “Holding and Conducting of Lok Adalats”

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUNE 4: Under the patronage of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), Arun Palli and under the guidance of Chairperson and members of the Governing Committee of J&K Judicial Academy, the Judicial Academy organized a one day training programme on “Holding and Conducting of the Lok Adalats” at its premises in Mominabad, Srinagar.

The programme was aimed to equip the judicial officers with in-depth understanding and operational clarity on the legal framework, structure and challenges associated with organizing Lok Adalats as per the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 and its allied regulations.



The first session was conducted by Former Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court, Mohammad Yaqoob Mir, who elaborated on the historical development of the Lok Adalat system from its roots in traditional dispute resolution methods to

its formal recognition through Article 39A of the Constitution and the Legal Services Authorities Act. He highlighted the benefits of the system in delivering inexpensive, speedy and accessible justice to the marginalized.

The second technical session was led by Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Sonia Gupta and Registrar Vigilance, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Rajiv Gupta. They focused on practical aspects such as constitution of Lok Adalat benches, categorisation of cases, procedural coordination with stakeholders like banks, insurance companies, police and para-legal volunteers. They also addressed the drafting and passing of awards and common hurdles in executing compromise settlements especially in cheque bounce cases under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act.

The training programme was marked by candid exchanges where the participants shared real-world experiences, discussed execution challenges post-award and explored the scope and limitations of Lok Adalat jurisdiction.

Traffic Police Sets Up Media Cell to Improve Public Outreach Ahead of Eid: SSP Srinagar

HT News Network

Srinagar June 04 (KNS): SSP Traffic Srinagar, Aijaz Ahmad (IPS), has announced the creation of a dedicated Media Cell to strengthen communication with the public and media regarding traffic updates, particularly during the Eid rush. Speaking to reporters, SSP Aijaz Ahmad said the initiative aims to ensure timely dissemination of traffic-related information. “We want our message to reach people quickly through both electronic and print media. This platform will help us highlight issues and receive valuable feedback,” he stated. According to KNS, the SSP emphasized that Bakra Eid presents additional challenges compared to Eid-ul-Fitr, mainly due to the buying and selling of sacrificial animals, especially in areas like Eidgah. “This creates significant traffic congestion. To manage this, we’ve deployed extra resources and activated our monitoring cell,” he said. He urged citizens to cooperate with the traffic department, noting that all available personnel and vehicles are being used to manage the festive rush. “We expect traffic pressure to remain high till Eid, but it is under control with proper coordination,” he added.

GCOE Srinagar organizes annual College Road Race-2025 for Men & Women

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUNE 04: Department of Physical Education of Government College of Education (GCOE) M. A. Road, Srinagar organised the annual college road race for men and women category from SKICC to Nishat Garden here on Wednesday.

The event organized under the leadership of Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz witnessed participation of around 60 athletes (Men/Women) across different programmes. The race was flagged-off by the Convenor, College Sports Committee, Dr. Mohammad Yasin Pir in presence of other members from Sports Committee. The closing ceremony for the event was conducted at Nishat, Srinagar during which the trophies and medals were distributed among the winners by the Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz. In her address to the athletes, Dr. Naz highlighted the importance of games and sports in the day to day life and encouraged students to participate in all future events also. She also congratulated and appreciated the efforts of the Physical Education Department for the successful conduct of the event. Later an award ceremony was conducted during which Hashim Nabi, UG/6th; Hyder Ali Mir, UG/2nd and M Junaid Dar, UG/2nd were adjudged winners in Mens Category Asma of B.Ed/3rd; Sehla Jan, UG/4th and Aabirah Amin, UG/4th were declared winners in women category.

Kashmir Trade Alliance Decries J&K Bank Deductions from Business Accounts

HT News Network

Srinagar, June 4 (KNS): The Kashmir Trade Alliance (KTA) has expressed serious concern over the deduction of audit and inspection charges from the accounts of business owners by J&K Bank, terming the move arbitrary and lacking transparency. In a statement issued by KTA President Aijaz Shahdhar, the alliance said it had taken up the matter with the bank’s management after receiving complaints from several traders. The bank authorities, according to Shahdhar, stated that the charges were being levied based on recommendations from statutory auditors. Additionally, fees were being imposed for non-submission of monthly and quarterly stock statements, as well as for physical inspections.

Delegations call on Satish Sharma; raises development, service issues

HT News Network/KNO

SRINAGAR, JUNE 4: In a series of meetings held today, Minister for FCS&CA, IT, Transport, Youth Service and Sports, Satish Sharma, today met various deputations and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), who presented a range of issues pertaining to job regularization, infrastructural development and transport concerns.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to all the delegations and assured timely redressal of their grievances.

A deputation comprising Rehbar-e-Khel employees met the Minister to press for early regularization of their services. They emphasized that the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) must be convened at the earliest to fill the vacant posts, which would pave the way for their absorption into the regular cadre.

Another delegation from the Handicrafts and Handloom departments called on the Minister to discuss their deputation arrangements and the ongoing process of departmental merger. The members sought clarity



on the modalities and operational framework for the proposed merger and stressed on safeguarding the interests of employees during the restructuring.

A deputation from Tulmulla area demanded creation of sports infrastructure in the region. They also raised various other local issues impacting the youth engagement and community development.

MLA Gurez, Nazir Ahmad Khan, called on the Minister and raised several constituency-specific issues, particularly the lack of adequate transport facilities in the remote and difficult terrain. He urged the Minister to prioritize the improvement of road connectivity and public transport services.

Commissioner SMC holds comprehensive review for Muharram-ul-Haram arrangements

HT News Network

JAMMU, JUNE 04: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, conducted an extensive inspection of Government Medical College (GMC) and Super Speciality Hospital (SSH) Jammu at late hours to assess the patient care facilities, evaluate ongoing works and ensure effective functioning of other healthcare services for the people of Jammu and surrounding regions.

During the inspection at GMC and Super Speciality Hospital, the Dy CM visited the Cancer Care Unit and Cardiac Care Unit. He had comprehensive review of the infrastructure, equipment, patient care services and cleanliness standards being maintained at the facility.

He also interacted with the patients to gain first-hand insights of the care being provided to them.

Interacting with the hospital administration, the Dy CM advised

them to facilitate the public so that they can take due benefits of these advanced healthcare facilities. He asked them to notify the rates of all the diagnostic tests for the ease of patients and attendants. He asked the officers to work in synergy and ensure that every effort is made to provide affordable, accessible and high-quality healthcare facilities to all sections of the society.

The Dy CM also underscored the need of maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in healthcare facilities. “Adopt stringent measures to maintain a sanitized environment in the health institutions,” he asserted.

While appreciating the efforts of the hospital administration in providing quality healthcare facilities. The Dy CM also underscored the need of maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in healthcare facilities. “Adopt stringent measures to maintain a sanitized environment in the health institutions,” he asserted.

Scholarship to ST students to be disbursed on schedule: Director Tribal Affairs More than 30,000 applications received for 2024-25

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUNE 04: In line with its vision and enduring commitment for welfare of tribals, the Directorate of Tribal Affairs on Wednesday said that it has geared itself to ensure sectoral development through efficient implementation of scholarship schemes meant for tribal students. Director Tribal Affairs said that there will be no delay in disbursement of scholarships among the genuine ST students and slew of measures have been undertaken to reduce the release time of scholarship. He informed that due to extensive outreach and publicity, more than 30,000 applications have been received under both the schemes for 2024-25, which is more than 120% of the applica-

tions received in the previous academic year 2023-24.

He said that the verification and course wise grouping process has been completed involving around 670 universities, colleges and schools. He added that genuine students will receive their scholarship through the DBT mode as per the procedural guidelines of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.

The process is being undertaken on a war footing basis and as soon as course master vetting takes place by the Ministry for Tribal Affairs, the further process with regard to the disbursement of scholarships among the eligible students will start immediately, he added.

The Director further said that the department is working to streamline the application and disbursement processes, enhance

transparency and strengthen the monitoring mechanisms to guarantee timely delivery of scholarships. “This move reflects the government’s continued commitment towards promoting the educational equity and empowerment among the tribal communities,” he added.

Referring to certain social media reports about the alleged delay in disbursement of scholarships among the ST students, he refuted the claim saying that the process is in its final stages.

“The department is committed to ensure that scholarship amounts are disbursed in a transparent manner and to the rightful beneficiaries.

The concerned officers have been directed to make sure that every eligible student receives their scholarship benefits without delay,” he said. He further maintained that

Tribal Affairs Minister, Javed Ahmed Rana has issued strict directives to all the concerned to ensure that every eligible Scheduled Tribe (ST) student is able to access and benefit from the scholarship schemes available to them. He further said that Javed Rana had emphasized that no deserving student should be deprived of educational opportunities due to delays, administrative lapses or lack of awareness. He further maintained that Tribal Affairs Minister, Javed Ahmed Rana has issued strict directives to all the concerned to ensure that every eligible Scheduled Tribe (ST) student is able to access and benefit from the scholarship schemes available to them. He further said that Javed Rana had emphasized that no deserving student should be deprived of educational opportunities due to delays.



EDITORIAL

Implement Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojna without further delay

Like other parts of the country the Viksit Krishi Sampark Abhiyan (VKSA) is going on at full throttle in the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. As part of the Abhiyan the department of agriculture is organizing different programmes so as to make the farmers abreast with the latest technologies. Information about the advancements taking place in the field of agriculture is also being imparted to the people engaged in agriculture and allied fields.

Under the VKSA farmers are also made aware about the seeds that have to be used so as to increase their production. The Abhiyan has been welcomed by the farmers and they believe that such programmes will help a lot in increasing the production. At the same time it is important that the department of agriculture takes steps in ensuring that the farmers face minimal losses as and when something unfortunate takes place.

For the reasons best known to the people at helm the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojna (PMF-BY) has not been implemented in Jammu & Kashmir. Despite repeated pleas by the farmers, their associations and some of the politicians no headway whatsoever has been made to implement PMFBY. The concerned officers are sitting over the proposal and due to this lackadaisical attitude the people associated with the agriculture sector have been pushed to the wall. Their grievances have fallen on deaf ears so far and unfortunately the people at helm are ignoring them time and again.

Once the abrogation of Article 370 took place in August 2019 it was expected that all the central laws will be implemented in Jammu & Kashmir. This gave hope to the people associated with the agriculture and horticulture sectors that they will be covered under the PMFBY. More than five and half years down the line there is no progress on this front and the insurance scheme is yet to be implemented in the union territory. This has virtually dashed the hopes of concerned people and they are at a loss as to how to cope with the situation. Over the years it has been observed that unseasonal rains, hailstorm and snowfall have led to widespread damages to the crops both in the Kashmir and Jammu divisions of the union territory. Despite this pressing situation the department of agriculture has failed to implement the PMFBY in Jammu & Kashmir. One fails to understand what is stopping the concerned department in the implementation of this revolutionary scheme in the union territory.

When will man learn the lesson of nature?



Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

While the COVID-19 lockdown shook the world economy five years ago, it also brought relief to the environment. The decline in air pollution, greenhouse gases and industrial emissions proved that it is possible to improve nature. Rivers became clean, skies appeared blue, and the air became pure. This article points to nature's warning through the pandemic and the path to sustainable development for the future. This is also the time to be alert.

This period of stagnation in global economic activities is certainly worrisome, but its unexpected positive impact on the environment is both a warning and a lesson for the world. When man stopped his activities, even if unknowingly, nature started breathing freely. In the last few months, transparency returned in the flow of rivers, an unprecedented decrease in air pollution was seen and the sky became blue again. Seeing all this, it seems as if nature is calling out - "O human! Now be careful, read my pain!"

■ Earth breathing in lockdown

The lockdown imposed due to Covid-19 five years ago halted human activities. Industrial emissions, vehicle smoke and unnecessary travel all came to a halt. As a result, the levels of gases like carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide in the atmosphere decreased, leading to improved air quality in major cities around the world. Research shows that global carbon emissions recorded a record reduction of 5% in the year 2020. This shows that the roots of air pollution are hidden in our lifestyle.

The water in rivers like Ganga and Yamuna appeared cleaner than ever before. It became possible to see the snow-clad peaks of the Himalayas from the plains of North India. All this happened because man learned to 'pause' for once. It was a pause in which the earth got rest and the environment got relief.

■ Can this be permanent?

The lockdown five years ago was an emergency, not a solution. But it did make us realise that pollution and ecological degradation are man-made and can be reduced—if there is political will and civic resolve. But alas, as the lockdown was lifted, everything went back to normal. Pollution returned, rivers turned black again, factory smoke covered the sky again. Hawking's warning and today's reality. The great physicist Stephen Hawking had warned that if man did not change his lifestyle and behavior towards the environment, he would have to leave Earth and take refuge in some other planet. According to him, the remaining life of the Earth is only 200 to 500 years. He used to predict that either the collision of a comet, or the radiation of the sun, or an epidemic would wipe out life from the Earth. An epidemic like Covid-19 turns his statement into an even more horrifying reality.

■ There is still time—the path to change

We have to accept that now there is a need to change the definition of development. 'Economic growth' is incomplete unless it touches ecological sustainability. We have to move beyond 'smart growth' and think in the direction of 'green growth'. Adopting a low carbon lifestyle is no longer an option, it has become a necessity. That is, a lifestyle that is in harmony with nature - for example, cycling, using

public transport, giving preference to local products, saving energy and moderation in consumption.

■ Changes are needed in transport and industry

It is time for India and the world to make their industry and transport systems environment-friendly. We have to move towards solar, wind and other green energy sources while reducing our dependence on fossil fuels. Increasing the use of electric technology in vehicles, making railways and public transport

danger.

The greatest need today is that we make policies by combining science, technology and traditional knowledge that make sustainable development possible. There should be climate education in schools, green employment opportunities in villages, clean transport and clean energy arrangements in cities.

■ In the end – not man vs nature, man + nature

This conflict should not be "man vs nature". This



accessible and clean should be our priority.

This change will not only reduce pollution but also reduce the pressure on health services. Air pollution causes around 7 million deaths worldwide every year. This figure shows the severity of the climate crisis.

Immediate and long-term steps needed

We need to take immediate policy decisions to reduce short-lived climate pollutants such as black carbon, methane, hydrofluorocarbons, tropospheric ozone. These gases have an immediate impact on the climate and are comparatively easy to control.

India should launch a national public awareness campaign that takes issues like climate change, pollution, water and energy conservation from school-colleges to the panchayat level. Because if we do not understand the environment, crises like Covid-19 will become common.

■ Five years ago, Covid-19 was a signal, an opportunity

The Corona crisis taught us a lot—how to live life with less resources, how to work from home, how to limit needs. It was a 'natural discipline' that forced us to think about our over-consumerism.

Now we need to incorporate the lessons from this crisis into our future policies and lifestyle. This is an opportunity—a 'reset button'. Nature has warned us, now we have to respond.

The Earth's call and our responsibility. Our Earth is not just a planet, it is our home. We have called it mother, but have behaved like consumers. Now is the time that instead of just chanting 'Dharti Mata Ki Jai', we should stand up in defence of Mother Earth. We have to save the forests, rivers, mountains, animals and birds and the entire biodiversity system.

"The earth seems empty, the sky has lost its patience! Now wake up, human, read the pain of nature!"

■ The way forward: partnering with nature

Climate change is not just an environmental issue, it is also a social, economic and political challenge. If we ignore the environment, sectors such as agriculture, health, employment, and food security will also be in

partnership should be "man + nature". Nature is not to be conquered, but to be understood and cherished. Covid-19 has brought this truth before us. Now it is up to us whether we accept this truth or continue moving blindly towards destruction.

➤ **While the COVID-19 lockdown shook the world economy five years ago, it also brought relief to the environment. The decline in air pollution, greenhouse gases and industrial emissions proved that it is possible to improve nature. Rivers became clean, skies appeared blue, and the air became pure. This article points to nature's warning through the pandemic and the path to sustainable development for the future. This is also the time to be alert.**

Dr Satyawan Saurabh is Poet, Columnist and Radio, TV Panelist hailing from Barwa Bhiwani. He is the Regular contributor to Headlines Today

HT / WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

The Illusion of Online Learning :An Escalating Threat to School Attendance



JAVAIID BHAT

In the digital age, education has undergone a significant transformation, with online learning emerging as a powerful tool. While it offered a lifeline during the COVID-19 pandemic, it has inadvertently planted the seeds of a troubling trend—absenteeism under the guise of online study.

Many students now exploit the concept of online learning to justify their absence from physical classrooms. Armed with smartphones and internet access, they claim to be attending online classes or studying from home, while in reality, they are often disengaged from any meaningful academic activity. This misuse has deeply affected the culture of regular attendance in schools, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas.

Teachers report a decline in classroom strength, with a noticeable gap between enrolled and present students. Parents, too, sometimes unknowingly support



this trend, assuming that their children are studying sincerely at home. In truth, the lack of supervision and the distractions of social media, gaming, and entertainment often render these online study hours unproductive.

The consequences are dire. Not only is the academic performance of students declining, but their social skills, discipline, and personal development—essential aspects nurtured in the school environment—are also suffering. The classroom is not just a place for academic instruction; it is a hub of holistic growth that cannot be replaced by virtual learning alone.

Parents should never allow students to stay at home under the guise of attending online classes, as it often leads to academic negligence and loss of discipline. They

must understand that regular school attendance is crucial not only for academic success but also for building social skills, responsibility, and a strong work ethic. Encouraging physical attendance ensures that students remain focused, guided, and involved in a more holistic educational experience.

To combat this growing menace, schools need to strengthen attendance monitoring mechanisms and engage with parents more actively. Awareness campaigns must be launched to highlight the importance of regular attendance and the limitations of unregulated online learning. Additionally, the education system should focus on blended learning models that complement physical classes rather than replace them.

While online education is a valuable supplement, it must not become an excuse for absenteeism. A balanced, accountable, and well-monitored educational environment is the need of the hour to ensure that students do not fall through the cracks in the name of digital learning.

➤ **Parents should never allow students to stay at home under the guise of attending online classes, as it often leads to academic negligence and loss of discipline. They must understand that regular school attendance is crucial not only for academic success but also for building social skills, responsibility, and a strong work ethic. Encouraging physical attendance ensures that students remain focused, guided, and involved in a more holistic educational experience.**

Javaid Bhat is Teacher by profession and a regular contributor to Headlines Today. He can be reached at ... his mail idd javaidultan6@gmail.com

World Environment Day At A Glance

By Tanvir Yousuf

World Environment Day, established by the United Nations (UN) at the first Conference on the Human Environment in 1972, is designated each year on June 5 to forge a basic common outlook on how to address the challenge of preserving and enhancing the human environment. World Environment Day is one of the principal vehicles through which the UN stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action, and it is now the most renowned day for environmental action with more than 143 countries joining. Environment means anything surrounds us. It can be living (biotic) like animals, plants, micro-organisms and non living (abiotic) like air, water, sunlight. It is the environment where different interactions occur between animals, plants, soil, water which makes life to live. God has bestowed our environment with biodiversity with ample resources some resources are renewable and some are nonrenewable. Renewable recycles naturally but we should take care of nonrenewable which otherwise will limit our living. We have water resources/lakes/ponds. We have ozone in our stratosphere. There are countless things in purest form for us in our environment, but we are always doing things against nature. We are irritating nature and by Newton's third law of motion every action has equal and opposite reaction. Nature reacts in its own ways and we have to face its reactions as challenges like global warming which is due to excess release of greenhouse gases like Carbon dioxide. We witness nowadays Kashmir touching 38 degree, we witness undo evening winds, we disturb water cycle, Carbon dioxide cycle, nitrogen cycles. We have to face air pollution, toxicants in air, water pollution. We feel ashamed to carry a cloth bag to market and prefer to use one-time polythene bags. We use huge quantity of plastics during our marriage ceremonies to ease our work. We forgot we are taking and intoxicating ourselves with microplastics chief cause of inflammation, oxidative stress and chronic obstructive lung diseases. By using plastics we are prone to more cancers.

We should develop but not at the cost of our environment. We should choose sustainable development. We should be environment friendly. Otherwise days are not far off where wars will be for water, pure air, etc. It should not be like we will again get reminder on next 5th June 2026 to celebrate it again. We should take today's oath to reconnect with nature, feel the nature. We have to adopt a sustainable approach, we will switch to organic food and above all will make team efforts to save our environment and encourage others to understand threats to our survival.

We should follow the path of our elders who never celebrate these days but work practically for it. I often heard from my grandparents saying... safayee nisfiman hai, aun posh tul yeli youn poshi... a quote of great Kashmiri sufi saint Nund Resh... my grandfathers often recites. They were actually sensitising us to be environment friendly. Environment is our life and to save my life I have to go to any extent.

Tanvir Yousuf is a Teacher hails from Bandipora, A regular contributor to Headlines Today





The Life & Legacy Of Hazrat Shah-I-Hamdan (RA) Who Planted Islam; Roots in Kashmir

The 14th-century Persian mystic transformed the valley through spirituality, architecture and a legacy that still stands after 650 years



Rayees Ahmad Kumar

Hazrat Amir Kabir Mir Syed Ali Hamdani (RA), often referred to as the founder of Islam in Kashmir, came to the valley with a large group of comrades of Sayyids who were all Amirs. Since he was their leader, he is known as Amir-i-Kabir.

Hazrat Shah-i-Hamdan was born on the 21st of October, 1314 AD, into a noble and pious family. Both his parents, Syed Shahabuddin and Syeda Fatima, were direct descendants of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW). His father was an administrator of Hamdan, and his maternal uncle, Syed Alluddin Simnani, took responsibility for his upbringing. Under his guidance, Shah-i-Hamdan learned and memorised the Holy Quran.

An eminent scholar and Sufi of the time, Sheikh Sharfuddin Mazdaqani, initiated him into the Kubrawi order. He became his Murshid (preceptor) and was involved in his religious, educational, and spiritual upbringing.

A brutal Tatar, Zulchu, invaded Kashmir in the early 14th century AD. He and his companions created havoc for eight months, bringing death, destruction, and misery to the people. Only eleven families survived in the city. After his departure in 1320 AD, a Buddhist from Ladakh, Rinchan Shah, became the king of Kashmir. During his reign, Syed Sharfuddin Abdul Rehman Suharwardi (RA), also known as Bulbul Shah from Turkistan, came to Kashmir. It was through him that Rinchan

Shah accepted Islam and was renamed Sadrudin.

Before arriving in Kashmir, Shah-i-Hamdan sent his two followers/cousins, Syed Tajuddin Simnani and Mir Syed Husain Simnani, to the valley to assess the situation.

Shah-i-Hamdan made three visits to the valley. His first visit was in 1372, when the

would offer prayers there; later, the foundation of the Khanqah was laid at that spot. On this visit, Shah-i-Hamdan stayed for thirty months in the valley, travelling across its length and breadth to propagate the true teachings of Islam along with his companions.

His third visit to Kashmir is recorded in 1384 AD, during



ruling king, Sultan Shahabuddin, had gone on an expedition to Attock. The companions of Shah-i-Hamdan, who were fewer than a hundred in number, were received by Sultan Qutubuddin, who later became his disciple. He stayed for six months, after which he left for Makkah.

During his second visit in 1380, he was accompanied by 700 Sayyids who were warmly welcomed by Sultan Qutubuddin. This large group settled on the banks of the river Jhelum near the present-day Khanqah-e-Moula of Srinagar. At that time, the place was called Allaudin Pora. Shah-i-Hamdan and his disciples

which he fell ill after spending less than a year and then left. Shah-i-Hamdan and his party left Kashmir for Turkistan via Ladakh. They stayed at Shey village of Leh, constructed a mosque there for worship, making it the first Muslim site of worship in Ladakh. Traveling through the town of Pakhli, the party arrived at Kunnar. Its king, Khazar Shah, pleaded with him to stay for a few days as a royal guest. However, due to illness, his soul departed for the heavenly abode on the 19th of January, 1385 AD. Due to harsh winter weather, his body was buried at Swat, but in accordance with his wish, he was later laid to rest at Koulab

➤ **Hazrat Shah-i-Hamdan was born on the 21st of October, 1314 AD, into a noble and pious family. Both his parents, Syed Shahabuddin and Syeda Fatima, were direct descendants of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW). His father was an administrator of Hamdan, and his maternal uncle, Syed Alluddin Simnani, took responsibility for his upbringing. Under his guidance, Shah-i-Hamdan learned and memorised the Holy Quran.**

on the 4th of July, 1385. His entire family is buried there.

Wherever Shah-i-Hamdan (RA) went, he left his imprints in the form of mosques and Khanqahs. Such Khanqahs were built in different parts of the valley during his visits. These constructions were undertaken under the direction of his beloved son, Mir Mohammad Hamdani (RA). These include Khanqah Faizpanah Tral, Khanqah-i-Amirya Pampore, Khanqah-i-Walla Wachi, Khanqah-i-Amirya Monghama, and the Khanqah of Shey Ladakh near Leh. However, the largest and most important one is the Khanqah-e-Moula of Srinagar.

Khanqah-e-Moula is the most revered—not only as a place of worship but also as a representation of more than six hundred years of our heritage. The architecture of the Khanqah is distinctively Central Asian, with wood, sculpted stones, and small bricks used as building materials. The foundation and the stone plinth of the Khanqah were laid by Shah-i-Hamdan himself, while the task of building was undertaken by his beloved son, Mir Mohammad Hamdani, when he visited the valley in the 8th century AH during the reign of Sultan Sikandar. Its construction began in 1396 AD and was completed in 1399. The cooperation and generosity of Sultan Sikandar and Seh Butt were instrumental in the timely completion of the grand project.

Mir Mohammad Hamdani (RA) came to Kashmir to continue the mission initiated by his pious father. The generosity and cooperation of the reigning king, Sultan Sikandar, helped him to extend a network of Khanqahs and mosques in every corner of the valley.

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The Inner Voice: Whispers of a Soul and the Rise of a Blooming Bud



By Aubaid Akhoo
akhoo.aubaid@gmail.com

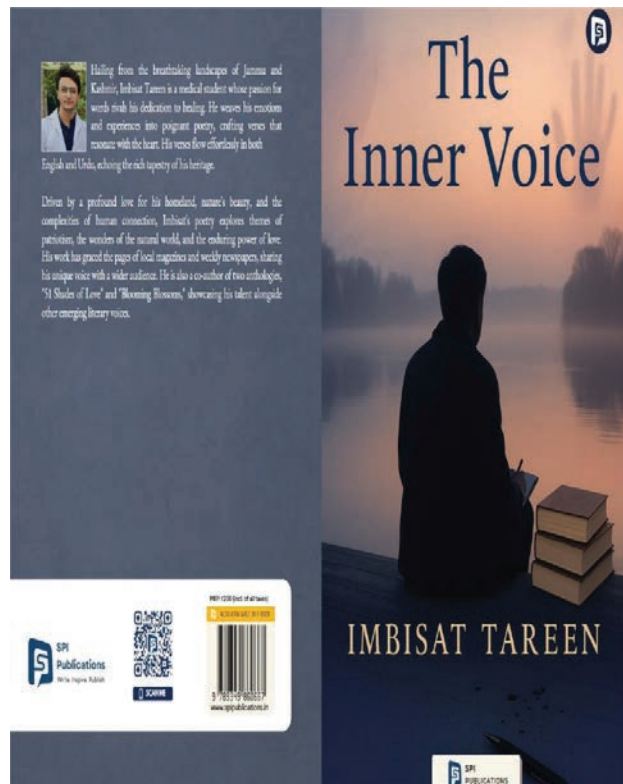
There are voices we hear in crowded streets, and there are voices that echo only in the silence of our hearts. Some words are written with ink, and some are bled onto paper by the soul itself. It is these unspoken words, these unheard whispers, that find a home in Imbisat Tareen's heartfelt collection — The Inner Voice.

In the realm of contemporary literature, where verbosity often overshadows sincerity, The Inner Voice emerges as a work of rare tenderness and emotional honesty. Penned by a young poet hailing from the picturesque valleys of Jammu and Kashmir, this book does not shout for attention. It softly sings, it weeps, it questions, and it quietly embraces its readers.

But for me, this book holds a meaning far deeper than its poetic grace — for Imbisat Tareen was once a blooming bud in my classroom. To watch him now blossom into a published poet is a joy known only to those privileged enough to witness a student's flight into his destined sky.

A Tapestry of Tender Emotions

The Inner Voice is a poetic memoir of the soul. Through a series of heartfelt poems and reflections, Imbisat journeys through the alleyways of love, longing, loss, hope, and resilience. Poems like Parents, In a Cage, Tears and Love, Snowfall in Summer, and The Diamond in the Dark Night paint vivid portraits of human emotions — the kind that dwell within all of us, yet rarely find words.



What makes this book unique is its unpolished sincerity. Imbisat neither seeks to impress with grandiloquent phrases nor hides behind complex metaphors. His verses are raw, simple, and drenched in emotion. It is poetry written not to decorate the page, but to soothe the heart.

Kashmir: The Unspoken Metaphor

Through much of the book, nature becomes both a companion and a metaphor. Rivers, snow, flowers, and cages make frequent appearances — subtly hinting at the quiet unrest of Kashmir without politicising it. The reader is left to sense the silence between words, to decipher the cry behind the beauty.

The poet's homeland breathes through his verses. The snow-laden meadows, the distant mountains, the scent of lost springs — each image delicately mirrors not only Imbisat's personal memories but also a collective longing for peace and belonging.

A Fortunate Bond: From Student to Poet

As a teacher, there is no greater reward than seeing one's student thrive. And when that student pens words capable of touching souls, the joy multiplies. Imbisat Tareen's evolution from a humble learner to a published poet is a chapter I hold dear. I recall the spark in his eyes, his quiet observations, and now, to see them immortalized in print, is a blessing.

I have always believed that poetry is the art of bleeding gracefully. And The Inner Voice stands testament to that belief. It is a book that demands no applause but deserves to be read in silence — under the shade of an old tree, on a cold winter night, or in a moment of solitude.

Why This Book Matters

In a time where much of modern writing tends to chase trends and formulas, The Inner Voice offers readers something precious — authenticity. It reminds us of the strength in vulnerability, the beauty in simple words, and the timelessness of heartfelt poetry.

It is not just a book but a companion for those lost in the labyrinth of their own inner voices. And for me, it is a reminder that sometimes, the quietest students become the most profound writers.

Bottomline

I heartily recommend The Inner Voice to all lovers of poetry, seekers of emotional depth, and those who value sincerity in literature. May Imbisat Tareen continue to bloom, and may his words travel beyond valleys, beyond borders, straight into the hearts they are meant for.

With warm regards and thoughtful wishes,

Aubaid Ahmad Akhoo
Columnist | Motivational Speaker
Associate Editor, Education Quill
Manager Operations, Genagogy
(Gen Alpha Pedagogy)
In association with Technoglobe Jaipur A Renowned IT Training Institute

Measures to Be Taken on World Environment Day – 5th June 2025



Sahil Manzoor

Development is essential for every nation. While some countries are already economically strong and provide abundant employment opportunities through beneficial schemes, others are progressing steadily. In the near future, many more nations may join the ranks of developing or developed countries. Today, with powerful and effective communication tools at our fingertips, business ideas can be exchanged seamlessly across the globe. Most trade-related dealings now occur virtually—through emails, messaging platforms, video conferencing, and more. For national progress, infrastructure development—roads, transportation networks, trade systems, and commerce—is vital. However, it is equally important to manage urban growth responsibly, with a clear focus on environmental sustainability.

Governments across the world have established dedicated bodies to address environmental concerns. These agencies issue regular guidelines to safeguard natural resources and promote ecological balance. However, development should not be confined to the construction of skyscrapers, tunnels, highways, railways, and dams. True development lies in sustainable planning, effective governance, and coordination among different agencies—all while prioritizing the environment. A committed and well-informed government workforce plays a pivotal role



in addressing public concerns and ensuring the delivery of basic services. In this context, planting trees in cities and densely populated business hubs becomes especially important. These areas, with heavy traffic and intense human activity, are major contributors to pollution.

As urban demands rise, vehicular traffic increases, severely polluting the environment. Likewise, industrial activities release harmful pollutants into the air, water, and soil. While it's impractical to halt urbanization and industrial growth, we can adopt measures to minimize their environmental impact. One of the most effective solutions is tree plantation—a simple yet powerful tool to combat ecological degradation.

Why the Environment Matters

The environment is an indispensable part of our lives. It encompasses everything around us—plants, animals, birds, air, water, and soil. Recognizing its value is the first step toward protecting it. Unfortunately, development projects such as road widening, bridge construction, and factory expansion

often come at the cost of environmental degradation. For instance, cutting down trees can lead to soil erosion, which not only reduces soil fertility but also increases the risk of floods and landslides.

Maintaining Temperatures in Cities

Cities, being economic centers, often experience elevated temperatures due to the urban heat island effect—a phenomenon where cities become significantly warmer than surrounding rural areas. This is primarily caused by greenhouse gases emitted from vehicles and industries, which trap heat in the atmosphere. Managing cities sustainably is now a critical responsibility. This involves maintaining clean air, preserving water bodies, building efficient drainage systems, and ensuring the safe disposal of waste from households, hospitals, and commercial centers.

Tree Plantation – A Natural Solution

Tree plantation is one of the most natural and effective strategies for reducing urban heat and improving environmental health. Trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen, regulate temperatures, improve air quality, and reduce noise pollution. Moreover, green spaces have been shown to improve mental health and well-being among city dwellers.

➤ **Planting trees not only beautifies urban landscapes but also serves as a long-term investment in public health, ecological balance, and climate resilience. On this World Environment Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to sustainable development by adopting eco-friendly practices, promoting green infrastructure, and above all, planting more trees for a greener, healthier planet.**

Sahil Manzoor
sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com



MP Agha Ruhullah chairs DISHA meeting in Pulwama

Reviews progress of CSSs; emphasizes saturation across all schemes with focus on purpose & outcome

HT News Network

PULWAMA, JUNE 04: A high-level meeting of the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) was convened today here to review the implementation and progress of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) in the district. The meeting was presided over by Member of Parliament, Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency, Agha Syed Ruhullah Mehdi. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom underlined administration's focus on transparency, efficiency, and ensuring that the benefits of government initiatives reach every eligible beneficiary. At the outset, Joint Director Planning

Pulwama gave a detailed presentation on the district profile and highlighted achievements under major schemes implemented by departments such as Rural Development, R&B, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, NRLM, Urban Livelihood Mission, Handicrafts & Handlooms, Social Welfare, Education, Health, PHE, Power, CA&PD, and Labour & Employment. The meeting was apprised of scheme-wise progress and achievements in MGNREGA, PMAY-G, PMAY-U, SBM-G, SBM-U, RGSA, PMGSY, CRF, Capex & CSS funding, Jal Jeevan Mission, PMSVANidhi, and AMRUT, among others. Updates on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) and statistics related to the JK Samadhan Grievance Portal were also shared.



Additionally, the meeting was apprised about the restoration pro-

gramme for the revival and restoration of various heritage sites across the district. Appreciating the overall progress made by the district administration, the MP emphasized that the true objective of every government scheme is to serve the people, and maximum public benefit must be ensured through efficient implementation. He directed for achieving saturation under all schemes especially Jal Jeevan Mission so that every household has access to clean and safe drinking water. Highlighting the importance of sustainable infrastructure, Syed Ruhullah Mehdi strongly advocated for the construction of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and Solid Waste Management Plants to prevent the contamination of water bodies and

safeguard public health. The meeting was informed that a waste management plant is already under construction and mechanical equipment is tendered by department, and the development of Sewage treatment facilities is under active consideration and proposal has been prepared. Reiterating the importance of human development and localised planning, Syed Ruhullah Mehdi directed the officers to adopt a proactive and people-centric approach to public service delivery and ensure tangible outcomes for the citizens. "All-out efforts must be made to ensure ease of living for the inhabitants of the district, and that every government scheme should aim to bring tangible improvements in the lives of the people", said the MP.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that the birth certificate bearing number B/2024-1/05297/0093 D.O.B 16-02-2018 issued to Mujtaba showkat D/O Showkat ahamd Naikoo has been canceled Issued by BDO Managam. The said birth certificate is hereby declared null and void. Any use of the canceled certificate will be considered invalid. All authorities and individuals are requested to take note of this cancellation. Showkat ahamd Naikoo F/O Mujtaba showkat R/O KBPORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

IT is hereby informed to general public that I UMAR ASHRAF DAR have lost passport in during traveling Jammu to Srinagar under passport number: V1688665. Now I want to apply for its duplicate passport in passport office Srinagar/Baramulla If anybody having any objection shall contact passport office Srinagar/ Baramulla within 07 days .After that no objection shall be entertained UMAR ASHRAF DAR S/O MOHAMMAD ASHRAF DAR M/O MISRA BEGUM R/O MAIDANI CHUGAL TEHSIL HANDWARA DIST KUPWARA PASSPORT NUMBER V1688665

PUBLIC NOTICE

IT is hereby informed to general public that I JUNAID AHMAD LONE have lost passport in during traveling Jammu to Srinagar under passport number: C2555276. Now I want to apply for its duplicate passport in passport office Srinagar/Baramulla If anybody having any objection shall contact passport office Srinagar/ Baramulla within 07 days .After that no objection shall be entertained JUNAID AHMAD LONE S/O NAZIR AHMAD LONE M/O POSHA BEGUM R/O WAHIPORA DIST KUPWARA

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 son's (Farhan Ahmad Mir D.OB has been wrongly mentioned in his school records. As 02/05/2012 But actual Dob is 02/06/2009 NOW I want apply for its correction if any body having any objection in this regard he/ fshe may contact Govt Middle school mandlana Pahalgam within 7 days .Mohammad Yaseen Mir F/O Farhan Ahmad Mir

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

Subject: Application ALTAF HUSSAIN GANIE S/O MOHD IBRHAM GANIE R/O RESHIPORA Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of Income dependent certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above , in this connection a detailed report was sought from the patwari halqa concerned which reveals that the applicants family consists of 07 member and the Annual income of the applicants family from all sources consists of Rs 90000 Moreover family structure of the applicant is as under 1...SAFEENA BEGUM Wife 46 years house wife 2...SHAKIR ALI SON 24 years student 3...FAIZAN ALTAF 22 years // 4.FATIMA ALTAF daughter 20 years // 5....MEHDI ABASS son 15 years // 6....SALEEMA BEGUM Moher 65 years old age It is further submitted that ALTAF HUSSAIN GANIE S/O MOHD IBRHIM is Labour by profession and is sole earning hand is the said family that applicant needs income Dependent certificate in favour of SELF if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be ententeined

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Qazi Khurshied Ahmad, son of Late Munshi Ali Mohammad, resident of House No. 35, New Colony Nigeen, Hazratbal, Srinagar, hereby declare that I intend to correct the name of my late father as recorded in the death certificate issued on 03/02/2025 by the Office of the Registrar, Births and Deaths, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, bearing Registration No. 37411. The name is currently recorded as "Ali Mohammad Munshi", which is incorrect. The correct name is "Munshi Ali Mohammad", as reflected in his official documents such as the Aadhaar Card, PAN Card, and other records. The correction pertains solely to the proper placement of the title—changing it from a suffix to a prefix. Any person having any objection to the proposed correction may contact me at +91 6006319106 within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Have Lost R/C Of My Vechile Tipper Bearing Registration No :-JK03B/4528 from Bemina to Khanyar.Now I have applied for its Duplicate . If anybody having any kind of objection in this regard He/she may object his objection in ARTO Anantnag , within Seven days from the date of issuance of this notice. After that no objection will entertained.

Name: Arshad Ahmad Kawa
S/O Ghulam Mohammad Kawa
R/O:Khanyar Srinagar
Cell No:-7006185559,9906499485

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my children's Name seeping has been incorrectly mentioned on his Adhar card, 650682151895 /604092111085as Momen Ramzan Rather /Aayat Jaan while his correct Namely IS, MOMIN RAMZAN and AAYAT RAMZAN 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.

NAMELY: MOMIN RAMZAN DOB 01/05/2016
AAYAT RAMZAN DOB 20/08/2018
PARENTAGE: MOHAMMAD RAMZAN RATHER
R/O: TIRCH TEHSIL HANDWARA DIST KUPWARA

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 manal pahelgam. Mohd ashraf lawe R/o mamal pahelgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

DC Rajouri reviews arrangements for Eid-ul-Azha Emphasizes proper sanitation, traffic management, public safety

HT News Network

RAJOURI, JUNE 4: Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for Eid-ul-Azha in the district. The meeting was attended by district and sectoral officers, along with prominent members of civil society.

Speaking at the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for effective traffic management during the festival to prevent congestion, especially around mosques, Eidgahs and marketplaces.



He directed the enforcement departments to conduct market checking to curb overpricing and ensure the quality of essential items.

Instructions were issued to concerned departments to keep

available buffer stock of essential commodities, ensure availability of ambulances and emergency medical care. The Animal and Sheep Husbandry Department was asked to ensure proper stamping of livestock to

avoid any unfair practice.

Taking note of the importance of cleanliness during the festivities, the DC instructed the Municipal Council to make adequate arrangements for the prompt disposal of animal carcasses and to ensure cleanliness around mosques, Eidgahs and other congregational places.

The Executive Officer (EO) of the Municipal Committee was specifically directed to carry out an intensive night-time cleanliness drive one day prior to Eid-ul-Azha to ensure a hygienic environment for the worshippers.



Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Department of Health & Medical Education
GOVERNMENT DENTAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL
SHIREEN BAGH, SRINAGAR
PHONE NO: 0194 – 2504701, 0194 – 2504702. FAX NO: 0194 – 2504703.

NOTICE

This is for the information of all the candidates who have applied for the tenure posts of Registrar in the discipline of Orthodontics that the written re-examination scheduled to be held on 4th June, 2025 in pursuant to Notice issued vide No. GDC/Estt/File-54/e-file-6 (2022-02)/3671-81, dated: 21-05-2025 has been postponed/deferred in view of the orders passed by the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) in O.A. No.555/2025 titled Dr. Syed Sameer Hussain Vs UT of J&K and Others. Fresh date of examination shall be subject to further orders from the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) regarding the matter in question.

Pub:- 06-06-25
Send Dated:-04/06/2025
DIPK-2216/25

Sd/-
[Administrative officer]
Govt Medical Collage Srinagar

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION BARAMULLA.

e-Auction Notice No.02 of 2025-26 dated 02.06.2025
Fresh to e-Auction Notice No. 01 of 2025-25 dated 03.04.2025

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K (UT), It is hereby notified for the information of General Public and the timber traders/ contractor in particular that e-Auction Notice/ Auction of Old existing (02) No structure of Food Department at Kanlibagh Baramullathrough e-Auction on the basis of "As it is where it is" at Kanlibagh Baramulla as per the details given below.

S. No	Name of work	Minimum Reserve bid (In Lacs)	Amount of C.D.R @2% (in Rs)	Time for Completion	Cost of Bid Document (in Rs)	Project Authority
1	Auction of Old existing (02) No structure of Food Department at Kanlibagh Baramulla	38.33	76660/-	20days	1100/-	Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the scheduled date given below.

1	Date of issue of Tender Notice	02.06.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 04.06.2025 to 21.06.2025 4:00PM
3	Bid submission Start date	04.06.2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	20.06.2025 upto 4:00PM
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	21.06.2025 upto 11:00AM in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla

Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 mentioning there in the Name of work/ Auction Notice Number in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document & Earnest money in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla (Tender receiving authority) in the shape of CDR/FDR.

Instructions to Bidder (ITB)

2.1 All bidders shall upload the following information and documents along with qualification criteria/ qualification information with their bids

- Valid Registration Card duly renewed.
 - Valid GST No. along with latest clearance certificate FORM GST- 3B/ GSTR-3B of the preceding month/quarter (as the case may be) i.e. Month (May 2025)/ Quarter (January-March 2025).
 - Pan Card.
 - Earnest money/bid security (CRD)
 - Tender document fee (Treasury Challan).
 - Affidavit affirming correctness of documents & completion of work as per NIT
- 2.2 Bidders shall quote their rates in totality (i.e for total quantity).

The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in.

As per the minutes of meeting issued by the Chairman Auction Committee (Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla) the removal of stocks shall be done under supervision of concerned AEE/JE/Assistant Director Food Baramulla.

Any legal dispute subject to jurisdiction of Baramulla Court.

DIPK-2186/25

Send Date: Jun 4 2025

Pub Dated: 05.06.2025

Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Baramulla



DC Baramulla chairs workshop on implementation of Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP-II) at Uri

Focus laid on Accelerated development, Village Action Plans & community empowerment in border areas

HT News Network

BARAMULLA, JUNE 04: To streamline the implementation of the Vibrant Villages Programme Phase-II (VVP-II) in the border areas of Baramulla district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, chaired a day-long workshop today at the Meeting Hall in Uri. Vibrant Villages programme is an initiative of the Government of India, aimed to ensure sustainable and inclusive development in remote and border villages through focused interventions in infrastructure, connectivity, livelihood opportunities, and essential public services. At the outset, Joint Director Planning Baramulla provided a detailed powerpoint presentation outlining the status and strategic components of VVP-II. Speaking during the meeting, DC underscored the importance of interdepartmental convergence and urged all departments to execute the programme in



mission mode to ensure timely and impactful results. Sherpa highlighted that the four core focus areas viz. road connectivity, telecom connectivity, television connectivity and electrification must be pursued with

utmost priority to enhance the quality of life in the identified villages. DC further instructed the designated nodal officers for all 18 identified villages to formulate a Village Action Plans under VVP-II, with clearly defined time-

lines and community-focused interventions, and a firm deadline of 9th June for the finalization of these plans. DC also laid emphasis on livelihood generation, financial inclusion, and the promotion of solar-based energy solutions. He directed the concerned departments to initiate skill development initiatives under schemes like PM Vishwakarma Yojana and to actively explore tourism potential in the region. Meanwhile, DC announced that a mega festival will be organized at Shahdara, Uri, as part of the outreach and cultural engagement component of the programme which will serve as a vibrant platform to showcase local culture, talent, and government welfare schemes aimed at empowering border communities. The workshop was attended by Joint Director Planning, Sub Divisional Magistrate Uri, Assistant Commissioner Development and nodal officers besides other officers and officials.

Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan: Series of activities organized across Anantnag

HT News Network

ANANTNAG, JUNE 04: To strengthen the fight against substance abuse among youth, Youth Services & Sports (YSS), in collaboration with the Education Department Anantnag, organized various activities today in different educational institutions of Anantnag district under the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan. This initiative is a vital component of the district's comprehensive strategy to combat the growing menace of substance abuse, particularly among the youth. Programmes witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and members of the wider community. A series of awareness-building activities were conducted, including interactive sessions, rallies, essay writing and debate competitions besides pledge-taking ceremonies. These events were held in multiple institutions, including Shaheed Humayun Muzamil GDC Boys Anantnag and GDC Mattan. The objective of the campaign is not only to educate students about the devastating impact of drug abuse on physical, mental, and social well-being but also to empower them to become ambassadors of change within their families and communities. Special sessions were conducted by experts, teachers, and students, who provided valuable insights into the challenges posed by substance addiction.

ADC Handwara reviews arrangements for upcoming festival of Eid-ul-Azha

HT News Network

KUPWARA, JUNE 4: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the arrangements for celebration of the upcoming festival of Eid-ul-Azha in the sub division Handwara. All Tehsildars of the sub division Handwara, Executive Engineer PDD Handwara/Handwara, SDPO Handwara, Live Stock Development Officer Handwara, Sheep and Wool Development Officer Handwara, Executive Officer Municipal Committee Handwara/Langate, Chairman Aungaf committee Handwara, president of Traders Federation Handwara and other concerned officers were present in the meeting.

The essential aspects were deliberated upon with main focus on power and water supply, regulation of prices of essential commodities, sanitation, traffic management, security, electricity, health facilities and other logistics crucial for the auspicious occasion.

The ADC issued directions to the concerned officers to ensure uninterrupted water and power supply throughout the festival.

Furthermore, stringent measures were outlined to curb black marketing and overpricing of essential commodities.

Rs.90k fine imposed on erring FBOs under FS&SA at Handwara

HT News Network

KUPWARA, JUNE 04: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, who is also Adjudicating officer Handwara today imposed a fine of Rs.90,000 on various erring Food Business operators (FBOs) for violations of various provisions of Food Safety and Standard Act (FS&SA) 2006.

The fine was imposed on the erring traders (for miss branded and sub standard food) during the proceeding of cases related to the FS&SA Act 2006 which were listed before the Adjudicating officer. The Adjudicating officer warned them to abide by the legal regulations adding that non-compliance of Food Safety and Standards Act-2006 and rules there under by the food business operators will be dealt with more strictness in coming time. The fine was imposed on the erring traders (for miss branded and sub standard food) during the proceeding of cases related to the FS&SA Act 2006 which were listed before the Adjudicating officer.

The Adjudicating officer warned them to abide by the legal regulations adding that non-compliance of Food Safety and Standards Act-2006 and rules there under by the food business operators will be dealt with more strictness in coming time.

DC Ganderbal reviews arrangements for Eid-ul-Adha

HT News Network

GANDERBAL, JUNE 04: In view of the forthcoming Eid-ul-Adha, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today conducted an extensive tour of various areas in the district to review and finalize necessary arrangements for the smooth observance of the festival. During the visit, the DC inspected prominent religious places and masjids including Markazi Jamia Masjid Beehama, Mirani Masjid and the shrine of Qamar-ud-Din Bukhari (RA), where he interacted with the respective management committees to take stock of the preparations. On-the-spot directions were issued to concerned departments to ensure robust arrangements related to security, transport,



sanitation, uninterrupted water and power supply, health care, availability of essential commodities and other services. Executive Officer, Municipal Council Ganderbal, was directed to ensure proper sanitation in and around masjids and Eidgahs in close coordination with the local committees. Further, Animal Husbandry department was instructed to ensure the availability of poultry birds at notified rates, while the District Sheep Husbandry Officer was asked to ensure adequate availability of sacrificial animals at designated locations. DC also issued instructions regarding the proper and hygienic disposal of hides, emphasizing that these should either be buried or handed over to designated municipal staff.

Two-Day Business Fest Begins at IUST to Promote Innovation and Entrepreneurship

HT News Network

Awantipora, June 4: The Department of Management Studies, in collaboration with the CIED IUST Foundation, inaugurated a two-day Business Fest at the campus today. The event aims to promote entrepreneurial spirit and provide a platform for young innovators to showcase their ideas.

The fest was inaugurated by Prof. A.H. Moon, Dean Academic Affairs, in presence of Prof. Wahid Makhdoomi, Registrar IUST; Prof. Parvez A. Mir, Dean School of Business Studies; Er. Syed Parvez Qalander, a renowned industry consultant; and Mr. Sameer Wazir, Finance Officer, IUST. In his inaugural address, Prof. Moon underscored the significance of experiential learning in developing entrepreneurial competencies among youth and lauded the Department of Management Studies for embedding such approaches within its academic structure. Prof. Wahid, stressed the importance of



creating national-level linkages to scale up local products and expand their reach in wider markets. Er. Syed Parvez Qalander appreciated the innovation and quality exhibited by Kashmir-based entrepreneurs and called for aligning these products with national standards to ensure broader acceptance. Delivering the welcome address, Prof. Parvez A. Mir, emphasized the value of identifying and developing niche markets for indigenous products, urging students to harness the potential of regional resources.

Featuring over 70 stalls, the fest highlights the entrepreneurial ventures of students and alumni from IUST, covering a wide range of sectors and innovative products. On the opening day, more than 700 participants, including students from various degree colleges and schools across the region, attended the event and engaged with the vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem on display. The fest will continue on June 5 with more interactive sessions, product showcases, and networking opportunities aimed at nurturing a robust entrepreneurial culture in the region.

DLSA Budgam holds meeting/ orientation, training session for SAATHI unit committee members

HT News Network

BUDGAM, JUNE 04: A meeting-cum-orientation programme and a training session for the SAATHI unit committee members of district Budgam was held today through virtual mode. The meeting aimed to discuss and finalize the implementation strategy for the SAATHI campaign, which focuses on identifying and rehabilitating destitute children in the district. The meeting was chaired by Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, (Chairperson SAATHI Unit Committee) Budgam, and was attended by various stakeholders including SAATHI committee members of district Budgam etc. Secretary DLSA conducted the orientation and training session of the District SAATHI Unit Members, and Advocate Javid Ahmed, Dy.LADC was also nominated as a resource person who shared a PPT on the subject with all the participants. The session focused on orienting committee members on their roles and responsibilities, training them on conducting surveys and identification processes for destitute children, and outlining next steps for the campaign's successful execution. Through this initiative, DLSA Budgam



aims to identify and rehabilitate destitute children, ensuring their access to education, healthcare, and social welfare schemes. The SAATHI campaign is a significant step towards creating a protective and nurturing environment for vulnerable children in district Budgam. The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment from all stakeholders to work together in ensuring the success of the SAATHI campaign and making a meaningful difference in the lives of destitute children. It also emphasized the importance of interdepartmental coordination and community participation in ensuring the success of the SAATHI campaign.

BJP organizes 'Sankalp Se Siddhi' review meeting at Anantnag

HT News Network

Anantnag, 04 June 2025: As part of the ongoing nationwide campaign to celebrate 11 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's transformative and visionary leadership, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K held a 'Sankalp Se Siddhi' review meeting at Dak Bungalow, Anantnag. Sofi Yousuf, Vice President, J&K BJP, Seh Prabhari Rafiq Wani, Rakesh Koul, District President Anantnag, Wani Mudasir, Sahil Bashir Bhat and others were amongst the prominent present

in the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), J&K BJP, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from District Presidents, Constituency Presidents, District and Constituency Teams of South Kashmir from Anantnag, Shopian, Kulgam, and Pulwama Districts. The gathering reaffirmed the cadre's unwavering dedication to the party's vision of development, good governance, and inclusive progress in the Union Territory. Addressing the gathering, Ashok Koul emphasized the importance of intensifying grassroots-level



connect and effective public outreach to propagate the achieve-

ments of the Modi government. He urged the South Kashmir cadre to remain proactive in organizing Viksit Bharat Sankalp Sabhas, Choupals, and public meetings to ensure that the message of development and national integration reaches every household. He stressed the need to counter misinformation with facts, and encouraged the party workers to serve as ambassadors of PM Modi's vision for a peaceful, progressive, and developed Jammu & Kashmir. Ashok Koul also reiterated the importance of community

involvement in environmental initiatives, including plantation drives, water conservation, and reducing plastic use, as key components of BJP's commitment to sustainable development. The meeting concluded with a strong collective resolve by all South Kashmir teams to carry forward the objectives of 'Sankalp Se Siddhi' with full dedication. The leaders pledged to strengthen booth-level work, enhance visibility of central schemes on the ground, and ensure every citizen of the region becomes a stakeholder in the dream of Viksit Bharat.



DC, SSP Ramban Conduct Comprehensive Review of SANJY-2025 Arrangements to Ensure Pilgrim Safety & Comfort

HT News Network

Ramban, June 4: In preparation for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025, Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary, along with Senior Superintendent of Police Ramban, Kulbir Singh, conducted an extensive review of arrangements at the SASB Yatri Niwas, Langer Site Chanderkote, and other key locations in Ramban. The visit was aimed at ensuring that all necessary arrangements related to security, accommodation, sanitation, traffic regulation, and healthcare

are in place to provide a safe and comfortable experience for the pilgrims. The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, ACR Skokat Hayat Mattoo, ACD Shrinath Suman, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat ACP Ashfaq Ahmed, Tehsildar Ramban Deep Kumar, Executive Engineers of PWD, Jal Shakti, JPDC, and other concerned officers and nodal officials. During the on-site review and subsequent meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for



meticulous inter-departmental coordination and timely execution of all arrangements. He directed the nod-

al officers to ensure readiness of facilities at Yatri Niwas, Langer sites at Chanderkote, and other designat-

ed lodgment centres across the district. These centres are critical for managing the large influx of pilgrims during the Yatra. Executive Engineers of JPDC, Jal Shakti, and PWD were instructed to ensure uninterrupted power supply, adequate water availability, and other basic amenities at all Yatra-related sites. The officers were given a deadline of June 20 to complete all infrastructural and logistic preparations. The Deputy Commissioner also issued clear directions for effective traffic regulation along National High-

way-44, especially between Nashri and Banihal, to prevent congestion and facilitate smooth movement of Yatra convoys. The Health Department was directed to deploy sufficient staff at all designated sites and ensure that all health institutions along the route are fully functional and equipped to handle any medical emergency. Ambulances must be kept on standby along the Yatra route for prompt response. The ARTO was instructed to ensure availability of standby buses to assist Yattris in case of vehicle breakdowns, ensuring uninterrupted travel.

Awareness event on New Criminal Laws held at BDO Office Drabshalla

HT News Network



KISHTWAR, JUNE 04: An awareness event was organized today at the BDO Office Drabshalla under the directions of District Magistrate Rajesh Kumar Shavan. The campaign aimed to inform the public about the three new criminal laws. The newly introduced laws—Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) replacing the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) replacing the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) replacing the Indian Evidence Act—were the focus of the program. Tehsildar Irshad Ahmed Sheikh presided over the event as the Chief Guest, while BDO Ajay Singh and Prosecuting Officer Thatri Shazia Banoo were present as Guests of Honour. The PO also acted as the resource person, delivering an informative and detailed lecture on the new legal provisions. A large number of people from adjoining areas and Panchayats participated enthusiastically in the event. In her address, the PO emphasized that the new laws are structured to ensure speedy justice for victims, introduce stricter penalties for offenders and prioritize justice over punishment. The Tehsildar and BDO also spoke on the occasion, urging citizens to stay informed about their legal rights and responsibilities under the new laws. They stressed that the revamped

DC Kishtwar reviews saturation of key health indicators in Model Panchayats

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, JUNE 04: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Rajesh Kumar Shavan today conducted an extensive review of the progress made in achieving 13 Key Health Sector Indicators in the 13 Model Panchayats in the district. He reviewed AYUSHMAN Bharat Golden Card Coverage, institutional deliveries, screening of targeted population for non communicable diseases, TB-control measures, interventions to achieve Anemia-Free villages, creation of ABHA



(Ayushman Bharat Health Account) IDs among others. At the outset, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Rajinder Kumar briefed the Deputy Commissioner on the current status and progress achieved in meeting the key health indicators in the district. To support these health

initiatives, the DC directed the CMO to submit detailed proposals for the procurement of additional essential medical equipment, including Glucometers, BP Apparatus, Hemoglobin Meters, and other critical diagnostic tools. The additional tools will be provided to MLHPs, FMPHWs, ASHA

Workers and Anganwadi Workers to facilitate on-spot screening of patients. "They will also ensure the line listing of undertaken activities along with GPRS-enabled photographs and maintenance of record on a daily basis to be analyzed by BMOs to assess the prevalence of the types of ailments and strategize their action to control the same" the DC said. It was decided that the Data will be put in shape in consultation with the DC before July 31, 2025. The CMO and MS District Hospital will act as Co-guides and help the BMOs from time to time.

ST Community Influencers meet DM Kishtwar for Dharti Abha Janjatiya Gramin Utkarsh Abhiyan

HT News Network

KISHTWAR, JUNE 04: Members of the Scheduled Tribe (ST) community called on District Magistrate Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan and apprised him about their role in awareness of Dharti Abha Janjatiya Gramin Utkarsh Abhiyan. The DM listened and assured

them that best efforts will be made to aware everyone. He also encouraged the ST community to actively participate in the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan and urged community influencers to spread awareness about the initiative's benefits and importance. He said that all critical gaps of development shall be identified in ST Bas-

is. The DM emphasized the need for collective efforts to ensure the program's success and improve the lives of tribal communities. It is pertinent to mention that, under the aegis of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, the District Administration Kishtwar will launch the "Dharti Aabha Abhiyan:

Awareness and Benefit Saturation Camps" from 15th June to 30th June 2025 across various tribal villages in the district. The objective of this campaign is to achieve saturation-level coverage of key government schemes and welfare programs for the tribal population, particularly in remote and underserved areas.

Deputy Commissioner Poonch chairs NCORD meeting

HT News Network

POONCH, JUNE 4: Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal chaired a meeting of the District level Narco Coordination Committee (NCORD) to review and strengthen the anti-drug measures in the District. The DC directed revenue authorities to identify suitable land for the construction of a Drug De-addiction Centre, emphasizing the need for a permanent facility to support rehabilitation and counseling. Instructions were also issued to intensify the district wide drug



de-addiction campaign. "All the departments involved in anti-drug activities should share their reports to the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), who will upload the data on the designated

portal for centralized monitoring," the DC ordered. Further, orders were issued to the DFO and concerned Tehsildars to initiate destruction of cannabis, enforce mandatory installation of CCTV cameras and computerization of sale records by the chemist shops. The SSP provided an overview of the enforcement measures and called upon all departments to synergize efforts to eradicate the menace of drug-abuse in the district. Among others, the meeting was attended by ACR, ACP, DSWO, CID officials, Tehsildars and representatives from various departments.

SWD Reasi hosts Yoga, Meditation Camp for Students under 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan'

HT News Network

REASI, JUNE 04: As part of the ongoing 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan' campaign, the Department of Social Welfare, in collaboration with the Ayush Department, organized a Yoga and Meditation Camp here at the Polytechnic College. The event drew participation from around 50 students from various educational institutions and was held under the overall supervision of District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), Reasi, Sachin Sharma. A guided Yoga session was conducted by Majid Malik, a certified Yoga Instructor from the Ayush Department. The session emphasized both physical well-being and mental clarity, equipping students with techniques that promote discipline, self-control and a drug-free lifestyle.

DDC reviews implementation of Vibrant Village Programme-II in Samba

HT News Network

SAMBA, JUNE 4: District Development Commissioner Rajesh Sharma today chaired a pivotal meeting to review the implementation of the "Vibrant Village Programme-II"—an initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The meeting strategized measures to achieve full saturation across four critical thematic areas noted by the MHA and aimed at improving the lives of people in border villages. The DDC directed the designated Nodal Officers of the selected villages to conduct thorough assessment in collaboration with border guarding forces to identify developmental gaps and formulate robust village action plans. The emphasis was placed on road connectivity, development of telecommunication infrastructure, television access and electrification projects through active participation of concerned line departments. To ensure swift implementation, all stakeholder departments and nodal officers were mandated to undertake immediate field visits to their allocated villages, assess ground realities, and submit comprehensive village action plans within one week for scrutiny and subsequent submission to higher authorities. The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Sub-Divisional Magistrates and other district officers.

Phase-4 of Kisan Sampark Abhiyan under JKCIP starting from June 30, 2025

Mission Director HADP reviews preparedness



JAMMU, JUNE 04: A comprehensive meeting to finalize preparations for the launch of Phase-4 of the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan (KSA) under the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP) held today here in the Conference Hall, Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan, Talab Tillo. The meeting was chaired by Mission Director HADP/ JKCIP Sandeep Kumar. The JKCIP aims to contribute to a sustained increase in rural household income by enhancing the competitiveness and climate resilience of agriculture and allied sectors in Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was attended by Director Agriculture Jammu S. Arvinder Singh Reen; Director Sheep Husbandry Jammu Dr. Syed Mo'in-ul-Haq and other officers from the agriculture and allied departments, technical experts from the Jammu division, and representatives from SKUAST-Jammu. The Heads of Departments (HODs) of Agriculture and allied sectors from Kashmir along with all District Nodal Officers (DNOs) of HADP/JKCIP, representatives of SKUAST-Kashmir participated in the proceedings through video conferencing. During the session, it was informed that Phase-4 of the Kisan Sampark Abhiyan—a flagship farmers' awareness and outreach programme will commence from June 30, 2025 across 90 blocks, covering 1,536 Panchayats (744 in Jammu division and 792 in Kashmir division). The Mission Director Sandeep Kumar emphasized on targeted approach for engaging youth, women farmers and agripreneurs. He issued a string of directives to ensure the effective implementation of Kisan Sampark Abhiyan Phase-4. All District Nodal Officers (DNOs) were instructed to prepare a detailed event calendar outlining the schedule of awareness programmes and share the same with District Administration, Local MLAs, DDCs, and other public representatives well in advance. "The advance planning will ensure timely logistical support, community mobilization and strong administrative backing at the grassroots level" the MD noted. It was decided that each district would nominate Resource Persons and Master Trainers, ensuring scheduled training programmes to effectively communicate technical guidance to farmers.

USBRL inauguration of Katra Kashmir Rail Link a historic milestone in Nation-Building: Rattan Lal Gupta

Says Kashmir Rail project was conceptualized & initiated by Smt Indira Gandhi during tenure of Dr. Farooq Abdullah

HT News Network

Jammu, June 4: Advocate Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), said that the inauguration of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) is a landmark moment in the journey of national integration and development, calling it a historic occasion for Jammu and Kashmir. Speaking at a meeting of party functionaries held at Katra, Rattan Lal Gupta said that the completion of USBRL reflects the nation's unwavering resolve to connect every corner of the country through world-class infrastructure. "This ambitious rail project is not just a triumph of engineering but a powerful symbol of unity, linking Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country through an all-weather lifeline," he said. Rattan Lal Gupta said the project was conceptualized and initiated during the tenure of Dr. Farooq Abdullah



as Chief Minister, with the goal of connecting Kashmir with the rest of India through an all-weather, reliable rail network. He noted that this engineering marvel not only signifies a leap in infrastructure but also promises to boost tourism, economic activity, and regional inte-

gration. The senior NC leader recalled that the foundation stone for the Jammu-Udhampur section was laid on April 14, 1983 by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, in the presence of Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah. The Udhampur-Katra section followed, with its foundation stone laid on March 15, 1997, by Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, while construction of the most challenging Katra-Banihal stretch began in 1997, again under the leadership of Dr. Farooq Abdullah. Calling the upcoming event historic, Rattan Lal Gupta said inauguration by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Bhai Modi in the presence of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah of the rail project should be celebrated with great pomp and pride, as it will give a huge fillip to tourism, trade, employment, and economic development, acting as a game-changer for the region. "June 6 is not just a date—it is the culmination of a vision that began over four decades ago and Nation deserves full credit for this transformative milestone," he stated.



Javid Dar visits hailstorm hit villages of Shopian, fire affected Fruit Mandi in Pulwama; assures timely relief, rehabilitation

DR.AB QAYOOM

SRINAGAR, JUNE 4: Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development Department & Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, today conducted an extensive visit to the hailstorm-affected areas of Shopian district and the fire-damaged Fruit and Vegetable Mandi in Pulwama.

The visit aimed at assessing the extent of damage and ensuring prompt relief and support to the affected farmers and traders.

Several villages in Shopian including Wadipora, Reshipora, Drawni, Wuyan, Bandpawa, Handew, Nagbal, Dhobipora, Dachew, Warpora, Gundi Darwesh, and Hushanpora have suffered extensive crop losses due to the recent hailstorm.

Interacting with the affected farmers, the Minister directed the concerned field officers to conduct thorough damage assessments and submit comprehensive reports at the earliest. He further instructed the district administration to expedite the process of relief.

The Minister also took note of the farmers' demand for inclusion of apple under the crop insurance scheme to mitigate risks arising from natural calamities.



To strengthen future preparedness, Dar directed for formation of expert technical teams to conduct awareness campaigns and offer technical guidance to the farmers for disaster risk reduction and crop

protection. Later, the Minister visited the fire-affected Fruit and Vegetable Mandi in Pulwama. He inspected the site and listened to the grievances of the traders and association

representatives.

Responding to their concerns, the Minister assured that all genuine public demands would be addressed on priority. He issued on-the-spot directions for installation of CCTV cameras in the mandi to enhance surveillance and prevent such incidents in future.

MLA Zainapora, Showkat Hussain Ganie, MLA Pampore, Hasnain Moosdi, MLA Rajpora, Ghulam Mohi Uddin Mir, DDC Members Rajpora and Pampore, Director Horticulture, Kashmir, Director Horticulture, P&M, SDM, ACD CAO, CHO and other officers accompanied the Minister. Later, the Minister visited the fire-affected Fruit and Vegetable Mandi in Pulwama. He inspected the site and listened to the grievances of the traders and association representatives.

Responding to their concerns, the Minister assured that all genuine public demands would be addressed on priority. He issued on-the-spot directions for installation of CCTV cameras in the mandi to enhance surveillance and prevent such incidents in future.

MLA Zainapora, Showkat Hussain Ganie, MLA Pampore, Hasnain Moosdi, MLA Rajpora, Ghulam Mohi Uddin Mir, DDC Members Rajpora and Pampore, Director Horticulture, Kashmir.

Waqf Board Chairperson Launches Multiple Waqf Projects at Chrar-e-Sharief, Pakharpora Shrines

HT News Network

Srinagar, Jun 4: Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Wednesday paid obeisance at the shrine of Hazrat Noor-ud-din Nooraani (RA) at Chrar-e-Sharief, took stock of the Eid preparations and facilities at the shrine.

Dr Andrabi also laid the foundation stone for the Guest House to be constructed in the shrine complex by J&K Waqf Board. Waqf Chairperson also inaugurated a newly constructed Canopy at Darbar-e-Aaliya.

She was accompanied by the Waqf Board members Dr Ghulam Nabi Haleem, Syed Mohammed Hussain Haqqani and the Executive Magistrate of the Board Ishtiyaq Mohiuddin.

Later Andrabi visited Pakharpora and after paying obeisance at the shrine of Hazrat Baba Aala Ali Balkhi (RA) she laid foundation stone for the Ladies Sabat Complex & New Male/Female Sanitary Complex here.

Initiation for the upgradation of Shrine sanctum BWO penaling and polishing was also done by Waqf Chairperson. Dr Andrabi also dedicated the newly constructed 40 Unit Male and Female Ablution Block at the shrine to people here.

During the tour Dr Darakhshan met



many public delegations. She also addressed the media persons at both places and said that the developmental initiatives of Waqf Board are continuously going on and there was a genuine demand of the people about a Guest House at this prominent spiritual destination Chrar-e-Sharief and today we laid the foundation stone for the same project. "After Dargah Hazratbal in Srinagar, this is yet another similar project which will provide the required stay facilities for the people visiting the shrine. Development is synonymous with J&K Waqf Board now", said Dr Darakhshan.

Waqf Chairperson said that the after inaugurating the New Ablution Block at Pakharpora, the Board laid foundation stone for the new Ladies Sabat and New Sanitary Complex in the shrine complex keeping in view the public demand. Local people at both the locations hailed Waqf Board's developmental initiatives. (JKNS)

J&K Teachers Forum Condemns J&K Bank's Sudden Recoveries, Urges Immediate Refund

HT News Network

Srinagar, 04 June 2025 – The J&K Teachers Forum has strongly criticized J&K Bank for the abrupt and unauthorized recovery of overdraft amounts from the salary accounts of government employees. The deductions, made without any prior notice or consent, have sparked widespread resentment among teaching staff across the Union Territory—especially as they come just days before Eid-ul-Azha. Chief Spokesperson Tahir Ah Sofi described the move as "unjust, arbitrary,

and utterly insensitive." He stated, "I call on the bank authorities to refund the deducted amounts immediately and ensure transparent, consent-based practices, so that the financial security of our teachers is not compromised."

Sofi added that J&K Bank must stop treating employees as mere account holders and start respecting their financial dignity. He cautioned that continued disregard for employee concerns could compel the Forum to explore legal options or demand a shift of salary accounts to more accountable institutions.

YHAI Srinagar Unit held Camp in Kheer Bhawani Temple Premises

HT News Network

Srinagar Today, Wednesday, June 4, 2025, on the occasion of Mela Khirbhawani Tula Mula, Youth Hostels Association of India Srinagar Unit II conducted a camp in the temple premises under the leadership of Mr. Showket Ashai, Chairman, Srinagar Unit II and Convenor, YHAI J&K State. A number of YHAI volunteers participated in the camp and distributed fresh fruits, fruit juices, bottled drinking water, and cold drinks among the pilgrims. The pilgrims appreciated the noble deed of the YHAI volunteers. Prominent YHAI personalities who participated along with the State Convenor, Mr. Showket Ashai, were Adv. Shabeer Ahmed, APC Chairman, Srinagar Unit II; Mr. Shabir Ahmed, Secretary, Srinagar Unit II; Mr. Ajaz, Executive Member; Dr. Yasmeen, Executive Member; Mrs. Tahira, Treasurer, Srinagar Unit II; and Mrs. Mehjabeen, Executive Member & Mrs. Shahnaaz, Executive Member. The State Convenor and his colleagues met with the district authorities and discussed YHAI's participation in similar programs.

IUST Organizes NCD Screening and Awareness Program under DST-PURSE Initiative

HT News Network

Awantipora, June 04, 2025: The School of Health Sciences, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), in collaboration with the School of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Centre for Vocational Studies, organized a Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Screening and Awareness Program today at the university campus. The program was supported under the DST-PURSE initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, as part of its Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR) component.

The event aimed to raise awareness among students and staff about the increasing prevalence of NCDs and the importance of early detection and preventive healthcare.

In his address, Prof. Ayub Qadri, Dean, School of Health Sciences and Coordinator, IUST-PURSE Project, presented a comparative perspective on the rise of NCDs and emphasized the importance of integrated health interventions at the educational institutional level. He highlighted the need for greater community engagement through student-led awareness campaigns.

Prof. Afroz Ahmad Bisati, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, underscored the significance of holistic education as envisioned in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. He stated that Health education is the most essential form of education. At IUST, we are committed to equipping our students not only with academic knowledge but also with health awareness that they can take forward into their communities."

Dr. Zahida Rasool, Medical Officer University Health Centre, discussed preventive strategies for NCDs and emphasized the importance of adopting healthy lifestyle patterns early in life. She noted that such measures can significantly reduce the risk of developing chronic conditions later.

Day 5 of VKSA-2025: Agricultural Awareness Reaches Remote Villages of Kupwara

DR.AB QAYOOM



Kupwara, Jun, 03: Continuing its committed efforts towards transforming the agricultural landscape under the Viksit Kisan Sampark Abhiyan (VKSA)-2025, the district witnessed an eventful Day 5 with nine awareness programmes conducted across 27 villages, including the far-flung area of Manigah in Hyhama block. Three dedicated teams, led by the Head of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Kupwara prof Kaiser Mohi-ud-Din Malik along with scientists and Agriculture Extension Officers, engaged directly with farming communities to address pressing issues and explore solutions in agriculture and allied sectors. The programmes have evoked an enthusiastic response from farmers, who expressed satisfaction with this initiative of the Government of India. The outreach events saw active participation from various sections of society, including local leaders and public representatives, fostering an inclusive dialogue on agricultural development and rural prosperity. Farmers expressed their delight at having agricultural scientists and experts reach their doorsteps, offering timely guidance on crop management, soil health, and livestock care. The initiative is also successfully connecting more farmers to KVK through WhatsApp groups and other digital platforms, ensuring continuous support and knowledge sharing beyond these field visits. VKSA-2025 continues to gain momentum in the district, empowering farmers with modern practices and fostering a community-driven approach to rural development.

HDFC Bank's Parivartan Launches Plastic Awareness Campaign Ahead of World Environment Day

HT News Network

Srinagar, June 4, KNT: Ahead of World Environment Day on June 5, HDFC Bank has intensified its environmental commitment with a new awareness campaign under its CSR initiative, Parivartan, urging reduced plastic consumption. The initiative targets customers, employees, and the general public through education, waste collection drives, and sustainable alternatives.

As part of the campaign, select HDFC Bank branches will serve as plastic e-waste collection hubs, encouraging customers to deposit recyclable materials. The bank is also conducting employee-led clean-up drives and awareness sessions to promote behavioural change. A dedicated webpage has been launched where citizens can pledge to reduce plastic use through simple daily actions. Aligned with national and global sustainability goals, including Swachh Bharat

Abhiyan and UN SDGs, HDFC Bank is expanding its community-driven waste management programs. By 2025, the bank aims to implement solid waste management systems in over 1,000 villages and establish material recovery facilities in 15 urban local bodies.

Notable initiatives include a 26-foot upcycled plastic mural in Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, and a behavior change campaign in Bir and Dharamshala that diverted 200 metric tonnes of dry waste

from landfills last year. Similar efforts in Visakhapatnam, Chhattisgarh, Assam, and Kerala have turned waste into livelihood opportunities by training SHGs and sanitation workers.

Deputy Managing Director, HDFC Bank, Kaizad Bharucha said, "Through Parivartan, we are fostering community ownership to combat plastic pollution. These efforts not only protect the environment but also strengthen local economies." (KNT)

DC Rajouri reviews activity plan for World Environment Day Pitches for conducting cleanliness, plantation drives and awareness events

HT News Network

RAJOURI, JUNE 04: Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the preparedness and activity plan for World Environment Day. After detailed discussion, the Deputy Commissioner decided to conduct a massive cleanliness drive across the district, with special focus on water bodies and surroundings of community assets such as schools, community halls and religious places.

The DC further directed to launch a special plantation drive "Ek Ped Shaheedon Ke Naam" in all Panchayats to honour the sacrifices of the martyrs.

The School Education Department was instructed to plant fruit trees in all schools for environmental protection as well as creating sustainable and nutritional green space.

To reinforce environmental sustainability, DC Abhishek Sharma directed strict enforcement of the ban on single-use plastic and the launching of a mass awareness campaign on climate change. He proposed the



initiation of 'Green School' initiatives with the support of the corporate sector and civil society.

To strengthen public-private participation, the DC pitched for encouraging private schools and local industry owners to adopt and maintain public parks as part of their community engagement.

The Deputy Commissioner also emphasized the promotion and display of eco-friendly products, urging all departments and stakeholders to promote carbon-neutral and sustainable practices. He also suggested organizing exhibitions and sales of

eco-friendly products made by Panchayats, promoting local innovation and self-reliance. To strengthen public-private participation, the DC pitched for encouraging private schools and local industry owners to adopt and maintain public parks as part of their community engagement. The Deputy Commissioner also emphasized the promotion and display of eco-friendly products, urging all departments and stakeholders to promote carbon-neutral and sustainable practices. He also suggested organizing exhibitions and sales of eco-friendly products made.



Modi govt's 'policy to surrender' is harming national interest: Congress

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 4

New Delhi, June 4 (UNI) A day after leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi launched a scathing 'Narendra surrender' attack on the Prime Minister, the Congress escalated its criticism, alleging that the Modi government's "policy to surrender" has hurt India's national interest.

Addressing a press conference at the AICC headquarters here, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera backed Rahul Gandhi's remarks, alleging that the BJP-led government has repeatedly surrendered India's national interest, in situations, where it was required to show the requisite debt and 'Vishwaguru' status.

"That is why it is said - Name is Narendra, work is surrender," he alleged. He claimed that when the brave Indian Army had Pakistan on its knees, "Trump called and Narendra Modi surrendered".

"US President Donald Trump's repeated claims that the US intervened between India and Pakistan to broker a ceasefire has shown how Modi government surrendered India's interests, admonished India's long-standing stand in the Shimla Agreement, hyphenated India and Pakistan, allowing the US to even talk about talks at a neutral site," Khera alleged. "Within the country, all the pol-



icies under the Modi government are being run by trolls, and the foreign policy is being handled by someone who has surrendered and given up," he claimed. He further said that Narendra Modi's foreign policy has been so ineffective that no country supported India during crisis. "In fact, following 'Operation Sindoor', Kuwait went as far as lifting visa restrictions on Pakistan." "But after 'Operation Sindoor' and Trump's statement, Kuwait and Pakistan are signing a MoU related to labourers. This is a result of Narendra Modi's policy of surrender," the Congress leader alleged. Sharply criticising the Modi government, Khera alleged that in the last few years, there has been anti-India sentiment in Nepal, resulting in the country moving closer to China, whereas this was not the case 10 years ago. "If this is not a surrender policy then what is it".

Adani Airports clinches \$750 mn global financing to power next phase of growth

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 4

Thiruvananthapuram, Jun 4 (UNI) Adani Airports Holdings Ltd (AAHL), India's largest private airport operator and a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Limited, has raised USD 750 million via External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) from a consortium of international banks.

The transaction was led by First Abu Dhabi Bank, Barclays PLC, and Standard Chartered Bank, a release said on Wednesday.

The proceeds will be used to refinance existing debt, invest in infrastructure upgrades, and capacity expansion across the six airports viz Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Mangaluru, Jaipur, Guwahati, and Thiruvananthapuram; scale the non-aeronautical businesses, including Retail, F&B, Duty Free and services across the airport network.

AAHL served 94 million passengers in FY 2024-25 with an overall capacity of 110 million passengers, further it aims to triple capacity to 300 million passengers per annum by 2040 through phased development.

As part of this roadmap, the Navi Mumbai International Airport is expected to be operational shortly, adding 20 million passengers in the first phase, with capacity expanding up to 90 million annually in a phased manner, significantly boosting the Mumbai region's aviation infrastructure.

EAM Jaishankar, five Central Asian FM's to address Business Council meeting

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
NEW DELHI,, Jun 4:

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will address the India-Central Asia Business Council meeting in New Delhi tomorrow, on the sidelines of the Fourth India-Central Asia Dialogue here.

The gathering will see the participation of Foreign Ministers of the five Central Asian countries.

The Business Council meeting is being jointly organised by FICCI, and the Ministry of External Affairs at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi.

The Central Asian FM's to address



the business council meeting include Murat Nurtleu, Deputy Prime Min-

ister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan; Zheenbek Kulubaev, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan; Sirojiddin Muhriddin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan; Rashid Meredov, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan; and Saidov Bakhtiyor Odilovich, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, a FICCI statement said. The 4th India-Central Asia Dialogue will be held on Friday in the morning, at the same hotel.

In the evening on Friday, the five Central Asian Foreign Ministers will make a joint call on PM Modi.

Over 6 lakh affected by floods in Assam, 12 dead

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Guwahati, June 4

Floods have affected over 6 lakh people in 21 districts of Assam even as the flood-related death toll has reached 12, government sources said, adding over 1.66 lakh children are also affected by floods.

Incessant rains have also led to landslides in various parts of the state leading to the death of five people, including children, in the state capital Guwahati.

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), surging waters have inundated 1,506 villages in 69 revenue circles in all of 21 districts. The flood waters



have also affected 14739.39 hectares of agricultural land, some with standing crops.

The government has opened 511 relief camps and relief distribution centres to help the marooned people. A total of 39,746 people, including 8,269

children, have taken shelter in relief camps, government officials said.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his cabinet colleagues have been visiting flood-hit districts and the relief camps to take stock of the situation. The Chief Minister

India elected President of IIAS

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 4

New Delhi, India has been elected President of the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) for a three-year term (2025 to 2028), an official spokesman said here on Wednesday.

In the elections held during the Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting on June 3 in Brussels, India polled 87 votes as against 54 votes by Austria and will hold the Presidency for the period 2025-2028.

The IIAS is a Federation of 31 Member Countries, 20 National Sections and 15 Academic Research Centers jointly collaborating for scientific research on public administration. Key member countries include - India, Japan, China, Germany, Italy, Korea, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Switzerland, Mexico, Spain, Qatar, Morocco and Indonesia. It maintains close working relationship with the United Nations and participates in the UN's Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) and the UN Public Administration Network (UNPAN). Although, the IIAS is not a formally affiliated body of the UN, it actively engages with the UN's work in public administration.



The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances represents India as a Member State of the IIAS since 1998. For the 2025-2028 Presidency of IIAS, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had nominated Secretary DARGP V. Srinivas as the Indian candidate in November 2024. The hearings for the IIAS Presidency were held in February 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

Four Nations--India, South Africa, Austria and Bahrain--submitted their nominations for the IIAS presidency for the period 2025-2028 and participated in the hearings before the Council of Administration of IIAS which were held on the sidelines of the Annual IIAS Conference 2025.

Following the hearings, the candidacy of India, South Africa and Austria was forwarded to the General Body of IIAS for the next round by the Council of Administration. South Africa withdrew its candidacy in May 2025.

The election was held between India and Austria on June 3 in which 141 votes were polled. India polled 87 votes (61.7 percent of the vote) and Austria registered 54 votes (38.3 percent). India's candidacy received wide spread support from across the membership.

"The Indian Presidency of the IIAS will take forward the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for 'Maximum Governance - Minimum Government' documenting the Next Generation Administrative Reforms with focus on digital empowerment of citizens and digital transformation of institutions. India will also seek to bridge the North - South Divide with focus on unity and inclusivity," the spokesman added.

This is first time in the 100 years history of IIAS that the election to the post of President was held by ballot process and it is the first time that India has secured the historic mandate for the Presidency of the IIAS.

Dutch PM announces resignation of his government

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
The Hague, June 4

Dutch Prime Minister Dick Schoof announced the resignation of his government on Tuesday, saying that he will formally submit his resignation to the King. The decision came after the far-right Party for Freedom (PVV) announced its withdrawal from the ruling coalition. Speaking at a press conference in The Hague,



Schoof said he would formally submit his resignation to King Willem-

Alexander later in the day. He said that he would remain in office as caretaker prime minister and continue working to address the major challenges currently facing the Netherlands. Schoof also criticized the PVV's withdrawal, calling it "irresponsible and entirely unnecessary." The Dutch government led by Schoof took office on July 2, 2024, and has been in power for less than a year.

Army ups search to locate missing persons, including Lt Col, family

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Gangtok, June 4

Gangtok, Defying adverse weather conditions and a hazardous terrain, the Indian Army on Wednesday intensified the search operation to locate six of its missing persons, including Lt Col Pritpal Singh Sandhu, his wife Squadron Leader Aarti Sandhu (ret'd), and their daughter Amayra Sandhu, who remain untraced since a massive landslide flattened an army camp at Chaten, Lachen, in North Sikkim on Sunday evening.

Among other missing are Subedar Dharamveer, Naik Sunil Muchahary and Sepoy Sainudeen PK. The bodies of two other personnel Havaladar Lakhwinder Singh, Lance Naik Munish Thakur and a porter Abhishek Lakhadha were retrieved the following day from the rubble. Four other personnel have been rescued and airlifted to the Army hospital at Tadong. The Army has



deployed specialised teams and engineering equipment. However, the ongoing efforts have been significantly hampered by extremely bad weather, unstable ground, and the challenging high-altitude terrain, a defence spokesman said on Wednesday. The NDRF also deployed its experts in the search operation since Tuesday braving the hazardous terrain conditions as Lachen

village, the main hub of tourism in the region, has been completely cut off. Lachen is the last village in Sikkim's northern district. Bordering China, it is about 9000 ft high and some 110 km from Gangtok.

The Army has established foot connectivity to the village and reached out to 113 stranded tourists, who will be evacuated soon. On Tuesday, 30 tourists, including some foreign

nationals, were successfully airlifted by the military helicopters to Gangtok. The Army has deployed specialised teams and engineering equipment. However, the ongoing efforts have been significantly hampered by extremely bad weather, unstable ground, and the challenging high-altitude terrain, a defence spokesman said on Wednesday.

Miss World pageant event total cost only Rs. 30 crore: Telangana Tourism Minister Jupalli

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Hyderabad, June 4

Telangana Tourism Minister Jupalli Krishnarao on Tuesday clarified that around Rs. 30 crore was spent on organizing the Miss World pageant, through which Telangana showcased its greatness to the world.

Of the total cost, Rs 21 crore came from sponsors and the remaining Rs 9 crores was the actual cost of the government, Jupalli said in a press conference along with Transport Min-

ister Ponnam Prabhakar at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat here. The Miss World 2025 competition, held in Hyderabad to promote Telangana's tourism, culture, and traditions, was a great success, he claimed, and expressed his heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to making the Miss World event an unprecedented triumph. He noted that the event provided excellent promotion for tourism, handicrafts, and handloom products, introducing the

world to Telangana's culture, traditions, and culinary habits. Contestants, Miss World organization representatives, and media personnel also expressed their happiness with the organization and hospitality of the event, he said. Instead of praising the government, the opposition parties have criticized the state government for organizing the Miss World pageants, the Minister alleged and said that agreements are in place for an additional income

of Rs. 10 to 11 crore. Expressing anger over the spreading of false propaganda about the Miss World event by the opposition parties, the Tourism Minister said that former Ministers K T Rama Rao and Harish Rao challenged them to explain where Rs. 200 crore was spent on the Miss World pageants. We are ready for any debate on the Miss World expenditure either at BRS party's Telangana Bhavan or at Abids Chowrasta.





Want to save your nails from damage this summer



■ **Shahnaz Husain**

As the sun shines brighter and the days grow longer, summer brings a perfect opportunity to flaunt your nails. Whether you're hitting the beach, enjoying a picnic, or simply lounging by the pool, well-maintained and stylish nails can add that extra touch of glamour to your look. However, the intense summer heat, humidity, and sun exposure can dry out nails, making them weak, brittle, and prone to damage.

This could impact your nail health and make them break or chip faster. In this heat, they are likely to suffer from a lack of moisture and are more prone to dryness.

Maintaining the integrity and beauty of your gel polish manicure during the summer requires more than just a professional application; it needs a regimen that protects and preserves.

■ 1--Hydrate

Prolonged soaking in water /exposure to the sun can cause nails to expand and become more vulnerable to premature chipping and peeling.

Staying hydrated is key to keeping your nails healthy and strong.

Your body typically gets about 20% of the water it needs from the foods, fruit and vegetables you eat throughout the day. Foods that typically provide the highest water content are raw fruits and vegetables.

Drink plenty of water and include water-rich hydrating fruits and vegetables in your diet, such as cucumbers, watermelon, Lettuce, Peaches, and strawberries.

Regularly apply a moisturising hand cream or nail oil to your nails and cuticles to keep them hydrated. Applying cuticle oil can increase the circulation around your nails, stim-

ulating nail growth. The oil can also help improve the health and appearance of your nails. If you paint your nails, cuticle oil can also protect your polish for a lasting shine.

■ 2---Don't forget to exfoliate: Just like your skin, your nails and cuticles can benefit from exfoliation.

Nail exfoliation is a technique that helps buff out ridges and other



uneven textures on the nail plate to ensure smooth, long-lasting nail polish. Gently exfoliating can stimulate blood flow to the nail area, which can contribute to stronger and healthier nails. Use a gentle nail brush or an exfoliating scrub on the nail area to remove dead skin cells and any residual buildup from the surface of your nails and cuticles. Healthy, well-exfoliated nails provide a better base for nail polish, helping it last longer. Plus, it can create a smooth canvas for traditional nail polish application. Nail exfoliation can help loosen cuticles that have become attached to the nail plate and soften ridges in the nail, allowing for a smoother, shinier finish.

■ 3--Nail Polish Break

While many women love to have their toenails painted their favourite colour during open-toe season, the truth is, your toenails could benefit from a break from polish. While it's fun to wear nail polish, it's important

to take a break now and then, especially during summer, to maintain healthy nails.

Leaving nail polish on too long can be dangerous because the pigment in it can seep into the top layers of your nails and dry them out. Constant polish wear can weaken nails and make them prone to breakage.

Nails derive oxygen and nutrients from the blood supply and not the air; however, they do need breaks in between manicures for other reasons.

Prolonged wear of nail polish can result in the appearance of keratin granulation (rough and white patches on the surface of the nail), peeling, ridges and splits, discolouration, and dehydration.

■ 4--Diet and nails

Your balanced diet also affects your nail growth.

When you choose nutritious food for healthy nails, you can easily take good care of your nail health from the comfort of your home.

Nails are mostly made up of keratin, a natural protein in our body. Focus on consuming foods that provide keratin, the protein that makes up nails, and other nutrients like biotin, zinc, iron, and vitamin C. Minerals are crucial for nail health, especially during summer when nails are more susceptible to dryness and damage. Nuts are also highly recommended.

Many foods contain essential nutrients, protein, and vitamins that keep your nails strong and beautiful and prevent them from becoming brittle, weak, or damaged. Iron deficiency can cause brittle nails, and protein deficiency can lead to ridges.

Dark, leafy vegetables are a pertinent part of a balanced diet for one's holistic development. Spinach, kale, broccoli, and collards contain enough folate, iron, and calcium to keep your nails growing strong. Beans, legumes, and tofu contain rich protein for nail health.

The author is an internationally famous beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India

India's Covid tally rises to 4,302; 2 more deaths in 24 hours

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 4

India's Covid-19 situation continues to escalate, with active cases rising to 4,302 as of Wednesday morning at 8 am, an increase from 4,026 reported on Tuesday, as per data available from the Union Health Ministry. Two additional fatalities have brought the year's death toll to seven.

Over the past 24 hours, nearly 300 new infections were reported, with Kerala registering the highest number. Notably, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal, too, have experienced a marked rise in cases.

Meanwhile, 3,281 patients have recovered and have been discharged. The recent spike includes 60 new cases in West Bengal,



63 in Uttar Pradesh, and 64 in Delhi. Just a day earlier, Delhi recorded 47 new cases, and Kerala reported 35. Health authorities are closely monitoring the situation, although hospitalisation rates remain relatively low.

For the first time, Himachal Pradesh reported its first case of the latest surge in Nahan, Sirmaur district, on Tuesday, indicating the

virus's continued spread across regions.

The resurgence has been driven by four predominant variants—LF.7, XFG, JN.1, and NB.1.8.1. Notably, NB.1.8.1 is a newly identified sub-variant in India, classified by the World Health Organization's (WHO) Technical Advisory Group on Virus Evolution as a 'Variant Under Monitoring' due to its significant

genetic changes, though its epidemiological impact remains uncertain.

While multiple nations are witnessing renewed increases in Covid-19 cases, the overall fatality rate remains low, with most infected individuals experiencing mild symptoms. In response to the rising numbers, the governments of Delhi and Uttarakhand have issued advisories urging hospitals to prepare adequately by ensuring sufficient beds, oxygen supplies, medicines, and vaccines. Currently, the most prevalent variant in India is JN.1, accounting for 53% of tested samples, followed by BA.2 at 26%, along with other Omicron sub-lineages making up the remaining 20%, as per the health experts.

Minister Sakina Itoo Inaugurates Jan Aushadhi Kendra, Cancer Ward at DH Bandipora

Emphasizes Patient Care, Infrastructure Improvements

■ HT News Network

Bandipora, June 4 – In a significant step toward strengthening healthcare infrastructure in north Kashmir, Minister for Health and Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education, and Social Welfare, Ms. Sakina Itoo, visited the District Hospital Bandipora on Tuesday.

During her visit, the Minister inaugurated a Jan Aushadhi Kendra aimed at providing affordable generic medicines to the public, and also dedicated a newly established Cancer Ward to the people of the district. The developments are expected to greatly benefit patients, particularly those from economically weaker sections.

Ms. Sakina Itoo took a detailed tour of the hospital, interacted with patients and hospital staff, and reviewed healthcare facilities being provided. She assured the public that the government is committed to improving health services in rural and semi-urban areas, with a special focus on accessibility and affordability.

The Minister was accompanied by MLA Bandipora, Mr. Nizam-ud-din Bhat, Deputy Commissioner Bandi-



pura, Director Health Services Kashmir, and Director Family Welfare. The dignitaries assessed ongoing works and discussed various initiatives under the Health and Family Welfare schemes.

Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Bandipora, Dr. Masrat Iqbal Wani, presented a comprehensive overview of the hospital's functioning and highlighted both the recent improvements and the existing gaps that require urgent attention. He requested support for infrastructure expansion, specialist staff appoint-

ments, and upgraded diagnostic services.

On the occasion, Ms. Sakina Itoo emphasized the government's vision to strengthen healthcare delivery at the grassroots level. "Our mission is not only to enhance infrastructure but also to ensure that no patient is left unattended or burdened due to lack of resources," she said.

The visit concluded with assurances of support from the Ministry for bridging healthcare gaps in the region and further improving services at District Hospital Bandipora.

Digestive health deeply connected to immunity, mental well-being, say doctors

■ HT News Network/KNO

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—

COVID-19 cases rise in Maharashtra, Mumbai records highest new infections

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Mumbai, June 4

India's Covid-19 situation continues to escalate, with active cases rising to 4,302 as of Wednesday morning at 8 am, an increase from 4,026 reported on Tuesday, as per data available from the Union Health Ministry. Two additional fatalities have brought the year's death toll to seven.

Over the past 24 hours, nearly 300 new infections were reported, with

Kerala registering the highest number. Notably, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal, too, have experienced a marked rise in cases.

Meanwhile, 3,281 patients have recovered and have been discharged. The recent spike includes 60 new cases in West Bengal, 63 in Uttar Pradesh, and 64 in Delhi. Just a day earlier, Delhi recorded 47 new cases, and Kerala reported 35. Health authorities are closely monitoring the situation, although hospitalisation rates remain relatively low. For the first time, Himachal Pradesh

reported its first case of the latest surge in Nahan, Sirmaur district, on Tuesday, indicating the virus's continued spread across regions. The resurgence has been driven by four predominant variants—LF.7, XFG, JN.1, and NB.1.8.1. Notably, NB.1.8.1 is a newly identified sub-variant in India, classified by the World Health Organization's (WHO) Technical Advisory Group on Virus Evolution as a 'Variant Under Monitoring' due to its significant genetic changes, though its epidemiological impact remains uncertain.

Anti-drug abuse awareness programme organized at GGHS, GMS Pul Doda

■ HT News Network

DODA, JUNE 4: An impactful and interactive awareness programme on drug abuse prevention was today organized at Government Girls High School (GGHS) Pul Doda and Government Middle School (GMS) Pul Doda under the guidance of Headmaster Shafqat Ara. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and staff alike, conveying a strong message against the menace of drug abuse.

Students from different classes showcased their creativity and understanding of the issue through skits, speeches, posters and thought-provoking presentations.

Their performances reflected deep insight into the harmful effects of drug addiction and the importance of saying "no" to drugs. The event aimed to empower young minds with the knowledge needed to resist peer pressure and make healthy life

choices.

All staff members actively participated in the program, extending their support and encouragement to the students. Notably, Swami Raj, Master delivered an engaging and informative lecture, highlighting the disastrous effect of drugs on the individuals and the society as a whole.

The programme concluded with a collective pledge by students and staff, affirming to continue their fight against the drug menace.





NIT Srinagar concludes TIFAC-supported study to modernize Kashmir's Cricket bat industry

Hosts workshop in Bijbehara to uplift Valley's cricket bat sector

HT News Network

Srinagar, June 04: In a major step toward revitalizing one of Kashmir's iconic traditional industries, the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar hosted the valedictory workshop marking the successful culmination of a two-year-long technology gap assessment study in the cricket bat manufacturing industry of Kashmir.

The project, supported by the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), was conducted by the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar and aimed at identifying and bridging critical technological shortcomings in this heritage industry.

Led by Principal Investigator Dr. Saad Parvez and Co-Principal Investigator Dr. Noor Zaman Khan, along with Project Associate Mr. Aqib and Project Assistant Mr. Junaid, the NIT Srinagar team presented their key findings and strategic recommendations. The comprehensive study aims to modernize the cricket bat manufacturing ecosystem, ensuring its competitiveness, quality,



and sustainability in both domestic and international markets.

On the occasion, Dr. Saad Parvez said this study is part of our larger mission to connect academic research with the needs of local industries. The cricket bat industry is a symbol of Kashmir's artisanal legacy, and it deserves to be equipped with modern tools and systems to thrive in today's global economy.

He emphasized the institute's continued commitment to supporting indigenous sectors through technology-driven innovation.

Meanwhile the study identified five primary areas where intervention is necessary for transformation: supply chain modernization, technological upgradation, safe manufacturing practices, digital marketing, and improved production planning and control.

The team emphasized that these enhancements are crucial to preserving the industry's artisanal legacy while aligning it with modern market expectations.

In supply chain modernization, the study highlighted the need for better forecasting, streamlined raw material

procurement, and the adoption of efficient inventory systems to make the value chain more resilient and responsive.

For technological upgradation, the study proposed transitioning from traditional tools to advanced equipment, including precision cutting tools, moisture monitoring systems, automated shaping equipment, and comprehensive quality control protocols. These innovations would reduce human error and ensure consistency across production batches.

On the topic of workplace safety, the study recommended a cultural shift toward proactive safety standards. Suggestions included ergonomic workstation designs, safe handling procedures for cutting tools, and improved air quality controls to ensure the well-being of workers, who form the backbone of this skilled craft.

To reach a global customer base, the study stressed the importance of digital marketing tools, including professional websites, targeted social media outreach, and robust e-commerce platforms. These tools would help manu-

Indian Women's Hockey Team to open their Asia Cup 2025 campaign against Thailand

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 4

The Indian Women's Hockey Team is set to kick off their Women's Asia Cup 2025 campaign against Thailand on September 5. The Indian Team has been placed in Pool B, alongside defending Asia Cup champions Japan, Thailand, and Singapore, while Pool A consists of hosts China, Korea, Malaysia, and Chinese Taipei. The tournament is set to take place in Hangzhou, China, from September 5 to 14. Team India, which claimed the Bronze medal in the previous edition, will be eyeing the top podium finish this time. A victory not only brings continental glory but also guarantees a direct qualification to the 2026 Women's FIH Hockey World Cup, as the Asia Cup champions earn an automatic berth in the prestigious quadrennial event. Speaking on the tournament, India Captain Salima Tete said, "We are excited to begin our campaign in the Women's Asia Cup. Being placed in Pool B alongside defending champions Japan will test our skills and character from the very start. However, facing them in the pool stage will be a great opportunity to measure ourselves early in the tournament. Our focus will be on playing smart, disciplined hockey and taking it one match at a time. The ultimate goal is to lift the trophy and earn a direct spot in the 2026 Women's FIH Hockey World Cup." Echoing Salima's sentiments, Vice Captain Navneet Kaur said, "It will be a challenging tournament with Asia's top teams competing with each other, but we see it as a chance to bring out our best right from the first whistle. We've been training with intensity and purpose, and we will aim to execute our plans on the field during the tournament. Playing against Japan in the group stage gives us an early look at high-pressure hockey, which can only help us grow stronger as a unit. We're determined to make this Asia Cup campaign count and make the country proud."

West Indies name T20I squads against England & Ireland

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Antigua, June 4

West Indies are set to play three T20Is against England and Ireland each this month, marking Shai Hope's new era as skipper in the shortest format. The tour will begin with a three-match T20I series against England from June 6 to 10, followed by another three-T20I series against Ireland from June 12 to 15. The England series will mark Shai Hope's first assignment as the T20I skipper of the West Indies.

Veteran all-rounder Jason Holder returns to the T20I setup after last

featuring in February 2024, while explosive all-rounder Andre Russell has also been named for the England leg of the series, making a comeback after injury cut short his last appearance against England in Barbados. Nicholas Pooran has been rested for both series following an extended campaign in the Indian Premier League 2025.

Test captain Roston Chase will feature in the England series before departing for the Test squad camp ahead of the upcoming Test series against Australia.

He will be replaced for the Ireland

leg by Jyd Goolie, a promising left-hander who earns his maiden call-up to the senior team after an impressive domestic season, an ICC report said. Brandon King, who will serve as vice-captain against England, will miss the Ireland series due to personal commitments. Keacy Carty comes in as his replacement. Head Coach Daren Sammy and his assistants Floyd Reifer and Ravi Rampaul will leave the white-ball squad after the England series to prepare the Test team for the upcoming red-ball challenge against Australia that will mark the beginning of the next

Kohli sets IPL record with 1,159 against PBKS

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Ahmedabad, June 4

Star batsman Virat Kohli added another feather to his already illustrious cap, becoming the highest run-scorer against a single opponent in the Indian Premier League (IPL), during the IPL 2025 final at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

The Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) stalwart now boasts a staggering 1,159 runs against Punjab Kings (PBKS), surpassing his own previous best of 1,146 runs against Chennai Super Kings (CSK). He also features



prominently with 1,130 runs against Delhi Capitals (DC), underlining his unmatched consistency across sea-

sons. Kohli's run against PBKS includes a century and six half-centuries, with his highest score being 113. Across 36 innings, he has maintained an average of 36.21 and a strike rate of 132.60. His prolific form this season also saw him climb to third on the Orange Cap list, with 657 runs. During the same match, Kohli scripted another landmark by overtaking Shikhar Dhawan for the most fours in IPL history. He moved past Dhawan's 768 boundaries with a vintage shot through the covers, reaching a new record tally of 770 IPL fours.

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