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No local involved in Pahalgam terror attack: CM Omar

HT News Network / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUN 24: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that there was no local involvement in the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, and that all the terrorists responsible for killing 26 innocent people were foreigners.

Speaking with reporters in Gulmarg, CM Omar, per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said during the ongoing probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), two individuals have been arrested for sheltering the attackers.

"It is possible that these individuals acted under duress. Although they provided food to the terrorists, it could have been done under coercion. Let the investigation continue, following its conclusion, the chargesheet and other legal proceedings will be presented by the NIA," CM Omar added.

On the Iran-Israel war, the Chief Minister stressed the urgent need for a lasting ceasefire. "The sooner the

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India Acts In National Interest Only: PM Modi

HT News Desk / KNO

NEW DELHI, JUN 24: Stating that today's India takes decisions based solely on what is right for national interest, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that 'Operation Sindoor' has clearly demonstrated India's firm and uncompromising policy against terrorism on the global stage.

Addressing the centenary celebration of the historic conversation between two of India's greatest spiritual and moral leaders Sree Narayana Guru and Mahatma Gandhi here, PM Modi while referring to "Operation Sindoor," according to



the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "The world has recently witnessed the strength

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“The Prime Minister noted that this shift was clearly evident during Operation Sindoor, where Indian forces compelled the enemy to surrender within 22 minutes using domestically manufactured weapons.

CM Omar Vows World-Class Golf Hub in Gulmarg

Lays foundation for key tourism projects, flags off cyclothon in Gulmarg

HT News Network

GULMARG, JUNE 24: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today reaffirmed his government's resolve to reestablish Gulmarg



as a premier global golf destination, promising focused

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

LG Chairs 75th Meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board

Inaugurates Pilgrim-Centric Facilities Near Holy Cave Area and Parvati Bhawan

HT News Network

KATRA, JUNE 24: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha chaired the historic 75th Meeting of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), at Spiritual Growth Centre, Katra, today.

The meeting was attended by the newly constituted Board, comprising members including Maha-

mandleshwar Shri Swami Visheshvaranand Giriji Maharaj, Shri Baleshwar Rai, Dr. Ashok Bhan, Smt. Sudha Murty, Smt. Gunjan Rana, Dr. K.K. Talwar, Shri Kulbhushan Ahuja, Shri Lalit Bhasin and Shri Suresh Kumar Sharma.

Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and Shri Anshul Garg, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB also



attended the meeting.

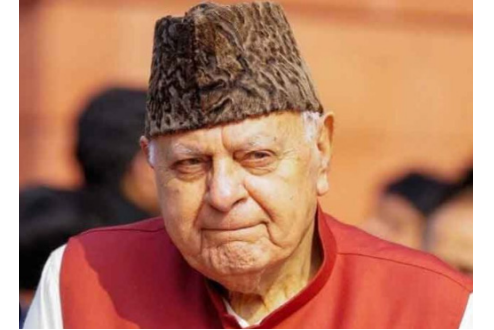
The Lieutenant Governor extended a warm welcome to the new members of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, highlighting the trust and responsibility entrusted to them. He underscored the Board's crucial role in managing the Shrine and preserving its spiritual and cultural heritage.

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Iran-Israel Ceasefire Welcome: Dr Farooq

HT News Network / KNO

ANANTNAG, JUN 24: Former Chief Minister and National Conference (NC), president, Dr Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday expressed relief over the ceasefire between Iran and the United States and called it a positive step



for global peace.

Speaking to reporters in Anantnag's Dooru, Abdullah, as reported by news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said innocent people were being killed in the escalating conflict and the ceasefire was a result of "global pressure" on America, driven by humanitarian and economic concerns.

"I am thankful to the Almighty. If there

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

CS pushes forward J&K's IT revolution with BISAG-N

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUNE 24: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess progress on various digital initiatives spearheaded by the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N) across the government departments.

The meeting besides the Administrative Heads was



attended by DG, Planning; Commissioner, State Taxes; Director, Employment; MD, JKTDC; CEO, JaKeGA; IT professionals from BISAG-N and representatives from other departments.

The Chief Secretary took stock of the progress made on development of every new initiative taken-up with the BISAG-N along with the dates for their rollout for public usage. He observed that such IT measures

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Srinagar Hits Season's Peak at 35.5°C

HT News Network / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUN 24: As Jammu and Kashmir braces for the three-day wet spell from tomorrow, Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, has once again surpassed the previous records of two decades after the mercury settled at 35.5 degrees, which is the highest June temperature since 2005.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Srinagar

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Omar Govt Striving to Restore J&K Statehood: Dy CM

Appeals LG on Rules, Thanks Centre for Road Boost

HT News Network / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUN 24: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary on Tuesday said that the Omar Abdullah-led



government is putting all possible efforts to ensure restoration of statehood and special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

He also appealed to the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to approve and send the copy of business rules.

Addressing a press conference here, The Deputy Chief Minister, as per news

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Finally Iran Accepts Israeli Ceasefire Offer Proposed by Donald Trump, With its Conditions

United News of India

BEERSHEBA (ISRAEL), JUN 24: Israel and Iran on Tuesday accepted a ceasefire plan proposed by U.S. President Donald Trump to end their 12-day war that roiled the Middle East, after Tehran launched a retaliatory

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



RAJNATH SEEKS STRONGER ANTI-TERROR TIES AT SCO MEET

United News of India

NEW DELHI, JUN 24: In line with India's diplomatic offensive against Pakistan-backed cross-border terrorism, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is set to press the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to ramp up efforts to contain terrorism at a two-day conclave of the bloc in China's Qingdao that begins on Wednesday.

Singh is travelling to Qingdao, a port

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

No local....

ceasefire, the better. The conflict lasted for 12 days and caused significant destruction," he said, expressing hope that the ceasefire would be implemented promptly.

He also highlighted the government's concern for the safety of students from Jammu and Kashmir studying in the region. "A major concern for us was bringing back our children who were studying there. At times, planes faced difficulties because the airspace was closed, but today we are hopeful that a large group of our students will return, and after that our evacuation process will be complete," he said.

India Acts.....

of India and its uncompromising policy against terrorism on the global stage."

He affirmed that India has made it evident—no shelter is safe for terrorists who spill the blood of Indian citizens.

PM Modi said that the country's dependence on foreign nations for military needs is steadily decreasing. "India is becoming self-reliant in the defence sector," he added.

The Prime Minister noted that this shift was clearly evident during Operation Sindoor, where Indian forces compelled the enemy to surrender within 22 minutes using domestically manufactured weapons.

He expressed confidence that in the coming times, Made-in-India weapons will earn global recognition and acclaim.

OUR GOVT TURNED SERVICE INTO ITS MISSION

Listing the achievements of his government, PM Modi urged people to recall the conditions 10–11 years ago, when despite decades of independence, millions of citizens were forced to live in extremely difficult circumstances.

The Prime Minister pointed out that millions of families lacked shelter, countless villages had no access to clean drinking water, and even minor illnesses could not be treated due to lack of healthcare and in cases of serious illness, there was no way to save lives.

He said that millions of poor people—Dalits, tribals, women—were deprived of basic human dignity.

PM Modi emphasized that these hardships persisted across generations, leading many to give up hope for a better life. He questioned how a nation could progress when such a large population lived in pain and despair.

PM Modi stressed that their government made compassion a central part of its thinking and turned service into its mission. He added that as a result under the PM Awas Yojana, millions of poor, Dalit, distressed, oppressed, and deprived families have been provided with permanent homes.

GOVERNMENT ON MISSION TO ENSURE HOME FOR EVERY POOR CITIZEN

He reiterated the government's goal of ensuring a home for every poor citizen and these homes are not just brick-and-mortar structures but reflect the full concept of a home, equipped with all necessary amenities. That is why the houses built under the PM Awas Yojana come with gas, electricity, and sanitation facilities.

Talking about the Jal Jeevan Mission, under which clean water is being delivered to every household, the Prime Minister, as per KNO, highlighted that even in tribal regions where government services had never reached, development is now assured.

He added that for the most marginalized tribal communities, the PM Janman Yojana was launched and many regions are witnessing transformation because of this initiative.

PM Modi remarked that as a result, even those at the lowest rungs of society have found renewed hope. "These initiatives are not only changing their lives, but also seeing themselves playing a vital role in nation-building," he added.

INDIA NOW LEADING GLOBAL MOVEMENTS

He noted that today, India is expanding this philosophy with the spirit of global welfare. Highlighting the recent celebration of International Yoga Day and mentioned that this year's theme was 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health', symbolizing the vision of one planet and universal well-being, the Prime Minister stated that earlier, India had also launched global initiatives like 'One World, One Health' for the welfare of humanity.

He underlined that India is now leading global movements in the direction of sustainable development, such as 'One Sun, One Earth, One Grid'. Recalling that during India's presidency of the G20 Summit in 2023, the theme was 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', the Prime Minister affirmed that these efforts are rooted in the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and inspired by saints like Sree Narayana Guru.

FROM SPORTS TO SPACE, WOMEN MAKING NATION PROUD

The Prime Minister stated that Sree Narayana Guru consistently emphasized the importance of women's empowerment, and the government is progressing with the mantra of Women-Led Development. He pointed out that even decades after independence, there were several sectors in India where women were outrightly banned from entry.

He affirmed that the government removed these restrictions, enabling women to gain rights in new areas.

PM Modi highlighted that today, from sports to space, women are making the nation proud in every field. Noting that every section and segment of society is now contributing to the dream of a developed India with renewed confidence.

The Prime Minister, according to KNO, mentioned initiatives such as the Swachh Bharat Mission, environmental campaigns, the construction of Amrit Sarovars, and millet awareness drives.

He emphasized that these efforts are progressing through the spirit of public participation, powered by the strength of 140 crore Indians.—(KNO)

CM Omar.....

attention on golfing infrastructure, international-level tournaments and tourism-friendly facilities.

Speaking at an award ceremony for golfers and hoteliers at the Gulmarg Golf Championship, the Chief Minister—who also holds the Tourism portfolio—said, "We want to make Gulmarg a world-class golf destination once again. Special attention will be given to golf, golf infrastructure, and tournaments so that Jammu and Kashmir can be marketed as a pre-eminent golfing destination across the globe."

Acknowledging the effort required, Omar Abdullah said the necessary investment is justified given the economic and tourism potential of Gulmarg. "These are high-spending tourists who don't just play golf—they stay in hotels, go sightseeing, and shop. It's about creating a holistic experience that brings them back year after year," he remarked.

He recalled the past glory of Gulmarg Golf Course, once a favourite among India's top golfers. "The names of the most iconic professional and amateur golfers still adorn the walls of the Gulmarg Club. Sadly, the

decline in the situation led to the neglect. But we are determined to bring it back," he said.

The Chief Minister lauded the role of the local MLA and emphasized the need for a tourist-friendly attitude towards visitors. "We must see every tourist not as a one-time visitor, but as a potential repeat guest. Their satisfaction should be our benchmark," he asserted, stressing the need to cater to every kind of visitor—from golfers and horse riders to winter sports lovers and those who simply wish to relax in hotels.

Earlier in the day, CM Omar Abdullah inspected the newly constructed Gulmarg Convention Center, describing it as a "magnificent property" with an auditorium, meeting halls, guest rooms, and dining spaces. He floated the idea of introducing evening leisure options such as cinema screenings, coffee shops, and restaurants to make Gulmarg an "all-encompassing destination."

Highlighting policy reforms, the Chief Minister revealed that the government is actively considering the establishment of a Jammu and Kashmir Golf Development Authority to manage and maintain all major golf courses across the Union Territory—including Srinagar, Pahalgam, Gulmarg, and venues like Sidhra in Jammu. "We need dedicated synergy and professional upkeep of our greens and fairways. There should be a clear distinction between fairways and roughs," he added.

Commending his father and former CMDr. Farooq Abdullah—a passionate golfer and someone who has built the golf infrastructure in J&K, he said that he would love to do something good for this sport.

The Chief Minister also commended MLA Gulmarg Farooq Ahmad Shah, the driving force behind the tournament, expressing hope that such initiatives will become a recurring feature in Gulmarg's tourism calendar.

Later, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for a 726-meter ski drag lift at Kongdoori, to be constructed at an estimated cost of 6.84 crore. He also laid the foundation for the development and beautification of the water body, popularly known as Seven Springs at Kongdoori, with the project costing 50 lakh.

At Kongdoori, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah interacted with tourists and enquired about their holiday experience in Kashmir. The visitors expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister for his proactive role and leadership in reviving tourism in the region.

A group of ponywalas also called on the Chief Minister and apprised him of various concerns, particularly the reopening of tourist spots in and around Gulmarg. The Chief Minister assured them that all the issues raised would be addressed in a phased manner.

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited the Gulmarg Convention Centre to inspect the ongoing works. He urged officials to expedite the remaining tasks and ensure the centre is made operational at the earliest to boost tourism and facilitate major events.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister flagged off the Cyclothon, encouraging youth participation in sports and promoting eco-friendly tourism across the Valley.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by his Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani; MLAs Farooq Ahmad Shah, Javed Riyaz Bedar, Mubarak Gul, and Tanveer Sadiq; Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta; Deputy Commissioner Baramulla; Managing Director, J&K Cable Car Corporation; Chief Executive Officer, Gulmarg Development Authority; and other concerned officials.

LG Chairs....

The Lieutenant Governor expressed confidence that the new members would make significant contributions to the Board's initiatives, furthering its objectives and enhancing the Shrine's stature.

He also acknowledged the dedicated services and significant contributions of former Board Members, and appreciated their valuable contribution in the decision-making processes during their tenure.

The Board conducted a comprehensive review of its past decisions; ratified actions taken since the last meeting and made several key decisions on 21 significant agenda items having far-reaching implications for the Board's functioning and enhancement of pilgrim services.

The Board took several important decisions regarding various ongoing and new projects including the construction of the Exit Track and remodelling of the Manokamna area at Bhawan, development of a helipad in Katra, New Vaishnavi Bhawan, cottages near the Sports Stadium in Katra, widening of the yatra track from Sanjichhat to Bhawan, operationalization of the Board's Medical College at Kakryal and other initiatives to enhance facilities and services for pilgrims.

The meeting reviewed the status of the new helipad project at Village Hutt, a collaborative effort with Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board, being executed by the Border Roads Organization (BRO). Noting delays and revisions, the Board expressed serious concern and directed BRO to complete the project by ending October-2025. The helipad aims to enhance pilgrim facilities to Shiv Khori Shrine by providing a seamless and convenient experience for devotees.

The Board also reviewed the progress on renewable solar energy initiatives in the Shrine area and directed the CEO SMVDSB to present a comprehensive plan for key installations, in an effort to reduce the carbon footprint. The Board approved a comprehensive sewerage network covering 100% of establishments within the Shrine area to enhance sanitation infrastructure.

The Lieutenant Governor reviewed the Yatri Feedback System and directed its expansion to cover all services with monthly monitoring and active encouragement of pilgrim participation, to ensure continuous improvement in service delivery.

The Board also directed CEO SMVDSB to explore the possibility of engaging volunteer services to assist pilgrims by addressing their queries and providing guidance along the Yatra route, enhancing their overall experience and support during the pilgrimage.

The Lieutenant Governor further directed for identifying vulnerable spots along the pilgrimage route and implementing necessary measures to address and mitigate potential risks of landslides and shooting stones, ensuring a safer environment for devotees.

The Board appreciated the enhancement of security measures in the Shrine area with the inauguration of an Integrated Command and Control Centre at SGC, Katra and 7 Sub-Control Centers by the Lieutenant Governor, besides, facilitating security agencies with advanced security equipments to ensure robust security and real-time crowd management for prioritizing devotees' safety and security.

The Board approved the dedication of 5 temples constructed in Reasi District to the public in July-2025 and accorded the approval of construction of 5 new temples with a focus on maintaining uniform architectural design across all locations to reflect the Shrine Board's heritage and aesthetic standards.

The Board reviewed and approved financial assistance for institutions under the SMVD Charitable Society, including Gurukul, Hospital, Sports Complex, College of Nursing and Medical College to support their operations and activities through grants-in-aid.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated several pilgrim-centric facilities including Battery Car Parking stand, Outer Cave Shed, Self Service Kiosk / Digital Cash Register and Smart Lockers. The Board observed that significant infrastructure projects have been initiated by the Shrine Board to enhance pilgrim experience. A Battery Car Parking stand at Bhawan to provide convenience and accessibility to pilgrims, particularly the elderly and disabled. The basement of about 1000 sqft of parking stand serves as a storage area for materials from the Material Ropeway. Additionally, fabrication of a laminated glass shed outside the Cave area to facilitate smooth pilgrimage regulation in all weather conditions while preserving the area's scenic beauty.

300 Smart lockers near the Skywalk area at Bhawan offering a convenient and secure storage solution were also dedicated to the devotees. These smart lockers are linked with RFID Cards allowing devotees to store their belongings safely and securely.

In addition, the Lieutenant Governor also inaugurated an additional dormitory block at SMVD Gurukul, constructed at a cost of Rs.71.82 lakh which accommodates an additional 32 students, enhancing the institution's capacity and infrastructure to support the growing number of students.

Earlier, Shri Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB gave a detailed presentation on varied activities of the Shrine Board and the action taken with regard to the implementation of various decisions of the previous meetings of the Board.

Iran-Israel....

is indeed a ceasefire, it is a good thing. Innocent people were being killed," Dr Abdullah said. "Nobody has surrendered before anyone — neither Iran nor America — but out of humanity, they decided to halt the violence. It would have impacted their own economies and also the economies of the rest of the world. There was immense global pressure on America to bring an end to this."

The NC chief said world peace is interconnected, and conflicts in one region can have ripple effects globally.

He extended his wishes for a smooth and peaceful Amarnath Yatra, expressing hope that pilgrims would witness the warmth of the people of Kashmir and the natural beauty of the region.

Dr Farooq added, "We hope that devotees have a darshan of Bholenath happily, return to their homes with good memories and say how good the people are and what beauty the Almighty has blessed this place with."

The former CM welcomed the Centre's recent push in sanctioning infrastructure projects in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly tunnels and roads that are expected to boost connectivity and development in remote areas.

"It is good to see that the Centre has sanctioned many projects, including tunnels and roads. We hope more will be sanctioned in the coming time," he said.

Dr Abdullah also urged the government to take a humanitarian view regarding incarcerated separatist leader Shabir Shah's health. He said either the government should provide him with the best medical treatment or release him on parole.

"Shabir Shah should be released on parole to get better treatment, or the government should treat him very well. If he dies in jail, it will become yet another allegation against the Government of India," he warned.

The NC chief stressed that human rights must be safeguarded irrespective of political ideology, especially when a person's life is at stake. Dr Abdullah said he stands with the statement of Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Umar Farooq, what he said in his last Friday speech.

CS pushes....

would make lives of common citizens largely amenable.

Dulloo underscored the need for developing respective dashboards for people-centric interventions like Mission YUVA and Sehat Mobile app simultaneously. This will help in having peek into their uptake among the masses besides devising subsequent action plans as per the requirements on ground.

He also accentuated the importance of linking the learning of skill development courses with U-Dise data so that the trajectory of every student is known for chiselling his/her career in a better shape.

The review highlighted significant advancements in e-governance, agricultural development, public services and infrastructure mapping, reaffirming J&K's commitment towards digital transformation.

Earlier, the IT Secretary Piyush Singla gave a detailed overview of ongoing, completed and upcoming initiatives, outlining plans for collaboration with BISAG-N to drive project completion. He also detailed out the objectives that have to be achieved after the accomplishment of these projects.

Afterwards, the BISAG-N presented a detailed overview of its extensive portfolio of projects, emphasizing both the ongoing endeavours and new initiatives aimed at enhancing efficiency, transparency and citizen-centric service delivery.

The major IT projects related to Revenue Department reviewed in the meeting included ongoing digitization of Revenue Maps (5670 villages completed), development of Jamabandi portal, Mutation Register, Oracle Database Migration and a GIS portal for Ground Truthing (targeted for completion on June 30, 2025).

A key focus of the meeting was establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Emerging Technologies. This envisages development of high-performance computing (GPUs), robotic kits, drone/UAV innovation capabilities and cloud infrastructure. The revised DPR has been submitted and funding is being pursued from MeitY, J&K government and J&K Bank, the meeting was informed.

About JK Samadhan 2.0, it was informed that the progress is satisfactory, with the dashboard and heat map for the latter already developed. These systems empower the citizens to register and track their grievances efficiently.

The initiatives named Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKG) and Daksh Kisan for the Agriculture Production Department are under nearing completion.

KKG serves as a one-stop solution for the farmers, offering services like booking cold storage, custom hiring centers, expert video calls and access to farm inputs. While Daksh Kisan provides a comprehensive Learning Management System (LMS) with over 121 certificate courses in multiple languages for the farmers and agri-preneurs.

The core Mission Yuva app, a single platform for youth skill enhancement, job vacancies, entrepreneurship ideas and e-courses, was also said to be in the final phase of completion. The Yuva Baseline Survey, which collects data on entrepreneurs, is also finished

and its database has been shared with the government departments. Besides, work is in progress on the dashboard for all services, capacity building module and ONDC App.

With respect to Sehat Mobile Application, it was given out that the same has been completed and undergoing capacity building. The SEHAT App guides the patients on health facilities, services and opportunities for healthcare professionals, ensuring optimal resource utilization.

Regarding development of Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), this app for the Agriculture Production Department was also said to be complete and under maintenance, which is going to allow the farmers to record and monitor farm output.

The PM-Gati Shakti State Master Plan platform, as disclosed in the meeting, aims at bringing together all departments for integrated planning of infrastructure and connectivity projects. The status was said to be complete and under maintenance across all departments.

The meeting also had discussions on a comprehensive mobile application for education stakeholders, an AI-based learning advisor, a teacher transfer portal and integrated litigation management services.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed progress on Jalshakti Mob app, Real time Mining Surveillance app, JKIP portal, Chief Minister Assurances Monitoring Dashboard, J&K Tourism app, GIS based Land bank, Mission YUVA and ONDC Integration and many others relevant to different departments.

The Chief Secretary expressed satisfaction with the progress and reiterated the government's commitment towards leveraging the technology for good governance and citizen welfare across the UT.

Srinagar Hits....

has recorded a day temperature of 35.5 degrees, which is the hottest day of the season so far. Similar day temperature was recorded on June 20, breaking the previous record of 20 years.

In Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, the mercury settled at 33.6 degrees while Pahalgam recorded 30.6 degrees. In Kupwara, a maximum temperature of 34.7 degrees while Kokernag and Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, the mercury settled at 33.2 degrees and 26.0 degrees respectively.

Jammu division, however, continued to witness below or around normal temperatures with Jammu recording a maximum temperature 34.1 degrees.

Banihal recorded a day temperature of 30.6 degrees and Batote, Katra and Baderwah recorded a maximum temperature of 28.2 degrees, 30.7 degrees and 33.2 degrees respectively.

Pertinently, Jammu and Kashmir is expected to witness a three-day wet spell from tomorrow.

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.

Between June 28 to 30, he said 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—(KNO)

Omar Govt....

agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) expressed gratitude to PM Modi, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for the approval of 19 key road and tunnel projects worth Rs 10.637 crore for Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister, according to him, has managed to secure the 316 projects under PMGSY for J&K with his dedicated efforts. He said now 19 key projects have been approved by the Centre after hectic efforts by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

"In 8 months of our tenure, the Chief Minister after visiting Delhi multiple times has succeeded in getting the approval for these key projects. He is not among the Chief Ministers who visited Delhi for downgrading of erstwhile J&K state to Union Territory. The approval of these projects shows his (CM's) seriousness," he said.

He said the government is putting sincere efforts to ensure the restoration of statehood and J&K's special status.

He also lashed out at the BJP, stating that none among them has won recent assembly elections on their own. "The narco test of all the BJP MLAs including the Leader of Opposition needs to be conducted to ascertain the veracity of their statements," he said.

Also, the Deputy Chief Minister appealed to the Lieutenant Governor to send the copy of business rules pending with him. "Despite Delhi being so far from us, it has provided us with key projects. "You (LG) are our neighbour and we expect and hope that the business rules will be approved and sent to us back," he said.

Reacting to demands for bunkers in border areas, he said the approval has to be given by the Centre. "We hope it will be done shortly," he said, adding that as witnessed in the 'Operation Sindoor', Jammu and Srinagar also felt the impact, thus the need for such bunkers is not confined to border areas only.

Expressing gratitude to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari for approval of key projects, the Deputy Chief Minister said that the long pending demands of people from Chenab and Sadhna Top have been fulfilled. "Not even a single promise will remain unfulfilled. We have been elected for the period of five years and all the promises including the tunnel for Gurez will also be fulfilled in the next

few years," he said.

Choudhary, replying to a query, said that the gap of ten years cannot be filled in one night, saying that it takes some time to fill the gap.

About the macadamization, he said that the process has already been started.

On the students stuck in Iran, he said that some of the students are stranded there, but the efforts are being made to ensure their safe return—(KNO)

Finally Iran....

limited missile attack on a U.S. military base in Qatar.

The acceptance of the deal by both sides came after Tehran launched a final onslaught of missiles targeting Israel that killed at least four people early Tuesday (June 24, 2025) morning, while Israel launched a blitz of airstrikes targeting sites across Iran before dawn.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel had agreed to a bilateral ceasefire with Iran in coordination with Mr Trump.

Mr. Netanyahu said that he had reported to Israel's security cabinet Monday night that Israel had achieved all of its war goals in the 12-day operation against Iran, including removing the threat of Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programs. Israel also damaged Iran's military leadership and several government sites and achieved control over Tehran's skies, Mr. Netanyahu said.

"Israel will respond forcefully to any violation of the ceasefire," Mr. Netanyahu said.

Heavy Israeli strikes continued in Iranian cities until shortly before 4 a.m., followed by Iranian barrages that sent Israelis hurrying into bomb shelters as the sun rose, killing at least five people and injuring eight others, Israel's Magen David Adom rescue services said.

Writing over an hour after a deadline passed for Iran to halt its attacks, Mr. Trump wrote on Truth Social: "THE CEASEFIRE IS NOW IN EFFECT. PLEASE DONOT VIOLATE IT! DONALD J. TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES!"

Iranian state television reported that the ceasefire went into effect at 7:30 a.m., but Iranian officials have not commented since Trump's announcement. Hours earlier Iran's top diplomat said the country was prepared to halt airstrikes.

"As of now, there is NO 'agreement' on any ceasefire or cessation of military operations," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi wrote in a post on X. "However, provided that the Israeli regime stops its illegal aggression against the Iranian people no later than 4 am Tehran time, we have no intention to continue our response afterwards."

Mr. Araghchi added: "The final decision on the cessation of our military operations will be made later."

Iran's barrage damaged at least three densely packed residential buildings in the city of Beersheba, police said.

First responders said they retrieved four five from one building and were searching for more. Outside, the shells of burned out cars littered the streets. Broken glass and rubble covered the area. Hundreds of emergency workers gathered to search for anyone else trapped in the buildings.

Police said some people were injured even while inside their apartments' reinforced safe rooms, which are meant to withstand rockets and shrapnel but not direct hits from ballistic missiles.

The direct hit in the largest city in southern Israel came before Mr. Trump said the ceasefire had gone into effect. (Agencies)

Rajnath Seeks....

city in China's eastern Shandong province, for the conclave which is expected to extensively deliberate on the evolving regional security scenario.

The defence minister's plan to call for greater regional cooperation to counter terrorism comes nearly a month-and-a-half after India carried out precision strikes on nine terror infrastructures in Pakistani territories in response to the horrific Pahalgam terror attack.

It is the first visit to China by a senior Indian minister after the ties came under severe strain following the military standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh that began in May 2020.

NSA Ajit Doval is also visiting China to attend a conclave of SCO's top national security officials.

Singh is expected to highlight India's continued commitment to the principles and mandate of the SCO, outline India's vision towards achieving greater international peace and security, call for joint and consistent efforts to eliminate terrorism and extremism in the region, according to an official readout.

It said the defence minister is also expected to stress on the need for greater trade, economic cooperation and connectivity within SCO. He will also hold bilateral meetings with the defence ministers of some participating countries, including China and Russia.

"India attaches special importance to SCO in promoting multilateralism, political, security, economic and people-to-people interactions in the region," the defence ministry said in the readout.

It says SCO pursues its policy based on the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity of nations, non-interference in internal affairs, mutual respect, understanding and equality of all member states.

China is hosting the meeting in its capacity as the current chair of SCO.

The military standoff in eastern Ladakh began in May 2020 and a deadly clash at the Galwan Valley in June that year resulted in a severe strain in ties between the two neighbours.

The face-off effectively ended following completion of the disengagement process from the last two friction points of Demchok and Depsang under an agreement finalised on October 21.

In December, NSA Ajit Doval visited Beijing and held talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi under the framework of Special Representatives (SR) dialogue on the boundary dispute.

The decision to revive the SR mechanism and other such dialogue formats was taken at a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Kazan on October 23.

The Modi-Xi meeting came two days after India and China firm up a disengagement pact for Depsang and Demchok. (Agencies)



Agriculture Minister tours Srinagar city; assesses Muharram, Shri Amarnathji Yatra arrangements

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 24: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development Department and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, today conducted an extensive visit to Shia-dominated areas in Srinagar to review the arrangements being put in place for peaceful and smooth conduct of Muharram processions.

Accompanied by MLA Lal Chowk, Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed and senior officers from various departments,

Javid Dar visited several Imambaras including Balhama, Pandrethan and Guru Bazar.

The Minister emphasized the importance of close coordination among the departments to ensure that all arrangements are ensured well in advance. He stressed the need for uninterrupted electricity and potable water supply, sanitation, medical facilities and effective traffic management.

The Minister also interacted with the caretakers, organizers and devotees, listening to their concerns and



suggestions as well.

Javid Dar directed the officials to address the public grievances on priority to ensure a peaceful and comfortable experience for the devotees. He assured that the Omar Abdullah led government is committed towards facilitating peaceful and smooth conduct of religious events in the region.

The Minister also visited transit camp at Panthchowk, setup for the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra, to review the boarding and lodging, sanitation and medical facilities put

in place for the yatris.

The Minister's visit aimed to ensure a peaceful and successful conduct of Muharram and Shri Amarnath Yatra while also addressing the needs and concerns of the local community. Javid Dar directed the officials to address the public grievances on priority to ensure a peaceful and comfortable experience for the devotees. He assured that the Omar Abdullah led government is committed towards facilitating peaceful and smooth conduct of religious events in the region.

Mian Altaf inaugurates 2 day Gojri Cultural conference at Tagore Hall, Srinagar

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 24: Member of Parliament Anantnag-Rajouri, Mian Altaf Ahmad, today inaugurated a two day Gojri Cultural Conference at Tagore Hall, Srinagar.

The event, being organized by the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKACL), witnessed participation from a large number of tribal writers, poets and artists from across J&K.

A distinguished panel comprising Er. Khurshid Ahmed, Member of Legislative Assembly, Dr. Javaid Rahi, Chief Editor Gojri and G.D. Tahir, former



Director of Doordarshan Srinagar shared the presidium.

In his presidential address, Mian Altaf Ahmad emphasized the cultural importance of Gojri language saying that it as the third-largest spoken language in Jammu and Kashmir. He called for its inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution and pledged to

raise the matter with the Government of India. He highlighted the wide presence of the Gojri community across all districts and acknowledged the significant contributions made by Gojri poets, scholars and artists. Commending the Academy's initiative in reviving such a crucial cultural event after a long hiatus, he expressed hope

that the conference would help bridge the regional and cultural gaps within the Gojri community. Speaking on the occasion, Er. Khurshid Ahmed underscored the importance of documenting the traditional knowledge systems of the Gojri and Bakerwal communities, calling on institutions like the Tribal Research Institute and JKACL to act swiftly to preserve this invaluable heritage.

G D Tahir, in his remarks, advocated for establishment of Gojri departments in Kashmir University and Jammu University. He stressed the need for greater institutional efforts to safeguard this historic language and its traditions.

Labour Commissioner reviews SANJY Registration Camp Sonmarg, labour welfare measures at Zojila Tunnel

HT NEWS DESK

SONMARG, JUNE 24: Labour Commissioner, S. Charandeep Singh, today conducted a field visit to Sonmarg to review the ongoing registration of service providers for Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANJY) 2025.

He inspected the labour welfare measures at major infrastructure sites, including the Zojila and Z-Morh Tunnels.

At the SANJY Registration Camp in Sonmarg, the Labour Commissioner interacted with the service providers and reviewed the registration process being facilitated by the Labour Department. He directed the Nodal Officer (Assistant Labour Commissioner, Gander-

bal) to ensure that registration of all the service providers is carried out in a smooth, efficient and hassle-free manner. He emphasized timely issuance of RFID cards to the registered individuals, as per the schedule prescribed by the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board.

Pertinently, a total of 9,224 service providers have been registered at the Ganderbal Axis, so far. Across all registration points, the Labour Department has achieved 88.6% of its target, having registered 23,787 out of the total target of 26,850 service providers. Later, the Labour Commissioner visited the under-construction Zojila and Z-Morh Tunnels, two vital infrastructure projects in the region. At these worksites, he

interacted with both the workers and the management representatives to assess the implementation of labour laws and welfare schemes.

During the interaction, he enquired about the key aspects of worker welfare. These included timely payment of wages, occupational safety and health standards, provision of transit accommodation for non-local workers, awareness and registration under the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Act, coverage under social security schemes such as Employees' State Insurance (ESIC) and Provident Fund (PF).

The Labour Commissioner stressed upon the management to ensure strict adherence to all applicable labour laws.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq Pays Glowing Tribute to Hazrat Umar Farooq (RA) on Martyrdom Anniversary

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, June 24, KNT: Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir, Dr Moulvi Muhammad Umar Farooq, on Monday paid rich tribute to the Second Caliph of Islam, Ameer-ul-Moomineen Hazrat Umar Farooq (RA), on the occasion of his martyrdom anniversary, describing him as a towering figure whose legacy continues to illuminate the path of justice, leadership, and faith.

Mirwaiz Mirwaiz recalled the historic contributions of Hazrat Umar Farooq (RA), calling him a fearless, just, and visionary leader who laid the groundwork for an era of governance rooted in equity, freedom, religious tolerance, and human dignity.

"Hazrat Umar (RA) was a statesman whose dedication to public service, commitment to Islamic principles, and integrity of character remain unmatched. His rule exemplified the highest standards of accountability and compassion," Mirwaiz said.

He emphasized that the Second Caliph's contributions to Islam and society are not confined to the past. "His administrative brilliance, spiritual depth, and moral strength continue to serve as a timeless inspiration for Muslims and for anyone entrusted with leadership," he added.

Mirwaiz also stressed the enduring relevance of Hazrat Umar Farooq's (RA) teachings in the modern era, noting that today's world, plagued by injustice and moral decline, has much to learn from his model of ethical governance and concern for the common people. [KNT]

Trio Arrested for Operating Unauthorized Fuel Trade in South Kashmir

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, June 24, : In a major crackdown on black marketing of petroleum products, Pampore Police on Tuesday unearthed a large-scale illegal fuel trade operating in the town, seizing nearly 19,000 litres of petrol, diesel, and kerosene from multiple locations and arresting three individuals allegedly involved in the racket. The operation was carried out under the leadership of Dy.SP Shrivastava Singh, along with SHO Pampore, under the close supervision of SDPO Pampore Shri RP Singh. Acting on credible intelligence inputs, police teams launched simultaneous raids at various sites in Pampore town suspected of storing and selling petroleum products without proper licenses. KNT

Committee on Public Undertakings reviews functioning of JKSPDC

Chairman stresses tapping power potential, timely commissioning of projects in JK

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 24: The Committee on Public Undertakings of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today held a review meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to examine audit paras related to the Jammu and Kashmir State Power Development Corporation (JKSPDC).

The meeting was presided over by Committee Chairman, Ali Mohammad Sagar and attended by members including Saifullah Mir, Ali Mohammad Dar, Baldev Raj Sharma, Shakti Raj Parihar, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Showkat Hussain Ganai, Saif Ud Din Bhat and Tanvir Sadiq.

Secretary Legislative Assembly Manoj Kumar Pandita outlined the agenda.

The Chairman called for expediting all ongoing hydroelectric and power projects across Jammu and Kashmir, noting the Union Territory's vast yet under-utilised potential for power generation. He stressed the need for timely completion and commissioning of projects to benefit the public.

The Chairman underlined the role of robust



audits in ensuring transparency and accountability. He directed the officers to prepare and submit all relevant audit reports to the Committee for appropriate reply to the audit paras.

He also instructed that the joint representation submitted by the employees of various PSUs be referred to the General Administration Department (GAD) for comments.

Highlighting the importance of efficient Public Sector Undertakings, the Chairman emphasised active cooperation from the members and the officials to strengthen the sector.

"It is the responsibility of this Committee to ensure people do not suffer due to delay in execution and completion of projects.

Div Com Kashmir visits ICCC, HMT; directs operationalization of Command Centre

Emphasizes on effective surveillance, dissemination of real-time information

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 24: With the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra approaching, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, today visited the Integrated Command & Control Center (ICCC) at HMT to assess functioning of the centre for hassle-free Yatra.

During the visit, he informed that all designated officials from the relevant departments were deployed to the ICCC urgently for round the clock functioning of the command centre and effective surveillance and dissemination of real-time information especially exigencies.

He emphasized the need for the operation of hunting line numbers to ensure that pilgrims have access to urgent assistance.

Div Com also called for the daily compilation of surveillance data and call logs reports.

Meanwhile, he also reviewed final arrangements in a meeting with officers to ensure smooth and peaceful



conduct of the Yatra.

The meeting was attended by Director of FCS&CA, Dr Owais Ahmad; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo; Commissioner SMC, Faz Lul Haseeb, and representatives from various departments such as ULB, IMD, PHE, KPDC, I&FC, PWD, R&B, SDRF, NDRF, Fire & Emergency, SRTC, and the Police.

In the meeting, Div Com assessed preparations across departments to ensure a seamless and spiritual experience for the yatries.

Director FCS&CA informed the meeting that sufficient quantities of essential supplies have been allocated for the Yatra camps, and this will be adjusted as per need as the Yatra progresses.

Principal Secretary SWD emphasizes enhanced early education, nutrition under ECCE Chairs joint review meeting of Social Welfare, School Education Departments

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 24: Principal Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Anil Kumar Singh, today chaired a joint review meeting of the Social Welfare and School Education Departments to assess the implementation of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), in Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting, held at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar, focused on enrolment trends and the functioning of Anganwadi Centres and Kindergarten Centres across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Principal Secretary laid emphasis on ensuring quality early education and adequate nutrition for children under ECCE, underscoring the importance of foundational literacy, physical development and socio-emotional growth before



formal schooling begins. He reviewed the operational status of Anganwadi Centres and Bal Vatikas, highlighting the need for a holistic approach in nurturing young children.

Special attention was given to weeding out duplicate entries from the enrolment lists and ensuring that all eligible beneficiaries are covered under the ECCE framework.

During the meeting, the Principal Secretary also reviewed the physical and financial progress on ECCE-related activities. He directed the officials to intensify monitoring mechanisms to ensure effective on-ground implementation. He called for robust inter-departmental coordination, asking the officials from both the departments to work with sincerity and dedication to strengthen child development services and improve nutritional outcomes for children.

The meeting was attended by the Secretary, School Education Department, Director General, Women and Child Development, Secretary in Social Welfare Department, Mission Director, ICDS, Directors of School Education (Kashmir and Jammu); Directors of Social Welfare (Kashmir and Jammu) besides all DPOs and CEOs.

AIDS victims deserve compassion, not condemnation: Sakeena Itoo

Flags off mobile ICTC Vans of J&K AIDS Control Society at Srinagar

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 24: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, flagged off Mobile Integrated Counselling and Testing Centre (ICTC) Vans of Jammu and Kashmir AIDS Control Society (JKACS) here today.

The initiative was aimed to strengthen the health-care outreach and awareness among the people of underserved areas and vulnerable communities. Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; Director SKIMS; Project Director, JKACS; Director Family Welfare and Immunization; Director AYUSH; Principal GMC Srinagar; Chief Medical Officers; senior officers of JKACS; health department and other concerned officers were present on the occasion.

Addressing a gathering



of health professionals, the Minister emphasized on the urgent need of de-stigmatizing HIV/AIDS persons and ensure support-oriented approach for the affected individuals. "People living with HIV/AIDS need to be handled with compassion and dignity. It's not just about medical intervention, it's about restoring hope and trust through proper counselling, awareness and community support", she stated.

to the doorsteps of the most vulnerable. No one should be denied access due to geography or stigma," said the Minister.

Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed called upon all to redouble their efforts for completely wiping out this virus from the region as J&K has minimal cases of this virus. He also spoke in length about the role of every individual in eradicating this virus from the society.

Earlier, in her welcome address, Deputy Director, JKACS, Dr. Monika Vali, spoke about the broader aspects of mobile ICTC Vans. She further said that this initiative will also help in early detection of this virus among affected individuals as well as strengthen prevention measures due to awareness.

On the occasion, the Minister was also briefed about the specialities of these mobile ICTC Vans. He was informed that these Vans are equipped with facilities for confidential counselling, blood sample collection, rapid testing and IEC (Information, Education and Communication) awareness campaigns.

It was also given out that these vans will be manned by trained healthcare professionals, ensuring both sensitivity and professionalism in every interaction.

She remarked that people affected by this virus need to be counselled, sensitised and looked after properly, so that those hiding this due to stigma associated with it, can also come forward and seek proper medical treatment.

The Minister further said that these ICTC Vans are high end vehicles which will contribute effectively in fighting this virus. She added that these mobile ICTC Vans are aimed at expanding the reach of HIV/AIDS testing and counselling services to remote and underserved areas of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly targeting the high-risk groups and marginalized populations.

"The launch of these mobile vans is a testament to Government's resolve to bring best healthcare ser-

Plantation Drive by JKAP-8th Bn

HT NEWS DESK



Jammu, JUNE 24: A plantation drive was carried out in JKAP-8th Battalion Miran Sahib Jammu in order to Promote Environmental Awareness. Sh. Suram Singh-JKPS(SSP) inaugurated the drive and emphasized the urgent need for environmental conservation. Planting trees is one of the simplest and most effective ways to combat climate change and ensure a better future for next generations. He further advised that in order to make environment green neat and clean we should plant trees everywhere. He further said that plantation drive is part of a series of eco-initiatives being undertaken by this unit and reflects the commitment towards creating a clean, green and more sustainable environment. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers, and other staff members of the unit.

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 R/O: MUGALPORA /TEHSIL KUPWARA DIST KUPWARA

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

Subject: Application for issuance of OBC certificate in favour of SHABIR SAJAD AHMAD NAJAR S/O GH HASSAN NAJAR R/O KALANTRA PAYEEN Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of OBC (Other Backward class in his/her /their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of KALANTRA PAYEEN of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the NAJAR community having annual income 169000/- the details of family of the applicant are as follows
1...GH HASSAN NAJAR Father 65 years Aged
2...RAJA BEGAM Mother 60 years Housewife
3...SAJAD AHMAD NAJAR self 39 years khidmat centre income 48000
4...ALTAF HASSAN Brother 30 years carpenter 96000
5...MEHJABEEN AKHTER wife 35 years H/W
6...ADIL HASSAN NAJAR brother 24 years student
7...HAZIQ SAJAD son 01 years minor

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

NAIB TEHSILDAR KALANTRA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, prabhaben, Spouse of No 15166844X Rank Hav Name Rathod Subhashbhai Bhanjibhai presently residence of 26, Chitrakut society, near Varniraj Society, Nikol Naroda Road, PO & PS- Nikol, Teh-Ahmedabad, Dist-Ahmedabad-382350(Gujarat) have changed my Name from Prabhaben to Rathod Prabhaben vide Affidavit dated 28/05/2025 before the ID Notary Public at srinagar (J&K).

During legal meeting with Laywer Er Rashid Reaffirms Commitment to Tunnels for Gurez, Keran and Machil; Promises Being Pursued, Good News Soon

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar | June 24: Awami Itihaad Party (AIP) Chief Spokesperson Inam Un Nabi on Tuesday said that incarcerated AIP President and Member of Parliament Er Rashid continues to remain deeply committed to the development of border areas, as he held a detailed legal meeting with his counsel Advocate Javed Hubbi. During the interaction, Er Rashid expressed heartfelt gratitude to Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari for their positive response to key developmental issues raised by him, especially the long-pending demand for the Sadhna Tunnel. He expressed hope that the demands for construction of similar tunnels in Gurez, Keran and Machil would also receive early approvals. Inam Un Nabi revealed that despite being incarcerated, Er Rashid has formally written letters from Tihar Jail to both Minister Nitin Gadkari



and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, reiterating his long-standing demands for critical tunnel infrastructure in the border areas. With the Sadhna Tunnel now approved, Er Rashid lauded both ministers for taking the necessary steps to address the pressing need of the people living in remote, high-altitude regions. Conveying his message through Advocate Hubbi, Er Rashid reaffirmed his steadfast commitment to the people of Gurez, Keran and Machil. He assured them that the

promises made during his campaign are being vigorously pursued and that "good news is expected very soon."

Er Rashid also extended his deepest thanks to the residents of Karnah in general and to the Karnah Action Committee in particular, for continuously supporting him in the fight for the Sadhna Tunnel. Their persistent efforts and unity, he said, have played a pivotal role in turning this long-standing demand into a reality. "Incarceration cannot and will not deter Er Rashid's resolve to serve the people. His proactive steps from jail are a befitting response to those who mocked his supporters by saying their vote was wasted," AIP Chief Spokesperson Inam Un Nabi stated. It is worth mentioning that prior to his arrest, MP Er Rashid had staged a three-day protest demanding the construction of tunnels for Karnah and Gurez—an act that underscores his longstanding dedication to the development of neglected and strategically important regions.

Baramulla hosts first District-Level Goat Show at Multi-Facilitation Centre Rafiabad

HT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 24: Department of Sheep Husbandry, Baramulla successfully organised first-of-its-kind District-Level Goat Show and Goat-Associated Value-Added Products awareness event at the Multi-Facilitation Centre (MFC), Chijhama Rafiabad here today.

Director, Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir, Dr. Rafiq Ahmad Shah was the Chief Guest at the event.

In his address on the occasion, the Director appreciated the department's efforts, highlighting the importance of such events in promoting scientific goat farming and youth engagement. He assured that similar programmes would be conducted in the future given the positive public response it received.

Speaking at the event, the District Sheep Husbandry Officer Baramulla, Dr. Showkat Ahmad, emphasised the tremendous potential of goat farming in the district, particularly in light of the growing demand for goat milk and chevon. He stressed the need to explore systematic avenues for adopting goat farming on commercial level value addition, processing of goat milk and meat products, which could significantly enhance farmers' income, generate local employment, and open new market linkages.

On the occasion, the Director also

visited various stalls and interacted with the participants.

The event had enthusiastic participation of livestock breeders, farmers, students, officials from the district administration, media personnel and representatives of various agri-allied departments. During the event, more than 70 participants from Sheep Development Blocks of Rohama, Rafiabad, Sopore, Dangerpora, and Baramulla showcased around 80 elite goats including Bucks, Does, and Weaners for exhibition and competition.

Prominent goat breeds on display included Beetal, Barbari, Jamunapari, Kagani, Jakhrana, and Boer, reflecting the region's rich livestock genetic diversity. A team of experts judged the animals on standard parameters like body conformation, body condition score, breed characteristics, production traits, reproductive traits, temperament, and behaviour. The Best Buck, Best Doe, and Best Weaner in each category were awarded first, second, and third prizes, along with certificates of appreciation.

A wide range of interactive stalls was set up by all key line departments like Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries, who actively engaged with visitors on their stalls. These stalls disseminated information on flagship government schemes, innovative farming practices, and allied sector services aimed at rural

livelihood generation.

Among the key attractions of the exhibition was a dedicated stall showcasing value-added goat milk products like paneer, ghee, butter, lassi, and fresh goat milk. Visitors were informed about the nutritional value, health benefits, and business potential of these products, making this segment a standout component of the event.

Additionally, pharmaceutical companies and livestock insurance providers participated in the event, offering valuable information on animal healthcare solutions, and insurance options tailored to the needs of livestock owners. Prominent goat breeds on display included Beetal, Barbari, Jamunapari, Kagani, Jakhrana, and Boer, reflecting the region's rich livestock genetic diversity. A team of experts judged the animals on standard parameters like body conformation, body condition score, breed characteristics, production traits, reproductive traits, temperament, and behaviour. The Best Buck, Best Doe, and Best Weaner in each category were awarded first, second, and third prizes, along with certificates of appreciation. A wide range of interactive stalls was set up by all key line departments like Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries, who actively engaged with visitors on their stalls.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXTENSION OFFICER PUBLICITY WING ANIMAL HUSBANDRY DEPARTMENT SRINAGAR

Advisory for livestock on event of Heat wave situation.

Heat-wave is a condition of atmospheric temperature that leads to physiological stress, which sometimes can claim animal life. Heat-wave amplify many risks such as animal health related or economic risks. Staying cool and hydrated are important steps to be taken to avoid heat related illness.

- Animals at high risk**
1.Young animals
2.Dark coloured animals
3.Sick animals with history of respiratory, kidney and liver diseases.
4.Newly born animals
5.Pregnant and lactating animals
6.Heavy animals
7.Animals with high metabolic rates (e.g high milk yielders) and low sweaters (pig, dogs) are more susceptible.

Signs of heat stress
Lying outstretched, Dry nose, weakness, muscle tremors, salivation collapse, swollen abdomen, change in posture hystera, increased drinking, loss of appetite panting, Rapid panting with tongue out, open beak panting and holding wings out in case of poultry.

General Precautions
Adequate shade: Limit exposure to direct sunlight by keeping them in shaded areas during peak heat hours. Provide ample shade whether natural or artificial.
Use cooling methods: use fans to regulate indoor temperatures. Consider using cooling mats or wet towels in case of companion animals utilize sprinkles.
Keeping hydrated: Offer plenty of drinking water and ensure constant supply plenty of cool and clean water to prevent dehydration.
Reschedule activities: Avoid activities of animals during the hottest part of the day. Consider adjusting feeding schedule to cooler times.
Conserve water; Be mindful of water usage during heat-wave as water resources can be strained.
Prepare for power outages; Have a plan in place in case of power outages which can disrupt cooling systems.

ADDITIONAL TIPS
Avoid hot pavements in case of Pets.
Never keep/leave animals in parked cars.
Consider clipping animals with long coats.
Avoid unnecessary handling or transportation during hot hours.
Provide more digestible and palatable feed.
Provide nutritional supplements in the form of mineral mixtures.
Monitor for signs of heat stress and seek veterinary care.
Issued in the interest of public by Publicity Wing Animal Husbandry Department Srinagar. -

Pub Date:25-06-25
DIPK-2892/25
Date: Jun 24 2025

SD
Animal Husbandry Department
Srinagar

SANJY-2025: DC Srinagar, SMC Commissioner visit Yatra Transit Camp Pantha Chowk

Take onsite stock of arrangements for seamless conduct of annual pilgrimage

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR JUNE 24:- In connection with the upcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2025, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo along with Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb undertook a visit to Yatra Transit Camp, Pantha Chowk here on Tuesday.

The visit was focused on ensuring robust arrangements for the smooth and seamless conduct of the annual pilgrimage, set to commence on July 3, 2025.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Aadil Fareed, Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid, SDPO Panthachowk Zohaib &



senior Officers of Police and District Administration Srinagar accompanied the DC during the visit

On the occasion, the DC reviewed the boarding, lodging, bedding, registration,

sanitation, medical facilities at the Pantha Chowk Transit Camp, a halt site for pilgrims traveling to the Amarnathji cave. He also took stock of other amenities to ensure they meet the needs of the yatris.

During the visit, the DC issued directives to Officers to expedite preparations and ensure all arrangements are put in place well ahead of the Yatra-2025. Emphasizing pilgrim comfort, he stressed the need for seamless coordination among Departments to enhance services at the Camp. Special attention was laid on ensuring proper sanitation facilities, availability of clean drinking water, electricity and setting up of Langars (community kitchens) to provide nutritious meals and the and. The DC & SMC Commissioner also inspected the readiness of Yatri Facilitation Center, which will handle critical services such as e-KYC verification, RFID card distribution, and registration to streamline the pilgrimage process.

Dharti Aabha Abhiyan: Massive awareness prog. held at tribal Checkshera, village of Gojithiji Budgam

HT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, JUNE 24: As part of the ongoing Dharti Aabha Abhiyan, a large-scale awareness and outreach programme was successfully conducted today at pan-chayat Checkshera, village Gojithiji, a remote tribal settlement under block Khansahib.

The programme focused on saturation of government schemes across 25 interventions under 17 line departments, specifically targeting tribal communities.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents, with greater turnout, reflecting the growing interest and engagement of the tribal population in the Abhiyan.

All concerned line departments actively participated in the Gram Sabha, wherein their representatives elaborated on the eligibility criteria and benefits of various government schemes, and identified areas where 100% saturation was yet to be achieved.

A significant highlight of the programme was the on-spot registration and facilitation of schemes including PMAY-G (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin), Kisan Credit Cards (KCC), Swadesh Darshan Guest Homes, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) - Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC), PMJAY Health Cards (Ayushman Bharat).

KPDCL revises timing of shutdown of 33 kV SH Pora line, 33 kV Kawdara line & 33 kV Mattan-Pahalgam line

SRINAGAR, JUNE 24: In view of ongoing extreme heat wave conditions, the office of the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL has revised the timing of power shutdown of several 33kV lines. As per the schedule, the shutdown of the 33kV SH Pora line and 33 kV Kawdara line, previously scheduled for 28.06.2025 & 30.06.2025 from 10:00 AM to 06:00 PM, has been revised to 08:00 AM to 01:00 PM on the aforementioned dates, purely in the interest of public convenience. Similarly, the shutdown of the 33kV Mattan Pahalgam line, previously scheduled for 25.06.2025, from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM, has been revised to 08:00 AM to 01:00 PM on the aforementioned date, purely in the interest of public convenience.

Director FCS&CA reviews arrangements for SANJY-2025 at Anantnag

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 24: Director FCS&CA, Dr Owais Ahmed, conducted a tour of Nunwan and Chandanwari camps established in district Anantnag for Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025.

He took stock of the arrangements made at the said camps, and it was apprised that sufficient stock of food grains and petroleum products have been made available as per the requirement for yatris and other service providers associated with functioning of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Officer directed the concerned officials to ensure that there shall be no shortage of food grains and additional food grains are also kept available to meet out any exigency.

It was further directed that officials of FCS&CA deputed at these camps, for the said task, shall remain available 24*7 to address any related issues faced by the pilgrims and the service providers at the stations.

DC reviews the status of irrigation and water availability across the Kulgam district in view of the on going paddy season.

Farooq Rather

KULGAM JUNE 24: The District Development Commissioner Kulgam Athar Aamir Khan (IAS), today reviewed the irrigation status and water availability in all 48 major canals and irrigation systems across the district. Discussions were held regarding:

- 1) Water availability, canal head status, command area status, irrigation coverage as on today was reviewed for canals including Noorabad canal, Watoo canal, Yari canal, Grimtoo canal, Buman, Banimullah canal, Sonman canal, Mav



Canal, Amnoolad, Bani Lad, Tethbuj, Hardchoon, Nandi Canal etc. 2) Directions were issued to officials of Irrigation, RDD, Revenue, Mining departments to stay available on field in their respective

areas and ensure issues are timely resolved. 3) 24*7 Control Room has been made operational. 4) No employee shall leave the headquarter with specific permission from district admin.

- 5) For tail end areas of canals special efforts by way of warabandi, manpower mobilisation, leakage reduction Canals shall be taken.
- 6) XEN irrigation was directed to coordinate with Tehsildars to redress the issues with respect to Nandi Canal which is at the tail end of the district.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), DMO, All Tehsildars, Executive Engineer of Irrigation and Flood Control, (AEs), Block Development Officers (BDOs) among others.

SANJY-2025: Online coordination & orientation conference on disaster management held at Anantnag

HT NEWS DESK

ANANTNAG, JUNE 24: An online coordination and orientation conference on Disaster Management was held with all stakeholders involved in the upcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANJY) 2025.

The session was chaired by Major General Sudhir Bahl (Retd.), Lead Consultant for Medical Emergencies (ME), Incident Response System (IRS), and Mock Exercises, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

The primary objective of the conference was to ensure effective coordination among all agencies responsible for managing potential hazards and emergency situations during the Yatra. Major General Bahl delivered a comprehensive presentation outlining the structure of the proposed mock exercise, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the deployed teams in response to various emergency scenarios. He emphasized the need for all stakeholders to remain fully prepared and vigilant to mitigate any eventuality.

Speaking on the occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anantnag, Sandeep Singh Bali, assured that the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) is well-prepared to handle any disaster like situation. He also noted that comprehensive training has been imparted to various stakeholders.

Notably, further mock exercises are scheduled to be conducted on June 28 at various locations to enhance the preparedness of all involved agencies.

Abdul Rahim Rather inaugurates additional Block of GHSS Pakarpora

HT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, JUNE 24: Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, inaugurated the additional accommodation Block of Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Pakarpora here today. The project was completed at a cost of Rs 1.60 crore by R&B Division, Charar-i-Sharif. After inauguration, the Speaker also inspected different blocks of the institution and had assessment of existing infrastructure.

The Speaker, on the occasion, distributed certificates among the best performing students of the institution. He assured the students that in coming days efforts would be made to establish library and a play field in the institution. Later, the Speaker interacted with various public delegations and individuals. They put forth various issues and grievances before the Speaker and sought their immediate redressal. They also demanded school library, fencing of Wall in school premises and widening of road from Pakarpora to Pulwama.

While interacting with these public delegations, the Speaker assured them that their genuine demands will be redressed promptly. Among others, senior officers of district administration, staff members of the school, locals and large number of students were also present on the occasion. Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, inaugurated the additional accommodation Block of Government Higher Sec-



ondary School (GHSS) Pakarpora here today. The project was completed at a cost of Rs 1.60 crore by R&B Division, Charar-i-Sharif. After inauguration, the Speaker also inspected different blocks of the institution and had assessment of existing infrastructure. The Speaker, on the occasion, distributed certificates among the best performing students of the institution. He assured the students that in coming days efforts would be made to establish library and a play field in the institution. Later, the Speaker interacted with various public delegations and individuals. They put forth various issues and grievances before the Speaker and sought their immediate redressal. They also demanded school library, fencing of Wall in school premises and widening of road from Pakarpora to Pulwama. While interacting with these public delegations, the Speaker assured them that their genuine demands will be redressed promptly.

DC Kishtwar reviews performance of banks at DLRC meeting

HT NEWS DESK

KISHTWAR, JUNE 24: A District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting for the quarter ending March 2025 was held today under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pankaj Kumar Sharma. The meeting brought together senior officials from banks and the government departments.

The meeting focused on evaluating credit flow under government-sponsored schemes, financial literacy efforts and achievements in priority sectors like agriculture, horticulture and MSMEs. Key schemes discussed included the Kisan Credit Card (KCC), Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), PM Mudra, PMFME, NRLM, Social Security Schemes and programs promoting entrepreneurship. The DC expressed concern over the poor per-



formance of some banks and directed them to meet set targets promptly. He emphasized the importance of supporting agriculture, allied sectors, HADP, small enterprises and women-led businesses. To strengthen financial outreach, the DC instructed the Lead District Manager (LDM) to prepare a Camp Calendar and Convergence Plan for door-to-door awareness and services delivery. These camps will be conducted in coordination with banks and relevant departments to bring services closer to the people. Highlighting the district's potential in millet production, the DC

asked for encouraging youth and local entrepreneurs to explore millet-based enterprises—citing their economic and health benefits. The DC asked for achieving 25% targets by the next DLRC meeting, urging all departments and banks to work together to promote entrepreneurship, ensure timely loan disbursement, and remove any barriers to project implementation. The meeting was attended by AD FCS&CA Shafiq Ali Keen, CAO Kushal Chandel, CHO Sajid Mustafa, LDM Harsh Rawal, LDO RBI Anil Kumar, DPM NRLM and representatives from various departments.

DC Srinagar reviews progress on heritage conservation projects in the District

Stresses upon stakeholder Departments to ensure time bound completion of all projects undertaken for preservation, revival & restoration

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR JUNE 24:- Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today chaired a meeting of the District Level Coordination-cum-Implementation Committee for the revival, restoration, preservation and maintenance of architectural and heritage sites here at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner was apprised about the progress of ongoing conservation projects undertaken in Srinagar District for

preservation, revival, restoration and maintenance.

The DC took a comprehensive review of the status of the each project taken up under the initiative including restoration, conservation and development of Aali Masjid Eidgah, Khankahi Naqashband Sahib, Zeastha Devi Zeathyar temple, Baba Ghulam-U-Din Shrine Brein Nishat, Narayanmuth Shivji temple Tulsibagh, Ram Mandir Safakadal, Syed Mohammad Hussain Mazandarani, Vicharnag temple and Mangleshwar Bheirev Asthapan Baddam.

On the occasion, the DC laid empha-



sis on collaborative efforts by all line Departments in restoration practices to conserve architecture of the sites on heritage pattern. He also directed them to expedite efforts closely to ensure the effective implementation of heritage preservation projects.

During the meeting, the DC also discussed the new conservation projects identified for current fiscal. The DC asked them to prepare DPRs and estimates at the earliest ensuring all revival, restoration works are carried out while preserving the rich art, culture and heritage of Kashmir.

The DC stressed upon the stakeholder Departments to ensure speedy execution of the works on the heritage conservation projects so that they are completed in a time bound manner.

Besides Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, the meeting was attended by Superintendent Engineer R&B, District Statistics & Evaluation Officer, Deputy Director Archives, Executive Engineers of R&B and other concerned. During the meeting, the DC also discussed the new conservation projects identified for current fiscal.

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HT EDITORIAL

For better results start publishing of text-books at the earliest

For the past few days some of the reports in the local media suggest that the Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education is facing shortage of funds with respect to the publishing of the text-books for the different classes in the government and private schools of the Kashmir valley. The funds for the publishing of different text-books are meagre and it is due to this reason that the target number of text-books could not be published.

The students and their parents could be running from pillar to post so as to get the text-books for the different classes. Visits to the shops of the book sellers in the Srinagar district and other districts of the Kashmir valley became an order of the day. The books were available to the students one by one and not in one go. This meant that either the students or their parents would have to visit the booksellers on a regular basis in order to get the books.

At the end of the day some of the students could not get all the books and they had to get the same from their seniors. In the Kashmir valley the case was worse with the Kashmiri books and these were available to a handful of students. In most of the cases the students had to rely upon the old books and as such there was a compromise on the quality of the books. There were many students who were not happy while having old books in their hands and they wanted their parents to get fresh books.

Ever since the Department of School Education has adopted a uniform syllabus for both the government and private schools of Kashmir it has come to the fore that the text-books are not available to the students in due course of time. There has been no enhancement of the capacity building of the publication division of the Board of School Education over the years. It is due to this reason that there are many gaps when it comes to the supply and demand of the text-books for the different classes.

As the new academic session in the Kashmir valley is set to start from October, it is high time that the Board of School Education starts publishing the text-books at the earliest. This would ensure timely delivery of the text-books to the students and there would be no confusion. In case the Board is not able to do so then the private publishers should be roped in for better and timely results.

HT EXCLUSIVE

Cybersecurity Awareness: Essential Habits for Everyday Life



Dr. Syed Irfan Yaqoob

In the age of digital technology, cybersecurity is no longer solely the concern of big organizations or computer wizards—it's a way of life for everyone now. With our lives more and more interconnected via smartphones, computers, and smart home devices, the threats of cyber-attacks like phishing, malware, and identity theft have never been greater. Thankfully, it's easy to make your online security dramatically better and safeguard your personal data by just following some simple habits.

Why Cybersecurity Matters for Everyone.

Cybercriminals are always changing their strategies, using malicious emails, phony websites, and scams to target people. A single thoughtless click or weak pass-

word can result in identity theft, financial loss, or even privacy compromise for your family. Because of this, cybersecurity awareness is an essential life skill for everyone, not just IT workers.

Everyday Cyber Hygiene: Practical Steps

1. Use Strong, Unique Passwords

The first line of defence against hackers is frequently Change your passwords. Use a combination of capital and lowercase letters, digits, and special characters to create secure passwords. Don't use the same password on multiple websites. To safely keep track of your credentials, think about utilising a trustworthy password manager.

2. Enable Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)

It is much more difficult for hackers to access your accounts when you add an additional layer of security, like a code generated by an app or sent to your phone.

3. Keep Software and Devices Updated

Update your antivirus program, apps, and operating systems on a regular basis. Security patches that address flaws that hackers take advantage of are frequently included in updates. Whenever possible, turn on automatic updates to stay

safe without having to do anything extra.

4. Be aware of Phishing and Suspicious Links

Phishing scams are a popular method used by criminals to obtain your personal information. Emails or messages from unfamiliar senders should be avoided, especially if they request financial or personal information. Before opening attachments or clicking links, make sure the sender is legitimate.

5. Protect Your Home Network

Your home Wi-Fi router and devices should have their default passwords changed. Create a distinct guest network for guests or smart devices and set a strong, one-of-a-kind password for your Wi-Fi.

6. Use Antivirus and Security Software

Install trustworthy anti-virus and anti-malware software on every device you own. To find and eliminate threats, run routine scans and maintain software updates.

7. Practice Safe Browsing and Sharing

Visit trustworthy websites only, especially when entering private data. Check the address bar of your browser for the padlock icon. Before disclosing private information on social media or in public places, give it careful thought.

8. Backup Your Data Regularly

Store backup copies of critical files on a secure cloud service or external drive. In the event that your data is lost or compromised, regular backups aid in your speedy recovery.

Building a Culture of Cyber Awareness:

We all share responsibility for cybersecurity. Discuss safe online practices with your loved ones, friends, and co-workers. Children and those who are less tech-savvy should be encouraged to learn about digital risks and to ask questions. Raising awareness contributes to the creation of a safer online environment for all users.

It only takes a little attention to detail and a few smart habits to stay safe online. You can confidently take advantage of the advantages of the digital world and safeguard yourself against the majority of threats by maintaining good cyber hygiene on a daily basis. Keep in mind that a moment of caution can prevent a lot of problems.

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The Fear of Failure: A Silent Taboo in our Classrooms



By Tyima Bilal

In the structural silence of modern classrooms, where rules are strict and expectations high, a quiet but dangerous fear has taken root, "The fear of failure." This fear has grown so dominant that it is no longer just a feeling, it has become a taboo. This fear, though invisible, holds immense power over the minds of students. It restricts curiosity, silences questioning, and punishes creativity. It is damaging the very essence of what education is meant to be.

In our current education system, students are trained to aim for perfection. High marks, top ranks, and flawless performance are rewarded,

while mistakes are frowned upon. A single poor grade is often enough to shatter confidence. The moment a child stumbles, the system often interprets this as weakness. As a result, failure is seen not as part of the learning journey, but as something shameful.

This mindset forces students into dangerous habits: they never try anything unless they are sure they will succeed. Classrooms become silent. Hands don't go up. Questions aren't asked. Risk-taking is replaced by rote learning. Students stop exploring, stop thinking beyond textbooks, and focus only on what will keep them safe from failure. Over time, the pressure to succeed becomes so intense that students begin to fear trying anything new or anything where the outcome is uncertain.

One reason for the fear of failure is the immense pressure from society, where only achievers are celebrated, and mistakes are magnified. This taboo surrounding failure doesn't just affect academic performance but it deeply harms emotional well-being. Students begin to internalize their mistakes, question their worth, and often suffer in silence. They grow afraid to speak up, to explore, or to take risks, all because they fear falling short. In their hope for a bright future, parents unknowingly add to this burden. Schools, too, often prioritize grades

over growth. In such an environment, the fear of failure becomes deeply rooted, emotional, and painful.

However, true education is not about never failing, it is about rising stronger after each setback. It is time we change the culture of our classrooms. Teachers must create safe spaces where students are encouraged to ask questions, to try, to fail, and to try again. Parents must stand beside their children, offering support rather than pressure. Students must be taught that their worth is not measured by marks, but by their mindset and resilience. Exams should assess understanding, not just memory. Class discussions should welcome wrong answers as opportunities for learning, not as reasons for ridicule. The real goal of education is not to produce perfect students, but to nurture confident individuals who can adapt, learn, and grow. In the end, education is not about avoiding failure, it is about learning how to rise, every single time. Let's break the silence. Let's break the taboo. Let's give our students the courage to fail and the freedom to truly succeed.

A medical student and social activist,
Tyima Bilal writes about youth development,
mental health, and the need for
compassionate education.

"Cashless" treatment for accident victims: Intentions are good, system is useless

Priyanka Saurabh

In this country, when someone meets with an accident on the road, the first question asked is not how deep the injury is - first, the question asked is "Do you have an identity card?", "Do you have insurance?", "Is the hospital registered?" and then finally - "Will we be able to save him or not?". As if papers are more important than the life of the victim.

In such a country, when the government says that "now anyone injured in a road accident will get free treatment up to ₹1.5 lakh for the first seven days", it seems as if the system has put on a human face. But when we see the reality of this scheme on the ground, that face looks blurred - sometimes lost in files, sometimes stuck in the portal, and sometimes dying due to the indifference of the hospital.

This cashless treatment scheme was started under section 162 of the Motor

Vehicles Act. The objective was that no poor or rich person should have to dig deep into his pocket for treatment. At first glance, it seems that the government has understood the pain of the common man. But then the same old question arises - will the system ever be able to bridge the gap between intention and policy?

So far, many states have not even given orders to implement this scheme. Even in developed areas like Noida and Ghaziabad adjacent to the capital Delhi, hospitals did not know that the scheme had been started till June 2025. Isn't it funny that the scheme has been started but hospitals and doctors are searching for it like a lost traffic signal?

And even in the hospitals which are associated with the scheme, the limit of treatment is ₹1.5 lakh. Now just think - can the ICU, surgery, medicines, tests of a patient admitted in a serious road accident be limited to ₹1.5 lakh? Private hospitals have clearly said - "Why should we work at a loss?" And the

government replies - "Deshseval!" But is serving the nation the responsibility of doctors alone? Not of policy makers?

The crisis is not limited to money only. The portal - yes, the same portal made on the computer - seeing which even the clerk of the hospital can scratch his head. Sometimes the documents are not uploaded, sometimes the form remains incomplete, and sometimes the entire claim goes into "error". Forget about the patient, even the hospital does not know whom to contact, where to get the correction done.

Hospitals, police, insurance agencies and state health authorities—all have different rules, different understandings, and equal confusion. No one knows whose job it is. The plan seems to be a play in which everyone is a character, but no one has been given a script. Moreover, sometimes the accident is so serious that the nearby hospitals are not registered in the scheme. In such a situation, they are afraid of even doing "stabilization" - they are

afraid that money might get stuck! The result - the injured patient is carried from one place to another in the ambulance, and his "golden hour" i.e. the most precious time to save life - is spent on the way.

Now let's talk about the most basic but most neglected aspect - awareness. The public does not know that such a scheme exists. People take out their cameras when they see an injured woman lying on the road, but are unable to tell the name of the scheme for her treatment. Even the staff working in the hospital does not know how to implement the scheme. Will the scheme benefit when the beneficiary does not even know that he is a beneficiary?

The humor deepens when the government offers a reward of up to ₹25,000 under the 'Rahveer Yojana' for helping an injured person - but people are limited to radio or government posters about the scheme. On social media, where people are seen dancing and singing, this scheme is invisible.

A lot needs to be done to make the scheme successful on the ground. First of all - state governments should give up their laziness and give clear guidelines. Registration of hospitals should be made mandatory within a clear time frame. The example of Indore is good where hospitals were included in the scheme within three days in June 2025.

Second, the financial limit of the scheme should be decided according to the actual medical costs. If the government wants to save lives, then why is it pushing hospitals into losses? Third, the portal must not become a mockery of "Digital India". It must be made simple, clear and technically efficient. The claim process must be transparent - so that the hospital gets paid on time, and the patient gets relief.

The author is a Research Scholar in Political Science, Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, Ubba Bhawan, Aryanagar, Hisar (Haryana)-127045

The 10 US Airbases in the Middle East: A Modern-Day East India Company?

■ Mohd Ashraf Wani

For decades, the Middle East has been portrayed as a region plagued by instability, terrorism, and authoritarianism. Yet, beneath this rhetoric lies a calculated geopolitical chess game, where military footprints, particularly those of the United States, serve as tools for influence and control. At the heart of this strategy are the 10 key U.S. airbases scattered across the Middle East, subtly reshaping the region's political future under the pretext of "stability."

But are these airbases merely a defense mechanism, or do they echo the imperial footprints of the British East India Company, which once invaded and controlled the Indian subcontinent under the guise of trade and protection?

List of the 10 Major U.S. Airbases in the Middle East

1. Al Udeid Air Base (Qatar) – The largest U.S. military installation in the region, hosting over 11,000 personnel and advanced fighter jets.
2. Al Dhafra Air Base (UAE) – A critical surveillance and drone operations hub.
3. Prince Sultan Air Base (Saudi Arabia) – Hosting missile defense systems and fighter squadrons.
4. Ali Al Salem Air Base (Kuwait) – Vital for airlift operations and logistics.
5. Camp Arifjan (Kuwait) – U.S. military's logistical command center in the Gulf.
6. Incirlik Air Base (Turkey) – Hosting NATO and U.S. assets, including reported nuclear warheads.
7. Muwaffaq Salti Air Base (Jordan) – Known for drone operations and regional surveillance.
8. Tower 22 (Jordan-Syria-Iraq Border) – A secretive outpost monitoring Iranian movements.
9. Erbil Air Base (Iraq) – Supporting U.S. presence in northern Iraq.
10. Al-Tanf Garrison (Syria) – A con-



roversial U.S. foothold near the Iraq-Syria-Jordan border.

Stability or Strategic Occupation?
The official narrative speaks of protecting allies, combating terrorism, and preserving peace. However, the pattern of these bases, their locations near energy corridors, maritime chokepoints, and borders with Iran, tells another story – one of calculated power projection.

Much like the East India Company, which arrived in India for trade but stayed to rule, these U.S. airbases have transformed from temporary security outposts into permanent military strongholds, giving Washington unparalleled access to:

- The world's largest oil and gas reserves
- Critical shipping lanes such as the Strait of Hormuz and the

Bab el-Mandeb
➤ Political leverage over governments across the Gulf and Levant

Who Really Pays? The Economic Burden on the Middle East Ironically, while these airbases project U.S. military might, much of the financial burden falls upon the host nations themselves:

Qatar, for instance, has reportedly invested billions of dollars to construct and expand the Al Udeid base. Saudi Arabia and the UAE have funded portions of base infrastructure and operational costs.

Kuwait, Jordan, and Bahrain also contribute significant resources to support U.S. military presence.

In essence, regional governments are subsidizing their own strategic containment, funding bases that ensure U.S. military dominance over their territories

and political decisions.

Partners in Crime or Sovereign Allies?

For many, these arrangements expose a harsh truth: Middle Eastern rulers, especially in Gulf monarchies, have become partners in the preservation of foreign influence, trading genuine sovereignty for regime security.

By financing U.S. military operations, they:

- Maintain their grip on power
- Suppress internal dissent
- Shield themselves from external threats (real or perceived)

But at what long-term cost? Critics warn of a region increasingly viewed as a client zone, where local rulers act as facilitators of foreign power, rather than as independent guardians of national

interests.

The Iranian Dilemma: The Thorn in the Eye

At the center of U.S. military entrenchment lies one undeniable factor: Iran.

Despised by Washington and Tel Aviv alike, Tehran represents:

- The most significant regional force resisting U.S. and Israeli hegemony
- An ideological and military counterweight to Gulf monarchies
- A source of asymmetric threats – from proxy militias to missile programs U.S. and Israeli officials openly cite Iran's influence in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen as justification for their military posture. Yet, some argue that the real fear lies not in Iran's military might, but in its refusal to bow to Western dictates – much like the Indian princely states that resisted the East India Company.

Conclusion:

The Future of the Middle East – Independence or Invisible Chains?

History reminds us that empires rarely announce their arrival with fanfare. They come under banners of trade, security, and stability. The British East India Company spoke of commerce – until it ruled India. The U.S. speaks of defense – yet its bases mark a form of modern neo-imperialism, controlling oil, borders, and politics from afar.

As Middle Eastern nations continue to host, fund, and tolerate these bases, they must ask: are they partners in stability, or partners in crime, willingly ceding sovereignty for temporary security?

And for Iran – vilified, isolated, yet defiant – the struggle continues, not merely for regional dominance, but for a Middle East free from foreign dictates.

The shadows of empire may look different in the 21st century, but their footprints remain unmistakable.

The author is a Freelancer

I Dare to Disappear



■ Sidharth PK

*I disappear tonight,
As the moon remain silent
And the darkness rains
O'er the revolving earth
Even as my time is apt,
To walk away from
Memories, I do dare
To mutter music,
Like never before
I am silence
I mourn o'er the sky
To change the
Constant universe
As it speaks to,
My soul in rhymes
That do often
Makes my disappearance
Into mist and shadows.*

LANGUAGE REFLECTS OUR DECENCY AND IDENTITY

■ Vijay Garg

Language is the definition of our decency and personality. Language is the core of our culture, rites and advancement. Language is our aesthetic. Language is an invaluable contribution to the development of human civilization. Just as a bad culture cannot build a civilized society, an unrestrained language also pushes our civilization into a deep trough. A good language is our rite. Just as we need air to live, the dynamics of life and good language are required for universal development. We may have all the modern facilities in the world, but life philosophy is unmatched in the absence of language. It is necessary to have a cultured language to build the nation. Language is the mirror of our personality. When we speak in the osseous style, our language makes our personality unique. Acharya Ramchandra Shukla considered the language as a mirror of culture and society. Decency and poise in the language reflect the moral values of the society. According to him, the use of language should be such that conveys ideas clearly and effectively, but at the same time he maintains respect and sensitivity to others. Ancient Indian philosopher Panini Bhartihari presented the language in Sanskrit grammar and philosophy as a medium of world understanding and spiritual consciousness. Bhartihari said in the wordbrahma principle that language and consciousness are integral. The unique scholar Wilhelm Van Humboldt considered the language not only means of communication, but the creative expression of human thought and culture that each i.e. language at the core of global development and civilization. Language is not just a medium of

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The language proves how deep the roots of our civilization, rites and social development and history are. We can deliver our message firmly in the society from a gracious language.

communication or communication. This is the basis of our culture and society. The language proves how deep the roots of our civilization, rites and social development and history are. We can deliver our message firmly in the society from a gracious language. There are countless kabilai groups in the world, but their language is not the same. Let us call ourselves modern and decent, but till we have a decent language, our journey of being called decent will remain. In the era of globalization where our language has been rich and empowered, it has multiplied to its downfall I have lost our restraint and character over the language. We have reached the moon even though, we have weakened to such an extent that we have no scale to measure it. Worry is whose level is going down? Language or our? Language Saksham can't do karma. He is our guide. There is no form of language, colour, smell and taste- touch, but even after

that it is existing in all forms. Just as we shield solid gold into different colour of jewellery and it becomes our beauty. Bhadespan has increased in our language after the rise of multiple forums on the internet. We have stopped valuing the language on the Chaucer of Vaicality and Glory. On the other hand, social media has done ghee work in fire. We are constantly humiliating the language. While the truth is that the language is not weakening, our openness is coming out. In a specy spree we have put our poise at stake. Language is our backbone. It is our decency, civilization, sacrament, morality, unity and integrity. If one's language is coerced, then definitely his life is restrained. Language is the only laxman line of our ideal. It is a matter of thinking that if we will not have the sweetness of a civilized language, will we be able to establish an amicable society. The language has the strength, which makes us feel the melody and the sharpness of the object. As soon as we name the mango, we start feeling the taste of his sweetness. Just like this rule applies to chilli as well. Meaning clearly that our language has both the sweetness and the sharpness of the mango. What we want to taste now is up to us. We have fixed many dimensions of civilization. We have also set new direction regarding the technical development of the language. But right now we have a lot to do on language chaos. We have to decide that somewhere in this struggle of war, we do not miss so much that it is not difficult to return from there, it becomes impossible.

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

Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra 2025 from July 27 DC Poonch discusses arrangements

HT NEWS DESK

POONCH, JUNE 24: Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting to discuss the arrangements for the annual Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra, scheduled to commence from July 27, 2025. At the outset, Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik briefed the participants on the preparations being made. He said the arrangements are being made as per the established protocols and past practices.

The meeting was attended by religious leaders, prominent citizens and local stakeholders. They under-



lined numerous requirements for smooth conduct of the yatra. The concerned departments were

asked to make arrangements for accommodation of yatis, provision of toilet and sanitation at base

camp and halt points, medical aid, uninterrupted water and power supply, public address for announcements, transport and parking arrangements, sheds, overall cleanliness and other related facilities. The Deputy Commissioner assured all stakeholders that the administration is committed to make the Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra 2025 a peaceful, safe and well-managed spiritual experience for all pilgrims. The concerned departments were asked to make arrangements for accommodation of yatis, provision of toilet and sanitation at base

District Poonch achieves 97% completion rate under PMAY-Gramin, tops Jammu Division

HT NEWS DESK

POONCH, JUNE 24: Achieving a significant milestone in rural housing, District Poonch has recorded an impressive 97% completion rate under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G), the highest among the districts of Jammu division. The initiative, being implemented under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal, reflects the district administration's commitment to ensuring housing for all in rural areas. Out of the sanctioned 49,265 houses, a total of 47,784 have been successfully completed so far, marking remarkable

progress under the flagship scheme. The Deputy Commissioner commended the efforts of the concerned departments and field-level functionaries for their dedication and effective execution of the scheme. He further directed the concerned executing officers to expedite the completion of the remaining houses to achieve 100% PMAY-G saturation in the district. Out of the sanctioned 49,265 houses, a total of 47,784 have been successfully completed so far, marking remarkable progress under the flagship scheme. The Deputy Commissioner commended the efforts of the concerned departments.

e-KYC drive intensified in Ramgarh to streamline PDS

HT NEWS DESK

SAMBA, JUNE 24: To enforce transparency and improve targeting under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Samba has intensified its e-KYC verification campaign in the Municipal area of Ramgarh through a door-to-door exercise. The drive is being conducted by Tehsil Supply Officer (TSO) Ravi Kumar under the overall supervi-

sion of Assistant Director FCS&CA Rahul Gupta in line with the directives of the Director, FCS&CA, Jammu UT of J&K. The initiative aims at 100% Aadhaar seeding of beneficiaries, elimination of ineligible and duplicate entries for effective and transparent ration supply through the Public Distribution System (PDS). Local residents and fair price shop dealers have extended active cooperation, making the verification process smooth and result-oriented.

Tribal Welfare Outreach Camp held at Mangit

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JUNE 24: As part of Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, District Administration Ramban on Tuesday organised a comprehensive Awareness and Benefit Saturation Camp at Mangit Panchayat, a remote tribal area in Block Khari.

The event was attended by Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Mohammad Ashfaq Khan, Block Development Officer Khari, Urfan Khan and other district and block-level officials. Numerous departments collaborated to provide on-spot services and information to the local tribal community. The Health and AYUSH departments offered preventive healthcare services, including free medical check-ups and awareness on Indian Medicine System. The Animal Husbandry Department provided veterinary support and sensitized locals about livestock care and available schemes and subsidies.

The Revenue and Tehsil Welfare departments facilitated the issuance of important documents such as caste, income, and land-related certificates, besides addressing pension-related grievances. The Women and Child Development Department (ICDS) spread awareness about maternal and child healthcare, nutrition, and government schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao. The Block Development Office educated attendees about employment schemes, rural development programs and ongoing MGN-REGA works. In addition, the Agriculture and Horticulture departments guided farmers on modern farming practices, soil health management, organic cultivation, and subsidies available for seeds, farming tools and orchard development. The residents actively interacted with departmental representatives, seeking redressal of grievances and clearing doubts about government interventions. Many of their concerns were resolved on the spot,

MLA Marh inaugurates Dragon Fruit Mother Block at Fruit Plant Nursery Raipur

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JUNE 24: Member Legislative Assembly Marh Surinder Kumar today inaugurated Dragon fruit Mother Block, besides launching a plantation drive at Horticulture Fruit Plant Nursery Raipur, Marh. The MLA was accompanied by Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Sayed, Chief Horticulture Officer Rakesh Kotwal and other Departmental officers. The MLA said that presently horticultural advancements have become indispensable to navigate the sector towards progress and prosperity. "Our primary responsibility is to make the sector more vibrant with scientific and technological orientations," added the MLA. The MLA said that after introducing High-Density and innovative techniques



in the Horticulture sector, it has become imperative to propagate true-to-type quality fruit plant material at par with the imported fruit plant material locally. In this direction, it is of paramount importance that we must possess dedication

and commitment along with scientific and technological know-how to deal with the challenges, he said. Later, the MLA also kick-started a plantation drive by planting a sapling in the fruit plant nursery Raipur. He emphasized

the need to protect local flora and fauna by planting more and more plants. The Director also interacted with farmers and provided valuable technical guidance on best Horticultural practices, including modern nursery management techniques, plant propagation methods, effective pest and disease control, marketing and value addition. In addition, the CHO Rakesh Kotwal and HDO Dr. Nazran Khan also highlighted the importance of promoting fruit plant cultivation and other necessary Horticultural components to make better use of available land. The MLA and Director appreciated the efforts of the Horticulture staff and encouraged them to maintain high standards of plant health and nursery hygiene. They also assured full support for enhancing nursery infrastructure and capacity-building of the staff through training and workshops in future.

Mission Vatsalya DC Doda sanctions ₹1.28 cr Sponsorship Assistance for 201 Beneficiaries

HT NEWS DESK



DODA, JUNE 24: Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh has sanctioned over Rs.1.28 crore as Non-Institutional Care Sponsorship benefit to support 201 eligible children under the centrally sponsored Mission Vatsalya scheme. The financial assistance has been facilitated through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) via J&K Bank, ensuring transparency and timely credit to beneficiaries. However, the release of the funds was marked by presentation of a symbolic (dummy) cheque to highlight the total

amount of 1,28,53,020, disbursed under the scheme.

The initiative aims to provide crucial financial assistance to children living in vulnerable conditions, including orphans, children who have lost one parent, those with disabilities, those battling life-threatening illnesses, and children from economically disadvantaged families. The support will help address their essential needs such as education, healthcare, and nutrition, enabling them to lead safe, healthy and dignified life. The event was coordinated by District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) Tariq Qazi.

Rana emphasizes collective efforts towards water conservation for posterity

HT NEWS DESK

POONCH, JUNE 24: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, stressed the need for collective efforts to conserve water for present and future generations. He was speaking during a meeting of officers held in Poonch during which threadbare discussions were held on various agricultural schemes and related issues. Rana emphasized the importance of studying successful water conservation models from other parts of the country that can be replicated in Jammu and Kashmir. "There is a need to recalibrate water policies and accelerate water conservation efforts to address the challenges faced by our region," he said. The Minister underscored the crucial role of local community involvement in water conservation, stating that locals, NGOs and other stakeholders should be engaged in promoting judicious



use of water resources and implementing water-saving practices. He called upon the officers to raise awareness about rainwater harvesting, drip irrigation, irrigation scheduling and other conservation efforts in their respective areas. The meeting also focussed on assessing progress, addressing challenges and sharing best practices in water conservation and groundwater management. Rana emphasized the government's focus on revolutionizing agriculture in Jammu and Kashmir, with an emphasis on enhancing farmers' income, productivity and

sustainability. During the meeting, the Minister also outlined the efforts to improve and modernise the agricultural practices, increase productivity and benefit farmers in the Mendhar region. Chief Agricultural Officer, Poonch, Jog Raj Salathia, briefed the Minister about the progress on the ongoing and upcoming agricultural schemes and initiatives to promote sustainable agriculture. The meeting also addressed the challenges facing the field staff in implementing government schemes.

Dual Governance & Administrative Chaos Harmful for J&K and Nation: Ajay Sadhotra Restoration of Statehood Is Only Way to Uphold People's Mandate and trust says Rattan Lal Gupta

HT NEWS DESK

Jammu, June 24: Sounding the alarm over the deepening crisis in governance and democracy, Ajay Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary of JKNC and former Minister, today said that dual governance and administrative chaos unleashed by the BJP-led Central Government is not only detrimental to Jammu and Kashmir but also poses a grave threat to the democratic fabric of the entire nation. The former Minister was speaking while addressing a meeting of party functionaries at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan in Jammu. Coming down heavily on the BJP-led Central Government for its hollow celebrations marking 11 years in

power, the senior NC leader termed the event as an exercise in deception and a mockery of the suffering people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that while the BJP is celebrating, the ground reality in J&K reflects a picture of neglect, betrayal, and administrative failure. Ajay Sadhotra said the dual governance model imposed in J&K has only resulted in administrative uncertainty, policy paralysis, and disconnect with the people. "Such chaos is dangerous not just for J&K, but for the entire nation. J&K today stands as a classic example of how democracy has been stifled under BJP rule," he said. Adv. Rattan Lal Gupta, in his address, emphasized that restoration of statehood is the only viable solution to end this democratic suffocation and



crises. "By not restoring statehood and delaying bye elections of Nagrota and Budgam Assembly Constituencies and four seats of Rajya Sabha, the BJP is insulting the democratic aspirations and mandate of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said. Highlighting the deteriorating situ-

ation in the Jammu region, he stated, "In the last 11 years, terrorism has resurfaced across the Jammu region, which was once considered peaceful. The gruesome terror attacks in Dhan-gri and Reasi are testimony to the worsening security scenario. On the development front, Rattan Lal Gupta said there has been no

significant progress in infrastructure. "Despite tall claims, no new power or water infrastructure has been created in Jammu and Kashmir even though the BJP was in power both in the UT and at the Centre. Even senior IAS officer Ashok Parmar had levelled serious allegations of rampant corruption in the Jal Shakti Department, which reflects the inefficiencies and policy failures within the administration." He asserted that the present Omar Abdullah-led Government is making all possible efforts to create adequate infrastructure aimed at providing 24x7 power and water supplies to the general public. Regarding industry and employment, Adv. Gupta said the BJP's so-called industrial revolution has failed to materialize. "MoUs worth Rs

84,000 crore were signed on paper, but on the ground, industrial units are either shutting down or lying idle. Unemployment is at its peak. Youth are frustrated due to repeated recruitment scams, including in JKSSB and Police Sub-Inspector exams during the 10 years of BJP's rule. Even the promised border battalions were never raised," he stated. Bimla Luthra, former MLA, said that the present NC Government is committed to empowering the women of J&K and ensuring their active participation in all spheres of public life. Earlier, party functionaries welcomed Vijay Luthra who has been nominated as Joint Secretary of JKNC of Jammu Province by Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu JKNC as directed by Dr. Farooq Abdullah, President JKNC.

DC Ramban reviews progress of PWD, PMGSY Works Stresses on timeline completion, adherence to quality standards

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JUNE 24: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of developmental works being executed by the Public Works Department (R&B) and PMGSY in the district.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, Executive Engineers of PWD (Ramban and Banihal), Executive Engineers of PMGSY (Ramban and Banihal), AEEs and AEs from both departments.

During the review, the Deputy Commissioner directed the departments to ensure proper maintenance of the newly completed and already functional roads, buildings, and other infrastructure assets. He emphasized the need to maintain quality standards in the execution of the ongoing developmental projects and instructed for strict monitoring to avoid any compromise on the quality of work.

The DC issued clear directions to take stern action against contractors causing unwarranted delays in the execution of projects of public importance. He stressed



the importance of accountability and timely delivery to ensure public convenience and optimal utilization of resources.

The meeting was informed that 7 NABARD funded road projects have been

completed in PWD Division Ramban, while 6 are stalled due to forest clearance and other land related issues.

It was further informed that 14 NABARD road projects have been sanctioned for PWD Division Banihal. The DC directed officials to expedite the tendering process, pursue forest clearance and other issues affecting the execution of the projects.

Reviewing the progress of PMGSY Works, the DC expressed satisfaction and appreciated the progress made in project completion in both divisions.

Taking note of forest clearance issue hindering the projects, the DC directed the Chief Planning Officer to furnish a detailed report on all such pending cases for timely intervention at appropriate levels.

The Executive Engineers were asked to coordinate with the concerned SDMs and Forest Department to secure clearances. The SDMs were further instructed to intervene promptly to resolve local issues amicably by involving civil society.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed both departments to focus on achieving financial and physical targets to avoid last-minute rush and ensure timely completion of all projects.

NC Delegation Visited Dharm Gund Tral to console the family of the deceased sikh Youth

HT NEWS DESK

TRAL, JUNE 24: On the instructions of National High Command leaders of JKNC, today on the 24th Day of June 2025 a delegation of the Minority Cell of NC under the leadership of Mr Jagdish Singh Azad the convenor of the Minority Cell, NC alongwith Mr. Amit Koul Coordinator Minority cell, S Kulvant slng District President GPC Pulwama, Dr. Amarjit Singh Vice President GPC Pulwama and Dr. Rikhi Singh visited village Dharam Gund Tral where a dead body of a local Sikh Youth was found in mysterious conditions. The members of the delegation consoled the bereaved family members and assured them of full support and help. The delegation called on the Addl. DC Pulwama and the SHO Concerned also who accompanied the delegation to the home of the victim in Village Dharam Gund The Addl. DC gave a cheque for an amount of Rupees one lakh as financial assistance to the mother of the victim. At this stage both the officers, assured the family of a speedy investigation. The delegation demanded for the Fast Track proceeding in the case so that the culprit is brought to justice at earliest. The delegation was accompanied by Adv. Shabeer Ahmed of Kashmir Province NCourage wider participation in the scheme.

DAJGUA camp held at Panchayat Chapper-A

HT NEWS DESK

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 24: A Two Day awareness and benefit saturation camp Dharti Aaba Janatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) concluded today at Panchayat Ghar Chapper-A in Block Latti.

The program was conducted under the overall supervision of Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Dudu who is also the Nodal Officer for the Abhiyan.

Stalls were set up by the departments to provide on-the-spot services to the Tribal community and facilitate their registrations for different welfare and developmental schemes and services. The public participated with great enthusiasm availing themselves of the schemes and services.

Adding a cultural touch to the program, students from Government Higher Secondary School Latti presented a vibrant cultural programme.

The officials from department of Agriculture, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Health, Social Welfare, Revenue and others briefed the public about key government schemes viz. PM-KISAN, MGNREGA, Ayushman Bharat, Kisan Credit Card and other welfare initiatives.

The Block Development Officer elaborated on the objectives of the Dharti Aaba Abhiyan. He emphasized the campaign's mission to achieve 100% saturation of individual entitlements and to ensure the last-mile delivery of benefits to Tribal people.

Land Record Modernization 2-day training program for Revenue Officials concludes at Reasi

HT NEWS DESK

REASI, JUNE 24: A two-day training programme aimed to equip revenue officials with the technical knowledge and practical skills for the land record digitization concluded here today.

The Patwaris and MTS personnel from across the district attended the training organised under the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP).

Designated master trainers conducted sessions and imparted hands on training to officials on the use of specialised software for uploading land record data, with a focus on the protocols for verifying and authenticating digitised documents.

The programme was organised by the District Administration Reasi under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik.

The Deputy Commissioner urged officials to diligently apply their newly acquired skills, emphasising that accurate and updated land records form the backbone of an efficient and citizen-friendly revenue system.

The programme concluded with an interactive session where participants shared feedback and queries related to field-level implementation. The officials appreciated the hands-on learning approach and expressed their commitment to accelerating the digitisation efforts in their respective jurisdictions.

DC Udhampur approves 5 CLU cases

HT NEWS DESK

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 24: A meeting of the District Level Committee on Change of Land Use (CLU) was held today under the chairpersonship of Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai here in the Mini Conference Hall of DC Office Complex Udhampur.

The Committee reviewed 14 applications submitted online and after due deliberation, 5 cases were approved.

The DC emphasised the need for timely communication of deficiencies to applicants. She directed the concerned officers to issue No objection certificates only after thorough verification of documents. She further instructed the officers to conduct joint site visits and verify geo-coordinates before granting approvals.

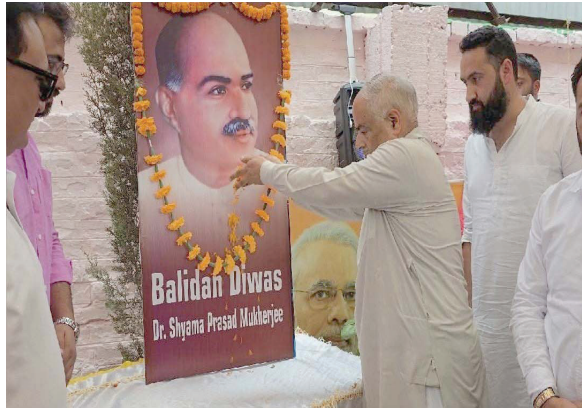
Balidan Divas of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee observed with patriotic fervour in Srinagar

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, 24 June 2025:

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu and Kashmir observed the Balidan Divas of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee with deep reverence and patriotic spirit at the party office in Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar.

The occasion was marked by heartfelt tributes to the great nationalist leader who sacrificed his life for the complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the Union of India. Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), BJP J&K, accompanied by senior BJP leaders Altaf Thakur, Arif Raja, Dr. Ali Mohammad Mir, Wani Mudasir, Bilal Parray, Sajid Yousuf Shah, Sahil Bashir Bhat, Ashok Bhat, Sheikh Bashir, Bhat Imtiyaz, and others paid floral tributes



on the occasion. Party workers and supporters gathered in large numbers to pay their respects and remember the towering legacy of Dr. Mukherjee.

Addressing the gathering, Ashok Koul said the commemorative programme was organized to honour the unmatched contribution of Dr. Mukherjee, whose martyrdom is etched in the nation's history as a pivotal moment in the struggle for one nation, one constitution.

Ashok Koul said, "Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee was a visionary patriot whose supreme sacrifice laid the foundation for a unified India. His slogan 'Ek desh mein do Vidhan, do Pradhan, aur do Nishan nahi chalenge' still reverberates in the soul of every nationalist Indian.

DDC reviews performance of Rural Development Department in Poonch

HT NEWS DESK

POONCH, JUNE 24: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Vikas Kunal today chaired a meeting with the officers of the Rural Development Department (RDD) to review the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and progress of developmental works.

The meeting focused on evaluating the physical and financial progress of key RDD schemes, such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)-a rural housing scheme, and other vital community

projects. The meeting also assessed the status of sanitation projects under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) and the construction of Panchayat Ghars and bunkers in the district.

After a thorough review, the District Development Commissioner asked for speeding up estimation of MGNREGA works. He stressed on timely pay-



ment of wages to Job card holders and Aadhar seeding of their accounts to maintain transparency.

To expedite project completion, the Deputy Commissioner directed Block Development Officers (BDOs) to immediately start all new works and ensure completion within the set timeframe. He further stressed on speedy completion of the remaining PMAY-G houses to ensure 100% saturation of the rural housing scheme. The Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) was asked to closely monitor the departmental projects to ensure timely completion.

The meeting was attended by ACD, ACP, XEN REW, BDOs, and other concerned officers.

Chingus Road Mishap: DC meets injured, visits accident site Calls for Strict Action against Road Safety violation

HT NEWS DESK

RAJOURI, JUNE 24: Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today visited the Government Medical College Hospital to enquire about the condition of the persons injured in a road accident near Chingus on Jammu- Rajouri - Poonch National Highway. The road mishap claimed two lives and left seven others injured.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the medical staff and directed them to provide prompt and

quality treatment to the injured persons. He assured every possible support from district administration to the families of the injured persons. Later, the DC visited the site of the accident to take stock of the situation. He was accompanied by the Superintending Engineer R&B, officers from Traffic Police, Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO), and representatives of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

Taking serious note of the fatal accident, the Deputy Commissioner sought an action

taken report from all concerned departments and directed them to implement immediate and long-term corrective measures to prevent such mishaps in future. He specifically instructed for strict enforcement of traffic rules, installation of signage at vulnerable locations, regular monitoring and checking of high-speed vehicles, identification and corrective measures along accident-prone stretches.

"The safety of the people is our topmost priority and there will be zero tolerance against negligent driving and traffic viola-

tions," the Deputy Commissioner said while reiterating the administration's commitment to ensuring road safety.

He further stressed the importance of coordinated action among the enforcement agencies, including police, transport, and road construction departments, to minimize road accidents and safeguard public lives. The Deputy Commissioner assured that robust measures will be taken to enhance road safety across the district, and such incidents will be met with stringent administrative response.

DDC Kathua reviews progress of PWD Sector projects

HT NEWS DESK

KATHUA, JUNE 24: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Dr. Rakesh Minhas today chaired a meeting of the Public Works Department (R&B) to review the progress of ongoing and proposed developmental works in the District.

The review focused on the projects taken up under NABARD, CRIF, UT Capex, District Capex, City & Town and MPLAD.

While reviewing the physical and financial status of works in Billawar Sub Division, the DDC was informed that 16 schemes are being executed under the City & Town component, while 6 new projects have been identified for execution in the current financial year. "Under NABARD funding, 4 schemes were sanctioned—3 have been completed and work is in progress on the remaining one. In addition, 3 road projects are being executed under the Central Road Infrastructure Fund (CRIF), and 3 others under the District Capex Budget", the meeting was told.

The DDC laid emphasis on expediting



the pace of work on Sukrala Mata-Jourian Mata Road and the 100-bedded Community Health Centre (CHC) at Billawar. He directed the Executing Agencies to ensure strict adherence to quality standards and timelines.

Reviewing the road up-gradation and other infrastructure development projects in Basohli Sub Division, the DDC asked the functionaries to resolve bottlenecks to ensure timely delivery of public assets. He laid thrust on timely completion of the 50

Bedded Hostel at ITI Bani and Compound Wall of ITI Basohli.

Assessing the status of ongoing projects in Hiranagar Sub Division, the DDC was informed that 19 projects under the City & Town Scheme were completed in the last fiscal, while 11 new projects have been earmarked for the current year, for which the tendering process has been initiated. Similarly 6 NABARD funded projects and 2 bridge projects have been completed in the area. A detailed review of works under

UT Capex, MPLAD, and the Health sector was also held.

Regarding the Kathua Sub Division, the DDC was informed that all 24 previous year City & Town scheme works have been completed, while 22 new works are being taken up in the current fiscal. The Department has also completed 18 NABARD, 1 CRIF, 5 UT Capex, and 7 MPLAD works.

The Deputy Commissioner also took a detailed review of projects nearing completion, including the JPDC Division Office, Polytechnic College Hostel, ADMO Office & District Drug Store, Poultry and Hatchery Buildings and Regional Cultural Centre of JKAACL. He impressed upon the executing agencies to speed up the pace of work and pursue forest and other mandatory clearances on a priority basis to prevent undue delays.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Surinder Mohan, CPO Ranjit Thakur, XENS of Basohli, Billawar, Hiranagar and Kathua subdivisions and other concerned officers.

PM to inaugurate centenary meeting of Mahatma Gandhi, Sree Narayana Guru

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Thiruvananthapuram, June 24

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the centenary celebration of the historic conversation between two of India's greatest spiritual and moral leaders, Sree Narayana Guru and Mahatma Gandhi, on Tuesday. The PM will inaugurate the event at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi in the presence of several spiritual leaders and heads of many spiritual and community organisations. The historic conversation took place at Sivagiri Mutt on 12 March 1925 during Mahatma Gandhi's visit and centred around Vaikom Satyagraha, religious conversions, non-violence, abolition of untouchability, attainment of salvation, and the uplift of the downtrodden, among others. Organised by Sree Narayana Dharma Sangham Trust, the celebration will bring together spiritual leaders and other members to reflect upon and commemorate the visionary dialogue that continues to shape India's social and moral fabric. It stands as a powerful tribute to the shared vision of social justice, unity, and spiritual harmony championed by both Sree Narayana Guru and Mahatma Gandhi. The PM will also address the gathering on the occasion. Representatives of Sivagiri Mutt and various organisations,

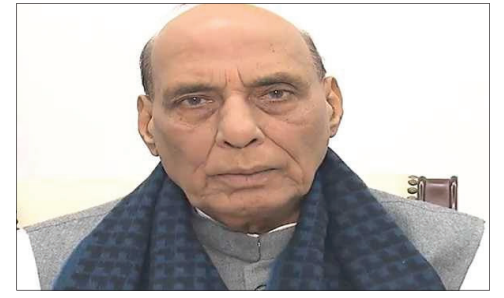


including the Delhi unit of Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Sangham (SNDP), All India Malayali Association, NSS Delhi Union, Malayali Association in Delhi, KPMS Delhi Unit and Vishwakarma Samajam, will attend the event. Books in English and Hindi on the meeting between two personalities will be released during the occasion. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the centenary celebration of the historic conversation between two of

India's greatest spiritual and moral leaders, Sree Narayana Guru and Mahatma Gandhi, on Tuesday. The PM will inaugurate the event at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi in the presence of several spiritual leaders and heads of many spiritual and community organisations. The historic conversation took place at Sivagiri Mutt on 12 March 1925 during Mahatma Gandhi's visit and centred around Vaikom Satyagraha, religious conversions, non-violence, abolition of untouchability, attainment of salvation, and the uplift of the downtrodden, among others. Organised by Sree Narayana Dharma Sangham Trust, the celebration will bring together spiritual leaders and other members to reflect upon and commemorate the visionary dialogue that continues to shape India's social and moral fabric. It stands as a powerful tribute to the shared vision of social justice, unity, and spiritual harmony championed by both Sree Narayana Guru and Mahatma Gandhi. The PM will also address the gathering on the occasion. Representatives of Sivagiri Mutt and various organisations, including the Delhi unit of Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Sangham (SNDP), All India Malayali Association, NSS Delhi Union, Malayali Association in Delhi, KPMS Delhi Unit and Vishwakarma Samajam, will attend the event.

Rajnath to attend SCO Defence ministers' meeting in China

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 24



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence ministers' meeting in Qingdao, China, where he will outline India's vision for global peace and security and emphasise the need for collective action to combat terrorism. The Defence Minister will lead a high-level Indian delegation from June 25 to 26, a Defence Ministry statement said on Tuesday. During the meeting, the defence ministers are expected to discuss a number of issues, including regional and international peace and security, counter-terrorism efforts and cooperation among the Ministries of Defence of SCO member states. Rajnath Singh is expected to highlight India's continued commitment to the principles and mandate of the SCO, outline India's vision towards achieving greater international peace and security, call for joint and consistent efforts to eliminate terrorism and extremism in the region, and stress on the need for greater trade, economic cooperation and connectivity within SCO. He will also hold bilateral meetings with the defence ministers of some participating countries, including China and Russia, on the sidelines of the meeting. India attaches special importance to SCO in promoting multi-lateralism, political, security, economic and people-to-people interactions in the region. SCO pursues its policy based on the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity of nations, non-interference in internal affairs, mutual respect, understanding and equality of all member-states. SCO is an inter-governmental organisation established in 2001. India became a full member in 2017 and assumed the rotating Chairmanship in 2023. The SCO membership includes Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran and Belarus, besides India.

Telangana cabinet vows to safeguard water rights, clears major development plans

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Hyderabad, June 24

The Telangana cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, resolved to strongly oppose Andhra Pradesh's proposed Banakacharla project, asserting that it threatens Telangana's rightful share of the Godavari waters. Briefing the media after the cabinet meeting held at the Secretariat on Monday night, Minister for Revenue and Information & Public Relations Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said the cabinet held detailed discussions on the issue and decided to fight at all levels to



protect the state's water interests. He announced that a Power-Point presentation outlining Telangana's objections and the representations made to the Centre would be shared with public representatives in the first week of July. He further stated that the cabinet had decided to submit

complete details of the Kaleshwaram project to the PC Ghose Commission by June 30 and clarify whether the project had the approval of the previous government's cabinet. The minister said the cabinet also approved the construction of a 201-kilometre stretch of the Regional Ring Road (RRR) from Choutuppal to Sangaredy, a move aimed at significantly improving infrastructure and connectivity in the state. He said the Rythu Bharosa scheme had been successfully implemented, with Rs 9,000 crore disbursed to farmers across Telangana in just nine days.

Operation Sindhu: 292 Indian nationals arrive from Iran, more flights expected

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 24

Another batch of 292 Indian nationals evacuated from Iran arrived in New Delhi on a special flight early this morning as part of Operation Sindhu, taking to 2,295 the number of Indians evacuated from Iran so far. Three more flights are expected to arrive later today. The MEA spokesperson said in a post on X: "#OperationSindhu update '292 Indian nationals were evacuated from Iran on a special flight that arrived in New Delhi from Mashhad at 0330 hrs on 24th June. '2295 Indian nationals have now been brought home from Iran.' Meanwhile, three more evacuation flights are expected to arrive later today, including two flights from



Jordan, and another from Sharm-El-Sheikh, bringing back Indian nationals. The airspace in the Middle East has been closed after Iran launched missiles towards US bases in Qatar.

Bangladesh interim govt pens \$400 mln support loan agreement with AIIB

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Dhaka, June 24

The Bangladeshi interim government has signed an agreement with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) for a \$400-million budget support loan. The loan will be utilised to implement key policy reforms aimed at combating climate change and fostering sustainable development, including the 'Climate Resilient Inclusive Development Program - Sub-program 2' under Bangladesh's Ministry of Finance. The program focuses on creating an enabling environment for implementing climate priorities across

government ministries, facilitating climate adaptation initiatives, and accelerating climate change mitigation measures. This initiative reflects the government's continued commitment to integrating climate considerations into national planning and development. It is expected to make a significant contribution to Bangladesh's long-term sustainability and socio-economic resilience. Officials have expressed hope that the program will pave the way for more inclusive and climate-conscious policy reforms across various sectors.

U.S. SC allows Trump administration to deport immigrants to "third countries"

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Washington, June 24

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday lifted limits on the Trump administration's deportation of immigrants to "third countries." The conservative-dominated Supreme Court's 6-3 ruling came in a legal dispute over the Trump administration's efforts to swiftly deport immigrants to countries other than their own. The three liberal justices on the court all dissented, with Justice Sonia Sotomayor warning that "In matters of life and death, it is best to proceed with caution. In this case, the Government took the opposite approach." The Trump administration applauded the Supreme Court's decision. Tricia McLaughlin, assistant secretary for Public Affairs in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), noted in a statement that the ruling is "a victory for the safety and security of the American people."

"DHS can now execute its lawful authority and remove illegal aliens to a country willing to accept them," she added, saying: "Fire up the deportation planes." In a ruling on April 18, Boston-based U.S. District Judge Brian Murphy, an appointee of former U.S. President Joe Biden, barred officials from deporting people to countries other than their own without first giving them sufficient time to object. The Trump administration asked the Supreme Court last month to pause Murphy's injunction. U.S. Solicitor General D. John Sauer, who represents the federal government in Supreme Court cases, accused the district court of stalling the Trump administration's efforts to deport "some of the worst of the worst illegal aliens." The three liberal justices on the court all dissented, with Justice Sonia Sotomayor warning that "In matters of life and death, it is best to proceed with caution. In this case, the Government took the opposite approach."

German Chancellor Merz hopes Israel-US strikes will put a stop to Iran's nuclear weapons ambitions

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Jerusalem, June 23

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz expressed hope that the Israeli and US strikes against Iran would permanently dissuade Tehran from pursuing its goals for nuclear weapons. "Not only Israel, but also Europe and the world as a whole are threatened by this Iranian nuclear programme," Merz told lawmakers in the Bundestag lower house of parliament, the Times of Israel reported. Speaking ahead of a NATO summit in The Hague this week, Merz warned that the conflict with Iran must not



be allowed to plunge the region into war and said Berlin is making all possible diplomatic efforts to that end. Germany has been one of the most vocal opponents of the Iranian regime and its nuclear ambitions, openly

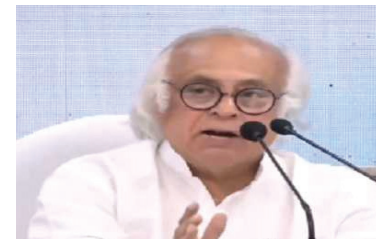
supporting Tel Aviv's actions against Tehran, including the US strikes on Iran's three key nuclear facilities. "There is no reason for us to criticise what Israel started in Iran a week ago, nor is there any reason to criticise what America did there last weekend," he posted on X on Monday afternoon, repeating comments he made at the event. "It's not without risk. But leaving things as they were wasn't an option either." He had also praised Israel's June 13 attacks on Iran, stating that Tel Aviv was doing everyone's "dirty work" in its attacks against the Islamic Republic.

Jairam Ramesh slams PM Modi's 'silence' on Gaza

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 24

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh today criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for maintaining "deafening silence" on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Referring to US President Donald

Trump's announcement of a ceasefire in the US-Israel conflict with Iran, Ramesh stated that no such ceasefire has been extended to Palestinians in Gaza, where he alleged that Israel's "genocide continues unabated." "President Trump has announced a ceasefire in relation to the US-Israel war on Iran. But there is still no ceasefire in Gaza where the Israel genocide continues unabated," the Rajya Sabha MP said in a post on social media platform X. He further added, "Prime Minister



Modi's silence on this catastrophe that has overtaken the Palestinians for well over eighteen months is deafening and has diminished India's moral and political standing".

Israeli PM says IDF successfully eliminated Iranian nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Jerusalem, June 24

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Tuesday that Israel had achieved all its military objectives prior to its ceasefire with Iran. He claimed that the elimination of both Tehran's nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities - which were Tel Aviv's prime objectives - were achieved, and thanked US President Donald Trump for his support, reports Iran International. In a statement issued by the Israeli government, Netanyahu said that attacks on Iran had successfully neutralised what he called a "dual immedi-

ate existential threat" to Israel. He labelled the offensive - codenamed Operation Rising Lion - "a historical success", adding that Israel had now "placed itself in line with the great powers of the world." According to the statement, the Israeli military has gained full air control over Tehran's skies, inflicted severe damage on Iran's military leadership, and struck dozens of government targets in and around the Iranian capital. The attacks, as per the statement, resulted in the deaths of hundreds of Basij operatives, identified by Israel as part of Iran's internal security appa-

ratus, as well as the killing of several Iranian nuclear scientists. Israel did not provide independent evidence to support the scale of the alleged damage. The Israeli government also said that the operation was carried out in coordination with Trump and concluded with a mutual ceasefire agreement, proposed by the US president. "Israel thanks President Trump and the United States for their support in defence and their participation in eliminating the Iranian nuclear threat," the statement read. Netanyahu is expected to deliver a formal address later in the day.



UNDERSTATING BRAIN TUMOURS

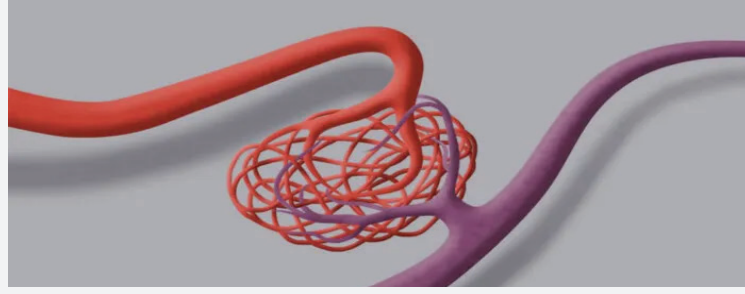


By Dr. Rohit Bansal

When we hear the words "brain tumour," it often brings a very grim image to mind. However, the reality is that many brain tumours can be successfully treated if diagnosed early. There is still a lack of awareness among the public about the symptoms and available treatment options for brain tumours. This Brain Tumour Day gives us an opportunity to spread awareness

and educate people about the advancements in treatment.

A brain tumour refers to any abnormal growth or mass in the brain. It can be either benign (non-cancerous) or malignant (cancerous). Benign tumours do not spread and are usually curable, while malignant tumours can grow rapidly, spread to other parts, and may return even after treatment. The location of the tumour plays a major role in determining the outcome of treatment. To know the exact nature of the tumour, doctors need to examine a sample of the tissue under a microscope, which is done through a biopsy. Often, the biopsy is performed along with the removal of the tumour in the same surgery. The approach to



surgery can be open, minimally invasive, or endoscopic, depending on where the tumour is located in the brain.

In recent years, brain surgeries have become much safer and more precise due to technological advancements. Tools like neuro-navigation, intraoperative nerve monitoring, high-resolution micro-

scopes, and robotic assistance have improved outcomes significantly. Neuronavigation helps guide the surgeon in real-time during the operation, allowing for safer and more complete tumour removal. Intraoperative nerve monitoring helps prevent damage to important nerves during surgery, while microscopes offer a clearer view

of delicate areas in the brain.

Brain tumours can present a range of symptoms such as early morning headaches, blurring of vision, vomiting that brings temporary relief from headache, changes in vision, hearing problems, difficulty walking, weakness on one side of the body, and seizures. Early diagnosis using MRI and PET CT scans can significantly improve the chances of a successful outcome. Once the tumour is surgically removed, the next steps depend on the biopsy report. If the tumour is benign, no further treatment may be needed. However, if the tumour is malignant, the patient may require additional treatment such as chemotherapy or radiotherapy. In some cases,

repeat surgeries may also be necessary.

With the help of modern technology, brain tumour surgeries have become safer and more effective. Today, most patients recover well and are discharged within 4-5 days of surgery. The key to success lies in early detection and timely medical attention. On this Brain Tumour Day, let us focus on increasing awareness, encouraging early check-ups, and supporting complete and effective treatment for those affected.

Author is Associate Director – Neuro Surgery & Neuro Spine, BLK-Max Super Speciality Hospital, Delhi. He can be mailed at mridul.cnr@gmail.com

Director inaugurates newly constructed Medical Unit at NIT Srinagar

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, June 24: Director National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia on Tuesday inaugurated a newly constructed Medical Unit on the campus aimed at providing enhanced healthcare services to students, faculty, and staff on campus.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman, Dean Planning and Development Dr. Yashwant Mehta, Medical Officer Dr. Gawher Nabi, Executive Engineer Dr. Syed Mohsin, AR (Director's Office & Legal) Mohammad Hazik, Dental Surgeon Dr. Urnaib Riyaz, Dr. Tasaduq Nazk (Physiotherapist), Mohammad Abrar Khan (Sr Pharmacist), Mr. Fairuz Malla (Counsellor), and several other faculty and staff members. The newly constructed two-storey health centre is equipped with comprehensive medical services, including a Medical Officer, Dental Surgeon, Physiotherapist, X-ray Technician, Lab Technician, a state-of-the-art diagnostic laboratory, a counselling cell, and two ambulances. Built under the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) grant at a total cost of 5.8 crore, the project commenced on August 26, 2022, and was completed on May 15, 2025. Following the formal inauguration, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia inspected all the facilities, including the OPD section, dental clinic, physiotherapy wing, diagnostic lab, and counselling area. He

interacted with the medical staff and reviewed the infrastructure and operational arrangements.

Director NIT Srinagar Prof. Kanaujia appreciated the quality of work and called for regular monitoring, maintenance, and a robust feedback mechanism from students to ensure that the facility remains efficient and responsive to evolving healthcare needs.

He also stressed the importance of health awareness and preventive care within the campus community.

Speaking at the occasion, Prof. Kanaujia said this upgraded medical unit is a significant addition to the institute's infrastructure and will help ensure timely and quality medical care on campus.

"It reflects our unwavering commitment to the well-being of our students, faculty, and staff. Good health forms the foundation of strong academic performance," he added. Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman said the newly inaugurated health centre is a significant milestone in the institute's journey toward strengthening campus infrastructure. "This facility reflects our commitment to building a campus where health and education go hand in hand. A strong academic institution must also have strong support systems and this health centre is a vital part of that vision," he said. Prof. Rehman expressed gratitude to the Ministry for its continued support. This medical unit, funded under the EWS grant, is not just a building; it's an assurance of care, safety,

Dr Tasaduk honored with Global Recognition Award

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, JUNE 24: Kashmiri doctor and columnist Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo has been honored with a prestigious Global Recognition Award for his exceptional contributions to healthcare, medical education, and public health awareness in Jammu & Kashmir and beyond.

The award was conferred to Dr Itoo for his extensive academic achievements, including medical writing, research and academic leadership, mentorship, patient care and guidance, with affiliations at leading organizations such as the American College of Physicians (USA), Royal College of Physicians of London and Edinburgh, Endocrine Society (USA) and the International Diabetes Federation, where he holds the distinguished title of IDF Fellow.

The Global Recognition Awards is a prestigious awards program that aims to recognize businesses and individuals worldwide for their excellence in their respective fields.

Healthcare awards celebrate excellence, innovation, and leadership, acknowledging the remarkable efforts contributing to global health and well-being. Applicants are graded on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being minimal and 5 being exceptional or world-class.

Patient-Centered Healthcare Innovation

Medical excellence manifests through Dr. Itoo's comprehensive patient guidance and education initiative, which provides targeted screening, prevention, and treatment support while maintaining accessibility for underserved populations. Strategic imple-

mentation of free online consultations has revolutionized healthcare delivery throughout South Kashmir, breaking down traditional barriers to medical access while establishing new standards for patient care. Local commu-

nities now benefit from specialized diabetes education programs that address critical health challenges through personalized support systems and evidence-based information delivery.

Healthcare practitioners across the region have begun adopting Dr. Itoo's successful models, emphasizing practical solutions alongside clinical excellence to maximize patient outcomes. Measurable improvements in community health indicators demonstrate the effectiveness of his methodical approach to healthcare delivery, which prioritizes immediate care needs and long-term health maintenance. Regional medical facilities have documented significant positive changes in patient engagement and treatment compliance after implementing pro-



grams based on his innovative frameworks. Professional recognition stems from Dr. Itoo's substantial body of published work, which includes hundreds of

scientific standards. Strategic partnerships with academic institutions have expanded the reach of his educational initiatives, creating sustainable channels for medical knowledge transfer across multiple platforms and audiences. Professional development programs designed under his leadership continue to shape medical communication practices throughout the region.

Final Words

Professional excellence characterizes every aspect of Dr. Itoo's contributions to healthcare, from innovative clinical practices to ground-breaking educational initiatives that set new standards for medical practice. Meaningful improvements in healthcare delivery and medical education demonstrate the lasting value of his comprehensive approach to healthcare transformation, which emphasizes practical implementation alongside theoretical advancement. Recognition through this award acknowledges his exceptional ability to create positive change while maintaining the highest professional standards. Leadership qualities displayed throughout Dr. Itoo's career exemplify the standards the Global Recognition Awards celebrated, particularly his ability to implement effective solutions while inspiring others toward excellence. Medical professionals throughout the region continue to build upon his foundational work, extending the impact of his innovations far beyond their original scope. Future generations of healthcare providers will benefit from the systematic improvements he has introduced to clinical practice and medical education.

Police organizes anti-drugs awareness rally in Handwara

HT NEWS DESK

Handwara June 24: As part of its continued efforts to eradicate the menace of drug abuse and promote a drug-free society, Police in Handwara organized a significant Anti-Drugs Awareness Rally at Qalamabad Main Market. The initiative was aimed at spreading awareness, particularly among the youth, about the harmful consequences of drug addiction and the collective responsibility of society to counter this growing threat.

The rally saw active participation from students of Higher Secondary School Qalamabad and Madrasa Qasim-ul-Uloom

Shirhama, who marched through the bustling market streets carrying placards, banners, and raising slogans that called for unity against drug abuse. Their presence and enthusiasm added energy to the campaign and drew the attention of shopkeepers, pedestrians, and passersby.

Senior officers from Handwara Police, along with teachers and local dignitaries, were also present to lend support and motivation to the participants. The rally served not only as an awareness campaign but also as a message of solidarity and vigilance against the growing drug menace in society. While addressing the gathering, police officials emphasized the importance of

community participation in combating drug addiction, highlighting that enforcement alone is not enough. They stressed the critical role of parents, educators, religious leaders, and civil society in guiding the younger generation and identifying early signs of drug involvement.

The event was well-received by the local populace, who appreciated the initiative and assured cooperation in future awareness and enforcement campaigns. The rally concluded peacefully and successfully, reinforcing the commitment of Police towards safeguarding the future of the youth and building a drug-free community.

DHS reviews status of ABHIM works in District Ramban

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JUNE 24: Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar today visited District Hospital Ramban and Sub District Hospital (SDH) Banihal to review the status of work taken up under Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (ABHIM).

A Central government initiative, the ABHIM aims to strengthen the healthcare system, focusing on primary, secondary, and tertiary care, and building resil-




ience against future pandemics. The DHS inspected ongoing work of District Integrated Pub-

lic Health Lab at District Hospital Ramban and the status of Block Public Health Unit at SDH

Banihal. Meanwhile, Dy. Director Dentistry Dr. Sanjay Sharma reviewed the work of Critical Care Block at DH Poonch under ABHIM. A Central government initiative, the ABHIM aims to strengthen the healthcare system, focusing on primary, secondary, and tertiary care, and building resilience against future pandemics.

The DHS inspected ongoing work of District Integrated Public Health Lab at District Hospital Ramban and the status of Block Public Health Unit at SDH Banihal.



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Pant Gets Demerit Point for Dissent



■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI: India wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant has been handed an official reprimand for breaching Level 1 of the ICC Code of Conduct during the Headingley Test. In addition, one demerit point has been added to Pant's disciplinary record, for whom it was the first offence in 24 months.

The ICC found that Pant had breached Article 2.8 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to "showing dissent at an Umpire's decision during an International Match." The incident had occurred in the 61st over of England's first innings when Pant was having a discussion with the umpires regarding the condition of the ball, while Ben Stokes and Harry Brook were at the crease.

"When the umpires refused to change the ball after checking it with the ball gauge, the wicketkeeper showed his dissent by throwing the ball on the ground in front of the umpires," the ICC release said. Pant admitted to the offence and accepted the sanction imposed by match referee Richie Richardson, after the charges were brought in by on-field umpires Chris Gaffaney and Paul Reiffel.

The first Test of the series is poised nicely for the last day, with England set a target of 371. They were 21 for 0 after the fourth day, with openers Ben Duckett and Zak Crawley at the crease.

Duckett century powers England to stunning five-wicket victory over India in Leeds Test

■ **United News of India**

LEEDS: A century by Ben Duckett lifted England to a stunning five-wicket victory against India on Day 5 of the Headingley Test in Leeds on Tuesday. Chasing 371, England finished at 373/5 with Joe Root unbeaten on 53 and Jamie Smith not out on 44. The duo put on an unbroken 71 for the sixth wicket after England were in a spot of bother at 302/5.

It was England's second-highest successful run chase in Test history.

Earlier, Duckett's ton put England 101 runs from victory India when tea was reached at 269-4. Duckett made 149 off 170 balls having hit 21 boundaries and an audacious reverse-swept six off spinner Ravindra Jadeja.

Duckett and fellow opener Zak Crawley laid a brilliant platform of



188 — more than half of England's required chase — but were among the four wickets to fall in the afternoon that kept India hopeful.

In the middle were Joe Root on 34 and captain Ben Stokes on 13.

After a perfect morning for England, in which Duckett and Crawley

took the score to 117-0, Duckett finally looked vulnerable after lunch, which started in drizzle.

He edged Mohammed Siraj on 82 through a vacant first slip, and was dropped on 97 by a diving Yashasvi Jaiswal, angering Siraj. That was Jaiswal's third drop of the match.

Jay Shah Honest and Fair: Ganguly

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI: Reflecting on his eventful tenure as BCCI President, Sourav Ganguly has revealed that he expected a "certain kind of toughness and stubbornness" from the then Board secretary and current ICC chairman Jay Shah but was left impressed with his "honesty" and resolve to do things "properly".

Ganguly and Shah were colleagues at the world's richest cricket board from October 2019 to September 2022, navigating a tumultuous phase caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought sporting activity to a grinding halt for few months.

"He (Jay) had his own way of doing things but the best thing about him was he wanted to do things properly for Indian cricket," Ganguly told PTI in an exclusive interview at his resi-



dence in Kolkata.

"See, he had the power, the support, so you expected certain kind of toughness, stubbornness from him but he would do things for Indian cricket," the iconic former captain explained, referring to Shah's status of being the son of Home Minister Amit Shah.

It was the first time that both Ganguly and Shah held BCCI positions.

Before that, Ganguly had headed the Cricket Association of Bengal, while Shah was an office-bearer in

the Gujarat Cricket Association.

While Ganguly was replaced by another former Test player Roger Binny in 2022, Shah continued as BCCI secretary till November 2024 before taking over as the youngest ever ICC chairman at 36 years of age.

Asked about how the power dynamics and relationship was between the scion of a political family and a celebrated cricket star, Ganguly said they shared a cordial equation which has continued to this date.

"Relationship was very good. It's still very good. When he came in September 2019. He was a young boy, straight from Gujarat CA, very cooperative, approachable," he recalled.

"Obviously, he had opinions and rightfully so, he wanted to do things and still does, he is the ICC chairman and it is a bigger post."

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