

Public Accounts Committee holds meeting in Srinagar

Discusses audit paras pertaining to Finance Department

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 30: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) today convened a meeting to discuss audit paras pertaining to Finance Department at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Sham Lal Sharma and attended by members Nazir Ahmad Khan, Qaysar Jamshaid Lone, Javid Hassan Baig, Devinder Kumar Manyal, Sajad Shaheen and Muzaffar Iqbal Khan.

The Committee undertook a detailed review of audit paras pertaining to the Finance Department, including Paras 3.6 (2001-02), 2.2 and 2.5 (2018-19).

The Chairman emphasized the importance of ensuring efficiency and transparency in public expenditure. He reiterated that the mandate of the Committee is to scrutinize the



government spending, identify lapses, fix accountability and recommend corrective actions. The Committee deliberated on key issues such as computerisation of Toll Post Lakhampur, management of bank accounts and disbursement of flood relief funds.

The meeting reviewed the details submitted by the concerned department and asserted that action taken

reports be submitted over various matters in a time bound manner.

Principal Accountant General J&K, KP Yadav, Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Santosh D. Vaidya, Secretary, PWD Bhupinder Kumar, Secretary, RDD & PR Mohammad Aijaz Asad, Director General Accounts and Treasuries, Director Finance, Commissioner State Taxes and

other senior officers.

The Committee also decided to drop various audit paras, including Para 2.2.4 related to the management of bank accounts with a direction to submit a detailed action taken report within a stipulated time frame. The Chairman highlighted the importance of the Committee, emphasising on the core responsibilities, including examination of audit reports from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), scrutiny of public spending and recommendation of reforms to enhance fiscal discipline.

He appreciated the commitment and meticulous efforts of the Committee members and officials and encouraged them to continue contributing effectively towards the public accountability. He underlined the crucial role of the PAC as a watchdog over public funds and government operations.

Commissioner Secretary H&UDD reviews Muharram arrangements in Srinagar

Inspects ABC Centre at Tengpora, Yatra Transit Camp at Pantha Chowk

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 30: Intensifying efforts towards ensuring seamless and safe observance of Muharram-ul-Harram and Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, Commissioner Secretary Housing & Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur, today conducted a comprehensive inspection of key sites across Srinagar.

She was accompanied by Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Fazlul Haseeb and senior officials from SMC and allied departments.

The visit included prominent Imam Bargahs in Zadibal and Hassanabad, where the Commissioner Secretary reviewed the arrangements being made for Muharram processions and religious gatherings. She interacted with the members of the Shia community, listening to their suggestions and concerns regarding a peaceful and dignified observance of the holy month.

The inspection focused on sev-



eral essential services including sanitation, power supply, street lighting, drinking water, water tanker availability, drainage and road conditions.

The Commissioner Secretary stressed the importance of coordinated efforts and timely action to address any issues that may arise during the period. She reassured the community members of the government's full support and its commitment to public safety and well-being.

Regarding the hygiene standards, she directed concerned

officials to carry out thorough fumigation at all key religious sites, including Imam Bargahs, mosques and shrines.

In addition to reviewing the Muharram arrangements, she also visited the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Centre at Tengpora to assess its operations. Later, she inspected the Yatra Transit Camp at Pantha Chowk, taking stock of facilities and preparations being put in place for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

The Spirit of Sabeel-e-Hussain Lives On in Kashmir's Moharram Traditions

By Shaista Mir,



Srinagar — As the crescent of Muharram rises in the sky, the valley of Kashmir once again bears witness to a time-honored tradition rooted in compassion, community, and collective remembrance — the setting up of Sabeel-e-Hussain. For generations, Kashmiri Momineens have kept alive this sacred custom — setting up tubs, tanks, and stalls offering water, milk, sherbet, and refreshments — as a tribute to the supreme sacrifice of Imam Hussain (a.s) and his companions in the scorching plains of Karbala. The concept of the Sabeel is not merely cultural — it is deeply prophetic. It traces back to the time of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), who encouraged the provision of water and food to weary travelers. In Islamic history, building wells and offering water to passersby was considered a noble act — a gesture of generosity and public service. Over centuries, this tradition evolved into what we now know as Sabeel-e-Hussain. In Kashmir, where temperatures can soar above 35°C during Muharram, these Sabeels become an oasis for those observing processions or walking long distances in mourning. From early morning till late night, Noha Khwani echoes across neighborhoods for nearly 12 hours a day, infusing the air with a solemn sense of devotion. Amid this, the Sabeels — often set up in streets, mosques, and community corners — provide vital hydration and comfort. But what makes this tradition especially poignant is its inclusivity. Whether rich or poor, young or old, people stop to drink from the Sabeels. Volunteers, many of them youth, manage these stalls with discipline and a sense of spiritual pride. And in a heartening display of interfaith harmony, even Sunni brethren across the valley contribute generously to the efforts — donating supplies, volunteering at Langars, or helping with logistics. Langar — the communal food service — operates alongside Sabeels, offering free meals to all. It's a practical expression of Islamic egalitarianism and unity, where distinctions of caste, class, and sect dissolve at the serving pots of rice and lentils. In today's fast-paced and often polarized world, the continued observance of Sabeel-e-Hussain in Kashmir stands as a powerful symbol of unity, endurance, and faith. It is a living tribute not only to the martyrs of Karbala,

Committee on Petitions holds meeting in Srinagar

Discusses petition related to Housing Department

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 30: The House Committee on Petitions of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to deliberate on issues pertaining to the Housing Department.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah and attended by members Mushtaq Guroo, Salman Sagar, Mian Mehar Ali, Vijay Kumar and Thakur Randhir Singh. Managing Director, Jammu and Kashmir Housing Board, Shahbaz Ahmad Mirza, also participated in the proceedings.



The Committee held a threadbare discussion on a petition submitted by former Member of Legislative Assembly, Ghulam Qadir Wani, regarding the retrieval of 12 marlas of land at Channi Rama, Jammu, from the Housing Department. The discussions focused on identifying practical and time-bound solutions to the

issues raised in the petition. The members assured deep commitment towards resolving the genuine public grievances through a structured and responsive mechanism. The Chairman, emphasized the Committee's responsibility to meticulously examine each petition referred to it, ensuring

timely redressal and resolution of genuine concerns. He reiterated that the Committee would report to the House on specific complaints and recommend appropriate remedial measures as deemed necessary. He stressed the importance of active cooperation and seamless contributions from all members and the concerned officials to ensure the vibrant and effective functioning of the Committee. The members actively participated in the meeting, offering valuable suggestions and feedback on various issues discussed, reaffirming their dedication towards addressing the public concerns transparently and efficiently.

Javid Dar inaugurates JKRTC Bus Service from Zaloora to Srinagar

HT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 30: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, and Cooperative Election, Javid Ahmad Dar, today inaugurated a new Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) bus service from Zaloora to Srinagar. This long-awaited service

fulfills a persistent demand of the local residents, offering them a much-needed transportation link and improved regional connectivity. The bus service will cater to areas of Zaloora, Harwan, Tujjar Sharif and Sopore for travel to Srinagar city. Speaking on the occasion, Javid Dar said that the launch of this service reflects the commitment

of the Omar Abdullah-led government towards ensuring enhanced basic facilities for the people, especially in far-flung and underserved areas. He emphasized that improving public transportation is a key step towards enhancing daily mobility, boosting local economic activities and connecting communities. The Minister assured that the government would

continue to strengthen the road connectivity, upgrade transport infrastructure and enhance the public amenities across the region. Later, Javid Dar, visited Gori-pora, Rafiabab, to participate in the Muharram commemoration. Speaking on the occasion, Javid Dar said that the launch of this service reflects the commitment of the Omar Abdullah-led government towards

6000 students participate in NMMSS examination

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 30: Nearly, 6000 8th pass students participated in the examination under National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) on June, 29 through 102 centres set-up across the J&K.

The examination was conducted by J&K BOSE with active support of School Education Department.

The clearance of examination assures Rs 12,000 yearly financial assistance to the academically promising students belonging to economically weaker sections for a period of four years.

The NMMSS being flagship scheme of Central Government has been instrumental in encouraging the meritorious students to chase their academic dreams over the years.

The Central Government has allotted a quota of 1068 seats for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir this year.

The J&K BOSE had made elaborate arrangements for ensuring complete transparency through multi-layer monitoring mechanism involving CEOs, HOIs, Board officials and the invigilators.

J&K CEO issues show cause notice to 3 inactive political parties

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 30: The office of the J&K Chief Electoral Officer has issued show cause notices to three registered political parties including All Jammu and Kashmir Republican Party, Indian People's Conference Party and Socialistic Democratic Party, proposing to delist them from the list of registered parties.

The CEO's decision comes after it was found that these parties have not contested any elections to the House of the People or State Legislative Assemblies for the past six years, since 2019. The parties' current addresses are also unknown, raising questions about their active existence. The CEO has given the parties an opportunity to make a representation and show cause why they should not be delisted. They are required to submit their written representation, accompanied by an affidavit and supporting.

Dharti Aaba Abhiyan conducted in Panchayat Mujhpathri, a tribal area, of block Khanshaib Budgam

HT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, JUNE 30: Dharti Aaba Abhiyan was conducted at Tribal Village Mujhpathri, a remote village in Block Khansahib regarding Saturation of Government Schemes across 25 Interventions spanning 17 line departments of Tribal Villages.

All Line Departments ensured participation in Gram Sabha and Representatives spoke about the eligibility of their respective Schemes where gaps in terms of 100% saturation was required.

The event saw greater participation of people than the previous day from Tribal community and people apprised



the representatives regarding the need for such Gram Sabha benefiting the Tribal Community. To grace the occasion, students of Govt Model Middle School Mujhpathri, Khansahib performed on various cultural events like Gojri folk music, etc to highlight the importance of preserving one's cultural and local heritage. Besides, onspot registration of schemes like PMAY -G, Kisan Credit Cards, Swadesh Darshan Guest Homes, HADP Scheme, JJM FHTC, PMJAY Health Cards was done. People in large number participated in this awareness campaign where the quick redressal to some of their grievances raised by community members was done by the concerned line departments.



DC Kulgam inspects progress on NH-444 Project

Farooq Rather

KULGAM JUNE 30: District Development Commissioner (DDC), Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, on Monday conducted an extensive inspection of on-going work on National Highway (NH)-444 project in the district.

He reviewed the progress made on the Kulgam Bypass on NH 444 stretching from Pahloo to Lirow including 378-meter-long



Brazloo bridge.

During his visit, the DDC was briefed by engineers on the progress status of

the NH-444 Pahloo-Lirow Bypass.

The DC instructed the concerned to expedite

work and ensure the timely completion of the NH-444 project in the district.

He also emphasized the need to prioritize the construction of the Brazloo Bridge which is coming up an estimated cost of 56 Cr.

Accompanying the DC were Assistant Commissioner Revenue Reyaz Ahmad Shah, Tehsildar Kulgam/Pahloo Executive Engineer NH444 Construction Division Sgr, AEE's and other Officers.

LMD intensifies market inspections ahead of Shri Amarnathji

Yatra: Traders penalized for violations in Kathua

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JUNE 30: With the view to safeguard the interests of consumers, especially Shri Amarnath pilgrims, the Legal Metrology Department, under the directions of Controller Legal Metrology J&K Rajinder Singh Tara conducted a special enforcement drive ahead of the Shri Amarnathji Yatra. The rigorous inspections were carried out along the National Highway in Kathua district—a crucial transit zone for Yatris en route to the holy shrine.

The inspection drive, led by the Legal Metrology unit in Kathua, was aimed to ensure fair trade practices and strict compliance with the Legal Metrology Act, 2009. During the

inspections, several traders were found violating various provisions of the Legal Metrology Act/rules and were accordingly booked by the area inspectors and penalties amounting to 1.40 lakh were imposed.

The department emphasized that traders must strictly use certified weighing instruments and cautioned against short-weight sales, particularly involving commodities like sweets, bakery items, snacks, beverages and pre-packaged food products which witness high consumer demand during the pilgrimage season and the department stressed the need for transparency.

In an official hand-out, the Department urged the consumers to remain vigilant and thoroughly inspect pre-packaged products for key labelling

details such as the manufacturer or importer's address, country of origin, net quantity and the Maximum Retail Price (MRP), inclusive of all taxes. As the proper labelling helps ensure transparency and provides consumers with accurate product information of pre-packaged commodities which in-turn discourages deceptive or fraudulent practices.

The Controller Legal Metrology J&K reiterated the department's commitment in protecting the rights of consumers and maintaining ethical standards in market transactions, especially during the festive and pilgrimage season. He also encouraged consumers to report any instance of overcharging or short-weight sales or deceptive pre-packaging to the department for prompt action.

Warm farewell accorded to retirees of Agriculture Department Jammu

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JUNE 30: The staff and officers of the Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu, bid a warm and affectionate farewell to Agriculture Economist Jammu Pardeep Sharma and Assistant Agriculture

Engineer, Seed Processing Unit, Jammu, Arshad Husain Rashid who superannuated today after rendering over 35 years of dedicated service to the department.

A heartfelt farewell function was organized at the Directorate to honour the retirees for their remark-

able contribution to the department and the farming community. Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu, S. Arvinder Singh Reen graced the occasion and extended best wishes to the retiring officers.

In his address, the Director lauded their exemplary

service, professionalism and unwavering commitment towards agricultural development and farmer welfare. He further added that the department will always value the dedication and sincerity with which the officers discharged their duties over the years.

Handicrafts & Handloom Deptt condoles demise of father of Mussrat Islam

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 30: The Officers and the Officials of the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir today held a condolence meeting at the Directorate Office here to express profound grief and solidarity with Mussrat Islam, Direc-

tor, Handicrafts and Handloom Department, on the sad demise of his father.

The meeting was attended by senior officers and staff members of the department, who shared heartfelt tributes and fondly remembered the values and legacy of the departed soul. Prayers were offered

for eternal peace to the deceased and strength to the bereaved family.

Speaking on behalf of the department, the staff conveyed the collective sorrow of the organization, stating, "Loss of a parent is an irreplaceable void. On behalf of the entire Handicrafts and Handloom Depart-

ment, we extend our deepest sympathies to Mussrat Islam and his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with them in this hour of grief." Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir stands united in support of Mussrat Islam and his family during this period of mourning.

Petitioners Urge Chief Justice of India Seeking Immediate Restoration of J&K Statehood

HT NEWS DESK/KNT

Srinagar, June 30, KNT: Five prominent petitioners in the Article 370 case have written an open letter to Chief Justice of India B R Gavai, urging him to constitute a bench to adjudicate the constitutional validity of Jammu and Kashmir's loss of statehood and to set a concrete deadline for its restoration. They also sought legal safeguards to prevent any future government from unilaterally revoking statehood of any Indian state. The signatories, former J&K interlocutor Radha Kumar, ex-Home Secretary G K Pillai, retired Major General Ashok K Mehta, retired Air Vice-Marshal Kapil Kak, and former Inter-State Council Secretary Amitabha Pande, expressed concern that the recent Pahalgam attack may be used as a pretext by the Union Government.

Suryaputri Tawi Aarti to commence from July 1: Commissioner JMC

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JUNE 30: Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav, today announced that the much-awaited Suryaputri Tawi Aarti will commence from July 1, 2025 and will be held daily at 7:00 pm on the banks of River Tawi. The announcement was made during a press conference jointly addressed with Director Information and Public Relations, Nitish Rajora.

The spiritual event being organized collaboratively by Jammu Municipal Corporation, Jammu Smart City Limited, Department of Tourism, Shri Raghunathji Corridor Development Council and the Department of Information and Public Relations aims



to revive and showcase the cultural and spiritual heritage of Jammu.

Dr. Yadav informed that the inaugural Aarti on July 1 will be graced by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha as the Chief Guest.

The Commissioner said that special arrangements have been put in place to facilitate the participation of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims staying at Bhagwati Nagar. He informed that dedicated bus services will be operational to

transport the pilgrims to the Aarti site, offering them a chance to connect with the spiritual essence and historical significance of the Tawi River.

Regarding ongoing Yatra preparations, the Commissioner said that JMC in coordination with District Administration has mobilized teams to ensure smooth conduct of the pilgrimage, covering sanitation, water supply, public conveniences and street lighting. Additionally, a dedicated helpline is being

launched in partnership with the Directorate of Information and Public Relations to assist pilgrims and the general public.

As part of the Clean Jammu, Green Jammu campaign, pilgrims halting in Jammu will be encouraged to take part in plantation drives, contributing to environmental sustainability. "We want every pilgrim to take back not just blessings, but also a green memory of Jammu," Dr. Yadav remarked. Dr. Yadav also appealed to local citizens to actively participate in the Tawi Aarti and make it a people-led cultural movement that elevates Jammu's standing on the national spiritual tourism map. Among others, Joint Commissioner (Revenue & Enforcement), Subah Mehra, along with other senior officers of JMC.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

ازدفترنايب تحصيلدار پھلگام

زليخان زوچرم جو پير احمد ذوين ولد نظام دين ذوين ساکن لڊرو پھلگام بحصول ليگل بير سر تفکات بحق متوفی سوهر لسيبر احمد ذوين رپوٽ ڪے مطابق سالہ کالہر 02/07/24 کو فوت ہوا ہے متوفی کے ورثان جاہر حسب ذیل ہے

اشتہار بغرض اگاہی ہر خاص و عام

زويخان زوچر متوفی 60 سال

عبدالرسید پسر ==38==

محمد یوسف ==36==

روپینہ دختر ==32==

اس کے علاوہ اوکوئی افراد موجود نہیں ہے زیر کار وائی سر تفکات ابراء کرنے میں کمی کو کوئی عربہ و موت و سات یوم کے اندر اندر دفتر حرا میں پیش کرے

نايب تحصيلدار پھلگام

OFFICE OF THE NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

Sub: Application for the issuance of Legal Heir Certificate

Applicant: Sara begum W/o Hafizullah Mir R/o Kreeri Tehsil Kreeri for issuances of legal certificate

NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, in this context, a detailed report was sought from the Patwari Halqa concerned, which reveals that the individual Hafizullah Mir S/o Gh Mohd Mir passed away on 23-05-2025. Moreover, the Death Certificate issued by the competent authority also depicts the same. Furthermore, the report of the Patwari concerned points out that the deceased has left behind the following legal heirs: tabulated as below:

S.no	Name of Legal heir	Relation with deceased	Age	Occupation	Marital status
1	SARA BEGUM	WIFE	65	HOUSE WIFE	MARRIED
2	LATEEF AHAMD MIR	SON	48	GOVT. EMPLOYEE	MARRIED
3	JALEELA	DAUGHTER	45	HOUSE WIFE	MARRIED
4	HASEENA	DAUGHTER	42	HOUSE WIFE	MARRIED
5	GH NABI MIR	SON	40	GOVT. EMPLOYEE	MARRIED
6	GH MOHAMMAD MIR	SON	37	GOVT. EMPLOYEE	MARRIED
7	ROOMA AKHTER	DAUGHTER	35	HOUSE WIFE	MARRIED
8	SHABIR AHAMD MIR	SON	32	Business	MARRIED
9	SAMEENA AKHTER	DAUGHTER	29	HOUSE WIFE	MARRIED

The applicant has applied for the issuance of a Legal Heir Certificate. As such, the instant matter is published through the newspaper, if anyone has any kind of objection, he/she may approach this office within 7 days (seven days) of the publication of this letter. After passing stipulated time of 7 days no objections will be entertained.

Naib Tehsildar
Kreeri

Union Territory Jammu&Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE.							
NOTICE INVITING TENDER							
NT No- 26 of R& B-Sopore/2025-2026e-tendering DATED 30.06.2025							
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage at e basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt.CPWD,Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:							
S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of (In Rupees)	E/Money	Time for completion of work	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contract
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
01	Development of play field at BHHS Sopore by way of construction of Drainage system.	32.67	1100/-	65340/-	60 days	22.07.2025	AAY Capex Budget 2021-22

Project Authority: District Youth Service and Sports.P
Position of funds: Available
Position of AAA/ TS / Accorded
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying in formation, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q.), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other detail's can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below

1	Date of issue of tender. Notice	30.06.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	30.06.2025
3	Bid Submission start date	30.06.2025
4	Bid submission End date	21.07.2025 (4.00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bides (online)	22.07.2025 (12 PM) in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the quoted cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

3(b) Geotech Photographs Minimum 03 sets (01 set Comprising of Photograph before, during and after execution of work) of size 26 cm x 21 cm to be provided.

All other terms, conditions shall remain same as per e-NIT No.01 of 2025-26

21. If the contractor/HMPO quotes rate for any item of work in his tender as free of cost at the time of tendering process, his tender shall be rejected outrightly.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K UT,
No: 2019-28

DIPK No 3119/25
Dated: 30.06.2025.

sd
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Sopore



DC Baramulla reviews progress of works under District Mineral Fund

HT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 30: To ensure the efficient utilization of the District Mineral Fund (DMF) for the development of mining-affected areas, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a review meeting at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by the Joint Director Planning, Superintending Engineer R&B, District Programme Officer (ICDS), Chief Medical Officer, District Mineral Officer and other concerned Officers. At the outset, the DC conducted a comprehensive review of each developmental activity undertaken in the district using the District Mineral Fund for the financial year 2024-25.

The DC directed the concerned officers that all works approved under the previous financial year 2024-25 must be financially completed, and all associated liabilities should be cleared so that benefit of the works percolate the target population. For the current financial year, the DC



further emphasized the need to prioritize and take up more impactful and community-oriented works aimed at improving the living conditions in mining-affected areas.

Minga Sherpa underscored that main focus should be on repair and upgradation of critical road infrastructure, provisioning dedicated ambulances to enhance emergency healthcare access and deploy-

ing water tankers to ensure regular and adequate water supply for the affected communities. Minga Sherpa underscored that main focus should be on repair and upgradation of critical road infrastructure, provisioning dedicated ambulances to enhance emergency healthcare access and deploying water tankers to ensure regular and adequate water supply for the affected communities.

SKUAST-K holds workshop in Gurez to promote revival of heritage crops

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 28: In a significant step towards BANDIPORA, JUNE 30: The Dryland Agriculture Research Station (DARS) Rangreth of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), in collaboration with the Mountain Agriculture Research & Extension Station (MAR&ES) and Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Gurez, organized a one-day mega workshop at Izmarg, Gurez under the AICRP on potential crops.

The programme, organised to promote the revival of heritage and potential crops among tribal farmers, was attended by officials from various departments as well as 43 progressive tribal farmers. On the occasion, Dr. Ajaz Ahmad Lone, Professor and Principal Investigator, AICRP on Pulses, highlighted the importance of potential crops like Buckwheat in addressing nutritional needs, generating income, and promoting sustainable agriculture. He expressed concern over the declining interest in such crops and emphasized the need to sensitize farmers through quality seed distribution, scientific training, and extension literature.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Fayaz Ahmad Bahar, Chief Scientist, DARS Rangreth, spoke about the efforts of the scientific community at SKUAST-K to revive orphan crops tied to the cultural heritage of Gurez.

While sharing details, Dr. Hilal Ahmad Malik, Head KVK & MAR&ES Gurez, informed that 7.5 hectares at Badugam Tulail have been brought under potato seed production, with a target of producing 3,000 quintals this year and scaling up to 30,000 quintals next year. He added that over 16 hectares across Gurez have been covered under KG-2 maize, while the entire village of Dangan (Izmarg) has been brought under Buckwheat cultivation.

Dr. Hilal also announced the establishment of a Custom Hiring Centre under HADP-09 and appreciated the continued support of DARS Rangreth. Later, farmers were provided with free toolkits and tarpaulin sheets to support natural farming practices. Dr. Hilal also announced the establishment of a Custom Hiring Centre under HADP-09 and appreciated the continued support of DARS Rangreth. Later, farmers were provided with free toolkits and tarpaulin sheets to support natural farming.

Awareness workshop on PMFME Scheme held at Bandipora

HT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 30 : On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, a one-day awareness workshop on the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme was conducted on Monday at the Municipal Council Hall, Bandipora. The event was organized under the guidance of District Sheep Husbandry Officer Bandipora, Dr Peer Irshad, who is also the District Nodal Officer (DNO), PMFME Scheme. The workshop was organised to create awareness among local stakeholders about the scope, procedures, and benefits of the PMFME scheme. This flagship initiative by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India, aims to formalize and support the unorganized micro food processing sector.

On the occasion, special focus was placed on empowering rural entrepreneurs, self-help groups (SHGs), and individual beneficiaries, highlighting the financial support, technical assistance, and capacity-building initiatives available under the scheme. Speaking at the event, the District Nodal Officer emphasized the transformative potential of the PMFME scheme and encouraged eligible stakeholders to take full advantage of the scheme to boost rural employment and value addition in food.

Awareness Camp-cum-Outreach Program for Formalisation of MSMEs under RAMP Held at Keller

HT NEWS DESK

SHOPIAN, JUNE 30: The District Industries Centre (DIC) Shopian today organised an Awareness Camp-cum-Outreach Drive under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) program at the Block Office, Keller. The event was aimed at promoting the formalisation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and encouraging Udyam registration among local entrepreneurs.

The camp witnessed the participation of around 75 local stakeholders, including aspiring entrepreneurs, small business owners, and local youth. Officials from DIC Shopian briefed the gathering on the Udyam registration process, explaining its key benefits such as access to government schemes, financial support, and market opportunities. The Lead District Manager (LDM) Shopian also addressed the participants and shared valuable insights on various financial schemes offered by banks to support MSMEs. He highlighted the



importance of timely credit, financial awareness, and institutional support for the growth of small enterprises. The program reflected the dedication of DIC Shopian towards fostering entrepreneurship and industrial development in the district. The initiative is part of the ongoing efforts under the RAMP scheme to enhance the productivity, competitiveness, and formalisation of MSMEs across the region.

DC Baramulla reviews progress under Aspirational District Programme

HT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 30: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa today convened a meeting of all concerned officers at DC Office Complex here to review the progress achieved under different indicators of Aspirational District Programme (ADP).

The meeting held threadbare discussion and reviewed the progress achieved under various indicators including health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion,

and basic infrastructure. During the meeting, other related sectors were also thoroughly discussed during which the DC emphasized the need for sustained efforts to address developmental gaps and to further improve the district's overall performance under the ADP framework. The DC directed the concerned department to take concerted measures for increasing the percentage of agricultural land covered under sprinkler, drip, and other forms of micro-irrigation, with the objective to sustainable farming practices across the district.

Minga Sherpa further called for effective strategies to address key challenges, urging all departments to work with greater dedication to elevate the district from Aspirational to Performer. Joint Director Planning, Javed Ahmad, Chief Education Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Medical Officer and other District Officers attended the meeting. The meeting held threadbare discussion and reviewed the progress achieved under various indicators including health and

nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion, and basic infrastructure. During the meeting, other related sectors were also thoroughly discussed during which the DC emphasized the need for sustained efforts to address developmental gaps and to further improve the district's overall performance under the ADP framework. The DC directed the concerned department to take concerted measures for increasing the percentage of agricultural land covered under sprinkler.

DAJGUA campaign continues across Pulwama; Outreach camps held in Sangerwani and Tral

HT NEWS DESK

PULWAMA, JUNE 30: As part of the ongoing "Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA)" campaign, District Administration Pulwama today organised tribal outreach camps at Sangerwani and Karmulla Tral. The initiative aims to ensure last-mile delivery of essential government services and the saturation of welfare schemes across tribal areas through focused & coordinated outreach.

A wide array of departments, including Health, Social Welfare, ICDS, Rural Development, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry,

Forest, and Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Fisheries established dedicated stalls at the venues to deliver on-the-spot services. These departments facilitated registrations under key schemes such as Jal Jeevan Mission (Functional Household Tap Connections), MGNREGA Job Cards, PMAY-G, PM Ujjwala Yojana, Mudra Yojana, PM Vishwakarma among others. Eligible citizens were guided and assisted on-site to ensure timely and complete coverage under these schemes.

A health camp was also conducted on the occasion by the Health department during which a team of doctors and paramedics provided on-spot consultation and treatment to local



community. Health experts educated attendees on preventive measures including safe drinking practices, hand hygiene, and early identification of symptoms.

To facilitate digital inclusion, a Common service Centre (CSC) was also set up by the District CSC Coordinator, enabling residents to make enrolments, necessary corrections and updates in Aadhar Cards and other important documents. Besides, registration for other government schemes and scholarships were also facilitated by the CSC.

The camps received overwhelming participation from tribal residents, who appreciated the DAJGUA campaign as a positive step towards

inclusive development and easy access to government schemes. To facilitate digital inclusion, a Common service Centre (CSC) was also set up by the District CSC Coordinator, enabling residents to make enrolments, necessary corrections and updates in Aadhar Cards and other important documents. Besides, registration for other government schemes and scholarships were also facilitated by the CSC.

The camps received overwhelming participation from tribal residents, who appreciated the DAJGUA campaign as a positive step towards inclusive development and easy access to government schemes.

DC Shopian inspects work of rural development projects at Keller

HT NEWS DESK

SHOPIAN, JUNE 30 In order to take on ground appraisal of development work, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today visited Keller block where he inspected developmental works, both completed and ongoing along with senior officers of the district administration.

The DC visited Zampathri Bridge, connecting Zampathri with Pehlipora, executed at the cost of 60 lacs which was recently completed through Rural development office, Keller.

Under SBM-2.0, the under-construction site of Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) being constructed at the cost of 90 lacs at Zampathri was also inspected by the DC where he instructed for immediate execution and completion of the project, to be dedicated for eco friendly development of the area

The DC also inspected Chotiwailey-Zampathri road project, executed at the cost of Rs 10 lacs. These key projects of the department are being executed for improving connectivity in the hill area, benefiting thousands of local population along with strengthening public infrastructure especially in sanitation sector, signalling eco



friendly and sustainable development. Accompanied by ADC, ACR and BDO, the DC assessed the pace and quality of work being executed in the area where he highlighted the significance of the projects while calling for efficient execution delivery.

HT EDITORIAL

Congress deserters return back one by one

Over the past few months the Congress leaders who had deserted the party ranks a couple of years back have returned to the party fold one by one. As on date most of the deserted Congress leaders are back and they have returned to the old fold. Only the party veteran and former union minister and former Jammu & Kashmir chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad is out of the party fold and there are few chances that he will come back to Congress.

Azad who floated Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) before the 2024 Jammu & Kashmir assembly elections had to cut a sorry figure when he announced that his party will not fight the last year's assembly elections. His announcement came as a bolt from the blue for his party colleagues who were hoping to fight the elections and hopefully emerge victorious from the seats where they will fight the elections. Azad's statement virtually upset the plan of these leaders and they could not fight the elections.

Since that date the deserted Congress leaders started to distance themselves from Azad and returning back to their old party seemed to be the best option available for them. As on date the Congress party in Jammu & Kashmir is back to business even though the party fared badly in the 2024 assembly elections especially, in the Jammu region. It was due to their failure in Jammu that the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) got overwhelming support in the assembly elections and managed to win maximum seats.

There is an old saying that politics makes strange bed-fellows and it gets proved every now and then. In the latest case the deserted leaders of Congress party have proved that there is nothing good and bad in politics and what matters is the tide of the time. Since the deserters of Congress party were feeling isolated they thought it better to return to the old fold so that there is some face saving. On their part the party high command also welcomed them even if the return was not celebrated in a grand manner.

Since many young Turks have joined the Congress party over the past one year or so it remains to be seen how they will respond once the old leaders start meddling in the party affairs once again. One cannot rule out the difference of opinion between the two sides and at the end of the day the party may suffer yet again.

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■ [Omkar Dattatray](#)

Jammu and Kashmir and to be specific Kashmir has been a land where Shivism flowed and rituals and traditions of Shivate philosophy thrived. So, there are many Shiv temples and natural shrines and caves found in the length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir and Shree Buddha Amarnath temple in Poonch is one of the famous temples which is frequented by a large number of devotees especially on the auspicious days which are dedicated to Lord Shiva. Buddha Amarnath, also known as Swami Buddha Amarnath Ji Mandir, is an ancient Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, located in the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. It is situated in village Rajpura, near Mandi, and is known for its scenic and natural beauty and also for natural white stone Shivlinga and annual Raksha Bandhan Mela [Budda Amarnath ji Mela]. The temple is considered older than the Amarnath cave shrine in Kashmir. The temple is nestled in the Pir Panchal, mountain range, about 25 Kms northeast of Poonch city. It is located on the banks of sacred river Pulsata and pilgrims often bathe in it before entering the temple. The shrine is important for Hindus, with the legend stating that Lord Shiva narrated the secret of immortality = Amar Katha to Goddess Parvati here. It believed that this

temple is older than even the Amarnath cave shrine Kashmir and hence the name" Buddha Amarnath. "The main attraction is the natural shivling of white stone inside the temple. A major festival, the Buddha Amarnath mela is held during Raksha Bandhan attracting thousands of devotees. The temple is known for communal harmony it fosters, with members of all communities participating in the arrangements for the yatra. The temple has four doors meaning that the temple is open for the people of all faiths and backgrounds. Poonch is the nearest major city, located 20kms from the temple. Many devotees undertake the yatra on foot, following a route that passes through picturesque landscapes. In essence, ,Buddha Amarnath is a significant pilgrimage site for Hindus, known for its natural beauty, religious importance, and the communal harmony surrounding the annual yatra. This holy place [Buddha Amarnath] has a great religious and spiritual importance for Hindus. As per Hindu mythology, at this very place, the Lord Shiva had started narrating the Amar Katha to Mata Parvati ji which ended at Swami Amarnath cave located near Pahalgam Kashmir. This temple is considered older than the Sawami Amarnathji of Kashmir. That is why the shrine is known as Swami Buddha Amarnath. As per Hindu mythology, one must visit this sacred place before performing the yatra of Amarnath in Kashmir. A number of legends are famous in and around Poonch city regarding the eruption of this ancient temple As per one legend, Mahatma Pulsat -the grandfather of king Ravana of Shri Lanka mediated at this place for a pretty long time. He was a devotee of Lord Shiva. There are

a number of references in Neel Mat Puran about Pulsat Rishi. As per these references, ,Pulsat was also an artist and sculptor. He carved a number of images of God. One of the references in Neel Mat Puran says, "By seeing the Goddess erected by Pulsat, one is free from all sins and gets highest knowledge and the temple erected by him gives one's merit of the gift of cows and also releases from the diseases." Since the Pulsat was a great Rishi, a sculptor and very popular among the inhabitants of this area, therefore, after his death the people converted this small temple into a shrine. Later on, this shrine was named as Swami Buddha Amarnath. Even now a number of idols of ancient times are available in this area. It is possible that these idols may have been installed by Pulsat Rishi. Swami Buddha Amarnath Yatra is a centuries old yatra. However, it was regularized during Dogra rule of Raja Moti Singh and Jagat Dev Singh in between 1852 to 1939. Swami Buddha Amarnath temple is situated in between the main belt of Pir Panchal range in Rajpura Mandi which is 23 kms on the North East of Poonch town. The sacred place is located on the confluence of two gushing streams namely Nallah Gagri and Pulsat Nadi. This place is surrounded by snow bound lofty mountains, thick belt of forests in the eastern side, lush green pastures and crystal, clear streams and nallahs. The climate of this attractive and charming spot is very pleasant and cool. At present Swami Buddha Amarnath temple is connected with a motorable road and it is 244 kms away from Jammu. The original temple has been constructed with one big stone. There are four doors in the temple on northern, south-

ern, eastern and western side which indicates that the doors of this shrine are open for all four varnas. There is a natural Shiving of white stone -chakmak inside the temple. A number of ancient idols collected from nearby villages are also installed in the premises of the temple where there used to be four holy springs near the temple in past. At present, the water of three springs has been diverted to fourth one which is on the southern side of the temple. The water of these springs is considered as holy from the religious point of view. The pilgrims first take bath in this spring and then enter in the temple for darshan and prayers. The procession of Chari Mubarak starts from Dashnami Akara Poonch amid chanting of bhajans and religious slogans. A guard of honour from police contingent is also paid to Chari Mubarak at the gate of akhara. The Swami ji is carried in a palki by the devotees, along with sacred mace. Thousands of devotees and hundreds of Sadhus accompanying the procession which leads towards Swami Buddha Amarnath on foot. Dedicated to Lord Shiva, the Buddha Amarnath temple in Rajpura village in Mandi Tehsil of Poonch district is one of the oldest shrines of Jammu region and has been attracting devotees in large numbers during Buddha Amarnath Yatra every year. May Lord Shiva shower his blessings upon the people of Jammu and Kashmir so that militancy is eliminated for ever and people of various faiths live in harmony and brotherhood. Thathastuo. We hope so and in near future peace and normalcy will prevail in J&K and people will live like brothers.

The author is a columnist, social, KP activist & Freelancer

Carts, Cries, And Crackdowns: The Untold Side Of Urban Clean-Ups



■ [Shahid Ahmed Hakla Poonchi](#)

In cities across India, a common scene has become a symbol of silent conflict — municipal teams clearing roadside areas, while handcart owners watch their goods being taken away, damaged, or destroyed. These anti-encroachment drives, meant to maintain public order, often end up causing emotional and economic devastation for thousands who earn their living through street trading. It is a complex issue. On one hand, city authorities are doing their job — trying to ensure roads remain decongested and public spaces are safe. On the other hand, handcart owners, many of whom are poor and marginalized, have no designated space or licenses, and rely on their carts to survive.

This is not just a question of law — it is a question of humanity, of inclusion, and of how we treat our weakest citizens.

What Actually Happens During These Drives

Municipal drives are often conducted as part of routine efforts to maintain cleanliness and order in public spaces. Officers, along with sanitation staff or local police, reach areas where roadside carts operate. However, due to the sudden nature of these drives, many cart-pullers — some just beginning their day — may find themselves unprepared, highlighting the need for better coordination and communication on both sides.

Some plead, some beg, others simply watch helplessly. "Please don't take this — this is for my children," they cry. But often, the response is swift and harsh. Carts are pushed aside, baskets of fruits dumped, stalls loaded into trucks. There are no formal receipts, no fines issued, and no clear explanation given. This sudden force turns daily work into devastation in minutes.

This method, while effective in clearing spaces, leaves behind broken livelihoods — and more importantly, damaged trust between citizens and the institutions meant to serve them.

Hardships of the Handcart Owners

Most handcart owners are informal workers with no stable income, fixed space, or official identity. They push heavy carts over long distances, carry perishable goods, and sit under harsh weather conditions for 10–14 hours a day. Their investment is small — a few thousand rupees — but it's often all they have.

A fruit seller in Jammu said, "I don't block the road. I just stand in a corner to earn my daily bread. But one morning, they threw my bananas into the drain. I cried not because I lost money — I cried because I felt invisible."

Their stories are not uncommon — and neither are their struggles. Most of them have no access to formal vending zones, licensing systems, or legal awareness.

The Role of Municipal Corporations: Duty With Dignity

Municipal corporations are not villains in this story. They have a duty to maintain cleanliness, safety, and urban order. Encroachment on footpaths, traffic bottlenecks, and sanitation issues are real concerns. No city can function if every space is taken over informally.

But while their duty is justified, the method often isn't. Throwing away someone's livelihood is not regulation — it feels like punishment. Instead of abrupt removal or destruction, authorities can choose measured steps:

- Issue warnings
- Impose fines
- Seize goods temporarily
- Identify repeat offenders separately
- Provide vending alternatives where possible
- This way, order is maintained — without cruelty.

Even some officials agree that a more balanced approach is needed. "We understand their pain," said a senior Jammu Municipal official. "But the city has to function. We are ready to cooperate if handcart owners come forward for registration and follow rules."

Urban planners too have voiced the need for more compassion. Prof. Neeraj Sharma, an expert on inclusive cities, says, "Street-level earners are part of urban India. Ignoring them or crushing them is not development — it's displacement. We need co-existence strategies, not confrontation."

Real Examples From Across India

Jammu (January 2025)

Over 100 street vendors and shopkeepers staged a protest outside the residence of former CM Farooq Abdullah after the Jammu Municipal Corporation conducted a major anti-encroachment drive. The vendors alleged their goods were confiscated without warning and demanded an immediate halt to the operation.

Srinagar (January 28, 2022)

During a Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) drive at Jahangir Chowk and Hari Singh High Street, several street vendors had their carts forcefully seized or vandalized. Multiple videos went viral showing vendors screaming:

"Look how they are snatching our livelihood, where will we go? I've a family to feed."

"I'm a father of four girls... please don't do this, where will I go?"

Nagpur, Maharashtra (May 2025)

The Sitabuldi hawking zone, used by around 1,000 vendors, was cleared in an anti-encroachment drive. Licensed hawkers were relocated to areas with poor footfall, with allegations that many returned after paying bribes Ranchi, Jharkhand (June 2025)

Over 100 vendors were evicted from major public roads. Though officials claimed prior warning, traders—including Ram Avadhesh and Rekha Mandal—argued they were given no viable alternatives.

Guwahati, Assam (June 2025)

Street vendors in Ganeshguri, Bhangagarh, and Jalukbari faced repeated evictions. Despite fines (up to ₹10,000) or confiscation, many returned within days—pointing to the cyclical nature of these drives.

A National Picture: Data and Reality

Over 2.5% of India's urban population earns a living through mobile street trading (Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs).

The National Policy on Urban Street Vendors estimates that over 10 million families rely on informal cart-based trade.

A study in Delhi found that 70% of roadside sellers were evicted without any notice or paperwork.

In 2013, the Supreme Court of India upheld the rights of informal traders, saying: "The right to livelihood is a facet of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution."

Yes, Cities Need Development — But It Must Be Inclusive

There's no question that urban areas must be organized. Public walkways must be free, traffic must move smoothly, and sanitation must be ensured. But in the process, we cannot erase people — especially those who rely on informal work for survival.

Development is not just about removing the poor — it's about including them with dignity. Simply throwing their belongings away doesn't eliminate the problem — it deepens inequality, and pushes them into debt, depression, and distrust.

If a cart is illegal or in the wrong place, seize it, fine it — but do not humiliate the person behind it. Create clear policies, provide designated vending spaces, and let people earn with self-respect.

Solutions That Serve All

We need a new approach that protects both public order and the right to livelihood:

- Establish vending zones with proper facilities
- Create transparent licensing systems
- Give prior written notices before action
- Train municipal staff in humane enforcement
- Provide low-cost stalls or carts on rent
- Set up grievance cells for street workers
- Let handcart owners be seen as part of the economy — not a problem to be erased.

Policy Suggestions

- Fast-track implementation of Town Vending Committees (TVCs)
- Launch mobile registration and ID drives for cart-based traders
- Include informal earners in Smart Cities Mission planning
- Partner with NGOs for rehabilitation and alternate site planning

A City That Cares is a City That Grows

Urban development is necessary. But it must be done with care, consultation, and compassion. We cannot build smart cities by breaking the backs of those who serve us through the most basic forms of trade.

Let us create spaces for them — not sweep them away. Let us impose rules — not cruelty. Let us regulate — not ruin. Because in the end, no city is truly developed if its poorest are left behind on the footpaths of silence.

The writer can be contacted at shahidhakla360@gmail.com

A new writer has arrived - and the vultures of the market have woken up



■ Priyanka Saurabh

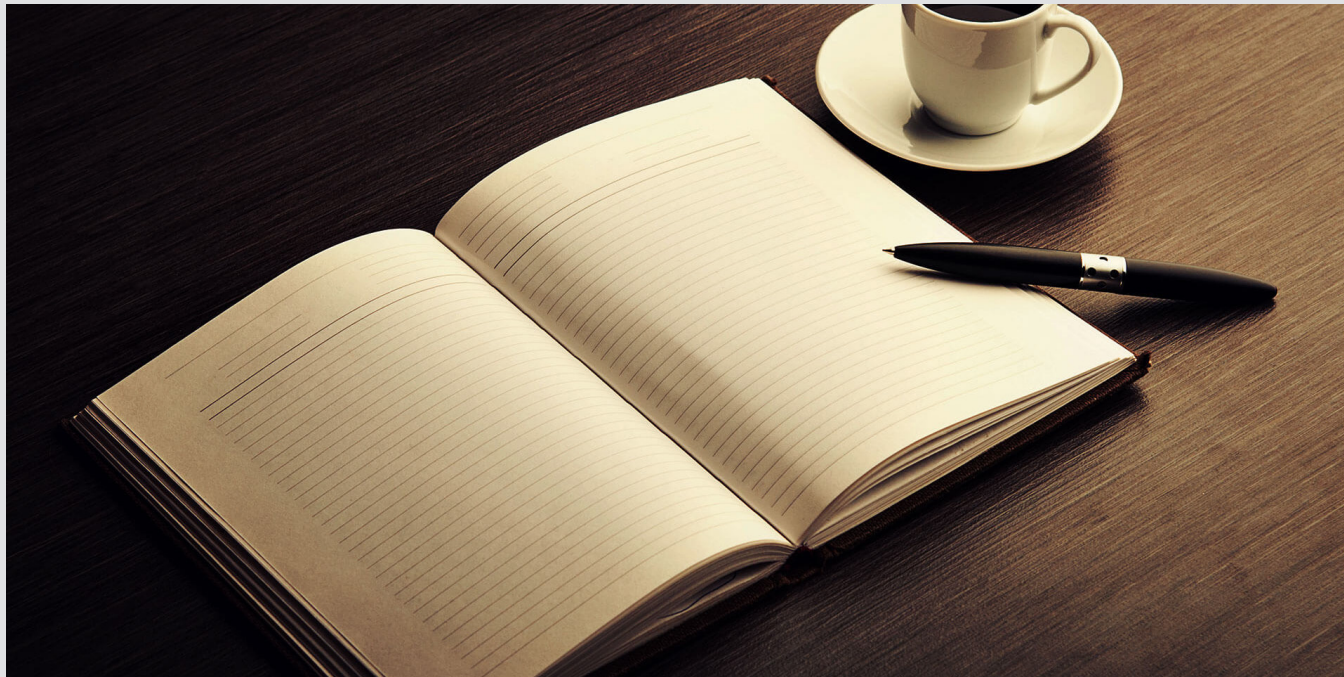
With the emergence of new female writers, the way their body, age and smile are traded in the literary markets instead of their creativity is a deep and shameful truth. Stage, criticism, role, respect – everything becomes a trap. This editorial shows the mirror to the hypocritical system running in the name of women's writing, where the writer's 'presence' sells more than her pen. Now the time has come for the literary world to recognize this internal exploitation and muster the courage to change it.

As soon as a new writer enters the literary arena, a festive atmosphere is created. She has come with a pen – to give life to words, to share experiences and to give voice to feelings. But is the power of words alone enough to survive in this world?

No. In this market, one looks at one's face before one's writing. One asks about one's age before one's book. One's speech and smile are discussed before one's thoughts. And unfortunately, this is the point where the dark truth of the literary field emerges.

Even today, in all the literary forums, seminars and magazines of the country, a female writer is considered more of a 'beauty' than a 'creator'. The words of praise of the seniors contain more 'hints' than appreciation. The call on the stage is not only for reciting poetry, but it is a cunning attempt to cash in on that 'youthful' energy.

There are many who say, "You write very well." But many of them have saliva in their eyes, not words. In the parties after the seminar, the body is evaluated, not poetry. And the writer who says 'no' to all this is called 'arrogant', 'uncoop-



erative', and 'rude'.

This market of literature has become the graveyard of that intellectual freedom, which many women dream of when they take up their pens. New writers get silence, not a platform. They get doubts, not support. There is an attempt to find the intention behind every word of hers – "For whom did you write?", "On whose advice?", "With what intention?"

This is the same society which on one hand writes columns in newspapers on the 'Me Too' movement, and on the other hand is ready to call young female writers in isolation at literary conferences and give them "personal guidance".

This mindset has not only crushed new talents but has also shattered women's faith in literature. Those who were supposed to make the world of writing their home find the doors closed for them – if they do not 'compromise'.

History is witness to this – writers like Amrita Pritam, Mahadevi Varma, Mannu Bhandari, Mrinal Pandey, Van-

dana Raga not only used their pens but also wrote against the patriarchy that had made its home in the literary world. They watered this path with struggles and left a consciousness for the coming generations.

But the question still remains – why even today does a new female writer have to stay silent or fight to protect her dignity? Why does 'women's writing' still remain an 'easy target' for senior male writers?

Many times, attempts are made to mould the writing style of a female writer according to the male norms. "Write less aggressively, be more sensitive, romantic poems are appreciated more" – these are the advices of the 'gurus' who teach new names. But the truth is that this is not a demand for 'conformity', but 'persuasion'.

There is another aspect to this – when a female writer becomes successful, the credit for her success is given to her 'male mentor'. As if her talent was not her own, but was acquired through someone's 'contacts' and 'patronage'.

And when she denies these things – it is not her poems that are reviewed, but her character. This double standard has become the backbone of this market.

Now there is a need to question this system.

Now there is a need for every new writer to write in her poem, "I am not a rose that has bloomed just to decorate – I am that thorn that will tear apart your intentions."

Writers need to be each other's voice. More than sharing a stage, they need to share a space – where they listen to each other, support each other, and never leave anyone alone.

Publishers, editors, organisers – now there is a warning for you too. If you do not clean up your policies, these pens will write your name not with ink but with fire.

This market, which was once a market of ideas, has today become a bazaar – where 'female presence' is sold, not 'writing'.

But this market too will collapse one day – when every writer will overcome

“

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There are many who say, "You write very well." But many of them have saliva in their eyes, not words. In the parties after the seminar, the body is evaluated, not poetry. And the writer who says 'no' to all this is called 'arrogant', 'uncooperative', and 'rude'.

her inner fear and will demand not just poetry but her rights on the stage.

"My words do not come from my lips, but from my soul – and you have trampled upon my soul, so this pen will not remain silent now."

The author is a Freelance writer, feminist thinker, poet

The Night Cries Out



■ Sidharth PK

*The night cries out,
It kicks me out
Of my dream
She comes to me
Like a pleasing woman
And I remember
The day appears again
Like a primrose
It checks in
And sandy
The blaze sets me
In motion
And I fray
Up the dust
And heat that,
Shouts at me
In full breath
I forget the night
I cherish the day,
And rest is only as say.*

Beyond Hospitals: Other Sources of Biomedical Waste



■ Vijay Garg

Let us now take a closer look at where this waste originates and what it consists of. Biomedical waste doesn't just come from hospitals – it is generated across a wide range of healthcare settings, from large medical institutions to small clinics and even home-based care. Depending on the type of facility and the nature of medical procedures performed, the volume and kind of waste can vary greatly. In this article, we will explore the primary and secondary sources of biomedical waste and examine its key components, some of which pose serious health and environmental risks.

As mentioned, biomedical waste originates from a variety of healthcare settings, which can be broadly classified into two categories: primary and secondary sources. The primary sources include private and government general hospitals, maternity hospitals, clinics of general practitioners, medical colleges, veterinary colleges and hospitals, blood banks, pathology labs, animal houses affiliated with research labs (mostly located in pharmaceutical industries), etc. Blood donation camps, dental clinics, domestic healthcare practices, primary healthcare centers, educational institutions, industrial healthcare centres, AYUSH hospitals, etc., are considered secondary sources.

The type and quantity of the waste depend on the sources of generation.

Composition of biomedical waste

Waste generated in healthcare centers is broadly divided into hazardous and infectious waste and non-infectious or general waste. Infectious waste is further categorised into the following four major categories:

Human anatomical and pathological waste: This accounts for only a small fraction, comprising about 10-15 per cent of the total waste generated in a hospital. However, this small fraction is of the biggest concern, as it poses a direct threat to the health and hygiene of human beings by transmitting viral, bacterial, fungal, or parasitic diseases. This type of waste includes internal organs such as appendices, tumours, glands, and tissues. It also includes any other organs removed during surgery, biopsy, or other medical procedures. Body parts like legs or hands that are partially or completely amputated are included. The placenta removed during childbirth is part of this waste. Aborted fetuses are also included.

Blood and other body fluids fall under this category. Animal carcasses and tissues from laboratories are part of this waste as well. Used dressings and cotton swabs soaked in blood or body fluids are included.

Hospital gowns, aprons, and other similar materials also form part of this waste. In short, any material that has been contaminated with a patient's blood or other body fluids belongs to this category of waste.

Animal anatomical and pathological waste: Experimental animal carcasses, body parts, organs, and tissues, including the waste generated from animals used

in experiments or testing in veterinary hospitals or colleges, or animal houses in pharma industries, also belong to this category.

Plastic waste: The use of plastic articles for treatment purposes has become very common in hospitals, not only in India but all over the world. Disposable plastic items used in hospitals are generally made from high-quality, sterilised plastics like polypropylene, high-density polyethylene (HDPE), and PVC, which are ideal for their strength, flexibility, durability, etc. These articles are also ideal for maintaining sterility. Thus offering crucial benefits like infection control and ease of use. However, they also contribute significantly to medical waste, accounting for about 25 per cent to 30 per cent of the total volume. These articles include syringes, IV sets, and tubing used for intravenous administration of medicines; gloves; catheters; endotracheal tubes; cannulas; dialysis sets; blood and urine bags, etc. Most of the syringes are either for intramuscular or hypodermic injections to inject medicine into the body.

Metal Sharps: Waste Sharps, including metals, needles, syringes with fixed needles, needles from needle tip cutters or burners, scalpels, blades, or any other contaminated sharp object that may cause punctures and cuts. This includes used, discarded, and contaminated metal sharps.

Glass: Broken or discarded and contaminated glass, including medicine vials and ampoules, except those contaminated with cytotoxic wastes.

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



DC Ramban reviews functioning of Cooperative, Social Welfare Departments

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JUNE 30: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan today reviewed the functioning and progress of the Cooperative and Social Welfare Departments in a detailed meeting.

The Meeting was attended by the CPO, Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, Deputy Registrar Cooperatives Priyanka Sharma and District Social Welfare Officer Tariq Parvez Kazi, Functional Manager DIC and other concerned.

During the review of the Cooperative Department, it was informed that 69 Cooperative Societies are functional in the district, while 16 societies are currently non-functional. The DC emphasized the need to revive non-functional societies and focus on promoting result-oriented cooperatives for sustainable growth. Taking stock of the functioning of the newly inaugurated Mini Super Bazaar, the DC directed the department to strengthen publicity and promotional activities to attract more consumers. He also reviewed the



performance of Common Service Centres (CSCs) operating under Cooperatives, PM Jan Aushadhi Kendras (PMJAK) and PM Kisan Samridhi Kendras, besides assessing the functioning of Food Processing Units established under the Cooperative sector. While reviewing the Social Welfare Department, it

was revealed that a total of 21,879 beneficiaries are availing benefits under various schemes like National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS). This includes 15,309 old-age pensioners, 2,369 women in distress and 4,201 specially-abled persons.

Additionally, three children have been provided scholarships under the National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH). The DC directed the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) to ensure the availability of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials in Hindi, Urdu and English to enhance public awareness about welfare schemes.

Further, the DC instructed the Social Welfare Department to expedite pending cases under the Marriage Assistance Scheme, ensuring timely benefits to eligible beneficiaries.

The Deputy Commissioner also distributed tablets to three meritorious students under the Beti Padhao Beti Bachao (BPBB) scheme encouraging them to pursue academic excellence.

DC Poonch reviews implementation of JK-Sehat Mobile Application



HT NEWS DESK

POONCH, JUNE 30: Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Poonch, Vikas Kundal, chaired a comprehensive meeting today with district officers and healthcare functionaries to review the implementation of the JK-Sehat mobile interface application. This initiative aims to enhance healthcare access for residents by streamlining services through digital means. The JK-Sehat application, developed by BISAG-Nat at the request of the Health & Medical Education Department, serves as a one-stop solution for all patient and health practitioner-related services. It is designed to facilitate easy access to healthcare schemes, ensuring that residents can benefit from various offerings efficiently.

During the meeting, the DC emphasized the critical need for dedicated efforts and strong coordination among all

departments involved in the implementation process. He directed officers to achieve 100% registration of the district's target population, highlighting that this is essential for maximizing the benefits of healthcare schemes available on the platform.

To ensure effective outreach, the DC set clear targets for maximum registration and urged line department officers to intensify their efforts across the district. He stressed that robust community engagement and awareness campaigns are vital to encourage residents to utilize the application fully.

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S. Dharminder Singh Bhargav Head Pharmacist accorded warm send off

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JUNE 30: Head Pharmacist, Directorate of Health Services Jammu S. Dharminder Singh Bhargav, who superannuated today was accorded a warm send off by officers and officials of the Directorate of Health Services Jammu.

S. Dharminder Singh Bhargav joined as Pharmacist and rendered 39 years of service in the Department.

To bid him farewell, an impressive function was organised in the premises of the Directorate of Health Services Jammu. Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar appreciated the sincerity, dedication and helping nature towards all the employees and wished him a healthy and prosperous post retirement life. Deputy Director Dentistry Dr. Sanjay Sharma com-

plimented him for his devotion towards his work. Chief Medical Officer Jammu Dr. Harbaksh Singh praised his helpful approach towards all.

The staff wished him a good health and success in his future endeavours. A key highlight of the event was the detailed and well-explained information shared about the benefits of installation of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, which was provided to tribal residents as well as other participants. Local residents and tribal elders expressed deep appreciation for the administration's outreach efforts, noting that such initiatives are vital in regions where access to essential services has traditionally been limited. The event was attended by BDO Inderwal Hitesh Loona besides other senior officers and concerned staff.

Empowered voices, inclusive choices: Gram Sabha anchors Tribal Progress on Day 15 and 16 of DAJGUA in Paddar

HT NEWS DESK

KISHTWAR, JUNE 30: On the 15th and 16th days of the transformative Dharthi Aaba Janjatiya Gramin Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), awareness and benefit saturation camps were successfully organized in Block Paddar at two Scheduled Tribe population-dominated villages—Village Lossain, Panchayat Machail, Block Paddar on Day 15 and Village Kabban, Panchayat Sole, Block Paddar on Day 16. This flagship outreach initiative witnessed

vibrant participation from tribal communities and local stakeholders with a special emphasis on Information, Education and Communication (IEC).

The camps served as a single-window platform, streamlining access to a spectrum of welfare schemes and public services. Key departments including Health, Jal Shakti, Agriculture, Education, ICDS, Employment, Rural Development, JPDCL Kishtwar and FCS&CA set up interactive stalls. Tribal community members availed themselves.

Proud Moment for District Doda: Two innovative projects selected for State-Level Inspire Award MANAK Competition

HT NEWS DESK

DODA, JUNE 30: District Doda is brimming with pride as two of its talented young minds have been selected for the State Level Exhibition and Project Competition under Inspire Award MANAK Scheme 2023-24. The selections were made following the successful conduct of the District-Level Exhibition and Project Competition (DLEPC) held today at Krishna Palace, Udheywala, Jammu, organized by the SCERT Divisional Office, Jammu. The two student projects stood out for their ingenuity, creativity and real-world relevance, exemplifying the district's growing focus on nurturing scientific temperament and innovation in the school education system.

One of the selected entries, titled "Sliding Luggage Carrier Behind Buses," was developed by Sujal Kumar, an ex-student of Government High School Pranoo, who is currently pursuing Class 12th at Government Higher Secondary School Berarru. Sujal's project offers an engineering-based solution to common transportation challenges, and it won acclaim for its practicality and innovative design. Joining him at the state-level platform is Avish Parihar, a student of Ex-Servicemen Public Higher Secondary School, Thathri. His project, titled "Waste Decomposing Machine," received significant appreciation for addressing environmental sustainability and offering a viable model for efficient waste management—an issue of growing global concern.

The selection of both projects not only highlights the creative potential of District Doda's students but also reflects the relentless efforts of dedicated educators, mentors, and the academic ecosystem fostered by DIET Doda. In his congratulatory message, the Chief Education Officer Doda, Mohammad Hafiz extended warm wishes to both Sujal and Avish. He also acknowledged the crucial contributions of their guiding teachers and respective schools, emphasizing the importance of cultivating innovation and scientific thinking from an early age. The DIET Doda also conveyed its appreciation to the students, teachers and school authorities for their roles in this achievement. The institute termed their success "a shining example of what is possible."

MVD conducts enforcement drive on Jammu-Poonch National Highway, Nangali Sahib 13 vehicles challaned, 6 seized

HT NEWS DESK

POONCH, JUNE 30: On the direction of Deputy Commissioner, Vikas Kundal, the Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) Poonch carried out an extensive enforcement drive along the Jammu-Poonch National Highway and Nangali Sahib area. The drive was conducted under the supervision of MVD Inspector Imran Choudhary. During the drive, a total of 80 vehicles were thoroughly inspected. Out of these, 13 were issued challans for various violations of the Motor Vehicle Act and 6 vehicles were seized on the spot. The expected revenue generated through e-challans issued during the drive stands at Rs. 55,000. The enforcement

action is part of a continued effort by the MVD Poonch to ensure adherence to traffic laws and promote a culture of responsible driving across the district.

The department remains committed to reducing traffic violations and enhancing public safety on the roads. The drive was conducted under the supervision of MVD Inspector Imran Choudhary. During the drive, a total of 80 vehicles were thoroughly inspected. Out of these, 13 were issued challans for various violations of the Motor Vehicle Act and 6 vehicles were seized on the spot. The expected revenue generated through e-challans issued during the drive stands at Rs. 55,000. The enforcement

Sham Lal reviews PAI 2.0 implementation, Panchayat Ghar progress Directs ACPS to expeditiously resolve PG land issues

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU JUNE 30: Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal on Monday chaired a review meeting with Assistant Commissioners Panchayat (ACPs) to evaluate the implementation of the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0, construction of Panchayat Ghars and the co-location of Common Service Centres (CSCs).

During the meeting, the Director emphasized the need for organizing training sessions on PAI across all districts and blocks, ensuring full participation of relevant personnel.

He directed that the data under PAI must be fact-based and aligned with ground realities and should be personally monitored by Assistant Commissioners Panchayat (ACPs) and Block Development Officers (BDOs). The Director highlighted that discrepancies in scoring often deprive

well-performing panchayats of national-level recognition and awards, hence scoring must accurately reflect the actual performance in respective thematic areas.

He stated that district-level implementation of PAI is of critical importance and real-time and authentic data is essential to formulate strategies aligned with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Regarding the construction of Panchayat Ghars, the Director instructed that the process must be taken up on a mission-mode priority.

He said for panchayats where land has not yet been identified, immediate steps should be taken to finalize locations and in cases of land disputes, he directed that joint site inspections be conducted in collaboration with the Revenue Department to resolve issues promptly.

The Director stressed that no compromise on construction quality will be tolerated and that Panchayat Ghars should be located at central, accessible locations to serve the entire community effectively.

He further directed that a detailed list of panchayats without Panchayat Ghars be submitted for new approvals.

The Director also underscored the urgent need to activate Panchayat Learning Centres, recommending that these centres be developed as institutionalized training hubs for panchayat representatives and the local population.

He instructed officials to accelerate the geo-tagging of Panchayat Ghars using the "Meri Panchayat" mobile application. All Panchayat Ghars must be geo-tagged and the entire process should be completed within the next two days to facilitate transparency and monitoring.

SANJY-2025: Lakhanpur Facilitation Centre all set to welcome Amarnath Ji Yatris From RFID to Rest Zones: Lakhanpur emerges as Model Facilitation Centre for Yatris

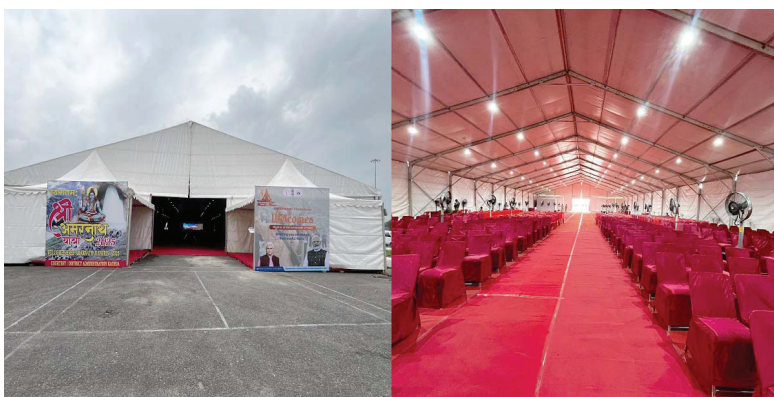
HT NEWS DESK

KATHUA, JUNE 30: With the onset of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025, the Lakhanpur corridor, the first entry point into Jammu & Kashmir for pilgrims arriving via road, has been transformed into a well-equipped, multi-utility Facilitation Centre by the District Administration Kathua to ensure a safe, smooth, and spiritually enriching experience for the yatris.

The gateway to Jammu & Kashmir is now fully prepared to welcome thousands of pilgrims with comprehensive arrangements ranging from registration to accommodation, health care to cultural engagement. A Reception Centre has been set up

to provide point-to-point information. Pilgrims are being extended facilities like hot meals, drinking water, sanitation, rest zones, and other essential services for their comfort during transit. A 24x7 Information Help Desk has been made operational to respond to yatris' queries and assist them throughout their stay.

For mandatory verification and tracking, 12 RFID Registration Centres have been established in the district, including a major hub at Lakhanpur. A dedicated facilitation centre is set up for the eKYC process and RFID tag issuance for pre-registered yatris, ensuring real-time tracking and improved security throughout their pilgrimage. Medical preparedness has also been



prioritised. Besides, a 5-bedded, fully-equipped hospital has been established at the Lakhanpur Facilitation Centre, offering emergency care and first aid. Doctors, paramedics, and essential medicines are avail-

able round-the-clock to handle any medical situation.

Cultural and promotional activities are adding a vibrant touch to the spiritual journey. An arcade of stalls by various government departments

including AYUSH, Horticulture, Agriculture, and NRLM SHGs showcases local art, crafts, and public welfare schemes. Food stalls serve regional cuisines, offering yatris a taste of local flavours. Tourism Department's digital displays highlight the scenic, spiritual, and cultural wealth of J&K, while the troupes of Information Department all set to entertain crowds with devotional music and traditional performances (Shiv Tandava & Laser & Light Show). Besides, the 24X7 helpdesk being manned by the Information Department to resolve queries of the Yatris.

Speaking on the arrangements, Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Dr. Rakesh Minhas said, "Lakhanpur is all set to welcome the yatris with robust arrangements to ensure their

comfort, safety, and spiritual satisfaction. Every aspect, from RFID registration to lodging and health care, has been carefully planned and executed."

He further informed that a contingency plan has also been activated, with 36 lodgement centres across the district kept ready to accommodate yatris in case of unexpected halts. These centres are equipped with all basic amenities for a comfortable stay.

On the security front, a multi-tier security grid comprising Police, Paramilitary and other forces has been deployed. The setup includes joint nakas, CCTV surveillance, QRTs, and area domination patrols to ensure 24x7 vigilance and a safe environment for the yatris.





Sakeena Itoo visits SKIMS, Super Speciality Hospital Srinagar

Interacts with patients, reviews medical care facilities

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 30: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today visited SKIMS Soura and Super Speciality Hospital Srinagar and took stock of medical care facilities available for the patients.

While visiting Super Speciality hospital Srinagar, the Minister toured several departments of the facility including Cardiology, Nephrology, Oncology and other Critical Care Units. She held direct interactions with patients and their attendants to understand their experiences and gather feedback regarding the quality of treatment and services available at the hospital.

Later, the Minister also visited



SKIMS Soura and took stock of medical care facilities available at this prestigious institution. She inspected different sections of the hospital and took stock of medical care facilities available at the facility.

The Minister urged hospital

authorities to ensure timely treatment, streamlined processes and patient-centric care for the patients coming from different far flung areas of the Jammu and Kashmir.

She also interacted with the patients and their attendants and

took detailed feedback from them about the services available at this facility.

While interacting with them, the Minister assured them that the Government is focusing on increasing medical care facilities in rural areas so that they can get access near their vicinities. Later, the Minister also visited SKIMS Soura and took stock of medical care facilities available at this prestigious institution. She inspected different sections of the hospital and took stock of medical care facilities available at the facility.

The Minister urged hospital authorities to ensure timely treatment, streamlined processes and patient-centric care for the patients coming from different far flung areas of the Jammu and Kashmir.

Governance in J&K suffers under dual control: Karra

Says Congress committed to statehood

HT NEWS DESK /KNO

Kupwara, Jun 30 (KNO): Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Tariq Hameed Karra on Monday voiced serious concern over the prevailing administrative setup in Jammu and Kashmir, calling the dual control system 'deeply disturbing' for the entire governance.

Speaking at a workers' convention in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, Karra, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that not only was the existing arrangement getting disturbed due to the dual control system, but it was also coming as a hindrance to the spirit of alliance.

"The way the LG administration is functioning, it seems unwilling to cede even a minimal share of authority or even the government, which may be trying to take beyond the due share of authority. The ultimate casualty is the common people of J&K," Karra said.

Responding to media buzz about a new political front being floated in Jammu and

Kashmir, Karra said that the Indian National Congress remains committed to the INDIA alliance, which includes the PDP and NC, and that he has no knowledge regarding any new political formation.

He further rejected the notion that coalition partners need to always appear together in public or contest elections jointly. "Congress and the National Conference fought the elections based on their manifestos. Every party is accountable to its own voters," he said.

Karra said the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir remains the central demand of the Congress. He slammed the Centre for not delivering on its repeated promises. "Since August 5, 2019, we have heard promise after promise, in Parliament, on stage, and during visits to the Valley, but not one of those assurances has materialised," he said.

He accused the government of shifting the goalposts, from delimitation to elections, while keeping the people in a state of uncertainty. "This is not just a political demand. Statehood is our constitutional right," he said.

Range Police Headquarter Srinagar in collaboration of KU organized a seminar commemorating 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

HT NEWS DESK



Srinagar: Range Police Headquarters Srinagar in collaboration with the Department of Students Welfare, University of Kashmir organized a seminar on the topic 'Young India and the Ideals of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel' commemorating his 150th Birth Anniversary under Civic Action Programme at EMMRC Auditorium, University of Kashmir. About 200 students of different colleges and other departments of the University attended the event and 22 participants delivered speech on the topic. The best five (05) speakers were awarded with cash reward & certificates. The seminar witnessed the presence of distinguished dignitaries including Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Registrar, University of Kashmir as the Chief Guest, Prof. Parvez Ahmad, Dean Students Welfare, University of Kashmir, Peer Zahoor-JKPS, SP, Staff Officer to DIG CKR Srinagar and Sh. Hilal Khaliq-JKPS, SP Hazratbal Zone Srinagar as Guests of Honour. Other guests who graced the event include Sh. Shahid Ali, Cultural Officer, University of Kashmir, Sh. Mohammad Shafi, DySP, ADO CKR Srinagar, Sh. Showkat Ahmad, DySP, Private Secretary to DIG CKR Srinagar, Sh. Irfan Nazir, Inspector & Ms. Rifat Jan, Inspector, Registrar Kashmir University in his remarkable speech emphasized the importance of the event in fostering Police Public relationship and adoption of the ideas of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. SP Hazratbal Zone Srinagar and Staff Officer to DIG CKR Srinagar also highlighted the role of 'The Iron Man of India' in unifying the country.

NC exposes failure of LG Admin in utilisation of development funds: Rattan Lal Gupta

HT NEWS DESK

Jammu, June 30: Advocate Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, has raised serious concern over the failure of the LG administration in utilising funds meant for the development as well as the construction of underground bunkers in border areas, as revealed through a recent RTI. He shocked over utilization of only 53% of the central funds allocated over the past five years have been spent under the LG led administration, which is a matter of serious concern considering the grave threat to civilians during frequent cross-border shelling incidents.

In a press release issued here today, the senior NC leader said the negligence of the administration has once

again exposed its disconnect from ground realities. "Despite receiving generous financial support from the Centre, the LG-led dispensation has failed to implement even the most critical safety measures for border residents. This is not just a case of financial mismanagement but also of criminal neglect towards the lives of people living along the International Border and LoC," he said.

Taking a strong dig at the LG administration, Rattan Lal said that no real development has taken place in the last 10 years under the BJP regime in J&K as most of the funds under vital social welfare schemes have either lapsed or remained unutilised. "From rural development to youth welfare, from health to infrastructure—every sector has been ignored. The administration has mastered the art of

photo-ops and announcements, but the people on the ground continue to suffer," he added.

The Senior NC leader further pointed out that even after the formation of the popular government led by Omar Abdullah, the LG administration is acting as a parallel power centre and deliberately creating hurdles in the smooth functioning of the elected government. "This is unacceptable in a democratic setup. If the Centre claims to have restored normalcy, then it must also allow the elected representatives to function without any interference," he said.

Rattan Lal Gupta reiterated the urgent need for restoring full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that statehood is a constitutional right of the people and must not be delayed any further.

DC Ramban inspects water supply restoration works in flood affected areas

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JUNE 30: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Aliyas Khan, along with Additional Deputy Commissioner, Varunjeet Singh Charak today conducted an extensive visit to Ramban town to assess the on-ground status of water supply restoration in areas affected by the flash floods triggered by a cloudburst in April this year.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner



directed the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department to ensure the restoration of proper water supply in Ward No. 1 and other affected households in various wards within pre-

scribed timeline.

The DC also reviewed the flood prevention and mitigation plan prepared by the executing departments to safeguard Ramban town from potential future dam-

ages. Emphasizing proactive measures, he instructed the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Ramban to immediately remove bottlenecks hindering water flow in the drainage system.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited Ashri Nallah to inspect the current situation and reviewed the plan for its regulation and strengthening of safety measures to protect Ramban town from further erosion and flood risks.

District Administration Doda bids farewell to Irshad Ahmed Khurwani

HT NEWS DESK

DODA, JUNE 30: District Administration Doda today accorded a warm farewell to Irshad Ahmed Khurwani, Head Assistant (Nazir) at DC Office Doda on his superannuation after the rendering service of 40 years. A farewell function was organized at DC Office Doda to mark the occasion, which was graced by the Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh as the Chief Guest.

The DC appreciated the dedication, discipline and valuable contributions of the retiree throughout his service and extended best wishes for a healthy and happy post retirement life.

The farewell ceremony was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Accounts Officer, Tehsildar, AD Planning and other officials and staff of the DC Office.

The staff expressed admiration and heartfelt gratitude for Irshad Ahmed Khurwani.

As a token of appreciation and affection, a traditional shawl and gift was presented to Irshad Ahmed Khurwani by the Deputy Commissioner Doda and colleagues.

Anti-drug campaign organized at Gool under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

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RAMBAN, JUNE 30: In line with the anti-drugs campaign launched by the District Administration Ramban, the Sub-Divisional Administration Gool today organized a comprehensive anti-drugs awareness campaign at Panchayat Gool-A.

The campaign was jointly led by the BDO Office and Police Department aiming to spread awareness among the locals, especially the youth about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of building a drug-free society.

During the drive, officers sensitized the participants about the ill effects of drugs and encouraged community participation in eradicating the menace.

The campaign is part of the ongoing efforts under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan to make Ramban a drug-free district.

DAJGUA: Awareness cum public outreach camps held at Panchayat Chapper-A, Sundla

HT NEWS DESK

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 30: District Administration Udhampur today organized awareness cum Public Outreach camps under the ongoing Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan at Panchayat Chapper-A, Block Latti and Panchayat Sundla, Block Khoon. The camps were aimed at bringing government services to the doorsteps of tribal communities and ensuring 100% saturation of eligible beneficiaries under various schemes.

A wide range of stalls were set up by different departments to facilitate registrations and provide on-the-spot services such as aadhaar enrolment, Ayushman Bharat Card generation issuance of domicile certificate and awareness about flagship government schemes.

Local residents, particularly from the tribal community participated with great enthusiasm and availed themselves of the services being offered.

Officers and officials from key departments including Agriculture, Rural Development, Health, Revenue etc actively participated in the camps. They sensitized the public on the benefits of schemes like PMAY,

IUST celebrated National Statistics Day-2025

HT NEWS DESK

Awantipora, June 30: The Department of Mathematical Sciences, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organized One-Day Workshop today to commemorate National Statistics Day 2025. The workshop aimed to highlight the critical role of Statistics and Data Science in diverse domains and to promote awareness of their interdisciplinary applications. The key feature of the program was an invited lecture by Prof. Shalab from Department of Statistics and Data Science, IIT Kanpur titled "Journey of Statistics to Data Science" who provided an in-depth exposition of the evolution of Statistics into modern Data Science, elaborating on their fundamental interconnections and their growing relevance in the age of big data and artificial intelligence. An interactive session with Prof. Shalab further enriched the proceedings, enabling students, research scholars, and participants from various colleges across the valley to engage directly with the expert for effective knowledge exchange. The event witnessed active participation from faculty, research scholars, and students. Prof. A. H. Moon, Dean, Academic Affairs, IUST, stressed the indispensable contribution of Statistics to scientific innovation, technological advancement, and practical problem-solving while Dr. Abid H. Shalla, Dean, School of Sciences, reflected on the enduring contributions of Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis in shaping and advancing the Indian statistical system. Earlier, welcoming the guests Dr. Peer Bilal, Head Department of Mathematical Sciences.

DC Poonch inspects blacktopping work on National Highway, under-construction bridge at Potha Bypass Surankote

HT NEWS DESK

POONCH, JUNE 30: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, today conducted a detailed inspection of ongoing blacktopping work on the National Highway in Poonch district. He also visited the under-construction bridge site at the Potha Bypass in Surankote to review progress and assess the quality of work being executed.

During the inspection, the DC emphasized the importance of maintaining high standards in both the execution and materials used for the BT work on the NH stretch. He directed concerned officials and executing agencies to ensure that the work is completed within the stipulated timeline without compromising on quality.



"The National Highway is a lifeline for the people of Poonch. Smooth and durable road infrastructure is essential for connectivity, safety and economic growth. There is no room for delay or substandard work," the DC stated during the site visit.

At the Potha Bypass in Surankote, where a crucial bridge is under construction, the DC reviewed structural elements and instructed the executing agency to expedite the pace of work while adhering strictly to safety and engineer-

ing standards. He also interacted with site engineers and workers, urging them to work diligently and complete the project before the monsoon intensifies.

The DC was accompanied by SDM Surankote, Farooq Khan, Senior Officers from BRO, officials from the Public Works Department (PWD), National Highway Division and district administration. He directed regular monitoring of both projects and warned of strict action in case of any lapse in quality or unjustified delays.

The district administration remains committed to improving infrastructure across Poonch and ensuring that developmental works are carried out efficiently, transparently and with long-term public interest in mind.





PM Modi to attend 17th BRICS Summit in Rio De Janeiro as India to hold chair of BRICS next year

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 30

With India set to hold the chair of BRICS next year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to Rio De Janeiro, Brazil for the 17th BRICS Summit, holds even more significance.

The BRICS Summit is taking place on July 6 and 7. Prime Minister Modi will arrive in Brazil the July 5 evening, to attend the main programme, which is on July 6.

The theme of the Rio Summit is Strengthening Global South Cooperation for Inclusive and Sustainable Governance. The program on July 6 includes the first agenda item, the Reform of the Global Governance, where only the full BRICS members will participate. And thereafter, there is the second item on the agenda, the Peace and Security, in a working lunch format, where the leaders will discuss the agenda item. Leaders' statements will be issued later.

The BRICS has 10 full members and 12 partner countries, as well as eight invited countries at the Head of State, Government level, and seven heads of regional and multilateral bodies.

Post-lunch, the third item on the agenda is the Strengthening Multilateralism, Economic Financial Affairs, and Artificial Intelligence. Later there will be an official reception



and all the leaders will be participating. On July 7, the fourth item of the agenda is environment, COP30, and Global Health. Brazil will also be hosting COP30 in November this year. "As you know, the BRICS process is led by the Chair and they set the agenda, but the decisions are in a consensus-based format. We are hopeful that there will be four deliverables, although discussions are continuing still at the Sherpa and the Sous-Sherpa level. "The leaders' declaration, the leaders' statement on glob-

al governance and artificial intelligence, the leaders' framework declaration on climate finance, and BRICS partnership for elimination of socially determined diseases," said Secretary ER Dammu Ravi, at a briefing today. "There will also be in addition four reports that will be submitted to the leaders. One, the deliberations that happen during the National Security Advisors level, the Business Council meetings that would have happened before that, the Women's Business Alliance report, and the civil council report," he added. On the bilateral front, Prime Minister Modi during the state visit to Brasilia on July 8, is scheduled to hold bilateral talks with President Lula. He will be accorded a ceremonial welcome on arrival, followed by a restricted meeting and a delegation-level format talks, culminating with a lunch hosted by President Lula for Prime Minister Modi. Prime Minister has earlier visited Brazil on three occasions, the first in July 2014, followed by another visit in 2019 to attend the BRICS summit, and in November last year to attend the G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro. "The state visit will provide an opportunity to review the entire gamut of our partnership, including trade and investments, oil and gas, renewable energy, mining and critical minerals, defense and security, agriculture and livestock, healthcare and traditional medicine.

India, Bhutan hold Development Cooperation Talks, review progress in implementation of approved projects

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 30



India and Bhutan held their Development Cooperation Talks in New Delhi today, during which they reviewed the progress in implementation of the projects approved in previous rounds.

The Indian side conveyed that it will continue to work together with the Royal Government of Bhutan on its development agenda, in line with the shared vision of His Majesty the King of Bhutan and Prime Minister of India, and based on the priorities of the Royal Government and the people of Bhutan.

The Indian delegation was led by Secretary (West) Tanmaya Lal, and the Bhutanese delegation was led by Foreign Secretary of Bhutan Aum Pema Choden.

India and Bhutan share an exemplary partnership characterised by trust, goodwill, mutual understanding at all levels, and strong bonds of friendship and close people-to-people ties. The Development Cooperation Talks are an important bilateral mechanism to review the full spectrum of India-Bhutan development partnership, a statement said.

Government of India (GoI) has committed support of INR/Nu. 10,000 Crore (100 billion) for Bhutan's 13th Five Year Plan period (2024-2029) which would cover Project Tied Assistance (PTA) projects, High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP), support for Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) and budgetary support in the form of Programme Grant. During the Talks, the two sides discussed various components of the support and reviewed the progress in implementation of the projects approved in previous rounds.

A total of 61 Project Tied Assistance projects amounting to INR/Nu 4958 crores (49.58 billion) and 283 HICDPs amounting to INR/Nu 417 crores (4.17 billion) covering a wide range of sectors are in various stages of implementation. Both sides agreed to make suitable revisions to the allocations for some of the PTA projects taking into account the evolving requirements.

Calcutta High Court orders CBI probe into 2019 triple murder in Sandeshkhali

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Kolkata, June 30

Amid the ongoing controversy surrounding the law college gang-rape case — in which students allegedly linked to the ruling Trinamool Congress are involved — the West Bengal government faced further embarrassment today as the Calcutta High Court ordered a CBI probe into the murder of three BJP workers in Sandeshkhali, North 24 Parganas district that happened six years ago. The murders, allegedly committed in 2019, had links to Shahjahan Sheikh, who has since been suspended from the Trinamool Congress. Justice Joy Sengupta of the High Court passed the order, directing the Central Bureau of Investigation to form a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to handle the case. On June 8, 2019, residents of Sandeshkhali — Pradeep Mondal, Debdas Mondal, and Sukanta Mondal — were allegedly murdered.

PM condoles Sangareddy factory fire victims, announces ex-gratia

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 28

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today expressed grief over the loss of lives in a massive fire incident at a factory in Sangareddy district of Telangana. In a post shared by the Prime Minister's Office on social media platform X, Modi said he was "anguished by the loss of lives due to a fire tragedy" and offered condolences to the bereaved families.

"May the injured recover soon," he added.

An ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) will be provided to the next of kin of those who died in the incident. Those injured will receive Rs 50,000, said the statement from the Government.

Six people were killed and 20 others



injured, some of them critically, following an explosion in a chemical reactor at a factory in the Pashamylaram industrial area of Sangareddy district in Telangana this morning. According to police, the explosion occurred at Sigachi Industries, triggering a massive fire that engulfed parts of the facility.

BJP alleges INDI Bloc promoting 'Namazwad', undermining constitutional values

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, June 30

The Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday launched a sharp attack on the Opposition INDI Alliance, alleging that its parties like the RJD and Samajwadi party were attempting to promote what he termed as "Namazwad"—a religiously motivated deviation from constitutional principles—and accused them of undermining the legacy of BR Ambedkar. Addressing a press briefing, Senior BJP leader Sudhanshu Trivedi claimed that there is "no mention of the concept of Waqf in the Quran, attributing it to interpretations developed by clerics. He further said the Quran encourages voluntary giving, not institutional religious control, and warned that opposition parties are attempting to "con-



vert Samajwad (socialism) into Namazwad."

"If their government comes—which is not going to happen—they will throw Baba Saheb Ambedkar's Constitution in the dustbin and implement Sharia law," the BJP Rajya Sabha MPP said.

"They are bowing before mullahs and maulavis to pursue hardline vote bank politics. Be it the Congress, the RJD, or the Samajwadi Party—they are all driven by a thirst for votes from fundamentalist sections," he

alleged.

Trivedi also revisited the Shah Bano case of 1985, accusing the Congress of having previously placed personal law above constitutional supremacy by enacting legislation that effectively overruled a Supreme Court judgment in favour of Muslim women's rights. He suggested that such precedents demonstrate the Congress's historical willingness to appease conservative religious sentiments at the expense of legal uniformity. Reinforcing his party's stance, Trivedi said the BJP remains committed to preserving the values enshrined in the Constitution, adding that voters must choose between "a government that respects Ambedkar's vision" and one that "seeks to impose religious law through the backdoor."

Stricter Aadhar issuance rules in a few days: Assam CM

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Guwahati, June 30

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has said that the government will make the Aadhar issuance for adults stricter in a few days with the exception of the tea garden population.

The Chief Minister said this on his X handle today and added that the move is being done to ensure that no infiltrator can legally obtain the card and disturb India's harmony.

"Infiltrator Mukht Assam is our goal and we will NOT STOP till it is attained," Sarma said on his X handle.

"We are adopting a multi-pronged strategy to detect illegal immigrants—regulating Aadhar issuance via DCs is just



one step we are taking in this direction," Sarma said on his X handle.

"Almost all the adult population in Assam have already obtained an Aadhar card. Whoever gets birth, young people, kids etc. they will require Aadhar cards.

But suddenly if a 50 year old male comes and asks for an Aadhar card, then it raises questions. Henceforth for adult people Aadhar will be issued only after the satisfaction of the District Commissioner. So far it was issued by the SDC office, now we are making it a little tougher. The issuance will be after specific satisfaction of the District Commissioner," said Sarma.

The Chief Minister however, said that the government is also making an exception for the tea garden population where almost 50000 adult people are yet to get Aadhar cards. The Chief Minister's statement came recently after the issue was discussed in the state cabinet last week.

Iran could again begin enriching uranium within months: IAEA Chief Grossi

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Vienna, June 30

Rafael Grossi, chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said that while the US strikes have caused massive damage to the Iranian nuclear sites, they didn't fully destroy them, potentially enabling Tehran to proceed with enriching uranium in "just a matter of months". Grossi's statement directly contradicts the stance of US President Donald Trump, who had said that the Iranian nuclear project was pushed back by decades, while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that the centrifuges at Fordo, Natanz, and Isfahan were severely damaged, pushing the program by several years, CBS News reported.

In an interview with the media agency's 'Face the



Nation with Margaret Brennan' programme, the IAEA chief, giving his stance on the varying assessments said "This hourglass approach in weapons of mass destruction is not a good idea.

"The capacities they have are there. They can have, you know, in a matter of months, I would

say, a few cascades of centrifuges spinning and producing enriched uranium, or less than that. But as I said, frankly speaking, one cannot claim that everything has disappeared and there is nothing there."

Grossi added that while the watchdog group's investigations did not hint at a nuclear weapons program, the uranium enrichment was way beyond needed for civilian use. The situation was further made complicated by Tehran's refusal to answer some "very important questions."

Verifying Grossi's statement of severe damage on Iranian facilities, a US official told CNN "As Rafael Grossi said just days ago, the difference between Iran's nuclear program before and after Operation Midnight Hammer is 'night and day,' and a 'very serious level of damage' was done.





Why Do Drugs Become a “Favorite” in Society?

Sahil Manzoor

In today's world, drugs are not only a major cause of death but also destroy the peace of families within seconds. While drugs often take center stage in discussions, we must also acknowledge other underlying causes like lack of proper counseling, misunderstandings, family disputes, accidents, and emotional trauma. When society faces multiple untoward events, focusing solely on drugs is not enough. For lasting peace and the well-being of society, we must take diverse and inclusive measures aimed at uplifting the downtrodden and eradicating all forms of social evils.

The Need to Embrace Natural Changes

Adolescence is a critical phase of development. Children go through immense hormonal and emotional changes, especially with the onset of puberty. Parents, teachers, and guardians must pay special attention to this stage. Hormones, especially sex hormones, influence mood swings, emotional instability, and behavioral shifts. During this time, teenagers often seek independence, respect,

and material things like motorbikes or expensive gadgets as symbols of maturity and dignity. This transition is natural, but many young people struggle with insecurity, shyness, moodiness, and even anger. They may begin experimenting with smoking, alcohol, or drugs as coping mechanisms. These substances seem like solutions—offering a false sense of pleasure, confidence, and escape. However, this illusion quickly fades, leaving behind the harsh realities of addiction, poor health, and lost self-worth.

The Illusion of Strength and the Trap of Addiction

Adolescents, driven by peer pressure and the desire to “feel something,” may perceive drugs as a quick fix to their problems. They falsely believe that substances can help them focus, relax, or gain social approval. In reality, such behaviors often lead to chronic illnesses—gastric problems, heart conditions, skin issues—and psychological setbacks like anxiety and depression. Most tragically, they may begin to feel like failures. But this destruction is not inevitable. Emotional Gaps and Unmet Needs Every human being craves dignity, love, safety, and a sense of belonging.

When these needs go unmet due to poverty, broken families, lack of guidance, or systemic injustice, people often try to fill the void. Drugs become

ality

The harsh realities of unemployment, inequality, and discrimination leave



a temporary escape—a dangerous one. Lack of Guidance and Role Models Without positive mentorship, children and youth are more vulnerable to destructive influences. When the right support systems are missing—especially during their formative years—many young people lose direction and become easy targets for harmful behaviors.

Societal Pressures and Insecu-

many feeling unsafe and marginalized. Drugs may offer them a momentary escape from emotional and economic hardship. But the long-term effects are always more damaging than the problems they temporarily mask. Peer Pressure and the Need to Belong We all want to be accepted and valued. For some, the only way to gain recognition in their social circle is by imitating harmful behavior. In such an environment, rejecting drugs

means risking isolation. That's why it's crucial to redefine what “belonging” and “being cool” truly mean. Love as Prevention Love is the most powerful antidote to addiction. When people feel genuinely cared for, respected, and supported, their need for harmful substances greatly diminishes. Families, schools, and communities must foster a culture of empathy, respect, and open communication.

Constructive Education and Counseling

Our education systems must go beyond academics. Emotional intelligence, mental health awareness, and positive reinforcement should be core elements of learning. Youth need counseling not only when they're in crisis but as a proactive measure to build resilience. Path Forward: Hope and Solutions

1. Strengthen Social Support Networks

Develop mentorship programs, youth clubs, and peer support groups. Involve schools, families, and religious institutions in prevention and recovery.

2. Promote Mental Health

Awareness

Make counseling widely accessible. Train teachers and leaders in empathy, listening, and support.

3. Empower Youth with Purpose

Encourage hobbies, creative expression, and skill-building activities. Highlight role models from diverse backgrounds—poets, athletes, teachers, and social workers.

4. Reform Policy and Enforcement

Focus on rehabilitation, not just punishment. Address root issues like poverty, joblessness, and inequality.

A Call to Action

Drugs don't become favorites because people desire them—but because society fails to fulfill emotional and social needs. By promoting love, support, understanding, and purpose, we can help young people choose life over addiction. Say No to Drugs. Embrace a Healthy and Joyful Life.

Sahil Manzoor
sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

Mental Health awareness programme for SHG members organized at Shopian

HT NEWS DESK

SHOPIAN, JUNE 30: In a significant step towards promoting mental well-being among rural women, the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) Shopian, in collaboration with the Human Welfare Voluntary Organization (HWVO), organized a Mental Health awareness programme for Self-Help Group (SHG) members of Shopian and Keller blocks at the District Mission Management Unit (DMMU), Shopian. The session was attended by a large number of SHG members and JKRLM cadre, aiming to break the stigma surrounding mental health and create a supportive environment for women across the rural landscape. The programme was facilitated by Adil Farooq, Programme Manager HWVO, and Syed Asma, a qualified mental health counselor, who led the awareness and counseling sessions. Syed Asma provided professional counseling and shared practical coping strategies to help the participants deal with stress,



anxiety, and other emotional challenges. The session proved to be deeply impactful for the cadre and SHG women, many of whom expressed the need for more such initiatives in the future. Adil Farooq highlighted the importance of integrating mental wellness into livelihood and capacity-building efforts under HWVO and emphasized that emotional resilience plays a key role in enhancing productivity and social cohesion within SHG groups. This initiative marks a progressive move towards holistic empowerment of rural women, aligning with JKRLM's mission to build strong, self-sustaining community institutions. Adil Farooq highlighted the importance of integrating mental wellness into livelihood.

DC Reasi calls for tough action on drug abuse; urges youth-centric awareness drives

HT NEWS DESK

REASI, JUNE 30: A meeting of the District Level Narco Coordination Committee (NCORD) was convened today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik at the DC Office Complex. The meeting witnessed active participation from various departments, including the Police, Health, Education, Excise, Social Welfare and Rural Development. During the session, the Deputy Commissioner took a comprehensive review of the measures being undertaken to curb drug abuse in the district. The Police Department apprised the chair about a doctor in Katra allegedly prescribing narcotic drugs indiscriminately. Taking serious note of this malpractice, the DC directed the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to initiate strict action against the doctor involved. Emphasising timely documentation and transparency, the DC directed concerned officers to ensure that details of all drug awareness camps under Nasha Mukta J&K are uploaded on the dedicated portal within the stipulated timeframe. She further



instructed SDMs and BDOs to ensure high-quality photographs are uploaded and that these camps see maximum participation, especially from the youth who are the most vulnerable demographic. The Deputy Commissioner also directed the Excise Department to procure quality drug testing

kits and ensure their timely distribution to relevant departments to facilitate early detection of drug abuse cases. Additionally, the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) was asked to inspect the functioning and facilities of the drug de-addiction centre in the district to ensure proper support for

rehabilitation. The DC reiterated the administration's commitment to a drug-free Reasi and called for coordinated efforts from all departments and community stakeholders in this critical fight. ADC Rakesh Kumar, ACR Nitiv Verma, SDMs, ACD, CMO, Tehsildars and other officers attended the meeting. During the session, the Deputy Commissioner took a comprehensive review of the measures being undertaken to curb drug abuse in the district. The Police Department apprised the chair about a doctor in Katra allegedly prescribing narcotic drugs indiscriminately. Taking serious note of this malpractice, the DC directed the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) to initiate strict action against the doctor involved. Emphasising timely documentation and transparency, the DC directed concerned officers to ensure that details of all drug awareness camps under Nasha Mukta J&K are uploaded on the dedicated portal within the stipulated timeframe. She further instructed SDMs and BDOs to ensure high-quality photographs are uploaded and that these camps see maximum participation, especially from the youth.

Dr. Masrat Iqbal Wani Assumes Charge as Chief Medical Officer Kupwara

HT NEWS DESK

Kupwara, June 30: Dr. Masrat Iqbal Wani today formally took charge as the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Kupwara. Upon

his arrival at the CMO office, he was accorded a warm welcome by the medical staff and officials, who expressed their support and enthusiasm for his leadership. In his inaugural address, Dr. Wani reiterated his commitment to strengthening the healthcare system across the district. “My priority will be to improve the overall health infrastructure and ensure quality medical services are accessible to every corner of Kupwara,” he stated. Dr. Wani emphasized the importance of public cooperation and transparency in

healthcare delivery. He urged the general public to approach his office freely with any feedback, complaints, or suggestions, assuring that all genuine concerns would be addressed in a time-bound and efficient manner. He further stressed on enhancing primary healthcare facilities, streamlining referral services, and ensuring availability of essential medicines and staff in peripheral health institutions. The staff and officers present at the occasion expressed optimism that under Dr. Wani's leadership, Kupwara's healthcare services.

Street Play on malaria awareness organised at Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar

HT NEWS DESK


JAMMU, JUNE 30: The Directorate of Health Services, Jammu, in collaboration with the Department of Information and Public Relations, Jammu, today organized a malaria awareness programme at Government Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, as part of its ongoing public health awareness campaign. To disseminate vital information about prevention and control of malaria, a street play (Nukkad Natak) was performed by the artists of the Cultural Unit Department of Information and Public Relations, Jammu. The play used powerful dialogue, drama and relatable characters to educate the pub-



lic about mosquito-borne diseases, especially malaria and how simple precautions can prevent its spread. The event was graced by the State Malariaologist Dr. D. J. Raina, who addressed the audience and emphasized the importance of cleanliness, use of mosquito nets and timely

medical attention in controlling malaria. He also urged people to eliminate stagnant water sources around their homes and surroundings which serve as breeding grounds for mosquitoes. The programme was attended by the Medical Superintendent Dr. Narinder Bhutyal, doctors,

medical staff and patients. The street play succeeded in spreading key messages in an engaging manner, especially among the visiting patients and local community members present at the hospital. The programme was conducted under the directions of Joint Director Information Jammu, Deepak Dubey and under the supervision of Cultural Officer Jammu, Mukesh Kumar Sharma. To disseminate vital information about prevention and control of malaria, a street play (Nukkad Natak) was performed by the artists of the Cultural Unit Department of Information and Public Relations, Jammu. The play used powerful dialogue, drama and relatable characters.



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Dhoni's Application To Trademark 'Captain Cool' Gets Accepted

■ United News of India

MUMBAI: MS Dhoni's application to trademark the phrase 'Captain Cool' - a moniker long associated with him because of his calm on-field demeanour - has been officially accepted and published by the Trademark Registry of India.

The trademark will be granted if no objection or opposition is raised by any third party within 120 days of its acceptance, which was on June 16, 2025. The trademark was filed under categories related to sports training, coaching, and the provision of sports training facilities and services.

Dhoni had filed the application in June 2023. He was informed at the time by the registry that another company, Prabha Skill Sports (OPC) Private Limited, had already registered the trademark 'Captain Cool'. In response, Dhoni filed a rectification petition for the cited mark, alleging that the company was attempting to exploit his brand and the popularity of the term.

In his application, Dhoni stated: "This is

a case of bad faith registration on the part of the company, aimed at deceiving the public and unlawfully enriching themselves by trading on the name of a well-known individual." Dhoni's application was accepted after at least four hearings.

Dhoni was last seen in action during IPL 2025, where he took over the Chennai Super Kings' captaincy midway through the season after Ruturaj Gaikwad suffered an injury. CSK endured a disappointing campaign, finishing at the bottom of the table for the first time in 16 seasons.

Earlier this month, Dhoni was inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame. "It is an honour to be named in the ICC Hall of Fame, which recognises the contributions of cricketers across generations and from all over the world," Dhoni said in a statement. "To have your name remembered alongside such all-time greats is a wonderful feeling. It is something that I will cherish forever."

Dhoni, who will turn 44 this July, has kept his options open with regard to returning for another IPL season.



10th District Pencak Silat Championship 2025 Concludes with Great Enthusiasm

■ HT News Desk

BUDGAM, JUNE 30: The 10th District Pencak Silat Championship 2025, organized by the District Budgam Pencak Silat Association in affiliation with the Jammu and Kashmir Pencak Silat Association under the banner of Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, came to a successful conclusion on June 29, 2025. The championship, held over two days (June 28-29, 2025), witnessed participation from over 400 boys and girls from various schools and clubs.

The event was graced by DDC Saima Jan, who served as the Chief Guest. Ms. Jan expressed

her appreciation for the participants, coaches, and organizers, wishing them all the best for their future endeavors. She emphasized the importance of sports in shaping the youth's character and promoting physical fitness.

The Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council's support was instrumental in the championship's success. The council's assistance enabled the organizers to provide a platform for the young athletes to showcase their skills and compete at a district level.

The championship featured various events, with participants displaying their expertise in Pencak Silat, a martial art that emphasizes discipline, focus, and

physical fitness. The competition was fierce, with athletes from different schools and clubs vying for top honors.

The District Budgam Pencak Silat Association's efforts in promoting Pencak Silat in the region are commendable. The association's dedication to developing the sport and providing opportunities for young athletes to excel is truly inspiring.

The successful conclusion of the championship is a testament to the growing popularity of Pencak Silat in Jammu and Kashmir. As the sport continues to gain momentum, it is essential to provide young athletes with the necessary support and resources



to excel at the national and international levels.

While talking to the press and media, Atif Ayoub, Incharge,

highlighted the significance of sports in keeping youth away from drugs and other harmful activities. He emphasized that

sports provide a constructive outlet for young people's energy and talent, helping them build a positive and healthy lifestyle.

As the District Budgam Pencak Silat Association looks to the future, it is clear that the sport has a bright prospect in Jammu and Kashmir. With the continued support of the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council and the dedication of the association, young athletes in the region will have more opportunities to excel in Pencak Silat and make their mark at the national and international levels. The association's efforts will undoubtedly contribute to the overall development of the youth, promoting discipline, physical fitness, and character building through sports. The said event was sponsored by Jammu and Kashmir sports council.

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