

Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat assumes charge as DC Budgam

P105

Faz Lul Haseeb assumes charge as Commissioner SMC, CEO SSCL

P13



# Complete Eradication of Militancy From the Soil of Jammu Kashmir is Our Top Priority: LG Sinha

Attends Passing-out Parade of the Probationers DySSP and PSIs at SKPA, Udhampur

HT NEWS DESK

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 16: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today attended the Passing-out Parade of the Probationers Deputy Superintendents of Police (DySSP) 17th Batch and Probationers Sub-Inspectors (PSIs) 26th Batch at SKPA, Udhampur.

A total of 49 Deputy Superintendents of Police and 1112 Probationary Sub-Inspectors (PSIs) completed their rigorous training today at the Police Academy.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor congratulated all the passing out police officials and

SEE FULL ON .....PAGE 02



Under Leadership Of PM Narendra Modi J&K Has Regained Its Identity Of 'Paradise' Post 2019: LG

Launches Ashish Sharma's Coffee Table Book 'Reimagining Jammu & Kashmir' in Delhi

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUNE 16: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today launched the 'Reimagining Jammu & Kashmir', a coffee table

SEE FULL ON .....PAGE 02

Sakeena Itoo Reviews Medical Preparedness for SANJY-2025 at Sonamarg Inspects healthcare facilities at Baltal Base Camp Hospital

HT News Network



GANDERBAL, JUNE 16: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare, and Education, Sakeena Itoo, held a comprehensive review of medical preparedness for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025 during her visit to Sonamarg today.

Chairing a high-level meeting of the Health Department officials, the Minister was briefed by the Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Jahangir Bakshi, about the overall medical strategy for smooth conduct of SANJY-2025. He provided an overview of the healthcare arrangements being put in place along the Baltal route, which include deployment of medical staff, availability of life-saving medicines, ambulances, oxygen booths, and accommodation for healthcare personnel. It was informed that 30 Medical Stations, comprising Base Hospitals, Medical Aid Camps, and Emergency Aid Centres, have been established at key locations along the Baltal axis. These facilities are fully equipped with essential medical equipment, supplies, and trained medical and paramedical personnel to ensure

SEE FULL ON .....PAGE 02

## Explosion During Mosque Demolition in Langate, Leaves Three Injured

DR. AB QAYOOM

Langate, June 16: In a startling incident this morning, two labourers and a local resident sustained minor injuries after an explosion occurred during the demolition of a 70-year-old mosque in the Kasheria area of Langate in north Kashmir's Kupwara district. According to local residents, the explosion took place while a group of people was razing the old mosque structure to make way for a new



one. The blast, which happened unexpectedly amid the demolition activity, resulted in minor injuries to three individuals. The injured have been identified as

SEE FULL ON .....PAGE 02

## Census in J&K and Ladakh to Begin from October, 2026

HT NEWS DESK/KNT

SRINAGAR, JUNE 16, KNT: The long-awaited national Census will officially begin in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh from midnight of October 1, 2026, marking the first comprehensive population count in the Union Territories since 2011.

The announcement was

made by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs on Monday, bringing clarity on the much-delayed enumeration process.

Unlike the rest of the country, where the Census is set to start from March 1, 2027, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, along with Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, have been prioritised for an early rollout due to climatic

and logistical considerations. Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a high-level meeting earlier in the day to review the preparedness for the massive exercise. The meeting was attended by the Home Secretary, the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, and other senior officials.

SEE FULL ON .....PAGE 02

## Kashmiri parents urge PM Modi for urgent evacuation of students from Iran

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

SRINAGAR, JUNE 16 (UNI) Scores



of anxious parents in Kashmir on Monday appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to expedite the evacuation of their children studying in Iran, as tensions continue to escalate between Iran and Israel.

Parents said their children have been making frantic calls amid rising panic, particularly after three Kashmiri students were reportedly injured in an Israeli airstrike near Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS) on Sunday.

"All three sustained minor injuries," a student based in Tehran said on the condition of anonymity.

An estimated 1,500 Kashmiri students are currently pursuing

SEE FULL ON .....PAGE 02

## Power Sector Review of Chammb Constituency Minister Satish Sharma Issues Firm Directions for Immediate Improvements

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JUNE 16: In a meeting convened to address pressing issues in the power sector of Chhamb Assembly Constituency, the Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services &



Sports, and ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, took serious note of gaps in implementation

and infrastructure delivery and directed the officers to ensure

SEE FULL ON .....PAGE 02

## Javid Dar distributes appointment letters among newly recruited Junior Assistants in RDD

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 16: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, today distributed appointment letters among the newly recruited Junior Assistants of the Rural Development Department (RDD) during a ceremony held at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

Addressing a longstanding shortage of clerical staff that had affected the field offices since 2021, the Minister handed over appointment orders to 35 candidates from the



Kashmir division.

The appointment ceremony was held in presence of Secretary, RDD & Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, Director RDD Kashmir, Shabir Hussain Bhat and Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal.

SEE FULL ON .....PAGE 02

## CS for Leveraging Technology, Global tie-ups to Popularise J&K Handicrafts

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 16: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting to review the ongoing and proposed initiatives of the Handicrafts & Handloom Department aimed at promoting and preserving the rich craft heritage of Jammu & Kashmir, while simultaneously improving the socio-economic condition of artisans and weavers.

The meeting was attend-



ed by Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh; MD, JKTPD; Directors of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir and Jammu, besides other senior officers.

Underscoring the global

demand for authentic and high-quality handmade products, the Chief Secretary stressed the need to safeguard the interests of genuine artisans by leveraging modern technological interventions. He called for widespread use of Geographical Indications (GI), QR code tagging, traceability tools and digital authentication mechanisms to clearly distinguish

SEE FULL ON .....PAGE 02

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

LG

called upon them to uphold the values, traditions and ethos of J&K Police.

"For thousands of years, an important part of our society, a group of warriors have been making supreme sacrifices to establish the victory of Dharma over Adharma. Those warriors have creative power of Lord Brahma, the nurturing power of Lord Vishnu and the absolute power of Lord Shiva. The same invincible power is being imparted to 49 Probationers DySSP and 1112 Probationer Sub-Inspectors at the Parade," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He paid tributes to the brave-hearts of J&K Police who have laid down their lives for the nation.

"I am proud of our valiant personnel and officers of Jammu Kashmir Police. Entire nation looks at our police force with admiration and respect for professional competence, for successful handling of security challenges on multiple fronts and ruthlessly combating terrorism," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the brave personnel must protect the whole society in every possible way to ensure peace, development and stability.

"Our ancient values focus on truth, justice, morality, law and good governance - and these values need to be protected and nurtured in the society by J&K Police," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon J&K Police Force to utilise the modern technology like Artificial Intelligence to enhance its capability of data collection and analysis to counter security threats, prevent radicalisation and triumph over adverse situations.

"Complete eradication of terrorism from the soil of Jammu Kashmir is our top priority. Our mighty warriors of J&K Police must adopt a multi-pronged approach and harness the power of intelligence, community engagement, technology, and inter-agency collaboration.

Despite remarkable changes in technology, there is no alternative to beat policing and area policing. Therefore, we have to bring beat policing to the centre of the security apparatus. We must strike a fine balance between Techint and Humint to strengthen overall counter-terrorism efforts," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor further asked the police personnel to focus on fostering collective vigilance in the communities.

He said this collective vigilance will not only enable the police force to ensure a coordinated response against terrorists but will also strengthen the trust with all sections of society.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, emphasised on Intelligence-Driven Anti-Terror Operations.

"I have given a free hand to the Jammu and Kashmir Police Force and security forces to deal with the terrorists and terror ecosystem within J&K. I want the mighty police force, the most powerful Indian Army and the valiant CAPF to work together to wipe out the terrorists and their support system.

We must intensify targeted strike on the OGWs network and the elements providing logistical and financial support to the terrorists should be brought to justice," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also extended his felicitations to all the trainers and officials of Police Academy Udhampur and the family members of the passing out DySSP and PSIs.

Shri Garib Dass, Director, Udhampur Police Academy briefed about the program and various activities conducted during the Training course.

The training program equipped recruits with high proficiency in New Criminal Laws, Artificial Intelligence, cybercrime, narc-terrorism, general warfare, field craft and tactics, counter-terrorism, counter-insurgency, human rights, and law & order.

The Lieutenant Governor took the ceremonial Salute and inspected the parade. He also felicitated the new recruits who excelled during their training.

An oath was administered to the passing out DySSP and PSIs for performing their duties with dedication and honesty.

Shri Nalin Prabhat, DGP J&K; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Ms Saloni Rai, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur; senior officials of Police, Security Forces and civil administration and family members of the passing out DySSP and PSIs were present.

Shri Lal Chand, Chairman, District Development Council, Udhampur; Shri Pawan Gupta, Shri Balwant Singh Mankotia, Shri RS Pathania and Shri Sunil Bhardwaj - Members of Legislative Assembly, and prominent citizens in large number were also present on the occasion.

LG BOOK

book by Photojournalist Ashish Sharma, at New Delhi, Jammu food guide

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor commended the Photojournalist Ashish Sharma for factually presenting the continuous changes taking place in Jammu and Kashmir and development in various sectors since

abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

"Under leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi J&K has regained its identity of 'Paradise' post 2019 and Ashish Sharma's watchful photographic journey captures that transformation.

In the history of J&K, 5 August and 6 June will always be remembered. While abrogation of Article 370 on 5 August 2019 paved the way for J&K's complete integration, 6 June physically connected Kashmir to Kanyakumari and its citizens' aspirations with national mainstream.

This coffee table book is an attempt to present before the nation the transformation that has taken place in Jammu and Kashmir in the last five years," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, highlighted the efforts made by the J&K Administration, under the guidance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, to build a Jammu and Kashmir, which is free from all kinds of discrimination, fear and insecurity, Jammu food guide

"My message from day one was very clear - we do not believe in buying peace but want to establish peace. I had given another vision to the security agencies - do not harass the innocent, do not spare the guilty.

The administration has been successful to a large extent in realising the vision of 4 Ps - Peace, Progress, Prosperity and People First. Our infrastructure has transformed at an unprecedented pace and economy is showing impressive growth," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that the administration, while transforming urban landscape and developing our cities, has paid special attention to facilities, sustainability and quality living for the common citizens.

"Nightlife for any city is not just a clock but a symbol of the liveliness and the cities of Kashmir valley have regained their vibrancy now. Jammu and Kashmir's relationship with lakes and rivers has been revived after decades.

Our industry, Startups and Agriculture sectors witnessed rapid growth over 5 successive years. Youth are fulfilling their dreams through entrepreneurship and around one million availed the opportunity of self-employment within 4 years and it has been ensured that no section of society is left behind," he further said, Jammu food guide

The Lieutenant Governor also lauded the significant efforts behind the coffee table book, which remarkably showcases J&K's extraordinary journey and unprecedented growth across all sectors.

Books are documents of time, especially coffee table books present progress through captivating photographs. We can see J&K in the move through Ashish's Camera, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also cautioned the people against the fear mongers who are making misleading statements, without any substance, and threatening the peace.

"People should do their politics but not at the cost of unity and integrity of our great nation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Meenakshi Lekhi, former Union Minister of State; Ram Bahadur Rai, President IGNC; Dr Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, IGNC; Prof. Ramesh C. Gaur, Director & Head, Kala Nidhi, IGNC and prominent citizens from all walks of life were present.

ITOO

efficient and timely healthcare services for the pilgrims.

Emphasizing the importance of readiness, Health Minister directed the health authorities to ensure that all medical arrangements are in place well before the commencement of the Yatra. "There shall be no compromise on the safety and healthcare of the yatri," she stated.

The Minister further stressed that the list of medical and paramedical staff, along with their contact numbers, should be shared with the District Administration besides duty rosters of doctors must be adhered to strictly to avoid any disruptions during the pilgrimage.

Sakeena Itoo called for robust coordination among all medical units deployed along the route to provide seamless and uninterrupted healthcare services throughout the Yatra period.

The meeting, among others, was attended by MLA Kangan, Mian Mehar Ali; Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore; Director Health Services Kashmir, Director Family Welfare MCH & Immunization J&K, Director Ayush, CMO Ganderbal, and other senior officials from the Health Department and district Administration.

Later, the Minister visited the Baltal Base Camp Hospital, where she inspected the arrangements and interacted with the on-ground staff. She directed officials to ensure round-the-clock availability of doctors, paramedical staff, and other healthcare professionals and emphasized that uninterrupted medical services must be ensured for the welfare of the pilgrims.

CENCUS

The upcoming census will be conducted in two distinct phases. The first phase, known as the House Listing Operation (HLO), will collect information about the housing conditions, household assets, and available amenities. The second phase, termed the Population Enumeration (PE), will involve collecting detailed demographic, socio-economic, and cultural data, including caste and religion, from every individual in each household.

This will be the first census to include a caste-based enumeration, a politically sensitive issue long demanded by various regional and national political parties, especially in states like Bihar. While Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) are already enumerated in previous censuses, this time the data will include Other Backward Classes (OBCs) as well, despite the challenge of non-uniform OBC lists across states.

Importantly, the 2026-27 Census will be India's first digital census, allowing residents to self-enumerate using digital platforms. The last population count was conducted in 2011, as the 2021 census was deferred due to the COVID-19 pandemic, making this the first census in 16 years. [KNT]

POWER

timely and proper augmentation of power infra in Chammb and its catchment areas.

The meeting, held at the JKRTC Office, Rail Head Complex, Jammu, witnessed the participation of the Managing Director, Chief Engineers, Superintendent Engineers, Executive Engineers, AEEs and other senior officials of JPDC, JPTCL, Transmission Division, Maintenance Division etc.

The Minister while discussing the Union Territory CAPEX Plan emphasised that no planning for Chhamb should proceed without consultation with the elected representative and local stakeholders.

The Minister directed officers to submit a detailed progress report on projects under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP), particularly those related to rural electrification and power augmentation and also those taken up under Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS). The Minister stressed on accelerating the execution of sanctioned works and flagged delays in ground implementation.

Expressing concern over frequent and unscheduled outages, the Minister instructed the department to submit a weekly load-shedding calendar and rectify the causes of supply disruptions on priority.

The meeting also discussed current status of buffer stock for distribution transformers. Officers were told to ensure adequate stock is available to address breakdowns without delay. It was directed that the repair/replacement of Damaged Transformers be carried in a shortest possible time so that the people shouldn't have to suffer in this connection.

While discussing the status of 33KV grid stations at Ghar Majoor and Kaleeth, the Minister directed for expedited completion of pending works and removal of administrative bottlenecks, if any.

The Minister directed field officers to compile a requirement inventory of electric poles and conductor wires, so that procurement and supply can be aligned with field needs.

The meeting also discussed shortfall of transformers in the region JPDC was directed to map transformer demand at the village level and prepare an immediate procurement plan. It was also directed for proper implementation of the Jan Jati Utkarsh Gram Abhiyan in order to provide electricity supply to every household. Further stress was put on the Solarization of the households under different Govt Schemes like PM Suryaghar, whereby the Minister emphasised that the Solar Power is the only solution in view of the power deficit and he urged that the people should come forward to shift from the traditional power supply to Solar power.

It was further discussed and decided in the meeting that the voltage supply from the Jourian Grid station would be increased, in a day or two, so that the electricity to its catchment area is properly supplied. The meeting also discussed regarding the augmentation of Barn grid station whereby it was appraised that further augmentation of the said station by 50MVA, to be completed by next 15 days, would improve the power supply in the areas fed through this grid station.

Minister Sharma emphasised that no delay will be tolerated in resolving issues affecting public convenience, especially those concerning rural electrification, voltage regulation, and uninterrupted power supply.

DAR

A total of 122 Junior Assistants have been appointed across Jammu and Kashmir through the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB).

Of these, 62 have been posted in the Kashmir division, 55 in the Jammu division and 5 in the Rural Sanitation Department. The structured recruitment included 1 post at the UT level, 2 each for the divisional cadres and the rest have been distributed among the districts.

Congratulating the appointees, Javid

Ahmad Dar highlighted their vital role in improving the department's performance. "This batch of Junior Assistants will serve as a much-needed boost to the department, strengthening the public service delivery system across the rural areas," he said.

He said that these appointments will expedite file processing, enhance grievance redressal, support implementation of welfare schemes and reduce the workload in the Block Development Offices (BDOs).

The Secretary noted that the new clerical staff would significantly improve the operational efficiency of rural governance structures in the Union Territory.

The appointments have come in continuation of last year's recruitment drive, where 1,395 Panchayat Secretaries were inducted into the RDD&PR department, strengthening the administrative infrastructure at the Panchayat level.

CS

the original handmade products from counterfeits.

He directed the department to aggressively follow up with the Government of India for expediting approvals of dozens of project proposals submitted for promotion of various crafts across the UT. He emphasised the need to designate a senior nodal officer to spearhead the coordination and ensure timely clearances of these projects.

The Chief Secretary also called for fast-tracking the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the World Craft Council. He said this partnership is expected to significantly elevate the global footprint of J&K's traditional crafts by establishing a World Craft Hub and Living Crafts Museum, envisioned as an international centre for craft preservation, innovation, and exchange.

Dulloo further highlighted the need for consistent promotion at national and international levels, leveraging not just conventional marketing channels but also digital and social media platforms. He remarked that the market for our crafts is vast, and we must tap into its full potential to uplift the lives of our artisan community.

Reviewing the progress on Ekta Malls being established in Jammu and Srinagar, the Chief Secretary urged for their timely completion. These malls are envisioned as dedicated platforms to showcase and sell indigenous products, enabling artisans to directly connect with consumers.

Commissioner Secretary, I&C, Vikramjit Singh, during his presentation, elaborated on the post-2020 policy reforms that have led to structured support for artisans, improved market access and revitalised the traditional craft economy in the UT. He noted that these initiatives paved the way for GI protection, upgraded infrastructure and financial empowerment of the artisan community.

He highlighted flagship interventions like the Credit Card Scheme for Artisans (CCSA), Financial Support Scheme for Cooperatives/SHGs, Karkhandar Scheme, Raw Material Banks, and Artisan Education Schemes—all aimed at holistic upliftment of artisans and weavers across J&K.

Regarding the key infrastructure and promotional projects, Director, Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, Masrat-ul-Islam, provided a detailed overview of recent initiatives, including the establishment of Craft Villages, Common Facility Centres (CFCs), Flatted Factories, De-hairing Plants, Bamboo Clusters and Craft-Based Resource Centres in various districts.

Notable among the proposed projects are Craft Village at Sonpah, Budgam, Wool CFC at Nowshera, Srinagar, Flatted Factories at Mujgund, De-hairing Plant at CDI Nowshera, Bamboo Cluster at Samba, Indian Institute of Textiles/Handlooms at Basohli, Promotion of Handloom Sector in Jammu, Block-level Craft Training Centres and dozens more proposals submitted for approval of Gol for their funding.

The meeting was informed that J&K remains the only UT/State in the country to offer GI tagging for its entire craft basket. Each GI-certified product features a QR code label embedded with crucial details like artisan identity, material used, and place of origin. Recent procurement of a high-resolution digital microscope worth Rs30 lakh has significantly reduced the GI application backlog—from 1709 in February 2025 to just 150 in June 2025.

So far, 15 crafts from Kashmir and 3 from Jammu have been granted GI status, with several more under proposal. With respect to Kashmiri Sozni, Hand Knotted Carpet, Pashmina, Kani Shawls, Paper Mache, Walnut Wood Carving, Khatamband, Crewel, Namda, Kashmiri Tweed, Gabba, Wagguv, Chain Stitch, Shikara, and Bat making had received the GI with 6 more submitted this year.

With respect to capacity building and export performance, it was informed that currently 634 craft training centres operate across the UT, offering formal training in various handicrafts and handloom traditions including Massive Carpet Training Centres.

Exports of handicrafts from J&K have also shown remarkable fluctuations, peaking at Rs 1116.37 crore in 2022-23, with Rs 733.59 crore reported in 2024-25, reflecting the

sector's critical contribution to the economy.

The department continues to actively participate in national-level expos and trade fairs, generating a revenue of Rs 9.64 crore from 15 exhibitions last year. The department is collaborating with JKTPD to provide free or subsidised stalls to artisans to maximise the visibility and generate business leads, as was given out in the meeting.

KASHMIRI

MBBS degrees across Iran, with a large number of them based in Tehran.

"For three nights now, since the Israeli airstrikes began, we haven't slept. We've been constantly in touch with our children," said a concerned parent in Srinagar. "We appreciate the Government of India's efforts, but as parents, we urge that the evacuation process be expedited."

Parents said some students were relocated from Tehran on Monday.

"Several students have been shifted to Qom city, about 150 kilometers from Tehran, while others have been taken to areas near the Armenian border," one parent said.

A group of parents gathered for the second consecutive day at the Press Enclave in Srinagar, demanding immediate evacuation of the stranded students.

The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) also issued an appeal to the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of External Affairs, calling for immediate intervention.

"We request the establishment of dedicated and responsive communication lines between Indian students in Iran and the Indian Embassy in Tehran. Verified safety information, emergency guidelines, and timely updates must be disseminated," said Nasir Khuehami, national convener of JKSA.

"A comprehensive evacuation plan should be formulated and kept ready. If the situation deteriorates or critical infrastructure comes under sustained attack, timely evacuation could be a matter of life and death. The Government must act proactively and swiftly to ensure the safety of our citizens," he added.

Jammu and Kashmir's former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has already raised the matter with EAM Jaishankar, seeking assurance on the safety and well-being of the students in Iran.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief and former CM Mehbooba Mufti also voiced her concern.

"Families of the stranded students in Iran are growing increasingly anxious with each passing day. I earnestly urge the Ministry of External Affairs to intervene and take immediate steps to ensure the safe return of their loved ones," she said.

KUPWARA

Mudasir Ahmad Mir of Nutnoosa, Ghulam Ahmad Tantray of Kachri, and Owais Ahmad of Hadipora. All three were immediately rushed to the Sub District Hospital (SDH) Langate for treatment. Medical officials confirmed that two of the injured were discharged after receiving first aid, while one was referred to District Hospital Handwara for further medical care. His condition is reported to be stable. Soon after the incident, security forces including the Indian Army's 30 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) and Handwara Police swiftly reached the spot and cordoned off the area. A Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) along with a Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team was also pressed into service to ascertain the nature and origin of the explosion. Sanitization operations inside and around the mosque premises are currently underway as a precautionary measure. Speaking to Headlines Today, Superintendent of Police Handwara stated that the cause of the explosion is being investigated and further inquiries are ongoing.

CEO lauds media's role in voter education, strengthening democratic values in society

JAMMU, JUNE 16: Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir, Sanjeev Verma, today convened an interactive session with the representatives of print media houses at Nirvachan Bhavan, Jammu, with an aim to enhance better communication flow with the media fraternity. The CEO underscored the importance of effective collaboration between the election machinery and the media to deliver accurate, clear and timely updates to the public from the Election Department. Expressing gratitude for successful coverage and contribution in the previously held Parliamentary and Assembly Elections, the CEO appreciated the consistent support from the media fraternity in disseminating timely and accurate election-related information to the public. Sanjeev Verma also acknowledged the role of media in fostering democratic values and enhancing voter education, creating awareness about SVEEP, dispelling myths, countering misinformation and false narratives.



# Rana reviews measures aimed to strengthen Tribal Research Institute in JK Calls for engaging tribal communities, academia, civil society organisations

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 16: Aimed at promoting tribal welfare and research in Jammu & Kashmir, Tribal Affairs Minister, Javed Ahmed Rana, today reviewed measures aimed to strengthen the Tribal Research Institute (TRI) in Jammu and Kashmir. In a meeting of the officers of Tribal Affairs Department, the Minister emphasized the pivotal role of TRI in promoting the tribal welfare. He called for transforming it into a premier institute of tribal research and excellence.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Tribal Affairs Department, Harun Malik, Director Tribal Affairs, Mohd Mumtaz Ali and other senior officers of the department. During the review, the Minister directed the officers to formulate a comprehensive coordination plan with all the stakeholders to devise the broader structure of role and activities to be taken up by the TRI. He stressed the need for infrastructure upgrades, hiring of reputed consultants and submission of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to ensure the institute's effective functioning.



The Minister also emphasized the importance of studying and replicating best practices and models from other parts of the country to enhance TRI's capabilities. He envisioned TRI as a hub for innovative research,

policy formulation and capacity building, ultimately contributing to the socio-economic development of tribal communities in J&K. Javed Rana directed for enhancing TRI's infrastructure to facilitate cutting-edge research and training. He also asked for fostering broader coordination with all stakeholders, including tribal communities, academia and civil society organizations. The Minister instructed for engaging experienced and reputed consultants to provide expertise in tribal research and development and prepare and submit DPRs for various projects and initiatives to be under-

taken by TRI. "Our vision for TRI should be to establish it as a premier institute of tribal research and excellence, contributing to the socio-economic development of tribal communities in J&K. TRI's work should be guided by a deep understanding of tribal issues, cultures, and aspirations," he said. TRI should be positioned as a key driver of tribal welfare and development in J&K, leveraging research, innovation, and collaboration to improve the lives of tribal communities, he added.

# Principal Secretary chairs review meeting of Geology & Mining department

Calls for public welfare oriented fund utilization, strict action against illegal mining

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 16: Principal Secretary, Geology and Mining Department, Anil Kumar Singh, today chaired a meeting to review functioning of the department at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.



The Principal Secretary directed the department to expedite the auctioning of mining resources strictly as per the existing guidelines. He emphasized the need for stringent monitoring and a complete crackdown on illegal mining and related violations.

He instructed the officials to take strict legal action against the violators and ensure full compliance with the Central and UT mining Acts and Rules during all mining operations. He further stressed that the

revenue generated from the mining activities must be effectively utilized for public welfare, with a focus on road development, health and other social sector initiatives that directly benefit the public.

While reviewing the human resources, the Principal Secretary emphasized the importance of filling up of vacant positions within the department to ensure efficient functioning.

The meeting included detailed presentations updating the chair on the progress in exploration and extraction of major and minor minerals including limestone, granite, blue sapphire, gypsum, lithium and coal. It was reported that during 2024-25, 36 leases for limestone and 205 leases for minor minerals were granted.

# Commissioner Secretary visits Cooperative Public Secondary School, Malangam

Highlights role of educational cooperatives in Rural Development

HT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 16: As part of the ongoing celebration under the International Year of Cooperatives, Commissioner Secretary, Cooperative Department, Babila Rakwal, on Monday visited the Cooperative Public Secondary School Ltd, Malangam, Bandipora to review functioning of the institution and promote cooperative-based education in rural areas.

During the visit, the Commissioner Secretary interacted with the school management, faculty, students and members of the managing cooperative society. She

appreciated the efforts of the institution in delivering quality education through a cooperative model. She emphasized the importance of strengthening educational cooperatives to ensure equitable access to learning opportunities in remote areas.

Babila Rakwal informed that there are currently 15 cooperative educational institutions in Jammu and Kashmir, and this school at Malangam has been recently established under the Cooperative Department.

"Our foremost focus will be on developing the infrastructure of these cooperative schools, including the provision of desks, establishment

of science laboratories, libraries, smart classrooms and computer labs," she said, while reiterating the department's commitment towards empowering the rural youth through quality education.

This visit followed her earlier engagement in Gurez, where she emphasized the need to register cooperative societies in niche sectors such as food processing of Zeera, buckwheat, potato, and rural tourism.

On the occasion, the Commissioner Secretary felicitated the students from the institution who had recently excelled in academic examinations. The local community and school stakeholders

# Hakeem Yaseen Urges Centre to Evacuate Kashmiri Students from Iran Amid Escalating Tensions

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, June 16: President of Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen, on Monday appealed to the Government of India to take urgent steps for the safe evacuation of Kashmiri students stranded in Iran, citing rising tensions and a war-like situation in the region.

In a statement issued here, Hakeem Yaseen said that families of several students have contacted his office, expressing grave concern about the deteriorating geopolitical situation in Iran and the safety of their wards.

"The government must act swiftly before the situation further spirals out of control. Special flights must be arranged without delay to bring our students home safely," Hakeem said.

He urged the Ministry of External Affairs to establish immediate contact with Indian nationals, especially students from Jammu and Kashmir, studying in various Iranian universities, and to provide them with all necessary support, including evacuation assistance and temporary accommodation near Indian embassies.

# MD Jal Jeevan Mission asks CEs to expedite Har Ghar Jal Certification of reported villages

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 16: Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, today convened a review meeting regarding implementation of the Mission in J&K through virtual mode.

The meeting was attended by chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Kashmir, Mohammad Taj Chowdhary, Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Jammu, Vikas Sharma Superintending Engineers Hydraulic Circles Jammu, Udhampur-Reasi, Rajouri, Poonch, Kathua, Doda/Kistwar/Ramban, Srinagar/Ganderbal, Anantnag-Kulgam, Budgam, Baramulla-Bandipora and Kupwara-Handwara, Executive Engineers of all Civil and Mechanical divisions and the officers in Mission Directorate.



The MD enquired about the status of scheme completion under the Mission. He was informed by both the Chief Engineers that out of 3200 schemes being executed under JJM, 1486 stand completed, the details of which can be accessed by the public on JJM portal. The rest of the schemes are in advanced stages of completion, they added.

The MD enjoined upon the Chief Engineers to expedite the progress on the scheme for completion within the set timelines so that the mission

of providing "Har Ghar Nal Sey Jal" becomes a reality in J&K soon.

He took a detailed review of mapping of pipelines laid under PM Gati Shakti. He directed the officers to complete the targets within the set timelines and upload the scheme related information on the portal.

The MD also took a division wise review of Har Ghar Jal certification of reported villages. He directed the Executive Engineers to remove the discrepancies in schemes completed and Villages certified evident in the PowerPoint Presentation. He also directed the Superintending Engineers of respective circles to take a detailed review of their respective districts regarding Har Ghar Jal Certification.

He also discussed the expenditure reconciliation and variations in state and central share under JJM.

# Faz Lul Haseeb assumes charge as Commissioner SMC, CEO SSCL

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 16: Mr. Faz Lul Haseeb today assumed charge as the Commissioner of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) and Chief Executive Officer of Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL), ushering in a new chapter in the city's urban governance and infrastructure development.

He takes over from Dr. Owais Ahmad, who has been transferred as Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Kashmir.

A brief ceremony held at the SMC headquarters witnessed a warm welcome for Mr. Faz Lul Haseeb by senior officials and staff. They pledged full support in furthering the mission of sustainable, inclusive, and responsive urban development. In his maiden address, Haseeb reaffirmed his commitment to transparent, efficient, and citizen-first governance. "Srinagar's transformation into a smart and sustainable city demands collective action and innovative solutions. My focus will be on



strengthening service delivery, streamlining grievance redressal, and ensuring people's concerns remain central to all our initiatives," he said.

With a distinguished record of public service, Haseeb is known for his dynamic approach, prompt action, administrative acumen, and problem-solving capabilities. His leadership is expected to energize ongoing projects under the Smart City Mission and revitalize municipal functions for enhanced citizen satisfaction.

# DC Srinagar presides over launch of 'Dharti Aaba Abhiyan' at Fakir Gujri Panchayat, Srinagar

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 16: As part of the nationwide campaign under Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA JGUA), district administration Srinagar today launched the 'Dharti Aaba Abhiyan-Awareness and Benefit Saturation Camps,' here. These camps are aimed to achieve 100 percent saturation of all eligible beneficiaries from the tribal communities for various schemes. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo presided over the inaugural Awareness & Benefit Saturation



Camp at Fakir Gujri Panchayat of the district marking the beginning of a series of outreach and service delivery camps. The initiative is aimed to provide essential amenities such as secure housing,

clean drinking water, education, healthcare sanitation, improved access to, as well as enhanced road & telecom connectivity and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Chief Planning Officer Srinagar, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Deeba Khalid; BDO Harwan and officers of all line departments attended the inaugural event. Speaking on the occasion, DC said that the campaign is an effort aimed at saturating tribal families with individual entitlements as stipulated under various schemes and habitations with basic facilities.

He remarked that the initiative will ensure to cover every eligible household that has remained unreached and will provide facilities at the doorsteps of the beneficiaries without visiting Government offices.

# Vaccination drive for FMD control programme inaugurated at Dir. of Sheep Husbandry Kashmir

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 16: Directorate of Sheep Husbandry, Kashmir, today kick-started a comprehensive vaccination drive for Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) control programme at its headquarters in Lal Mandi, Srinagar. The drive was formally inaugurated by Dr. Rafiq Ahmad Shah, Director, Sheep Husbandry Department, Kashmir. The initiative marks a crucial step in safeguarding the health of the livestock population in the region, with a focus on improving animal productivity and minimizing economic losses to the farming community due to FMD, a highly contagious viral disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Rafiq Ahmad Shah emphasized the department's commitment to a proactive move to strengthen animal healthcare and disease prevention among small Ruminants. "FMD vaccination drive is a significant intervention under the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP). Ensuring the health of our livestock directly contributes to the livelihood of thousands of sheep and goat rearers across Kashmir," he said.

# J&K prepares for SSG-2025: Rural Sanitation Deptt. holds division level workshop at Srinagar

## Score High, Shine Bright: DG Anoo Malhotra stresses on clean data, cleaner villages

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 16: Directorate of Rural Sanitation, Jammu & Kashmir, today organised a workshop on Swachh Survekshan Grameen-2025 (SSG-2025) at the meeting hall of Directorate of Rural Development, Kashmir. The workshop witnessed active participation from Assistant Commissioners Development (ACDs), Assistant Commissioners Panchayat (ACPs), Block Development Officers (BDOs), and other Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (SBM-G) officials from across all districts of the Kashmir division.

The workshop aimed to sensitize field functionaries on the framework, methodology, and key deliverables of the upcoming SSG 2025 survey. The survey marks a crucial step toward strengthening J&K's preparedness and accelerating efforts under the SBM-G. Director General, Rural Sanitation, J&K, Anoo Malhotra, underscored the significance of community participation, visible cleanliness, and strong data validation for achieving result oriented rankings in the national survey. The event featured interactive sessions and technical presentations on survey parameters, IEC (Information, Education & Communication) strategies, and protocols for evidence uploading. Launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Swachh



Survekshan Grameen 2025, is a nationwide rural sanitation survey aimed at evaluating the impact of SBM-G, promoting hygiene, and sustaining the achievements of Open Defecation Free (ODF) status. In Jammu & Kashmir, the survey will be conducted in a phased manner by the Academy of Management Studies (AMS), covering all districts of the Union Territory. SSG 2025 is a comprehensive survey that evaluates ODF sustainability, solid and liquid waste management, citizen feedback on cleanliness and sanitation infrastructure. Importantly, SSG 2025 will generate a national ranking of states and districts based on these sanitation parameters, encouraging healthy competition and fostering innovation

in rural sanitation practices. Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2025 is a vital step in India's journey towards a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable rural environment, ensuring consistent monitoring, identification of gaps, and implementation of best practices across the country. Launched by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2025, is a nationwide rural sanitation survey aimed at evaluating the impact of SBM-G, promoting hygiene, and sustaining the achievements of Open Defecation Free (ODF) status. In Jammu & Kashmir, the survey will be conducted in a phased manner by the Academy of Management Studies (AMS), covering all districts of the Union Territory.

## Hakeem Yaseen Seeks Lifting of Tourism Ban at Doodpathri, Yousmarg & Tosamaidan Assures the public ban will be lifted soon

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, June 16: President of Peoples Democratic Front (PDF) and former minister, Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen, on Monday reiterated his call to the Jammu and Kashmir administration to immediately lift the ban on tourist activities at key destinations including Doodpathri, Yousmarg, and Tosamaidan, citing the adverse impact on local livelihoods and the region's economy. In a statement issued to the press, Hakeem Yaseen said that delegations from various parts of Budgam district, particularly from Tosamaidan, Yousmarg and Doodpathri, met him recently and expressed their deep anguish over the continued closure of these popular tourist destinations. The affected residents, mostly dependent on tourism for their livelihood, are facing immense financial strain due to the restrictions. "These regions are among the most



picturesque and peaceful tourist destinations in Kashmir. The continued ban has disrupted the income of hundreds of families who rely on tourism for survival," Hakeem said. He emphasized that tourism is not merely a source of revenue, but a lifeline for rural households, providing employment, dignity, and opportunity. "The ban has triggered a sense of abandonment among the youth

and small business owners who had invested in the seasonal tourism economy," he added. Hakeem Yaseen stated that he has already taken up the matter with concerned government authorities and is hopeful of a positive outcome. "I assured the visiting delegation that the issue has been pursued at the appropriate levels and, Insha'Allah, the ban is expected to be lifted within a few days," he said. He also suggested a phased reopening of these destinations, backed by regulated and responsible tourism policies. "There is a need for deploying tourist police, eco-monitoring teams, and forming local tourism committees to supervise and ensure sustainable tourism," he said. Calling for greater government sensitivity, Hakeem urged the Lieutenant Governor-led administration to engage directly with the locals and stakeholders of Budgam district to find a practical and inclusive way forward.

## YHAI holds meeting in Srinagar

HT NEWS DESK



Srinagar Today on the 14th Day of June 2025 an important meeting of YHAI Units of J&K 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 District units of the J&K State which include Srinagar, Unit 1, Srinagar Unit 2nd, Anantnag, Badgam Baramulla and District unit Reasi Members of Srinagar Unit 1 and Riasi Unit participated through virtual mode... 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 The participants include Adv. Shabeer Ahmed, Dr. Nighat Ara, Shabir Ahmad Bhat, Dr. Asmat, Ms. Shahnaz, Ms. Tahira Akhtar Dr. Yasmeen, Ms Mehjabin kamli, Aejaz Ahmad Khan Mohammad Sharif wani Mohamad Rafiq Nazir Ahmad Mir Ab. Rashid Ahangar, Basit Nabi wani, Mohamad Asif Khan Sabiya Mahajan and Gh. Mohammad Rather.

## Dharti Aaba Abhiyan: Mega Awareness and Benefit Saturation Camps held across Anantnag

HT NEWS DESK

ANANTNAG, JUNE 16: As part of the ongoing Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan, district administration Anantnag today organized mega Awareness and Benefit Saturation Camps at various panchayats in the district.

The camps witnessed enthusiastic participation from the local tribal population. Resource persons from various government departments engaged with the attendees, providing detailed information on a wide range of welfare schemes.

During the camps, officials raised awareness about social security, livelihood, and skill development programs, besides addressing several grievances of the locals. A number of issues raised by participants were resolved on the spot.

Speaking on the occasion, officers from various line departments emphasized the importance of ensuring last-mile delivery of government services to marginalized sections, particularly in remote tribal areas. They highlighted the efforts made by the administration to facilitate access to welfare schemes and bridge gaps in public service delivery.

As part of the Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan, district administration is conducting such awareness camps across identified locations in the district. These camps, scheduled to continue until June 30, 2025, aim to ensure that no tribal household is left out of the benefits of various government schemes.

The outreach initiative aligns with the government's inclusive development goals and focuses on participatory governance through awareness, facilitation, and the resolution of public grievances at the grassroots level. Local community members appreciated the efforts of the administration and expressed hope that such initiatives would continue to bring positive changes to their socio-economic conditions. DAJGUA underscores the district administration's commitment to inclusive development and tribal empowerment. The initiative is being closely monitored by the District Development Commissioner, Anantnag, with regular reviews and field visits planned to ensure transparency, effectiveness, and saturation of services. Commissioner, Anantnag, with regular reviews and field visits planned to ensure transparency, effectiveness, and saturation of services.

### GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION AND TRAININGS LAND MARK OPPOSITE HATHLANGOO BUSSTOP MALMAPANPORA SOPORE

#### AUCTION NOTICE

It is hereby notified for public information that the dilapidated damaged auditorium at DIET Complex Mainpangans (Sopore) District Baramulla will be auctioned by Auction committee formed under Chief Education Officer Baramulla Vide No CEO/P/a/28671-72 Dated 13-06-2025 Bidder submit EMO for Auction by or before 23-06-2025 upto 11:00am in the shape of FOR/COR pledged to Principal District Institute of Education and Trainings Sopore Baramulla amounting Rs 10000/ (Rupees Ten Thousand Only). The salvage value lowest Bid of damaged Auditorium 31,030.00 (Rupees Ninety One Thousand Thirty Only). Terms and conditions documents can be had from the office of District Institute of Education and Trainings malmapanpora Sopore during working days from 10:00am to 1:00pm Open Auction will be held in DIET premises will start at 11:15am upto 11:45am on 23-06-2025 (Monday) for any further details and queries contact 97971582805854.

DIPK-2564/25

Send Dated:-16/06/2025  
Pub:- 17-06-25

Sd/-  
PRINCIPAL  
District Institute of Education and Trainings  
Sopore Baramulla

### GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR UNION TERRITORY OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION GANDERBAL

Subject:- Construction of PHC at Kullian Ganderbal Phase-I & II (Balance/Repair Work). Reference:- NIT No. 05 of 2025-26 issued under endorsement No. 372-80 Dated:-09-05-2025 of R&B Division Kangan.

#### Cancellation Notice

The above mentioned NIT floated for tenders shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio as per instructions issued by the Superintending Engineer vide letter no. SE/Gbl/TEC/1531-32 Dated: 16-06-2025.

DIPK-2590/25

Send Dated:-16/06/2025  
Pub:- 17-06-25

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
(R&B) Division Ganderbal

### GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR UNION TERRITORY OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Machinery Division Kashmir, Mechanical & Hospital Engineering Department, Srinagar.

Fax No: 0194-2497093 email: xenmds@gmail.com website: www.medkashmir.org

#### Cancellation Notice

Subject: - Supply of various Hand operated & Power Operated Tools for Mobile Workshop under SDRF.

Reference: - This office e-NIT No: - MDSK/TS /2024-25/35 Date:05 -08-2024  
(Tender ID: 2024\_PWDJK\_255393\_2)

Due to technical reasons, the above referred e-NIT for the subject work is hereby cancelled.

DIPK-2569/25

Send Dated:-16/06/2025  
Pub:- 17-06-25

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Machinery Division Kashmir.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I Tariq Ahmad Dar F/O Mohammad Anas Dar R/O Mukhdoom Pora Nowshera Srinagar, hereby declare that my sons name in his school records shown as Mohammad Anas instead of Mohammad Anas Dar Which is also as per his Aadhar card and other documents and wants to add his cast in his school records. In this regard, if anyone has any objection he/she may convey in The office of Larks international School Nowshera Srinagar within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, After that no objection shall be entertained

Tariq Ahmad Dar  
Flo Mohammad Anas R/o Mukhdoom Pora, Dar  
Nowshera Srinagar

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is being notified that my name in my Aadhar Card having Aadhar card number this 316616906398 has been wrongly mentioned as itfaq ahmad Laway but my actual name as per School record is Itifaq ahmad Laway  
abdul Majeed Laway R/o Mamal Pahalgam  
I m going to change my aadhar details of anyone have queries they may contact us within 7 days

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is being notified that my son ( Musavir Mehraj badroo ) C/O Mehraaj Ud Din Badroo D. O. B had been wrongly mentioned in his school record as 22-08-2012 but the actual dob as per aadhar card is 15-03-2012 now I want to make its correction if anyone have any curious please contact to the office of SHEIKH-UL-ALLAM HANFIA SCHOOL SALLAR ANANTNAG

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is being informed that the name in my electricity bill having consumer number 02070100 1161 is only mentioned as Mohd Lateef Wagay but actual name as per my aadhar card is Mohd Laterf Sheergojri s/o Abdul Wahab Sheergojri R/O Ruhoo Anantnag Now I want to update its name if anybody has queries they may contact pdd department we didn't 7 days

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is being informed that By mistake My daughter's name in her aadhar card having aadhar card number 6610 8268 4087 is wrongly mentioned as Ambreena Jan. But as per school record her actual name is Amreena Rashid C/O Abdul Rashid Shah. NOW I want apply for its correction if any body having any objection in this regard he/she may contact Abdul Rashid Shah R/O Badoora Akingama Anantnag

### 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.

# DC Bandipora reviews arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram at Sumbal

HT NEWS DESK

**BANDIPORA, JUNE 16:** In view of the upcoming observance of Muharram-ul-Haram 2025, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri today convened a high-level coordination meeting at Dak Bungalow, Sumbal to finalize arrangements for the peaceful and smooth conduct of religious events across the district.

During the meeting, DC emphasized inter-departmental coordination, timely execution of facilities, and maintaining law and order during the Muharram days. He directed all concerned departments to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply, proper sanitation, healthcare services, and traffic regulation at all major congregation sites.

On the occasion, DC directed concerned officers from departments including PDD, Jal Shakti, R&B, Health, Fire & Emergency Services, Food Civil Supplies, Police and Municipal Committees to stay alert and



ensure all necessary arrangements are in place well in advance.

He underscored the importance of maintaining peace and communal harmony during the Muharram period, stressing the need for seamless coordination among the district administration, police authorities, and religious bodies to ensure the smooth and dignified conduct of all related processions and events.

On the occasion, religious leaders and community representatives raised several concerns related to healthcare, electricity, drinking water and other essential arrangements for Muharram congregations.

While giving a patient hearing to the issues highlighted, DC assured that all genuine demands would be addressed on priority. He directed the concerned departments to take immediate action for timely resolution of the issues.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Hussain Shawl; Programme Officer ICDS, Yaar Ali Khan; SDM Sumbal, Chief Planning Officer Bandipora and other concerned officers.

# 2-Month FMD Vaccination drive under NADCP launched in Baramulla

HT NEWS DESK

**BARAMULLA, JUNE 16:** A two month-long Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccination drive under the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) was officially launched today in Baramulla.

The initiative was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, at the District Veterinary Office Complex.

On the occasion, DC handed over vaccination kits to the field staff and flagged-off a fleet of 15 bikes equipped with vaccine kits to ensure comprehensive coverage of remote and far-flung areas of the district.

The drive aims to vaccinate cloven-footed animals such as cattle and buffaloes to protect livestock from FMD and boost rural livelihoods dependent on animal husbandry. The event was held in the presence of the District Animal Husbandry Officer and other officials from the Animal Husbandry Department.

Following the flag-off ceremony, DC also inspected the infrastructure and facilities available at the District Veterinary Hospital, emphasizing the need for quality veterinary services and efficient delivery of animal healthcare in rural areas.

FMD vaccination drive will be carried out in mission mode on a free-of-cost basis, as part of the Government of India's commitment to eradicate livestock diseases and enhance animal productivity.

# Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat assumes charge as DC Budgam

HT NEWS DESK



**BUDGAM, JUNE 16:** In a formal handover ceremony held today in the office chamber of the Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat took over the charge as DC Budgam.

He joined as the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, succeeding Akshay Labroo.

Dr. Bhat took the charge in presence of several senior officers of the district administration.

Additional District Development Commissioner Budgam, Aashiq Hussain; ADC Budgam, ACR Budgam, all SDMs, Chief Planning Officer Budgam, DIO Budgam, Tehsildars and other senior officers of the district were present on the occasion.

The incumbent DC was accorded a warm welcome by the officers present. He expressed gratitude to the gathering of officers and officials present on the occasion.

# National Apprenticeship Promotion Mela held at ITI Shopian

HT NEWS DESK

**SHOPIAN, JUNE 16:** National Apprenticeship Promotion Mela (NAPM) was organised today at Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Shopian, drawing enthusiastic participation from hundreds of aspiring apprentices, industry representatives, training partners and government officials.

The event marked another significant step forward in advancing the objectives of the Apprenticeship scheme, promoting on-the-job training and strengthening the ecosystem of apprenticeship in the country.

Superintendent, ITI Shopian gave a detailed presentation of the scheme, highlighting the win-win situation that the scheme offers for both Industries and potential apprentices. He stressed on companies and industry to come forward with zeal and enthusiasm so that the scheme is implemented as envisioned by policy makers in line with broader objective of Skill India Mission.

The event was attended by the companies dealing with cold storage chain, logistics, automobile, horticulture, information technology and banking sectors. The participating companies and industries offered apprenticeship roles and guidance on career pathways to the apprentices and also offered career counselling and mentorship to job seekers and

# DC Baramulla finalizes arrangements for International Yoga Day; directs officers for smooth conduct

HT NEWS DESK

**BARAMULLA, JUNE 16:** In connection with the upcoming International Yoga Day, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a meeting here to review and finalize the necessary arrangements for the main event of International Yoga Day scheduled to be held at Helipad Ground Baramulla. During the meeting, DC directed all concerned officers to ensure adequate arrangements for the smooth conduct of the event. He emphasized wide public participation, and instructed departments to raise awareness



about the importance of Yoga in promoting physical and mental well-being. Key arrangements discussed included sanitation, drinking water, seating, medical aid, security, transport and logistics. DC stressed inter-departmental coordination and timely execution of responsibilities. Officers from the Youth Services & Sports, Health, Education, Information, Police and other line departments briefed the DC on their preparedness for the day. The main event on June 21 will witness participation from officers, students, athletes, NCC/NSS cadets, and local citizens, all coming together to perform Yoga and spread the message.

# Second outreach camp under DA-JGUA held at panchayat Wangath in Ganderbal

HT NEWS DESK

**GANDERBAL, JUNE 16:** In continuation of the district-wide implementation of the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA), second outreach and benefit saturation camp was successfully organized today at Panchayat Wangath, Block Kangan in Ganderbal.

This initiative is part of the broader PM JANMAN (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan) and is designed to achieve 100% saturation of government schemes and entitlements for tribal communities through village-level service delivery and awareness-generation activities.

Camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from tribal beneficiaries, and was marked by the presence of sectoral officers, block-level officials, Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members, frontline workers, and representatives from line departments and Common Services Centres (CSCs). Their collective efforts reinforced the multi-departmental convergence model



envisioned under the campaign. A wide range of essential government services and entitlements were provided on-the-spot, including Aadhaar enrolment and update, health screenings, scheme registrations, and other citizen-centric services.

In line with the campaign's core objective of benefit saturation, meticulous efforts

were made to ensure that no eligible tribal household remains excluded from welfare schemes. A wide range of essential government services and entitlements were provided on-the-spot, including Aadhaar enrolment and update, health screenings, scheme registrations, and other citizen-centric services.

# DAJGUA awareness campaign held at Chitreybanday to empower tribal communities of B'pora

HT NEWS DESK

**BANDIPORA, JUNE 16:** Continuing the momentum under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), district administration Bandipora Monday organized an awareness and benefit saturation camp at Chitreybanday.

DAJGUA campaign was formally launched on June 15th at Government Higher Secondary School Aragam by the District Administration, where various stakeholders including PRIs, civil society members, and tribal youth participated in large numbers. The launch event marked the beginning of a 15-day initiative aimed at ensuring saturation of government schemes in all 31 notified tribal villages of the district.

Various government departments actively participated in today's camp to facilitate on-the-spot services and enrollment under key welfare schemes. Departments including Health, Education, Social Welfare, Rural Development, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, and others showcased schemes like PMAY, PM-KISAN, Ujjwala Yojana, pension assistance, and



scholarships. On the occasion, eligible beneficiaries were provided with direct support, guidance, and registration opportunities as part of the ongoing saturation drive. The event witnessed encouraging participation from tribal residents of Chitreybanday and adjoining areas, who availed multiple services and interacted with officials to understand scheme benefits.

DAJGUA campaign will continue till June 30 across 31 notified tribal villages of Bandipora, aiming at full coverage of all eligible individuals and promoting inclusive development. DAJGUA campaign will continue till June 30 across 31 notified tribal villages of Bandipora, aiming at full coverage of all eligible individuals and promoting inclusive development.

# Distt Admin Bandipora intensifies IEC campaign against drug abuse across panchayats

HT NEWS DESK

**BANDIPORA, JUNE 16:** In line with the objectives of the Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan and on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, district administration Bandipora on Monday launched an intensive Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign across multiple panchayats of the district to raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse and to promote a drug-free

society. The campaign witnessed active participation from local communities, youth, and various departments, with resource persons delivering sessions on the devastating impacts of substance abuse on individuals, families, and society.

Resource persons emphasized the importance of a multi-dimensional approach involving prevention, awareness, rehabilitation, and enforcement to effectively tackle the menace of drugs. Officers and experts from concerned

departments highlighted the critical role of community participation and youth engagement in eradicating the threat of drug addiction. They urged the public to remain vigilant and foster collective responsibility at the grassroots level to ensure a safer and healthier future.

Resource persons sensitized the participants about the physical, mental, and social consequences of substance abuse. They also shared information on available government support mechanisms, helplines and rehabilitation services, encouraging affected

individuals to seek timely help. District administration reiterated its commitment to continue such awareness campaigns across the district, aiming to build an informed, resilient, and drug-free community. Resource persons sensitized the participants about the physical, mental, and social consequences of substance abuse. They also shared information on available government support mechanisms, helplines and rehabilitation services, encouraging affected individuals to seek timely help.

# DLSA Kulgam observes 'World Elder Abuse Awareness Day'

Farooq Rather

**KULGAM, JUNE 16:** District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Kulgam, in collaboration with the District Social Welfare Office, today observed 'World Elder Abuse Awareness Day' to raise awareness about the rights and welfare of senior citizens.

The event was held under the chairmanship of Aijaz Ahmad Khan, Chairman, DLSA Kulgam. Legal Aid Defense Counsels (LADCs) attended the programme as resource persons and delivered insightful lectures on the topic.

They highlighted key provisions of various welfare schemes being provided by the central and UT governments for senior citizens. Speakers also informed participants about the availability of free legal aid and other legal services offered by DLSA and affiliated legal services institutions.

Programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from senior citizens, staff of DLSA, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) and officials from the District Social Welfare Office.

EDITORIAL

Don't belittle Urdu language since it is connected with roots

Not long ago Urdu was the official language of Jammu & Kashmir and all the official correspondence at the government as well as non-government level was carried out in this language. With the passage of time the language faced neglect at the hands of people more so from those who were at the helm. As a result of this the language was somewhat belittled and more attention was given to English considered to be the universal language in the modern world.

As if this was not enough, some of the politicians belonging to different parties have demanded that Urdu be dropped as the language for the examination to be conducted for the Naib Tehsildar posts. The demand is totally unjustified and it shows disrespect to this language. A delegation of these politicians met the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha some days back and submitted a memorandum in this regard. It remains to be seen how the government will respond to this demand of these politicians.

It would be wise to give multiple options to the candidates for answering their question papers for Naib Tehsildar examination. The candidates can choose between English, Urdu and Hindi languages in answering the questions posed in the Naib Tehsildar examination. Demanding scrapping of a language that is connected with the roots not only in Jammu & Kashmir but across the country is uncalled for and such a demand should not be accepted at all. Hope better sense will prevail upon the government and the Urdu language will not be scrapped for the Naib Tehsildar examination.

A war of words has broken out between the different political parties and both the sides are aiming barbs at each other. The issue has become a political one and it is no more connected with the cultural ethos of the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. It is highly unfortunate that a language given due respect by the constitution of the country is looked upon with hatred by people having vested interests. Languages should not be connected with any religion and region.

Urdu is considered to be one of the sweetest languages across the globe and it finds its place in the national song of the country. This needs to be understood by the people who are finding loopholes in this language and claim that adopting this language would give a free hand to the anti-national forces. The claim is too absurd and needs to be countered by the masses and more so by the people who are the decision makers.

A Father's Day Dream: The Night My Children Came Back To Me



By Syed Majid Gilani

It was the night before Father's Day, in June 2025. While the world around me prepared to celebrate their fathers with flowers, hugs, cards, and joyful gatherings, I lay alone in my room, as I do every night, a father without his children, a heart without its beat. The world outside was silent, but within me stirred a storm of memories, prayers, and silent cries. I thought of my three precious children: my Arshad, my Sarah, and my Murshad.

They have been taken away from me, living beyond my reach. Yet every single moment of my life belongs to them. Not a day passes when I do not call their names in my prayers, long to hear their voices, feel their arms around me, and see their innocent faces light up with joy the way they once did. Every night, I close my eyes with their names trembling on my lips and beg Allah to keep them safe, to let me see them again. I know this forced separation is temporary, and so, with a heart torn but steadfast, I wait with patience.

Last night, as the world slipped into sleep, the prayer of a broken-hearted father reached the heavens. I drifted into a restless slumber, and what followed was no ordinary dream. It was life itself, returned to me for a few fleeting, precious moments. In the depth of the night, I felt the door of my room creak open. I turned, and there they were. My life. My soul. My everything. Arshad stood tall, a fine young boy now, yet the same familiar pain shimmered in his deep, gentle eyes, the same pain that quietly eats away at my heart. He came close, held my hand, and whispered, "Papa... I miss you every single day. Not a moment passes when I do not think of you. I remember how you woke me for Fajr prayers, how we walked together on frosty mornings, those cycling trips to Shalimar Garden, how you taught me to skip stones on Dal Lake, and how we laughed while eating golgappas, corncoobs, and belpuri by the boulevard. I miss visiting your office, playing with your pens, and riding in your lap. I miss our Maghrib prayers at Hazratbal Shrine. Do you remember, Papa, how you would lift me up to kiss the sacred walls? I miss everything, Papa... I miss you." "Those were the happiest days of my life, Papa. They still are." I held his hand, trembling in that moment of warmth I had longed for so desperately.

Then came Sarah, my beautiful, gentle daughter. Her face, brighter than a full moon, was now shadowed by the sadness of our forced distance. She wiped her tears and sat beside me, resting her head on my shoulder. Her voice, soft and broken, reached my ears like a sacred

prayer. "Papa... I miss your bedtime stories. I miss how you called me your princess, how you waited at the school gate. I miss the surprise gifts you brought in your pockets, those little pens, books, and chocolates. Do you remember, Papa, how you promised you would teach me to drive when I turned eighteen? I still hold on to those promises. I haven't forgotten." I kissed her head, feeling my heart burst with grief and gratitude all at



once. Then came my little Murshad. My innocent one. He ran into my arms, just like before, no words, no hesitation, only the pure, unshaken love of a child for his father. He buried his face in my chest, his tiny hands clinging to me as though afraid I might vanish again. "Papa," he said, his voice thick with tears, "why are we living elsewhere? I miss sleeping next to you. I miss your bedtime stories about our beloved Prophet (PBUH) and his faithful companions (RA)."

I could no longer hold back my tears. In that dream, my heart shattered and healed at the same time. I pulled them all close, kissed their foreheads again and again, and told them how not a single moment passes without their names in my prayers, their faces in my heart, and their voices in my ears. I told them how I live only for them, how this world means nothing without them. I reminded them of everything I had taught them: to be truthful, to be kind, to trust Allah in every storm, to choose good friends, to never hurt a soul, to live with simplicity, and to always walk with dignity and faith. "Your Papa is always waiting for you," I whispered, "and whether you are near or far, my prayers will find you." Sarah clutched my hand and spoke through her tears. "Papa, we don't want to live away from you. Every day

we think of you. We know you are still fighting for us. Even though we are far, in our hearts we stand with you, Papa. We love you. And we remember everything." We laughed. We cried. We spoke of everything, about the old days, the games we played, about how we would sit together during the evening power cuts making up stories. I told them how I still look at their pictures, their school awards, and their innocent faces in those old photographs. I told them I had kept their toys, their books, and their clothes, treasures of my heart.

But like every dream, this too began to fade. One by one, my children disappeared into the darkness, their voices lingering in the room. "We love you, Papa. We love you." I woke up, my pillow soaked with tears. The room was still and silent, and the world outside was beginning to prepare for Father's Day, a day meant for joy, love, and togetherness. But for me, it was another day of longing, another day of aching memories, and a love that refuses to die. I sat by my window, staring into the empty night sky, holding onto that dream like a precious gift from Allah, the only one this Father's Day could bring me. I raised my trembling hands toward the horizon and whispered, "Ya Allah, keep my children safe. Protect their hearts. Bless them with good character. Grant them peace. And let them remember their Papa with love and turn to their roots."

And to every father like me, those whose children have been forcibly kept away from their father's warmth by hands that once promised to raise them together, I feel your pain. I know the emptiness of your rooms, the weight of old memories, and the sound of absent laughter. You remember their tiny fingers wrapping around yours, their innocent voices calling out 'Papa', their arms clinging to your neck. No words can ease the ache of a father's heart that beats only for his absent children. But believe this: your love reaches them. The prayers you whisper into the night, the tears you silently wipe away, the words you send into the sky, they find their way.

Arshad, when your tiny hand first held my finger, my heart overflowed with joy. Sarah, your radiant smile and endless curiosity became the light of my soul. Murshad, your birth was a divine blessing, and your innocent laughter was my refuge. Though fate has pulled us apart for a while, my love for you remains unshaken. I cherish every memory, every smile, and every tear. I promise to keep fighting for you, loving you, and praying for you until my last breath. And on this Father's Day, while others celebrate with gifts and gatherings, I hold tight to a dream, to a memory, and to a prayer. May Allah shower you with happiness, health, faith, and peace. And with every breath I take, I love you more.

Syed Majid Gilani is a Government Officer by profession and a storyteller by heart. He writes about human emotions, family bonds, moral values, and heartfelt experiences drawn from the unseen threads of community life. He can be reached at syedmajid6676@gmail.com

Ahmedabad Plane Crash: Possible Causes



Dr. Dharmahinder Singh Chand

On June 12, 2025, Air India Flight AI-171, a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner bound for London Gatwick, tragically crashed shortly after takeoff from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad. The aircraft was carrying 242 individuals—232 passengers and 10 crew members. Among the passengers were 169 Indian nationals, 53 British citizens, 7 Portuguese nationals, and 1 Canadian. Notably, former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani was also on board and confirmed dead. The incident shocked the nation, leading to a thorough investigation by aviation authorities. While the final report is still awaited, preliminary analysis points towards several possible technical failures that may have contributed to the tragic accident. The key suspected causes include engine failure, insufficient fuel supply, malfunctioning flaps, and malfunctioning elevators.

1. Engine Failure

Engine failure is often one of the most critical issues leading to crashes. If the aircraft's engine suddenly loses power or stops working, it drastically affects the plane's ability to maintain altitude and speed. Investigators are examining whether the Ahmedabad plane suffered a mechanical breakdown or external factors that led to engine trouble during flight.

2. Insufficient Fuel Supply

Another potential cause under scrutiny is inadequate fuel supply. Running low on fuel can force pilots to make emergency landings or cause complete engine shutdown. Investigators are checking fuel records and flight data to determine if the aircraft had sufficient fuel to safely complete its journey.

3. Malfunctioning of Flaps

Flaps are movable panels on the wings that help control lift and drag, especially during take-off and landing. If the flaps malfunction, the aircraft might struggle with proper speed control or fail to generate enough lift, leading to unstable flight conditions. This malfunction could have played a role in the loss of control experienced by the plane.

4. Malfunctioning Elevators

Elevators control the pitch of the aircraft, allowing it to climb or descend. A malfunctioning elevator can severely affect an aircraft's manoeuvrability. If the elevators were unresponsive or stuck, the pilots would have found it extremely difficult to stabilize the plane during critical moments.

Conclusion

While the Ahmedabad plane crash investigation is ongoing, these possible causes highlight the complexity of aircraft operations and the importance of rigorous maintenance and safety protocols. The aviation community awaits the detailed investigation report to better understand what went wrong and how future incidents can be prevented.

Dr. Dharmahinder Singh Chand Professor & Head, Aerospace Engineering, Chandigarh University

(Book Review) "Smile of Silence" – The soul of a woman resonating in the words of silence



Dr. Poornima, Amritsar

"Maun Ki Muskaan" is not just a collection of poems, it is a voice from the soul of a woman. Priyanka Saurabh's works raise life, love, struggle, and social injustice on a deeply emotional and ideological level. Every poem transforms silence into language and silence into resistance. Whether it is the voice of government schools or the Rakhi of a martyr, every line touches the soul. This collection is for all those who want to read life beyond words. Let us know. An essential collection - the need of today's Hindi poetry.

"Maun Ki Muskaan" is not an ordinary collection of poems. It is a document of those countless silences of a woman, which neither history is aware of nor the present often wants to know. Priyanka Saurabh's poems open those layers of life, where not words but emotions speak; and when they speak, the entire society hears.

In the poem "Sannate Ki Sanjh Mein" Priyanka writes: "Love is not a theatrical performance, It is a musical composition of two natures where there is silence Then the other one sings." This line touches the depth of a woman's silence and her intimate dialogue. The poetess has presented silence and dialogue as the foundation of relationships - a woman's silence is not a weakness, but a depth. Similarly, in "We Want a Song of Truth" she speaks of power, conscience, and moral loneliness: "In whose favour Let there be no slogans, no drums, the voice of that one Occasionally A constitution is made." This poem is the declaration of a movement that

begins not from the crowd but from a single, truthful person standing alone. This collection not only makes one emotional but also awakens the consciousness of justice, struggle and self-esteem.

When reading a composition like "When a soldier is martyred" the eyes become moist: "Sister's Rakhi is martyred, now only in pictures The wrist searches."

There is no artificial revolution in Priyanka's language - it is the untold history of the

"Now I don't have any hope from anyone, Nor is there any lesson left, The truth has resolved everything, The court of lies is now empty."

In the poem "Aao Sarkari School Chalen", Priyanka talks about that section of the society which is fighting the battle for education in government schools - this poem is not just an emotion, it is also a deep comment on the education policy:

"No tie-suit, no dress code, But it doesn't connect with the heart like that."

A work like "Sapna Bandha Shadiyon Mein" is a complete manifesto of linguistic struggle - where Priyanka has directly attacked the multilingual inequality of the country: "Is this true? Is this justice? Are the chains of language a matter of courage?"

This is a poem that challenges linguistic hegemony and becomes the voice of the dreamers in every regional language of India.

In conclusion: Priyanka Saurabh's poems are not 'literary decorations', but are the truths of life that come from the soul of a woman. The courage, spontaneity and sensitivity with which she writes gives her a special place in today's Hindi poetry.

No one returns empty-handed after reading "Smile of Silence". This collection fills us from within - sometimes with questions, sometimes with protests, and sometimes with hopes.

This book is for all of them: Those who want to understand the meaning of being a woman.

Those who consider poetry to be the language of the soul. And those who want to give voice to the silent questions in society. "Smile of Silence (Hindi poetry collection)

Dr. Poornima Reviewer and Women's Studies Researcher Amritsar, Punjab



lives of ordinary women. Poems like "Umeedon ke Chand Taare", "Jab Naqab Uthate Hain", and "Mat Samjho Tum..." create new definitions of introspection and self-esteem. Especially in "Jab Naqab Uthate Hain", there is that boldness, which is the most accurate introduction of the self-respect of today's woman:

# Marking Cultural Milestone in J&K



BY MOHD YASEEN

Cluster University of Jammu has taken a historic leap in the field of higher education by introducing, for the very first time in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, postgraduate degree programmes in Performing Arts. Beginning from the academic session 2025-26, the university will offer Master of Performing Arts (MPA) degrees in two key disciplines, Indian Theatre and Music. This milestone has brought immense hope and excitement to hundreds of students, artists, and cultural workers across the region. The last date to apply for these courses is 22nd June 2025.

This unprecedented move marks the beginning of a new era in the cultural and academic life of Jammu and Kashmir. It addresses a long-standing gap in the formal education system where performing arts, despite their deep roots in the region's cultural fabric, had not been offered as full-fledged academic streams at the postgraduate level. With this initiative, Cluster University of Jammu becomes the first university in J&K to formally institutionalize MPA programmes, allowing students to pursue structured academic and professional training in theatre and music within their home state.

The vision of Dr. K. S. Chandrasekar, Vice Chancellor of Cluster University of Jammu, has been instrumental in bringing this idea to fruition. His commitment to promoting interdisciplinary education and encouraging regional talent has laid the foundation for this landmark academic step. The programmes are being launched under the academic leadership of Dr. Monika Sharma, Dean of the School of Humanities and Liberal Arts, whose guidance has been crucial in framing a curriculum that balances cultural tradition with modern performing arts pedagogy.

Dr. Kuldeep Raina, the Coordinator of the Master of Performing Arts programme, emphasized the significance of this initiative, shares, "This is a moment of cultural awakening. For the first time, our own students will not have to travel to Delhi, Punjab, or Mumbai to pursue their dreams in theatre or music. Cluster University of Jammu has now become a platform where art meets academia. We are creating a space where creativity will be nurtured with discipline, where tradition will be re-examined through scholarship, and where talent will be recognized through structured training. The MPA programme will offer both artistic freedom and academic rigour."

The eligibility criteria for the MPA in Indian Theatre have been designed to be both inclusive and merit-based, opening opportunities to academically qualified students as well as practicing artists. There are three pathways for admission. Firstly, candidates who have completed a Bachelor of Performing Arts (BPA) or a four-year/eight-semester undergraduate degree in the relevant field from a recognized university are eligible. This ensures continuity for students who have pursued theatre studies at the undergraduate level.

Secondly, candidates with a bachelor's degree in any discipline, who also have three years of verifiable stage experience with a recognized theatre group or under the mentorship of an acclaimed director, are eligible. They must furnish documentary proof of their active participation. This pathway honours and recognizes the

immense value of experience-based learning in the field of performance. Thirdly, candidates who have a bachelor's degree and a one-year diploma in theatre from a recognized university are also eligible to apply. This offers an opportunity to those who have taken short-term training to now advance to the next level.

porary forms of theatre and music. The presence of the programmes within Jammu also means that the local cultural landscape will benefit from regular performances, exhibitions, and productions emerging from the university. It will revitalize community engagement with live performance, foster youth participation in artistic activities, and bring a new level of pres-



Admission to the MPA in Indian Theatre programme will be based on a composite score, combining academic and practical evaluation. Fifty percent weightage will be assigned to the marks obtained in the undergraduate programme, while the remaining fifty percent will be based on performance in an entrance test to be conducted by the university. This method ensures that both theoretical knowledge and stagecraft are assessed equally.

The MPA in Music follows a similarly inclusive framework. Candidates who hold a bachelor's degree in Music—whether as a major, an elective, or an additional subject—are eligible. Additionally, those who have graduated in any discipline (Arts, Commerce, or Science) but hold a 6- or 7-year diploma in music from nationally recognized boards such as Akhil Bharatiya Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal, Miraj/Mumbai and Prayag Sangeet Samiti, Allahabad are also eligible for admission. This structure allows formally trained musicians without conventional academic music degrees to enter into advanced learning, contributing to a more holistic and diverse classroom.

The importance of these programmes is not limited to academic outcomes. Jammu and Kashmir has a vast and varied cultural landscape, encompassing Dogri, Kashmiri, Gojri, Ladakhi, and Pahari traditions, as well as folk forms like Bhand Pather and regional classical music practices. The formal inclusion of performing arts in postgraduate education strengthens efforts to preserve, reinterpret, and evolve these traditions in a globalized cultural environment.

The MPA programme will not only produce skilled performers but also open doors to careers in theatre direction, acting, scriptwriting, musicology, arts management, cultural journalism, event production, and research-based artistic documentation. Furthermore, students completing these programmes will be eligible to compete for national and international scholarships, fellowships, and doctoral studies, enhancing the profile of the region in the global arts community.

The university is also preparing the necessary infrastructure, faculty expertise, and academic collaborations required to deliver high-quality training. The curriculum will include performance-based workshops, classroom lectures, field studies, and participation in festivals and academic conferences. Collaborations with well-known artists, visiting faculty, and guest lecturers from leading institutions are also planned. These steps will provide students a comprehensive exposure to both traditional and contem-

porary regional art forms. In the words of one aspiring theatre artist from Jammu, "This is more than a course. It is an acknowledgment of our cultural roots and a recognition of our dreams. For someone like me, who has been working in theatre informally for years, this programme gives my art an academic identity."

Cluster University's move is also in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which encourages the integration of creative arts into mainstream education. The NEP emphasizes multidisciplinary learning, and the launch of MPA programmes reflects how universities can adopt this model in practical and meaningful ways.

The announcement has been met with enthusiastic support from the arts and academic community. Local theatre groups, music teachers, cultural activists, and former students have welcomed the move as long overdue. Many see this as an institutional recognition of the decades-long informal labour of artists in the region, many of whom have kept the arts alive despite the absence of formal academic or governmental support.

Cluster University's step not only affirms the role of the arts in education but also signals a commitment to nurture future generations of artists who are rooted in tradition and equipped for modern challenges. It marks a shift from seeing performing arts merely as extracurricular to recognizing them as professional, intellectual, and socially relevant disciplines.

The application window is now open. All eligible students, performers, and music practitioners who meet the criteria are encouraged to seize this opportunity. The last date for application submission is 22nd June 2025, and with limited seats available, early registration is advised. This is a proud moment for Jammu and Kashmir. The launch of the MPA in Indian Theatre and Music at Cluster University is not just an academic development, it is a cultural turning point. It is a space where identity, creativity, and scholarship will meet, and where the next generation of performers and cultural leaders will be born. This is also an opportune moment for the well-qualified people who have taken their degrees from the major cultural institutions of India

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

# Theij-Kad - A Cherished festival like season



RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR

The valley of Kashmir is undoubtedly famous across the globe, for its lush green meadows, dense forests, suitable climate, lofty mountain peaks and crystal clear fresh water sources. It is also an abode of hundreds of noble saints, whose guiding light continues to inspire and impact our lives. Besides this, Kashmir is also known for its diverse and varied crop seasons. Kashmiri saffron is matchless in the whole world, grown in Pamopre and Kishtwar, Kashmiri saffron is world famed and now GI tagged. It's apples, walnuts, apricots, cherries and grapes have unique savour and aroma. The different seasons, in which these varied crops are grown, aren't merely celebrated as seasons, but as much as cherished festivals. Among all these, Theij-kad - the paddy growing season in Kashmir, is most vibrant and colourful. It begins in mid-May each year and lasts till third week of June and by 21st of June, almost entire agricultural land gets paddy saplings planted. However, according to official records, it has been revealed that much of the agricultural land, especially that which is exclusively meant for paddy cultivation, has shrunk considerably. Construction of commercial apartments, factories and housing is thought to be the main reason, besides switching over to horticulture sector, as the fruit yield pleases farmers more economically. Despite clear cut orders and laws in vague to conserve the agricultural land, it is shrinking unabatedly due to reckless constructions and illegitimate attitude of people.

Theij-kad - the season of paddy cultivation begins early summer in valley. With much transformation in its past and present practices, this season is still a celebrated one. In past, it would be relying more on our women folk, who worked in vast open fields from dawn to dusk, preparing the land for cultivation and then planting the seedlings. It was traditional to invite women from the neighbourhood, who converged in large numbers and helped each other in planting seedlings. The paddy fields presented an enchanted picture, as women engaged themselves in planting seedlings, chanting popular Kashmiri songs of noted and eminent poets and poetesses like Mehjoor, Rasool Mir, Mehmood Gami, Shams Faqir, Habba Khatoon, Arimimal and Lala Ded. Besides some contemporary poets, like Sagar Nazir have composed some melodic lyrics, which while sung by the women in paddy fields rejuvenate their passion and enthusiasm to work alongside their male counterparts. Male members of the family would keep themselves busy in ensuring an adequate water supply, applying fertilizers and pulling seedlings from dapoq nursery for transplanting in main fields. Male members of the family, days after planting, keep themselves busy in hand-weeding. Hand-weeding, helps in removing undesirable weeds from the fields, which compete with the main crop, for nutrients, water and sunlight, thus helping in ensuring a plentiful crop production. However over the past many years, a changing trend reigns our agricultural practices, instead of hiring local women or inviting from our neighborhood, people choose to hire non-local labourers, who plant the seedlings, do hand-weeding and also at the time of harvesting, these non-locals are preferred. It has not only diminished the charm and fascination of this age old festival like season, but also adversely impacted our economy. In past, our children enjoyed this season most, as they would accompany their parents, while carrying specially prepared milk-Kehwa in samavars or pink salt tea for women planting seedlings. At night, all the women were invited to a feast at dinner after a day's arduous task. Three to four varieties of homemade beef and a couple of vegetables were prepared and served to pray for a good crop during harvesting time. Sometimes, married daughters alongside their children were too invited, which turned the gathering into a momentous and blissful one. Whenever, a wedding ceremony would be finalized or an engagement was arranged, the date was fixed either day's before Theij-kad or weeks after it. Though we have shifted to other crops, the essence of Theij-kad - the paddy growing season in Kashmir, still holds significance, as foundations of our economy largely rely on agriculture. Beyond looking for a good crop yield of paddy - our main staple food, it is a time for joy, togetherness, and strengthening our familial ties.

RAYEES AHMAD KUMAR  
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BY MOOL RAJ

In contemporary discourse, fatherhood is no longer about control but connection. A father is not the gatekeeper of the family's honour but its compass.

**THE SILENT ANCHOR**

In the chorus of human relationships, few are as complex, understated, and transformative as the bond between a father and his child. While Mother's Day arrives clothed in sentimentality and universally acknowledged warmth, Father's Day often passes like a whisper—gentle, half-noticed, and quiet in its celebration. Yet within that quietude lies a strength that is neither ornamental nor obsolete. It is time we hold a mirror to the idea of fatherhood, not merely to celebrate it, but to understand how it has evolved, how it is evolving, and how, perhaps, it still longs to be redefined.

Father's Day, celebrated on the third Sunday of June, is not just a ceremonial nod to tradition. It is a question wrapped in garlands: who is the father today? And what does he carry within the folds of his silence?

For centuries, the image of the father stood etched in stone—provider, protector, patriarch. He was the one who toiled beyond the home, who bore the harshness of the world and brought back its

fruits to lay at the hearth. Emotions were luxuries he could not afford, tenderness a territory he dared not enter. Children approached him with measured steps, reverent and distant. Love was understood, not spoken; support was implied, not displayed.

But the winds of time have blown softly yet steadily across the plains of human relationships. The father of today stands not as a statue, but as a human being—capable of warmth, vulnerability, and gentle strength. He may still work long hours, but he also changes diapers. He may still carry the financial weight of the household, but he also sings lullabies and kneels beside a schoolbag, tying a shoelace with quiet care.

In this new narrative, the father is not retreating from his role; he is expanding it. This transformation is not born out of whim but necessity. In a world increasingly conscious of emotional health, gender equity, and inclusive parenting, fatherhood can no longer be bound by the archetypes of the past. It must adapt, or it risks irrelevance. And adapt it has—though not without its growing pains. Today's father is expected to be present in every sphere: earning, nurturing, guiding, and listening. This multidimensional demand has created a more rounded, if more burdened, paternal figure. In the contours of urban landscapes, this shift is visible. Fathers pushing prams in public parks, wearing baby carriers, attending parent-teacher meetings, sharing bedtime routines, and even choosing to stay at home while their partners pursue careers—these are no

## Father-The Mirror of The Family

longer exceptions. They are emblems of a society trying to unlearn and relearn the grammar of gender roles. Yet, beneath this celebration of the modern father lies a quieter truth: many are learning without teachers. Most fathers today were raised by men who never wept in public, who did not hug, who rarely uttered the words "I love you." To become something one has never seen is not evolution—it is quiet courage. And this courage deserves its space in the dialogue around parenting.

Popular culture, too, is beginning to reflect this shift. Where once the father in films and literature was a stern disciplinarian or a noble martyr, he is now a creature of shades and seasons. From flawed to nurturing, from conflicted to quietly strong, the modern father is finally being allowed his humanity. He is no longer a backdrop to the emotional lives of his children but an active participant in their unfolding stories.

In traditional societies, the process is more gradual, yet unmistakable. The patriarchal model, still dominant in many cultures, is beginning to crack—if not collapse. A father allowing his daughter to pursue sports, art, or science, a man in a remote village helping his son cook or care for a sibling, or a conservative elder beginning to understand the diverse identities of the younger generation—these are revolutions not tele-

vised, but no less radical. Of course, not every story is one of triumph. There are fathers who remain emotionally distant, men imprisoned by their upbringing, their insecurities, or their unhealed traumas. Some walk out, some fade into silence, some impose, some oppress. But even these absences shape the narrative. A child raised by a silent father learns to read gestures; a child raised by an absent one grows into resilience, or sometimes, into yearning. The story of fatherhood is not always golden—it is real, with its shadows and silences.

And then, there are the unsung fathers. The single fathers who double up as mothers. The grandfathers who step in when life takes a parent away. The foster fathers, guardians, uncles, mentors, teachers—men who love and lead not out of duty but out of choice. Their stories rarely find space in celebratory greeting cards but deserve the pages of poetry. The pandemic years, that strange pause in the world's breath, deepened this shift. As homes became workplaces and time slowed, many fathers found themselves face to face with the daily lives of their children in ways they never had. They discovered not just routines, but rhythms. Laughter, tantrums, questions, silences—these became familiar music. For many, it was a time of reintroduction: not just to their children, but to themselves.

In contemporary discourse, fatherhood is no longer about control but connection. A father is not the gatekeeper of the family's honour but its compass. He guides not with fear, but with faith. He leads not by decree, but by example. And in this lies a beauty that is quiet, steady, and powerful.

Modern masculinity, long caged in stoicism, is finally breathing. A man who weeps at his child's pain, who sings lullabies in cracked voices, who admits his own fears, who seeks therapy, who says "I don't know" and "I am sorry"—such a man is not weak. He is a bridge between past and future. And in becoming so, he rewrites not just fatherhood, but manhood.

But transformation is not complete without recognition. Societies must honour this changing role not just with words, but with support systems. Paid paternity leave, father-friendly workplaces, inclusive parenting resources—these are not luxuries but necessities. They enable fathers to show up, not just in moments, but in lifetimes.

Fatherhood also transcends the boundaries of blood. It lies in the heart of a man who chooses to care, to protect, to uplift. It is not confined to a biological bond but flows through love, mentorship, guidance, and consistent presence. In classrooms, on sports fields, in community centres, and in orphanages, this spirit of fatherhood breathes quietly, without demand for recognition.

There is poetry in fatherhood, though it may not always rhyme. It lies in the hand that steadies a bicycle, in the wallet

photo creased at the edges, in the silent waiting outside examination halls, in the midnight drive to fetch a wayward child, in the awkward text message trying to say, "I care."

The language of fathers is often non-verbal. It is built of small deeds, of daily rituals, of quiet sacrifices. And this language, too, is changing. More and more fathers are learning to say what was once left unsaid. "I am proud of you." "I believe in you." "I am here."

Let Father's Day, then, be a day of reflection more than ritual. Let it be a time to remember the fathers who tried, who failed, who learned, who loved in silence, who stood in shadows so their children could walk in light. Let it be a day not just of gratitude, but of conversation—about what fatherhood is, and what it could become.

For in this shifting world, the father remains a silent anchor. Not immobile, not unyielding, but steadfast. And in that steadfastness, there is grace.

So to all fathers—those present and past, near and distant, known and unknown—may this day offer not just thanks, but understanding. May it celebrate not perfection, but presence. Not grandeur, but gentleness. Not tradition, but transformation.

For the father of today is not just a figure of the past. He is a promise to the future, quietly unfolding in the laughter of children, the strength of families, and the soul of a more empathetic world.

The author is a regular columnist and freelance writer

# MLA Sajjad Shaheen inaugurates Nagar Van Doba Park at Banihal

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JUNE 16: Member Legislative Assembly Sajjad Shaheen today inaugurated the newly developed Nagar Van Doba Park in the Banihal Range of Ramban Forest Division. District Development Council Chairperson Dr. Shamshad Shan, besides Conservator of Forests Chenab Circle, Arshdeep Singh, DFO Ankit Sinha, and other senior officers of the Forest Department and district administration were also present. The newly created park has been developed under the CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) scheme. The green space marks a major milestone in promotion of eco-tourism and green development in

the region. The inaugural ceremony featured a vibrant cultural programme presented by local artists and school students, adding colour and warmth to the event and reflecting the whole-hearted community involvement in the project. In his address, the MLA appreciated the Forest Department's initiative in creating a recreational and ecological asset for the people of Banihal. He hoped that the Nagar Van Doba will also boost local tourism and provide a peaceful space for community interaction. The DDC Chairperson commended the collaborative efforts of the Forest Department and the local administration in transforming Banihal into an emerging eco-tourism hub. She urged



the youth to take pride in their environment and play a proactive role in

its conservation. The Conservator of Forests highlighted that the development of Nagar Van Doba is part of the government's larger vision to promote sustainable green spaces under the Nagar Van Scheme, especially in hilly and tribal areas. The DFO Ramban informed that the park, spread over 200 kanal, is nestled in the serene landscape of the Pir Panjal Range, and has already attracted over 80,000 visitors, making it a trending destination on social media. He emphasized that the park features eco-friendly infrastructure and nature trails designed to connect people with the environment. The locals expressed deep appreciation for the project, stating that it has not only enhanced the natural beauty of the area but also created a safe

and accessible recreational space for families, tourists and children alike. The Range Officer thanked all guests and participants for making the event a grand success. The DFO Ramban informed that the park, spread over 200 kanal, is nestled in the serene landscape of the Pir Panjal Range, and has already attracted over 80,000 visitors, making it a trending destination on social media. He emphasized that the park features eco-friendly infrastructure and nature trails designed to connect people with the environment. The locals expressed deep appreciation for the project, stating that it has not only enhanced the natural beauty of the area but also created a safe and accessible recreational space for families, tourists and children alike.

## Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gramin Utkarsh Abhiyan Benefit Saturation Camp held at Panchayat Ghar Cherji in Kishtwar

HT NEWS DESK

KISHTWAR, JUNE 16: As part of the 15-day Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Campaign under the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gramin Utkarsh Abhiyan, a mega Awareness and Benefit Saturation Camp was organized today at Panchayat Ghar Cherji, Block Nagseni, where. The event saw overwhelming participation from the tribal populace, underlining the community's eagerness to engage in developmental processes and avail of government entitlements. On-the-spot services were offered to ensure immediate and effective benefit delivery to eligible beneficiaries. Key services delivered included issuance of Aadhaar Cards, PMJAY Golden Health Cards, Domicile Certificates, Caste Certificates and others. Seventeen line departments set up informative stalls, highlighting more than 25 key



government schemes and interventions. Interactive sessions between district officials and community members were also held to enhance mutual understanding, verify ground realities, and identify services delivery gaps for immediate redressal. Members of the tribal community expressed heartfelt appreciation for the outreach and reaffirmed their commitment to active participation throughout the campaign period. In Kishtwar, the campaign is being carried out across 19 Gram Panchayats.

## DC Kishtwar convenes introductory meeting Finalises arrangements for In'l Yoga Day

HT NEWS DESK

KISHTWAR, JUNE 16: Pankaj Kumar Sharma today formally took over as the Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar. Soon after taking over the office, the Deputy Commissioner chaired an introductory meeting with the district heads of the line departments. The meeting aimed to familiarize with the functioning of each department, review ongoing developmental works and outline a roadmap for efficient governance and services delivery in the district. The DC emphasized the importance of inter-departmental coordination, timely implementation of government flagship schemes and following a citizen-centric approach in administration. He also stressed the need for accountability,



transparency, and inclusive development, ensuring that no staff shortage hampers the progress of public welfare initiatives. The DC also reviewed and finalized arrangements for the International Yoga Day func-

tion to be held at the historic Chowgan Grounds. The meeting was attended by ADC Pawan Kotwal; CEO KDA, Kaiser Bhawani; ACR, Idrees Lone; CPO, Shah Nawaz Bali; SDM Chatroo, Nayeem Ur Rahman; SDM Padder, Dr. Amit Kumar and other officers. The meeting aimed to familiarize with the functioning of each department, review ongoing developmental works and outline a roadmap for efficient governance and services delivery in the district. The DC emphasized the importance of inter-departmental coordination, timely implementation of government flagship schemes and following a citizen-centric approach in administration. He also stressed the need for accountability, transparency, and inclusive development, ensuring that no staff shortage hampers the progress of public welfare initiatives.

## Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan Awareness Camp held at Chakwa Panchayat - Batote

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JUNE 16: As part of the ongoing Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan, a 15-day outreach campaign aimed at empowering tribal communities, the District Administration Ramban today organized an awareness camp at Panchayat Chakwa of Tehsil Batote. The event was presided over by Chief Planning Officer, Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather in presence of Tehsildar Dr. Reejuta Mhajan, BDO Kavita and other concerned officials. The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from the local tribal population, particularly members of the Gujjar and Gaddi (ST) community. Resource persons from the government departments engaged with the attendees, providing detailed information on a wide range of gov-



ernment welfare and employment schemes available to Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries. Besides imparting awareness about social security, livelihood, and skill development programs, the officials also addressed several grievances of the locals. A number of issues raised by the participants were resolved on the spot, while others were duly recorded for follow-up action by the respective

## Director Horticulture inspects operations in Govt Nursery Pandorian, Garhi

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JUNE 16: Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Sayed along with Chief Horticulture Officer Jammu, R.K. Kotwal, Nursery Registration Officer, Satish Kumar and DLSMS (Plant Pathology) Jammu, Rakesh Kumar Bhagat today visited the Government Fruit Plant Nursery, Garhi Mishri-walla Jammu. The Director also visited Government Nursery at village Pandorian and interacted with the nursery staff and reviewed the ongoing nursery operations/activities and maintenance of plant stock. He provided valuable technical guidance to the staff on best horticultural practices, emphasizing modern nursery management techniques, plant propagation methods and effective pest and disease control.



In addition, the Director took note of the vacant areas within the nursery premises and instructed the staff to utilize these spaces for the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants. He highlighted the importance of promoting medicinal plant cultivation not only to make better use of available land but also to contribute to the growing demand for herbal and natural remedies in the market. The Director appreciated the efforts of the nursery staff and encouraged them to maintain high standards of plant health and nursery hygiene. He also assured full departmental support for enhancing nursery infrastructure and capacity-building of the staff through training and workshops. The visit reflects the Department of Horticulture's commitment to strengthening plant production units and promoting sustainable and innovative horticultural practices across the region.

## Pankaj Kumar Sharma takes over as Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar

HT NEWS DESK

KISHTWAR, JUNE 16: Pankaj Kumar Sharma assumed the charge as Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar today. Upon his arrival, he was warmly received by district and Sectoral officers and staff of the DC office. The new DC assured full cooperation with all stakeholders to ensure smooth governance and accelerated progress in the district. He expressed happiness for getting the opportunity to serve the people of Kishtwar and emphasized on transparency, responsive governance and development-oriented administration.

## 4 day orientation session on digitization of revenue records begins at Ramban

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JUNE 16: A four-day Orientation-cum-Training Session for the staff associated with digitization of Revenue Records and e-Services was inaugurated here today. The training program, held under the aegis of the Revenue Department, is being conducted to enhance the technical skills and digital competency of the officials tasked with digitization work. The participants include Patwaries, Junior Assistants and Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) deputed from across the district. On the inaugural day of the 4-day training session, nearly 100 employees participated in the session, which featured expert guidance and hands-on handholding support by Master Trainers from the Revenue Department. The trainees were introduced to the technical and procedural aspects of digitizing critical revenue documents such as Jamabandis, Mussavis (Revenue Maps) and other related records. The trained staff has been assigned to assist in the comprehensive digitization of all revenue records in the district. The initiative is expected to significantly reduce the dependency on manual records, streamline services delivery and empower citizens with timely access to their land and revenue information through online platforms.

## SDM conducts field visit to address public grievances in Panchayat Choura area

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JUNE 16: Sub Divisional Magistrate Chowki Choura, Ankush Hans toured to far-flung areas of Panchayat Choura today. He was accompanied by officials from across key departments. The visit aimed to directly engage with local residents, understand their grievances and ensure swift action on critical issues. During the tour, the SDM listened attentively to public concerns related to road connectivity, water supply, electricity, healthcare and education. He assured to address all genuine issues on a priority basis. The officials were directed to take time-bound measures and implement a follow-up mechanism to monitor progress.

## Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan awareness camp organised at Town Hall Doda

HT NEWS DESK

DODA, JUNE 16: To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, commemorated as Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh, the District Administration Doda organised a special awareness and benefit saturation camp under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA)—India's largest tribal empowerment campaign, here in the Town Hall. The nationwide 15-day campaign is being observed from 15th to 30th June 2025 across the country, including the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. The event was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and witnessed enthusiastic participation from tribal community members, students and officials of line departments. Addressing the gathering, the DC highlighted the life and contribution of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, who played a historic role in safeguarding tribal rights and identity. He informed that 15 tribal villages have been identified across Doda district for focused welfare interventions under government-sponsored schemes. He emphasised that road connectivity remains the most critical need for tribal welfare, as it ensures access to healthcare, IT



services, and educational support to tribal households residing in remote areas. The DC directed the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to prioritise medical outreach in these areas and stressed the need for timely disbursement of tribal scholarships and

benefits. He said the District Administration plans to establish tribal product sale centres across the district to promote and market handmade tribal goods, enhancing local livelihood opportunities. Additionally, he directed the Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) to ensure full saturation of schemes under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in tribal belts. He also urged all officers to deliver services and information transparently and effectively during the ongoing Dharti Aaba celebrations. Earlier, Chief Planning Officer Manesh Kumar Manhas shared key insights about ongoing government schemes and strategic planning for the empowerment of tribal communities. Information stalls and banners were displayed by the departments, offering detailed guidance on flagship schemes related to education, healthcare, housing, livelihood and skill development. Tribal community members also highlighted key issues and suggestions during the interaction. The camp served as an effective platform to spread awareness about tribal rights and entitlements, promoting inclusive development in alignment with the vision of Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh and Dharti Aaba Janbhagidari Abhiyan.

## Distt admin launches 'Skill Mission-Hunarmand Kupwara' MLAs inaugurate the programmes; encourage participants to make full use of the opportunities provided

HT NEWS DESK

KUPWARA, JUNE 16: District Administration Kupwara today launched the 'Skill Mission-Hunarmand Kupwara' in Government Polytechnic College Kupwara and all Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).

The 'Skill Mission-Hunarmand Kupwara' is an initiative of the District Administration Kupwara for empowering youth through skill development under Aspirational District Programme of NITI Aayog.

At Government Polytechnic College Kupwara, Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Trehgam, Mir Saifullah inaugurated the Skill Mission Hunarmand in presence of ADC Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad; Principal GPC, CPO, officials and large number of aspirants.

MLA expressed hope for positive results under the Mission which is targeted for skilling up the unemployed youth of district Kupwara. He encouraged participants to make full use of the opportunities provided through this initiative, noting that skill-based societies are the backbone



of modern development.

At ITI Kupwara, Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Kupwara, Mir Mohammad Fayaz inaugurated the Skill Mission in presence of CPO Kupwara, Superintendent ITI, officials and large number of candidates. He hoped that the Skill Mission Hunarmand will benefit large number of

unemployed youth who were facing challenges in getting employment due to lack of proper skills.

Similarly, Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Langate, Khurshid Ahmad Sheikh inaugurated the Skill Mission Hunarmand at ITI Handwara, in presence of ADC Handwara, Javid Naseem Masoodi

and other concerned officers, besides, large number of aspirants. MLA impressed upon the aspirants to take the benefit of the Hunarmand initiative by getting necessary skills which will equip them for self employment avenues.

SDM Lolab, Mudasir Ahmad inaugurated the aspirational Skill Development Mission Hunarmand at ITI Lalpora in presence of concerned officers. He appealed the aspirants to take more and more benefit under the initiative. SDM Karnah, Zaffar Ahmad inaugurated Hunarmand skill initiative at ITI Tangdar to mark the official launch of the district wide skill programme.

About 600 candidates have been identified and enrolled under 18 different courses in Government Polytechnic College and Industrial Training Institutes of the district. The courses under which the candidates will be skilled include Basic Computer Digital Literacy, Sozni Embroidery, Basic Masonry and Concreting, Solar Power Technician, Basic Tailoring, Basic Multimedia & Animation, Mobile Repairing etc.

## DC Ramban reviews arrangements for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025 at Banihal

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JUNE 16: In preparation for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025, Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan today visited Banihal to inspect the civic facilities at key yatra camp-sites and maintenance work on National Highway-44.

SSP Kulbir Singh, ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak, PDNHAI Parshotam Singh, SDM Banihal Mohammad Naseeb, SDM Ramsoo Mazahir Hussain Shah, Executive Engineers from PWD, Jal Shakti, JPDC, REW and other district officers accompanied the DC during the visit.

During the inspection, the DC directed NHAI to deploy additional manpower and machinery to



clear debris, improve road shoulders and blacktop key stretches along Nashri to Banihal stretch of the NH-44. He also asked for speedy completion of the Canopy (Cut and Cover) Tunnel at Mehar-Cafeteria Morh Ramban to minimize traffic congestion.

At Lamber Ground, a key Yatra camp site, the Deputy Commissioner instructed JPDC to ensure uninterrupted power supply in and around Yatra

camp and keep emergency generators ready at all critical locations, particularly those of strategic importance.

Emphasizing safety, the DC discussed the security measures with SSP and directed to ensure flawless functioning of all CCTV cameras and joint control rooms. He set a strict deadline of June 20 for completion of all the tasks assigned to different departments.

## Absentees Face Heat: Action Taken against officials skipping Nasha Mukta Bharat campaign

HT NEWS DESK/KNS

RAJOURI, JUNE 16: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, a series of impactful awareness activities were held across different blocks of Rajouri district under the aegis of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

The events witnessed overwhelming participation from the public, particularly the youth. Resource persons from stakeholder departments led the campaign, spreading awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse and emphasizing its harmful impact on health, society and future generations.

The youth were informed about the devastating effects of the drugs and advised to remain steadfast in the resolve to stay safe and contribute positively to the nation's development.

In a show of commitment to the cause, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma personally visited several awareness camps to take stock of the activities. During the visit, he interacted with the participants and encouraged them to act as ambassadors of change in their respective communities. He also directed concerned officers and field functionaries to further intensify the campaign across the district.

"The youth of Rajouri district are the future of this nation. We must ensure that they are equipped with the knowledge and support they need to lead a healthy and productive life. The Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan is a crucial step in creating a drug-free society, and we will continue to make all efforts to intensify this campaign," said DC Abhishek Sharma.

Taking serious note of absence and lackadaisical conduct of some officials in the execution of the campaign activities, the DC ordered immediate action against them. The DC emphasized that laxity in such a crucial mission will not be tolerated.

## Deputy Commissioner reviews status of PMGSY projects in Poonch

HT NEWS DESK

POONCH, JUNE 16: Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal chaired a meeting today to assess the progress of ongoing road and bridge projects being executed in different parts of the district under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

At the outset, the Executive Engineer PMGSY presented a detailed overview of the status of the road and bridge projects, highlighting both completed and ongoing.

The Deputy Commissioner conducted a thorough evaluation of each project, particularly discussing the status of bridge constructions associated with different



road projects.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the urgency of completing the Buzliuz to Mandi Phagla BT work and instructed the ACR and SDM Surankote to facilitate the demarcation of the Mandi-Phagla road. He urged all concerned authorities to accelerate their efforts to meet the deadlines set for project completion.

The meeting was attended by the ACR, Executive Engineer of PMGSY, along with all Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs), Assistant Engineers (AEs), and Junior Engineers (JEs) from the PMGSY Department, all committed to driving progress in rural infrastructure development. The meeting was attended by the ACR, Executive Engineer of PMGSY.

## CAT Modifies Stay on Promotions in GMC Jammu, Bars Post-2016 Professors from Becoming Principals

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, June 16, KNT: The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) Bench at Jammu, comprising Member (Judicial) Rajinder Singh Dogra and Member (Administrative) Ram Mohan Johri, has modified its earlier order dated January 29, 2025, which had stalled promotions across all departments of Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu.

The fresh order came after Advocate Sheikh Shakeel Ahmed, representing ten aggrieved faculty members, argued that the initial blanket stay had unfairly halted promotions in unrelated departments. The applicants, who belong to various specializations like Orthopedics, Pediatrics, Medicine, and Anesthesia, claimed they were not heard before the stay was imposed based on a plea from three faculty members of the Radiation Oncology department.

Senior Advocate Abhinav Sharma, appearing for the original petitioners, contended that juniors to Dr. Rahul Sharma were promoted as Principals in various GMCs despite him being confirmed as Associate Professor in 2013, while others were confirmed after 2016.

After hearing arguments from both sides, the CAT Bench as per the news agency Kashmir News Trust, ruled that the J&K Government may proceed with promotions to Associate Professor and Professor levels at GMC Jammu. However, it restrained the government from appointing any Professor, confirmed by DPC/PSC after January 1, 2016, as Principal of GMC Jammu or through lateral entry in newly established medical colleges like GMC Doda, Kathua, Udhampur, Rajouri, or others. [KNT]

## Jio Services Draw Flak in Srinagar's Business Hub

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, June 16, KNT: Widespread anger is brewing among business owners and shopkeepers in Srinagar's central commercial hub Lal Chowk, particularly in the Residency Road area, over the poor mobile network services provided by telecom giant Jio. The users, mostly traders and professionals, have accused the company of turning a blind eye to their repeated complaints and concerns.

For weeks now, the quality of Jio's calling network in the area has remained dismal, with users experiencing frequent call drops, failed connections, and extremely poor voice clarity. Many say it has become nearly impossible to conduct business communications smoothly in the heart of the city. "Forget browsing or using UPI apps, we can't even make a basic phone call," said Zahid Ahmad, who runs a showroom near Lambert Lane. "We have complained several times to the Jio representatives and even raised it with the customer care helpline, but there's been no improvement. It seems like they have abandoned Lal Chowk."

Businessmen operating in Residency Road, Court Road, and adjoining markets also expressed their frustration, saying poor connectivity has not only impacted their professional work but is also turning customers away.

"Many of our transactions require OTPs and payment confirmations over call. Sometimes customers lose patience when we have to wait ten minutes for a message or voice call to go through," said an electronics dealer from Residency Road. Several traders' associations in the area are also planning to raise the issue jointly with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) if the situation does not improve soon. They have termed [KNT]

## JKMS organised yoga camp

HT NEWS DESK

Jammu Budgam June 16: A three-day long Yoga Camp was successfully concluded at JK Montessorie School organised by BVP adhishankrachrya branch in collaboration with Bhartiya Yog Sanshan Jammu in the presence of State president BVP, Sunita Gupta, Sh Bharat Bushan sharma, Regional secretary, Sewa, Sh Gurmeet Singh, Smt Sunny Gupta president, adhishankrachrya branch Smt Rajni GUPTA, Smt Rani Sharma and other members of the branch.

The initiative aimed to promote holistic health, harmony, and well-being through the ancient practice of yoga.

Under the expert guidance of seasoned instructors from Bhartiya Yog Sanshan, members and teaching staff were introduced to a comprehensive range of yoga practices. The sessions encompassed various asanas (postures) along with pranayama (breathing techniques) and meditation, highlighting their physical, mental, and spiritual benefits. The primary objective of the camp was to fulfill the vision - "Yoga in every home, enabling every individual to lead a healthy and balanced life." Throughout the program, participants were educated on the significance of integrating yoga into daily routines to enhance overall wellness and mental clarity.

The profound mantra "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah" - meaning "May all be happy and healthy" - resonated throughout the camp, inspiring attendees to embrace yoga as a path toward a meaningful, balanced, and fulfilling life.

# Jalsa-e-Dastar-e-Aalimiyat Held at Masjid-e-Ibrahim, Qamerwari Srinagar

## Molana Muzamil Raza Qadri Honored with Certificate of Aalimiyat

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, :A grand Jalsa-e-Dastar-e-Aalimiyat was held at Masjid-e-Ibrahim, Qamerwari, Srinagar, to honour Molana Muzamil Raza Qadri on the completion of his Aalimiyat degree from Darul Uloom Ashrafiya Ahsanul Madaris Jadeed, Uttar Pradesh. The spiritually uplifting event was organized by Al Markazul Islami as Sufi Kashmir and was graced by the presence of Molana Peer Baktawar Ali Qadri, Chairman of Al Markazul Islami as Sufi, who presided over the felicitation ceremony. On this occasion, Molana Muzamil Raza Qadri was formally presented with



the certificate of completion and adorned with the Dastar-e-Aalimiyat in recogni-

tion of his academic and spiritual journey in Islamic studies. The gathering was fur-

ther enriched by the esteemed presence of Mr. Syed Aijaz Kashani, a prominent social worker of Kashmir, whose continued support for religious and community upliftment is widely acknowledged. Also present was Janab Shabir Ahmad Dar, Nayib-e-Nigraan of Tehreek-e-Soutul-Auliya, Tehsil Chadoora, whose address highlighted the importance of nurturing young scholars in preserving the legacy of traditional Islamic knowledge. The event concluded with heartfelt duas for the success of Molana Muzamil Raza Qadri and a renewed call for strengthening religious education and unity within the community.

## PM Modi, Cyprus President voice optimism about concluding India-EU FTA by year end

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA  
Nicosia/New Delhi, June 16

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the President of Cyprus Nikos Christodoulides expressed optimism about concluding the India-EU Free Trade Agreement by the end of the year, which would also give a major boost to trade and economic cooperation between the two nations. The two leaders interacted with business leaders from both nations at a roundtable in Limassol on Sunday evening. In a post on X, PM Modi said the interaction would add vigour to the commercial linkages between the two nations. "Boosting business linkages!" "President Nikos Christodoulides and I interacted with leading CEOs in order to add vigour to commercial linkages between India and Cyprus. Sectors like innovation, energy, technology and more offer immense potential. I also talked about India's reform



trajectory in the last decade." The Cyprus President in a post on X said the two nations are sending a strong message of cooperation and prosperity, and a message of hope. "Today, we are building more bridges; we are deepening and expanding economic cooperation between Cyprus and India. "Together, we are entering a new era of strategic partnership, founded on trust and our shared values, driven by innovation and inspired by our rich historical journey and the vast horizon that opens before us. "Together, Cyprus and India, we send a strong

message of cooperation and prosperity, and at the same time, a message of hope." The Roundtable interaction with business leaders from Cyprus and India in Limassol, included participants representing diverse sectors such as banking, financial institutions, manufacturing, defence, logistics, maritime, shipping, technology, innovation, digital technologies, AI, IT services, tourism and mobility. In his address, PM Modi highlighted India's rapid economic transformation in the last 11 years, and noted that India, propelled by next-generation reforms, policy predict-

ability, stable polity and Ease of Doing Business, has become the fastest growing major economy in the world. "Emphasizing on the primacy being given to innovation, digital revolution, start-up and futuristic infrastructure development, he expressed confidence that India, the fifth largest economy in the world, was well positioned to become the third largest in a few years' time. "He noted that steady growth in India's civil aviation, port, shipbuilding, digital payments and green development sectors have opened myriad opportunities for companies from Cyprus to partner with India. He further underlined the strengths of India's skilled talent and start-up ecosystem and highlighted manufacturing, AI, Quantum, Semiconductor and Critical Minerals as new and emerging areas contributing to India's growth story, a statement said.

## Netanyahu says report false on 'Trump rejecting Israel move to kill top Iranian leader'

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA  
Washington/Tel Aviv, June 16

US President Donald Trump had reportedly rejected Israel's move to kill Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, though Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has rebuked the statement, calling it a false report. The IDF operation, which was called a 'pre-emptive attack' on Iranian nuclear infrastructure by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, resulted in the deaths of several members of the Islamic regime's top brass, including IRGC commander General Hossein Salami, and Iranian Army COAS General Mohammad Bagheri, deliberately left out Khamenei. According to Politico, despite Trump's own hostility towards the Iranian leader, he was still willing to bring him to the negotiating table to reach a deal, which was both practical and mutually agreeable, and end the deadly Israel-Iran conflict through diplomacy. He had also issued an ultimatum to



Khamenei after the Israeli strikes, writing on his social media platform Truth Social on Friday "Iran must make a deal, before there is nothing left, and save what was once known as the Iranian Empire." However, Netanyahu has rebuked the report, calling it a false news. "There are so many false reports of conversations that never happened, and I'm not going to get into that," he told Fox News on Sunday. "But I can tell you, I think that we do what we need to do, we'll do what we need to do, and I think the United States knows what's good for the

United States." Simultaneously, the Israeli PM did not deny that a regime change was a part of its goal, in Tel Aviv's war with Tehran. "It could certainly be the result, because the Iran regime is very weak. I think it's basically left with two things, its plans to have atomic bombs and ballistic missiles." Yechiel Leiter, Israel's ambassador to the United States, also refused to rule out going after Khamenei on Sunday. "I think it's fair to say that nobody who's threatening the destruction of Israel should be off the target list," Leiter told ABC. "But we're not going to discuss specific individuals, you know, online. "The idea is to neutralise and terminate the Iranian intention of destroying Israel through nuclear weapons and through ballistic missiles. And anybody who gets in the way of that, or is actually advancing that cause of destroying Israel, is obviously somebody we're going to have to deal with."

## SC: Person working in society deemed 'state' not a govt servant

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA  
New Delhi, June 16

The Supreme Court on Monday held that an individual working in a registered society, even if it qualifies as a "state" under Article 12 of the Constitution, cannot be treated as a government servant. The observation came while dismissing a plea challenging an order of the Tripura High Court that had upheld the petitioner's termination from government service for misrepresenting his employment status. A bench comprising Justice Ujjal Bhuyan and Justice Manmohan was hearing the case of a petitioner who was dismissed from the post of junior weaver at the Weaver's Service Centre, Agartala, a

unit under the Ministry of Textiles, government of India. The petitioner had earlier served as a crafts teacher at the Tripura Tribal Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society (TTWREIS), an autonomous body supported by the state government. The petitioner had claimed eligibility for the post of junior weaver on the ground that he was a government servant due to his employment with TTWREIS. However, after an inquiry conducted by the Ministry of Textiles and further verification by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), it was confirmed that TTWREIS was not a government department but a registered society. Dismissing the plea, Justice Bhuyan remarked, "A society being amenable

to Article 12 does not make a person working there a government servant." The Supreme Court concurred with the findings of the Tripura High Court's single and division benches. It emphasised that under Rule 2(h) of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965, a "government servant" must be someone who holds a civil post under the Union or state government. Since TTWREIS is not a government department, the post of craft teacher therein does not constitute a civil post, the court held. The court also rejected the petitioner's arguments based on estoppel and waiver, stating that the appointment was explicitly conditional upon proof of government

## Israeli strikes kill 244, injure 1,277 in Iran: Health ministry

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA  
Tehran, June 16

Iran's Health Ministry spokesman Hossein Kermanpour said on Sunday that 244 people have been killed in Israeli airstrikes on Iran over the past 65 hours. In a post on the social media platform

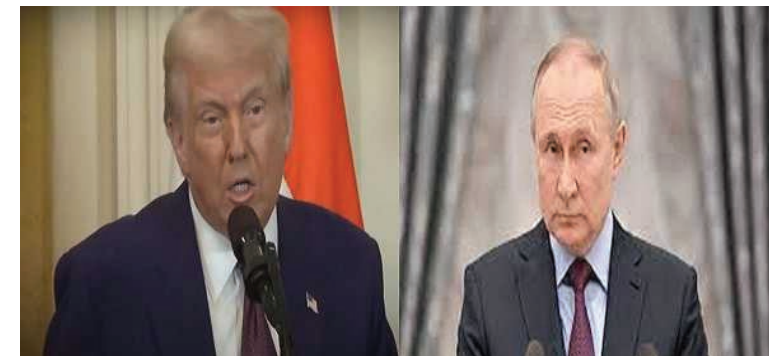
X, Kermanpour noted that women and children were among the dead and that 1,277 people had been hospitalised. He added that over 90 per cent of the casualties were civilians. Early Friday, Israel launched airstrikes on Tehran and several other cities across Iran, killing a number

of the country's top military commanders and nuclear scientists. The strikes continued across various parts of Iran on Saturday and Sunday. In response, Iran has launched missile attacks on multiple targets in Israel since Friday, causing casualties and significant damage.

## Trump says he, Putin agree war in Israel-Iran should end

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA  
Washington, June 16

U.S. President Donald Trump said he had a phone call with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Saturday over the tensions in the Middle East and Russia-Ukraine peace talks, and both of them agreed that "this war in Israel-Iran should end." "He feels, as do I, this war in Israel-Iran should end," Trump wrote on his social media platform Truth Social, adding that Putin knows Iran "very well." Trump said he also explained to the Russian president that the Russia-Ukraine conflict "should also end" during the one-hour call.



"We talked at length. Much less time was spent talking about Russia/Ukraine, but that will be for next week," said Trump. "He (Putin) is doing the planned prisoner swaps -- large numbers of

prisoners are being exchanged, immediately, from both sides." Saturday was Trump's 79th birthday. Trump said that Putin wished him a happy birthday during the phone call.

## BJP accuses Congress of suppressing OBCs rightst

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA  
New Delhi, June 16

Soon after the government issued a notification declaring the 16th Caste Census to begin from 2027, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday accused the opposition Congress party of always cheating and suppressing the rights of OBCs. "The OBC community has always been betrayed by the Congress. If the Congress had genuine intent, it would have formed a new commission after scrapping the Kaka Kalelkar Commission... Instead, they dismissed the commission's report and continued to rule..." "Later, when the Mandal Commission was constituted and the



Supreme Court upheld its legality, the Congress worked to weaken the OBC Commission," Union Minister Bhpender Yadav said at a press conference here. While slamming the Opposition party for "suppressing OBC rights and caste census reports", Minister Yadav gave credit to his party for taking various initiatives for the community including granting constitution-

al status to the OBC Commission and implementing welfare schemes. He said, "It was the BJP government that granted reservation to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). Congress has never stood with the poor, OBCs, or SC/ST communities. Congress MP & LoP Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, calls Karnataka an ideal state -- but the timing and internal contradictions of their stance show that social justice is merely a showpiece for Congress, not a genuine commitment. Misleading the OBC community has been Congress's policy; delivering justice to them has never been their intent..."

## Mamata visits badly burnt market, announces aid

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA  
Kolkata, June 16

West Bengal Chief Minister Mata Banerjee on Monday visited Kidderpore market in south Kolkata and announced a solatium of Rs 1 lakh to those whose shops were completely destroyed, and Rs 50,000 to those whose businesses were partially damaged in a big fire early on Monday as the affected traders claimed that some 1,300 shops were reduced to ashes. Banerjee, while announcing the compensation to the affected business people, said that the government would set up a new trading hub with all modern facilities and fire fighting system and allot them along with monetary assistance. She said the funds would be given after the business people get a new site for them. She said the government would spend the money for setting up a new marketplace.

## Amid rising Iran-Israel conflict, EAM speaks with counterparts in UAE, Armenia

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA  
New Delhi, June 16

Amid the continued missile attacks between Iran and Israel, India has been in touch with the UAE and Armenia in the likely evacuation of some 1,300 Indian students stuck in Iran. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar spoke with his counterparts from both the UAE and Armenia today. Armenia shares a land border with Iran while UAE shares a maritime border. EAM Jaishankar spoke with the Deputy PM and Foreign Minister of UAE Abdullah bin Zayed during which they discussed the current situation in the Middle East and the role of diplomacy.



"Had a telecon with DPM & FM @ ABZayed of UAE on the current situation in West Asia and the role of diplomacy. On his conversation with his Armenian counterpart Ararat Mirzoyan, EAM Jaishankar said they discussed the current situation in the region and their bilateral cooperation. "Spoke with FM @ Ararat Mirzoyan of Armenia.

"Discussed ongoing developments in the region and our close cooperation." The Indian Embassy in Tehran has said it is continuously monitoring the security situation and engaging with Indian students in Iran to ensure their safety. In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said that in some cases, Indian students are being relocated with the Embassy's facilitation to safer places within Iran. Other feasible options are also under examination. Further updates will follow, it added. Separately, the Indian Embassy is in touch with Indian community leaders regarding their welfare and safety.

# India lost 91 tigers under six months: NTCA

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA  
New Delhi, June 16

In the past five-and-a-half months, India has lost 91 royal tigers—an alarming figure—due to poaching, territorial disputes, human-wildlife conflicts, train mishaps and natural causes, according to data from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). On an average, this equates to nearly 17 tiger deaths every month. If this trend persists, the total number of tiger fatalities this year could surpass last year's figure of 126. In the five-year period from 2019 to 2023, a total of 628 striped predators have died across India. The data

from the NTCA, which oversee Project Tiger in India, shows 96 deaths in 2019, 106 in 2020, 127 in 2021, 121 in 2022, and 178 in 2023. This widespread loss in the first five months till to date is uneven across states, with more than half ie 49 mortalities occurring in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra where train accidents and infectious disease too have been found to be the cause of the deaths. Maharashtra alone reported the deaths of 26 tigers, followed closely by Madhya Pradesh with 24. Other affected states include Kerala (nine), Assam (eight), Uttarakhand (seven), Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh (four each), and Telangana (one).



The data also reveals that 42 tigers were found dead inside their habitat only which can be due to natural causes or territorial fights. At the same time, 35 were reported to have perished outside these protected areas, with officials attributing the deaths

to man-animal conflicts and electrocution among others. A significant portion of these fatalities includes 14 cubs, 26 females, and 20 males. However, data available from the Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI), an NGO engaged in the sector are more alarming. It indicates that tiger deaths have surged in 2025, with 120 reported fatalities so far—96 due to natural or human-induced causes and 24 linked to poaching and wildlife trafficking. As per the NTCA data, over the last 12 years, 1,386 tigers have been lost across India, with nearly 50% of these deaths occurring within designated tiger reserves. Conservationists say that despite rapidly

growing urbanisation and human populations, around three-quarters of the world's tigers now live in India. YV Jhala, a conservationist at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in his recent study published in Science journal, said that "from 2010 to 2022, tigers in India more than doubled from an estimated 1,706 to nearly 3,700". However, the study also warns that there is no need to be complacent. "While India's tiger recovery is an extraordinary achievement, challenges remain. Large tracts of potential tiger habitat — spanning 157,000 sq km — are still devoid of tigers due to socio-political instability and habitat degradation," it said.

# Acting FAST During a Stroke Makes All the Difference



BY DR. VIPUL GUPTA

Stroke is a major health emergency, and among the different types of strokes, ischemic stroke is by far the most common—accounting for nearly 87% of all stroke cases globally. An ischemic stroke occurs when a blood clot blocks or narrows an artery leading to the brain, cutting off the oxygen supply. Within minutes, brain cells begin to die. Because the brain is extremely sensitive to lack of blood flow, timely treatment is critical. The faster a patient receives medical attention, the better the chances of minimizing long-term disability or even preventing death. Early detection of an ischemic stroke is the most important factor that influences outcomes. Unfortunately, many people fail to recognize the symptoms or underestimate

their seriousness, delaying medical intervention. In stroke care, time is brain—every second counts, and a fast response can dramatically change the course of recovery. The hallmark symptoms of an ischemic stroke tend to appear suddenly. One of the earliest and most visible signs is facial drooping. This typically manifests as one side of the face appearing uneven or numb, and the person may be unable to smile symmetrically. Arm weakness is another red flag; if the person cannot raise both arms or if one arm drifts downward, it is a strong warning sign. Speech difficulties follow—ranging from slurred speech to trouble understanding or forming sentences. Other potential signs include sudden blurred or double vision, unsteadiness, dizziness, lack of coordination, or a thunderclap headache with no apparent cause. To simplify the identification of stroke symptoms, the American Heart Association recommends the acronym FAST: F – Face Drooping: Does one side of the face sag or feel numb?



**A – Arm Weakness:** Is one arm weak or numb? Can the person raise both arms?  
**S – Slurred Speech:** Is the speech slurred or incoherent?  
**T – Time to Call Emergency Services:** If any of these signs are observed, seek immediate medical help.  
Recognizing these symptoms quickly and seeking urgent care can prevent brain dam-

age and improve the likelihood of a full recovery. Modern neuro-interventional procedures, such as mechanical thrombectomy—a minimally invasive technique to remove the clot—have revolutionized stroke treatment, but they are highly time-sensitive. Their effectiveness diminishes with each passing hour. While rapid response is essential during a stroke, prevention is the ultimate key to reducing the burden of the disease. Controlling high blood pressure—the most significant risk factor—can significantly cut down the chances of stroke. Similarly, people living with diabetes should manage their blood sugar levels diligently, as fluctuating glucose levels can damage blood vessels and raise stroke risk. High cholesterol also contributes to the narrowing of arteries, and reducing LDL levels through diet, exercise, or medication can offer protection. Smoking is a well-established cause of blood vessel damage and clot formation, and quitting can greatly reduce the risk.

Excessive alcohol intake should be avoided, as it can increase blood pressure and atrial fibrillation—both risk factors for stroke. Maintaining a healthy body weight through regular physical activity and a balanced diet—rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins—also supports cardiovascular and brain health. Buy vitamins and supplements. Ischemic stroke is a serious but largely preventable condition. Raising awareness about its warning signs and risk factors is crucial. If someone around you displays even one symptom from the FAST checklist, act quickly and call emergency services. Timely intervention can mean the difference between full recovery and lifelong disability—or even death. Likewise, by adopting a healthier lifestyle and managing chronic conditions, we can significantly reduce the risk of ever having a stroke in the first place. Let us not wait for symptoms to appear—let us act now, stay informed, and take proactive steps to protect our brain health. Buy vitamins and supplements.

## India's Covid cases fall to 7,264; 11 deaths reported in 24 hrs

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA  
New Delhi, June 16

India has reported a minor decline in its active Covid-19 caseload, which now stands at 7,264, down from 7,383 the previous day, according to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. While the fall in cases offers a sense of relief, the country also recorded 11 Covid-related deaths in the past 24 hours, most of which were among elderly individuals with existing poor health conditions. Kerala continues to be the most affected state, with 1,920 active cases, followed by Gujarat (1,433), Delhi (649), and Maharashtra (540).

Kerala also registered the largest single-day drop, with 87 fewer cases. Maharashtra saw a decline of 38, whereas Karnataka reported a slight uptick with 18 new infections, raising its active caseload to 591. The 11 fatalities included seven deaths from Kerala, and one each from Delhi, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh. Among the deceased was a 33-year-old male from Kerala with multiple organ failure and comorbid conditions. The remaining deaths were predominantly in elderly patients with serious underlying health issues such as cancer, cirrhosis, chronic lung disease, and sepsis.

Health experts have recommended a focused approach targeting vulnerable groups, including the elderly, immunocompromised individuals, and those with chronic illnesses. The widespread hybrid immunity—resulting from high vaccine coverage and past infections—is believed to be providing significant protection to the general population, they said. Despite the moderate increase in infections, there is no indication that the new variants, including LF.7, XFG, JN.1, and NB.1.8.1, are causing more severe disease. Experts have also pointed out that the actual number of infections may be underreported due to low

testing rates, as many symptomatic individuals are not undergoing Covid-19 testing. The Indian Medical Association and healthcare professionals have reiterated the need to adhere to COVID-appropriate behaviour, including wearing masks in crowded areas, maintaining hand hygiene, and avoiding unnecessary exposure in public places. These simple preventive measures remain crucial in limiting the spread of the virus, especially among high-risk populations. As of May 19, the country reported only 257 active cases, with nearly all cases being mild and not requiring hospitalisation.

## National Animal Diseases Control Programme AHD Jammu launches 6th round of FMD vaccination

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JUNE 16: Director Animal Husbandry Department Jammu Dr. Parvinder Singh today launched the 6th round of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccination under the National Animal Diseases Control Programme. The launch was marked by flagging off the vaccination teams here from the Directorate of Animal Husbandry Complex Talab Tillo.



The programme envisages the control of FMD disease in cattle and buffaloes by 2025 and its complete eradication by year 2030. Speaking on the occasion, the Director informed that National Animal Disease Control Programme for FMD is a central sector scheme where 100 percent funds are provided by the Central govt. to the States/UTs. The programme envisages 100% vaccination of susceptible cattle and buf-

falo population in order to achieve the control and subsequent eradication of this disease. He further said that FMD is a highly contagious viral disease found in animals such as cattle, buffaloes, sheep and goats which leads to massive reduction in milk yield, decreased growth rate, infertility and reduced working capacity in bullocks. "The control of this disease can be achieved by mass vaccinations of susceptible livestock populations at regular intervals," he added. The vaccination campaign, he said, shall last for

45 days covering over 15 lakh cattle and buffalo population of Jammu division. He instructed the field officers and other staff to go for mass de-worming drive also to improve the overall health of livestock and to get better immune response which shall lead to better efficacy of the vaccinations. The event among others was attended by CEO, Livestock Development Board Jammu, officers from the Directorate complex, Doctors and Para-vet staff of Jammu district, Dairy farmers and their representatives.

## FMD Round 6 Vaccination Drive Launched under NADCP in Kupwara

HT NEWS DESK



Kupwara, June 16: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad formally launched the FMD Round 6 Vaccination Program under the flagship National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) in the district today. The event took place in the presence of Dr. Shabir Ahmad Teli, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Kupwara.

Under this vital initiative, a total of 1.20 lakh eligible bovine population across the district will be vaccinated free of cost in a mission mode within the stipulated timeframe. The programme aims to prevent the spread of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), ensuring better animal health and improved rural livelihoods. To ensure effective coverage, 109 Vaccination Squads have been constituted to operate across 406 villages and municipal committees in the district. In a first-of-its-kind move, the department has deployed 'Vaccination Express Vehicles'—comprising 5 motorcycles and 3 four-wheeled vehicles—to reach remote and far-flung areas, leaving no animal unvaccinated.

The launch event was attended by officers, Veterinary Assistant Surgeons (VASS), and field staff. The chair emphasized the importance of maintaining the cold chain throughout the vaccination process, completing assigned targets in a time-bound manner, and ensuring real-time entry of data on the NDLM portal. To ensure effective coverage, 109 Vaccination Squads have been constituted to operate across 406 villages and municipal committees in the district. In a first-of-its-kind move, the department has deployed 'Vaccination Express Vehicles'—comprising 5 motorcycles and 3 four-wheeled vehicles—to reach remote and far-flung areas, leaving no animal unvaccinated.

## Blood donation reduces heart attack risk: Doctors

HT NEWS DESK/KNO

Srinagar: Apart from a noble act to save precious lives, the health experts here have stated that the blood donation provides significant health benefits to the donor, including a reduced risk of heart attack.

Dr. Tawseef Ahmad Lone, a general physician at the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK), told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that regular blood donation plays a crucial role in maintaining cardiovascular health. "Donating blood even once a year can improve blood flow, reduce arterial blockages, and lower iron overload, which is linked to heart disease," he said.

He said that blood donation helps in balancing iron levels in the body, potentially reducing the risk of certain cancers. "It also acts as a mini-health check, where the donor's hemoglobin and basic vitals are tested, potentially revealing hidden health issues," Dr. Tawseef added.

In addition to benefiting the donor, the contribution has a direct impact on patients undergoing surgeries, trauma victims and those suffering



from chronic conditions like anemia, cancer, and blood disorders.

"Hospitals rely on voluntary blood donors to maintain a constant supply of whole blood and its components—platelets, plasma and red blood cells," he added.

According to doctors, to be eligible to donate blood, an individual must be between 18–65 years of age, weigh at least 50 kg (110 lbs), have a hemoglobin level of at least 12.5 g/dL (for women) and 13 g/dL (for men), be in generally good health, not have donated whole blood in the last 12 weeks (for men) or 16 weeks (for women).

Dr. Shahnaz Akhter, a senior medical officer said that the

donation intervals for various components include:— for whole blood, once every 12 weeks (men) and 16 weeks (women), platelets: Every 7 days, up to 24 times per year, plasma: every 28 days, up to 13 times per year.

She further explained that people with well-managed diabetes—whether controlled through medication, diet or lifestyle changes—can safely donate blood. However, those using bovine insulin (though rare) or having uncontrolled diabetes are deferred from donation.

Other deferral conditions include recent surgery or certain vaccinations, active infections such as HIV, Hepatitis B or C, pregnancy, recent delivery, or breastfeeding and chronic medical conditions or medications that may impact health.

Doctors urged healthy individuals to come forward and donate regularly. "The demand for blood is constant, and your single donation can save up to three lives," they said. "Donating blood is a simple act of humanity that costs nothing but offers immeasurable value," they added further—(KNO)

## Father Alleges Doctor Denied Treatment to Child at ASG Eye Hospital, Approaches Police, Seeks Action

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, June 16, KNT: In a deeply disturbing incident, a father has accused a doctor at ASG Eye Hospital in Srinagar's Safakadal area of refusing medical treatment to his minor son, allegedly on the grounds that part of the child's earlier treatment had been carried out outside Jammu and Kashmir. According to the written complaint submitted to the Safakadal Police Station, the child, identified as Muhammad Musab (MRD No. 111795), was taken to ASG Hospital on Monday, June 16, for continued care. However, a doctor at the facility, allegedly denied the boy

treatment after learning that some portion of his earlier medical consultation had taken place in Chandigarh. The father quoted the doctor as saying, "Why didn't you complete the treatment there?"—a remark that the family describes as both insensitive and professionally unacceptable. "This is not just unethical, it's inhumane," the aggrieved father wrote in his formal complaint, calling for immediate action against the said doctor and the hospital administration. "Denying treatment to a child simply because he received care elsewhere is an outright betrayal of medical duty and human

compassion," the aggrieved father told the news agency Kashmir News Trust. The incident has sparked outrage among many, with questions now being raised about the professional conduct at private healthcare institutions that often claim to operate by national and international medical standards. Police sources confirmed receiving the complaint saying the matter is under preliminary investigation. "We are verifying the contents of the complaint and will proceed according to the law," an official said. The family has urged authorities to hold both the doctor and the hospital accountable, stating that such behavior.

## NIT Srinagar marks World Blood Donor Day with successful blood donation camp Over 77 units donated, promotes 'Nation First' spirit

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, June 16: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Monday marked World Blood Donor Day by organizing a successful blood donation camp at the institute's Medical Unit.

The initiative was led by the NCC Unit of NIT Srinagar under the aegis of the 9 J&K Girls Battalion, in collaboration with the National Service Scheme (NSS), Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) Club, Sports Club, Alumni Association NIT Sgr, Med-

ical Unit, and SMHS Hospital (Government Medical College Srinagar). Held under the national theme "Nation First, Donate Blood, Save Lives," the camp aimed to raise awareness about the importance of voluntary blood donation and instill a spirit of patriotism and humanitarian service among the youth. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, staff, and faculty. A total of 77 pints of blood were collected, with 80 voluntary donors and 18 NCC cadets actively participating. In his mes-



sage, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanojia, appreciated the efforts of the organizers and participants. "Such initiatives reflect the true spirit of service and responsibility that we aim to nur-

ture in our students. I commend the NCC Unit and all collaborating bodies for successfully organizing this blood donation camp, which not only contributes to public health but also strengthens the values of empathy and civic engagement within our campus community," he added. Notably, Lt. Dr. Nitika Kundan, Associate NCC Officer (ANO) and event coordinator, also donated blood herself, exemplifying leadership by action. She commended the collective spirit shown by the NIT Srinagar community.

"The enthusiastic response from our cadets and the larger campus community reflects the institute's enduring commitment to nation-building through service," she said. The blood donation camp was supported by the presence of all key coordinators, who also donated blood in the camp. These included Prof. M. A. Shah, Dean Alumni and International Affairs, Lt. Dr. Nitika Kundan (NCC Officer), Dr. Jitendra Gurjar (NSS), Dr. Ashok Kumar (EBSB), Dr. Gowhar Nabi (Medical Officer).

## 2nd District Magistrate Open Chess Championship 2025 begins at Poonch

**HT NEWS DESK**

POONCH, JUNE 16: The District Administration Poonch, in collaboration with the Department of Youth Services and Sports, inaugurated the 2nd District Magistrate Open Chess Championship 2025 at Dina Nath Rafiq Memorial (DNRM) Girls Higher Secondary School, today. Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the significance of sports, highlighting

ing their role in fostering not only physical fitness but also mental strength and discipline. He lauded Youth Services and Sports Department and the school administration for promoting such intellectually enriching activities. He also encouraged students to actively participate in diverse sports events to ensure holistic development. A total of 70 players, including 55 boys and 15 girls from across the district are participating in the championship, reflecting growing interest in mind sports among the youth of the district.



The championship aims to promote strategic thinking and mental agility among the youth.

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## SDM inaugurates 5th Leg of Chowki Choura Premier League Cricket Tournament 2025

**HT NEWS DESK**

JAMMU, JUNE 16: Sub Divisional Magistrate Chowki Choura, Ankush Hans today inaugurated the 5th leg of the much anticipated Chowki Choura Premier League (CCPL) cricket tournament 2025 at High Secondary School, Chowki Grounds. The event marks a significant moment for the local sports community, bringing together 10 enthusiastic teams to compete in league matches. The organizing Committee of the tournament comprises notable citizens of Chowki Choura, namely Ravi Sharma and Ajeet Singh. In his inaugural address, the SDM extended best wishes to the participating teams, encouraging them to play with true sportsmanship and passion. "Such tournaments not only foster healthy competition but also strengthen community bonds and promote youth engagement in sports," he said.



The tournament, featuring a series of league matches, promises thrilling cricket action and will conclude on June 29. Organizers and supporters are looking forward to an exciting season and commend all teams for their spirited participation.

## Global chess returns to Mumbai

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA  
Mumbai, June 16

Mumbai is poised to become the epicentre of

global chess action as the Rs 40 lakh prize money Aurionpro International Grandmaster Chess Tournament and Junior International Chess Tournament will be played at the World Trade Centre, Mumbai from June 16 to 24. Organised by the Indian Chess School under the aegis of the All India Chess Federation, this double-header promises thrilling encounters and unmatched competition. Over 400 players from 17 countries have

confirmed participation in this chess extravaganza, including an impressive lineup of 16 Grandmasters and 13 International Masters. With a combined prize fund of Rs 40.00 Lakhs, the event stands as one of India's richest chess tournaments — Rs 25.00 Lakhs earmarked for the Grandmaster section and Rs 15.00 Lakhs for the Junior (Under-13) section, the latter billed as the 'Richest Tournament for Children' in the world.

## Smith reveals next step in recovery from finger injury

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA  
London, June 16

Australia batter Steve Smith has spoken for the first time since he picked up a finger injury during the ICC World Test Championship Final and provided a prognosis surrounding his return to international cricket. Smith was sent to hospital during the third day of Australia's defeat to South Africa at Lord's after the veteran suffered a compound dislocation of his right little finger while fielding in the slip cordon. The initial diagnosis for Smith is reasonably good, with the 36-year-old lucky to have avoided surgery and still a chance to feature in Australia's upcoming three-match Test series against the West Indies in the Caribbean. "I will be in a splint for eight weeks now and I may be able to play with it in a couple of weeks," Smith revealed after Australia's five-wicket loss to the Proteas at Lord's. "It will depend on my functionality and what I am able to do, so it was probably the best result I could have hoped for," he said. Smith's injury came about when he dropped South Africa captain Temba Bavuma when he was on just two in the Proteas' second innings and the

missed chance cost the Aussies dearly as the skipper went on to score 66 and feature heavily in a match-winning partnership with opener Aiden Markram, an ICC report said. The Australian was standing extremely close to the batter when the drop occurred and was also sporting a helmet to cope with the uneven bounce in the Lord's pitch. "I was standing pretty close with the helmet on and as we saw throughout the game a lot of nicks went short of first and second slip," Smith said. "The plan was to stand pretty close and I lost sight of it with the angle that Mitchell Starc was bowling and it kind of went inside Bavuma's hip and I didn't quite see it until really late and it kind of dipped on me a little bit late too as well," he said. "It was tricky, it didn't go in my hand very well and fortunately there is no break there and it just split the skin and dislocated it which made me feel pretty ill at that stage," Smith said. The injury incident is the latest in a long set of dramas Smith has encountered at Lord's over the years, with the Australian admitting he now has a host of mixed emotions when recalling his recent appearances at the famous north London venue.

## China falls 3-1 to Netherlands in FIH Women's Pro League

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA  
Amstelveen, June 16



The Chinese women's national field hockey team kicked off its Netherlands leg of the 2025 FIH Pro League campaign with a 3-1 loss to powerhouse Netherlands at the Wagener Hockey Stadium here. China held strong in the opening quarter, fending off an early Dutch offensive just 90 seconds into the game on Saturday. The home side earned a penalty corner but failed to convert. The Dutch broke the deadlock late in the second quarter, scoring in the 13th minute through a well-executed combination inside the shooting circle. In the third quarter, the Netherlands quickly extended their lead in the fourth minute, followed by another goal off a penalty corner which made it 3-0. China responded in the final quarter. In the eighth minute, young defender Tan Jintong scored on a rebound following a penalty corner, narrowing the gap to 3-1. The team continued to press, launching several promising attacks inside the circle, but couldn't find the net again before the final whistle. After the match, captain Ou Zixia praised her squad's performance despite the loss. "It was a high-quality game, and I'm proud of how resilient we were," she said.

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