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Amit Shah to Review Security Preparedness for Annual Pilgrimage on June 8

High-level meeting to assess deployment, intelligence coordination and safety arrangements

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUNE 3: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will chair a high-level security review meeting on June 8 to assess preparations for the forthcoming annual pilgrimage in Jammu and Kashmir, with a focus on ensuring the safety of devotees and the smooth conduct of the event.

The meeting in the national capital is expected to be attended by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, senior officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs, intelligence agencies, the Army, Central Armed Police Forces and key officers of the Union Territory administration.



According to official sources, Shah will review the readiness of security and civil departments involved in managing the pilgrimage and evaluate measures taken to strengthen security and logistical support along the designated routes.

The discussions are expected to focus on deployment of security personnel, counter-terrorism measures, protection of pilgrim convoys, emergency

Turn on Page 2

Kashmir Cyclothon To Be Held As National-Level Event: Omar Abdullah



CM launches Kashmir Cyclothon campaign on World Bicycle Day

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 3: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday announced that the Kashmir Cyclothon will be organised as a national-level event, aimed at attracting cyclists from across the country and promoting Jammu and

Turn on Page 2

We Are Taking Stock Of The Last 19 Months: Omar Abdullah

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 3: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday led National Conference legislators and independent lawmakers supporting his government to an off-site review meeting, amid opposition claims that the administration may not complete its term.

The meeting assumed political significance after Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma alleged that several ruling party legislators were on the verge of defecting and claimed that the National Conference-led government could

Turn on Page 2

Ladakh To Develop 10 Model Border Hamlets Under Vibrant Village Programme

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

LEH/JAMMU, JUNE 3: Ladakh Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena on Wednesday announced that the Union Territory will develop 10 model border hamlets under the Vibrant Village Programme, describing the initiative as a transformative step towards strengthening frontier communities and promoting sustainable development. The announcement came as the foundation stone for the first model border village was laid at Chumur in eastern Ladakh, a remote settlement located at an altitude of 16,700 feet along the Indo-China border.

Addressing local residents during the launch, Saxena said the programme, envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is designed to create self-reliant, climate-resilient, tourism-enabled and economically vibrant villages in India's high-altitude border regions. He said the enthusiastic participation of villagers reflected their aspirations and strong support for the initiative.

Under the project, 24 modern

Turn on Page 2

21 Killed in South Delhi Hotel Fire, Several Foreigners Among Dead

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUN 3: A massive fire broke out in a hotel in a congested bylane in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar area on Wednesday, killing at least 21 people, including foreigners whose ailing relatives were being treated in hospitals nearby.

The blaze at the Flourish Stay B&B in Hauz Rani in Malviya Nagar started around 8.30 am and quickly spread, catching everybody



unawares. Rescue workers,

Turn on Page 2

LG Sinha, CM Abdullah Express Grief Over Loss of Lives In Delhi Hotel Blaze

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUN 3: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on

Turn on Page 2

Saurabh Bhagat Assigned Additional Charge of IT and Public Grievances Department

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JUNE 3: The Jammu and Kashmir Government on Wednesday assigned senior IAS officer Saurabh Bhagat the additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Information Technology and Public Grievances Department, expanding his responsibilities within the Union Territory's administration.

According to Government Order No. 1038-JK(GAD) of 2026 issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), Bhagat, an AGMUT cadre officer of the 2002 batch, will hold the additional portfolio

Turn on Page 2

New Regional Meteorological Centre for Jammu on June 5

Dr Jitendra Singh to inaugurate; RMC to cover J&K, Ladakh, Himachal

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

JAMMU, JUN 03: Union Minister and Member Parliament (MP) Udampur Dr Jitendra Singh will

formally declare the establishment of a new Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) at Jammu on June 5, marking a major step towards strengthening weather forecasting and disaster preparedness across Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh.

This was informed during a curtain raiser programme

Turn on Page 2

Zojila Tunnel breakthrough on June 9, only few metres left

13.15-km tunnel to link J&K, Ladakh; Union Minister Gadkari to trigger blast

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

GANDERBAL, JUN 03: The strategically significant 13.15-kilometre Zojila Tunnel, linking Jammu and Kashmir with Ladakh, is set to reach a major milestone on June 9 as Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari is scheduled to trigger the breakthrough blast.

Once completed, the tunnel

Turn on Page 2



CS reviews preparedness for rollout of VB-G RAM G across J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 03: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the preparedness of the Rural Development Department and district administrations for the smooth rollout of the Viksit Bharat Gramin Rozgar Abhiyan Mission (VB-G

RAM G) across Jammu and Kashmir from July 1, 2026.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the progress achieved by the department in transitioning from the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) framework to the newly enacted VB-G RAM G,

Turn on Page 2



1st IFFJK to be held in Jammu and Kashmir from September 7-11

DIPR, NFDC to collaborate for landmark event

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 03: In a landmark initiative aimed at positioning Jammu and Kashmir as a vibrant destination for cinema, culture and creative industries, the Government has accorded sanction for the organisation of the 1st International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK), scheduled to be held at SKICC Srinagar and other prominent destinations from September 7 to 11, 2026.

The prestigious international event will be organised by the Directorate of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu & Kashmir, in collaboration with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC). The festival is envisioned



as a major platform to showcase cinematic excellence, promote cultural exchange and highlight Jammu and Kashmir's immense potential as a

Turn on Page 2

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Amit Shah to.....

response mechanisms, healthcare facilities, communication systems and overall arrangements for the event.

Officials are also likely to brief the Home Minister on the prevailing security situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the steps being taken to safeguard pilgrims throughout the pilgrimage period. Special emphasis is expected to be placed on intelligence-sharing among agencies, surveillance along the routes and contingency planning to address any potential threat or unforeseen challenge.

The review meeting forms part of the Centre's broader efforts to ensure comprehensive security coverage and efficient management of the pilgrimage, which is expected to attract thousands of devotees from across the country.

Kashmir Cyclothon.....

Kashmir as a leading destination for adventure sports and outdoor activities.

The announcement was made as the Chief Minister flagged off a Cyclothon at the Royal Springs Golf Course to mark World Bicycle Day. The event reflected the government's focus on encouraging healthy lifestyles, physical fitness and greater participation in sports among the youth.

Organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council under its flagship "My Youth My Pride" initiative, the programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from cyclists, students and sports enthusiasts from across the Valley.

During the event, Abdullah unveiled the mascot, jersey and publicity campaign for the upcoming Jammu Cyclothon and announced the dates for the event. He said the decision to elevate the Kashmir Cyclothon to a national-level competition would help attract wider participation while showcasing the region's potential for sports tourism and adventure activities.

Addressing participants, the Chief Minister stressed the importance of adopting active lifestyles to improve physical and mental well-being. He described cycling as an environmentally friendly mode of transport that not only promotes fitness but also contributes to environmental conservation.

Abdullah also praised the efforts of the Youth Services and Sports Department and the Sports Council in encouraging community participation in sports and recreational activities. He said such initiatives help build social awareness, strengthen community engagement and inspire young people to pursue healthier lifestyles.

The Cyclothon carried a strong message against drug abuse, excessive screen time and inactive lifestyles, promoting the theme, "Say No to Drugs, No to Screen Addiction and Yes to Fitness and Sport."

Minister for Youth Services and Sports Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani and several senior government and sports officials attended the programme.

The cycling awareness ride began from the Royal Springs Golf Course and proceeded to Duck Park on Foreshore Road, covering approximately 20 kilometres. Participants from different age groups took part in the event, highlighting the growing popularity of cycling as a fitness and recreational activity in Jammu and Kashmir.

We Are Taking.....

fall at any time.

Sharing photographs of legislators traveling together by bus, Abdullah said the gathering was aimed at reviewing the government's performance since assuming office.

"We are off for an off-site to spend the day taking stock of the last 19 months — the good, the not so good and everything in between," the Chief Minister said in a post on social media.

The legislators initially assembled at the Chief Minister's residence before proceeding to the venue, believed to be Dachigam National Park. Sources said the location was chosen to facilitate detailed discussions away from public attention.

Responding to speculation that the meeting venue had been changed at the last moment, Abdullah dismissed the reports and maintained that the off-site session had been planned well in advance.

"I am sorry to disappoint you, but it has not been shifted at the last moment. It was always my intention to conduct this meeting off-site, and all arrangements had been made days in advance at the location originally chosen by me," he said.

According to party sources, National Conference legislators, supporting independent lawmakers and some Members of Parliament participated in the discussions.

In his invitation to legislators earlier this week, Abdullah said the meeting would focus on matters of collective importance, governance priorities and issues related to public welfare.

The review exercise comes at a time when the ruling alliance is seeking to project unity and confidence amid heightened political rhetoric from the opposition over the stability of the government.

Ladakh To.....

houses with thermally insulated walls will

be constructed for Chumur's 24 households. Each house will also include an additional room to facilitate homestay tourism, creating new income opportunities for residents. The construction is expected to be completed by September 2026, subject to weather conditions.

Saxena said the development plan for Chumur will focus on infrastructure creation, employment generation, tourism promotion, year-round accessibility and stronger civilian-defence integration. He added that special emphasis would be placed on promoting Pashmina products and local handicrafts to enhance self-reliance and help curb migration from border areas.

Home to a population of 91 people, Chumur's economy is largely dependent on Pashmina rearing and production. The administration believes the project will improve living standards while creating new economic opportunities for residents.

Describing the Vibrant Village Programme as an initiative that extends beyond conventional development, the Lieutenant Governor said it would contribute to national security and long-term stability by strengthening settlements in strategically important border areas.

Officials said the project is expected to serve as a model for sustainable development across remote frontier regions of the country.

21 Killed.....

including many locals, rushed to the spot to pull out those trapped inside the five-floor narrow building.

About 40 people were rescued and rushed to hospital where 21 were declared brought dead, officials said. The death toll could rise with several of the injured in a critical condition.

The hotel had permission for only six rooms, granted under the Delhi government's bed and breakfast policy, but was operating 25, police officials said. Rooms had also come up in the basement.

In a tragedy that was perhaps waiting to happen, they said the hotel had only one entry-exit. The fire NOC is under the scanner. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.

Among the casualties were foreign nationals, many from Central Asian and African countries, staying in the hotel in to attend to their kin admitted in Max Hospital minutes away.

Visuals from the area — with narrow lanes, overhanging wires and cramped buildings haphazardly sharing space — showed high flames rising in the air and wires twisted out of shape in the heat hanging precariously. Glass lay shattered all around the smoke charred building.

Teams from the Delhi Fire Services, police and disaster response units searched the smoke-blackened structure for survivors. Victims were seen being pulled out of the basement and rushed to hospitals in ambulances. The urban village of Hauz Rani is minutes away from swanky malls, upscale hospitals and the Saket court complex as well as the residential localities of Malviya Nagar and Saket.

Officials said the fire started at Lemon Green Restaurant, but police later clarified that it was a hotel building. The building has a basement, ground floor and five upper floors, according to fire officer A K Malik.

The restaurant was on the ground floor while the rest of the building was being used as a hotel.

"We have cordoned off the entire area. Multiple teams have already reached the site. Teams are checking the number of rooms the hotel had. Every single angle will be probed. Some of the police personnel and fire officials also received injuries," a senior police official said.

According to one eyewitness and a first responder, the basement was locked and he helped the fire team to help open it. "It took more than 20 minutes to open the basement area," he alleged.

Horrific scenes played out all over. As thick smoke engulfed the building and flames spread rapidly, several people were seen breaking window panes and calling for help. "A woman holding a young child jumped from the third floor after local residents spread mattresses on the ground below in an attempt to save those trapped inside," an eyewitness said.

"She was carrying the child tightly and jumped when there was no other way out. People had already arranged mattresses below the building. Both survived, but she appeared to have suffered injuries," he added.

A mattress-seller spread his mattresses on the ground to cushion the fall of the people while others administered CPR to injured victims.

At the Max Hospital across the road, stunned relatives crowded the waiting area searching for their loved ones, scanning lists and making frantic phone calls as the injured and the dead were brought in.

"We can't recognise them by looking at pictures; it's unrecognisable. Everyone is severely burnt," said one man sobbing uncontrollably.

Also searching desperately was Namit Goel, who said six of his relatives were among those caught in the fire. While four bodies had been identified, two were yet to be identified. "Four

bodies are in Max Saket mortuary and two bodies are in another hospital. We are trying to locate them," he said.

Max Hospital said in a statement that 39 patients were received at the emergency department. Of these 18 were brought dead, while 15 were admitted to the ICU, including eight who are on ventilator support and are in critical condition, the hospital said.

The patients suffered from asphyxiation, minor burn injuries and fractures, it said.

Five patients with minor injuries were treated and discharged after primary medical care, while one patient was shifted to Safdarjung Hospital due to extensive burn injuries, it added.

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences received 13 patients — three of them sustained injuries from fall and 10 were those who got hurt while rescuing those trapped in the burning building.

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi were among those who expressed their condolences.

"The news of the loss of lives in the fire incident in Malviya Nagar, Delhi is extremely heartbreaking. I express my deepest condolences to the bereaved families and pray for the swift recovery of those injured," Murmu said in a post on X in Hindi. The prime minister described the loss of lives as tragic. "My condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. Wishing a speedy recovery to the injured. Authorities are providing all possible assistance to those affected," Modi said in a post on X.

The prime minister said ex-gratia payment of Rs 2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund would be given to the next of kin of each deceased and Rs 50,000 for those injured. Congress leaders, including party president Mallikarjun Kharge and leader Rahul Gandhi, expressed their grief.

"I urge all Congress workers to extend every possible assistance in the relief and rescue operations. I hope for the speedy recovery of the injured," Gandhi said in a post on X. "Deeply saddened by the tragic fire incident in Malviya Nagar, Delhi. My heartfelt condolences to the families who lost their loved ones and prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured." State government authorities should provide adequate and timely compensation, including prompt medical care to the victims, Kharge said. (Agencies)

LG Sinha.....

Wednesday expressed grief over the loss of lives in a fire incident in Delhi.

"Deeply saddened by the loss of lives in a tragic fire incident in Malviya Nagar, Delhi. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of grief. Prayers for early recovery of injured," LG Sinha said in a post on X.

A massive fire broke out in a hotel in a congested bylane in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar area on Wednesday, killing at least 21 people, including foreigners whose ailing relatives were being treated in hospitals nearby.

Chief Minister Abdullah also expressed profound grief over the tragic incident. He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured, his office said on X.

The chief minister expressed solidarity with all those affected by the tragic incident.

Saurabh Bhagat.....

alongside his current position as Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs.

The order stated that the arrangement has been made in the interest of administration and will remain in effect until further orders. The move places Bhagat in charge of a department that plays a central role in digital governance, information technology initiatives and public grievance redressal across Jammu and Kashmir.

Issued under the orders of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the directive was signed by Commissioner/Secretary to the Government M. Raju. The order has been circulated to all concerned departments and senior administrative officials for information and necessary action.

The latest assignment reflects the administration's effort to ensure smooth functioning of key government departments while maintaining continuity in governance and public service delivery.

New Regional.....

organised on Wednesday at CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu, ahead of the formal declaration ceremony.

The new RMC, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), is being established as a significant milestone in strengthening meteorological services across the north-western Himalayan region, including Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh.

The centre will integrate weather observations with state-of-the-art X-band Doppler Weather Radar systems and an expanded network of Automatic Weather Stations (AWSs), significantly enhancing real-time weather monitoring, forecasting accuracy and early warning capabilities across the region.

The new RMC is envisioned as a hub for advanced meteorological services, strengthening the observation and forecasting framework for extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall, snowfall, flash floods, cloudbursts, thunderstorms, avalanches, heatwaves, coldwaves and other weather-related hazards.

Officials said the declaration of the Regional Meteorological Centre reflects continued efforts to strengthen forecasting infrastructure and improve the delivery of weather and climate services.

"The centre will play a vital role in supporting disaster risk reduction, agriculture, aviation, hydropower, tourism, water resource management, transportation and other weather-sensitive sectors," an official said. "It will cater to the meteorological requirements of the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, as well as Himachal Pradesh."

The centre is expected to enhance weather forecasting, climate monitoring and early warning dissemination services across this strategically important and meteorologically diverse region.

The main function will be held on June 5, 2026, at the Convention Centre, Jammu, where Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministries of Earth Sciences and Science and Technology, and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, will formally declare the Centre.

Dr Jitendra Singh holds several portfolios including Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Earth Sciences in India.

This ministry oversees the India Meteorological Department (IMD), which is responsible for weather forecasting, climate monitoring, and disaster warnings in the country.

J&K Science and Technology minister Satish Sharma and MP Jammu Jugal Kishore Sharma will also grace the occasion. Director General of Meteorology, India Meteorological Department (IMD), M. Mohapatra, other senior IMD officials and dignitaries from various Central Government offices will also be present.

The programme will highlight the objectives, operational capabilities and anticipated benefits of the proposed Centre, including improved monitoring of extreme weather events, enhanced forecasting accuracy and strengthened coordination with various stakeholder agencies for timely dissemination of weather advisories and warnings. Officials described the initiative as a major step towards enhancing weather and climate services across the north-western Himalayan region—(KNO)

Zojila Tunnel.....

will become the world's longest single-tube bi-directional road tunnel at an altitude of nearly 11,500 feet, ensuring seamless all-weather connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and Kargil, and significantly enhancing connectivity, mobility and economic activity in the strategically vital region.

The 13.15-km tunnel, being developed beneath the Zojila Pass at an altitude of around 11,500 feet, is expected to provide year-round road connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the Ladakh region, reducing dependence on the weather-sensitive mountain pass.

Harpal Singh, joint chief operating officer of Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited, told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that excavation has entered its final phase, with only a few metres of digging left before the two ends of the tunnel meet.

He said work on the main tunnel was undertaken simultaneously from the Baltal side in Kashmir and the Minamarg side in Ladakh to accelerate construction.

The project, awarded in 2020 and taken up for execution in 2021, has witnessed construction under challenging Himalayan conditions, including weak rock formations, water seepage and difficult terrain. More than a thousand engineers, technicians and workers are currently involved in the project.

Constructed at an estimated cost of about Rs 2,600 crore, the tunnel is designed as a single-tube, two-lane structure with a horseshoe-shaped profile. It is being built using the New Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM), which is considered suitable for complex mountain geology.

Following the breakthrough, focus will shift to internal works, including concrete lining, installation of ventilation systems and other safety infrastructure.

The tunnel will also feature a dedicated walkway for maintenance and emergency operations. Once completed, it is expected to significantly improve connectivity, mobility and economic activity in the region throughout the

year—(KNO)

CS reviews.....

which was notified by the Government of India on May 11, 2026.

Stressing the importance of meticulous planning and coordinated execution, the Chief Secretary directed the officers to adhere strictly to the timelines prescribed for operationalization of the scheme and ensure that all preparatory activities are completed well before its commencement on July 1, 2026.

He called for expediting all prerequisites, including notification of the scheme in consultation with the Law Department, completion of e-KYC of all eligible workers, and advance planning and approval of works to facilitate a smooth and seamless transition to the new framework.

The Chief Secretary also directed the Directors of Rural Development, Jammu and Kashmir, to take personal responsibility for capacity building and training of all functionaries associated with the implementation of the scheme. He emphasized that every employee at the district, block and Gram Panchayat level should be adequately trained and fully conversant with the provisions, procedures and technological platforms under VB-GRAMG before its rollout.

During the meeting, the Secretary Rural Development, Aijaz Asad apprised that extensive awareness and outreach campaigns have been conducted across all districts, covering all 4,291 Gram Panchayats through special Gram Sabhas, community engagement programmes, social media campaigns and newspaper outreach initiatives.

Reviewing the planning process under the Yuktadhara platform, the Chief Secretary was informed that all 20 districts, 285 blocks and 4,291 Gram Panchayats have been onboarded with 100 percent login creation. Planning activities have commenced in more than 94 percent Gram Panchayats, while over 92 percent have already submitted their plans. Around 3,849 Gram Sabhas have approved development plans and more than 63,000 works have been identified, providing a robust shelf of projects to cater to anticipated labour demand under the new programme.

The meeting was further informed that Jammu and Kashmir has emerged among the top-performing States and Union Territories in e-KYC coverage and face authentication compliance of MGNREGA workers, with all Gram Panchayats achieving full coverage. The Chief Secretary noted that the adoption of technology-driven governance mechanisms under VB-GRAMG, including face authentication, geofencing, AI-enabled analytics and real-time monitoring dashboards, would further strengthen transparency, accountability and service delivery.

Regarding the operational readiness of the new scheme, the meeting was apprised that the draft notification for implementation of VB-GRAMG has been prepared and submitted for approval, while the rules, dedicated accounts, budgetary provisions and integration of financial management systems are being pursued in accordance with timelines prescribed by the Ministry of Rural Development. The categorisation of Gram Panchayats and other preparatory activities are also progressing as scheduled.

The Chief Secretary also called for sustained public outreach and close monitoring at all levels so that the objectives of the flagship rural employment and development initiative are realized effectively across Jammu and Kashmir from day one of its implementation.

1st IFFJK to.....

preferred destination for film production and tourism.

The International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir will bring together filmmakers, producers, directors, actors, industry experts, critics and cinema enthusiasts from across India and abroad. The event is expected to feature screenings of acclaimed national and international films, panel discussions, master classes, interactive sessions, cultural programmes and networking opportunities for stakeholders from the film and entertainment sector.

The festival is also expected to provide significant exposure to local talent, encourage emerging filmmakers, and create avenues for collaboration between the regional film fraternity and the global cinema industry. Through this initiative, the Government aims to further strengthen Jammu and Kashmir's growing reputation as a hub for filmmaking and creative expression.

The maiden edition of the International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir is expected to mark a significant milestone in the Union Territory's cultural calendar and contribute substantially to the promotion of tourism, creative industries, youth engagement and economic activity associated with the film sector.



DC Srinagar holds Grievance Redressal Camp at Rajbagh under Block Diwas

Reviews public issues, developmental demands; assures follow-up, inter departmental coordination and timely redressal

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 03: As part of the ongoing Block Diwas programme aimed at strengthening public outreach and ensuring responsive governance, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today conducted a Grievance Redressal Camp at Joggers Park Rajbagh, where he interacted with local residents and took stock of their issues and developmental requirements.

During the camp, a large number of residents and representatives of Rajbagh, Ikhrapora, Jawahar Nagar, Kursu Padshahibagh and other adjoining areas of K.P Bagh in Tehsil South of the District participated and projected various public grievances and demands pertaining to civic amenities, infrastructure development, sanitation, drainage, road connectivity, street lighting, augmentation of water supply, upgradation of health facilities and other issues of public importance.

The DC gave a patient hearing to the grievances and demands raised by the participants and emphasized the administration's commitment towards addressing genuine public concerns in a prompt and effective manner. He directed the concerned officers to examine the issues raised dur-



ing the camp and ensure necessary follow-up for their early resolution.

While reviewing the developmental needs of the area, the DC reiterated that the District Administration is committed to promoting participatory govern-

nance by reaching out to people at the grassroots level and incorporating their feedback into the planning and execution of developmental initiatives.

He assured the participants that other genuine issues including jurisdictional issues and

demands would be taken up with the concerned departments and addressed in a time-bound manner. He further stressed the importance of sustained public engagement in ensuring efficient service delivery and inclusive development.

On the occasion, the DC passed on the spot directions to Officers from various line departments present on the occasion who responded to several grievances on the spot, while issues requiring further intervention were noted for appropriate action.

The DC further emphasized the need for coordinated efforts among all line departments to ensure timely redressal of grievances and effective implementation of developmental works on the ground.

The participants appreciated the initiative and expressed satisfaction over the opportunity to directly interact with the District Administration and highlight issues affecting their localities.

The programme was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Secretary SMC, Tahir Ahmad Magray, Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Tahir Sajad, District Social Welfare Officer, Mohammad Yousuf, Executive Engineer R&B, Farid Ahmad Khan, Executive Engineer, R&B, Khalid Mehmood, Executive Engineer Water Works, Aijaz Rafiq, Executive Engineer PDD, Tasaduk Nabi, Dy CEO Anjuma Raja, Tehsildar South, Sajad Rasool Shah and other District and Sectoral Officers.

Yash Parimoo-Led Delegation Calls on LG, Commends Anti-Drug Drive in J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 3: BJP Youth President Srinagar, Yash Parimoo, called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today. He was accompanied by Liyaqat Ali, President of the Human Rights Protection Organization (HRPO) Satyamev Jayate, J&K UT, and Sadiya



Yaseen Shah, General Secretary of the organization. During the meeting, the delegation appreciated the efforts of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory administration under the leadership of the Lieutenant Governor in addressing the issue of drug abuse and promoting social awareness among the youth. They particularly lauded the remarkable success of the Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan, describing it as a significant initiative aimed at building a drug-free society.

The delegation noted that the campaign has played an important role in educating young people about the harmful effects of substance abuse and has encouraged greater community participation in the fight against narcotics. They also acknowledged the administration's sustained efforts to engage educational institutions, civil society organizations, and local communities in awareness and prevention programmes.

The meeting focused on issues concerning youth welfare, social development, and measures to strengthen public participation in initiatives aimed at safeguarding young people from the dangers of drug addiction. The delegation reiterated its commitment to supporting government-led awareness campaigns and community outreach programmes across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Lieutenant Governor appreciated the delegation's efforts in promoting social awareness and encouraged continued cooperation between civil society groups, youth organizations, and the administration to advance the collective goal of a healthier, safer, and drug-free society.

DC Anantnag visits Khiram Dargah, interacts with Management Committee

HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JUNE 03: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, today visited Khiram Dargah to take stock of the facilities available at the revered shrine.

The DC was accompanied by the ADC, Dr. Muzaamil Maqbool Beig, SDM and Tehsildar Bijbehara, and other concerned officials.

Interacting with the management committee members and devotees, the DC reviewed the existing facilities, took feedback, and assessed the infrastructure and service upgradation requirements at the holy shrine. He issued directions to the concerned officials to ensure all necessary amenities and infrastructure are developed so that devotees and visitors have a seamless and enriching experience.

On the occasion, the DC paid his obeisance and offered prayers for the prosperity and overall well-being of the people. He also undertook a thorough inspection of essential services at the shrine, including power and water supply, sanitation, and waste management.

Calling the shrine "a symbol of our rich cultural and spiritual heritage," the DC said it is a priority of the administration to install all necessary facilities there for the ease and convenience of devotees. Additionally, he inspected the nearby graveyard and directed the revenue authorities to resolve the approach road issue, in consultation with the R&B and other concerned departments, on priority.

The management committee and devotees expressed their gratitude to the DC for the visit and hoped their genuine demands would be met in a time-bound manner.

JKAACL Employees Warn of Legal Battle Over Promotions, Oppose Outsider Absorption

Association Accuses Authorities of Ignoring DPC Assurances; Says Employees Retiring Without Career Advancement

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 3: The Employees Association of the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) on Wednesday voiced strong resentment over the non-conduct of Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) meetings and warned of pursuing legal remedies if long-pending employee grievances remain unresolved.

As per news agency JKNS, Meeting of the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) Employees Association was held today at Lalmandi, Srinagar, under the chairmanship of President Birjees Akhtar.

The meeting discussed several long-pending issues affecting the career progression of existing employees. The members expressed deep concern over the authorities' non-fulfillment of previous assurances.

Key issues discussed, Non-fulfillment of Assurance on DPC, Despite clear assurances made by the authorities earlier to conduct the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC), no action has been taken so far. Ignoring Employees' Voice: Employees presented their resentment over the



continued ignoring of their legitimate grievances by the administration.

Retirement Without Promotion: It was highlighted that many employees have retired from service without being granted their due promotions, causing injustice and financial hardship. Absorption of Outsiders: The house noted that any move to absorb outsiders into JKAACL would adversely affect promotional opportunities for existing employees.

Request to Authorities: The Association respectfully requests the competent authorities to, Conduct the DPC immediately to grant timely promotions to eligible employees. Refrain from the absorption of outsiders into JKAACL to protect the legitimate promotional avenues of existing employees.

Resolution adopted: After detailed deliberations, the meeting unanimously resolved to

avail all legal remedies including court action, dialogue, appeal, and representation to safeguard the interests of the employees.

Appreciation: The house placed on record its deep appreciation for the J&K EAC (Employees Joint Action Committee) for their continuous support and solidarity in the struggle for the legitimate rights of employees.

Oath of Commitment: All employees present at the meeting took an oath to remain steadfast and continue this struggle by all means to achieve the objectives, and to wholeheartedly support the Employees Association.

President Birjees Akhtar affirmed that the Association will continue to pursue all appropriate and peaceful channels to ensure justice and fair promotional avenues for every JKAACL employee. (JKNS)

Chief Principal Census Officer Reviews Census Preparations in Kulgam, Seeks Public Cooperation

HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, JUNE 3: Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director Census Operations (DCO), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma on Tuesday visited Kulgam and reviewed the district's preparedness for the upcoming Census exercise, with a special focus on the ongoing first phase of the House Listing Operation (HLO).

During his visit, Sharma chaired a meeting at the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat,

Kulgam, which was attended by Principal Census Officer Kulgam Shahzad Alam (IAS), District Census Officers, Charge Officers, Enumerators, Supervisors and other officials associated with the Census process.

The meeting reviewed the implementation of the House Listing Operation being conducted from June 1 to June 30 as part of the Census exercise. Sharma assessed the arrangements put in place by the district administration and stressed the importance of

accurate data collection, effective field-level coordination and adherence to prescribed guidelines.

Addressing the participants, the CPCO highlighted the significance of the Census as a vital national exercise and urged enumerators and supervisors to perform their duties with dedication, sincerity and professionalism to ensure the successful completion of the House Listing Operation.

Various aspects related to Census operations, including field-level monitoring, coordination among

officials and public participation, were discussed during the meeting. Officials reaffirmed their commitment to conducting the Census exercise smoothly and efficiently across the district.

Speaking to the media, Amit Sharma appealed to the public to extend full cooperation to Census enumerators and provide the required information for the successful conduct of the exercise. He emphasized that active public participation is essential for ensuring the timely and effective comple-

tion of the Census.

Before concluding his visit, Sharma assured citizens that all information collected during the Census would remain strictly confidential and would not be shared with any individual or agency, in accordance with the provisions governing Census data collection.

He reiterated that maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of respondents remains a top priority throughout the Census process.

Mission Vatsalya Bandipora conducts Anti-Tobacco Awareness Drive under Nasha Mukht J&K Campaign

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 03: As part of the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, Mission Vatsalya (Child Protection Services), Bandipora, organized a district-wide anti-tobacco awareness and enforcement drive around educational institutions to protect children from substance abuse. The campaign covered schools in Nahid, Garoora, Argam, Ajas, Sudnara, SK Payeen, SK Bala, Madwan, and Hajin. Officials inspected shops operating near schools and educated shopkeepers about the harmful effects of tobacco on children and adolescents.

During the drive, vendors were warned against selling tobacco products near educational institutions and were informed about the provisions of Section 77 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, which prohibits supplying intoxicating substances, including tobacco to minors. Authorities also highlighted the penalties for violating the law.

Mission Vatsalya officials appealed to the public to support child protection efforts by reporting violations through Child Helpline 1098 or Emergency Helpline 112. Anti-tobacco awareness posters were installed at strategic locations near schools to spread awareness about the dangers of tobacco use.

The team also imposed fines on violators found breaching regulations, demonstrating the administration's commitment to strict enforcement.

Members of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and Juvenile Justice Board (JJB), including Mohd Hashim Rather and Rasikh Ramzan, participated in the initiative. Officials stated that the drive is part of the government's broader efforts to create a safe, healthy, and child-friendly environment under the Nasha Mukht J&K campaign.

Similar awareness and enforcement programmes will continue to safeguard children and curb tobacco and drug abuse across Bandipora district.

DC Budgam reviews progress of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

Directs enhanced awareness campaign across district

HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, JUNE 03: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today chaired a meeting to assess the progress and implementation of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana across the district.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed the status of applications, rooftop solar installations, subsidy disbursement, and implementation of solar projects in both residential and government sectors. A detailed assessment of progress achieved across various electrical sub-divisions of the district was also undertaken.

The DC was apprised that significant progress has also been achieved in the installation of rooftop solar systems across households of the District.

Reviewing progress in the government sector, the DC was informed that solar installations have been completed in a large



number of targeted government buildings, reflecting steady advancement towards renewable energy adoption in public institutions.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the transforma-

tive impact of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in promoting clean energy, reducing electricity expenses for consumers, and strengthening energy security.

The DC directed concerned officials to intensify awareness

campaigns and undertake extensive outreach activities to educate people about the financial and environmental benefits of rooftop solar installations. He stressed that sustained awareness efforts, effective inter-departmental

coordination, and regular monitoring are essential for maximizing the benefits of the scheme.

The DC further urged all stakeholders to maintain the momentum and ensure timely completion of the remaining targets. He said that the District Administration is committed towards promoting renewable energy resources. He assured full administrative support for the successful implementation of the programme and directed concerned officers to closely monitor progress to ensure that all objectives are achieved within the stipulated timeframe.

The meeting was attended by JD planning Budgam, ACD Budgam, Executive Engineer KPDCI, Assistant Executive Engineer JAKEDA Budgam, District Nodal Officer JAKEDA Budgam, representatives of installation companies, Assistant Executive Engineers, and other concerned officers.

CPCO visits Kulgam, Reviews Census Preparations

Appeals for Public Cooperation

HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, JUNE 03: Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director Census Operations (DCO), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, today visited Kulgam and chaired a meeting with the officers at the Conference Hall of the Mini Secre-



tariat, Kulgam.

The meeting was attended by Principal Census Officer Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, District Census Officer, Charge Officers, Enumerators, and Supervisors.

The meeting focused on the ongoing preparations for the Census and the implementation of the first phase of the House Listing Operation (HLO), being conducted from June 1 to June 30.

During the meeting, the CPCO reviewed the arrangements made by the district administration and emphasized the importance of accurate data collection and effective coordination among field staff.

Addressing the participants, Amit Sharma highlighted the significance of the Census exercise and urged Enumerators and Supervisors to discharge their duties with dedication and professionalism to ensure the successful completion of the House Listing Operation.

Various aspects related to census operations, field-level coordination, and public cooperation were also discussed.

Awareness Seminar on Substance Abuse among Youth held at GDC Baramulla

HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 03: Department of Sociology, Government Degree College (Boys), Baramulla today organised an awareness seminar on the theme "Substance Abuse Among Youth: Legal Consequences and Mental Health Challenges—Exploring Prevention, Intervention and Community Responsibility", as part of the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan.

The event was graced by Adv. Meenakshi Slatia, Deputy Advocate General, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, as the Chief Guest.

The seminar witnessed huge participation from students, academicians, legal experts, law enforcement officials, media representatives and members of civil society, reflecting a collective concern over the growing menace of substance abuse among youth.



Addressing the gathering, Adv. Meenakshi Slatia spoke extensively on the legal implications of narcotics-related offences and the devastating impact of substance abuse on individuals, families and society. She emphasized that drug abuse not only destroys the future of young people but also contributes to crime, social instability and the breakdown of family structures. Stressing the importance of legal awareness, she urged youth to stay informed about the stringent provisions laws dealing with Narco Crimes.

The keynote address was delivered by Gurinderpal Singh, Senior Superintendent of Police, Baramulla, who highlighted the alarming dimensions of drug abuse, drug trafficking and stressed the need for coordinated action involving families, educational institutions, law enforcement agencies and the community at large.

Dr. Taslima Bano, Principal, Government Degree College (Boys), Baramulla, highlighted the importance of collective efforts in addressing the growing challenge of substance abuse among youth.

Among the distinguished speakers were Dr. Nitin Sharma, Assistant Professor, Law School, University of Jammu; Prof. Tariq Ahmad Chalkoo, Staff Secretary, GDC (Boys) Baramulla and Dr. Tajamul Hussain, who spoke on the legal, social and psychological aspects of substance abuse.

Expert insights were also shared by Aftab Jeelani, Public Prosecutor, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Srinagar, who elaborated on the legal consequences of narcotics-related offences and the role of the criminal justice system in combating drug trafficking.

Other notable participants included Inspector Koushal Kumar of NCB Srinagar and Adv. Mandeep Singh Bijral, Advocate, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, who shared their perspectives on awareness generation, prevention strategies and community engagement in addressing the challenge.

DDC SAMBA REVIEWS PROPOSED WORKS UNDER VIBRANT VILLAGE PROGRAMME-II

HT NEWS NETWORK

SAMBA, JUNE 03: District Development Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee to finalize the projects and works proposed by the designated Village Nodal Officers under the Vibrant Village Programme-II. The meeting was held in the Meeting Hall of the DC Office, Samba.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on the village-wise work plans prepared for the 16 selected villages covered under the pro-

gramme. The proposed developmental works and interventions aimed at strengthening infrastructure, improving public services and enhancing livelihood opportunities in these villages were reviewed comprehensively.

The DDC stressed that before the district-level plan is finalized, the proposed work plans should be shared with all Visiting Officers nominated by the UT Government so that they remain apprised of the developmental needs and projects identified for transforming the selected villages into vibrant and sustainable communities.

He further directed the officers representing the Border Guarding Forces to identify and propose projects of strategic significance from the security perspective and submit the same at the earliest for consideration under the programme.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner; Chief Planning Officer; Superintending Engineer, O & M Jammu-Samba; Executive Engineer, PWD; District Social Welfare Officer; Assistant Director, Tourism; Principal, ITI and other concerned officers.

SDM Karnah holds Meeting with Officers, Focuses on Development, Public Welfare

HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, JUNE 03: Newly posted Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Karnah, Mohd Raiyaz, today chaired a review meeting of officers from various departments to assess the progress of ongoing developmental works and public welfare initiatives across the sub-division.

During the meeting, the SDM reviewed the status of key developmental projects, public service delivery mechanisms and implementation of government schemes. He emphasized the need for timely execution of



works, prompt redressal of public grievances and enhanced inter-departmental coordination to ensure effective delivery of ser-

vices at the grassroots level. Officers briefed the chair on the progress achieved in their respective sectors and highlight-

ed issues requiring attention. The SDM directed the departments to work in close coordination and maintain regular moni-

toring of developmental activities to achieve desired outcomes.

The meeting was attended by Tehsildar Karnah, Treasury Officer, Executive Engineer R&B, Principals of Educational Institutions, Naib Tehsildars of Chamkote and Tangdhar, SHO Tangdhar, Block Medical Officer Tangdhar, Zonal Education Officer Tangdhar, Horticulture Development Officer Karnah, Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer Karnah, Range Officer Karnah, Assistant Executive Engineers of R&B and PDD, Block Veterinary Officer Karnah, representatives of ITI, and Tehsil Supply Officer Karnah, among others.

Awareness, Sports, Outreach Activities continue across Pulwama under NMBA

HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, JUNE 03: As part of the ongoing 100-day campaign under the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, a series of awareness, outreach and sports activities were conducted today across District Pulwama to spread awareness regarding the harmful effects of drug abuse and to promote a healthy and drug-free society.

Awareness programmes were organised at Lurow Aripal, Khrew and Newa Pulwama, where participants were sensitised about the adverse consequences of substance abuse and the importance of collective efforts in combating the menace of drugs. Various activities including awareness sessions, pledge ceremonies, signature campaigns and interactive discussions were conducted to encourage community participation and highlight the message of a drug-free society.

Meanwhile, Self Help Group (SHG) members organised awareness and counselling sessions along with a padyatra at Ichgoza to educate the local population about the ill effects of drug abuse and to strengthen grassroots-level participation under the campaign.

Meanwhile, the Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS) Pul-



wama today celebrated World Bicycle Day under the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan and the nationwide Fit India Movement. The initiative aimed to promote cycling as a means of encouraging physical fitness, eco-friendly transportation and reducing carbon emissions.

The events were organised across various educational institutions and zonal headquarters of the district and witnessed enthusiastic participation from professional cyclists and students. The programmes highlighted the importance of adopting a healthy lifestyle and contributing towards a physically fit nation.

The Zonal Physical Education Officers (ZPEOs) and Heads of Institutions flagged off cycling contingents from their respective schools during the morning hours. Pledge ceremonies were conducted prior to the events, wherein participants pledged towards building a healthy, drug-free and responsible society.

In addition to the cycling events, zonal-level competitions in various sports disciplines were also organised under the Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan. A large number of participants took part in these activities, showcasing their sporting talent and enthusiasm while promoting the values of discipline, teamwork and healthy living.

DC Kathua holds Public Grievances redressal camp at Mangloor

HT NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA, JUNE 03: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today convened a Public Grievances Redressal Camp at Panchayat Mangloor East in Block Dinga Amb to listen to and address the issues and concerns of the local populace.

A large number of locals participated in the grievance redressal camp. They projected several demands concerning infrastructure development, improvement of public services delivery and other matters of public importance. They sought expeditious resolution of civic and developmental concerns, besides implementation of government schemes and projects in the area.

The DC patiently listened to the grievances and directed the concerned officers to take prompt action for the redressal of the same. He also instructed officers to undertake field visits at least once or twice a week to monitor developmental works and maintain close interaction with the public.

Regarding the demand for a playground, the Deputy Commissioner informed that the matter has already been taken up with the Sports Council. He further announced that a registration-cum-awareness camp on the government welfare schemes would be organized in the block on coming Wednesday to facilitate public outreach and service delivery. The Deputy Commissioner also appealed to the people to actively support the District Administration's 100-Day Nasha Mukht Campaign and contribute towards making society drug-free, particularly by safeguarding the youth from the menace of substance abuse.

The concerned district and sectoral officers assured the public that the genuine issues raised during the camp would be addressed on priority. Among others, ADC Mahima Madan, SDM Phulail Singh, CPO Ranjeet Thakur, IAS Probationer Nidhi, ACD Akhil Sadotra and other district officers were present on the occasion.

DC Srinagar reviews progress of infrastructure upgradation projects, traffic decongestion measures at SKIMS, Associated Hospitals

Calls for enhanced coordination to ensure swift execution of multi-departmental projects, hassle-free movement of patients at major health facilities

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 03: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at Meeting hall of the DC Office Complex to assess the progress of healthcare infrastructure projects and traffic decongestion measures being executed by multiple departments at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura and Associated hospitals under Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by the Administrator Associated Hospitals GMC Srinagar, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Superintending Engineers of various departments, Additional CEO and Chief Engineer of Srinagar Smart City Limited, Medical Superintendent SKIMS Soura, Executive Engineers of R&B, Mechanical and Hospital Divi-

sions, representatives from Police Housing Corporation, KPDC, Water Works Division, District Youth Services & Sports Department, Traffic Police, Revenue Department and other concerned officers.

During the review, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of several key initiatives relating to the expansion of healthcare infrastructure, implementation of traffic decongestion measures, enhancement of access to SKIMS Soura through road widening, and identification of land for the proposed new OPD block of the institute.

The DC also reviewed progress on projects aimed at improving sports and recreational infrastructure, library and smart classroom facilities, sanitation and civic services, hostel amenities, landscaping, and overall campus development at GMC Srinagar.

Emphasizing the need for



coordinated efforts among all stakeholder departments, the Deputy Commissioner directed the executing agencies to ensure the timely completion of all approved projects. He underscored that the initiatives are important for making healthcare institutions under GMC Srinagar and SKIMS Soura more patient-friendly.

On the occasion, the DC stressed the importance of prioritizing traffic decongestion measures ensuring hassle-free movement of patients, attendants and emergency vehicles within and around the major healthcare facilities. He called for enhanced inter-departmental coordination and regular monitoring to remove bottlenecks and facilitate the swift execution of projects aimed at strengthening healthcare infrastructure and improving public service delivery.

The DC further underscored

the need for sustained efforts towards enhancing healthcare and educational infrastructure, stating that these projects will contribute substantially to improving facilities for medical students, healthcare professionals, patients and the general public.

The meeting was informed that administrative approval has been accorded for the development of a badminton court, basketball court, gymnasium, and reading room at the Girls Hostel of GMC Srinagar. In addition, projects for the establishment of a Reading-cum-IT Room and Indoor Sports Hall at the Nursing Hostel, as well as a jogging walkway, gym and Reading-cum-IT Room at the Boys Hostel, have also been approved. Installation of proper signage across the GMC campus is being undertaken to improve accessibility and navigation.

Progress on the development

of lawns at SMHS Hospital and GMC Srinagar, as well as macadamization of internal roads within the College premises was also reviewed. The DC was informed that Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) pertaining to the proposed corridor connecting SMHS Hospital with the Super Specialty Hospital, Shreen Bagh and the establishment of a multipurpose parking facility have been submitted to the competent authorities for further action.

Reviewing the status of developmental works at SKIMS Soura, the meeting was informed that substantial progress has been achieved in land assessment and demarcation for the proposed Trauma Centre and hostel facilities. Significant headway has also been made in the development of green spaces, a jogging park, an alternative entry gate and the proposed underpass within the SKIMS campus.

DC Bandipora, MD JKLF review implementation of Vibrant Village Programme-II in Bandipora

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 03: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib and Managing Director JKLF, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, who has been assigned the charge to oversee the implementation of Vibrant Village Programme-II (VVP-II) in Kanzalwan and Kilshay villages of Bandipora district, on Wednesday reviewed the progress and departmental proposals under the programme, during a meeting held at Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The meeting was attended by district and sectoral officers who presented department-wise progress, action plans and status reports regarding implementation of the programme in border villages of the district.

During the meeting, officers briefed the chair about the implementation of VVP-II in Kanzalwan Nayle, Neeru, Kilshay and Purana Tulail villages falling in Bagtore and Tulail blocks respectively.

It was informed that 28 villages across two border blocks of Bandipora have been identified under the programme, including four strategically selected villages namely Kanzalwan Nayle, Neeru, Kilshay and Purana Tulail.

The meeting reviewed progress under various thematic areas including all-weather road connectivity under PMGSY-IV, telecom connectivity under Digital Bharat Nidhi, television connectivity under BIND scheme and electrification under RDSS.

During the meeting, the duo directed all concerned departments to ensure time-bound completion of works and timely submission of proposals under the programme.

Managing Director JKLF, emphasized effective implementation of Vibrant Village Programme-II in the identified border villages and stressed upon timely execution of developmental works under the programme. He directed the concerned departments to ensure saturation of key thematic areas including road connectivity, telecom services, electrification and television connectivity in the identified villages.

He also called for improved inter-departmental coordination, proper monitoring and timely submission of village profiles and project proposals to ensure holistic development of the border villages under VVP-II.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of practical, sustainable and community-oriented project planning under the programme. She directed departments to ensure proper convergence, avoid duplication of works and prioritize projects that directly benefit the local population while improving essential services in remote border areas.

Controller Legal Metrology reviews progress of under-construction working Standard Laboratories at Anantnag, Pulwama

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JUNE 03: Controller, Legal Metrology Department, J&K, Shiv Kumar Gupta today conducted an inspection of the under-construction Working Standard Laboratories at Anantnag and Pulwama and reviewed the progress of the project.

During the inspection, the Controller, accompanied by Assistant Controllers of Kashmir Division and officers and engineers of the Roads and Buildings Department, conducted a detailed review of the ongoing construction works of the upcoming Working Standard Laboratories at Anantnag and Pulwama being established by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to strengthen the regulatory infrastructure of the Legal Metrology Department. He directed the executing agencies and con-

cerned officers to expedite the pace of work and ensure completion of the projects within the stipulated timeframe while maintaining the highest standards of quality.

Emphasizing the Government's commitment towards strengthening service delivery and consumer protection mechanisms, he assured that adequate funds would be made available for timely completion of these important projects. The executing agencies, in turn, assured that the works would be completed within the prescribed timeline. The Controller observed that the establishment of these modern laboratories would significantly enhance the department's testing, verification and enforcement capabilities and provide efficient regulatory services closer to the doorstep of traders, industrialists, entrepreneurs and consumers across



South Kashmir, thereby promoting transparency and fairness in trade practices.

After the review, the Controller interacted with representatives of the Bakery Association Anantnag and Petrol Pump Association Anantnag regarding the implementation of Jan Vishwas 2.0. He highlighted that the reforms introduced under the initiative have brought significant changes to the enforcement framework of the Legal Metro-

logy Act, 2009, particularly through the introduction of Improvement Notices for specified first-time offences. He stated that these measures are aimed at promoting ease of doing business, reducing compliance burdens and fostering a trust-based regulatory environment while ensuring effective consumer protection. The representatives were also sensitized about the revised compliance framework and their responsibilities under

the Legal Metrology laws.

Referring to the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026, the Controller informed that the Legal Metrology Department has intensified market surveillance measures in Anantnag district, through which the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra trade route passes. He issued strict directions to field officers to ensure that no pilgrim is subjected to overcharging, short-weighting, sale of sub-standard products or any other unfair trade practices during the pilgrimage.

Emphasizing the Department's commitment towards consumer protection, he directed that effective enforcement and regular market inspections be carried out throughout the Yatra period to safeguard the interests of pilgrims and ensure availability of correctly weighed and fairly priced commodities and services. UNI

DC Kulgam reviews functioning of MC Kulgam

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, JUNE 03: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam today chaired a review meeting to assess the functioning of Municipal Council (MC) Kulgam and discussed various measures aimed at improving urban services, sanitation and infrastructure development.

During the meeting, a detailed review was held regarding the operationalization of parks and newly constructed shops under Municipal Council Kulgam. The DC emphasized the need for timely utilization of these assets to ensure public benefit and enhance revenue generation.

The meeting also discussed engagement of manpower for maintaining cleanliness across the town and reviewed the operationalization



of the Trammel machine for efficient waste management. Directions were issued to strengthen sanitation measures and ensure effective solid waste management practices.

A comprehensive review of the roster and action plan for door-to-door waste collection in all 13 wards of Municipal Council Kulgam was undertaken. The utilization of Community Resource Persons (CRPs) for awareness generation and waste management activities was also discussed.

Traffic-related issues around

Government Degree College (GDC) Kulgam came under discussion, with officers deliberating on measures to streamline vehicular movement and improve public convenience.

The DC also reviewed the regulation of hawkers and vendors under the PMSVANidhi scheme and stressed the need for proper implementation of the scheme while ensuring orderly urban management.

The meeting further deliberated on various sources of revenue for Municipal Council Kulgam, expenditure management, and identified priority development projects for the town.

Among others, the meeting was attended by ADDC, Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan; ADC, Viqar Ahmed Giri, JDP, Malik Suhail, Executive Engineers, CEO, MC Kulgam, ARTO and other officers.

DC Kulgam reviews progress under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, JUNE 03: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in the district and directed officials to intensify awareness and outreach activities for greater public participation.



During the meeting, the DC stressed the importance of educating people about the benefits of installing rooftop solar systems under the scheme. He said that the initiative not only promotes the use of renewable energy but also helps households substantially reduce their electricity expenses.

The DC encouraged consumers to register under the scheme and avail the government subsidy for rooftop solar installations. He emphasized that widespread adoption of solar energy can contribute significantly to sustainable development and energy self-reliance.

All field functionaries were instructed to undertake focused awareness campaigns and motivate eligible beneficiaries to take advantage of the scheme and its long-term financial benefits.

The meeting also reviewed the registration status and discussed measures to enhance coverage and ensure effective implementation of the scheme across the district.

AWARENESS, COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION ACTIVITIES INTENSIFIED ACROSS BUDGAM UNDER NMBA

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, JUNE 03: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), a series of awareness, outreach and community engagement programmes were organized across District Budgam to strengthen the fight against drug abuse and promote the vision of a healthy and drug-free society.

The Excise Department conducted awareness and outreach activities in the villages of Kanihama and Mazhama in Tehsil Magam. During the programme,

local residents and farmers were sensitized about the harmful effects of drug abuse, the importance of staying away from illicit activities, and the need for collective community participation in eliminating the drug menace. Posters carrying anti-drug messages were displayed and distributed among the public to further spread awareness.

In the education sector, Environmental Week activities commenced at Government Degree College Khansahib under the banner of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan. The initiative seeks to

promote environmental consciousness alongside the message of healthy living and a drug-free lifestyle among students and the wider community.

The School Education Department also organized awareness activities under NMBA in Zone Zanigam, focusing on educating students and community members about the adverse consequences of substance abuse and encouraging them to become ambassadors of a drug-free society.

As part of the campaign, Doodganga Range of Pir Panjal For-

est Division organized an awareness programme at High School Wassamarg. Students were sensitized about the social, health and economic impacts of drug addiction and motivated to contribute towards building a responsible and drug-free community. In another initiative under the theme "Ek Ped Nashe Ke Virudh", a plantation drive was conducted at Government Primary School Wassamarg in collaboration with the school. The programme combined environmental conservation with the anti-drug message, highlight-

ing the role of youth and communities in fostering a healthier and greener future.

The programmes witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, officials and local residents, reflecting growing public support for the objectives of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

The district administration budgam reiterates their commitment towards sustainable awareness efforts and strengthening community engagement in the collective fight against drug abuse

HT EDITORIAL

Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyaan : A Collective Resolve Against the Menace of Drugs

The attachment of properties acquired through alleged proceeds of drug trafficking, such as the recent action by police in Anantnag under the NDPS Act, reflects a larger and more determined campaign underway across Jammu and Kashmir to eliminate the scourge of narcotics from society. Such measures send a clear message that drug abuse and trafficking will not only invite criminal prosecution but will also deprive offenders of the economic gains derived from illegal activities.

Over the past few years, the administration under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has intensified the "Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyaan," transforming it into a comprehensive social movement rather than merely a law-enforcement exercise. The campaign has focused simultaneously on curbing the supply of narcotics, rehabilitating victims of addiction, and creating widespread public awareness regarding the devastating consequences of substance abuse.

The anti-drug initiative has witnessed unprecedented coordination among the police, civil administration, educational institutions, health departments, social welfare agencies, and community organizations. Hundreds of awareness programmes, seminars, youth interactions, sports activities, and public outreach campaigns have been conducted across urban and rural areas. Schools and colleges have become important centres for preventive education, while law-enforcement agencies have intensified crackdowns on drug peddlers and trafficking networks.

One of the significant achievements of the campaign has been the increased public participation in reporting drug-related activities. Communities that once remained silent have increasingly come forward to support authorities in identifying peddlers and preventing the spread of narcotics among youth. Simultaneously, de-addiction centres and counselling facilities have expanded their outreach, providing treatment and rehabilitation opportunities to those struggling with addiction.

The administration's strategy of attaching properties and freezing assets generated through drug trafficking has emerged as a powerful deterrent. Such actions strike at the financial foundations of the narcotics trade and demonstrate that crime will not be allowed to yield economic rewards. The seizure of illicit assets, registration of cases under stringent provisions of the NDPS Act, and sustained enforcement operations have significantly strengthened the campaign against organized drug networks.

However, the battle against drugs cannot be won by government agencies alone. The challenge requires sustained participation from every section of society. Parents remain the first line of defence. They must maintain open communication with their children, monitor behavioural changes, encourage healthy activities, and create an environment where young people can discuss their concerns without fear or hesitation. Religious leaders and preachers also possess immense influence within communities. Through sermons, discourses, and social engagements, they can promote moral values, discourage substance abuse, and emphasize the sanctity of life and personal responsibility. Their voices can help build a strong social consensus against drugs and support families affected by addiction.

Teachers and educational institutions have an equally crucial role. Beyond academic instruction, schools should incorporate regular awareness programmes, counselling sessions, and life-skills education aimed at strengthening resilience among students. Early identification of vulnerable youth can prevent experimentation from developing into addiction.

Civil society organizations, sports clubs, youth groups, and local community leaders should work together to create constructive opportunities for young people. Sports tournaments, cultural activities, vocational training programmes, entrepreneurship initiatives, and skill-development workshops can channel youthful energy toward productive pursuits and reduce susceptibility to substance abuse.

Healthcare professionals and counsellors must continue expanding access to treatment and rehabilitation services. Addiction should be addressed not only as a criminal issue but also as a public health challenge requiring compassion, medical intervention, and long-term support for recovery.

The vision of a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir can become a reality only when enforcement measures are complemented by awareness, rehabilitation, and community ownership. Every attached property, every dismantled trafficking network, and every rehabilitated youth represents a step toward that goal.

The Nasha Mukht Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyaan is ultimately not just a government programme; it is a collective pledge by society to safeguard its future generations from the destructive grip of narcotics and to build a healthier, safer, and more prosperous region for all.

The IKS Blueprint: Celebrating World Environment Day with Ancient Indian Solutions to Climate Change



PROF. KANUPRIYA

As the world celebrates World Environment Day on June 5, the language of climate diplomacy appears to be increasingly out of touch with ecological reality. After decades of environmental meetings around the globe, we have developed complicated carbon markets and aggressive net-zero deadlines, yet the Earth's balance remains threatened. The problem with modern environmentalism is that while there are no deficiencies within its science, it fails in ontological assumption about the nature being a flawed machine requiring engineering fixes. In order to break the cycle, the discourse of the planet needs to evolve from managing nature to maintaining relationship with nature. That is where the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) comes as a highly effective example for our modern world. What makes IKS important in today's world is that the Indian NEP 2020 has officially adopted the paradigm. Over the last few years, strong state policies promoting IKS have been pursued in order to bring its principles into the modern discourse through academic means.

The cornerstone of the Western science paradigm, that forms the basis of industrial policy globally since the Enlightenment era, is anthropocentric dualism. Nature is objectified, considered an inexhaustible source of natural resources or an inexorable place for dumping waste products. In opposition to this approach, the epistemic foundation of IKS is fundamentally ecocentric.



Nature is not seen in terms of isolated objects, but rather as a network of essential interconnectedness. It is elegantly expressed by the notion of the Pancha Mahabhuta - Five Great Elements of Prithvi (Earth), Jal (Water), Agni (Fire), Vayu (Air) and Akasha (Space). Under this paradigm, there is structural identity between the physiology of humans and the ecology of Earth. Human body is not simply manipulating the environmental factors, but is an integral part of nature. Therefore, pollution of rivers or depletion of topsoil can be seen as autoimmune problems of the planetary body.

Philosophically, it leads to prescriptive ethics. Ancient writings do not only call for ecological wisdom; they demand it as a cosmic duty, which is Rita - the cosmic law that governs nature. For example, in Bhumisukta of Atharvaveda, the seer proclaims, "Mata Bhumi Putro Aham Prithivyah" (Mother earth, son of earth am I). With these words, the consumerist paradigm is demolished in one shot. One doesn't plan how to

exploit his mother's wealth by cost-benefit analyses. One shows respect to her and acts with reciprocity in the understanding that one cannot take away what one wants from his mother. Philosophically speaking, this brings about a shift in our economy from gratifying human greed to maintaining cosmic equilibrium.

It is common practice for skeptics to view the paradigms discussed above as romantic mysticism unfit for today's world, populated by eight billion individuals who operate on the basis of industry. Yet such criticism overlooks the very practical and systematic uses of IKS. Indian ecology was always a very advanced system of natural resource management. Take, for example, the system of sacred forests known as Devraes in Maharashtra, Orans in Rajasthan, or Kavus in Kerala. While it took modern conservation biology quite some time to come up with the idea of the concept of biosphere reserves, such community-conserved patches of forest had long served the crucial

role of providing micro-habitats for biodiversity.

As the rest of the world searches for a viable solution on World Environment Day, it is incumbent upon India to take the leadership role as a civilization and push this paradigm forward in the international community. Importantly, this by no means suggests that the rejection of modern scientific thought and technological development should occur. Instead, the goal is one of integration where we utilize the latest technologies to scale and deploy the basic tenets of the Indian Knowledge System.

The advocacy efforts by India of the LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) movement towards the global community can be considered a promising beginning in this regard, and the seeds of such a lifestyle have already been sown into the Indian domestic fabric of millennia ago. Minimal wastage, conscious consumption, season-based dieting, and reuse are not practices that the Indians have acquired over time; rather, they are traditions followed by them for ages. In order to celebrate World Environment Day meaningfully, it is imperative to go beyond the temporary tokenizing and green washing efforts of corporations. It is critical that we engrain the profound idea that nature only saves us as long as we save it ourselves (Prakriti Rakshati Rakshita). What the world needs today from the IKS framework is precisely what is missing today - an ethical foundation, and more importantly, a roadmap to exit the crisis of the Anthropocene era.

Prof. Kanupriya, a seasoned academic with over three and half decades of experience in academics and academic administration is the Dean of Humanities at BRA Bihari University, and Principal of the prestigious Langat Singh College, Muzaffarpur.

Mathematical is Intresting



SAHIL MANZOOR

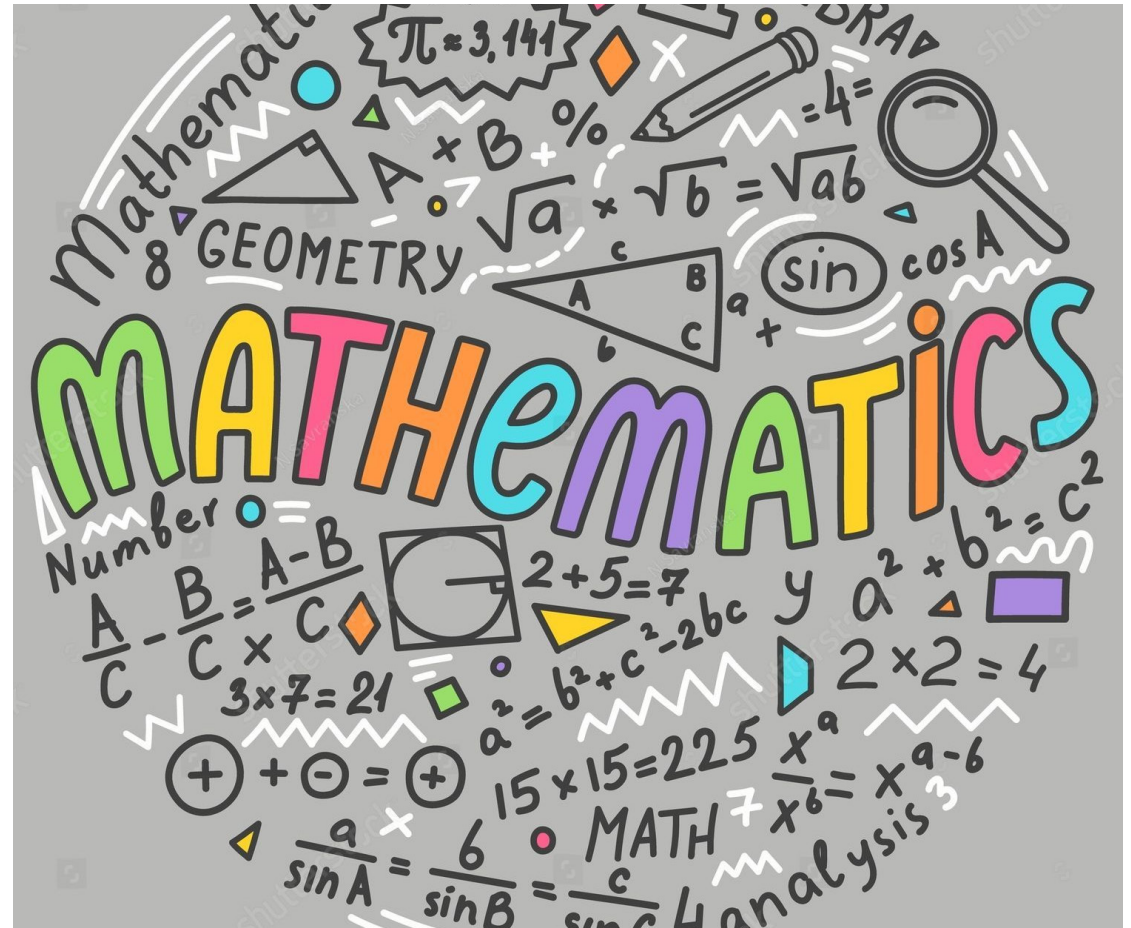
Our students are so charming, alluring, and possess every gorgeous quality because kids are the birds of heaven. Kids enjoy this world at their own level, and there is no level like that. This world may be bizarre for some, a place of anxiety for some, a place of joy for others, and heaven for some. In fact, kids enjoy this world as a place of heaven, and every child has his or her own potential.

Most of us are afraid of mathematics. Mathematics is considered the father of all subjects. Only a few students are good at mathematics and perform fundamental operations and solve equations in a joyful manner. As mathematics requires full concentration from the learner during an active class, one who learns it keenly will never develop a fear of mathematics in the future.

Mathematics is a subject that we use in our daily lives while purchasing household commodities, measuring the size of house windows, calculating the area of land or a house, and so on. It has a great influence on our day-to-day lives. Therefore, we must learn it properly so that we do not face difficulties in the future. Knowledge always boosts our confidence and enhances our personality. We update our knowledge every day through various mediums such as reading newspapers, accessing the internet, and discussing current issues with others.

No one is superior or inferior. The Almighty has bestowed various qualities upon us. We must be thankful for what we have and never feel inferior. Always live with dignity in society and think about the betterment of others, including family, neighbours, relatives, and friends.

In this article, I would like to share my personal opinions on the importance of strong basics for school students. Everyone wants to become rich or achieve great success as a doctor, engineer, pilot,



designer, teacher, or businessman. However, only a few turn their goals into reality by working hard with perseverance and dedication throughout their learning journey.

God has blessed us with intelligent minds. We have the capacity to make the impossible possible and bring revo

lutionary changes to the world through our ideas and hard work. Never suppress your opinions unnecessarily. Always uplift yourself. Nothing is impossible; as the word itself says, "I'm possible."

As far as the basics of mathematics are concerned, we must properly learn fundamental operations such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, place value, face value, and the concept of

BODMAS (Brackets, Of, Division, Multiplication, Addition, and Subtraction). It may take days or months depending on our level of interest. We are all capable, but sometimes we lack interest and confidence.

"Rest is rust." Always engage your mind in productive activities like problem-solving. Think about how to tackle problems and enjoy learning. The government is highly concerned about the education sector because it shapes the future of the nation.

Never be discouraged. Always tell yourself, "I can do it. I have potential. I can change the world, and I will bring positive and effective changes to society."

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

The Third Caliph of Muslims, Hazrat Uthman E Ghani (RA)



■ RAQIF MAKHDOOMI

Uthman ibn Affan [RA] the third Caliph of Muslims .Born 573/576 in Hejaz , Arabia. The Caliphate of Hazrat Uthman [RA] lasted for 12 years . From 644 to 656 CE. The longest Caliphate is of Hazrat Uthman ibn Affan [RA]. The Caliphate of Hazrat Uthman [RA] ended with his assassination in 656. Abdul Ibn Saba a Jewish Persian slave played a major role in the assassination of Hazrat Uthman (ra). Abdul Ibn Saba took cover of Islam to make people rebel against Hazrat Uthman (ra) and finally got his assassinated. Hazrat Ali burned ibni saba alive for spreading misinformation that "Hazrat Ali should have been the first Caliph " .

Sabia E fitnah was all about telling people that Hazrat Ali should have been the first Caliph. But Hazrat Ali crushed that misinformation campaign. Back then there were very little takers of Propaganda of Abdul Ibn Saba but today there are large number of people who accept this propaganda.

On 17 June 656, rebels found the gate of Uthman's house strongly guarded by his supporters. Some of the rebels scaled the neighboring houses and jumped into Uthman's. Then one rebel approached Uthman, grabbed and shook his beard. Uthman prayed to God for protection from killing, the rebel stabbed him in the head, and the other rebels followed suit

According to a narration regarded as likely to be a legend by Madelung, Uthman's wives threw themselves on his body to shield him. Na'ila bint al-Furafisa, one of his wives, extended her hand to block a blade. Her fingers were severed,



and she was shoved aside. The following strike killed Uthman. A few of Uthman's slaves retaliated, and one of them succeeded in killing one of the assassins before being murdered by the rebels . When they finally attacked Hazrat Uthman (ra) . He was reciting Quran , and when he was martyred his blood fell on Ayat of Surah Al Baqarah 2:137 which reads " So Allah will Suffice for you against them . And He is the All Hearer , The All Knower".

Hazrat Uthman (ra) took over to Caliphate after Hazrat Umar [RA] passed away. The election of Hazrat Uthman [RA] was done by a Committee , known as Shura . While Hazrat Umar [RA] was on deathbed he formed a committee in which Hazrat Ali [RA] , Hazrat Uthman [RA] , Hazrat Abd al-Rahman [RA] , Hazrat Sa'd Abi Waqqas [RA] , Hazrat Zubayr

ibn al-Awwam and Hazrat Talha ibn Ubayd Allah [RA] . All these were Muhjirun [early Meccan converts] . Uthman ibn Affan [RA] the second cousin of Prophet Muhammad and a notable companion of the Prophet [PBUH]. Hazrat Uthman [RA] has played a great role in all the battles that were fought during the life of Prophet [PBUH]. Hazrat Uthman (ra) was married to two daughters of Hazrat Muhammed (saw). Hazrat Ruqayyah [ra] and Hazrat Umm Kulthum [ra] . Hazrat Uthman is also known as Dhun-Noorayan

Narrated Muhammad bin Al-Hanafiya "I asked my father [Ali nin Abi Talib] "who are the best people after Allah's Messenger [PBUH] ? "He said "Abubakar". I asked, "Who then?" He said, "Then Umar". I was afraid he would say "Uthman , so I said, "Then you?" He said , "I am only

an ordinary person.

Hazrat Uthman Ibn Affan was then 68-71 aged when he took to the Caliphate.

Hazrat Uthman [RA] is known as Shaheed E Mazloom of Islam . After the assassination of Hazrat Uthman [RA] his body was lying in the house and no one was ready to assist in burial . It was only after his wife Hazrat Na'ila [ra] went out to request people for help , some dozen of people responded. His body was lifted in dusk and buried . While his body was lifted he was not lifted in Coffin because of the Blockade.

He's known for his charity. During the Battle of Tabook Prophet (saw) called upon people to give donation for war . Hazrat Uthman [ra] gave 900 camels , 100 horses and 5 kgs of Gold . He never stepped back from giving charity and came to be known as Ghani , The Giver . The

first expansion of Masjid ul Nabawi was done by hazrat Uthman. He's the one who paid for the first expansion. When Prophet Muhammad (saw) saw that the masjid is unable to accommodate the growing muslim population and he (saw) called upon people to contribute for the expansion. It was Hazrat Uthman to wholly contribute for it.

Uthman participated in all major battles which took place in the early period of Islam except for Badr and that too because the Prophet of Islam commanded him to stay back and tend to his wife who was unwell at the time. Regarding this, there is a hadith which states, "You (Uthman) will have the reward and the share of booty of a man who was present at Bade".

Furthermore, during the campaigns of Ghatafan and Dhat al-Riqa the Prophet of Islam left Uthman in charge of Madinah when the Muslim army ventured out of the city.

In about 650, Uthman began noticing slight differences in recitations of the Quran as Islam expanded beyond the Arabian Peninsula into Persia, the Levant, and North Africa. In order to preserve the sanctity of the text, he ordered a committee headed by Zayd ibn Thabit to use caliph Abu Bakr's copy and prepare a standard version of the Qur'an. Thus, within 20 years of Muhammad's death, the Qur'an was committed to written form. That text became the model from which copies were made and promulgated throughout the urban centers of the Muslim world, with the other versions ordered to be burnt by Uthman.

There are people who object to the Caliphate of Hazrat Uthman [ra] with very flawed reasons . Hazrat Ali [ra] was the Advisor and Counselor to Hazrat Uthman [ra] when he was the caliph . Hazrat Ali [ra] was also the committee member of the committee that Appointed Hazrat Uthman as the Caliph.

The author is a law student and a rights activist.

Keep Politics Out, Let Sports Flourish



■ M S NAZKI

Sports have long been recognized as one of the most powerful tools for shaping young minds and building strong societies. Beyond medals and trophies, sports teach values that remain relevant throughout life. Commitment, communication, concentration, control, and confidence—the five essential pillars of sporting success—help young athletes develop not only as players but also as responsible citizens. In an era where youth face growing academic pressure, digital distractions, and social challenges, sports provide a healthy and constructive pathway toward physical fitness, mental well-being, and personal growth.

Participation in sports strengthens muscles and bones, improves cardiovascular health, and enhances overall physical stamina. It helps young people maintain a healthy weight and encourages positive lifestyle choices, including better nutrition and avoidance of harmful habits. Equally important are the mental and emotional benefits. Sports offer an outlet for stress and anxiety, boost self-esteem, improve mood through physical activity, and teach young people how to handle success and failure with grace.

The benefits extend into academic and social life as well. Regular physical activity improves concentration, memory, and classroom performance. The discipline required in training often translates into better goal-setting and academic achievement. Team sports, in particular, teach cooperation, communication, leadership, and resilience—qualities that remain invaluable throughout life. Sporting environments also create friendships and foster a sense of belonging and community.



History offers countless examples of athletes who have inspired generations through determination and excellence. Women athletes, in particular, have broken barriers and rewritten sporting history. From Babe Didrikson Zaharias, who excelled across multiple sports and became the first woman to compete in a PGA event, to Billie Jean King, whose victories challenged gender stereotypes, these pioneers demonstrated that talent knows no boundaries. Nadia Comaneci stunned the world with the first perfect Olympic gymnastics score, while Mia Hamm transformed women's football into a global phenome-

non. Their achievements continue to inspire young athletes around the world.

Yet despite the transformative power of sports, politics often finds its way into the sporting arena. Across India, political involvement in sports administration has been a longstanding reality. While political support can bring funding and infrastructure development, excessive interference frequently results in favoritism, administrative inefficiency, and frustration among deserving athletes. When selection processes become controversial, the spirit of fair competition suffers.

This challenge has also been visible in

Jammu and Kashmir, where sports have often intersected with politics and governance. The region has witnessed significant improvements in infrastructure and sporting opportunities, but concerns over selection procedures and administrative influence have periodically surfaced. Recent statements by Commissioner Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, emphasizing transparency and defending merit-based selection processes in football have reinforced the principle that sports must remain free from political manipulation. His message that children should be allowed to play without

political interference deserves widespread support.

Jammu and Kashmir's sporting journey in recent years has been remarkable. The region's historic Ranji Trophy triumph in the 2025-26 season marked a watershed moment in domestic cricket. After a wait of nearly seven decades, the team lifted the prestigious title through outstanding performances by players such as Shubham Pundir, Qamran Iqbal, Sahil Lotra, and Auqib Nabi Dar. Their success demonstrated what can be achieved when talent is nurtured and opportunities are provided on merit.

The Union Territory has also produced numerous sporting icons who have excelled at national and international levels. Pararcher Sheetal Devi has become a global symbol of courage and determination. Cricketers such as Parvez Rasool, Umran Malik, Abdul Samad, and Rasikh Salam have carried Jammu and Kashmir's aspirations onto larger stages. Athletes like Arif Khan in skiing, Tajamul Islam in kickboxing, Mehrajuddin Wadoo in football, and Soham Kamotra in chess have further strengthened the region's sporting identity.

The growing success of J&K athletes proves that talent exists in abundance. What young sportspersons need is not political patronage but fair opportunities, professional administration, quality coaching, and modern infrastructure. Encouraging merit and transparency will do more for sports than any political slogan ever can.

Every champion's journey is built on sacrifice, perseverance, and courage. Gold medals are not truly made of gold; they are forged through sweat, determination, and relentless hard work. Champions are created not in political offices but on playgrounds, training grounds, and fields where dreams are pursued with dedication. As Jammu and Kashmir continues to emerge as a sporting powerhouse, the guiding principle must remain simple: keep politics out of sports and let children play. Only then can talent flourish freely and future champions rise to their full potential.

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AC: AIR CONDITIONING HOW DOES IT AFFECT THE SKIN?



■ SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

Air conditioners have seen a significant surge in recent years, particularly in countries with hot climates like India.

In our increasingly climate-controlled world, air conditioning has evolved from a luxury into a near necessity. In the scorching heat of summer and the heat-wave which breaks the spirit of even most fans of the summer season, air conditioning seems like a blessing.

When the temperature is unbearable, often exceeding 40°C, the easiest resort is to switch on the AC and relax in the cool air.

High temperatures combined with humidity can be dangerous, leading to dehydration, heat exhaustion, and heat-stroke. As a result, people spend most of their lives indoors under controlled cooling, moving from air-conditioned homes to cars, offices, malls, shopping centres and gyms.

Across cities, from Delhi to Dubai, air conditioners have become less of a luxury and more of a survival tool. While AC systems provide comfort and safety, constant exposure to artificial cooling can lead to dry skin, fine lines, dull complexion, brittle hair, and fatigue.

The very machines protecting us from

heat may be quietly reshaping our wellness in ways we rarely question.

Prolonged reliance on artificial cooling can cause fatigue, lethargy, or chronic headaches, sometimes called "sick building syndrome," due to poor air circulation and lower oxygen levels.

Unlike sunburn or direct heat exposure, AC-related dehydration develops gradually. Many people spend extended hours in offices, cars, shopping malls, and air-conditioned bedrooms, often without noticing the slow loss of moisture. Symptoms usually become noticeable only after persistent dryness, itching, or changes in skin and hair texture develop over time.

➤ Immunity Reduction Due to Artificial Cooling

Constant reliance on ACs can weaken your body's natural ability to adjust to temperature changes. Drastic temperature swings between air-conditioned indoors and hot outdoors can cause "summer chills" and muscle stiffness, weakening the body's immunity and overall health. AC systems reduce humidity and create cold environments that draw moisture from the body, causing significant dryness, irritation, and brittleness. This environment damages the skin barrier, leading to flaking, itching (winter itch), and cracked skin, while also causing dry, dull hair and brittle, weak nails. Air conditioners don't just cool, they strip moisture from the air and that has biological consequences. When the skin loses water, it becomes rough, tight, and flaky.

When indoor air becomes too dry,

often caused by constant air conditioning, it accelerates trans-epidermal water loss, where moisture is pulled directly from your skin and hair, resulting in a dull, tired, and tight appearance, especially after cleansing. Dry air causes skin to contract, making fine lines and wrinkles more pronounced.

➤ AC ACNE

Air conditioning causes acne by stripping moisture from the air, dehydrating the skin, and causing sebaceous glands to overproduce sebum, leading to clogged pores, inflammation, and acne breakouts, particularly in dry/oily combination skin.

This imbalance can create a cycle where the skin becomes dry and oily at the same time, making it difficult to manage skin care effectively.

Overproduction of oil can also contribute to the development of other skin problems, such as blackheads, whiteheads, and inflammation, commonly known as "AC acne."

➤ Accelerated Ageing

Prolonged exposure close to 12 hours in an air-conditioned environment can cause premature skin ageing.

Cold, dry air reduces skin elasticity and can cause the skin to shrink, sag, and develop fine lines. Over time, prolonged exposure to dry air can lead to premature wrinkles and sagging skin.

When air conditioning removes moisture from the environment, your skin loses its plumpness and elasticity, leading to premature signs of ageing. Wrinkles and fine lines may appear more

noticeable.

➤ Chapped Lips

Air conditioners cause chapped lips by reducing indoor humidity, which strips moisture from the air and dehydrates the delicate, gland-free skin on your lips. The skin on the lips is thinner and more delicate than facial skin. It lacks important protective features that other skin areas have. Unlike other parts of the skin, our lips lack oil glands and can't produce moisture. This makes them especially vulnerable to external conditions. Prolonged exposure to dry AC environments often leads to dryness, cracking, and peeling. Lips cannot produce natural oils to lock in moisture, while moisture escapes faster from lips than from facial skin in a controlled atmosphere.

By understanding how AC affects your skin, hair, and body, and by making small but consistent changes, you can protect your youth and maintain healthy, glowing skin despite the hot climate.

There are several ways to deal with the situation so that your skin doesn't show signs of damage. First, drink plenty of water, soup, juices, etc. to maintain skin hydration. Add a pinch of salt per litre of water for better cellular absorption.

Add electrolytes occasionally to improve absorption. Eat water-rich foods like Lettuce and celery, cucumber, watermelon, strawberries, and oranges, etc.

Foods like berries, green tea, dark chocolate, and leafy greens are high in antioxidants. They can protect your skin from damage caused by AC.

Keep indoor temperatures between 23 and 25 degrees to balance comfort and skin health. This range provides comfort without being excessively cold, and thus, it helps to maintain natural thermoregulation while reducing the risk of dryness.

Use a humidifier as it adds back the lost moisture into the air-conditioned room by releasing vapours or steam, thus helping to maintain an optimal humidity level in your living space and countering the drying effect of air conditioning. Using a humidifier at night can significantly improve skin texture over time. Apply moisturiser, lip balm or hand cream after every few hours.

➤ Keep your A/C clean

Clean air filters ensure better indoor air quality, trapping dust, pollen, and other particulates. Wash your air filters every third month. Older A/C units can release CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons). This is a refrigerant that can harm the ozone layer, heating the Earth.

Additionally, you should also take regular breaks from air-conditioned environments. It will allow your body to adjust to natural temperatures, thus promoting better thermoregulation and reducing dependency on artificial cooling.

The key lies in hydration, barrier protection, humidity balance, and mindful indoor living. When these are addressed, comfort and youth can coexist—even under constant air conditioning.

The author is international fame beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India

Cancer: The Silent Killer



■ SURINDERPAL SINGH

Cancer is one of the greatest health challenges facing humanity today. Once considered a disease affecting only a limited number of people, cancer has now emerged as a global public health crisis. Millions of new cases are diagnosed every year, and almost every family has been touched by the disease in some way. Unlike infectious diseases that spread from person to person, cancer advances silently through populations due to changing lifestyles, environmental influences, aging populations, and a combination of other complex factors. For this reason, many health experts describe cancer as the slow pandemic of the modern age.

Cancer is not a single disease but a group of disorders characterized by the uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells within the body. Under normal circumstances, cells grow, divide, and die in a carefully regulated manner. This process ensures that damaged or old cells are replaced by healthy new ones. However, when genetic mutations occur, the body's natural control mechanisms may fail, allowing abnormal cells to multiply uncontrollably and form tumors. These tumors may be benign, meaning they do not invade surrounding tissues or spread to other parts of the body, or malignant, meaning

they can invade nearby tissues and spread through the bloodstream or lymphatic system in a process known as metastasis. Cancer can develop in almost any organ, including the lungs, breast, colon, liver, prostate, skin, blood, and brain.

The development of cancer is usually a gradual process that occurs over many years. It often begins with DNA damage in a cell, followed by the multiplication of damaged cells. As these cells accumulate additional mutations, they become increasingly aggressive and may eventually spread to distant organs. This slow progression explains why many cancers remain undetected until symptoms appear at advanced stages.

Cancer rarely results from a single cause. Instead, it develops through a combination of genetic susceptibility and environmental exposures. Tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of cancer worldwide. Smoking is strongly associated with cancers of the lungs, mouth, throat, bladder, and pancreas. Tobacco smoke contains dozens of carcinogenic chemicals that damage DNA and increase cancer risk.

Diet also plays a significant role in cancer development. Excessive consumption of processed foods, processed meats, unhealthy fats, and sugary products, combined with inadequate intake of fruits and vegetables, can increase the likelihood of several cancers. Obesity and physical inactivity further contribute to cancer risk by promoting hormonal imbalances, chronic inflammation, and metabolic disturbances. Regular exercise, on the other hand, helps regulate hormones, strengthen the immune system, and reduce inflammation.

Alcohol consumption has been linked to cancers of the liver, breast, esophagus,

and colon. The risk generally increases with the amount of alcohol consumed. Environmental pollution, including exposure to industrial chemicals, pesticides, heavy metals, and air pollution, may also contribute to cancer development. Likewise, excessive exposure to ultraviolet radiation from sunlight and ionizing radiation from medical or environmental sources can damage DNA and trigger cancerous changes.

Certain infections are also known to cause cancer. Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is associated with cervical and several other cancers, while Hepatitis B and C viruses increase the risk of liver cancer. The bacterium *Helicobacter pylori* has been linked to stomach cancer. In addition, inherited genetic mutations such as BRCA1 and BRCA2 can significantly raise the risk of breast and ovarian cancers. Aging itself remains one of the strongest risk factors because DNA damage accumulates over time while the body's repair mechanisms gradually become less effective.

In recent years, considerable attention has been given to the concept of an alkaline diet as a possible method for preventing or curing cancer. This dietary approach emphasizes fruits, vegetables, nuts, legumes, and whole foods while limiting processed foods and excessive meat consumption. The theory suggests that cancer thrives in an acidic environment and that making the body more alkaline can stop cancer growth. However, scientific evidence does not support this claim. The human body tightly regulates blood pH within a narrow range, and food choices have only a minimal effect on this balance. While cancer cells often create an acidic environment around

themselves, this acidity is generally a result of cancer metabolism rather than the cause of the disease.

Current scientific research has found no reliable evidence that an alkaline diet can cure cancer. Nevertheless, diets rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes may help reduce cancer risk and improve overall health. The benefits of such dietary patterns arise from improved nutrition, higher antioxidant intake, better weight control, and reduced consumption of processed foods rather than any significant alteration of the body's pH.

The growing burden of cancer worldwide has led many experts to describe it as a silent and slow pandemic. One major reason is increasing life expectancy. As people live longer, more individuals reach ages where cancer becomes more common. Rapid urbanization and lifestyle changes have also contributed to rising cancer rates. Sedentary behavior, unhealthy diets, chronic stress, and obesity have become widespread features of modern life. At the same time, industrialization has increased human exposure to environmental pollutants and potential carcinogens.

Improved screening and diagnostic technologies have also resulted in the detection of more cancer cases than ever before. While this increase partly reflects better diagnosis rather than a true rise in disease occurrence, it still highlights the enormous scale of the challenge. Despite public health campaigns, tobacco and alcohol continue to contribute significantly to cancer worldwide. Furthermore, conditions such as obesity, diabetes, and metabolic syndrome create chronic inflammation within the body, which may promote cancer develop-

ment. The fact that many cancers progress silently without noticeable symptoms until advanced stages further strengthens their pandemic-like impact.

Although not all cancers are preventable, a substantial proportion can be avoided through healthy lifestyle choices. Avoiding tobacco products, maintaining a healthy body weight, engaging in regular physical activity, and consuming a balanced diet rich in fruits and vegetables are among the most effective preventive measures. Limiting alcohol intake, reducing consumption of processed foods, protecting the skin from excessive sunlight, and receiving recommended vaccinations such as HPV and Hepatitis B vaccines can also lower cancer risk. Participation in regular screening programs and minimizing exposure to environmental carcinogens whenever possible are equally important.

Cancer remains one of the most complex diseases confronting humanity. Its causes are multifactorial, involving genetics, lifestyle habits, infections, environmental exposures, and aging. While healthy dietary practices can support overall well-being and help reduce cancer risk, no single diet or alternative remedy offers a cure. The most effective weapons against cancer continue to be prevention, early detection, evidence-based treatment, public awareness, and ongoing scientific research. By promoting healthier lifestyles and ensuring better access to healthcare, societies can significantly reduce the impact of this silent killer and improve the lives of millions around the world.

The author is a Faculty, Science Department, Sri Amritsar Sahib, Punjab

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7006083461

Public Notice

I am applying for fresh Pesticide and Fertilizer License under the name / style of MUZAMIL FAROOQ deals in Pesticides, Fertilizers and agricultural tools situated at HAIL Kreeri, Baramulla.193108 In this regard if anybody is having any objection may file the same to Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla and PPO Lal Mandi Srinagar within the time period of 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name...MUZAMIL FAROOQ
S/O...FAROOQ AHMAD DAR
R/O...HAIL JAGIR KREERI
DIST...BARAMULLA

Public Notice

My daughter's name has been wrongly written as MIR AREEBA D/O REYAZ AHMAD MIR in her Date of Birth certificate bearing Registration no 101002531095 while her correct name is MIRHA D/O REYAZ AHMAD MIR which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in the office of SDH/BMO office kreeri within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...REYAZ AHMAD MIR
F/O...MIRHA
R/O...KREERI

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of MEEMA BEGUM D/O ZAHOR AHMAD BHAT R/O ATHOORA RESHIPORA for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that ZAHOR AHMAD BHAT S/O MOHD MAQBOOL BHAT has passed away on 14/05/2026 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

1... MEEMA BEGUM wife 41 years widow
2... WASIF ZAHOR son 17 years student unmarried
3...LUKMAN ZAHOR Son 13 years student unmarried
4...SALMAN ZAHOR Son 09 years student unmarried
5...MOHD MAQBOOL MIR Father 70 years Farmer married
6...SITARA BEGUM Mother 63 years H/W married

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of IRSHAD AHMAD DEADER S/O SAIEN MOHD DEADER R/O BANDIBALA for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that PATHANI BEGUM W/O SAIEN MOHD DEADER has passed away on 25/04/2026 . The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

1... ABDUL HAMID son 43 years labour married
2... PARVEENA BEGUM daughter 46 years H/W married
3...SHAMEEMA BEGUM daughter 37 years //
4...SHAHNAAZ BEGUM // 27 years //
5...IRSHAD AHMAD son 26 years Labour unmarried

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my father's name MOHAMMAD AKBAR BHAT R/O BANDI PAYEEN Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040016208 wants to be registered on my name BASHIR AHMAD BAHT S/O MOHAMMAD AKBAR BHAT R/O BANDI PAYEEN .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...BASHIR AHMAD BHAT
S/O...MOHAMMAD AKBAR BHAT
R/O... BANDI PAYEEN

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of IRSHAD AHMAD DEADER S/O SAIEN MOHD DEADER R/O BANDIBALA for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that PATHANI BEGUM W/O SAIEN MOHD DEADER has passed away on 25/04/2026 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

1... ABDUL HAMID son 43 years labour married
2... PARVEENA BEGUM daughter 46 years H/W married
3...SHAMEEMA BEGUM daughter 37 years //
4...SHAHNAAZ BEGUM // 27 years //
5...IRSHAD AHMAD son 26 years Labour unmarried

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of MEEMA BEGUM D/O ZAHOR AHMAD BHAT R/O ATHOORA RESHIPORA for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that ZAHOR AHMAD BHAT S/O MOHD MAQBOOL BHAT has passed away on 14/05/2026 .The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

1... MEEMA BEGUM wife 41 years widow
2... WASIF ZAHOR son 17 years student unmarried
3...LUKMAN ZAHOR Son 13 years student unmarried
4...SALMAN ZAHOR Son 09 years student unmarried
5...MOHD MAQBOOL MIR Father 70 years Farmer married
6...SITARA BEGUM Mother 63 years H/W married

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of ARSALAN NAZIR S/O NAZIR AHMAD TELI R/O KREERI Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of OBC (Other Backward classes) in his/her their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of KREERI of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the TELI community having annual income 1009764// the details of family of the applicant are as follows

1...NAZIR AHMAD TELI Father 49 Govt Employee
2...NAGEENA BEGUM Mother 41 years H/W
3... ARSALAN NAZIR applicant 18 years student
4...ZEENAT NAZIR sister 16 years student
5...FARHAN NAZIR Brother 10 years student

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
General Administration Department
CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K

Subject: Nomination of Nodal Officer for coordinating with the Jammu & Kashmir Architects Organization.

GOVERNMENT ORDER NO.:1013-JK(GAD) OF 2026
DATED: 25-05-2026

It is hereby ordered that Mr. Chaman Lal, Deputy Director, Information Technology Department, holding additional charge of General Administration Department, shall be the Nodal Officer for coordinating with the Jammu & Kashmir Architects Organization for ensuring timely submission, processing, and clearance of all projects in respect of General Administration Department.

By Order of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir.
No: GAD-PLNG/16/2026-09-GAD
Dated: 25-05-2026

Sd/- (M. Raju) IAS
Commissioner/Secretary to the Government

DIPK: 1783/26 | Dated: 03-06-2026

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PMGSY DIVISION BARAMULLA

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Fresh e- NIT No: 04/EE/PMGSY/BlA/E-TENDERING-OF 2026-27
Dated: 02-06-2026

For and on behalf of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Baramulla invites e-tender for stage contracts on Percentage Basis from the eligible & approved contractors of J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other States.

S.No	Name of Work with Package No.	Advertised Cost Incl GST (Rs. In Lacs.)	T.D Cost (In Rs.)	E/M (Bid Security) (In Lacs.)	Period of Contract	Tender Call
1	Stage Contract of roads under the jurisdiction of PMGSY Division Baramulla on emergency basis (i.e.) byway of clearance of Snow, slides/slips other allied works required during maintenance of roads, failure of maintenance of road by regular contractor and any other emergent work likely to occur during financial year 2026-27.	11.50	600	0.23	2026-27	1st

Time and Date of opening of Tenders online: 13-06-2026 at 11:00 AM

Class of Contractor: B, C & D

1. The important dates and time are as under:

1.	Date of issue of tender notice	02-06-2026
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	03-06-2026 at 03:00 PM to 12-06-2026 upto 04:30 PM
4.	Bid submission start date	03-06-2026 at 03:00 PM
5.	Bid submission end date	12-06-2026 upto 04:30 PM
6.	Date & time of opening of Technical/financial Bids (Online)	13-06-2026 at 11:00 AM

1. Cost of Bid Form @ Rs. 600/- (non-refundable) only in form of treasury challan.

2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and bids should be submitted online on website www.pmgstendersjk.gov.in. The bidders are required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: www.pmgstendersjk.gov.in Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAS can use the same in this tender.

3. Bids must be uploaded along with Scanned copy of cost of Tender Document as mentioned in column 4 in shape of treasury challan favouring Executive Engineer, PMGSY Division Baramulla by crediting the requisite charges to MH 0059-PWD (Revenue) and scanned copy of Bid Security as mentioned in column 5 pledged to Executive Engineer PMGSY Division Baramulla in shape of CDR/ FDR/BG.

All other terms and conditions shall be same as published in the Original NIT.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PMGSY Division Baramulla

DIPK: 1784/26 | Dated: 03-06-2026

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IMPORTANT DATES

Registration & Preference Filling	09 May - 27 May 2026
1st Merit List	30 May 2026
Admission (1st Round)	01 June - 06 June 2026
2nd Merit List	09 June 2026
Admission (2nd Round)	10 June - 15 June 2026
Spot Round	18 June - 25 June 2026

COMMENCEMENT OF CLASSES

- Winter Zone Colleges: 15 June 2026
- Summer Zone Colleges: 15 July 2026

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DIPR Bids emotional farewell to Information Officer Syed Jeelani Qadri

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 03: The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) today accorded a warm and emotional farewell to Information Officer, Syed Jeelani Qadri on his superannuation after rendering dedicated and distinguished service to the department.

A grand farewell function was organized by the DIPR in honour of the retiring officer, which was presided over by Director Information, Shreya Singhal.

Joint Director Information (Hqrs), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari; Deputy Director Information (PR/AV), Javid Ahmad Rather; Deputy Director (PR) Srinagar, Rafiq Ahmad; Deputy Director (Hq) Kashmir, Zubair Ahmad; other officers and officials of DIPR were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Information highlighted the invaluable contributions, commitment, and professionalism of Syed Jeelani throughout



his illustrious career. She recalled his sincerity, work ethic and amiable personality that earned him widespread respect across the department.

Addressing the gathering, Joint Director, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina highlighted Qadri's unwavering dedication and significant role in strengthening the department's communication and public outreach initiatives 24x7.

He lauded his exemplary service record and wished him a healthy, happy and fulfilling post-retirement life.

Deputy Director Information (PR/AV), Javid Ahmad Rather in his address described him as a dependable and compassionate professional whose guidance and cooperative spirit inspired many during his tenure.

In his farewell address, Syed Jeelani Qadri expressed heartfelt thanks to the department's leadership and his colleagues for their support, cooperation, and camaraderie over the years. He described his tenure in DIPR as a rewarding journey filled with learning, growth, and cherished memories.

Stakeholder consultation held to position Patnitop under global destination scheme

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 03: A stakeholder consultation meeting was held at Patnitop to discuss the development and positioning of the hill station under the Global Destination Scheme of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

The meeting was chaired by MLA Chenani Balwant Singh Mankotia and attended by Chief Executive Officer Patnitop Development Authority Virender Kumar Manyal, Sub-Divisional Police Officer Chenani, Ex-Chairman Block Development Council Chenani, President and representatives of the Hotel and Restaurant Association Patnitop, photographers, shopkeepers, adventure sports operators and officers from various line departments. Rajat Gupta and Dheeraj Manhas from the EY team made a detailed presentation on the objectives, vision and key components of the Global Destination Scheme. The presentation focused on the Ministry of Tourism's vision for developing globally competitive destinations through sustainable tourism practices, integrated infrastructure planning, destination branding and stakeholder-driven development.

Chief Executive Officer Patnitop Development Authority Virender Kumar Manyal highlighted Patnitop's strategic importance as one of Jammu and Kashmir's premier tourist destinations and emphasised the need for a coordinated, long-term development framework. He underscored the importance of strength-

ening tourism infrastructure, enhancing visitor facilities, improving accessibility and ensuring sustainable management of tourism assets. He also stressed the need for active stakeholder participation in shaping a comprehensive roadmap for Patnitop. MLA Chenani Balwant Singh Mankotia appreciated the participation of all stakeholders and noted that the Global Destination Scheme offers an opportunity to unlock Patnitop's tourism potential. He called for collective efforts and close coordination among all stakeholders to achieve the envisioned outcomes.

The Ex-Chairman, Block Development Council Chenani emphasised the importance of involving local communities in the development process and ensuring that tourism growth translates into livelihood opportunities and socio-economic benefits for the region.

Representatives from the hotel and hospitality sector shared suggestions on accommodation infrastructure, destination promotion, tourism product development and enhancement of visitor experiences. Officials from the Public Works Department, Jal Shakti Department and other concerned departments presented their views on infrastructure development, connectivity, water supply and public amenities.

The consultation concluded with an exchange of ideas and recommendations. The suggestions received will be incorporated into the destination development strategy being prepared under the Global Destination Scheme for Patnitop.

DC Rajouri holds public outreach camp at village Chappar Dhara

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI, JUNE 03: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, today convened a Public Outreach Camp at Vibrant Village Chappar Dhara in Block Panjgrain to assess developmental requirements, address public grievances and review the implementation of government welfare schemes.

Among others present were ADDC Malik Zada Sheraz-ul-Haq, PO ICDS Harpal Singh, CPO Maqsood Ahmed, ACR Mohd Jahangir Khan, ACD Auqil Nuvaid, CAO Rajesh Verma, ARTO Ashiq Rafiq Malik, DSWO Abdul Raheem, ALC Pradyot Gupta, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Sudesh Kumar, Executive Engineer PMGSY Shahid Mustafa and other district and sectoral officers.

During the interaction, locals projected various demands and concerns related to infrastructure and public services. The Deputy Commissioner patiently listened to the grievances and assured the public that all genuine issues would be examined and addressed in a phased manner.

Officers from different departments, including Health, PMGSY, PWD, Jal Shakti, Power Development Department, District Employment and Counselling Centre and Labour Department briefed the public about ongoing developmental works and welfare schemes and encouraged eligible beneficiaries to avail themselves of government benefits.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Public Works Department to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for tiled internal pathways in the village and explore suitable fencing and gondola-type interventions keeping in view the difficult terrain of the area.

Emphasizing inclusive development, he instructed all departments to ensure 100 percent coverage of eligible beneficiaries under welfare schemes and work towards saturation of the village under all flagship programmes.

The Deputy Commissioner informed the gathering that eight villages in Rajouri district have been identified under the Vibrant Villages Programme. He stated that focused interventions are being undertaken to improve road connectivity, power connectivity, internet connectivity and television connectivity to strengthen infrastructure and improve access to essential services in these border villages.

MLAs review development, restoration works in Udhampur

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 03: Members of the Legislative Assembly from District Udhampur today chaired a district-level appraisal and monitoring meeting with officers of various line departments to review the progress of ongoing development projects and restoration works across the district.

The meeting was attended by MLA Udhampur West Pawan Kumar Gupta, MLA Chenani Balwant Singh Mankotia, MLA Udhampur East Ranbir Singh Pathania, MLA Ramnagar Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj, Additional District Development Commissioner Jugal Kishore, Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh and senior officers from concerned

departments.

The MLAs conducted a constituency-wise review of developmental and restoration works being executed across the district. They also assessed damages caused by floods and landslides during August-September 2025 and reviewed the status of restoration measures undertaken in the affected areas.

The review covered constituency-wise damage assessment, physical and financial progress of works, fund utilisation under SDRF, UT Capex Budget, SASCI and Constituency Development Fund schemes, as well as the current status of ongoing projects and challenges in their execution.

The MLAs also undertook a department-wise review of res-



toration activities and sought updates on division-wise assessment of damage to roads, bridges and other public infrastructure. They also reviewed the progress of permanent restoration projects

and examined the pace of work by executing agencies.

Emphasising the need for timely completion of all projects, the MLAs directed concerned departments and executing agen-

cies to accelerate work and ensure that restoration projects are completed at the earliest to restore connectivity and provide relief to the public. They also instructed officers to remove bottlenecks hindering project execution and ensure optimum utilisation of available funds.

Stressing accountability, transparency and quality in developmental works, the MLAs called for strict adherence to prescribed timelines and urged officers to conduct regular field inspections for effective monitoring. They emphasised the importance of coordinated inter-departmental efforts for efficient implementation of development and restoration works for the benefit of the people of Udhampur district.

DDC REASI CONDUCTS PUBLIC GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL CAMP AT SERSUNDWAN

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

REASI, JUNE 03: District Development Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today conducted a Public Grievance Redressal Camp at Panchayat Ghar Sersundwan in Block Bhomag to listen and address public issues and developmental concerns.

A large number of residents from Sersundwan and adjoining areas participated in the camp and put forth demands related to road connectivity, drinking water supply, electricity, healthcare, education, irrigation, tourism development and other civic amenities.

Residents sought priority for local youth in employment opportunities linked to railway projects and raised concerns regarding compensation for land and structures. They also highlighted staff shortages in health institutions and Government High School Sersundwan, the need for a receiving station to improve power supply, development of tourism infrastructure, early commissioning of the Water Lift Irrigation Scheme at Bangan Devta, construction of a community hall and provision of an ambulance facility.

The DDC heard the grievances and assured the public that all gen-

uine issues would be taken up with concerned departments for prompt redressal. He directed officers present to resolve public issues in a time-bound manner and ensure effective delivery of government services at the grassroots level.

The DDC assured residents that staff shortage in the health and education sector would be addressed shortly. He directed the PWD to complete all pending NOCs required for commencement of work on the Sujandhar-Mohali Talab Road and asked the department to take up the matter of road repairs with the concerned authorities.

JSCl's Tawi Riverfront Project gets recognition for flood protection & urban resilience at National R&D workshop

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JUNE 03: The Jammu Smart City's flagship Tawi Riverfront Development Project was highlighted at the National Workshop on R&D in Water as a significant example of science-driven urban infrastructure and flood resilient structure.

The project was presented by the National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Roorkee, as a model of how scientific hydrology, inter-agency coordination, and data-driven planning can be effectively translated into impactful urban infrastructure.

Jammu Smart City officials endorsed the presentation, stating that the Tawi Riverfront reflects successful integration of scientific inputs into urban planning, river management and flood mitigation strategies.

A key highlight of the presentation was the role of the promenade walls, which reportedly played a crucial role in safeguarding residents in the surrounding areas and protecting the warehouse which is an important economic hub of Jammu.

Officials from Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCl), including Project Director Sunil Thuso and Senior General Manager Rajes Abrol, highlighted that the riverfront project is not only an urban beautification initiative but also a major flood mitigation and ecological restoration intervention for Jammu.

Officials stated that the Tawi Riverfront project was developed after detailed hydrological studies and technical vetting by NIH Roorkee and other central agencies.

These scientific inputs helped in strengthening flood management planning, river training works, embankment design, and overall urban development along the Tawi river corridor in Jammu.

The initiative has contributed to improved drainage efficiency, reduced flood impact in adjoining areas, interception of untreated wastewater into the river, and partial recharge of groundwater systems through ecological restoration of the river stretch.

They stated that lessons from past flood events, including the 2014 flood scenario, were incorporated into the design to enhance resilience in vulnerable zones.

DC Ramban reviews pre-monsoon preparedness, directs robust measures for disaster management ahead of monsoon season

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

RAMBAN, JUNE 03: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a high-level pre-monsoon preparedness meeting to review the district's readiness for tackling challenges that may arise during the ensuing monsoon season, particularly in view of the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Arun Gupta, SSP Traffic NHW Raja Adil Hameed, Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shokat Hayat Mattoo, Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather and officers from CRPF, Army, NHAI, BRO, SDRF and other concerned

departments. Sub-Divisional Magistrates and other field officers participated virtually.

The Deputy Commissioner noted that Ramban is highly vulnerable to natural disasters such as flash floods, cloudbursts and landslides. He directed all departments, particularly those associated with emergency and essential services, to formulate comprehensive action plans based on previous disaster experiences in the district and ensure prompt response mechanisms during emergencies.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all SDMs and the ACR to ensure round-the-clock functioning of control rooms in their respective jurisdictions. He instructed the ACR to closely monitor and coordinate the functioning of all control rooms

and maintain seamless communication among stakeholders during emergencies. He further directed all SDMs, Tehsildars and field officers to ensure real-time reporting of any untoward incidents or emergency situations to facilitate swift rescue and relief operations, and stressed the need for widespread dissemination of advisories issued by the District Administration and other competent authorities during the monsoon season.

The Deputy Commissioner directed telecom service providers, including Jio, Airtel and BSNL, to ensure uninterrupted network connectivity across the district, with special focus on shadow and the remote areas to facilitate communication during emergencies. To strengthen disaster response at the grassroots level,

the Deputy Commissioner instructed concerned officers to equip all Civil Quick Response Teams (QRTs) operating across the district. SDMs were directed to convene meetings with QRT members in their respective jurisdictions and identify safe accommodation facilities for use during emergencies. The SDRF was directed to conduct capacity-building programmes and mock drills in coordination with SDMs and the ACR at all identified vulnerable locations to enhance preparedness and response capabilities.

The Deputy Commissioner directed road construction and maintenance agencies; NHAI, PMGSY, PWD and BRO, to position adequate men and machinery at vulnerable stretches under their respective jurisdictions and

ensure availability of ambulances for immediate response during emergencies. The Chief Medical Officer and Assistant Regional Transport Officer were directed to ensure that all ambulances remain fully functional and readily available for emergency deployment.

JPDC and the Jal Shakti Department were instructed to prepare contingency plans and maintain adequate stocks of essential materials and equipment to restore services promptly in the event of disruptions caused by adverse weather. The Fire and Emergency Services Department was directed to ensure strategic positioning and operational readiness of fire tenders at vulnerable locations and make all necessary preparations for emergency response.

Fuel price hikes could add up to 48 bps to inflation, raise costs across economy: Report

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUN 3: Rising petrol and diesel prices are likely to exert significant inflationary pressure on the Indian economy, with higher transportation and manufacturing costs expected to push up both food and core inflation in the coming months, according to a report by CRISIL.

The report noted that retail petrol and diesel prices have increased by around Rs 7.5 per litre since May 15, and further hikes remain possible if global crude oil prices stay elevated. With oil marketing companies gradually reducing their under-recoveries, cumulative fuel price increases could approach Rs 10 per litre in the near term.

According to CRISIL's estimates, a Rs 7.5-per-litre increase in fuel prices could directly add around 36 basis points (bps) to Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation, while a Rs 10-per-litre increase could push the impact to nearly 48 bps.

The report highlighted that transport costs are a key transmission channel through which fuel



inflation spreads across the economy. Freight transport accounts for 54 per cent of India's logistics costs, while road transport carries nearly 71 per cent of the country's freight movement. Fuel constitutes about 42 per cent of road transportation costs, making the sector particularly vulnerable to rising fuel prices.

Food inflation is expected to face upward pressure as higher transportation costs coincide with a low base effect. Products such as dairy items, tea, coffee, fruits, pulses, spices, eggs, meat, and fish

are likely to witness stronger price pass-through due to their higher transport intensity.

Core inflation could also accelerate as transport-intensive sectors such as clothing, electronics, wood products, and housing-related construction materials, including cement and ceramics, face rising logistics expenses. Manufacturing industries reliant on mining products and chemicals may experience additional input cost pressures, the report said.

CRISIL observed that manufacturers may increasingly pass

on higher costs to consumers to safeguard profit margins. In some cases, companies could resort to "shrinkflation" by reducing product quantities while maintaining existing prices.

The report, however, noted that the GST rationalisation announced in September 2025, which reduced tax rates on several mass-consumption products including electronics, automobiles, clothing, fast-moving consumer goods, and processed foods, could provide a partial offset to inflationary pressures stemming from higher energy costs.

Despite the emerging risks, CRISIL expects CPI inflation to remain below the Reserve Bank of India's upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent, although it may move higher from current levels. The report said the Reserve Bank of India is likely to look through the immediate supply-side impact of fuel prices while closely monitoring the possibility of broader inflation spillovers and the effects of a potentially below-normal monsoon and evolving El Niño conditions on food prices. UNI

South Korea's stock market overtakes India as world's sixth-largest

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUN 3: After Taiwan, South Korea's stock market has now overtaken India's to become the world's sixth-largest. The surge was driven by a relentless surge in chip heavyweights powering the global artificial intelligence buildout.

According to the data, the total market capitalisation of Korea-listed companies has soared 86 per cent this year to \$5 trillion. In contrast, India's market capitalisation has declined to \$4.8 trillion.

In the South Korean Market, Samsung Electronics Co. and SK Hynix Inc., newly minted members of the \$1 trillion valuation club, have led the surge in Korean equities.

Apart from AI-related gains, the Korean stock market has also benefited from President Lee Jae Myung's push for corporate reforms. Earlier, Taiwan's stock market overtook India's in terms of valuation to become the fifth-largest in the world. The rally was primarily driven by the world's largest chipmaker, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC).

Taiwan's market capitalisation climbed to \$4.95 trillion while India's

value has dropped to \$4.92 trillion. Taiwan's stock market is now behind only the US, mainland China, Japan, and Hong Kong.

The surge reflects strong investor confidence in Taiwan's semiconductor ecosystem.

TSMC now accounts for about 42 per cent of the benchmark index, representing intense market concentration. TSMC's shares have rallied 49 per cent this year as it has benefited from the Artificial Intelligence (AI) trade, in which its semiconductor has a dominant market position.

The surge in the market value highlights intense optimism in AI. This is triggering a global rally in tech shares, disproportionately benefiting manufacturing hubs such as Taiwan and South Korea.

Taiwan has also recently come up with new regulations which are favouring TSMC. Taiwan's financial regulator has increased the limit that domestic funds can invest in a single stock.

Funds that invest solely in Taiwanese stocks can hold up to 25 per cent of their net assets in any listed company whose weighting exceeds 10 per cent in the Taiwan Stock Exchange, up from a previous limit of 10 per cent, the new regulation said. UNI

Vizhinjam Port creates history, crosses 1.30 lakh TEUs in single month

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JUNE 3: Continuing its remarkable growth trajectory, the deep-water transshipment hub at Vizhinjam International Seaport has achieved yet another significant milestone by registering its highest-ever monthly container throughput since commencing operations.

For the first time, the port crossed the 1.30 lakh TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit) mark in a single month, handling 1,30,863 TEUs during May 2026, reflecting a steady rise in cargo volumes and strengthening its position as a major maritime gateway in the region.

The achievement surpasses the port's previous monthly throughput record of 1.23 lakh



TEUs, which was registered in January 2026, underscoring the growing confidence of global

shipping lines in Vizhinjam's capabilities and strategic location along one of the world's

busiest international shipping routes.

During May 2026, the port handled a total of 55 vessels, maintaining a high-level of operational efficiency. The port also recorded a Gross Crane Ratio of more than 30 moves per hour, indicating strong productivity and swift turnaround of container vessels.

The latest figures further highlight the rapid progress made by Vizhinjam since the start of commercial operations. From July 11, 2024, to May 31, 2026, the port handled a cumulative 961 vessels and processed 20,18,205 TEUs, a landmark achievement that reflects its emergence as a key transshipment and logistics hub for the Indian subcontinent.

The record-breaking perfor-

mance comes amid increasing vessel calls and container traffic at the port, which has been steadily expanding its footprint in international maritime trade.

Industry observers view the sustained growth as a testament to Vizhinjam's deep draft, state-of-the-art infrastructure, advanced cargo-handling systems, and its ability to accommodate some of the world's largest container ships.

With monthly throughput continuing to set new benchmarks, Vizhinjam is rapidly consolidating its role in India's maritime sector and is expected to play an increasingly important part in reducing the country's dependence on foreign transshipment ports while boosting its global shipping connectivity. UNI

Stock Markets end in green amid easing crude prices

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUN 3: The Indian Stock Markets on Tuesday pared early losses and staged a sharp recovery. The markets were in green due to various reasons, including value buying and easing crude prices.



At close, Sensex was 382.50 points or 0.52 per cent higher at 74,649.84, while Nifty ended 100.95 points or 0.43 per cent higher at 23,483.55. About 2,222 shares advanced, 1,803 shares declined, and 165 shares were unchanged.

Benchmark Sensex surged 800 points from the day's low, and Nifty reclaimed the 23,450-mark. The volatility index, India VIX, eased 7 per cent to 15.36, which indicates buyers are finding comfort to buy at these levels.

Brent crude prices fell marginally by 1.6 per cent to trade at USD 93.47.

The top contributors were Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, and HCL Technologies.

On Nifty, TCS, Infosys, HCL Technologies, Adani Enterprises, and Wipro were among the top gainers, while NTPC led the losers with a 3 per cent decline, and Axis Bank, Power Grid, HDFC Life, Dr Reddy's Labs, and Bajaj Auto were among other stocks that closed 1-1.7 per cent lower.

Investor focus has shifted to key macro factors, including monsoon progress, inflation trends, RBI policy, and liquidity conditions.

Shares of ICICI Bank, Reliance Industries, and Bharti Airtel came off lows.

Rupee traded weaker near 95.26, down around 0.35 per cent, due to the sharp rise in crude oil prices.

Markets will closely track the RBI policy outcome, along with key US economic data.

TVS register highest ever sales of 5.67 lakh units in May

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHENNAI, JUNE 3: TVS Motor Company has recorded highest ever monthly sales of 566,585 units in May 2026 with a growth of 31% as against 431,275 units in May 2025.

Total two-wheelers registered a growth of 31% with sales increasing from 416,166 units in May 2025 to 543,111 units in May 2026. Domestic two-wheeler registered growth of 24% with sales increasing from 309,287 units in May 2025 to 384,565



units in May 2026.

Motorcycle registered a growth of 30% with sales increasing from 211,505 units in May 2025 to 273,802 units in May 2026. Scooter registered a growth of 32% with sales increasing from 166,749 units in May 2025 to 220,740 units in May 2026.

EV registered a growth of 56% with sales increasing from 27,976 units in May 2025 to 43,632 units in May 2026.

The company's total International Business sales registered a growth of 49% increasing from 118,437 units in May 2025 to 175,991 units in May 2026. Two-wheeler sales registered a growth of 48% with sales increasing from 106,879 units in May 2025 to 158,546 units in May 2026.

Three-wheeler registered a growth of 55% with sales increasing from 15,109 units in May 2025 to 23,474 units in May 2026. UNI

Vembu Technologies launches XDRShield, expands Cyber Resilience portfolio into extended detection and response

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHENNAI, JUNE 3: Vembu Technologies has announced the global launch of XDRShield, an extended detection and response (XDR) platform designed to help organisations detect, investigate, and respond to advanced cyber threats.

The platform is now generally available worldwide as a standalone offering, marking a strategic expansion of Vembu's portfolio beyond backup and recovery into proactive endpoint threat detection and operational response.

It enables IT and security teams to move from alert-driven monitoring to coordinated investigation and incident response, a company statement said here today.

Building on the momentum of BDRShield, Vembu's enterprise-grade backup and cyber resilience platform, XDRShield addresses a critical gap in how IT and security teams manage the threat lifecycle. Security operations today are characterised by high alert volumes, fragmented



workflows, and growing endpoint complexity, conditions that increase the time between detection and meaningful response.

XDRShield is designed to close that gap by providing centralised visibility across endpoints, correlating security and operational signals to surface suspicious activity early, and connecting investigation, response, and ac-

countability workflows within a single platform.

The platform is built for mid-market enterprises, lean IT security teams, and managed service providers (MSPs) that require practical detection and response capabilities without the cost and operational overhead associated with traditional SIEM or SOC-centric deployments. UNI

Essar-backed Mesabi Metallics sells half of royalty interest in \$265 mn deal to support expansion of Minnesota Iron Ore Project

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI, JUN 3: Mesabi Metallics Company LLC, backed by the Essar Group, has agreed to monetise 50 per cent of its royalty interest through a transaction with The Metals Royalty Company Inc (TMCR) valued at \$265 million.

The deal implies a valuation of more than \$500 million for Mesabi Metallics' royalty platform and marks another significant milestone for the Minnesota-based iron ore development

project.

Under the agreement, TMCR will acquire a 50 per cent royalty interest in two equal tranches worth \$132.5 million each. The first tranche was completed on June 1, 2026, while the second is expected to close within the next 60 days. Company officials said that the majority of the proceeds will be utilised to support the future growth and development of Mesabi Metallics.

The transaction highlights the scale and strategic signifi-

cance of Mesabi Metallics' Direct Reduction (DR)-grade iron ore operation in Minnesota, which includes a mine, beneficiation plant and pellet facility. The project is expected to commence production in the third quarter of 2026 and is positioned to play an important role in strengthening North America's domestic supply of high-grade iron ore pellets.

Upon commencement of operations, Mesabi Metallics is expected to become one of the few major domestic producers

of merchant DR-grade iron ore pellets in North America.

These pellets serve as a critical raw material for electric arc furnace steelmaking. At present, the United States depends heavily on imports from Brazil and other countries to meet demand for such products. The company's output is expected to enhance domestic manufacturing competitiveness while supporting key sectors including infrastructure, automotive production, shipbuilding, defence and energy.

Mesabi Metallics is also expected to rank among the world's lowest-cost iron ore producers at start-up.

The anticipated cost advantage stems from the quality and scale of its ore reserves, modern processing facilities and its strategic location in the American Midwest. The company is designed to produce some of the highest-grade DR pellets available globally, positioning its products as a preferred feedstock for electric arc furnace steelmakers. UNI

Auqib, Yadav among net bowlers for Afghanistan Test

Among others are Gurjapneet Singh, Shivang Kumar, Saransh Jain and Zeeshan Ansari



■ **UNITED NEWS OF INDIA**

HUBBALLI: Auqib Nabi and Prince Yadav are among the six net bowlers who will help India prepare for their one-off Test against Afghanistan in New Chandigarh starting June 6.

The others are seamer Gurjapneet Singh and spinners Shivang Kumar, Saransh Jain and Zeeshan Ansari.

Prince is part of the ODI squad for the three-match series following the Test, while Nabi was a strong contender for the Test squad after his impressive performances for Jammu and Kashmir in the last couple of seasons, especially in their maiden Ranji Trophy triumph earlier this year. He was the leading wicket-taker, taking 60 wickets at an average of 12.56, and was named the Player of the Tournament. But he failed to make the cut as the selectors picked only three seamers, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna and Gurnoor Brar.

"You do not necessarily pick a lot of seamers when you pick a Test team in India," chief selector Ajit Agarkar said at the time. "And he was close. But at this point, we have gone with the three that we have picked."

This is only the second Test between India and Afghanistan. The other was back in 2018 in Bengaluru, Afghanistan's inaugural Test, which ended in a victory for the hosts by an innings and 262 runs inside two days.

Too good to overlook, Robinson braces for third and final Test chance

■ **UNITED NEWS OF INDIA**

OVAL: It was on this day in 2021 that Ollie Robinson made his Test debut, against New Zealand at Lord's. That his family could only watch his cap presentation from behind the advertising boards due to Covid-19 protocols underlines just how long ago that was.

On Thursday, against the same opponents, at the same venue, Robinson will likely restart a 20-Test career that was paused two years ago.

His journey resumes after missing England's last 24 matches, the last five of which in Australia have, ultimately, re-opened a previously closed door. And, just like the high-power incumbents who have softened their stance towards him, this will be Robinson's third attempt to make good on the promise he has shown at Test level. Rob Key, Brendon McCullum and Ben Stokes all survived the review into England's 4-1 Ashes defeat. Having come together in 2022 and refreshed their team at the start of 2024, they have been blessed with a chance to go again. For that triumvirate, and Robinson, this really is a third and final shot at the big time.

Robinson's England story so far is complex. Amid a tangle of real concerns about his fitness, and off-record whispers about a player who is unwilling to make up the difference, he remains a supremely gifted seamer whose 76 Test dismissals at 22.92 already have him tagged as one of the format's many "what if" cricketers. Working backwards seems the best way to unpick all of that.

As captain of a resurgent Sussex this summer, Robinson's 18 dismissals at 26.27 have, in McCullum's words, "banged the door down like we asked him to do". Both McCullum and Key exchanged messages with Robinson at the start of the season to let him know he remained in their thoughts, after discarding him at the end of the India tour in 2024.

The feedback from those around Robinson, McCullum says, has been enough to convince them they are dealing with a changed person. The armband has brought Robinson extra responsibility which he seems to be wearing well. He has bowled the most overs for Sussex in their first six games and attends optional training sessions to lead by example. The latter, by his own admission, is a change from the norm.

Earlier this year, Sussex head coach Paul Farbrace - also Robinson's step-father - rang some alarm bells when he omitted Robinson from his preferred Test XI in a video put out by the county. Ahead of the release, however, Farbrace explained to Robinson that it was tongue-in-cheek, and motivated by wanting him to stay put at Hove. England, however, felt they needed Robinson more, picking him in their 15-player squad ahead of Essex's Sam Cook.

Part of the debrief of the winter's travails centred around England's bowling attack. While Key has since insisted that, with a bit more experience, the attack that contested the Ashes has huge potential, they currently lack a focal point who can set the tone with the new ball, as well as a confrontational edge. Jofra Archer, Brydon Carse and Josh Tongue offered both intermittently, but Gus Atkinson and Matthew Potts wilted in Australia.

Melbourne Stars and Renegades set to merge, second franchise to be sold in full

■ **UNITED NEWS OF INDIA**

MELBOURNE: Melbourne Stars and Melbourne Renegades will merge under a new name this season after Cricket Victoria's (CV) board confirmed they would sell their second Big Bash franchise license in full to a private investor as soon as Cricket Australia (CA) invite privatisation into the competition. Renegades are set to play under a caretaker administration in 2026-27 if prospective private owners can't take over ahead of the proposed W/BBL privatisation model coming into existence in 2027-28.

SEN first reported that staff of both clubs were informed at CV's headquarters on Tuesday that the administrations of Stars and Renegades would merge into one entity across the WBBL and BBL ahead of the 2026-27 season. ESPNcricinfo understands players were later told via individual phone calls but with them spread across the world the news spread to the media ahead of some players being informed.

Stars' name and colours will cease to exist, with a new nickname and colours to be worn by the team who will also remain at the MCG. The nickname is yet to be determined by the CV board but the plan is to have a team united by Victoria's navy blue state colours for next season.

The merged team will be run by current Renegades general manager James Rosengarten but the current Stars WBBL and BBL contracted players will remain with that team for the 2026-27 season.

If a full sale is not completed in time for the 2026-27 season, Renegades will play under their existing name and colours with their current playing list but run by a caretaker administration that will be led by current Stars general manager Max Abbott.

Renegades are currently coached by Cameron White but they do not have a women's coach for next season after Simon Helmot departed to join Gulf Giants in the ILT20. The coaching structures of both the merged



team and the second franchise are still to be worked through.

However, there is a chance that the caretaker administration is not needed by the start of the WBBL season in five months time if CV is able to sell the franchise. CA is expected to approve the next phase of a hybrid BBL privatisation model at a state chairs meeting in mid-June. It's under-

stood the entire process could take as little as two months to be completed and the new owners could be in control ahead of the next season provided CA approve it. CV selling the entire Renegades franchise would follow the model of English county Yorkshire when they sold their Hundred franchise to IPL conglomerate Sun Group. Yorkshire

no longer has anything to do with Sunrisers Leeds with the only connection being that they play at Headingley.

Once the market is tested, and CA approve the sale, a bidding process will be set up for the current Renegades franchise license and the winning bidder will own the club outright and take complete control of it. The new owners would be able to take control of all the operations and could rename the club in the way that Sun Group renamed Northern Superchargers to Sunrisers Leeds.

The new owners would control every aspect of the team, from commercial operations to list management. However, there will be complications with player contracts as some players are contracted to Renegades for the next two seasons and those will be subject to a renegotiated MoU between the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) and CA that needs to be ironed out before the sales process can go ahead.

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