

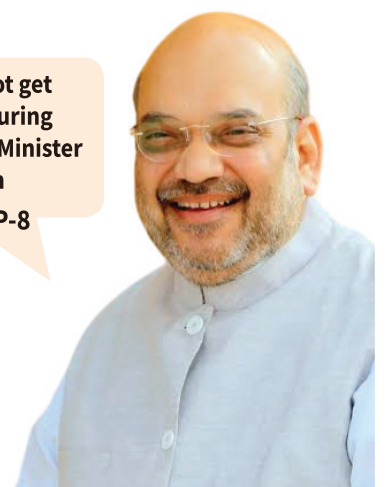


Maoists will not get respite even during monsoon: Home Minister Amit Shah

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Rana commends engineers for prompt restoration of Awantipora canal

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# US strikes 3 Iranian nuclear sites, inserting itself into Israel's war with Iran



HT NEWS DESK  
DUBAI, JUNE 22

The United States attacked three sites in Iran early Sunday, inserting itself into Israel's war aimed at destroying the Iranian nuclear programme in a risky gambit to weaken a longtime foe that prompted fears of a wider regional conflict as Tehran accused Washington of launching "a dangerous war."

US President Donald Trump asserted that Iran's key nuclear sites were "completely and fully obliterated" in an address to the nation from the White House.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the time for diplomacy had passed and that his country had the right to

defend itself.

"The warmongering, a lawless administration in Washington is solely and fully responsible for the dangerous consequences and far reaching implications of its act of aggression," he said at a news briefing at a conference in Turkiye in the first comments by a high-ranking Iranian official since the strikes.

Araghchi also said that "there is no red line" that the US has not crossed – and that "the most dangerous one was what happened only last night when they crossed a very big red line by attacking nuclear facilities only."

He added that he will be travelling to Moscow later on Sunday to meet with President Vladimir

Putin as the US enters its regional war with Israel.

The Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran confirmed that attacks took place on its Fordo, Isfahan and Natanz sites, but it insisted that its nuclear programme will not be stopped.

Iran and the UN nuclear watchdog said there were no immediate signs of radioactive contamination at the three locations following the strikes.

Satellite images taken after the American attack, analysed by The Associated Press, show damage to the entryways to the Fordo facility, which is dug deep into a mountain, while light gray smoke lingered in the air.

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## In phone conversation with Iran President Pezeshkian, PM Modi calls for de-escalation

HT NEWS DESK  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday conveyed to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian India's "deep concern" over Iran's conflict with Israel and called for immediate de-escalation of the situation through "dialogue and diplomacy".

The phone conversation between Modi and Pezeshkian came hours after the US bombed three major nuclear sites – Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan – in Iran, bringing itself into the Israel-Iran conflict.

In a social media post, Modi said he expressed "deep concern" at the recent escalations and that dialogue and diplomacy are the way forward for early restoration of regional peace.

"We discussed in detail about the current situation. Expressed deep concern at the recent escalations," Modi said.

"Reiterated our call for



immediate de-escalation, dialogue and diplomacy as the way forward and for early restoration of regional peace, security and stability," the prime minister added.

The US attack on the Iranian nuclear facilities triggered fears of a wider regional conflict, with many leading countries and blocs calling for restraint.

Soon after American B-2 bombers struck the Iranian installations, US President Donald Trump said the Iranian nuclear facilities were "completely and totally obliterated".

Iranian Foreign Minis-

ter Abbas Araghchi said the US has committed a "grave violation" of the UN Charter, international law and the nuclear non-proliferation treaty by attacking Iran's "peaceful nuclear installations".

"The events this morning are outrageous and will have everlasting consequences. Each and every member of the UN must be alarmed over this extremely dangerous, lawless and criminal behaviour," he said.

Iran reserves all options to defend its sovereignty, he said in a statement. The 27-nation European

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 2

## India Army chief reviews security grid in Kashmir, assesses preparedness for Amarnath Yatra



HT NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 22

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi reviewed the security grid in the Kashmir regiArmy Chief on and assessed the preparedness for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Yatra 2025. In a post on X, the Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADG-PI) shared that General Upendra Dwivedi was briefed on the current operational dynamics and the broader strategic landscape. The briefing included a demonstration on the

integration of advanced technologies into operations, which enhances decision-making, surveillance, and response mechanisms.

"General Upendra Dwivedi, #COAS, reviewed the security grid in the Kashmir region and assessed preparedness for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Yatra 2025. He was briefed on the current operational dynamics and the broader strategic landscape, including a demonstration on integration of advanced technologies in operations,"

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### >> Pahalgam attack

## NIA arrests two men for harbouring terrorists

HT NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUN 22

In a major breakthrough, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested two men for harbouring the terrorists who had carried out the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 people dead, the agency said on Sunday.

According to the NIA, the two men – Parvaiz Ahmad Jothar from Batekote and Bashir Ahmad Jothar of Hill Park in Pahalgam – have disclosed the identities of the three armed terrorists



involved in the attack.

They have also confirmed that the assailants were Pakistani nationals affiliated to the proscribed terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

"Parvaiz and Bashir

had knowingly harboured the three armed terrorists at a seasonal dhok (hut) at Hill Park before the attack," the NIA said.

The two men had provided food, shelter

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 2

## Last 11 years saw democratisation of civil services, youth aspiration: Dr Jitendra Singh

HT NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

In an exclusive interview to Doordarshan News, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the last 11 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi saw democratisation of Civil Services with democratisation of youth aspiration.

While at one time, the IAS and Civil Services were confined only to a handful of States like Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Kerala etc., today, Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out, we get



toppers from the States which earlier hardly figured in the civil services list.... toppers from Punjab, Haryana and J&K. He cited the case of Paranjit Kour, the young girl from Poonch, a border

district in J&K, who made it to All India Rank 11 in the Civil Services Exam of 2022 in very first attempt or the boy from Punjab, Anmol Sher Singh Bedi who was All India

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 2

## Incriminating material and live ammunition recovered in J&K Baramulla, one arrested

HT NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JUNE 22

Police on Sunday arrested a suspect and recovered incriminating materials, including live ammunition, during a search operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district. Jammu food guide

Police said acting on credible input, a raid was conducted at the residence of Mohammad Maqbool Dar alias Javaid Dar a resident of New Colony, Sariwarpora Pattan, in connection with 2024 FIR of Police

Station Pattan, registered under Sections 10 & 13 of UAPA and 121 & 121A IPC.

"During the search operation, police recovered posters affiliated with the banned organization Jammu and Kashmir National Front and 20 live rounds of AK-47 ammunition from the said location. The recovered material was seized on the spot and taken into evidence under proper legal procedures," a police statement said. The accused was taken into custody

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# Engaging with states to ensure effective implementation of UMEED portal for Waqf properties: Govt

HT NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

The Minority Affairs Ministry on Sunday said it has been actively engaging with states and union territories to ensure effective implementation of the UMEED portal, stressing that details of all registered Waqf properties across India are to be mandatorily uploaded on this platform within six months.

In line with this effort, the ministry said, Minority Affairs Secretary Chandra Shekhar Kumar visited Mumbai on June 21 to hold a comprehensive review meeting with the state secretary, senior officials and Maharashtra State Waqf Board CEO.

This marks his second such visit following a similar review in Bihar last week, it said.

During the meeting, Kumar apprised the officials

of the rules to be rolled out shortly to support the statutory requirements of the portal, the statement said.

He encouraged proactive participation and invited suggestions from state authorities to streamline the implementation process, it said.

The CEO of the Waqf Board requested the Centre to revisit and ease certain leasing provisions related to Waqf properties.



Kumar assured that the request will be examined sympathetically, reaffirming the Centre's com-

mitment to empowering Waqf Boards and enhancing Waqf property management, the statement said.

Apart from reviewing UMEED implementation, the Secretary also assessed the status of projects under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJKV) in Maharashtra.

He directed the state officials to submit all pending proposals to the ministry within one week for necessary action.

Kumar also held a meeting with officials of the Haj Committee of

India (HCoI) in Mumbai, congratulating them on the smooth and successful conduct of Haj 2025.

He noted with satisfaction that this year recorded the lowest number of deaths and health-related incidents among Indian Haj pilgrims.

Kumar attributed this achievement to improved coordination between the Ministry, Haj Committee of India, deputations, Saudi authorities and

local support systems.

The secretary especially acknowledged the effectiveness of the Haj Suvidha App, which played a crucial role in enhancing pilgrim experience and easing on-ground challenges.

He affirmed that insights from this year's Haj operations will be used to further improve arrangements for Haj 2026.

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# BJP Betrayed J&K people on statehood- Congress

HT NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUNE 22

A impressive "Jai Hind Sabha" followed by "Jai Hind Yatra" as part of AICC campaign, was organised by Congress party at Akhnoor today which was led by Working President Shri Raman Bhalla, former minister Mula Ram, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, Former minister Yash Pal Kundal, Former MLA Th. Balbir Singh, Former MLC Incharge HQ Ved Mahajan, Incharge President DCC Rural Hari Singh Chib, Seva Dal Chief Vijay Sharma, Kissan cell Chairman Bharat Priye, Social media Chairman Jatin Raina, Congress Contesting candidate Akhnoor Prof Ashok Bhagat, Kuldeep Sharma and Several

army Veterans. A rally carrying national flag was also taken out raising slogans in favour of armed forces.

Addressing a large gathering Working President Shri Raman Bhalla lashed out at the BJP and centre government for politicizing Operation Sindhoor while taking no action against BJP senior leaders who insulted the armed forces. Operation Sindhoor was the achievement of brave armed forces & of the nation & not of any political party, he added.

Bhalla said that Modi government & BJP has failed to answer the vital questions regarding the security failures at Pehalgam, why Pakistan was informed about the operation Sindhoor, how US announced ceasefire and



how Pakistan got IMF aid after Pehalgam attack. He questioned the failures foreign policy of Modi government.

Accusing BJP of denying legitimate right of statehood to people of

Jammu Kashmir Bhalla said that statehood is the right of people of Jammu and Kashmir and centre government can't deny it for too long as people will come on roads and Congress will lead from the

front. He said all sections of people are suffering due to dual control system in J&K due to lust of power and proxy rule of BJP's through LG rule and demanded immediate res-

toration of statehood.

Senior congress leader and former Minister Mula Ram hit out at BJP govt for betraying people on statehood after getting mandate in Jammu over false assurance of restoring it soon after Assembly elections. People will have to fight now to get back their status and rights.

He appreciated the congress candidate Ashok Bhagat and local congress leaders for organising a mega show today and also securing around 25000 votes in last assembly elections and said that Congress is the only strong force against BJP's divisive politics.

Chief Spokesperson Mr Ravinder Sharma said that people stood behind government and

forces to teach Pakistan a lesson after Pehalgam but US president suddenly announced ceasefire and now he has invited Pak army chief for Lunch besides terming Pakistan as partner in fight against terror. This is very surprising and contrary to the claims of Modi government regarding isolation of the terror country Pakistan.

Yash Pal Kundal lambasted BJP for its divide and rule policy and asked people to be united to get back right to statehood and land, jobs for locals.

Hari Singh Chib appreciated the party workers and local congress leaders for their dedication towards party against all odds. SENIOR leaders Th Balbir Singh, Ved Maha-

jan, vijay Sharma, Bharat Priye and others spoke and paid rich tributes to martyrs.

Congress candidate prof Ashok Bhagat launched an offensive on the BJP for failing to fulfil the promise of statehood besides regularisation of daily wages and others and demanded a special employment package in the army, para military forces for border belt.

Later a large jai hind rally in the honour of armed forces was taken out in Akhnoor area raising slogans in favour of armed forces. Several prominent leaders took part including Bansilal Gupta Mohanlal KP Singh Prem Lal Baldev Raj ZEO, Master. Om parkash Master Des, Ram Lal & others.

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

### US strikes 3...

The images by Planet Labs PBC also appeared to show damage to the mountain itself, apparently blocking its entry tunnels, which means Iran would have to dig out the facility to reach anything inside.

It was not clear whether the US would continue attacking Iran alongside its ally Israel, which has been engaged in a war with Iran for nine days. Countries around the globe are calling for diplomacy and no further escalation. Trump acted without congressional authorisation, and he also warned there would be additional strikes if Tehran retaliated against US forces.

"There will either be peace or there will be tragedy for Iran," he said.

Iran's Foreign Ministry said Washington had "betrayed diplomacy" with the military strikes in support of Israel, and said that "the US has itself launched a dangerous war against Iran" now.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its right to resist with full force against US military aggression and the crimes committed by this rogue regime, and to defend Iran's security and national interests," the ministry said in a lengthy statement.

Hours after the American attacks, Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard said it launched a barrage of 40 missiles at Israel, including its Khorramshahr-4, which can carry multiple warheads.

Israeli authorities reported that more than 80 people suffered mostly minor injuries, though one multi-story building in Tel Aviv was significantly damaged, with its entire facade torn away to expose the apartments inside. Houses across the street were almost completely destroyed.

Following the Iranian barrage, Israel's military said it had "swiftly neutralised" the Iranian missile launchers that had fired, and that it had begun a series of strikes toward military targets in western Iran.

### The US helped Israel strike Iran's toughest nuclear site

Iran has maintained that its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes only, and US intelligence agencies have assessed that Tehran is not actively pursuing a bomb. However, Trump and Israeli leaders have argued that Iran could quickly assemble a nuclear weapon, making it an imminent threat.

The decision to directly involve the US in the war comes after more than a week of strikes by Israel that significantly degraded Iran's air defences and offensive missile capabilities, and damaged its nuclear enrichment facilities.

But US and Israeli officials have said American B-2 stealth bombers and the 30,000-pound (13,500-kilogram) bunker-buster bomb that only they have been configured to carry offered the best chance of destroying heavily fortified sites connected to the Iranian nuclear programme buried deep underground.

Trump appears to have made the calculation – at the prodding of Israeli officials and many Republican lawmakers – that Israel's operation had softened the ground and presented a perhaps unparalleled opportunity to set back Iran's nuclear programme, perhaps permanently.

"We have completed our very successful attack on the three Nuclear sites in Iran, including Fordow, Natanz, and Esfahan," Trump said in a post on social media, using common alternate spellings for two of the sites. "All planes are now outside of Iran air space. A full payload of BOMBS was dropped on the primary site, Fordow. All planes are safely on their way home."

Trump added in a later post: "This is an HISTORIC MOMENT FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ISRAEL, AND THE WORLD. IRAN MUST NOW AGREE TO END THIS WAR. THANK YOU!"

Israel announced Sunday that it had closed its airspace to both inbound and outbound flights in the wake of the US attacks.

The White House and Pentagon did not immediately elaborate on the operation. US military leaders are scheduled to provide a briefing at 8 am Eastern.

The attack used bunker-buster bombs on Iran's Fordo nuclear fuel enrichment plant that is built deep into a mountain, a US official said. The weapons are designed to penetrate the ground before exploding. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss military operations.

In addition, US submarines launched about 30 Tomahawk missiles, according to another US official who also spoke on condition of anonymity.

The International Atomic Energy Agency wrote on X that there has been "no increase in off-site radiation

levels" after the strikes but that it would continue to monitor the situation.

### Trump's turn to strikes departs from some previous statements

The decision to attack was a risky one for Trump, who won the White House partially on the promise of keeping America out of costly foreign conflicts and scoffed at the value of American interventionism.

But Trump also vowed that he would not allow Iran to obtain a nuclear weapon, and he had initially hoped that the threat of force would bring the country's leaders to give up its nuclear program peacefully.

For months, Trump said he was dedicated to a diplomatic push to persuade Iran to give up its nuclear ambitions. And he twice – in April and again in late May – persuaded Netanyahu to hold off on military action against Iran and give diplomacy more time.

After Israel began striking Iran, Trump went from publicly expressing hope that the moment could be a "second chance" for Iran to make a deal to delivering explicit threats on Khamenei and making calls for Tehran's unconditional surrender.

He has bristled at criticism from some supporters who have suggested that further US involvement would be a betrayal to those who were drawn to his promise to end US involvement in expensive and endless wars.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu praised Trump's decision to attack in a video message directed at the American president.

"Your bold decision to target Iran's nuclear facilities, with the awesome and righteous might of the United States, will change history," he said. Netanyahu said the US "has done what no other country on earth could do."

### Fears of a broader war

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called the strikes a "dangerous escalation," as world leaders began chiming in with calls for diplomacy.

"There is a growing risk that this conflict could rapidly get out of control – with catastrophic consequences for civilians, the region and the world," he said in a statement.

Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen, who had threatened to resume attacks on US vessels in the Red Sea if the Trump administration joined Israel's military campaign, called on other Muslim nations to form "one front against the Zionist-American arrogance."

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had warned the United States on Wednesday that strikes targeting the Islamic Republic will "result in irreparable damage for them." And Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei declared "any American intervention would be a recipe for an all-out war in the region."

The Israeli military said Saturday it was preparing for the possibility of a lengthy war, while Iran's foreign minister warned before the US attack that American military involvement "would be very, very dangerous for everyone."

Israeli strikes on Iran have killed at least 865 people and wounded 3,396 others, according to the Washington-based group Human Rights Activists. The group said of those dead, it identified 363 civilians and 215 security force personnel.

Trump's decision for direct US military intervention comes after his administration made an unsuccessful two-month push – including with high-level, direct negotiations with the Iranians – aimed at persuading Tehran to curb its nuclear program.

During his previous administration, Trump pulled the US unilaterally out of the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, prompting Tehran to begin enriching uranium to higher levels and restrict the access of IAEA inspectors to its facilities. (Agencies)

### India Army chief reviews...

leading to smarter decisions, enhanced surveillance and response mechanisms," the post stated.

#GeneralUpendraDwivedi, #COAS, reviewed the security grid in the Kashmir region and assessed preparedness for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Yatra 2025. He was briefed on the current operational dynamics and the broader strategic landscape including a demonstration on integration of... pic.twitter.com/Mtg3SDOPRk

– ADG PI - INDIAN ARMY (@adgpi) June 22, 2025

The Chief of Army Staff also praised the Chinar Corps soldiers for their relentless efforts in fighting terrorism, maintaining peace, and improving the lives

of the local population in the region.

"The #COAS lauded All Ranks of #ChinarCorps for their unwavering commitment in ensuring peace and stability through decisive counter-terror operations and initiatives aimed at development of the region & upliftment of local population," the post further reads.

### NIA arrests two men...

and logistical support to the terrorists, who selectively killed the tourists on the basis of their religious identity on April 22, making it one of the most gruesome terrorist attacks ever.

The NIA has arrested the duo under Section 19 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

Further investigations are going on.

### In phone conversation...

Union urged all sides to step back and return to the negotiating table.

"I urge all sides to step back, return to the negotiating table and prevent further escalation," EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas said.

The EU foreign ministers will be discussing the situation on Monday.

The UK and many other nations have also appealed for calm.

However, China and Russia are yet to officially react to the unfolding situation arising out of the US bombing. (Agencies)

### Last 11 years saw...

Rank 2 in the Civil Services Exam of 2016.

This, the Minister said, has restored faith in the objectivity and equal opportunity offered by the system and, thus also led to democratisation of youth aspiration.

"This is the true essence of democracy—where every mother, regardless of her socio-economic standing, has the confidence to believe that her child can reach the top," said Dr Jitendra Singh. Dr Jitendra Singh said, the 11 years have been nothing short of transformational for India. "What generations longed for over decades has been made possible in just over a decade," he stated, adding that PM Modi has wiped the tears of the past and replaced them with eyes full of hope and future aspirations.

Each passing year, the Minister said, has marked a new milestone—be it in infrastructure, governance, technology, or youth empowerment—creating unprecedented opportunities for every Indian.

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 stated that under PM Modi's leadership, citizens' self-esteem has been restored. Referring to the PM's historic 2016 call of "Start-Up India, Stand-Up India", he emphasized how it broadened the employment horizon beyond traditional government jobs.

"It was only then people realized that job doesn't only mean "Sarkari Naukri", but also innovation, enterprise, and startups," the Minister noted.

India's biotech sector, he highlighted, is a perfect example—growing from just 50 StartUps in 2014 to over 10,075 in 2024, with a leap in valuation from \$10 billion to nearly \$170 billion. He credited this to strong public-private partnerships, and forward-thinking policies like Bio-E3 and the National Quantum Mission.

Dr. Jitendra Singh celebrated the integration of Northeast and Jammu & Kashmir into India's mainstream development.

"For decades, these regions waited for railways—but under PM Modi, trains now run in valleys that were once isolated," he said.

The Minister recounted the first-time commissioning of Jammu station in 1972 and the long gap in progress until PM Modi fulfilled this dream over half a century later, even flagging off Vande Bharat trains.

Citing emotional examples, Dr Jitendra Singh mentioned the young crew staff girls from Manipur lost in the tragic Ahmedabad air crash as symbols of how far the region has come—from isolation to being part of the international aviation and hospitality industry.

Dr. Jitendra Singh reaffirmed India's leadership in the fields of space and biotechnology, highlighting the nation's growing global stature in science and innovation. He announced that India's astronaut, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, will serve as the Mission

Pilot on the Axiom-4 mission, where he will conduct cutting-edge space biology experiments using indigenously developed biotech kits by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT). Dr. Singh further shared that India is steadily progressing towards establishing its own 'Bharat Antariksh Station' by 2035, marking a significant milestone in the country's space ambitions. He emphasized that the world is now actively collaborating with India and recognizing its scientific capabilities, a testament to the country's rise as a trusted global science partner.

Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted several landmark governance reforms that have transformed citizen-centric service delivery over the past decade. He noted that CPGRAMS, India's public grievance redressal mechanism, has evolved into a global model, handling over 26 lakh grievances in 2024 compared to just 2 lakh in 2014, with an impressive 96% disposal rate.

The Minister also spoke about the introduction of the Digital Life Certificate (DLC) for pensioners, which, through facial recognition technology, has eliminated the need for elderly citizens to physically visit banks for verification—a first-of-its-kind initiative in government. Furthermore, he cited progressive pension reforms, including the provision of family pension for widowed and divorced daughters, and the flexibility for women officers to nominate parents or children as beneficiaries, instead of being limited to their spouses—reflecting a more inclusive and compassionate approach to governance.

Highlighting the clean record of the Modi government, Dr. Jitendra Singh proudly stated "In the last 11 years, not a single charge of corruption has surfaced against any member of the Union Council of ministers. Compare that to the previous regime, where scams were the norm, he said.

The Minister also pointed out a cultural shift in politics, where the government no longer classifies citizens into vote banks, ensuring 100% saturation of schemes, including PM Awas Yojana homes in non-traditional voter areas.

On the current situation in Jammu & Kashmir, Dr. Jitendra Singh assured that normalcy has returned, and tourism is thriving. "Visit Pahalgalam today, where a tragic incident occurred recently—you'll find it crowded with people," he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh also touched on the Lithium reserves in J&K, calling them a potential economic game-changer, and emphasized that the youth of the region are aspirational and determined not to miss the bus.

Concluding his remarks, Dr. Jitendra Singh said "The real driving force behind Viksit Bharat 2047 will be the citizens of India. It is their support, aspiration, and participation that will shape the next 25 years of Bharat's journey."

### Incriminating material...

and further investigation is underway.

"In view of the nature of the recovery, additional provisions—Section 23 of UAPA and Section 7/25 of the Arms Act—have also been invoked in the case," police said.

### Engaging with states...

The Ministry of Minority Affairs remains committed to ensuring efficient administration of waqf properties and a dignified pilgrimage experience for all Hajjis through digital empowerment and responsive governance, the statement said.

Following the launch of the Unified Waqf Management Act, 1995 (UMEED) Central Portal on June 6, 2025, the Ministry of Minority Affairs has been actively engaging with states and union territories to ensure the effective implementation of this statutory platform, it said.

As per the mandate of the UMEED portal, details of all registered Waqf properties across India are to be mandatorily uploaded within six months.

The government launched the portal on June 6 to create a digital inventory after geo-tagging all Waqf properties, with Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju calling it a historic step that would ensure that community-owned Waqf assets are utilised effectively and fairly for poor Muslims.

The UMEED portal will serve as a centralised digital platform for real-time uploading, verification, and monitoring of Waqf properties. (Agencies)

## Rana commends engineers for prompt restoration of Awantipora canal

HT NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, JUNE 23

Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, commended the remarkable achievement of Engineers of Jal Shakti Department for prompt restoration of a major breach in the Awantipora Canal at Village Waghama, bringing relief to the distressed farmers.

The breach, measuring around 40 meters in length and 20 meters deep, had occurred on the night of June 16-17, 2025, disrupting irrigation supplies to nearly 2,000 hectares of paddy land in Anantnag and Pulwama districts.

Following a visit from MLA Bijbehara, who assessed the situation and called for urgent action, the Jal Shakti Department sprang into action. A high-level meeting chaired by Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra,



was convened to discuss restoration options.

The experts worked tirelessly to explore solutions, and the department mobilised resources, deploying heavy earth-moving machinery to create a 130-meter canal detour and undertake temporary restoration works. The restoration work was completed within a record four days, ensuring resumption of irrigation supplies to the affected areas.

The Minister lauded the Additional Chief Secretary who supervised and led Department's Engineers who worked day and night

to restore the canal, reiterating the department's dedication towards supporting the farming community.

The farmers and public representatives have hailed this achievement, acknowledging the department's commitment towards ensuring adequate and assured irrigation supplies.

The restoration has brought relief to hundreds of farmers, enabling them to continue agricultural activities without major disruptions during the critical paddy transplantation season.

## DAJGUA Campaign catalyses inclusive governance in Kishtwar's Tribal Belt on Day 8

HT NEWS SERVICE KISHTWAR, JUNE 22

To ensure inclusive development and last-mile service delivery to the tribal community, District Administration Kishtwar hosted a vibrant multi-departmental camp was at Panchayat Ghar Neeju Kukerwas, Block Drabshalla, on the day 8 of the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gramin Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA).

The initiative—aimed at socio-economic empowerment of tribal communities—brought together several departments including Health, Agriculture, Education, ICDS, Employment, Rural Development, and Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA),



offering an array of services to the tribal community members. Their joint presence not only enhanced awareness of welfare schemes among the Scheduled Tribe (ST) population but also facilitated direct access to key entitlements and services.

Each department established dedicated facilitation kiosks offering real-time assistance in beneficiary enrollment, application processing, multilingual informational material,

and personalized consultations—thereby ensuring that critical services reach the remotest corners.

A key highlight of the day's proceedings was the grievance redressal forum, which allowed residents to voice their concerns regarding infrastructure gaps, healthcare access, education challenges and delays in scheme implementation. Officers engaged in open dialogue, offering immediate assurances and timelines for

resolution, reflecting the administration's commitment to responsive and accountable governance.

Field-level officers emphasized the significance of sustained community engagement and highlighted DAJGUA's role in narrowing the divide between administration and tribal citizens. The platform fostered mutual dialogue—enabling officials not only to disseminate information but also to listen, learn, and adapt to community-specific realities. The outreach received widespread acclaim from Tribal Community and local inhabitants, who lauded the district administration's proactive, empathetic and ground-level connect.

## Women's College Anantnag celebrates 11th International Yoga Day

HT NEWS SERVICE ANANTNAG, JUNE 22

Government Degree College for Women, Anantnag, celebrated the 11th International Yoga Day on Saturday with great fervor and a historic turnout.

The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of students of the college, teaching and non-teaching faculty besides gazetted and non-gazetted staff.

Principal, Dr. Masood

Ahmad Malik, highlighted the vital role of yoga in maintaining both physical and mental well-being. He emphasized the relevance of yoga in today's fast-paced and stress-laden world, calling it a timeless practice that fosters holistic health.

Yoga session was led by a certified yoga instructor deputed by the District Youth Services and Sports. Under his expert guidance, participants engaged in

various yoga asanas with enthusiasm and ease, regardless of their experience level.

The collective practice created an inspiring and serene atmosphere, showcasing unity and dedication to a healthier lifestyle.

Celebrations paid tribute to the global spirit of International Yoga Day and reinforced the growing importance of yoga in cultivating a balanced, healthy, and mindful community.

## Satish Sharma launches plantation drive in Hiranagar; emphasises importance of afforestation, ecological balance

HT NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JUNE 22

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, inaugurated a plantation drive in Hiranagar the other day.

The event, held in collaboration with the Forest Department, witnessed wide participation from students, youth volunteers, environmentalists, government officials and locals.

MLA Hiranagar and several prominent local dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

Speaking at the event, the Minister said that the environmental health of Jammu and Kashmir, especially areas like Hiranagar with a delicate ecological balance, requires continuous and committed efforts from all stakeholders. He emphasized that large-scale afforestation



and community involvement are key towards safeguarding the region against deforestation, soil erosion, water scarcity and climate change.

"Forests are not merely natural assets; they are lifelines that sustain biodiversity, conserve water and purify the air. In the face of climate change and increasing environmental threats, it is our moral duty to plant more trees and

protect what nature has blessed us with," said the Minister.

The Minister also reiterated his government's commitment to green initiatives, noting that various departments under his charge, particularly Youth Services & Sports, will be directed to actively promote the environmental awareness and eco-friendly practices among the youth. He stressed the need to

inculcate the values of environmental stewardship through school and college-level programs, including nature camps, eco-clubs and green volunteering activities.

Satish Sharma appreciated the efforts of the Forest Department and local administration for organizing the plantation campaign and called for such drives to be made a seasonal movement rather than a one-time activity.

MLA Hiranagar, while addressing the gathering, assured full cooperation in mobilizing the local resources for long-term ecological restoration.

Several community leaders also shared their views and pledged to support future plantation efforts in the area.

SDM Hiranagar, RTO Kathua, District Youth Services Sports Officer and senior officers of forest department and other allied departments were also present.

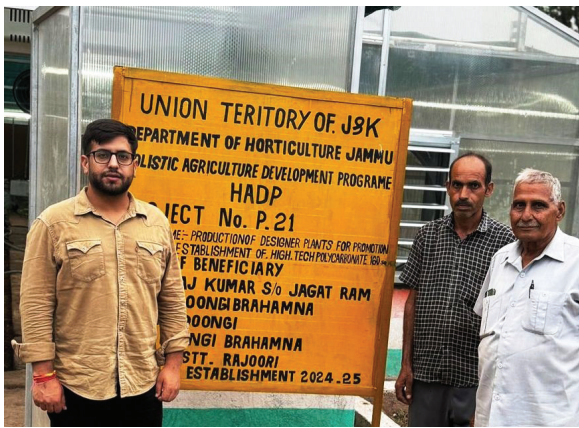
## DDC conducts late evening visit to Border Village in Doongi Block

HT NEWS SERVICE RAJOURI, JUNE 22

To resolve public issues at the grassroots level, District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma undertook a late evening visit to a border village in the Doongi block. The visit formed part of the district administration's sustained efforts to ensure timely redressal of grievances and efficient services delivery in far-flung areas.

The DDC gave a patient hearing to the issues raised by the locals. They projected demands related to road connectivity, electricity, water supply, healthcare and education.

The DDC also interacted with local entrepreneurs who have benefitted under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). He reviewed the



implementation of the scheme at the grassroots level and lauded the spirit of self-reliance being fostered among rural youth through agricultural entrepreneurship. He encouraged them to further expand their ventures and assured continued support from the administration.

The District Development Commissioner was accompanied by senior

officers of the civil administration and other concerned officials.

He assured the residents that their issues would be followed up rigorously and necessary interventions would be made on priority. The locals appreciated the visit of the District Development Commissioner and expressed gratitude for bringing governance to their doorstep.

## Dr. Abid Rasheed reviews medical facilities for Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025 along Pahalgam axis

HT NEWS SERVICE ANANTNAG, JUNE 22

As part of ongoing preparations for the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025, Secretary, Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, today visited the Pahalgam axis of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

The Secretary reviewed preparedness of the healthcare facilities at Nunwan Base camp, Sub District Hospital Pahalgam and the 100 bedded Base Hospital at Chandanwari.

Dr. Abid Rasheed was accompanied by Director Health Services Kashmir Dr Jehangir Bakshi, Director Family Welfare Dr Mushtaq Rather, Officer Incharge of Yatra from the Department, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Anantnag, Medical Director Yatra (Pahalgam axis) and other Nodal officers of the



Health Department. The visit included a comprehensive inspection of the medical infrastructure and facilities being put in place for the annual pilgrimage.

During the inspection, Dr. Abid Rasheed reviewed key components of health-

care preparedness, including availability of essential medicines, deployment of medical and paramedical staff, readiness of medical emergency response systems and overall adequacy of healthcare infrastructure for Yatra duties.

The Secretary was

informed that medical stations enroute the Holy Cave are functional with deployment of advance medical teams. Further, the deployment of staff including doctors, paramedics and other staff shall be carried out in three phases for effective service delivery during the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Emphasizing the need for uninterrupted healthcare services, Dr. Abid Rasheed directed the officials to ensure 24/7 medical facilities, especially at high-altitude camps and other critical points along the Yatra route.

He also stressed the importance of a robust referral system for timely shifting of critical cases to higher-level healthcare institutions. He instructed the medical teams to maintain adequate stocks of drugs and other equipment.

## DC Ramban orders inquiry into fire Incident at BDO Office

Sangaldan HT NEWS SERVICE RAMBAN, JUNE 22

In response to a fire incident at the BDO Office Sangaldan on Saturday, Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan, along with ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak, today visited the site to assess the situation.

They were joined by local SDPO and Tehsildar.

The Deputy Commissioner took stock of the damage caused by the fire and directed for immediate restoration work. He also instructed the concerned officers to take measures for the resumption of administrative function.

To determine the cause of the fire and establish accountability, the Deputy Commissioner constituted an inquiry committee. The Committee has been asked to conduct a thorough investigation and furnish the report at the earliest. Restoration efforts and safety protocols have been initiated to ensure minimal disruption of official work.

## Tony urges CM Omar to expedite PMAY cases in Rural, Urban areas

HT NEWS SERVICE JAMMU, JUNE 22

Senior Congress leader and DDC Member Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony, today made a fervent appeal to the administration to expedite the pending cases under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) in both rural and urban areas, particularly for families living below the poverty line. He expressed deep concern over the plight of homeless and shelterless people as the monsoon season is fast approaching, posing serious risks to their lives and dignity.

While interacting with the residents of various panchayats in Suchetgarh constituency, Tony said that a significant number of deserving beneficiaries are still awaiting the construction of their houses under PMAY. "It is extremely unfortunate that despite clear eligibility and sanctioned cases, funds are yet to be disbursed, leaving the poor to fend for themselves under the open sky," he said.

He emphasized that the current delay in execution and disbursement is unacceptable, especially at a time when the region is bracing for heavy rains. "This is not just a matter of administration, but a humanitarian crisis in the making. Scores of families with small children, elderly members, and women are compelled to live in makeshift shelters or under tarpaulins, which could collapse any moment during a downpour," Tony added.

The senior Congress leader appealed to the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, to immediately take cognizance of the issue and direct the concerned officers to release pending funds and clear all bottlenecks to ensure timely construction of PMAY houses. "This is the time for the administration to rise to the occasion and prove that the welfare of the poor is their top priority," he asserted.

## EDITORIAL

**Direct Rail Connectivity between Delhi and Srinagar is not luxury but Necessity**

The people of Kashmir have waited for decades to see this day. Cut off from the country's mainstream rail network, Kashmir relied heavily on road and air travel, often unpredictable due to weather or security situations.

The arrival of the semi-high-speed Vande Bharat train brings with it speed, comfort, and reliability that were long missing. For students, patients, traders, and tourists, it is a much-needed connection that shortens distances and strengthens ties.

However, this is also a moment to reflect on what more needs to be done. While the Katra-Srinagar route is a major breakthrough, it highlights the absence of direct train connectivity between Delhi and Srinagar. For a region that has endured physical and psychological isolation, such direct long-distance connectivity is not a luxury but a necessity. As the rest of India enjoys seamless train travel between metros and regions, the people of Kashmir still await a full and uninterrupted rail link from the national capital to the Valley.

The infrastructure is steadily falling into place, with the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL) nearing full completion. The engineering feat of the Chenab Bridge and the long tunnels cutting through the Pir Panjal are testaments to what is possible. It is time now to dream bigger.

Sooner the better sense prevails, Common masses urge the government and Indian Railways to expedite plans for long-distance direct trains to Srinagar—from Delhi, from Mumbai, from Kolkata. Kashmir deserves to be connected not just in spirit, but in speed and substance. A Delhi-Srinagar Vande Bharat should not be a distant dream but the next logical step in India's journey of unity through infrastructure.

Let the tracks to Kashmir not end in Katra. Let them continue, powerfully and proudly, to the very heart of the Valley, as real connectivity does not pause halfway.

**Nano Revolution: How IFFCO's Innovations Are Reshaping Indian Farming**

DR FIRDOOS WANI  
damhal100@gmail.com

In a nation where agriculture forms the backbone of the economy and sustains over half the population, innovation in farming practices is not merely desirable—it's imperative. India's rapidly evolving agricultural ecosystem is witnessing a shift from traditional high-input farming to smart, sustainable solutions that increase yield while protecting soil health and the environment. At the forefront of this transformation is IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited) with its groundbreaking innovations: IFFCO Nano Urea, IFFCO Nano DAP, and IFFCO Sagarika.

Together, these products are not only redefining nutrient management in agriculture but also empowering farmers with eco-friendly, cost-effective tools to maximise productivity. Here's why every progressive farmer should consider adopting them—and buying directly for maximum benefit.

**IFFCO Nano Urea: A Microscopic Game Changer****What is Nano Urea?**

Nano Urea is a liquid fertiliser developed by IFFCO through cutting-edge nanotechnology. Unlike conventional urea, which comes in bulky sacks and is often used excessively, Nano Urea contains tiny nitrogen particles (20-50 nanometers in size) that are easily absorbed by crops through leaves.

**Why It's Revolutionary:**

**Higher Efficiency:** A 500 ml bottle of Nano Urea replaces a 45 kg bag of traditional urea. This is possible because the nanoparticles are more bioavailable and are directly utilised by the plant.

**Lower Cost, Higher Productivity:** Nano Urea significantly reduces input costs. Farmers get more bang for their buck while reducing nitrogen wastage.

**Sustainable Farming:** Reduced nitrogen leaching into soil and water bodies prevents environmental degradation and supports long-term soil fertility.

**Field Impact:** In various trials and field demonstrations across India, farmers have reported increased crop yields, especially in rice, wheat, sugarcane, and maize, using Nano Urea. It's lighter to carry, safer to store, and easier to apply—an all-around win.

**IFFCO Nano DAP: A Twin-Nutrient Marvel****What is Nano DAP?**

DAP (Di-ammonium phosphate) is a critical fertiliser that supplies nitrogen and phosphorus, two essential macronutrients. With IFFCO Nano DAP, the traditional bulk fertiliser has been condensed into a highly



efficient, liquid nano formulation.

**Why It's A Breakthrough:**

**Dual Nutrient Delivery:** Nano DAP delivers both nitrogen and phosphorus in bioavailable nano-sized particles, increasing absorption and minimising runoff losses.

**Precision Farming:** Farmers can now practice precision nutrient application, reducing the guesswork and enhancing yield per acre.

**Eco-conscious Approach:** Like Nano Urea, Nano DAP contributes to a greener planet. It curbs excessive phosphate accumulation in soils—a problem that often leads to eutrophication in nearby water bodies.

**Real-world Use:** Farmers using Nano DAP have observed vigorous root growth, better flowering, and improved fruit set in crops like pulses, oilseeds, cotton, and vegetables. It's an innovation built with the farmer's daily challenges in mind.

**IFFCO Sagarika: Harnessing The Power Of The Sea****What is Sagarika?**

Derived from seaweed extracts and developed through advanced biostimulant research, IFFCO Sagarika is a plant growth promoter designed to enhance physiological and biological functions in crops.

**Why It Matters:**

**Natural Growth Booster:** Sagarika stimulates germination, root development, and stress tolerance, leading to stronger plants and higher productivity.

**Versatility:** It can be used across crops—be it cereals, pulses, fruits, or vegetables—and in both agriculture and horticulture.

**Abiotic Stress Resistance:** During drought, heatwaves, or salinity stress, Sagarika helps crops endure and thrive by boosting internal defence mechanisms.

**Farmer Testimonials:** Whether used as a foliar spray or soil application, Sagarika has gained popularity for promoting robust flowering and improved fruit quality. In horticultural crops like apples, mangoes, and spices, farmers have seen remarkable improvements in both quantity and quality.

**Why Every Farmer Should Consider Buying Directly**

Farmers today have more choices than ever, but those who understand the economics of agriculture know that buying directly from the source—like IFFCO—ensures trust, authenticity, and cost savings.

**Here's why buying IFFCO Nano products directly makes sense:**

**Certified Authenticity:** Direct purchase ensures you get genuine products with the right manufacturing and expiry details.

**Cost-Effective:** Avoid middlemen and retail markups. The price is farmer-friendly, making modern technology accessible even for smallholder farmers.

**Guidance and Support:** IFFCO offers education, support, and technical know-how when you buy from its outlets or authorised dealers—empowering you to use the products correctly.

**Bulk Purchase Options:** For cooperatives or groups of farmers, IFFCO facilitates bulk ordering, which further brings down the cost per unit. IFFCO also enables digital plat-

forms and mobile applications for orders, tracking, and agricultural advisory, bringing efficiency straight to the farmer's phone.

**A Greener Path Forward**

India is blessed with a rich agricultural legacy, but it's facing modern challenges: depleting soil health, shrinking water resources, climate unpredictability, and increasing input costs. Products like Nano Urea, Nano DAP, and Sagarika mark a paradigm shift from quantity-driven agriculture to smart, sustainable farming.

They align with the Government of India's push towards Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India), reducing dependency on imports while boosting indigenous innovation. These nano solutions also support India's global commitments to reduce carbon footprints under climate action frameworks.

**Final Thoughts: The Future Is Nano**

IFFCO's trio—Nano Urea, Nano DAP, and Sagarika—are not just products. They're a vision for the future of Indian farming: lighter, faster, cleaner, and greener. They allow the Indian farmer to step confidently into an era of precision agriculture, where inputs are optimised, yields are maximised, and the earth is respected.

So, if you're a farmer looking to break free from traditional inefficiencies, investing in these nano solutions is more than a smart purchase—it's a statement. A commitment to innovation, to the environment, and to the future of farming.

**The writer is a PhD scholar, a columnist and an approved councillor**

**The battered mind of the father and the western preoccupation of the sons**

PRIYANKA SAURABH

The uniform of a soldier father is not for salutation, but a symbol of respect and dedication. But when the same father, before taking his last breath, writes a letter with the bitterest words of his life and then shoots himself, it is not just suicide - it is a social death. A retired colonel living in a posh colony of Lucknow did just that. Two sons, one busy in a corporate job in America, the other engrossed in life with his family. The father and mother had spent their entire life raising these sons. Higher education, better life, foreign stability, worldly facilities -

they gave everything, but in the end the responsibility of loneliness also fell on the same parents.

It is said that every father wants his son to become greater than him, but hardly any father wants his son to forget him. If the father sat by his son's bedside all night when he had fever, and the same son says on his mother's death that "I will come at Papa's funeral" - then not only the relationship breaks, but the soul also breaks. That father did not abuse or taunt or show any anger in the letter. He simply said that perhaps there was some shortcoming in my upbringing, because I gave the society not civilized citizens but insensitive children.

This sentence is as simple as it is terrifying. This is not the grief of a father, but of a generation. This is not the story of a single colonel. This is of every parent who wants their children to fly, but cannot even see their shadows returning in old age. This is of that Indian society which is proud of the son

going to America, but becomes silent when the parents are left in an old age home. This is a statement of that insensitivity which is strangling relationships behind the mask of modernity.

The father's letter said that now no one will wait for him even near his dead body, so he himself goes - so that there is no compulsion, no excuse, no son can say that 'flight was not available'. This sentence is not a part of any news, it is a declaration of a cultural defeat. The father who fought the enemies in the war, who gave priority to the nation in service, lost to loneliness in his own home. His last wish was that his medals and photographs be returned to the battalion. Perhaps he did not want his photograph to hang as a false memory in his children's drawing room.

We live in a society where every festival is marked by ads like "spend time with family", but in reality, parents have no one to spend time with. Relationships are maintained over video calls, responsibility is

considered fulfilled by sending a cake on birthdays, and attending funerals can be avoided on the grounds of 'work pressure'. For Colonel Sahib's son, it must have been just 'another day'. But that day quietly martyred a father - this time without an enemy, without a war, without orders.

In a society where mothers used to teach their sons that parents are like God in old age, sons have started avoiding coming to their mother's funeral. This is not a generation of values, but of opportunism. Where sentences like "our priorities have changed" have been placed like stones on the grave of relationships. Relationships are now maintained not with emotions but with convenience. If someone calls, I will talk. If someone asks, I will come. If someone dies, I will think about them. This is our modern culture, which considers parents only as an expense or a burden after retirement.

Do we think that our children will be treated like us? Won't what

is sown today be reaped tomorrow? Did our sons study only to lose compassion? If education is limited to career and earning dollars, it does not produce an ideal child but an insensitive machine.

Colonel Sahab did not shoot himself - he made an announcement. That he was a failed father because he produced sons who were afraid to see a dead body but did not hesitate to take selfies. He left behind a society which considers the talks of the elderly boring and the tears of the elderly are a matter of only guilt, not compassion.

Now the question is whether we should just express regret after reading this letter or introspect. Are we really moving in a direction where the value of relationships is less than the dollar? Are we teaching our children that success means not looking back? Colonel Sahab's letter is a warning - for all those who think that settling abroad ends the roots. No, the roots always remain. They dry up and bring destruction.

This society will survive as long as the elders are respected. The day sons start considering their mother's funeral pyre as an 'event', that day civilization will start to end. What happened to Colonel Sahab today will happen to someone else tomorrow. Maybe to you. Maybe to me.

In the end, I would just like to say this - maintain relationships. Give time to your parents. It is not bad to go to America and achieve success, but if sentiments are left behind in that flight, then it is not a flight, it becomes oblivion.

Colonel Sahab's suicide is not just the death of a father - it is the defeat of the soul of our society. And if we do not wake up now, the next generation will only give us birthday cards and toll-free numbers for funerals.

**Priyanka Saurabh is a Research Scholar in Political Science, Poet, freelance journalist and columnist.**

# Remembering Haji Syed Muhammad Murad Bukhari (RA)...

The Annual Urs-e-Sharif of Qazi Kashmir Hazrat Syed Muhammad Murad Bukhari is being Celebrated at Muradabad Kreeri

## Haji Syed Muhammad Muraad Bukhari (RA) QAZI-E-KASHMIR (head of Islamic jurisprudence of his times)

JEHANGIR BUKHARI

It is an established fact the glorious message of Islam spread across the globe not by the dint of the sword but through the character of the noble souls who had dedicated their lives for the betterment of human race, The MISSIONARIES OF ISLAM. The same holds good for Kashmir as well. Along with Ameer-e-Kabeer, Mir Syed Ali Hamdani, it is believed that around 700 Saadat's came to Kashmir. Although the message of Islam had dawned over the Horizons of Kashmir through Hazrat Bulbul Shah (RA), However the spiritual power of Mir Syed Ali Hamdani almost changed the socio-cultural as well as the Religious landscape of the entire region.

Popularly known as (PEER WAAIR), The land of Saints, Kashmir is well known for its saints and preachers of love, brotherhood. In every nook and corner of Kashmir in Particular and entire erstwhile state of J&K we can find the final resting places (MAZAARS) of these noble souls. Held in high esteem these revered saints have tremendous contributions to the Cultural and Social goodness. One such place falls in North Kashmir's Baramulla District namely Kreeri, popularity known as Muradabad Kreeri.

Around 700 Years back this place was completely untrodden until the time when a sun Rise was witnessed over the horizons of this once sacred land which later came to be known as Muradabad KREERI, Haji Syed Muhammad Muraad Bukhari (RA) stands tall as a spiritual guide, a man of knowledge, and a true servant of Allah. It is a universal fact that in every generation, there are individuals whose lives leave a deep and lasting impact on society. Not just



through their words, but through their actions, values, and dedication to the service of others. Among such noble souls is this noble soul who had dedicated his life for Allah and for the real Welfare of the common masses. He was not only a pure and pious Muslim, a missionary of peace, but a splendid Social Scientist. Under the spiritual Guidance from his Great Grand Father the Revered Prophet Muhammad (SAW) he marvelously did a social transformation exercise and changed the Socio-Religious landscape of almost entire North Kashmir.

Born into a family of deep religious heritage, Haji Syed Muhammad Muraad Bukhari (RA) embodied the essence of Islamic values: humil-

ity, service, wisdom, and compassion. His life was a shining example of how spiritual leadership can go hand in hand with social upliftment. Through his teachings and personal example, he inspired countless individuals to lead lives of integrity, purpose, and devotion to Allah.

### Early Childhood and Education :

Lineage and Connection to the Prophetic Household

Hazrat Murad Bukhari (RA) was a direct descendant of Imam Ali al-Naqi (A.S), through the blessed lineage of Sayyida Fatima al-Zahra (S.A) and Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib (A.S). He hailed from a noble family of the Naqvi Sadaat, those who carried both the spiritual and bloodline

legacy of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Born in Iskanderpora, A village in Central Kashmir's Budgam in the year 780 AH, His early education began under the supervision of his uncle Syed Ziya-ud-Din Zeerak Kandhami and his grandfather Syed Alauddin Bukhari.

### Education as a Sacred Duty

One of the most admirable aspects of Bukhari Sahib's legacy was his deep commitment to education—not merely as a tool for worldly success, but as a means of inner awakening and service to humanity. He believed that knowledge, especially when rooted in Islamic principles, had the power to transform hearts

and societies.

Whether guiding young students toward moral clarity or encouraging the spread of Islamic education through local madrasas and schools, he played a quiet but powerful role in shaping minds and nurturing souls. To him, every child was a trust, and every classroom was sacred.

### A Life of Simplicity and Service

What set Haji Syed Muhammad Muraad Bukhari (RA) apart was his simplicity. Despite the love and respect he received from people across the Valley, he lived a life of humility. He served not for praise, but for the pleasure of the Almighty. He was known for offering wise counsel, helping the needy, and acting as a bridge of peace during times of unrest and confusion.

His home was open to all rich or poor, educated or illiterate. Many still recall the warmth of his presence, the calm of his voice, and the

depth of his duas.

### A Lasting Legacy

Today, as we reflect on his legacy, we are reminded that true greatness lies in service, sincerity, and steadfast faith. The memory of Haji Syed Muhammad Muraad Bukhari (RA) continues to live on in the lives of those he touched—students, scholars, and everyday people whose hearts he awakened.

Let his life inspire our youth to seek knowledge not only for careers but for character; not only for degrees but for dignity. May we carry forward his message of peace, humility, and love for knowledge.

"Verily, those who believe and do righteous deeds, the Most Merciful will appoint for them affection." – Qur'an 19:96

May Allah elevate his station in Jannat al-Firdous and continue to bless Kashmir with leaders of such moral clarity and spiritual strength.

## Hazrat Haji Mohammad Murad Bukhari (AR): A Brief Introduction

SGM ANDRABI

Hazrat Haji Syed Muhammad Murad Bukhari ,Qazi Kashmir ,is the Patron saint of Kashmir whose contribution to spread of Islam in 8th century Hijri can not be over emphasized by the time lapse of more than 579 years. His main area of activity has remained in the present day Beeru, Bangal & kruhin area of North west Kashmir. He had equally mastered both spheres of Sufi life, i.e Shariat & Tareeqat. It is here his salutation of Qazi Kashmir comes out as he was Chief Justice of Islamic court during the time of famous king Sultan Zainul Abideen, Badshah. It is recorded that the king himself visited kreeri to invite him to srinagar but Hazrat refused to go, & preferred to continue his Islamic Missionary work from kreeri.

That is the reason that Nimazai Juma was started at kreeri under the Kings Order, first outside the capital city of Srinagar. His abode at kreeri has been a great sought after by Awliyie Kamileen of Kashmir who followed him, Prominant among was Hz Sultan, Makhdoom sb AR, who would visit the shrine, barefooted from distance. Hz Baba Payamudin Reshi AR has been his disciple for 12 years before He was settled at his present place, then a dense jungle called " Ranboh". In fact Jenab Haji Murad Sb AR has himself accompanied Baba Reshi sb AR to his place & settled him there, about which many folk stories are known in our area. He was born at Iskanderpora in the year 780 Hijri calander and left for heavenly abode in the year 861 Hijri .The annual urs of Hazrat Haji Syed Mohammad Murad Bukhari (RA) is being observed every year on 17 th Dhul Hijja. The descendants of Haji Syed Muhammad Murad Bukhari AR have mainly migrated to all parts of



British India in the question to serve Islam. His lineage have a number of high ranked Awaliya Ulema, who have guided people to the righteous path in last about 6 centuries. Hz Mir Hamzatul Bukhari, Hz Syed Yusuf, Hz Mir syed Maqsood, syed Hussain wasif, Mir Sanaullah, syed Amir shah, Moulana S Anayatullah Bukhari, Mir Sued Hussain, Syed Attaullah shah Bukhari, Mufti Syed ziaul haq Bukhari, Mufasir Quran in Kashmiri language, khamosh Kreeri, Syed Ali Govhar Bukhari, Syed Sharifundin Bukhari, Justice Sharif Hussain Bukhari, Lahore, Prof

S Rafudin Bukhari, Syed saadin, saadi, Late Syed Shujat Bukhari & scores of famous Poets Historians, Ulema, Mashayik, Teachers, Preachers, administrators & Journalists. ,Hazrat Haji Syed Mohammad Murad Bukhari (RA) was son of Hz Syed Fakharudin Bukhari (RA) whose tomb is in the historical Budshah tomb in old Srinagar city. Syed Fakharudin Bukhari (RA) was the youngest son of Hazrati Syed Aloudin Bukhari (R.A) who was son of Hz Syed Jalal Ud Din Jahangashat Bukhari ( whose tomb is at Ucha Multan) who came from BUKHARA

, present day capital of Uzbekistan. HSM Murad Bukhari AH, had four sons: Syed Mir Sa'eed Bukhari, Syed Abu Saeed Bukhari, Syed Noor Syed Bukhari and Syed Haider (R.A).

He got his early education from his uncle Syed Ziya ud Din Zeerak (Kandhami) and grand father. His grandfather Hazrat Syed Allo ud Din Bukhari (RA) decided to send him for further education to Iraq . During his travel Hazrat Haji Syed Mohammad Murad Bukhari (RA) met Shaikh Ishaq Rumi ,AR .It is said that Shaikh Ishaq Rumi Shattari got surprised to see Hazrat Haji Syed

Mohammad Murad Bukhari (RA) in his home and told him "Oh my son I saw Shaikh Syed Abdul Qadir Jeelani (RA) in my dream and he said to me " oh ishaq rumi tommorow my son is comming to you, tell him to make allegiance with you .After making allegiance with shaikh Ishaq Rumi AR he became the successor for shatariya silsila .

He also graduated in knowledge of Islamic jurisprudence in Iraq. Shk Ishaq Rumi gave him the flag ( Alam Sharif) which is said to have carried in Jangi Bader by Sahaba RA. This Alam Sharif is preseved & and

is being taken out on special occasions besides Eidain. Hazrat Syed Haji Mohammad Murad Bukhari (RA) left for hajj and on the way to hajj in Khwarizim, Iran, he met SHAIYKH ABDULLAH BARZISH AABADI who was the khalifa Kubravi order founder by Hz Mohammad Najmuddin Kubra AR who taught him knowledge of Hidith. It may be pertinent to mention that Hz Shahi Hamdan AR was also of the Kubravi order. Hz SHM Murad Bukhari AR has also carried out islamic mission in the present day Syria & Iraq. Hazrat Haji Muhammad Muraad Bukhari AR is reported to have performed 7 Hajh Pilgrimages to Makhak and have spent a considerable time in the city of Madinah.

Hazrat Haji Syed Mohammad Bukhari ARs tomb was first built by the order of Shahmeeri kings who were ruling at the time of his wisal in 861 AH. Since then the shrine has been renovated from time to time, as per the need ,by Bukhari sadat of kreeri.

Since 1976 the management of the shrine was handed over to Muslim Awkaf Trust, now Wakf Board. Prof Rafudin Bukhari is heading the local advisory Committee of Awkaf comprising of 6 members, one each from 6 , Novabats Of Wursa of ziarate sharif as per the local convention.

A number of scholars have reported the complete history of the life, teachings and other achievements & Karamat of HSM Murad Bukhari AR. It has found mentioned in all kashmir history books & travalgues.

Any one required to go in for may consultant the relevant. This article is just an introduction, written to generate more studies in the unexplained facets of life of this patron saint of Kashmir.

## Awareness Workshop on PMFME Scheme held at Chamalwas-Banihal

HT NEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, JUNE 22

The Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing, with the support of the District Administration Ramban, organized a one-day awareness workshop on the PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme at Chamalwas-Banihal.

The workshop was held to spread awareness among farmers, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Cooperatives, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and unemployed youth about the benefits of the PMFME scheme.

Area Marketing Officer Tehsin Chib and the officers from the Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry departments, representatives from J&K Bank, NRLM, AGMO Batote Raju Zutshi, GMI Inderjit Singh, and DRP-PMFME provided an in-depth knowledge about



the scope of agro entrepreneurship in the rural areas and government incentives available under the scheme.

The Officers explained that the PMFME scheme helps people start food

processing businesses by giving financial help, training, and expert support for branding and marketing. "A 35% subsidy is available under the scheme, and help is also provided for preparing project reports,

to the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission. The workshop ended with an interactive session where participants asked questions and heard about successful local businesses started under the scheme.

getting bank loans, and completing required registrations such as FSSAI and Udyam" they were told.

Prominent Citizens including Munir Ahmed Malik, progressive farmer Zubair Ahmed Sohil, SHG members and local farmers also participated in the event.

The AMO encouraged participants to make use of the scheme and contribute

## MD JKRLM visits Kupwara, conducts comprehensive review of works executed by JKRLM

HT NEWS SERVICE  
KUPWARA, JUNE 22

Mission Director, Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) Dr Shubhra Sharma today visited Ramahal, Batergam, Trehgam and Dragmulla blocks of district Kupwara and conducted comprehensive review of works executed by JKRLM.

During the visit, the MD also interacted with the Cadre and Self Help Groups (SHGs) of JKRLM and gathered first hand appraisal from them about the implementation of various schemes of JKRLM. She also examined several initiatives set up in the district, evaluating their effectiveness and identifying opportunities for further enhancement.

She toured the agriculture based livelihood and dairy units at Batergam and Deedikoot (block Kupwara), engaging with women farmers and entrepreneurs. She also visited the Hollow brick unit, inaugurated a restaurant set up by Self-Help Group members associated with the Mission at Ramhall, and explored the Tarathpora Hitech poly house, AMC and Boutique in the



same block.

The MD also inaugurated Integrated Farming Cluster (IFC) Nutnussa project in Drugmulla, marking another milestone and symbolizing the district's focus on agro-based industries and sustainable development.

Expressing her appreciation, the MD stated, "Kupwara is the best example

of women empowerment, where local women are leading initiatives and transforming their communities. We are committed to supporting these efforts and fostering further growth."

Furthermore, the MD directed officials to strengthen the upcoming marketing platform to facilitate better sales and

visibility for local products and entrepreneurs, ensuring sustained economic progress. She further asked them to strengthen the digital transactions among the SHG members.

MD impressed upon the officials to prioritise group enterprises and CLF based enterprises in convergence with other line departments which will be run as business entities for the benefit of the women SHG members.

She impressed upon the officials that the NRLM programme can be successful only when it converged with other departments and directed the field staff to conduct awareness on convergence with other line departments.

Addressing the SHG members associated with JKRLM, the MD stressed upon the SHG members to avail the benefits envisaged under the Mission and strive for economic upliftment.

The Mission Director was accompanied by State Project Managers, District Program Manager (DPM) Block Program Managers (BPMs) and the Management Information System team (MIS) besides other officials.

## DC Jammu reviews flood preparedness measures ahead of Monsoon

HT NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUNE 22

Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya chaired a meeting of senior officers today to review the flood preparedness and mitigation measures in the district ahead of the monsoon season.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Joginder Singh, Sub Divisional Magistrates, officers from the Flood Control Department, PHE, PWD, Health, Police and other concerned departments.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner



took a detailed review of the status of flood protection works, availability of machinery and readiness of the disaster response teams. He directed the concerned departments to ensure the timely completion of all ongoing works related to flood management and to keep all nec-

essary equipment in a state of readiness.

The DC emphasised the importance of inter-departmental coordination and directed the officers to identify vulnerable areas, particularly low-lying and flood-prone zones, and to take all precautionary measures to

safeguard life and property. He further instructed the Health Department to keep medical teams and ambulances on standby and to ensure adequate stock of essential medicines.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for regular monitoring of water levels in rivers and nullahs and called for the establishment of control rooms at the district and tehsil levels for prompt response to any emergency situation. He also directed the officials to spread awareness about safety measures during floods.

## DC Budgam reviews implementation of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

HT NEWS SERVICE  
BUDGAM, JUNE 22

Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohiud-Din Bhat chaired a review meeting today to assess the progress of the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Chief Planning Officer, Executive Engineer of KPDC, all AEEs, JEEs and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, DC reviewed the number of registrations and applications received under the scheme, as well as the status of promotional and awareness activities.

The meeting was informed that as of June 20th 2025, applications received under the scheme are 10,420; vendors selected 1,218; SRT Systems Installed 211, Subsidies approved 183 and Subsidy approvals under process are 17 in the District. Addressing the



meeting, he emphasized the need for coordinated efforts by all officers and officials of line departments to adopt strategic approach and mobilise public participation to maximize the benefits of the scheme.

DC stressed on the importance of expediting the processes so that maximum population avails the benefits from the scheme.

He directed all stakeholders to work in union to achieve the targets set under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, thereby promoting sustainable energy solutions

and reducing dependency on conventional power sources.

Besides, he directed all the officers from the PDD to set the targets and encourage the people to register and install the solar system to minimize their monthly electricity bills. Bhat directed Exen KPDC Budgam to establish the control room in his office to monitor the daily progress achieved under the scheme.

He also directed concerned to reach all the area of the district and organise camps to aware the people about the benefits of the scheme.

## Rana visits Shopian; listens to people's grievances

HT NEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, JUNE 22

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today visited several areas in Shopian district and listened to people's grievances.

MLA Zainapora, Showket Hussain Ganie along with officers accompanied the Minister during his visit to places like Burihalan, Hirpora.

The people raised several issues while seeking Minister's intervention in speedy redress of the same.

The MLA, on the occasion, projected several grievances and demands pertaining to welfare and development of people of his constituency. He raised the issue of macadamisation of roads, upgradation of rural health infrastructure, better sanitation facilities and increasing supply time of water among other things.

A delegation of people



demanding implementation of Forest Rights Act guaranteed under the constitution and demanded fair review and scrutiny of their rejected claims to forest rights.

Another delegation from Hirpora complained about the shortage of portable water in their area and sought intervention of the Minister to address their concern immediately.

Likewise, another delegation raised the issue of better drainage facilities and complained that the roads get choked in rainy season giving a tough time

to the commuters.

The Minister assured the delegations that government is abreast with the problems faced by people and has taken slew of measures to address those on priority.

The Minister also took stock of the grievances pertaining to the departments under his control. He assured that the government would ensure outcome-based disposal of the issues raised by the people. He also assured that the issues pertaining to other departments will be forwarded to the concerned for timely action.

## International Yoga Day celebrated at District Jail Kishtwar

HT NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, JUNE 22

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kishtwar, in collaboration with District Jail Authorities, organized a special yoga session for jail inmates to mark the International Yoga Day.

The event was conducted under the guidance of Secretary DLSA Slahuddin Ahmed with active participation and coordination from Superintendent District Jail Susheel Kumar, Advocate Sanveer Singh, Assistant LADC and Adv. Vinay Shan.

The session was effectively facilitated by Lekh Raj Parihar, a trained Yoga Instructor.

Adding a unique and inspiring dimension to



the event, a young 6th standard student Aadiya Parihar participated in the yoga demonstration, showcasing that the practice of yoga transcends age and status.

The session saw enthusiastic participation from both the jail staff and the inmates. The Expert

team guided participants through different asanas and breathing exercises good for mental peace, discipline and general wellness.

The importance of yoga in rehabilitation and self-discipline was also highlighted during a brief address to the inmates.

**Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan:**  
**Awareness and Benefit Saturation Camps held across Anantnag**

HT NEWS SERVICE  
ANANTNAG, JUNE 22

As part of the ongoing Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan, the district administration Anantnag organized a series of mega awareness and benefit saturation camps at various panchayats across the district.

These camps, part of a 15-day outreach campaign aimed at empowering tribal communities, witnessed enthusiastic participation from the local tribal population.

Resource persons from various government departments engaged directly with attendees, providing comprehensive information on a wide range of welfare schemes and government services.

During the events, officials created awareness about social security, livelihood, and skill development initiatives besides addressing several public grievances on the spot, ensuring immediate redressal of pressing local issues.

Officers from various line departments underlined the importance of ensuring last-mile delivery of government services, especially in remote and underserved tribal areas. They reiterated the administration's commitment to bridging service delivery gaps and facilitating easier access to welfare schemes for marginalized sections of society.

Under the Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan, district administration is conducting similar awareness camps across identified tribal locations throughout the district. These camps will continue until June 30, 2025, with the objective of ensuring that no tribal household is left out.

The outreach initiative aligns with the government's vision of inclusive development and participatory governance. It focuses on awareness, facilitation, and grievance redressal at the grassroots level, thereby empowering tribal communities through informed engagement.

**Mission Yuva Anantnag holds IEC campaign**

HT NEWS SERVICE  
ANANTNAG, JUNE 22

In a collaborative move, Mission Yuva, an initiative aimed at youth empowerment emerged as the centerpiece of the International Yoga Day celebrations held at Anantnag.

The Yoga Day event was held at the Shaheed Humayun Muzzamil Memorial Government Degree College where Mission Yuva had set up its informative desks and selfie points witnessing huge rush of youngsters. These enthusiastic youngsters enquired about Mission Yuva programme and its benefits. They also clicked selfies at Selfie points.

The aim of the initiative was to give empowering career advice and make youngsters aware of the offerings of the Mission Yuva to them.

Notably, Mission Yuva is a flagship programme of the government which promotes development among youth.

## Suresh Sharma inaugurates key development works at Kabir Sabha, Maira Mandrian

HT NEWS SERVICE  
AKHNOOR, JUNE 22

Prominent BJP leader and District Development Council (DDC) member Pandit Suresh Sharma inaugurated developmental works worth Rs 3 lakh at Kabir Sabha, Maira Mandrian today. The completed projects include tile installation and essential preservation works aimed at improving the infrastructure and upkeep of the Sabha premises.

Addressing a gathering organized by Kabir Sabha on the occasion of Sant Kabir Das Ji's 627th Prakash Utsav (Birth Anniversary), Suresh Sharma expressed gratitude for the community's trust. He stated, "Last year during this very event, the local community had raised a demand for these development works. I am proud to fulfill that promise today by dedicating these completed projects to the people."

He further remarked, "Under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Prime



Minister Shri Narendra Modi, numerous welfare schemes are being implemented across the nation, touching lives and empowering every section of society."

Speaking on the spiritual significance of the day, Sharma added, "Sant Kabir Das Ji's teachings on truth, equality, and humility continue to illuminate our path even today. By walking the path shown by him, we can build a more meaningful and fulfilled life."

Members of Kabir Sabha extended heartfelt thanks

to Suresh Sharma for his commitment and urged him to continue prioritizing the community's development needs.

Several distinguished individuals were present at the event, including Dr. K.C. Bhagat, Ramlal Sharma, Master Chanchal Singh, Akshay Magotra, Tarseem Lal, Ravi Kumar, Sabha President Thoru Ram, Pritam Lal, Sewaram, Ashok Kumar, Sudesh Kumar, Vijay Kumar, Shakti Kumar, and many other respected community members.

## Varmul Gindo 2025 Ignites Baramulla with Spirit, Sportsmanship and Unity

HT NEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, JUNE 22

Varmul Gindo 2025 is not just a sports event—it is a vibrant celebration of youth, energy, and community spirit in the district of Baramulla. Launched with great enthusiasm, this month-long multi-sport festival is a joint initiative of the J&K Sports Council, District Sports Association Baramulla, and the Indian Army. The festival aims to promote athletic excellence, foster unity, and engage the community through spirited and healthy competition.

With over 1,600 participants competing across more than 20 sports disciplines, the event has brought together schools, sports clubs, and enthusiasts from every corner of the district. The tournament officially kicked off on June 17 with a thrilling volleyball match between Elite Club and Khelo India at the Showkat Ali Indoor Stadium. Elite Club clinched a 3-1 victory in front of a spirited crowd, setting the tone for the



exciting weeks ahead.

The following days saw intense snooker and volleyball action. On June 18, snooker matches began at B-Town Club, where Azam defeated Ahmad and Mohammad Zaid triumphed over Azhar. On June 19, Salman beat Anees, and Azam secured another win by overcoming Sajad. In volleyball, Elite Club continued its dominant run with a 3-0 win against Welkins.

The momentum carried forward on June 20, with more gripping snooker fixtures. Zaid defeated Amir in Match 1, while Momin got the better of Reyaz in Match 2. Both matches showcased the rising talent and growing interest

in cue sports in the region.

On June 21, another electrifying volleyball showdown took place between Elite Club and Spartan Baramulla. In a tightly contested four-set match, Elite Club emerged victorious once again, maintaining its unbeaten streak in the tournament.

The festival has drawn enthusiastic crowds to each venue, with spectators turning out in large numbers to support their local heroes. From the quiet focus around snooker tables to the echoing cheers across volleyball courts, Varmul Gindo 2025 is successfully weaving a fabric of unity, passion, and sportsmanship throughout Baramulla.

## Sakeena Itoo inaugurates Shaheed Wali Mohammad Itoo Memorial cricket tournament at Kulgam



HT NEWS SERVICE  
KULGAM, JUNE 22

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, inaugurated the Shaheed Wali Mohammad Itoo Memorial Cricket Tournament at DH Pora here today.

Speaking on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo paid heartfelt homage to Shaheed Wali Mohammad Itoo, highlighting his lifelong commitment to public service, community welfare and youth empowerment. "This tournament

is more than just a sporting event, it is tribute to the values Shaheed Wali Mohammad Itoo stood for," she remarked.

The Minister said that this tournament will serve as a platform for nurturing the young talent and fostering community spirit. She added that Government is committed to provide the youth constructive opportunities and space to showcase their sporting skills. The opening ceremony witnessed an enthusiastic turnout from the local youth, sports enthusiasts and community leaders.

## DC Poonch inspects progress of work on Casualty Building at SDH Surankote

HT NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, JUNE 22

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today conducted an inspection of the under-construction Casualty Building at Sub District Hospital (SDH) Surankote. He was accompanied by SDM Farooq Khan, Tehsildar Mohammad Akbar and other concerned officers.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of construction work and assessed the overall facilities at the hospital. Emphasizing the importance of timely completion, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Sub Divisional Magistrate to personally oversee the progress of the project and ensure its completion within 20



days. The Deputy Commissioner reiterated the administration's commitment to strengthening

health infrastructure and improving service delivery for the people of the region.

## Dharti-Abha 2.0 Campaign concludes in Block Vijaypur

HT NEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, JUNE 22

The Dharti-Abha 2.0 Campaign, a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, concluded successfully in Block Vijaypur.

Aimed at strengthening governance and ensuring inclusive development in tribal regions, the campaign focused on bridging developmental gaps, raising awareness about welfare schemes and facilitating redressal of grievances through institutional mechanisms.

Conducted under the dynamic leadership of District Development Commissioner Rajesh Sharma, the seven-day outreach saw active participation from all 17 line departments. Special emphasis was laid on the tribal village of Rakh Baro-



tian, where data-driven planning and community feedback guided developmental interventions.

A key highlight was the event was a comprehensive Gram Sabha, enabling targeted gap assessment using data provided by the Ministry. Awareness stalls were also established at Block Headquarters Vijaypur, offering informa-

tion on welfare schemes and serving as grievance redressal hubs.

With over 900 beneficiaries engaged, the campaign facilitated door-step governance and tribal empowerment. Rakh Barotian in particular, stood out as a model of inclusive outreach and administrative responsiveness.

## 11th International Yoga Day celebrated in RS Pura under supervision of SDM RS Pura



HT NEWS SERVICE  
RS PURA, JUNE 22

The 11th International Yoga Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at Chakroi Ground, Sub Division RS Pura, under the supervision of SDM RS Pura, Smt Anuradha Thakur. MLA Suchetgarh, Prof Gharu Bhagat, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Block-level officers of Sub Division RS Pura and community members actively participated in the program. The event aimed to promote yoga and its benefits among the masses. The program saw active participation from the community, highlighting the importance of yoga in daily life. The celebration was a grand success, thanks to the efforts of the Sub Division RS Pura team and the enthusiastic participation of the community. MLA Gharu Bhagat observed that International Yoga Day promotes awareness about yoga's numerous health benefits while encouraging people to adopt a yogic lifestyle. By emphasising yoga's benefits, the occasion aims to inspire individuals to make yoga a regular practice, cultivating inner serenity, mental clarity and overall health. Ultimately, the day celebrates yoga's transformative power of yoga in nurturing overall well-being, added SDM.

being. Observed annually on June 21, International Yoga Day celebrates the transformative gift of yoga, originating from ancient Indian tradition. By integrating the mind, body and spirit, yoga cultivates a profound sense of balance and harmony, nurturing both physical vitality and mental serenity, added MLA.

SDM RS Pura, Smt Anuradha Thakur, addressed the media and expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest and all dignitaries present for participating in the mega event. SDM said that the theme of International Yoga Day 2025 is "Yoga for One Earth, One Health" which emphasises the importance of yoga in fostering a harmonious balance between physical, mental and environmental well-being. This year marks the 11th anniversary of this global celebration. International Yoga Day promotes awareness about yoga's numerous health benefits while encouraging people to adopt a yogic lifestyle. By emphasising yoga's benefits, the occasion aims to inspire individuals to make yoga a regular practice, cultivating inner serenity, mental clarity and overall health. Ultimately, the day celebrates yoga's transformative power of yoga in nurturing overall well-being, added SDM.

## Bali Bhagat raises concern over injustice to "Arms and Ammunition industry" in J&K

HT NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JUNE 22

Bali Bhagat, senior BJP leader and former Minister has raised serious concern over the persistent and unjust difficulties being faced by arms and ammunition manufacturers and dealer's and in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Expressing deep anguish over the indefinite suspension of valid licenses, he said that the government's inaction is crippling a lawful industry and pushing hundreds of families into economic distress.

The former minister was speaking after interacting with a delegation of Gun Manufacturers Association headed by Its President Sanjay Sharma accompanied by Satish Sharma and Sumit Dasgotta.

The association members submitted a memo-

randum to the former Minister wherein the stakeholders have meticulously detailed how despite complying with all legal mandates under the Arms Rules, 2016—including timely submission of documents and obtaining Unique Identification Numbers (UINs)—the Home Department and District Administration have failed to issue the necessary Form VIII licenses. "The dealers are being penalized for administrative lapses that are no fault of theirs," they said.

According to the Association's memorandum, licensing authorities have consistently failed to update renewals on the National Database of Arms Licenses (NDAL) system, even though the licensees fulfilled all required formalities. "RTI replies clearly show that the District Magistrates manually

renewed licenses up to 2025, but never uploaded the data. Despite this, the J&K Home Department issued a circular in 2023 directing the suspension of all such dealers—completely overlooking the legal provisions that protect dealers from departmental errors," Bhagat added.

The former minister termed the situation a "bureaucratic injustice," lamenting the fact that over 200 dealers and manufacturers, who have lawfully invested in this trade, are today struggling to make ends meet. "The total industry loss is estimated to have crossed Rs 100 crore, and the human cost—families going without income—is incalculable," he said.

Bali Bhagat asserted that the issue is not just administrative but one of constitutional rights and fair governance. "Punish-

ing those who follow the law, instead of holding erring officials accountable, sends a wrong message and erodes trust in the system," he stated.

The former minister appealed to the Hon'ble Home and Defence Ministers to take cognizance of the matter and ensure justice is delivered. He urged the Centre to direct the concerned authorities to immediately restore operations of all arms and ammunition dealers holding valid UINs and expedite the issuance of Form VIII licenses. He also backed the Association's call for an independent inquiry to identify those responsible for this gross administrative failure.

"Jammu's arms manufacturing industry has a long and respectable history. It must not be allowed to perish due to indifference and systemic negligence," he added.

## DC attends Annual Bhandara at Baba Budh Giri Ji Ashram -Poonch



HT NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, JUNE 22

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today visited the revered Baba Budh Giri Ashram at Behramgala, where he actively participated in the Annual Bhandara and also took part in a Havan.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by SDM Surankote Farooq Khan, Tehsildar Mohammad Akbar and other officers.

The Deputy Commissioner interacted with the Ashram Committee members and devotees, con-

gratulating them for the successful conduct of the religious event.

Several developmental and infrastructural demands were raised by the Committee, including the construction of a Langer Shed, a 100-metre link road to the Mandir and repair of old stairs, among others.

The Deputy Commissioner assured the committee that the district administration is committed to addressing these demands, ensuring that pilgrims from Poonch and other areas have a safe and comfortable experience at the Ashram.

# BrahMos-armed frigate 'Tamal' to be commissioned on July 1 at Russian port

IANS  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

The Indian Navy is all set to commission its latest stealth multi-role frigate on July 1 at Kaliningrad in Russia, the Ministry of Defence announced on Sunday.

Christened "Tamal", the warship is the eighth in the series of Krivak class frigates inducted from Russia over the past two decades. Tamal is the second ship of the Tushil Class, which are the upgraded versions of their predecessors, Talwar and Teg classes, which have three ships each.

The ceremony will be presided over by Vice Admiral Sanjay J. Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, as the Chief Guest, in the presence of many high-ranking Indian and Russian government and defence officials, the official statement said.

India, as part of the broader contract for Tushil class, is also building two similar frigates called the Tripud class at Goa Shipyard Limited with transfer of technology and design assistance from the Russian side. By the conclusion of this series of ships, the Indian Navy will be operating ten ships with similar capabilities



ties and commonality in equipment, weapon and sensor fit over four different classes.

Tamal's construction was closely overseen by an Indian team of specialists from the Warship Overseeing Team stationed at Kaliningrad, under the aegis of the Embassy of India, Moscow. At the Naval Headquarters, the project was steered by the Directorate of Ship Production under the Controller of Warship Production and Acquisition.

Tamal has been built at Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia, and is the last warship to be inducted from a foreign source, in

line with the Government of India's impetus on Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives.

The ship has 26 per cent indigenous components, including the BrahMos long-range cruise missile for targeting both at sea and land. The ship has significant upgrades in its arsenal in comparison to its predecessors, such as vertically launched surface-to-air missiles, improved 100 MM gun, new age EO/IR system in addition to the standard 30 MM CIWS, heavyweight torpedoes, urgent-attack anti-submarine rockets, and a host of surveillance and fire control radars and

systems.

The force multipliers include Air Early Warning and Multi Role helicopters, which can operate from the deck of Tamal. The combat capability of the ship is augmented by a host of Network Centric Warfare capabilities and an advanced Electronic Warfare suite. Tamal punches well above its weight with a very high tonnage to firepower ratio, extended endurance, and a top speed in excess of 30 knots. The crew, comprising over 250 personnel, have undergone rigorous ashore as well as afloat training in extremely challenging winter conditions of St. Petersburg and Kaliningrad. Tamal has successively completed extensive sea trials undertaken over three months, proving its systems, weapons and sensors.

The frigate also features modern communication and data-link systems, navigation equipment and critical infrastructure, making the ship a powerful asset for naval operations. The major Indian OEMs involved were BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited, Bharat Electronics Limited, Keltron, Nova Integrated Systems from Tata, Elcome Marine and Johnson Controls India.

# Air India flight from Birmingham to Delhi diverted to Riyadh after bomb threat

IANS  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

An Air India flight from the UK's Birmingham to Delhi was diverted to Riyadh on Saturday night after a bomb threat was reported on board, the airline said on Sunday.

The airline confirmed that flight AI114 landed safely in Riyadh, where security checks were carried out.

According to flight tracking website Flightradar24, the aircraft took off from Birmingham at 8.26 p.m. and was en route to Delhi when it had to make the emergency diversion.

Air India later issued a statement saying that all passengers were safe and efforts were underway to arrange their travel to



their final destinations.

"The inconvenience caused to our passengers due to this unforeseen disruption is sincerely regretted. Alternative arrangements are being made to fly the passengers to their destinations," a spokesperson for the airline said.

The Tata Group-owned airline has recently taken steps to enhance safety measures following a

tragic crash in Ahmedabad on June 12.

As part of its response, Air India has introduced more rigorous pre-flight safety checks and temporarily reduced the number of flights to ensure smooth operations.

The airline also explained that factors such as airspace restrictions in the Middle East, night curfews at airports

in Europe and East Asia, and general air traffic congestion are contributing to delays and cancellations.

This is not the first time Air India has faced such a situation recently. On June 13, another Air India flight, AI379, travelling from Thailand's Phuket to New Delhi had to return to Phuket shortly after take-off due to a bomb threat.

The plane, carrying 156 passengers, circled the Andaman Sea before safely landing back at Phuket International Airport.

Thai airport authorities confirmed the emergency landing but did not share more details about the nature of the threat. Air India has not made a public statement about that incident.

# Maoists will not get respite even during monsoon: Home Minister Amit Shah

IANS  
RAIPUR, JUNE 22

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday reiterated the government's resolve to eradicate Maoism by March 31 next year and announced that the rebels will not get a breather even during monsoon.



Speaking at the foundation stone laying ceremony

of National Forensic Science University (NFSU) and Central Forensic Science Laboratory's Raipur campus, HM Shah said, "Unlike previous years, when the anti-Maoist operations used to get slowed down during monsoon, I want to assure the people that we will not let the rebels sleep even

during rains." The Home Minister also hailed Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai and his deputy Vijay Sharma for sharpening the operations against Maoism in the state. "They have encouraged police forces, and I congratulate the two on behalf of the Central government," he said.

# Middle East air travel hit hard as airlines avoid region after US strikes on Iran

IANS  
NEW DELHI, JUNE 22

Air travel across the Middle East continues to face major disruptions after the United States launched airstrikes on Iranian nuclear facilities on Sunday.

Airlines are now avoiding large parts of the region's airspace due to growing security concerns, causing delays, longer flight times, and increased costs.

According to flight tracking service FlightRadar24, commercial planes are being rerouted to avoid flying over countries like Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Israel.

Instead, they are taking longer paths over safer areas such as the Caspian Sea, Egypt, or Saudi Arabia.

This change is leading to higher fuel consumption and more expensive flight operations.

"Following the U.S. strikes, commercial flights continue to avoid high-risk zones, adhering to airspace restrictions introduced last week," FlightRadar24 shared on social media platform X.

The situation in the region remains tense with increased missile and drone attacks. Safe Airspace, an aviation risk monitoring group, warned that the US strikes could lead to higher risks for American airlines flying near the Middle East.

While there are no direct threats to civilian planes yet, the group said Iran might respond by targeting US military bases or using its allies, like Hezbollah.



Safe Airspace also warned that other Gulf nations, such as Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman,

Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, could face increased danger.

The group advised airlines to remain extremely cautious. In Israel, the country's main airlines -- El Al, Arkia, and Israir -- have stopped running rescue flights meant to bring Israeli citizens back home.

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