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Glaciers worldwide lose 32.5 MWE thickness in 74 years

From +5.392 MWE in 1950, value reduced to -27.123 MWE in 2024, reveals WMO report

■ HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUN 27: A report compiled by World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has revealed that the glaciers globally have lost a significant amount of ice in the past over seven decades.

The WMO report accessed by the newsagency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) states the glaciers monitored by

GLOBAL WARMING IMPACT

World Glacier Monitoring Service (WGMS) are losing sheer at a rapid pace.

The figures reveal that the value has reduced to +5.392 in 1950 to -27.123 in 2024. "The shift from +5.392 to -27.123 Meters Water Equivalent (MWE) indicates that the glaciers

worldwide have lost about 32.5 MWE thickness on average during the last 74 years," the report states.

As per the WGMS, the period 2022 to 2024 represents the most negative three-year glaciers mass balance on record. "Since 2022, the value of gla-

ciers has shifted from -24.794 to -27.123 in 2024," the report reveals.

This net loss of glacier mass is a clear sign that glaciers are melting significantly globally.

The loss of glaciers, according to the experts, is the outcome of climate change, particularly global warming, which increases melting and reduces snowfall accumulation.

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Youth Are Our Hope For A Brighter Future: LG Sinha

LG Interacts with NCC Cadets at Special National Integration Camp at Srinagar

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha interacted with National Cadet Corps (NCC) Cadets at the Special National Integration Camp, today at Chinar Auditorium, Badami Bagh Cantt, Srinagar.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor commended the NCC Directorate, J&K and Ladakh, Headquarters 15 Corps and Headquarters 31 Sub Area for organising Special National Integration Camp to provide an opportunity to expose youth from various parts of the country



to the rich culture and traditions of J&K in diversity. and present inspiring example of unity

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



National Cadet Corps shapes young minds and proudly serves society and the nation. NCC cadets have displayed courage and novel approach to challenges to societal progress. Priceless values like discipline, team work, leadership and dedication have helped the NCC cadets to build a better future," the Lieutenant Governor said.

CM Omar Seeks United Push to Revive J&K Tourism

Addresses FICCI's 'J&K Tourism Revival Dialogue' at SKICC

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today said that it is the collective duty of the government and tourism stakeholders to restore Jammu and Kashmir's position as the country's pre-eminent tourist destination and ensure it remains so.

The Chief Minister was addressing the 'Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Revival Dialogue' organized jointly by FICCI and the Department of Tourism, J&K at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar.

"It is binding on us that we do everything in our power to ensure that Jammu and Kashmir goes back to its position as the pre-eminent tourist destination in the country and then stays there," the Chief Minister said in his address, highlighting that the government is working on new initiatives focused primarily on improving the overall tourist experience.

Reflecting on the recent challenges, the Chief Minister recounted the sharp contrast between the optimism of April 21 and the downturn of April 22, referring to a sudden drop in tourist



footfall following the unfortunate incident. "From flying over Dal Lake and seeing hundreds of shikaras to seeing none just days later—it was a brutal reminder that the past can intrude into our present and, God forbid, our future," he said. He acknowledged the volatility that tourism in J&K has witnessed over the decades

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India Rejects Court Ruling on J&K Hydro Projects

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUN 27: Rejecting the ruling by a Court of Arbitration that issued a "supplemental award" regarding the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects in Jammu and Kashmir, India on Friday said that the tribunal has no legal authority to intervene.

Both the hydel projects, according to the

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

CS Assesses Progress On Highway Projects Across JK

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUNE 24: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting regarding progress on various National Highway projects being executed across J&K.

Those who attended the meeting included Principal Secretary, APD; Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Secretary, PWD; CE, R&B (Central Kashmir); CE, R&B

TURN ON.....PAGE 02



CS calls gap analysis to ensure smooth rollout of VVP

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today reviewed implementation of the Vibrant Villages Programme

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Landmark Relief for Crash Victims Under J&K Fund Rules

■ HT News Desk

JAMMU, JUNE 27: In a historic and unprecedented step towards providing timely relief to road accident victims, the proactive approach of the Deputy Commissioner Jammu, in coordination with the initiative of the Regional Transport Officer, Jammu and with the cooperation of the Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Jammu and Chief Medical Officer Jammu, has resulted in a major breakthrough under the J&K Road Accident Victim Fund Rules, 2022.

Over the last three months, a total amount of ₹50,50,000 has been successfully credited directly into the bank accounts of the legal heirs of deceased and injured persons in road accidents across the Jammu district.

In all 47 death cases have been settled, with an amount of ₹1,00,000 credited to each legal heir, amounting to ₹47,00,000.10 injured persons have received compensation based on the severity of injuries i.e ₹75,000 for severe injuries, ₹50,000 for moderate

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Amarnath Yatra 2025

Travel in convoys, follow cut off timings: IGP Birdi to pilgrims

Says security arrangements strengthened along Baltal, Pahalgam tracks

■ HT News Desk

GANDERBAL, JUN 27: Urging Amarnath Yatri to travel in convoys for their safety and convenience, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, V K Birdi on Friday said that all the arrangements have been put in place for the safe and smooth conduct of the annual pilgrimage slated to commence on July 3.

Talking to reporters here, IGP Birdi, said,



"Police have strengthened security arrangements along Baltal and Pahalgam tracks to ensure smooth movement of pilgrims."

He said, "Proper security arrangements have been made at both tracks, as they are both essential. The Baltal Axis has detailed measures in place to make the journey safe and smooth for devotees," he said.

TURN ON.....PAGE 02

95% Cyber Frauds in J&K Are Financial Scams: SSP

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUN 27: Amid a concerning rise in digital frauds across Jammu and Kashmir, Senior Superintendent of Police (Cyber) Mohd Yaseen Kichloo, who also heads the Cybercrime Investigation Centre for Excellence (CICE), warned on Friday that 95 percent of reported cybercrime cases involve financial scams, while 12 percent are related to child exploitation and sextortion. He cautioned that cybercriminals are employing increasingly sophisticated methods to target the public.

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Day 02: Op BIHALI continues in Udhampur

■ HT News Desk

JAMMU, JUN 27: The anti-terror operation BIHALI, which resulted in the killing of a Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorist in the forested region of Basantgarh, Udhampur district, has entered its second day. Security forces have intensified their search and cordon efforts to apprehend or eliminate remaining terrorists believed to be hiding in the area.

Launched after specific intelligence inputs, the operation targeted a group of

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TATTOO REMOVAL

Sakeena Itoo lays foundation stone of main building, administrative block of GDC Chadoora

HT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, JUNE 27: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo laid the foundation stone of main building and administrative block of Government Degree College (GDC) Chadoora here today.

MLA, Chadoora, Ali Mohammad Dar, Director Social Welfare Kashmir, Director Health Services Kashmir, Director Colleges, Director Family Welfare and Immunization, Director AYUSH, Principal GDC Chadoora, faculty members of college and large number of locals were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Education Minister emphasized on the government's unwavering commitment to empowering youth through accessible and quality education. "This institution will not just be a building of bricks and mortar, but a beacon of knowledge, opportunity and progress for the youth of Chadoora and adjoining areas", she stated.



The Minister also announced that in coming days a bus will be provided to the college for the convenience of students.

Sakeena Itoo said that with the sincere efforts of our Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, education system across Jammu and Kashmir is taking a positive shape. She added that it is resolve of our government that Educational institutions should reach every village and every corner of our society.

"After the formation of this popular government, numerous languishing projects have been made functional while work on others has been fast-tracked", she highlighted.

Minister further highlighted that the progress we have seen in the past few months is a reflection of the government's dedication to inclusive growth and grassroots development.

Outlining some key achievements of the government in recent months, the Minister said that the Government increased the Old age pension

as well as marriage assistance for the sisters of J&K. She added that free electricity of 200 units and free ration of 10 kgs for deserving families is also being provided.

The Minister added that for the empowerment of women folk, free transport in government owned buses is being provided for our sisters.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Chadoora, Ali Mohammad Dar expressed gratitude to the Minister for his constant support and assistance to the people of Chadoora constituency. He added that with the establishment of this college, a long pending demand of locals has been fulfilled as the college was functioning in pre-fabricated huts.

On the occasion, Sakeena Itoo also interacted with several public delegations and individuals, who apprised the Minister about various issues and problems faced by them.

While interacting with them, the Minister assured them that their genuine issues and concerns will be addressed promptly.

Chairperson DDC Ganderbal inspects developmental works in Lar-B Constituency

HT NEWS DESK

GANDERBAL, JUNE 27: Chairperson, District Development Council (DDC) Ganderbal, Nuzhat Ishfaq carried out an extensive field visit across various areas of the Lar-B Territorial Constituency in Ganderbal to review the progress of ongoing development projects and to listen to public grievances on the ground. She was accompanied by officers and officials from different government departments. The visit was aimed at identifying gaps in infrastructure, understanding public service issues firsthand, and ensuring faster resolution through coordinated efforts among departments. DDC Chairperson inspected the road infrastructure, health sector, food and supplies center, sanitation, canal, and tourism development and other major sectors. During the visit, Chairperson first inspected the road adjacent to Jamia Ahle Hadith Masjid, where locals demanded the construction of a road link from the bypass to Diwan Bagh. As sufficient land is reportedly available, she



directed the RDD and R&B department to take up the matter for necessary action. Inspecting the graveyard at Astan Sayyid Yaqub Qasim, she noted that the protective grill fencing was damaged and required urgent repairs. She assigned the responsibility to the Block Development Officer (BDO) Lar to take up the matter promptly. Sanitation issues near the Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Lar were also brought to her notice. BDO Lar was directed to immediately get the area cleaned and ensure long-term maintenance. While inspecting the Primary Health Centre Lar, Chairperson Nuzhat Ishfaq appreciated the

center's ongoing efforts but acknowledged the need for additional paramedical staff and an X-ray technician for better health facilities to the patients. She emphasized the need for increased integration of ASHA workers at the PHC to ensure better maternal care services at the grassroots level. She also visited the public park, and the BDO was instructed to develop it further with children's play areas and community seating arrangements. Chairperson then visited the Fodder Station at Lar, which is also the proposed site for the upcoming District Veterinary Hospital. She noted that the development of the dipping vat required an adequate water.

Labour Commissioner reviews Labour Law implementation at Shopian

HT NEWS DESK



SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: In a significant move to bolster the enforcement of labour laws in the Union Territory, Labour Commissioner, Jammu and Kashmir, S. Charandeep Singh, today undertook an official visit to Shopian district, where he chaired a comprehensive review meeting with the district administration and executive agencies.

The meeting was held at the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat Shopian and witnessed participation from Dr. Nasir Ahmad, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, along with Executive Engineers, Block Development Officers (BDOs), and Senior Officers from the Works and Labour Departments.

The primary agenda of the meeting was to strengthen inter-departmental coordination to ensure strict compliance with labour laws across all sectors.

Labour Commissioner laid particular emphasis on the mandatory registration of Executive Engineers as Principal Employers under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970.

He also directed officers to ensure that all contractors engaged in government and private works are duly registered with the Labour department. This, he said, is essential to safeguarding the rights of workers particularly regarding timely payment of wages, occupational safety and health standards, and overall worker welfare.

Later in the day, Labour Commissioner visited various project sites in the district. At Allowpora Shopian, he inspected the under-construction bridge and a construction site for migrants.

DC Srinagar inspects different offices in DC Office Complex

DC Srinagar inspects different offices in DC Office Complex

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: In order to take stock of functioning & infrastructure of various sections of DC Office complex, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Friday inspected various sections and sub-offices of DC Office, Srinagar. The visit focused on taking stock of available facilities, existing infrastructure and the existing need to enhance administrative efficiency by upgrading infrastructure, streamlining record rooms, IT infrastructure, as well as ensuring adequate amenities and accessibility to the public. DC inspected the offices of Additional District Development Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioners, Chief Planning Officer,



Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Nazool, SDM East, Tehsil Office South, besides other subordinate Offices. During the visit, DC interacted with the officers and other officials and emphasized the paramount importance of transparency, accountability, and efficiency in public service delivery. He stressed the

need for adopting best work ethics and urged the staff to work with a proactive approach while addressing public issues and grievances. Labroo stressed the significance of maintaining cleanliness, organized office spaces and adhering to established protocols. While inspecting the Revenue Record room, DC emphasized proper main-

tenance of the records in an organized manner and its simultaneous digitisation. He also stressed on ensuring better facilities for the people visiting the DC office Complex and laid stress on creating a comfortable and welcoming space for visitors to access services and address their grievances. DC also stressed the importance of creating a user-friendly environment within the office, particularly for those seeking assistance or redressal of issues. During the visit, DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioners, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz and Aadil Fareed; Chief Planning Office, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar; Tehsildar South and other concerned.

DEO Kupwara holds meeting with Political Parties on polling station rationalisation

KUPWARA, JUNE 27: District Election Officer (DEO) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting with officers, representatives of various political parties to discuss key electoral matters, particularly the rationalisation of polling stations, as per the guidelines of the Election Commission of India (ECI).

During the meeting, all instructions and guidelines issued by the ECI were shared in detail with the participants. Representatives from political parties actively participated and shared their suggestions and concerns regarding the rationalisation process. Ayushi assured them that all their inputs have been duly noted and will

be considered in the final decision-making process. DEO reiterated the commitment to conduct free, fair, and transparent elections, ensuring the cooperation and confidence of all stakeholders. The meeting was attended by the Deputy District Election Officer Kupwara, Mumtaz Ahmad Pir; Returning Officers.

SDM Uri visits Kamalkote, Shahdara to review Muharram arrangements

HT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 27: In view of the ongoing Muharram observances, Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Uri, Shubhankar Pratyush, today conducted an extensive tour of Kamalkote, Shadara, and other adjoining areas where Muharram processions are scheduled to take place.

Accompanied by sectoral officers and officials from various departments, SDM reviewed the arrangements being put in place for the smooth and peaceful conduct of religious processions. He thoroughly inspected the designated routes and took stock of necessary facilities including traffic regulation, sanitation, drinking water, lighting, and medical aid.

During the visit, SDM also interacted with local residents and community representatives to assess their requirements and received feedback regarding preparations.

He assured the public that the administration is committed to ensuring all necessary arrangements are completed well in time, keeping in view the sanctity and significance of the holy month.

SDM instructed concerned departments to remain vigilant and proactive in their coordination to facilitate a hassle-free environment for the devotees. During the visit, SDM also interacted with local residents and community representatives to assess their requirements and received feedback regarding preparations.

He assured the public that the administration is committed to ensuring all necessary arrangements are completed well in time, keeping in view the sanctity and significance of the holy month.



Amazon India announces Prime Day 2025: Three Days, Great Deals, Big Savings from July 12-14

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, June 27: Amazon India today announced that Prime Day 2025 will be a first ever three-day celebration in India, running from 12:00 AM on July 12 to 11:59 PM on July 14, offering 72 hours of great deals, savings, new launches, and exclusive entertainment, all curated exclusively for Prime members. A spokesman of the company in a press release said that for the first time ever in India, Prime members will enjoy 24-hours extra to shop across top brands and small businesses alike, with access to exciting offers from leading partner banks. Customers can save big with 10 percent savings on payments using ICICI

Bank Credit & Debit cards, SBI Credit Cards and EMI transactions on ICICI Bank Credit Cards and SBI Credit Cards. This Prime Day, Prime members will get early access to thousands of new product launches from over 400 top Indian & global brands along with products by Small and Medium Businesses (SMBs). The three-day annual extravaganza will offer Prime members access to incredible shopping deals, blockbuster entertainment, savings, and much more! From Smartphones, TVs, Appliances, Fashion & Beauty, Groceries & Everyday Essentials, Amazon Devices, Home & Kitchen, Furniture to everyday essentials, and much more. Akshay Sahi, Director, Prime, Delivery and Returns, India and Emerging Markets, said

"From new launches and blockbuster entertainment, to great deals being delivered fast. Prime Day has always been about celebrating our members. This year, for the first time, we're extending Prime Day to three full days, giving our members even more time to discover the best of shopping, savings, and entertainment. We are really excited about the vast selection, new launches and great deals we have in store for our Prime members this Prime day." A sneak peek to Prime Day 2025 72 hours of shopping and saving: Starting 12:00 AM on July 12 until 11:59 PM on July 14 New launches and access to deals: This Prime Day, Prime members get access to thousands of new product launches from over 400 top Indian & global brands like

Harley Davidson, Samsung, Intel, OnePlus, iQOO, HP, Asus, Boat, Lenovo, Mokobara, American Tourister, Puma, Adidas, Libas, Van Heusen, Allen Solly, USPA, Borosil, Agaro, Atomberg, Crompton and many more. Prime members will get access to products from lakhs of sellers, manufacturers, start-ups & brands, women entrepreneurs, artisans, and weavers. Prime members can discover more than 1,600 new product launches from SMBs including Phool, Alpino, and Indigenous Honey — across home & kitchen, fashion, grooming, jewellery, handmade, and more. Get fast and free delivery: Prime members benefit from same-day delivery on over 10 lakh and Next-Day Delivery on over 40 lakh products orders across a wide selection of

from eye liners to baby products, to garden tools, to watches, phones and more. Use Amazon's generative AI-powered shopping assistant Rufus: The new AI-powered shopping assistant Rufus helps simplify decision-making by answering questions, comparing products, and offering tailored recommendations in real time. Save Big with Bank Offers: Prime members get 10% savings on payment using ICICI Bank Credit & Debit cards, SBI Credit Cards and EMI transactions on ICICI Bank Credit Cards and SBI Credit Cards. With the Amazon Pay ICICI Bank credit card, Prime members will get 5% cash back and an additional 5 percent instant discount on their shopping.



Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025..... Div Com, IGP Jammu interact with Civil Society Jammu, seek cooperation for smooth pilgrimage

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JUNE 27: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police, Bhim Sen Tuti, today held a meeting with prominent members of the civil society of Jammu to discuss the arrangements and seek their cooperation for smooth conduct of Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANJY) 2025, starting on July 2, 2025 from Yatri Niwas Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu.

The meeting attended by senior officials from Civil and Police administration and representatives of religious organizations transporters, Taxi Union, Traders, Bazaar associations, hoteliers, Sabhas was briefed about the elaborate arrangements and preparations made by the administration for the annual pilgrimage. The civil soci-



ety members gave their valuable insights and suggestions for a spiritually rich experience to the Yatris.

At the outset, the Divisional Commissioner highlighted the religious, spiritual, cultural and economic significance of Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025 and emphasized on the crucial role of all the stakeholders in ensuring a smooth and hassle free yatra experience to the pilgrims.

The Div Com informed the meeting that elaborate arrangements have been

made at Bhagwati Nagar yatra camp for the comfortable stay of pilgrims. "With adequate water, power supply, the Niwas has AC halls, Hangers for shade, community Langer, sanitation and modern washroom facilities. Similar arrangements have also been made at lodgment centres across the districts en-route the yatra right from Lakhampur in Kathua to Lamber, Banihal in Ramban," the Div Com said. The Civil Society members assured full cooperation to the administration from their end to make the yatra successful and

memorable for the local and non local pilgrims.

Stress was laid on giving wide publicity to Tawi Arti being organized during the yatra period, besides nearby sites and Tourist places for the information of the pilgrims arriving from different parts of the nation and the world.

The Div Com said that the pilgrims will be given full information by the Tourism department at their help desks established at RFID centres in Jammu and Lakhampur.

The civil society members gave numerous suggestions to make the yatra pleasant and hassle free including enhanced arrangements in view of monsoon, regulation of fares of three wheelers and cabs, encroachment free public spaces, erecting banners with information about the tourist spots.

Handwara Police Tightens Noose on Illegal Mining, Seizes 09 Tractors

DR.AB QAYOOM

Handwara, Jun, 27: In a decisive move to curb illegal mining and the unauthorized transportation of minerals, Handwara Police on Thursday seized 09 tractors from various locations across Police District Handwara. According to police officials, specific inputs were received regarding the illegal extraction and transportation of minerals being carried out in different areas. Acting swiftly, teams from various police stations under the jurisdiction of Police District Handwara launched coordinated enforcement drives. During these operations, the tractors were intercepted while transporting minerals without any valid documentation or permits, thereby violating



the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Minor Mineral Concession, Storage, Transportation of Minerals and Prevention of Illegal Mining Rules, 2016. Legal proceedings have

been initiated against the violators, and authorities have reiterated their firm stance against illegal mining practices in the region. A senior police officer stated that such operations

would continue in the coming days to safeguard natural resources and ensure environmental protection. "The Handwara Police is committed to protecting the region's ecological balance and upholding the rule of law. Strict legal action will be taken against anyone found involved in such unlawful activities," the officer added. The general public has also been urged to cooperate with law enforcement agencies by promptly reporting any suspicious or illegal mining activity to the nearest police station or through official communication channels. Authorities emphasized that community participation remains vital in combating environmental crimes and preserving the region's natural wealth.

JKSCERT-KD Hosts Conferences on Inclusive Classrooms and Bagless Learning to Advance NEP 2020 Goals

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, 27 June 2025 — The Jammu & Kashmir State Council of Educational Research and Training, Kashmir Division (JKSCERT-KD), is currently hosting two significant events each a stride toward realizing the vision set forth by the National Education Policy 2020 and fostering classrooms that are inclusive, engaging, and learner-centric. Both The programme have been graced with the esteemed endorsement of Revered Joint Director JKSCERT Central, Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor and Respected Joint Director Mr. Syed Shabir Ahmad (JKAS), both of whom continue to inspire with their deep reservoir of experiential learning and visionary guidance. A two-day conference on Behavioural Support and Classroom Management in Inclusive Settings is focusing on the evolving needs of inclusive education and the pressing demand for empathetic and structured classroom environments across schools. The conference is being organised by the Inclusive & Special Education Wing of JKSCERT-KD, under the able leadership of Respected Mtr. Shabina Roohi. While welcoming participants, she passionately remarked, "Inclusion is not a policy but a dignity, and its seamless execution is a must for creating safe learning spaces for students who often feel unwanted due to behavioural traits or challenges." She further added, "Let's inspire and motivate to create leaders in this meaningful initiative." Adding her voice to the dialogue, Mtr. Bilquees Fatimah, Senior Academic Officer, JKSCERT-KD, strongly advocated for inclusion at every level, stating, "We must prove ourselves as real change-makers, as envisioned by NEP 2020. Behaviour is not managed—it is supported." Mr. Mohammad Sultan Khan,



Incharge JKSCERT-KD, brought the discussion into practical focus by sharing real-life experiences and highlighting the critical contributions of SSA and Samagra Shiksha in promoting inclusive education. He noted, "Living in a techno-mechanical age is, in itself, a big challenge. Therefore, we must adopt a multi-dimensional approach while addressing learners' needs in our real classroom settings." The programme has been well-coordinated by Dr. Shaheena Akhter, Senior Academic Officer, JKSCERT-KD, whose thoughtful planning and dedicated efforts have ensured a smoothly conducted and meaningfully engaging conference. This two-day conference stands as a heartfelt stride toward reimagining classrooms as spaces of belonging, where every child regardless of challenge feels valued, supported, and empowered. With such dialogues taking root, JKSCERT-KD continues to lead the way toward an education system built on inclusion, empathy, and dignity. In alignment with the same progressive vision, JKSCERT-KD has also com-

menced a two-day capacity-building programme on the Implementation of 10 Bagless Days, being held at the JKSCERT-KD campus on June 27-28. Steered by the Art & Vocational Wing of the institution, this initiative aspires to further enrich experiential learning practices in schools and highlight the importance and timeliness of this initiative within the evolving educational landscape. Programme Coordinator Mr. Mohammad Latief Rather outlined the planned activities across the two days, emphasizing engagement and creativity beyond the textbook. Day one witnessed the enthusiastic participation of diverse stakeholders from the education field. Welcoming the gathering, Mr. Shakeel Ahmad, Academic Unit Head, expressed delight over the stakeholders' commitment to advancing meaningful learning. "NEP 2020 envisages the deep-rooted ethos of our education system, and we must connect with curiosity and creativity," he said. Gratefully acknowledging the presence of experts and participants, he noted, "School should not be a place of burden upon the fragile shoulders of young blooming buds, rather a place to thrive." Addressing the attendees, Mr. Mohammad Sultan Khan, affirmed that "bagless" doesn't imply distancing from learning, but rather embracing it without fear or pressure. He drew from personal experiences to illustrate how unburdening school days can foster natural curiosity and inventive expression among learners. This capacity-building programme is not just a step but a stride toward making learning more liberating and learner-centric. By integrating creativity, play, and purposeful activity into the classroom, JKSCERT-KD reaffirms its commitment to nurturing children who learn with joy, not under pressure.

IUST Signs MoU with UltraTech Cements, inaugurated Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Construction Materials

HT NEWS DESK

Awantipora, June 27 — The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UltraTech Cement, a flagship company of the Aditya Birla Group, marking a significant step towards enhancing industry-academia collaboration in the areas of skill development, innovation, and sustainable construction. The MoU signing ceremony presided by Prof. Shakil A Romshoo (Vice Chancellor IUST) was held at IUST



Campus III and was attended by key representatives from UltraTech Cement including Mr. Vivek Jain, Mr. Rahul Goel, Dr. Vijay Singh Rathore, Mr. Vipin Choudhary, and Mr. Rajesh Kumar. Prof. A.H. Moon (Dean Academics), Prof. Parvez A Mir (CEO, CIED IUST Foundation), Mr. Sameer Wazir (Finance

Officer), Dr. Ruheela Hassan (Dean Outreach), and coordinators of different CIED verticals. As part of the collaboration, two state-of-the-art facilities were inaugurated on the IUST campus: The Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Construction Materials and the FLIP Ideation Lab. These centres aim to

promote innovation, research, and upskilling in the domain of sustainable infrastructure and material science. Prof. Romshoo, reaffirmed the university's priority on skill development and sustainability. He said that through such partnerships, IUST aims to develop a disaster-conscious citizenry and encourage active participation of students from engineering and polytechnic backgrounds. Prof. Moon, highlighted the integration of skills and experiential learning under the National Credit Framework, and noted that IUST is among the first.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that I am applying for the registration of a Tour And Travel license under the name THE LASERJET Adventure Tour Operator , located at land mark Hotel Hill Top Gulmarg, District Baramulla, at the office of Assistant Director Tourism Gulmarg. If anyone has any objections regarding this matter, they may file their objection at the Department of Tourism office of the Assistant Director Tourism Gulmarg, within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. After this period, no objections will be entertained.

RAYEES AHMD MALIK
S/O AB RASHID MALIK
R/O KALANTRA PAYEEN, Kreeri, Baramulla.

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer WAGOORA) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of GURMEHAR KOUR D/O RAMANDEEP SINGH R/O MIRGUND NOWPORA JAGIR Tehsil BARAMULLA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 29/04/2022 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection . If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

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

Subject: Application for issuance of OBC certificate applicant GH QADIR SOFI S/O MOHD RAMZAN SOFI R/O SHEIKHPORA Tehsil KREERI in favour of FOZIA QADIR D/O GH QADIR SOFI R/O SHEIKHPORA 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 SHEIKHPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the SOFI community having annual income 793844// the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1..GH QADIR SOFI Father 61 years Pensioner
- 2..HAJRA BEGAM Mother 50 years Housewife
- 3...MANSOOR AHMAD Brother 30 years Govt employee
- 4..FOZIA QADIR self 24 years student

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 entertaine

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer WAGOORA) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of ZAYAN PARVAIZ S/O PARVAIZ AHMAD CHACK R/O BONIYAR Tehsil BONIYAR Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 27/04/2021 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order. In this connection . If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine

SAD DEMISE

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of my beloved aunt (Zamrooda, wife of Farooq Ahmad Nattoo, R/o Acha Bagh, Malla Bagh, Srinagar on June 27 2025 (1st Muharram 1447). Congregation for the fateh will be held on 29 June 2025 (Sunday) at their ancestral graveyard situated opposite RP Girls School, Malla Bagh at 10:30 am.



PUBLIC NOTICE

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is being informed that the name in my electricity bill having consumer number 0207010011166 is only mentioned as Mohd Lateef Wagay but actual name as per my aadhar card is Mohd Laterf Sheergojri s/o Abdul Wahab Sheergojri R/O Ruhoo Anantnag Now I want to update its name if anybody has queries they may contact pdd department we didn't 7 days

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sabir Ahmad Mir S/O Ghulam Hassan Mir, R/O Batakote, Pahalgam, hereby inform that I have lost my vollet with Aadhaar Card, PAN Card, ATM Card, and Department ID Card. On 25/06/2025 in way from home to anantnag If anyone finds these documents, kindly contact me at the address given above This notice is bei published as a record of the loss.

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

Subject: Application for issuance of OBC certificate applicant GH QADIR SOFI S/O MOHD RAMZAN SOFI R/O SHEIKHPORA Tehsil KREERI in favour of FOZIA QADIR D/O GH QADIR SOFI R/O SHEIKHPORA for the issuance of OBC (Other Backward class in his /her / their favor

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- 4..FOZIA QADIR self 24 years student

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 entertaine

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public and concerned authorities that in the records of my bank account number 0227040210000212, maintained at Singhpura Pattan Branch, my relationship has been mentioned as Daughter of Gh. Rasool Khanday. I have now legally updated my personal details, and I should be correctly identified as Wife of Mohd Yousuf Khanday, as per my marriage records. Therefore, I request the bank to kindly update its records accordingly. If anyone has any objections or queries regarding this correction, they may contact the branch office within seven (7) days from the date of this notice.

Musarrat Rasool
Address: Arampora Pattan, Jammu and Kashmir
Date: 27-06-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public and concerned authorities that my name has been incorrectly recorded as Imtiyaz Ahmad Malla in the records of my bank account number 0227040100012100, held at Singhpura Pattan Branch. My correct and official name, as per my school certificate and valid documents, is Imtiyaz Hussain Malla, resident of Arampora Pattan, Jammu and Kashmir. I kindly request the bank to update their records accordingly. If anyone has any objections or concerns regarding this change, they may contact the branch office or reach out to me within seven (7) days from the date of this notice.

Imtiyaz Hussain Malla
Date: 27-06-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat, resident of Badoora, Tehsil Kokernag, District Anantnag, hereby declare that the birth of my son, Mohammad Hidayatullah, born on 28-05-2017 at L.D. Hospital, Srinagar, was not registered at the time of birth. I am now applying for issuance of a birth certificate from the concerned municipal authorities. If anyone has any objection regarding this claim, they may contact the Office of the Registrar, Births and Deaths, within seven days from the date of this publication.





DAJGUA: Distt admin Pulwama conducts mega Awareness and Benefit Saturation Camp at Machama Tral

MLA Tral emphasises achieving full coverage of all govt. schemes and welfare programmes in tribal areas

■ HT NEWS DESK

PULWAMA, JUNE 27: Continuing its campaign under the nationwide flagship initiative Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), district administration Pulwama today organized a mega tribal outreach camp at Machama Tral.

The camp marked a significant step towards realising the vision of last-mile delivery of welfare services through a whole-of-government approach as envisioned by the Abhiyan, bringing together various Govt. departments such as Health, Education, Social Welfare, Rural Development, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Forest, Fisheries, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, and others under one umbrella.



On the occasion, each department had set up their dedicated stall focusing on achieving saturation in various government schemes such as PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, PM Ujjwala Yojana, PM Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, PM Vishwakarma Yojana, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Aadhaar enrolment,

Ayushman Bharat card registration, Kisan Credit Card issuance, and the distribution of domicile and caste certificates. The event was attended by Member of Legislative Assembly Tral, Rafiq Ahmad Naik, and DDC Member Tral, Dr. Harbaksh Singh. They interacted with the tribal community, listened to their concerns, and

acknowledged the importance of direct engagement in bridging service gaps.

MLA Tral also inspected the stalls set up by various line departments and reviewed their progress. While addressing the gathering, he emphasised the importance of achieving full coverage of all government schemes and welfare programmes in tribal areas, and instructed officials to ensure that benefits are delivered timely and effectively to all eligible beneficiaries.

A special health camp was also set up by the Health department. The camp offered sickle cell screening, active case finding for tuberculosis, and general health consultations. These efforts aimed at early detection, community awareness, and reducing health vulnerabilities in tribal populations.

IEC campaign under Dharti Aaba Abhiyan witnesses vibrant community participation across Anantnag

■ HT NEWS DESK

ANANTNAG, JUNE 27: Intensive Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gramin Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) continued today across district Anantnag, reaffirming the mission of holistic tribal empowerment and inclusive rural development.

Extensive awareness and benefit saturation camps were held at multiple locations across the district, drawing enthusiastic participation from residents. As part of this nation-wide initiative, the campaign is being systematically implemented across 33 Panchayats of Anantnag to ensure saturation of all flagship government schemes and services.

Various initiatives were taken under the Abhiyan, such as awareness sessions on DAJGUA objectives and impact, distribution of IEC materials by various departments, informative stalls by government departments showcasing welfare schemes, awareness drives on PMAY surveys and, scheme briefings by departments including Agriculture,



Horticulture, Health, ICDS, Social Welfare, Revenue, Sheep Husbandry, among others. The camps also facilitated interactive sessions between officials and community members, enabling real-time grievance redressal, identification of service delivery gaps, and fostering meaningful public engagement. Citizens appreciated the government's commitment to grassroots empowerment and pledged their active support and cooperation throughout the campaign period.

The campaign is being closely monitored by the District Development Commissioner Anantnag, with regular reviews to ensure effective implementation.

Awareness camp on PMFME scheme held at Moshwara Keller

■ HT NEWS DESK

SHOPIAN, JUNE 27: Continuing its outreach programme towards awareness about Prime Ministers Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme in district Shopian, department of Horticulture Planning & Marketing, Area marketing Office/DNO PMFME Shopian today organized fourth awareness programme on PMFME scheme at Moshwara Keller.

Potential individual entrepreneurs particularly members from FPOs and individuals of the block participated in the event. Officers/officials from Area Marketing office and line departments viz Agriculture and Horticulture Production departments attended the programme.

GMI Shopian addressed the gathering and presented an in-depth insight and potential scope of the scheme in the district particularly in Keller Block. Officers from line departments and KVK Shopian also deliberated on benefits of availing the scheme and also help the farmer community to curb post harvest losses in Horticulture and Agriculture sectors. Expressing the desire, some potential entrepreneurs were registered on spot. GMI Shopian shared the entire registration and documentation process with the participants.

HT - KASHMIR

DLIC approves 29 cases under Mission YUVA in Ganderbal

■ HT NEWS DESK

GANDERBAL, JUNE 27: The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) meeting under Mission YUVA was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, in the VC Room of the DC Office Ganderbal. At the outset, a detailed discussion was held regarding the applications received under the scheme. The committee deliberated upon the cases submitted through the

Skill and Business Development Unit (SBDU) and, after thorough scrutiny and evaluation, approved 29 cases unanimously for financial and institutional support under the Mission YUVA initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, DC highlighted the significance of Mission YUVA in empowering the youth through skill development, entrepreneurship promotion, and self-employment opportunities. He stressed the need for robust post-approval support and follow-up to ensure the sus-

tainable success of the approved units.

DC also directed the concerned departments to expedite the process of sanctioning, disbursing benefits, and extending all necessary handholding support to the beneficiaries in a time-bound manner.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat; Chief Planning Officer, Syed Shahnawaz Khan; Lead District Manager; Nodal Officer JKEDI and other concerned.

Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Abhiyan celebrates tribal unity and cultural diversity at Nilgrath Ganderbal

Multilingual cultural society comes alive through government outreach

■ HT NEWS DESK

GANDERBAL, JUNE 27: In a spirited celebration of unity in diversity, a dynamic and culturally rich IEC camp was organized today at Nilgrath, Block Gund, under the ongoing Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Abhiyan. The event emerged as a symbol of tribal solidarity, social empowerment, and the linguistic diversity that defines district Ganderbal.

The camp witnessed overwhelming participation from members of the Gujjar, Bakerwal, Shina, Balti, and Dard communities, reflecting the district's vibrant multilingual and multicultural society.

From traditional attire and dialects to folk songs and community narratives, the camp transformed into a living mosaic of tribal identity and heritage. Senior officials and resource persons from various line departments including Health, Education, Social Welfare, ICDS, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Rural Development took part in the outreach. They delivered targeted awareness on welfare schemes viz. PM-JANMAN, PM-JAY SEHAT, Mission Shakti, PMAY-G, livelihood programs under NRLM, and scholarship initiatives tailored for Scheduled Tribe (ST) beneficiaries. The resource persons passion-



ately articulated the objectives of the Dharti Aaba Abhiyan aiming at holistic tribal development, improved service delivery, and socio-economic inclusion.

Special focus was given to enabling tribal youth and women thorough access to education, health care, digital services, and entrepreneurship. Participants expressed deep appreciation to the Government of India and the district administration Ganderbal for bringing governance to their doorsteps.

Many community representatives called for more frequent camps to ensure regular engagement, policy awareness, and participatory development. The camp concluded with renewed commitment from both officials and citizens to carry forward the spirit of the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Abhiyan fostering inclusion, dignity, and development for all

tribal communities, while safeguarding their languages, customs, and collective identity. The camp witnessed overwhelming participation from members of the Gujjar, Bakerwal, Shina, Balti, and Dard communities, reflecting the district's vibrant multilingual and multicultural society.

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Bandipora secures 2nd Rank in North Zone under Aspirational Block Programme of Govt of India

■ HT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 27: In a significant milestone for grassroots development, District Bandipora has secured the 2nd rank in the North Zone under the prestigious Aspirational Block Programme (ABP) of NITI Aayog, Government of India.

This recognition reflects the district's effective governance, sustained developmental progress, and commitment to inclusive growth. Under this nationwide programme, Tulail Block of Bandipora was selected by the Government of India as the focal block for targeted interventions. Since its inclusion, focused efforts across key sectors such as health, education, agriculture, financial inclusion, and basic infrastructure have yielded measurable improvements.

The achievement has been made possible under the mentorship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, whose leadership and coordination have driven impactful results on the ground. Speaking on the occasion,

the DC said, "We are working with a clear mission to bring Bandipora to the number one position, ensuring 100% saturation under every development indicator." This recognition not only brings immense pride to the district but also makes Bandipora eligible for an award incentive of Rs.2.5 crore, which will be utilized to further strengthen development interventions, bridge service delivery gaps, and improve the quality of life for residents, particularly in aspirational and underserved blocks.

DC extended his gratitude to all departments, field functionaries, and community stakeholders whose collective efforts made this success possible. The recognition is not just a mark of past achievement but a motivation to continue driving holistic and inclusive progress in every corner of Bandipora. Aspirational Block Programme aims to improve governance and service delivery across key indicators such as Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Allied Services, Basic Infrastructure, and Social Development.

DLIC Kupwara Approves 24 Cases Under Mission YUVA Scheme

■ HT NEWS DESK

Kupwara, June 27: In a major step towards promoting youth entrepreneurship and self-employment in the district, the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) Kupwara today approved 24 cases under the Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan) scheme.

The meeting was held at the DC Office Kupwara under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan, and was chaired by the Nodal Officer, Mr. Sameer Jaan. The objective was to review and approve applications submitted by young aspiring entrepreneurs under the Mission YUVA initiative, which aims to provide financial assistance and capacity-building support to



youth for starting and sustaining their businesses.

Officers from the concerned departments presented a detailed review of the applications. After careful scrutiny and discussions, the Committee approved 24 eligible cases for further financial support and guidance. Speaking on the occasion, the Nodal

Officer highlighted the importance of Mission YUVA in empowering local youth and helping them build sustainable livelihoods. He emphasized the need for effective awareness campaigns and asked the District Employment & Counselling Centre Kupwara to reach out to more eligible youth and encourage their participation in the scheme.

The approval of these cases is expected to boost entrepreneurial spirit among youth and contribute to the overall economic development of the district.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Mr. Parvaiz Ahmad Lone, Assistant Director Employment Mr. Arshid Qadir Bhat, Lead District Manager (LDM), and other committee members.

MD KPDCL reviews progress of power arrangements for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025 at Baltal

■ HT NEWS DESK

GANDERBAL, JUNE 26: Managing Director (MD) Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), Mahmood Ahmad Shah accompanied by the Chief Engineer (Distribution) KPDCL, Er. Aqiba; Superintending Engineer O&M Circle Ganderbal, Er. Arshad Hussain Reshi, conducted an extensive review of the ongoing works and preparedness for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025 at Baltal.

During the on-ground review, MD took detailed stock of the power infrastructure being put in place and issued clear directives to field officers

to maintain interruption free (24x7) power supply throughout the Yatra period.

Superintending Engineer apprised that all requisite arrangements have been put in place for the Yatra, which is scheduled to commence on 3rd July 2025.

He briefed the MD on the illumination arrangements made along the Yatra Track and various locations at Baltal, Domail, Ranga-Morh, Y-Junction, Baltal - Domail Road, Govt and Security Tents/ Huts, Shrine Board offices, Langers, tented additional accommodations including the deployment of DG sets and portable Gensets of varying capacities. MD also inspected the recently com-



missioned underground electrical infrastructure for restoration of Grid connectivity from Rayil Pathri Km 5.00 upto Holy Cave including instal-

lation of DTs and octagonal lighting poles along the entire Yatra Track. It was informed that adequate fuel stocks are available at all sites, with

regular replenishment protocols in place. A sufficient number of buffer Distribution Transformers (DTs) and standby DG sets have also been stationed to meet any unforeseen contingencies.

MD also inspected the recently created Distribution Substations for newly developed infrastructural facilities and CRPF Camp at Baltal & installation of solar street lights at various locations including installation of 7 Mtr long Octagonal Lighting Poles at Pony Stand for additional Lighting Arrangements.

He appreciated the dedication and professionalism of the engineers and field staff working tirelessly, often in challenging terrain and adverse

weather conditions, to ensure seamless power arrangements for the Yatra. He emphasized that no stone must be left unturned in delivering efficient services to the pilgrims and assured that the management will remain fully supportive and responsive to the needs of the teams on the ground.

"This sacred Yatra is a matter of collective responsibility. KPDC will ensure that the power supply framework remains resilient, responsive, and fully equipped to serve the thousands of pilgrims undertaking the holy journey," MD stated, while reiterating his commitment to provide all necessary institutional support to field units.



HT EDITORIAL

Make marriage assistance scheme a vibrant scheme

A few days back the Minister for Social Welfare Sakeena Masood Itoo said that the union territory government is seriously contemplating dropping the education clause from the marriage assistance scheme announced for the poor girls. As on date the scheme envisages that any girl applying for the marriage assistance scheme should have at least passed the eighth class examination. The clause is somewhat absurd and it is not in tune with the overall benefits of the scheme.

The social welfare minister was quite right in her contention that there is no need to include the provision of education in the marriage assistance scheme that is in vogue in Jammu & Kashmir for some time now. Since the scheme has been launched for providing marriage assistance to the downtrodden girls there is no need to check the academic career of a girl aspiring to get married under this scheme. It is quite obvious that a girl getting married under this scheme would not have read too much.

Since the education expenses are very high in the modern times only that girl can get education whose family background is rich in financial matters and does not have to run from pillar to post in order to meet the educational expenses. The families that are not financially sound want their daughters to get married off at a young age and the education is the least preference for such families. In such a scenario attaching the education rider to the marriage assistance scheme is mind boggling and needs to be done away with.

When the scheme was launched it was envisaged that an amount of Rs. 50,000 would be given to the girls getting married under the marriage assistance scheme. With the passage of time a change was made in the financial grant aspect and as on date the amount being given is Rs. 75,000. As the expenses of the marriage in Jammu & Kashmir are huge the amount of Rs. 75,000 is also meagre and it needs to be enhanced to at least one lakh rupees.

It is the responsibility of the incumbent union territory government to provide every assistance to the girls getting married under the marriage assistance scheme. One can hope that the reform measures will be taken with respect to this scheme and it would cover all the basic things needed for the marriage of a girl. The sooner it is done the better it will be for the concerned families especially, girls.

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Labourers; The Unsung Heroes of Our Society



■ Altaf Hussain Peerzada

In the heart of every community, whether in a bustling city or a quiet village, there are people who work tirelessly with their hands and hearts—our labourers. Brick by brick, field by field, they build our homes, clean our streets, cultivate our crops, and shape our world. And yet, far too often, they are overlooked, mistreated, or taken for granted.

It is high time we remind ourselves of a basic yet powerful truth: labourers are human beings, just like us—with families, dreams, emotions, and responsibilities. They deserve not just our respect, but our love, encouragement, and support.

Heroes Under the Scorching Sun

These are not ordinary days. The scorching summer heat spares no one, and yet, labourers continue their duties under the open sun, often without proper shelter or rest. I have personally watched them work during these unbearable temperatures—with



enthusiasm, dedication, and discipline. It humbles me deeply. I feel like hugging them for their unmatched courage and sincerity.

Imagine working long hours under a brutal sun, drenched in sweat, clothes soaked, bodies exhausted, and yet, no complaint. Why? Because they have families waiting at home—mouths to feed, children to educate, and dreams to fulfill. Their sweat is sacred; it is the mark of honest, halal earning.

Let us not treat them as "labourers" in the way the word is sometimes

used to devalue or degrade. Let us treat them as family. Talk to them with kindness. Smile when you see them. Offer water or shade when possible. Ask how their day was. These little gestures cost us nothing but mean the world to them.

Do not scold or demean them, especially not for petty reasons. They work harder than most, and still face the risk of exploitation, disrespect, or delayed wages. Be the change. Pay them on time. Honour their work by honoring their worth.

Encourage them. Praise their

work. Share a word of appreciation. Let them know that their work matters, because it truly does. No building stands, no crop grows, no road stretches forward without the hand of a labourer behind it.

Allah Sees Everything

Remember, Allah is watching. The way we treat those who work for us reflects our character and our deed. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "Pay the worker his wages before his sweat dries." That is the standard of Islam. Let us not fall short of it.

Show mercy to those under you, and Allah will show mercy to you. Uplift them, support them, and make them feel human, honoured, and valued.

To all the labourers out there: You are our heroes. You inspire us with your strength, your resilience, and your unwavering commitment. We salute your hard work and pray for your health and happiness. May your hands that build the world be always blessed.

Let us all make a pledge—not just in words but in actions—to respect, support, and love our labourers. They deserve more than just wages—they deserve our heartfelt gratitude.

sdestiny.peerzada518@gmail.com

The Third Eye: Entering the Age of Intelligence



■ Vijay Garg

The success of Information Technology revolution caused the transition of the world from the Industrial Age to the Age of Information but the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is expediting another transformational shift- from the Information Age to the Age of Intelligence propelled by the basic fact that 'all intelligence is information but all information is not intelligence'.

This shift is compelled by the reality that there was no competitive gain from having information that everybody else also had and that it is the ownership of 'exclusive knowledge' called Intelligence that gave one advantage over the others.

AI applications are becoming a means of generating and accessing such knowledge largely through Data Analytics. Any information of intelligence value has to be 'reliable' but also 'futuristic' in the sense that it indicates the 'opportunities' and 'risks' lying ahead and thus opens the pathway to gainful action. To the extent a system of algorithms can be put in place to produce 'insights' during the analysis of data, this came closer to bridging the gap between 'Artificial' and 'Human' intelligence. Fundamentally, however, AI was an 'assistant' for and

not a 'substitute' for human intelligence.

Someone rightly said that Artificial Intelligence backed by Large Language Models (LLMs) can become the ultimate repository of human knowledge but even when it might be able to decide what was 'factually true or false' it could not take the stewardship of determining what is 'right or wrong'. This can only be done by the human mind that is equipped with 'intuition' rooted in conscience, piety and a capacity to think for the future.

The power of logic -another singular feature of the human mind- derives from a combination of past experience, the capacity to observe and analyse information and the ability to see things in a 'cause and effect' mode. To a limited extent 'logic' can be built into the 'machine learning' but only in a borrowed way.

Moreover, human conduct is often conditioned by the 'system of moral values' followed at the personal level- biases and wishful thinking are often built into any system of morality- and this is yet another area where Artificial Intelligence would not be able to substitute the human mind.

AI essentially works on data in the memory and the Language Models enhance its outreach to demographics and customs bringing it somewhat closer to human behaviour but what stands out in all of this is the fact that AI cannot be freed from the 'input-output' principle.

Albert Einstein famously said that 'imagination was more important than knowledge'- he was not referring to the trait of wildly imagining things that some people might have but was defining the human capacity to see beyond the data in front and perceive what lay ahead. In a way, he was alluding to the

ability of the human mind not to 'miss the wood for the tree'.

Imagination and human feedback are great assets in both business and personal lives and they mark out human intelligence from the machine-led operation. They both are of great help in the areas of Customer Relations Management- since they made it possible to personalise this relationship -as well as Risk Assessment which no successful enterprise could do without.

It is important to know the difference between 'intelligence' that tests the reach of the human mind and 'machine learning' that has its own boundaries. Intelligence by definition is information that gives you an indication of 'what lies ahead' -Artificial Intelligence is therefore going to throw light at least on the 'modus operandi' of the opponent and indicate how the latter would possibly move next. There is a partial application of 'logic' here though not of 'imagination' which was an exclusive trait of the human mind. If AI cannot be a substitute for human intelligence the best use of it is in making it an 'assistant' for the latter and this is precisely what explains the phenomenal advancement of AI in professional and business fields.

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

Achieving Success in IGNOU's MSc Environmental Science



■ Sahil Manzoor

People of any nation who acquire education for change always produce world-class leaders, and in any nation where people acquire education for employment, etc., they will never achieve their goals and live the life of slaves.

Acquiring education has no barrier; any individual can achieve his or her life goals. Education has no limits. Education is something with which one can achieve eternal peace and life goals that can utterly change the whole world. In our country, everyone has a legitimate right to acquire education at any level. There are thousands of NGOs, or government-sponsored wings, who are emphasizing illiterate and downtrodden people to come towards the light of education. An educated individual is fully laced with all that he

or she needs to combat in his or her life. Educated people are rich, not poor; they are intelligent, not dull; they are honest, and they never cheat you. Educated people always help and lend their hands towards the development of a nation. Education is something that has such a unique and rare pleasure that educated people always try to troubleshoot things without any violence. So all the educated ones should keep in mind that they should always embrace love for others, peace for everyone, and say no to all types of violence. Always keep in mind that we are all one. Everyone has emotions, pain, and sentiments; extend your sympathy to every human being. That's the real meaning of an educated individual. Every human should feel safe and secure within the parameters of an educated and sensible individual.

So we are all well aware of the great importance of being educated, and we can change things utterly at home, in society, and in the country. We have no limitations; we can learn as much as we can. We can experience everything surrounding us, and we can experience all the cultures of different societies in our country.

Today in this article, I am going to explore

and let you know, how you can achieve success as a master in environmental science. As in the past, IGNOU (Indira Gandhi National Open University) offers only admissions in the arts stream, commerce, and some diploma courses. You may know all this from the IGNOU official website. But things are not the same for all, like students who have some financial issues in their families and students who want to continue their studies, but they are engaged in some jobs and have their own businesses. For anyone who has given up their studies for some reason, IGNOU provides them with great and awesome opportunities that will allow them to continue their studies and give new shape to their dreams. In the recent past, all the science subjects were taken into consideration on a regular basis. As we know, science is based on practicals and observations. Keeping in mind the students' willingness, IGNOU introduced a masters in environmental science in 2021 and may have introduced more courses in the science stream. Today, there are thousands of students with master's degrees in environmental science and bachelor's degrees in science. The discipline is completely based on practicals. All the study centers held practical work during holidays

or winters. If you want to enroll yourself in an environmental science course, go through the IGNOU website, and you will learn all you want.

After getting admission, bring all the relevant material from the IGNOU regional center in Srinagar or prepare your own handwritten notes that might help you in the exam. IGNOU holds exams in two seasons, like in June and in December every year. Always keep in touch with friends, or regularly check the IGNOU official website. Maintain practical note books with proper observations and accurate or approximate readings you have recorded or taken during a practical class. There are four semesters in a masters in environmental science, and in the third semester, you have to work on the project work. Most of the students are hesitating and afraid of this project.

How do I prepare a project for a master's in environmental science?

First of all, visit your study center if you have completed the first two semesters. Address an application to the program coordinator that mentions providing a project guide, and after allotted a project guide, contact him, then select any topic like "solid waste management in Doodhpathri" or whatever you have held onto.

Collect information about the synopsis, brief about what you have selected, mention the study area, mention materials required, etc. after the approval of the synopsis of the work project. I would like to suggest one thing: there are students who are getting ready-made projects from some Xerox shops, etc.; always keep yourself engaged. I hope you will get good marks, get your degree within a stipulated period, and engage yourself with the project; it will take you a few months. Plagiarism is prohibited. In this case, your project work may be disapproved, and you have to start it from the initial point. If you are smart, alert, honest, hardworking, and have patience, then this world is yours in all respects. After the completion of this degree, you are equivalently eligible for all the competitive exams, as others are, like the NET (national eligibility test) and SET (state eligibility test), etc. Education is indeed limitless and transformative. IGNOU's flexible learning approach makes it possible for many to pursue higher education despite challenges. Your encouragement to be honest, hardworking, and patient is the key message every student needs to hear.

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Sharkoot in Kupwara

The Untrodden Tourist Destination



■ Javaid Bhat

Nestled alongside the lush green pine forests of Kupwara district, the village of Sharkoot Tarathpora holds within it the quiet potential of a picturesque tourist destination. Tucked away from the rush of cities and chaos of modern life, this serene hamlet offers a natural retreat blessed with tranquil beauty, open spaces, and an emerging promise.

What sets Sharkoot apart is its diverse natural charm. Towering pine trees sway gently in the mountain breeze, offering cool shade and fresh air to visitors and locals alike. The spacious playfield at the heart of the village has become a lively hub where children run free, elders gather, and young people find a sense of belonging. Adding to its allure is a miniature children's park—a recent initiative that has added colour and joy to this quiet landscape.

Water, the soul of nature, flows gently through Sharkoot in the form of sparkling ponds and a small dam close to the village. These not only add to the scenic appeal but serve as tranquil spots for reflection, relaxation, and rejuvenation. In recent years, more and more local families have begun frequenting these spots, turning weekends and evenings into shared moments of peace and joy.

Some developmental work has already been initiated to boost the area's potential. Footpaths, fencing, and recreational structures signal the beginning of transformation. However, a government-constructed hut—intended perhaps as a rest house or tourist facilitation centre—lies abandoned and neglected. With a little care and renovation, this hut could serve as a central attraction, offering shelter, tea points, or



HT - EXCLUSIVE

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even a cultural display corner for tourists.

The people of Sharkoot, Amarghad are warm, welcoming, and eager to see their village bloom into a peaceful tourist destination. What it now needs is a focused effort from the administration, encouragement from eco-tourism planners, and support from locals to preserve its beauty while opening it up for sustainable development.

With its natural greenery, water bodies, community spirit, and scenic charm, Sharkoot Tarathpora can well emerge as a "nature lover's escape"—a quiet call from the heart of Kashmir that invites travellers, trekkers, and thinkers alike.

Let us not allow its promise to fade. With timely attention and joint efforts, Sharkoot can transform from a hidden beauty into a celebrated destination on the valley's tourism map.

Tobacco's Silent Damage: How It Destroys Health and Homes



■ By Syed Majid Gilani

Have we ever truly reflected on how deeply tobacco affects not just individual users, but entire families and generations? What was once used as a medicinal herb in ancient times has today become one of the most quietly destructive addictions in our society. Tobacco doesn't just harm the body, it affects minds, weakens homes, and silently passes from one generation to the next.

The damage begins the moment nicotine, the addictive substance in tobacco, enters the bloodstream. It quickly affects the brain, disturbs its natural balance, weakens nerves, harms the heart, reduces immunity, affects digestion, spoils oral health, and disturbs emotional well-being. Over time, it dulls the senses of taste and smell, and slowly drains vitality. Yet, many people wrongly believe tobacco relieves stress. In reality, it worsens problems, invites illness, and adds silent burdens to life.

Among the most ignored, yet harmful forms of this addiction are chewable tobacco products like Ghutka, Naswar, Pan-Masala, and other flavored substances. These are inexpensive, easily available, and often contain dangerous chemicals. They are directly linked to mouth cancer, dental problems, ulcers and impaired mental focus. In many cases, children, observing their elders at home, unconsciously pick up these habits without understanding the risks. The early effects, stained teeth, poor concentration, and weak memory, quietly take root, affecting their mental and emotional well-being.

Cigarettes and bidis, rolled tobacco leaves tied with a thread, are equally dangerous. They damage the lungs, increase the risk of cancers, weaken the heart, and impair breathing. Bidis, often wrongly considered a "lighter" or "cheaper" alternative, actually deliver more nicotine and harmful chemicals than cigarettes. The smoke from both fills homes with invisible toxins, affecting children and non-smoking family members alike.

Hookah, another traditionally accepted form of tobacco use, is

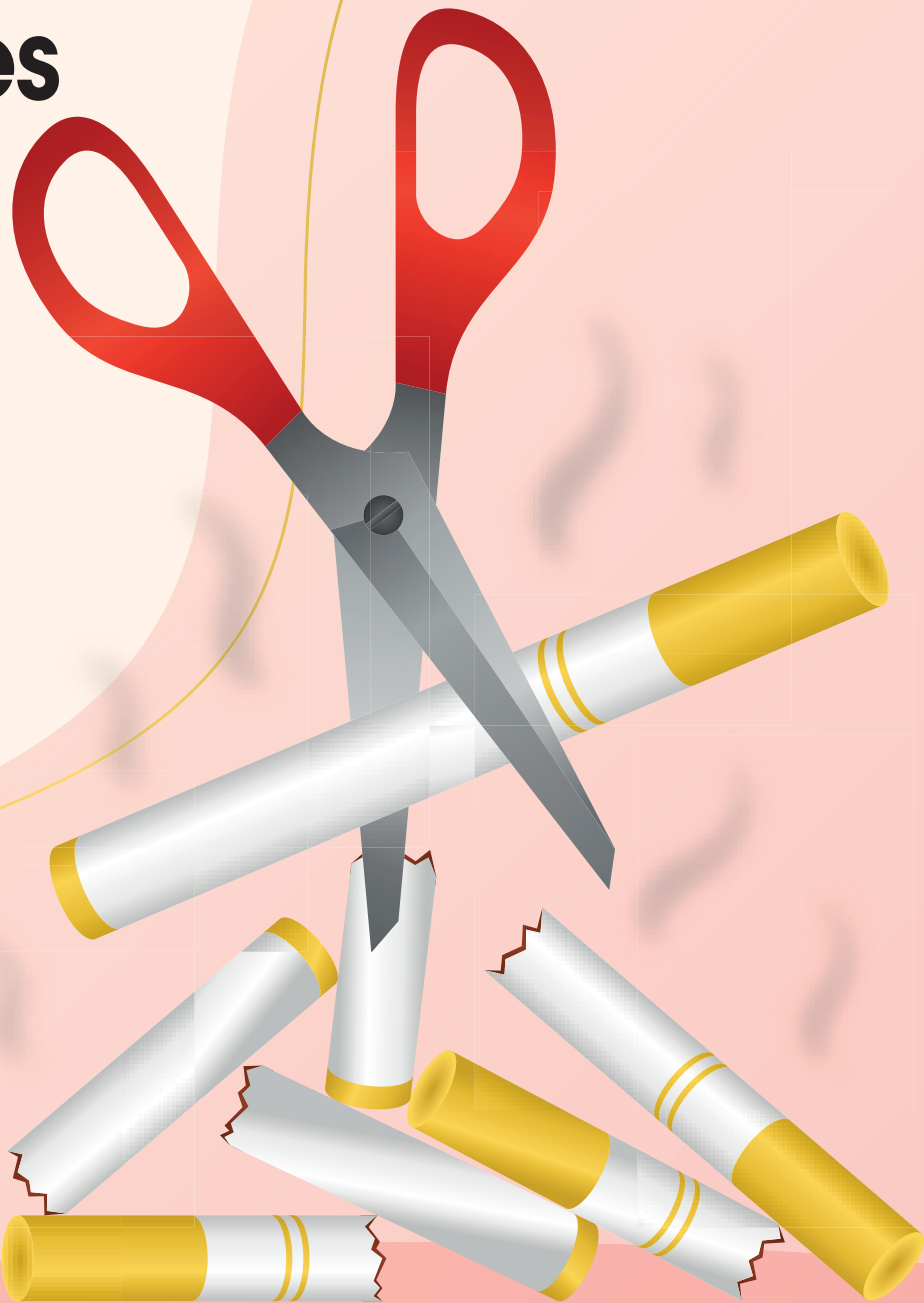
mistakenly thought to be safer because its smoke passes through water. In reality, a single hookah session can expose a person to more smoke and harmful chemicals than several cigarettes. The flavored tobacco used in hookahs carries the same deadly risks and addiction. Naswar, a moist paste or powder placed under the lip or inside the cheek, is particularly harmful. It can cause mouth cancer, digestive problems, and mental disturbance. Pan-Masala and other similar products may appear harmless, but slowly erode oral health, often leaving people unable to eat, speak, or swallow properly.

The truth is, every form of tobacco, whether smoked, chewed, inhaled, or dipped, is extremely harmful and dangerous. No type is safe or risk-free. Whether it comes as a cigarette, bidi, hookah, Ghutka, Naswar, Pan-Masala, or any other product, it damages the body, poisons the mind, and silently harms the family. The tragedy lies in how society tends to excuse these habits in the name of old customs, ignorance, or poverty, forgetting that no justification is enough to allow slow self-destruction and damage to future generations. In many poor families and certain communities, this addiction has become so normalized that tobacco is purchased alongside groceries like rice, flour, and vegetables. Elders openly use it, children quietly observe, and the cycle continues. What's most concerning is the casual acceptance of this habit. Even when addicted parents advise their children to avoid it, their words carry little weight, as children imitate what they see. Parents, relatives and neighbours, rather than discouraging the habit, defend it with remarks like, "Everyone uses it, what's the harm?"

It is time for families, communities, schools, and health workers to unite against this silent menace. Awareness campaigns, simple educational programs, counseling, and strict, effectively implemented laws are essential. Schools must actively educate children about these dangers, while towns and villages should run outreach programs to help families free themselves from this cycle. Most importantly, parents must realize that sometimes the greatest risk their child faces is not from the outside world, but from what they unknowingly learn within their own home.

We owe it to our children, and the generations to come, to address this issue with honesty and courage. If we remain silent, this addiction will quietly continue destroying our health and homes.

Syed Majid Gilani is a government officer by profession, and a writer by passion, sharing thoughts on family, values, and human emotions. He can be reached at syedmajid6676@gmail.com.





DC inspects progress of Multi Storey Car Parking Project at Doda Emphasises timely completion, quality constr

HT NEWS DESK

DODA, JUNE 27: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Harvinder Singh conducted a thorough inspection of the under-construction Multi Storey Car Parking Facility in Doda town- a major infrastructure initiative aimed at reducing traffic congestion and improving parking management in the urban center of the district. During the visit, the DC Doda reviewed the pace and quality of ongoing civil works being executed under the supervision of the Public Works Department (R&B). He directed the executing agency to strictly adhere to the set timelines and maintain the highest quality standards.



Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur, Tehsildar, Executive Officer Municipal Council and officials from PWD (R&B) accompanied the DC. The team assessed the technical and struc-

tural aspects of the project, including challenges related to material supply, site drainage and alignment with the approved Detailed Project Report (DPR). While issuing on-spot instructions, the

DC emphasized the importance of incorporating an effective rainwater drainage system, ensuring construction site safety and creating integrated entry and exit points for both vehicles and pedestrians. He further instructed the Municipal Council to begin preparations for a comprehensive traffic management plan to be implemented upon project completion, with the goal of optimizing the facility's use.

Highlighting the significance of the project, the DC Doda reiterated that the multi storey parking facility is expected to ease congestion, particularly in Bus Stand, Hospital Road, and Market areas, where haphazard parking remains a persistent issue.

DDC Chairman flags off Annual Chandi Mata Yatra from Cheka Gurakha to Dudu Basantgarh



HT NEWS DESK

BHADERWAH, JUNE 27: District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Doda Dhananther Singh Kotwal today flagged off the annual Chandi Mata Yatra from Cheka Gurakha to the revered shrine of Chandi Mata located at Dudu Basantgarh. The yatra marks a significant spiritual journey undertaken by hundreds of devotees each year to seek blessings and participate in the sacred tradition. The flag-off ceremony witnessed the participation of a large number of enthusiastic pilgrims, local residents and community leaders. The air was filled with chants of devotion as devotees, dressed in traditional attire, began their journey amid spiritual fervor. The shrine of Chandi Mata at Dudu Basantgarh is considered

a powerful centre of faith and devotion, attracting pilgrims from various parts of the district and neighboring regions. While addressing the gathering, the DDC Chairman emphasized the spiritual, cultural and unifying significance of the yatra. He praised the role of local administration, police and volunteers in ensuring smooth arrangements and security during the pilgrimage. He urged the pilgrims to uphold cleanliness, maintain discipline and support the spirit of harmony during the journey. The Chandi Mata Yatra is not only a religious event but also an occasion that showcases the rich cultural heritage of the region. It strengthens communal bonds and brings together people from different walks of life in a shared expression of faith and devotion.

DFCO team recovers cache of intoxicants at Jammu

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JUNE 27: In a major crackdown on illegal drug trafficking, sleuths of Drugs & Food Control Organisation seized a significant consignment comprising of 4500 intoxicant tablets (Tapentadol) & 400 Capsules (Pregabalin-300) from the possession of a suspected drug peddler. Acting on a tip-off, the enforcement team conducted a targeted operation and intercepted the individual, who was found in possession of a large quantity of pharmaceutical tablets categorized as intoxicants/habit forming drugs. The consignment, which lacked valid documentation and licenses, was confiscated and sent for further analysis. The preliminary inquiry revealed that the accused was involved in interstate smuggling of intoxicating drugs through a clandestine manner and has resorted to unfair

means by forging the licenses of a Chemist Shop and was indulging in procuring such consignments through impersonation with malafide intent and was selling these preparations to the drug addicts. The accused has been taken into custody, and an investigation is underway to determine the intended distribution network of the seized substances. The operation was initiated by Archana Mujoo, ADC(HQ) Jammu and executed by a team of Drugs Control Officers Tej Veer Singh Sodi, Nisar Ahmed Dar & Amit Mahajan under the Supervision of Arvind Sharma, Assistant Drugs Controller, Jammu. State Drugs Controller, J&K Lotika Khajuria has said that the operation reflects the commitment of the Drugs Control Department to curb the illegal circulation of restricted pharmaceutical preparations to avoid their misuse.

DEO Reasi convenes interactive session with media persons, influencers to amplify voter awareness

HT NEWS DESK

REASI, JUNE 27: District Election Officer (DEO) Nidhi Malik today convened an interactive session with media representatives, Election Icons, and social media influencers of district Reasi to promote greater voter awareness and strengthen democratic engagement in the region. The event highlighted the pivotal role of media and digital platforms in disseminating accurate electoral information and encouraging public participation.

During the session, DEO Nidhi Malik acknowledged the influential role of media professionals and digital content creators in shaping public opinion and urged them to further amplify voter-centric messaging. She emphasized the importance of the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) programme in fostering inclusive, informed and active citizen engagement in the electoral process. DEO Reasi Ms. Malik also encouraged the Election Icons of Reasi to continue inspiring.

Aspirational Block Programme Mankote rises to top position in Jammu Division, 9th Spot at National level

HT NEWS DESK

POONCH, JUNE 27: Block Mankote has achieved a significant milestone by securing No. 1 rank in Jammu Division and an impressive 9th rank at the national level under the Aspirational Block Programme (ABP) rankings released by NITI Aayog for Quarter 4 of 2024. This remarkable progress has been made possible under the visionary leadership and active supervision of Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal. The Block, which was ranked 348th in Quarter 2 of 2024, rose to 99th rank in Quarter 3 and has now climbed to 9th rank, marking one of the

fastest improvements recorded nationwide. Officials attributed the success to the dedicated efforts of all line departments, coordinated implementation by the Block Development Officer Mankote, and continuous technical support by Aspirational Block Programme Fellow who has been actively engaged in monitoring key indicators and driving development interventions. Significant contributions were also made by the Assistant Commissioner Development and the District Statistical and Evaluation Officer, Poonch, who are the designated Nodal Officers for the Aspirational Block Programme in the district. Their close coordination, regular reviews, and guidance

have played a crucial role in achieving this landmark performance. District Development Commissioner Vikas Kundal commended the team's commitment and hard work, stating that this achievement reflects the collective resolve to improve core sectors such as health, education, agriculture and infrastructure. He emphasised the importance of sustaining this momentum to further enhance the quality of life for the residents of Block Mankote. The District Administration has reiterated its commitment to providing all necessary support and resources to ensure that Block Mankote continues to set new benchmarks in development and good governance.

DD Dentistry reviews progress of ABHIM Works in Poonch, Rajouri districts

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JUNE 27: Dy Director Dentistry Jammu Dr. Sanjay Sharma conducted a whirlwind tour of Poonch and Rajouri Districts to review progress of ABHIM Works. He visited SDH Surankote and CHC Mandi where he inspected the medical facilities. He went round all sections of the health institutions to assess the availability of critical health infrastructure. At SDH Surankote he inspected the progress of the under construction Block Public Health Unit. The DD Dentistry also visited Critical Care Block (CCB) and District Integrated Public Health Lab (DIPHL) at District Hospital Poonch to check the progress of construction work. He took stock of healthcare facilities being provided at DH Poonch, SDH Mendhar, CHC Mandi, SDH



Surankote, PHC Chandak Block Mandi, PHC Dhargloon and PHC Mankote. He was accompanied by Chief Medical Officer Poonch Dr Parvaiz Ahmed Khan. In District Rajouri, the DD Dentistry visited the under construction building block of SDH Sunderbani. He reviewed the ongoing development work, assessed the pace and quality of construction and offered constructive suggestions for timely completion and future utilization of space in a patient-friendly manner. The DD Dentistry also visited CHC Nowshera.

District Capex Budget 2025-26 proposals discussed at Udhampur

HT NEWS DESK

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 27: To chalk out a comprehensive strategy for the formulation of the District Capex Budget for the financial year 2025-26, District Development Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai chaired a meeting of officers of line departments held in the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex. The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Mohammad Iqbal, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Block Development Officers, senior district and sectoral officers from different departments. Detailed deliberations were held on sector-wise planning at Panchayat, Block and District levels. Key focus areas included Rural Connectivity, Rural Infrastructure, Public Health Engineering, Irrigation and Water Conservation, Agriculture, Power, Health and Education. Emphasis was also laid on harnessing area-specific poten-



tial and promoting employment generation. While addressing the officers, the DDC emphasized the need to ensure developmental priorities while formulating plan proposals. She instructed the concerned to ensure that all proposals are scrutinized and approved through the Gram Sabha before being projected in the final plan. The DDC further directed officers to work towards improving key indicators under the Sustainable Development goals through efficient planning and implementation and prepare realistic, need-based and inclusive development plans. The meeting was attended

by Chief Planning Officer Mohammad Iqbal, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Block Development Officers, senior district and sectoral officers from different departments. Detailed deliberations were held on sector-wise planning at Panchayat, Block and District levels. Key focus areas included Rural Connectivity, Rural Infrastructure, Public Health Engineering, Irrigation and Water Conservation, Agriculture, Power, Health and Education. Emphasis was also laid on harnessing area-specific potential and promoting employment generation.

MP Jugal Kishore chairs DISHA meeting at Samba Pushes for timeline execution of dev projects, prioritizing saturation of welfare schemes

HT NEWS DESK

SAMBA, JUNE 27: Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma today reviewed the implementation and progress of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) in Samba district at a meeting of District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee (DISHA) held here in the Conference Hall, District Administrative Complex, Nandani Hills. The meeting was attended by DDC Chairperson Keshav Dutt Sharma, MLA Ramgarh Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA Vijaypur Chander Prakash Ganga, Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma, nominated DISHA Committee members and senior district and sectoral officers

representing key developmental departments. At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner gave an exhaustive PowerPoint presentation outlining the physical and financial progress made under the flagship schemes and major developmental initiatives undertaken across the district. MP Jugal Kishore reviewed progress of key infrastructural works including the Samba to Sumb and Mansar Mod to Mansar Roads. The MP emphasized that the installation of permanent signboards on PMGSY and rural roads, as well as the laying of the foundation stone for the Samba Flyover must be executed on priority to enhance transparency, civic awareness and public accountability. The Committee headed by the MP, also deliberated on the repair of



the road opposite Chichi Mata Mandir and the beautification and development of Jakh Pond, where a foot-

path, safety grill and drawing wall have been constructed to enhance public convenience and security.

Calling for a strict check on illegal mining activities in the district, the MP directed the District Mining Officer to intensify field-level monitoring and ensure robust enforcement measures to curb unregulated and environmentally harmful mining practices. MP Jugal Kishore also lauded the commendable efforts of Samba Police in their ongoing crackdown on drug trafficking, terming it a significant and necessary stride toward building a drug-free and secure society. While reviewing the performance of Agriculture and allied departments, the MP underscored the importance of targeted implementation of schemes and subsidies, directing to ensure that only genuine and eligible beneficiaries avail the benefits. He instructed the depart-

ment to conduct stringent verification before the disbursement of any assistance. Reiterating the Government of India's development vision, Jugal Kishore Sharma emphasized the need for interdepartmental synergy and coordination with public representatives to eliminate bottlenecks and accelerate the pace of development, particularly in border and rural areas. He further directed concerned officers to fast-track works under PM Awas Yojana 2.0 and strategic road development, with strict adherence to stipulated timelines. Responding to various concerns raised by elected representatives, the MP sought a comprehensive Action Taken Report (ATR), particularly on pending issues related to irregular water supply.





MLA Lolab reviews RDSS works in Kupwara Package

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: In order to assess the progress of works under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in the Lolab Constituency (Kupwara Package), a review meeting was convened today at the Corporate Headquarters of Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), here.

The meeting was chaired by Qaiser Jamshaid Lone, Member J&K Legislative Assembly (Lolab Constituency).

Managing Director KPDCL, Mahmood Ahmad Shah was also present in the meeting.

Among others, Superintending Engineer, Project Circle South, Er. M Hussain; Superintending Engineer, O&M Circle Sopore, Er. Dalbir Singh; Executive Engineer, ED Kupwara, Er. Mohammad Amin Shah; representative, PIA – NTPC and authorized representative, M/s Vikran Engineering & Exim Pvt. Ltd. attended the meeting.

The deliberations were aimed at undertaking a comprehensive appraisal of the physical and financial status of various sanctioned works being executed under the centrally sponsored RDSS in the Lolab region.

At the outset, MLA emphasized the



instrumental role played by elected representatives in furthering infrastructure development, particularly in the power sector.

A consolidated overview of the project components, execution timelines, and bottlenecks was presented to the chair.

MLA, while acknowledging the ongoing efforts, underscored the need for immediate prioritization of critical works and sought strict adherence to stipulated timelines.

The Turnkey Contractor assured timely compliance and reaffirmed its commitment to expedite execution as per the mutually agreed milestones.

MLA further impressed upon the corporation the imperative of initiating requisite measures to ensure the provisioning of enhanced and uninterrupted power supply to the residents of the area. In this regard, he underscored the critical need for maintaining an adequate buffer stock of Distribution Transformers (DTs) across multiple capacities along with sufficient reserves of transformer oil, to facilitate timely response in the event of any emergent contingencies or unforeseen transformer outages.

Moreover, he laid particular emphasis on the augmentation of the existing Receiving Station infrastructure, includ-

ing the revamping of the ageing 33kV Old Kupwara line, which continues to be a constraint on load-bearing capacity.

He also reiterated the strategic importance of expediting the establishment of the proposed Grid Station at Waheedpora, Sopore, which is envisioned to significantly bolster the transmission infrastructure and address the long-standing reliability and load management issues across the region.

To address field-level challenges, particularly with respect to Right of Way (RoW) constraints and local impediments, it was resolved that a joint site inspection involving the MLA, KPDCL officials, PIA representatives, and TKC shall be conducted on 1st July 2025 at Lolab. This coordinated exercise is intended to fast-track execution through proactive site-level resolution and stakeholder collaboration. In a significant development, the meeting also resolved to launch a Solar Rooftop (SRT) Promotion and Registration Campaign under the PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna. The campaign shall be ceremonially flagged-off with the inaugural registration for installation of rooftop solar plants. This pioneering gesture is envisioned to stimulate mass awareness and adoption of decentralized clean energy solutions among domestic consumers in the region.

MVD Ramban conducts Road Safety and Enforcement Drive Seizes 12 vehicles, Challanes 25 others

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JUNE 27: The Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) Ramban conducted a massive road safety and enforcement drive in Sub-Division Gool to curb traffic violations and ensure road safety. The drive was carried out by the enforcement team from MVD led by Inspector Darpan Sharma.

During the checking, the team inspected a large number of vehicles at various points. As many as 12 vehicles were seized and 25 vehicles were challaned

for violating different provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act. The major violations detected during the drive included vehicles operating without valid permits, overloading of goods and passengers, driving without valid fitness certificates, riding without helmets and driving vehicles without valid insurance documents. The MVD officials warned the transport operators against such violations as the same not only endanger the lives of drivers and passengers but also pose serious risks to other road users. They

further emphasized that the enforcement drives will continue in the coming days across the district to ensure that traffic rules are strictly followed.

The department has urged all vehicle owners, drivers, and commuters to adhere to traffic laws, maintain valid documents, avoid overloading and always wear helmets while riding two-wheelers. Strict legal action will be taken against violators as part of the administration's commitment to ensuring public safety and reducing road accidents.

ADC Bandipora visits Imambaras, reviews arrangements

HT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 26: To assess the preparations for the ongoing holy month of Muharram, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zafar Husson Shawl, today conducted an extensive tour of various Imambaras in the Sumbal sub-division of Bandipora.

During the visit, ADC reviewed the essential arrangements for the smooth conduct of congregations and mourning processions throughout Muharram-ul-Haram. He engaged with the Imambara Intizamia Committees, inquiring about the facilities available to them.

ADC directed the concerned officers to ensure continuous supply of water and electricity during the holy days. Additionally, Municipal Committees were directed to maintain cleanliness in and around the worship places where large gatherings



are expected.

On the occasion, SDM Sumbal assured that there would be regular visits to the Imambaras in their jurisdictions to guarantee that necessary facilities are provided to the community.

ADC was accompanied by Sub-divisional Magistrate (SDM) Sumbal, and several senior officers.

Dharti Aabha Abhiyan conducted at tribal village Ringzabal in Sukhnag

HT NEWS DESK

Budgam, June 27: Dharti Aaba Abhiyan was conducted today at Village Ringzabal, a notified tribal village in Block Sukhnag, with a strong message of inclusive development, awareness, and administrative outreach.

The day witnessed the culmination of efforts by 17 line departments towards achieving 100% saturation of key government schemes in tribal areas.

Nodal Officer for the programme, Hilal Arafat lauded



the cooperation between departments and the active engagement of the local tribal population. In their address, officials from various line departments emphasized the government's commitment to ensuring last-mile delivery of services and highlighted the importance of such campaigns in building trust and transpar-

ency between the administration and tribal communities.

Throughout the day, Gram Sabha sessions remained the focal point of the campaign, with departmental representatives addressing scheme-related queries, clarifying eligibility criteria, and assisting in on-spot registrations for a wide array of welfare initiatives including PMAY-G (Housing), KCC (Kisan Credit Card), PMJAY (Ayushman Bharat), Swadesh Darshan Guest House registration, HADP (Agriculture schemes), JJM – FHTC (Tap water connections).

Kailash Sewa Sangh Trust Bhadarwah Holds Meeting for Upcoming Kailash Yatra

Amir Iqbal Khan

Bhadarwah, June 27: In a significant gathering today, the "Kailash Sewa Sangh Trust Bhadarwah" (KSSTB) convened a meeting at the Vasuki International Hotel under the leadership of Koshal Kumar Zutshi. The primary focus of the meeting was to discuss preparations for the upcoming Kailash Yatra, scheduled to take place from August 9th to August 22, 2025. According to a press statement issued after the meeting, the Charri Yatra will proceed to the holy Kailash Kund on August 20, with the return journey to Gatha Bhadarwah planned for August 22. To ensure a smooth experience for the pilgrims, it was decid-

ed that an advance party along with a team of skilled workers will head to Kailash Kund between August 1 and August 24, 2025. Their responsibilities will include the construction and repair of shelter sheds, larger sheds and washrooms besides the renovation of the temple, statement said. It further added that in line with tradition, free langer seva will commence from August 2, 2025, providing sustenance to the yatries throughout the pilgrimage. Subash Chander Kotwal, Chairman of the trust, emphasized the importance of dedication among the trust members urging them to maintain communication and cooperation until the successful completion of the yatra.

Orientation Programme on SNA-SPARSH Model held at Ramban

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JUNE 27: The District Treasury Office Ramban, under the directions of the Finance Department J&K and the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan, convened the first phase of the Orientation Programme on the Single Nodal Account – Samyochit Pronali Aakakrit Shigr Hastantaran (SNA-SPARSH) model for efficient management of funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). The programme, attended by Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) associated with the District Treasury, aimed at familiarizing the participating officers with the SNA-SPARSH system for seamless financial operations.

The session began with a comprehensive introduction to the model by Additional Treasury Officer Lokesh Shan, who highlighted the role of SNA-SPARSH in strengthening financial governance at the grassroots level.

The SNA-SPARSH model integrates critical financial platforms, including JKBEAMS, PFMS and e-Kuber of RBI, facilitating real-time fund transfers directly from the Central and State Consolidated Funds to the implementing agencies.

This reform is part of a broader financial transformation under the Finance Department, complementing systems like BEAMS, JKPaysys and TreasuryNet, which aim to ensure timely, transparent and efficient release of funds to beneficiaries.

The Additional Treasury Officer emphasized the significance of adopting the SNA-SPARSH system to improve financial discipline, accountability and effective utilization of public funds. He reiterated that the system would minimize procedural delays and ensure faster delivery of funds to the intended beneficiaries. NIC Support Person Parkash Singh provided crucial technical assistance for successful conduct of the programme.

Dharti Aaba outreach campaign reaches remote Shagan Panchayat in Khari Provides on sport benefits of schemes to tribal community

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JUNE 27: A comprehensive awareness and benefit saturation camp under the "Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Abhiyan" was convened today at Panchayat Ghar Shagan- a remote tribal area of Block Khari.

The event witnessed active participation from key officials including CDPO Banihal Siddharth Dubey, Block Development Officer Khari Urfan Khan and other district and block-level officers.

Government Departments such as Health, AYUSH, Animal Husbandry, Revenue and Women & Child Development (ICDS) offered array of services to the tribal populace. They were acquainted with preventive healthcare, livestock health, financial aid, pensions, credit linked schemes of agriculture and allied sectors and critical schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.

Farmers received valuable guidance on soil health, organic farming, and modern agricultural methods from the Agriculture and Horticulture departments. The BDO briefed attendees on MGNREGA, rural development projects and self-employment opportunities.

AHD Jammu concludes awareness campaign in remote areas of Ramban district

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JUNE 27: Extension and Publicity Wing of the Animal Husbandry department Jammu successfully concluded two-day extensive awareness campaign launched in the hilly and far-flung areas of Ramban district. Awareness camps were organized in Gool and Sanasar areas which witnessed enthusiastic participation of more than 300 farmers including women farmers. Free of cost medicines including dewormers and vitamin/mineral supplements were distributed among the local livestock rearers.

Extension Officer Dr. Mohammad Sajjad explained in detail the benefits of different schemes viz. Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS), Integrated Poultry Development Programme (IPDP) etc. He urged the farmers to come forward and avail benefits in the form of unprecedented incentives and subsidies available for dairy, poultry and feed-fodder units. The awareness camp was followed by an interactive session where farmers got an opportunity to clear their doubts regarding livestock nutrition, health and management, an initiative hugely appreciated by the farmers present. Further keeping in sync with the ongoing National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), farmers were advised to get their livestock vaccinated against the highly contagious viral disease, which results in huge economic losses for the dairy farmers. The awareness camp was followed by an interactive session where farmers got an opportunity to clear their doubts regarding livestock nutrition, health and management, an initiative hugely appreciated by the farmers present. Further keeping in sync with the ongoing National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) for Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), farmers were advised to get their livestock.

Awareness/ Saturation camps held under Dharti Aaba Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan in ST Villages of Kulgam

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, JUNE 27: As part of the ongoing Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, a series of awareness cum saturation camps were held in tribal villages including Avil and other Scheduled Tribe (ST) dominated areas of the district.

The camps aimed to raise awareness among tribal populations about various government welfare schemes, and ensure on-spot registration and enrollment of eligible beneficiaries under flagship programmes.

Departments including Social Welfare, Health, Education, ICDS, Agriculture, and Rural Development actively participated in the initiative.

Special focus was laid on saturation of schemes including PMJAY-SEHAT, PM Awas Yojana, PM Ujjwala Yojana, pension schemes, and other welfare initiatives. Citizens were also sensitized about the rights and entitlements available to them under various tribal welfare legislations and schemes.

Officials facilitated on-the-spot documentation, verification, and registration processes to ensure maximum coverage and benefit delivery at the grassroots level.

IEC materials were also distributed for wider dissemination of information.

DLSA Anantnag organizes awareness programme on NALSA scheme 2015

HT NEWS DESK

ANANTNAG, JUNE 27: In a significant step towards empowering the tribal communities and safeguarding their constitutional rights, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Anantnag, in collaboration with the Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Vailoo, organised a one-day Tribal Rights Awareness Programme today at Middle School Bidhard.

The central theme of the programme was the 'Protection and Enforcement of Tribal Rights Scheme 2015,' and aimed at enlightening the tribal populace about their legal rights and available protections.

The event was graced by Fauzia Paul, Sub-Judge and Secre-

tary, DLSA Anantnag, as the chief guest, and Shafeeq Ahmad Malik, Sub-Judge and Chairman TLSC Vailoo, as the guest of honour.

Secretary DLSA Anantnag apprised the tribal community about their special rights and the legal protections available to them.

Deputy LADC Anantnag, Abid Rasool Padder; Assistant LADC Anantnag, Jasra Ayoub and Panel Lawyer TLSC Vailoo, Advocate Nazir Ahmad Padder provided valuable insights into the practical aspects of legal rights and remedies available to tribal communities.

Speakers elaborated on the provisions of the Tribal Rights scheme 2015, emphasizing

legal safeguards against exploitation, protection of land rights, access to education, healthcare, and livelihood schemes tailored for Scheduled Tribes. They also highlighted the role of Legal Services Authorities in ensuring free legal aid and justice to the marginalized sections of society.

Interactive sessions and open discussions allowed the participants to voice their concerns, seek clarifications, and understand the legal mechanisms available for the protection of their rights.

A large number of tribal community members, students, teachers, and locals participated in the event with great enthusiasm.





DC reviews status of essential services in Ramban District Stresses on timely redressal of public grievances

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JUNE 27: Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the functioning of Jal Shakti, JPDCL, Municipal Committees (MCs), with a focus on ensuring timely and quality service delivery to the public. The meeting was attended by CPO Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather; Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, AEEs of JPDCL, EO MC Ramban, EO MC Banihal and representatives from RDSS.

Discussing the disruption of services due to recent flash floods, the DC directed the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti to resolve the water supply-related issues immediately. He instructed the department to undertake regular cleaning of water storage tanks to ensure the supply of clean and safe drinking water.

The meeting was informed that 93 water supply schemes have been sanctioned under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) for Ramban district, of which 28 have been completed, while the remaining are at different stages



of completion. The DC directed the officers to complete the rest of schemes on mission mode.

Reviewing the functioning of the JPDCL, the DC directed the Executive Engineer to

ensure that damaged transformers are replaced within the set timeline. He further directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply to Hospitals, Pumping stations and other important installations of public

interests. The DC also emphasized the need to expedite the installation of smart meters across the district to ensure regulated and proper power supply.

Reviewing the implementation of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for an aggressive public awareness campaign to educate residents about the benefits, subsidies and key features of the scheme. He directed the stakeholders to achieve the targets in this regard.

Assessing the functioning of Municipal bodies, the DC directed MC authorities to accelerate work on the Multi-storey Bus Stand and other ongoing building projects in Ramban for their timely completion.

Inquiring about the implementation of PMAY-U housing scheme, the DC asked Municipal authorities to encourage the beneficiaries to complete construction of their houses.

Additionally, the civic bodies were directed to ensure proper cleanliness and sanitation, especially in view of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025.

House Committee on JJM holds meeting in Srinagar

Members examine details submitted by department

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: The House Com-



mittee, constituted to look into the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in J&K, today convened a meeting at the Legislative Assembly Complex, Srinagar.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Hasnain Masoodi and attended by Members Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, Ali Mohammad Dar, Altaf Ahmad Wani, Aijaz Ahmad Jan, Rajiv Jasrotia, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Tanveer Sadiq, Javaid Riyaz (Bedar), Muzaffar Iqbal Khan, Rafiq Ahmad Naik, Arjun Singh Raju and Iftikar Ahmad.

The Chairman emphasized that the Jal Jeevan Mission, launched by the Prime Minister on 15th August 2019, is a flagship initiative aimed at providing piped water supply (Har Ghar Nal Se Jal) to every rural household in the country.

He highlighted that at the time of launch, only 16.71% of rural households had access to tap water. The mission was launched in Jammu and Kashmir the same year and initially targeted completion by 2025, later revised to 2028.

During the meeting, the Committee

held in-depth deliberations on the implementation status of JJM works across J&K. It had a comprehensive

discussion on the detailed reports submitted by the department.

The Members also highlighted various alleged discrepancies in the work execution of Water Supply Schemes in different areas. They emphasized the need for timely submission of detailed reports addressing the issues raised during the meeting.

The Chairman underscored the importance of strong coordination between legislators and concerned departments to ensure timely and transparent execution of works for the larger benefit of the people.

A comprehensive PowerPoint Presentation was delivered by Shaleen Kabra, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Jal Shakti Department, outlining the physical and financial achievements under JJM in the UT.

The Additional Chief Secretary informed the Committee that as of May 31, 2025, a total of 3,596 works and 1,484 schemes have been completed under JJM. Out of 6,887 allotted works, 6,791 have been started upto May 31, 2025.

Language for Global Dreams: English Workshops by Mukul Rana Coming to Kashmir

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR: In a quiet yet powerful step toward reshaping the future of Kashmiri youth, seasoned educator Mukul Rana is set to launch a series of English language and IELTS preparation workshops across the Kashmir Valley, starting mid-July 2025. With over 15 years of experience in global education, Rana believes that language should never be a barrier to opportunity. Through this initiative, he hopes to bridge the gap between Kashmir's untapped student potential and the national and international platforms that await them.

"Kashmiri students don't need

to be changed. They just need a little polishing, and they're ready for the world," Rana says—his voice grounded in years of watching students transform across continents.

An alumnus of St. Stephen's College, Delhi University, Rana has taught English communication at the World Language Center at Japan's prestigious Soka University and has trained learners from Delhi University to Dubai, from Tokyo to Europe—in public speaking, confidence building, and academic English.

The upcoming workshops to be held in collaboration with colleges across the Kashmir Valley—will focus on IELTS strate-

gies, spoken English, public speaking, academic writing, and interview preparation. While the short-term goal is to help students perform well in English proficiency tests, the larger vision is to equip them with confidence, clarity, and readiness for working with the best companies in the global market. In a region where many bright students are held back by limited resources or lack of mentorship, this initiative is more than just a classroom project—it's a bridge.

"I've taught students from Tokyo to India, and I can say with certainty: Kashmiris are among the brightest minds I've met.

House Committee on salary enhancement of Legislators holds meeting in Srinagar

Committee to submit report before next Assembly session: Chairman

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: The House Committee, constituted to examine the demand for enhancement of salaries and allowances of legislators, today convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex, Srinagar.

The meeting was presided over by Committee Chairman, Surjeet Singh Slathia, which was attended by members including Ali Mohammad Sagar, Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Sajad Gani Lone, Hasnain Masoodi, Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, Arjun Singh Raju and Muzaffar Iqbal Khan. During the meeting, the Chairman acknowledged the demand for a hike in salaries and allowances of legislators, ex-legislators and assistants, assuring that the matter will be considered positively. He emphasized the need to adopt best practices from other States and Union Territories to address the issue effectively and at the



earliest. The Committee held a detailed discussion on the salary structures of legislators in other states. The members also raised concerns regarding pension-related benefits for ex-legislators and strongly advocated for addressing these issues. Additionally, the demand for an increase in the allowances of assistants was deliberated upon, with members unanimously supporting the proposal for a revision. The Chairman urged all members to submit their suggestions

in writing to contribute constructively to the report. He informed that a comprehensive report will be submitted to the Assembly ahead of the next session for appropriate consideration and action. The meeting also discussed need for the revisions of house loan and car loans benefits to the legislators. Issues related to fuel cap for daily use, hike in allowances including stationary, medical, house, sanctuary, Constituency and other allowances was also discussed during the meeting.

CRPF to Field Special Mountain Rescue Units for Upcoming Amarnath Yatra: DIG Sudhir Kumar

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, KNT: As the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025 draws closer, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has announced the deployment of around 30 trained personnel from its Mountain Rescue Teams (MRTs) to ensure the safety and well-being of pilgrims undertaking the arduous pilgrimage through high-altitude terrain. The Yatra is scheduled to begin on July 3.

The MRTs, comprising CRPF personnel with advanced training in mountain rescue, will operate along the Baltal axis, one of the two primary routes leading to the Amarnath cave shrine. "These teams will function under the Srinagar Sector of CRPF and in coordination with the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) of Jammu and Kashmir," DIG and Joint Nodal Officer Sudhir Kumar confirmed the development and underlined the importance of the MRTs in enhancing the security and support system for pilgrims. "Their presence will not only aid those facing physical difficulties on the route but will also allow quick

and coordinated rescue efforts in case of flash floods, landslides, or other natural disasters," DIG CRPF Srinagar Sector told the news agency Kashmir News Trust. Last year, the MRTs assisted over 13,000 pilgrims, playing a crucial role in providing timely relief in difficult terrain. Their exemplary service during the 2024 Yatra has led to even greater emphasis on specialized selection and advanced training of CRPF personnel for the current year. To prepare for potential challenges, refresher capsule courses and mock drills are being conducted regularly in Baltal and adjoining high-altitude zones. These exercises simulate rescue operations and emergency scenarios to ensure operational readiness. Officials said that many of the MRT members have undergone specialized mountain rescue training with other paramilitary and disaster-response forces, making them highly skilled in navigating treacherous paths and performing high-risk extractions when required. "The CRPF's contribution forms a critical part of India's broader disaster management framework.

BAT Aspirants from SKUAST-K Appeal for Increase in Open Merit Seats'

HT NEWS DESK/KNS

SRINAGAR, June 27: A group of top-ranking aspirants under the Open Merit category for the Basic Agriculture Training (BAT) program at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Kashmir (SKUAST-K), has made a formal appeal to the Vice Chancellor, requesting an increase in seat quota for the BAT 2025 batch. In a letter addressed to the Vice Chancellor, the aspirants expressed their gratitude for the administration's responsiveness to student concerns in the past. However, they highlighted a pressing issue concerning the unavailability of seats under the Open Merit (OM) category for the current admission cycle.

The students urged the Vice Chancellor to intervene and direct an increase of at least five seats



in the Open Merit category. They argued that while seats under various reserved and in-service categories remain vacant and accessible, no such seats are available under OM—even for the top meritorious candidates. The aspirants have also expressed willingness to be accommodated on vacant seats reserved for other categories if those

PIB Jammu organises media workshop in Kishtwar; sensitizes journalists about unverified content through digital media

PIB
KISHTWAR, MAY 27



Press Information Bureau, Jammu under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting organised a Rural Media Workshop "Vartalap" in District Kishtwar on Friday on the theme of 11 years of governance. The workshop highlighted the achievements of the government during the period.

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma; Director Press Information Bureau Jammu, Neha Jalali, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Pawan Kotwal and other senior officers of the district administration were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of coordination with the media for highlighting the initiatives and other public welfare programs of the government. He added that the media is an important pillar of democracy which brings to the notice of the administration any shortcomings in the implementation of the government schemes and assessment of work done at the ground level.

Director Press Information Bureau Jammu touched upon misinformation, disinformation and propaganda and urged the media to counter these malpractices. She said that fake news is the main concern in today's world and the media has an important role to provide the public with truthful and credible information. The director spoke in detail about the fact checking mechanism run by PIB and requested the media persons to use the service to bust fake news.

Additional Deputy Commissioner in his address highlighted the role of PIB in disseminating information to the print and electronic media on government policies, programs and achievements. Additionally, he underscored the significance of media in generating awareness about various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) including public debates, discussions and ushering accountability in bureaucracy. He added that the government has introduced an electronic file system (e-office) for greater transparency and steps are being taken to take it to the block level. Other senior officers of the district administration also spoke on the occasion. Chief Education Officer Kishtwar, Masood Hussain Qazi presented the salient features of the National Education Policy 2020. He said the department is focussed on inculcation of moral values in children and imparting vocational training to the youth in line with the roadmap laid down in the policy. Chief Agriculture Officer Kishtwar, Koushal Chandel highlighted the initiatives taken for enhancing food security, water harvesting, organic farming and empowering marginal farmers. He said that drone technology is being harnessed and real time monitoring and geotagging of agricultural land is also undertaken for better management and monitoring of agriculture initiatives. Horticulture Development Officer Kishtwar, Raja Aadil Sheikh; Field Officer, Khadi and Village Industries Board, Shah Mohammad; District Information Officer, Kuldeep Kumar also addressed the gathering. Media and Communication Officer PIB Jammu Muzafar Wani spoke on the role of media in responsible journalism with evolving technology. The proceedings of the program were conducted by Media and Communication Officer, PIB Jammu, Zakir Nazeer.

remain unclaimed. "This is our final opportunity to seek admission," the letter read, noting that age restrictions would render many of them ineligible in the next academic year. The candidates also referenced a precedent set last year when SKUAST-K increased seats by 15 per district for another diploma course during the second round of counselling. Citing the underutilized capacity at KVK Pulwama, which can accommodate 200 candidates but has only 60 currently enrolled, the aspirants emphasized that there is both precedent and logistical feasibility for expanding the Open Merit intake. He letter concluded with an appeal for timely action before the second round of counselling and a request to avoid the need for public demonstrations. "We place our complete faith in your sense of justice and fairness," the letter stated.





DR. TASADUK HUSSAIN ITOO AN EXAMPLE OF UNWAVERING DEDICATION, PASSION AND EXCELLENCE

HT NEWS DESK

Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo is a distinguished medical professional from Kashmir, India known for his exceptional clinical skills, medical writing and leadership. He is affiliated with several prestigious organizations, including the American College of Physicians (USA), Royal College of Physicians of London, and Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

Dr. Itoo is also an Academic Life Member of the Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSS-DI) and a Fellow of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF). His expertise in diabetes care and advocacy has earned him recognition globally.

Dr. Itoo's patient-centered healthcare innovation has revolutionized healthcare delivery in South Kashmir. His comprehensive patient guidance and education initiative provides targeted screening, prevention, and treatment support, making healthcare more accessible to underserved populations. He has also implemented free online consultations, breaking down traditional barriers to medical access.

Through his writings, Dr. Itoo has raised awareness about various health issues, promoting education and prevention. His columns have been widely read and appreciated, offering valuable insights on healthcare, social issues, and personal development. His literary pursuits have cemented his legacy as a multifaceted personality, leaving an indelible mark on the literary and medical worlds.

As an Academic Life Member of RSSDI, Dr. Itoo continues to collaborate with fellow professionals, advance diabetes research, and

promote high-quality patient care. His membership in esteemed organizations reflects his commitment to excellence in his field.

Dr. Itoo's contributions to healthcare, medical education, and public health awareness have earned him recognition and respect in the medical community. His commitment to creative expression and ability to connect with readers through his writing have made him a respected and admired figure in both fields.



He has received numerous awards for his contributions, including the IDF Fellowship Award, Global Recognition Award 2024, National Literature Award 2025, Indian Achievers Award 2025, Best Social Writer Award 2022, Best Columnist Award 2021 and Top Educator Award 2017. These accolades reflect his dedication to his work and his impact on the medical community.

As a medical writer, Dr. Itoo has published numerous articles, essays, and columns in leading publications. His writing style makes complex medical concepts accessible to a broad audience, educating and informing readers

about various health topics. Dr. Itoo's achievements demonstrate his commitment to excellence in medicine and literature. He continues to inspire patients, students, and peers through his work, leaving a lasting impact on the medical community. Dr. Itoo's success story serves as an inspiration to aspiring medical professionals, demonstrating that hard work, determination, and a passion for making a difference can lead to remarkable achievements and a lasting impact on the world. His leadership qualities and ability to implement effective solutions have inspired others toward excellence.

NIT Srinagar, SKIMS ink MoU to develop AI tools for early disease detection and treatment Outgoing student wins appreciation for AI tool on PCOS risk assessment

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, June 27: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Soura. The collaboration aims to foster joint research in machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance diagnostics, treatment planning, and clinical decision-making.

This MoU marks a strategic convergence of engineering and medical sciences, with both institutions working to create a structured and ethical framework for AI applications in healthcare. It also outlines several key areas of cooperation that will pave the way for data-driven medical innovations in the region.

The MoU was signed by Director SKIMS Soura, Prof. (Dr.) M. Ashraf Ganie, Ex-officio Secretary to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, Registrar NIT Srinagar Prof. Atikur Rehman and Registrar SKIMS, Mr. Mohammad Aslam. The MoU was signed in the presence of representatives from both institutions. NIT Srinagar was represented



by HOD ECE, NIT, Dr. Gausia Qazi, Dr. G. R. Beigh (Associate Dean R&C, NIT); Dr. Yusra Bandy (Project Supervisor, NIT), and AR (Director's Office & Legal, NIT), Mohamad Hazik.

While SKIMS was represented by Director SKIMS Soura, Prof. (Dr.) M. Ashraf Ganie, HOD Nephrology SKIMS, Prof. (Dr.) Muzaffar Maqsood Wani, Registrar SKIMS, Mr. Mohammad Aslam, Dr. Aafia Rashid (Scientist SKIMS).

In his message, Director of NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, said that this MoU marks a milestone in bringing together two premier institutions to work at the intersection of health and technology.

"With the advancement of AI and machine learning, we now have the tools to revolutionize the way healthcare is delivered. This partnership will

empower our students to build impactful solutions rooted in real-world medical challenges," he added. On the occasion, Director of SKIMS and EOSG, Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie, said that this partnership with NIT Srinagar will open up new avenues for data-driven and evidence-based medicine. "By combining clinical expertise with technological innovation, we hope to accelerate the development of diagnostic tools and improve patient care, particularly for diseases common in our Kashmir region. This is a significant leap toward personalized and predictive healthcare," he said.

"We have a lot of data, and we want to use that real data for the benefit of our society. The MoU would focus on broader areas including genomics, telemedicine, bioinformatics, and public health analytics, enabling

deeper integration of technology into medical science," he added.

Dr. Gausia Qazi, HoD ECE NIT Srinagar, said that this MoU is a crucial step toward bridging the gap between healthcare and advanced engineering. "Our department is committed to leveraging artificial intelligence and machine learning to address real-world medical challenges. We look forward to contributing cutting-edge solutions that can support doctors, improve diagnostics, and ultimately enhance patient care," she said. Meanwhile, Kamran Ali Hussain, an outgoing 8th-semester student from the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering at NIT Srinagar, delivered an impressive presentation on his project titled "AI-Driven Web Platform for Early Detection of PCOS Risk Assessment Among Women in Kashmir" during the MoU event.

The project demonstrated practical applications of machine learning for the early detection of PCOD in women and was widely acclaimed for its innovation and relevance.

Director SKIMS and EOSG, Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie, lauded the efforts of the project team and assured full support from SKIMS for such student-led initiatives in the future.

NCORD Committee meeting: Doda admin reviews action plan to intensify Drug control efforts

HT NEWS DESK

DODA, JUNE 27: Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh today chaired the District-Level Narco Coordination Committee (NCORD) meeting here in the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex.

The meeting reviewed the ongoing drug control measures and chalk out a coordinated strategy to eradicate drug abuse and trafficking in the district.

The discussions centered on the assessment of drug prevalence, identification of hotspots of drug abuse and cultivation and an analysis of emerging trends in the district. The Committee also reviewed the action taken against the prevalence of contraband crops, whether in wild or agricultural lands. The status of PIT/NDPS cases and the implementation of the IEC campaign were also reviewed.



Further, the functioning of the Addiction Treatment Facility at GMC Doda and the Drug Counselling Centre at DPL Doda was evaluated. The meeting emphasized the importance of engaging religious leaders, NGOs and civil society in the campaign against drug abuse. The issue of controlling the misuse of prescription drugs was also addressed, with directions for 100% CCTV installation and computer-based billing systems at medical shops. Spe-

cial focus was laid on achieving the "Nasha Mukht Panchayat" targets to make the entire district drug-free. The meeting was attended by ADC Anil Kumar Thakur, ACDDin Mohammad Afaqi, ASP, CMO, District Social Welfare Officer, Principal GDC and officials from the departments of Health, Agriculture, Education, Social Welfare, Youth Services & Sports and Drug Control. A virtual interaction was also held

with Additional Deputy Commissioners, Sub Divisional Magistrates, Block Development Officers and other concerned stakeholders. They briefed the Deputy Commissioner on awareness drives, de-addiction activities and meetings held at the sub-divisional and block levels under the NCORD mechanism.

The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the progress made under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, including the status of Nasha Mukht Panchayats, destruction of cannabis crops, and enforcement actions against illegal cultivation. He directed all SDMs and BDOs to take strict steps for removing illicit cultivation from their respective areas. The Health Department was asked to regularly update the status of rehabilitation and counselling centres, particularly at GMC and DPL. The Social Welfare Department was instructed to intensify IEC activities and expand community outreach.

Hakeem Yaseen seeks urgent medical care for ailing detainees Dr. Fayaz and Shabir Shah

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, June 27: Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) President and former Minister Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen on Friday appealed to the Jammu and Kashmir

administration to ensure immediate medical attention for incarcerated political leaders Dr. Abdul Hameed Fayaz and Shabir Ahmad Shah, both of whom are reportedly in deteriorating health.

Expressing deep concern, Hakeem Yaseen said that Dr. Fayaz, the former Ameer-e-Jamaat currently lodged in Srinagar Central Jail, is unwell and in urgent need of medical care. Similarly, Shabir Shah, who is under detention outside Jammu and Kashmir, is also reported to be suffering from serious health issues without ade-

quate medical facilities. "This is a matter of human dignity and constitutional rights. Denying medical treatment to those in custody is not only unethical but a grave violation of human rights," Yaseen said. He added that access to healthcare is a basic right guaranteed under law, and the state must not compromise on this, regardless of a person's political background. "This is not about ideology; it is about humanity. The government must rise above politics and respond with compassion."

DC Bandipora inaugurates multi-use USG machine at District Hospital

HT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 27: In a significant boost to public healthcare services, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Friday inaugurated a state-of-the-art multi-use Ultrasonography (USG) machine at the District Hospital Bandipora. The advanced USG machine is equipped with all necessary probes to facilitate a wide range of diagnostic scans including Echocardiography, Transvaginal Sonography (TVS), Infant USG, and Color Doppler studies. This move is expected to greatly ease the burden on patients, many of whom previously had



to rely on private clinics for such essential diagnostics. Speaking on the occasion, DC emphasized the administration's commitment to improv-

ing access to advanced medical facilities in rural and urban healthcare centers alike. He appreciated the hospital authorities for their continuous

efforts to expand critical care services and urged them to ensure optimal utilization of the newly added facility.

Medical Superintendent DH Bandipora, expressed gratitude for the support from district administration. He stated, "This multi-purpose USG machine is a valuable addition that will enhance our early diagnostic capabilities, which is crucial for timely treatment and better patient outcomes."

Among others, Chief Planning Officer Bandipora, Mohammad Maqbool Lone; Medical Superintendent, District Hospital Bandipora, doctors, paramedics, and technical staff, were present during the inauguration.

Dr. Sheikh Mustafa
M.B.B.S, MD (OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY)
Former Associate Professor GMC Srinagar
Fellowship reproductive health & research
(Geneva Switzerland)

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The Metamorphosis Woman: Third Time Lucky for Shafali

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI: When Shafali first toured England for the multi-format series in 2021, she was only a T20I cricketer. She made her debut in ODIs and Test cricket on that tour. Around the time of the England tour - for the Commonwealth Games followed by the bilateral series - in 2022, India were happy with the high-impact knocks she produced despite her inconsistency. It was a risk-versus-reward trade-off that worked for both India and Shafali.

Cut to mid-2025, and Shafali has just earned a recall to the T20I side and is still out of favour in ODIs in a home World Cup year. After India crashed out in the league stage of the T20 World Cup 2024, Shafali's place in the team seemed untenable. Not that India found other batters who could attack from get-go like she could - there aren't many who can do it anywhere in the world, let alone in India. She was dropped anyway.

In hindsight, the timing of her exclusion perhaps worked well for Shafali, in that she was able to play the whole of the 50-over domestic competitions. She captained Haryana to a quarter-final finish in the Senior Women's One Day Trophy and topped the run-scoring charts - 527 runs at an average above 75 and a strike rate of 152.31. Only one other batter (Kiran Navgire) batted at a higher strike rate in the entire competition, but she scored only 116.

Shafali then played the Senior Women's One Day Challenger Trophy, a competition in which best performers in the one-dayers are picked by the national selectors. She topped the charts there, too, as captain of Team A - 414 runs at an average of 82.80 and a strike rate of 145.26. She had scored close to 200 runs more than the next best, and no one else scored at a higher pace in the competition.

In WPL 2025, Shafali was the leading run-scorer for runners-up Delhi Capitals (DC) - and fourth-best overall - and she could no longer be left out of India's T20I side. That India played only one T20I series since her axing did not matter, they have their premier opener back as the road to the 2026 T20 World Cup starts.

But what has changed in Shafali's game in the intervening period? How is she scoring with such regularity, which she couldn't earlier?

"Her power game is natural, no one hits sixes at will like her in the women's game. I told her to not leave behind the qualities that have brought her here. She is a different cricketer, I selected her for the first time based on that" "She has worked on keeping herself cool," DC assistant coach Hemlata Kala told ESPNcricinfo. "In the WPL, she tried to play longer innings and not getting out inside the powerplay."

"Everyone said she only bats for 10-15 overs [in one-day cricket]. But she batted for longer in [the domestic] one-dayers, struck back-to-back hundreds. Even in multi-day (Senior Women's Multi-Day Challenger Trophy) she played well. She has now consistently started playing longer innings. It is not that she didn't do it before - she has hit 130-140 in Under-23 cricket. She has the ability, but in T20s she tries to make best use of the powerplay."

Jacobs' checklist: debut for NZ, 2026 T20 World Cup, return to the IPL

■ United News of India

MUMBAI: A lot has happened in Bevon Jacobs' life since he earned his maiden New Zealand call-up for the home T20I series against Sri Lanka in December last year. A maiden Plunket Shield century, debut in the UAE's ILT20 league, working with Kieron Pollard and Jasprit Bumrah in the IPL, and most recently a CPL deal.

During this period, especially at IPL 2025, where Jacobs didn't get a game at Mumbai Indians (MI), he often had to make do as the outsider looking in. As he prepares to make his international debut for New Zealand in the upcoming tri-series in Zimbabwe next month, also involving South Africa, Jacobs hopes to harness his IPL experience and put his name up for the 2026 T20 World Cup.



"The IPL was an amazing experience, and I got three months there to learn new facets of my game," Jacobs said. "And I definitely think I've made those learnings and improvements."

Obviously, implementing into my game is going to be a longer work in progress. "But taking away from the technical stuff, there's also a lot of mental learnings that I've got from it as well, which I know will change me just for the time being. So, hopefully, I can bring what I've learnt from there into the series."

"I mean, that (playing the T20 World Cup) is a massive goal for me. It would be a dream come true to go to that. And I guess for me, it's just about controlling what I can control. And if that opportunity comes again, that would be pretty special to me."

The first step towards that goal will be a potential debut against his country of birth, South Africa. Jacobs was born in Pretoria before his family emigrated to New Zealand when he was around three years old.

MADUSHANKA BACK IN SL SQUAD FOR BANGLADESH ODIS

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI: Left-arm fast bowler Dilshan Madushanka has returned to Sri Lanka's ODI squad for the series against Bangladesh, having been unavailable for the Australia series in February due to injury. He replaces the now-injured Lahiru Kumara in the ODI squad.

Also in the 16-member ODI squad is allrounder Milan Rathnayake, who has played five Tests but is uncapped in white-ball internationals. His involvement depends on fitness - he is out of the ongoing second Test against Bangladesh with a side strain, but is expected to have recovered by the time the ODIs begin, on July 2.

Making a return on the batting front is wicketkeeper-batter Sadeera Samarawickrama, who last played



for Sri Lanka in November 2024, and was dropped due to modest form. He essentially replaces Nuwanidu Fer-

nando in the squad.

Seamer Eshan Malinga also keeps his place, having had a good run with Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in IPL 2025. Asitha Fernando is the other fast bowler in the 16-member squad.

The remainder of the squad is largely on expected lines. Wanindu Hasaranga and Maheesh Theekshana lead the spin contingent, which also features legspinner Jeffrey Vandersay and left-arm spinning allrounder Dunith Wellalage. The likes of Avishka Fernando and Nishan Madushka are also competing for top-order spots, having been named in this squad.

The first two ODIs will be played in Colombo, before the series moves to Pallekele on July 8. A three-match T20I series follows, with the first match on July 10 in Pallekele.

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