

Rishabh Pant breaks records with twin tons at Headingley



DC Srinagar reviews progress on implementation of Mission Yuva in the district

P12
 P13

J&K gets massive push in connectivity

Centre approves Mughal Road, Karnah Tunnel in ₹10,637 Cr Push

LG, CM express gratitude to PM Modi, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUN 23: In a significant fillip to road connectivity in Jammu & Kashmir, the Government of India has approved Mughal road and Karnah valley tunnel projects.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways today approved 19 projects, including Pir Ki Gali and Sadhna tunnel projects, at estimated costs of Rs 10637 crore.

According to a communiqué from the Ministry, a copy of which is in pos-



session of news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the MORTH has approved construction of two tunnel projects, three flyovers, four bridges and 10 other works in J&K.

The two key projects sanctioned are 9-kilometre long Pir Ki Gali and 7-kilometer long Sadhna tunnels, involving a total cost of Rs 7160 crore.

While the Pir Ki Gali tunnel will ensure year-round connectivity along the Mughal Road—linking the Kashmir Valley with Pir Panjal—the Sadhna

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

'Operation Sindoor' achieved all its objectives: Rajnath Singh

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, JUN 23: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said that 'Operation Sindoor' launched by India last month in retaliation against the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead, achieved all its objectives.

Addressing a gathering at an event held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan complex here, the Defence Minister, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "Operation Sindoor achieved all objectives. It also succeeded in injecting fear into the minds of terrorists."

Pertinently, to avenge the terror attack, India launched "Operation Sindoor" on May 6, 2025, to destroy terror camps

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Limited Powers Restrict J&K on Quota: Minister

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUNE 23: Amid mounting public pressure and student protests over the shrinking share of open merit in Jammu and Kashmir's job reservations, a senior cabinet minister said that the Union Territory government has very limited jurisdiction over the matter due to constitutional constraints and parliamentary enactments.

"Let me be honest, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir cannot do much in terms of fundamentally altering the reservation matrix. A majority of the reservation structure now applicable in the Union Territory flows directly from Parliamentary legislation, particularly post-2019," the minister told Kashmir News Service (KNS) on condition of anonymity.

He said that there is a little leeway within the framework, and they are examining those limited areas. "Categories like RBA (Resident of Backward Areas), ALC (Actual Line of Control), and Pahari-speaking people are under the UT's

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

LG Sinha Addresses Cluster University Jammu's Mega Job Fair-2025 At Jammu

HT News Network

JAMMU, JUN 23: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today addressed Mega Job Fair-2025 organised by Cluster University of Jammu in collaboration with Desh Bhagat University Punjab, at Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government PG College for Women Gandhi Nagar Jammu.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor commended the significant initiative by Cluster University Jammu and Desh Bhagat University Punjab for bringing together a wide array of reputed national companies, offering employment opportunities to youth of J&K UT.

He also extended his felicitations to the companies that participated in Mega Job Fair and conveyed his best



wishes to the selected candidates.

"Cluster University's job fair aims to bridge the gap between education and employment. It will provide an

opportunity to our young generation to showcase their skills and empower them to start their careers so

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

J&K Braces for Rains Amid Heatwave

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUN 23: The weatherman here has predicted a major relief from the scorching heat, saying there is a forecast of intermittent light to moderate rain and thunder-shower at many places of Kashmir from



Wednesday.

According to the forecast details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), hot and humid weather conditions are expected to continue tomorrow with the possibility of brief spells of rain and thunder-shower at scattered places.

As per an Independent Weather Forecaster, Aadil Maqbool, the hottest day of

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

NEWS BRIEF

Arab countries next target of US, Israel: Farooq

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUN 23: National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah warned the Arab countries on

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

IRCTC Adds Kashmiri Veg Cuisine to Vande Bharat

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, JUN 23: The IRCTC has decided to serve Kashmiri vegetarian cuisine to passengers travelling on

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Tajamul Bukhari and Team HT Bereaved

Our Aunt and Mother of Tajamul Bukhari is No More

HT News Desk

With heavy heart we announce the sad demise of our aunt and Mother of Headlines Today Sub Editor Syed Tajamul Bukhari.

She breathed her last at around 2:30pm today while she was undergoing dialysis treatment at Sopore. The deceased was the wife of Syed Atiqullah Bukhari and she was laid to rest at the Ancestral graveyard at Muradabad Kreeri. Nimazi Jinaza was offered at 7pm at Muradabad Kreeri wherein a good number of people participated in the prayers. Later on it was announced that 4th day ceremony will be held at their residence in Muradabad Kreeri.

Congress Demanded Only 'Home Rule', Not Independence Till 1930: Dr Jitendra

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, JUN 23: In a powerful and unflinching address during the launch of the book "History That India Ignored" authored by veteran journalist and ANI Chairman Prem Prakash, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh delivered a scathing critique of the Congress Party's selective reading of India's freedom struggle, asserting that it was never at the forefront of



TURN ON.....PAGE 02

CS FOR PROMPT COMPLETION OF SMART CITY WORKS



HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUNE 23: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Monday chaired a crucial meeting of Housing & Urban Development

Department (H&UDD) to comprehensively review the progress on various works and schemes pivotal to transform the lives of people across the urban

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

Pahalgam Terror Attack

Court sends 2 terrorist aides to 5-day remand

HT News Network

JAMMU, JUN 23: A local court in Jammu on Monday granted five-day remand of two terrorist aides, who were arrested for harbouring the Pakistani terrorists behind the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, to National Investigation Agency (NIA), officials said.

The two men - Parvaiz Ahmad Jothar from Batkote, Pahalgam, and Bashir Ahmad Jothar of Hill Park, Pahalgam - were arrested by NIA on Sunday in the first breakthrough in the investigations into the terror attack that left 26 persons, mostly tourists, dead and 16 others injured.

According to the NIA, the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

'Some reportage speculative, misleading'

HT News Network

NEW DELHI, JUN 23: A day after arresting two accused charged for harbouring the terrorists who carried out April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday said that it has taken a note of media coverage, and has seen some reportage is

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



DENTAL & FACIAL AESTHETICS

going beyond dentistry

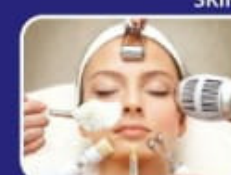
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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

J&K gets....

tunnel will provide uninterrupted road access to the strategically vital Karnah Valley, located near the Line of Control.

According to documents, the MoRTH will hold a meeting with the Ministry of Defence over these two projects.

The detailed project reports (DPRs) will be transferred immediately from the National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) to the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), which operates under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

The flyover projects approved are four-lane Pantha chowk flyover (Rs 105 crore), 4-lane Magam flyover on Narbal- Gulmarg section of National Highway- 701 (Rs 445 crore) and four-lane flyover from Lal Chowk to Parimporajunction (Rs 700 crore).

The MoRTH has also approved construction/ improvement of Trehgam- Chamkot road involving a cost of Rs 966 crore.

LG expressed gratitude to PM, Gadhkari. Meanwhile, LG Manoj Sinha has expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadhkari for sanctioning of these projects.

"Extremely grateful to Hon'ble PMS Shri Narendra Modi ji & Hon'ble Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Shri Nitin Gadhkari ji for giving approval to 19 mega road and tunnel projects for J&K UT worth Rs.10,637 Crore," LG said, in a post on his official X handle.

He said major approved projects include construction of Peer-Ki-Gali tunnel, Sadhana tunnel, Zaznar Shopian section of NH-701A, 4-L flyover from Lal Chowk to Parimpora, Trehgam Chamkot section of NH-701, 4-Lane Magam Flyover on Narbal-Gulmarg section & Qazigund Bypass and other projects.

He said many of these strategically important projects will improve logistical support and troops mobility.

"Projects will improve Infrastructure in UT & connect various tourist destinations. Construction of tunnels will reduce the travel time, ensure all-weather connectivity & spur economic growth," he posted.

My government got these projects approved: CM

In a post on X, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said that his government has got road and tunnel projects worth Rs 10600 crore approved by the Centre.

"In a major achievement my government has got 10,600 crores worth of road & tunnel projects approved by the Union Government. I'm grateful to PM @narendramodiji & Minister @MORTHIndia @nitin_gadhkari ji for their continued support as we try to steer J&K on a path of progress, development & connectivity," he posted.

'Operation.....

in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, while security agencies also cracked down on terrorist sympathisers to destroy terror infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir.

The strikes carried out by the Indian Air Force deep inside Pakistan and the PoK destroyed nine terrorist camps, following which skirmishes broke out between India and Pakistan armies that continued for 4-days.

The hostilities ended on May 10 after the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) from Pakistan called his counterpart in New Delhi and requested for a ceasefire.

Limited Powers.....

administrative domain. There may be some scope to restructure quotas in these segments."

The minister said that the cabinet sub-committee, which recently submitted its report to the cabinet and then sent it to the Law Department for legal vetting, has carefully worked within this boundary. "You can't touch the percentages that have been granted through Parliamentary enactments or amendments to the Constitution. These include SCs, STs, EWS, and OBCs, most of which are now central subjects."

J&K's reservation system has undergone major transformation since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004, earlier governed the UT's quota structure, providing reservation for SCs, STs, RBA, ALC, and other socially and educationally backward classes.

After the reorganization, the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Act, 2019, passed by Parliament, brought in 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in line with the 103rd Constitutional Amendment which substantially reduced the open merit share.

Scheduled Tribe reservations were enhanced after the inclusion of more communities like Paharis in 2023 through a constitutional amendment, also passed by Parliament. SC and ST categories are governed by Articles 341 and 342 of the Indian Constitution, and any modification in these is a central subject.

"The UT administration or even an elected government cannot reduce or alter quotas extended by the Parliament unless repealed or amended by another Parliamentary act," the minister further said.

The protest wave began in early 2024 when student groups and civil services aspirants took to the streets, demanding restoration of a higher open merit share.

As protests grew, the government formed a Cabinet Sub-Committee to review the matter. The committee submitted its report last week, which was immediately sent to the Law Department for legal vetting. (KNS)

LG Sinha Addresses.....

they can effectively contribute in building Viksit

Jammu Kashmir and Viksit Bharat," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, highlighted the reforms, guided by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, which are shaping the education landscape to align with the needs of the industries and creating robust employment avenues for the youth of Jammu Kashmir.

"Employment generation, self-employment through entrepreneurship and improving employability of the youngsters through educational transformation has been our top priority. Our efforts to attract industries in J&K since 2021 have helped in connecting young job seekers directly with employers," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He observed that the presence of local private companies at today's Job Fair serves as a testament to the significant strides being made in industrialization and expansion of trade and business activities in the UT of Jammu Kashmir.

"The operationalisation of new industries is also offering youth better exposure about diverse roles and positions in industries suited for their skills and experience. The overwhelming response from the private sector to recruit youth from J&K is a positive indicator for our economy," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the progressive Industrial Policy and several key interventions that have attracted private investment in J&K UT over the past few years.

He said the industries had availed the benefits of Rs 28,400 cr worth incentives under New Industrial development scheme in just two and a half years.

"Rs 25,000 crore worth of investment plans are currently at various stages of implementation. Projects worth Rs 10,000 crore have been completed and have commenced production. The remaining Rs 15,000 crore worth of projects, presently at different stages, will start this year.

Nearly, Rs 60,000 cr worth proposals are pending. These have been stalled due to some reasons, and I hope a decision will be made on them in the near future," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The Lieutenant Governor also attributed the exponential growth registered in the employment generation and entrepreneurship sector in J&K to the dedicated efforts of all stakeholders.

He highlighted their crucial role in successfully implementing schemes and programs like PM's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), Hausla, Tejaswini, Mumkin, and Mission Youth, along with other initiatives focused on youth empowerment and livelihood generation.

Interacting with the representatives of the participating companies, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted that efforts are being made to provide youth with employment opportunities. He said the new Industrial policy has emphasised on employment to local youth on priority.

Atomic North Private Limited has established a BPO in a village in Kathua, providing employment to approximately 375 youths. The company has a potential to employ up to 1000 youth. I have urged them to start a BPO in Udhampur. JSW Group is also bringing a BPO to Jammu, he further said.

The Lieutenant Governor distributed job offer letters to selected candidates. He also handed over approval for BBA/BCA courses to Cluster University, from AICTE.

Mega Job Fair 2025 is a significant step towards empowering youth and enhancing employment opportunities for the youth. As many as 57 reputed companies from across the country participated and 3759 candidates were registered for the Job Fair.

Prof K.S. Chandraseker, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu; Dr. Sandeep Singh, President, Desh Bhagat University, Punjab; Dr. Geetanjali Andotra, Principal GCW Gandhi Nagar, Heads of various departments and educational institutions, representatives of various reputed companies, youth and people from different walks of life were present.

J&K Braces.....

the season is expected tomorrow as Srinagar City may touch 36 degrees Celsius.

Director Meteorological department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that intermittent spells of light to moderate rain and thundershower are expected at many places with the possibility of heavy rain at isolated places of Jammu division from June 25 to June 27.

He added that between June 28 to 30, there is a possibility of intermittent rain and thundershower at scattered places while from July 01 to 02, there is a possibility of intermittent rain and thundershower at scattered places.

In this regard, the MeT has issued an advisory, stating that there is a possibility of moderate to heavy rain with intense showers at a few places, mainly in Jammu division from June 25 to 27. It added that flash floods at a few vulnerable places with landslides, mudslides and shooting stones are expected.

Water logging in low-lying areas of the plains of Jammu division and a rise in water level in rivers and local nullahs are expected, the advisory reads, adding that farmers are advised to suspend irrigation, spraying and fertiliser application from June 25 to June 27.

Meanwhile, the maximum temperature continued to settle above normal in Kashmir while it remained below normal at a few places of Jammu division. In Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, the mercury settled at 34.6 degrees Celsius, while in Jammu, the winter capital of the region, a maximum temperature of 36.6 degrees Celsius was recorded on Monday.

Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, recorded 33.4 degrees Celsius while Pahalgam, a famous tourist destination, recorded 28.8 degrees Celsius. In Kupwara, the mercury settled at 33.5 degrees Celsius,

and Kokernag and Gulmarg, a famous ski resort, recorded 32.6 degrees Celsius and 25.2 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Banihal in Jammu division recorded 30.5 degrees Celsius while Katra recorded 32.5 degrees Celsius. Batote and Bhadrawah recorded 29.1 degrees Celsius and 32.0 degrees Celsius, respectively—(KNO)

Congress Demanded.....

the freedom movement and that the Congress party had demanded only "Home Rule" under Governor General appointed by the British empire, not complete independence, until as late as 1930.

Speaking at the event organised by Prabha Khaitan Foundation, Dr. Jitendra Singh stated unequivocally "The Congress Party was, until 1930, content with being a loyalist club demanding Home Rule. It was only the countrywide public outrage after the hanging of Bhagat Singh and his comrades in 1931 that forced them to shift stance."

Dr. Jitendra Singh did not mince words as he laid bare historical truths long buried under layers of curated narratives. Citing incidents from Prem Prakash's deeply-researched book, he pointed out the Congress Party's shameful indifference to martyrs like Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad, and Madan Lal Dhingra.

"When Madan Lal Dhingra killed Curzon Wylie in 1909 in London, the Congress not only disowned him but passed a resolution against him. Even his own family denounced him. The only one who stood by Dhingra was Veer Savarkar—who risked arrest and went to see him in jail," he said.

Dr. Jitendra Singh read the book cover-to-cover ahead of its launch and praised it for its unbiased, archival-based storytelling, unlike many history texts that glorify select figures while erasing true revolutionaries.

"Prem Prakashji's account is rare. Despite decades in journalism, not a single paragraph in this book reflects any bias. He has painstakingly brought out the real heroes—those left unsung by mainstream history," said Dr. Jitendra Singh.

Quoting from the book, Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted that the Congress Party, founded by a retired British civil servant A.O. Hume, was "a club of retired civil servants and emerging Indian elite" demanding home rule — not a freedom party body by any measure.

"It was set up as a soft instrument of the British, to maintain control even as they prepared to leave," he remarked.

Rejecting the long-peddled myth that Congress alone won India its freedom, Dr. Jitendra Singh pointed to several pivotal events that actually forced the British to quit India. Chief among them were the historic INA Trials of Prem Sahgal, Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon, and Shah Nawaz Khan, which ignited mass outrage and public mobilization across the country. He also underlined the powerful impact of the Naval Ratings Revolt in Bombay and Karachi, where uniformed Indian soldiers rose in defiance against British rule.

Adding to the pressure was the crippling economic and military toll of World War II, which left the British Empire drained of resources and unable to maintain its colonial grip. But above all, Dr. Jitendra Singh stressed the decisive role played by Subhas Chandra Bose and the Indian National Army (INA), whose military challenges shook the very foundations of British rule in India and signaled that the end of the Empire was near.

Dr. Jitendra Singh challenged yet another colonial-era myth by asserting that the 1806 Vellore Mutiny—sparked by religious persecution of Indian soldiers—was the true beginning of India's armed resistance, not 1857. He also recalled the Barrackpore mutiny and the heroic act of Mangal Pandey in 1857, stating these were sparked by British insensitivity to Indian culture, religion, and dignity.

Speaking emotionally about the Partition, especially the double Partition of Jammu & Kashmir, Dr. Jitendra Singh blamed it squarely on the personal ambitions of a few Congress leaders. He said:

"The unilateral ceasefire ordered by Nehru, which gave away a part of Kashmir that is today PoJK, was the first of many strategic blunders. Article 370 only compounded that pain."

He condemned the Indus Water Treaty, calling it another example of Congress's appeasement policy: "We gave away the major rivers to Pakistan and kept the minor ones. India continues to pay for that mistake."

Dr. Jitendra Singh lamented how great patriots like Syama Prasad Mookerjee—one of the youngest Vice Chancellors of Calcutta University and a key figure in the freedom struggle—have been virtually erased from public memory due to biased historical writing. He slammed the Two-Nation Theory as a "self-serving British construct" backed by Indian collaborators, and recalled that even Radcliffe, the man who drew the border, admitted in a letter to his stepson that he had committed a terrible, unforgettable wrong.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Singh emphasized that Prem Prakash's book sets a new benchmark for journalism and historiography.

"This is how history should be written—truthfully, fearlessly, and with the intent to inform, not manipulate. The contemporary journalist has a duty to record without bias, just like Prem Prakashji has done." Dr. Jitendra Singh's remarks, laced with truths that have long been inconvenient for some, have reignited the debate on who truly led India's struggle for freedom—and who merely claimed the credit later. The event ended with a standing ovation and calls for the book to be made essential reading in Indian universities.

CS for.....

areas of J&K.

The significant deliberations saw the participation of officers including Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Commissioner JMC/SMC, MD, J&K Housing

Board; MD, NULM and other concerned officers while Deputy Commissioners from all districts joined the proceedings virtually.

During the extensive review, the Chief Secretary emphasised on prompt completion of Smart City works that have been ongoing for several years. He observed that many of these projects are in their final stages of completion so it is imperative that we push for their swift conclusion now to ensure the intended benefits reach our citizens without further delay.

Reviewing the housing schemes under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) [PMAY(U)], being implemented through the J&K Housing Board, the Chief Secretary called for intensified efforts on completing houses under Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC), Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS), Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) and Economically Weaker Section (EWS) verticals. He asked the Housing Board to proactively engage with the beneficiaries to ensure dwelling units are completed within stipulated timeline.

The performance of e-buses, introduced under the FAME project, also came under scrutiny.

The Chief Secretary asked for initiating measures to reduce the disparity between expenditure incurred and revenue realized by these buses plying on city roads in Jammu and Srinagar.

Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur, provided an overview, informing that out of 127 and 161 projects taken up under the Smart City Mission (SCM) in Jammu and Srinagar respectively, only 7 in Jammu and 8 in Srinagar are currently ongoing. These projects represent a massive budgetary outlay of Rs 3581 crore for Jammu and Rs 3634 crore for Srinagar, integrating SCM funds with convergence modes.

Notable ongoing Smart City projects in Jammu included the iconic Tawi Riverfront Development, Oceanarium at Bag-e-Bahu, Waste to Wonder Park and crucial heritage conservation and street development initiatives. In Srinagar, the focus is on development of the Traditional Souq Market at Batamalo, upgradation of Goni Khan Plaza, development of amenities along the Shalimar Canal, upgradation of Old Amira Kadal and provisioning of inland water transport.

CEOs of JSCL and SSCL informed the meeting that these e-buses are currently generating revenue of Rs 11/km, significantly below the national average of Rs 38/km for such services.

MD, Housing Board, Shahbaz Mirza, informed the meeting that under the BLC vertical, approximately 28,000 houses have been completed across UT districts, showcasing a robust 72% progress.

The meeting was apprised that 1,52,426 households had been surveyed across the UT for PMAY-U Phase 2, identifying 46,770 potential beneficiaries. Additionally, 20,470 applications have been received on the Unified Web Portal, currently undergoing verification by the respective Deputy Commissioners.

Assessing livelihood generation schemes such as the National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM), PM-SVANidhi and department's readiness for the newly rolled-out D-JAY (Shehri) scheme, Dulloo reiterated the government's focus on uplifting the urban poor.

MD, NULM, Mridhu Salathia, informed the meeting about the impending pilot implementation of the D-JAY (Shehri) scheme. She explained that this scheme has been designed to address the occupational, social and residential vulnerabilities of the urban poor over the next five years. This will be done through interventions including strengthening grassroots institutions, promoting employment opportunities, creating social infrastructure and providing social security and entitlements for holistic development of urban poor found in the areas of implementation of this transformative Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

Court sends.....

arrested accused have disclosed the identities of the three armed terrorists involved in the attack, and have also confirmed that they were Pakistani nationals affiliated to the banned terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba.

The two accused were produced in the court of Additional District and Sessions Judge, Jammu, Ritesh Kumar Dubey, and were sent to NIA custody for five days till June 27, a court official said.

Parvaiz and Bashir had knowingly harboured the three-armed terrorists at a seasonal dhok (hut) at Hill Park before the attack, according to NIA investigations.

The two men had provided food, shelter and logistical support to the terrorists, who had, on the fateful afternoon, selectively killed the tourists on the basis of their religious identity, making it one of the most gruesome terrorist attacks ever, the NIA said—(KNO)

'Some reportage.....

speculative and therefore of misleading nature.

In a statement, a NIA spokesman said, "Such reports circulating in sections of the media and on social media platforms are regarding the sketches and identities of the terrorists involved in the terror attack at Pahalgam."

He said, "It is reiterated that, as stated in the official press release dated 22 June 2025, two accused persons have been arrested in

connection with the attack. During their interrogation, they have disclosed details about the identities of the three armed terrorists involved."

"The NIA has gathered a substantial body of evidence regarding the identities of the terrorists. This includes eyewitness accounts from victims, video footage, technical evidence, and the sketches released by the Jammu and Kashmir Police. All this evidence is being carefully analysed and NIA has not reached any conclusions at this stage," the spokesman said, adding, "The NIA assures that the investigation is being carried out with the highest standards of professionalism, and all aspects of the terror attack are being thoroughly examined. The identities and further details of the terrorists will be made public at an appropriate time." (KNO)

Arab countries....

Monday that they will be the next target of Israel and the US as Tel Aviv and Washington are eyeing their oil and gas.

"It is their (United States') long-time policy that Iran should not become a nuclear power. Even the Sunni countries in the region are against it but they do not have the courage to speak up.

"Today, they think Iran has been attacked, but I want to warn them through you that one day, Israel will attack them also, because they want their wealth like oil and gas. Israel is only a facade, America is standing right behind," Abdullah told reporters after a party meeting at Nawa-i-Subah here.

Asked about the impact of the escalation of the war in the Middle East, the former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister said it will severely affect the economic condition of all countries.

"I am hopeful that the (other) world powers are watching the situation. If this (war) escalates, the economic condition of every country will head towards ruin. They should try to stop it and I pray that they are successful as our condition in India is also very bad," he added.

Responding to a question about media reports on conditions for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, Abdullah accused the media of spreading falsehood.

"Who told them (about the conditions)? Did they get a revelation? The media here is habitual of spreading lies, it does not speak the truth. Statehood is a right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. It is not a favour to them," he said.

Earlier, Abdullah said the NC has formed a human rights wing that will be headed by Pampore MLA Justice (retired) Hasnain Masoodi, who will be assisted by two other members. (Agencies)

IRCTC Adds.....

the Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat train from the second week of July.

"We are working out a plan to serve local cuisine on the Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat train and it is expected to start from the second week of July," Anand Kumar Jha, Additional General Manager, IRCTC, said.

"Popular local cuisine, such as ambal kaddu, babru, Jammu paratha in breakfast and paneer chaman, Kashmiri dum aloo and Jammu rajma in lunch, will be served to those who wish to try the flavour of local food during their Katra-Srinagar train ride," an Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) official said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat train on June 6, connecting Srinagar with the country's rail network.

The Indian Railways started its commercial operations from the next day and the IRCTC treated passengers with its usual menu.

"A decision has been taken to promote local cuisine on premier trains and we have worked out a special plan for the Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat. We spoke to all top food outlets and hotels, such as Nathu's, Holiday Inn, JW Marriott and ITC among others, and selected the most popular local dishes," the official said.

"Ambal kaddu, also known as kaddu ka ambal, is a popular Dogra cuisine prepared from pumpkin. It is sweet and sour and is often cooked at wedding functions. Another breakfast item, babru, is like a stuffed puri, a favourite in the hilly areas," he added.

The official said lunch items, such as paneer chaman and Kashmiri dum aloo, are served in other parts of the country as well. However, these will be prepared keeping in mind the local spices and flavours to let the travellers get a feel of the city they are visiting.

According to the IRCTC, other breakfast and lunch items, such as upma, poha, vegetarian cutlet etc., will also be available as an option for those passengers who do not wish to try local food. The IRCTC said it has already initiated the process to provide an option for local food on premier trains, such as Vande Bharat and Rajdhani Express.

"We have recently introduced south Indian food, such as steamed matta rice, banana kalan etc., on the Thiruvananthapuram Rajdhani. A similar exercise has been initiated on the Nagpur-Secunderabad Vande Bharat train, where while starting from Nagpur, a popular dish of the city will be offered to the passengers and while returning from Secunderabad, they can relish Hyderabad cuisine," the official said. (Agencies)



DC Srinagar reviews progress on implementation of Mission Yuva in the district Emphasis laid on timely verification, swift sanctioning of eligible cases

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR JUNE 23: In order to review the progress on the implementation of Mission Yuva, a meeting was held here under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, General Manager DIC, Hamida Akhtar, SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar, Deputy Director Employment, Dr. Sheeba, DSEO, Shah Ismail Bangroo, Purnima Kakru from NABARD, LDM, Nilofar Jan and Officers from EDI, NABARD, NRLM, Agriculture and other concerned Departments.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed appraisal of the key activities in implementation of the Mission Yuva initiative in Srinagar District since its inception aimed at ensuring proper handholding and accessible support for aspiring youth to promote entrepreneurship and self-employment ecosystem in the District.

On the occasion, the DC stressed on conducting an impactful awareness campaign for one week in all Gram Panchayats to identify and cover the eligible youth under the initiative. Similarly, the DC asked for launching a comprehensive IEC campaign in all Municipal Wards in next 2 weeks under the scheme.



The DC underscored the importance of seamless coordination among various Departments for effective implementation

of the scheme. He set a clear timeline for verification of the applications, DPR formulations and simultaneous uploading of the cases on the designated portal by the respective Department. The DC emphasized conducting DLIC meetings on a weekly basis for approval of the cases with timely disbursement by the Banks.

Stressing adherence to the scheme's guidelines in letter and spirit, the DC highlighted the importance of continuous monitoring to enhance the initiative's impact and foster a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem in Srinagar. He emphasized that the initiative represents a vital step towards boosting self-employment and entrepreneurship and highlighted the role of the line Departments

in facilitating entrepreneurship, business development, and financial linkages.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner was given a detailed appraisal about the execution of the Mission Yuva in the District by Deputy Director Employment. Stressing adherence to the scheme's guidelines in letter and spirit, the DC highlighted the importance of continuous monitoring to enhance the initiative's impact and foster a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem in Srinagar. He emphasized that the initiative represents a vital step towards boosting self-employment and entrepreneurship and highlighted the role of the line Departments in facilitating entrepreneurship, business development, and financial linkages.

Sunil Sharma pays heartfelt tribute to Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee at Balidan Diwas programme in Mumbai.

HT NEWS DESK

Mumbai, 23 June 2025: Sunil Sharma, Jammu & Kashmir BJP General Secretary and Leader of Opposition in the J&K Legislative Assembly, participated as the Chief Guest in a tribute programme organized by the Deep Kamal Foundation at Bandra, Mumbai, on the occasion of Balidan Diwas of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee.

The event was held at a historically significant location, the very site where the first session of the Bharatiya Janata Party was convened.

Speaking on the occasion, Sunil Sharma said, "It was a matter of great pride and honour for me to pay tribute to the great patriot, thinker, and martyr Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee at this sacred venue. Dr. Mukherjee's life is a timeless inspiration of patriotism, principles, and ultimate sacrifice. His dedication continues to guide every



true patriot of this country to remain firm in their duty towards the nation."

Sunil Sharma expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Deep Kamal Foundation for extending the invitation and providing an opportunity to remember and honour Dr. Mukherjee's unmatched contributions to national unity and integrity. He further added that the ideals of Dr. Mukherjee serve as a guiding force for the youth and leadership of the country, especially in Jammu &

Kashmir. On this significant day, Sunil Sharma also had the privilege of honouring Veer Mata Smt. Jyoti Bhai Nayakji, the proud mother of Shaheed Murali Nayak, who sacrificed his life for the nation during Operation Sindhur. "Touching her feet was a moment of profound emotion and pride. The nation bows in gratitude to such families whose sacrifices remain etched in our collective memory," Sharma said.

Also present at the occasion was Maharashtra's Minister for Information Technology, Ashish Shelar, who lauded the legacy of Dr. Mukherjee. "Dr. Mukherjee laid the foundation of national integrity and ideological clarity. His struggle against Article 370 is a chapter of courageous resistance that continues to inspire generations," Shelar stated. The programme concluded with a deep sense of reverence, reaffirming the commitment of BJP leaders to uphold the legacy of Dr. Mukherjee and honour the sacrifices made for the unity.

DC Srinagar reviews status of Rooftop Solar Installations under PM Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojna in the district

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR JUNE 23:- Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Monday chaired a meeting of Engineers of KPDCCL here at the Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex to review the status and progress of installation of Solar Rooftops under PM Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojna (PMSGMBY).

Besides Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, the meeting was attended by Executive Engineers, AEEs & JEs of KPDCCL, Lead District Manager (Banks) and other Officers of Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCCL).



At the outset, the DC took a firsthand appraisal of the progress made in installation of Solar Rooftops under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in all 4 Electric Divisions of the District. On the occasion, the DC emphasized the benefits of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli scheme and urged KPDCCL functionaries to generate

awareness among the people about the benefits of installing Rooftop Solar plants under PM Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojna.

The DC said that the scheme must be implemented in the district in such a way that we ensure scheme benefits percolate down to common public throughout Srinagar.

PDF President Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen urges government to finalize Muharram arrangements in Kashmir

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, June 23: President of the Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Front (PDF) and former Minister, Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen has strongly urged the Jammu and Kashmir administration to immediately finalize all necessary arrangements for the upcoming holy month of Muharram especially in the Kashmir Valley. In a statement issued to the media, Hakeem Yaseen expressed deep concern over the repeated failures of the administration in the past to provide adequate facilities during Muharram, despite numerous assurances made to the public and religious leaders. He said that the lack of proper planning and implementation has caused immense difficulties for mourners and devotees who participate in religious processions and rituals during this important period.

Police Arrests Five Drug Peddlers in Sopore, Kulgam

HT NEWS DESK

Kulgam June 23: Continuing its sustained crackdown against drug trafficking, Police have arrested five drug peddlers in Sopore & Kulgam and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

In Sopore, one individual identified as Mehraj-ud-Din Mir son of Abdul Khaliq Mir resident of Chijhama Rafiabad, was arrested along with contraband substance during a checkpoint at Lalad near Bridge. In another operation at Takyibal, another person identified as Bilal Ahmad Dar son of Ghulam Mohammad Dar resident of Chankhan Sopore was apprehended with poppy straw-like substance. A Police team of Kulgam district at a checkpoint established at Arreh intercepted a vehicle bearing registration number JK18D-3833 with two persons on board. During search, 8.1 Kgs of Poppy Straw-like substance was recovered from their possession. They have been identified as Nazir Ahmad Kumar son of Bashir Ahmad Kumar resident of Awtharoo Kulgam and Ghulam Rasool Malla son of Mohd Ismail Malla resident of Khudwani who were subsequently arrested and vehicle used in the commission of crime was also seized. Moreover, upon a specific information regarding presence of contraband substance in the house of Murad Ahmad Behroo son of Ghulam Mohammad Behroo resident of Matalham, a police team of PS Kulgam along with concerned executive magistrate reached the spot.

Tehreek-e-Soutul Awliya Organizes Grand 'Tajdar-e-Dou Alam' Conference in Kupwara

DR. AB QAYOUM

Kupwara, Jun. 23: In a remarkable display of faith and community spirit, Tehreek-e-Soutul Awliya, a prominent Islamic movement in Jammu and Kashmir, organized a grand religious conference titled 'Tajdar-e-Dou Alam' at Taratpora Rambhall area of district Kupwara. The conference was held on the theme "Azmat-e-Quran" (The Greatness of the Holy Quran), drawing an overwhelming response from the people of the region. Thousands of devotees, scholars, and religious leaders from various parts of the district and beyond participated in the spiritual gathering. The event was graced by renowned Islamic scholar Davodi Sahib, who attended as the chief guest. In his address, he emphasized the importance of the Holy Quran in daily life and urged the faithful to stay connected with the divine teachings of Islam. Religious scholars from different areas delivered insightful sermons highlighting the Quran's timeless message of peace, brotherhood, and moral guidance. The speakers called upon the youth to dedicate themselves to the path of righteousness and to safeguard the spiritual and cultural values of the region. The conference witnessed an



atmosphere of devotion, with Naat recitations, Quranic sermons, and prayers for peace, prosperity, and unity in the region. Participants hailed Tehreek-e-Soutul Awliya for organizing such a spiritually uplifting program and hoped that similar religious gatherings would continue to be held in the future.

The event concluded with special prayers for communal harmony, peace in Jammu and Kashmir, and the well-being of the entire Ummah.

Empowering remote students; Sakeena Itoo dedicates buses to 5 GDCs in Kashmir

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 23: Minister for Health & Medical Education, Social Welfare and Higher Education, Sakeena Itoo, today dedicated buses to five Government Degree Colleges (GDCs) in Kashmir, aiming to strengthen access to education for the students from remote areas.

The colleges that received the buses included GDCs Kupwara, Sopore, Tangmarg, DH Pora and Tulail. The flagging off ceremony was held at Abdul Ahad Azad Memorial College, Bemina. Advisor to Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Tangmarg Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah and MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar were present on the occasion.

Speaking at the event, the Minister emphasized the importance of transport facilities in ensuring accessible and inclusive education. "This initiative is aimed at empowering the students, particularly those from far-flung areas, by facilitating their daily commute to the colleges, asserted the Minister". She added that a similar initiative

had recently been undertaken in the Jammu division, where five colleges were also provided buses.

Highlighting government's initiatives towards improving the education sector, the Minister said, "We are focused on raising the standards of education and ensuring that students at government institutions have access to all necessary facilities, including reliable transport."

She further stated that efforts are underway to extend such support to more colleges across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the function, the Minister interacted with the Principals, faculty members, NCC cadets and students. She appreciated the support of J&K Bank for providing the buses under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, describing the gesture as a significant contribution towards students' educational journey.

Present on the occasion were the MD Motor Garage, Divisional and CSR Heads of J&K Bank, Director Finance Higher Education, Director Colleges, Principals of various colleges and other senior officials.

JKEDI commences week-long Management Development Programs

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 23: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Monday commenced Management Development Programs (MDP) in 11 Districts of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme. The initiative is being funded by the Union Ministry of MSME and implemented in the Union Territory by the Industries and Commerce Department. The Management Development Programmes (MDPs) were inaugurated in district Kathua, Kishtwar, Reasi, Samba, Udhampur, Anantnag, Bandipora, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Poonch and Rajouri. A total of 222 candidates including 168 women have been registered for the MDP, who shall undergo a 30-hour training over six days.

At Udhampur and Poonch, the program was inaugu-



rated by Mohinder Kumar Sharma, Deputy Director, District Employment and Counselling Centre, Udhampur

and Abdul Majid Tantray, Deputy Director, District Employment and Counselling Centre, Poonch respectively. At Rajouri, Baramulla and Kishtwar districts, the MDPs were inaugurated by Ujwal Mahajan, Principal Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Rajouri, Javed Ahmad Ganie, Principal, Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Baramulla and Zubair Ahmad, In-charge Principal, Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Kishtwar respectively.

At Bandipora, Samba, Reasi, Anantnag, Ganderbal and Kathua, the MDPs were inaugurated by the JKEDI course team. The MDPs coordinated by JKEDI District Centres witnessed participation from the local MSMEs, who will be provided with the real time know-how of running and managing the businesses. The programme will help the MSMEs of the area to enhance their skills and interact with the experts from different line departments.

Dharti Aabha Janbhagidari Abhiyan programme organised at Pehlipora Keller

On-spot services provided, registration stalls set up for extending govt schemes to the populace

HT NEWS DESK

SHOPIAN, JUNE 23: As part of the nationwide initiative to uplift tribal communities through on-spot service delivery, the ongoing Dharti Aabha Janbhagidari campaign was conducted today at the Pehlipora area of Keller, Shopian.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone who graced the occasion as the chief guest.

Different departments had set up stalls, providing services to the people on the spot, as well as informing and educating people on government schemes.

Speaking on the occasion, ADDC said that the event focuses on creating awareness among the tribal population about their constitutional rights, welfare schemes and entitlements under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 and other government initiatives along with extending services to the local tribal community across



25 government interventions and programs.

ADDC appreciated the efforts of all participating departments and stakeholders for organising such an inclusive programme. He stressed upon the need for active participation of tribal communities in developmental processes.

DDC Member, Choudhary Fazlul Din sensitized the participants about various welfare schemes meant for tribal population and stressed upon them to come forward and avail the benefits.

Artists from the department of Information and Public Relations, Shopian presented a skit on the Forest Rights Act, educating participants about the forest entitlements scheme which provides land, grazing, and other forest resources rights to the forest dwelling STs and other traditional forest dwelling communities.

The event was attended by various district/ sectoral and local officers along with an appreciable gathering of tribal community members and stakeholders departments.

DAJGUA Day 9: Pulwama admin organises mega awareness & Saturation Camp at Shar Pampore

Direct outreach with last-mile focus to saturate tribal welfare coverage

HT NEWS DESK



PULWAMA, JUNE 23: As part of the ongoing nationwide flagship initiative Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), district administration Pulwama today organised a mega awareness and benefit saturation camp at Shar Pampore.

The event aimed to bring essential services and individual entitlements directly to the doorsteps of tribal communities, in line with the campaign's vision of inclusive development.

A wide range of departments including Health, Education, Social Welfare, Rural Development, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Mission Poshan, Forest, among others had set up dedicated service stalls. These stalls offered real-time enrolment, scheme consultations, and awareness dissemination, ensuring effective last-mile service delivery.

DDC Member Pampore, Tazeem was also present on the occasion. Addressing the gathering, she lauded the initiative's grassroots impact and its role in empowering tribal communities through targeted outreach. She interacted with the public, heard their concerns, and assured sustained coordination for timely implementation of welfare schemes.

To enhance access to quality healthcare among tribal households, Health department had established a dedicated medical camp where a team of doctors and paramedics provided free consultations and on-spot treatments.

Special focus was laid on raising awareness regarding sickle cell disease and water-borne illnesses, with health experts educating the community on preventive healthcare, hygiene practices, and early symptom recognition. The camp also featured testing for key health indicators including sickle cell screening, basic diagnostics, and water-borne disease assessments to enable early detection and timely intervention.

The camp was also attended by officers including Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Awantipora; Chief Medical Officer, Pulwama; Block Development Officer, Pampore and other field functionaries.

ADC Awantipora inspected departmental stalls and reviewed the progress of service delivery.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my Name has been incorrectly mentioned on his Adhar card, as name NAJMA AKTHER D/O MOHAMMAD AKBAR SHEIKH while his correct name IS NAZIMA AKTHER D/O MOHAMMAD AKBAR SHEIKH R/O MUGALPORA as per school record now I have applied for the correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection concerned authority/UIDAI office within a period of 07 days after that no objection will be accepted.

Name: NAZIMA AKTHER W/O NASEER AHMAD SHEIKH. D/O MOHAMMAD AKBAR SHEIKH

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to general public that I am applying for Registration of Contractor Card at OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PWD (R&B) circle Baramulla/Kupwara, if anybody is having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PWD (R&B) BARAMULLA within the period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Bashir Ahmad Sheikh
S/O Ali Mohammad Sheikh
R/O Arth Budgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is being informed that the name in my electricity bill having consumer number 02070100 1166 is only mentioned as Mohd Lateef Wagay but actual name as per my adhar card is Mohd Lateef Sheergojri s/o Abdul Wahab Sheergojri R/O Ruhoo Anantnag Now I want to update its name if anybody has queries they may contact pdd department we didn't 7 days

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been wrongly written as ANAYAT HAFEZ R/O DAWLATPORA Tehsil kreeri in Adhaar record bearing Adhaar no. 432884692495 while my correct name is INAYAT HAFEZ R/O DOWLATPORA Tehsil ...Kreeri which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of concerned aadhar authorities of india within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name: INAYAT HAFEZ R/ODAWLATPORA TEHSIL KREERI ADHAAR NO.....432884692495

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Father's name MOHD AKBAR HURRA .Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 021204000 4524 wants to be registered on my name GH HASSAN HURRA S/O MOHD AKBAR HURRA .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name: GH HASSAN HURRA S/O ...MOHD AKBAR HURRA

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the date of birth and name of my son have been incorrectly recorded in the school and domicile certificate as Ifham Farooq Sheikh, D.O.B 11/08/2004. Whereas the correct name of my son is Ifham Farooq and his correct D.O.B is 01/03/2007. This notice is being issued to correct the records. If anyone has any objections, they must present them in writing at the office of the undersigned within seven days. No objections will be entertained after the expiry of this period.

Name of Declarant: Farooq Ahmad Sheikh
Father of: Ifham Farooq Resident of: Pahalgam, Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mohd Asif Shah, S/o Gull Mohd Shah, R/o Wangund Kulgam, have lost the Registration Certificate (RC) of my vehicle Alto 800 bearing registration number JK03L-6167. I am applying for a duplicate RC. If anyone has any objection, they may inform the concerned RTO office within 7 days of this notice.

DC inaugurates Intensified Diarrhoea Control Programme at DH Bandipora

HT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 23: In a significant step towards combating water-borne diseases, the Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF) campaign was formally inaugurated today by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, at District Hospital Bandipora.

On the occasion, DC administered a pledge to health officials and field workers, urging them to ensure comprehensive outreach and proactive engagement with communities to

minimize the impact of diarrhoeal diseases. He emphasized the importance of preventive care, timely treatment, and community awareness in reducing the burden of such illnesses in the district. The inaugural event witnessed the presence of Chief Planning Officer, Medical Superintendent DH Bandipora, District Health Officer along with other senior medical professionals and health workers. The programme kicked-off with an awareness session aimed at educating the public on the importance of hygiene, sanitation, and the timely use of Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) and Zinc in treating diarrhoea,

especially among children. "This campaign is not just about treating diarrhoea, but about preventing it through awareness and preparedness. Our aim is to reach every household with key messages about hygiene and the correct use of ORS and Zinc," said Medical Superintendent DH Bandipora. The IDCF campaign, observed across the country, will continue in Bandipora district over the coming weeks, with intensified activities including door-to-door visits, community education drives, and distribution of IEC (Information, Education and Communication) material.

Idarie Tehqeeq U Adab J&K Organises Grand Seminar in Honour of Alhaj Ghulam Ahmad Kumhar (RA)

HT NEWS DESK

Venue: BHSS Handwara :In a moving tribute to a legendary figure of faith, compassion, and social reform, Idaare Tehqeeq U Adab J&K held a grand literary-cum-social seminar on 22nd June 2025 at BHSS Handwara, celebrating the life and legacy of Alhaj Ghulam Ahmad Kumhar (RA)-a visionary whose lifelong mission was the upliftment of orphans, promotion of education, and unwavering service to humanity.

Founder of the Gulshan-i-Binaat Yateem Trust Handwara, Kumhar sb remained deeply involved in humanitarian service until his last breath in 2024. His mission, shared and nurtured alongside his beloved daughter Mtr Fareeda Shouq, has left an indelible imprint on the social and spiritual landscape of North Kashmir.

The event commenced with the recitation of Quranic verses by Ishrat Majeed student of Hillpark international school followed by a soulful Naat by Mehak Bashir of Hillpark international school Handwara, invoking the spiritual essence that Kumhar sb lived by. Through a documentary on his life, curated by Mr Farooq Shaheen with narration by Mr Abdul Gani Beigh Athar, and a panel discussion titled "Service to Mankind and Our Responsibilities" were scheduled, time constraints and emotionally charged tributes from the speakers rendered it impossible to proceed with those segments. The heartfelt reflections shared by the speakers captivated the audience, creating a deeply engaging and resonant atmosphere.

The seminar featured the presentation of research papers on Kumhar sb's life and contributions by: Dr Riyaz Towheedi (Renowned Writer), Dr Altaf Hussain Yattoo (Writ-



er and Professor)

Mr Abdul Gani Beigh Athar, whose paper was eloquently presented by Mr Mohammad Abdullah Dolipori, and Mr Muzamil Bashir (Grandson of Kumhar sb)

The following distinguished speakers delivered tributes and reflections: Dr Shahida Shabnum (Writer and Professor), Mr Manzoor Ahmad Bhat (Former Principal, DIET Kupwara)

Mr Mohammad Rafi (Principal, HSS Waisa), Mr Javid Iqbal Mawri, Mr Bashir Qureshi, Mr Bashir M a n g w a l p u r i, Mr Fai q Maqbool (president of Joi Adab Kaij Nag Kashmir), Mr Sheikh Parvez (President Rehberi Taleem Teachers Forum Kupwara and Adviser of ITAJK), Mr Abdul Majid Dar (Master and current patron of Gulshan e Binaat), Mr Yahya Sultan (Journalist & columnist Greater Kashmir), Mr Arshid Mohideen (Writer and Social Activist).

Among the attendees were several noted dignitaries and intellectuals from various walks of life, including:

Mr Javid Abdullah (District Coordinator Cultural Wing CEO's Office Kupwara)

Ms Aabida War (Social Activist)

Mr Ghulam Hassan Ajmi (Chairman, Mehboob-ul-Alam Adbi Society), Mr Ibni Shahbaz (Towering Literary Personality), Mr Mushtaq Ahmad Lone (Principal and Chair-

man, Hill Park School) ...along with a galaxy of local scholars, educationists, and social activists whose presence elevated the stature of the event.

The seminar was graced by Mr Ghulam Rasool Bandy, who served as the Chief Guest, delivering an eloquent concluding address focused on the timeless values exemplified by Kumhar sb's life: selflessness, service, and unwavering faith.

In a heart-touching vote of thanks, Mtr Fareeda Shouq expressed her profound gratitude to all guests and participants, with special acknowledgment of Mr Farooq Shaheen, Idarie Tehqeeq U Adab JK, and its members for organising such a meaningful event in memory of her revered father.

Adding an emotional resonance to the conclusion, the girls of Yateem Trust presented a melodious group song in honour of Kumhar sb, leaving the audience visibly moved.

The seminar received extensive media coverage from leading platforms such as News18, Gulistan News, Voice of Bangus, Greater Kashmir, and several local media outlets. Prominent media professionals present included Tariq Raheem, Yahya Sultan, Majid Ganie, Shakir Bhat, and Aijaz Manzoor whose coverage ensured the event's far-reaching impact.

Special appreciation is due to the dedicated team of Idaare Tehqeeq U Adab, including Ms Rutba Qureshi, Dr Farooq Lone, Firdous Faizee, Shah Khurshed sb, Mr Akram Qureshi and Mr Mushtaq Ah Lone (Vice presidents of ITAJK) Iqra Habeeb, Liaba Jan and M Abdullah Doolipori, whose relentless efforts and coordination made the event an overwhelming success.

This grand literary and social gathering was not just a remembrance-it was a living tribute to a legacy that continues to inspire generations.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) PROJECTS DIVISION IIND PANTHA CHOWK SRINAGAR E-mail:-xenprojectsdiv2nd@gmail.com, Phone-FAX:-

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E- NIT No:- 01-PD-2nd of 2025-26/345-349 DATED:- 21-06-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT, e-tenders (In Double cover system) are invited on aggregate Percentage basis for approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost incl. GST (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (Rs.)	EMD (Rs. In Lacs)	Time of completion (in Days)	Class of Contractor
1	Construction Of Security Guard Room and Allied Mechanical Works for Each Boys and Girls Hostel.	25.0	800	0.50	90	"B, C"
2	Balance work at NIELT Srinagar by way of construction of approach Road to girl's hostel and construction of cement concrete Retaining Wall.	21.74	800	0.48	45	"B, C"
3	Construction Of Footpath and Road Side Drain for RunOff, Site Development and Landscaping for Hostel Buildings at NIELT J&K Srinagar.	6.39	300	0.128	30	"C,D"

Project Authority = Director NIELT Rangreth Srinagar, Position of AAA = Accorded vide File No:- 11(18)2019 NIELT-29, Dated:- 25-04-2025, NIELT No: 11(18)18- NIELT-11/368, Dated: 04/11/2019 Position of TS= Available, Position of funds= Available, Major A/CH/Head =DC8443

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	21-06-2025
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	21-06-2025 From 4:00P.M
3.	Bid submission Start Date	21-06-2025 From 04:00P.M
4.	Bid Submission End Date	28-06-2025 Upto 04:00P.M
5.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of allotted Cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Projects Division 2nd Panthachowk Srinagar
6.	Date & Time of opening of Bids (Online) (Technical part of the bid)	30-06-2025 at 11:00 A.M in the office of Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Projects Division 2nd Panthachowk Srinagar.
7.	Date & Time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after completion of technical bid evaluation.

DIPK-2858/25
Dated:- 23/06/2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
(R&B) Projects Division 2nd
Panthachowk Srinagar.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer WAG-ORRA) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of TASEEN WASEEM MIR & BABAR WASEEM MIR S/O WASEEM MOHD MIR R/O WARIPORA BALA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 03/05/2017 & 30/01/2020 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection.

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

Executive Magistrate 1st Class
KREERI

Javid Dar inaugurates model panchayat ghars, road upgradation works in Baramulla

HT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 23: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, today inaugurated the macadamization work at the Fruit and Vegetable Mandi, Sopore.

The project, being executed at an estimated cost of ₹200.24 lakh, aims to significantly upgrade the market infrastructure, boost the horticulture economy and streamline transportation and business operations in one of North Kashmir's key trade hubs.

The Minister also inaugurated the upgradation work on Rawoocha Hatchipora Pazzalpora Hamam Markote road, an important connectivity project aimed at improving access for local residents and facilitating smoother movement of goods



and services across the region. Speaking on the occasion, Javid Dar said, "These critical infrastructure projects are part of a broader strategy to catalyze economic activity, improve quality of life

and empower local businesses through better connectivity and modernized facilities." Later in the day, the Minister laid foundation stones for Model Panchayat Ghars at Daniwagha, Chatloora

and Drussu in the Rafiabab constituency. Each Panchayat Ghar is being developed at a cost of ₹35 lakh under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA). The initiative is designed to enhance grassroots governance and promote inclusive and sustainable rural development. Highlighting the vision behind these interventions, Javid Dar stated, "The aim of the Omar Abdullah-led government is to empower the rural areas, improve local governance and promote social justice and participatory development at the grassroots level." Addressing a public gathering at Governance Higher Secondary School, Dangiwacha, the Minister underscored the government's commitment to youth empowerment. He urged the younger generation to make full use of various welfare and development schemes related to agriculture, horticulture, animal and sheep husbandry.

Dharti Aaba Abhiyan: Mass awareness prog. held at tribal village Gojithiji of Checkshera Khansahib

HT NEWS DESK



BUDGAM, JUNE 23: As part of the ongoing Dharti Aaba Abhiyan, various activities were successfully conducted today at Village Gojithiji in Checkshera Panchayat, a remote tribal area falling within block Khansahib of district Budgam.

The abhiyan, a flagship campaign aimed at ensuring saturation of government schemes in tribal areas, focuses on convergence across 25 key interventions involving 17 line departments, with an objective of cent percent saturation and doorstep delivery of welfare schemes in tribal regions.

Today's Gram Sabha witnessed increased participation from local residents, especially members of the tribal community, who enthusiastically engaged with departmental representatives and voiced their appreciation for the outreach initiative.

All participating departments ensured active presence and shared detailed information about the eligibility and benefits of their respective schemes. Emphasis was laid on identifying saturation gaps and enrolling uncovered beneficiaries under schemes such as, PMAY-G (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin), Kisan Credit Card (KCC), Swadesh Darshan Guest Homes, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Jal Jeevan Mission (FHTC), Ayushman Bharat PMJAY Health Cards. On-the-spot registrations for these schemes were also carried out, ensuring immediate access and follow-up for eligible beneficiaries. To celebrate the cultural richness of the tribal community, students of Government Secondary School, Gojithiji Khansahib, presented vibrant cultural performances, including Gojri folk music, to highlight the importance of preserving indigenous heritage and identity.

DIPR Kulgam organizes mega awareness programme on drug abuse at Bus Stand Laroo



Farooq Rather

KULGAM, JUNE 23: To curb the rising menace of drug abuse and to raise public awareness, department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Kulgam, in collaboration with the district administration, today organized a mega awareness programme at Bus Stand Laroo. The programme aimed to sensitize the general public, particularly youth, about the devastating impacts of drug addiction and the significance of building a drug-free society. Traditional folk artists and local cultural performers conveyed powerful anti-drug messages through impactful and engaging performances. Resource persons from concerned departments delivered insightful talks, highlighting the psychological, social, and legal consequences of substance abuse. They also apprised the audience about various government-run de-addiction and rehabilitation programmes in the district. Among others, officials from the Social Welfare department, Information and representatives from other allied departments were present at the event.

Traffic awareness programme held at Laroo Bus Stand

HT NEWS DESK

KULGAM, JUNE 23: To promote road safety and responsible driving habits among commuters and transporters, Assistant Regional Transport Office (ARTO) Kulgam today organized a traffic awareness programme at Laroo Bus Stand. The event witnessed participation from drivers, transport workers and members of the general public. Programme aimed to educate participants about traffic rules, importance of wearing helmets and seatbelts, avoiding overloading, and the dangers of drunk and rash driving. Speaking on the occasion, ARTO Kulgam, Dr Showkat Ahmad emphasized the need for collective responsibility in ensuring road safety. He urged drivers and commuters to strictly adhere to traffic regulations, for their own safety and for the safety of others.

DA-JGUA: Special camp organised at village Kachnambal, Kangan to strengthen tribal welfare

HT NEWS DESK

GANDERBAL, JUNE 23: In a continued effort to bring governance and welfare services to the doorstep of tribal communities, a special camp under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA) was organised today at Village Kachnambal, Block Kangan, as part of the PM JANMAN (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan) framework.

The event, organised by the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) team, witnessed enthusiastic participation from local tribal residents, reflecting growing awareness and engagement with government-led empowerment initiatives.

The camp aimed to saturate eligible beneficiaries with welfare schemes and promote inclusivity through direct service delivery. A comprehensive range of services was provided on-site, including, Aadhaar enrolment and updates, registration under Ayushman Bharat - PM-JAY, issuance of Scheduled Tribe (ST) certificates, PM-KISAN scheme enrolment, Jan Dhan account facilitation, Sickle Cell disease screening

and awareness, linkages with other PMJANMAN and tribal welfare schemes. Alongside service facilitation, IEC team conducted interactive awareness sessions to inform and educate the tribal population on key schemes related to health, education, skill development, social protection, and livelihoods. Participants were encouraged to raise questions, share feedback, and receive clarifications from on-ground officials. The camp also included community engagement activities, promoting tribal heritage and encouraging community pride in indigenous identity. Multilingual IEC materials were distributed to ensure clarity and accessibility across all age groups.

The program saw active involvement of sectoral officers, PRI members, frontline workers, and CSC representatives, showcasing effective coordination and convergence at the grassroots level. The camp concluded with a collective reaffirmation to further the mission of social justice, empowerment, and tribal prosperity under the DA-JGUA initiative in district Ganderbal.

Distt admin B'pora intensifies fight against Child Labour with joint awareness & inspection drive at Aloosa

HT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 23: As part of the ongoing Pan India Child Labour Eradication drive, and on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, district administration Bandipora today conducted a comprehensive awareness and inspection campaign in Aloosa, Bandipora.

A joint team comprising officials from Child Welfare Committee (CWC), District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Childline, Labour department, and district Police Bandipora, all working in tandem to combat the persistent issue of child labour carried out the drive. The joint teams engaged with local communities, shopkeepers, and establishments to raise awareness about the severe legal and social ramifications of employing children. Emphasis was placed on sensitizing the public to the provisions of the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, urging them to prioritize child Right to education and a safe environment. Beyond awareness, campaign involved meticulous inspections aimed at identifying instances of child labour. The participating departments leveraged their respective expertise to ensure a thorough sweep, with a clear mandate to take legal action against anyone found violating child labour laws. This drive in Aloosa is a crucial component



of district administration Bandipora's broader commitment to eradicating child labour, aligning with the national directive for intensified efforts. District administration Bandipora, has been actively promoting a child-friendly environment, recognizing that child labour deprives children of their fundamental rights and perpetuates cycles of poverty. Chairperson CWC Bandipora highlighted their role in ensuring the rehabilitation and reintegration of rescued children, providing them with access to education, healthcare, and a nurturing environment. DCPU, as the focal point for child protection activities at the district level, emphasized the importance of community vigilance and prompt reporting of child labour cases through Child helpline 1098. Labour department underscored its commitment to strict enforcement of labour laws, while the District Police assured robust action against violators.

Secretary RDD reviews progress on JKRLM initiatives

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 23: Secretary, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR), Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), assessing the implementation status and progress on various key initiatives under the Mission. The meeting focused on financial progress, recruitment, capacity building, institutional strengthening and the ongoing implementation of flagship Lakhpati Didi initiative. Mission Director, JKRLM, Dr. Shubhra Sharma, Joint Director Planning, Kamal Kumar Sharma and State Programme Managers were present during the deliberations. The Secretary was informed that the Mission has successfully formed 94,000 Self-Help Groups (SHGs), covering 7.55 lakh rural households across the Union



Territory. Notably, J&K ranks among the top-performing States/UTs in key parameters such as LOKOS profile capturing and Cluster Level Federation (CLF) transactions, securing 1st position in CLF profiling, 2nd in Village Organization profiling and 4th in SHG profile capturing. Commending the progress made, the Secretary urged the Mission team to intensify efforts in lagging areas and leverage the full potential of SHGs to improve rural livelihoods. He stressed the importance of strong linkages between SHGs and financial institutions to enhance access to gainful employment and

sustainable income opportunities for women. Under the Lakhpati Didi initiative, the Secretary noted that over 1.84 lakh women have already achieved the Lakhpati Didi status in the past six months. He stated that efforts are underway to support a cumulative total of 2.3 lakh women in achieving this milestone by the end of the current month.

These women are engaged in diverse sectors including agriculture, animal husbandry, manufacturing, services and trade, with support from convergence departments such as Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and MSME. The Secretary also enquired about the additional interventions, beyond routine SHG-bank linkages, being undertaken to enable sustainable income generation for rural women. The meeting further reviewed the functioning of Community Managed Training Centres

Distt admin B'pora intensifies IEC campaign against drug abuse across panchayats DC reinforces collective responsibility to tackle drug menace

HT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 23: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukt Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan (NMJKA), district administration Bandipora on Monday organised a series of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) programmes across multiple panchayats in the district to raise awareness on the harmful effects of drug abuse and to promote a collective resolve for a drug-free society. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandi-

pora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, presided over an IEC event at Garoora-B and addressed participants on the importance of community participation in tackling substance abuse. He emphasized that the menace of drug addiction can only be defeated through united efforts at the grassroots level. DC urged parents, teachers, youth, and civil society members to remain vigilant and proactive in guiding the younger generation away from the trap of addiction. The IEC programmes were simultaneously held across various blocks



including Naidkhai, Hajin, Tulail, Bonakoot, Arin, Aloosa, and Bandipora, covering locations viz. Shahgund-A, Gundi Preng, Zadigay-B, Kralpora, Kudara, Kema, and Garoora-B. These awareness events witnessed active participation from local communities including youth, women, and elders. Resource persons from departments such as Health, Education, Police, Social Welfare, Youth Services & Sports, Excise & Taxation, and JKRLM conducted engaging sessions highlighting the psychological,

social, and economic consequences of drug abuse. They also informed participants about available rehabilitation services, helpline support, and government initiatives aimed at prevention and recovery. District administration reiterated its commitment to carry the anti-drug awareness campaign to every corner of the district as part of a mission-mode approach under Nasha Mukt Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan, ensuring that every individual becomes a stakeholder in building a drug-free society.

EDITORIAL

Farooq Abdullah goes all out about restoration of statehood to J&K

For a change the National Conference President and former chief minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah has raised a banner of revolt against the Government of India over the restoration of statehood to Jammu & Kashmir. Addressing party workers at Anantnag a couple of days back the senior Abdullah said that his party is contemplating to approach the Supreme Court of India about restoration of statehood to the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Dr. Abdullah who has been the chief minister of Jammu & Kashmir thrice said that restoration of statehood is the right of the people of the union territory. He said that New Delhi would not do any favour to the Jammu & Kashmir residents by restoring the status of state to the union territory. The National Conference President has adopted a rigid stand on the issue even though he has been defensive about the same up to this moment of time.

Ever since the National Conference formed the government in Jammu & Kashmir in October 2024 the party president has been saying that the people need not to worry about restoration of statehood to the union territory and the same will be done at an appropriate time. He had asked the party cadre, politicians of the other political parties and the masses as a whole to adopt a wait and watch policy with respect to the restoration of statehood to Jammu & Kashmir.

The National Conference President has all of a sudden changed his posture and threatened to go to court on this issue. It is an established fact that the National Conference leaders including the party president and chief minister Omar Abdullah are facing criticism from a section of their party leaders, workers and activists over the failure to get back the statehood to Jammu & Kashmir. There is a notion among the people that the National Conference has lost its credibility in the recent months as it has failed on the governance front in Jammu & Kashmir.

It has come to the fore that many leaders of National Conference have been maintaining in the public forum that they are not able to do any work since Jammu & Kashmir is a union territory and not a state. In such a state of helplessness the people are bound to suffer and more importantly the leaders, workers and activists are at the receiving end. It is due to this reason that they are facing the wrath from the common masses.

Summer Vacation: Students urged to Balance Fun and Learning..



JAVAIID BHAT

As temperatures soared across the region, the Directorate of School Education Kashmir has officially announced the commencement of 15 Day long summer vacations for all government and private schools across Kashmir province from 23rd of June. The vacation period comes as a welcome break for students and staff alike, offering a much-needed respite from the academic routine and rising temperatures.

While students are expected to enjoy this refreshing interval, education authorities and school heads have urged them to use this time wisely. "Summer holidays should not be seen merely as a break from studies, but also as an opportunity to revise and strengthen concepts learned during school hours," Said Tariq Ahmad Mir Lecturer Political Science at BHSS Kulroosa.

"As a student, I believe summer vacation is a great time to relax and recharge, but it shouldn't be wast-



ed entirely on leisure. I try to use my time wisely by setting a daily routine that includes some study hours, reading books beyond the syllabus, and learning new skills like drawing or basic computer work. Along with fun and family time, I also help my parents with small household tasks. This way, I enjoy my vacation while also staying productive and preparing myself for the next academic session," Said Aatif a 9th class student.

Teachers are encouraging students to set aside time each day for light academic revision, especially in subjects where end-term or board exams loom closer. Special focus is advised on retaining lessons

taught in class, as these form the foundation for upcoming assessments.

Parents too are being called upon to play a supportive role by providing an environment that encourages both rest and productive learning. Reading books, practicing questions, and engaging in educational activities are being suggested as meaningful ways to balance relaxation with academic consistency.

As tourism in Kashmir sees an upward trend, families are expected to travel and explore the valley's scenic beauty. However, it is recommended that students carry light study material even during trips, so learning continues in small but steady steps.

As summer vacation unfolds, students are being encouraged to strike a healthy balance between relaxation and academic engagement. While the break offers a well-deserved chance to unwind, educators and parents emphasize the importance of using time judiciously. Light revision of previous lessons, reading storybooks, exploring creative hobbies, and learning new skills can enrich the break without compromising the fun. This balanced approach not only helps students stay connected to learning but also makes their return to school smoother and more confident.

Javaid Ahmad Bhat is teacher and a regular contributor to Headlines Today. He can be reached at javid-sultan6@gmail.com

Stop Chasing Happiness – Build It Inside



JASWINDER PAL SHARMA

In a world that constantly bombards us with messages about success, possessions, and external validation, it's easy to fall into the trap of chasing happiness as if it's a distant prize to be won. We believe that happiness lies somewhere out there—on the next promotion, in the perfect relationship, or through acquiring material possessions. However, true happiness isn't something to chase; it's something to cultivate from within.

The Illusion of External Happiness
Many people spend their lives pursuing external sources of happiness—money, fame, social status—believing these will bring lasting fulfillment. Yet, countless studies and personal stories reveal that external factors often provide only fleeting joy. Once the initial excitement fades, many find themselves back at square one, feeling unfulfilled and searching again.

This cycle creates a false sense of happiness based on transient pleasures rather than lasting contentment. It's like trying to fill a bucket with holes—the

more you pour in, the more it leaks out.

Building Happiness Inside

The key to genuine happiness is to shift focus inward. Instead of chasing after happiness, it's more effective to build it from the inside out through intentional practices:

■ **1. Self-Awareness and Acceptance:**

Understand who you are—your strengths, passions, and limitations. Accept yourself without judgment, which fosters inner peace and authenticity.

■ **2. Practicing Gratitude:**

Regularly acknowledging what you're thankful for shifts your perspective from lack to abundance, fostering contentment.

■ **3. Mindfulness and Presence:**

Living in the moment helps reduce anxiety about the past or future. Mindfulness practices like meditation or deep breathing cultivate a calm mind and emotional resilience.

■ **4. Pursuing Meaningful Goals:**

Engage in activities that align with your values and passions. Purpose-driven pursuits foster a sense of fulfillment that external achievements often lack.

■ **5. Building Healthy Relationships:**

Genuine connections with others provide support, love, and a sense of belonging—all essential components of happiness.

■ **6. Self-Care and Compassion:**

Prioritize your well-being and treat yourself with kindness. A healthy mind and body are foundational to sustained happiness.

■ **The Power of Inner Contentment**

When happiness is built inside, it becomes a stable foundation that weather's life's inevitable ups and downs. It's less dependent on external circumstances and more rooted in your mindset and habits. This inner contentment allows you to experience joy in everyday moments, resilience during difficult times, and a deeper appreciation for life.

■ **Final Thoughts**

Chasing happiness is like chasing shadows—elusive and fleeting. Instead, turn inward and build happiness from within. Cultivate self-awareness, gratitude, mindfulness, and meaningful connections. As you do so, you'll find that happiness isn't a distant goal but a natural state that resides within you, waiting to be uncovered and nurtured. Remember: happiness isn't something you find; it's something you create. Start building it inside today.

Jaswinder Pal Sharma
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The Silent Tragedy of Modern Parenting



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 days 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.

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.

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PM Modi – Architect of New India



MOHD AMIN MIR

In the vast canvas of Indian political history, very few leaders have managed to leave a mark as deep and transformative as that of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A statesman of rare determination, strategic foresight, and grassroots appeal, Modi has redefined the contours of governance, development, and diplomacy in India. His tenure has been marked not just by economic and infrastructural growth, but by a deep psychological transformation of the Indian people—one that has instilled pride, purpose, and belief in the promise of a 'New India'. From a modest background as a tea-seller to becoming the Prime Minister of the world's largest democracy, Modi's journey embodies the spirit of aspiration and hard work. But it is not just his story—it is the story of a billion Indians who see in him a reflection of their own struggles, ambitions, and dreams. **The Ground Beneath the Reforms: Empowering the Last Person**

At the heart of Narendra Modi's governance model is the philosophy of Antyodaya—uplifting the last person in the queue. His vision of development is not elitist or exclusive; it is grassroots-centric and inclusive. **Housing, Clean Fuel, and Sanitation for All**
The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) has fulfilled the dreams of over 4 crore families by providing them with safe and dignified housing. These are not just structures of brick and mortar—they are shelters of stability and self-respect. Under the Ujjwala Yojana, over 8 crore

families have received free LPG connections. This has not only reduced the health risks of indoor air pollution for women and children but also liberated women from centuries of drudgery and smoke. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, one of Modi's most iconic campaigns, succeeded in making sanitation a mass movement. Over 100 million toilets have been built, and India declared itself open defecation-free in rural areas—a milestone in public health and human dignity.

Financial Inclusion and Direct Benefits

The Jan Dhan Yojana has added over 50 crore citizens—many of them women, farmers, and workers—into the banking system. This financial inclusion has enabled transparent transfer of benefits, curbed corruption, and empowered people economically.

Modi's Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) architecture has saved billions of rupees by eliminating middlemen and ensuring that government subsidies reach the intended recipients. Healthcare, Farmers, and Small Businesses: Lifting the Economic Backbone

Healthcare for the Poor: With Ayushman Bharat, the largest health insurance scheme in the world, Modi's government ensured that more than 50 crore Indians have access to free treatment up to 5 lakh per family per year. Hospitals across India are seeing the poor arrive with dignity—without the burden of catastrophic medical expenses.

Farmer-Centric Reforms: The PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi provides 6,000 annually directly into the accounts of small and marginal farmers. This regular income support helps them meet agricultural expenses and household needs with dignity. The e-NAM platform, soil health cards, crop insurance, and irrigation schemes have collectively struc-

tured the agricultural ecosystem, focusing on productivity, profitability, and resilience. Small Entrepreneurs, Big Dreams: Through Mudra Yojana, over 20 lakh crore in loans have been distrib-



uted without collateral to small entrepreneurs, especially women and youth. These funds have created micro-enterprises, boosted self-employment, and fostered rural industrialization.

The Stand-Up India and Startup India initiatives are nurturing a generation of risk-takers and innovators who are shaping India's economic future. The Modi Model of Leadership: Decisive, Bold, and Connective
Modi's leadership style is rooted in discipline, decision-making, and direct connect with people.

Tough Decisions, National Interest
Few leaders have demonstrated the political courage that Modi has shown in taking tough decisions. Abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu & Kashmir, ending the region's special status and integrating it fully into the Indian Union. Demonetisation—a bold move to fight black money and counterfeit currency.

Implementation of GST, unifying India into one common market and simplifying the tax regime. These decisions were not always universally popular but reflected Modi's readiness to prioritize long-term

national gains over short-term applause. Mann Ki Baat and Mass Communication

His monthly Mann Ki Baat radio broadcast has become a unique platform for citizen engagement. Unlike traditional political addresses, it features social workers, innovators, teachers, and unsung heroes. It is a celebration of India's silent champions.

His presence on social media and frequent ground visits ensures that he is not a distant figure but an accessible and responsive leader.

Infrastructure and Digital India: Building for the Future

Highways, Railways, and Airports: Modi's tenure has seen the construction of highways at an average pace of 38 km per day, a significant jump from previous governments. Projects like Bharatmala, Sagarmala, and Dedicated Freight Corridors have modernized logistics and trade routes.

Under UDAN, regional air connectivity has improved dramatically, bringing air travel to small towns and remote regions. Railway electrification and modernisation of stations have accelerated at an unprecedented rate.

Digital Revolution and Financial Tech: The Digital India campaign has bridged the digital divide, bringing internet access and services to the most rural corners of India.

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has revolutionised financial transactions, handling over 12 billion transactions monthly. Even a street vendor today uses QR codes for payments—a testament to the digital transformation of the economy.

Aadhaar integration across welfare schemes, tax systems, and subsidies has made governance efficient, targeted, and corruption-free.

India on the World Stage: Diplomacy Redefined

Vaccine Diplomacy and Global Humanitarianism: During the pandemic, India launched Vaccine Maitri, providing vaccines to over 100 countries. This act of solidarity won the hearts of global leaders and citizens alike, reinforcing India's image as a responsible global player.

Strategic Alliances and Global Forums: Under Modi, India's engagement with QUAD, G20, BRICS, and SCO has deepened. His rapport with leaders like Biden, Macron, Abe, and Netanyahu reflects India's elevated diplomatic stature.

He has articulated India's stand clearly on the world stage—be it climate change, counter-terrorism, or supply chain resilience—earning the nation a stronger voice.

Cultural Diplomacy: Modi has brilliantly used India's civilisational strengths to project soft power. His push for International Yoga Day, adopted unanimously by the UN, was a cultural coup. He has showcased India's heritage, spirituality, and diversity in ways that enhance its global appeal.

The Poor as Stakeholders, Not Beneficiaries

Unlike earlier models where welfare was seen as charity, Modi's schemes make the poor stakeholders in the nation-building process.

Be it access to electricity through Saubhagya, safe water through Har Ghar Jal, or online education via DIKSHA, the poor are no longer just recipients—they are partners in India's growth.

His governance model dismantles the entitlement mindset and promotes self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat). It reflects a deep respect for dignity, not just development.

Women's Empowerment and Social Reforms

Women have emerged as key beneficiaries of Modi's reforms

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao has improved awareness about the girl child.

LPG connections, toilets, and bank accounts in women's names have strengthened female agency.

Reservation for women in political and administrative roles has been backed by government will and legal initiatives.

Social evils such as triple talaq have been addressed head-on, marking a shift from appeasement politics to genuine empowerment.

Challenges Acknowledged, Reforms Undeterred

No leadership is without criticism. Modi's government has faced challenges—economic slowdowns, protests against farm laws (later repealed), and global headwinds. But what defines Modi is responsiveness without retreat, dialogue without dilution, and ambition without arrogance.

He has remained firmly rooted in national interest, even if it meant withdrawing policies when necessary and re-engaging with stakeholders.

A Legacy Still in Motion

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership is not just a tenure—it is a turning point in the Indian republic. He has brought a deep moral clarity, strategic direction, and relentless energy to the task of nation-building. Whether one views him through the lens of economic progress, administrative efficiency, global diplomacy, or social reform, the conclusion remains the same: Modi is not merely leading India; he is reshaping it.

As India prepares for the centenary of its independence in 2047, the foundation being laid today under Modi's leadership could very well become the bedrock of a New India—bold, inclusive, prosperous, and proud.

Mohd Amin Mir is a columnist who writes extensively on governance, leadership, and rural reform, with special focus on Jammu & Kashmir and national transformation initiatives. He can be mailed at miramin354@gmail.com

The traditional customs and folk culture retreated in the blind race of modernity



Vijay Garg.

Our villages are changing. This change can be seen at many levels. Not only contacts improved in villages when connected to road and railroads, but lifestyle and rural surroundings have also changed. There was electricity in villages, which brought light with them, also made a medium of tools like TV. The road and electricity played a big role in trying to make villages stand parallel to the cities and move towards par. Now the villages did not remain the same as were three-four decades ago. Arguably, this change should be called positive and growth oriented. The people of villages also have the same right to live a resourceful life, as the people of the city, but the change always brings some unwanted references with them. These references sometimes become factors of social and cultural change and take us away from our cultural heritage. If electricity came in villages, it also brought side effects with lights, in the dark of which the folk culture of villages began to vanish. Electricity did not change the lifestyle of the people of the villages, but also changed their thinking. TV opened the window of rural life towards the city and the big cities. Rural life was greatly influenced by it. In a spree of modernity, people went away from their traditional customs. Modernity also dominated in manglik programmes with festivals that people began to understand their traditions the past. At one time, songs were sung from every small-grown festivals in villages to different seasons. People used to feel the weather not only because of the change in the abo-air, but also from the mind-brain. Folklore - Music works to connect people with traditional cultural heritage. But the changing times changed everything. Now the songs are not heard fag, teal, crutches, kazari, barhamasa and jhula. The new generation is being deprived of their sweetness. Not only this, folk dramas, which were held on various festival-festivals and special occasions in villages, also went on to offer modernity. The folk

plays were replaced by an orchestra. The stage of the play was the stage of social harmony. In the blind race of modernity, people went far ahead today and missed the traditional customs and folk culture behind. There was a lot of chakchanda at the school of villages long ago. However, there has been a radical change in that time and today's education business. Then most of the schools were not government and the Guruji of Pathshala had to depend only on Guru Dakshina, who met his disciples for livelihood. Starting from Bhadrappa Chaturthi, for ten days, Chakchanda was celebrated as a celebration in villages, in which the students used to go home and sing Ganesh Vandana and ask for chakchanda. It was given to Chanda Guruji with respect. It used to lead a guru's livelihood. Chakchanda should not be seen just as the folk and traditional festival sought for Guruji's Dakshina, but it used to coordinate the entire village and add to the source of unity. It is right that there are government schools in villages today and teachers government mulazim. Coaching institutes and private schools have also opened. Private educational institutions should not amount to Chakchanda, but heavy tuition fee. Similarly, there is a festival of unwavering love of siblings, Sama-Chakeva. Women dance 'Sama Chakeva' by wearing traditional Maithili apparel in this festival. Similarly traditional celebrations like Vidapada Naach and Jitiya Naach are now counting on their last day. Dholk's loud thap with heroic juice-drenched aalha singing has also become an old-fashioned thing now. Ramlila is also now being lost in the darkness of the past. By a few decades ago, Ramlila Mandali used to come regularly in villages every year and for two-three weeks, people enjoyed it. But, Ramlila of villages ahead of the glare of TV and OTT, now people have started feeling boring. Similarly, the virha and puppet dancing of the villages also now became a matter of past age. Turning back today, it is an effortless feeling that in the race for modernity, we have become so far away from our customs and folk traditions that it is no longer easy to return and adopt them. But the folk traditions which have rest of the breath must be tried to give a new life. Because, when there is a folk culture, there is melody and exaltation in folk life.

Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational Columnist Eminent Educationist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab

Steeling through the Mountains: Kashmir's Rail Revolution



BY JAYA VARMA SINHA

On a clear June day, draped in marigold flowers and national pride, the Vande Bharat Express began its maiden journey from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra to Srinagar. Flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the moment marked more than the launch of a high-speed train.

It was the culmination of a century-old dream—one forged in steel, vision, and unyielding resolve. The rail unification of Kashmir with the rest of India is that resolve. It is evident on the happy faces of the people travelling on the train.

Train to Kashmir with an ultra modern travel experience runs on the solid foundation of our engineers. Cutting short the travel time, high speed Vande Bharat trains are running twice a day, six times a week from both sides.

They are not only bringing much needed push for the local economic development in the valley but are also proving out to be a boon for the tourists from across the country. The picturesque journey with ultra-modern comforts in such a short time of three hours vis a vis road journey of six to seven hours has truly unified hilly Kashmir with the rest of India in all weathers for us. For decades, Kashmir's story has been told through the lens of conflict and remoteness. It's heartening to see it being rewritten in the language of infrastructure – bridges, tunnels, and rail lines threading their way through the mountains. Coming on the eve of 11 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governance at the centre, the special trains and the connecting link are all set to change the destiny of locals in Kashmir.

In its 172-year history of service to the nation, Indian Railways has proudly crossed many important milestones. Generations of dedicated railway men and women have toiled to make connectivity and carriage a daily reality. But to paraphrase a line from an iconic Indian advertisement: Indian Railways doesn't just build tracks—it also knits the fabric of national unity!

From Isolation to Integration

Historically, Kashmir's isolation was more than metaphorical—it was geographic and punishingly real. Tucked high in the Himalayas and routinely cut off by snow for days, the region

remained distant not just in reach but even experience. Roads were often treacherous, air travel limited, and full rail connectivity a mirage long promised.

A British-era proposal for a Kashmir rail link remained on the drawing board for decades, hindered by complex geopolitical challenges. After countless rounds of deliberations, feasibility studies, technical evaluations, and consultations with both domestic and international experts, the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) was officially sanctioned in 1994. While the northern and southern sections progressed steadily and were effectively completed within a decade, the central stretch—from Katra



to Banihal—posed an engineering and security challenge of Himalayan proportions.

For years, the rail line lingered as two disconnected segments—like outstretched hands reaching across a chasm of mountains. But that chasm symbolized more than just physical terrain. The final push to complete the USBRL project came when the government declared it a national priority.

With firm resolve and cutting-edge technology working in tandem, the project finally saw light at the end of the tunnel—quite literally. As Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw aptly remarked, this was far more than a transportation initiative; it was a nation-building effort.

Where Steel Defies the Sky

The USBRL project may well be the most ambitious rail initiative since Independence. The 272-km stretch between Udhampur and Baramulla snakes through 40 tunnels and over 900 bridges. And at the center of it all is the record-breaking Chenab Bridge – the tallest railway bridge in the world, standing 359 meters above the riverbed.

This marvel of engineering is capable of withstanding wind speeds up to 260 kmph and tremors of seismic zone-V. Beside it stands the Anji Khad Bridge, India's first cable-stayed railway bridge, stretching asymmetrically across a valley, anchored by a single pylon and supported by 96 cables.

Tunnels, including the 11-kilometer-long T-80 (Banihal – Qazigund) tunnel through the Pir Panjal range, have been carved through fragile rock with a mix of dynamite and human grit. Physical Surveys were done on horseback for decades, and satellite imaging provided aerial support. Workers labored through harsh winters, sudden landslides, and the looming threat of Pak-sponsored terrorist attacks.

Today, more than 190 km of tunnels and thousands of tons of steel later, the line stands complete – a feat that combines precision engineering with a certain audacity of vision, linking the Valley to the rest of the nation in a way that is profoundly symbolic.

A Train Called Hope

In many ways, the Vande Bharat Express is not just a train—it is a metaphor. It glides quietly through meadows and valleys, bridging distances both physical and psychological, proclaiming that Kashmir is no longer distant!

It has reduced travel time between Srinagar and Katra to just over three hours, down from nearly six. What was once a treacherous road journey through landslide-prone hairpin bends and unpredictable weather, is now a smooth ride through tunnels and bridges that defy belief.

It connects not only cities, but lives. Children in far-off villages are now talking about universities in Jammu and Delhi. Local artisans, apple growers, and carpet weavers now see their goods reaching markets beyond the valley – fresher, faster, further.

"Where there were once checkpoints and delays," said a young shopkeeper in Srinagar, "there is now the sound of a train. It feels like we're no longer waiting for the rest of the country to arrive—we are moving with it."

A New Journey, Still Unfolding

This is not to suggest that one train will solve Kashmir's complex problems. Infrastructure cannot erase history or immediately heal wounds – security concerns will need addressing yet. But it can open doors—both literal and symbolic. And it can lay the groundwork for integration that is economic, social, and, ultimately, emotional. What began as a dream on drawing boards in colonial offices has become a reality on steel rails blending with Himalayan rock. The rail line to Kashmir is the story of a country that refused to be daunted by terrain, terror, or time. From mountain shadows to sunlit stations, a new journey has begun! (Courtesy: PIB Srinagar)

(The author is an Ex CEO & Chairman Railway Board)

Shri Machail Mata Yatra-2025

DC reviews arrangements for pilgrims, pays obeisance at Temple shrine

HT NEWS DESK

KISHTWAR, JUNE 23: Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma visited the revered Shree Chandni Mata Darbar in Machail today, where he paid obeisance and took stock of the arrangements for Shri Machail Mata Yatra 2025, scheduled to commence on July 25, 2025. The DC evaluated key infrastructure and amenities including sanitation, water supply, electricity and road connectivity, expressing satisfaction with the progress made so far. He informed the road to Machail is complete upto Chishoti and work on the Chishoti Bridge is in full swing. He acknowledged certain bottlenecks but reaffirmed that the work is progressing at full speed and will be completed in a time-bound manner.



While the official Yatra will start on July 25, a large number of pilgrims have already begun visiting the Holy Shrine of Machail Mata. Interacting with local residents and the pilgrims, the DC took direct feedback from them and stated that this year a significant increase in pilgrim turnout is expected. He urged devotees to maintain cleanliness and adhere to all necessary guidelines to support the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage. The DC directed the concerned officers to ensure round-the-clock monitoring and address issues promptly to deliver a safe, comfortable and spiritually enriching experience to the pilgrims. Additional Deputy Commissioner Pawan Kotwal, SDM Dr Amit Bhagat besides other Senior Officers and concerned Staff accompanied the DC.

Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra JMC Commissioner reviews arrangements at lodgement centres across Jammu City

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JUNE 23: Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav, who is also Chief Executive Officer Jammu Smart City Limited today conducted an extensive inspection of the lodgement centres set up for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY-2025) pilgrims across Jammu city. During the visit, the Commissioner assessed arrangements at prominent lodgement centres including Shri Ram Mandir (Purani Mandi), Geeta Bhawan Parade, Mahajan Sabha, Shalimar Road, Trikuta Complex, Yatri Niwas at Bhagwati Nagar, among other designated facilities established for the comfort and

convenience of the pilgrims arriving for the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. Dr. Yadav reviewed in detail the infrastructure and services put in place at each centre, including accommodation, sanitation, food, drinking water, provision of power supply and medical support. He emphasized that timely and efficient provisioning of all essential services must be ensured. Issuing directions to the concerned departments, the Commissioner stressed on providing clean lodging spaces, hygienic food, clean potable drinking water, proper sleeping arrangements and well-maintained sanitation facilities to all pilgrims.

Major DAJGUA outreach camp held at Panchayat Chamoti- Kishtwar

HT NEWS DESK

KISHTWAR, JUNE 23: A multi-departmental IEC (Information, Education and Communication) outreach camp was held today here at Panchayat Ghar Chamoti, Block Drabshalla under the aegis of Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gramin Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA). The ongoing 15-day IEC awareness campaign aims to empower tribal communities socially and economically. The camp brought together the departments of Health, Agriculture, Education, ICDS, Employment, Rural Development and Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) under one roof to provide infor-

mation and services directly to the tribal population. Each department set up dedicated stalls offering on-the-spot support for scheme enrollments, application submissions, distribution of informative materials in local languages and one-on-one consultations. This ensured that tribal populace from remote areas could access government benefits and services easily. Officers addressed the public issues on the spot, offering solutions and clear timelines, reinforcing the administration's focus on transparency and accountability. Field-level officials highlighted the importance of regular interaction with the community.

10-Day internship for college students begins at SDRF 2nd Battalion Jammu

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JUNE 23: A 10-day Training Internship Programme for students of Government MAM College Jammu was inaugurated today here at the SDRF 2nd Battalion headquarters. The programme aims to enhance disaster preparedness and response capabilities among youth. The inauguration was led by Commandant, SDRF 2nd Battalion Zahid Naseem Manhas in the presence of Dy. SP (Bn. Adjutant) Manzoor Hussain. In his address, the Commandant emphasized the importance of strengthening the capabilities of students to become effective first responders during the disasters. He high-

lighted the role of the SDRF as a vital organization for collective preparedness and swift response during emergencies. Instructions were issued to the instructors to provide comprehensive and practical training to the participating students. The objective of the internship is to equip students with the knowledge and skills required to mitigate the impact of disasters in their localities, thus playing a crucial role in minimizing potential losses. Earlier, Dy. SP (Training) Dinesh Gupta delivered the Welcome address. Instructions were issued to the instructors to provide comprehensive and practical training to the participating students.

DC launches intensive awareness, benefit saturation campaign under Dharti Aaba Abhiyan in Rajouri

HT NEWS DESK

RAJOURI, JUNE 23: In a major initiative aimed at bridging developmental gaps in tribal areas, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today launched an intensive campaign under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJ-GUA) across the district. As part of this campaign, awareness and benefit saturation camps were held across the 30 villages the other day. The campaign witnessed overwhelming public participation, reflecting the people's trust and growing awareness about government initiatives for tribal upliftment. As many as 30 senior officers were deputed to oversee the camps and focus on gap analysis in service delivery and developmental initiatives. Similar special camps were also organised today at five key locations of Larkuti, Soker, Gundha, Khawas, Panjah and Thatpali Ponthal, spanning across five blocks of the district. "The primary objective of these camps is to ensure 100% saturation of welfare schemes, generate awareness



about entitlements and collect real-time feedback from the tribal population," the DC said. To ensure effective implementation and coordination, Assistant Commissioner Development Auqil Naveed has been directed to oversee the overall execution of the campaign. Senior officers including Additional Deputy Commissioners, ACR and SDMs monitored the camps at their respective locations to ensure smooth conduct and redress of public grievances on the spot. As part of this campaign, awareness and benefit saturation camps were held across the 30 villages the other

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Dharti Aabha awareness camps held at Chilly Pingal, Dhadkaie in Gandoh

HT NEWS DESK

DODA, JUNE 23: A vibrant celebration under the ongoing Dharti Aabha Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan was successfully organized at two key locations of District Doda—Playground Katha, Panchayat Haddal, Block Chilly Pingal and Panchayat Dhadkaie A & B, Block Gandoh, Tehsil Bhalesa. The events were conducted under the guidance of the Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and supervised by the Block Development Officer Chilly Pingal and District Ayush Officer Dr. Ajay Kumar Tikoo. At Playground Katha, the programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from the local tribal community, ex-PRI members and frontline workers. The departments of Health, AYUSH, ICDS, Social

Welfare, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Education and RDD set up informative stalls and offered on-the-spot services and demonstrations related to key government schemes to empower the tribal population. Simultaneously, an awareness camp was organized at Panchayat Dhadkaie A and B by the staff of AHWC Kota. The camp saw active participation from the Scheduled Tribe (ST) population, where 51 beneficiaries received AYUSH medicines for various ailments, reinforcing the government's commitment to inclusive healthcare access. Both events reflected a united effort towards sustainable grassroots development, focusing on tribal welfare, health equity and awareness. Both events reflected a united effort towards sustainable grassroots development.

Kathua district achieves major headway in execution of PMGSY projects

HT NEWS DESK

KATHUA, JUNE 23: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Surinder Mohan today chaired a meeting to review the status of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) projects. The meeting was held in the VC Room of the DC Office Complex. Reviewing the performance of the PMGSY Kathua Division, the Executive Engineer informed that of 124 projects sanctioned under Phase I work on 123 has been completed, while all 6 schemes under Phase-II stand completed. Similarly 6 out of 8 schemes sanctioned under Phase-III have been completed. Additionally, 10 new schemes have been earmarked under Phase-IV for implementation. The ADDC was also apprised that out of 13 bridge projects taken up in the division, 5 have been completed, while utility shifting is pending on 5 other bridges. In the PMGSY Division Billawar, of 122 schemes sanctioned under



Phase-I, 114 have been completed. The remaining 8 schemes—4 each in Billawar and Bani Sub-Divisions—are pending due to forest clearance and other related issues, even as all schemes sanctioned under Phase-II and Phase-III have been completed. The Division has received sanction of 5 new schemes under the Phase-IV. The ADDC instructed the concerned Executive Engineers to expedite the execution of all pending works and ensure their timely completion. He emphasized on resolving bottlenecks to achieve the set targets within stipulated time frame. The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Kathua, Ranjit Thakur and other concerned officers. Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Surinder Mohan today chaired a meeting to review the status of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) projects. The meeting was held in the VC Room of the DC Office Complex. Reviewing the performance of the PMGSY Kathua Division, the Executive Engineer informed that of 124 projects sanctioned under Phase I work on 123 has been completed, while all 6 schemes under Phase-II stand completed. Similarly 6 out of 8 schemes sanctioned.

DC Kathua reviews anti-flood measures

24x7 Control Room, Early Warning System and Inter-departmental coordination flagged as key focus areas

HT NEWS DESK

KATHUA, JUNE 23: Deputy Commissioner Dr. Rakesh Minhas today chaired a high-level meeting to review and strategize anti-flood measures in view of the imminent monsoon season. The meeting focused on ensuring robust coordination among the stakeholder departments for effective planning and execution of flood mitigation efforts. A key decision taken during the meeting was the establishment of a 24x7 Composite Control Room at the DC Office Complex, which will become operational from July 1, 2025. The control room will facilitate real-

time coordination and communication among all concerned departments. The general public can contact the Control Room on 01922-238796 to report any flood-related incidents or issues. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for synergy among departments, including Revenue, Police, Health and Irrigation & Flood Control. He underscored that coordinated efforts are key to timely response and risk mitigation during potential flood events. A detailed review of ongoing flood control measures was undertaken, covering desilting of kulls and nallahs, strengthening of embankments and establishment of flood shelters. The Irrigation and Flood Control



Department apprised the DC of the status of these initiatives and ongoing efforts to enhance the district's flood defense infrastructure. The DC directed the concerned departments to expedite the pace of work and ensure completion of flood prevention measures before the

onset of monsoon. He further instructed departments to procure essential flood-response equipment, including wireless sets, dewatering pumps, waterproof tents and to ensure proper cleaning and functioning of drainage systems in Kathua town and other vulnerable rural areas. Block Development Officers (BDOs) were asked to work in close coordination with field functionaries to implement necessary anti-flood measures at vulnerable spots. It was informed that Early Warning Systems have been installed at Panjirthi and Rajbagh Barrage, which will significantly improve alert mechanisms. Additionally, siren systems installed at Jakhole and Ujh

Barrage will be activated during extreme weather warnings to alert residents in nearby areas. The DC also stressed the need to sensitise Chowkidars, Lambardars, and other community stakeholders to raise awareness about evacuation protocols and flood safety measures. The mechanism for issuing timely alerts to residents living near riverbanks and low-lying nallah areas was discussed in detail. The DC highlighted the importance of prompt information dissemination, early warning systems and comprehensive community outreach to educate people about flood risks and necessary precautions. The meeting was attended by ADDC Kathua Surinder Mohan, ASP Rahul

DC Ramban convenes introductory meeting with Civil Society Members

Encourages Public Participation in Development process

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JUNE 23: Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired an introductory meeting with members of Civil Society to promote public engagement in governance and developmental activities.

The meeting was attended by members of Bar Association, prominent Citizens, besides heads of social, religious and business organizations. Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather and other officers of the District Administration were also present.

During the interaction, the Deputy Commissioner reiterated the District Administration's commitment to strengthening a public-centric governance system in the district, emphasizing that efforts are being made to reach out to people at



their doorsteps to ensure quality and efficient services delivery.

He appealed to the participants to actively participate in the planning and execution of developmental works,

emphasizing that public involvement is crucial for achieving holistic and sustainable development in the district. He assured that visible progress would be ensured on the ground through participatory governance and a focused developmental mission. Responding to issues of public importance raised by the participants, the Deputy Commissioner and ADC briefed them about the steps being taken to resolve the same. They said that district administration is always available for the public and they are free to come up with matters of public interest. Seeking community support for the smooth and successful conduct of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, the Deputy Commissioner underlined the district's role in facilitating and welcoming Yatris passing through the district. He called upon the civil society to join the District Administration to welcome the Yatris. The participants appreciated the initiative and assured full cooperation to the District Administration in implementing welfare schemes and ensuring greater community participation in development and governance processes.

JKPUF, CSF Hold Peaceful Protest at DC Office Kupwara for Pensioners' Rights

DR. AB QAYOOM

Kupwara, Jun, 23: The Jammu and Kashmir & Ladakh Pensioners United Front (JKPUF) and Jammu and Kashmir Civil Society Forum (JKCSF) District Kupwara on Monday staged a peaceful protest in the park premises of Deputy Commissioner's office Kupwara, demanding redressal of long-pending issues concerning pensioners. The protest witnessed the participation of hundreds of retired government employees and civil society members, who raised slogans in support of their key demands including the restoration of 8th Pay Commission benefits, enhancement of medical allowance from 300 to 1000, and 5%



additional pension every five years after the age of 65. Addressing the gathering, the pensioners expressed strong resentment over what they termed as government apathy towards their genuine demands. "We served our departments for decades, now we seek dignity and due welfare measures in our old age," said a protesting retiree. Prominent leaders who led the protest included Shaikh Bashir Ahmad (General Secretary JKPUF/CSF), Mir Fayaz (Provisional President JKPUF), Manzoor Ahmad Mir (District President PUF), Malik Gh Has-

san (District President CSF Kupwara), Gh Nabi Mir (Chief Patron PUF/CSF), Syed Maharaj-ud-Din Geelani (Provisional General Secretary PUF/CSF), and several other senior members of both forums. At the conclusion, a memorandum of demands was formally submitted to the Deputy Commissioner Kupwara by the leadership, following directions from JKPUF's central leadership led by Ab Qayoom Wani. The pensioners' front warned that they would intensify their agitation across Jammu and Kashmir if the government continues to ignore their rightful demands. As of now, no official response has been received from the administration regarding the protest and memorandum.

PM Surya Ghar Bijli Yojana

DC Reasi calls for speeding up registration, installation process

HT NEWS DESK/KNS

REASI, JUNE 23: Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in the district.

The DC reviewed the number of registrations, applications received, and the current status of installations under the scheme. It was informed that a total of 1026 registrations have been done with 140 installations completed and 26 in the queue.

Taking serious note of the slow installation, the DC directed the XEN/JPDCL to fix responsibility and take strict action against those who have failed to meet the targets. Emphasizing the impor-



tance of coordinated efforts, DC Nidhi Malik asked stakeholder departments to increase outreach to encourage maximum number of to avail the benefits of the scheme. The meeting also featured discussions on vendor selection processes to ensure quality and timely service delivery.

Furthermore, DC Reasi reviewed the functionality status of solar panels installed on government buildings. The ACD informed that 21 solarisa-

tion units have been installed, out of which 12 are currently functional. The DC instructed the ACD to verify the status of these units through the concerned BDOs and coordinate with JAKEDA for prompt repairs wherever necessary. The meeting was attended by ADDC Sukhdev Samyala, CPO Narinder Kumar, Executive Engineer of JPDCCL, CEO, all AEEs, JEs and other concerned officers.

Mission YUVA: DLIC approves 33 proposals at Doda

HT NEWS DESK

DODA, JUNE 23: The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) on Mission YUVA meeting was convened, here today.

District Development Commissioner, Harvinder Singh chaired the meeting aimed to review the progress of Mission YUVA and to scrutinize and approve applications seeking financial assistance received on DLIC portal.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, General Manager DIC, District Social Welfare Officer, Assistant Director Employment, District Nodal Officer JKEDI, District Development Manager NABARD and LDM.

A total of 33 cases, verified by the Small Business Development Unit (SBDU), were presented before the Committee and all were approved for financial assistance and handholding support after thorough scrutiny of eligibility criteria, business feasibility and the socio-economic background of the applicants.

Speaking at the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh underscored the significance of promoting self-employment among local youth, particularly those from underprivileged and marginalized communities. He directed the stakeholder departments to ensure timely disbursement of financial assistance, regular monitoring and proper mentoring to support the long-term success of the approved ventures. He also emphasized the need for increasing the outreach to encourage wider participation in the scheme.

Mock Exercise on Fire, Earthquake preparedness held at Vijaypur

Amir Iqbal Khan

SAMBA, JUNE 23: A Mock Exercise simulating a fire and earthquake rescue operation was conducted today at Government Higher Secondary School, Vijaypur. The exercise was organized collaboratively by the 13th Battalion of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and the District Administration Samba.

The mock drill was conducted in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma, SDM Vijaypur, representatives from NDRF and SDRF, locals, school faculty and students.

The scenario involved a simulated incident where a fire broke out in the two-storey school building, with smoke spreading rapidly. In the exercise, three students were reported trapped on the rooftop due to the blaze. Fire and emergency services responded promptly to douse the fire. Subsequently, NDRF and SDRF teams jointly carried out a high-rise rescue operation using rope techniques.

Among the rescued, one student was simulated to have suffered burn injuries while two others were found unconscious due to smoke inhalation. All were provided first aid and handed over to the medical team for further treatment at the Civil Hospital.

The exercise was conducted from 0945 hrs to 1125 hrs, under the supervision of Team Commander Inspector/GD Bachan Singh of 13 NDRF. A total of 193 individuals, including response teams, students and staff were involved in the exercise.

A debriefing session was held post-exercise led by DC Rajesh Sharma, emphasizing the importance of preparedness, coordination and swift action in times of disaster. He appreciated the participating agencies and encouraged schools and institutions to regularly conduct such preparedness drills to build a culture of safety and resilience.

Arzan Garzan Dam Project Faces Nearly a Decade of Delays

HT NEWS DESK

Budgam, June 23, KNT: A key irrigation infrastructure project in Charar-e-Sharief's Arzan Garzan area, here in Central Kashmir's Budgam district meant to transform agricultural potential across over 1,000 hectares, continues to face inordinate delays despite being initiated nearly a decade ago. The Arzan Garzan Dam Project, a Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) scheme, was included under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), now part of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), back in 2013-14, with a targeted Command Area of 1022 hectares and an estimated cost of Rs 40 crore. Advocate Javed Hubi, senior leader of the Awami Itehad Party (AIP) and prominent political activist, while talking to the news agency Kashmir News Trust voiced serious concern over the prolonged delay of the project, blaming bureaucratic inertia and flawed planning. "Despite starting excavation work for the dam body in 2016, the project still lies incomplete, denying farmers the much-needed irrigation benefits," Hubi said. According to official documents, the initial delay was caused by design approval issues. While authorities claimed the dam's design was eventually approved by the then state government, with a completion target set for 2020-21, no significant progress has been witnessed on the ground since then. The dam was to be a part of a cluster of 117 SMI projects designed to enhance agricultural productivity in water-deficient zones of Jammu and Kashmir. However, Arzan Garzan remains a glaring example of how policy on paper often falters in execution.

"Farmers in the area have waited long enough. Each missed agricultural season is a loss to both livelihoods and local food security," Hubi said, urging the administration to take immediate steps for project revival. Locals and political activists alike are now questioning the fate of other SMI schemes in the Kashmir Valley, fearing a broader pattern of negligence.

Modern Paddy Transplanter Showcased at KVK Kupwara, Promises Labor Savings and Higher Yields

DR. AB QAYOOM

Kupwara, Jun, 23: In a significant move towards agricultural modernization, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Kupwara organized a live demonstration of mechanized paddy transplantation today. The event witnessed active participation from agricultural scientists, progressive farmers, and local farm women. The demonstration was led by Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director of Extension, SKUAST-Kashmir, and Principal Investigator of the project titled "Standardization and Popularization of Mechanized Rice



Transplanting in the Kashmir Valley." The initiative, funded by JKDS & JKDP, highlighted the role of advanced farm machinery in saving time, reducing labor costs, and ensuring timely and precise paddy planting. Prof. Kanth emphasized that the technology would address crucial issues like nursery failures and late transplanting, enhancing crop productivity and farmer income. She termed mechanized transplanting as a much-needed step towards sustainable and efficient rice farming in the region. Among the distinguished participants were Dr. Lal Singh, Professor Division of Agronomy SKUAST-Kashmir, Prof. Kaiser M. Malik, Head KVK Kupwara, scientists, and

progressive farmers. Prof. Malik announced that KVK Kupwara would soon conduct training sessions for youth in mat nursery preparation, facilitating mechanized transplanting at the grassroots level. A live, hands-on demonstration of the paddy transplanter drew keen interest from farmers, who appreciated its operational ease and efficiency. The event concluded with farmers expressing eagerness to adopt the technology for the upcoming season.

This initiative marks a transformative chapter in Kupwara's farming landscape, steering local agriculture toward a more mechanized, profitable, and modern future.

32,336 PMAY (G) houses, 95 Panchyat Ghars completed in Ramban

DC reviews on ground impact of RDD sector schemes

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JUNE 23: Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan today conducted a comprehensive review of the progress achieved under various schemes and projects of the Rural Development Department.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather; Assistant Commissioner Development Shrinath Suman; Assistant Commissioner Panchayats Ashfaq Ahmed; Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Block Development Officers and representatives from the banks.

The Deputy Commissioner took a block-wise review of the progress from the concerned BDOs and stressed on the need to accelerate the pace of development and timely completion of the ongoing projects.

To strengthen the monitoring mechanism, the Deputy Commissioner instruct-



ed BDOs to submit daily progress reports to his office. He further directed officials to identify bottlenecks in implementation and take immediate corrective measures to overcome the same. Focusing on financial facilitation and

beneficiary support, the DC directed bankers to establish help desks at their respective branches to ease payments and services to MGNREGA Job Card holders and the beneficiaries of the welfare schemes. The CPO was tasked with compiling rel-

evant data to clear existing pendency in coordination with BDOs and banks.

Earlier, the ACD presented a detailed PowerPoint briefing on the physical and financial achievements across the 11 blocks of the district. He informed that a total of 32,336 houses have been completed under PMAY-G and 52,352 Job Card holders are currently registered in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSAA). The ACP informed that 1,418 Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs) have been completed under SBM-G in the district. He further briefed that the district has a total of 143 Panchayats of which Panchayat Ghars have been completed in 95 Panchayats, while work on 23 is in progress.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to accelerate the pace of all ongoing works and ensure achievement of targets within stipulated time

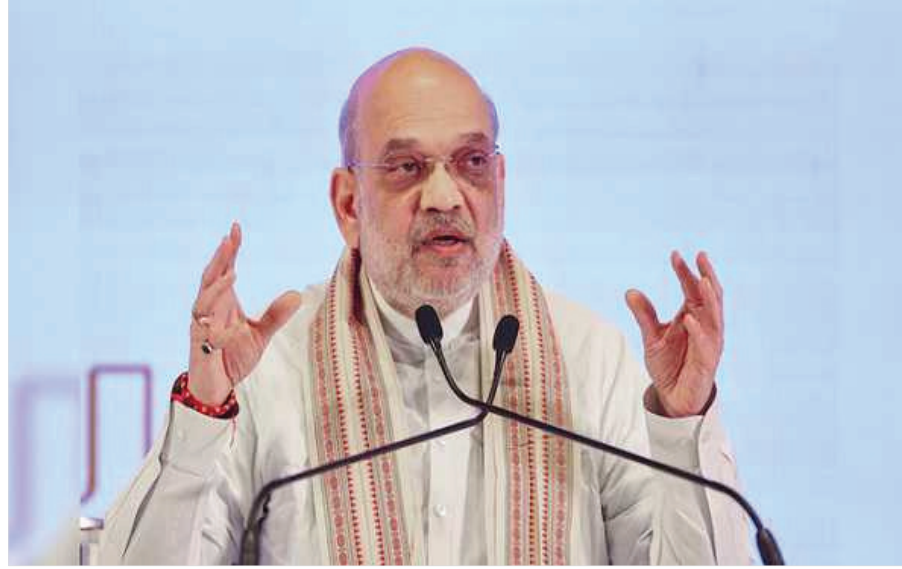
Amit Shah to chair 25th meeting of Central Zonal Council in Varanasi on Tuesday

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 23

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, will chair the 25th meeting of the Central Zonal Council on Tuesday in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

The meeting will be attended by Chief Ministers of the member states along with two senior ministers from each state. The Central Zonal Council comprises the states of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh. This meeting is being organised by the Inter-State Council Secretariat under the Ministry of Home Affairs, in collaboration with Uttar Pradesh government.

Under Sections 15 to 22 of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, five Zonal Councils were established. The Union Home Minister is the chairperson of these five Zonal Councils, and the Chief Ministers or Lieutenant Governors of the states and Union Territories are their members. Among these members, the Chief Minister of one mem-



ber state (rotating every year) acts as the vice-chairperson. From each member state, the Governor nominates two ministers as members of the council, a Home Ministry statement said. The role of the Zonal Councils is advisory;

however, over the past few years, these councils have proven to be an important factor in promoting healthy bonds of mutual understanding and cooperation in various fields. With the cooperation of all state governments, central ministries, and departments, a total of 61 meetings of the various Zonal Councils and their permanent committees have been held in the last eleven years.

The Zonal Councils also discuss broad issues of national importance, including the speedy investigation of cases of sexual offences against women and children and the implementation of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSC) for their swift disposal; providing brick-and-mortar banking facilities within the designated area of every village; implementation of the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS-112); and various regional-level common interest issues such as strengthening nutrition, education, health, electricity, urban planning, and the cooperative system.

Modi Govt using technology to exclude vulnerable groups from welfare schemes: Jairam Ramesh

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 23



Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Monday accused the Modi government of systematically using technology to exclude the most vulnerable sections of society from accessing their rightful social welfare entitlements. In a post on X, the Rajya Sabha MP highlighted a series of technological measures which he claimed, have turned out to be exclusionary in nature: "Aadhaar was weaponised to block crores of workers from MGNREGA. Acid attack survivors had to battle in court just to enroll in Aadhaar. Adivasis across the country still lose rations to tech glitches," he said.

Ramesh also expressed concerns over the use of facial recognition technology (FRT) for delivering benefits under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), warning that it could further become a hurdle for pregnant women. "All over the world, evidence has emerged that FRT discriminates against class and colour of the skin," he said.

He also cited the failures of other technological platforms such as the Aadhaar-based Payment System (ABPS) and the National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) app. Ramesh pointed to findings from the 365th Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, which noted that the introduction of ABPS in the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) had severely impacted the ability of eligible pregnant and lactating women to receive benefits.

"The number of beneficiaries paid has dipped drastically, from 96 lakh women in FY19-20 to 27 lakh women in FY23-24," he said.

Minister Hardeep Puri leads Indian delegation at memorial in Ireland, to mark 40th anniversary of Kanishka bombing

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 23

Iranian Foreign Minister Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri led the Indian delegation at Cork, Ireland, on the 40th anniversary remembrance to honour the memory of the 329 people killed in the horrific bombing of Air India Flight 182 Kanishka on June 23, 1985, carried out by Canada-based Khalistani separatists. Besides, Union Minister Puri, the Indian delegation comprises Arvinder Singh Lovely, BJP MLA from Delhi, Baldev



Singh Aulakh, Minister of State in the UP Government, Gurveer Singh Brar, BJP MLA from Rajasthan, Narinder Singh Raina, BJP MLA from Jammu and Kashmir, Trilok Singh Cheema, BJP MLA from Uttarakhand and Tarun Chug, National General Secretary, BJP, The Indian Ambassador Akhilesh Mishra was also present on the

occasion. The Prime Minister of Ireland Micheal Martin, Canada's Minister of Public Safety Gary Anandasangaree and family members of the victims were also present. Canada-based Khalistanis of the terror group Babbar Khalsa had planted a bomb on the Kanishka Air India flight which took off from Montreal to London, from where it was to fly onward to New Delhi and Mumbai. The bomb blew up the aircraft in the Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of Ireland near Cork. The remembrance was held at the Ahakista Memorial in Cork.

Shah, Rajnath pay tributes to Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his death anniversary

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 23

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday paid tributes to Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his death anniversary, healing his lifelong dedication to national unity and integrity. In a post on X, Shah described Mookerjee as a "stalwart of the country's unity, integrity, and cultural nationalism." "Dr Mookerjee was a true architect of national unity. He never compromised with divisive forces in West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir and even relinquished power by resigning from Nehru's cabinet," he said. He further said, "By founding the Jana Sangh, Dr Mookerjee provided the country with a political alternative

that upheld national interest as paramount. He sacrificed his life to ensure that Jammu & Kashmir remained an integral part of India."

"The life of such a true devotee of the motherland, the revered Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, will continue to inspire countless Indians for generations to come," he added.

Meanwhile, Rajnath Singh also remembered Dr Mookerjee as a statesman who devoted his life to India's unity and integrity. In a post on X, the defence minister said, "Heartfelt tributes to Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his punyathiti. A distinguished statesman, scholar and patriot, he devoted his life to safeguarding India's unity and integrity. His ideals continue to inspire generations committed to nation-building."

Russia extremely negative about NATO plans to increase defence spending: FM

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Moscow, June 23

Russia is extremely negative about NATO's plans to increase defence spending and will continue to take measures to ensure its security, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko told Sputnik.

Such a decision, if adopted, will lead to the "transfer of the economy, especially of the European member states, to 'war footing' to the detriment of the social and economic well-being of their citizens," Grushko said, adding that "the process of militarization of the EU will accelerate, the state of security in Europe and globally will worsen even more."

"So we will evaluate this decision extremely negatively and will continue to take all necessary measures to ensure our security and defence capability," Grushko said. Earlier in June, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte called on NATO member states to increase their defence spending from the current 2% to 3.5% of their respective GDPs, and spend another 1.5% on infrastructure development, military industry and other security-related investments. US President Donald Trump previously demanded that NATO allies spend 5% of GDP on defence.

Op Sindhu: Another flight arrives from Iran bringing 285 Indian nationals

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 23

India's evacuation efforts under Operation Sindhu to bring back its nationals from conflict-hit Iran continued, with a second flight landing late on Sunday night, with 285 Indian nationals on board. With this, 1,713 Indian nationals have been brought home from Iran.

The MEA spokesperson said in a post on X that Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita was at the airport to receive the Indian nationals who arrived from Mashhad.

"India's evacuation efforts continue under #OperationSindhu." MoS Shri @PmargheritaBJP received 285 Indian nationals evacuated on a special flight from Mashhad that landed in New Delhi at 2330 hrs on 22 June.

"With this, 1,713 Indian nationals have now been brought home from Iran."

Earlier in the evening, a special flight arrived from Iran, bringing 311 Indian nationals.

The MEA spokesperson said in a post on X:

"Operation Sindhu continues. 311 Indian nationals arrived in New Delhi on a special flight from Mashhad at 1630 hrs on 22nd June."

"1428 Indian nationals have now been evacuated from Iran."

On Saturday night, a flight had arrived bringing 290 Indian nationals back from Mashhad in Iran.

India has launched Operation Sindhu to bring back its nationals from Iran and Israel amid the escalating war situation between the two nations. On Saturday night, a flight had arrived bringing 290 Indian nationals back from Mashhad in Iran.

India has launched Operation Sindhu to bring back its nationals from Iran and Israel amid the escalating war situation between the two nations.

Netanyahu says Israel "very close" to reaching its goals in Iran

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Jerusalem, June 23

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that Israel is "very close" to completing its objectives after inflicting major damage to Iran's nuclear facilities and missile programs, The Times of Israel reported.

In a pre-recorded press conference, Netanyahu revealed that Israel is tracking 400 kg of Iran's 60 per cent enriched uranium. He claimed that Israel has "interesting intel" on its whereabouts but declined to go into detail.



He ruled out a war of attrition but said operations will not stop until all goals are met.

U.S. President Donald Trump announced Saturday that the United States successfully struck three Iranian nuclear facilities at Esfahan, Fordow and Natanz.

Iran confirmed the attacks but said they didn't harm its nuclear efforts because the sites had been evacuated and the materials had previously been removed.

No radioactive traces have been detected in the environment of Iran or other Arab Gulf states following the U.S. military strikes, according to the Saudi Nuclear and Radiological Regulatory Commission.

Tripura to send Rs 264 Cr for 30 new schools

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Agartala, June 23

Tripura Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha on Monday said that the state government has decided to set up 30 new schools with all modern facilities in different subdivisions, and an amount of Rs 264 crore has

been allocated. Addressing a gathering of students at the felicitation event, Dr Saha said that besides skill-based education, the government has decided to stress digital education and the use of AI in innovative learning in the academic system to make the teaching-learning process more attractive and interactive.

He said during examinations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi conducted Pariksha Pe Charcha, where he emphasised how to remain stress-

free during exams. In the same approach, the state government started interacting with students and sharing insights with them.

"As a result, we have seen a significant reduction in stress levels. I don't think such initiatives are happening anywhere else in the world. Even though the Mann Ki Baat programme, PM connects with people. The work of PM Modi will be scripted in golden letters in history, and someday, research will also be conducted on it," he underlined.

PM Modi pays tributes to Syama Prasad Mookerjee on death anniversary

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 23



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday paid tributes to Bharatiya Jana Sangh's founding president Syama Prasad Mookerjee on his death anniversary, saying his invaluable contribution in nation-building will always be remembered with reverence. In a post on X, he wrote: "Salutations to Dr Syama Prasad Mukherjee on his Sacrifice Day. He demonstrated unparalleled courage and valor to preserve the integrity of the nation. His invaluable contribution to nation-building will always be remembered with reverence." A former Hindu Mahasabha leader who was included in the first Cabinet, Mookerjee founded the Bharatiya Jana Sangh.

Israeli military carries out strikes on military installations tied to IRGC

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Tel Aviv/Tehran, June 23

Israeli forces carried out a new wave of strikes on Monday targeting a range of Iranian military installations and security apparatus, which are said to be tied to the country's paramilitary group the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), as well as other groups.

Among the locations hit were the Basij headquarters, the Seyyed al-Shohada base of the IRC, the Tharallah Base in Tehran, the IRGC unit in Alborz province, the Intelligence Protection Command of the IRGC, and the Intelligence Directorate of



Iran's national police, reports Iran International. The Tharallah (Sarallah) Base, a central command unit tasked with managing major security incidents in the capital, was reportedly one of the main targets. It operates under the direct supervision of the IRGC's top command and plays a key role in suppressing domestic unrest.

The Israeli Defense Forces said that the targeted areas "consist of various corps and command centers and are responsible, on behalf of the Iranian regime's military, for defending the homeland security, suppressing threats, and maintaining the regime's stability."

Health Benefits of Milk and Bodybuilding



■ **Sahil Manzoor**

Everyone aspires to stay fit, smart, healthy, and attractive. But attractiveness doesn't always mean wearing branded clothes, expensive shoes, or luxury accessories. True attractiveness comes from within—when you are confident. And confidence grows when you're physically fit and mentally healthy.

Today, we are advanced in almost every field, especially in health and fitness. Unlike in the past, when people would consult doctors only during severe illness, people today are more aware and proactive. Regular health checkups, timely diagnoses of internal and external issues, and early treatments are now common. Here in the Kashmir Valley, we are fortunate to have renowned doctors providing excellent care and guiding patients with suitable advice.

Doctors often emphasize lifestyle changes and dietary modifications, advising us to eat what suits our body and avoid what harms it. With modern medical advancements and increasing awareness, diseases like tuberculosis (TB) and leprosy are being eradicated—a great achievement for our country.

■ **The Power of Bodybuilding**

In this article, I want to explore the importance of bodybuilding—a trend that has rapidly grown over the past 10–15 years. Today, countless individuals are hitting gym centers, building their physiques, and focusing on planned diets to stay fit and attractive.

■ **Gyms Then and Now**

In the past, there were only a few gyms in Srinagar. Today, gyms are available in almost every neighborhood, providing people easy access to equipment and training that help them fight diseases and stay healthy.

■ **Is Bodybuilding Attractive?**

Absolutely! The gym environment itself

is energizing. The use of various workout machines improves blood circulation,



regenerates cells, and keeps the body glowing and healthy. It gives both physical and mental satisfaction.

■ **The Social Side of the Gym**

Another great benefit of gym culture is the positive company. Most people at the gym are focused, health-conscious, and determined to avoid harmful habits like drugs. I've personally met supportive and kind individuals at the gym who not only take care of their own health but also motivate others to do better.

Bodybuilding keeps us away from drug abuse and helps develop discipline and purpose. For many, it becomes a healthy addiction—one that brings out their best version physically, mentally, and emotionally.

■ **Role of the Gym Trainer**

Gym trainers play a key role in shaping this fitness journey. Whether you're a beginner or experienced, guidance from a trained professional is essential. Every exercise comes with specific techniques and safety instructions. Doing it wrong could cause injuries like joint or back pain. Trainers ensure you follow the right form, weight, and routine.

■ **Tips for Beginners**

Start light: Begin with low-weight dumbbells and use machines to help you maintain balance.

Seek guidance: Always have a helper during hard exercises like the shoulder press, thigh workouts, or bench presses.

Warm-up: Begin with 10–15 minutes of warm-up to avoid cramps and injuries.

Rest is important: Take short breaks (5–10 minutes) between sets to regain energy.

Diet: Focus on a natural diet—milk, bananas, eggs, cheese, leafy vegetables, and fruits. Avoid harmful or substandard supplements and consult a doctor or nutritionist for a proper meal plan.

■ **The Power of Milk**

Let's not forget one of nature's most complete foods—milk. Milk contains essential nutrients like calcium, protein, vitamins D and B12, and minerals like potassium and magnesium. It:

- Strengthens bones and teeth
- Helps in muscle recovery and growth
- Boosts the immune system
- Keeps the skin glowing and healthy
- Supports heart and brain function
- Including milk in your daily diet, especially post-workout, supports muscle recovery and keeps your energy levels high.

Final Thoughts
Your health should always be your first priority. The more you invest in your health today, the fewer problems you'll face tomorrow. Eat well, exercise regularly, avoid harmful substances, and stay surrounded by positive people.

Say yes to bodybuilding. Say yes to milk. Say no to drugs. Stay healthy, stay smart.

Sahil Manzoor
sahilmanzoor0401@gmail.com

Intensified Diarrhoea Control Programme Inaugurated at DH Bandipora

■ **HT NEWS DESK**

BANDIPORA, JUNE 24: In a significant step towards combating water-borne diseases, the Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF) campaign was formally inaugurated today at District Hospital Bandipora by Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Qadri.

The inaugural event saw the presence of key district and health authorities including Chief Planning Officer, Mr. Maqbool Ahmad, Medical Superintendent DH Bandipora, Dr. Masrat Iqbal Wani, District Health Officer, Dr. Tahira, along with other senior medical professionals and health workers. The programme kicked off with an awareness session aimed at educating the public on the importance of hygiene, sanitation, and the timely use of Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) and Zinc in treating diarrhoea, especially among children.

"This campaign is not just about treating diarrhoea, but about preventing it through awareness and preparedness. Our aim is to reach every household with key messages about hygiene and the correct use of ORS and Zinc," said Dr. Masrat Iqbal Wani, Medical Superintendent, while addressing the gathering.

The efforts of the health department and encouraged collaborative efforts at the grassroots. "Our priority is to ensure that no child dies from a preventable disease like diarrhoea. The administration is committed to supporting health workers in their outreach and surveillance efforts," he said.

As part of the day's activities, free ORS and Zinc solutions were distributed to patients, especially targeting vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly. Speakers on the occasion emphasized the role of public participation, stating, "Community involvement is essential. With proper awareness and early intervention, we can significantly reduce diarrhoea-related complications and fatalities."

The IDCF campaign, observed across the country, will continue in Bandipora district over the coming weeks, with intensified activities including door-to-door visits, community education drives, and distribution of IEC (Information, Education and Communication) material.

The programme concluded with a reaffirmed pledge from health officials and field workers to reduce the diarrhoeal burden in the district through proactive, preventive care.

RKS approves annual development plan for Govt Hospital Sarwal

■ **HT NEWS DESK**

JAMMU, JUNE 23: A meeting of the Governing Body of Rogi Kalyan Samiti, Government Hospital Sarwal was held today under the chairmanship of MLA Jammu West Arvind Gupta to review and approve an array of developmental initiatives proposed for the financial year 2025–26.

The proposed initiatives aim to enhance hospital infrastructure and elevate the standard of patient care in a phased and sustainable manner.

The meeting was attended by key members of the Governing Body including Medical Superintendent Dr Sunil Kailu; District AYUSH Officer; Deputy Medical Superintendent; Executive Engineer PWD, Bakshi Nagar Division; Executive Engineer PDD Canal Road; Assistant Executive Engineer PHE, Bakshi Nagar, besides Civil Society representatives Arun Khanna, Suresh Sahni, Veenu Khanna and Babu Ram Jandiyaal and hospital staff.

In his address, the MLA lauded the consistent dedication of medical professionals and stakeholders in

advancing healthcare delivery. He emphasized the critical role of collaborative action in ensuring accessible, efficient and compassionate healthcare services for the people of Jammu.

The meeting focused on comprehensive areas of improvement, including infrastructure upgrades, procurement of essential medical equipment, strengthening staffing structures and implementing innovative healthcare technologies. Esteemed members actively contributed insights and suggestions, reinforcing their shared commitment to continuous improvement.

Reaffirming the government's full support, Arvind Gupta pledged targeted allocation of resources and prompt resolution of sector-specific challenges. He urged all stakeholders to prioritize timely execution of approved initiatives and adopt regular monitoring mechanisms for measurable outcomes.

The session concluded with a unified vision for transforming Government Hospital Sarwal into a model institution of excellence, reflecting a collaborative spirit dedicated to community health and well-being.

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan: Awareness campaigns held across Rajouri District to combat drug abuse

■ **HT NEWS DESK**

RAJOURI, JUNE 23: A series of impactful awareness programs were organized today across the Rajouri district under the aegis of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

The events organised on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, witnessed enthusiastic participation from the general public, who actively engaged in discussions and activities, highlighting



the dangers of drug abuse and encouraging collective action against it. Resource persons from multiple departments addressed the gathering,

providing valuable insights into the health hazards and the disastrous consequences of substance abuse on the society.

Speakers emphasized the importance of a drug-free lifestyle and how each individual can play a role in building a healthier and stronger nation.

Adding a cultural dimension to the initiative, Nukkad Nataks (street plays) were presented at various locations to spread the message in a relatable and impactful manner. Informative videos on drug abuse prevention were also screened during the camps further reinforcing the campaign's objectives.

Distt admin Pulwama intensifies awareness campaign under Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan

■ **HT NEWS DESK**

PULWAMA, JUNE 23: Continuing its mission to combat the menace of drug abuse, district administration Pulwama today organised a series of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) camps at various panchayats across all the blocks of the district.

During the sessions, resource persons sensitised participants, especially the youth, about the harmful physical, psychological, and social impacts of substance abuse.

The sessions focused on key areas such as early detection of drug addiction, importance of community vigilance, and the supportive role of families in rehabilitation. Special emphasis was placed on educating participants about the availability of local counselling and de-addiction services.

To enhance outreach, a wide range of IEC materials, including brochures, posters, and pamphlets with key messages on prevention, support systems, and helpline numbers, were also distributed among the participants. Participants were also encouraged to become ambassadors of change within their communities.



The programmes witnessed active participation from officials of Health, Education, Social Welfare, Rural Development, and Police. Representatives from Panchayats, Self Help Groups (SHGs), civil society, students, and local youth also took part in the events with enthusiasm.

The campaign will continue in the coming days with similar initiatives planned across educational institutions, panchayats, and urban areas of the district, aiming to strengthen awareness and ensure community-level engagement in the fight against drug addiction.

Distt admin B'pora organises NMBA pledge ceremony to strengthen fight against drug abuse

DC urges collective action against substance abuse

■ **HT NEWS DESK**

BANDIPORA, JUNE 23: As part of the ongoing campaign under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), district administration Bandipora on Monday organised a mass pledge-taking ceremony at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Bandipora to reaffirm commitment towards a drug-free society.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, administered a pledge to the participants, urging all government functionaries to lead by example in spreading awareness against substance abuse. Senior officers of the district administration also participated in the pledge taking ceremony along with their subordinate staff.

The event was conducted as a significant activity under the month-long awareness calendar initiated by the district administration from June 2 to June 26, aimed at reinforcing public resolve against drug addiction.

On the occasion, DC reaffirmed the administration's commitment to support this mission

by involving all sections of society in the fight against drug abuse. The campaign underscored the importance of a united and community-driven response to combat the growing menace of substance abuse. Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan pledge emphasized the role of youth in nation-building and their responsibility in shaping a drug-free society. It highlighted the importance of individual commitment alongside community, family and peer efforts to combat substance abuse.

The pledge called upon all citizens to unite in the mission of making our district and Jammu and Kashmir UT, free from drug addiction. It reinforced the idea that change must begin from within and urged everyone to contribute their best efforts to eliminate drug abuse and create a healthier, empowered nation. Similar functions were organised at Sumbal and Gurez subdivisions of the district with full fervor and enthusiasm, witnessing active participation from officials and staff at all levels. The pledge called upon all citizens to unite in the mission of making our district and Jammu and Kashmir UT.

Dr. Sheikh Mustafa
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Rishabh Pant breaks records with twin tons at Headingley

Pant and Rahul took India's tally of centuries to five in the Headingley Test

HT News Network

NEWDELHI: 2 Wicketkeepers with centuries in both innings of a Test match. Rishabh Pant became the second with 118 against England on the fourth day of the Headingley Test, after scoring 134 in the first innings. Former Zimbabwe wicketkeeper Andy Flower was the first - he scored 141 and 199* against South Africa at Harare in 2001.

Pant became the first India batter to score hundreds in both innings of a Test in England. He is only the ninth visiting batter to do so and the first since Steven Smith in 2019.

5 Hundreds for India in the Headingley Test - Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill and Pant in the first innings, and KL Rahul and Pant in the second. It's the first time India have had five centuries in a Test. It's happened five times previously, with only Australia having scored five hundreds in an away Test - in Jamaica in 1955.

252 Runs scored by Pant in both innings at Headingley, the most by an Indian wicketkeeper in a Test, surpassing Budhi Kunderan's 230 against England in Chennai in 1964. Pant's 252 is also the fourth-highest for a wicketkeeper in a Test; the three performances ahead of Pant are all by Flower.

8 Pant's Test hundreds. Only Australia's Adam Gilchrist (17) and Flower (12) have more Test centuries while playing as a wicketkeeper. England's Les Ames also has eight.

3 Hundreds for Rahul in England - the most by an Indian opener in Tests in England. He's ahead of Vijay Merchant, Sunil Gavaskar, Ravi Shastri and

Rishabh nearing Rahul

Most Test hundreds for India in England

RAHUL DRAVID

6

INNS: 23 | AVE: 68.80

RISHABH PANT

4

INNS: 19 | AVE: 42.52

SACHIN TENDULKAR

4

INNS: 30 | AVE: 54.31

DILIP VENGSAKAR

4

INNS: 23 | AVE: 48.00

ESPNcricinfo

Rahul Dravid, who have two each.

4 Test hundreds for Pant in England, the most for a wicketkeeper, alongside Alec Stewart and Matt Prior. His four Test tons in England are also the most for a visiting wicketkeeper in a country.

9 Sixes by Pant at Headingley, the joint-most by any batter in a Test in England. Andrew Flintoff and Ben Stokes also hit nine against Australia in Birmingham in 2005 and at Lord's in 2023, respectively.

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Gund Hassi Bhat, Radio Colony, Lawaypora, Srinagar

Chief Patron of LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS Group: SYED SAD UD DIN BUKHARI (SAIDI), Printer Publisher, Owner and Editor - SYED JAHANGIR BUKHARI,

Printed at : LUBAAB PUBLICATIONS, Radio Colony Gund Hassibhat Lawaipora Srinagar -190017, Gen. Manager - SHEIKH MUSHTAQ AHMAD - Cell No - 9697071471,

Editorial Section- 7006846797, Multimedia Section-9419008414, Advertisement Section - 9697071471, RNI NO- JKENG/2011/39231