

DC Poonch reviews progress of JJM projects; Directs for timeline completion of Water Supply Schemes



Dy CM pays surprise visit to Labour Commissioner Office in Srinagar

PJ3

Srinagar

FRIDAY

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Talks Underway with Centre on Power, Housing Projects: Omar Abdullah

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 12 Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday said that the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) has created an opportunity to take up two key development projects in the Union Territory.

Speaking to reporters following a meeting with Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, CM Omar revealed that discussions are ongoing with the Centre regarding the initiation of these projects. He hinted that the projects

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CM Omar Reviews Works Plan Under Capex of Estates, Revenue, Tourism & Culture Deptts

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar June 12: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday chaired a series of departmental review meetings to take stock of the Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) plans for the year 2025-26 of the Estates, Revenue, Tourism and Culture departments.

The high-level discussions were attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional

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AI Plane with 242 on Board Crashes Near Ahmedabad Airport, Vijay Rupani Among Dead

PM, HM, J&K LG, CM, Mirwaiz others express shock

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA



Ahmedabad/New Delhi, June 12 (UNI) A UK-bound Air India flight with 242 people on board crashed near Ahmedabad airport on Thursday afternoon.

Former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani was among those killed in the crash. Mr Rupani, 68, was the Chief Minister from 2016 till 2021. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh while confirming the death of Vijay Rupani, said he was 'pained by the tragic demise of former Gujarat Chief Minister Rupani ji in the unfortunate plane crash in Ahmedabad. He will be remembered as a grass-root leader who devoted his life for the development and welfare of his state.' Mr Singh said. BJP Gujarat chief CR Patil also confirmed the demise of Mr Rupani. Details about casualties were not known immediately and there was no official statement on the number of casualties. One person who was sitting on seat no. 11 A, was admitted to hospital even as the kin of other passengers frantically

SEE FULL ONPAGE 02

J&K Integral Part of India's Rapid Urban Development: Union Minister Khattar

Chairs review meeting with CM Omar Abdullah in Srinagar

HT NEWS DESK/KNO

SRINAGAR, JUN 12 Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir forms an integral part of India's rapid urban development, Union Minister for Housing and Urban Development Manohar Lal Khattar on Thursday said that Centre and Jammu and Kashmir Government are work-

ing in close coordination to achieve inclusive development of the Union Territory.

Chairing a review meeting of urban development schemes and projects in Jammu and Kashmir today in presence of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah

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Pakistan's Record on Terrorism is Very Clear: India

United News of India

NEW DELHI, JUNE 12 (UNI) "Pakistan's track record is very clear," India said on Thursday as it sought to remind the US about Islamabad's history of supporting terrorism, including granting of shelter to Osama Bin Laden.

The assertion by External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal came a day after US Central Command



Chief General Michael Kurilla praised Pakistan, saying it was a "phenomenal counter-ter-

rorism partner" in the fight against terrorism and also commended it for support in operations against ISIS.

"We all know Pahalgam attack is only the recent example of cross-border terrorism. I would remind you that only recently one of the conspirators of 26/11 Tahawwur Rana was extradited from the US to India," Jaiswal said during the

SEE FULL ONPAGE 02

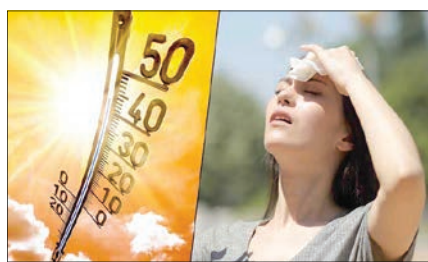
Srinagar Records 34.2°C, Gulmarg Hits 6°C Above Normal, Jammu Nears 44°C Mark, People Reel Under Relentless Heat, Calls for Summer Vacation Grow Louder

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

SRINAGAR, JUNE 12 (UNI) Kashmir continued to sizzle on Thursday, with Srinagar recording a maximum temperature of 34.2°C, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar said.

The MeT has predicted mainly dry and hot weather conditions across Jammu and Kashmir in the next two days, with a possibility of isolated rain or thunderstorms in some areas.

Several areas on Thursday recorded daytime temperatures 5°C to 7°C above normal.



Srinagar registered a scorching 34.2°C, which is 6.2°C above normal, while Qazigund in south Kashmir witnessed 33.9°C, a sharp 7.2°C above average.

SEE FULL ONPAGE 02

Advisor to Chief Minister Requests LG Manoj Sinha to Re-Open 'Soft' Tourist Spots

HT NEWS DESK/KNT

Srinagar, June 12, : In a bid to revive Kashmir's fragile tourism economy, Chief Minister's Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani on Thursday appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to reopen soft tourist destinations that were closed following the recent deadly attack in Pahalgam.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a tourism event, Wani, accord-

ing to the news agency Kashmir News Trust, expressed concern over the prolonged closure of several popular spots, including the Tulip Garden, Badamwari, Doodhpathri, and Beetab Valley. He emphasized that these locations are relatively safe and should not be kept off-limits to visitors.

"There's no need to keep the softer tourist spots closed any longer," Wani said. "Even the

SEE FULL ONPAGE 02

Elected Govt must be Respected, not Undermined: J&K Deputy CM

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

SRINAGAR, JUNE 12 (UNI) Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Surinder Kumar Choudhary on Thursday voiced serious concerns over what he termed as repeated undermining of the elected government by the office of the Lieutenant Governor.

He asserted that the government in J&K is one "made from the hearts of the peo-



ple" and not a nominated or appointed one.

Referring to recent administrative decisions and transfers, the Deputy CM warned that such

actions damage the spirit of Indian democracy.

"We hoped that LG sahib would accept the mandate of the people and will understand and according to that work will be done. But it seems that some things are not getting right and when such an action happens, whether it is in the form of a transfer or in any form, then do not think that someone should

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Record Booking in Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA



JAMMU, JUNE 12 (UNI) The Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express has received a huge response with record bookings in the past six days, while seats have also been booked in advance for the next two weeks.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 6 officially flagged off the Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat from Katra and

SEE FULL ONPAGE 02

Mobilize Community to Minimize Forest fires: Chief Secretary

Assesses departments' preparedness to save region's green wealth

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 12 : Amid rising temperatures and the looming threat of scorching heat wave across J&K, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today convened a high level meeting of the Forest Department, Divisional Commissioners and district administrations regarding proactive planning to protect the region's 'green gold' from the menace of forest fires.

The meeting besides PCCF and Commissioner Secretary, Forests, was



attended by Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, HoD's of the Forest Department and representative from the department of DMRR&R. In order to make the

information channel more robust and efficient, the Chief Secretary stressed on registering more and more volunteers from the local community residing near

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"The End Before Takeoff: 242 Lives and a Sky Full of Questions"

"Dreamliner or Deathliner?: When flying becomes the ultimate journey"

PRIYANKA SAURABH

It was a normal morning in Ahmedabad. People were busy with their daily routine. No one had thought that this day would leave a dark stain on India's civil aviation system. On June 12, 2025, Air India flight AI-171, which was flying from Ahmedabad to London's Gatwick Airport, crashed just minutes after takeoff. This accident



not only took 242 lives but also shook the soul of an entire nation.

There were 230 passengers and 12 crew members in this plane. Everyone had their own stories. Some were going abroad for the first time, some had to attend their daughter's wedding, some were leaving for London for a job, and some were just going to meet their son. Someone might have looked back while closing the door, someone might have said

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ادبی مرکز کمراز جموں و کشمیر

چھ
مرکز کتب بانی کارن تہ تمیر کارن
خراج عقیدت ادا کرنے کو کہہ

یوم اسلاف

مناوٹگ سٹوکران

آٹھ موقعس پوٹھ پیہ مرکز کتب اسلامن ہندس یادس مٹو
گنو یا ادبی شخصیتون "ورق تحسین" اعزازتہ عطا کرتہ

تاریخ: 15 جون 2025ء | وقت: دوپہر 2:00 بجے
جائے: صدر دفتر ادبی مرکز کمراز، کانسپورٹ رٹل

توہر چھ تقریبہ مٹو شرکت کرنچ و ژھو واٹھو ڈھوٹ

شبنم بلگامی
(جنرل منیجر ادبی مرکز کمراز)

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

CS

He advised for focusing on the SHG members and Anganwadi Workers whose presence is found far and wide in the UT.

Regarding the incidence of forest fires, he expressed concern that out of around 5000 sq kms of dense forests around 1000 sq kms are vulnerable. He enjoined upon the Deputy Commissioners to frequently review the plans being implemented for saving our green assets from turning into ash.

He enquired from each DC about the incidence of forest fires in their districts, functioning of control rooms, active fires (if any) and the measures taken by them to douse the fires once the alerts are received from the field.

Regarding encouragement of the volunteers (fire watchers), Dulloo proposed incorporation of a provision for their relief if any injury or loss of life is reported during the performance of this social work.

He also called for a vigorous IEC campaign and popularization of contact numbers of the Joint control rooms established by the Department. He also underscored the need of having a common social media platform to receive and disseminate the information about the control and prevention of forest fires in the UT.

Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Sheetal Nanda, earlier in her overview, made out that the department had undertaken a series of strategic measures to address the growing threat of forest fires across the Union Territory.

After giving details of year wise forest fires reported from the last few years, she revealed that a detailed Forest Fire Vulnerability Mapping, using historical fire data from the Forest Survey of India, was done in 2021 for each forest division. She stated that the same is serving as the basis for preparation of targeted fire management and mitigation strategies across these forest divisions.

With respect to vulnerability of forests, PCCF (HoF), Suresh Kumar Gupta, gave out that a categorization of forests had been done in J&K. He added that the UT had a forest cover of 270.11 sq kms categorised as 'Very Highly Fire Prone', 890.62 sq kms as 'Highly Fire Prone', 1244.13 sq kms as 'Moderately Fire Prone and majority of 19203.80 sq kms as 'Less Fire Prone' forests.

Enumerating the major causes of forest fires, the PCCF classified them into three broad categories of Anthropogenic (human-induced) caused by burning of crop residues, carelessly discarded smoking materials and fires lit along roadsides and use of fire for promoting growth of grass.

Among the causes are lightning strikes and rolling stones during dry spells occasionally ignite fires in forested areas. In addition, the environmental & climatic factors like extended dry spells, build-up of dry leaf litter and rising temperatures coupled with erratic rainfall patterns exacerbate the fire risks.

As far as the preventive measures are concerned, it was defined that a multi-pronged strategy had been adopted to reduce the fire incidence and improve readiness across the divisions.

It was revealed that creation and maintenance of fire lines to halt the spread of fires, controlled burning to manage combustible material and early warning systems through satellite-based FSI alerts (Van Agni) are acting as pre-emptive measures for event fires.

In addition, establishment of 85 Joint Forest Control Rooms are operational across the UT for receiving instant alerts and initiation of prompt action to douse the flames. The distribution of firefighting equipment like beaters, rake hoes and sprayers are helping in doing the same with enhanced efficiency, the meeting was informed.

Besides, it was given out that mock drills and training programmes, community engagement through Village Forest Committees (VFCs, BMCs) and volunteers are acting effectively to safeguard the forests. Awareness campaigns in schools and through posters, hoardings and social media are also being employed to create necessary awareness among the public.

VENDAY BHARAT

dedicated the Udampur-Srinagar-Baramulla (USBRL) rail link to the nation.

"The train is completely packed for the next two weeks," said a railway official.

"No seat is available till June 26 in two Vande Bharat Express trains running from Katra to Srinagar and vice versa," he added.

He added that seats have also been booked for the month of July, adding, "The annual Amarnath Yatra is starting from July 3, and a heavy rush is expected in view of that."

He said that apart from tourists and pilgrims, a large number of locals are also travelling by the rail that covers the distance in three hours.

Former chief minister and National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah also travelled to Katra from Srinagar in Vande Bharat and paid obeisance at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

He expressed that it was his dream to travel by train from Srinagar, and it has been fulfilled.

Abdullah hoped that tourism would flourish in Jammu and Kashmir with the start of the train.

The USBRL project provided seamless rail connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of the country.

The high-speed train service significantly reduced travel time between Katra and Srinagar, providing a safe, efficient, and comfortable option for both locals and tourists.

Crossing the architectural marvel, situated at a height of 359 meters above the river, the world's highest railway arch bridge, the Chenab bridge, and the first cable-stayed Anji rail bridge, both parts of the USBRL project, the Vande Bharat travels through a scenic route, passing through tunnels and various valleys, offering panoramic views of the Himalayan region.

DYCM

celebrate that I have done a lot of bravery," Choudhary told reporters in Srinagar.

Drawing parallels with the freedom struggle, he invoked the sacrifices of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev, questioning whether ignoring the democratic mandate amounted to reverting to colonial-era practices.

"If elected representatives are not allowed to take decisions, what difference remains between us and the British?" he asked.

The deputy CM said that when the government is elected by the people, then the elected government should get the full right to make those decisions in the interest of the people.

Highlighting the accessibility of elected leaders compared to bureaucratic officers, the Deputy CM said people feel free to speak with their representatives, unlike during high-security visits by senior officers or the LG.

"When the LG visits, roads are sealed and forces are deployed. But we go among our people without fear, because we serve them," he said.

He also praised Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, describing him as "a polished and down-to-earth leader" whose leadership could greatly benefit J&K in the current term.

"Even if someone tries to crush the people's mandate, they will fail. We are protected by the people and by God," he added.

The deputy CM warned that continued interference with the elected government's functioning could force representatives to take to the streets in protest.

"We are not afraid... We are here to face challenges, and if necessary, we will fight for our people by taking to the streets. Right now, we are quiet because we are in the government. But if someone wants to push us out, we will not back down," he said.

He also referred to public discontent with previous governments, claiming the current government was voted in as a rejection of a decade of misuse.

"People elected us because they were disappointed with the last 10 years — whether under alliance (BJP-PDP) or another setup (LG rule). That's why we were given this mandate," he said, adding that they got the mandate against the LG government and the alliance.

The Deputy Chief Minister called for the urgent restoration of statehood, claiming that only then will governance truly reflect the will of the people and bring an end to what he termed as a "spoilt system" and "proxy rule."

TEMP

The popular tourist destination Pahalgam wasn't spared either, recording 29.0°C, 5.3°C above normal.

In other parts of the valley, the border area of Kupwara touched 33.0°C (+4.8°C). Kokernag reached 33.2°C (+7.0°C), and even the usually cool Gulmarg saw a high of 24.8°C, which is 6.0°C above normal.

The minimum night temperatures were recorded 1°C to 5°C above normal, while in the Jammu division, they were even higher, ranging between 3°C to 6°C above normal.

The persistently warm nights have added to the discomfort caused by soaring daytime temperatures.

According to the MeT forecast, J&K will continue to experience generally hot and dry conditions until June 13, with a brief respite expected between June 14 and 17, when isolated to scattered places may witness light rain or thundershowers accompanied by gusty winds. The weather is expected to revert to hot and dry from June 18 to 20.

ADVISOR

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has shown concern over the continued shutdown. I request the Hon'ble LG, who looks after law and order, to consider opening up those sites that do not pose any security threat."

Wani said that the closure of these attractions is not only disappointing tourists but also affecting local livelihoods tied to the tourism sector. "Visitors come here from far-off places, but when they find these famous spots closed, they leave disheartened. We must avoid sending the wrong message," he added.

Following the Pahalgam attack, which left several tourists dead and raised alarm across the region, the LG administration ordered the temporary closure of multiple tourist destinations across the Valley as a security precaution.

However, with the situation now relatively under control at many places, Wani and other stakeholders believe it is time to make a calibrated reopening of safer locations. "Tourism is the backbone of our economy. We must balance security concerns with the need to keep the sector alive and thriving," Wani stressed. [KNT]

PAK

weekly briefing. Rana, Pakistani origin Canadian citizen, is associated with Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror outfit and was one of the key plotters of Mumbai terror attack of 2008.

"Obviously none of us have forgotten that Pakistan gave shelter to Osama bin Laden. It is significant that the person and you would be aware that Dr Shakeel Afridi, who helped locate Osama Bin Laden is still imprisoned by Pakistani military," he added.

Laden, chief of Al-Qaida terror network, was found and killed by Special Forces of America in May 2011 in a surgical operation at a residential house in Abbottabad, near Pakistan's capital Islamabad and close to military cantonment.

KHATTAK

in Srinagar, Khattar, according to a PIB statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "People of Jammu & Kashmir are getting benefits of all urban schemes of the Central Government and that the Centre and the UT of J&K are working in close coordination, upholding the spirit of cooperative federalism, to fast-track schemes and projects for its overall inclusive development."

He said, "Jammu and Kashmir forms an integral part of India and is rapidly developing with significant progress in urban development."

The Minister laid down guidelines to ensure effective planning and efficient implementation of urban schemes under MoHUA to promote development and enhance ease of living for the people of J&K.

Reviewing each scheme in detail, the Minister emphasized the need to develop, improve infrastructure and promote sustainable urbanisation through strategic planning and Public-Private Partnerships, the statement said.

It said the review meeting focused on accelerating urban development, building and strengthening infrastructure, promoting inclusive growth of cities, and address other key issues in the Union Territory (UT). The meeting was attended by senior officials from Central and UT Governments.

Khattar, the statement said, reviewed the implementation and progress of key urban development initiatives and infrastructure projects of the urban schemes of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) such as Atal Mission for Rejuvenation & Urban Transformation (AMRUT & AMRUT 2.0), Smart Cities Mission (SCM), Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM-U & SBM-U 2.0), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban (PMAY-U & PMAY-U 2.0), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) and PM-eBus Sewa.

Under AMRUT 2.0, it was advised to accelerate water infrastructure (new/service tap connections) and sewerage projects in all ULBs. Under SCM, it was stressed upon to complete the ongoing smart city projects, upgradation of the Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs) for managing and monitoring various city operations, repurpose of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPVs), among others, the statement added.

Review of City Investments to Innovate, Integrate, and Sustain (CITIIS), a sub-component of the Smart Cities Mission, was also done. CITIIS 2.0 envisions a comprehensive and integrated approach to urban waste management. The Government of J&K was advised to set-up a State Climate Centre for Cities to ensure flow of funds for implementation of projects, the statement said.

Under SBM-U 2.0, it was informed that the UT allocation has increased by more than 200 crore in comparison to allocation under SBM-U 1.0. The UT of J&K was asked to expedite construction of toilets (community toilets, public toilets, aspirational toilets, urinals), Solid Waste Management, STP/co-treatment facilities and ensure garbage-free cities, it said.

With respect to PMAY-U 2.0, more than 19,000 applications have been submitted on unified web portal while in-principle approval for construction of 10,000 pucca houses has already been given by the Ministry, the statement said, adding, the UT administration was therefore, directed to fast-track and verify beneficiary applications so that maximum eligible families get benefits of affordable housing.

Under PMAY-U 1.0, it was asked to expedite construction of the houses which are in dif-

ferent stages of construction. For DAY-NULM, the J&K Government was asked to initiate survey for the identification of urban homeless and constitute a Grievance Redressal Committee (GRC) under the Street Vendors Act at the earliest, the statement said.

Under PM-SVANidhi scheme, the administration was asked to expedite pending applications for sanctions or disbursements and profile the street vendors so that benefits reach the eligible beneficiaries at the earliest; and also encourage participation of women in the scheme, the statement said.

The implementation status of PM-eBus Sewa with respect to PFMS mapping, participation in the Payment Security Mechanism (PSM) of the scheme was also reviewed, it said.

The achievements of each scheme of MoHUA were also highlighted in detail during the meeting—(KNO)

PLANE

looked for any survivors. The aircraft lost contact within minutes of takeoff and went down in the Meghani Nagar area.

Rescue operations were on. National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams were brought in from Gandhinagar.

The Air India flight, a Boeing Dreamliner 787, crashed in a densely populated area near the airport. Immediately after the crash, local residents rushed to the area to help with rescue efforts.

There were 169 Indian nationals, 53 British, one Canadian and seven Portuguese nationals on board. There were 12 crew members.

Air India in a post on X, said "Flight AI171, operating Ahmedabad-London Gatwick, was involved in an incident 12 June 2025." It said Air India continues to ascertain the details.

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed deep sorrow over the tragic crash. In a post on X, President Droupadi Murmu said she was "deeply distressed" to learn about the incident and called it a "heart-rending disaster."

"I am deeply distressed to learn about the tragic plane crash in Ahmedabad. It is a heart-rending disaster. My thoughts and prayers are with the affected people. The nation stands with them in this hour of indescribable grief," the President said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi while describing the tragedy as 'heartbreaking beyond words,' said 'the tragedy in Ahmedabad has stunned and saddened us. It is heartbreaking beyond words. In this sad hour, my thoughts are with everyone affected by it. Have been in touch with Ministers and authorities who are working to assist those affected.'

The Prime Minister spoke to Home Minister Amit Shah and Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu and directed them to ensure that all necessary support is extended immediately and has asked to be kept regularly updated on the situation.

The Civil Aviation Minister informed the Prime Minister that he was rushing to Ahmedabad to oversee rescue and relief operations on the ground.

Air India chairman N Chandrasekaran said XXX Editors pick up from Para eight of Accident Air India Third Lead crash.

POWER

are likely to fall under the Power and Housing & Urban Affairs ministries, where "progress is being made."

Although he did not elaborate on the specific nature of the projects, the Chief Minister expressed hope that the current geopolitical climate and the temporary freeze on the treaty could provide the necessary momentum for long-pending initiatives.

Responding to a question about the financial situation of Jammu and Kashmir, CM Omar admitted that the region remains in debt. "We continue to provide power at concessional rates to domestic, industrial, and commercial consumers. However, there is a considerable gap between the rate at which power is procured and the rate at which it is supplied," he explained.

CM

Chief Secretary Estates Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance Santosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary Culture Brij Mohan Sharma, Commissioner Secretary Tourism Yasha Mudgal, Secretary Revenue Kumar Rajiv Ranjan and other senior officials and heads of concerned departments.

During the review, the Chief Minister emphasized the importance of ensuring immediate approval of plans, authorization of funds and execution of development projects thereby strengthening the institutional capacity, and creating impactful outcomes.

He underscored the need for close monitoring, effective coordination, and optimum use of resources to deliver public services efficiently and meet people's aspirations.

Estates Department At the outset, ACS Estates informed the meeting that the Department reported a

94.93% expenditure (Rs 2452.34 lacs) for CAPEX 2024-25 against funds released (Rs 2583.19 lacs). Out of 217 total works, 182 have been completed.

For 2025-26, the department has a CAPEX budget ceiling of Rs 10000 lacs. This budget includes Rs 3304.69 lacs for ongoing works, Rs 863.00 lacs for water/electricity for Sempora flats, Rs 2541.00 lacs for shifting REVEX to CAPEX, and Rs 3291.31 lacs for new works and budget announcements.

Major ongoing projects like the 400 Flats at Pampore and flats in Sarwal, Ahata Amar Singh, and Lower Muthi in Jammu are progressing, with some expected to be completed by October 2025.

The meeting was informed about key budget announcements for 2025-26 which include construction of 300 new 2-BHK/3-BHK units, twin towers at Canal Road, Jammu and additional blocks at Civil Secretariats in Jammu and Srinagar. Other new works proposed for 2025-26 include road macadamization, new flats in Jawahar Nagar, CCTV installation, and power supply upgrades in various government complexes.

Revenue Department Secretary Revenue Kumar Rajiv Ranjan gave a detailed presentation outlining the department's CAPEX progress and plans for 2025-26. Out of the approved Rs 79 crore, Rs 69 crore has already been uploaded on the BEAMS portal. The department has proposed 133 new projects, including 18 SDM offices with an outlay of Rs 4.5 crore, 21 Tehsil offices with Rs 6.3 crore outlay, 50 Niabats with Rs 3 crore, and 40 additional rooms with lavatories worth Rs 2 crore. The department continues to push forward in its landmark digitization efforts, having completed 100% scanning of revenue records.

He informed that over 94.36% of cadastral maps have been digitized (quality checks are ongoing), and 89.97% of villages have been geo-referenced. Additionally, 99.9% of Record of Rights (RoR) have been digitized with spatial and non-spatial data integrated under the Land Records Information System (LRIS). The Chief Minister was apprised of key digital initiatives, including the 'Aapki Zameen Aapki Nigrani' platform launched in October 2021, which has enabled real-time access to land records while saving Rs 19.83 crore through in-house digitization.

The meeting was informed that the second phase of the LRIS involves transliteration of Urdu land records into 22 Indian languages. Digitized land passbooks are now available in Urdu, Hindi, and English. Other major initiatives include the J&K Revenue Court Case Monitoring System (JKRCCMS), issuance of SVAMITVA property cards, computerized registrations, creation of dynamic RoRs, digitized crop surveys, and establishment of modern record rooms. He informed that the department aims to implement real-time RoR updates, integrate Jamabandis with the NGDRS and mutation systems, and introduce map-based dynamic RoRs to enhance transparency and accountability in land governance.

Tourism Department Similarly, Commissioner Secretary Tourism Yasha Mudgal presented a comprehensive overview of the department's CAPEX implementation and future plans. The department is coordinating its initiatives across various agencies which include directorates of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir, JKTDC, SKICC, JKCC, 21 tourism development authorities, and several golf courses. As part of its 2024-25 CAPEX Plan, Rs 388.20 crore was approved, with Rs 247.66 crore (66.08%) already spent. Out of 1,551 total works, 871 have been completed so far, marking a 56% completion rate.

For 2025-26, the department has planned 1,071 total works with a financial outlay of Rs 191.87 crore, including funds for Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

The meeting was also informed that a total of 312 new projects worth Rs 75.5 crore have been reviewed, while another 109 projects valued at Rs 18.07 crore are pending finalization. The Chief Minister was informed that an amount of Rs 10 crore has been reserved for high-priority or technically viable works proposed by elected representatives. Action has already been initiated on several budget announcements, including Rs 10 crore for the preparation of tourism master plans, Rs 27 crore earmarked for sewerage and solid waste management projects in Gulmarg, Rs 6 crore for developing water sports infrastructure at major lakes, Rs 15 crore for winter sports facilities, and Rs 20 crore for exploring new tourism destinations.

She informed that plans are also underway to revive idle tourism assets, improve wayside amenities, and monetize under-utilized properties. Targets for 2025-26 include the preparation of master plans for key destinations, strengthening of tourism infrastructure, enhanced destination development, and aggressive promotional campaigns to attract visitors. Likewise, Secretary Culture presented an elaborate plan aimed at heritage restoration, infrastructure modernization, digitization, and promotion of regional arts and languages. The department has completed 16 out of 106 heritage restoration projects, with another 46 targeted for completion by March 2026. A major focus is on the revival of the historic Mubarak Mandi.



Rana reviews progress on implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 12: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat Srinagar to review progress on implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in PHE division Chadoora and other areas.

The meeting was attended by MLA Chadoora, Ali Mohammad Dar, MLA Beerwah, Dr Shafi Ahmad Wani, MLA Khan Sahib, Saifud Din Bhat, MLA Sopore, Irshad Rasool Kar and senior officers from Jal Shakti department.

While reviewing various ongoing JJM projects in Chadoora, Budgam,

Sopore, Khan Sahib and Beerwah, Javed Rana exhorted upon the officers to expedite pace of progress on these works for timely completion. He directed the officers to personally monitor the execution of works in their respective divisions.

He instructed the concerned officers to ensure pace of work is expedited to ensure speedy construction of filtration plants, civil works and other related works at all water supply schemes. He stressed that work on all JJM projects be carried out in full swing without any delay. He exhorted upon the officers to work in mission mode so that safe and adequate drinking water is made available to all citizens of Jammu and



Kashmir. He enjoined upon the officers to maintain coordination and better synergy between executing agencies to ensure timely and effective

implementation of Water Supply Schemes. He further said that work should be resumed on the water supply schemes wherever it has been

stalled so that people don't have to face any problems.

MLA Chadoora, while speaking on the occasion, said that certain water supply schemes in his constituency are nearing completion and require little attention from the officers so that they can be dedicated to public use.

The MLAs raised various issues related to water supply and irrigation pertaining to their constituencies and demanded immediate attention of the Minister for early resolution.

The officers assured that most of the WSSs are nearing completion and will be put to public use at an earliest. He enjoined upon the officers to maintain coordination and better

synergy between executing agencies to ensure timely and effective implementation of Water Supply Schemes. He further said that work should be resumed on the water supply schemes wherever it has been stalled so that people don't have to face any problems.

MLA Chadoora, while speaking on the occasion, said that certain water supply schemes in his constituency are nearing completion and require little attention from the officers so that they can be dedicated to public use. The MLAs raised various issues related to water supply and irrigation pertaining to their constituencies and demanded immediate attention of the Minister for early resolution.

Secretary in Agriculture Production Department reviews implementation of HADP projects in J&K

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 12: Secretary in Agriculture Production Department and Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), Sandeep Kumar, today said that successful implementation of HADP will play a pivotal role in transforming Jammu and Kashmir's agriculture and allied sectors into a sustainable and vibrant Rs 1 lakh crore agri-economy.

Chairing a review meeting held at the Directorate of Agriculture, Lal Mandi, Srinagar, Sandeep Kumar emphasised the importance of output-based monitoring and real-time progress tracking to maximise the impact and efficiency. The



review meeting focused on 13 major HADP projects.

Director Agriculture Jammu, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Director Horticulture Jammu, Director Horticulture Kashmir, Director Animal Husbandry (Jammu/Kashmir), Director

Sheep Husbandry (Jammu/Kashmir), representatives from SKUAST-Jammu and SKUAST-Kashmir, Directors of Sericulture, CAD, Fisheries and other allied sectors besides concerned PGMs and technical teams attended the meeting while

officers from outside the station joined the meeting virtually.

The Mission Director stressed the need for robust and measurable outcome tracking over 92,000 units already established at the grassroots level under HADP schemes. He also underlined that output-led project governance, efficient inter-departmental coordination, and strategic bottleneck resolution are vital for achieving the goals of HADP. Sandeep Kumar called for stronger last-mile delivery, data-driven monitoring systems and greater accountability in implementation. He reaffirmed the government's commitment towards empowering the farmers, improving allied productivity and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities through HADP.

Tribal Affairs Minister meets Gujjar-Bakerwal delegations; assures govt's support

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 12: Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today met with several delegations of the Gujjar-Bakerwal tribe from districts of Jammu, Samba and Kathua at the Civil Secretariat in Srinagar.

The delegations raised various issues and problems including alleged discriminatory treatment, lack of security of life and property and concerns related to selective acquisition of their immovable property in the name of development.

The tribal delegates projected various grievances regarding forced eviction from places they have resided in for decades.



Javed Rana gave a patient hearing to the delegations and assured them that the Jammu and Kashmir government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, will not tolerate harassment of any section of society on sectarian grounds.

The Minister asked the officers to prioritise early redressal of the delegations' problems.

The Minister reaffirmed the

government's commitment towards protecting the rights and interests of all communities, including the Gujjar-Bakerwal tribe. Javed Rana gave a patient hearing to the delegations and assured them that the Jammu and Kashmir government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, will not tolerate harassment of any section of society on sectarian grounds.

LoP Sunil Sharma Meets LG Sinha, Seeks Urdu Exemption in Naib Tehsildar Exam

HT NEWS DESK



Jammu, June 12: Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today and urged him to address concerns of Naib Tehsildar aspirants. He was joined by J&K BJP President Sat Sharma. Sharma requested that Urdu should not be a mandatory requirement for the Naib Tehsildar examination, pointing out that the Union Territory has five official languages and enforcing one creates an unfair barrier, especially for aspirants from the Jammu Division. He said this policy goes against the principle of equal opportunity and requested the Lieutenant Governor to consider allowing all official languages in recruitment exams. The BJP leaders also appealed for government documents and procedures to be translated into all five official languages of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dy CM pays surprise visit to Labour Commissioner Office in Srinagar

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 12: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today paid a surprise visit to Labour Commissioner Office in Srinagar, assessing the functioning of the organisation.

The Dy CM reviewed progress on various initiatives and schemes being implemented by the Labour Department to promote social security and welfare of employees/workers. He also took stock of issues being faced by the employees in performing their duties efficiently.

During the visit, the Dy CM held a detailed discussion with the officials regarding the steps aimed at to streamline the functioning of the department. He was briefed about the ongoing activities, achievements and challenges facing the department.



The Deputy Chief Minister emphasized the importance of ensuring effective implementation of labour laws and regulations to protect the rights of workers. He stressed on maintaining cleanliness, ensuring quick disposal of public grievances and enforcing punctuality in government offices. He also interacted with the public who were waiting to resolve their grievances at the Regional office EPFO, Gol, housed in the Labour Commissionerate Headquarters. The Dy CM lis-

tened to their concerns and assured them of prompt resolution. He also asked the officers to ensure official files are processed without any delay. He stressed the need for efficient and citizen-centric service delivery, directing the officials to expedite the grievance redressal process and maintain transparency in their functioning. Choudhary asserted "it is essential that citizens do not have to wait unnecessarily and services are provided strictly according to the scheduled.

Fostering environmental stewardship among youngsters, reconnecting with nature, need of the hour: Sakeena Itoo

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 12: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today emphasised on the urgent need of reconnecting with nature and foster environmental stewardship among the young generation, especially college and school going students.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing a gathering held in the backdrop of World Environment Day-2025 week celebrations at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Kothibagh here today.

Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N Itoo; Chief Education Officer, Srinagar; Principal GGHSS Kothibagh, Heads of various institutions of Srinagar district, faculty members and large number of students were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Education Minister said that Kashmir's weather is witnessing drastic changes due to deforestation and other allied activities. She emphasized on



the urgent need of the hour is to reconnect with nature and foster environmental stewardship among the younger generation as well as school and college going students.

"Environmental preservation is not just a policy issue, it is a personal responsibility. Each of us has the power to influence change, starting with our homes, schools and communities", Sakeena Itoo stated.

The Minister called upon all the participants to make plantation of trees a routine habit, highlighting that we need to work collectively to bring back the charm and environmental conditions our Kashmir was known for across the globe.

On the occasion, Education Minister also praised GGHSS Kothibagh for academic excellence, highlighting that Government institutions

Committee on Privileges holds first meeting in Srinagar

Chairman expresses confidence in seamless coordination, effective performance

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 12: The Committee on Privileges of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly held its first meeting today at the Assembly complex in Srinagar.

The meeting was chaired by the Committee Chairman, Nizam-u-din Bhat.

The Committee members including MLAs Riyaz Ahmad Khan, Salman Sagar, Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed (Paradesi), Javaid Iqbal, Vikram Randhawa and Bharat Bhushan participated in the meeting.

The Chairman elaborated on the roles and responsibilities of the Committee members. He expressed confidence in the members' ability to work

in coordination and contribute effectively to the Committee's performance. The members actively participated in the discussions, sharing their suggestions and feedback on various pertinent issues.

The Chairman emphasized that the Committee will function strictly within its mandated framework and will regularly meet to formulate and implement a course of action for the resolution of matters brought before it. He further urged all the members to discharge their duties diligently and uphold the decorum and responsibilities entrusted to them.

Pertinently, Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Speaker, Abdul Rahim Rather, had announced the formation of the nine-member Committee on Privileges during the latest Assembly

session. The Committee will serve for the term ending March 31, 2026. The members actively participated in the discussions, sharing their suggestions and feedback on various pertinent issues. The Chairman emphasized that the Committee will function strictly within its mandated framework and will regularly meet to formulate and implement a course of action for the resolution of matters brought before it. He further urged all the members to discharge their duties diligently and uphold the decorum and responsibilities entrusted to them. Pertinently, Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Speaker, Abdul Rahim Rather, had announced the formation of the nine-member Committee on Privileges during the latest Assembly session.

Div Com Kashmir reviews Muharram-ul-Haram arrangements

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 12: In view of forthcoming Muharram-ul-Haram, Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri today chaired a meeting of officers to ensure hassle-free and peaceful observance of religious occasion and to facilitate mourners. Besides, DIG Police Rajiv Pandey, the meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, officers of line departments and representatives of various associations of Shia community. Addressing the meeting, Div Com directed officers



for repairing and macadamization of roads in Shia dominated areas to ensure pothole-free routes for mourners procession. He also directed civil departments including PHE and KPDCI to ensure delivery of uninterrupted services during the Muharram days. He instructed deployment

of water tankers to supplement the demand of drinking water to the areas inhabited by the community. Div Com instructed concerned to provide adequate quantity of firewood, and also ensure distribution of sufficient ration to the community. Bidhuri enjoined the con-

cerned to launch special sanitation drives around Imam Baras and procession sites to ensure cleanliness and facilitate mourners.

He asked health department for deployment of medical teams along with ambulances to provide proper medical assistance to mourners.

To ensure law & order, Div Com emphasized on making fool-proof security arrangements and proper route plan for smooth vehicular movement.

Meanwhile, he urged that all arrangements should be put in place well in time to ensure all religious gatherings and processions are held smoothly and peacefully.

IUST convenes 12th Executive Council Meeting

HT NEWS DESK

Awantipora, June 12: — The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) held its 12th Executive Council (EC) meeting today under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor Prof. Shakil A. Romshoo. The meeting was attended by distinguished members from academia to deliberate on key academic, administrative and policy matters concerning the University's growth and development. Among the prominent Executive Council members were Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu; Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir; Prof. Rama Shanker Dubey, Vice Chancellor, Central University of Gujarat, Prof. Jawaid Iqbal,

Vice Chancellor, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGS-BU), and Prof. Anjana Vyas from CEPT University, Ahmedabad. The Executive Council meeting was also attended by Prof. Abdul Wahid Makhdooni, Registrar and Member Secretary of the EC, Prof. A.H. Moon (Dean Academic Affairs), Prof. Parvez Ahmad Mir (Dean, School of Business Studies), Prof. Zamrooda Akhter (Principal, Alamdar Memorial College of Nursing), Dr. Asifa Mehraj Baba (Dean of Students), and Dean Research, Finance officer, Controller of Examinations, and Dean Outreach of the IUST. Prof. Romshoo presented IUST's recent achievements and outlined the University's strategic roadmap for future growth in academics, research, outreach, innovations and



infrastructure. He acknowledged the continuous support extended by the government, in enabling progress across various domains. The Council deliberated upon and approved key recommendations of various statutory

bodies including Academic Council, Library Committee, University Finance Committee, Library Committee and Building Committee. Noteworthy among the key decisions was the approval for the establishment of new academic and

policy-oriented centres such as the Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis, the Institute of Allied Health Sciences, and Centre for Cyber Security. The Vice Chancellor members of the Executive Council from sister universities

of Jammu and Kashmir emphasized the importance of fostering collaborative frameworks and proposed joint initiatives for resource optimization and strengthening knowledge partnerships across the Jammu and Kashmir. The Council members also commended IUST's strides in research, teaching, innovations, infrastructure development and institutional growth. The Executive Council appreciated the dedicated efforts of its faculty and staff in transforming the university into a vibrant hub of teaching, research and innovation. The Council deliberated upon and approved key recommendations of various statutory bodies including Academic Council, Library Committee, University Finance Committee,

Library Committee and Building Committee. Noteworthy among the key decisions was the approval for the establishment of new academic and policy-oriented centres such as the Centre for Good Governance and Policy Analysis, the Institute of Allied Health Sciences, and Centre for Cyber Security. The Vice Chancellor members of the Executive Council from sister universities of Jammu and Kashmir emphasized the importance of fostering collaborative frameworks and proposed joint initiatives for resource optimization and strengthening knowledge partnerships across the Jammu and Kashmir. The Council members also commended IUST's strides in research, teaching, innovations, infrastructure development and institutional

DC Baramulla visits Imam-bara Goom Ahmadpora, reviews Muharram Arrangements

HT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 12: In view of the forthcoming holy month of Muharram, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, accompanied by SDM Pattan, today visited Imam-bara Goom Ahmadpora to take stock of the arrangements and assess the preparedness of line departments for the smooth conduct of religious gatherings. During the visit, DC held a detailed interaction with members of the Intizamiya Committee and local residents. Several key public issues and demands were raised, primarily related to infrastructure and essential services. The residents demanded blacktopping of link roads leading to the Imam-bara, installation of street lights and solar-powered lighting systems, provision of a DG set for uninterrupted power supply, and improvements in the drinking water supply system. A major concern highlighted by the community was the presence of poplar trees in the vicinity of the Imam-bara, which they said posed



a threat to public safety during the large congregational events. Taking note of this, the DC issued on-spot directions to the concerned departments to initiate immediate cutting of the trees before Muharram. The residents also raised concerns about the ongoing power curtailment schedule, stating that it was causing inconvenience, particularly in relation to agricultural activities. They appealed for a revision in the curtailment plan to better suit local needs. Responding to the concerns, DC

assured the gathering that all genuine demands will be addressed on priority. He emphasized that the district administration is committed to ensuring a safe, peaceful, and well-facilitated environment for Muharram observances. Minga Sherpa urged all departments to work in close coordination and ensure timely execution of all required arrangements, underlining the administration's dedication to public welfare and smooth conduct of religious events.

DLSA Kulgam observes World Day against Child Labour

KULGAM, JUNE 12: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Kulgam in collaboration with Islamia Simnania Hr. Secondary School Kulgam observed 'World Day against Child Labour' today. The event was held under the chairmanship of Aijaz Ahmad Khan, Chairman DLSA Kulgam. Fozia Paul, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Kulgam supervised and conducted the programme. Resource persons, Sheikh Saqib Ansari, Labeeba Alam-

gir both Assistant LADCs discussed various aspects of topic, and highlighted various provisions of child labour laws including Juvenile justice Act. They highlighted the underlying causes contributing to this challenge and provided valuable information about the legal frameworks aimed at prohibiting child labour. Programme was attended by staff of DLSA, PLVs, and teaching Staff & Students of the said Institute.

Orientation & Coordination conference held at DC Office Srinagar

Preparations for conduct of Table top Exercise, Physical Mock Exercise discussed to test and refine disaster response protocol

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 11: With an aim to enhance disaster preparedness and coordination among key stakeholders in the district, an orientation & coordination conference was held today at the DC office, Srinagar. Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Aadil Fareed, who is also the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Srinagar presided over the event, while Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir Irfan Qazi; Deputy Controller of Civil Defence, Consultant DDMA, Amara Naseem; Consultant DDMA Srinagar, Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat and other officials were present on the occasion.



The session featured a comprehensive presentation via video conference by Deputy Secretary, Department of DMRRR, Snowber Jameel, and Chief Executive Officer DMRRR, Amir Hussain. During the session, emphasis was placed on the urgent need to update the Indian Disaster Resource Network (IDRN) to ensure real-time access to critical resources during

emergencies. Further, the conference focused on updating the Incident Response System (IRS) and revising the District Disaster Management Plan to incorporate lessons learned from past incidents and to strengthen response strategies. On the occasion, stress was also laid on identification of vulnerable flood sites aiming to prioritize mitigation efforts and resource

allocation. It was decided that five flood-prone areas will be identified within Srinagar district for conducting mock exercises. Moreover, preparations with regard to conduct of Table Top Exercise scheduled for June 14, 2025, and a physical mock exercise on June 17, 2025 were also discussed in order to test and refine disaster response protocols. Speaking on the occasion, ADC emphasized the importance of inter-departmental coordination and community involvement in disaster management efforts. He highlighted that the upcoming exercises would serve as critical platforms to assess and enhance the district's preparedness for potential disasters.

DLSA Shopian organizes awareness programme on 'World Day against Child Labour'

HT NEWS DESK

SHOPIAN, JUNE 12: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian, in collaboration with the Education Department, today organized an awareness programme on 'World Day Against Child Labour' at Government Higher Secondary School Vehil, Shopian. The event was conducted under the guidance of Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary, Chairman DLSA (Principal District & Sessions Judge, Shopian) and Mudasar Farooq, Secretary DLSA Shopian.

Subject: Grant of registration of the paying Guest house/Home stay under the name and style "M/s. Nigeen Meers Resort paying Guest house/Home stay Situated at Nigeen Bagh Nasema Abad Kanitar Saderabal Srinagar.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

Whereas, M/s parveeza mehraj W/o: mehraj ud din mir R/o: R/o nigeen bagh nasema abad kanitar saderabal 190006. Intends to apply in the office of Prescribed Authority of Directorate of Tourism Kashmir for registration of my proposed Paying Guest House/Home Stay under the Name & Style "M/s. Nigeen Meers Resort paying Guest house/Home stay Situated at Nigeen Bagh Nasema Abad Kanitar Saderabal Srinagar, under the provisions of the Act 1978/82/2011-12. Whereas I will submit Landownership Certificate from Concerned Tehsildar with attest photographs of the unit through Dy. Commissioner Concerned, Rent/Lease Deed/Partnership Deed/issued by concerned Sub-Registrar, Judicial Magistrate (if applicable NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as HomeStay), Character Certificate of the applicant from the Concerned Police Station, undertaking from the owner as self declaration, Public Notice inviting objections, if any in print media, list of family members Name, Age and Photograph self attested by owner, photographs of the unit as mentioned in the application (each of exterior and individual bed rooms and bathrooms), inspection report by the Committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view, the type of accommodation and amenity, adhar card. Now before my case is processed for registration by the prescribed Authority, if any, can be submitted in the office of principal of aforementioned school within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the valley. Objections received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be processed under rules as per merit.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name of my daughter in her school records who is studying at Presentation Convent High School in 7th Class Section-C under Roll No. 12 from Fatima to Khadija Mudasar D/o: Mohd Mudasar Shahidee. Objections, if any, can be submitted in the office of principal of aforementioned school within a period of 7 days after that no objection will be entertained.

Mohd Mudasar Shahidee
F/o: Khadija Mudasar
R/o: Qamarwari Srinagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

Parentage of my son Binyamin Bin Mudasar who is studying at DPS School in class 1"A" under Roll No. 8, has been wrongly mentioned as Mudasar Shahidee instead of Mohd. Mudasar Shahidee. Now the rectification is to be incorporated in the school records. Objections, if any, can be submitted in the office of principal of aforementioned school within a period of 7 days after that no objection will be entertained.

Mohd Mudasar Shahidee
F/o: Binyamin Bin Mudasar
R/o: Qamarwari Srinagar

IN THE COURT OF CHIEF JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE HANDWARA

Case No: 130/2024
CNR No: JKW060002752024
D.O. 30.01.2024
Date of Order: 29.05.2025
In the case of: Syed Akhter Hussain Geelani S/o Syed Mehboob Geelani R/o Monabal Tehsil Qalamabad District Kupwara (Complainant) Through, Adv. Syed Jahangeer Zaffar Geelani V/S Aqib Gul Hajam S/o Gh. Mohammad Hajam R/o Najar Mohallah Khaipora Tehsil Qazibabad District Kupwara

(Accused)

Through, Nemo, In the matter of: Complaint under Section 138 of N.L. Act Coram: Manzoor Hussain J.O Code: JK00180 PROCLAMATION U/ 82 Cr.P.C AGAINST THE ACCUSED NAMED ABOVE.
1. WHEREAS, the proceedings in the above titled complaint are pending against you in this court in which despite issuance of arrest warrant repeatedly, you did not cause your appearance.
2. WHEREAS, it has been reported by the executing agency that you are intentionally absconding from the process of law to avoid your appearance in the case during the proceedings.
3. WHEREAS, keeping in view your conduct, this court has declared you as proclaimed offender in view of section 82 of Cr.P.C.
4. Therefore, proclamation is hereby made to require you to appear before this court in the above titled proceedings on 30.06.2025 at 10:30 am.
Issued under my hand and seal of this court today on this the 29th day of May 2025.

Chief Judicial Magistrate Handwara

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change the name of Electric Bill Having Consumer Id No:- 0206020020265 from Mohd Shaif Lone S/O Gh Hassan Lone R/O Pahroo to Gulshan Akhtar W/o. Late Gh Hassan Lone R/O Pahroo Nowgam. if any, can be submitted in the office of AEE Chadoora Office within a period of 7 days after that no objection will be entertained.

Name:- Gulshan Akhtar
W/o. Late Gh Hassan Lone
Pahroo Nowgam

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Gulzar Ahmad S/o Ab Saim Sofi, R/o Dharmhugh Kralpora, Tehsil Baghati Kanipora, Budgam, have lost the front number plate of my Hyundai Eon (JK03C-7804) on 08-06-2025 while traveling from Kralpora to Budgam.

I am applying for a duplicate. If anyone has any objection, kindly inform the concerned department within 7 days from the date of this notice. No claim will be entertained thereafter.
Gulzar Ahmad S/o Ab Saim Sofi, R/o Dharmhugh Kralpora, Tehsil Baghati Kanipora,

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my dob has been incorrectly mentioned on his Adhar card, 275489020352as DOB 17/06/1965 while his correct DOB IS, 01/06/1970, Name, Ab Majeed Dar now I have applied for the correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection concerned authority/UIDAI office within a period of 07 days after that no objection will be accepted.

Name: AB MAJEED DAR. DOB, 01/06/1970
S/O MOHD RAMZAN DAR
R/O: BATAPORA TEHSIL HANDWARA DIST KUPWARA

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

NO: T-1/EEA/1224-26 Dated: 11/06/2025
CANCELLATION NOTICE

Subject: Providing Consultancy and other allied services with all working drawings (Digital Layout Plan, BOQ, Structural, Architectural Design,) incld. technical vetting of drawings from DIQC/NIT/IT and Conducting of all required soil investigations for Construction of 1st floor over existing ground floor at Saffron Shopping Complex at Tanchibagh Pampore.
Reference:-This office e-NIT No.Fresh-157/EEA/R&B of 2024-25/1165-75 Dated: 17/03/2025 It is for the information of all registered contractors/ Firms/ Agencies that during technical evaluation it has been found that four bids were received online for above mentioned work and only one bidder has been assessed as technically responsive.

In view of it the above referred NIT is hereby cancelled and invited a fresh.

DIPK-2436/25

Send Dated:-12/06/2025
Pub:- 13-06-25

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) WATER SUPPLY MASTER PLAN DIVISION SRINAGAR

GIST OF FRESH ENIT NO.11/WSMP of 06/2025 Dated 11-05-2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited from approved Agency/ Company registered with J&K Union Territory Govt., for the following Work.

S.No	Name of work	Advt Cost	Cost of document / tender fee (in Rs.)	Cost of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs.)	Completion Period	Major Head
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	HIRING OF 03 NUMBER OF WATER TANKERS FOR SUPPLYING OF DRINKING WATER DURING SHRI AMARNATH JI YATRA 2025 (SHRI AMARNATH JI YATRA)	Rs.8.00 Lacs	Rs. 800/-	2% of Advertised Cost/-	100 Days	SHRI AMARNATH JI YATRA (3452)

Date of Publishing: 11/06/2025

1. Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 11/06/2025
2. The Bids shall be deposited on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 11/06/2025 to 17/06/2025
3. The bids will be opened online on 17/06/2025 at (5.30 PM) or any other subsequent date convenient to office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) WSMP Division Srinagar.
4. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

DIPK-2427/25

Send Dated:-12/06/2025
Pub:- 13-06-25

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
(PHE) WSMP Division Sgr

DC Kupwara reviews preparations for launch of 'Skill Mission-Hunarmand Kupwara'

HT NEWS DESK

KUPWARA, JUNE 12: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting of concerned officers here at Meeting Hall of D.C Office to review the preparations for 'Skill Mission-Hunarmand Kupwara', an initiative for Empowering Youth through Skill Development under Aspirational District Programme of NITI Aayog which shall be launched on June 16 (Monday). 'Skill Mission-Hunarmand Kupwara' is an initiative of District Administration Kupwara to equip the youth of the district with different skills to boost their employability and livelihood potential. Speaking at the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that 'Skill Mission-Hunarmand Kupwara' initiative is not just a set of training courses but a step towards unlocking possibilities, enhancing employability and redefining the future of thousands of youth in Kupwara district. She



impressed upon the officers to identify maximum youth especially belonging to vulnerable groups for their skilling under the initiative so as to boost their employability. She emphasized the need for offering customized courses to cater to the needs of the potential candidates. The

officers were directed to ensure wide publicity of the Skill Mission to ensure its grass-root awareness. Besides, the ADCs and SDMs will lead the launch of the initiative in their respective jurisdictions. It was informed in the meeting that about 600 candidates have been identified and

enrolled under 18 different courses in Government Polytechnic College and Industrial Training Institutes which will start from Monday. The courses under which the candidates will be skilled include Basic Computer Digital Literacy, Sozni Embroidery, Basic Masonry and Concreting, Solar Power Technician, Basic Tailoring, Basic Multimedia & Animation, Mobile Repairing etc. The meeting was attended by SDM Lolab, SDM Karnah, Principal Govt. Polytechnic College Kupwara, Chief Education Officer, CPO, Assistant Labour Commissioner, Superintendents of ITI Kupwara, Handwara, Lalpora & Tangdar, District Officer EDI, DPM NRLM Kupwara and other concerned. The meeting was attended by SDM Lolab, SDM Karnah, Principal Govt. Polytechnic College Kupwara, Chief Education Officer, CPO, Assistant Labour Commissioner, Superintendents of ITI Kupwara, Handwara, Lalpora & Tangdar, District Officer EDI, DPM NRLM Kupwara and other concerned.

Director Sheep Husbandry Kashmir takes review of dept schemes

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 12: Director, Sheep Husbandry department Kashmir, Dr. Rafiq Ahmad Shah, chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the implementation and planning of various departmental schemes for the financial year 2025-26. The review focused on the UT Capex Budget allocations, with detailed discussions on district-wise releases, liabilities, and targets under the Integrated Sheep Development Scheme (ISDS). Non-construction, construction and NABARD-funded works were also examined to ensure effective execution and impact. Discussions included updates on the National Livestock Mission, with specific focus on animal insurance, honorarium to field veterinarians, and planned extension activities. The meeting also reviewed proposals related to the Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir under innovation and development initiatives. Under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) 2025-26, the department emphasized efforts toward self-sustenance in mutton and wool production. Further, the meeting discussed operationalization of Common Facility Centers (CFCs) and wool markets, strengthening monitoring of Breeding Base Farms (BBFs), commercial farms and CFCs, adoption of the JD vaccine in disease prevention and implementation of administrative reforms including the 'Behak Order'.

World Day against Child Labour: DLSA Srinagar sensitizes young minds about pressing issue of child labour

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 12: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, in collaboration with Bilaliya Educational Institute, observed the 'World Day against Child Labour' with deep commitment and meaningful engagement. The programme was held at the premises of Bilaliya Educational Institute and reflected a shared resolve to sensitize young minds about the pressing issue of child labour and promote awareness about children's rights and legal protections. The programme was conducted under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and supervised by Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar. Nisar Ahmed, Principal of Bilaliya Educational Institute emphasized the role of educational institutions in shaping informed and responsible citizens. He highlighted the importance of instilling legal and moral values in students to help eliminate exploitative practices like child labour. Jahan Aara, Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel, DLSA Srinagar, served as the resource person for the occasion. In her informative address, she discussed the legal framework surrounding child labour, detrimental effects it has on children's development and collective role of communities in ensuring child protection and welfare. Adding a vibrant dimension to the programme, students of Bilaliya Educational Institute also spoke on the occasion, sharing their thoughts and reflections on the importance of education, children's rights, and the role youth can play in creating a just and equitable society. Their active participation in discussions and interactive segments reflected the growing awareness and sensitivity among the younger generation. This collaborative effort between DLSA Srinagar and Bilaliya Educational Institute underscored the powerful role of legal and educational institutions in nurturing a generation that is not only socially conscious but also legally empowered. DLSA Srinagar reaffirms its commitment to continuing such initiatives that blend awareness, education, and legal empowerment for a brighter and more just future. Adding a vibrant dimension to the programme, students of Bilaliya Educational Institute also spoke on the occasion, sharing their thoughts and reflections on the importance of education, children's rights, and the role youth can play in creating a just and equitable society. Their active participation in discussions and interactive segments reflected the growing awareness and sensitivity among the younger generation. This collaborative effort between DLSA Srinagar and Bilaliya Educational Institute underscored the powerful role of legal and educational institutions in nurturing.

Div Com Kashmir reviews arrangements for International Yoga Day

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 12: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, today chaired a comprehensive meeting to review preparations for the upcoming International Yoga Day celebrations, set to be observed across the Kashmir division in alignment with the national event led by the Prime Minister of India. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, Senior Superintendents of Police, and officers from various departments including AYUSH, Health, School and Higher Education, Sports Council, Rural Development, Tourism, and the SKICC. Addressing the officers, Div Com emphasized the importance of active participation and synchronization with the central event. He directed officials to ensure live stream-



ing of the Prime Minister's Yoga session at SKICC and in degree colleges to engage and

inspire participants. The main event will be held at SKICC on June 21, from 6:00 AM to 8:00 AM. Around 5,000 participants are expected to take part. AYUSH department has been tasked with arranging Yoga mats and T-shirts for attendees. Div Com also instructed departments to ensure smooth transportation to the venue, along with the provision of drinking water, mobile toilet facilities and refreshments post-event. Deputy Commissioners briefed the Div Com on district-level arrangements, including live streamings and the organization of Yoga sessions at tourist spots and other prominent locations. In anticipation of inclement weather, Div Com stressed the need for a contingency plan to ensure that the celebrations continue seamlessly at all designated venues.

Maiden DLIC meeting under Mission YUVA held at Kulgam

31 Youth cases approved for financial support to foster entrepreneurship and self-employment

HT NEWS DESK

KULGAM, JUNE 12: In a major step towards youth empowerment and livelihood generation, the first District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) meeting under Mission YUVA was held today in Kulgam under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan. During the meeting, the committee approved 31 cases of young aspiring entrepreneurs from across the district, paving the way for financial assistance and capacity-building support under Mission YUVA. The selected cases reflect a diverse range of sectors underscoring the potential of local youth to contribute meaningfully to the district's economic development. It was informed that Mission YUVA is a flagship initiative of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir designed to create a robust ecosystem for youth-led entrepreneurship. The mission aims to provide end-to-end support including skill development, financial assistance, mentorship, and market linkages to unemployed and aspiring youth.



Speaking at the occasion, DC lauded the enthusiasm and proactive participation of local youth in availing this opportunity. He emphasized the importance of timely fund disbursement and post-approval mentoring for the sustainability of projects. The meeting witnessed the participation of all DLIC & SBDU members and other officials of DE&CC Kulgam. Each case was thoroughly reviewed on the basis of viability, sectoral relevance and readiness of the appli-

cants. Brief overview of the applications received and the screening process conducted at SBDU level was presented before the chair. He emphasized the importance of timely fund disbursement and post-approval mentoring for the sustainability of projects. The meeting witnessed the participation of all DLIC & SBDU members and other officials of DE&CC Kulgam. Each case was thoroughly reviewed on the basis of viability.

Distt Admin B'pora conducts training/ review session on e-Office to promote paperless Governance

HT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 12: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri and in a significant step towards digital governance, district administration Bandipora today conducted a comprehensive training programme on the e-Office platform for all district and sectoral Officers at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora. The training-cum-review session was chaired by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zaffar Huson Shawl. In his address, ADC underscored the administration's commitment to digital transformation and urged all departments to ensure familiarity and compliance with the new system. The training-cum-review session aimed to ensure smooth functioning of e-Office operations in the district and to enhance digital governance by making office functioning more efficient, transparent, and paperless. During the session, ADC reviewed preparedness regarding e-Office implementation and emphasized the importance of digital transition in routine official work. He directed officers to attend to e-Office operations regularly and ensure their staffs properly trained in the system. On the occasion, ADC further highlighted that smooth operation of



e-Office is essential to ensure timely delivery of services, transparency, and efficient public administration. He also emphasized the need for regular follow-up training sessions and assured the establishment of a dedicated helpdesk to provide ongoing technical support. Technical sessions were conducted by experts from NIC Bandipora, who provided detailed guidance on document flow management, digital file handling, and system operations. They offered real-time technical support to participants during hands-on training sessions. The training session concluded with a resolve to implement e-Office operations effectively across all departments of the district. Among others, the training session was attended by sectoral officers from various departments, along with their designated staff, while officers from Sub-division Gurez joined virtually.

DC Baramulla conducts field visit to Gulmarg, reviews tourist infrastructure and services

HT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 12: In an effort to ensure a seamless, safe and memorable experience for tourists, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today undertook a comprehensive tour of Gulmarg, where he inspected the functioning of the Gulmarg Gondola and reviewed a range of facilities provided to visitors. During the visit, DC inspected both Phase I and Phase II of the Gondola cable car system, reviewed the ticketing process, and assessed the preparedness to manage the increasing flow of tourists. He examined the functioning of ticket counters, adher-

ence to safety protocols, and arrangements made to streamline passenger movement and prevent overcrowding. DC also conducted a detailed assessment of sanitation and cleanliness, particularly around the Gondola base station and nearby public spaces. He inspected the condition of public washrooms and other basic amenities, and interacted with tourists and staff to obtain feedback on the services being offered. He reviewed the progress of ongoing development works in the area, with specific instructions to ensure timely completion and adherence to quality standards to enhance the overall tourist experience. Subsequently, DC chaired a review



meeting with officers from the Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA), Tourism Department, Municipal Committee, J&K Cable Car Corpora-

tion, Public Works Department (PWD), Health Department, and other allied departments. During the meeting, Minga Sherpa stressed upon strengthening the tourist facilitation mechanism, including the establishment of round-the-clock Tourist Help Desks, improved traffic management, and streamlined transport services to ensure hassle-free mobility within the tourist area. He also called for timely waste disposal, an efficient and transparent ticketing system, and proper directional signage and information displays. DC emphasized the importance of enhanced inter-departmental coordination and deployment of emergency response teams to ensure

tourist safety and satisfaction. He urged all departments to work collaboratively to provide a high-quality, visitor-friendly environment and reiterated the administration's commitment to promote Gulmarg as a model of sustainable and responsible tourism. The meeting was attended by CEO GDA, SDM Gulmarg, SDPO Gulmarg, and other senior officials from departments concerned with tourism infrastructure and public services. The meeting was attended by CEO GDA, SDM Gulmarg, SDPO Gulmarg, and other senior officials from departments concerned with tourism infrastructure and public services.

EDITORIAL

Omar's helplessness bound to give ammunition to opposition parties

In the past one week or so the Jammu & Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah has expressed his helplessness in carrying out the functioning of the government in a proper manner on at least two occasions. The same does not augur well for the overall working of the union territory government and it sends a negative message to the people especially, to those who voted for the National Conference in the 2024 assembly elections. The 2024 assembly elections turned out to be a watershed moment in the history of Jammu & Kashmir since unprecedented voting percentage was recorded in such elections. People who had never voted in the elections in the past came out to exercise their right to franchise. Majority of these people voted for the National Conference with the hope that both the small issues and the big issues would be solved by the new government. Eight months down the line many of these people are dejected as the issues have not been looked into.

Taking part in the function organized in connection with the flagging off of the Vande Bharat express at Katra last week Omar said that most of the people have been promoted but in this case the reverse has happened and he has been demoted. He made this statement in front of a galaxy of important political personalities including Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Adding insult to the injury one could see the Prime Minister laughing at the observation of the chief minister and this is not a good thing.

In an interview with a prominent online news portal the Jammu & Kashmir chief minister said that he has no control whatsoever over the bureaucracy and it is the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha who is calling the shots in this regard. Omar said that when he was the chief minister of the state of Jammu & Kashmir the bureaucrats would come out with multiple solutions towards a particular problem. He said that as on date the bureaucrats come out with many excuses for not implementing a particular project or scheme or solving a problem. This helplessness from the chief minister does not go well with the people who voted for him and also for the party he belongs to. This attitude of surrender would give ammunition to the opposition parties and they will corner Omar for the same like anything. If the chief minister feels that the Government of India is not serious in restoring the statehood then he has the option of knocking at the judiciary and his party has given enough hints about the same in the past.

Inside the Human Mind: Unlocking Nature's Greatest Puzzle



BY Jasmine Fatima

Over the past two decades, students of psychology—heavily influenced by Sigmund Freud—have concentrated their efforts on exploring the subconscious realms of the human mind. However, a shift is now underway. Led by French scientists, Western thinkers are beginning to explore the possibility of a higher, divine perception within human consciousness.

Recent developments in psychology, particularly those championed by French researchers, have identified a new dimension of the human psyche termed the superconscious. According to this emerging view, the human personality comprises a triad of consciousness: the conscious, the subconscious, and—crowning them both—the superconscious.

While the subconscious helps uncover many hidden motivations behind human behavior and can explain certain abnormal actions, it falls short in accounting for exceptional, supra-normal deeds. The rationalizations arising from the subconscious are fundamentally different from the flawless guidance that stems from the superconscious, which is seen as a source of deeper truth and inspiration.

Whereas the subconscious represents the submerged layers of our nature, the superconscious reflects the heights to which human potential can ascend. Years ago, English psychologist F.W.H. Myers proposed that buried within the deeper layers of our being lies both a rubbish heap and a treasure house. Traditional psychology, focused on the subconscious, has largely explored the subconscious. In contrast, this new superconscious psychology turns its gaze toward the superconscious—the inner treasure house—which alone can explain the noble, heroic actions that transcend ordinary human behavior.

Exploring the Three Layers of Consciousness For most people, the conscious mind seems to be the most significant aspect of awareness. It's the part we use daily to think, decide, and interact with the world. However, the conscious mind is just a small

component of a person's overall consciousness and awareness and represents only a small fraction of the mind's full capacity.

Just beneath it lies the subconscious mind—a vast reservoir of thoughts, memories, and experiences that operate below the level of active awareness. While the conscious mind may forget, the subconscious retains everything. Its influence on our thoughts, behaviors, and speech is profound, even if subtle. Under certain conditions, such as deep relaxation,



glimpses of the subconscious may surface, often revealing surprising or unfamiliar aspects of ourselves.

Beyond both lies a higher dimension: the superconscious mind. This level of awareness transcends the ordinary experiences of the conscious and subconscious minds. It taps into the energy that lies above what we can normally perceive as truth or reality. It is not confined by physical perception or shaped by past memories. Instead, the superconscious connects us with a higher truth—an elevated state of insight, creativity, and spiritual clarity. It is not bound to the material world, nor can be corrupted by the senses

of the conscious mind.

The world's most profound artistic and spiritual achievements often arise from this superconscious state. When we encounter such creations, we instinctively sense that they originate from a plane beyond the mundane. Therefore, the superconscious mind provides a wonderful state of being that goes beyond what the conscious and unconscious minds can grapple with.

Reaching the superconscious mind is a journey toward self-realization. The superconscious mind can often be felt when we enter a state of deep calmness and relaxation. When we reach the level of the superconscious mind, we get to experience ourselves in our entirety. We reach a level of awareness never before felt and unlock pure expressions of joy, bliss and boundless compassion. Unlike the conscious mind, it is not limited by the five senses. Unlike the subconscious, it is untouched by past conditioning and memories. The superconscious offers a rare freedom—from distractions, from emotional entanglements, and from the illusion of separateness.

Meditation is the key to accessing this transcendent state. It gently leads us away from sensory distractions, mental noise, and over thinking, guiding us toward deeper awareness and inner clarity. With consistent practice, meditation becomes a portal into the superconscious—a space where truth, joy, and divine presence are experienced directly.

This journey requires patience and dedication. In most cases, people will not arrive at this stage of calmness, peace, and awareness through a few sessions of meditation. The superconscious mind does not reveal itself in haste. But with time, effort, and dedication to the practice of meditation, we can open the inner door to this luminous realm and awaken to the full spectrum of our spiritual potential.

Meditation invites us to detach from sensory perceptions and the memories stored in the subconscious, allowing us to journey inward—into our energetic essence—where deeper truths and insights can be revealed.

This state is, by its very nature, Divine. Through meditation, we can unlock this inner doorway and connect with the highest realms of awareness.

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Peace, Progress, and Panoramas: Uri's Tourism Turnaround



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In recent years, Uri is experiencing a quiet but powerful transformation. Once known mainly for its location near the Line of Control (LoC), Uri is now gaining attention for something far more inspiring—its stunning natural beauty, rich culture, and warm hospitality. In recent years, Uri has started to emerge as a fresh face in Kashmir's growing tourism map. What was once a name associated with headlines and conflict is today drawing visitors who come to witness its natural beauty, explore its heritage, and meet the warm, resilient people who call this place home. This change hasn't happened overnight. It's the result of a growing atmosphere of peace, improved infrastructure, and, most importantly, the active participation of local communities who are reclaiming Uri's story and shaping it around hope, pride, and opportunity. A big push for tourism in Uri came after sustained peace efforts along the LoC. With tensions easing, efforts began to turn Uri into a place

people could visit, enjoy, and learn from. Roads were improved; communication networks upgraded, and key visitor spots made more accessible. Today, places that were once difficult to reach are now welcoming travelers from all over. Reception centers and small cafes have been set up in important areas like Boniyar and Salamabad, offering visitors rest stops and local hospitality. The Eco Park at Khadinyar, once damaged, has been restored to offer a refreshing space for families and travelers alike. One of the most visited landmarks is the Kaman Post—also known as the "Bridge of Peace." Once a place of high tension, it now invites thousands of visitors each year to witness a powerful symbol of unity and shared history. A new Visitors' Centre ensures tourists can access this iconic spot with ease and guidance. Plans are also being explored to develop natural attractions such as Rustom and Nambla Waterfalls, potentially bringing even more life to Uri's tourism map. What makes Uri's tourism story truly special is the role played by its people. This is not just a government-led development—it's a movement that has its roots in the villages, homes, and hearts of local residents. In the near future, homestays will be available in the beautiful and serene areas of Boniyar and Uri. These developments aim to promote sustainable and community-driven tourism, giving visitors a chance to experience the local culture,

traditions, and hospitality firsthand. With growing interest in border tourism, these homestays will provide safe, comfortable, and affordable lodging options for travelers, while also generating livelihood opportunities for local residents. Locals have taken pride in becoming guides, hosts, artisans, and storytellers. Their involvement ensures that the benefits of tourism are felt widely—from selling handicrafts and local produce to organizing cultural events and eco-friendly treks. Research has shown that when communities are emotionally connected to their land, they become strong advocates of sustainable tourism. Uri is living proof of that. Uri is now part of a growing number of tourism circuits in North Kashmir that offer everything from quiet retreats to adrenaline-filled adventures. Travelers looking to explore natural wonders are heading to spots like Limber Wildlife Sanctuary, Bijhama, and the Limber Waterfall, while those interested in culture and history make their way to Aman Setu and old village settlements with fascinating tales to tell. Nearby areas like Gurez, Keran, Tangdhar, and Bangus Valley have also become favorites, offering pristine landscapes and rich local culture that remain untouched by mass tourism. Together, these destinations are redefining what it means to travel to the border areas—no longer places of fear, but places full of discovery and connection. The year

2023 alone saw over 40,000 visitors to the Kaman Post, a clear sign of how interest in these once-overlooked areas is growing rapidly. Tourism infrastructure must also keep up with rising demand. It's important that development doesn't come at the cost of the environment or the area's unique culture. Finding the right balance—between progress and preservation—is key. The story of Uri is one of resilience. From an area associated with strife, it is fast becoming a place known for scenic treks, cultural warmth, and powerful stories of transformation. Tourism here isn't just about visiting new places—it's about understanding how peace, when nurtured, can turn a border into a bridge. More than just a boost for the economy, this wave of tourism is restoring a sense of pride among residents. People who once watched their homeland from the sidelines are now the ones welcoming the world in. It's a beautiful reminder that even places long shadowed by conflict can bloom with new life. With continued peace, thoughtful planning, and the unwavering spirit of its people, Uri has all the ingredients to become one of India's most meaningful and memorable travel destinations.

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BY Jaswinder Pal

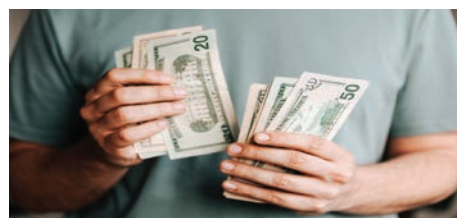
In today's fast-paced world, success is often measured by bank balances, luxurious cars, big homes, and designer clothing. Society glorifies wealth and promotes the idea that more money leads to more happiness. But is this truly the case? Can money alone bring lasting joy and fulfillment? The answer is simple: **No. Happiness is not measured by wealth alone.** **Wealth Can Buy Comfort, Not Happiness** Money is important—it provides food, shelter, education, healthcare, and other basic needs. It can make life comfortable, but it cannot guarantee peace of mind or emotional well-

Happiness is Not Measured by Wealth Alone
An Insight into the True Meaning of a Fulfilling Life

being. Once our basic needs are met, the happiness gained from money starts to decline. Owning a second car or a third phone won't double our happiness. In fact, chasing more material possessions often leads to stress, anxiety, and dissatisfaction.

Relationships Matter More The richest people in the world are not necessarily the happiest. True joy often comes from the love of family, the support of friends, and meaningful human connections. A warm hug, a kind word, or sharing laughter with loved ones can bring more happiness than any luxury item.

A study by Harvard University that spanned over 75 years found that the **quality of



relationships** is the strongest predictor of happiness—not wealth or fame. People who are more socially connected and have deep, supportive relationships tend to live longer and happier lives.

Inner Peace and Contentment Are Priceless You can own the world but still feel empty inside. True happiness comes from within.

It's about being content with what you have, practicing gratitude, and living with purpose. Meditation, mindfulness, and spiritual practices help people find peace in their hearts, regardless of how much money they have.

Giving Brings Greater Joy Than Receiving Happiness increases when we **give to others**—whether it's our time, energy, or money. Helping a friend, supporting a cause, or simply being kind can fill our hearts with joy. Studies have shown that people who volunteer or donate regularly are generally happier and feel more fulfilled.

A Simple Life Can Be a Happy Life Some of the happiest communities in the world live modestly. They focus on health,

connection, nature, and balance. Happiness does not lie in how much we own, but in how we live. Simple pleasures—like watching a sunset, playing with a child, or enjoying a walk in the park—can bring immense joy.

Conclusion: Redefining Success It's time we redefine what it means to be successful. Instead of measuring life by the wealth we collect, let's measure it by the **smiles we share, the love we give, the peace we feel** and the positive impact we leave behind.

Wealth may open doors, but **happiness lives in the heart**. And the heart doesn't care how much is in your wallet—it only knows how much love, joy, and meaning you carry inside.

"True happiness is not found in the riches of the world, but in the richness of the soul."

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"The End Before Takeoff: 242 Lives and a Sky Full of Questions" "Dreamliner or Deathliner?: When flying becomes the ultimate journey"



PRIYANKA SAURABH

It was a normal morning in Ahmedabad. People were busy with their daily routine. No one had thought that this day would leave a dark stain on India's civil aviation system. On June 12, 2025, Air India flight AI-171, which was flying from Ahmedabad to London's Gatwick Airport, crashed just minutes after takeoff. This accident not only took 242 lives but also shook the soul of an entire nation.

There were 230 passengers and 12 crew members in this plane. Everyone had their own stories. Some were going abroad for the first time, some had to attend their daughter's wedding, some were leaving for London for a job, and some were just going to meet their son. Someone might have looked back while closing the door, someone might have said "call me" for the last time. But this time no one got a chance.

The accident site is an area of Meghani Nagar where a medical hostel is also located. A large part of the plane fell on the same hostel, killing six students living there. These were the children who could have saved someone's life in the future. Unfortunately, their own lives could not be saved. The pictures of the accident site were horrific, but even more horrifying were the scattered slippers, burning bags, half-burnt files and faces lost in smoke. Perhaps Mamta's 'missed call' is still visible on some mobile screen, "send a message as soon as we land" is still written on someone's WhatsApp. Dying in an accident is one thing, but leaving this world without saying good-

bye is an unimaginable sorrow. This Air India Dreamliner plane was said to be equipped with the 'latest safety technology'. The Dreamliner 787 is considered reliable in the aviation world. Then the



question arises—how did this accident happen? Was there any technical fault in the plane beforehand? Was there negligence in maintenance? Or was it an unfortunate coincidence?

Captain Sumit Sabarwal, who was flying this plane, was a senior pilot with 8200 hours of flying experience. He was accompanied by co-pilot Clive Kunder, who also had ample flying experience. Both of them tried to control the plane till the last moment. The recording found from the black box has the captain's last voice recorded in which he gave a 'Mayday' call and informed about the plane's altitude falling rapidly. This makes it clear that the plane suddenly lost control and there was very little time.

The administration wasted no time in starting the rescue operation. The fire brigade, NDRF, police and local citizens reached the spot and started removing the bodies from the debris. But the real tragedy began when the cries of the relatives were heard outside the hospitals. Those who had happily dropped off their loved ones at the airport a few hours ago were now identifying bags of ashes in

the hospitals. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer have expressed deep condolences over the accident. Air India has announced a



compensation of Rs 50 lakh for the victim families and the central government has ordered a high-level inquiry. But history shows that in most cases such inquiry reports remain pending for months, and are eventually forgotten. It is important that this time not only an impartial investigation should be conducted into the causes of the accident, but it should also be found out whether this accident could have been prevented.

This is not just a technical failure, it is also a failure of our system. What was the role of DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation)? Was the plane properly tested before takeoff? Did the ground staff overlook any problem? All these questions are now of the public, and the public wants answers too.

After accidents, we often express our condolences, light candles, post on social media and then forget. But this time something has to change. This is not just an accident, but a warning. It tells us that even if modern technology and shiny airplanes fly with carelessness in the system, then they do not just become a flight, but an end.

There are many families whose sole earning member died in this accident. There are some in which three members were on the flight together and now there is no memory of them. The picture of a 6-year-old girl who was going abroad for the first time with her grandparents is going viral. Now her pink doll has been found in ashes. A newlywed woman, who had left for her in-laws, will now return in a coffin. These are not just statistics, but human stories—ones we should never forget.

After this accident, we must do two things—first, the victim families should be given all possible government, legal and mental support. And second, it should be ensured that any flight from India is checked a hundred times before flying the next time.

I remember a line in a poem—
 > "Those who were going to fly like stars,
 They are now just marks in the ashes."
 For us, this is not just a time of mourning, but also of responsibility. If we just grieve and remain silent, these accidents will happen again. Air travel is no longer just a matter of comfort, it is now becoming the biggest challenge to safety and life.

We also need to worry whether privatisation of civil aviation in India and low-cost competition is compromising passenger safety? Are pilot burnout, shortage of technical staff and hunger for profits leading to such tragedies? If yes, then we have to decide—safety first or convenience?

This accident is a tribute to all those passengers who set out with only the hope of reaching their destination, and have now become a part of our memories. They will not return, but if we make the system better in their memory, then perhaps their departure will have some meaning.

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To Avoid Heat



VIJAY GARG

At a time when mercury is bouncing from high heat in many parts of India, an unexpected increase in power demand is natural to avoid tapish. From the common man to the special man, it uses a lot of heat from cooler to AC to escape from heat heat. The use of AC in recent times to homes, offices, hotels and malls has wildly increased. Due to which power consumption reaches peak in summer peak season. At such times, the central government has identified air conditioners i.e. AC as a villain responsible for increasing power consumption. The central government is planning to standardize the cooling range of this device used between



twenty degrees to twenty-eight degrees Celsius in homes, hotels and offices. AC manufacturers will be barred from creating ACs providing cooling at a temperature less than twenty degrees after new guidelines apply. This initiative of the Central Government is part of efforts to save power and meet India's growing energy needs, according to Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. Not two opinions that people run their AC at a very low temperature to avoid the summer heat. The power of this trend increases the pressure on the grid very high. Surely the chances of power cut also increase very high due to this. But the lone main solution to this crisis is not to be driven AC at extremely low temperatures. Also have other factors. It is also a reality that AC is used indiscriminately for quite a long time in government and private offices. Here also need to take steps towards its use. Undoubtedly, the Energy Regulatory Bureau of the Ministry of Energy, promotes the use of power consumption-reducing devices. But when the heat record breaking is increasing, the power consumption starts to rise essentially when the temperature rises. But the only reason for this is not the increasing use of AC. We need to ask ourselves questions why are our cities getting so hot? Why are we not able to relieve citizens from this rising temperature. The construction work happening in an indiscriminate-unsentimental manner is also not less guilty in it. We made concrete forests all around but the scope of greenery in cities is constantly being reduced, thereby disrupting the natural flow of air as well. In the name of development which hundreds of year old trees are cut, it is not compensated by planting new trees. We are not adopting building technology that keeps houses cool naturally. People can also get relief from low power consumption if the heat-resistant building material is promoted. Our lifestyle is constantly increasing power consumption. If the public transport system is promoted in our country, the use of private vehicles on the roads can reduce the heat-raising emissions of vehicles. We should promote the use of technology keeping roofs cool in building construction. Such materials or systems should be used that can reflect heat-boosting sunlight than conventional ceilings. With these measures we can also try to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases. Also by increasing the greenery in urban areas and reviving traditional water bodies we can also try to reduce the temperature. The shared responsibility of the government and society can become a carrier of a major change. Local bodies, private sector entities and NGOs can play a decisive role.

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

Marriage-Let Love To Be Loud Not Music



BY MOOL RAJ

Marriage is one of the most sacred and celebrated events in human life. It marks the union of two individuals, two families, and the beginning of a new chapter. In our culture, it is considered a moment of great joy, honour, and blessings. But today, an unfortunate reality overshadows this sacred institution: we have made marriage so expensive and showy that it has become a burden, especially for the poor and middle-class families.

What was once a simple ritual, filled with heartfelt emotions, has now turned into a grand display of wealth, power, and status. It is no longer about the couple starting a life together, it has become about how much money is spent, how lavish the venue is, how rich the gifts are, and how long the guest list is.

This trend has become toxic and deeply unfair. In the race to "keep up with society," many families, especially those with limited income, are being pushed into debt. A daily wage, a small farmer, a clerk, or a single mother may spend their lifetime savings on a single wedding. Often, they are forced to sell land, jewellery, or borrow large sums of money just to meet the societal expectations of a "standard wedding."

And still, if they conduct a simple marriage, they are mocked or judged. Whispers float around: "They must be poor", "They didn't even arrange a proper function", "The girl went empty-handed." Why have we allowed such cruelty and insensitivity to become normal? Even more concerning is that some people, despite know-

ing their limits, fall into the trap of showing off. To outshine others, they stretch beyond their means booking expensive halls, calling musicians, printing fancy invitations, hiring photographers, decorating cars, and preparing multi-course meals. In doing so, they fall into huge debts, which they struggle to repay for years. The purpose is not



always love for the couple—but fear of judgment, pressure to impress, or blind competition. The worst victims of this culture are poor daughters. In many cases, young women remain unmarried simply because their parents cannot afford a lavish wedding or cannot fulfil dowry expectations. The pain of such families is silent but deep. A daughter watches her dreams fade as her parents struggle under pressure. Isn't it heart-breaking that in the name of marriage, we are killing the dignity and peace of families?

It's time for serious reflection. What kind of society are we becoming where appearances matter more than values? Where marriage is judged not by love or commitment, but by how grand the stage looks or how rich the food tastes?

Let us not forget: a costly wedding does not guarantee a happy marriage. And a simple wedding does not mean a poor life. True happiness lies in understanding, in mutual respect, in companionship not in chandeliers, not in

flower arrangements.

A call to society:
 We must rise above this toxic culture. Let me be clear: I am not against those who can afford grand weddings. It is their choice and right to celebrate the way they wish. But society must not mock, belittle, or look down upon those who choose simplicity or cannot afford extravagance. We all have different lives and different struggles. Let us stop judging and start respecting. We need to change ourselves first if we want a more compassionate and balanced society.

Let's revive the spirit of simplicity, dignity, and inclusiveness. Here are a few humble suggestions:

- Keep weddings simple. Focus on what truly matters the union of two people, not two bank balances.
- Do not mock simple weddings. Respect those who show courage and do not follow societal pressure.
- Promote mass/community marriages. This can ease costs, reduce stress, and build social solidarity.
- Teach our children early on that love is not about money, and dignity is not about display.

Remember, the wealthiest wedding is one where hearts are rich in love and minds are at peace.

In the end, ask yourself will people remember the gold that was worn, or the goodness that was shown? Will they talk about the wedding stage, or the strength of the bond?

Let's stop turning marriage into a stage for showing off. Let's make it again what it was meant to be a sacred, humble, and joyous beginning to a shared life. Let love be loud, not the music. Let blessings be plenty, not the dishes. Let dignity shine, not diamonds. That's the kind of culture our society needs one where even the poor can marry their daughters with pride, and without fear.

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER

Departmental Exams in Education Sector is need of hour for better results.



By Salafi Mushtaq

In most government departments, employees aiming for promotion to the next grade must first pass a departmental examination. However, one notable exception exists: the education department, where teachers are promoted without any such assessment. This leniency, however, does not extend to clerical staff, who must

qualify through examinations to advance in their roles. The disparity has raised questions about the department's commitment to educational standards and societal progress.

Many stakeholders believe that experience, while valuable, may not necessarily equate to readiness for the responsibilities of a higher position. Experience alone cannot guarantee that an individual is suited to meet the demands of a more advanced role. Recognizing this, the education department in recent years issued several circulars to explore the possibility of implementing promotional exams for teachers, including masters, lecturers, headmasters, Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs), and principals. The department even sought input from



stakeholders, who largely supported the idea, viewing it as a way to ensure that promotions are based on merit and capability.

Yet, despite widespread support, the department has remained silent on the matter. This lack of action has led to speculation and concern. If the department initially intended to require examinations before promotions, why has it not followed through after completing all preliminary steps? Observers wonder if internal pressures or influences are holding the department back.

With a new government now in place, advocates hope this issue will be addressed as a priority. Instituting departmental exams for promotions could help ensure that only the most deserving

individuals advance, thereby strengthening the department and, ultimately, benefiting the student community and society as a whole. While it may be challenging for some current officers to adapt to a merit-based system, many believe that doing so would lead to a fairer, more effective education system.

It is time for officials within the department to address these concerns with transparency and integrity, as the move toward exams for promotions would support accountability and enhance public trust in the education system.

(The author is social worker philanthropist, academician at GHSS Kupwara and a trade unionist can be reached at lonenazi-agul@gmail.com)

Dharti Abha Janjatiya Gramin Utkarsh Abhiyan

DC Kishtwar reviews Camp Calendar for IEC campaign

HT NEWS DESK

KISHTWAR, JUNE 12: In the run up to the 15 day Dharti Abha Janjatiya Gramin Utkarsh Abhiyan starting from June 15, 2025, Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan reviewed the camp calendar and arrangements at a meeting held here today. The Kishtwar administration is all set to launch a massive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign across 19 tribal villages of the district. The focus will be on saturation of centrally sponsored schemes being implemented by 17

Government Departments. The DC highlighted that the campaign will address developmental gaps in tribal habitations through development of social Infrastructure, construction of pucca houses under PMAY-Gramin, access to tap water supply through Jal Jeevan Mission, road development under PMGSY and household electrification through RDSS. Additionally, the district administration plans to provide instant health care services by deploying mobile medical units, to distribute Ayushman Bharat cards, establish Anganwadi



Centres and make provision of AYUSH medicines. The administration also proposes to construct hostels under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, launch skill development programs, promote digital literacy, provide LPG connections, extend benefits under PM-KISAN, support livestock and fisheries development, and promote financial inclusion schemes. The DC also reviewed arrangements for providing different services at the camps, including Aadhaar enrollment and update, issuance of PMJAY cards, caste certificates, domicile certificates, registrations under HADP

and others. Emphasis was laid on ensuring the availability of basic amenities at all camp venues, including clean drinking water, sanitation facilities and the services of Tribal influencers to raise awareness in locally spoken language such as Gojri and Urdu. To ensure maximum Tribal participation, the DC instructed the departments to intensify Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) efforts through vans, posters, newspaper outreach, and social media engagement at the sub-division, tehsil, and block levels.

Awareness programme for Krishi Udyamis organised at Town Hall Doda

HT NEWS DESK

DODA, JUNE 12: An awareness programme under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) was today organised for Krishi Udyamis by the Agriculture Production Department here at the Town Hall.



A large number of Krishi Udyamis, along with officers from the Agriculture and allied departments attended the programme chaired by Chief Agriculture Officer Amjad Hussain.

The AO provided a detailed overview of the objectives of the Kisan Khidmat Ghars. He assured Krishi Udyamis of full cooperation from the department and addressed their grievances. He raised awareness about various departmental schemes aimed at improving the livelihood of farmers and

agri-entrepreneurs. The District officers from allied departments and functionaries from Banks also briefed attendees about the benefits of HADP schemes and other initiatives. The DDM NABARD and Bank Cluster Head highlighted the role of financial institutions in supporting agricultural growth. They discussed different credit schemes and financial assistance available to farmers.

Doda: Zila Sainik Board reviews welfare measures for Ex-Servicemen

HT NEWS DESK

DODA, JUNE 12: The annual meeting of the Zila Sainik Board Doda was convened today in the Mini Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex, Doda.



Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anil Kumar Thakur chaired the meeting which was attended by Chief Medical Officer, Dy.SP Headquarters, District Treasury Officer, Chief Education Officer, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B), Lead Bank Officer, Post Master, Tehsildar General Manager DIC and other stakeholders. Zila Sainik Board Officer Wg Cdr Tirath Singh (Retd) projected a

range of demands seeking renewal of weapon licenses for ex-servicemen, resettlement of veterans in the Union Territory of J&K, construction of the road from Dossa to Lal Draman, filling of vacant posts in the Board and issues related to the salary of security guards.

Discussions were also held on improving pension disbursement system, enhancing employment and self-employment opportunities for ex-servicemen through coordination with DIC and KVIB, facilitating Ayushman Bharat healthcare benefits, providing educational support including

scholarships and fee waivers to their wards and resolving land allotment and housing matters. The meeting was also attended by unofficial members of the ex-servicemen community who provided valuable grassroots-level feedback. Responding to the projected demands, the ADC said the preparation of a DPR for road connectivity to Dossa would be prioritized and submitted to higher authorities. He further assured the relocation of ECHS Polyclinic to a more accessible site for the benefit of veterans. He encouraged ex-servicemen to use the online system for weapon license renewal and assured them of full support.

DC chairs District-Level Zila Sainik Welfare Board meeting at Udhampur

Stresses on welfare of Ex-Servicemen, veterans & dependents of war heroes

HT NEWS DESK

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 12: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai today chaired the annual general body meeting of the Zila Sainik Welfare Board to review its functioning and deliberate on the welfare measures and schemes for ex-servicemen, war widows and their dependents in the district.



The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Chief Planning Officer Mohammad Iqbal, General Manager DIC Kishore Singh and other senior officers from the district administration. At the outset, the Zila Sainik Welfare Officer briefed the meeting about the functioning of the Board and highlighted the issues being faced by the ex-servicemen community. He projected a wide range of demands seeking allotment of land for the construction of Sainik Sarai, development

of housing colony and reservation of plots for ex-servicemen, establishment of a KV at Majalta, employment opportunities for ex-servicemen, infrastructure improvement of the Zila Sainik Welfare Board, construction of a meeting-cum-waiting shed for ex-servicemen, survey, demarcation and construction of a front boundary wall for the ZSWB, repair and furnishing of ZSWB cum Boys Hostel building, construction of toilet facilities for women, improvement of road connectivity to the Zila Sainik Board.

The DC directed the concerned departments to take prompt action on all pending

issues and reiterated the District Administration's commitment to extending full support to strengthen the functioning and infrastructure of the ZSWB. She also encouraged the ex-servicemen to actively contribute towards combating the drug menace and to promote sports and physical fitness among the youth. AD Employment was directed to organize registration camps for ex-servicemen on the designated portal. Additionally, Tehsildar Udhampur was instructed to prioritize and resolve the land and other related issues of ex-servicemen without delay.

Indian Army commences Pre-Training for Agniveer Aspirants at Banihal

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JUNE 12: The pre-training classes for Agniveer aspirants under the Agnipath scheme commenced today with a solemn and inspiring opening ceremony held at Bn HQ, Karawa Camp Banihal. The event witnessed the presence of distinguished guests, training staff, and a large number of enthusiastic candidates who are preparing to serve the nation through this prestigious program.



The ceremony began with the warm welcome of the chief guest, ZEPO, Banihal Rubina Ahmed Bhat. During the interaction session, the ZEPO encouraged the candidates besides emphasizing the importance of discipline, integrity and commitment in shaping the future of the youth and building a strong nation.

Delivering the opening address, Major Gurpreet Singh Hora, 2IC said, "This training is not just a physical or academic preparation; it is the beginning of a transformation where each of you will learn what it truly means to wear the identity of an Agniveer. This journey will demand your best, but it will also prepare you to serve the country with honor and pride".

The pre-training classes aim to prepare aspiring candidates holistically focus-

ing on physical fitness, mental toughness, academic readiness, and values-based orientation. Trainers and coordinators will mentor the candidates in alignment with the Indian Armed Forces' expectations, building a strong foundation for their upcoming selection processes.

The ceremony concluded with a collective pledge by all aspirants to uphold the values of patriotism, dedication, and discipline throughout their journey.

The Indian Army continues to remain at the forefront of initiatives aimed at promoting Various Pre Training of Youth in the area and as part of its unwavering commitment to public welfare and holistic community development.

ADDC convenes Public Outreach Camp at Panchayat Murrah- Buzliaz

HT NEWS DESK

POONCH, JUNE 12: Additional District Development Commissioner Poonch, Pankaj Magotra today conducted a public outreach camp at Panchayat Murrah in Block Buzliaz, continuing the district administration's commitment to responsive governance and doorstep delivery of services.

The camp witnessed encouraging public participation. Officers and officials from the line departments including Social Welfare, Rural Development Department, Agriculture, Horticulture, Education, Health, Revenue, Power Development Department, Public Health Engineering and Labour addressed the grievances and demands of the local residents.

Multiple public welfare services were provided on the spot. Several pension queries were addressed, while disability certificates and old age certificates were issued to eligible beneficiaries. In addition, awareness was imparted regarding various government welfare schemes being implemented by different departments, ensuring that people are well informed about the benefits and services available to them.

The camp was coordinated by the District Social Welfare Officer Wakeel Ahmed Bhat, ensuring seamless service delivery and prompt resolution of public grievances. These outreach camps are a part of the administration's ongoing efforts to ensure transparent, accountable and people centric governance, bringing various government schemes and services directly to the citizens.

Awareness workshop on PMFME Scheme held at Panchayat Shiva-Doda

HT NEWS DESK

DODA, JUNE 12: A one-day awareness workshop on the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme was today held here at Panchayat Shiva, Block Ghat.

The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from farmers, Self Help Group (SHG) members, Cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) from across District Doda. Officers and officials from the Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry Departments also participated and shared detailed insights about their departmental schemes. The event was addressed by the Area Marketing Officer (AMO) Doda, GMI from the department, and District Resource Person (DRP-PMFME). They briefed the gathering—comprising women, unemployed youth, and farmers—about the scope and benefits of the PMFME scheme. The speakers encouraged attendees to come forward and avail the scheme's advantages, which aim at fostering self-employment and promote food processing enterprises. The District Nodal Officer PMFME Anayatullah Khanji emphasized that the PMFME scheme is proving to be a game changer, especially for women and unemployed youth. He highlighted how the scheme has enabled many individuals to become self-reliant and even create job opportunities for others. Notably, 34 units have already been established in Doda under the scheme, providing employment to over 200 people.

Awareness event held at GMHSS Ramban to mark World Day against Child Labour

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JUNE 12: To commemorate the World Day Against Child Labour, the Labour Department Ramban, in collaboration with Government Model Higher Secondary School (GMHSS), Ramban, organized an awareness programme under the global theme "Progress is clear, but there's more to do. Let's speed up our efforts."



The event was presided over by Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) Amit Kumar. The host school Principal Kewal Krishan Sharma, Chairperson Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Nighat Ganai school staff, students and other stakeholders attended the programme.

Addressing the gathering, the ALC highlighted the need to continue and accelerate efforts to eradicate child labour. "Though much progress has been made through legal frameworks and awareness campaigns, a united and sustained com-

munity response is essential to address the root causes and protect every child's right to education and a dignified life," he maintained.

The School Principal appreciated the initiative and emphasized that education is the most powerful tool in combating child labour. He encouraged students to play an active role in raising awareness within their families and localities.

The Chairperson CWC urged parents, teachers and community leaders to remain vigilant and report any instances of child labour. She elaborated on the mechanisms in place to safeguard children and reiterated the importance of collaborative efforts to eliminate exploitation. Other key speakers, including Lovepreet Singh from the employment department delivered a lecture on Career options and

Project coordinator Mudasir Jiral highlighted the role of child helpline.

The event concluded with an interactive awareness session with the participants reiterating the resolve to uphold child rights and contribute towards building a child labour-free society. The School Principal appreciated the initiative and emphasized that education is the most powerful tool in combating child labour. He encouraged students to play an active role in raising awareness within their families and localities.

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DC Baramulla presides over Block Diwas at Lalpora Tangmarg Emphasizes youth engagement, public grievance redressal

HT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 12: In continuation of the district administration's public outreach programme, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today presided over a Block Diwas at Lalpora, Tangmarg.

At the outset, DC held an extensive interaction with the public, during which people raised several demands and developmental concerns. These issues included the establishment of a veterinary centre, construction of a sports playground, desilting of irrigation canals, provision of safe drinking water, proper functioning of the local hospital, installation of ATM facilities, and the need for door-to-door garbage collection along with a designated dumping site.



DC gave a patient hearing and issued on-the-spot directions to concerned officers for prompt redressal of the genuine grievances raised by the public. He assured that the district administration is committed to ensuring responsive and efficient governance at the grassroots level.

Highlighting government initiatives, DC urged the local youth to actively register under Mission Yuva and benefit from various livelihood and skill development schemes. He also stressed the importance of availing benefits under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana and the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, encouraging eligible individuals to come forward for enrollment. As part of the programme, DC also inspected stalls set up by various government departments, which were aimed at creating awareness about different government welfare schemes and services. He appreciated the efforts of departments for disseminating valuable information to the public and promoting citizen participation in ongoing development initiatives.

DC Poonch reviews progress of JJM projects; Directs for timeline completion of Water Supply Schemes

HT NEWS DESK

POONCH, JUNE 12: Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of Jal Jeevan Mission schemes in the district. He emphasized timely completion of the projects to ensure safe drinking water supply to every household as per the mission's mandate.



At the outset, Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Poonch gave a brief, detailing the total number of sanctioned schemes, along with the status of ongoing and completed works and challenges being faced in the execution.

The Deputy Commissioner discussed in detail the status of water supply schemes, infrastructure augmentation, groundwater exploration, and household tap connections. He directed the concerned officers to resolve land and coordination issues promptly to avoid delays.

The DC directed the Superintending Engineer and Executive Engineer Jal Shakti to instruct contractors to expedite and complete pending works at the earliest. AEE Ground Water was directed to complete the digging of borewells wherever pendency exists. The DC also stressed that completed schemes must be made operational immediately to benefit the public.

He further instructed all executing agencies to ensure strict adherence to quality and safety standards to create sustainable and effective assets. Others present at the meeting were Chief Planning Officer, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti, Executive Engineer PDD, AEEs and JEs of Sub Divisions Poonch, Surankote and Mendhar, AEE Mechanical, AEs and JEs, AEE and JE Ground Water.

Rajouri admin finalises activity plan for International Yoga Day 2025

HT NEWS DESK

RAJOURI, JUNE 12: Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess and finalize the preparedness for the International Yoga Day (IYD)-2025.

At the outset, the DC underlined the need for meticulous planning to ensure widespread participation and impactful celebration of the day. He directed that Yoga Day events be organized at multiple venues including Government Degree Colleges, Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres, near Amrit Sarovars and selected villages of the district.

To showcase collaboration and unity, the DC instructed the concerned officers to plan a joint Yoga event with the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to highlight the role of armed



forces and civil administration in promoting wellness.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed officers to finalize and submit the list of selected sites across the district where Yoga Day events will be held. This will aid in better planning and execution of the celebrations.

The Senior Superintendent of Police asked for sharing the final list of

selected sites with the Police Department in advance to ensure adequate security arrangements at all venues.

The meeting was attended by ADC's, SDM, ACP, ACD, district and sectoral officers, who were instructed to extend full support to make the International Yoga Day celebrations a grand success across Rajouri.

Stretching Towards Wellness: AYUSH Kishtwar hosts District Yoga Championship 2025

HT NEWS DESK

KISHTWAR, JUNE 12: As a prelude to the International Yoga Day 2025, a District-Level Yoga Championship 2025 was held today here in the Auditorium Government Degree College Kishtwar under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan.

The event was hosted by the Department of AYUSH, in collaboration with the District Administration, Government Degree College (GDC), Education Department, J&K Sports Council and Department of Youth Services & Sports (YS&S), with Assistant Commissioner Revenue Idrees Lone as the Chief Guest.

The ACR addressed the participants and attendees, emphasizing the importance of yoga in promoting physical, mental, and emotional well-being, particularly among the youth.

He highlighted the significance of incorporating yoga into daily life to foster a healthier and more balanced lifestyle.

The ACR also praised the enthusiasm and discipline demonstrated by the young participants and lauded the efforts of schools, instructors, and organizing departments for successfully conducting the event. He encouraged students to continue practicing yoga and to spread its message of harmony, wellness, and inner peace.

The championship witnessed enthusiastic participation from schools from across the district, featuring separate competitions for Male and Female in the Under-14 and Under-19 age group categories.

The event was conducted under the close supervision and guidance of District Nodal Officer, AYUSH Dr. Vikram Singh Jamwal. The championship not only celebrated the spirit of yoga and healthy living among youth but also served as a platform to identify and promote local talent

ahead of the International Yoga Day celebrations.

The event was attended by DYSSO Jaffer Haider Sheikh, MO AYUSH Dr. Atul Mahajan, as well as other senior doctors from the AYUSH Department, teachers and concerned staff. The ACR also praised the enthusiasm and discipline demonstrated by the young participants and lauded the efforts of schools, instructors, and organizing departments for successfully conducting the event. He encouraged students to continue practicing yoga and to spread its message of harmony, wellness, and inner peace.

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Arrangements for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025 reviewed at Udhampur

HT NEWS DESK

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 12: To ensure smooth conduct of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Prem Singh on Thursday convened a meeting with officers from the line departments here in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting held comprehensive discussion on key arrangements along the Tikri to Chenani route. The ADC inquired about the security deployment, provision of power and water supply, sanitation, first-aid, identification of lodging sites, provision of temporary toilets, traffic management and regulation of service rates.

He directed departmental heads to work in close coordination and ensure that all necessary preparations are completed well before the commencement of the Yatra. The Power Development Department (PDD) was instructed to ensure uninterrupted electricity, while the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department was tasked with arranging 24/7 water tanker services.



Traffic authorities were directed to maintain smooth vehicular movement, and the Municipal Committee was asked to install dustbins and provide vehicles for efficient garbage disposal from langer sites and transit camps.

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) was directed to ensure round-the-clock medical services and maintain an updated inventory of essential medicines. To ensure smooth conduct of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025, Additional Deputy

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Historic 3-day Sudh Mahadev Mela concludes at Udhampur

HT NEWS DESK

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 12: The 3-day annual Sudh Mahadev Mela concluded today recording a footfall of over 45,000 devotees, visitors including men, women and children across the social spectrum. The visitors paid obeisance at Sudh Mahadev temple after taking bath in the Pap Nashni Bowl believed to have divine power of purging the sins of the followers.

During the first two days, scintillating cultural performances by the folk artists and students of educational institutions of the area captivated the audience, depicting the rich heritage of the region with special reference to deep reverence of people for Lord Shiva. The audience was treated to captivating Dogri music and folk dances.

Mela Officer (Tehsildar Chenani) Pankaj Singh Bhatt coordinated the activities and managed the arrangements for the devotees during the 3 day religious and cultural event.

JMC, Urban Forestry Division launch 'Clean Jammu Green Jammu' Campaign

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JUNE 12: In a significant step towards promoting environmental sustainability, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), in collaboration with the Urban Forestry Division Jammu, launched the "Clean Jammu Green Jammu" campaign today. The campaign was inaugurated by Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Dr. Devansh Yadav, who led the initiative by planting a sapling, symbolizing the start of a city-wide plantation drive. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from Swachhata Champions of various wards, media personnel from print and electronic media, and officers from both departments.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Yadav emphasized the urgent need for enhancing green cover in the city, especially in light of rising temperatures. Under the joint initiative, around 60,000 saplings will be planted across Jammu city before August 15, 2025. He informed and urged upon the citizens to actively participate in this noble campaign and contribute towards making Jammu a cleaner and greener city.

Each sapling will be tagged with a QR code, providing detailed information about the species and the individual who has adopted it. "We urge citizens to adopt a tree in their own name or in the name of their mother," said Dr. Yadav, "so that together we can convert vacant spaces into green zones and bring long-term environmental relief to our city."

Among others, Joint Commissioner Health and Sanitation Abdul Star, Divisional Forest Officer, Urban Forestry Division Jammu, Ashwani Kumar Mittal, Chief Transport Officer, Dharamveer Singh, IEC Incharge Dr. Divya Sharma and AFO Rabia Khan were also present on the occasion.

DC Rajouri reviews preparations for Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram

Utkarsh Abhiyan

HT NEWS DESK

RAJOURI, JUNE 12: Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today chaired a review meeting to assess the preparedness for the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, scheduled to be held from June 15 to June 30, 2025, across 104 tribal villages of the district.

Emphasizing the importance of reaching every eligible beneficiary, the DC directed the CSC (Common Service Centres) and other line departments to undertake massive publicity to generate awareness about the campaign and its objectives. He instructed the stakeholder departments to release the schedule of events well in time and circulate the same to attract maximum public participation. Highlighting the need for targeted outreach, the DC stressed on wide publicity, ensuring that scholarship forms and other welfare schemes reach all eligible tribal beneficiaries during the campaign.

The Additional Deputy Commissioners and SDMs were directed to ensure effective implementation and awareness generation in their respective jurisdictions, while the BDOs were instructed to upload all events on the designated portal, ensure benefit saturation, and carry out robust IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) campaigns across all 104 identified tribal villages in the district.

JKMC condoles demise of former member

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JUNE 12: The Jammu and Kashmir Medical Council (JKMC) has condoled the sad demise of its former member Dr. Romesh Khajuria.

Dr. Khajuria was the member of the Jammu & Kashmir Medical Council from 2015 to 2021. Recalling the contribution of Dr. Romesh Khajuria, the board members described him as a well learned, decent and cultured person, always devoted to his cherished job.

All the members and staff prayed to almighty to bestow peace to the departed soul and give strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

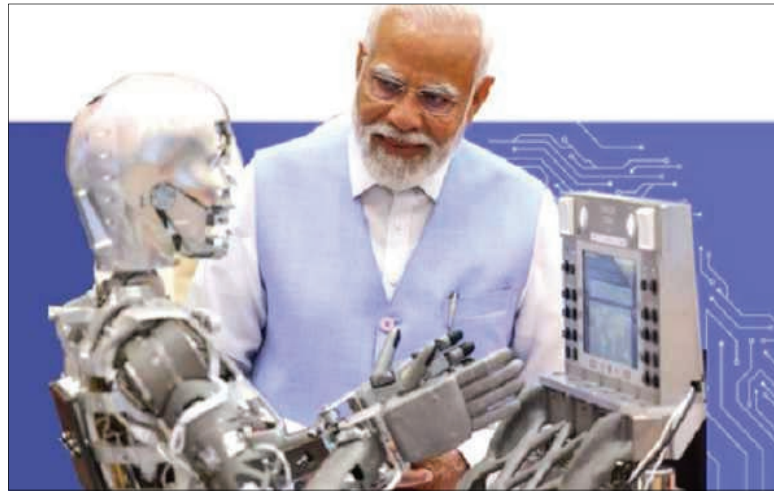
PM Modi lauds youth-led digital progress in India in 11 yrs

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 12

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that his government in the last 11 years has brought innumerable benefits for people by leveraging the power of technology with young innovators playing a crucial role in driving India's self-reliance in the sector.

The prime minister said the use of technology has greatly boosted service delivery and transparency. Furthermore, technology has become a means of empowering the lives of the poorest of poor, he added.

He also praised the Digital India initiative for enabling youth to harness innovation and strengthen India's position as a global tech leader. "Over the past 11 years, Digital India has empowered the youth to harness innovation, reinforcing India's position as a global technol-



ogy powerhouse," added Modi on X. A thread of posts from a government handle and highlighted by the PM said India ensured transparency at scale through direct benefit transfer (DBT), noting that over Rs 44 lakh crore were credited to beneficiaries

of over 322 schemes regulated by 56 ministries. The prime minister said the use of technology has greatly boosted service delivery and transparency. Furthermore, technology has become a means of empowering the lives of the poorest of poor.

Israel fully prepared to launch military operation in Iran: Reports

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Jerusalem, June 12

Israel has informed US officials that it is fully prepared to launch a military operation in Iran, the CBS News broadcaster reported on Thursday, citing sources.

Washington expects that Iran may launch a retaliatory strike on some American facilities in neighboring Iraq, the report said. This is one of the reasons why Washington advised some Americans to leave



the region earlier on Wednesday, the report

added. At the same time, Israeli

officials reportedly declined to comment on information about the possible start of the operation. On Tuesday, the Axios news portal reported, citing Israeli and American officials, that US President Donald Trump said in a phone call with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that he believes in the possibility of concluding a nuclear deal with Iran and opposes the use of military action at the present time.

Stalin flays Centre, says will never allow TN to be ruled from Delhi

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Chennai, June 12

Lambasting the BJP-led Government at the Centre for neglecting Tamil Nadu in all fronts for the last 11 years, Chief Minister and DMK President M K Stalin took a dig at Union Home Minister Amit Shah for his criticisms against the ruling DMK and said Tamils have self-respect and would not allow TN to be ruled from Delhi. Speaking at an official function and launching various projects and distributing welfare schemes to more than on lakh beneficiaries in Salem district, he hit out at the Centre and categorically stated that Tamil Nadu will never be allowed to be ruled from Delhi as Tamils have self respect. Accusing the Centre of unable to digest the popularity of the DMK



government among the people for launching various welfare initiatives, he cited the criticisms made by Mr Amit Shah during his recent visit to Madurai that the DMK government had not done anything, not fulfilled its promises and making mere promises and said he was compelled to respond

to them. Charging Mr Amit Shah with outpouring his anger against the DMK government that it was taking credit for the schemes launched by the BJP-led government at the centre and preventing them reaching the people, Mr Stalin said the truth, however, was on the contrary. Stoutly refuting Mr Amit Shah's criticisms, the Chief Minister said whether it was drinking water projects or housing projects, it was the state government which was implementing the schemes by providing additional funds as the allocation made by the Centre was inadequate. Even for the schemes with PM's name, it was being implemented with more than 50 per cent allocation of funds by the State government,

Afghanistan among nine most mine infested countries, with 6.4 mn people at risk

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Kabul, June 11

The HALO (Hazardous Area Life-support Organisation) Trust - one of the prime global NGOs for the dismantling of mines and other explosive objects, has said that Afghanistan is among the nine most mine filled countries in the world.

It stated that over 6.4 million people are at risk every day of unexploded ordnance, with children accounting for 80% of blast fatalities and injuries.

The official report on its website reads: "HALO, the

world's largest landmine charity, estimates that around 40 children are killed or severely injured every month while scavenging for scrap metal to sell to support their families. The charity fears that the real figures are likely to be much higher.

"Afghanistan remains one of the most landmine-contaminated countries in the world - surpassed only by Ukraine. An area larger than the city of San Francisco is thought to be littered with unexploded ordnance." Dr Farid Homayoun, HALO Afghan-

istan Programme Manager, said: "Afghanistan is now a forgotten humanitarian problem. The Afghan people have struggled for over four decades of conflict, displacement, poverty, and we need the international community to continue to support people to the end of this journey and not leave them stranded halfway through."

Its findings reported that this contamination potentially impacts approximately 20% of the population, including 100,000s of Afghan refugees, who

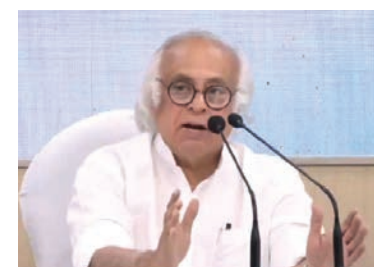
have been forcibly deported from Pakistan and Iran in recent months with no resources at their disposal. So far, HALO Trust reports that 1,400 square km of contaminated land have been cleared, benefiting over 17 million people across the country. These efforts have made many once-dangerous areas habitable and safe for farming, education, and development.

Despite progress, explosive remnants from decades of war continue to claim lives in various provinces. UNI

Jairam slams US invite to Pak Army chief, calls it diplomatic setback for India

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 12

New Delhi, June 12 (UNI) Amid reports that Pakistan Army Chief Gen Asim Munir has been invited for the US Army Day on June 14, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Thursday termed it a "major diplomatic and strategic setback" for India. Taking to X, Ramesh questioned the United States' intent, pointing out that General Munir is the same person who made provocative remarks shortly before the Pahalgam terror attack.



He also criticised the recent remarks by the US Central Command chief, who described Pakistan as a "great partner" in counter-terrorism efforts. "The Modi government is saying that Operation Sindoor is still underway;

in such a situation, the participation of the Pakistani Army Chief as a guest at the US Army Day event is undoubtedly a matter of serious concern," Ramesh said.

The Rajya Sabha MP further said, "The Trump administration is consistently making statements that can only be interpreted to mean that the US is viewing India and Pakistan through the same lens. The Prime Minister has only recently welcomed the delegation that had briefed the global community, including the United States, on Pakistan's involvement in supporting terrorism."

Union Minister Khattar vows to maximize water use amid Indus treaty suspension

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Srinagar, June 12

Union Minister of Power and Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar on Thursday said that India will fully leverage the current suspension of Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) to enhance its infrastructure.

Khattar was speaking after a media meeting with J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

"Now that the Indus Waters Treaty is in abeyance, we have to take full advantage of it," the Union minister said.

Khattar emphasized the importance of Jammu and Kashmir's potential for hydroelectric power generation due to its mountainous terrain.

"There's good progress on hydro projects across the Jhelum, Chenab, and Sind-



hu rivers. NHPC and local companies are jointly pushing these initiatives forward," he stated.

He emphasized that the government would increase the capacity of existing infrastructure projects, especially those that are currently under construction.

Khattar further revealed that the Centre is also considering several new projects that can be initiated due to the IWS suspension.

"We are exploring new possibilities," he added. The IWT was suspended

by New Delhi a day after the April 22 attack on tourists in Pahalgam, in which 26 people were killed.

The Union Minister praised J&K for its significant advancements in the power sector, particularly in the adoption of smart and prepaid smart meters, placing it ahead of other states. He noted that "very satisfactory work" was being carried out and commended the synergy between the Central and state governments in addressing several issues. "In the area of smart

meters and prepaid smart meters, Jammu and Kashmir has taken a lead over all other states. In fact, it has become number one in the country," he said.

However, the Minister acknowledged that the J&K still faces challenges, particularly in power distribution and energy losses. "The AT&C (Aggregate Technical and Commercial) losses here are higher than the national average, but the rate at which they are being reduced is commendable," he said.

He also spoke about financial gaps in the power sector, particularly the difference between Average Cost of Supply (ACS) and Average Revenue Realized (ARR), which continues to be above the national average. "There has been substantial improvement over the last four years, but more work is needed," he said.

UN voices concern over sudden surge in displacement in Haiti

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
United Nations, June 12

UN humanitarian workers on Wednesday voiced concern over the alarming rise in internal displacement as a result of violence in Haiti.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said nearly 1.3 million people are now displaced across the country, citing figures from the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

It represents an increase of 24 percent since December 2024. It also marks the highest figure ever recorded due to violence in Haiti.

While the capital city of Port-au-Prince remains the epicenter of violence among armed groups, its expansion into other regions, particularly the Centre and Artibonite departments, has triggered large-

scale displacement, said OCHA.

In the Centre Department, the number of displaced people has more than doubled in just months, increasing from 68,000 in December 2024 to over 145,000 in June this year. In Artibonite, more than 90,000 people have fled their homes since December, and the Department of the North has seen an increase of nearly 80 percent in displacement. Displaced families are often forced to settle in informal sites or overcrowded host households with limited access to basic services, said the office.

Since December, the number of spontaneous displacement sites has risen sharply -- from 142 to 246 -- with the most significant increase observed in the Centre Department, which previously had none. Today, it hosts 85 active sites. Meanwhile, 83 percent of displaced people are

hosted by families, creating additional pressure on already fragile rural communities, it said.

The IOM has scaled up its operations in the metropolitan zone of Port-au-Prince, reaching over 20,000 people with essential household items, delivering 3 million liters of clean water, and providing basic health care to 6,000 people. Mental health and psychosocial support have also been extended to more than 8,500 people, said OCHA.

It noted that this sharp rise in displacement comes at a time when humanitarian access is increasingly restricted, and funding remains critically low. Without urgent support to meet growing needs and address the structural drivers of displacement, the crisis will deepen further, placing even more pressure on already overstretched systems

Tatkal booking needs Aadhaar authentication from July 1

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Thiruvananthapuram, Jun 12

With an aim to ensure fair and transparent access to Tatkal tickets and to safeguard the interests of genuine passengers, Indian Railways has announced key modifications in the Tatkal ticket booking system.

These changes are aimed at enhancing user authentication and reducing misuse of the scheme.

Effective July 1, 2025, Tatkal tickets booked through IRCTC's official website and mobile app will be available only to users authenticated with

Aadhaar. Further, Aadhaar-based OTP authentication will become mandatory for Tatkal bookings made online starting July 15, 2025, a release said. Tatkal tickets booked at computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters and through authorised agents will require OTP authentication sent to the mobile number provided by the user at the time of booking. This provision will also come into effect from July 15, 2025. To prevent bulk bookings during the critical opening period, authorised ticketing agents of Indian Railways will not be permitted to book open-



ing-day Tatkal tickets during the first 30 minutes of the booking window. For AC classes, this restriction applies from 10 am to 10.30 am, and for non-AC classes, from 11 am to 11.30 am. These changes are being implemented to improve transparency in Tatkal bookings and to ensure that the benefits of the scheme reach genuine end users.

CRIS and IRCTC have been instructed to make necessary system modifications and inform all zonal railways and concerned departments accordingly. The Ministry of Railways urges all passengers to take note of these changes and encourages every-

one to ensure Aadhaar linkage with their IRCTC user profiles to avoid inconvenience. These changes are being implemented to improve transparency in Tatkal bookings and to ensure that the benefits of the scheme reach genuine end users.

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Mobile addiction: Giving children the gift of stress



Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

Ifscreens come into the hands of children instead of books, then the light of childhood drowns in blue light." Nowadays a new scene has become common—children playing with mobile phones, not with toys. No hide and seek under trees in summer vacations, no kite flying on the roof, no bicycle race in the streets. Instead, glasses on the eyes, irritability in the mind and fingers glued to the mobile screen all the time. This scene is not just a sign of "development" but "distortion".

What is withdrawal syndrome?

When a child gets addicted to excessive use of mobile or tablet and is suddenly deprived of it, he starts showing reactions like restlessness, anger, frustration, lack of sleep, headache, loss of appetite, or crying. This is called "withdrawal syndrome". These symptoms are similar to the symptoms that come when someone quits an addiction. According to doctors, every week 4-5 such cases are coming up in every hospital where small children are behaving violently when they do not get mobile.

Increasing mobile addiction: Statistics and reality

In India, 70% of children above 5 years of age are connected to some form of smartphone or tablet. According to WHO (World Health Organization), children under 5 years of age should not have screen time more than 1 hour. In India, it is an average of 3 to 5 hours per day. According to NCERT report, in 2024, 67% of students of class 6th to 10th admitted that they have become addicted to games or social media on mobile.

Effects on mental health

The fast visuals and sounds on mobile phones make children consider the slow pace of real life as boring.

Aggression: Violent elements shown in games and videos increase irritability and violence in the behavior of children.

Sleep problems: Staring at screens late at night reduces the level of melatonin hormone, which affects the quality of sleep. Decreased language and social skills: Mobile phones reduce communicative activities, which impedes language development and social behavior.

The role of parents

Children do not ask for mobile phones themselves, this habit is given to them by their parents – to feed them, to keep them quiet, or to save their own time. This convenience slowly turns into an addiction. Parents should watch their own use before giving mobile



phones to their children. Giving mobile phones every time during meals becomes a dangerous habit. Parents say "we don't have time", but this time is saved at the cost of their mental development.

Responsibility of school and society

Schools should make a clear policy on the balanced use of technology. Mental health, digital behavior and outdoor activities should be made compulsory in children's curriculum. School counseling should be activated to identify early signs of digital addiction in children.

What could be the solution?

Fix a digital detox time. Fix a time every day in the house when all the members keep the mobile away, like dinner, morning tea etc. Promote outdoor activities.

Engage children in activities like parks, sports, gardening. This is a natural way to divert their attention. Give stories instead of screens. Reading a story every night instead of mobile can be a boon for children's mental health. Create a digital discipline.

Make a 'mobile rule chart' at home that will specify who will use the mobile, when, and for how long.

Children's childhood: It is hidden in touch, not in the screen

Childhood is a time when one should be allowed to play with mud, not just play "Farmville" on mobile. Relationships, emotions, patience, communication and creativity are not built through mobile phones, but through human contact.

Withdrawal syndrome is just a warning. It tells us that it's time to get back to making kids 'kids' – not digital products.

There will be consciousness today

If we do not wake up today, the coming generation will be technologically advanced but emotionally poor. The cure for mobile addiction is not only with the doctor, but in the lap of parents, sensitivity of teachers and awareness of society. Mobile is a need today, but it should remain "only a need" for children, it should not become a "habit" – this is the biggest demand of this time.

While on one hand the mobile phone has become a medium of modern education and information, on the other hand it is also becoming a serious obstacle in the mental, social and emotional development of children. When a child becomes restless, aggressive or isolates himself without a mobile, it becomes not just a technical problem but a social and family crisis. Withdrawal syndrome is emerging in children in the same way as it happens in a drug addict when he gets rid of the addiction.

Therefore, this is the time when parents, teachers and society should join hands to connect children not only with technology but also with life. Just snatching away the mobile is not the solution, but it is important to provide emotional security to children through conversation, touch, games and stories. Discussion on digital discipline should start in homes and mental health in schools.

If we still turn a blind eye, a generation will be born that will be technically proficient but emotionally bankrupt. We need to give our children the wisdom to live a smart life, not a smartphone.

If screens come into the hands of children instead of books, then the light of childhood drowns in blue light." Nowadays a new scene has become common—children playing with mobile phones, not with toys. No hide and seek under trees in summer vacations, no kite flying on the roof, no bicycle race in the streets. Instead, glasses on the eyes, irritability in the mind and fingers glued to the mobile screen all the time. This scene is not just a sign of "development" but "distortion".

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Doctors urge vigilance, hydration as intense heatwave sweeps J&K Recommend limiting outdoor exposure, increasing fluid intake to combat heat-related illnesses

HT NEWS DESK/KNO

Srinagar, JUNE 12: As Jammu and Kashmir grapples with an intense and prolonged heatwave, medical professionals are issuing strong advisories urging the public to take immediate and sustained precautions to avoid heat-related health complications.

With temperatures reaching unusually high levels in many parts of the region, health experts are particularly concerned about rising cases of dehydration, heat exhaustion, and even heatstroke, especially among children, the elderly, and outdoor workers.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Dr Mohammad Salim Khan, Head of the Department of Community Medicine at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, said maintaining proper hydration levels is critical during this period of extreme weather.

"People must prioritise the intake of natural fluids—water, oral rehydration solutions (ORS), lassi, lemon water, and fresh homemade juices," he said, adding that such drinks not only quench thirst but also help replenish essential salts and minerals lost through sweating.

He warned against relying on aerated soft drinks, packaged juices, and caffeinated beverages such as tea and coffee, which can contribute to dehydration due to their diuretic effects. "Sugary or fizzy drinks might seem refreshing, but they add to dehydration and unnecessary calorie intake," Dr Khan cautioned.

Advising against venturing outdoors during peak heat hours—generally between 11 am and 4 pm—Dr Khan suggested increasing fluid consumption by 1 to 3 litres daily, depending on the level of physical activity. He encouraged the use of traditional cooling beverages like buttermilk (chaach) and light soups to restore lost nutrients.

Clothing also plays a vital role. "Wear light-coloured, breathable, and loose-fitting garments. When stepping out, use umbrellas, caps, or scarves to shield yourself from direct sunlight and consider



applying sunscreen to protect against UV rays," he said.

The doctor further warned that those sleeping under fans might experience excessive evaporation from their bodies, increasing fluid loss. "In such cases, water and ORS should be consumed frequently," he added.

He stressed avoiding consumption of stale food, especially from roadside vendors, and emphasised the importance of thoroughly washing raw fruits and vegetables to prevent diarrheal diseases that spike during the summer season.

Dr Showkat at GMC Anantnag underlined the importance of identifying early signs of heat-related illnesses. These include fatigue, weakness, nausea, vomiting, headache, dizziness, mental clouding, and in severe cases, disorientation.

"If someone experiences these symptoms, it's vital to seek medical attention immediately," said Dr Showkat. "Heatstroke is a medical emergency. It occurs when the body fails to regulate temperature due to excessive heat exposure."

He pointed out the growing health challenges posed by climate change, saying that rising global and regional temperatures will likely result in more frequent and severe heatwaves in the future.

Dr Showkat urged the public to look after high-risk groups, including young children, elderly individuals, pregnant women, and those with chronic illnesses. "These individuals are more susceptible to dehydration and heat exhaustion," he added. Both doctors collectively stressed the importance of community awareness and support. "Stay indoors during the hottest parts of the day, keep your surroundings ventilated, and ensure that vulnerable people have access to cool drinking water," they advised—(KNO)

India's Covid case load touches 7,154; three deaths in past 24 hrs

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA New Delhi, June 12

New Delhi, June 12 (UNI) India's total number of Covid-19 cases has reached 7,154 as of 8 AM on Thursday, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. In the past 24 hours, 33 new infections have been confirmed, though case data from West Bengal is still awaited.

Additionally, three new deaths linked to Covid-19 were reported in the last 24 hours: one from Madhya Pradesh and two from Maharashtra. These bring the total number of Covid-related deaths in 2025 to 77.

On a positive note, more than 9,000 individuals have recovered from the virus so far this year.

While several states have reported modest increases in active cases, Kerala remains the worst-affected, with 2,165 active infections as of Thursday. Other states with relatively high caseloads include Gujarat (1281), West Bengal (747), Delhi (731), and Maharashtra (615), based on data from the national Covid-19 dashboard.

Health authorities have attributed the current rise in infections to new Omicron



sub-variants—including JN.1, NB.1.8.1, LF.7, and XFC. These strains are noted for their high transmissibility but are causing milder illness compared to earlier variants. The World Health Organization (WHO) has classified them as "Variants Under Monitoring", indicating that while they are not currently a serious threat, their progress should be observed closely. Covid-19, caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, has now transitioned into a seasonal pattern similar to the flu. Though no longer considered an emergency, the virus continues to circulate and may pose risks, especially to vulnerable populations.

Dist. Pulwama continues school outreach under Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan Students pledge for a drug-free tomorrow

HT NEWS DESK

PULWAMA, JUNE 12: As part of the ongoing Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign under the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, District Administration Pulwama, in collaboration with the District Social Welfare office, today continued its series of school outreach programmes aimed at sensitising students about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

Awareness sessions were conducted across several government and private schools in different educational zones of the district. The programmes witnessed active participation of students, school authorities, teachers, and officials from concerned departments.



During the sessions, resource persons from the Education, Health, and Social Welfare Departments delivered informative lectures and engaged students through interactive discussions on the physical, mental, and social consequences of drug abuse. Emphasis was

laid on the importance of early awareness, healthy lifestyle choices, and the proactive role of students in promoting a drug-free environment within their institutions and communities.

Medical experts and counsellors provided guidance on identifying early signs of substance use and encouraged students to seek help without hesitation. Students also took a collective pledge to lead a drug-free life and to act as responsible citizens in spreading awareness among their peers.

The campaign will continue in the coming days with more educational institutions being covered, ensuring that the message of prevention, awareness and support reaches every student in the district.

NCORD Meeting: DC Rajouri orders attachment of properties of those detained under NDPS Act

HT NEWS DESK

RAJOURI, JUNE 12: To strengthen drug control measures, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma and Senior Superintendent of Police Gaurav Sikarwar today jointly chaired a meeting of the District level Committee under Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) here at Dr R K Thapa memorial Hall.

The DC emphasized the need for intensifying awareness campaigns targeting students and youth. He directed the Education Department to organize special awareness sessions in Higher Secondary Schools, while the Rural Development Department was asked to host

anti-drug camps in Panchayat Ghars during the upcoming summer vacation, particularly in uncovered and vulnerable villages.

To tighten noose around the perpetrators, the DC directed for attaching the properties of individuals detained under NDPS Act. He further called for the implementation of computerized billing systems in all shops to monitor suspicious transactions and directed concerned teams to randomly verify CCTV footage from business establishments.

Highlighting the importance of data tracking, the DC instructed for the Aadhar-based documentation of individuals admitted to and discharged from drug



de-addiction centres, with a focus on improving the in-patient rehabilitation facility at GMC Rajouri.

To maintain vigil, the DC directed enforcement teams to con-

duct random checking around coaching and tuition centres, besides installation of CCTV cameras in all government offices to keep check on suspicious activities. "Any govern-

ment official found to be involved in drug-related activities must be immediately reported and dealt with strictly," he added. The Senior Superintendent of

Police, while briefing the Committee, informed that property worth 85 lakh of drug offenders has already been seized, and FIRs have been registered against several individuals involved in drug trafficking and consumption. He also underscored the need to thwart attempts of drug smuggling across Line of Control (LoC).

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioners, SDMs, and all concerned district and sectoral officers. To tighten noose around the perpetrators, the DC directed for attaching the properties of individuals detained under NDPS Act. He further called for the implementation of computerized billing systems in all shops

to monitor suspicious transactions and directed concerned teams to randomly verify CCTV footage from business establishments.

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Youth Services & Sports Promotes Grassroots Sports Across J&K

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar June 12: The Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) continues to foster a vibrant sports culture across J&K, with multiple districts hosting inter-zonal and inter-school competitions to encourage youth participation in athletics. Ramban Kicks Off Under-14 & Under-17 Boys' Tournament. The Inter-Zonal District Level Sports Tournament for Under-14 and Under-17 boys in Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, and Volleyball commenced at DPL Ground, Ramban. The event was inaugurated by MLA Ramban, Arjun Singh Raju, who lauded the Department's efforts in nurturing young talent. Over 335 student-athletes from six zones participated, displaying remarkable discipline and enthusiasm.

District Youth Services and Sports Officer Jagdish Raj Sharma emphasized the role of sports in character-building and urged youth to stay away from harmful habits. The tournament is being conducted under the guidance of the Director General, YSS J&K. Budgam Hosts Under-17 Girls' Competitions. In Budgam, the Inter-Zonal District Level Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, and Volleyball competitions for Under-17 girls began at Sports Stadium Budgam. All 12 zones of the district are participating, showcasing spirited performances. The event, supervised by District Youth Services and Sports Officer Ghulam Hassan Lone, aims to promote fitness, teamwork, and competitive spirit among young athletes. Baramulla Sees Massive Participation in Zonal Events. Baramulla witnessed a surge in sporting



activities, with multiple zones conducting inter-school competitions:
- Zone Uri held Under-17 Boys' Volleyball, Kho-Kho, and Kabaddi events with 135 participants.
- Zone Sopore organized Kho-Kho for Under-17 Girls at Subhana Stadium, featuring 160 athletes.
- Zone Wagoora saw 207 girls competing in

Volleyball and Kho-Kho at HSS Wagoora.
- Zone Dangerpora recorded 330 participants in girls' Volleyball and Kho-Kho at HS Seelo. District Youth Services and Sports Officer Zahoor Ahmad Wani commended the enthusiasm and reiterated the department's commitment to grassroots sports development. Anantnag Concludes Successful Sporting Events. Anantnag wrapped up a series of district-level competitions:
- Zone Bijbehara won the Under-17 Girls' Handball Championship at HSS Wanpoh.
- Zone Achabal triumphed in the Inter-Zonal Baseball Tournament for Under-17 Boys.
- Zone Shangus held anti-drug pledge ceremonies alongside sports events, with 385 students participating.
- Zone Bheibehra saw 260 boys competing in Kabaddi.

- Zone Achabal hosted 271 girls in Volleyball, Kabaddi, and Kho-Kho, with Hanfia School Dialgam emerging as top performers. Pulwama Encourages Career in Sports. Pulwama's zonal-level tournaments for boys and girls saw active participation, with District Youth Services and Sports Officer Talib Hussain urging youth to consider sports as a viable career option. Winners were felicitated, and officials were praised for organizing successful events. Ganderbal Crowns Kho-Kho Champions. Ganderbal hosted the Inter-Zone District Level Kho-Kho Championship for Under-17 Boys at GCOPE Gadoora, where Zone Ganderbal defeated Zone Tullamulla in a thrilling final. Simultaneously, football trials for Under-19 boys and girls were held across zones to identify talent for higher-level competitions.

GARECA QUILTS AS CHILE MISSES WORLD CUP

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
El Alto (Bolivia), June 12

Ricardo Gareca resigned as Chile's head coach after the team's 2-0 away loss to Bolivia, a result that ended the team's hopes of qualifying for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Goals from Miguel Terceiro and Enzo Monteiro in El Alto handed Chile its 10th defeat of the South American qualifying tournament on Tuesday. The team sits last in the 10-nation standings and is now mathematically out of reach of a playoff spot. "We made a decision with the coaching staff and we told them [the players] that we want to decompress the situation," Gareca told a post-match news conference at the Municipal Stadium in El Alto. "We didn't deliver results. Chile is in a situation that no one would have wanted, and from a sporting perspective, with all the experience and career I have, it's a hard knock. I have to get back on my feet, just



as Chile must get back on its feet in the future." Gareca led Chile to just one victory in 13 matches, having taken charge of the Roja in January 2024. After winning back-to-back Copa America titles in 2015 and 2016, Chile will now miss the World Cup for the third consecutive time, having also failed to qualify in 2018 and 2022. Tuesday's result left Bolivia with 17 points and still in contention with two qualifiers remaining. Oscar Villegas' men will face Colombia and Brazil in September as it seeks its first World Cup berth since 1994.

MLA Ramban declares open Inter-Zonal District Level Sports Tournament at Ramban; Over 335 Student Athletes Compete with Enthusiasm

HT NEWS DESK

Ramban, June 12: The Department of Youth Services and Sports Ramban, today inaugurated the Inter-Zonal District Level Sports Tournament for Under-14 and Under-17 boys and girls in the disciplines of Kabaddi, Kho-Kho, and Volleyball at District Police Lines (DPL) Ground, Ramban. The tournament was formally declared open by MLA Ramban, Advocate Arjun Singh Raju, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The event is being held under the direction of the Director General, YSS J&K, and the guidance of District Youth



Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO), Ramban, Jagdish Raj Sharma.

The opening ceremony witnessed an enthusiastic participation of over 335 student athletes from all six zones of the district, accompanied by their respective Zonal Physical Education Officers, Physical Education Teachers, Rehbar-e-Khel instructors, and field staff. The ground buzzed with energy as young athletes showcased their passion for sports in an environment filled with discipline, sportsmanship, and zeal. An anti-drugs pledge was also administered to the participants. Addressing the gathering, MLA applauded the efforts of the Youth Services and Sports Department in providing a platform for youth to express their talent and energy through sports.

CB, BCCI invited fans without nod: Ktk govt tells HC

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Bengaluru, June 12

The Karnataka government on Wednesday held the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) squarely responsible for the deadly stampede outside M Chinnaswamy Stadium that claimed 11 lives, stating before the High Court that the organisers "invited the whole world" via social media without obtaining official permission. During a hearing on petitions challenging the arrest of four individuals — including RCB

marketing head Nikhil Sosale — Advocate General Shashi Kiran Shetty, appearing for the state, said the franchise had submitted only a "representation" on June 3, just an hour before a match, stating they shall conduct a victory parade. "This was not a permission request — it was merely an intimation," Shetty told the bench. He pointed out that despite not receiving formal approval, RCB and BCCI went ahead with widespread social media promotions late at night on June 3 and into the early hours of June 4, calling on fans to join the celebration. "They simply said all fans are welcome to cheer. It was as

if they invited the whole world," Shetty stated. According to the government, this reckless promotion led to an unmanageable crowd of 3.5 to 4 lakh people gathering at the venue, which has a seating capacity of only 33,000. The absence of clear communication on entry protocols further aggravated the situation, culminating in a stampede that caused multiple fatalities and injuries. Shetty also clarified that no communication came directly from RCB or BCCI regarding event organisation; the only correspondence was from the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA).

Students take Anti-Drug Pledge at inter-school zonal level U14 Girls Sports meet at Achabal

HT NEWS DESK



ANANTNAG, JUNE 12: In a concerted move to promote healthy living and raise awareness against substance abuse, an anti-drug pledge was administered to all participants at the opening of the inter-school zonal level Under-14 Girls Volleyball, Kabaddi, and Kho-Kho competitions organized by the Zonal Physical Education Office (ZPEO) Achabal. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from various schools across the zone, bringing together young athletes who are not only showcasing their sporting talents but also standing united against the menace of drugs. The program began with the national anthem followed by the solemn anti-drug pledge, reaffirming the commitment of students and officials alike to stay away from drugs and lead a life devoted to fitness, discipline, and sportsmanship. ZPEO officials highlighted the importance of sports in building a drug-free and positive youth culture. The competitions are scheduled to continue over the next few days, featuring spirited contests among talented young girls in volleyball, kabaddi and kho-kho. This initiative aligns with broader efforts to integrate anti-drug education within the school sports framework and ensure a healthier future for the youth.

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- Carbon Laser facial
- Black doll facial • Party peels
- Photo facial • Tattoo Removal
- Melasma treatment

FREE CHECKUP

TIMING:
MONDAY TO SATURDAY
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Lunch off 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

ADDRESS: Opposite SDH Kreeri,
1st floor Generic Medical Store Building