



Shreya Singhal assumes charge as Chief Executive Officer, J&K ERA

P13

16 Tourist Spots, Parks in J&K Closed Post Pahalgam Massacre to Reopen : LG Manoj Sinha Says Forthcoming Amarnath Yatra Will help in Reviving Tourism

HT NEWS DESK

PAHALGAM, 14TH JUNE: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha on Saturday announced reopening of 16 tourist destinations across Jammu Kashmir, which were temporarily closed as precautionary measures after heinous Pahalgam terror attack on tourists on 22nd April. Of these tourist spots and parks, 8 are in Jammu Division and 8 in Srinagar. Betab valley and Parks in Pahalgam Market, Verinag Garden, Kokernag Garden and Achabal Garden to be reopened from 17th June. The Lieutenant Governor said that the other

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LG Manoj Sinha Visits Family of Pahalgam Attack Victim, Handed Job Letter to Widow

HT News Network

ANANTNAG, JUNE 14: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today visited the family of Late Shri Syed Adil Hussain Shah, at his native village in Haptnadh, Anantnag and handed over the appointment letter to his wife Mst. Gulnaz Akhter on compassionate ground.

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'Power, Water, Agriculture Not With Me, But I Support Your Demands,' Says LG Sinha to Kulgam Farmers

Addresses Closing Ceremony of Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan at Khudwani-Kulgam

HT News Network



SRINAGAR, JUNE 14: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today addressed the closing Ceremony of Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan at SKUAST Kashmir's Mountain Research Centre for Field Crops at Khudwani-Kulgam.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor commended the valuable contribution of everyone associated with the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan for marking a transformative step, through this initiative, toward building a resilient, modern, and prosperous agricultural landscape in the Union Territory.

"Our ultimate goal is to make every farmer in J&K UT a proud stakeholder in India's journey toward becoming a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

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Braveheart Adil's Job Letter Prepared By Elected Govt: NC

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Srinagar, June 14 (UNI) Hours after J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, handed over an appointment letter to Syed Adil Hussain's wife on compassionate grounds, the ruling National Conference said the order was already prepared by the Fisheries Department under the

elected government.

Adil, was the only Kashmiri among the 26 people killed in the deadly terror attack at Baisaran in Pahalgam on April 22. He was shot while courageously attempting to stop the terrorists from targeting tourists.

The LG on Saturday visited the family of Adil Hussain

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Gulnaz Akhter w/o Syed Adil Hussain Shah, who lost his life in Baisaran attack, appointed in exercise of discretionary powers of LG

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 14: The Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor has appointed Mst. Gulnaz Akhter D/o Nooranie Shah W/o Late Syed Adil Hussain Shah R/o Hapatnar, Pahalgam, Anantnag district, as Class-IV (MTS) in District Cadre, Anantnag, in the Fisheries Department.

The appointment of Mst. Gulnaz Akhter has been made by the Lieutenant Governor in exercise of the discretionary powers conferred under Clause-2A of Jammu and Kashmir Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme, 2022 in relaxation of her educational qualification. As per clause 2A of J&K Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme-2022, the Lieutenant

Governor in exceptional circumstances may appoint the dependent family member of a civilian, who has died as a result of militancy/terrorist related action or due to law and order situation or due to enemy action and who is not involved in militancy related activity, in Government Service. The conferment of relax

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NEWS BRIEF

J&K ACB traps cop in bribery case

Jammu, June 14 (UNI) Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau on Saturday trapped one police head constable in a bribery case.

The ACB spokesman said that a complaint was received alleging therein that a public servant, namely Head Constable Roshan Din of Police Station Kathua, who is investigating the case, registered at Police Station Kathua, demanded illegal gratification from the complainant on account of deleting and removing his name from the list of accused persons in the said case, even though he provided CCTV

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Habitual drug peddler booked in Handwara: Polic

SRINAGAR, JUN 14: In a continued crackdown on drug trafficking, Police in Handwara have booked a habitual drug peddler under the stringent Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PITNDPS) Act and lodged him in jail.

The accused Feroz Ahmad Khan son of Late Abdul Ahad Khan resident of Panditpora Kralgund, has been repeatedly involved in narcotics trafficking despite facing multiple

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Several Injured in Head-On Collision at Barsoo on Srinagar-Anantnag Highway

AWANTIPORA, JUNE 14: Several persons sustained injuries, some of them serious, in a road accident that took place at Barsoo Awantipora on the Srinagar-Anantnag highway (NH-44) on Saturday.

According to reports, the accident occurred when a Taveera vehicle (bearing registration number JK01Q-5159) collided head-on with a fruit-laden truck on

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NIA Opposes Bail Relaxation For PDP's Waheed Para

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

SRINAGAR, JUNE 14 (UNI) The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has strongly opposed a plea filed by MLA and People's Democratic Party (PDP) leader Waheed Para seeking



relaxation of his bail conditions.

In a detailed objection submitted to the Special NIA Court in Jammu, the anti-terror agency said Para's plea is not maintainable and needs to be dismissed as "intention of the applicant/ accused is to flee from the clutches of law."

PDP's Para is leader of the Legislature Party in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly. Para had been jailed for around 19 months under sections of Unlawful Activities Prevention

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Providing Basic Amenities At Doorsteps Is Government's Top Priority: Dy CM

HT NEWS DESK

RAJOURI, JUN 14: In a significant outreach initiative aimed at addressing the public grievances and ensuring welfare of the citizens in border areas, Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted a public darbar at Kalasara, one of the remotest villages of Nowshera division.

During the visit, the local residents apprised the Deputy Chief Minister of various



issues mainly pertaining to road connectivity, water scarcity, unscheduled power cuts, healthcare facilities, bunkers, compensation, shortages teachers, veterinary doctor and other developmental

issues. The Deputy Chief Minister issued on the spot directions to the concerned officers for prompt redressal of issues raised by the people.

Speaking on the occasion, the Dy CM reiterated the government's resolve to ensure equitable development across all regions, with a special focus on the welfare of border residents. He assured that concerted efforts are being made to address the challenges faced by the people, improving their

Indian Scientist Dr. Hidayat Bukhari Achieves Dual Recognition at ASCO 2025 for Pioneering AI-Powered Cancer Diagnostics

HT NEWS DESK



SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 09 (HEALTH PAGE)

In a significant moment for global cancer research and the future of precision oncology, Dr. Hidayat Bukhari, a clinical researcher from Shri Venkateshwar University in India, has

CS bats for Seamless Synergy for Achieving Tail End Irrigation

Assesses irrigation & flood control initiatives of JSD

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 14: In a pivotal meeting, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today convened a high-level meeting to assess the proactive measures undertaken by the Jal Shakti Department (JSD) aimed at ensuring comprehensive irrigation coverage for every field across the Union Territory and

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HT-Special Tribute : Shujaat Bukhari ('SHAHEED-E-SAHAFAT') Remembered on Seventh Death Anniversary

HT EDITORIAL DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 14: SRINAGAR JUNE 14: In the complex and often turbulent landscape of Kashmir, few voices carried as much weight, respect, and courage as that of Shujaat Bukhari. His tragic assassination on 14 June 2018 did not just rob Kashmir of one of its finest journalists; it silenced a voice that persistently called for peace, even when doing so came with grave risks.

Born into a family with deep intellectual and spiritual roots, Shujaat Bukhari grew up with a profound sense of responsibility towards his people and his land. His early education and later exposure to the broader world of journalism equipped him with both the sensitivity and the analytical sharpness that would

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Special Prayers Held at Muradabad Kreeri

Aashiq Hussain
HT Reporter

MURADABAD KREERI, JUNE 14: Veteran Journalist Dr. Syed Shujaat Bukhari was remembered today on his seventh death anniversary. Founder Editor of Rising Kashmir fell to the bullets of unknown gunmen on June 14th 2018 along with his two security guards outside his Press Enclave office.

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LG

tourist destinations being reopened includes Badamwari Park, Duck Park, Taqdeer Park in Srinagar, Sarthal, Dhaggar in Kathua, Devi Pindi, Siyad Baba, Sula Park in Reasi, Guldanda and Jai valley in Doda and Pancheri in Udhampur. Reopening will be in phase-wise manner, he added.

He also met the delegation of Member of Legislative Assembly, DDC Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons, tour and travel operators, Ponywala association and hoteliers' associations at Pahalgam. He assured the delegation that restrictions on other tourist spots will be lifted after thorough security assessment.

The Lieutenant Governor also observed that the forthcoming Amarnath Yatra will help in reviving tourism in Kashmir.

"Urge people to come forward and make the annual Shri Amarnath Ji pilgrimage successful. This Yatra is not just the responsibility of the administration or security forces, it is the people's Yatra. Everyone should feel proud to contribute to it," he said.

He said the security agencies have prepared a comprehensive security plan and urged the pilgrims to travel in the designated convoy.

The Lieutenant Governor said over the past few years, significant improvements have been made in infrastructure to support the Yatra which include better roads, improved power and telecom connectivity, increased accommodation facilities, and strengthened security systems.

The Lieutenant Governor also visited the Nunwan Base Camp and reviewed the progress of Disaster Management Centre and Yatri Niwas. He also inspected security and other arrangements for Shri Amarnathji pilgrimage beginning 3rd July.

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, CEO Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board and Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Shri Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shri VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir, Shri Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag and senior officers of Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, Armed forces, Civil and Police administration.

JOB

Syed Adil Hussain, was among the 26 innocent civilians who were killed by terrorists in Pahalgam.

The Lieutenant Governor paid homage to the martyr civilian and assured the family of concrete measures and continuous support so that they may live a life of dignity.

"The whole country is proud of the bravery of Adil. The Government job to martyr Adil's wife symbolizes our deep gratitude to the brave civilian who sacrificed his life while protecting tourists at Pahalgam on 22nd April," the Lieutenant Governor said.

KULGAM

Let us walk together towards a future where every field blooms with prosperity, every farmer thrives with dignity and every village becomes a symbol of development. With Sankalp (resolve) comes Shakti (strength) and with Shakti comes Vikas (development)," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated the commitment of J&K Administration, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, to build a stronger farm economy, increasing rural employment opportunities and enhancing farmer's income. J&K had launched similar initiative in 2022 through Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), the first revolutionary program in agriculture in any state or UT in recent times. It is a comprehensive strategy, designed to make J&K UT a robust Rs. 1 trillion agricultural economy by 2030, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, highlighted several targeted initiatives taken by the Administration for the upliftment of the forest-dwelling tribal communities and those engaged in agriculture and allied sectors.

He said, the J&K also has a special focus on the development of our tribal farming communities, Gujjars, Bakarwals, Paharis, and other STs, who are the custodians of our forests, mountains and traditional wisdom. "The active participation from every district in Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan reflects our collective commitment to a self-reliant J&K.

Let us continue this spirit of progress and partnership to ensure sustainable growth and improved livelihoods for our farming communities," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The occasion also marked the beginning of transplantation of rice.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon officials and scientists to ensure that the awareness, reforms and outreach achieved through this campaign become embedded in our systems and governance frameworks.

"Let this Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan not just end in ceremonies and reports, but continue to resonate in our policies, partnerships,

and priorities," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Progressive farmers shared their success stories and expressed gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor led J&K Administration for the support and hand-holding.

Responding to the issues raised by the farmers, the Lieutenant Governor asked the Agriculture Minister J&K for addressing the issue of the extension of benefits under PM Fasal Bima Yojana to Farmers associated with the Horticulture Sector on priority.

The Lieutenant Governor also launched various initiatives and publications of SKUAST Kashmir and handed over sanctioned letters to farmers from tribal communities under different schemes. He also congratulated the Mountain Research Centre for Field Crops for the development of 20 rice varieties keeping in mind the agro-ecology of Kashmir.

A Two- minute silence was observed in the memory of citizens who lost their lives in the Pahalgam Terror Attack.

Through the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan, farmers are being educated on advanced agricultural research tailored to their specific area's needs. In J&K, this campaign has successfully reached over 2.80 lakh farmers, providing crucial information on low-cost, high-production, and more sustainable and profitable modern agricultural techniques, resources, and schemes.

Shri Javid Ahmad Dar, Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj; Ms Sakina Itoo, Minister for Education, Health & Medical Education and Social Welfare; Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Prof Nazir Ah. Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Kashmir, Shri VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir, scientists, experts, faculty, students and members from farming community were present.

Shri Mohd Afzal Parry, Chairman, DDC Kulgam; Members of Legislative Assembly, HoDs, and prominent citizens from all walks of life were also present.

GULZARA AKHTER

ation of age/qualification for appointment under J&K Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme-2022 solely lies with the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor.

The appointment of Mst. Gulnaz Akhter has been made by the Lieutenant Governor under the exceptional circumstances as her husband was a civilian and not a government employee. Further, the appointment has been made in relaxation of her educational qualification. There is no role of Fisheries Department in granting relaxation as well as appointment in the instant case.

Acknowledging the supreme sacrifice of Adil Hussain Shah during the terrorist attack at Baisaran Pahalgam, the Lieutenant Governor in exercise of the discretionary powers has considered the appointment of wife of the slain civilian in relaxation of her educational qualification, so that it can bring a succour to the family.

This decision is a heartfelt gesture to support the bereaved family and ensure their dignity and well-being, reflecting the administration's unwavering commitment to justice and compassion.

PARRA

Act in 2020 and was released on bail by the J&K High Court in 2021.

While granting bail, Parra was directed not to leave the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir without the prior written permission of the court during the period of bail.

Para, who represents the Pulwama assembly segment, was one of three legislators from the party who won the elections last year.

The MLA had pleaded before the court that he may be allowed to travel to any part of the country citing his constitutional obligation as a legislator.

"Trial in the instant case is being conducted expeditiously on regular basis. There is a strong apprehension that the applicant/accused would misuse the liberty and may not come back to face the proceedings in relation to chargesheet that has already been filed," the NIA said in its objections.

The NIA said that the investigations have revealed that the accused Parra "entered into the conspiracy with other co-accused for raising funds to procure arms and ammunition for terrorists of the banned terrorist organisation Hizb-ulMujahideen and Lashkar-e-Taiba, operating in Kashmir valley."

"Besides, Waheed Para extended financial support to the separatist leaders for furtherance of secessionist activities," the anti terror body told the Court.

"The said bail conditions in no way prevents the accused from discharging his constitutional duties as an elected MLA," NIA said "In the event that his presence is specifically required outside the Union Territory of J&K in furtherance of any constitutional obligation, the court may consider such requests on a case-to-case basis".

The NIA said that based on the evidence that came on record, charges in the court have been framed under section 120B of the IPC, sections 17, 18, 39 & 40 of the UA(P) Act in December 2022.

The NIA, while praying for dismissal of Parra's application, said that he is "not a law

abiding person and is involved in serious offences related to national security".

The Special NIA Court is yet to pronounce its order on the application.

ACB

footage and attendance in the factor on the date of occurrence in order to prove his innocence.

The accused had demanded a bribe of 25,000 from the complainant for deleting his name from a case registered at Police Station Kathua. After negotiation, the accused agreed to take a bribe amount of 15,000 from the complainant, he said.

The spokesman added that since the complainant didn't want to pay a bribe, he approached the Anti-Corruption Bureau to take legal action against the accused public servant under the law.

On receipt of the complaint, a discreet verification was conducted, which confirmed the demand of a bribe by the public servant, and accordingly, a case was registered in Police Station ACB Jammu, and an investigation was taken up.

During the course of the investigation, he said that a trap team was constituted, and it laid a successful trap and accused the public servant after accepting a bribe amount of 15000 from the complainant, sensing the presence of ACB on the spot, he fled away from the spot and threw the tainted bribe money in the bushes on the NHW near Palli.

The tainted bribe money was recovered from the bushes by independent witnesses and seized in the instant case, he added.

The search was also conducted in the residential house of the accused in presence of a magistrate and independent witnesses, he said. "However, the accused person is still at large, and the investigation of the case is in progress."

CS

fortifying defences against the recurring flood threats.

The meeting besides ACS, JSD was attended by Secretary, RDD; CEO, JSCL; Chief Engineers/SEs of TI&FC along with other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary emphasized the critical need for seamless coordination among the Jal Shakti Department, Agriculture Production Department and the district administrations. This collaborative synergy, he highlighted, is paramount to amplify the impact of flagship schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), ensuring that irrigation facilities translate into tangible benefits for the farmers at the grassroots level.

He further articulated that the efficacy of major and minor irrigation projects must be reinforced by the simultaneous development of their command areas, ensuring that these vital schemes fully achieve their intended purpose.

To facilitate the robust implementation of district irrigation plans, the Chief Secretary strongly encouraged the optimal utilization of relevant Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and other available programs.

Addressing the pressing issue of flood management, Dulloo enjoined upon the concerned authorities to significantly accelerate the implementation of flood mitigation projects envisioned under PMDP-II. He advocated a forward-looking approach, stressing the importance of envisaging long-term results for flood protection while executing these crucial projects.

He also impressed upon the Rural Development Department and the Housing & Urban Development Department to perform their paramount duty of protecting the precious water bodies, particularly irrigation canals, from pollution. He called for resolute enforcement measures against the polluters to safeguard these vital lifelines.

The Chief Secretary also took stock of the modernization efforts concerning the Ravi Canal and reviewed the operational efficiency of the prestigious Shahpur Kandi Dam, both critical for welfare of the people of this UT.

Furthermore, Dulloo meticulously reviewed the progress on the Tawi Riverfront Development project. He issued stringent directives to the concerned agencies, emphasizing the imperative to complete the diversion of nullahs and all associated construction and beautification works, including the ongoing electromechanical installations, by the unyielding deadline of September 30, 2025.

Earlier in the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra, presented a detailed overview of the department's multifaceted functioning and its commendable achievements in expanding irrigation infrastructure and implementing robust flood mitigation strategies across the UT.

Kabra highlighted several key accomplishments, including successful completion of the Entry and Exit gates of Hokersar Wetland, a project worth Rs 28.45 crore, undertaken as part of PMDP-Phase II. He also revealed that 100 per cent expenditure of the available Rs 114.29 crore had been made under PMDP-Phase II (Part A).

Moreover, the ACS revealed about the sanctioning of 12 new NABARD schemes under RIDF XXX, amounting Rs 175.60 crore besides full utilisation of the SNA balance for CSS-FMBAP/PMDP as of March 31, 2025.

Regarding the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Kabra apprised the meeting that schemes like FMBAP, PMDP-II, PMKSY-HKKP and PMKSY-AIBP are currently progressing with a total outlay of approximately Rs 622 crore. He elaborated that the major objectives of PMDP-I have been successfully achieved, with the department now diligently implementing the second phase of this mega program.

The second phase, he explained, encompasses crucial bank protection works for rivers, their tributaries and flood spill channels, along with works for re-sectioning of the Flood Outfall Channel and allied components, cumulatively amounting Rs 1623 crore.

The meeting was further informed about the sophisticated Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) in place, which integrates weather forecasting from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and water level forecasting from the Central Water Commission (CWC). This system is complemented by rainfall information from rain gauge sensors, water level data from water level sensors, active monitoring and the timely dissemination of advisories through social, print and electronic media.

Regarding implementation of the PMKSY scheme, it was reported that out of 401 works undertaken, with a potential to irrigate 123,443 hectares of land, approximately 85,637 hectares have already been brought under irrigation through completion of 204 works to date.

Furthermore, the meeting was apprised that 28 newly proposed schemes under PMKSY have been promulgated across the flood control divisions of the UT, slated for completion at an estimated cost of Rs 84 crore.

The detailed discussions also encompassed Capex works (with a budget estimate of Rs 188.77 crore), NABARD-funded projects, works at the revered Holy Cave and the crucial desiltation works of irrigation canals in convergence with the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

NC

in Anantnag and handed over an appointment letter to his wife, on compassionate grounds.

"We thank LG sahab for handing over the job order that was already prepared by the Fisheries Department, a department under the elected government led by Minister Javed Dar. This reflects the maturity and responsibility shown by the elected government, we did not allow egos to come in the way, but stood by our commitment to Adil's family in their moment of grief," the chief spokesperson of NC and MLA Tanvir Sadiq said in a post on X.

"Just as earlier, the elected government had prepared similar job orders for NoKs (next of kin) in Poonch, which were later distributed by the Home Minister after the CM had personally visited and personally committed these jobs to the families immediately after the shelling. In moments of pain, politics must make way for compassion, and governance must honour its word," Sadiq said.

The friction between the elected government and the Raj Bhavan recently came out in open when Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary accused LG Sinha of "running a proxy government" in Jammu and Kashmir.

FLYOVER

of the flyover, captured in images circulated on social media, shows structural cracks along a joint between concrete slabs, drawing public criticism.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Chief Engineer R&B Kashmir, Sajad Ahmad Naqeeb said the cracks are "not alarming", saying that they were likely caused due to seasonal temperature fluctuations and settling processes.

"These are not major cracks that compromise the integrity of the bridge. They are seasonal and weather-related, common in such structures during temperature transitions," he said.—(KNO)

POLICE

FIRs. His persistent criminal activities posed a serious threat to public safety, particularly endangering the youth of the area, a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Following the due procedure, competent authority after pursuing the material evidences brought on record for its analysis, the detention of the accused under PIT NDPS Act was subsequently approved by the competent authority. This preventive detention is a targeted measure to incapacitate chronic offenders and disrupt the local narcotics supply chain.

AWANTIPORA

the busy highway. The impact of the col-

lision was severe, leaving the Taveera badly mangled and resulting in multiple injuries to its occupants. The fruit-laden truck turned turtle due to collision.

Local residents and passersby immediately rushed to the spot and informed the authorities. Police and rescue teams reached the site shortly after the mishap and launched rescue operations to evacuate the injured passengers trapped inside the vehicle. The injured were shifted to nearby hospitals for treatment. While some of the victims received minor injuries, a few are reported to be in critical condition and are undergoing specialized medical care.

The accident led to temporary disruption of traffic on the highway, causing inconvenience to commuters. Police have registered a case and initiated an investigation to ascertain the exact cause of the accident. Preliminary reports suggest that overspeeding or loss of control may have contributed to the mishap. [KNT]

SHUJAAT BUKHARI

define his career. He completed his master's in journalism from Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines, as a fellow of the Asian Centre for Journalism a rare accomplishment for a journalist from Kashmir at the time.

Shujaat's professional journey saw him work with The Hindu as its Kashmir bureau chief, where his balanced reporting won him national and international recognition. But his most lasting contribution came with the founding of Rising Kashmir, a newspaper that soon became a credible, respected platform for diverse voices across the political and ideological spectrum of the region.

What set Shujaat Bukhari apart from many of his contemporaries was his refusal to allow fear to compromise the truth. At a time when media narratives on Kashmir were often polarized, he insisted on nuance, accuracy, and a n d e m p a t

More than a journalist, Shujaat was a tireless advocate for peace. The dangers he faced were real and constant. Yet, Shujaat carried on with remarkable grace, always aware that his work could come at a heavy price. That ultimate price was tragically paid on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr in 2018, when unknown gunmen took his life outside his office in Srinagar.

In his martyrdom, Shujaat Bukhari became more than a journalist, he became a symbol of the struggle for truth in the face of overwhelming odds. His legacy is a powerful reminder of the vital role independent journalism plays during turbulence and of the sacrifices made by those who refuse to surrender their principles.

Today, his work continues to inspire journalists, peace activists, and ordinary citizens not just in Kashmir, but around the world. The void left by his absence remains profound, but so does the light of his example. May his soul find the highest place in Jannah, and may his message of peace, dialogue, and truth continue to guide generations to come.

PRAYERS

Special prayers were held this morning at his ancestral graveyard at Muradabad Kreeer in Baramulla district, in which hundreds of his friends, relatives and followers participated. A large number of people from the area had assembled early morning along with shujaat sahibs brother Syed Basharat Bukhari, President Adbi markaz Kamraz Mohd Amin Bhat, Principal HR Sec School Sopore Mush-taq Sopori, Maulana Syed Farooq Bukhari, Syed Abdul Majeed and Syed Nasir Ahmed and others to pay tribute to the departed soul.

Drawing Competition Under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and Entrepreneurship Mela Held in Ganderbal.

Ganderbal, 14th June 2025: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan *(NMBA)* and in line with the activity calendar issued by the District Administration Ganderbal, a Drawing Competition was organized at Boys Higher Secondary School Ganderbal. The event was aimed at sensitizing students about the ill effects of drug abuse and promoting a healthy, addiction-free lifestyle.

The competition drew enthusiastic participation from students across various institutions who portrayed impactful anti-drug messages through their creative art. The event provided a powerful platform for youth to express their awareness and commitment to a drug-free society.

The programme was graced by the presence of District Social Welfare Officer Ganderbal, District Youth Services and Sports Officer, and Deputy Chief Education Officer Ganderbal, who attended as chief guests. The dignitaries applauded the participants and emphasized the crucial role of students in leading social change.

As a gesture of encouragement, mementos were awarded to the toppers in two separate categories—boys and girls—for their outstanding performances in the competition.



Distt Admin Srinagar organizes Tabletop Exercise on Flood Disaster preparedness DC Srinagar leads practical demonstration to tackle emergency situation

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 14: In order to assess and strengthen the district's emergency response mechanism, district administration Srinagar, Saturday organized a Tabletop Exercise on Flood Disaster preparedness here in the DC office complex.

The Tabletop Exercise was followed by a comprehensive practical demonstration.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who is also the Chairman District Disaster Management Authority,

presided over the event.

Additional District Magistrate and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), DDMA Srinagar, Aadil Fareed; CEO, DMRR, Dr. Amir Hussain; Deputy Secretary, DMRRR, Snowber Jameel and other concerned were present during the exercise.

The exercise, aimed to simulate emergency situations, outline the roles and responsibilities of key disaster managers, and learn from domain experts about the latest trends in flood disaster relief, was organised in joint collaboration of DDMA Srinagar with J&K level DMA.

It provided an opportunity for



these agencies to highlight the significance of their respective roles and the specialized tools at their disposal during flood emergencies.

On the occasion, DC commended the active participation and coordination among all stakeholders. He reiterated the significance of preparedness in mitigating the impacts of disasters and ensuring the safety and well-being of the public.

He added that the initiative reflects the administration's unwavering commitment to disaster resilience and the safety of the residents of Srinagar. During the event, participating departments showcased their

preparedness through demonstrations of specialized equipment crucial for floods. A key segment of the exercise featured a detailed presentation by the Additional District Magistrate and CEO, DDMA Srinagar.

He elaborated on the operational framework of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and the Incident Response System (IRS), emphasizing the collaborative efforts required during and after a disaster to ensure effective response and recovery.

Deputy Secretary, DMRRR, underscored the importance of such tabletop exercises in evaluating and refining disaster response strategies.

DC Srinagar inaugurates Potential Entrepreneurship Mela at Kashmir Haat

Reaffirms Admin's commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and ensuring accessible support for aspiring youth

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 14: With an aim to connect Srinagar's youth with viable livelihood opportunities and reinforce the administration's ongoing mission to empower the youth through sustainable entrepreneurship and skill development, district administration Srinagar, in collaboration with the District Employment and Counseling Center Srinagar, today organized a one-day Potential Entrepreneurship Mela at the Kashmir Heart (Numaish Gah) Exhibition Ground. The mela,



aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and self-employment

among youth, was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner (DC)

Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, Chief Planning Officer Srinagar, Fayaz Ahmed Dar; Joint Director Employment, Waseem Raja; Deputy Director Employment, Dr. Sheeba Inayat, along with the Career Counselling Officer (CCO) and Employment Officer (EO) from the Employment Department and other concerned also attended the event. On the occasion, DC inspected various stalls set up by the different line departments. He interacted with the participants and encouraged the youth to take full advantage of available self-employment schemes.

Entrepreneurship Mela under Mission YUVA held at Kulgam

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, JUNE 14: A one-day potential Entrepreneurship Mela was organised on Saturday under the ambitious Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan) programme at Mini Secretariat, Kulgam.

Organized by the District Employment and Counselling Centre (DE&CC) Kulgam in collaboration with the District Administration, the event focused on the strategic framework of project YUVA, implementation modalities, and the roles and responsibilities of officers involved.

The Mela witnessed wide participation from young potential entrepreneurs, officers from various depart-



ments, representatives of financial institutions, and startup mentors.

The event was formally inaugurated by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Altaf Ahmad Khan, who in his keynote address emphasized the importance of entrepreneurship for local economic growth and job creation. He

stated that Mela marks a declaration that Kulgam's youth are ready to lead their economic destinies.

Officers present included Assistant Commissioner Development, SDMD H. Pora, GM DIC, Career Counselling Officer, Block Development Officers, CDPOs, Principals of GDCs, and students from different institutions.

Career Counselling Officer, Manzoor Ahmad Rather presented an overview of Mission YUVA. Subject matter experts and resource persons from the Employment Department, DIC, Agriculture, JKEDI, and successful local entrepreneurs delivered sessions on startup ideation, credit linkage, business plan development.

Transport Commissioner visits Pahalgam ahead of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra

HT NEWS DESK

PAHALGAM, JUNE 14: In view of the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, today visited Pahalgam to review the transport arrangements besides interacting with the drivers and stakeholders at various taxi stands. He was accompanied by the Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kashmir besides others. During the interaction with the local taxi operators and union representatives, the Transport Commissioner emphasised the crucial role of transport community in ensuring a safe, smooth and welcoming experience for the pilgrims and tourists.

"Drivers are the first point of contact for the visitors and serve as our true ambassadors. In the current scenario, their role becomes even more vital in building confidence and trust among the yatis and tourists alike," stated the Transport Commissioner.

The Transport Commissioner urged the drivers to drive responsibly, strictly follow the traffic and safety regulations and adhere to the fares prescribed by the department. He informed that the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) along with his team shall be stationed at Pahalgam throughout the Yatra period to ensure that these directions are followed in letter and spirit.

DLSA Srinagar observes World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 14: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, Saturday observed World Elder Abuse Awareness Day with deep commitment and compassion towards the elderly members of society.

The event was organized in collaboration with the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir, Department of Social Welfare Srinagar, and Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Headquarters Delhi JK UT (NGO), a day ahead of the globally recognized date of 15th June to accommodate greater participation and ensure timely outreach to senior citizens.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arif, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and under the close

supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar. In his address, Shabir Mujahid, former Director of Doordarshan and member of Ahata Waqar, applauded the collaborative efforts of DLSA Srinagar and other stakeholders. He highlighted the pressing need for such initiatives that address the concerns of senior citizens and promote respect, dignity, and protection for the elderly.

Abdul Gani Parry, Chairman of the Senior Citizen Council, passionately addressed the gathering and urged the community to uphold the values of care and compassion towards elder persons. Tehsil Social Welfare Officer (South) also spoke on the occasion and elaborated on the various welfare schemes and support systems available for the senior citizen population. Dr. Mushtaq Maqbool, a noted psychiatrist,

sensitively discussed the mental health issues faced by elderly individuals and emphasized the importance of timely psychiatric support and emotional care.

One of the key highlights of the event was the organization of a Free Medical Camp, where elderly participants received general health check-ups, physiotherapy sessions, and medical consultations. This initiative aimed to ensure that the elderly continue to receive accessible and essential healthcare services.

Urba Rashid and Sehar Nazir, Legal Aid Defense Counsels of DLSA Srinagar also addressed the audience, emphasizing the significance of observing World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. They raised awareness about the availability of legal aid services for senior citizens and explained the functioning.

DLSA Bandipora organizes Fire Safety Awareness programme

HT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 14: To prevent fires and other accidents, protect people and property and ensure a safe environment, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora in coordination with Tehsil Legal Services Committee, Bandipora and in collaboration with Fire and Emergency Services Command Bandipora and District Bar Association Bandipora today organized a comprehensive Fire Safety Awareness Programme at District Court Complex Bandipora. The awareness programme was held under the supervision of Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, Chairman DLSA (Pr. District and Sessions Judge) Bandipora and guidance of Amandeep Singh, Chairman TLSC (Munsiff/JMIC) Bandipora at the premises of District Court Complex Bandipora. The programme was attended by Iqbal Ahmad Akhoun, Chief Judicial Magistrate Bandipora; Amandeep Singh, Chairman TLSC (Munsiff/JMIC) Bandipora; Sofi Feroz, President Bar Association



along with Executive Body, official from District Court Bandipora, officials from Prosecution Section and DLSA Bandipora besides PLVs from DLSA Bandipora. The primary objective of the programme was to sensitize the public on the importance of fire safety measures, preventive practices, and appropriate response mechanisms in the event of a fire emergency. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman DLSA (Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Bandipora highlighted the significance of community awareness in preventing fire-related incidents and minimizing loss of life and property. Undersigned emphasized that fire safety.

Kashmir Timber Association calls on Forest Minister, suggests regulatory reforms

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 14: A delegation of Kashmir Timber Association today met Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana and discussed their concerns regarding the timber trade regulations and forest compliance in Kashmir.

The association emphasized the need for uniform policy implementation across Jammu and Kashmir, citing alleged inconsistent practices as a major hindrance to the sector's growth.

Key issues raised included inadequate technical infrastructure at checkpoints, complex licensing procedures, inconsistent E-way bill issuance, and outdated equipment.



The Minister assured the delegation of the government's commitment towards supporting the sector and carefully considering their suggestions to enhance transparency, uniformity and trader-friendliness.

The Minister highlighted the importance of balancing timber supply and forest conservation, enforcing a robust legal framework, monitoring systems and accountability measures

to oversee timber trade and prevent forest damage. He emphasized the vital role of forests in sustaining livelihoods and assured the delegation of the Government's commitment to creating a conducive environment for the timber trade sector. He said Government is willing to collaborate with the stakeholders to promote the growth and development of the timber trade sector in Jammu and Kashmir while ensuring community-driven forest conservation and management. The Minister, while appreciating the suggestions of the delegation, urged them to continue their engagement with the Government for potential reforms that could benefit the sector and support livelihoods dependent on it.

Entrepreneurship Mela under Mission YUVA organised at Zainapora Shopian

DC calls upon youth to register through Mission Yuva for livelihood generation

HT NEWS DESK

SHOPIAN, JUNE 14: A vibrant Entrepreneurship Mela under the flagship Mission YUVA initiative was organized today in Zainapora subdivision of the Shopian district by the Department of Employment, Shopian. The event was graced by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta as the chief guest. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 250



young and aspiring entrepreneurs from various parts of the district. Several departments promoting self-employment schemes including Agriculture, Horticulture, Handicrafts & Handloom, Animal

Husbandry, NRLM and others had set up informative stalls which were inspected by the DC and scores of people. Participants were briefed in detail about the benefits, eligibility criteria and modalities of various

self-employment schemes. A live demonstration of the Mission YUVA mobile application and online portal was also conducted, enabling participants to gain hands-on experience in accessing scheme-related services. DC urged youth to register under Mission YUVA and actively avail the benefits of the programme, and also assured full administrative support to the aspiring entrepreneurs at every stage of their journey.

Secretary, Ministry of I&B Reviews Functioning of Media Units in J&K Calls for Stronger Media Synergy and Regional Content in J&K

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, June 14, 2025 Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, Shri Sanjay Jaju, today reviewed the functioning of Ministry's media units in Srinagar. He was provided with an overview of the functioning of Doordarshan, Akashvani, Press Information Bureau, Central Bureau of Communication and Directorate of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), J&K Government. During the visit, Shri Jaju inspected the offices of Doordarshan Kendra (DDK), Srinagar, and Akashvani Srinagar, where he held detailed interactions with officials and staff. The Secretary laid special emphasis on the creation of more indigenous

programmes and region-specific content that resonates with the cultural ethos of Jammu & Kashmir. He encouraged the teams to develop programming in local languages to enhance regional outreach and viewer connect. On the occasion, Shri Jaju said, Public broadcasting in a region like Jammu & Kashmir must not only inform but also inspire. By promoting local languages, expanding news content, and leveraging our platforms, we aim to create a stronger, more inclusive media presence that truly reflects the voice and diversity of the region. Reviewing the functioning of Doordarshan Kendra, Shri Jaju advised the expansion of news bulletins to keep audiences well-informed. He



expressed keen interest in exploring new projects for the production of

serials and films for the DD Kashmir channel, highlighting the need to

give a creative platform to local talent and stories. Underscoring the importance of new-age digital platforms, Shri Jaju stressed the need to popularise the WAVES integrated OTT app, which aggregates rich audio-visual content from across Doordarshan and All India Radio networks. He called for greater amplification and user sign-ups for the platform, especially from the younger demographic. Additionally, he highlighted the strategic importance of DD Free Dish in sensitive zones like J&K, noting that it plays a critical role in providing access to free and factual content. He urged efforts to enhance its reach and subscriber base across the UT. To enhance the impact of government communication in the region,

Shri Sanjay Jaju underscored the importance of greater coordination between the DIPR, J&K, and the media units under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. This will ensure more effective dissemination of public interest messages, development stories, and citizen-centric initiatives across platforms, ensuring uniformity and wider reach. Secretary Information J&K Government Muneer-ul Islam, Director, Press Information Bureau, Srinagar and RNU DD News, Shri Qazi Salman, Director Information J&K, Nitish Rajora were present besides senior officials from CBC, programme and engineering wings of DDK and Akashvani Srinagar.

Vibodh Call for United Effort Toward Viksit Bharat by 2047 Vibodh Hails Modi's Reforms as Blueprint for a Viksit Bharat

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, June 14 BJP Jammu & Kashmir General Secretary and former MLC Vibodh Gupta, while addressing a spirited gathering at the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Sabha in Chohala Mandal, Suchetgarh reaffirmed the collective national commitment to building a Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047. Calling upon the people to contribute actively to this transformative journey, Vibodh said, "The vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047 under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not merely a dream—it is a historic mission. We are not just witnesses to change; we are participants in shaping a new India. Let us unite with renewed resolve and dedicate ourselves to the service of the nation with mission of Viksit Bharat by 2047.



Highlighting the transformation India has undergone over the past 11 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Gupta said, "India has witnessed an era of decisive, transparent, and inclusive governance since 2014. The Modi government has brought economic discipline, encouraged public participation, and replaced the politics of division and corruption with a politics of development and unity." Vibodh further highlighted key historic reforms and initiatives that have redefined India's development trajectory. These included the abrogation of Article 370, which fully integrated Jammu and Kashmir into the constitutional framework of India, and the conduct of democratic elections in the UT with unprecedented voter turnout. He highlighted the abolition of triple talaq, which ensured justice

and dignity for Muslim women, the enactment of the Women's Reservation Act, and the Digital India revolution, which has empowered citizens across the socio-economic spectrum. Vibodh also lauded India's technological achievements, citing the success of the Gaganyaan mission as a symbol of the country's scientific and strategic advancement. He praised infrastructure development initiatives such as the rollout of Vande Bharat trains, which have improved connectivity. He stressed that under Prime Minister Modi's visionary leadership, these historic steps are not isolated achievements—they are part of a clear roadmap toward a strong, self-reliant, and developed India. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Professor Garu Ram credited Prime Minister Modi for transforming India's political culture and ushering in a governance model rooted in accountability, performance, and national pride. He noted that the post-2014 period has seen a decisive shift from a mindset of helplessness,

MC Baramulla establishes 05 dedicated parking facilities to ease traffic congestion in B'la Town

HT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 14: In an effort to address urban traffic congestion and streamline vehicular movement, Municipal Council (MC) Baramulla has developed and macadamised five dedicated parking areas across the town during the year 2024-25. These facilities have been set up at Parking near Noor-ul-Huda Market, Parking facility in front of Government Women's College, Parking in front of Town Square Shopping Complex, Parking near Irrigation and Flood Control Department and Dedicated Space for Sumos at Azad Gunj, with a combined capacity to accommodate around 650 vehicles, mark a crucial step towards enhancing urban mobility and providing structured parking solutions for both residents and visitors. These parking areas open to the public use, have been developed at strategic locations in the town to ease the mounting pressure on existing roads and reduce the practice of haphazard roadside parking.

An urgent Meeting of YHAI Held at Srinagar

Srinagar: -Today on the 14th Day of June 2025 an important meeting of YHAI Units of Kashmir Valley was convened by the State Convenor (Adhoc committee) of J&K State YHAI Mr Showket Ashai, at the YHAI Office Srinagar. The meeting was attended by members of all Districts units of the Valley which include Srinagar, Anantnag, Badgam Baramulla etc... The agenda for the meeting was the revival of the activities of YHAI, especially to launch Membership drive for the revival of defunct Units. The participant stressed upon starting the activities immediately especially Trekking Skiing Boating etc

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Mr Syed Vajahat Kirmani, Father/Guardian of Syed Imadul Islam, R/O Magam, Kralpora Budgam, do hereby solemnly declare that the correct particulars of my ward are as: Name: Syed Imadul Islam, Fathers Name: Syed Vajahat Kirmani, Mothers Name: Shameema Begum, DOB: 05/10/2012, Address: Kralpora Magam, Budgam 193411. Furthermore, in case someone has any doubt or complain regarding the same may approach within weeks' time from the publication of this notice, and in case of any fraudulent data or impersonation I shall be personally responsible.

Syed Vajahat Kirmani
Cell No: 7006521267

PUBLIC NOTICE

Parentage of my son Binyamin Bin Mudasar who is studying at DPS School in class "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

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is being informed that, Mr Manzoor Ahmad Lone R/O Laripora Pahalgam is going to apply for birth certificate for her daughter namely Urfee jan under MC Pahalgam her Dob is 11/05/2003 if anyone have queries plz bing it in the office of MC pahalgam with in 7 days

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is being informed that, Mr Manzoor Ahmad Lone R/O Laripora Pahalgam is going to apply for birth certificate for her daughter namely Bilkees Akhter under MC Pahalgam her Dob is 05/01/2000 if anyone have queries plz bing it in the office of MC pahalgam with in 7 days

PUBLIC NOTICE

Its being informs that my name in my bank ac no 0122040150002870jk bank pahalgam is wrongly mentioned as Shabir Ahmad Chohan but the actual name as par Aadher is Shabir Ahmad Gojar Chohan C/O Abdul Kaarem Gojar Chohan R/O Lehandajan pahalgam I m going to update it in mu bank account .if anyone gave queries they may contact jk bank pahlgam within 7 days

ازدفتر نایب تحصیلدار پہلگام

سرورہ بانو زویہ محمد رمضان وانی ساکن لاری پور پہلگام
بجھڑا فوٹ کی سرٹفکٹ رپوٹ کے مطابق سالہ کا سوہر محمد رمضان وانی
ساکن لاری پہلگام 02-05-2025
اکوٹ ہوا ہے اب سال کے ق فوٹ کی سرٹفکٹ اجراء کرنی مطلوب ہے کسی
کو کوئی عذر ہو تو وہ سات یوم کے اندر اندر دفتر میں پیش کرے بعد از
معاذ کوئی عذر قبول نہیں ہوگا

نایب تحصیلدار

ازدفتر نایب تحصیلدار پہلگام

درخواست منجانب نثار احمد جمجم ولد عبد الرحمان جمجم ساکن بنگلوٹ پہلگام
بجھڑا فوٹ کی سرٹفکٹ
اشتراک ہر خاص عام
سائل نے ایک درخواست بجھڑا فوٹ کی سرٹفکٹ اجراء کرنی پیش
رپوٹ کے مطابق سائل نے کوٹ پہلگام میں اپنا پتہ ہے افراد کی حسب
ذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے

600065

عبد الرحمان جمجم ولد محمد شعبان جمجم مزدوری
شرفی زویہ عبد الرحمان جمجم 60 گھراگام
سریر احمد پسر 30 مزدوری 6000
فہمیدہ زویہ سریر احمد 30 گھراگام
نثار احمد پسر 31 سرکاری ملازم
فائلہ دفتر سریر احمد شیرخوار

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کوئی مین سو ہو تو دن ہے اور کئی کی گامدنی
144000 تک ہے مگر سرٹفکٹ اجراء کرنے میں کسی کو کوئی عذر ہو تو وہ
سات یوم کے اندر اندر دفتر میں پیش کرے

نایب تحصیلدار پہلگام

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost the front number plate of my Hyundai Eon car bearing reg. No JK03C-7804 on 08-06-2025 while traveling from Kralpora to Budgam. Now I want to apply for its duplicate. Anybody having any objections may contact ARTO Anantnag within the period of 7 days from issuing of this notice.

Farooq Ahmad Malik
S/O: Ghulam Qadir Malik
R/O: Kawan, Sangam, Bijbehara, Anantnag, Jammu & Kashmir

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am Ghulam Ahmad Dar S/o Abdul Salam Dar wants to transfer electricity supply connection to Muzaffar Ahmad Dar S/o Late Ghulam Ahmad Dar with consumer ID: 0206050001063, installation No: NAL2/244, Resident of Arifeen Colony Narbal. If any one has any objection regarding this, they will invoke Assistant executive engineer Division Narbal within the time period of seven days. After completion of said period, No objection will be accepted.

Muzaffar Ahmad Dar
S/o: Late, Ghulam Ahmad Dar
R/o: Arifeen Colony Narbal

PUBLIC NOTICE

My name has been Wrongly Written in Electricity bill with id number 0203010004794 As Gh Nabi Khushoo while my correct name is Ghulam Nabi Khanday know I want to correct it. If anyone has any objection in this regard, he or she may contact the concerned PDD Office Watal Kadal Srinagar within seven (07) days. After that, no objections will be entertained.

Name: Ghulam Nabi Khanday
Id Number 0203010004794

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Abdul Rashid Malik, father of Hibat-un-Nisa, resident of Check Dudipora, Tehsil Handwara, District Kupwara, hereby declare that my daughter, a student of Class 6th at Army Goodwill School, Budkot Handwara, has her date of birth recorded in the school records as 05/04/2014, which is also her actual date of birth. If anyone has any objection in this regard, he or she may contact the concerned authority within seven (07) days. After that, no objections will be entertained.

J&K Students Association Issues Helpline for Evacuation Coordination for Kashmiri Students Stranded in Conflict-Hit Iran

HT NEWS DESK

Amid rising tensions and military escalation between Iran and Israel, the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) on Saturday issued an urgent appeal and shared helpline numbers for Kashmiri students currently stranded across Iran. Numerous students have reported hearing air raid sirens, experiencing tremors, and witnessing visible military activity near their areas of residence, raising serious concerns over their safety. In a statement issued today, Nasir Khuehami, National Convenor of the Association, said, "We have been receiving distress messages and calls from Kashmiri students in different parts of Iran, especially in cities impacted

by the ongoing conflict. Students are anxious and fearful due to the rapidly deteriorating situation. The Association is in close coordination with the office of the External Affairs Minister and is actively preparing a detailed list of affected students to be submitted to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for urgent intervention and possible evacuation, in case the situation escalates further. He added that the Association is in constant touch with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the Indian Embassy in Tehran, and the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Ministers' Office. "All necessary preparations are being made to facilitate communication, ensure students' safety, and press for timely evacuation if required.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION_BUDGAM.

Engineering Complex Budgam PIN No.191111
E-mail:- xennrbdivbud@gmail.com, Phone-FAX:- 01951-255208

TENDER NOTICE

E-tendering NIT No:-10-DB of 2025-26/1454-68 DATED:-10-06-2025

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

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost	Cost of T/Doc.	Earnest money CDR/FDR / BG	Time of Completi on (days)	Class of Contra ctor	Major Head of account	Project Authority
1	Construction of ACR at Primary School Dragger.	Rs. 20.84 lacs	Rs.800/-	Rs.41680/-	45 days	CEE/ BEE	PAB-2024-25	Project Director SAMAGRA SHIKSHA J&K
2	Construction of Boundary Wall at High School Harwanan.	Rs.9.50 lacs	Rs.600/-	Rs.19000/-	30 days	DEE/ CEE	PAB-2024-25	Project Director SAMAGRA SHIKSHA J&K
3	Construction of Boundary wall at High School Kachwari.	Rs.9.50 lacs	Rs.600/-	Rs.19000/-	30 days	DEE/ CEE	PAB-2024-25	Project Director SAMAGRA SHIKSHA J&K
4	Construction of Resource Room at Middle School Wagar Budgam	Rs.10.42 lacs	Rs.600/-	Rs.20840/-	40 days	DEE/ CEE/ BEE	PAB-2024-25	Project Director SAMAGRA SHIKSHA J&K
5	Construction of Resource Room at High School Shamasabad.	Rs.10.40 lacs	Rs.600/-	Rs.20800/-	40 days	DEE/ CEE/ BEE	PAB-2024-25	Project Director SAMAGRA SHIKSHA J&K
6	Construction of Resource Room at Girls Middle School Arigam	Rs.10.40 lacs	Rs.600/-	Rs.20800/-	40 days	DEE/ CEE/ BEE	PAB-2024-25	Project Director SAMAGRA SHIKSHA J&K
7	Construction of Art Craft Room at High School Zagoo	Rs. 18.00 lacs	Rs.800/-	Rs.36000/-	45 days	CEE/ BEE	PAB-2024-25	Project Director SAMAGRA SHIKSHA J&K

Position of Funds=

Project Authority/Authorization= The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	14-06-2025
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	14-06-2025
3.	Bid submission Start Date	14-06-2025
4.	Bid Submission End Date	24-06-2025 Up-to 4.00 P.M.
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids	25-06-2025 at 11:00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Budgam
6.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within 7days of receipt of LOA. (The bidder has to provide 5% of allotted Cost as Performance Security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG which shall subsequently release 2% CDR

DIPK-2539/25
DATED:- 14/16/2025

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
R&B Division Budgam.

Mega Entrepreneurship Mela under Mission YUVA organised at Handwara

HT NEWS DESK

Kupwara, June 14, A Mega Entrepreneurship Mela under Mission YUVA was organised at Town Hall Handwara today to sensitise and engage the potential entrepreneurs of Kupwara district. Mega event focusing on mobilising youth and promoting entrepreneurial mindset, facilitated direct interaction with key stakeholders and real time on-boarding onto Mission YUVA platforms, was inaugurated by District Development Commissioner Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan in presence of Vice Chairman District Development Council Kupwara, Haji Farooq Mir and DDC members. The mega event featured screening of promotional videos, practical training, including a live demo of the Mission YUVA app, which simplifies the process of registering and tracking entrepreneurial ventures, Resource Persons explained the programme, eligibility, and its benefits and successful entrepreneurs shared



their journeys, struggles, and growth to the participants. The mega event engaged hundreds of people, most of them potential entrepreneurs including men and women. While addressing the gathering, District Development Commissioner Kupwara said, "The aim of organising mela was to ignite entrepreneurial spirit, pro-

vide information on government support, and inspire self-reliance among youth through interactive sessions and success stories. DC said "Mission YUVA" initiative focuses on various aspects of youth empowerment, including entrepreneurship, skill development, and career support. She said that on the basis of YUVA

survey government has devised this Nano-enterprise scheme under umbrella of Mission YUVA. While urging the potential entrepreneurs, DC said that youth can establish any unit depending upon their skill "She said that process has been eased out and YUVA doot in every Panchayat has been deployed. She added that it is a big opportunity for youth of Kupwara district especially for women potential entrepreneurs. "Women should take benefit of YUVA Mission as women have several incentives including 30 percent subsidy compared to men's 25 percent subsidy under mission". Ayushi Sudan said as part of Mission YUVA in Kupwara district we have conducted a major survey in which around 1,40,000 households have been covered and our teams have interacted with 7,50,000 people. The Deputy Commissioner encouraged young people to consider entrepreneurship, emphasizing the importance of becoming employers rather than employees, foster economic independence and job creation within the community.

Police Organizes Cyclothon cum Road Show to Raise Awareness Against Drug Abuse In Handwara

HT NEWS DESK

Handwara [J&K] June 14: In a significant move to combat the rising menace of drug abuse, Police in collaboration with Government Higher Secondary School Ashpora and the Excise Department, organized a Cyclothon cum Road Show in Handwara. The event aimed to generate awareness among the youth and the general public about the harmful effects of drug addiction and the importance of collective action in eradicating this social evil. Students, teachers, police personnel, officials from the Excise Department, and local residents actively participated with great enthusiasm. The Cyclothon commenced from GHSS Ashpora and passed through various key areas of the locality, spreading the message of a drug-free society. Participants carried placards, raised slogans, and engaged with the public to emphasize the need for a vigilant and responsible community effort to curb drug abuse. Speaking on the occasion, officials highlighted the crucial role of educational institutions, law enforcement agencies, and civil society in creating awareness and promoting a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. The initiative reflects the unwavering commitment of Police and its stakeholders in the ongoing war against drugs, underlining the necessity for sustained awareness and preventive measures at the grassroots level.

Power Shutdown

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 14: According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDC, in order to carry out the work of erection of 13 mtr long ST Poles of 33 KV Budgam SIDCO Tap line for 2x1.6 MVA ESIC Hospital opposite NIFT Ompora SIDCO site, shutdown of 33 KV Budgam SIDCO Tap line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at SIDCO, Railway Station Budgam shall remain off while power supply to Ompora, Housing Colony, NIFT and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM on 16 June, 2025. Similarly to facilitate creation of 100 KVA DT at Pokhri Sazgaripora, shutdown of 33 KV Khanyar line and 33 KV Baghi Ali Mardan Khan Takenwari line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Khanyar, Rainawari and Takenwari shall remain off while power supply to Miskeenbagh, Rosebal, Hazaribagh, Kondebal, Hasnabad, Jogi Lancker, Palpora, Sangam, JLN Hospital and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:30 AM to 04:00 PM on 16 & 18 June, 2025. Likewise to carry out stabilization / branch cutting and necessary maintenance works, shutdown of 33 KV Nagam line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Char-I, Char-II, Hafroo & Nagam shall remain off while power supply to Kakawring, Yousmarg, Char Town, Rakhe, ITI, Shrine, Tilsera, Alamdar Colony, Town, Badipora, Nagam, Hayatpora, Hafroo, Bigzoo, Loolipora and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM on 16 June, 2025. Also in this connection, shutdown of 33 KV Panzan Tap line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Ranger and Panzan shall remain off while power supply to Ranger, Lalgam, Gadsatoo, Kathair Gund, Panzan and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM on 16 June, 2025. Meanwhile, in a separate shutdown schedule issued here by KPDC authorities, in order to carry out extension of Grid Connectivity to village KhopriHajin Gurez, shutdown of 33 KV Bandipora Gurez line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Station at Dawar shall remain off while power supply to Dawar, Wampora, Achoora, Markoot, Churwan and adjoining areas will be affected from 09:00 AM to 04:00 PM on 17 & 18 June, 2025. Also, in another shutdown schedule issued by KPDC authorities, to carry out fixing of GI Cross arms at different spots in 11 KV line in composite circuit of 33 KV Nowbugh Char-i-Sharief line and 11 KV F5 Chadoora Budgam line, shutdown of 33 KV Nowbugh Chadoora line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Chadoora, Panzan, Ranger shall remain off while power supply to Sogam, Rapora, Dawlatpora, Panzan, Lalgam, Chadoora, Chadoora Hospital, Wathora, Budgam and adjoining areas will be affected from 10:00 AM to 01:00 PM on 16 June, 2025. In this connection, shutdown of 33 KV Nowbugh Charisharief line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Charar-i-Sharief, Hafroo and Nagam shall remain off while power supply.

JK CEO's 'Democracy on Wheels' Reaches Ganderbal, Raising Awareness at Entrepreneurship Mela

HT NEWS DESK

GANDERBAL, JUNE 14: The innovative "Democracy on Wheels" campaign, spearheaded by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Jammu & Kashmir, today reached Ganderbal, as part of its mission to deepen the electoral literacy across the Union Territory. The state-of-the-art IEC Vanity Van was stationed at the bustling Entrepreneurship mela, attracting the students, entrepreneurs and local citizens. Deputy Commissioner and Additional District Development Commissioner, Ganderbal, personally visited the campaign vehicle, engaging with the attendees and underscoring the administration's commitment to participatory democracy. Their presence highlighted the significance of voter awareness as a cornerstone of civic



empowerment, especially among the youth and aspiring entrepreneurs. The IEC Van, equipped with a high-resolution LED screen, interactive kiosks and dynamic audiovisual systems, drew crowds with compelling content viz.

documentaries on electoral processes and voter rights; animated videos demystifying registration and ethical voting, also showcasing women's pivotal role in democracy. Demonstrators from the CEO's Office facilitated lively sessions, addressing the queries on voter enrolment and the importance of informed voting. Pertinent to mention, this special campaign is being executed under the supervision of SVEEP Nodal Officer, Akhtar Hussain Qazi, and Assistant Chief Electoral Officer. "This mobile initiative bridges the gap between the electoral institutions and the public," stated Mohammad Altaf Ganie. "By integrating voter awareness into events like the Entrepreneurship Mela, we empower young entrepreneurs not just economically, but civically, ensuring their voices shape Jammu & Kashmir's future."

Ashok Koul addressed professional meets in Char-i-sharief and Palpora

HT NEWS DESK

Budgam, Srinagar, 14 June 2025: Jammu and Kashmir BJP General Secretary (Organization), Ashok Koul, addressed professional meets as part of the ongoing nationwide campaign 'Viksit Bharat Ka Amritkaal - Sewa, Sushasan, Gareeb Kalyan Ke 11 Saal', in Charar-i-Sharief, Budgam and Palpora, Srinagar, emphasizing the achievements of the Modi-led government over the last 11 years. The events were organized by BJP leaders Zahid Jan and Gulam Nabi Palpori to mark more than a decade of good governance, welfare-driven policies, and inclusive development under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Prominent BJP leaders including Budgam District President Hakeem Ruhullah Ghazi, Senior Leader Ashok Bhat, Bhat Imtiyaz, Asif Khan, and Riyaz Wani were also present and actively engaged with professionals from various fields. While addressing the meets, Ashok Koul highlighted the



pro-poor and pro-development schemes launched during the past decade, asserting that these initiatives have directly empowered the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable populations across the country. From Jan Dhan Yojana and Ujjwala Yojana to Ayushman Bharat and PM Awas Yojana, he said, the Modi government has established a citizen-first approach that focuses on transparency, accountability, and last-mile delivery. "Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India has entered a new era of governance rooted in service and reform," said Koul and added, "The dream of a Viksit Bharat (Developed India) is steadily becoming a reality, with every sector wit-

nessing rapid progress and citizens becoming active participants in the nation's growth story." Following the meet, Ashok Koul visited the holy shrine of Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani at Charar-e-Sharief, where he offered prayers for peace, communal harmony, and the prosperity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The events were organized by BJP leaders Zahid Jan and Gulam Nabi Palpori to mark more than a decade of good governance, welfare-driven policies, and inclusive development under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Prominent BJP leaders including Budgam District President Hakeem Ruhullah Ghazi, Senior Leader Ashok Bhat,

Tata Motors Launches the All-New Altroz-Premium by Legacy

HT NEWS DESK

KASHMIR, JUNE 14, 2025: HIMALAYAN AUTOMOBILES, a Dealer of Tata Motors, today unveiled the All New Altroz at a starting price of INR 6.89 lakhs. In the Presence of Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) Mr. AGARUHULLAH, Managing Director Mr. Ghulam Mohammad Beigh, Mr. Junaid Beigh, General Manager Mr. Irfan Javaid, General Manager Services Mr. Nadeem Bakshi, Sales Manager Mr. Irshad and Marketing Manager Mr. Arif Masoodi. Ushering in a new era of premiumness with its striking design, luxurious interiors, and advanced features, the All-New Altroz is designed to captivate and is built on the core pillars of Premium Design, Unmatched Safety, Cutting-edge Technology, and Thrilling Performance. From its refreshed exterior and luxurious tech-rich cabin to its enhanced connectivity and expanded multi-power train line-up now featuring an AMT option for the first time - the Altroz is engineered to turn every day drives into extraordinary journeys. The Altroz has firmly established itself as a benchmark in the premium hatchback segment. Being the first and only one in its category to have received 5-star GNCAP rating, it set new standards in safety early on. Building on this strong foundation, the All-New



Altroz now elevates the game with a bold new expression of premiumness. It features segment-first design elements such as flush door handles and Infinity connected LED tail lamps, while Luminate LED headlamps with integrated DRL sand striking 3D front grille add sophisticated road presence. Inside, the executive lounge-style rear seats with enhanced thigh support, the soft-touch Grand Prestigia dashboard, ambient lighting, and spacious layout together create an indulgent, refined cabin experience. Offered in Petrol, segment's only Diesel and Tata Motors' leading ICNG twin cylinder technology, the All-New Altroz will also be available in a variety of transmission options: a 5-speed manual, a refined 6-speed DCA, and a new 5-speed AMT-bringing the convenience of automatic transmission within reach of more customers.

DC Baramulla reviews Eco-Sensitive Zone Implementation Directs departments to submit data for Zonal Master Plan

HT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 14: In order to review the implementation of Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) guidelines around protected wildlife areas in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a comprehensive meeting, here. The meeting aimed to streamline inter-departmental coordination and ensure timely formulation of the

Zonal Master Plan (ZMP) in line with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) directives. Senior officers from the Forest Department, Wildlife Protection department, Pollution Control Board, Rural Development, and other concerned departments participated in the deliberations. A detailed presentation was shared outlining the classification of activities within the ESZ including those that are permitted, regulated, and prohibited as per



national policy. Speaking on the occasion, DC underscored the importance of balancing ecological protection with sustainable development. "Our aim is to preserve the biodiversity of Baramulla while ensuring that eco-friendly development is not hindered. Departments must work in close coordination and adhere strictly to the ESZ guidelines," he stated. The meeting also highlighted the critical need to gather accurate and updated departmental data for the preparation of the Zonal Master Plan.

In this regard, DC directed that a circular be issued to all concerned departments, instructing them to submit detailed information related to land use, infrastructure, resource extraction, and ongoing development activities falling within the designated ESZ areas. Further, DC reviewed the structure and mandate of the ESZ Monitoring Committee, which is tasked with overseeing the implementation of the guidelines, reviewing proposals, and ensuring compliance with environmental safeguards.

EDITORIAL

Take a call on summer vacations or otherwise at the earliest

For the past one week or so the entire union territory of Jammu & Kashmir has been hit by a heat wave and people are facing numerous problems in their day to day chores of life. The school going children are feeling the heat since they have to go to school in extreme hot conditions. Since the schools get closed in the afternoon the school children get exposed to extreme sunlight and there are chances that anyone among them may faint.

Minister for Education Sakeena Itoo while responding to this situation had some days back said that the government is monitoring the situation and any decision about the announcement of summer vacations would be taken at an appropriate time. One fails to understand what is the appropriate time for the announcement of summer vacation as the mercury has already crossed the 34 degrees mark in Srinagar and some other towns of Kashmir valley. The government needs to take decisions at the earliest before any harm is caused to any child anywhere in the valley.

If the government has no intention to announce summer vacations for the educational institutions of Kashmir valley then it should clear the air about the same. The message needs to be conveyed to the people managing the affairs of the educational institutions and also to the students so that there is no confusion on the issue. At the same time the concerned department should ensure that the do's and don'ts issued by them in view of the heat wave are implemented in letter and spirit and there is no going back about the same.

Some of the parents and concerned citizens have demanded that there should be curtailment in the working hours of the schools. This, according to them, would ensure that the school children are exposed less to the extreme hot conditions and there is no threat to their lives. The authorities of the schools both government and private, should make sure that the children are hydrated in the proper manner and proper drinking water facilities should be put in place at all the educational institutions. It is high time that the concerned minister makes the people aware about the plan of action in this regard so that the children, their parents and the teachers adjust to the situation accordingly. Further delay in this regard would not go well with the concerned stakeholders with the confusion ruling the roost like anything. Better sense needs to prevail upon the policy makers so that the system is streamlined.

Dreams, Debt, Distress: Growing Lifestyle Pressure in Kashmir



Mukhtar Ahmad Qureshi

In the last few years, there has been an upsurge of lifestyle expectations in Kashmir driven by social media, materialism and a compulsion on the part of the salaried and middle class to live above their means. Much of this burden arises from the need to have the social status of a large house, a luxury car, extravagant wedding parties and branded items. These are usually undertaken not by financial security but by unsustainable loans and debts. The consequence is not only financial pressure but a wider effect on mental well being, family stability and community values.

At the center of the problem is a cultural transformation that identifies success with possessions, compelling even the most humble earners into the debt trap. Unfortunately, the effect hits hardest on those least able to endure it the middle class. The conventional virtues of satisfaction, simplicity and responsibility are quickly being worn away under increasing pressure to seem successful.

The Burden of Marriage and Home Ownership
In Islam marriage is a straightforward and holy contract named Nikah, in which the groom pledges to offer Roti, Kapda aur Makaan the necessities of life. But nowhere does religion ask for the husband to construct a mansion or purchase a luxury car before getting married. A tin roofed hujra constructed with integrity and within one's budget is more prestigious in Islam than a palace like home acquired by haram means or unaffordable loans.

Unfortunately, nowadays in Kashmir the middle class pressure to have a fully furnished home and a car, even before getting married has driven many into high loans from banks. This salaried class, composed mainly of government and private sector salaried workers has been a victim of a social truism that car ownership and home ownership are symptoms of success and status. This is not only unrealistic but highly pernicious, particularly when EMI became an integral part of one's life even prior to settling down. More pernicious is the increasing expense of weddings. What was once a modest ceremony based on religion and kinship has turned into a competition of opulence. Dowries, pricey catering, high cost bridal attire, fancy decorations and lavish wedding halls are soon becoming the trend. A middle class individual now finds it virtually impossible to arrange the wedding of his daughter without plunging into deep debt or social shame. This culture has turned the possibility of marriage into a nightmare for most

families, particularly those with daughters and marriage delays often result in a myriad of social and psychological issues.

Breaking the Chain, Our Collective Responsibility



It is not merely an individual crisis it is a collective one. We all have a part to play in encouraging or dismantling this perilous trend. When we go to a lavish wedding, share pictures of costly holidays or congratulate someone on the purchase of a luxury vehicle we inadvertently perpetuate the very pressures that are strangling our society. These actions create expectations and legitimate a lifestyle that is anything but sustainable for a typical Kashmiri.

As responsible citizens, teachers, religious leaders and members of civil society we need to actively encourage a culture of simplicity and satisfaction. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) lived in a life of the utmost modesty, even though he had access to wealth. He is our best role model, and the instructions of Islam insist again and again that barakah (blessing) exists in simplicity not in extravagance.

We need to challenge and dismiss the myth that possessions and property determine a person's value. True wealth is good character, emotional health, healthy relationships and peace of mind. The middle class needs to be encouraged not to take loans except when unavoidable and to prioritize long term stability over short term façade.

In addition to this, we have to re awaken the idea of social responsibility. Neighborhood must pool together and dissuade wasteful behavior as well as encourage families that opt for simple weddings or modest lifestyles. Mosques, local politicians and schools need to raise awareness through Friday prayers, seminars and public campaigns.

State policies also can step in by providing incentives for simple marriages, consumer loan regulation and assistance for housing at affordable prices without driv-

ing people into debt traps.

Recommendations to Ease Lifestyle Pressure in Kashmir:

- **Encourage Simple Marriages:** Religious leaders and community influencers need to promote simple Nikah ceremonies and discourage dowry and lavish weddings.
- **Financial Literacy Programmes:** Implement financial planning education in schools, colleges and community centers to educate individuals on how to manage their earnings, deter unnecessary loans and save for the future.
- **Cultural Campaigns:** Media outlets and NGOs should organize campaigns advocating a content and debt free lifestyle through local success stories and spiritual messages.
- **Peer Support Groups:** Organize community support groups for debt burdened families or families under marriage stress to offer counseling and emotional comfort.
- **Islamic Teachings as Guidance:** Periodic sermons and workshops must be held to remind people of the Islamic and moral teachings about money, happiness and simplicity.
- **Avoid Show Off Culture on Social Media:** Young people particularly need to be advised on the ill effects of flaunting richness and luxury online, which causes mental pressure on others.

Simplicity is Strength

The increasing lifestyle stress in Kashmir is not only an economic matter but a social and moral one. We stand at a crossroads where our decisions today will determine the happiness of generations to come. We have to select values over vanity, modesty over materialism and peace over pressure. The home that is full of contentment, however humble and small, is much wealthier than a mansion constructed on debt and anxiety. The union that starts with simplicity and blessings is much richer than one that starts with loans and liabilities. Let us as a people, reject the rat race of consumerism and rediscover the noble values of balance, simplicity and communal well being. Then only can we liberate ourselves and our future from the yokes of unnecessary life pressures.

Author is a Teacher. He Can Be Mailed at mukhtar.qur@gmail.com

Troughs And Crests Of My Life



Mool Raj

The life journey is filled with both challenges and triumphs, and cultivating strength within is essential for navigating it effectively. It's about developing the inner resources to face difficulties, learn from setbacks, and continue moving forward. The reflecting on my life's Journey, marked by both triumphs and tribulations, I am filled with emotions today, my birthday, November 1st, 1972. Born on a picturesque Sunday in Village Bhagora, my life has truly been a testament to the saying, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade" From the fond memories of my childhood to the challenges I've faced, each moment has shaped me into who I am today. I spent my early years in Bhagota Village District and Tehsil Doda in a house built by my parents. This house symbolizes their love and dedication to our family, grounding us in our heritage and values. As a shy and average student, I never excelled in sports or extracurricular activities, but my family's unwavering support and guidance have been my strength. My educational journey began at Govt Middle School Panjsoo Doda, and later, I moved to High School Trown, where I completed my 10th standard. I then attended Government Higher Secondary School Doda Boys, and subsequently, the prestigious Govt Degree College, Bhaderwah. In the midst of a challenging

life, I lost my beloved mother, Smt Nanti Devi. Despite this irreparable Mother loss, I completed my post-graduation from the University of Jammu in Environmental Science, In 1999. During my study time, I lost my Beloved mother. Keeping in view the irreparable loss than the Head Of Urdu Department and Controller of Examination University of Jammu Prof (Dr) Zahoor ul Din extended my Second Semester Exam Date Sheet for one month. In August 1999 I began my career as a teacher, making my humble entry into government service. This role provided me with a platform to impart knowledge and inspire young minds, a responsibility I have always cherished. In 2004, I got married and am blessed with three lovely children Mohit Kumar, Manvi Devi, and Arudh Kumar. They are my world, and their love gives me the strength to face life's challenge. Despite my professional achievements, my life has been marred by the betrayal of my only friend, who has been waging a one-sided war against me without any apparent reason. This betrayal is a painful reminder of harsh realities. The scars linger, but I refuse to let them define me. I still seek answers and justice, but I hold on to hope and faith that truth will triumph, and my heart will heal. Today, on my birthday, I reflect on my struggles, the lessons learned, and the strength gained. My children are my greatest joy, and writing is my passion and solace. This birthday, I promise, to rise above the pain, find strength in my struggles, and never lose faith in the goodness of life. I will continue to cherish my family's love, embrace my passions, and stand tall against adversity. My story is a testament to the power of resilience, a reminder that no matter what life throws our way, we have the strength to overcome, to rise above, and to

emerge stronger and wiser. One thing I will never compromise on is falsehood and lying. I detest them and have developed an equal hatred for liars. I don't believe in cheating, breaching someone's trust, backbiting, or backstabbing. Have full faith in God and believe His decisions are



always meant for my benefit. As I look forward, I promise to uphold the values that define me. I will continue to seek truth, embrace the love and support of my family, and nurture my passions. I am determined to rise above past betrayals, find strength in my journey, and never lose faith in the inherent goodness of life. Today, I celebrate not just a birthday, but the resilience and strength that have brought me here. My childhood memories are filled with images of playing in the fields, climbing trees, and listening to the stories of my grandparents. Their tales of wisdom and perseverance have been a guiding light throughout my life. Growing up in Bhagota, a village surrounded by natural beauty especially The Doli Mandir where I with my beloved mother Smt Nan-

ti Devi were grazing cattle developed a deep connection with nature. This connection later influenced my decision to study Environmental Science, as I wanted to contribute to preserving the environment that had nurtured me. During my school years, I often strug-

about honesty, integrity, and resilience continue to guide me. Completing my post graduation despite the personal turmoil was a tribute to her unwavering support and love. My career as a teacher has been fulfilling and rewarding. The opportu-

- **Marriage and fatherhood have added new dimensions to my life, My wife and children are my pillars**
- **of strength. Their love and support have been constant sources of encouragement. Watching my children grow and achieve their milestones fills me with immense pride. Their laughter, innocence, and dreams are reminders of the beauty of life. They motivate me to keep pushing forward, no matter the obstacles.**
- **The betrayal by my only friend was a harsh lesson in trust and resilience. It taught me the importance of self-reliance and the need to guard my heart against deceit. While the pain of this betrayal lingers, it has also strengthened my resolve to remain true to my values. I have learned to find solace in my family's love and my passion for writing. Writing allows me to express my thoughts and emotions, providing an outlet for my creativity and helping me navigate the complexities of life**

nity to shape young minds and contribute to their development is a responsibility I hold dear. Every stu-

dent I teach is a reflection of my commitment to education and my desire to make a positive impact on society. Teaching is not just a job for me, it is a calling that I approach with passion and dedication.

Marriage and fatherhood have added new dimensions to my life. My wife and children are my pillars of strength. Their love and support have been constant sources of encouragement. Watching my children grow and achieve their milestones fills me with immense pride. Their laughter, innocence, and dreams are reminders of the beauty of life. They motivate me to keep pushing forward, no matter the obstacles.

The betrayal by my only friend was a harsh lesson in trust and resilience. It taught me the importance of self-reliance and the need to guard my heart against deceit. While the pain of this betrayal lingers, it has also strengthened my resolve to remain true to my values. I have learned to find solace in my family's love and my passion for writing. Writing allows me to express my thoughts and emotions, providing an outlet for my creativity and helping me navigate the complexities of life

Faith in God has been my anchor through all the storms. I believe that every challenge I face is a testament of my strength and character. My faith gives me the courage to face adversity with grace and the conviction that every thing happens for a reason. This belief helps me stay grounded and focused on my goals, despite the setbacks. Last but not least I would like to add my words on my Beloved Mother Smt Nanti Devi "Days Are Converted Into Months And Months Into Year I Remember My Beloved Mother With Silent Tears"

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER

Meaningful Theatre Training can Transform Personalities

Sumeet Sharma, a theatre trainer with emotional connect



BY MOHD YASEEN

When the world is constantly shifting its focus between innovation and tradition, the need for meaningful and enriching training is more urgent than ever. Training that transcends the boundaries of mechanical instruction and breathes life into the learner's spirit—that is what defines true enrichment. And in the realm of performing arts, a few have embodied this philosophy as compellingly as Sumeet Sharma, a theatre practitioner whose life's work has revolved around education, training, personality development, cultural rootedness and instilling a great reverence for Indian Ethos amongst children and youth through theatre.

With over three decades of committed practice in theatre-acting, training, and direction—Sumeet Sharma's contributions have not only enriched the artistic landscape of the region but also shaped the lives of thousands of students, artists, and enthusiasts. His career exemplifies how training in theatre, when thoughtfully planned and meaningfully executed, can become a powerful tool for personal growth, social understanding, and cultural awareness. Sumeet attributes his understanding of theatre and how to utilize it for the larger benefit of the society to his theatre mentor Padmashri Balwant Thakur. In addition to this, having got trained under the benign guidance of theatre icons during several short/long workshops, he has tried to imbibe the learning into part of this personality, just to name a few Prof. G. Kumara Verma, Padmashri Neelam ManSingh Chowdhary, Prof. Mahendra Kumar, Dr. Shaveta, his teachers during Masters in Theatre. Sh. Rudra Prasad Sengupta, Padmashri Niranjan Goswami, Ms. Anuradha Kapur Ms. Kirti Jain, Mr. Adil Hussain, Dr. Abhilash Pillai, Mr. Harish Khanna, Mr. Roysten Able and many more visionaries of theatre who have shaped the National Theatre with their incredible work.

Sumeet Sharma is a postgraduate in Indian Theatre with distinction from the prestigious Department of Indian Theatre, Panjab University, Chandigarh. He is also UGC NET qualified in Performing Arts (Theatre), further validating his academic and professional authority in the field. But beyond his qualification, lies a journey of constant engagement, innovation, and dedication towards the deeper purpose of theatre. In 2008, Sumeet Sharma was honoured with the Sangeet Natak Akademi's Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar, a national recognition conferred upon young and promising talents in the field of performing arts. This award, a milestone in any artist's life, was not just a badge of honour for Sumeet but a reinforcement of his belief in the transformative power of theatre. He is also a recipient of a National Scholarship under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India.

His journey in theatre began as early as 1993 with Natrang Jammu, and over the years, he has worn many hats—actor, director, trainer, and educator. What sets his work apart is not just the volume of it but the intent, quality and efficacy with which it has been pursued. His theatre is not confined to the proscenium stage or elitist enclaves. Instead, it reaches

classrooms, community halls, rural grounds, and auditoriums across the country, where he works with children, young adults, and aspiring artists. Sumeet Sharma's core focus has been the use of theatre as an effective tool of education and personality development. In a system often preoccupied with rote learning and examinations, he offers an alternative model where self-expression, empathy, confidence, and communication are given centre stage. His workshops have empowered children and youth to find their voice, confront their fears, and build a sense of self-worth and discipline. His sessions go beyond script and performance; they help participants discover the richness of teamwork, listening, spontaneity, and responsibility.

The impact of his approach is best reflected in the words of those who have directly experienced its magic. Alpana Sharma, mother of two of his students, shares a moving testimony:

"Theatre became a magical catalyst in my children's lives. It wasn't just about scripts and stages; it was a journey of self-discovery. My shy one found his voice, blossoming with confidence. The energetic one chan-



neled her liveliness into captivating performances, developing discipline and focus. Through shared laughter and collaborative storytelling, they learned empathy, teamwork, and the sheer joy of creative expression. Theatre didn't just teach them to act; it taught them to truly live."

This sentiment echoes across many households, where Sumeet's training has sparked not just artistic ability, but life skills that shape young minds for years to come.

Sumeet Sharma serves as Drama Instructor at the Department of Students Welfare, University of Jammu. Here too, his role is not limited to mere conventional training. He consistently works to kindle a deep reverence for Indian culture and ethos among students in addition to explore their inner selves and facing the surroundings with self-belief. In an age of growing detachment from roots, his efforts serve as a cultural bridge—connecting the youth with the wisdom, values, and vibrancy of Indian traditions through theatre. He has directed remarkable theatre productions with the students of Design Your Degree like Bhisham Sahni's 'Kabira' and Ramdhari Singh Dinkar's 'Rashmirathi' which received accolades from all quarters. His hilarious yet thought provoking Skits with the University students have been adjudged Best in Zonal and National level Youth Festivals where Universities from all over India come forward with their best talent. He has been the coordinator of the first ever Certificate Course in Theatre initiated by SHIEDC University of Jammu which received encour-

aging feedback from the participants. He also coordinates the Training Outreach Programme of the Department of Students Welfare in which students from far-flung areas get an opportunity to get training in performing arts by the experts in the field.

His creative work also reflects his cultural commitment. Sumeet has acted in over 40 plays, many of which are Dogri-language productions staged under the banner of the renowned theatre group Natrang. These plays have travelled far and wide, with more than 1100 performances across India and abroad. They are not mere entertainment pieces but carriers of the linguistic and cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir. Through these, he has helped preserve and promote the Dogri language, offering it the artistic respect and audience it deserves.

Participation in more than 40 national theatre festivals organised by leading institutions such as the Sangeet Natak Akademi, the National School of Drama, and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, among others, has further refined his artistic outlook. These platforms have not only provided national exposure but have also enabled him to engage in rich artistic exchanges, enhancing the depth and scope of his training modules.

Travel, too, has been a powerful teacher in Sumeet's journey. His extensive tours across the country and abroad, as actor and assistant director, have enabled him to absorb diverse theatrical styles and pedagogical approaches. These experiences have deepened his understanding of theatre's universal appeal and its adaptability across contexts. What he brings back from these journeys enriches the students and artists he mentors, offering them a broader perspective on art and life.

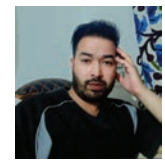
Over the years, he has directed around 50 plays involving children and adults alike. Each production under his direction is a carefully constructed educational experience. He is known to nurture even the most hesitant participants, creating a safe and inspiring space for exploration. Many of these plays have gone on to earn acclaim, not just for their aesthetic value but for their ability to raise important questions and set a fertile ground for healthy debate.

What stands out most in Sumeet's methodology is his human-centric approach. Training, for him, is not about imposing knowledge but about enabling discovery. He encourages introspection, dialogue, and collaborative creativity. His sessions often blend games, voice and movement exercises, improvisations, script readings, and rehearsals in a seamless, organic flow that keeps participants deeply engaged. This holistic model of training builds not just performers but thinkers and doers. Other than games and activities, he relies more on the emotional connect with participants, which when occurs, transformation becomes possible, effortlessly.

At a time when educational and professional systems are re-evaluating their purpose and methods, Sumeet's work offers a valuable template. He shows that training can be joyful, liberating, and enlightening process. He proves that performing arts are not peripheral indulgences but central to shaping complete human beings. His theatre is as much about social responsibility as it is about artistic excellence. It is about invoking awareness, instilling sensitivity, and cultivating imagination.

By Mohd Yaseen
(The writer is a National Scholarship and Fellowship Holder from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India in the field of Theatre)

BENCH OF HOPES



Sahil Manzoor

A n era where our minds were filled with countless hopes. Life is truly a blessing from Allah (SWT). People hold different opinions and views about life. Our perception of life changes with time—the past felt different from the present, and the future remains beyond our anticipation.

Our surroundings—the abiotic components of the environment such as air, water, and soil—are deeply connected to our day-to-day lives. Life seems to exist within these elements. This isn't just poetic; it has scientific grounding as well. People with a poetic mindset often see these elements as symbols of emotion.

"This air," they say, "touches my face and reminds me how mesmerizing it is—I wish I could feel the touch of my beloved's long, flowing black hair in its breeze."

Or, "This water reminds me of someone calling my name—as if my beloved still lingers around me." And the trees whisper, "Where is the one who once gave meaning to your life?"

Life holds different perspectives for different people. Some are mischievous, some stern, others light-hearted or serious.

Some turn away from the world, seeking renunciation. Some are poetic, some scientific, others political. Some love reading, while others enjoy driving or adventure.

And then—some fall in love for no reason at all. Why do we fall in love with strangers—without knowing their intentions, their attitudes, or their hearts?

Love is natural. Good-hearted people often fall in love without bias, without judgment.

Love is an extraordinary, indescribable feeling—it makes you feel as though the world belongs to you, like you are steering its course. Love erases hate and gives birth to generosity, lifting your mind into another dimension.

I had an unforgettable circle of friends during my school and college days. A few left a lasting impact on me—people I'll never forget.

I want them to know that love and kindness always live on in my heart.

We used to sit on a bench—the same bench—for over five years.

There, we dreamed and shared countless hopes, discussing the priceless things life offers.

Even now, when I pass by that bench, it calls to me: "Hey buddy, how are you? Will you come again this evening to share new ideas?"

And I reply in my heart: "Though those times have passed, the thoughts remain."

The only difference is that I no longer have you by my side to sit and dream with."

It feels like everything has vanished—like children who were once playing now suddenly disappeared with the setting sun. Strangers once walked those paths, speaking gently, carrying the rare fragrance of floral perfumes that lingered in the air. That bench holds my love and cherished memories.

I cannot change the past, but I can recall the beautiful moments I shared with my friends.

Yet I know I cannot bring back those exact days. One thing remains forever unchanged: time.

Time cannot be reversed.

It shapes our fate, decides our destiny, and leads us through the journey of life—

from childhood to adulthood and, finally, to our last chapter.

Sahil Manzoor
sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

160 Million Childhoods Lost: The Global Scourge Of Child Labour

In India, there are estimated 5-30 million child labourers, with UP, Bihar, Rajasthan accounting for 55% of country's cases



KOUSAR AHMED RATHER

Child labour remains a significant global challenge, impacting millions of children worldwide and in India. It is a complex issue driven by various socioeconomic factors and has severe consequences for the children involved and for society as a whole. Globally, an estimated 160 million children (nearly 1 in 10 children worldwide) were engaged in child labour at the beginning of 2020. This includes 63 million girls and 97 million boys. Alarmingly, this marked an increase of 8.4 million children in child labour over four years (as of June 2021). Almost half of these children (79 million) are in hazardous work that directly endangers their health, safety, or moral development. The agricultural sector accounts for the largest share of child labour, with 70% (112 million children), followed by services (31.4 million) and industry (16.5 million). Children aged 5 to 11 years constitute the largest proportion of those in child labour (48%). Africa has the highest percentage of children in child labour (one-fifth) and the highest absolute number (72 million). Asia and the Pacific rank second, with 7% of all children

(62 million) in child labour. Together, these two regions account for almost nine out of every ten children in child labour worldwide. As per Census 2011, India had 10.1 million working children aged 5-14 years (3.9% of the total child population in that age group). However, other estimates suggest the actual number could be much higher, ranging from 4.3 million to as high as 10 to 30 million. Analysis of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2018-19 revealed that around 5 million children aged 5-17 were engaged in economic activity. The agricultural sector engages nearly half of working children in India, with the industrial sector (including manufacturing and construction) employing one-third, and 14-17% in the service sector. While child labour has decreased in rural areas, it has shown an increase in urban areas, indicating a growing demand for child workers in menial jobs. States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh account for nearly 55% of the total working children in India (Census 2011).

Causes of Child Labour:
Poverty: This is the primary driver, forcing families to rely on children's income for survival.
Lack of Access to Quality Education: Many children, particularly in rural areas, do not have access to good schools, making them more susceptible to child labour.
Growth of the Informal Economy: The informal sector often operates with less oversight, making it easier to employ children and bypass labour laws.
Lack of Awareness: Many parents are unaware

of the severe physical, mental, and psychological harm child labour inflicts on their children.

Social Norms and Cultural Beliefs: Traditional practices and attitudes can sometimes contribute to the acceptance of child labour.
Debt Bondage: Families may be forced to send their children to work to pay off ancestral debts.



Migration: Migrant families, especially those moving to urban areas, are often more vulnerable to child labour exploitation.
Impact of Child Labour
Child labour has devastating and long-lasting consequences for children and society:
Health Risks: Exposure to hazardous working conditions, physical and mental abuse, long hours, injuries, illnesses, and developmental issues.

Education Deprivation: Children are denied access to education, leading to illiteracy, limited future opportunities, and perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

Stunted Development: It deprives children of playtime, social interaction, and emotional well-being, hindering their physical, cognitive, and emotional growth.

Exploitation and Abuse: Children are vulnerable to slavery, sexual exploitation, trafficking, and forced recruitment into armed groups.

Psychological Trauma: The experiences of child labour can lead to long-term psychological issues, including anxiety, depression, and PTSD.

Undermining Human Rights: It violates fundamental children's rights, including the right to education, protection, and a safe environment.

Perpetuates Poverty and Inequality: It keeps families and communities trapped in a cycle of poverty, limiting economic advancement.
Loss of Human Capital: A less skilled and educated workforce diminishes a nation's capacity for economic growth and global competitiveness.

Increased Social Welfare Burden: The long-term health and psychological consequences of child labour can lead to increased healthcare and social welfare costs.

Social Disintegration: It can disrupt family and community dynamics, leading to a breakdown in social structures.

Efforts to Combat Child Labour in India
Constitutional Provisions: The Indian Constitution prohibits child labour in various

forms (e.g., Article 21A, Article 24, Article 39(e) and (f)).

Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 (amended in 2016): The act prohibits the employment of children below 14 years in all occupations and processes. It also prohibits the employment of adolescents (14-18 years) in hazardous occupations and processes. It allows children to help their families in non-hazardous family enterprises after school hours or during vacations.

National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme: Provides for the withdrawal of children from child labour, their rehabilitation, and provision of education.

Right to Education Act, 2009: Makes elementary education a fundamental right for children aged 6-14, aiming to keep children in school and out of work.

Various Government Schemes: Programs focused on poverty alleviation, education, and social protection indirectly contribute to reducing child labour.

NGOs and Civil Society Organisations: These play a crucial role in rescuing child labourers, providing rehabilitation, advocating for policy changes, and raising awareness.

Despite significant efforts, child labour persists globally and in India, highlighting the need for continued and intensified action to address its root causes and ensure every child has the right to a safe childhood, education, and a dignified future.

The writer is a teacher at Higher Secondary School, Nehalpora, Pattan and can be mailed kousarrather34@gmail.com

Mission YUVA Entrepreneurship mela held at Doda DC announces Support Center to aid women entrepreneurs

HT NEWS DESK

DODA, JUNE 14: The Directorate of Employment Jammu & Kashmir, in collaboration with the District Administration Doda on Saturday organised a Mission YUVA Entrepreneurship Mela here in the Community Hall. The event drew overwhelming participation from hundreds of aspiring entrepreneurs, innovators and job seekers from across the district. An exhibition of startup models, prototypes and innovative Business ideas presented by young aspirants was

the spotlight of the event. The day-long fair, inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh —as the chief guest. The Mela provided a powerful platform to nearly 500 participants to explore new opportunities, connect with financial institutions and learn from industry experts. The event was also attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhadrerwah Sunil Bhutyal; Additional Commissioner Revenue Ashraf Pervez; and other government functionaries. The Deputy Commissioner applauded the creativity, enthusiasm, and



forward-thinking exhibited by the young innovator. He described the Mela as much more than just an exhibition — describing it as a gateway to numerous self-employment schemes and incentives available under Mission YUVA, HADP (Holistic Agriculture Development Programme), and related initiatives. He encouraged the youth to make the most of these opportunities and assured them of continued support from the administration. The DC announced the establishment of a Self-Help Group (SHG) Support Center in Doda town to aid women

entrepreneurs in developing their skills and securing financial assistance. Earlier, Assistant Director District Employment & Counseling Centre Nehal Pandit, in his welcome address, highlighted the progress made in fostering entrepreneurship in the region. He stressed the growing scope of sectors like e-commerce, agritech, and service-oriented enterprises in strengthening the local economy, adding that a strong ecosystem of guidance and financial support is crucial for their sustained growth.

Himalayan Automobiles Unveils All-New Tata Altroz in Srinagar

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, June 14, KNT: In a grand unveiling event today, Himalayan Automobiles, a leading dealer of Tata Motors in Jammu and Kashmir, launched the All-New Tata Altroz, setting its starting price at Rs 6.89 lakh. The launch marks the arrival of a new chapter in Tata's premium hatchback segment, featuring a refreshed design and, for the first time, an Automatic Manual Transmission (AMT) variant. The launch ceremony was graced by Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi, who attended the event alongside Managing Director Ghulam Mohammad Beigh, Mr. Junaid Beigh, General Manager Irfan Javaid, GM Services Nadeem Bakshi, Sales Manager Irshad, and Marketing Manager Arif Masoodi. Speaking at the event, company

representatives highlighted that the All-New Altroz is built on the pillars of premium design, unmatched safety, cutting-edge technology, and thrilling performance. With bold exterior styling, a tech-rich cabin, enhanced connectivity features, and an expanded powertrain lineup, the Altroz is tailored to transform everyday drives into elevated experiences. "The new Altroz brings a blend of luxury, functionality, and performance that stands out in its class," said Irfan Javaid, General Manager of Himalayan Automobiles. "With its first-ever AMT option, we're giving customers more convenience without compromising on power or style." The vehicle's refreshed exterior, luxurious interiors, and intelligent connectivity features make it one of the most attractive offerings in its segment. Company officials emphasized that the Altroz is not just about moving from point A to B—but doing so in

Shri Amarnathji Yatra-2025: Div Com Jammu reviews Yatra arrangements in Samba, Kathua

HT NEWS DESK

SAMBA/KATHUA, JUNE 14: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar today conducted an extensive tour of Samba and Kathua districts to inspect and review the arrangements being put in place for the smooth conduct of the upcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2025. He was accompanied by the Deputy Commissioners of Kathua and Samba, along with senior officers from police and civil administration. At Samba, the Div Com assessed civic amenities at key lodgement centres, including Baba Ambedkar Hall, Mount Litera School, Government HSS Jakh, Government GHSS Vijaypur, Municipal Hall Samba, and prominent spiritual stops such as Chichi Mata



Temple and Narsingh Temple. The Div Com emphasized on 24x7 power supply, clean drinking water, sanitation and toilet facilities, proper illumination, and CCTV surveillance to ensure the safety and comfort of the pilgrims. Later, the Div Com visited Kathua, where he conducted a detailed inspection of the

Lakhanpur Corridor and the Yatri Facilitation Centre. The Div Com directed the Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Lakhanpur, to intensify cleanliness drives, maintain public sanitation, and install informational signage for the convenience of pilgrims. He also called for timely completion of repair and beautification works at Lakhanpur by June 25, in view of it being the first entry point for pilgrims arriving via road. It was informed that the district administration has established Six RFID counters, Five-bedded medical Room, Cold drinking water stations, Langar (community kitchen) facilities, Clean toilet blocks and designated rest areas for Yatris along the Lakhanpur Corridor. The Div Com also reviewed security arrangements, directing the Police Department to devise a comprehensive security plan.

Int'l Year of Cooperatives celebrated at Warwan with Solar Empowerment Drive

HT NEWS DESK

KISHTWAR, JUNE 14: The AR Office Warwan, in collaboration with the Warwan Wonders Tourism Development Cooperative Ltd, on Saturday commemorated the International Year of Cooperatives with Solar Empowerment Drive— a landmark initiative towards sustainable development. As part of the celebrations, solar lights, solar tool kits, and solar plates were distributed free of cost among 350 local households. The event was graced by Member Legislative Assembly Inderwal Pyare Lal Sharma as the Chief Guest, alongside SDM Dr. Mohammad Ashraf, Block Development Officer, Tehsildar and other officials of local administration. The MLA commended the expected impact of the initiative on improving quality of life in the remote



valley. A special highlight of the event was felicitation of seven women solar engineers—trained under a joint program of The Warwan Wonders Cooperative, Rajasthan-based NGO Bindi International and Kashmir-based NGO Sky Trust—by the MLA for their outstanding contribution. Their training and participation marked a significant step forward in women-led rural innovation and employment. The MLA lauded the cooperative's vision and efforts in tackling local unemployment while promoting sus-

tainable energy practices. The event was held under the guidance of Deputy Registrar Cooperative Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal. A special highlight of the event was felicitation of seven women solar engineers—trained under a joint program of The Warwan Wonders Cooperative, Rajasthan-based NGO Bindi International and Kashmir-based NGO Sky Trust—by the MLA for their outstanding contribution. Their training and participation marked a significant step forward in women-led rural innovation and employment.

Arrangements finalised for International Yoga Day celebration in Kathua

HT NEWS DESK

KATHUA, JUNE 14: The activity plan for International Day of Yoga was finalized at a meeting of stakeholder departments held today with Additional Deputy Commissioner Vishvajet Singh in the Chair. As per the plan, a Mega Yoga Session will be held at Sports Stadium Kathua from 6:00 AM onwards to mark the global celebration of Yoga. Speaking at the meeting, the ADC directed the Department of AYUSH to depute qualified Yoga instructors for conducting the session. The Health Department was asked to ensure participation of its staff and trainees, along with deployment of ambulances for emergency support. In terms of logistics and coordination, the Police and PWD Departments were entrusted with the



responsibility of security and management of other logistics. The Education institutions were asked to mobilize students including NSS volunteers and NCC cadets of local schools and Colleges for the event. The meeting also finalized arrangements for drinking water, power supply and sanitation arrangements. The Information Department was asked for giving wide publicity to the schedule of events. Representatives from social organizations including Art of Living,

Patanjali, Bicycle for Change, and local Yoga enthusiasts also attended the meeting and assured full cooperation to the district administration in terms of public participation, awareness, and logistical support. The meeting was attended by CPO Ranjit Thakur, District AYUSH Officer, Chief Education Officer, Executive Engineers, DYSSO, officers from Police, and representatives from Degree Colleges and other institutions were present in the meeting.

STD cracks down on defaulting Taxpayers availing fake, ineligible Input tax credit

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JUNE 14: In a major enforcement action against tax evasion, Jammu and Kashmir State Taxes Department (STD) conducted simultaneous search and seizure operations at multiple locations across Jammu division. During the enforcement actions, the department targeted malpractices like Invoice Trading Without Supply (issuance of invoices without the actual supply of goods or services, falsely inflating transactions to claim ITC), Fake E-Way Bills with No Toll Record Movement (Generation of fraudulent E-Way Bills showing no corresponding vehicle movement on toll records), Fake E-Way Bills Reflecting Movement Outside J&K (Creation of E-Way Bills indicating vehicle movement in other states, despite no activity within the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir) and Availing Fake Input Tax Credit (Unlawful claims of ITC based on fabricated documents and transactions).

This large-scale crackdown was carried out under the guidance of Commissioner State Taxes J&K, P. K. Bhat and supervised by Additional Commissioner Enforcement and Administration Jammu, Namrita Dogra. Earlier, 13 enforcement teams were deployed across the region to verify business records, scrutinise bill books, assess physical stock positions and detect any discrepancies in compliance with the Goods and Services Tax (GST) law.

DC Poonch reviews preparations for 'International Yoga Day 2025'

HT NEWS DESK



POONCH, JUNE 14: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Vikas Kundal reviewed the preparations for the upcoming celebration of 'International Yoga Day' at a meeting convened today with the officers of stakeholder departments. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for close coordination among the stakeholders to ensure a seamless celebration. He urged all concerned departments to complete the necessary arrangements well in advance for the mega yoga session. The DC further informed that similar yoga events will also be organized in Surankote and Mendhar Subdivisions. He directed SDMs of Surankote and Mendhar to ensure foolproof arrangements in their respective jurisdictions for the day. The meeting was attended by senior officials including ADDC Pankaj Magotra, ADC Tahir Mustafa Malik, DFO, PO Poshan, SE PWD (R&B), ACD, ACP, DIO (NIC), CEO, CMO, EXEN PWD (R&B)/JPDC/Jal Shakti, AD FCS & CA, CEO MC, along with other concerned officers and officials.

DC Ramban Chairs Introductory Meeting with District and Sectoral Officers; Emphasizes Public-Centric Governance and Developmental Goals

HT NEWS DESK

Ramban, June 14: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, today chaired an introductory meeting with District and Sectoral Officers at the Conference Hall, Maitra. The meeting marked his first formal interaction with the administrative machinery of the district after assuming charge and aimed to set the tone for a result-oriented, inclusive, and responsive governance model to ensure holistic development and efficient public service delivery.



The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shokat Hayat Mattoo; Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather; SDM Goolimtia Ahmed; SDM Ramsoo Mazar Hussain Shah; SDM Banihal Moham-

mad Naseeb; GM DIC Ravinder Anand; CMO Kamal Je Zadu; Executive Engineers from PWD, Jal Shakti, JPDC; REW; and all other district officers. In his address, the Deputy Commissioner laid out a comprehensive vision for governance centered on accountability, transparency, and public participation.

He stressed the need for officers to prioritize field-level implementation of government schemes and flagship programs, ensuring that benefits reach the grassroots level. Emphasizing the importance of a coordinated administrative approach, he urged all departments to work in synergy, remove procedural bottlenecks, and

expedite development works across sectors including infrastructure, health, education, and rural development. While taking a firsthand appraisal from officers regarding the implementation of major schemes and projects of their respective departments, the DC emphasized that visible results must be reflected through time-bound project execution, responsive grievance redressal, and improved citizen interface in government offices. The DC further directed the officers to adopt a compassionate and respectful approach toward the public, ensuring that citizens visiting government offices are treated with dignity and their concerns addressed promptly. He also called for strict adherence to administrative discipline and encouraged innovative practices for improving service delivery mechanisms.

DC Bandiporapora presides over district-level Entrepreneurship Mela under Mission YUVA

Inspects stalls, interacts with youth, encourages budding entrepreneurs to become job providers

HT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 14: In a major initiative to foster youth entrepreneurship and promote self-employment, district administration Bandipora on Saturday organized a district-level potential Entrepreneurship Mela at Government Degree College (GDC) Sumbal under the ambit of Mission YUVA programme.

The event was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, who inspected stalls set up by various government departments, and interacted with aspiring entrepreneurs and beneficiaries.

The event, aimed at spreading awareness about various government schemes and inspiring youth through successful local entrepreneurial journeys, witnessed enthusiastic participation from budding and aspiring entrepreneurs, students, and faculty members.

In his address, DC said that Mission YUVA is a flagship programme of the



government, aimed at identifying, encouraging, and supporting budding entrepreneurs through handholding and financial assistance. "As part of this mission, a survey has been conducted to identify potential entrepreneurs in the district. This mela is an effort to connect them with support systems so they can trans-

form their ideas into successful ventures," he said. Addressing the gathering, DC said that "Financial support is critical, and with the right push, our youth can become job providers rather than job seekers. Banks are ready to provide loans, and entrepreneurs will benefit from interest subvention and subsidies. I believe this mela will

inspire new entrepreneurs to embrace the idea of self-employment and position our UT of J&K on the industrial map of the country."

During the event, Qadri interacted with unemployed youth and encouraged them to learn from the experiences of successful entrepreneurs who were invited to share their journeys, thereby offering real-life examples of determination and achievement. Addressing the gathering, Principal GDC Sumbal, Dr. Shabeena Iqbal Shawl, acknowledged the rising trend of youth embracing entrepreneurship and urged them not to confine their aspirations to government jobs alone, but to actively explore the vast opportunities available in the entrepreneurial landscape. The mela featured facilitation stalls by departments including Employment, Industries, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Handicrafts, Handloom, NRLM, and others. These stalls offered on-the-spot guidance, scheme awareness, and digital registration on the Mission YUVA app, assisted by designated YUVA Doots.

DC Baramulla takes stock of progress achieved under PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana

Sets target of 500 Rooftop Installations by August- 2025

HT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 14: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation of the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana in the district.

The scheme aims to promote the adoption of rooftop solar energy by providing financial assistance and incentives to residential households, contributing to the broader goals of clean energy and energy independence.

During the meeting, it was informed that 1,700 applications have been received through the official portal. To accelerate



progress, DC set a district target of at least 500 rooftop solar installations by the end of August 2025.

DC expressed concern over reports that some bank branches are demanding unnecessary additional off line documents from applicants, leading to delays. He directed all branch managers to follow the official guidelines strictly and ensure a citizen-friendly, transparent, and efficient loan processing system

under the scheme.

To enhance awareness among the public, DC instructed concerned departments, PRIs, and the District Information Centre to launch intensive awareness campaigns across panchayats and blocks. These campaigns will include door-to-door outreach, information sessions, and support for online applications, encouraging more households to take benefit of the scheme.

DC Shopian conducts extensive tour to Zainapora subdivision

Assesses public services, functioning of key offices

HT NEWS DESK/KNS

SHOPIAN, JUNE 14: In a proactive move to enhance transparency and ensure effective public service delivery, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta Saturday conducted an extensive visit across several key government offices and healthcare institutions in subdivision Zainapora. DC visited Tehsil Office Imam Sahib & Hermain, BDO Office Zainapora, PHC DK Pora and PHC Hermain. During the visit, DC reviewed the functioning of these offices with a focus on healthcare facilities, revenue administration and rural development services.



He closely examined attendance records, inspected official registers, and interacted with staff to assess on-ground performance. Special attention was given to the availability of health services and the quality of patient care in the Primary Health Centres. At the revenue offices, DC inspected land records, mutation registers, and

overall service responsiveness. He emphasized the importance of punctuality, accountability and efficient service delivery, directing officers to maintain updated records and remain responsive to the public needs.

DC was accompanied by ADC Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, SDM Zainapora, BDO Zainapora, and other concerned officers.

DC Bandipora reviews arrangements for 11th International Day of Yoga

HT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 14: In preparation for the 11th International Day of Yoga to be celebrated on June 21, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri today chaired a comprehensive meeting at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora to review and finalize the necessary arrangements for the smooth conduct of Yoga Day events across the district.

During the meeting, DC emphasized the importance of the International Day of Yoga in promoting physical

and mental well-being, and called for collective efforts to ensure successful district-wide participation.

He directed concerned departments to make all logistical and technical arrangements, including ensuring medical and emergency support, availability of drinking water, sanitation and transportation.

It was informed that the main event will be organized at S.K. Stadium Bandipora, where a large number of participants including students, officials, and civil society members are expected to attend the early morning session on June 21.

During the meeting, DC stressed the need for aware-

ness campaigns leading up to the event to encourage maximum public involvement, especially among youth. He directed concerned officers from Youth Services & Sports, AYUSH, and Education to organize preparatory sessions in schools, colleges, and training centres across the district.

He further emphasized that contingency plans be put in place in case of inclement weather, and directed all departments to ensure seamless coordination for the success of the national event at the district level.

Distt Admin Pulwama organizes one-day Potential Entrepreneurship Mela

HT NEWS DESK

PULWAMA, JUNE 14: In a significant initiative to foster self-employment and entrepreneurial growth, district administration Pulwama, in collaboration with the District Employment Counseling Centre, today organized a one-day potential Entrepreneurship Mela at the Auditorium Hall of Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Pampore.

The event was presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Awantipora, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, and witnessed participation of Assistant Director Employment, members of SBDU including DNO JKEDI, & Lead Bank Manager Pulwama, SHG Members, Yuva doots and other concerned officers. Besides a large gathering of youth, budding entrepreneurs, and local residents also attended the mela.

In his address, ADC emphasized the administration's commitment to building a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem in the district. He interacted with participants, visited departmental stalls, and



urged the youth to take full advantage of the various government-sponsored self-employment schemes. He further highlighted the importance of such outreach events in enhancing

awareness and improving access to livelihood opportunities. During the programme, participants were actively facilitated with on-the-spot guidance, registration support, and counselling

services & several participants registered on-the-spot under Mission Yuva through the official portal.

Informative stalls were set up by all key line departments implementing self-employment schemes. These stalls provided comprehensive information regarding eligibility criteria, scheme benefits, available financial assistance, application procedures, and departmental contact details. The event was presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Awantipora, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone, and witnessed participation of Assistant Director Employment, members of SBDU including DNO JKEDI, & Lead Bank Manager Pulwama, SHG Members, Yuva doots and other concerned officers. Besides a large gathering of youth, budding entrepreneurs, and local residents also attended the mela.

In his address, ADC emphasized the administration's commitment to building a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem in the district. He interacted with participants, visited departmental stalls, and urged the youth to take full advantage of

BJP J&K Holds Media, Social Media and IT Management Meeting in Srinagar.

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, 14th June 2025: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir unit held a coordination meeting for its Media, Social Media, and IT departments at the party headquarters in Srinagar. Mudasir Wani, BJP Secretary (Organisation), Kashmir, Media Incharge Kashmir, Adv. Sajid Yousuf Shah, and Social Media Incharge Kashmir, Er. Sahil Bashir Bhat chaired the meeting.

The main objective of the meeting was to review preparations for the ongoing campaign "Viksit Bharat Ka Amrit Kaal: Seva, Sushasan, Gareeb Kalyan, 11 Saal.

During his address, Mudasir Wani stressed the need to highlight 11 years of transformative governance under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Both Media and Social Media Incharges emphasized the importance of clearly conveying the party's initiatives and outreach programs centered on "Sankalp Se Siddhi" and the principles of good governance.

World Blood Donor Day: Blood Donation camp held at Handwara

HT NEWS DESK

KUPWARA, JUNE 14: Indian Red Cross Society in collaboration with the Sub District Administration Handwara, successfully organized a blood donation camp at Government Degree College (GDC) Handwara to commemorate World Blood Donor Day.

The event brought together volunteers, students, and community members to donate blood and contribute to the noble cause of saving lives.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi graced the occasion. In his address, he emphasized the significance of voluntary blood donation and its impact on patients in need of transfusions. He lauded the efforts of the organizers, volunteers, civil society members, and other stakeholders who contributed to the event's success.

The primary objective of the camp was to promote voluntary blood donation and raise awareness about its importance in healthcare.

Speaking on the occasion, ADC said that the initiative not only collected valuable blood donations but also fostered a sense of community and social responsibility among the participants.

Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan: IEC activities continue across Kulgam

HT NEWS DESK

KULGAM, JUNE 14: As part of the ongoing efforts under the Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan (NMJKA), a series of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities are being conducted across the district Kulgam to raise awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse and to promote a drug-free society.

District administration, in collaboration with various departments including the Health, Education, Social Welfare, and Police, has intensified the outreach programmes in schools, colleges, panchayats, and other public spaces.

Activities such as awareness rallies, poster-making competitions, counselling sessions, interactive workshops, and street plays are being carried out as part of the campaign.

These initiatives aim to sensitise the youth, parents, and community members about the dangers of substance abuse and encourage early intervention and community participation in the fight against drug addiction.

Special focus is being given to involving students, teachers, PRIs, and religious leaders to ensure the message reaches every corner of the district.

Orientation programme for SAATHI members held at District Court Shopian

HT NEWS DESK

SHOPIAN, JUNE 14: District legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian conducted a meeting-cum-orientation session for the SAATHI unit committee members of District Shopian today at ADR Centre District Court Shopian.

The meeting aimed to discuss and finalize the implementation strategy for the SAATHI campaign, which focuses on identifying and rehabilitating destitute children in the district.

Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary, Chairperson DLSA Shopian chaired the meeting, which was held under the supervision of Mudasar Farooq, Secretary/Sub Judge, DLSA, (Chairperson SAATHI Unit Committee) Shopian.

Various stakeholders including SAATHI committee members of district Shopian attended the meeting.

Chairperson of the District SAATHI Unit conducted the orientation and training session of the District SAATHI Unit Members.

The session focused on orienting committee members on their roles and responsibilities, training them on conducting surveys and identification processes for destitute children, and outlining next steps for the campaign's successful execution. Through this initiative, DLSA Shopian aims to identify and rehabilitate destitute children, ensuring their access to education, healthcare, and social welfare schemes.

Govt forms high-level panel to probe Air India plane crash

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
 New Delhi, June 14

The government has constituted a high-level committee to probe the London-bound Air India Boeing crash near Ahmedabad airport on June 12. The 11-member committee is being headed by Union Home Secretary, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu said during a press conference on Saturday. "To further investigate the incident and to look into all the theories and other information that are going around this incident, we felt it would be much better to have another committee also overlooking into this crash and also the safety," Naidu said. The Minister said the committee will be headed by the Union Home Secretary and will consist of experts from various sectors and officials not less than Joint Secretary level. The panel will include sec-



retary, Ministry of Civil Aviation; additional secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs; representatives from the Gujarat government and State Disaster Response Authority; Ahmedabad police commissioner; DG (inspection and safety), Indian Air Force; DGs of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and DG Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA); Special Director from the Intelligence Bureau and Director, Directorate of Forensic Sciences. "We have constituted the committee and have also circulated the order," the

Minister informed. Naidu emphasised that the committee has been given three months to complete its investigation, interact with stakeholders, and consult additional experts if required. "We want this investigation to be holistic, transparent, and timely," he said. Giving the details about the incident, Naidu said that after the news of the crash, he rushed to the site immediately, in coordination with the Government of Gujarat and the Centre. "The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) was mobilised

within hours," he added. The AAIB team, comprising five members including the Director General, began the probe on day one. Two additional experts — a forensic specialist and a medical expert — joined the investigation yesterday. A major development came with the recovery of the aircraft's Black Box around 5 pm yesterday. "This is expected to offer crucial insights into what transpired moments before the crash," Naidu said, adding that the Ministry is keenly awaiting the outcome of the AAIB's technical investigation. Meanwhile, the Ahmedabad Police on Saturday have confirmed 270 deaths due to the crash. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) yesterday issued a directive mandating urgent additional maintenance checks for Air India's B787-8/9 fleet equipped with Genx engines.

PM to attend G7 Summit in Canada on June 16-17, also visit Cyprus, Croatia

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
 New Delhi, June 14

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will leave here on Sunday on a four-day three-nation visit to Cyprus, Canada and Croatia, primarily to attend the 51st G-7 Summit at Kananaskis in Canada on June 16-17. This will be Prime Minister Modi's sixth consecutive participation in the G-7 Summit. On the first leg of his tour, the Prime Minister will pay an official visit to Cyprus on June 15-16 at the invitation of the President of Cyprus, Nikos Christodoulides. This will be the first visit of an Indian Prime Minister to Cyprus in over two decades. While in Nicosia, the Prime Minister will hold talks with President Christodoulides and address business leaders in Limassol. "The visit will reaffirm the shared commitment of the two countries to deepen bilateral ties and strengthen India's engagement with the Mediterranean region and the European Union," the External Affairs Ministry announced here. On the second leg of his visit, at the invitation of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, Modi will travel to Kananaskis on June 16-17 to participate in the G-7 Summit. At the summit, the Prime Minister will exchange views with leaders of G-7 countries, other invited outreach countries and heads of international organisations on crucial global issues, including energy security, technology and innovation, particularly the AI-energy nexus and Quantum-related issues, the External Affairs Ministry said. Prime Minister Modi will also hold several bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the summit. On the final leg of his tour,



Modi will undertake an official visit to Croatia on June 18 at the invitation of his Croatian counterpart Andrej Plenković. This will be the first ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Croatia marking an important milestone in the bilateral relationship. The Prime Minister will hold bilateral discussions with Plenković and meet the President of Croatia, Zoran Milanović. "The visit to Croatia will also underscore India's commitment to further strengthening its engagement with partners in the European Union," the Ministry said. The Canada Summit is the 2nd G7 summit to be held in Kananaskis since the G8 summit in 2002 when Russia was part of the Group. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney who will chair the summit, said in a statement ahead of the summit that in 2025 as global challenges intensify, the G7 must meet this moment with purpose and with force. He said Canada will seek agreements and coordinated action on three core missions: Protecting our communities and the world — strengthening peace and security, countering foreign interference and transnational crime, and improving joint responses to wildfires. Building energy security and

accelerating the digital transition — fortifying critical mineral supply chains and using artificial intelligence and quantum to unleash economic growth. Securing the partnerships of the future — catalyzing enormous private investment to build stronger infrastructure, create higher-paying jobs, and open dynamic markets where businesses can compete and succeed. Other discussions will include a just and lasting peace for Ukraine and other areas of conflict around the world and a forward-looking agenda that engages partners beyond the G7, recognizing that our long-term security and prosperity will depend on building coalitions with reliable partners and common values. "Canada has what the world wants and the values to which others aspire. The G7 Leaders' Summit in Kananaskis is a moment for Canada to work with reliable partners to meet challenges with unity, purpose, and force. Canada is ready to lead." Those who will attend the Summit include US President Donald Trump, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, French President Emmanuel Macron and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen will also attend. The special invitees are Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Brazilian President Lula da Silva and Presidents of Mexico, Claudia Sheinbaum, South Korea Lee Jae-myung, South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy and UAE Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Not even fit to sit in Opposition: Joshi slams Kharge

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
 Kalaburagi, Jun 14

In a scathing attack on Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Saturday said the grand old party has lost the people's confidence and that its leaders are "not even fit to sit in the Opposition." Responding to Kharge's controversial remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Joshi told reporters, "We don't need a certificate from Kharge. The people of India decide who should lead them. You (Congress) have been so thoroughly rejected that even the role of Opposition leader seemed out of reach for you in the last two terms. And this time too, despite peddling false narratives, wherever elections have been held, you've faced humiliating defeats (after the Lok Sabha elections)."



"You are not even fit to sit in the Opposition — what nonsense are you talking?" Joshi added, in a blunt remark that is likely to stoke political tensions. On June 11, the day Prime Minister Modi completed 11 years in office, Kharge accused the PM of lying and manipulating people for votes. "I

have never seen a prime minister who lies so extensively and manipulates to (win) votes," Kharge had said, demanding accountability from the government on several national issues. Hitting back, Joshi said such remarks were an insult to the democratic mandate. "After Nehru and Indira Gandhi, only Narendra Modi has returned for a third consecutive term. That itself is the people's verdict. What does it mean when you question it? It's nothing but an insult to India's voters," he stated. Meanwhile, Joshi also addressed the recent Air India aircraft incident, terming it "deeply unfortunate." He assured that the Government of India and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have taken the matter seriously.

Vietnam becomes 10th partner-member of BRICS, confirms Brazil Foreign Ministry

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
 Hanoi, June 14

Vietnam has officially joined BRICS as a partner country, according to a statement from Brazil's Ministry of Foreign Affairs — the BRICS chair for 2025. After expressing its desire to become a member of the powerful global body for some time, Vietnam has now become the 10th BRICS partner, aligning itself with the bloc's vision of a more inclusive and representative international order, reports Sputnik. "With a population of nearly 100

million and a dynamic economy deeply integrated into global value chains, Vietnam is an important player in Asia," the ministry's statement said. Vietnam in recent years has become one of the fastest growing economies in the world and one of the strongest in South East Asia, having become one of the major destinations alongside India, Indonesia, Mexico, Thailand, and Malaysia, for investors looking to shift manufacturing from China. The partner country category was created at the 2024 BRICS Summit

in Kazan, Russia. The current list of partners include: Vietnam, Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan. While partner nations are not members of the bloc, it offers the option of more flexible association, as partner nations can collaborate with BRICS nations in meetings, and engage in proposed development projects. The status also opens the door to closer ties with the bloc's institutions, including the New Development Bank, which offers infrastructure financing to developing economies.

National Consumer Helpline gets 5.41 lakh complaints, 23 pc from southern states: Govt

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
 New Delhi, June 14

The National Consumer Helpline has received 5.41 lakh complaints to date this year, with 23 per cent originating from Southern States, according to an official statement here. Of the 28.54 lakh cases filed nationally, only 5.62 lakh remain pending, with Southern States contributing to just 13.34 per cent of the pending cases, Nidhi Khare, Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, said while addressing a workshop in Chennai recently, added the statement. Khare further noted that Karnataka and Kerala commissions have consistently disposed of more cases than they have received, and several district commissions have achieved 100% disposal rates over the past three consecutive years. At the workshop themed "Consumer Protection in the Southern States/UTs", Khare emphasised that the digital era calls for adaptive legal and technological frameworks, highlight-

ing that over 11,900 cases have been heard through virtual courts. In addition, she introduced e-Jagriti, an AI-powered unified platform designed to integrate key systems such as e-Daakhil and Confonet. The platform offers features like chatbot-based case registration, multilingual access, and support for both legal professionals and differently-abled users. During the inaugural session, Justice Amreshwar Pratap Sahi, President of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), discussed the expanding scope of the Consumer Protection Act and the growing trend of litigation moving from traditional courts to consumer commissions. The workshop featured four thematic technical sessions and two parallel discussions, chaired by Justice Sahi and co-chaired by Khare. The sessions focused on strengthening consumer grievance redressal across critical sectors.

Iran to also target US military bases in Middle East, continue attacks on Israel: IRGC

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
 Tehran, June 14

The Iranian military has said that it intends to continue attacking Israel and is also planning to strike US military bases in the Middle East, stating that Washington was an active accomplice of Tel Aviv's missile strikes on Iranian facilities. The Iranian Revolutionary Guard's (IRGC) official news agency Fars News, citing an unknown source revealed the government's plans, on Saturday, citing an unnamed source familiar with the Iranian military leadership plans. "The war which was launched by the aggression of the Zionist (Israeli) regime will spread to all the territories occupied by this regime and the US bases in the region. The aggressors will receive a decisive and large-scale response from Iran.

Israel reports 3 Killed 41 wounded, heavy damage in Iran's retaliatory attack

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
 Jerusalem, June 14

Nearly 100 missiles were launched from Iran toward central and northern Israel in two massive barrages, causing significant damage and injuring 41 people, according to the Israeli military and the national emergency service, Magen David Adom (MDA). The MDA reported two people critically injured, two moderately, four lightly-moderately, while the remaining individuals suffered light injuries or trauma-related symptoms, including panic attacks. Following the launches, air defence sirens were activated, sending millions of residents to protected rooms and shelters for more than an hour.



Israel Defence Forces (IDF) spokesman Effie Defrin said that most missiles were intercepted by the air defence system or did not reach their target. He noted that the injuries reported occurred inside buildings, with several caused by shrapnel from intercepted missiles. Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said following

the launches that "Iran crossed red lines when it dared to fire missiles at civilian population centers in Israel." "We will continue to protect the citizens of Israel," he said, warning that the country would "ensure that Tehran pays a very heavy price for its criminal actions." Meanwhile, the IDF denied Iranian media reports that Iran had downed an Israeli fighter jet and detained its pilot. In a separate statement, the IDF said it had attacked earlier Friday Iranian Air Force bases in western Iran, destroying Tabriz Airbase, without providing further details. It added that the IDF attacked and destroyed dozens of Iranian air defence targets, drones, and surface-to-surface missile launchers.

US air defence systems involved in shooting down Iranian missiles: Reports

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
 Jerusalem, June 14

Israel received help from US air defence systems and a Navy destroyer in shooting down Iranian missiles launched in response to Israel's attack on Iran, The Washington Post reported, citing US officials. A US official told RIA Novosti on Friday that the United States was assisting Israel in shooting down Iranian missiles. Anonymous US officials told The Washington Post that the US has both ground-based Patriot missile defence systems and Terminal High

Altitude Air Defence systems (THAAD) in the Middle East. American air defence systems, as well as a US Navy destroyer in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, were used to shoot down Iranian missiles heading toward Israel, the officials said. US fighter jets are also patrolling the sky in the Middle East and the US is shifting its military resources, including ships, in the region, The Washington Post reported. Iranian permanent representative to the United Nations Amir Saeid Iravani told the UN Security Council (UNSC) on Friday that Israel's aggres-



sion against Iran was intentional and fully backed by Washington. Iravani emphasized that Iran "will not forget that our people lost their lives as [a] result of the Israeli attacks with American weapons. These actions amount to a declaration of war." Iravani said that at least 78 people were killed and 320 others were injured as a result of Israel's strikes against Iran, which started in the early hours of Friday, as part of Operation Rising Lion. Attacks across Iran - including Tehran - killed top military officials and Iranian nuclear scien-

tists. US Representative Pitt McCoy said on Friday during a UNSC meeting that the United States was informed about Israeli strikes against Iran ahead of time but was not militarily involved in the operation. Iran launched a counter-offensive, dubbed Operation True Promise 3, against military targets in Israel on Friday, in response to Israel's strikes. Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei has called Israel's attacks a crime and vowed Israel would face a "bitter and terrible fate."

Indian Scientist Dr. Hidayat Bukhari Achieves Dual Recognition at ASCO 2025 for Pioneering AI-Powered Cancer Diagnostics

New Delhi, India — In a significant moment for global cancer research and the future of precision oncology, Dr. Hidayat Bukhari, a clinical researcher from Shri Venkateshwar University in India, has received rare and commendable recognition at the 2025 American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting—the world's most prestigious oncology forum. Dr. Bukhari's two research abstracts, focused on transforming conventional histopathology through artificial intelligence, were selected for publication, marking a milestone not only in his career but also for India's growing role in computational medicine.

The studies represent a bold and elegant fusion of artificial intelligence, pathology, and molecular oncology, targeting one of the most treatment-resistant cancers in the world: stomach adenocarcinoma. By using deep learning algorithms to decode patterns within standard diagnostic slides, Dr. Bukhari's work opens a new frontier in

non-invasive, scalable, and interpretable cancer diagnostics—with implications that reach far beyond the lab. Unlike many AI tools in medicine that are limited by their "black-box" nature, Dr. Bukhari's models are designed to be clinically transparent and biologically meaningful. The central innovation lies in the extraction of human-interpretable image features (HIFs) from routine H&E-stained pathology slides. These features—such as immune cell proximity to tumor tissue, or the ratio of fibroblasts to stroma—mirror the underlying tumor biology with surprising accuracy.

Leveraging data from The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA), these image-derived insights were correlated with gene expression signatures and patient survival outcomes, revealing patterns that have the potential to transform treatment selection and early risk assessment. "What we've shown is that AI can be trained to think like a pathologist, but at scale and with molecular pre-



cision," said Dr. Bukhari. "The advantage is that these insights come from standard pathology slides that every hospital already generates—making it globally scalable, not just a privilege of wealthy institutions." In the first study, titled "Predicting therapeutic response in stomach adenocarcinoma by integrating H&E and RNA-seq using deep

learning" (ASCO Abstract #e16088), the research team discovered that lower expression of the gene LMNB1 is strongly associated with therapeutic resistance. The finding gains further clinical power when matched with a specific HIF: the density of cancer cells within the immune zone of lymphocytes. Patients whose tumors exhibit high LMNB1 expression and immune cell engagement were significantly more likely to benefit from immune checkpoint inhibitors. In his second study, "Linking gene expression to tumor microenvironment using H&E features in stomach adenocarcinoma" (ASCO Abstract #e14635), focused on identifying biological signatures of poor prognosis. Four genes—ABCA6, ABCA8, ADAM33, and ADAMTS10—were found to be significantly correlated with high-density stromal and macrophage environments, characteristics known to suppress immune response and foster aggressive disease. These markers, when combined with AI-

generated HIFs, can help clinicians identify high-risk patients before clinical deterioration begins.

"These two studies work in tandem," Dr. Bukhari explained. "One identifies patients who are likely to respond well to current therapies. The other flags patients who may need alternate or intensified strategies from the very beginning." Perhaps the most compelling dimension of Dr. Bukhari's research is its radical accessibility. Precision medicine has long been criticized for being geographically and economically exclusive—relying on expensive genomic testing platforms often unavailable in lower- and middle-income countries. Dr. Bukhari's AI-driven methodology uses no advanced lab equipment or genomic assays, relying solely on existing pathology infrastructure and public data to derive insights that rival, and sometimes surpass, molecular testing.

COURTESY; THE INDIA OBSERVER (TIO)

District Hospital Bandipora Hosts Blood Donation Camp on World Blood Donor Day

HT NEWS DESK

Bandipora, June 14: To commemorate World Blood Donor Day 2025, District Hospital Bandipora on Saturday organised a blood donation camp in collaboration with Bandipora Volunteers, drawing participation from dozens of enthusiastic donors across the district. The camp was inaugurated by Chief Medical Officer Bandipora, Dr. Ishtiyah Ahmad, alongside Medical Superintendent DH Bandipora, Dr. Masrat Iqbal Wani. Health officials, volunteers, and youth from different areas of Bandipora gathered in a collective effort to spread awareness about the importance of voluntary blood donation.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Medical Officer Bandipora, Dr. Ishtiyah Ahmad emphasized the critical role of regular donors in saving lives. "Blood donation is not just a noble act—it is a lifeline for those in need. On this World Blood Donor Day, we salute the selfless donors who



help keep our healthcare system responsive and humane," he said. Medical Superintendent District Hospital Bandipora, Dr. Masrat Iqbal Wani commended the coordination between the hospital and civil society, especially the Bandipora Volunteers. "Voluntary blood donation reflects the strength of a community. It's heartening to see so many young people stepping forward to support

the cause," he noted. Over 50 units of blood were collected during the camp, which will be preserved in the hospital's blood bank for emergency use. Members of Bandipora Volunteers, who played a key role in mobilizing participants, shared their motivations. Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, one of the lead volunteers, expressed satisfaction at the turnout.

"We believe in serving humanity. Donating blood is one of the simplest yet most impactful ways to do that. Every drop counts, and today Bandipora has shown what solidarity looks like."

Another first-time donor, Aamir Gani, said he felt proud to contribute.

"This is my first time donating blood, and it won't be the last. It feels amazing to know that a small act can help save someone's life." Health officials reiterated that such camps not only help maintain adequate blood supplies but also encourage a culture of compassion and civic responsibility. Pamphlets and brochures were distributed during the event to educate attendees about the health benefits and safety of donating blood. As World Blood Donor Day 2025 highlights the theme "20 Years of Celebrating Giving: Thank You, Blood Donors!", the event in Bandipora stands as a testament to the spirit of community service and healthcare collaboration.

Drug Free J&K initiative Srinagar admin organizes series of drug de-addiction awareness programmes

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 14: As part of ongoing Drug Free Jammu and Kashmir initiative, district administration Srinagar hosted a series of drug de-addiction awareness programmes in Shahr-e-Khaas areas and rural pockets of the district to sensitize people about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

The awareness programmes, held on the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, aimed to sensitize communities about the dangers of drug addiction and highlight Government schemes and benefits available to those affected.

These programmes were organized at Marriage Halls of Munawarabad, Khanka-e-Mohalla and Khawaja Bazaar. The anti drug awareness programmes were also held at Government High School New Theed-A and Panchayat Office, Saidpora. The events witnessed active participation from multiple departments,



including Health, Police, Education, Social Welfare, Excise and Rural Development Department.

Experts from these departments delivered informative sessions, shedding light on the issues surrounding drug addiction and the support systems in place to help individuals and families.

Rural Development and Education departments played a crucial role in the programmes, raising awareness among students about the risks and consequences of drug addiction. Additionally, counseling sessions were conducted to support students and provide guidance on overcoming addiction.

During the programmes, awareness sessions on the risks and consequences of drug addiction were held and information regarding Government schemes and benefits for those struggling with addiction were highlighted in detail.

The awareness programmes underscored the commitment of local authorities to address the critical issue of drug addiction and promote community well-being. By engaging with the public and providing valuable information, the programmes also aimed to empower individuals and families to make informed decisions and seek support when needed.

Dr Tasaduk greets NEET qualifiers, wishes them best for future journey

HT NEWS DESK

Dr Tasaduk Husain Itoo on Saturday congratulated NEET-UG 2025 qualifiers and extended his best wishes to them for future journey.

"I would like to congratulate all the NEET-UG 2025 qualifiers and extend my best wishes to them for their future journey. It is indeed a moment of great satisfaction that many students aspire for medical entrance exams and crack these with highest sort of determination, hard work, passion, zeal and enthusiasm. This is a proud feeling," Dr Tasaduk said in a statement.

He said that every success story of cracking a competitive exam is unique and dignified in itself and should be celebrated with flying colours and vigour.

"I also believe that cracking an exam is just an ambition, the real dream comes true when you create a positive impact and revolutionize lives in the society through the fulfillment of that ambition and application of knowledge to your level best" Dr Itoo said.

He said that he would feel emulated in listening to interviews of multiple qualifiers and applaud their thoughts and missions towards the serving of humanity in future.

He advised the qualifiers to effectively focus on enhancing their communication skills during training and take every patient as a noble teacher besides the teacher who shall taught you in the medical school during training classes.

"The future journey is going to be inspiring and full of worthwhile lessons and life-changing experience", he added.

"Those candidates who couldn't make it this time should stay competent, confident, mindful, hopeful and courageous in their journey and should start smartly preparing for their next attempt", he said.



Nasha Mukht JK Abhiyan DC Baramulla reviews progress of IEC campaign against drugs

HT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 14: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of the ongoing IEC campaign against drugs under Nasha Mukht JK Abhiyan.

During the meeting, DC took stock of the awareness activities conducted in various educational institutions, Panchayats and ULB's. He also reviewed the role of nodal departments in ensuring the effective implementation of the campaign. Key issues including inadequate display of IEC materials, limited video screenings, incomplete uploading of event and participant details, and absenteeism of designated resource persons were discussed. DC directed all officers and event coordinators to ensure that all organized events are promptly uploaded on the designated portal. He further instructed the concerned to ensure maximum commu-



nity participation and visibility of awareness content to achieve the intended impact. Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Assistant Commissioner Development Baramulla, District Social Welfare Officer, various other officers, event coordinators participated in the meeting.

nity participation and visibility of awareness content to achieve the intended impact. Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Assistant Commissioner Development Baramulla, District Social Welfare Officer, various other officers, event coordinators participated in the meeting.

Health Society Budgam intensifies Tobacco control efforts

Enforcement drive conducted in Beerwah block

HT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, JUNE 14: A comprehensive enforcement and awareness drive under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003, was conducted today in the villages of Iskanderpora, Ichama, and Pirpora of Medical Block Beerwah. The initiative aimed to curb public tobacco consumption and reinforce compliance with anti-tobacco laws. The drive focused on three key objectives: a strict enforcement of Section 4 of COTPA (prohibiting smoking in public places), restricting tobacco sales near educational institutions (Section 6) and ensuring mandatory display of statutory warnings at shops and public points.

Health teams on the occasion inspected markets, shops and public spaces, distributing awareness materials and counseling violators.

Three challans were issued to individuals caught smoking in public, with fines levied as per COTPA provisions. Shopkeepers were sternly warned against unlicensed sales and non-compliance with signage rules.

BIBI Fatima society in collaboration with Amandeep hospital donation camp at Haj House on World Blood Donor Day

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, JUNE 14: On the occasion of world Blood donor day and in a significant step towards promoting humanitarian values and addressing urgent medical needs, a large-scale blood donation camp was successfully organized by BIBI Fatima society in collaboration with Amandeep hospital at the Hajj House Bemina. The camp was formally inaugurated by Chairman BIBI Fatima society Gowhar mir accompanied by General Secretary M y m o n a Q u r e s h i



The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from healthcare professionals, donors, and dedicated volunteers, all united by a shared mission: to save lives through the selfless act of blood donation. The event aimed to strengthen emergency medical resources, support patients undergoing surgery, and raise public awareness on the importance of regular, voluntary blood donation. The event was aimed at promoting the noble cause of blood donation, raising awareness about its significance.

World Blood Donor Day observed at GMC Kathua

HT NEWS DESK

KATHUA, JUNE 14: To mark World Blood Donor Day, the District Red Cross Society (DRCS), in collaboration with the Blood Transfusion Department of Government Medical College Kathua, organized a Blood Donation Camp.



Additional Deputy Commissioner Vishavjeet Singh inaugurated the camp amid encouraging participation. Over 40 units of blood were donated by volunteers across permissible age groups. The initiative received active support

from doctors and paramedical staff of the Medical College. The NCC cadets from Government Degree College assisted in managing the camp. Addressing the gathering, the ADC described blood donation as a noble and selfless act that can save countless lives. "Donating blood is

one of the most powerful ways to help someone in need. There is no substitute for human blood—it is truly a gift of life," he said. At the end, appreciation certificates were presented to the volunteer donors by the ADC as a token of gratitude for their life-saving contribution.

South Africa Beat Australia by 5-Wickets; End 27-year ICC Trophy Drought

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
London June 14

History has been made at the Home of Cricket and what a moment it is for South Africa and every Protea fan around the world. Temba Bavuma's men have done what no other South African side could in nearly three decades: bring home an ICC trophy. They have conquered the mighty Australians and, more importantly, they have conquered their own ghosts of the past. This was not just another final; it was a statement. Eight consecutive Test wins, unwavering belief and ice-cold calm under pressure delivered the ultimate prize. Aiden Markram's masterful 136, Bavuma's leadership, and countless contributions from a spirited unit ensured that heartbreak turned into unbridled joy. The scenes at Lord's said it all — Verreynne sprinting to hug his partner, the entire dressing room erupting in

cheers, legends like Graeme Smith, AB de Villiers, and Shaun Pollock watching on with pride. Amidst it all stood Bavuma, motionless for a moment, soaking it all in before being mobbed by his teammates — the calm centre of South Africa's storm. This victory is bigger than a trophy. It's a healing of wounds, an answer to countless 'what ifs', and a promise to the next generation that no hurdle is insurmountable. The class of 2025 has written a new chapter in South African cricket — one filled with belief, resilience, and history made under the sunlit skies of Lord's. The drought is over. The dream is real. The Proteas are champions of the Test world — and the roar of this triumph will echo for generations. South Africa's inspirational skipper Temba Bavuma soaked in every second of his team's long-awaited triumph at Lord's — a win that has broken decades of heartbreak for the Proteas faithful. "It has been a special



couple of days. Felt like we were back home in South Africa with the support we have had," Bavuma said, acknowledging the sea of green and gold that turned up at the Home of Cricket. He knew the magnitude of this win for the nation: "Special moment for us as a team, special

moment back home, will take a couple of days to sink in." Bavuma spoke about the years of near misses that shaped this moment: "The energy was there, we've been wanting this as a team. We've been knocking on the door, we've gone through the heartache, the disap-

pointments, seen it with the past players... and the sun is on us. Hopefully this is one of many." As Bavuma stepped forward to lift the trophy, the Lord's crowd rose in a thunderous ovation — a fitting salute to the captain who led his men into history. Aiden Markram, fittingly named Player of the Match, reflected on a roller-coaster few days that ended with him scripting history for South Africa. "Not at all. Weird how things work out — you get a duck, then get luck and it worked out," Markram smiled, speaking about his turnaround at the Home of Cricket. He cherished the atmosphere at Lord's: "It's a place every Test cricketer wants to play at. Plenty of South African fans were there and it turned into one of those special days." Markram highlighted the importance of handling pressure: "It's not always one-sided, you absorb the pressure and maximise scoring

options." He didn't forget to praise Bavuma either: "He is one of the best in the world. We had plenty of banter, I told him he's one of the best. A lot of it came from him — he's always led from the front. These are the knocks people remember you for." A memorable knock, a historic chase and a day Markram — and South Africa — will never forget Head coach Shukri Conrad couldn't hide his delight after watching his men break the ICC jinx in style at Lord's. "Really ecstatic about these guys. Something we don't talk about is the bigger picture in South Africa — this one is for South Africa," Conrad said, capturing the emotion behind this long-awaited triumph. The coach credited the senior pros for setting up the win: "When our two senior pros put that stand together, that's where the game was won. We got the best of the batting conditions and they made it count."

Gautam Gambhir Faces Tough Questions Ahead Of Shubman Gill-Led India's Opening Test vs England

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
London June 14

As India-England first Test draws closer, the Asian giants are left with plenty of questions to answer as they battle demons following a string of poor showings at home/away and retirements of some of their biggest superstars. India's first Test against England at Leeds from June 20 will mark the start of a new era under newly-appointed captain Shubman Gill, as he aims to lead a new-look team to glory following the retirements of stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli from Tests and Ravichandran Ashwin from international cricket as a whole. There are some questions they need to answer, some problems left unaddressed: For

Team India, at least, the number four spot is not a regular position. For long, it was occupied by legends like Sachin Tendulkar (13,492 runs in 177 Tests at an average of 54.40, with 44 centuries) and Virat Kohli (7,564 runs in 98 Tests at an average of 56.88, with 26 centuries). Rohit Sharma's top-order replacement looks clear, in the form of KL Rahul. There have been calls so far that Gill should take the number four spot. Though he succeeded at number three spot at home with three centuries and three fifties, he has been abysmal away from home. Even Karun Nair, who has returned to the national side after eight years, young Sai Sudharsan or in a highly left-field call, Dhruv Jurel, could become India's number four, as per Wisden. Gill and head coach stayed tight-

lipped about the batting order during the pre-departure presser, saying that a call would be taken only after reaching the UK. During the Kohli captaincy era, the onus was on the main batters to do the talking and no cushion was given to them in the form of all-rounders. Five specialist bowlers were played, prioritising picking up 20 wickets at any cost, home or away, even if the batting line-up looked less deep. The captain-coach duo of Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid more or less continued with this. But there was some slight shift during Gautam Gambhir's tenure, particularly in Australia, when three specialist bowlers were played with three all-rounders. The idea to provide variety and depth was great, but it led to over-reliance on Jasprit Bumrah.

Kevin De Bruyne Joins Napoli After Leaving Manchester City

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 14

Kevin De Bruyne, one of the most iconic midfielders of his generation, has completed a stunning move to Italian champions Napoli, ending his legendary decade-long association with Manchester City. The Belgian maestro arrives in Italy on a free transfer, turning down a lucrative offer from MLS side Chicago Fire in favour of continuing his Champions League journey at the top level. In true Neapolitan flair, Napoli unveiled their marquee signing with a bold computer-generated image of De Bruyne sit-

ting on a throne, clad in royal blue and wearing a crown — aptly captioned, "King Kev is here." The 33-year-old will now be marshalled by Antonio Conte, the fiery tactician and former Chelsea and Spurs boss, recently appointed head coach of Napoli. The duo will aim to build on Napoli's dramatic Serie A triumph last season, where they edged out fierce rivals in one of the tightest finishes in recent memory. De Bruyne's departure from City marks the end of an era. Joining from Wolfsburg in 2015, the Belgian magician was at the heart of Manchester City's most successful decade, winning 19 major trophies.

DC Baramulla felicitates Young Wushu Champion Aman Khan

HT NEWS DESK



BARAMULLA, JUNE 14: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today felicitated Aman Khan, a student of Class 6th, for securing the 3rd rank in the 25th Sub-Junior National Wushu Championship held in Tamil Nadu. In a brief interaction held at his office chamber, DC lauded Aman's outstanding performance at the national level and expressed pride over his achievement, terming it a matter of great inspiration for the youth of the district. He also encouraged him to continue his dedication and discipline in sports to bring more laurels in the future. Minga Sherpa assured all possible support to young athletes from the district to promote a culture of sports and fitness. In a brief interaction held at his office chamber, DC lauded Aman's outstanding performance at the national level and expressed pride over his achievement, terming it a matter of great inspiration for the youth of the district. He also encouraged him to continue his dedication and discipline in sports to bring more laurels in the future.

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