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Expedite Heritage Restoration While Ensuring Quality: Manoj Sinha

LG Reviews Progress of Mubarak Mandi Conservation Projects, Inspects Temple Restoration Works

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JUNE 8: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday directed officials to expedite the restoration and conservation works at the historic Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex while ensuring that the highest standards of quality are maintained in all ongoing projects.

During a visit to the heritage complex, the Lieutenant Governor reviewed the progress of various conservation and development initiatives aimed at preserving one of the region's most significant historical landmarks. He was accompanied by senior civil and police officials, including MLA Jammu East Yudhvir

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Pilgrim Safety Must Remain the Highest Priority: IGP Kashmir

Security, surveillance and emergency preparedness reviewed for Amarnath Yatra and Muharram across Kashmir Valley

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JUNE 8: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir, V. K. Birdi, on Monday directed police officers to place pilgrim safety at the forefront of all security and operational planning for the forthcoming Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2026, while also ensuring peaceful Muharram observances across the Kashmir Valley.

Chairing a high-level review meeting at the Police Control Room (PCR) Kashmir, Birdi assessed the security framework, logistical arrangements and district-wise preparedness plans for the annual pilgrimage and the upcoming religious observances. Senior police officers from across the Valley, including Range Deputy Inspectors General and district police chiefs, attended the



meeting. The IGP reviewed detailed presentations on security deployments, route management, surveillance measures and emergency response plans designed to ensure the smooth conduct of the Amarnath Yatra. He stressed the need for

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Defence Secy Reviews Operational Preparedness In Leh Sector

HT News Network / Agencies

LEH/JAMMU, JUN 8: Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh has visited the forward areas along the Indo-Pak and Sino-Indian borders in the Leh Sector and reviewed the operational preparedness, border infrastructure and logistical sustainability of troops in Ladakh.

During visits to forward areas in eastern Ladakh, including base camp and northern glacier, Singh interacted with troops and commended their unwavering dedication, courage and professionalism in safeguarding the nation's security under the most challenging conditions.

"Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh visited Leh Sector from June 5-7, 2026, reviewing operational preparedness, border infrastructure and logistical sustainability with senior military commanders at HQ 14 Corps", PRO Defence said on X.

As per the reports, he held detailed discussions with senior military commanders at the headquarters of the Fire and Fury Corps on the prevailing

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Omar Abdullah Seeks United Opposition Support for J&K Statehood Restoration

National Conference plans Delhi protest during Parliament session

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUNE 8: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday appealed to opposition parties to join the National Conference's proposed protest in New Delhi demanding the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, placing the issue prominently before leaders of the INDIA bloc during a key meeting in the

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Govt Reiterates Commitment to Welfare and Dignity of Kashmiri Migrants

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 8: Reaffirming its commitment to the welfare, dignity and improved living conditions of Kashmiri migrants, the Jammu and Kashmir Government has sanctioned infrastructure projects worth Rs. 7.05 crore for strengthening facilities and support services for migrant families residing in Jammu.

The projects, approved under the Capital Expenditure Budget, include the construction of a Multipurpose Community Hall at the Muthi Migrant Camp in

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Multi-Layer Security Net Planned for Safety of Amarnath Pilgrims In Kathua

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, JUN 8: As thousands of pilgrims gear up for the annual pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high Amarnath cave shrine next month, police in Kathua have activated a multi-layered security grid, blending drone surveillance, highway domination and intensified ground-level checks along the yatra route. At a security-review-cum-coor-

dination meeting at district police lines Kathua on Monday, Senior Superintendent of Police Mohita Sharma directed officers to maintain maximum alertness and leave no room for complacency during the 57-day yatra which is starting on July 3.

The meeting brought together officers from the police, Army, BSF, CRPF and intelligence agencies to

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Centre, J&K Committed to Expanding Access to Quality Education: Pradhan

Union Minister reviews education initiatives with Sakina Itoo

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUNE 8: Reaffirming the Centre's commitment to strengthening the education sector in Jammu and Kashmir, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday said that the Central Government and the Jammu and Kashmir administration remain dedicated to expanding



CS Reviews Migrant Rehabilitation Measures in J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 08: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting to review and address various issues pertaining to PM Package employees serving in the Kashmir Division, with a focus on



transit accommodation, career progression, rehabilitation measures and welfare initiatives for displaced communities. The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Additional Chief Secretary, Public

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CS REVIEWS CENSUS 2027 HOUSE LISTING PROGRESS

SRINAGAR, JUNE 08: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting of the UT

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Kashmir records heavy tourist footfall in early June

Over 6 lakh tourists visit Valley in first 5-months of 2026

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUN 08: Kashmir witnessed a heavy tourist rush during the first week of June this year with stakeholders exuding hope that Valley could record one of its highest tourist arrivals this year amid improved connectivity and growing footfall at both established and offbeat destinations.

According to official data accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), more than six lakh tourists have visited Jammu and Kashmir so far this year.

Officials attributed the increase in

tourist arrivals to improved mobility and easier access to the Valley through road, rail and air connectivity.

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway via Banihal continued to witness the highest tourist movement, while rail travel registered a significant increase this year.

The recently launched Jammu-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express has further strengthened connectivity between the two regions, tourism officials said.

"We are witnessing encouraging tourist arrivals across destinations in Kashmir. The response during the first

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Expedite Heritage.....

Sethi and Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo. A key focus of the visit was the restoration of the historic Gadadhar Ji Temple, where repair work has been undertaken following damage to a wall and slab adjacent to the heritage complex. Inspecting the site, Mr. Sinha instructed officials to accelerate the restoration process without compromising the quality and authenticity of the conservation work.

The Lieutenant Governor was also briefed on the construction of a ramp-based multi-level parking facility being developed within the heritage complex. Officials informed him about the progress of the project, which is expected to improve accessibility and visitor facilities.

Later, Mr. Sinha visited the newly opened library-cum-cafeteria and reviewed the status of ongoing restoration and renovation works being carried out across the complex. Officials of the Mubarak Mandi Jammu Heritage Society informed him that several major conservation projects are progressing steadily.

These include the restoration of the historic Darbar Hall, Raja Ram Singh Palace, Raja Amar Singh Palace and the Dogra Art Museum. The projects form part of a larger effort to preserve and revitalize the heritage complex, with several works expected to be completed in the coming months.

The visit underscored the administration's continued focus on safeguarding Jammu and Kashmir's architectural heritage while enhancing the cultural and tourism potential of the landmark site.

Pilgrim Safety.....

strict adherence to Standard Operating Procedures and seamless coordination among security agencies and the civil administration.

Calling for a proactive security approach, Birdi instructed officers to remain prepared for any contingency, including operational challenges, adverse weather conditions and other unforeseen situations. He emphasized that a coordinated response mechanism would be essential for addressing any emergency during the pilgrimage period.

Highlighting the importance of safeguarding pilgrims, the IGP reviewed deployment plans for Road Opening Parties and directed officers to enhance surveillance, intensify monitoring of highways and vulnerable stretches, and maintain a strong security presence along the Yatra routes.

He also ordered the strengthening of night-time security arrangements and directed officers to conduct mock drills to evaluate preparedness and improve operational efficiency wherever required.

The meeting reviewed arrangements at transit and accommodation facilities for pilgrims, with the IGP directing officers to ensure adequate security personnel and surveillance systems at all key locations to facilitate safe movement and rapid emergency response.

Attention was also focused on preparations for Muharram observances across the Valley. Birdi directed officers to ensure effective traffic management, maintain close coordination with organizers and work in collaboration with the civil administration to facilitate the peaceful conduct of religious processions.

Senior officers were instructed to remain vigilant and make all necessary arrangements to ensure public safety and convenience during both events.

Concluding the meeting, the IGP called upon officers to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, coordination and alertness to ensure the successful and peaceful conduct of the Amarnath Yatra and Muharram observances across Kashmir.

Omar Abdullah.....

national capital. The National Conference (NC) said Abdullah invited all constituents of the opposition alliance to participate in the planned demonstration, which is scheduled to coincide with the opening day of Parliament's forthcoming Monsoon Session.

Addressing the meeting of INDIA bloc leaders at the Constitution Club, Abdullah informed participants about the party's plans and said formal invitations would also be sent to alliance partners seeking their support for the campaign.

The proposed protest is aimed at pressing for the immediate restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, which was reorganised in August 2019 and divided into the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The NC's decision to stage a protest in New Delhi comes amid renewed political focus on the statehood issue and growing demands for constitutional safeguards and greater democratic representation in the region.

During the meeting, Abdullah also urged opposition parties to maintain unity and begin preparing collectively for the 2029 Lok Sabha elections. He stressed the importance of cooperation among alliance partners and described the Congress as a key force in holding the opposition coalition together.

The INDIA bloc meeting deliberated on a range of political and public issues, including concerns over the Special Intensive Revision exercise and alleged electoral irregularities. Opposition leaders decided to write to the

Chief Justice of India on the matter and unanimously demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the ongoing NEET-CBSE controversy.

The alliance also agreed to strengthen coordination among its member parties by holding meetings every two months. The next meeting is scheduled to take place in Hyderabad in August, ahead of the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

The gathering was attended by senior opposition leaders, including Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, Mamata Banerjee, Abhishek Banerjee, Akhilesh Yadav, Tejashwi Yadav, Mehbooba Mufti and representatives of Left parties.

Abdullah's appeal marks a significant effort by the National Conference to build broader political support for its demand for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood, an issue that remains central to the region's political discourse.

Govt Reiterates.....

Jammu. The facility will house a library and dedicated spaces for Self-Help Groups, providing opportunities for community activities, learning and income-generating initiatives.

Officials said the project is intended to strengthen community engagement, expand livelihood opportunities and improve social support systems within the migrant settlement.

The government has also approved the construction of a new office building for the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants), Jammu. The facility is expected to enhance administrative efficiency and improve the delivery of welfare programmes and services for migrant families.

According to officials, the sanctioned works have a technically vetted cost of Rs. 7.05 crore and will be executed under the regular capital budget in accordance with established financial norms and procedural requirements.

The latest approvals reflect the administration's continued focus on infrastructure development and institutional strengthening to ensure better living conditions and more effective public services for Kashmiri migrants. Government officials said the initiatives are aimed at creating stronger community support structures while improving access to welfare and rehabilitation measures.

Defence Secy.....

security situation and measures aimed at enhancing operational readiness.

During the visit of the secretary, Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma also visited the forward areas in the Ladakh sector on Saturday and reviewed the prevailing security situation and operational preparedness of troops.

During the visit, Sharma was briefed on the operational readiness, border management measures and ongoing capability enhancement initiatives aimed at strengthening the Army's defensive posture in the region, the officials said.

The Army Commander took stock of the overall security environment and assessed the preparedness of formations operating in the challenging highaltitude terrain.

He also reviewed various measures being undertaken to enhance operational capabilities and maintain a high level of vigilance along the border. (Agencies)

Multi-Layer.....

fine-tune a coordinated security strategy aimed at ensuring foolproof arrangements without compromising pilgrim convenience, a police spokesman said.

Giving a comprehensive presentation on the yatra's security architecture including surveillance, convoy management, QRT deployment and emergency response preparedness, the SSP emphasised on heightened vigilance, seamless coordination, strict compliance with security protocols and a pilgrimfriendly environment.

She directed the supervisory officers to strengthen security arrangements through regular inspection of Langars, lodgement centres, and other yatra-related facilities, while maintaining close surveillance over suspicious movements and anti-national elements.

Officers present at the meeting were also instructed to intensify intelligence generation, promptly share actionable inputs, and maintain close coordination with intelligence agencies and other stakeholders to ensure a robust and proactive security grid, a spokesperson said.

He said directions were issued to ensure security along the Border National Highway (NHW) and Railway Track with special focus on round-the-clock domination, checking points, and area domination patrols.

Emphasis was also laid on completing census and tenant verification drives along NHW, at hotels and dhabas, and among factory workers to rule out the presence of any anti-national elements in the vicinity of the Yatra route, the spokesperson said.

The Kathua SSP emphasised strengthening surveillance and response capabilities by intensifying drone-based monitoring, installation of X-Ray machines, and deploying Dog Squads for anti-sabotage checks at vital

installations, including Base Camp Lakhanpur and yatra locations, and ensuring the operational readiness of QRTs.

She also stressed seamless inter-agency coordination among police, CAPFs, civil administration, traffic police, health services, and other departments, with a focus on prompt information sharing, joint preparedness, and effective response to any exigency.

Officers were also directed to ensure effective management and security of yatra mini-convoys and to enhance CCTV coverage at all important Yatra locations with dedicated 24*7 monitoring.

Sharma reiterated the need for high operational readiness and coordinated efforts to ensure the safe, smooth, and successful conduct of the yatra.

Centre, J&K.....

access to quality education, enhancing employability and creating greater opportunities for students and young people across the Union Territory.

The assurance came during a high-level review meeting between Pradhan and Jammu and Kashmir Education Minister Sakina Itoo in New Delhi, where the two leaders discussed a range of issues related to school education, higher education and teacher training institutions.

The meeting focused on measures aimed at strengthening the education ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir, including improving teacher training programmes, developing educational institutions and promoting skill-based learning to better prepare students for employment opportunities.

Pradhan said the discussions also covered efforts to improve employability and expand opportunities for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir through closer coordination between the Centre and the Union Territory administration.

Reviewing the progress of ongoing education initiatives, the Union Minister noted encouraging improvements in enrolment levels and educational outcomes in the region, describing them as positive indicators of the impact of sustained policy interventions and institutional support.

He stressed that continued cooperation between the two governments would play a crucial role in ensuring that students have greater access to quality education and the skills required to meet future challenges.

According to officials, the meeting reviewed issues concerning teacher education institutions and assessed the implementation of various school and higher education programmes currently underway in Jammu and Kashmir.

The discussions reflected a shared commitment to strengthening educational infrastructure, improving learning standards and equipping young people with the knowledge and skills needed to contribute effectively to the region's development. (Agencies)

CS Reviews.....

Works Department; Principal Secretary, DMRR&R; Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs; Commissioner Secretary, Planning; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Secretary, Revenue; Secretary, Rural Development Department; Secretary, Transport; Relief Commissioner (Migrants); Chief Engineers of R&B Department; representatives of various departments and senior officers of DMRR&R.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took a detailed review of the transit accommodation infrastructure created for PM Package employees across different districts of Kashmir. Stressing the need for optimal utilization of the facilities, he directed that all completed flats be allotted and occupied at the earliest. He instructed the Relief Commissioner (Migrants) to ensure that all completed accommodations are taken over by the eligible employees by the end of July this year without fail.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the status of flats under construction at various sites. He further examined the status of allied infrastructure and utility services including electricity, drinking water supply, internal road connectivity, boundary walls and Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) to ensure that the colonies are fully functional and habitable.

The meeting also discussed plans for operation and maintenance (O&M) of the transit accommodations as well as migrant colonies in Jammu. Deliberations were held on creation of additional accommodation facilities in Jammu, with land identified at Purkhoo for expansion.

Reviewing the service-related issues of PM Package employees, the Chief Secretary took stock of matters concerning promotions, preparation of seniority lists and inter-district transfers within the Kashmir Division. Departments presented cadre-wise details of PM Package employees and informed the meeting about the status of Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) and related service matters.

Several other issues concerning the welfare and rehabilitation of displaced persons were also discussed. These included cases under the Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme (RAS) relating to deceased employees, provision of adequate budgetary support for operation and maintenance of migrant colonies by line

departments, and development of an integrated online portal for digitization of records of displaced communities including Kashmiri Pandits, West Pakistan Refugees (WPRs) and families displaced from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

The Principal Secretary, DMRR&R, Chandraker Bharti gave the meeting a comprehensive overview of the rehabilitation and resettlement initiatives being undertaken by the Department. He informed that the department has prepared a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for operation and maintenance of migrant colonies across Jammu and Kashmir divisions and that works would be taken up after completion of the requisite formalities.

He further apprised the meeting that the PoJK Bhawan at Suketar has achieved nearly 50 percent physical progress and is targeted for completion by January next year. He also informed that the Community Hall at Jagti has reached around 90 percent completion and is nearing completion.

Relief Commissioner (Migrants), Dr. Arvind Karwani, informed the meeting that out of the sanctioned 6,000 transit flats for PM Package employees, 4,648 flats have been completed while construction of the remaining 1,352 flats is in progress. He further stated that 3,257 flats have so far been allotted to eligible employees, including 532 allotments made since the last review held in March this year.

He also briefed the meeting on the status of allied works and utility services being developed to make all transit accommodation colonies fully ready for occupation and use by PM Package employees.

The Chief Secretary reiterated the Government's commitment towards ensuring dignified living conditions, timely resolution of service-related concerns and strengthening rehabilitation measures for displaced communities. He called upon all departments to work in close coordination for expeditious completion of pending works and prompt resolution of issues affecting PM Package employees and migrant families across Jammu and Kashmir.

CS Reviews.....

Level Census Coordination Committee (UTLCCC) to review the pace and progress of the ongoing House Listing Operations (HLO) being conducted as part of the first phase of the Census-2027 across the districts of J&K.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, PD&MD; Secretary, RDD and Director, Census Operations, J&K and Ladakh along with other concerned officers from Planning and Census Departments.

Divisional Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners attended the meeting through video conferencing.

During this meeting the Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of timely and accurate completion of the census exercise, describing it as a critical national activity that serves as the foundation for evidence-based planning and policy formulation.

He directed all Deputy Commissioners, District Census Officers and field functionaries to ensure full cooperation and coordination for achieving complete coverage of households and population groups across the UT. The Chief Secretary further enjoined upon the Planning Department to closely monitor the progress of the House Listing Operations on a daily basis and ensure their meticulous completion by June 30, 2026.

He emphasized the importance of maintaining the prescribed timelines and directed that all necessary support be extended to the field functionaries engaged in the exercise. He also advised that the staff deployed for the Census operations be retained in their present assignments until the successful and satisfactory completion of the exercise.

The Director Census Operations, J&K and Ladakh, Amit Sharma briefed the meeting about the pace and progress achieved till date. He divulged that extensive preparatory arrangements have been completed for the successful conduct of the House Listing and Housing Census (HLO) exercise across Jammu and Kashmir.

Sharma also presented a detailed review of field data collection activities, self-enumeration progress, formation of House Listing Blocks (HLBs), and arrangements for enumeration of migratory populations during the meeting.

He informed that a total of 23,887 House Listing Blocks (HLBs) have been created across 295 Census Charges in Jammu and Kashmir. Field operations have already commenced in 14,279 HLBs, with the enumeration process progressing steadily across districts, Sharma added.

The Chief Secretary also took note of

the significant achievement of Jammu and Kashmir in the Self-Enumeration component of the Census. It was revealed that the UT has secured the first position among all Union Territories and eighth position among States and Union Territories where self-enumeration has been completed so far.

It was given out that as on June 1, 2026, a total of 6.67 lakh households had successfully completed self-enumeration through the digital platform.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the special arrangements put in place for enumeration of migratory and transhumant populations. The meeting was informed that a comprehensive mechanism has been devised in coordination with the Forest, Tribal Affairs, Sheep Husbandry, Animal Husbandry, School Education Departments and district administrations to ensure 100 percent coverage of migratory communities during the HLO phase.

Detailed information regarding migratory routes, tribal hostels, mobile schools, sheep husbandry camps and other congregation points has been shared with all concerned districts.

Moreover it was highlighted that the district administrations were advised to adopt flexible strategies, including fixing special enumeration dates and creating additional House Listing Blocks wherever required, to ensure that no eligible household or population group is left out of the census exercise.

Chief Secretary directed officers to maintain close supervision over the remaining preparatory activities and ensure strict adherence to census guidelines and timelines. He underscored the legal provisions available under the Census Act, 1948, and urged all departments and local authorities to extend full assistance to census personnel in discharge of their duties.

He reiterated that the success of the Census exercise hinges upon the coordinated efforts of all departments, field functionaries and district administrations. He urged all stakeholders to discharge their responsibilities with utmost diligence, efficiency and accountability to ensure accurate and timely completion of the exercise.

Kashmir.....

week of June has been very good. We are hopeful that Jammu and Kashmir will record one of the highest tourist footfalls this year," a Tourism Department official said.

The official said tourist arrivals have remained steady despite the brief setback caused by the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

Popular tourist destinations including Gulmarg, Pahalgam and Sonamarg witnessed a large number of visitors during the week. Offbeat destinations such as Gurez, Doodhpathri, Bangus Valley, Lolab and Yusmarg also reported a significant increase in tourist arrivals.

Rahul Sharma, 32, a tourist from New Delhi, said improved rail connectivity had made travel to Kashmir easier.

"The Vande Bharat service has reduced travel time considerably. The journey was comfortable and convenient," he said.

Priya Mehta, 28, from Mumbai, said she was visiting Kashmir for the first time.

"We visited Gulmarg and Srinagar and are planning to travel to Gurez. The transport facilities have improved and travelling has become easier," she said.

Harpreet Singh, 35, from Punjab, said he chose Kashmir for a family vacation because of the improved connectivity.

"We travelled by train and road. It was a smooth journey and we are also visiting Doodhpathri and other places," he said. Tourism stakeholders said hotels, guest houses, houseboats and transport operators witnessed increased business during the first week of June. Advance bookings for the coming weeks also remain strong, they said.

Notably, Kashmir has been witnessing relatively cool and pleasant weather conditions in recent weeks, with daytime temperatures remaining significantly lower than those recorded in many parts of north, west and central India.

While several states, including Delhi, Rajasthan, Haryana and parts of Uttar Pradesh, have been experiencing heatwave conditions and soaring temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius, the Valley has continued to offer a respite from the intense summer heat.

Tourism stakeholders said the favourable weather has emerged as a major attraction for visitors seeking relief from the scorching conditions elsewhere in the country.

They said many tourists were opting for longer stays in Kashmir, particularly in destinations such as Gulmarg, Sonamarg, Pahalgam, Gurez and Doodhpathri, where temperatures remained comfortable (KNO)



DC Srinagar visits several Imambaras across City to take on spot assessment of arrangements for Muharram-ul-Haram

All line Departments directed to ensure seamless arrangements through coordinated efforts

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 08: In preparation for the forthcoming holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram 1448 Hijri, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, today undertook an extensive visit to various prominent Imambaras in the City, including Imambaras at Zadibal, Hasanabad Rainawari and Baghwanpora Lalbazar to take a firsthand appraisal of the arrangements being made for the smooth and peaceful observance of Muharram.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Aadil Fareed, Joint Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Nuzhat Khurshid, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer R&B, Shabir Ahmad, Superintending Engineer SMC, Sajad Kawasa, Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Tahir Sajad, Executive Engineers of R&B, KPDC, Water Works, and senior Officers from the Departments of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Social Welfare, Fire & Emergency Services, Forest and other line departments.

On the occasion, the DC passed several onspot directions to the line Departments and stressed on elaborate arrangements and

sustained efforts facilitating the observance of important proceedings & processions.

Regarding essential services, the DC instructed officers of the KPDC and Water Works Department to ensure uninterrupted electricity and drinking water supply. He directed the Executive Engineer Water Works to keep adequate arrangements for water tankers at locations where additional water supply may be required.

The DC asked the SMC and allied Departments to ensure all Street lights including High Mass lights around Imambaras are functional well before the start of the Holy month. He also stressed on ensuring cleanliness of lanes and drains inside the compounds of Imambaras, Shrines and roads enroute Procession routes. He also emphasized deployment of dog catching teams around key points.

The officers of the Health Department were asked to keep first aid facilities, Medical teams and Ambulances available in the areas and also accompany the processions to ensure immediate first aid/ medical treatment.

At Hasanabad Imambara, the DC took stock of similar arrangements and reiterated the importance of completing all works well in advance. He stressed that



every Department must work in close coordination to ensure that devotees and mourners face no difficulties during the observance

of Muharram. The DC also visited Imambara Baghwanpora, Lalbazar, where he again interacted with local

representatives and members of the community. He patiently listened to their concerns and developmental demands and issued on-the-spot directions to Officers of various Departments for prompt redressal of issues raised.

At Zadibal Imambara, the DC held a detailed interaction with the local community representatives to have first-hand feedback of the arrangements to be put in place during the Holy Month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

He directed the concerned departments to ensure adequate sanitation, lighting, water supply, and other essential services around the shrine premises.

During all visits, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of coordination between the Administration and local committees for the seamless conduct of Muharram observances. He assured community representatives that the District Administration would continue to monitor preparations closely and ensure that all necessary arrangements are completed within the stipulated time-frame.

Meanwhile, the DC also discussed several long-term measures being taken by the Administration to address the major infrastructural requirements of the areas in a phased manner.

GDC Qazigund Hosts National Colloquium on Contemporary Environmental Issues and Sustainable Strategies

HT NEWS NETWORK

QAZIGUND, JUNE 8: As part of the celebrations marking World Environment Day, Government Degree College (GDC) Qazigund, through its Eco Club "College Green Corps," organized a National Colloquium on the theme "Contemporary Environmental Issues: Challenges and Strategies" in collaboration with the Environmental Foundation for Studies in Literature and Environment (EFSLE).

The event, the first national-level academic programme hosted by the college, brought together renowned academicians, researchers, environmentalists, students, and faculty members from across the country to deliberate on pressing environmental concerns and explore sustainable solutions. The programme also marked a significant milestone in the institution's efforts to strengthen academic collaborations and promote environmental awareness.

A number of distinguished scholars participated in the colloquium, including Dr. Shireen, President of EFSLE; Dr. Artikesh Kumar Singh, Professor at NCERT, New Delhi; Prof. Shoto Das, Member SSC Odisha and former Head of the Department of English, Midnapore University; Dr. Asha Tiwari, Associate Professor, Bharati College, University of Delhi; Dr. Satya Prakash, Head, Department of Geography, Mahatma Gandhi Government College, Mayabunder, Andaman and Nicobar Islands; Dr. Kiran Bananan, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, DSS; Dr. Ishaq Ahmad Shah, Head, Department of Education, GDC Qazigund; and Dr. Aishwarya Mandola, Clinical Psychologist, New Delhi.

Delivering the keynote address, Prof. Veda Sharan, former Professor of English and former Dean, School of Foreign Languages, University of Hyderabad, emphasized the need for an ecological approach to understanding human interaction with nature. He stated that environmental ethics should prioritize the health of entire ecosystems rather than merely serving human utility.

"Humanity must restore its relationship with nature in its original form if it is to effectively address environmental challenges arising from unchecked materialism and consumerism," he remarked.

In his special address, Principal of GDC Qazigund, Prof. Sudhir Singh, welcomed the distinguished guests and highlighted the urgency of addressing environmental degradation. He observed that culture and development often place immense pressure on nature, which responds through disasters such as floods, storms, and droughts.

"Our three greatest environmental challenges today are climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. These challenges are deeply interconnected. Only healthy forests can function as effective carbon sinks. Sustainable practices such as circularity, reuse, recycling, and waste reduction are essential for restoring ecological balance," he said.

Dr. Rashid, speaking on the psychological dimensions of environmental degradation, discussed how modern lifestyles have distanced human beings from nature. Referring to the concept of Tabula Rasa, he stressed the need to reconnect individuals with the natural world and cultivate environmental consciousness from an early stage.

He also highlighted the growing phenomenon of eco-anxiety, wherein individuals experience stress and psychological distress due to environmental crises, natural disasters, and climate-related uncertainties.

The programme commenced with a welcome address delivered by Dr. Khankah. Proceedings of the event were conducted by Prof. Nida K. Fatima, Head of the Department of English.

The post-lunch technical session was chaired by Prof. Shoto Das, who presented a thought-provoking paper titled "The Power of Storytelling: An Ecopsychological Investigation of Lauren Groff's Novel Vaster Wilds." He underlined the importance of integrating nature into human existence and fostering harmony between the inner self and the natural environment for the well-being of both human and non-human worlds.

Concluding his address, Prof. Das cited inspiring examples of environmental champions such as Wangari Maathai and India's "Forest Man" Jadav Payeng, noting that their efforts demonstrate how determined individuals can bring about meaningful environmental change and promote sustainability.

The colloquium featured expert presentations, interactive discussions, and active participation by students from neighbouring schools and the host institution, who engaged with the speakers on a range of environmental issues.

The vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Rameez Ahmad Shah, Coordinator of the College Green Corps. To mark the occasion, the guests also planted rose saplings in the college campus, reaffirming their commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable development.

Horse Skull Found in Drinking Water Spring in Rajouri's Kotranka; Locals Allege Negligence by Jal Shakti Dept

MS NAZKI

RAJOURI, JUNE 08: Residents of Ward No. 5 in Panchayat Halka Dhar, Kotranka sub-district, were shocked after a decomposed horse skull was found inside a spring that supplies drinking water to the area. Bagh Hussain, a local, said he went to the spring



as usual amid water shortage and discovered the skull after opening the lid. Former Sarpanch Ajaz Ahmed told HT that the spring feeds the water tank for Ward No. 5 of Panchayat Dhar.

Panchayat residents said they have submitted a written complaint to Padi Chowki and raised concerns that the water may have been contaminated.

They have approached the Jal Shakti Department, the District Development Commissioner Rajouri, and the police, demanding a thorough probe and action against department officials for alleged negligence.

2-Day Workshop on "Music and Theatre in Education" Concludes at GMS Showpora, Badgam

HT NEWS NETWORK

BADGAM, JUNE 08: A two-day educational workshop titled "Music and Theatre in Education: Learning Through Musical Instruments and Performing Arts" concluded successfully at Govt. Middle School Showpora, Badgam. The workshop was organized by Badshah Cultural Institute Wathora Chadoora, Badgam under the Guru-Shishya Parampara Repertory Grant Scheme of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India New Delhi. The workshop witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and school staff. The primary objective of the programme was to promote cultural education through music and theatre, while fostering creativity, self-confidence, and experiential learning among students. Headmistress of Govt. Middle School Showpora Fahmeeda Akhtar attended the workshop as the Chief Guest and appreciated the initiative for its educational and cultural significance. A major highlight of the workshop was the hands-on training conducted by folk artists associated with Badshah Cultural Institute. Students were introduced to traditional Kashmiri folk musical instruments, folk songs, and basic theatre techniques. Through live demonstra-



tions, cultural performances, and interactive sessions, participants gained valuable insights into the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir.

The workshop featured lectures on the educational importance of music and theatre, demonstrations of traditional musical instruments, theatre-based learning activities, and interactive question-and-answer sessions. Students showed keen interest and actively participated in all activities. Speaking on the occasion, Younis Majeed Rather Director and

Secretary of Badshah Cultural Institute, expressed gratitude to the school administration, teachers, and students for their cooperation and participation. He emphasized the importance of preserving traditional arts and integrating them into the educational system to ensure their continuity for future generations. At the conclusion of the workshop, students and teachers appreciated the initiative and stressed the need for organizing more such educational and cultural programmes in the future.

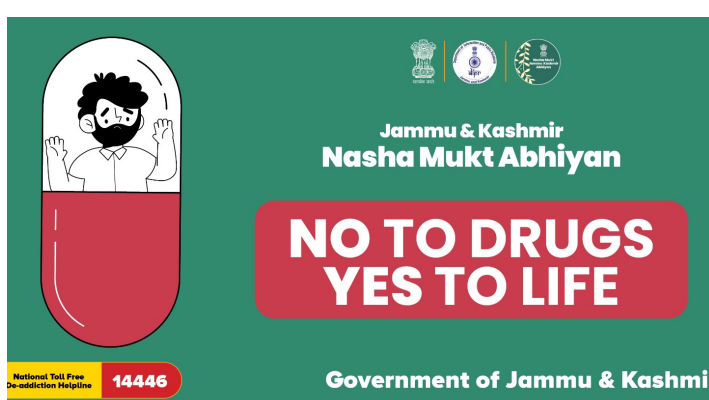
Sports key to steering youth away from drugs: ADGP Jain

Says Asian Games trials in Srinagar sending strong message; sporting events becoming important part of ongoing 'Nasha Mukti Abhiyan'

HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUN 08: Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Armed J&K, Anand Jain, on Monday said channelising the energy of youth towards sports and constructive activities is important to keep them away from drugs and other social evils.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the ongoing Asian Games selection trials at the Indoor Stadium Srinagar, ADGP Jain, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO),



said a large number of youngsters are participating in the trials, reflecting the growing attraction of youth towards

sports activities.

He said the sporting events are also becoming an important part of the ongoing "Nasha Mukti Abhiyan" aimed at creating awareness against drug abuse among youth.

"The national-level selection trials being held here are sending a positive message to society. Many new players have participated in the trials and it is encouraging to see youth gradually getting attracted towards sports," he said.

Jain said increasing participation of youth in sports and

other constructive activities would eventually help reduce the demand side of drug abuse.

"As the involvement of youth in sports activities increases, the tendency towards drugs will decrease. Youth should stay away from drugs and devote their lives to positive and constructive activities," he added. The ADGP said sports not only help maintain physical fitness but also play a vital role in discipline, confidence-building and personality development among youngsters—(KNO)

Javid Dar reviews Muharram arrangements in Sumbal, Budgam

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR JUNE 08: In view of the forthcoming observance of Muharram-ul-Harram 2026, Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Elections, Javid Ahmad Dar, today chaired separate review meetings in Sumbal Bandipora and Budgam districts to assess the preparedness of various departments and ensure seamless arrangements for the devotees during the holy month.

At Sumbal, the Minister took stock of the arrangements being put in place for the devotees across Sonawari and adjoining areas. The meeting was attended by MLA Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Indu Kanwal Chib, senior officers of the civil and police administration, heads of various departments, representatives of Shia organisations, civil society members and other stakeholders.

Deputy Commissioner Bandipora briefed the Minister regarding the measures being undertaken by the district administration for smooth, peaceful and hassle-free observance of Muharram. She informed the meeting about the arrangements related to power supply, drinking water, sanitation, healthcare, road connectivity, traffic management and public distribution services.

Representatives of various Shia organisations and associations projected several issues and requirements concerning essential services during the holy month.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to the concerns raised and directed the concerned departments to take immediate and necessary measures for their timely redressal.



Emphasising the religious significance of Muharram-ul-Harram and the administration's responsibility towards the public, Javid Dar underscored the need for close inter-departmental coordination to ensure that the devotees do not face any inconvenience during the observance. He instructed the officers to complete all necessary arrangements well in advance and maintain constant monitoring of the facilities being provided.

The Minister laid special emphasis on sanitation and cleanliness around Imambaras, religious congregational sites and procession routes. He directed

the Municipal authorities and the Rural Development Department to intensify cleanliness drives, ensure proper waste management and deploy adequate manpower and machinery throughout the Muharram period. He further instructed all the line departments to ensure uninterrupted delivery of essential services and maintain prompt response mechanisms to address the public grievance.

Reiterating the government's commitment towards facilitating the smooth conduct of religious events, the Minister assured that all genuine demands projected by the representatives

would be examined on priority and addressed in a time-bound manner.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone appreciated the efforts of the district administration and stressed the importance of co-ordinated action among all departments. He also appealed to the public to extend full cooperation in maintaining the sanctity, discipline and peaceful atmosphere associated with the observance of Muharram-ul-Harram.

Later, the Minister chaired a comprehensive review meeting in Budgam to assess the arrangements being put in place for the

smooth and peaceful observance of Muharram-ul-Harram across the district.

Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, briefed the Minister regarding the preparedness of the district administration. He informed that all necessary measures are being undertaken to ensure the smooth conduct of Muharram-related events and processions.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to ensure that all arrangements are completed well before the commencement of Muharram and that devotees are provided all requisite facilities. He stressed the importance of effective coordination among departments for efficient management of religious gatherings and processions.

Javid Dar emphasised that the government remains fully committed towards facilitating the smooth observance of Muharram while upholding peace, harmony and communal brotherhood. He instructed the officers to remain vigilant, responsive and accessible to the public so that any issues raised by organisers or local residents are addressed promptly and effectively.

The Minister also interacted with the representatives of Muharram committees and local stakeholders, who highlighted various requirements and suggestions regarding the arrangements. Assuring full cooperation from the government, he stated that all genuine concerns would be examined and addressed on priority to ensure a peaceful, dignified and smooth observance of Muharram-ul-Harram across the districts.

MLA, Chadoora, Ali Mohammad Dar, MLA Beerwah, Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani, MLA Khansahib, Advocate Saif Ud Din Bhat were present during the meeting.

DIPR's Cultural Unit organises Short Play at GBHSS Zainakote under 100-Day Nasha Mukht Abhiyan

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 08: As part of the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukht Abhiyan, the Cultural Unit Kashmir of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) today organised an impactful short play at Government Boys' Higher Secondary School (GBHSS), Zainakote, Srinagar, to raise awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse.



Through an engaging performance, the artists highlighted the devastating consequences of substance abuse on individuals, families and society. The play also focused on the measures being taken by the administration to curb the menace of drug addiction and promote a drug-free society.

The programme was attended by the students, who actively engaged with the awareness message conveyed through the performance.

The Principal and staff of the institution appreciated the DIPR for conducting such informative and awareness-oriented programmes among the youth. They emphasized the importance of sustained awareness campaigns in preventing drug abuse and encouraging healthy lifestyles among students.

The event forms part of the department's continued efforts to support the objectives of the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan through cultural and educational outreach initiatives across Kashmir.

MLA Devsar inaugurates Naib Tehsil Office at Nowbugh Kund; Lays Foundation Stone for Library

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, JUNE 08: MLA Devsar, Peerzada Feroze Ahmad, today inaugurated the newly constructed Naib Tehsil Office at Nowbugh Kund.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, along with district officers and local residents.

On the occasion, the MLA also laid the foundation stone of a library to be established under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

The library aims to promote a culture of reading and learning by providing students and youth with a dedicated educational and reading space.

Later, the MLA, accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner and senior officers, visited Waleengoo Ziyarat Sharif and reviewed the progress of ongoing developmental works being executed at



the revered shrine.

During the visit, he directed the concerned agencies to ensure the timely completion of the project and emphasized the importance of maintaining quality standards in all developmental works.

The MLA also visited the Berigam water canal near the Migrant Colony in Chowgam to assess the irrigation water shortage being faced by local farmers.

During the visit, residents apprised him of the difficulties arising from the inadequate availability of irrigation water.

He assured them that the issue would be addressed on priority and directed the concerned departments to take necessary measures for restoring water supply at the earliest to support agricultural activities in the area.

Agriculture Department organises awareness camp under 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' at Shopian

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, JUNE 08: Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shopian, in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Shopian today organized one-day awareness programme under the month-long national flagship campaign "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" at the Auditorium Hall of Government Degree College, Shopian.

Month-long national flagship programme "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" was launched on June 1, 2026 and will continue until June 30, 2026, with the objective of promoting soil conservation, sustainable agriculture, and improved farmer awareness across the district.

The programme was presided over by Agri-Chemist, Ravinder Kumar Tripathi and

attended by officers from the Agriculture Department, allied departments, KVK Shopian, and a large number of farmers from across the district.

Addressing the gathering, Ravinder Kumar Tripathi highlighted the significance of the month-long campaign and stated that the Agriculture Department is conducting awareness programmes throughout the district to encourage sustainable farming practices and strengthen soil health management. He emphasized the need for the judicious use of pesticides and fertilizers to maintain ecological balance, enhance soil fertility, and ensure long-term agricultural sustainability.

During the programme, experts provided detailed guidance on the scientific and balanced



use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers, stressing the importance of minimizing excessive chemical applications to protect public health and the environment.

Farmers were encouraged to adopt eco-friendly and soil-friendly agricultural practices that contribute to sustainable crop production and environmental conservation.

The awareness session also

focused on the promotion of integrated nutrient management, responsible pesticide usage, soil health improvement, and conservation-oriented farming practices.

Experts explained that sustainable agricultural practices help improve soil structure, enhance nutrient availability, reduce environmental pollution, and ensure better productivity over the long term.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from farmers and other agricultural stakeholders, who actively interacted with experts and expressed their commitment to adopting sustainable and soil-friendly farming practices in their fields.

Participants pledged to disseminate awareness regarding soil health management and responsible input use among fellow farmers for the benefit of future generations.

Among others present on the occasion were Prof. Zaffar Afroz Badri, Head, KVK Shopian; Rafiq Ahmad, Chief Agriculture Officer, Munner Ahmad, Chief Horticulture Officer; Gh. Mohiuddin, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer; and officers and officials from various line departments.

DC Kulgam distributes Motorized Tricycles among Persons with Disabilities

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, JUNE 08: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today distributed motorized tricycles among five persons with disabilities at the Mini-Secretariat, Kulgam.

The distribution camp was organized by the Social Welfare Department, Kulgam, as part of its ongoing efforts to empower persons with disabilities and enhance their mobility and independence.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the importance of ensuring equal opportunities and dignity for persons with disabilities. He stated that the provision of assistive devices such as motorized tricycles not only improves mobility but also strengthens confidence, self-reliance, and social inclusion among beneficiaries.



District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Kulgam, Rameez Ahmad, along with other concerned officials were present during the distribution programme.

Food Safety Department Shopian intensifies enforcement drive at Heerpora

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, JUNE 08: As part of its ongoing efforts to ensure food safety and hygiene standards, the Food Safety Department Shopian, in coordination with Police, conducted a comprehensive inspection drive in the Heerpora area of the district today.

During the inspection, various Food Business Operators (FBOs) were checked for compliance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act and Regulations.

The inspection team scrutinized food handling practices, sanitation levels, storage conditions and overall hygiene maintained at food establishments.

The team observed deficiencies in sanitary and hygienic conditions at several establishments. Consequently, five Food Business Operators (FBOs)

were recommended for action under Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards Act for violations detected during the inspection.

The concerned FBOs were also strictly warned to improve cleanliness, maintain proper sanitation and adhere to prescribed food safety norms to safeguard public health.

They were advised to ensure hygienic handling and storage of food items and to comply with all regulatory requirements.

The Food Safety Department in the district is protecting consumer health and stated that such inspection drives will continue across the district to ensure the availability of safe and wholesome food to the public. Citizens were also urged to report any instances of food adulteration or unhygienic food practices to the department for prompt action.

Div Com Kashmir reviews Flood Mitigation Preparedness, Disaster Management Readiness across Districts

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 08: In view of the impending monsoon season, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Monday convened a high-level meeting with Deputy Commissioners of the Valley to review flood mitigation measures, disaster preparedness, and the status of emergency response infrastructure across the region.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, senior officers from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), the Irrigation Department, and the Assistant Commissioner Central.

During the review, the Divisional Commissioner assessed the preparedness of districts with regard to updating the India Disaster Resource Network (IDRN) inventory, formulation of contingency plans, availability of rescue shelters, identification of flood-prone villages and low-lying areas, network shadow zones, and the availability of satellite communication sets with field officers. He also reviewed district-wise data on operational helipads, boats, dewatering pumps, awareness programmes, and mock drills conducted to enhance disaster response capabilities.

Emphasising the need for



proactive preparedness, the Divisional Commissioner directed all Deputy Commissioners to replenish critical resources and ensure timely updating of the IDRN portal with details of

rescue equipment and other essential resources.

He further underscored the importance of round-the-clock functioning of District Emergency Operation Centres and

instructed district administrations to formulate comprehensive contingency plans to facilitate swift rescue operations and effective flood mitigation during emergencies.

To strengthen inter-agency coordination, he directed the district administrations to share the geographical coordinates of all operational helipads with the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), SDRF, Police, and the Army.

Special instructions were issued to the district administrations of Ganderbal and Anantnag to undertake Yatra-specific disaster management preparations to ensure the safety and security of pilgrims during the forthcoming pilgrimage season.

The Divisional Commissioner also instructed the Deputy Commissioner Baramulla to facilitate the allotment of land for the establishment of a permanent SDRF deployment at Gulmarg, aimed at enhancing emergency response capacity in the tourist destination.

Also, he urged all Deputy Commissioners to convene meetings of their respective District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) to strengthen inter-departmental coordination, optimise resource sharing, and sensitise all stakeholders regarding disaster preparedness and response mechanisms.

He stressed on ensuring a coordinated response framework to effectively tackle any flood-related exigencies during the monsoon season.

Muharram-ul-Haram, Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela arrangements reviewed at Anantnag

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JUNE 08: A meeting to review the arrangements for the ensuing holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram and auspicious Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela-2026 was held today at DC Office Anantnag.

ACR, Tariq Ahmad Malik, SDM Dooru, Parvaiz Rahim, SP, Sunny Gupta, ARTO, Inspector Traffic Police, officials from Health, FCS&CA, F&ES, PHE, PDD and other concerned departments attended the meeting.

On the occasion, threadbare discussions were held regarding the arrangements to be put in place to ensure smooth observance of Muharram and Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela by the respective communities.



Regarding Muharram, ACR stressed upon officers to make timely and proper arrangements of security, water and power supply, sanitation, medical facilities, ration, firewood, among others. He said that proper plans be devised to ensure all religious gatherings and processions are held smoothly and in a seamless proper.

The ACR emphasised maintaining proper hygiene and cleanliness around Imam Baras and procession sites adding that prior visits to the three prominent places in the district be conducted by the concerned officers. He said medical teams along with ambulances shall be deployed along with availability of staff and medicine besides adequate supply of potable water and electricity shall be ensured during this period.

Regarding Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela-2026 arrangements, the ACR instructed that all essential facilities including water supply, electricity, accommodation and bedding be provided to the devotees at Logripora. Emphasis was laid on deployment of fire tenders, installation of Shamiyana, availability of LPG for langars, blankets for devotees and special SRTC Buses for ferrying the pilgrims and putting in place other logistics for smooth observance and conduct of the religious activities.

The departments were further asked to share their plans with the District Control Room in advance and also appoint Nodal Officers who will coordinate in real time for these important events.

Administrative Judge lays Foundation Stone for New Lawyers' Chambers at District Court Complex Anantnag

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JUNE 08: Administrative Judge for District Anantnag, Justice Rajnesh Oswal, conducted an official visit to the District Court Complex here today to lay the foundation stone for the construction of new Lawyers' Chambers—a pivotal infrastructural

upgrade for the district's legal fraternity. Upon his arrival, He was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honor. The official proceedings commenced with a welcome address by the Principal District & Sessions Judge (PD&SJ), Anantnag, Tahir Khurshid Raina.

During the program, the Interim President of the District Bar Association, Advocate Peer Shafiq, presented a comprehensive memorandum of demands to the Administrative Judge on behalf of the legal community.

Justice Oswal, in his keynote address, underscored that the proposed chambers represent more than just architectural growth; they mark a significant milestone in strengthening the justice delivery system by providing essential comfort and accessibility to both lawyers and litigants.

Addressing the structural and administrative concerns raised by the Bar, Justice Oswal assured the legal community that these matters would be proactively taken up with the local police and civil administration, expressing strong optimism for their prompt resolution.

Following the main event, Justice Oswal presided over interactive administrative sessions, convening first with the judicial officers and subsequently engaging with members of the District Bar Association.

The proceedings were attended by senior officials from the local police and civil administration, reflecting a coordinated approach across the district's judicial and executive branches.

DC Bandipora conducts extensive Field Tour of Sumbal Sub-Division

Reviews arrangements at Imam Baras, Transit Camp Shadipora

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 08: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Monday conducted an extensive field tour of Sumbal Sub-Division to assess on-ground preparedness for the forthcoming Muharram observance and Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026.

During the tour, the Deputy Commissioner visited several Imam Baras including Dangepora and other adjacent areas and also inspected the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Transit Camp at Shadipora.

She reviewed the arrangements being put in place by various departments and took stock of the



facilities available for devotees and pilgrims.

The Deputy Commissioner interacted with local representatives, and residents, and sought

feedback regarding public requirements and ongoing preparations. She directed the concerned departments to ensure uninterrupted power and water supply, proper sanitation, healthcare facilities, road connectivity, and other essential services.

At Transit Camp Shadipora, Indu Kanwal chib inspected the infrastructure and reviewed the facilities being arranged for devotees. She stressed the need for close coordination among departments to ensure smooth and hassle-free arrangements.

She emphasized that all necessary measures should be completed well in advance for successful and peaceful conduct of upcoming religious events.

Key aspects of Draft Master Plan-2044 reviewed at Anantnag

Stakeholders discuss futuristic, sustainable development concerns

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JUNE 08: A meeting to discuss various aspects of GIS-based Draft Master Plan-2044 for Anantnag, Bijbehara and Mattan towns with public representatives, line departments and other stakeholders was held today at Dak Bunglaw, Khanabal.

The meeting was attended by MLA Anantnag West, Abdul Majeed Bhat, MLA Shangus (Anantnag East), Reyaz Ahmad Khan,

ADC, Vikas Ahlawat, Chief Town Planner, CPO, CHO, Exens Irrigation and REW, CEO MCA, EOs of MCs Bijbehara and Mattan, officials from Pollution Control Board besides representatives of market and trader association, civil society members and other stakeholders attended the meeting.

The proceedings focused on evaluating inputs received from various stakeholders to ensure comprehensive and planned

urban development in the region.

The ADC informed that the Draft Master Plan 2044 is available on District Website and about 150 objections/suggestions have been received from general public, traders association and other stakeholders so far.

During the meeting, key aspects of the Draft Master Plan were reviewed and discussed threadbare. A detailed GIS-based map was presented, highlighting

various land-use categories including residential, commercial, agricultural, industrial, and horticultural zones across the three towns. It was informed that a primary survey of all three towns viz Anantnag, Bijbehara, and Mattan, has been conducted to gather ground-level data for effective planning.

On the occasion, regional-level issues were deliberated upon, with emphasis on addressing key developmental chal-

lenges in a coordinated manner.

The stakeholders stressed the need to give a practical and implementable shape to the Master Plan and to address all genuine concerns and suggestions while finalizing the document. They decided that the plan be tailored to cater to the futuristic needs of people living in and vicinity of these towns while ensuring protection of the environment and sustainable use of natural resources.

Bandipora Admin Gears Up for SANJY-2026; DC Reviews Preparations at Sumbal, Inspects Shadipora Transit Camp

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 08: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Monday chaired a meeting at Dak Bunglaw Sumbal to review arrangements for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026 and ensure that all necessary facilities are put in place for the devotees.

The meeting was attended by ADC Bandipora, Zaffar Husain Shawl; ASP Bandipora, Mir Murtaza; SDM Sumbal, Murtaza Ahmad; and other concerned officers from the district administration, Police, Army, CRPF, and various line departments asso-



ciated with the Yatra.

During the meeting, a comprehensive review of preparations related to drinking water supply, electricity, healthcare, sanitation, traffic management, transportation, and other essential services was conducted. Officers

briefed the chair on the ongoing works and preparedness at the Shadipora Transit Camp.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for coordinated efforts among all departments and directed officers to complete all pending works well in time. She stressed that adequate facilities should be ensured for the convenience, safety, and comfort of the devotees.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner conducted an on-site inspection of the Shadipora Transit Camp to assess the arrangements on the ground and directed the concerned departments to expedite the remaining works so that all facilities

are ready well before the commencement of the annual pilgrimage.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated that seamless coordination among all stakeholder departments is essential for the smooth conduct of SANJY-2026.

She directed officers to maintain close monitoring of all preparatory works and ensure timely completion of assigned tasks. Emphasizing a proactive approach, she stressed that all arrangements should be put in place well in advance to provide a safe, comfortable, and hassle-free pilgrimage experience for the devotees.

DC Bandipora visits Army Goodwill School Hajin

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 08: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Monday visited Army Goodwill School Hajin and felicitated the institution for its participation and presentation of the National Anthem and National Song during the recently held Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) Padyatra in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner presented an appreciation certificate to the school in recognition of its contribution for the remarkable presentation of National Song and National Anthem during NMBA Padyatra. She appreciated the students and teachers for their dedication, discipline, and patriotic spirit displayed during the event. Interacting with the students, the



DC encouraged them to work hard and remain focused on their goals. She remarked that nothing in this world is impossible when pursued through legal, honest, and sincere efforts.

The school administration thanked the Deputy Commissioner for her visit and encouragement.

HT EDITORIAL

A Historic Milestone and the Continuity of Democratic Leadership

On 10th of June 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be surpassing Jawaharlal Nehru as India's longest-serving Prime Minister in a significant moment in the nation's democratic journey. Beyond the symbolism of numbers, the milestone offers an opportunity to reflect on the contributions of two leaders whose tenures, though separated by decades and vastly different circumstances, have left an enduring imprint on India's development.

India's history is marked by leaders who responded to the needs and aspirations of their respective eras. Nehru assumed office at a time when the nation had just emerged from colonial rule and faced the enormous challenge of building democratic institutions, laying the foundations of governance and steering a diverse country towards stability and progress. His leadership helped shape many of the institutions that continue to define the Republic today, while his emphasis on parliamentary democracy, scientific advancement and international engagement influenced the direction of independent India for generations.

Modi's tenure has unfolded in a very different context. Leading a nation that is more populous, economically integrated and globally connected than ever before, he has presided over a period characterised by rapid technological change, expanding infrastructure and growing international influence. His government's focus on digital transformation, welfare delivery, connectivity and administrative reforms has sought to address the demands of a modern and aspirational society.

While comparisons between leaders are inevitable, history often demonstrates that each era presents its own opportunities and challenges. Nehru's India was engaged in the task of nation-building; Modi's India is navigating the complexities of a globalised world. The priorities of the two periods differ, as do the expectations placed upon those entrusted with leadership.

What unites both tenures is their significance in shaping the national narrative. Nehru's years in office established many of the frameworks within which modern India operates, while Modi's leadership has overseen a phase of accelerated economic ambition, technological adoption and global outreach. Each has, in his own way, contributed to the evolving story of the Republic.

The milestone also highlights the strength of India's democratic system. That leadership records can be set, challenged and surpassed through constitutional processes and electoral mandates speaks to the resilience of the institutions established since Independence. The office of the Prime Minister remains central to the functioning of the nation, but its authority ultimately derives from the confidence reposed by the people through democratic means.

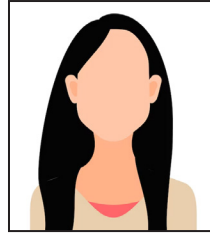
As India reflects on this historic development, the occasion should not be viewed as a contest between personalities or legacies. Rather, it serves as a reminder of the continuity of democratic governance and the contributions made by successive generations of leaders. Every Prime Minister has operated within the realities of his time, seeking to advance the nation according to his vision and the circumstances he faced.

In that sense, the achievement is not merely about a record being surpassed. It is also an affirmation of the enduring vitality of Indian democracy—a system that has enabled leaders from different backgrounds, ideologies and generations to contribute to the nation's progress while remaining accountable to the people.

The significance of this moment, therefore, lies not only in the longevity of one leader's tenure but also in the broader journey of a Republic that continues to evolve, adapt and advance through the strength of its democratic institutions ends.

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Baramulla: From Old Town to the Emerging Sports Town of Kashmir



HAFSA MEHRAJ

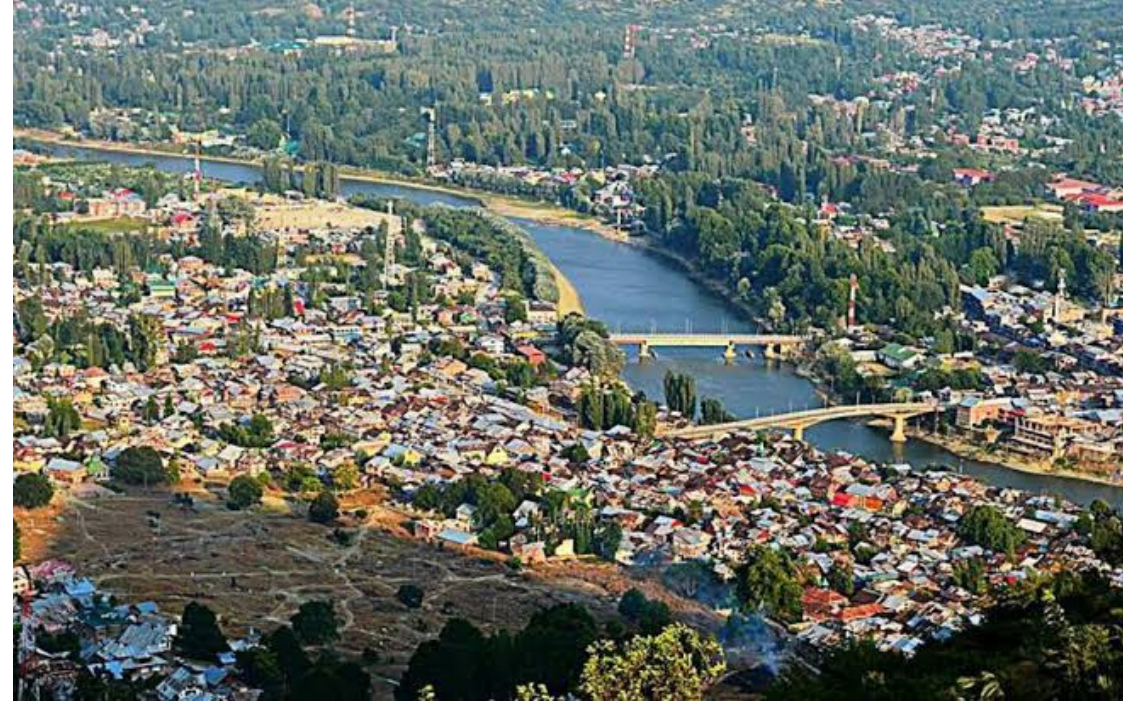
For decades, Baramulla's Old Town was known primarily for its rich history and cultural heritage. Today, however, a remarkable transformation is taking place. The youth of Baramulla, particularly those from the Old Town, are increasingly embracing sports as a way of life, channelizing their energy into positive pursuits and dreaming of representing India on national and international platforms.

The sporting culture in Baramulla has witnessed unprecedented growth over the last few years. Grounds, stadiums, indoor facilities, and community-led sports initiatives have created an environment where young athletes are thriving. The change is visible in every corner of the town, where cricket, football, badminton, martial arts, and other sporting activities keep the youth engaged throughout the year.

One of the biggest strengths of Baramulla's sports ecosystem is its growing infrastructure. The town proudly hosts the General Bipin Rawat Stadium, which features modern open nets and all-weather cricket nets—a facility unique in the entire Kashmir Valley. These nets allow players to train consistently regardless of weather conditions, significantly improving their preparation and development.

The stadium also houses a well-maintained turf wicket that is looked after throughout the year by the Baramulla Cricket Forum (BCF). The contribution of BCF towards the promotion of cricket in Baramulla has been immense. Under the leadership of its General Secretary, Mr. Zubair Bashir Dar, and his dedicated team, the organization has played a vital role in nurturing local talent. BCF organizes nearly eight tournaments annually and conducts around 300 cricket matches every year, providing a much-needed competitive platform for aspiring cricketers.

The success of these efforts can be seen in the emergence of talented players from the district. One such shining example is Aqib Nabi, who has



risen through the local cricketing ranks and is widely regarded as one of the brightest cricketing prospects from the region. His journey serves as an inspiration for hundreds of young athletes who aspire to wear the Indian jersey one day.

Baramulla is also fortunate to have two indoor stadiums that remain active throughout the year, hosting various sports and training programs. These facilities ensure that athletes have access to professional training opportunities irrespective of weather conditions.

Adding another milestone to the town's sporting landscape is the FIFA-approved Astro Turf Football Ground, which is set to be inaugurated soon. This world-class facility is expected to provide a major boost to football in North Kashmir and offer local footballers an opportunity to train and compete on modern infrastructure.

Another important venue contributing to the district's sporting growth is Showkat Ali Stadium, where numerous sporting activities, tournaments, and youth engagement programs are regularly organized. The stadium has become a hub for athletes and sports enthusiasts from across the district.

Much of this progress has been made possible through the efforts of the Jammu and Kashmir

Sports Council. The infrastructure created and maintained by the council has laid a strong foundation for sports development in Baramulla. Special appreciation is due to Ms. Nuzhat Gul, Secretary of the Sports Council, whose commitment to strengthening sports infrastructure and promoting youth participation has significantly benefited the district.

The sporting revolution in Baramulla is not merely about winning matches or producing star athletes. It is about creating opportunities, promoting discipline, fostering healthy lifestyles, and steering young people towards a brighter future. Sports have become a powerful tool for social transformation, helping the youth channelize their positive energy into productive activities.

Today, Baramulla stands as a shining example of how investment in sports can transform a community. The town is steadily shedding old stereotypes and earning a new identity— one built on ambition, talent, and sporting excellence.

If the current momentum continues, it will not be long before Baramulla is known across the country not simply as the Old Town of Kashmir, but as the "Sports Town of Kashmir"— a place where dreams are nurtured, champions are created, and the future of Indian sports is being shaped.

Nature is benevolent and sometimes dreadful



SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Clear, crystal-clear rivers are meant to quench our thirst, not to be polluted or used recklessly for swimming. Nature is benevolent, but at times it can also be very dreadful. It is heartbreaking that during the current year, a number of drowning incidents have been reported from different places.

Every year, such heart-wrenching incidents occur. Bathing in large water bodies should be permanently banned, and stringent action should be taken against those who pollute and dirty natural resources. These resources possess a unique beauty; their flowing water, serenity, and charm are always at their peak. Humans should never turn such natural resources into bathtubs or swimming pools.

Nature is Incredible

It leaves nothing stationary. It calls you, pampers you, makes you happy. Nature bestows upon us mesmerizing surroundings. It is beautiful, joyful, limitless, and full of mysteries. It attracts, enchants, and sometimes terrifies. It can bring catastrophe, demolish great structures, silence the noisiest moments, or compel a scream from the quietest soul.

From a religious perspective, everything that happens is under the supervision of the Almighty. Life and death are not random—each moment, even the rustling of leaves, occurs only by His will, as described in the Holy Quran. So why do we worry? Why do we fear what is already destined?

The answer, though simple, carries deep wisdom: we have a duty to act responsibly. The Almighty has commanded us to take safety measures and protect ourselves and others. We are not permitted to be careless or ignorant. Crying and shouting in moments of regret will not change what was avoidable through preparation and awareness.

Heat, Summer, and the Shift Toward Risk

Kashmir lies in the extreme north, and we are accustomed to bitter cold. During Chillai Kalan—from December 21 to the end of January—temperatures dip as low as -15°C. Yet we endure it with proper arrangements: traditional timber ovens, hammams, and layered winter clothing. Winters, though harsh, are peaceful, and the snow-laden forests and towering mountains reflect the divine beauty of the region.

But summer, starting around June 21 until September 21, presents a new challenge. Between June and late July, the valley experiences scorching heat, especially in urban areas. With few green spaces or cooling infrastructure, people often turn to public parks for relief. Sadly, many of these parks have been replaced with commercial spaces like parking lots.

In the 1990s, Iqbal Park served as a vital retreat for residents from Solina, Sarai Bala, Half Chinar, and surrounding areas. Just a few kilometers from the Zabarwan Mountains, it provided free access to fresh air and open space. Today, with entry fees imposed even on locals, many feel excluded. Development should unite the people—not foster divisions based on affordability.

The Rush Toward Water — and the Danger That Follows

To escape the heat, youth from cities flock to villages, where glacial streams and clear water bodies offer natural relief. These rivers, sourced from melting glaciers, rush with terrifying force—like water driven by powerful motors. Though visually appealing, they are extremely dangerous.

Drowning incidents in Kashmir are steadily rising. These aren't isolated accidents—they happen year after year. The key reason? Lack of proactive safety measures. We often react after tragedies, rather than act in advance—be it in road safety, infrastructure, or water-related risks.

Case Study: Raiyar-Ich, Budgam

The residents of Bhatti Mohallah, Raiyar-Ich, Khanshib (Budgam) have been urging the government for over ten years to construct a mini-connectivity bridge. Despite repeated appeals, nothing has been done.

Recently, a minor girl and a 20-year-old biker narrowly escaped drowning in a canal at the same site. The community had already submitted a formal request to the district administration

and even filed a written complaint at Police Station Khanshib. Yet, the danger remains.

Without proper infrastructure, the area remains a hazard. A connectivity bridge must be constructed immediately to prevent future tragedies. Authorities must act before more lives are lost.

What Needs to Be Done?

To prevent further loss of life, the following steps are essential:

1. Ban Open-River Bathing in Tourist Areas

The administration should impose a strict seasonal ban on bathing in high-risk water bodies, particularly at:

- Shali Ganga (Doodhpathri)
- Lidder River (Pahalgam)
- Dal Lake (Srinagar)
- Jhelum River (across various districts)

These sites must be under CCTV surveillance, with fines or penalties for violations.

2. Develop Public Swimming Pools

Each district should have affordable, accessible swimming pools. Swimming must be taught not only for safety, but also to promote sports and recreation in water-based activities.

3. Launch Public Awareness Campaigns

Through schools, mosques, social media, and community halls, the government should educate the public—especially young people—about drowning risks, safety practices, and emergency response.

4. Protect and Respect Water Bodies

Open defecation, littering, and pollution of rivers degrade not just the environment, but also community health. Our rivers are lifelines for thousands of villages—supporting drinking water, irrigation, and ecology. It's our moral duty to keep them clean and pollution-free.

The rising number of drowning incidents in the Kashmir Valley is a tragedy that can be prevented. These deaths are not inevitable. They are the result of neglect—both individual and institutional.

Nature is a gift—but only when respected. With careful planning, awareness, and infrastructure, we can save lives and create a safer, cleaner, more compassionate Kashmir.

Let us not wait for another innocent life to be lost.

Let us act now.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com



Modi Overtakes Nehru, Enters History as India's Longest-Serving PM

Historic Milestone To Mark A New Chapter in Indian Democracy as Narendra Modi Surpasses Nehru's 62-Year-Old Record



■ DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

Finally on June 10 the red letter day for BJP Government has come and also for Narendra Modi who surpasses Nehru's tenure as Prime Minister. Since 2014, Narendra Modi has served as Prime Minister, becoming one of the longest-serving leaders in Indian history. Since 1952 when the first General Election of India occurred to 1964 till his death Nehru had been Prime Minister for 4398 days. Modi was elected Prime Minister in 2014 and on June 10 in 2026 he will be Prime Minister for the longest tenure of 4399 days. Still he is in office and by 2029 the days will be a record hard to be surpassed by any other counterpart. India is emerging as World leader during Modi's tenure which has been characterized by centralization of decision-making, large-scale economic and social reforms, and a strong emphasis on national identity and global diplomacy. Modi's leadership reflects a shift toward a more presidential style of governance within the parliamentary framework. The office of the Prime Minister has been central to shaping the nation's political, economic, and social trajectory since independence in 1947. As the head of government in the world's largest democracy, each Prime Minister's tenure reflects not only their personal leadership style but also the evolving aspirations and challenges of the Indian republic.

The progression of prime ministerial tenures—from long, stable administrations to short-lived caretaker governments—reveals the dynamic nature of India's parliamentary system. Nehru's leadership set a precedent for strong central authority during the formative years of the nation. His passing marked the beginning of a period of political transition, during which Gulzarila Nanda briefly served twice as acting Prime Minister, highlighting the constitutional mechanisms for continuity. The late 1960s and 1970s were dominated by Indira Gandhi whose combined tenure exceeded 15 years. Her leadership was marked by decisive actions, including the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War and the controversial Emergency period (1975-77). Her time in office demonstrated how the role of Prime Minister could expand in power and influence, shaping national direction in profound ways. Her assassination in 1984 brought her son, Rajiv Gandhi, to office, whose tenure reflected both modernization efforts and the turbulence of the late Cold War era.

The 1990s introduced an era of coalition politics, resulting in several short tenures. Leaders such as V. P. Singh, Chandrababoo Naidu, H. D. Deve Gowda, and I. K. Gujral served for less than two years each. These brief administrations underscored the complexities of governing a diverse nation without a clear parliamentary majority. Despite their brevity, these governments contributed to significant shifts, including the Mandal Commission implementation and early economic reforms. A turning point came with Atal Bihari Vajpayee, whose leadership from 1998 to 2004 brought stability back to the office. His government advanced infrastructure development, nuclear policy, and economic liberalization. Vajpayee's tenure demonstrated how coalition governments could still deliver long-term governance when anchored by strong leadership and consensus-building. The subsequent decade under Manmohan Singh marked another long and stable period. Singh, an economist and architect of the 1991 reforms, oversaw rapid economic growth, major social welfare programs, and expanding global engagement. His tenure highlighted the role of technocratic leadership in a political environment shaped



by coalition dynamics.

Across these varied tenures, the office of the Prime Minister has evolved from the dominance of the Congress Party to the rise of multi-party coalitions and finally to the emergence of strong majority governments in the 21st century. Each Prime Minister's time in office—whether long and transformative or brief and transitional—has contributed to the complex political tapestry of modern India. The story of Narendra Modi's political journey reflects broader transformations within Indian democracy. His rise demonstrates the increasing importance of mass communication, leadership branding, and aspirational politics in the modern era. Whether admired or criticized, Modi has undeniably reshaped India's political landscape. His influence extends beyond party politics, affecting discussions on governance, national identity, economic development, and India's place in the world. Jawaharlal Nehru served as Prime Minister for approximately seventeen years, making him India's longest-serving Prime Minister for decades. His leadership was characterized by institution-building, democratic consolidation, economic planning, and a commitment to secularism. Nehru inherited a nation traumatized by Partition, widespread poverty, illiteracy, and communal violence.

Despite these immense challenges, he laid the foundations of modern India through the establishment of scientific institutions, public sector enterprises, educational centers, and democratic traditions. His vision of a socialist-inspired mixed economy influenced Indian policymaking for several decades.

Narendra Modi emerged from a dramatically different political environment. Unlike Nehru, who belonged to the generation of freedom fighters, Modi rose through the ranks of organizational politics. His political journey from a modest background to the highest executive office of the world's largest democracy has become a significant part of his public image. The history of independent India has been shaped by a handful of leaders whose political influence transcended their own generations. Among them, Jawaharlal Nehru and Narendra Modi occupy distinct and significant positions. Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, guided the newly independent nation through its formative years from 1947 to 1964. Narendra Modi, who assumed office in 2014, has emerged as one of the most influential political figures in contemporary India. As Modi continues to lead the country through successive electoral victories, comparisons with Nehru have become increasingly common. The possibility of Modi serving a longer tenure than Nehru has generated considerable political and academic discussion, inviting an examination of leadership styles, gov-

ernance models, public appeal, and their respective impacts on India. His supporters often portray him as a self-made leader who understands the aspirations of ordinary Indians. This narrative has played a substantial role in his sustained popularity across diverse social groups. The political circumstances surrounding Modi's rise to power were also fundamentally different.

By 2014, India had experienced decades of coalition governments, economic liberalization, and changing social dynamics. Public frustration over corruption scandals, administrative inefficiency, and economic concerns created an environment conducive to political change. Modi's campaign effectively projected him as a decisive leader capable of delivering development, economic growth, and strong governance. His victory marked a significant shift in India's political landscape, with the Bharatiya Janata Party securing a parliamentary majority on its own. One of the defining characteristics of Modi's tenure has been the centralization of political leadership around his personality. Unlike many previous Prime Ministers who operated within broader collective frameworks, Modi has become the principal face of government policy, electoral campaigns, and national initiatives. His communication skills, extensive use of digital media, and ability to connect with large audiences have contributed to his enduring political appeal. Through radio broadcasts, social media engagement, and public rallies, he has maintained direct communication with citizens on an unprecedented scale.

Economic development has remained a central pillar of Modi's governance philosophy. Initiatives such as Digital India, Make in India, Startup India, and various infrastructure programs have sought to transform India's economic landscape. Massive investments in highways, railways, airports, and digital connectivity have aimed to modernize the nation's infrastructure. The expansion of digital payment systems and financial inclusion initiatives has brought millions into the formal banking sector. Supporters argue that these measures have accelerated India's emergence as a major global economic power. At the same time, Modi's tenure has witnessed ambitious welfare programs targeting the poor and marginalized sections of society. Housing schemes, sanitation campaigns, cooking gas distribution, healthcare initiatives, and direct benefit transfers have reached millions of households. Programs such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan have sought to address longstanding public health challenges, while the construction of toilets across rural India has been presented as a major social transformation. These initiatives have contributed significantly to Modi's popularity among lower-income groups.

Foreign policy has emerged as another notable dimension of Modi's leadership.

Under Modi's tenure, India has pursued a more assertive global role. Strategic partnerships with major powers, engagement with the Indian diaspora, and active participation in international forums have enhanced India's global visibility. Modi's personal diplomacy and frequent international engagements have projected India as a confident and ambitious nation seeking greater influence in global affairs. Relations with countries across Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and the Americas have received considerable attention. Comparisons with Nehru often focus on contrasting visions of nationhood. Nehru emphasized secularism, scientific temper, and non-alignment in foreign policy. Modi, by contrast, has emphasized cultural nationalism, civilizational identity, and strategic pragmatism. Supporters argue that Modi has revived pride in India's ancient heritage and cultural traditions while simultaneously promoting modernization. Critics, however, contend that some aspects of his political approach challenge the secular framework envisioned by India's founders. These debates reflect broader ideological differences that continue to shape Indian political discourse.

The electoral success achieved under Modi's leadership is particularly remarkable. Winning consecutive parliamentary majorities in a country as vast and diverse as India is an extraordinary political accomplishment. His ability to maintain popularity across multiple election cycles distinguishes him from many contemporary democratic leaders worldwide. Electoral victories in numerous state and national contests have reinforced the perception of Modi as the dominant figure in Indian politics. Today nearly all the border-adjacent states are being ruled by BJP under the leadership of Modi as the Prime Minister. Media and communication strategies have also contributed significantly to Modi's political longevity. He has effectively utilized digital platforms to bypass traditional channels and communicate directly with citizens. This approach has enabled him to maintain a consistent narrative and respond rapidly to political developments. His campaigns often combine traditional grassroots mobilization with sophisticated technological outreach, creating a powerful electoral machine capable of reaching millions of voters.

The COVID-19 pandemic represented one of the greatest challenges of Modi's tenure. India faced immense public health and economic pressures during the crisis. Government responses included nationwide lockdowns, vaccination campaigns, healthcare infrastructure expansion, and economic relief measures. While the handling of certain phases of the pandemic attracted criticism, India's large-scale

vaccination effort was widely recognized as one of the most extensive public health operations in human history. Infrastructure development under Modi has been particularly visible. New highways, expressways, railway modernization projects, metro systems, and digital networks have transformed many parts of the country. Advocates view these developments as essential foundations for future economic growth. The emphasis on connectivity, logistics, and urban development reflects a broader vision of India as a globally competitive economy capable of sustaining long-term expansion. Another factor contributing to Modi's enduring appeal is his ability to frame politics around national aspirations. His speeches frequently emphasize themes of self-reliance, national pride, technological advancement, and India's emergence as a leading global power. These themes resonate strongly with younger generations seeking opportunities in a rapidly changing world.

The narrative of a rising India has become a central component of his political message. Critics have raised concerns regarding freedom of expression, institutional autonomy, economic inequalities, and social polarization. Opposition parties argue that democratic institutions require stronger safeguards and greater pluralism. Supporters counter that strong leadership is necessary to implement reforms and overcome bureaucratic inertia. The comparison with Nehru extends beyond duration in office. Nehru's legacy is associated with institution-building during the early years of independence, while Modi's legacy may ultimately be judged by India's transformation in the twenty-first century. Both leaders have operated in vastly different historical contexts, making direct comparisons challenging. Nehru confronted the task of nation-building from the ground up, whereas Modi has focused on accelerating growth and redefining India's global position.

If Narendra Modi ultimately surpasses Nehru's tenure as Prime Minister, it will represent a significant milestone in Indian political history. Longevity in office, however, is only one measure of leadership. Historical judgment depends not merely on years served but on the lasting impact of policies, institutions, and ideas. Leaders are remembered not only for electoral victories but for the changes they bring to society and the legacy they leave for future generations. As India continues its journey through the twenty-first century, scholars, historians, and citizens will continue to debate the relative achievements of Nehru and Modi. Such comparisons are inevitable when leaders leave deep marks on national life. Nehru helped define the foundations of independent India, while Modi seeks to redefine its future trajectory. Their legacies, though different in character and context, represent two major chapters in the evolving story of the Indian republic. Should Modi remain in office longer than Nehru, it would symbolize not only a personal political achievement but also a reflection of the changing dynamics of Indian democracy, where leadership, public expectations, and national ambitions continue to evolve in new and significant ways.

About the Author
Dr. Ratan Bhattacharjee is an internationally acclaimed multilingual columnist, literary critic and recipient of the International Tagore Award. He served as Affiliate Faculty at Virginia Commonwealth University and retired as Head of the Postgraduate Department of English at Dum Dum Motijheel College. A widely published author of international repute, Dr. Bhattacharjee is a regular contributor to Headlines Today and writes extensively on politics, literature, culture and contemporary affairs. His scholarly and journalistic work has earned recognition across India and abroad.

Feeling the heat? It might be ageing you faster than you think



■ SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

If you've ever felt like the summer heat is draining your energy, you're not alone. Feeling tired during hot weather is common, especially in peak summer. Many people experience low energy, feel tired, and struggle to stay focused

throughout the day, even without doing heavy work during the hot summer season.

People often dismiss 'afternoon lethargy' as a normal part of life. But summer fatigue isn't just about being exhausted; it's a physical reaction to heat.

When temperatures rise, your body spends more energy cooling itself through sweating and increased blood circulation.

When we sweat, we also lose water and electrolytes (i.e., "salts" such as sodium, chloride, potassium).

Sweating removes not only water but also electrolytes (i.e., "salts" such as sodium, chloride, potassium), that help maintain normal body function.

This process uses extra energy, which can leave you feeling drained even without much physical activity.

Summer fatigue differs from typical tiredness. Environmental factors create specific energy drains unique to warm seasons.

We lose fluids and electrolytes.

Loss of electrolytes can affect muscle and nerve function. Electrolytes affect the amount of water in your body, the acidity of your blood (pH), your muscle function, and other important processes.

Mild dehydration underlies most summer fatigue, and it doesn't always feel

like 'dehydration'. It feels like laziness, low mood, or lack of focus, leading to a drop in energy level.

Prolonged exposure to severe, scorching temperatures triggers stress and damage in the body that goes far beyond a simple sunburn. Consistent exposure to high temperatures might also be making you age more quickly at a molecular level.

Repeated exposure to extreme heat waves can do more than make you sweat. It can quietly accelerate the ageing process in people and increase vulnerability to health issues. The more extreme heat events an individual is exposed to, the more quickly they age.

Exposure to outdoor heat accelerates ageing among the physically weak adults living in poorly ventilated spaces or working in outdoor settings because they remain exposed to heat for longer periods.

Prolonged exposure to high temperatures may increase oxidative stress, inflammation, and strain on vital organs.

■ Pre-Hydration

When the temperature climbs, you might only be "feeling the heat", but your body is actively fighting to protect your vital organs.

Prevention does not come about by just drinking water when you're thirsty; it works when you understand the biological mechanics of heat and stay one step ahead of it.

From a clinical perspective, thirst is a late signal of dehydration. The body begins to lose fluids much earlier, especially in high heat.

The pre-hydration rule during summer means hydrating in advance by drinking adequate fluids and electrolytes 2 to 3 hours before stepping into the heat or engaging in physical activity to set up a hydration reserve in the body.

Pre-hydration is simply staying hydrated before you hit a deficit.

This is where you give your body a

hydration head start, ensuring it's well-prepped for the challenges ahead.

The body benefits more when fluid intake begins early in the morning and continues steadily before stepping out.

This approach helps maintain your body's fluid balance, enhancing your endurance, focus, and overall performance.

Everyone's hydration needs are different. Pay attention to how your body feels and adjust your fluid intake accordingly. Don't consume all your fluids at once. Sip consistently throughout the morning.

Infuse the water with vetiver (khus), fennel seeds (saunf), or a slice of cucumber. These are naturally "cooling" and make plain water less boring to drink.

On the flip side, becoming over-hydrated can be serious as well. This condition, known as hyponatremia, occurs when someone drinks too much water, thereby diluting electrolytes. This is also a serious and potentially deadly condition that needs immediate medical attention.

If you drink a lot of water in a short period, you may move from mild over-hydration to what's known as water toxicity, intoxication, or water poisoning.

■ Local dish to stay naturally cool

Beat the blistering heat with a bowl of Curd Rice or a chilled glass of Sattu Sharbat.

A glass of kokum sherbet will keep you cool in this heat, reduce the acidity and get rid of bloating.

These traditional Indian cooling foods drop your internal body temperature naturally, rehydrate lost electrolytes, and are incredibly light on your digestion.

Kokum sherbet is a refreshing, tangy, and naturally cooling Indian summer drink.

Made from dried kokum fruit, the drink has a deep pink colour and a pleasantly tangy taste. To prepare it, kokum is soaked in hot water to cover until soft.



And mixed with sugar or jaggery, along with roasted cumin powder and a pinch of salt.

Add a large glass of ice-cold water and mix well. Serve chilled with ice.

Kokum sherbet is often consumed in the afternoon or after meals during summer. Many families store kokum concentrate so they can quickly prepare the drink whenever the heat becomes overwhelming.

Low in fat and high in probiotics, buttermilk soothes the stomach and boosts hydration. It's perfect after a heavy meal or during midday when the heat peaks.

You can make a quick sattu drink by taking 2 tablespoons of Sattu powder, 1 glass of cold water, 1/2 teaspoon roasted cumin powder, a pinch of black salt, and a squeeze of fresh lemon. Mix all the ingredients in a glass until completely smooth. Garnish with a few fresh mint leaves and enjoy immediately.

Bajre ki Rabdi/ Raab: A centuries-old summer superfood made of fermented pearl millet (bajra) flour or sorghum mixed with buttermilk is a highly nutritious, traditional Rajasthani porridge.

It provides hydration, electrolytes, and acts as a natural body coolant.

In rural areas, it has long been considered one of the best natural ways to survive the harsh desert heat.

Many locals see it as a natural cooling remedy that helps the body stay hydrated and energised during peak summer months.

In the summer, it is consumed cold, and keeps the body cool and protects from heat stroke.

■ Seasonal Fruits

Water-rich fruits are rich in natural sugars, fibre, and antioxidants. They are not only an excellent source of hydration but also protect the body against damage caused by heat and sun exposure. Many fruits naturally contain high amounts of water along with vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants. Including

hydrating summer fruits such as watermelon (92%), strawberries (91%), cantaloupe (90%), and peaches (89%) not only provides essential nutrients like vitamin C, vitamin A, potassium, and antioxidants, helping with hydration, immunity, and overall energy.

■ Watch your medicines during the summer

Medicine may raise the risk during the summer season

Certain medications significantly raise your risk of heat exhaustion, dehydration, and sunburn during the summer.

Certain medications, such as those for high blood pressure or heart disease, may raise your risk for fainting in high heat. Know if any drugs or supplements you take could make you less tolerant to the heat.

Never leave medications in hot cars, direct sunlight, or humid areas like the beach. Heat breaks down active ingredients.

Some medicines, like diuretics, lower your fluid levels. They're often part of treatment for high blood pressure.

If you're taking certain medicines, you'll want to be extra careful. They can make your skin extra sensitive to sunburns, which can lead to heat exhaustion.

Heat can also degrade drugs like inhalers or EpiPens. Always store medicines in cool, dry places, stay hydrated, and consult your doctor before altering any prescriptions.

Summer heat and humidity can quickly degrade the chemical structure of prescription and over-the-counter medications, rendering them ineffective or even dangerous. Proper storage and awareness are essential for your medications during peak seasonal temperatures

The author is an internationally famous beauty expert and is called the herbal queen of India

The Telepsychology



■ SURINDERPAL SINGH

Telepsychology is one of the most significant developments in modern mental health services. As technology continues to transform every aspect of human life, psychological support and counseling have also moved beyond traditional face-to-face settings. Today, individuals can access professional psychological assistance through video calls, phone conversations, mobile applications, emails, and online platforms. This practice is known as telepsychology.

Telepsychology refers to the delivery of psychological services through telecommunications technology. It involves the use of digital tools such as video conferencing, telephone consultations, messaging services, and online therapy platforms to provide psychological assessment, counseling,

therapy, consultation, and mental health education. In simple terms, telepsychology allows psychologists and clients to connect remotely without being physically present in the same location. It combines the science of psychology with modern communication technology to make mental health care more accessible and convenient.

Although remote counseling existed in limited forms for decades through telephone helplines, telepsychology gained widespread recognition during the COVID-19 pandemic. Lockdowns, social distancing measures, and increased psychological distress forced healthcare professionals to explore alternative methods of service delivery. What initially emerged as a necessity soon proved to be a highly effective approach. Millions of people discovered that they could receive professional psychological support from the comfort of their homes, leading to the rapid growth of telepsychology worldwide.

Mental health challenges such as stress, anxiety, depression, loneliness, burnout, grief, and relationship conflicts affect people across all age groups. Unfortunately, many individuals hesitate to seek help due to stigma, geographical barriers, financial limitations, or a lack of available profession-

als. Telepsychology addresses many of these obstacles by improving accessibility and convenience. One of its greatest strengths is its ability to reach people regardless of location. Individuals living in rural or remote areas often have limited access to mental health professionals. Through telepsychology, geographical distance becomes less of a barrier, enabling a person living hundreds of kilometers away from a psychologist to receive the same professional guidance as someone residing in a major city.

Another important advantage is the reduction of social stigma associated with seeking psychological help. Many people avoid visiting mental health clinics because they fear being judged by society or feel uncomfortable discussing personal issues in public settings. Telepsychology provides a greater sense of privacy, allowing individuals to attend sessions from their homes and encouraging more people to seek help when needed.

The convenience offered by telepsychology is also significant. Busy schedules often prevent people from attending regular therapy sessions. Online counseling eliminates travel time and allows appointments to fit more easily into daily routines. Students,

working professionals, parents, and elderly individuals often find telepsychology more practical and manageable. It also ensures continuity of care, as life circumstances such as relocation, travel, illness, or physical disability do not necessarily interrupt the therapeutic process. Clients can maintain regular contact with their psychologists regardless of changing circumstances, leading to more consistent and effective treatment outcomes. Telepsychology has influenced human life in several meaningful ways. It enhances emotional well-being by providing timely support to people experiencing anxiety, stress, grief, or emotional difficulties before these issues develop into more severe mental health conditions. Early intervention often reduces emotional suffering and promotes resilience. It also strengthens human relationships through family therapy, marriage counseling, and relationship guidance. These services help individuals improve communication, resolve conflicts, and build healthier interpersonal connections, which contribute significantly to overall psychological well-being.

For students and young adults, telepsychology offers immediate access to professional guidance during periods of academic pres-

sure, social comparison, career uncertainty, and digital stress. It helps them develop coping strategies, emotional intelligence, and resilience. Similarly, elderly individuals who may struggle with loneliness, grief, declining health, or social isolation can receive emotional support without the physical challenges associated with traveling to clinics. Organizations are also increasingly utilizing telepsychology services to support employee well-being. Online counseling programs help workers manage stress, burnout, anxiety, and workplace conflicts, leading to improved productivity and job satisfaction.

Several psychological mechanisms explain why telepsychology can be effective. Many individuals feel more relaxed and open when communicating from familiar environments, which may reduce anxiety and encourage honest self-expression. Online communication often provides opportunities for individuals to think carefully about their emotions and responses, facilitating deeper self-awareness and personal growth.

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

PM-AJAY: Mega Career Counselling, Govt Scheme Awareness Drive Held in Baderwah

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BHADARWAH, JUNE 08: In a major push towards youth empowerment and socio-economic advancement, the Department of Social Welfare Doda on Monday organized a mega career counselling and awareness programme under the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY) at PM SHRI Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Bhalra here.

The initiative, aimed at bridging the gap between rural youth and government welfare schemes, saw multi-departmental collaboration involving J&K Bank, Agriculture, Sheep Husbandry, Rural Development, Mission YUVA and the Industrial Training Institute (ITI) among others. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from hundreds of students, NCC cadets, local residents and faculty members who were sensitized about various self-employment avenues, vocational training and financial assistance models.

Highlighting the core objectives of the scheme, Associate NCC Officer Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Koul, who also delivered the welcome address, urged the youth to proactively leverage these state sponsored initiatives.

"This programme is a pivotal step towards educational and professional growth. Students and NCC cadets must step forward to avail themselves of the immense opportunities being provided across different sectors for their socio-economic upliftment," Dr. Koul said.

During the technical sessions, resource persons and domain experts from the participating line departments held interactive sessions with the participants.

Officials including Tehsil Social Welfare Officer (TSWO) Shahnawaz Ahmed, alongside experts from agriculture and veterinary sciences, delved into banking literacy, entrepreneurship setups, livestock development and skill-upgradation modules.

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection name has been wrongly registered SAMEER AHMAD KHAN S/O ABDUL QAYOOM KHAN R/O CHANDOOSA Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040011641 wants to be registered on correct name SAMEER AHMAD BAIGH S/O ABDUL QAYOOM BAIGH R/O CHANDOOSA .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...SAMEER AHMAD BAIGH S/O ...ABDUL QAYOOM BAIGH R/O .. CHANDOOSA

Public Notice

It is hereby informed to the general public that I, Zaffar Ahmad Wani, S/o Ab Khaliq Wani, R/o Kalantra Payeen, wish to state the following:

The electricity connection bearing Consumer ID 0212040002140, installed at my residential premises, is currently registered in the name of my deceased father, Ab Khaliq Wani, S/o Habib Wani, R/o Kalantra Payeen.

I am the legal heir and am currently residing in the same premises. I now intend to transfer the electricity connection to my name.

If any person has an objection to this name transfer, they may file their objection at the office of the Assistant Executive Engineer, JK PDD, Sub Division Watergam, Wagoora, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

No objections shall be entertained after the expiry of the said period.

Zaffar Ahmad Wani S/o Ab Khaliq Wani R/o Kalantra Payeen

Public Notice

This is for the information general public that MAQSOOD AHMAD LONE S/o: ABDUL GAFFAR LONE R/o: KACHWA MUQAM Tehsil WAGOORA district BARAMULLA expired on 1st of March 2026. Now the family of deceased including SHAHID MAQSOOD LONE (son), MUHAMMAD ASIF LONE (son), DILSHADA AKHTAR (daughter), BISMIA MAQSOOD (daughter), REHANA MAQSOOD (daughter) & SHAMEEMA BEGUM (wife), want to apply for issuance of dependent certificate of the deceased. Anyone having any objection in this regard may contact ACR Office baramulla within 7 days from the publication of this notice. After the lapse of 7 days period no objection will be accepted.

SHAMEEMA BEGUM W/O: LATE MAQSOOD AHMAD LONE, R/o :KACHWA MUQAM, Tehsil: WAGOORA BARAMULLA.

Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of MOHD YOUSUF MALIK S/O ABDUL KRIM MALIK R/O DAULATPORA & ALI MOHAMMAD MALIK S/O MOHD YOUSUF MALIK R/O DAULATPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 03/01/1964 & 10/05/1994 event has been shown to be occurred at home for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class 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 SHABIR 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...SHABIR AHMAD BHAT, S/O ...MOHAMMAD AKBAR BHAT , R/O .. BANDI PAYEEN

Public Notice

It is to inform the general public that in my SERVICE RECORD, my father's name has been mentioned as Mohd Akbar. While as my father's correct and true name is Mohd Akbar. I am applying for its correction. If any person has any objection in this regard, he/she may file his/her objection before the Principal of the Government. Degree College Handwara within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Gh Nabi Najar, S/O Mohd Akbar R/O: Kreeri Baramulla

Public Notice

I am applying for fresh fertilizer license if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file in the office of CHIEF AGRICULTURE OFFICE BARAMULLA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name...MOHAMMAD ASHRAF MALIK S/O ...ABDUL RASHID MALIK R/O...WAGILA WAGOORA, DisttBARAMULLA

Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of MEEMA BEGUM D/O ZAHOOR 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 ZAHOOR 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 ZAHOOR son 17 years student unmarried
- 3...LUKMAN ZAHOOR Son 13 years student unmarried
- 4...SALMAN ZAHOOR 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 Tehsildar Kreeri

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....SHAHNAZ 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 Tehsildar Kreeri

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 this regard he / she may file his/her 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

Office of the Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Pattan

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Notice Inviting e-Tender

NIT No: 18/R&B of 2026-27/ 906-11 | Dated: 01.06.2026

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

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost	T.D Cost	E/M	Time
1	Construction of Toilet Block at Sericulture Mirgund	4.11 lacs	200/-	8220/-	60 days
2	Cealling with Thermal Insulation of Leaf Sheds at Sericulture Mirgund	3.06 lacs	200/-	6120/-	25 days

M.H of Account: Capex Budget (Sericulture)

Class of Contractor: DEE

Projecting Authority: Sericulture

Position Of AAA: Accorded

Position of T.S: Accorded

1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01.06.2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	02.06.2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	02.06.2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	11.06.2026 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	12.06.2026 11:00 AM Office of The Executive Engineer RnB Division Pattan

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No., Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender inviting authority) Falling under the Competence of under sign.

3. All the bidders must upload Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender receiving authority) (The Date of earnest money/Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, as per PWD norms).

4. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender receiving authority). The earnest money/ Bid security @2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period for different nature of works i.e. for M&R works six months (6 months) Bituminous works Three Years (03 Years) and Building works Eighteen Months (18 months) etc as per Physical nature of work.

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender receiving authority).

6. The Additional Performance Security deposit if any shall be released after the completion of work.

7. The bidder must be registered on JKPWDOMS portal, while participating in the tendering process it should be ensured that all bank account of contractors mapped on JKPWDOMS must be linked with PAN No, GST No and ADHAAR No as per the circular instructions issued by the Finance Department.

8. The earnest money/ Bid security in favor of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of original Treasury Challan.

9. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days s from the date of opening of Technical bids

10. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:

i. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

ii. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

iii. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

11. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

i. Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" option on website www.jktenders.gov.in to familiarize themselves with the bid submission process.

ii. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get ' Digital Signature Certificate(DSC)' as per information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

iii. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

iv. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

v. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.

Note: Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

No: R&B/Divn./906-11 | Dated: 01.06.2026

Sd/- Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan

DIPK: 1927/26 | Dated: 08-06-2026



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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

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DC Pulwama reviews Mission YUVA implementation in district

Stresses intensified awareness, timely credit linkage, entrepreneurship support for youth, SHGs

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, JUNE 08: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Administrative Complex, Pulwama to assess the implementation and progress of Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan) across the district.

Mission YUVA is a flagship initiative of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and self-employment among youth by providing awareness, capacity building, credit linkage and enterprise support.

At the outset, Assistant Director Employment, Pulwama presented a detailed presentation highlighting the progress achieved under various components of Mission YUVA, including Udyam Jagriti 4.0 awareness campaigns, capacity-building initiatives, entrepreneurship promotion, credit linkage, loan disbursement, enterprise

mentorship and mobilisation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Lakhpati Didis.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the block-wise and bank-wise performance under the Mission and stressed the need for accelerating efforts to ensure that the benefits of the scheme reach all eligible youth and aspiring entrepreneurs. He directed all concerned departments, banking institutions and implementing agencies to work in close coordination for timely processing of applications, speedy sanction and disbursement of loans and effective handholding of beneficiaries.

Emphasising the importance of Udyam Jagriti, Dr. Qayoom directed the Udyam Jagriti Nodal Officers and concerned departments to further intensify awareness campaigns and training programmes with special focus on students, youth and SHG members so that every eligible youth is informed about the opportunities available under Mission YUVA. He said



that Udyam Jagriti programme under Mission YUVA aims to create awareness about entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities and motivate youth to become job creators rather than job seekers.

The Deputy Commissioner also emphasized the importance of mobilising Self-Help Groups and Lakhpati Didis under the Mission. He directed the NRLM functionaries and concerned officers to facilitate the transition of SHGs into sustainable enterprises through proper mentoring, credit linkage and market support. He called for focused outreach among women entrepreneurs and urged officials to ensure that SHG members and Lakhpati Didis are encouraged to avail the benefits of the scheme.

Dr. Qayoom further emphasised the need for continuous monitoring of sanctioned cases and effective enterprise mentorship to ensure the sustainability and growth of ventures established under the Mission. He

also directed banks to expedite the disposal of applications within the prescribed timelines and maintain regular follow-up with applicants.

While reviewing the block and municipality-wise status of applications received under Mission YUVA, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to devise a structured schedule for conducting awareness and mobilisation camps in low turnout areas to ensure participation, outreach and inclusive development of the society.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama and Awantipora; General Manager DC; Assistant Commissioner Revenue; Assistant Director Employment; Lead Bank Manager; Cluster Head J&K Bank; District Nodal Officer JKEDI; District Programme Manager NRLM; Udyam Jagriti Nodal Officers; representatives of banking institutions and other concerned officers.

Plantation Drive conducted at Doodhpathri to promote Environmental Conservation

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, JUNE 08: Forest Department today organized a plantation drive at the picturesque tourist destination of Doodhpathri as part of its ongoing efforts to promote environmental conservation and ecological sustainability.

The drive was attended by Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Khansahib, Jahangir Ahmad Giri, and Munsiff Chadoora, Syed Touyeb Bukhari, among other officials and stakeholders.



The event also drew the attention of tourists visiting Doodhpathri, who enthusiastically witnessed the plantation activity while enjoying the cool breeze and scenic beauty along the banks of the Shaliganga stream. The initiative served not only as an environmental campaign but also as a platform to raise awareness about the importance of preserving natural resources and enhancing green cover.

The continuous plantation drives being undertaken by the Forest Department reflect its steadfast commitment towards environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development. Such initiatives are aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change and ensuring a greener future for coming generations.

Forest officials, staff members of the Doodhpathri Development Authority, and local nomadic communities actively participated in the drive, demonstrating a collective resolve towards safeguarding the region's rich natural heritage.

DC Anantnag inspects SANJY track, crucial locations

Takes on site review of facilities, overall arrangements

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JUNE 08: Deputy Commissioner Anantnag (Yatra Officer Pahalgam Axis), Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat today conducted a comprehensive inspection of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) track and crucial transit locations extending up to Sheshnag.

The DC was accompanied by a team of senior officers and representatives from concerned agencies, including Commandant BRO, CEO PDA, ADC, SEs Jal Shakti, PWD and KPDCI, ACD, SDM Pahalgam, CMO, Exen FC, DD F&ES, AD FCS&CA, advance party members, DE BSNL and representatives from telecom service providers. The aim of the day long on site inspection was to take stock of the facilities and to review the overall arrangements for the upcoming SANJY-2026.

The inspection commenced from the Nunwan Base Camp where the DC instructed that facilities for potable water,

electricity, health care, tentage and other essential services be put in place in a time bound manner. He called for early installation of adequate number of toilets, taking necessary measures for hygiene and sanitation and preparation of space for langars so the devotees are facilitated properly.

At Chandanwari, the DC issued similar instructions, asking the concerned officers that proper functioning of hospital, essential stock storage and telecom services at the station be ensured.

During the track visit, the DC inspected the physical condition of the track, the logistical arrangements handled by BRO (BEACON) and assessed the track decongestion needs as well as the demarcation of vulnerable areas and safety and utility layouts.

At Sheshnag, the DC held a review meeting with all the officers and issued several key directions to facilitate a smooth, safe and seamless Yatra for ease



and convenience of the pilgrims. The Chief Medical Officer was directed to establish robust medical facilities and basic emergency

first-aid setups at suitable intervals along the track, which must include the deployment of dedicated medical staff and a

sufficient stock of oxygen cans to assist pilgrims facing high-altitude challenges.

Furthermore, the Superintendent Engineers from PW(R&B), KPDCI (PDD), and Hydraulic Jal Shakti, along with the Executive Engineer of Flood Control, were directed to ensure flawless infrastructure, stable water supplies, and effective mitigation measures to address the issues of emergent nature.

For communication and emergency responses, the DC directed the representatives of BSNL and telecom service providers to ensure smooth network connectivity, while the FCS&CA and F&ES officials were directed to maintain optimal supply lines and strict safety protocols especially at crucial locations for a safe and smooth yatra.

Taking first hand stock of all the camps and vital locations from Nunwan to Sheshnag, the DC inquired about the functioning of various critical utilities, assets and installations associated with the Yatra.

DYSS BARAMULLA LEADS FITNESS REVOLUTION WITH MASS FIT INDIA RUN

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 08: As part of the nationwide Fit India Movement, the Department of Youth Services and Sports (DYSS) Baramulla today organized a Fit India Run at GDC Ground Khawaja Bagh, witnessing enthusiastic participation from students representing various educational institutions across the district.

A total of 284 boys participated in the event, demonstrating remarkable energy, discipline, and commitment towards physical fitness



and a healthy lifestyle. The run was conducted with the objective of spreading awareness about the im-

portance of regular physical activity and encouraging youth to adopt healthy habits.

The participants completed the run with great enthusiasm, reflecting the growing spirit of fitness and sportsmanship among the younger generation. The event also reinforced the message of the Fit India Movement, which aims to make fitness an integral part of everyday life.

DYSS Baramulla reiterated its commitment to organizing such activities to inspire youth towards health, wellness and active participation in sports.

SARMAD HAFEEZ REVIEWS PROGRESS ON VIBRANT VILLAGE PROGRAMME-2 IN KUNAN-POSHPORA

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, JUNE 8: Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sarmad Hafeez, today visited Kunan-Poshpora in Kupwara district to review progress on Vibrant Villages Programme-2 (VVP).

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, along with other concerned officers, accompanied the Commissioner Secretary during the visit.

During the meeting held at

Trehgam, the Commissioner Secretary reviewed the status of infrastructure, service delivery and implementation of ongoing schemes as well as gap analysis done by the district administration in critical sectors such as connectivity, health, education, livelihoods and digital access. He stressed upon the importance of convergence of different schemes and preparation of holistic village action plans based on gap analysis and baseline data. Later, the Commissioner

Secretary visited Kunan-Poshpora and chaired a public interaction programme to take stock of public demands and grievances. During the interaction, prominent citizens, village elders and local residents highlighted several developmental issues and demands, including construction of a playground and Children's park, macadamisation of inner roads, protection of riverbanks along Kehmil Nallah, sanitation, drinking and irrigation water availability, upgrad-

ation of school and health centre etc. The Commissioner Secretary assured the residents that all their genuine issues would be addressed in a time-bound manner through the concerned departments. He also directed the officers to intensify awareness and outreach campaigns regarding different welfare schemes to ensure 100 percent saturation in these villages.

On the occasion, the Commissioner Secretary handed over PMMVY kits to newborns through

their mothers and distributed scooters among the specially-abled beneficiaries to empower them. The initiative aims to strengthen maternal and child welfare while promoting mobility and self-reliance among persons with disabilities.

Programme Officer ICDS Kupwara, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat and other concerned officers were also present during the visit.

GCoE Srinagar organises Trekking Expedition to Mamneth Peak to promote Fitness, Adventure, Environmental Awareness

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 08: Department of Physical Education, Government College of Education (GCoE), M.A. Road Srinagar, organized a one-day trekking programme from Harwan to Mamneth Peak on Friday, aiming to promote physical fitness, adventure, environmental awareness, and teamwork among students.

The programme was flagged off from the college campus by the Convener Sports along with members of the Department of Physical Education. The trek commenced from Harwan and witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 30 students accompanied by faculty members.

The trekking expedition was led by Dr. Mohd Yasin Pir, Convener Sports, along with Prof. Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Dr. Qazi Inaam Saboor, and Daljeet Kour, who supervised and guided the participants throughout the journey.

Traversing through lush green landscapes, dense forests, and rugged mountain trails, the trek offered students an opportunity to experience the natural beauty and ecological richness of the region. Participants displayed commendable enthusiasm, discipline, endurance, and team spirit during the expedition.

As part of the programme, interactive awareness sessions were conducted on environmental conservation, sustainable use of natural resources, and the importance of outdoor activities in maintaining physical and mental well-being. Students were also sensitized to the need for cleanliness and responsible behaviour in ecologically sensitive areas.

'Tonight, Tehran must burn': Israel Minister Ben-Gvir issues strong response after Iranian missiles strikes

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

TEL AVIV, JUN 8: Tensions between Israel and Iran escalated further after Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir called for a forceful response to an Iranian missile attack.

In a post on X, Ben-Gvir stated, "Tonight, Tehran must burn," following reports that Iran had launched missiles toward Israel. The statement came as Israeli air defence systems were activated to intercept incoming projectiles, with authorities urging residents to follow safety instructions and seek shelter as warning sirens sounded across multiple regions.

Israel subsequently carried out strikes on military targets in western and central Iran. The attacks occurred hours after Iran launched a barrage

of missiles, which Tehran said the attack was in retaliation for actions attributed to Israel in Beirut's southern suburbs.

The Israeli Defense Forces said its air force struck targets "belonging to the Iranian terror regime" in western and central Iran in a statement on Sunday evening.

Iranian state media separately reported that explosions were heard in Tehran, Tabriz, and Isfahan after Israel fired "air-launched ballistic missiles," citing the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

An Israel Defense Forces (IDF) spokesperson described Iran's missile launch as a "grave mistake" and warned that Tehran would face consequences for the attack.

The Israeli military hit Iranian surface-to-surface missile launch sites and non-energy infrastructure, Israel's ambas-



sador to the US, Yechiel Leiter, said.

Nearly two hours later, the

Israel Air Force claimed that it was intercepting a missile "from the direction of Yemen toward

Israeli territory."

Iran fired at least 10 missiles at Israel, and the authorities

claim that all of them were intercepted.

Meanwhile, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) claimed it had targeted a chemical facility in the northern Israeli city of Haifa. The IRGC said the strike was in response to what it described as a joint US-Israeli attack on an Iranian petrochemical site.

In a statement, the IRGC warned that continued attacks on civilian infrastructure and energy facilities could have consequences extending beyond the region. Iranian officials also accused Israel of escalating the conflict by targeting oil and industrial facilities and cautioned that further attacks on non-military or energy-related sites could affect Middle Eastern energy security and have broader economic implications.

The exchange of strikes and

threats has heightened concerns about the possibility of a wider regional conflict.

Iran's semi-official Mehr News Agency reported that two Israeli strikes on the Karun Petrochemical Plant in Mahshahr caused no casualties. Authorities said the extent of the damage remains under assessment.

The Mahshahr Port Governorship also announced a temporary reduction in government office staffing levels, stating that public offices would operate at 30 per cent capacity until further notice. Citizens were advised to take the reduced staffing into account when seeking government services. UNI

Emergency services, along with electricity, water, gas, and relief agencies, will remain fully operational and are exempt from the staffing restrictions.

Xi Jinping arrives in North Korea for first visit in seven years

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

PYONGYANG, JUNE 8: Chinese President Xi Jinping touched down in Pyongyang on Monday for a two-day state visit, his first trip to North Korea in seven years.

Xi was accorded a grand ceremonial welcome in Pyongyang by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and First Lady Ri Sol Ju. The reception included a red-carpet ceremony, a guard of honour and large crowds waving Chinese and North Korean flags, according to Chinese state broadcaster CCTV.

Ahead of the visit, Xi hailed ties between Beijing and Pyongyang, describing the relationship as standing at a "new historical starting point" and saying the two countries were "shouldering new missions of the times," according to Chinese state media.

The visit marks Xi's first overseas trip of the year and comes just weeks after he hosted Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump



in Beijing. The high-profile diplomatic engagements underscored China's efforts to project itself as a major global power broker amid growing geopolitical uncertainty.

Xi's trip also serves as a reminder of China's enduring influence in North Korea. While Pyongyang and Moscow have

deepened their cooperation in recent years, Beijing remains North Korea's most important economic partner and diplomatic ally.

In a customary message published by North Korean media before his arrival, Xi stressed the resilience of bilateral ties. "No matter how times change

or how the international situation evolves, the traditional friendship between China and North Korea remains unbreakable, enduring and full of vitality," The media reported Xi as saying in his message.

For North Korea, the visit reflects its continuing effort to balance relations with both China and Russia while securing economic and strategic benefits from each without becoming overly dependent on either.

A day before Xi's arrival, North Korean state media reported that Kim had inspected a major munitions facility and reviewed plans to expand the production of ballistic and cruise missiles. Last week, Kim also visited a plant producing weapons-grade nuclear material, where he pledged to strengthen the country's nuclear capabilities at an "exponential rate."

Chinese media described the visit as an opportunity to chart a new course for bilateral relations and contribute to region-

al peace, stability and prosperity.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said the trip would further strengthen ties between the two countries. She noted that under the leadership of Xi and Kim, China-DPRK relations had maintained steady growth and delivered tangible benefits to both peoples.

"This year marks the 65th anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between China and the DPRK," Mao said. "The visit will provide an opportunity for both sides to advance bilateral relations, promote the welfare of the two peoples, and contribute to peace, stability, development and prosperity in the region and beyond."

This is Xi's second state visit to North Korea. Talks are expected to cover the state of bilateral relations as well as regional and global issues of shared concern. UNI

Yemen's Houthis declare 'total ban' on Israeli ships in Red Sea

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

SANAA, JUNE 8: Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels announced a missile attack on Israel on Monday and declared a ban on Israeli maritime navigation in the Red Sea, thereby raising concerns of returning to a major disruption on the key route.

Brigadier-General Yahya Saree, a military spokesperson for the Houthis, said the missile barrage targeted the "occupied Yaffa region" and "Tel Aviv" and also claimed to have achieved its objectives with precision.

In a declaration issued from Sana'a, Saree affirmed three key positions, including "a complete and total ban on Israeli maritime navigation in the Red Sea; all enemy movements will be considered legitimate military targets for Yemeni forces."

"Will respond to escalation with escalation, and its military operations will intensify in accordance with field developments, the battle, and in conjunction with the axis of jihad and resistance," he added.

Saree affirmed the right of the Yemeni people and the peoples of the free nation to confront American-Israeli aggression.

The announcement came as part of a broader confrontation against what Yemen described as "American and Zionist aggression" against the axis of resistance in Iran, Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq, and Yemen.

He said that the missile attack was carried out in rejection of the "Zionist project seeking to establish" what is called "Greater Israel" under the name of a "New Middle East", Press TV and Tasnim News Agency reported.

It also aimed to break what Saree described as the "unjust and oppressive siege imposed by the American enemy" on the people of Yemen and the free nations of the axis in Lebanon, Gaza, and Iran, Iranian state media reported.

Reaffirming coordination with aligned regional groups, including Hezbollah in Lebanon and armed factions in Palestine and Iraq, Saree said, "We will respond to escalation with escalation," in direct response to Israeli aggression against Lebanon, Iran, and Gaza," the Iranian state media reported.

Houthis, in the past Israel-Hamas war, harassed cargo ships in the vital seaway that compelled several companies into a lengthy detour around the tip of southern Africa. UNI

Iran calls reports of US mulling use of frozen assets for Gulf compensation 'absurd'

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

WASHINGTON/ TEHRAN, JUN 8: After reports emerged that the US Treasury Department is considering a plan to redirect frozen Iranian assets toward compensating American-aligned Gulf states for damage linked to Iranian military actions during the ongoing conflict, Iran dismissed the proposal as "absurd" and "ridiculous."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei, quoted by Iranian media, rejected claims that Washington is considering using Iran's blocked funds for reconstruction or compensation in Gulf states affected by regional conflict.

He said Iran would instead pursue its own claims against all parties it holds responsible for actions against the country.

He pointed out that countries hosting US military bases used to conduct attacks on Iran could provide Tehran with grounds to seek compensation for damages.

"It is a ridiculous claim," Baghaei said, arguing that Iran itself has "substantial claims" against regional actors it accuses of involvement in what it describes as crimes committed against Iran.

He added that the return of frozen Iranian assets remains a central condition in any ongoing negotiations, stressing that Tehran "has never intended to show any leniency" on the issue.

With the negotiations for the peace deal progresses, Iran has repeatedly demanded the release of its overseas funds and has also called for compensation for war-related damage it attributes to the United States and Israel.

Iranian officials have expanded these demands to include Gulf states that host American military bases, arguing they may also bear responsibility depending on their role in regional operations.

Some media reports cited unnamed U.S. officials suggesting that the Treasury Department has examined options for using frozen Iranian assets in ways that could support reconstruction efforts in Gulf countries or compensate for damage linked to Iranian military activity.

The reported proposals include reviewing legal pathways to redirect Iranian state funds currently held in foreign accounts or tied up in international financial systems.

Iranian officials, however, say such moves would undermine already fragile diplomatic efforts. UNI

Iran says 'Operation Nasr' targeted key Israeli airbases

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

TEHRAN, JUN 8: Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) on Monday said it launched a large-scale retaliatory operation, dubbed "Operation Nasr" (Victory), targeting the Israeli airbases of Nevatim and Tel Nof following Israeli strikes on Iranian territory.

In a statement, the IRGC said its Aerospace Force carried out the operation in response to what it described as Israeli missile attacks on several radar sites in different parts of Iran. The operation was intended as a direct response to Israeli military actions and highlighted the speed of Iran's retaliation as well as the range of targets selected, according to the statement. The IRGC added

that its combat and operational units remain on high alert and are prepared for further action if tensions continue to escalate. The operation followed a missile barrage launched by Iranian forces toward Israeli territory on Sunday. According to Israeli media reports, air raid sirens sounded across several areas, including the Golan Heights, Haifa, Nazareth, Safed, and Tiberias, Iranian media reported. Iran said the attacks were linked to Israel's continued military operations in Lebanon, particularly strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs. Tehran has warned that any further escalation could trigger additional retaliatory measures.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military said Iran launched another wave of missile attacks on Monday. Israeli

media reported that several missiles were fired toward settlements in the occupied West Bank, causing damage to several buildings, The Times of Israel reported.

The Times of Israel quoted IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir as saying that Israel was ready to hit back at Tehran but was awaiting approval from the political leadership.

"The IDF will strike the enemy with force the moment the green light is given," he said during an assessment with the military's top brass, according to remarks provided by the military.

Warning sirens were also activated in multiple locations, including the Hatzetim airbase area, Tel Aviv, and surrounding regions, according to Israeli media reports.

Iran retaliates, fires missiles at Israeli airbases after attacks on Tehran

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

TEHRAN/ TEL AVIV, JUN 8: The Middle East edged closer to a wider regional conflict on Monday as Iran launched missiles at Israel in retaliation for Israeli strikes on Iranian territory, defying diplomatic efforts by US President Donald Trump to contain the crisis. The exchange of attacks has raised fresh concerns that months of fragile diplomacy is in tatters as fresh military confrontation is underway.

The escalation came after Trump reportedly told Netanyahu that "it's enough" and urged him not to retaliate immediately following Iran's missile attack on Sunday night.

It was the first direct exchange of strikes between Israel and Iran since a ceasefire halted the US-Israel war with Iran in April. Iran's

attack followed earlier Israeli strikes on Beirut's southern suburb of Dahiya.

The latest exchange of attacks threatens to deepen tensions across the region and comes after Trump spoke with Netanyahu, urging him not to respond immediately to Iran's missile barrage. According to media reports, Trump declared, "I call all the shots," suggesting that Netanyahu should refer to Washington's diplomatic efforts.

Iranian state media reported explosions in Tehran, Isfahan, Karaj, and Tabriz. Iran's Revolutionary Guards claimed that Israel used air-launched ballistic missiles during the attack.

Iran subsequently closed the airspace around Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport, the country's main international gateway.

In response to the Israeli strikes, Iran launched a wave of missiles toward Israel on Monday, triggering air raid sirens across parts of the country and raising fears of a broader regional conflict.

Israeli military officials claimed that all incoming projectiles were intercepted, though authorities warned that further attacks could not be ruled out.

The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) said Iran launched missiles towards Israel "a short while ago".

"Defense systems are operating to intercept the threat" and members of the public living "in the relevant areas" have been alerted, it added in a statement.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) said it had targeted two Israeli air bases in Nevatim and Tel Nof, according to Iranian state media.

According to Iranian military officials, the missile barrage was launched in response to Israel's attack on Beirut's southern suburb of Dahiya. In a televised statement, Iranian central command spokesperson Ibrahim Zolfaghari said Tehran viewed the Israeli operation as crossing a "red line" and accused the United States of enabling Israeli actions through its political support, Al Jazeera reported.

Iran warned that any further Israeli military response would be met with stronger retaliation. Officials described the missile launch as a "warning shot" rather than the beginning of a sustained military campaign, indicating that Tehran's objective was deterrence rather than immediate escalation.

Iranian leaders have repeatedly warned that they would

respond if Israel intensified its operations in Lebanon, particularly in Beirut. Officials in Tehran said that while they remain prepared for further confrontation, they continue to support diplomatic efforts and are maintaining communication with regional and international mediators.

The latest confrontation highlights growing tensions surrounding Israel's military campaign in Lebanon and Iran's commitment to supporting its regional allies. Tehran has framed its response as part of a broader effort to protect Lebanon from continued Israeli attacks, while Israel maintains that its operations are necessary for national security and self-defence.

Diplomatic activity intensified immediately after the missile launch. UNI



Ashwin: Suryakumar's axing will set precedent for future selection calls

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: R Ashwin feels that Suryakumar Yadav could have been given more time to prove himself as a batter instead of being dropped from India's T20I side altogether, just two months after captaining the team to a T20 World Cup title. As a batter, Suryakumar had a lukewarm T20 World Cup, scoring 242 runs at a strike rate of 136.72, and couldn't hit form in the IPL that followed, scoring 270 runs at 147.54. "Look, I think it's a very interesting precedent," Ashwin said on ESPNcricinfo's video show. "I just want to put myself in Suryakumar Yadav's shoes and for an instance think how he would be feeling at this point of time. I'm sure every player has got the right to be gutted about being left out of the side and that's fair if he's feeling bad about it."

"But just the whole, the way it's been done, I'm a little apprehensive about the whole thing. Because in my head I'm thinking, okay... I'm just putting myself in Surya's shoes and thinking about it. 'Okay, sure, my batting form has let me down over the last 18

months or 15 months or whatever it is. I haven't been in the prime form that I could have been. But then I managed to win a T20 World Cup for the country."

"Didn't have the greatest of great World Cups as a batter but surely, just like everyone else in the team - the coach, the vice-captain, the best-performing batter, the best-performing bowler - he's also quite been the best-performing skipper, right? He's played his part."

Ashwin added that such a ruthless call will set a precedent for future selections. "Can we put big stalwarts in his shoes? Has there been an instance where a captain who's won the T20 World Cup has been left out without any ultimatum? I'm sure there's been communication," Ashwin said. "I have no doubts with regards to that. But this is quite a landmark day in selection. Because this will be taken as some sort of a precedent when the next time such a thing ever comes up."

Shreyas Iyer has been appointed Suryakumar's successor, despite not playing a T20I for India for more than two years. During the period, however, he enjoyed IPL

success, leading Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to the title in 2024 and then captaining Punjab Kings (PBKS) to the final in 2025. Ashwin said that it will be challenging for Shreyas to be parachuted into the team as the new captain.

"Very recently, we had this conversation on Shreyas Iyer deserving to get into the T20 side," Ashwin said. "I'm all for that. But I'm again, wondering... If I am one of the other 14 members in that T20 World Cup-winning side, I'm looking at one another and saying, 'hey, we've been here for a while now. Haven't we done enough to warrant a position as a captain?'"

"The one thing that's probably worked in favor for Shreyas is that he's won an IPL as a skipper for KKR. I wouldn't put any black mark on the fact that he's been a wonderful captain in the IPL. He's got a lot of tactics right. But, that said, there are team ethos that need to be well in place and well in mark. Axar Patel was the big choice as a vice-captain. And if the choice of vice-captain cannot step up into being the next captain, then we are going back in time and again, questioning those sort of things."

Sooryavanshi is a generational talent, but this is a dangerous time for the game

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHANDIGARH: The recent IPL season left the global cricket fraternity transfixed by a phenomenon that felt simultaneously futuristic and deeply historical. At just 15 years of age, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi did not merely make a mark on the tournament, he detonated it. Amassing 776 runs with a strike rate of 237.3, he systematically dismantled some of the most sophisticated bowling attacks on the planet. His record-shattering 72 sixes eclipsed Chris Gayle's legendary single-season milestone, establishing a benchmark that defies conventional cricket logic.

As I watched this young left-hander take modern batting to a completely unheralded plane, a profound sense of unease accompanied the marvel. The central question we must now confront is clear: are we witnessing the magnificent evolution of T20 batting or are we presiding over the permanent evisceration of the contest between bat and ball?

When studying Sooryavanshi in full flight, one is immediately struck by a technical purity that elevates his work above the crude, muscle-bound power-hitting of the modern era. His clean, uninhibited bat swing possesses an organic symmetry that evokes cricket's finest aestheticians. In his elegant downswing and flawless balance, there are distinct echoes of the great Graeme Pollock and the incomparable Sir Garfield Sobers. When he slashes across the line or lofts over extra cover, one glimpses the ferocious, instinctive genius of Brian Lara, combined with the devastating, ball-one intent of Adam Gilchrist. It is a classic, pure method being deployed with contemporary violence, proving that his talent is a rare gift to the game. However, his unprecedented success at such a tender age serves as a profound warning sign.

Sooryavanshi may be the headline today but he is also the latest example of a development system that is helping shape the next generation of cricketers, increasingly redefining what is possible in the modern T20 game. Such outcomes are rarely accidental. They reflect the sustained commitment to talent development and the prescient vision of architects like Zubin Bharucha, whose influence extends far beyond the mechanics of player development. Bharucha's foresight in anticipating the demands of the game's future - his ability to identify, nurture and help young cricketers become global competitors - represents a genuinely transformative contribution to Indian cricket. His work exemplifies the kind of strategic thinking and mentorship that elevates entire systems. Yet paradoxically, this very system - brilliant and innovative though it is at producing generational talent - operates within a T20 environment that has been fundamentally skewed toward the batter structurally.

Debutant Suthar takes three after Gill, Rahul centuries lead India to 564

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHANDIGARH: India had two centuries - Shubman Gill (126) and KL Rahul (100). They also had two batters making 81 each - B Sai Sudharsan and Rishabh Pant. But it was left-arm spinner Manav Suthar's successful introduction to Test cricket that was their biggest W on day two of the one-off Test against Afghanistan in New Chandigarh.

Suthar bowled nearly two hours after tea, and took 1 for 20 in a marathon spell of 12.2 overs. He got lavish drift and turned with the new ball, and held his lengths nicely. Suthar eventually struck on the stroke of

both tea and stumps, and finished with a three-for. There was good support from Prasad Krishna and Kuldeep Yadav even as Rahmat Shah (43*) showed some resistance for Afghanistan.

Earlier in the day, India's batting continued to dominate from a position of strength as all ten batters got to double figures, while Washington Sundar (52*) ground the Afghanistan bowlers down in the heat.

Mohammad Saleem, though, was lion-hearted in his second Test, and finished with a six-for. Azmatullah Omarzai had also started well, and missed out twice due to Afghanistan not using the DRS.



India declared and bowled at Afghanistan for 20 minutes before tea. Openers Sediqullah Atal and Abdul Malik worked past nervy moments, and picked up two boundaries each off Mohammed Siraj. Malik looked to

sweep Suthar off a length after the first three balls spun big, but only managed a top edge to backward square leg.

Rahmanullah Gurbaz defended decisively, didn't mind getting beaten, and played the

odd sweep. In 33 balls, he scored seven runs with 31 dots. Suthar got him with a ripper turning away to take the edge for a low catch at second slip.

Meanwhile, Prasad bowled a shorter that seamed in to flatten Atal's middle stump, and also send off stump flying. Rahmat had a bit of luck when he was hit on the pad by Suthar, in the 16th over, as the contact was made more than three metres from the stumps.

Kuldeep had a couple of near moments go against him. A drive from Rahmat went teasingly above him in the 21st over. Rahul then dropped Hashmatullah Shahidi at first slip in the 25th.

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