

Satish Sharma inaugurates EVCL League trials at Doon School, Srinagar

Emphasizes new avenues for budding sports talent across UT

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 28: In a remarkable step towards promoting youth participation in sports, Minister for FCS&CA, IT, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, today inaugurated the Epic Victory Cricket League (EVCL) Trials at Doon School, Srinagar.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from aspiring cricketers from across the Kashmir Valley, marking a significant milestone in the UT's grassroots sports development efforts.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister commended the initiative undertaken by Eventovista Private Limited through EVCL, describing it as a powerful platform to identify and nurture cricketing talent in Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that the government is committed towards creating new avenues and institu-



tional support systems to help young athletes flourish and represent the Union Territory at national and international levels.

"Jammu and Kashmir has no dearth of talent. What is needed is the right opportunity and a supportive ecosystem. Initiatives like EVCL not only serve as talent pools but

also reflect our shared vision of empowering youth through sports," asserted the Minister. Satish Sharma reiterated the government's unwavering resolve to develop state-of-the-art sports infrastructure, enhance coaching access and introduce league-based competitive exposure for youth in every district of the UT.

Former Indian cricketer and IPL player Anureet Singh joined the ceremony and officially flagged off the trials for Kashmir. His presence served as a major source of inspiration for the young participants.

The trials will continue over the coming days, with selected talent moving ahead to represent the Kashmir region in the broader EVCL tournament structure.

The event was organized with full cooperation from local authorities, to ensure smooth conduct and maximum outreach. The trials at Doon School are expected to become a launchpad for many promising cricketers from the region. "Jammu and Kashmir has no dearth of talent. What is needed is the right opportunity and a supportive ecosystem. Initiatives like EVCL not only serve as talent pools but also reflect our shared vision of empowering youth through sports."

J&K embarks on mission to create Family IDs

CS consults stakeholders for making headway

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 28: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting to lay the groundwork for creation of unique Family IDs for every household in Jammu & Kashmir. This pioneering initiative aims to streamline the delivery of public services, enhance beneficiary outreach and serve as a unified source of truth for planning and monitoring across government departments. The meeting, held at the Civil Secretariat, was attended by the Principal Secretary, Finance; MD/CEO, J&K Bank; Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA; Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Secretary, Planning; Secretary, IT; Secretary, RDD; DG, Planning; DG, Codes; DG, Budget; CEO, J&KGA; representative of BISAG-N and other concerned officers. The Chief Secretary underscored the transformative potential of the Family ID system. He remarked that creation of these Family IDs will provide invaluable insights into the traction of our beneficiary-oriented schemes among the public, while



simultaneously ensuring that every eligible citizen receives the benefits rightfully due to them. It is a critical step towards fostering a more accountable and responsive administration. Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department (PD&MD), Talat Parvez, provided a comprehensive overview of the program. He delved into its background, emphasizing the pressing need for such a unified system in J&K, detailing the immense potential benefits for the populace and outlining a robust implementation plan. Secretary, Information Technology, Dr. Piyush Singla, elaborated on his department's crucial role in achieving the objectives of this ambitious program. He highlighted the substantial

resources and technical expertise available within the IT Department. He assured the meeting that the necessary infrastructure is in place to successfully translate this vision into reality across the entire UT. A key challenge addressed during the discussions was the current practice of multiple government departments repeatedly requiring the same documentation and verification processes from citizens to disburse benefits. This duplication not only places an undue burden on the public but also strains government resources. The Family ID is set to resolve this by becoming a singular, authoritative source of information, thereby significantly reducing the hurdles besides optimizing resource.

Twin Initiatives on Inclusive Education and Creative Pedagogy Conclude at JKSCERT-KD with Resounding Optimism

HT NEWS DESK



Srinagar 28 June 2025 — With an unwavering spirit of dedication and vision, two impactful programmes the Behavioural Support and Classroom Management Conference and the Capacity Building Programme on 10 Bagless Days successfully concluded at JKSCERT-KD today. Held under the camaraderie and insightful leadership of Revered Joint Director Central, Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor and Worthy Joint Director Mr. Syed Shabir Ahmad (JKAS), both events reaffirmed JKSCERT-KD's commitment to inclusive, learner-centered, and joyful education. From 27th to 28th June, the Inclusive & Special Education Wing and the Art & Vocational Wing of JKSCERT-KD hosted parallel programmes that brought together experts, faculty members, and stakeholders to reimagine educational spaces that prioritize creativity, equity, and well-being. The Behavioural Support and Classroom Management Conference opened with a warm welcome by Mtr. Shabina Roohi, who urged participants to view inclusion not as policy, but as cherished dignity. Presentations by Mtr. Bilquees Fatimah, Dr. Shaheena Akhter, Dr. Mohammad Shaheen, and other seasoned experts addressed real challenges and solutions in inclusive education, including autism awareness, self-regulation strategies, and Universal Design for Learning (UDL). Expert sessions by Mr. Masood Ali Mir and Mr. Taha Tufail reinforced the need for mindful communication, equitable access, and dismantling labels in the learning environment.

JKEDI hosts Startup Meet with CEOs & Angel Investors under J&K Startup Policy 2024-27

Over 100 startups, entrepreneurs interact with renowned startup founders

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 28: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Saturday hosted the "Startup Meet-2025" at its Sempora campus under the ambit of the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27. The landmark event brought together leading entrepreneurs, angel investors, startups, and ecosystem stakeholders from across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The event featured renowned startup founders including Siddharth Ladsariya, Founder of 'Everest Fleet', and Ankita Sheth, Co-founder of 'Stay Vista'—both acclaimed serial entrepreneurs and angel investors. Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Besides, Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Mussarat Islam and Professor and CEO Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED), IUST, Awantipora Parvez Ahmad Mir were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Commissioner Secretary emphasized the govern-



ment's unwavering commitment to nurturing startups through the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27, which provides an enabling environment for innovation and enterprise. Vikramjit Singh noted a rising trend of professionals returning to J&K to launch successful startups by leveraging government support. He also highlighted initiatives to integrate entrepreneurship education at the university and college level, and informed that several J&K based startups are now actively participating in national-level incubator and investor programs.

He said, "Over the past two to three years, the Govern-

ment of Jammu and Kashmir has scaled up institutional financing, enabling young entrepreneurs to transform their ideas into impactful ventures. This sustained support has catalyzed the growth of a vibrant startup ecosystem in the Union Territory, fostering innovation, generating employment, and laying the foundation for a resilient and self-reliant economy." The event began with a 'Startup pitching session', where ten carefully selected ventures presented their business ideas, showcasing innovation across sectors such as technology, agriculture, healthcare, and education. These pitches were followed by Q&A sessions,

providing valuable investor feedback and mentorship. In the subsequent session, Siddharth Ladsariya shared insights from his entrepreneurial journey. Reflecting on the early days of his venture 'Everest Fleet', which has grown to become India's largest Uber fleet operator with over 20,500 vehicles, he highlighted key challenges startups face like funding, scalability, and operations. He also urged startups to take full advantage of the various schemes and support systems offered by the government. Stressing the value of networking, collaboration, and government support schemes, Ladsariya also extended an offer of incubation support to promising startups from Jammu & Kashmir, reaffirming his commitment to fostering innovation in the region. Ankita Sheth, in a candid and inspiring address, spoke about the importance of resilience, teamwork, and adaptability in the startup journey. Drawing from her own experience building 'Stay Vista', she encouraged founders to embrace uncertainty, seek mentorship, and build meaningful relationships within the entrepreneurial ecosystem. She emphasized,

Traffic Advisory for Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2025

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 28: To ensure smooth movement of yatra convoys & yatris, the Traffic Police Jammu & Kashmir issued a detailed advisory for the initial cut off timing for Yatra Convoys/Yatris for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025.

According to the advisory, for the Up Baltal Convoy, cut off timing for departure from Jammu towards Kashmir for Baltal is 0400hrs; departure from Lamber (Banihal) towards Baltal is 1000hrs; departure from Manigam Ganderbal towards Baltal is 1700hrs.

While for Down Baltal Convoy, departure from Baltal towards Jammu is 0600hrs & departure from Lamber (Banihal) towards Jammu is 1130hrs.

For Up Pahalgam Convoy, the cut off timing for departure from Jammu towards Pahalgam is 0430hrs & departure from Lamber (Banihal) towards Pahalgam is 1100hrs.

For Down Pahalgam Convoy, the cut off timing for departure from Pahalgam towards Jammu is 0600hrs; departure from Nunwan, Pahalgam towards Jammu is 0630hrs & departure from Lamber (Banihal) towards Jammu is 0800hrs.

Regarding cut off timing for Non-Convoy/Yatris/Tourists from NAVYUG Tunnel to Valley & vice versa, the advisory states that from Jammu to Pahalgam (other than Main Convoy arriving from Jammu), the cut off for last vehicle to cross NAVYUG Tunnel towards Valley is 1500hrs & last vehicle to cross Mir Bazar towards Anantnag is 1600hrs.

From Pantha Chowk to Manigam, (other than Main Convoy arriving from Jammu), the cut off timing for last vehicle to cross Peaks Crossing, Lassjan towards Manigam is 1500hrs; cut off time for last vehicle to cross Shadipora/Sumbal towards Manigam is 1530hrs and for last vehicle to cross Manigam Transit Camp towards Baltal is 1700hrs.

From Baltal to NAVYUG Tunnel (Jammu bound other than Main Convoy leaving at 0600 hrs from Baltal), the cut off timing for last vehicle to leave Baltal Base Camp towards Manigam is 0900hrs; for last vehicle to cross Sonamarg P/S towards Manigam cut off timing is 1000hrs; Last vehicle to cross Manigam Transit Camp towards Shadipora/Sumbal at 1200hrs; Last vehicle to cross Shadipora/ Shadipora crossing towards Peaks Automobile at 1300hrs and Last vehicle to cross Pantha Chowk towards Anantnag is 1500hrs.

Handicrafts & Handloom deptt organises mega awareness programme in Gurez

HT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 28: Department of Handicrafts & Handloom Bandipora, on Saturday organised a mega awareness programme at Dawar, Gurez with an objective of sensitising the artisan and weaver community about the various government schemes and services available through the department. The programme was inaugurated by Joint Director Handicrafts Kashmir, Parvaiz Sajad, along with General Manager, District Industries Centre Bandipora, Sameer Ahmad Jan, who is also holding the additional charge

of Assistant Director, Handicrafts/ Handloom Department Bandipora. The event was attended by a large number of artisans and weavers across the Gurez valley. As part of the programme, departmental stalls were set up to exhibit products crafted by registered artisans and weavers of Gurez valley, while also disseminating information about schemes aimed at their welfare and socio-economic upliftment. On the occasion, Joint Director inspected stalls and interacted with artisans, appreciating their craftsmanship and commitment for preserving the rich cultural heritage of



the region. He reaffirmed that the department is committed to empowering artisans through capacity-building initiatives, financial support,

and enhanced market connectivity. AD Handicrafts encouraged unregistered artisans and weavers to promptly register online for Artisan

and Weaver Registration Cards to become eligible for a wide range of departmental benefits and welfare schemes. Officials of H&H department on the occasion, highlighted the range of schemes and welfare initiatives available to support artisans and weavers. Department of Handicrafts & Handloom Bandipora, on Saturday organised a mega awareness programme at Dawar, Gurez with an objective of sensitising the artisan and weaver community about the various government schemes and services available through the department. The programme was inaugurated by

Joint Director Handicrafts Kashmir, Parvaiz Sajad, along with General Manager, District Industries Centre Bandipora, Sameer Ahmad Jan, who is also holding the additional charge of Assistant Director, Handicrafts/ Handloom Department Bandipora. The event was attended by a large number of artisans and weavers across the Gurez valley. As part of the programme, departmental stalls were set up to exhibit products crafted by registered artisans and weavers of Gurez valley, while also disseminating information about schemes aimed at their welfare and socio-economic upliftment..



DC Reasi highlights youth innovation as district participates in virtual launch of Mission YUVA

HT NEWS DESK

REASI, JUNE 28: The District Administration Reasi participated virtually in the formal launch of Mission YUVA, a pioneering youth-centric initiative aimed at empowering and engaging young entrepreneurs across Jammu and Kashmir.

The state-wide initiative was launched today by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah from the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.

The virtual participation from Reasi took place at the Video Conference Hall, DC Office Reasi with esteemed gathering included District Development Council (DDC) Chairman Saraf Singh Nag, Member Legislative Assembly SMVD Baldev Raj Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik, ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, AD Employment



Annie Vaid. A number of budding and successful entrepreneurs from various parts of the district were also present on the occasion.

Following the launch, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with local entrepreneurs enrolled under Mission YUVA. She engaged with them on their ideas, business ventures and future plans expressing admiration for their drive and innovation encouraging them to avail maximum

benefit being provided under the Mission YUVA umbrella.

The DC also highlighted the role of successful entrepreneurs as icons under the mission, who will inspire and mentor others in their communities, thus building a robust ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship in Reasi and beyond.

She further added that Mission YUVA is envisioned as a transformative step towards youth empowerment through capacity

building, financial assistance, mentorship and visibility—fostering a new wave of job creators across Jammu and Kashmir. Following the launch, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with local entrepreneurs enrolled under Mission YUVA. She engaged with them on their ideas, business ventures and future plans expressing admiration for their drive and innovation encouraging them to avail maximum benefit being provided under the Mission YUVA umbrella.

The DC also highlighted the role of successful entrepreneurs as icons under the mission, who will inspire and mentor others in their communities, thus building a robust ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship in Reasi and beyond.

She further added that Mission YUVA is envisioned as a transformative step towards youth

Poonch administration participates in UT Launch of Mission YUVA

HT NEWS DESK

POONCH, JUNE 28: A grand and inspiring launch event of Mission YUVA was held today at the Conference Hall of the Deputy Commissioner Office Poonch. The program was a part of the Union Territory-wide formal inauguration of the Mission YUVA initiative, a flagship employment generation scheme of the Labour and Employment Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, aimed at nurturing entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities for the youth.

The event in Poonch was virtually connected with the main UT-level function held at SKICC, Srinagar, where the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir presided as the Chief Guest.



At the district level, the launch event in Poonch witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers and youth.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Pankaj Mangotra was the chief guest at the local event. Other dignitaries who attended the event were Deputy Director Employment Abdul Majid Tantray, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, District

Sheep Husbandry Officer, Nodal Officer JKEDI, Nodal Officer NRLM and representatives from various other departments. Their presence reflected strong administrative commitment and inter-departmental support for Mission YUVA.

Business Help Desk (BHD) members from Mendhar, Surankote and Poonch also joined the event through live YouTube

streaming of the UT-level function, ensuring that field-level facilitators remained aligned with the broader vision of the Mission.

More than 100 aspiring entrepreneurs from across the district attended the event and engaged actively, gaining valuable insights into the benefits, eligibility criteria and application process under Mission YUVA. The highlight of the program was the ceremonial handing over of a sanction letter under Mission YUVA to Mumtaz Ahmad, a resident of Baila Mandi for setting up a Carpentry and Joinery Unit at Alla Peer, Haveli Poonch.

The event concluded on a positive and hopeful note, with district officials urging the youth of Poonch to seize this golden opportunity.

Kahara hosts vibrant Dharti Aabha outreach programme at HSS Nagni to empower tribal communities

HT NEWS DESK

DODA, JUNE 28: As part of the ongoing Dharti Aabha – Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, a vibrant outreach programme was organized today by the Block Development Officer Kahara, Mool Raj at Government Higher Secondary School, Nagni (Kuthiyara), Bhatyas.

The event was conducted under the guidance of the Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh and witnessed enthusiastic participation from large number of locals, including youth, farmers, women and elderly from the tribal-dominated Bathu-II Panchayat.

The objective of the programme was to generate awareness about government-sponsored flagship schemes, particularly those



aimed at uplifting the socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Tribes. Officers delivered detailed presentations on key development initiatives, including construction of rural infrastructure like bridges, school sanitation facilities, solar-powered installations and water harvesting sys-

tems—each tailored to meet the unique needs of tribal villages. The programme also focused on promoting education, skill development and livelihood opportunities through convergence of centrally sponsored schemes.

To enhance community

engagement, different departments and line agencies set up informative stalls, offering brochures, audiovisual displays and on-spot registration services. Attendees were provided hands-on demonstrations and guided assistance regarding eligibility and application processes. Several beneficiaries shared their experiences and motivated others to actively participate in development schemes.

An open interaction session was also held during which the locals raised several queries about project timelines, selection procedures and grievance redressal mechanisms. Officials attentively addressed public concerns and assured follow-up at appropriate levels.

J&K Petroleum Dealers Association calls on Controller Legal Metrology J&K

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JUNE 28: The members of the Jammu and Kashmir Petroleum Dealers Association called on the Controller Legal Metrology J&K, Rajinder Singh Tara.

The delegation led by President Rahul Gupta discussed challenges currently faced by Petroleum dealers across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The delegation emphasized the importance of the need for collaborative and proactive efforts to ensure smooth functioning and service delivery and handed over a gist of

issues requiring deliberation of the Controller.

The Controller patiently listened to the members of the association and assured full cooperation from the department. He said that the department will organize awareness camps to aware the dealers about the intricacies of the legal provisions as well as technical aspects facilitating them in voluntary compliances.

The Controller asked the petroleum dealers to take care of consumer grievances with utmost sensitivity. He emphasized the need to reduce consumer complaints and urged the association to prioritize resolving

issues and ensuring consumer satisfaction in all aspects.

The Controller further advised them to provide appropriate amenities to consumers on all routes in general and on National Highways in particular in view of the upcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025.

The Controller assured the delegation that the Department is actively facilitating the genuine businessman as part of Business Reform Action Plans without comprising the interests of the consumers by way of ensuring compliance with enforcement of Legal Metrology Standards and regulations.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA.

Corrigendum

It is hereby notified for information of all prospective bidders that the clause regarding "Particular Construction Experience and Key Production Rates" mentioned in the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) for NIT No. 13//RnB/Pul /2025-26/1653-63 Dated:- 02-06-2025 viz "Construction of Conference Hall at MC Pulwama" stands modified as under:

Please read:

"The applicant should have successfully completed or substantially completed similar works like buildings only during the last seven financial years."

Instead of:

"The applicant should have successfully completed or substantially completed similar works like buildings, road components during the last seven financial years."

All other terms and conditions of the NIT shall remain the same.

DIPK-3103/25

Dt. 28-06-2025

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Pulwama

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

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

MANZOOR AHMAD MIR
S/O BAKIRKHANI MIR R/O WAUTHOORA

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 Lateef Sheergojri s/o Abdul Wahab Sheergojri R/O Ruhoo Anantnag Now I want to update its name if anybody has queries they may contact pdd department we didn't 7 days

PUBLIC NOTICE

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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- 1...GH QADIR SOFI Father 61 years Pensioner
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- 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

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 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.



HT EDITORIAL

Ensure hassle free movement of locals to Pahalgam during Amarnath Yatra

As the annual Amarnath yatra is set to commence from next week the world famous health resort of Pahalgam in South Kashmir would somewhat become out of bounds for the residents of the union territory. Even though there are no official restrictions on a visit to Pahalgam during the yatra period the people of Jammu & Kashmir somewhat decide not to visit the world renowned health resort of Pahalgam.

Given the fact that the police and other security agencies carry out multiple checks en-route Amarnath cave a lot of time gets consumed in the same. This results in unnecessary delay for the people intending to visit Pahalgam and as such the people rue their decision to visit Pahalgam during the Amarnath yatra period. The people look for other options in this regard and as such the other health resorts of Kashmir see unprecedented rush during the time the Amarnath yatra is in progress.

This year since the Aru valley is out of bounds for both the locals and tourists the places to be visited are limited. In such a manner the people who intend to visit Pahalgam this year would have to tread a cautious path and they have to be choosy when it comes to visiting this world famous health resort. The Baisaran incident has cast a bad scar on the tourism scenario in Kashmir especially in the Pahalgam area. It will take some time to remove this scar and by that time the people have to be patient.

The movement of locals to Pahalgam during the yatra period can be regulated in a better manner and in this regard the police and security agencies have an important role to play. Since the yatis are registered at multiple levels these people can be easily segregated from the locals and as such the movement of locals can be easily made to Pahalgam and its associated places. This needs to be given a proper thought by the people at helm so that the locals don't feel alienated.

Since the people at helm want the revival of tourism in Kashmir it is imperative that the movement of tourists be it international, domestic and local is facilitated and there is no bar on the movement of the same. Once locals are allowed to move towards the Pahalgam area it would send a positive message to the locals as well as outsiders. Otherwise, there would be a negative message and that is not good for the overall tourism of Kashmir.

The Role of Environment in Developing Communication Skills



Sahil Manzoor

If we want to develop our communication skills, we must place ourselves in the right environment. There are several simple yet effective ways to enhance vocabulary, which forms the foundation of strong communication.

If we aspire to become public speakers, effective motivators, educators, or counselors, we must develop a gallery of knowledge. While having fragmented or "titbit" knowledge can help us engage to some extent, true impact comes when we have a clear and deep understanding of the subject we are presenting.

Today, the competition among learners is fierce. Even primary school students are developing impressive

communication skills, thanks to their surroundings — family, friends, teachers, and school activities. Teachers, in particular, play a crucial role in helping students develop language skills. The mother tongue is especially powerful in this regard. It allows the explanation of complex ideas in a way that's both accessible and effective.

However, educational institutions are diverse. Students come from various linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Therefore, it becomes essential to emphasize languages like Urdu and English, which are commonly understood by a broad section of students.

According to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, children typically begin formal education at the age of six. During these foundational years, learning often happens through play — using methods like rhymes, songs, and interactive activities. These tools help students build vocabulary, improve fluency, and develop a love for learning. Repetition of rhymes and basic educational content reinforces their understanding.

To strengthen this foundation even

at the secondary and higher secondary levels, schools should dedicate one day per week to basic skill-building activities. These could include student-friendly quizzes or worksheets across subjects such as English, Mathematics, Science, Urdu, and Kashmiri. Such exercises help identify gaps in understanding. Students with strong fundamentals feel confident, while those with weak basics often feel confused and disinterested.

It's important to remember: learning has no age limit. At any stage, we can reflect on our weaknesses and work toward self-improvement.

In today's world, communication skills and proficiency in the English language are increasingly emphasized. While these skills are undoubtedly important, we must not overlook individuals who possess deep talent and knowledge but lack fluency in English or public speaking. These individuals — the real gems of our country — deserve support and opportunities. With the right environment, they too can develop the communication skills they need.

It's unfair that interviews and pro-

fessional opportunities often prioritize language proficiency over talent and dedication. The country needs hardworking, committed youth. Communication skills can be developed over time, especially when people are placed in environments that support learning and growth.

So, how do we improve our communication skills?

The answer lies in book reading. Reading expands vocabulary, improves comprehension, and builds confidence. It keeps us informed and enhances our understanding. Whether through a public library or a home collection, reading regularly will shape your skills profoundly. Even reading the same question multiple times can deepen understanding.

In the end, it's all about prioritizing what we need and giving ourselves the time to improve. Communication is not just about language — it's about connection, clarity, and the will to grow.

Raiyar-Ich, Khansahib | sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

Without Gender Inclusivity, India's AI Growth Is Incomplete



Vijay Garg

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming India's economy and governance, from public service delivery to healthcare and financial inclusion. While frameworks like the National Strategy for AI and initiatives like the National AI Portal show India's ambition to lead responsibly, a critical gap remains: The underrepresentation of women in shaping and benefiting from AI.

India produces one of the world's highest proportions of female STEM graduates. Very few women make it into careers in AI and machine learning in India. This disparity reflects deep-rooted norms, a lack of gender-responsive skilling, limited mentorship and workplace support for women in tech. These barriers reduce individual aspirations and collectively constrain the country's potential to build a diverse and robust AI ecosystem.

The challenge, however, goes beyond representation. When women are missing from the design, governance, and policymaking processes around AI, the technology itself becomes exclusionary. AI systems, trained on historical datasets where male dominance has been the norm, risk replicating those very inequities. In recruitment, for example, AI tools have been shown to favour

male candidates simply because the datasets used reflect past hiring patterns biased against women. A UNESCO study found AI tools were 30 per cent more likely to recommend men for leadership roles, reflecting how biased datasets can be unless actively corrected.

Despite these risks, AI also holds tremendous promise to advance gender equity, if designed and deployed with intention. In India, we have already begun to see AI-based innovations that address gendered development gaps. AI-powered diagnostic tools are improving maternal healthcare by identifying high-risk pregnancies early, especially in underserved rural areas. Fintech companies have leveraged AI to assess creditworthiness for women entrepreneurs who lack formal credit histories, enabling them to access much-needed capital. Educational platforms are harnessing AI to deliver personalised learning for girls from disadvantaged communities, helping overcome learning deficits and social stigma that traditionally keep them out of school.

A few initiatives in different states have shown that AI and digital skilling can be made more inclusive when viewed through a gendered lens. Odisha, for instance, has expanded its flagship Mission Shakti women's empowerment programme to include digital and AI-related skilling for self-help group members, especially in tribal and rural districts. Through partnerships under the Odisha Skill Development Authority, women are being introduced to AI concepts, digital literacy, and data-driven enterprise development, linking traditional livelihoods with the digital economy. Similarly, Telangana's WE Hub and T-AIM have created a supportive ecosystem for women-

led startups working in AI and emerging technologies, while Kerala's SHE ICT initiative and its Knowledge Economy Mission explicitly target digital employment for women returning to the workforce.

Karnataka, through its Elevate Women and KDEM programmes, is investing in women entrepreneurs and digital skilling outside the Bengaluru metro, and Tamil Nadu's Naan Mudhalvan scheme is integrating AI education into colleges and schools with a focus on increasing female participation in STEM. These state-level models offer promising blueprints for how gender-inclusive AI policies can be grounded in local contexts and scaled nationally.

India's AI strategy must include deliberate, systemic actions to reverse the gender gap in both access and leadership. There is an urgent need to make AI education and skilling programmes more accessible and relevant for women. While numerous skilling initiatives have emerged under the government's Digital India and Skill India Missions, most are not designed keeping the gender aspect in mind. As per NASSCOM (2023), women constitute only 29 per cent of those enrolled in AI and data science courses at top institutions such as the IITs and IIITs. Without targeted outreach, fellowships, and bootcamps for women, this gap will only grow. Global programmes like Canada's "AI for Gender Equity" or the UK's "Women in Innovation" fund show how targeted subsidies can boost women's participation in AI.

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

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Axiom-4 Launch Boosts India's Global Space Profile



Priyanka Saurabh

The Axiom-4 mission is a historic moment in India's space history. With the participation of Air Force Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, this mission has become not just a technological achievement but a symbol of India's presence on the global stage. This mission, in collaboration with America's Axiom-4 Space and NASA, has taken India to new heights in the field of human space travel. At the level of scientific experiments, international cooperation and strategic partnerships, this mission strengthens the foundation for the upcoming Gaganyaan and Indian Space Station.

When an Indian representative went to the International Space Station (ISS) after a long gap of 41 years, it was not just a mission but a rebirth of India's space science, global

diplomacy and scientific reputation. The participation of Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Air Force in the Axiom-4 mission made it clear that India is no longer seen as just a participant in the space race but as a potential leader.

Through this mission, India achieved success at many levels simultaneously. First of all, from a scientific point of view, India sent seven major scientific experiments to space under this mission. All these experiments were based on microgravity and their aim was to understand various aspects of life. The study done on seeds like fenugreek and moong took the uniqueness of Indian agricultural techniques to space. This proves that India's traditional farming is also relevant and modern for scientific research.

Additionally, experiments based on micro-organisms, microalgae and muscle regeneration proved India's utility in the development of life support systems for long-term space travel. This makes it clear that India has come not only to establish its presence in space but also to contribute to it at the level of innovation and research. Shubhanshu Shukla's successful docking of SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft and training in emergency situations in space is an invaluable

experience for the upcoming Gaganyaan mission. It will serve as a strong foundation for India's first human space mission.

Axiom-4 also showed that India has now entered commercial space flights as well. The agreement between Axiom-4 Space and Indian startup Skyroot Aerospace shows that India no longer wants to rely only on government resources, but is moving towards developing cheap and innovative solutions in collaboration with the private sector. This is a success story of self-reliance of Indian space policy and startup culture.

From a strategic point of view, AXIOM-4 is a symbol of growing cooperation between India and the US, especially under arrangements like ICET and Artemis Accords. Through this mission, India strengthened the spirit of cooperation not only with the US but also with the global South-North. Along with India, astronauts from countries like Poland and Hungary also participated in this mission. It was a symbol of global inclusiveness and partnership. This mission also boosts India's "soft power". When India's name was associated with human space travel on news channels around the world, it was not just a technological victory but also a diplomatic one.

India demonstrated that it has become a country not just sending satellites, but sending and cooperating humans into space.

The Axiom-4 mission has also given new confidence to India's private space startups. Companies like Skyroot and Agnikul Cosmos are now moving towards global collaboration. This can prove to be an opening of new doors for investment, technical collaboration and scientific innovation for India.

Additionally, this mission has provided India with the necessary experience for Gaganyaan. Axiom-4 has been termed by experts as an "insurance policy", which means that this mission gave India an opportunity to understand and control the risks that may arise in complex missions like Gaganyaan. Also, this experience will be helpful in building India's future space station "Indian Space Station". It is also important that Shubhanshu Shukla received eight months of rigorous training at NASA, which has now given India a new standard in terms of astronaut training capabilities. In future, Indian astronauts can be trained at this level.

The Axiom-4 mission has given India a more effective voice in global forums such as the United Nations Committee on the Peace-

ful Uses of Outer Space. When a country undertakes human space flight, it begins to play a new role not only in science but also in global policy making. The entire mission has proven that India is no longer just an observer, but a participant. The mission has proved to be a 'lift-off moment' for India - a moment when a nation takes flight not just in the field of technology, but also in confidence, strategy and global leadership.

It is now necessary that India builds on this achievement by integrating it with upcoming missions like Gaganyaan and long-term strategies in the space sector. From policy making to budget allocations and from space education to international collaborations—missions like Axiom-4 must be made part of India's long-term space strategy. Ultimately, Axiom-4 was not just a flight, it was a declaration of India's scientific prowess, global participation and potential to become a future space superpower. India is no longer lagging behind in the space race, but is at the forefront.

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

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BOOK REVIEW

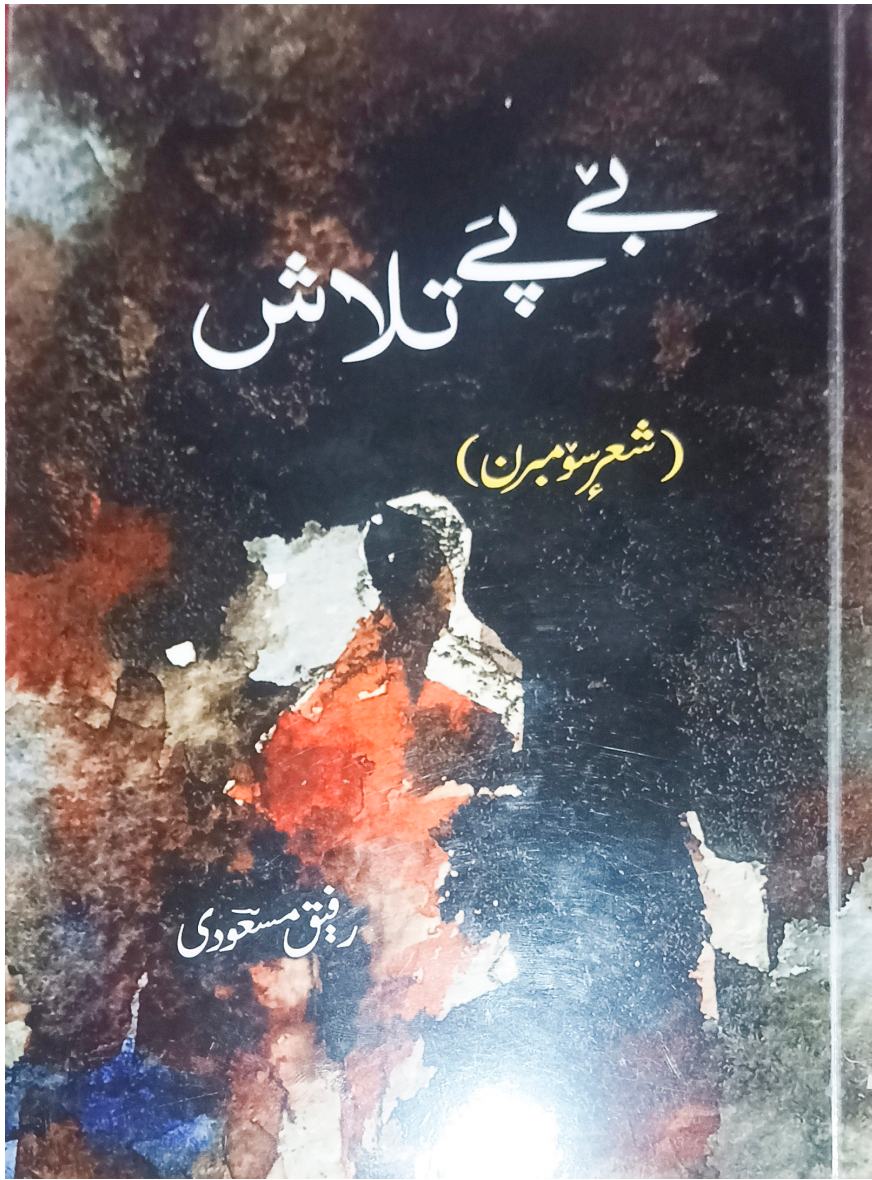
Bey Pie Talash by Dr Rafeeq Masoodi



■ Rayees Ahmad Kumar

Dr. Rafeeq Masoodi is a renowned figure in Jammu and Kashmir, known for his multifaceted personality as a broadcaster, administrator, literary figure, and philanthropist. Dr. Masoodi has headed various cultural institutions, including Vividh Bharati, Radio Kashmir, Doordarshan, and the Cultural Academy. He served as the Additional Director General of Doordarshan and Directorate General of Development Communication Division in New Delhi. He has translated notable works, such as Bhasham Sahni's "Tamas" and Vishnu Prabhakar's "Ardh Narishwar", into Kashmiri. His own book, "Panun Dod Panin Dag" (My Pain, My Affliction), is a collection of Kashmiri poems that have been translated into various languages. Recently he has come up with a new book, Bey Pie Talash, which was released in Tagore Hall Srinagar, during a grand literary event, conducted under the aegis of Adbi Markaz Kamraz of which he is the patron. Bey Pie Talash, another collection of 138 prose poems- articulately composed, spanning 218 pages, and published by Taj Printing Service, Delhi. Boasting an adorable cover page designed by the duo Javid Iqbal and Jameel Ansari, Dr Masoodi has dedicated this collection to his beloved mother, Muntazir, Umaia, Ashwaq, Nihad, Niyusha, and Amal Aashia. While writing it's proem titled 'Kaethi Manz Bawaan Kath' noted academician and poet Prof Shad Ramzan, gives an insightful and detailed historical background of Kashmiri poetic literature from Lala Ded, Sheikh-ul-Alam, Nadim, Mehjoor, Rahi, Firaq, Kamil and Aazim to contemporary poets, besides commenting on some meticulously crafted poems of Dr Masoodi found in this book. In it's foreword, Prof Nazir Azad has highlighted the literary prowess of author, the depth and profundity vivid in his poems, encompass-

ing varied themes and subjects. Author has brilliantly opened the account of his poems in this collection, by an articulately composed one, praising, exalting and revering Almighty. According to author, in blue skies, greeneries, light of the sun etc Almighty's presence is perceptible. Luckiest and fortunate are the ones, reciting glorious Quran at predawn times, shedding tears while reading to purify their souls - it is reflected in second one about glorious Quran. Another beautiful one in praise and admiration of dear Prophet pbuh, depicts authors devotion and faith. According to him, none would have understood monotheism, living in mutual brotherhood, loving and caring each other, had dear Prophet pbuh not been sent as mercy for all. As an ardent believer and staunch devotee of Ahl al-Bayt, Dr Masoodi has composed poems about martyrdom of Hazrat Hussain ra, The Tragedy of Karbala, depicting how even after centuries, their sacred martyrdom continues to inspire generations. Author has beseechingly requested in an imploring tone, in another poem about Sheikh Hamza Makhdoom ra, calling for his eternal guidance and praying for his well-being. Author's spiritual faith with the revered saint is unshakable, apparent through the chosen words of the poem. Author is again imploring Almighty in a poem, to forgive his previous sins through repentance, like Adam and Eve repented after being thrown away from heaven. Kahin Chuna Alaw Bozan, through this poem, a reader gets astonished, how deep silence makes a mother to forget her children, infants don't seek their mothers, and even the wind has kept itself restricted in an unreachable deep cave. Zindagi akh tueka tapuk, Dr Masoodi has composed this one, in context of an accidental episode happened on 29-06-2016 at Trehgam chowk. Infact, the tragedies take seconds to happen and shatter the dreams of hundreds, turn splendid structures into rubble and forcing even kings to stay as beggars. Yei zihea zahn, in this poem, author seems to be haunted by childhood memories, when he would keep his black and white photo in an album. He craves for those black and white days. Taraqi, this poem composed by Dr Masoodi reflects, how our children,



grandchildren speak fluent English and play multiple computer games but Alas, in our homes, Kashmiri - which is our recognition, possessing richest literature of globe, is dying due to stepmotherly attitude. It can't be called a progress, but devastation. Saed saib ni daedi tal, at the revered shrines of sufi saints, no human looks like a foe, every person seems to be wrapped in velvety attires and their faces washed by zam zam waters. This is what author has felt at the shrine of Syed sahab. However it is ambiguous, whether it is shrine of Syed Sahab Son-

war Or any other shrine because hundreds of God fearing saints coming from Siminan and Hamadan cities belonged to Syed dynasty. Atha chi talismi asan, indeed every hand is magical, some turn pebbles into rubies, while some others play with charcoal pieces. In the same way, some persons are skilled in one art, while others too are blessed with some other prowess. Hasad, according to author, envy gets it's birth from a black heart, however it isn't necessary that he has a black face too. Envy is often viewed as a negative trait because it can lead to

resentment, bitterness, and strained relationships. It can also hinder personal growth and happiness. Dardrai, this poem reflects inner human feeling, which recognizes one's pain when tears are shed while hardly fears the torrential rains which also, at times wreck huge havoc. Rasool Mir, to celebrate the founding father of Kashmiri ghazal, this poem measures the literary and poetic hight of Rasool Mir- the household name of Kashmir. Bey pie Talash, title poem of the book- author himself is surprised over, what he is searching for, in each lane, street, house, blazing fires and blooming roses. Almost every reader while going through this poem, feels bewildered, what the author is truly searching for. Abaji, through this meticulously crafted poem, author has paid glowing tributes to his father, who has passed almost five decades ago. Calculating his pious virtues and praying for his eternal peace, is the main content of this poem. Mouj Kashiri rath wandai, using chosen and calculated smiles and metaphors, author has succeeded in highlighting the deplorable state of Kashmir, which one's was thriving through all means. Khata, to err is human, this is what the author has tried to teach through this poem, however after committing mistakes and sins, it is imperative to seek repentance. Myoun Sarmayi, the pains, afflictions and episodes which author has encountered have found their voices in the form of poems which are his total assets. Three literary icons of valley, Farooq Nazki, Shehnaz Rashid and Ayoub Sabir have described Dr Masoodi as skillful litterateur, who knows how to craft impressive poetry items. After going through these masterfully creative poems, it is evident that, Rafiq Masoodi is a renowned Kashmiri poet known for his thought-provoking and emotionally charged poetry. This collection explores themes of grief, faith, memory, and the human spirit, offering a poignant reflection of Kashmir's experiences. Masoodi's poetry is characterized by its quietude, emotional integrity, and refined use of metaphor. I recommend every literature lover to go through this masterpiece.

Writer is a columnist based in Gazigund Kashmir

THE ROLE OF THE JUDICIARY IN PROTECTING FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS



■ Mohammad Ashar Bhat

The judiciary plays a crucial role in protecting fundamental rights, acting as the guardian of the Constitution and the final interpreter of law. In a democratic society, the judiciary ensures that the rights granted to individuals under the Constitution are not violated by the state, institutions, or even private entities. When any law, policy, or action infringes upon fundamental rights such as the right to equality, freedom of speech, or personal liberty, it is the judiciary that steps in to uphold justice. Through mechanisms like writ petitions under Article 32 and Article 226 of the Indian Constitution, citizens can directly approach the courts to seek redress for violations of their rights. The judiciary, particularly the higher courts like the Supreme Court and High Courts, have been proactive in expanding the interpretation of rights to include newer dimensions such as the right to privacy, education, and a clean environment. This judicial activism has played a significant role in holding governments accountable and ensuring that power is exercised within constitutional limits. Moreover, by striking down unconstitutional laws and executive actions, the judiciary maintains a system of checks and balances that is essential for the survival of democracy. In essence, the judiciary is not merely a passive observer but a dynamic institution committed to safeguarding the dignity and freedoms of individuals against any form of oppression or injustice.

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Constitution and the final interpreter of law. In a democratic society, the judiciary ensures that the rights granted to individuals under the Constitution are not violated by the state, institutions, or even private entities. When any law, policy, or action infringes upon fundamental rights such as the right to equality, freedom of speech, or personal liberty, it is the judiciary that steps in to uphold justice. Through mechanisms like writ petitions under Article 32 and Article 226 of the Indian Constitution, citizens can directly approach the courts to seek redress for violations of their rights. The judiciary, particularly the higher courts like the Supreme Court and High Courts, have been proactive in expanding the interpretation of rights to include newer dimensions such as the right to privacy, education, and a clean environment. This judicial activism has played a significant role in holding governments accountable and ensuring that power is exercised within constitutional limits. Moreover, by

striking down unconstitutional laws and executive actions, the judiciary maintains a system of checks and balances that is essential for the survival of democracy. In essence, the judiciary is not merely a passive observer but a dynamic institution committed to safeguarding the dignity and freedoms of individuals against any form of oppression or injustice. The judiciary also serves as a watchdog that constantly reviews laws, executive decisions, and legislative actions to ensure they do not violate the spirit of the Constitution. This function becomes even more significant in times of political instability or authoritarian tendencies, where there is a risk of misuse of power. The courts, particularly the Supreme Court in India, have developed the concept of judicial review, which empowers them to invalidate any law or executive order that contravenes fundamental rights. Over the years, the judiciary has expanded its interpretation of rights through landmark judgments—for example, the right to life under Article

21 has been interpreted to include the right to live with dignity, the right to education, and even the right to a healthy environment. This broad and progressive interpretation has brought justice to countless people who otherwise might have remained voiceless in the system.

Furthermore, the judiciary plays a key role in promoting social justice by addressing inequalities and discrimination faced by marginalized communities. It has time and again taken suo motu cognizance of human rights violations and intervened in matters concerning the poor, women, children, and other vulnerable groups. Through Public Interest Litigations (PILs), even individuals or groups not directly affected by a particular issue can approach the court, making the justice system more accessible to the common people. This innovation in legal procedure has made the judiciary a powerful tool in addressing collective grievances and promoting the ideals of equality and fairness.

The independence of the judiciary is also critical in this regard. A free and impartial judiciary is essential to ensure that justice is not influenced by political pressures or vested interests. Judges are expected to interpret the law without fear or favor, and this impartiality builds public trust in the legal system. It is through this independence that the judiciary can fearlessly challenge governmental actions and act as the voice of the Constitution. Moreover, the judiciary plays an educational role by spreading awareness about fundamental rights and encouraging citizens to stand up for their constitutional freedoms. In conclusion, the judiciary not only enforces fundamental rights but also nurtures a culture of justice, equality, and respect for the rule of law. Its role is indispensable in ensuring that the democratic framework remains intact and that every individual, regardless of status or background, is treated with fairness and dignity.

The Author is a Student Of law, University of Kashmir

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DC Kishtwar conducts inspection of key town projects; Emphasizes safety, service delivery

HT NEWS DESK

KISHTWAR, JUNE 28: To accelerate developmental works and enhance public service delivery, the Deputy Commissioner, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today conducted an early morning tour of Kishtwar town to inspect the progress and status of several key infrastructure and utility projects. The inspection covered critical areas such as sanitation, water supply, drainage systems, town beautification and power distribution, among others. The Deputy Commissioner assessed the on-ground implementation and gave clear directives to expedite the remaining works. Taking strong note of sanitation issues, the DC instructed the Executive Officer, Municipal Council to ensure



immediate improvement in cleanliness and drainage maintenance. He further directed the joint inspection team comprising the CEO MC, District Officer PCC, Assistant Direc-

tor FCS&CA and Designated Officer Food Safety to launch a comprehensive town-wide drive for seizure of banned polythene, hygiene and sanitation checks, quality inspection of packaged and perishable food items being sold in the market. The DC directed the Executive Engineer JPDCL to enhance electricity distribution by removing unauthorized overhead electric wires and relocating poles to safer, more strategic locations to ensure public safety and uninterrupted power supply. Addressing public inconvenience caused by infrastructure works, the DC gave instructions to the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department to immediately restore roads and pavements damaged during pipeline laying and ensure their return to original condition without delay.

Gram Sabha empowers local decision-making in Block Inderwal under DAJGUA

HT NEWS DESK

KISHTWAR, JUNE 28: In a landmark effort to strengthen tribal empowerment and ensure inclusive development, the district administration organized an awareness and benefits saturation camp in Block Headquarters Inderwal, Panchayat Lower Chatroo-C, District Kishtwar under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gramin Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA). This initiative, part of DAJGUA's ongoing district-wide campaign, drew enthusiastic participation from the tribal community and marked a significant step in bridging governance and grassroots engagement. Centered on Information, Education and Communication (IEC), the camp served as a one-stop platform to raise awareness and facilitate access to a wide array of government schemes tai-

lored to tribal welfare. Key departments including Health, Jal Shakti, Agriculture, Education, ICDS, Employment, Rural Development, JPDCL and FCS&CA—established interactive stalls offering on-the-spot assistance with registrations, application processes and benefit disbursements. Many services were delivered in local dialects to ensure clarity and inclusiveness. Special health check-ups were conducted for tribal residents, addressing immediate medical needs and extending basic healthcare to remote populations. A Gram Sabha was also convened during the camp, fostering meaningful dialogue on community priorities. Participants actively discussed local issues, passed resolutions and reinforced the role of grassroots governance in the development process.

DA-JGUA: Special Buffer Camp organized at Mammer to accelerate tribal outreach, welfare delivery

HT NEWS DESK

GANDERBAL, JUNE 28: In line with the ongoing Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA), a special buffer camp was successfully organized today at Mammer, Block Kangan, with the aim of accelerating outreach and ensuring last-mile delivery of welfare schemes to the tribal communities residing in the region. The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from tribal households, especially members of the Gujar and Bakarwal communities, who availed on-the-spot services and information

about key government schemes including PM-JANMAN, PM-JAY SEHAT, Mission Shakti, PMAY-G, Pension schemes, scholarships for ST students, and livelihood initiatives under NRLM. Line departments including Health, ICDS, Social Welfare, Education, Rural Development, Animal Husbandry, and Agriculture had set up facilitation counters, offering citizens support in application processing, document verification, health checkups, and scheme enrollment. The resource persons present sensitized the tribal populace about their rights, entitlements, and the government's focus.

DC Kathua reviews progress of School Infrastructure Works

HT NEWS DESK

KATHUA, JUNE 28: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Dr. Rakesh Minhas today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of development works being executed in the Education Sector by the Public Works Department (PWD) and Rural Engineering Wing (REW). The meeting was held in the Video Conference Room of the DC Office Complex and was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Ranjit Thakur; Chief Education Officer, Mangat Ram Sharma; Engineers of PWD from Kathua, Basohli, Billawar and Hiranagar divisions; Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) and other concerned officers. While reviewing the works taken up under the Elementary Education component of the District CAPEX budget, it was informed

that out of 30 sanctioned works, 13 are currently under execution at full pace, while 17 new works have been added for the current financial year. The Deputy Commissioner impressed upon the concerned ZEOs to conduct regular site visits for monitoring and to oversee the quality and pace of execution. He directed the executing agencies to obtain weekly progress updates from the field functionaries to maintain consistent momentum. In regard to the works under the Secondary Education sector, it was informed that out of a total of 9 projects, 3 have been completed while 6 are under execution. Under the UT CAPEX budget, a total of 137 works have been sanctioned, out of which 42 have been completed, and 107 are being taken up during the current fiscal year. During the review of SAMAGRA Shiksha works, it was informed

that in the Kathua Sub-Division under PWD, a total of 66 works have been taken up, out of which 37 have been completed, while 19 new works have been tendered. In Hiranagar Sub-Division, out of 31 works, 8 have been completed and 17 are newly added. In Basohli Sub-Division, a total of 117 works have been taken up under SAMAGRA, out of which 63 works have been completed. Similarly, in Billawar Sub-Division, 136 works are under execution, with 42 already completed and the remaining progressing at a steady pace. The meeting also informed that a total of 63 education sector works are being executed by REW Kathua, which are presently at different stages of completion. The Deputy Commissioner laid thrust on the timely completion of all projects, stating that education remains a key priority sector for the district.

District Admin Ramban joins Launch of Mission YUVA

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JUNE 28: The District Administration Ramban today virtually joined the UT-wide launch of the Mission Yuva programme, an ambitious initiative spearheaded by the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, aimed at strengthening job opportunities for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir through sustainable self-employment ventures. The virtual launch event was attended by Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, along with Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, Joint Director Employment S. Parmjeet Singh, and other senior officers from various departments. A large number of aspiring entrepreneurs, Yuva Doots, unemployed youth, and other concerned officials also participated in the programme at the district headquarters.

The event featured a live screening of the inaugural ceremony led by the Chief Minister, during which the vision and objectives of Mission Yuva were explained in detail. The District Administration also encouraged the youth to proactively come forward, register under Mission Yuva, and avail themselves of the benefits, including financial support, capacity building, and mentorship for various entrepreneurial ventures. The District Administration also issued an appeal to the unemployed youth of Ramban district to take full advantage of this golden opportunity by enrolling themselves under the scheme and turning their entrepreneurial aspirations into reality. Similar programmes were also organised at Gool and other parts of the district. Similar programmes were also organised at Gool and other parts of the district.

Pension Adalat held at Ramban

Committed to Ensuring Faster Resolution of Grievances and Enhancing the Dignity and Financial Security of Family Pensioners

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JUNE 28: In a significant initiative aimed at promoting transparency and expediting the resolution of pension-related grievances, the Office of the Principal Accountant General (A&E), J&K, Jammu, in coordination with the District Administration today organized a Pension Adalat at the District Headquarters Ramban. The Adalat was presided over by Deputy Accountant General Pawan Kumar Rathi, accompanied by Additional Treasury Officer Lokesh Shan, Senior AOs Surinder Sharma and Naresh Pal and AAOs Umesh, Romesh Chander and Inderji Bhat. A large number of pensioners, family pensioners, Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs), Pension Sanctioning Authorities (PSAs) and other concerned officials participated in the program. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Accountant General stat-

ed that the Pension Adalat reflects the 'whole-of-government approach', bringing together all concerned departments on a single platform for the expeditious and effective resolution of grievances. He emphasized that the initiative not only accelerates grievance redressal but also reinforces the government's commitment to pensioners as valued members of society. He also stressed the importance of promoting greater awareness among PSAs, DDOs and pensioners regarding pension procedures and responsibilities. During the Adalat, several PSAs and DDOs presented pending cases, particularly those delayed due to missing clarifications or documentation. These cases were thoroughly reviewed and on-the-spot resolutions were provided wherever feasible. The Deputy Accountant General also informed the gathering that starting July 1, 2025, all pension cases in the Union Territory of

Jammu and Kashmir must be submitted exclusively through online mode—a move aimed at streamlining processes, enhancing transparency and expediting settlements. Resource persons also sensitized participants about the online pension case submission process, highlighting key areas requiring special attention to ensure error-free submissions. Pensioners, family pensioners and departmental officials actively voiced their concerns during the Adalat, which were patiently heard and addressed by the authorities. Directions were issued for the time-bound redressal of all genuine cases, reaffirming the government's commitment to safeguarding the financial security and dignity of pensioners and their families. Pensioners, family pensioners and departmental officials actively voiced their concerns during the Adalat, which were patiently heard and addressed by the authorities. Directions were issued for the time-bound.

Omar Abdullah-led Govt committed to youth welfare & empowerment: Javid Ahmad Dar

Urges Youth to gear up for upcoming Panchayat polls

HT NEWS DESK

Jammu, June 28: Javid Ahmad Dar, Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative, and Election, today reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of the Omar Abdullah-led government towards the welfare and empowerment of youth. He said the government is focused on creating sustainable livelihood opportunities that allow young people to lead lives of dignity and self-reliance. The minister was addressing a day-long Youth National Conference (YNC) convention organized under the leadership of Tejinder Pal Singh Aman, Provincial President YNC Jammu at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan,

Jammu. Senior NC leaders former Minister and Additional General Secretary JKNC, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra and Provincial President Rattan Lal Gupta were guest of honors, Provincial Secretaries Sheikh Bashir Ahmed, Pardeep Bali, Ayub Malik, Ex-MLA Bimla Luthra, Vijay Lochan Chairman SC Cell, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell, Shamim Begum DDC Dandalsal, Joginder Singh Kaku DDC Nagrota, Rajni Devi Working President Women wing Jammu, Chander Mohan Sharma District President Jammu Urban, Ragbir Singh Manhas District President Jammu Rural A, Naresh Bittu District President Jammu Rural B were also present. Javid Ahmad Dar, who was the Chief Guest at the event, criticized the previous regimes for neglecting



youth-centric policies over the past decade. He asserted that under the leadership of Omar Abdullah, the government has ensured equitable

representation to the Jammu region, despite a larger mandate from Kashmir. Highlighting key welfare initiatives

of the present dispensation, he mentioned schemes like free travel for women in government buses, 200 units of free electricity to AAY families, and enhanced marriage assistance of 75,000 for girls. He also noted that Jammu and Kashmir recently received Rs10,637 crore package for massive infrastructure push in the region, which also includes key projects like the Sadhna Tunnel and the Mughal Road Tunnel. The minister said that Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has committed to address the issues being faced by youth of J&K. He emphasized that the youth are not only the backbone of society but also have to play a pivotal role in the political and social transformation of Jammu and Kash-

mir. He urged the youth cadre to aim high, work with dedication, and strengthen the organizational fabric of the party to bring about meaningful change. Ajay Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary, in his address, said that the so-called Double Engine Government of BJP has completely failed in Jammu and Kashmir. He added that the BJP, which ruled J&K for the past 10 years, abrogated Article 370 with tall promises of reducing unemployment and ending terrorism, but nothing has changed on the ground. Ajay Sadhotra stressed the urgent need to end the ongoing system of dual governance in the Union Territory which has created only chaos and hurdles in the present dispensation.

Mission YUVA: Live streaming of launch ceremony held across Kathua

HT NEWS DESK

KATHUA, JUNE 28: The launch

engaged virtually with entrepreneurs from various districts including Rekha Rani from



of Mission YUVA, an ambitious self-employment and entrepreneurship initiative of the Jammu and Kashmir Government, was live-streamed today from SKICC Srinagar at the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex Kathua in the presence of senior district officers, stakeholders, and beneficiaries. The live event was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Kathua Surinder Mohan, Deputy Director Employment and Counselling Centre Harvinder Singh, Assistant Labour Commissioner Piyusha Khajuria, District Social Welfare Officer Varun Chaudhary, and other officers from stakeholder departments. A large number of registered beneficiaries and youth also participated. During the live interaction, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah

Kathua. She shared her experience of registering under Mission YUVA and explained how she swiftly applied for the scheme through the District Employment and Counselling Centre Kathua. Her Detailed Project Report was prepared in record time for setting up a Manyari (general store) shop with active support from the department. She expressed gratitude to the UT Government for launching such youth-centric schemes that ensure ease of access, timely support, and continuous hand-holding. District officers reiterated their commitment to extend full support to eligible youth under the scheme and encouraged them to take advantage of the opportunities being made available to build a self-reliant and economically active future.





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

Finalise preparations for smooth conduct of annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2025 at Srinagar Transit camp

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 28:- Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo & Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb on Saturday evening undertook a site visit of Yatra Transit Camp (YTC) at Panthachowk to oversee the arrangements being put in place for the Yatries expected to participate in annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANJY-2025) beginning from July 03.

DC along with SMC Commissioner inspected the facilities and arrangements put in place for safety and convenience of the yatri during their halt at the transit camp Srinagar.

On the occasion, DC & Commissioner were apprised that all necessary facilities including provision for drinking water, electricity, sanitation, public convenience facilities, boarding, lodging, bedding, KYC registration counter, medical facilities, etc have been made available at the Yatra



Transit Camp well in advance before the commencement of the annual pilgrimage.

During the visit, DC & Commissioner

assessed the condition and functionality of various facilities, ensuring they are operating as intended, to ensure pilgrims

do not face any difficulty at the camp.

While interacting with the Officers, DC emphasized seamless coordination among departments to ensure smooth, seamless and peaceful conduct of the Yatra.

SMC authorities briefed that proper sanitation and cleanliness in the transit camp on a regular basis, besides deployment of sufficient staff has been ensured. Directions were passed for installing dust bins at different locations in the premises of the transit camp.

In order to ensure hassle free RFID and KYC registrations at the Camp, DC asked the concerned to ensure all required machinery and electronic gadgets are functioning properly.

Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed; Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid and SDPO Panthachowk, Zohaib Hassan, the DC was accompanied by SDM East, Chief Medical Officer, Executive Engineers of R&B, PDD, PHE, Tehsildar Panthachowk,

DC Ganderbal visits Kullan, Nilgrath, reviews arrangements for Muharram

HT NEWS DESK

GANDERBAL, JUNE 28: In view of Muharram, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today conducted an extensive visit to Kullan and Nilgrath areas of the district to review and assess the preparedness for smooth conduct of Muharram-related activities. During the visit, DC took a detailed appraisal of the arrangements being put in place to facilitate the conduct of religious processions and other events, ensuring that devotees face no inconvenience during the sacred days.

Representatives from

Shia and Aqaf Committees of Kullan and Nilgrath interacted with the DC and raised several key issues regarding uninterrupted water and power supply, installation and repair of street lights, sanitation measures, and the repair of inner roads. Taking note of their concerns, DC issued on-the-spot instructions to the concerned departments for time-bound redressal of the highlighted issues. He emphasized that all necessary arrangements must be completed well in advance to ensure a peaceful and organized observance of Muharram.

Executive Engineer R&B was directed to carry out

immediate repairs and renovation works on inner roads where required. Assistant Director, FCS&CA, was instructed to ensure timely supply and distribution of essential commodities in these areas.

Chief Medical Officer Ganderbal was tasked with deploying First Aid Teams at both locations with sufficient stock of essential medicines and necessary medical supplies to cater to any health exigencies during the processions.

Further, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats was directed to ensure thorough cleanliness and sanitation around Imambaras and mosques.

SANJY-2025: Mock Drill held at Pahalgam

HT NEWS DESK

ANANTNAG, JUNE 28 In view of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025, a comprehensive mock drill was conducted under the supervision of Major General (Retd.) Sudhir Bahl at Pahalgam to assess disaster preparedness and refine the response strategy wherever necessary.

The drill simulated various emergency scenarios, including fire incidents, terrorist attacks, vehicular accidents, and stampedes. These simulations were carried out at the Nunwan Base Camp, Chandanwari and adjoining areas.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anantnag, Sandeep Singh Bali, who was present on the occasion, stated that the response strategies for all scenarios were thoroughly reviewed. The exercise was highly effective in ensuring all stakehold-



ers are well-acquainted with their roles and responsibilities. It played a vital role in enhancing inter-departmental coordination. Following the drill, a debriefing meeting was held with various departments under the chairmanship of Major General Sudhir Bahl (Retd.).

SANJY-2025: DC Bandipora reviews facilities at Shadipora Transit Camp

HT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 28: In view of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Saturday visited the Transit Yatra Camp at Shadipora to review the arrangements and assess the facilities available for the Yatri.

During the visit, DC conducted an extensive inspection of the camp infrastructure and took stock of key services including accommodation, sanitation, potable water, elec-



tricity, medical facilities, and security measures.

He emphasized the need to ensure 24x7 availability of these services while maintaining high standards of hygiene and cleanliness. On the occasion, DC also chaired a review meeting with officers of vari-

ous departments. The concerned officers apprised him that all requisite arrangements have already been put in place to facilitate a smooth and comfortable stay for the pilgrims.

Qadri stressed the importance of close inter-departmental coordination and timely execution of pending works, if any, to ensure the successful conduct of the annual pilgrimage. DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Hussain Shawl; Sub-Divisional Magistrate Sumbal, officers from J&K.

NDMA conducts mock exercises at Baltal ahead of SANJY 2025

Amir Iqbal Khan

GANDERBAL, JUNE 28: In view of the ensuing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025, a mock drill was today organized along Baltal axis under the supervision of Col. Nadeem Arshid (Retd.), to test the disaster preparedness and improvise the response strategy where required.

During the mock drill, several scenarios including fire incidents, terrorist attacks, IED identification and neutralization, vehicular accidents and stampedes were simulated. Col Nadeem Arshad on the occasion said that response strategies for these mock scenarios have been discussed threadbare and any gap areas identified have been

addressed. He said that the mock exercise has been very fruitful in ensuring that all stakeholders are well versed with their responsibilities. He said that the exercise has been instrumental in ensuring inter-departmental coordination. NDMA experts trained the participants on key aspects of disaster management such as the formation of Incident Response Teams, coordination among various participating agencies, evacuation, medical preparedness and trauma counselling.

This exercise aimed at enhancing the preparedness of officials of the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board (SASB), district administration and other key Government agencies to deal with any disaster.

Distt Admin Anantnag hosts live streaming of launch of Mission YUVA

HT NEWS DESK

ANANTNAG, JUNE 28: In a vibrant display of youth engagement and community participation, Anantnag district administration today organized a grand district-level celebration of the launch of Mission YUVA at Dak Bungalow Khannabal.

The highlight of the event was the live streaming of the Chief Minister's official launch of Mission YUVA. Young participants and entrepreneurs joined in discussions and interactive sessions focused on the Mission's objectives.

Present at the event were senior officers of the district administration, representatives from various banks and budding entrepreneurs. Officers addressed the gathering, highlighting the government's renewed emphasis on youth-led development, skill enhancement, and fostering a spirit of self-reliance.

Speakers underlined the central vision of Mission YUVA which is to empower youth through entrepreneurship, innovation, and meaningful community engagement. The mission seeks to promote job creation, encourage self-employment, and build a future-ready generation equipped to shape their own destinies.

The celebration concluded with a renewed call to action for all stakeholders to work collaboratively toward realizing the aspirations of the district's youth. The celebration concluded with a renewed call to action for all stakeholders to work collaboratively toward realizing the aspirations of the district's youth.

DC Ganderbal visits Baltal, reviews preparations for SANJY-2025

HT NEWS DESK

GANDERBAL, JUNE 28: In view of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2025, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today visited the Baltal Base Camp to take firsthand assessment of the ongoing preparations and chaired a meeting with concerned officers to review the arrangements being made to ensure a smooth and hassle-free Yatra.

During the meeting, DC was briefed by officers from various departments regarding the status of arrangements put in place.

The administration has made elaborate preparations including camping facilities, medical care, upgradation of tracks,

uninterrupted power and water supply, sanitation, and improved mobile connectivity.

DC reviewed key infrastructure components such as accommodation facilities, sanitation, essential services, and overall preparedness for the arrival of pilgrims at the Baltal Base Camp. Most departments informed that they have already finalized their preparations for the Yatra.

While appreciating the efforts of departments for timely execution of the works, DC emphasized the need for further fine-tuning of arrangements in the remaining days to ensure every aspect is addressed meticulously.

Later, DC, accompanied by SSP Ganderbal, inspected

arrangements at Dmail and the Pony Stand. He expressed satisfaction over the arrangements in place and directed officials to maintain coordination for any last-minute requirements.

DC reiterated the commitment of the district administration towards the smooth and safe conduct of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra via the Baltal axis, assuring continuous augmentation of facilities for the convenience of pilgrims. While appreciating the efforts of departments for timely execution of the works, DC emphasized the need for further fine-tuning of arrangements in the remaining days to ensure every aspect is addressed meticulously.

Police Arrest Bootlegger In Sopore, Illicit Liquor Recovered

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JUNE 28: June 28: As part of its ongoing efforts to curb the illegal liquor trade, Police arrested a bootlegger in Sopore and recovered illicit liquor from his possession.

A police party during naka checking at Takiya Panzalla intercepted a suspicious person. During search, five bottles of illicit liquor and eight tins of beer were recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Babar Shamus Baba son of Shamas-ud-Din Baba resident of Chinkipora Sopore. He has been arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 44/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Panzalla and further investigation is underway to identify the source and broader supply chain.

Police reiterate its zero-tolerance policy towards illegal trade and narcotics. Let this serve as a clear warning those involved in such activities will face strict legal action. Policereains committed to dismantling unlawful networks and ensuring a safer, addiction-free society.

Grievance redressal camp held at Jagti

Dr. Karwani reviews Jagti migrant camp development works

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JUNE 28: A public grievance redressal camp was held under the chairmanship of Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K Dr. Arvind Karwani at Mini Township Jagti-Nagrota Jammu to review the ongoing development works in the migrant camps at Jammu and to take stock of the various day to day issues being faced by the migrants.

Vijay Kumar Sharma, Deputy Commissioner (Relief), Shiwani Bhan, CAO (Relief), Kailash Devi, Assistant Commissioner (Relief), Sanjeev Kumar Assistant Commissioner (Relief) and senior officers from various line departments viz. Jal Shakti, Public Works, Power Development Department, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Youth Services & Sports, Floriculture, Gardens & Parks, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Jammu & Kashmir e-Governance Agency, Health, Education, Urban Environmental Engineering and Revenue.

Tehsildar Nagrota, SDPO Nagrota, Tehsildars/ Camp Commandants of Relief Organization and Incharges Sub-District Hospital Jagti and Higher Secondary School were present.

Dr. Karwani patiently listened to the grievances of the public, which mainly included about repair/renovation of flats, allotment of shops, allotment of flats, water supply, sanitation, maintenance of parks and power supply. He emphasised upon the officers to ensure due adherence to the recent directions issued by the General Administration Department, wherein responsibilities of Transit Migrant Camps at Jammu and Kashmir have been assigned to various Government Departments. It has been provided in the order that officers not below the rank of Executive Engineer shall liaise /coordinate about the execution/ maintenance of works/projects pertaining to their department with the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K.

Dr Karwani reviewed the ongoing development works of various Government Departments. The Jal Shakti Department was asked to expedite the construction of borewells in the Jagti and Nagrota migrant camps to augment the water supply. The officers of the Jal Shakti Department apprised that on the basis of complaints of camp inmates related to the potability of the drinking water, the quality testing of samples was done and reports in this regard are all satisfactory.

The Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Department, apprised about the progress of works going on in the migrant camps viz. Migrant Camp Jagti, Migrant Camp Nagrota, Migrant Camp Muthi - Buta Nagar and Migrant Camp Purkhoo. He was directed to expedite the completion of approved works of repair and renovation works and make street lights functional. It was further directed that the repair/renovation of boundary walls in all migrant camps and water proofing works in the residential flats be completed on priority. PWD(R&B) assured that the ongoing work on multi facility community hall involving financial implications of about Rs 6.5 crore will be completed by the end of the year. It was apprised that a major repair renovation project with financial implications of about Rs 84 crore has been framed to address the long pending demand of camp inmates for a major repair and renovation of more than five thousand flats, community halls, school buildings and other infrastructure in migrant camps. Dr Karwani assured the public that efforts are in progress to get approval of the Government and requisite funds for the purpose. The Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) further apprised that Kandoli - Jagti connecting road is in the process of work allotment, which will soon address the concern of residents of Jagti and Nagrota regarding dilapidated condition of road and consequent hindered movement.

Dr Karwani emphasised that work monitoring committees headed by the concerned camp commandant and including the representatives from public work under the close supervision of Deputy Commissioner (Relief), to prioritize the repair/renovation works and ensure satisfactory work completion of all works. The site engineers were directed to ensure close supervision on ground to ensure the quality of works being executed and time bound completion, as per the stipulated deadline.





PM Modi honoured with 'Dharma Chakravarti' on centenary of Jain guru Vidyanand

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 28

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured today with the title of 'Dharma Chakravarti' on centenary celebrations of Jain spiritual leader Vidyanand here. Speaking on receiving the award, PM Modi said, "On this occasion, you honoured me with the title of 'Dharma Chakravarti'. I do not consider myself suitable for this. But it is our culture that whatever we receive from saints, we accept it as 'prasad'. So, I humbly accept this 'prasad' and dedicate it to Maa Bharati."

The event was also attended by Union culture and tourism minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Rashtrasant Paramparacharya Pragyasagar Muniraj, alongside other dignitaries, parliamentarians, and Jain acharyas, said a statement from the Ministry here.

"This day is also special because on June 28, 1987, Acharya Vidyanand Muniraj received the title of 'Acharya'. It wasn't just an honour but it was also a 'pavitra dhaara' connecting the Jain culture to ideas, restraint and compassion. When we are celebrating his 100th birth anniversary today, it reminds us of that historic moment", PM Modi said, said the statement.

He also visited a specially curated exhibition titled "Life



and Legacy of Acharya Shri 108 Vidyanand Ji Maharaj", which showcased murals, paintings, and rare archival material chronicling the saint's contributions. On the occasion, a commemorative stamp and coin were released, alongside a biographical volume detailing saint's life journey. The centenary celebrations which will be observed until April 22, 2026 mark the beginning of a year-long national tribute to the revered saint and scholar, organised jointly by the Culture Ministry and the Bhagwan Mahaveer

Ahimsa Bharti Trust. The centenary year will be observed through nationwide cultural, literary, educational, and spiritual programmes.

Born in 1925 in Shedbal, Belagavi (Karnataka), Vidyanand became one of the most respected Jain monks of modern India. He memorised over 8,000 Jain Agamic verses and authored more than 50 influential works, including Jain Darshan, Anekantvad, and Moksh marg Darshan.

His historical contributions include designing the official Jain Flag and Emblem during the 2500th Nirvana Mahotsav of Bhagwan Mahavir in 1975. The five-colour flag and the Ahimsa hand symbol are now universally accepted across Jain traditions, as per the statement.

He was also pivotal in identifying Basokund in Bihar as Bhagwan Mahavir's birthplace — a finding recognised by the Indian government in 1956. Born in 1925 in Shedbal, Belagavi (Karnataka), Vidyanand became one of the most respected Jain monks of modern India. He memorised over 8,000 Jain Agamic verses and authored more than 50 influential works, including Jain Darshan, Anekantvad, and Moksh marg Darshan. His historical contributions include designing the official Jain Flag and Emblem during the 2500th Nirvana Mahotsav of Bhagwan Mahavir in 1975.

Radiation level in region normal post US attacks on Iranian N-sites: IAEA DG

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 28

Radiation levels in the Gulf region remain normal following the 12-day Israel-Iran conflict while the Islamic Republic asserted that it would carry out uranium enrichment within its territory and would no longer allow installation of surveillance cameras at its nuclear facilities. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi, quoting data from the International Radiation Monitoring System (IRMS), said this 48-nation network would have detected an important radioactive release from any damaged nuclear power reactor.

"From a nuclear safety perspective, Iran's Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant and the Tehran Research Reactor represented our main concerns as any strike affecting those facilities — including their off-site power lines — could have caused a radiological accident with potential consequences in Iran as well as beyond its borders in the case of the Bushehr plant. It did not happen, and the worst nuclear safety scenario was thereby avoided," he said.

Stressing that nuclear facilities should never be attacked, he reiterated that Israeli and U.S. strikes on Iranian nuclear sites would have caused localized radioactive releases inside the impacted facilities and localized toxic effects. But there has been no report of increased off-site radiation levels.

He emphasised the need for IAEA inspectors to continue their verification activities in Iran, as required under its Comprehensive Safeguards



Agreement (CSA) with the Agency. However, Iran said it would no longer allow the IAEA DG or the installation of surveillance cameras at its nuclear facilities.

Iran has already decided to pull out of the IAEA, the organisation it had joined in 1958.

Hamid Reza Haji Babaei, Vice Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, today said Iran's decision stems from the discovery of sensitive facility data within documents obtained from the Israeli regime.

Speaking at a ceremony he said "The recent 12-day war is a continuation of the 47-year-old hostilities led by the United States against the Iranian nation. The core of this enmity is not about missiles or the nuclear program—it's about the people of Iran." Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations, Amir-Saeid Iravani, said the Islamic Republic insists on carrying out the uranium enrichment within its territory.

In an interview with Al-Monitor, Iravani said establishing a consortium to carry out nuclear activities may act as a complement, but it will never replace Iran's domestic programme.

Kharge pays tribute to Narasimha Rao, hails economic reforms, foreign policy vision

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 28

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge today paid homage to former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao on his birth anniversary, lauding his economic liberalisation policies and forward-looking foreign policy initiatives. In a tribute on X, Kharge acknowledged Rao's transformative role in ushering in wide-ranging economic liberalisation policies that laid the foundation for an era of unprecedented national growth. These reforms, he said, were instrumental in uplifting and expanding India's middle class and creating a more robust and resilient economy. "We pay our tributes to Former Prime Minister, PV Narasimha Rao, on his birth anniversary. His government's far-reaching economic



liberalisation policies were instrumental in catalysing an era of unprecedented national growth. These reforms were pivotal in the upliftment and expansion of the middle class, thereby laying a robust foundation for a more formidable and resilient India," Kharge said. Highlighting Rao's pivotal role

in strengthening India's nuclear programme and launching forward-looking foreign policy initiatives, Kharge said, "His tenure was also distinguished by significant advancements in India's nuclear program and the initiation of several forward-thinking foreign policy endeavours, most notably.

India, Madagascar discuss boosting defence ties with focus on maritime security

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 28

Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth held a bilateral meeting with Minister of Armed Forces of Madagascar Lt Gen Sahivelo Lala Monja Delphin and discussed ways to strengthen defence cooperation, particularly in the areas of maritime security and capacity building. Seth led a high-level Indian delegation on an official visit to Antananarivo, Madagascar, from June 25 to 27. During the visit, he represented India at the celebrations marking the 65th anniversary of Madagascar's Independence and the creation of the Malagasy Armed Forces, a Defence Ministry statement said.

He also called on Prime Minister of Madagascar Christian



Ntsay and conveyed warm greetings from Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the 65th anniversary of the Independence of Madagascar. Besides, the Minister also took part in an Indian community reception organised by the Embassy in Antananarivo. He briefed the members of the Indian diaspora on India's

recent developments and ongoing economic transformation. India and Madagascar, as close neighbours and fellow developing nations in the Indian Ocean Region, share deep-rooted bonds of friendship and strong people-to-people ties. India remains a steadfast and committed partner in Madagascar's development journey.

Words added to Preamble of Constitution were 'nasoor', 'sacrilege to the spirit of Sanatana': VP

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 28

Vice President Jagdeep Thakkar today described as "Nasoor" (festering wound) and a sacrilege to the spirit of Sanatana the words secularism and socialism added in the Preamble of the Constitution during emergency, asserting that the Preamble should have been respected rather than tweaked, altered, and decimated.

"What a travesty of justice! First, we change something which is not changeable, alterable and then change it during Emergency. Preamble, the soul of the Constitution should have been respected rather than tweaked, altered, and decimated," he said at the Vice-President's Enclave marking the presentation of the first copy of 'Ambedkar's Messages' compiled by D.S. Veeriah, author and former MLC Karnataka. He regretted that a very serious work which could not be altered, had been changed "casually, farcically and with

no sense of propriety." Describing the Preamble of any constitution as its "soul," he said Preamble of the Indian Constitution is unique.

Preamble is not changeable. Preamble is not alterable. Preamble is the basis on which the constitution has grown. Preamble is the seed of the Constitution. It is Soul of the constitution but this Preamble for Bharat was changed by 42nd Constitutional Amendment act of 1976, adding words Socialist, Secular and integrity".

"We must reflect why our temples of democracy are sacrilegied? Why are our temples of democracy ravaged by disruption?"

Dr. Ambedkar did painstaking work. He would have surely focused on it. The founding fathers thought it befittingly wise to give us that Preamble. No country's Preamble has undergone change — except Bharat. But devastatingly, this change was effected for Bharat at a time when people were virtually enslaved.

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Istanbul, June 28

Air travel between Türkiye and Iran partially resumed yesterday after being suspended for 15 days due to the Iran-Israel conflict, Turkish Transport and Infrastructure Minister Abdulkadir Uraloglu said.

Uraloglu noted that flights from the Iranian eastern city of Mashhad to Istanbul, operated by Iranian carriers, is resuming on June 27.

"This marks a partial reopening of air travel between Türkiye and Iran after a 15-day hiatus," he said on social media platform X.

Uraloglu added that the airspace in the cities of Tehran and Tabriz, located in western Iran, will remain closed, and the restriction will continue until July 2.



The minister noted that talks are ongoing with Iranian authorities to allow Turkish planes stranded in Iran to return with special permits. "Efforts are continuing to fully normalize flights with Iran

PM interacts with Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, who is aboard ISS

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 28



Prime Minister Narendra Modi today interacted with Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, who is aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

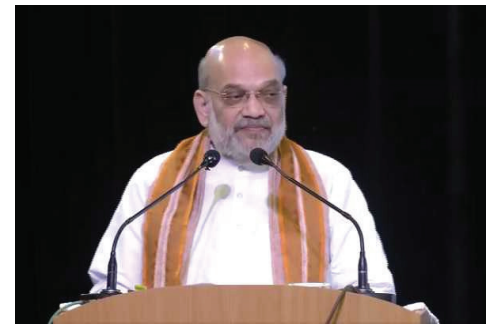
The PMO India said on X, "PM Narendra Modi interacted with Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, who is aboard the International Space Station."

Notably, the Axiom-4 Mission piloted by Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, along with three other crew lifted off from the Kennedy Space Centre Florida onboard the Space Dragon Aircraft on June 25.

A day later, the team successfully docked with the International Space Station (ISS). During their approximately two-week stay, the astronauts will engage in scientific research, outreach and commercial projects aboard the orbiting lab.

Shah to chair Manthan Baithak of Cooperation Ministers on June 30

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 28



The government will organise a 'Manthan Baithak' on June 30 with an aim to review the initiatives and schemes of the Ministry of Cooperation and evaluate the progress made so far.

The 'Manthan Baithak' will be chaired by Union Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah and will see the participation of Cooperation Ministers of states and Union Territories.

The primary objective of the 'Manthan Baithak' is to comprehensively review the initiatives and schemes of the Ministry of Cooperation, evaluate the progress made, facilitate the exchange of experiences, best practices, and constructive suggestions from States and UTs. It also aims to foster a shared understanding and develop a coordinated endeavor to advance the government's vision of 'Sahkar Se Samridhi' (Prosperity through Cooperation) through a mutual convergence, an official statement said.

It would discuss all major initiatives including the establishment of two lakh new Multi-purpose Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), dairy and fisheries cooperative societies to strengthen last-mile rural service delivery.

A key highlight will be the deliberation on the World's largest grain storage scheme in the cooperative sector, aimed at enhancing food security and farmers' empowerment. States will also present their progress under the "Cooperation Among Cooperatives" campaign and the ongoing "International Year of Cooperatives 2025", along with expectations for wider engagement.

Turkiye-Iran air travel partially resumes after 15-day hiatus: Minister

and bring the grounded planes back to Türkiye as soon as possible," he said.

Uraloglu had previously stated that seven Turkish airline planes were stranded in Iran due to the airspace closure. Iran's official news agency IRNA reported that Iran has postponed the full reopening of its airspace until today afternoon.

Iran closed its airspace on June 13 as Israel launched airstrikes on Tehran and other areas. Following a 12-day aerial conflict, a ceasefire between the two sides was achieved on June 24. Uraloglu noted that flights from the Iranian eastern city of Mashhad to Istanbul, operated by Iranian carriers, is resuming on June 27. "This marks a partial reopening of air travel between Türkiye and Iran after a 15-day hiatus," he said on social media platform X.





Heatwave persists in Italy as major cities issue top health alerts

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 28

Italy's first heatwave of the summer is set to intensify this weekend, with temperatures expected to reach 40 degrees Celsius in several regions, according to Italian authorities. The Health Ministry has issued red alerts for 12 major cities, including Rome, Milan and Turin, for today and the following weekend. The number of cities under red alert is expected to rise to 17 by today, and to 21 by tomorrow.

The heatwave comes as average temperatures in Italy have risen to 16.9 degrees Celsius, compared to 14.6 degrees Celsius just 50 years ago, according to a report from Il Meteo, Italy's weather monitoring site.

Lorenzo Tedici, a meteorologist with Il Meteo, attributes the rise to higher sea temperatures, a key factor for the peninsula. "Until recent years, the sea acted as a natural temperature regulator," Tedici explained. "Now, it has become an amplifier of the heat."

DHSJ reviews seasonal disease preparedness across Jammu Division

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 28



JAMMU, JUNE 28: A video conference was held today by the Directorate of Health Services Jammu to assess the preparedness for water-borne diseases and snake bite management across Jammu Division. The meeting was chaired by Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar and attended by Chief Medical Officers and Medical Superintendents from across the division.

The meeting was initiated by State Surveillance Officer, IDSP Jammu Division, Dr. Harjeet Rai who stressed upon the timely reporting of cases on the IHIP IDSP portal, strengthening of surveillance activities and enhancement of diagnostic capacity at District Public Health Laboratories (DPHLs). Seasonal disease trends, recent outbreaks and laid out action plans for rapid detection, reporting and response were discussed. Recent cases of Acute Diarrheal Disease, Typhoid, Hepatitis A & E, and other water-borne infections in Rajouri, Udhampur and urban Jammu were reviewed in detail. Health officers were directed to

coordinate closely with the Jal Shakti Department to ensure the

supply of clean drinking water, especially in outbreak-prone and high-risk areas.

In view of the upcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra, special instructions were issued for rigorous disease surveillance along the pilgrimage route. Regular water quality testing at Langars and medical camps has been made mandatory and any suspected cases must be reported without delay. The rising number of snake bite incidents across the division was also discussed. District teams have been asked to intensify public awareness campaigns through ASHAs, ANMs and PRI members, encouraging early referral to health facilities and discouraging reliance on unqualified practitioners. Availability of anti-snake venom and trained staff has been reinforced as a priority at all government hospitals. The Directorate reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring public safety through proactive health monitoring, coordinated field actions and enhanced readiness of the health system across the Jammu Division.

United Against Drugs: DLSA Srinagar organizes comprehensive awareness programme

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 28: In continuation of its efforts to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, organized a series of awareness initiatives to mark the extended commemoration of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, observed globally on 26th June.

As part of the initiative, the Authority conducted various outreach activities, raising awareness among the public about the devastating effects of drug addiction, legal implications of trafficking, and the importance of community-based prevention strategies.

In this connection, DLSA Srinagar, in collaboration with the Child Welfare Committee, Srinagar, and PRAYAS Juvenile Aid centre Society (NGO), organized a comprehensive awareness programme on Saturday at HMT Road, Shalteng (PRAYAS).

The programme was conducted under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and closely monitored by Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

Khair Ul Nisa, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee, Srinagar, delivered an insightful address to the partici-



pants, particularly focusing on the vulnerability of children and adolescents in the face of increasing substance abuse. She emphasized that children exposed to drug environments are not only at a higher risk of addiction but also of neglect, abuse, and conflict with the law. Highlighting the crucial role of early identification and intervention, she called for coordinated efforts between legal authorities, educational institutions, families, and civil society to

safeguard the future of children. She also underlined the statutory duties of the Child Welfare Committee in providing care, protection, and rehabilitation to children in need and at risk due to drug-related issues.

Advocate Suhaila, Panel Lawyer with DLSA Srinagar, served as the key resource person for the programme. She provided a comprehensive overview of the legal framework surrounding drug abuse and trafficking, including the provisions of the NDPS Act,

Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, and the role of Legal Services Authorities in ensuring access to justice for affected individuals.

She elaborated on the legal rights and entitlements of children in need of care and protection, as well as children in conflict with the law, particularly those affected by drug-related circumstances. Advocate Suhaila also emphasized the importance of spreading legal literacy at the grassroots level and encouraged the participants to become ambassadors of awareness within their communities.

The event concluded with an anti-drug pledge, where all participants, including children, volunteers, and stakeholders, solemnly committed themselves to fight against drug abuse, spread awareness, and support individuals in need. The pledge symbolized collective determination and solidarity in building a drug-free, safe, and healthy society.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from officials, Legal Aid Defense Counsels, officers/officials from Child Welfare Committee, Officials of PRAYAS Juvenile Aid centre Society (NGO), and Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Srinagar, all of whom pledged to work together to curb the rising tide of drug abuse and protect the rights and well-being of children and youth.

Blood Donation Camp in Langate Amid Heatwave Draws Overwhelming Response

DR. AB QAYOOM

Langate, Jun, 28: Amid the persistent heatwave gripping the region, a remarkable display of humanitarian spirit was witnessed in Langate today as a blood donation camp was organized to address the growing shortage of blood supplies. The initiative was a collaborative effort between the Indian Red Cross Society Kupwara, the Indian Army (30 RR), and the medical staff of District Hospital Handwara. Recognizing the critical need for blood, especially during these challenging summer months, the Indian Army took the lead in facilitating the event. The camp saw enthusiastic participation from army personnel, healthcare workers, and local residents, with around 40 voluntary donors stepping forward to contribute to the noble cause. Their collective effort reaffirmed the community's unwavering commitment to saving



lives and supporting those in medical distress. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ajaz Ahmad, Medical Superintendent of District Hospital Handwara, emphasized the lifesaving value of such ini-

tiatives. "To donate blood is to save a human life," he remarked, underlining the importance of regular blood donation drives in sustaining emergency healthcare services. This camp marked

the second blood donation drive of the year organized by the Indian Red Cross Society Kupwara in collaboration with the Indian Army (30 RR) Langate, reflecting the ongoing efforts to promote voluntary blood donation and foster a culture of community welfare in the region. The success of the camp not only helped replenish vital blood reserves but also set an inspiring example for others to follow. Organizers and participants alike expressed satisfaction at being part of an effort that directly contributes to saving lives, especially during times when medical resources are strained. Such initiatives serve as a reminder of the power of unity, compassion, and selflessness in addressing societal challenges. The Langate blood donation camp once again proved that small, collective acts of kindness have the potential to make a profound difference in the lives of many — a testament to the enduring spirit of humanity in Kashmir.

Police Arrest Drug Peddler In Sopore, Contraband Substance Recovered

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, June 28: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police arrested a drug peddler in

Sopore and recovered contraband substance from his possession.

A police party of Police Station Bomai during naka checking at Bun Astan Tujjer intercepted a suspicious person. During checking, Charas like substance was recovered from his possession. He has been identified as Irfan Ahmad Sheikh son of Abdul Majeed Sheikh resident of Panzipora Tarzoo. He has been arrested and shifted to police station where he remains in custody.

Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 34/2025

under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Bomai and further investigation is underway to trace the source and wider network involved. J&K Police reiterate its firm commitment to combating drug trafficking and urges the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity. Together, we can ensure a drug-free and safer society. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 34/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Bomai and further investigation is underway.

Medicines Worth Lakhs Found Dumped in Forest Canal in Ganderbal, Drug Control Dept Launches Probe

HT NEWS DESK

Ganderbal, June 28, KNT: In a disturbing incident, a large quantity of medicines worth several lakhs was found dumped in a forest canal in the Gundrehman area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Saturday, triggering alarm among locals and authorities. Locals who discovered the abandoned medicines scattered across the canal immediately alerted officials. Teams from the Drug Control Department Ganderbal, arrived at the scene and launched an investigation. Confirming the recovery, a departmental official stated, "We have taken samples from the spot, and efforts are underway to trace the source of these



medicines. Strict action will be taken against the culprits."

The incident has raised serious concerns over the improper disposal of pharmaceuticals, with experts warning of potential environmental and public health consequences. The medicines, if expired or chemically active, could contaminate local water sources and harm

both wildlife and human populations.

"This is not only criminal wastage of essential drugs but also a grave threat to our environment," said a local resident, urging authorities to identify and punish those responsible. Officials have assured the public of a comprehensive investigation, while local voices con-

tinue to demand accountability and stricter enforcement of disposal protocols. In a disturbing incident, a large quantity of medicines worth several lakhs was found dumped in a forest canal in the Gundrehman area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Saturday, triggering alarm among locals and authorities. Locals who discovered the abandoned medicines scattered across the canal immediately alerted officials. Teams from the Drug Control Department Ganderbal, arrived at the scene and launched an investigation. Confirming the recovery, a departmental official stated, "We have taken samples from the spot, and efforts are underway to trace the source of these medicines.



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Pant is Reinventing Cricket: Greg Chappell



■ **United News of India**

W Greg Chappell believes Rishabh Pant is redefining the way cricket is played, with a batting approach that breaks away from conventional norms. "...and he's a match-winner," Chappell gushed, adding, "very nearly made the difference in that game (at Headingley)," the former India coach said.

India may have lost the Headingley Test, but Pant's brilliance shone through as he scored centuries in both innings - a rare feat that underlined his game-changing ability.

"The beauty of it (Pant's batting) is that he gets his runs at a very fast rate, which gives you time to win cricket matches. His was a phenomenal performance - some of the shots that he played probably weren't in the MCC coaching manual when I last looked at it. He is reinventing the game as a batsman," Chappell said, lavishing praise on the Indian wicketkeeper.

Pant made history by becoming only the second wicketkeeper-batter after Andy Flower to score a century in each innings of a Test match.

"You know, modern technology - the bats are very different. Obviously, you can play shots that weren't possible with the old bats. But man, he's exciting to watch. You never quite know what to expect from the first ball at any stage. He's likely to jump down the wicket to the fast bowlers, or he'll play the falling ramp shot. You never quite know what to expect, so it keeps the opposition on their toes," Chappell said at a promotional event in Mumbai on Wednesday (June 25).

Widely regarded as one of the finest Australian batters after Don Bradman, Chappell drew a parallel between Pant and Adam Gilchrist - another iconic wicketkeeper.

"What an exciting cricketer, what a player to have on your team," he said. "When I first saw him, he was a different sort of player, of course, but he reminded me very much of Adam Gilchrist. You know the difference that it can make to a team to have a wicketkeeper that can bat at that level and score runs quickly."

Chappell also felt Shubman Gill had a good Test as a skipper and will only get better. "It was a terrific Test match. Sadly, India didn't finish up on the correct side, but there were a lot of good things that they did. Shubman Gill had a great start to his career as a Test match captain. As a player, maybe the result didn't go the right way, but conditions were probably better for him on the last day than they were at any other stage in the Test match."

Good prep for the girls with T20 World Cup one year away: Smriti Mandhana

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI: With one year to go for the Women's T20 World Cup in England, India are set to begin preparations for the tournament with a five-match T20I series in England starting on June 28 (Saturday). India's vice-captain Smriti Mandhana looked forward to the event and felt there would be a chance for the Indian team to get a feel of the conditions.

"I think because we have a T20 World Cup next year around the same time, around the summer of UK, which is again similar conditions, so I'm sure this five T20s will be a good prep for a lot of the girls and for us to also see to the conditions and how they all suit their game too. I think also five T20s is a good amount of cricket in the same



conditions just one year before the World Cup," she said. Mandhana also mentioned that regular Indian captain Harmanpreet Kaur was unwell on the day of the pre-match press conference but partially denied that Harmanpreet wouldn't take part in the match. "I don't think she's not playing, she's just unwell for today, so I'm just here filling up for today," she said. The visitors are coming off nearly a month of preparation for the England white-ball series which also consists three ODIs after the T20Is. With a number of players including the likes of Kranti Gaud and Sree Charan touring England for the first time, India arrived on English shores a week in advance to finetune their preparations heading into the series. Mandhana felt the preparation was good and ideal leading up to the series.

Jayasuriya five-fer helps SL clinch series

■ **United News of India**

DHAKA: Sri Lanka completed a dominant victory over Bangladesh in the second Test at the Sinhalese Sports Club, winning by an innings and 78 runs to wrap up the two-match series 1-0. The hosts needed just 33 balls on the fourth morning to take the final four Bangladesh wickets and put the finishing touches on a convincing win.

Having conceded a daunting 211-run lead, Bangladesh folded for 133 in their second innings, with Prabath Jayasuriya leading the way once again. The left-arm spinner picked up 5 for 56 to register his sixth five-wicket haul in Test cricket. He removed three batters on the final morning, including the stubborn Litton Das who fell to an outside edge.

Tharindu Ratnayake claimed the



final wicket by trapping Ebadot Hossain lbw. The debutant Sonal Dinusha also impressed earlier in the match with a vital contribution on debut, while Asitha Fernando's incisive first-innings burst had helped set the tone.

The foundation of Sri Lanka's win

was however laid by their batters. After bowling Bangladesh out for 247 on Day 1, the home side responded strongly. Pathum Nissanka led the way with a sparkling 158 while Dinesh Chandimal (93) and Kusal Mendis (84) ensured the lead swelled beyond 200.

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