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Rain, thundershowers lash J&K parts

MeT forecasts wet spell till June 22

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUN 16: Several parts of Jammu and Kashmir witnessed rain and thundershowers on Tuesday afternoon as the Meteorological Centre Srinagar issued a nowcast warning for brief intense showers, thundershowers, lightning, hailstorms and gusty winds across multiple districts.

According to the MeT department, a spell of rain and thundershowers affect-



ed Baramulla, Uri, Gulmarg and adjoining areas, besides many parts of Budgam, Poonch and Rajouri districts during the day.

Rainfall activity was also reported from Shopian, Kulgam and Anantnag districts in south Kashmir, while parts of Ganderbal, including the Sonamarg-Baltal-Holy Cave axis, and the Pahalgam-Holy Cave route received showers accompanied by thunder and lightning.

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Housing Projects Must Create Livable Urban Spaces: Omar Abdullah

CM directs time-bound implementation of development works



HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 16: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday directed the Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) to focus on creating well-planned and livable urban spaces, emphasizing that upcoming housing projects must be supported by adequate civic and social infrastructure to meet the growing needs of the city. Chairing the 84th meeting of the Board of

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CM Omar Lays Foundation for Major Srinagar Sewerage Projects

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 16: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today laid the foundation stones for two major sewerage infrastructure projects in Srinagar aimed at strengthening waste

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63 Officers Deployed to Strengthen Amarnath Yatra Management

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, JUNE 16: In a major administrative measure ahead of the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra, the Jammu and Kashmir Government has deputed 63 officers from various departments to reinforce management, coordination and public service arrangements along the pilgrimage route.

According to an order issued by the General Administration Department, the officers have been assigned responsibilities as Camp Directors and Additional Camp Directors at different base and transit camps to ensure the smooth conduct of the Yatra.

The deputed officers, drawn from the Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service and several other departments, will report to the office of the Chief Executive Officer of the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board on dates to be notified by the Board. Their specific camp assignments will also be determined by the Shrine Board based on operational requirements.

The order states that the officers will continue to receive salaries from their parent departments during the deputation period and will return to their

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Properties Worth Rs 4 Crore Attached in Major Crackdown on Drug Trafficking

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JUNE 16: In a significant escalation of its campaign against drug trafficking, Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday attached properties worth nearly Rs 4 crore belonging to three alleged drug peddlers in Pulwama and Srinagar districts under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

The action, carried out as part of

the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir campaign, targeted assets that investigators said were acquired through proceeds generated from the illegal narcotics trade.

According to police, authorities in Awantipora attached a double-storey residential house along with approximately seven kanals and 18 marlas of land belonging to Nisar Ahmad Khanday. The property, valued at around Rs 2.50 crore,

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World Must Shift From Donor-Recipient Model to Partnerships Based on Equality: PM Modi at G7

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

EVIAN-LES-BAINS, JUNE 16: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called for a fundamental shift in international cooperation, urging world leaders to move beyond the traditional donor-recipient framework and embrace partnerships founded on solidarity, equality and mutual respect. Addressing the Outreach Session

on "Forging New Partnerships and Rebuilding International Solidarity" at the G7 Summit, Modi emphasized that trust remains the cornerstone of effective international collaboration in an increasingly interconnected world. He said global challenges require nations to work together as equal partners rather than through hierarchical aid relationships. Highlighting India's approach

to global engagement, the Prime Minister said the country has consistently pursued a "humanity first" policy, reflected in initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, Global Biofuel Alliance, Mission LiFE and the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign. Modi underlined that India's vision of international

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Ajay Tamta Reviews J&K Highway Projects, Highlights Infrastructure Push

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JUNE 16: Union Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways Shri Ajay Tamta wrapped up a two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday after an extensive inspection of key National Highway projects followed by a high-level review meeting held at the Convention Centre, Jammu yesterday.

During the visit, the MoS travelled the entire Srinagar-Jammu section of NH-44, inspecting the Qazigund-Banihal and Chenani-Nashri tunnels, the landslide-prone Ramban-Banihal



stretch and the ongoing Srinagar and Jammu Ring Road projects being executed by NHAI. He also assessed the Chenani-Sudhmahadev stretch and the proposed Sudhmahadev-Dranga tunnel alignment under NHIDCL.

Senior officers of NHAI, NHIDCL, BRO, PWD and MoRTH accompanied him during the field inspections.

The review meeting was attended by Members Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma and Sat Pal Sharma, MLAs Chandra Prakash Ganga, Yudhvir Sethi, Vikram Randhawa, Arvind Gupta

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J&K Cabinet Clears MoU for Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, Paving Way for Central Funding

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JUNE 16: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Jal Shakti for the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0, a key step towards securing Central assistance under the restructured national programme.

Official sources said the proposal was cleared by the Union Territory Cabinet through circulation, paving the way for J&K to formally join the second phase of the flagship rural drinking water scheme.

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Chief Secretary reviews progress of TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan

Calls for accelerating efforts towards making TB-Free J&K

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 16: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the ongoing Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan to assess the progress achieved across the Union Territory and chart out a strategy for accelerating efforts towards



tuberculosis elimination.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Health & Medical Education (H&ME); Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM); Managing Director, JKMSCL; Principals of Government Medical Colleges (GMCs); Director, Health Services, Kashmir/Jammu;

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Modi Govt's Governance Reforms Reaching Wider Sections In J&K Following UT Transition: Dr Jitendra

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUN 16: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh today said that the governance and pension reforms initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 12 years are reaching a wider sections of employees and pensioners in Jammu & Kashmir following the transition of the erstwhile State into



a Union Territory. Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the reorganisation of Jammu &

Kashmir led to a significant increase in the number of Central Government employees in the region, bringing with it certain initial workload and service-delivery challenges. These challenges, he said, have been progressively resolved through coordinated efforts of the Government and associated institutions, enabling employees and pensioners across the Union Territory to derive the benefits of the pension reforms introduced during the last ten years. Dr. Jitendra Singh made a

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Ladakh LG Approves Snow Leopard Conservation Society

HT NEWS NETWORK

LEH, JUN 16: Ladakh Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Tuesday approved the constitution of first-of-its-kind 'Snow Leopard and High-Altitude Nature' (SHAN) Conservation Society, which will act as a dedicated institutional mechanism for wildlife conservation and community-led environmental stewardship in the Union Territory.

The LG of Ladakh will be the chairman of the society, while the chief secretary, Ladakh MP, chief executive councillor, LAHDC, Leh, the chief executive councillor, LAHDC, Kargil, and the principal secretary, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment, will be the ex-officio members, an official spokesperson said.

He said the society will also have Palga Rinpoche, head of Naljoring Monastery, Sejal Worah,

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Rain.....

In the Jammu region, parts of Ramban, Kishtwar, Reasi, Kathua and Jammu districts experienced rain and thunderstorm activity, the weather office said.

The MeT department told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that some areas were likely to witness brief intense showers, lightning, hailstorms and gusty winds during the afternoon and evening hours. It advised people to remain indoors during thunderstorms and avoid taking shelter near electric poles, wires, old trees and other vulnerable structures.

Authorities also advised suspension of boating and Shikara operations on water bodies, including Dal Lake, during periods of thunderstorm activity due to the possibility of strong winds and sudden weather changes.

The weather office warned that hailstorms accompanied by intense showers were possible at a few places in Uri, Baramulla, Gulmarg and adjoining areas, as well as parts of Budgam, Poonch and Rajouri districts.

Meanwhile, the MeT department has forecast unsettled weather conditions across Jammu and Kashmir over the coming days.

For June 17, it predicted partly to generally cloudy weather with light rain, brief intense showers, thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds at scattered places across the Union Territory.

From June 18 to June 22, the department said generally cloudy conditions are expected with one or two spells of light rain, brief intense showers, thunderstorms, hailstorms, lightning and gusty winds at many places.

The forecast indicates that weather activity may continue, though with reduced intensity, between June 23 and June 25. During this period, the region is likely to witness partly to generally cloudy skies with light rain, brief showers, thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds at a few places.

The MeT department has urged residents, tourists, pilgrims and transport operators to remain updated about weather advisories and take necessary precautions, particularly in vulnerable areas prone to flash floods, landslides and shooting stones.

Officials said brief, intense showers at isolated places could trigger flash floods and mudslides, especially in hilly and mountainous regions.

The advisory assumes significance as thousands of tourists continue to visit Kashmir and preparations are underway for the annual Amarnath Yatra, with weather conditions expected to remain changeable over the next several days—(KNO)

Housing Projects.....

Directors of the Srinagar Development Authority at the Civil Secretariat, the Chief Minister reviewed the progress of key urban development initiatives, housing projects, land management measures and institutional reforms being undertaken by the Authority.

The meeting assessed the implementation status of decisions taken during the previous Board meeting, including land identification for public infrastructure projects, development initiatives, engagement of technical personnel and other administrative measures.

A major focus of the review was the proposed Satellite Township at Rakhi Gund Aksha along with other housing and infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing urban facilities across Srinagar.

Highlighting the need for sustainable urban growth, Omar Abdullah said housing projects should not be limited to residential construction alone but must include schools, parks, playgrounds, shopping facilities and other essential amenities. He stressed that quality landscaping and attractive surroundings should form an integral part of future urban development plans.

The Board also discussed strengthening the institutional capacity of the SDA through recruitment reforms, employee welfare measures and improved planning mechanisms. Proposals relating to revision and implementation of the Srinagar Master Plan, preparation of zonal development plans, management of commercial assets and budget estimates were also reviewed.

Calling for transparent and efficient urban governance, the Chief Minister directed that all projects be executed within fixed timelines while adhering to planning norms and public interest. He urged the Authority to undertake large-scale housing projects to address the city's growing housing demand and improve parking facilities in congested areas.

The Board further stressed the need for planned development of the Batmaloo area and directed efforts to make the Sangarmal Shopping Centre fully functional. It also approved measures for development of vacant land parcels around the shopping complex through key infrastructure projects.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, senior administrative officers and officials of the Srinagar Development Authority. Vice Chairman SDA Shabir Hussain Bhat presented the agenda before the Board.

CM Omar.....

water treatment facilities and improving urban sanitation in the city.

The projects include the augmentation and upgradation of the 17.08 MLD capacity Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Brarimbal, Srinagar at a cost of Rs. 12 crore, and the construction of a 2.5 MLD capacity STP along with laying of 3.95 kilometres of sewer lines at Chattabal, Srinagar at an estimated cost of Rs. 14.54 crore.

These projects are being executed under the Capex Programme by the Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED), Kashmir, under the Housing & Urban Development Department.

The Chief Minister said that strengthening urban infrastructure, particularly sewerage and wastewater treatment systems, remains a key priority of the

government to ensure sustainable development and improved quality of life for citizens. He emphasized that the projects would significantly enhance sewage treatment capacity, improve environmental conditions and contribute towards the conservation of water bodies in and around Srinagar.

The Brarimbal project will upgrade the existing sewage treatment infrastructure to improve efficiency and cater to the growing wastewater management requirements of the city. The Chattabal project, comprising a new STP and an extensive sewer network, is expected to provide improved sanitation facilities to the area and help prevent the discharge of untreated wastewater into water channels.

The foundation stone laying ceremonies were attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Habbakadal Shamim Firdous, MLA Khanayr Ali Mohammad Sagar, MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq, MLA Hazratbal Salman Ali Sagar and Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur, besides senior officers of the department and local residents.

The projects are expected to play a significant role in enhancing Srinagar's urban infrastructure and promoting environmentally sustainable wastewater management practices.

Ajay Tamta.....

and Surendra Bhagat besides senior officials from all highway agencies.

The officials briefed the Minister on the progress of ongoing and upcoming works funded by MoRTH, covering projects being executed by NHAI, NHIDCL, BRO and PWD across the Union Territory.

Highlighting the shift since 2014, Shri Ajay Tamta said that Jammu and Kashmir has undergone an "unprecedented transformation" in road and transport infrastructure. Before 2014, highway development in the region was limited, with difficult terrain, frequent landslides and poor all-weather connectivity. Since then, works worth nearly Rs. 1.35 lakh crore have been taken up. Of this, 700 km worth Rs. 20,000 crore have been completed, 2,300 km worth Rs. 50,000 crore are under construction and DPRs for another 707 km worth Rs. 65,000 crore are being prepared.

He said that tunnel construction has been a major focus and only five tunnels existed in J&K before 2014. Today, the Jammu-Srinagar corridor alone has 25 tunnels with 20 completed and five under construction, he added. Strategic projects such as the Zojila Tunnel, Digdol-Khooni Nallah, Sungal, Bhimber Gali, Sinthan Pass, Sudhmahadev, Sadhna Pass, Peer Ki Gali and the parallel Chenani-Nashri alignment are expected to ensure reliable, year-round connectivity.

The meeting was informed that Rs. 16,000-crore Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar four-lane corridor has achieved 95 percent progress. Once complete, it will cut the travel time between Jammu and Srinagar from nine hours to about four hours and reduce the distance by nearly 70 km. Tunnels, viaducts, bypasses and landslide protection measures are turning the NH-44 into a safer all-weather route. To further strengthen resilience, works worth Rs. 230 crore are being taken up at 15 vulnerable locations between Udhampur and Banihal, while bypasses worth Rs. 600 crore have already been completed at Banihal, Ramban, Ashajipora, Seri and Makarkote.

Four high-speed corridors worth Rs. 50,000 crore including Jammu-Udhampur-Srinagar, Jammu-Chenani-Anantnag, Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri and Jammu-Akhnor are under construction. These will improve the access to the Kashmir Valley, Chenab Valley, Rajouri-Poonch, North Kashmir and key border areas, aiding the tourism, trade and defence mobility. The 670-km Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Greenfield Expressway, costing Rs. 41,000 crore, will also strengthen the pilgrimage connectivity. Within J&K, 143 km of the expressway worth Rs. 11,500 crore is slated for completion by August 2027, reducing Delhi-Katra distance by 58 km.

The meeting was further told that the urban mobility is being addressed through ring roads. The 104-km Srinagar Ring Road, costing Rs. 7,200 crore, will divert through traffic from the city and improve links to Baramulla, Kupwara, Bandipora, Gurez, Kargil and Leh. The 58-km Jammu Ring Road is nearing completion with 53 km already operational while DPR work is underway for the 33-km Eastern Jammu Ring Road.

The next phase includes DPRs for 707 km of highways worth Rs. 65,000 crore. Key upcoming projects are the 125-km Katra-Srinagar High-Speed Corridor, the Rafiabab-Kupwara-Tangdhar route with Sadhna Tunnel, the Surankote-Bufliaz-Doodhpathri-Magam corridor with Peer Ki Gali Tunnel, Samba-Mansar-Udhampur four-laning, Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri corridor and new service roads and underpasses on the Srinagar-Qazigund stretch.

It was informed in the meeting that Pilgrimage and tourism infrastructure has also received attention. DPRs are being prepared for 60 km of Amarnath Yatra road works worth Rs. 3,500 crore. The Rs. 880-crore Katra Intermodal Station will integrate rail, road and heli-services for devotees visiting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi. Additionally, 54 ropeway proposals worth Rs. 30,000 crore have been received, with eight projects worth Rs. 16,000 crore to be taken up in the first phase at sites including Shri Amarnath Ji Cave, Shankaracharya Temple, Thajjivras Glacier, Bhadarwah, Sanasar and Doodhpathri.

The MoS appreciated the work of all agencies and directed the officials to complete the projects within stipulated timelines while maintaining quality, safety and public convenience. He said the infrastructure push of the last 12 years has moved Jammu and Kashmir "from difficult and disrupted connectivity to modern, all-weather, high-speed and integrated transport." The projects, he added, will boost tourism, pilgrimage, industry, defence logistics and overall socio-economic growth in the Union Territory.

J&K Cabinet.....

Confirming the development, Minister for Jal Shakti Javid Rana said the Cabinet has approved the MoU. He indicated that further developments are expected during a meeting scheduled in New Delhi on June 18.

The signing of the MoU is among the mandatory conditions laid down by the Centre for States and Union Territories to access funds under JJM 2.0. Other requirements include the creation of Sujal Gaon IDs for comprehensive digital mapping of rural water supply schemes, timely financial reconciliation and notification of operation and maintenance (O&M) policies.

The second phase of the Jal Jeevan Mission marks a strategic shift from infrastructure creation to sustained service delivery. The programme aims to strengthen drinking water governance, improve operational efficiency and establish an institutional framework to ensure long-term sustainability of rural piped potable water supply systems.

In March this year, the Union Cabinet approved the Ministry of Jal Shakti's proposal to restructure and reorient the mission, with a renewed emphasis on reliable water services, accountability mechanisms and sustainable management of rural drinking water infrastructure.

The approval of the MoU is expected to facilitate J&K's access to Central support under the revamped scheme and accelerate efforts to ensure dependable drinking water services across rural areas of the Union Territory.

63 Officers.....

original postings after the conclusion of the pilgrimage.

Among the officers deputed are Additional Deputy Commissioner Samba Jagdish Singh, Chief Executive Officer Tourism Development Authority Patnitop Virender Kumar Manyal, Additional Secretary Jal Shakti Department Chander Parkash, Additional Secretary DMRRR Atul Kumar, Additional Secretary Tourism Department Vikas Dhar Bagati, Joint Director School Education Jammu Gurdev Kumar, Deputy Secretary Higher Education Department Vikas Sharma and Revenue Attorney Vishal Singh Parihar. The list also includes several Block Development Officers, Child Development Project Officers, State Taxes Officers and officials from various districts of Jammu division.

The Government has directed all concerned departments and controlling officers to relieve the deputed officials promptly to facilitate timely deployment. The move forms part of the administration's extensive preparations aimed at ensuring efficient coordination, better public services and smooth management during one of the country's largest annual pilgrimages.

Properties.....

was attached under Section 68-F of the NDPS Act after an inquiry concluded that it had been acquired through income derived from drug trafficking activities. Police officials stated that Khanday is involved in multiple narcotics-related cases and that the attached property was found to be directly linked to his alleged involvement in the illegal drug trade.

In Srinagar, police attached immovable properties worth Rs. 1.50 crore belonging to two other accused individuals. Batamaloo Police Station attached a three-storey residential house valued at approximately Rs. 80 lakh in Nundresh Colony. The property belongs to Sikander Firdous, who is facing charges in a narcotics-related case registered in 2022.

In a separate operation, Kralkhud Police Station attached a single-storey residential house worth around Rs. 70 lakh belonging to Ghulam Hassan Bhat of Bijbehara in Anantnag district. Police said investigations established that the property was acquired through proceeds from illicit narcotics trafficking.

Officials said the attachment orders have been forwarded to the competent authority under the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act (SAFEMA) in New Delhi for further legal proceedings.

The latest action underscores the police department's continued focus on dismantling the financial networks supporting the narcotics trade by targeting assets allegedly created through illegal drug-related activities. Authorities reiterated their commitment to intensifying efforts against drug trafficking and curbing the menace across Jammu and Kashmir.

World Must.....

partnership is guided by the philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" — the belief that the world is one family. He reiterated India's commitment to advancing sustainable and inclusive development while contributing to collective global progress.

The session brought together several prominent world leaders, including Donald Trump, Emmanuel Macron, Giorgia Meloni, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, Ursula von der Leyen and Keir Starmer.

Prior to the summit proceedings, Modi exchanged greetings with G7 leaders. He arrived in Evian-les-Bains after completing a two-day visit to Slovakia.

The Group of Seven comprises Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom and the United States, with the European Union also participating as a member. The forum serves as a key platform for addressing major economic, financial and geopolitical challenges facing the world.

Chief Secretary.....

and Senior Faculty Members from various medical institutions across the UT.

Reviewing district-wise performance, the Chief Secretary noted that while several districts have achieved encouraging results, there remains considerable scope for improvement in certain critical indicators. He directed the Health & Medical Education Department to intensify efforts in districts reporting lower coverage of X-ray screening, differentiated TB care, TB preventive treatment and

nutritional support.

He emphasized on expanding the coverage achieved in screening populations residing in identified high-risk villages, directing district administrations and health authorities to substantially increase the number of Nikshay Shivirs and ensure saturation coverage of all notified high-risk villages within the stipulated timelines. He emphasised optimum utilisation of hand-held X-ray units and greater outreach in remote and vulnerable areas.

While reviewing the implementation of the Nikshay Poshan Yojana, the Chief Secretary instructed the concerned authorities to complete all pending beneficiary authentication and ensure timely release of financial assistance to the eligible patients. He further directed that all pending cases be cleared through a special drive so that no patient is deprived of entitled benefits.

The Chief Secretary also called for intensified efforts to enhance TB Preventive Treatment coverage among household contacts and healthcare workers, strengthen differentiated care protocols, improve Poshan Kit distribution and expand community participation through Nikshay Mitras.

Dulloo also stressed the need to improve the uptake of the recently launched TB Mukht Bharat App and Khushi Chatbot, observing that digital tools can significantly enhance treatment adherence, patient counselling and service delivery. He directed all concerned doctors and field functionaries to ensure registration and active utilisation of the platform by every notified TB patient.

Reviewing the progress, the Chief Secretary observed that the performance reflects the efforts made by the healthcare workers, district administrations and community volunteers engaged in the campaign. He stressed that sustained efforts are essential to maintain momentum and achieve the national goal of eliminating tuberculosis.

The Commissioner Secretary, H&ME, M. Raju took this occasion to present the detailed overview of the achievements, challenges and future action plans under the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan being implemented across the districts of J&K.

The Commissioner Secretary apprised the meeting that Jammu & Kashmir has emerged as one of the best performing regions in the country under the ongoing 100-Day TB Mukht Bharat Campaign, securing 2nd rank among States and Union Territories under Phase-II of the national campaign launched on March 24, 2026.

The Chief Secretary was apprised that J&K has achieved notable success in several critical indicators, including vulnerable population screening, presumptive TB testing, TB notification, drug-resistant TB detection, differentiated TB care, nutritional support and community participation through Nikshay Mitras.

The MD, NHM, Akriti Sagar presented that over 2.45 lakh vulnerable individuals have been screened during the ongoing campaign, while 70 percent of the enrolled vulnerable population has undergone X-ray examination, surpassing the national benchmark. She further added that the UT has also recorded 90 percent utilisation of NAAT-based molecular diagnostic testing, ensuring faster and more accurate diagnosis of tuberculosis cases.

The review further revealed that J&K has maintained strong performance in TB case detection, with 4,472 TB cases notified during the first five months of 2026, representing about 40 percent of the annual target. The programme has also strengthened presumptive TB testing, recording over 2.52 lakh tests across the Union Territory during the current year. It was noted that more than 2,100 TB patients have received Poshan Kits during the current year under community support initiatives, while the number of registered Nikshay Mitras has increased to over 13,100 reflecting growing societal participation in supporting TB patients.

The Chief Secretary was informed that 1,504 TB patients have been assessed under Differentiated TB Care, ensuring personalised treatment and management based on disease severity and associated vulnerabilities. Moreover, it was highlighted that significant improvement has also been registered in TB Preventive Treatment (TPT) coverage, which increased from 7 percent during Phase-I to 34 percent during Phase-II, indicating better protection of household contacts and other high-risk groups from developing active tuberculosis.

Emphasising that tuberculosis elimination requires a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, he urged all departments, district administrations, civil society organisations and volunteers to actively contribute towards the goal of making Jammu & Kashmir TB-Mukht in the days to come.

Modi Govt's.....

special mention of the role played by the Jammu & Kashmir Central Pensioners' Associations, saying they have emerged as valuable partners in this transition. He said the Associations have not only extended full cooperation but have consistently brought issues to the notice of the Government along with practical suggestions for their resolution. Their constructive engagement, he said, has helped facilitate the transition of erstwhile State employees into the Central Government framework and contributed to the effective implementation of pension reforms across Jammu & Kashmir.

The Minister said that as a result, pensioners and employees in Jammu & Kashmir are now increasingly benefiting from a series of citizen-centric initiatives launched under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, reflecting the wider reach of pension reforms that have transformed the pension administration landscape across the country over the last decade.

Addressing the 59th Pre-Retirement Counselling (PRC) Workshop and 13th Bankers' Awareness Programme organised by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar,

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the Government has fundamentally changed the approach towards pensioners by placing their welfare, dignity and ease of living at the centre of policy making.

The programme was attended by Ms. Nivedita Shukla Verma, Secretary, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare; Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary, UT of Jammu & Kashmir; Shri Amitava Chatterjee, MD & CEO, J&K Bank; and Shri Dhrubajyoti Sengupta, Joint Secretary (Pension), besides senior officers, bankers and employees approaching superannuation.

On the occasion, the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare and Jammu & Kashmir Bank launched a collaborative initiative aimed at expanding pension-related services and improving accessibility for pensioners across the Union Territory. Dr. Jitendra Singh said the partnership would further strengthen service delivery mechanisms and enable a larger number of pensioners in Jammu & Kashmir to access the benefits of ongoing pension reforms with greater convenience.

The Minister said that one of the defining features of the last decade has been the transformation of the Department from being viewed primarily as a pension-processing institution to a department genuinely committed to Pensioners' Welfare. He said the emphasis today is not merely on issuing Pension Payment Orders but on ensuring dignity, security, convenience and ease of living for pensioners and senior citizens.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said the Bhavishya platform has brought about a major change in pension administration by enabling end-to-end digitisation of pension processing. Pension Payment Orders are now integrated with DigiLocker, ensuring seamless, paperless and transparent access to pension documents for retirees.

Referring to one of the most successful reforms introduced under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governance agenda, the Minister said the introduction of Digital Life Certificates through Face Authentication Technology has transformed the lives of pensioners by allowing them to submit life certificates from their homes using mobile phones. He said the initiative has significantly enhanced ease of living for senior citizens and reduced their dependence on physical visits to banks and offices.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the nationwide Digital Life Certificate campaign conducted in November 2025 witnessed unprecedented participation, with over 1.91 crore Digital Life Certificates generated across the country, including more than 1.16 crore through Face Authentication Technology, demonstrating the growing acceptance of digital governance among pensioners.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said the Government has also strengthened grievance redressal through CPENGRAMS, thematic review mechanisms and National Pension Adalats, enabling faster resolution of pension-related grievances. Reforms relating to family pension, additional pension, retirement benefits and cases involving missing employees have further strengthened the social security architecture for pensioners and their families, he added.

Ladakh LG.....

Programme Director, WWF India, Sandesh Kadur, Explorer Trustee of the National Geographic Society Board of Trustees, President, Women's Alliance of Ladakh, and Ghulam Mohammad Khan, Chairman, Ladakh Centre for Peace and Sustainable Development, as its members.

The society will promote, assist and mobilise resources for the conservation of wildlife and their habitat, eco-development in the vicinity of areas inhabited by snow leopard, its co-existing species, and promote eco-tourism and sustainable livelihood, the spokesperson of the Lok Bhavan said.

Since assuming charge as the LG of Ladakh, Saxena has consistently placed environmental protection and ecological resilience at the centre of governance. "Environmental protection has been one of our foremost priorities in Ladakh, where fragile mountain ecosystems demand a development model that places conservation at its very core. The snow leopard is not merely a wildlife species; it is an integral part of Ladakh's ecological identity and natural heritage.

"The SHAN Conservation Society represents an important institutional initiative to promote science-based and community-driven conservation while ensuring that ecological preservation and sustainable livelihoods progress hand in hand," the LG said.

The spokesperson said the establishment of the SHAN Conservation Society is another significant milestone in this broader environmental agenda and is the result of the LG's personal intervention and sustained efforts to create a robust institutional framework for biodiversity conservation in Ladakh.

He said the society has been formed as a multi-stakeholder platform to promote conservation of Ladakh's unique alpine fauna, including snow leopards, a variety of flora, wetlands and fragile cold desert ecosystems.

It will facilitate scientific monitoring and research, strengthen biodiversity management, mitigate human-wildlife conflict, promote community-led conservation initiatives and support sustainable eco-tourism and livelihood generation.

The initiative assumes greater significance for the conservation of the snow leopard, the state animal of Ladakh, and one of the world's most elusive and endangered big cats, the spokesperson said.

Revered as the 'Ghost of the Mountains', the snow leopard is a keystone species whose presence reflects the health of the entire Trans-Himalayan ecosystem.

Its conservation is intrinsically linked with the protection of mountain habitats, prey species, watersheds and biodiversity that sustain life in the region. The species has also emerged as a global symbol of Ladakh's rich natural heritage and holds immense potential for promoting responsible eco-tourism and community-based conservation.



CS finalises arrangements for grand celebration of International Day of Yoga across J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 16: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today reviewed the preparations being undertaken across Jammu and Kashmir for the celebration of the International Day of Yoga (IDY)-2026, scheduled to be observed on June 21, 2026, under the theme "Yoga for Healthy Ageing".

The meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, H&ME; Commissioner Secretary, Y&S; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir was attended by Secretary, Transport; Secretary, RDD; MD, NHM; Director, Colleges; Director, Ayush and other concerned officers.

Deputy Commissioners and District SSPs attended the meeting through video conferencing.

Reviewing the preparedness for the event, the Chief Secretary took a detailed appraisal of the arrangements being put in place by the Divisional Commissioners of Jammu as well as Kashmir and all the Deputy Commissioners regarding identification of venues, logistical arrangements and

mobilization of participants. He emphasized the need for meticulous planning to ensure smooth conduct of the celebrations across the Union Territory.

Stressing on showcasing Jammu and Kashmir's natural beauty and tourism potential alongside the message of wellness, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned authorities to organize yoga sessions at prominent iconic tourist destinations across the UT, thereby promoting the spirit of yoga amid the region's scenic landscapes and encouraging wider public participation.

Earlier the Commissioner Secretary, H&ME, M.Raju threw light on the extensive prelude activities being conducted across Jammu and Kashmir to create awareness and encourage public participation. These activities, he continued, included yoga sessions, yoga at iconic locations, Samyoga programmes integrating yoga with other healthcare systems, youth-centric initiatives in educational institutions, Harit Yoga programmes promoting environmental consciousness, and community outreach campaigns. He further gave out that 1,952



yoga-related events have been organized so far across the Union Territory, witnessing participation of over 1.31 lakh people, reflecting the growing enthusiasm among citizens towards yoga and healthy living.

The Chief Secretary was apprised that as per the past practice Directorate of Ayush, J&K has been designated as the nodal agency for IDY-2026 celebrations. The department is coordinating with all line departments and stakeholders to ensure successful organization of yoga programmes

in Jammu and Kashmir, all 642 Ayush health facilities are being registered on the Yoga Sangam Portal launched by the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, to facilitate large-scale participation.

A mega Union Territory-level event will be organized at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar, where around 4,000 to 5,000 participants are expected to participate in the mass yoga demonstration.

The Chief Secretary was informed that mass yoga events will be organized at district headquarters, educational institutions, tourist destinations, healthcare facilities, Anganwadi centres and village-level locations to ensure maximum public participation.

Emphasizing the importance of the International Day of Yoga, the Chief Secretary directed all departments to work in close coordination and adopt a whole-of-government approach to ensure the successful conduct of the event. He stressed upon maximizing public participation and making the celebrations a mass movement promoting health, wellness and healthy lifestyles across Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr Tasaduk Hussain Itoo Bids Farewell to SMVD Narayana Super speciality Hospital After Eight Years of Dedicated Service

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KATRA, JUN 16: After an enriching journey spanning eight years, Dr Tasaduk Hussain Itoo has bid farewell to SMVD Narayana Super speciality Hospital, Kakryal, Katra Jammu, marking the end of a significant chapter in his professional life. Throughout his tenure, he remained committed to delivering compassionate patient care, upholding clinical excellence, and contributing actively to academic and



educational activities within the institution. His association with the hospital was characterized by dedication, teamwork, and an unwavering commitment to the well-being of patients and the advancement of healthcare services.

During his years at the institution, Dr Itoo earned recognition for his contributions to medicine, medical education, public health, and scientific scholarship. He participated in numerous academic initiatives and continuing medical education activities, reflecting his passion for lifelong learning and professional growth.

As he embarks on a new phase of his career, he expresses sincere gratitude to the hospital administration, consultants, nursing staff, paramedical teams, colleagues, and support staff for their guidance, cooperation, and friendship. He also extends heartfelt thanks to the countless patients and families who entrusted him with their care. The experiences, lessons, and memories gained at SMVD Narayana Super speciality Hospital will continue to inspire him in his future endeavours in healthcare and service to humanity.

Ahead of Amarnath Yatra, security beefed up across J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUN 16: Authorities have beefed up security across Jammu and Kashmir ahead of the annual Amarnath Yatra, with multi-layered arrangements, mock drills and coordinated exercises being carried out to ensure the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

Officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) security forces, police and civil administration have activated a comprehensive security grid covering transit routes, base camps, railway infrastructure, lodgement centres and other critical installations linked to the pilgrimage, scheduled to begin early next month.

An official said, "In Anantnag district, police have strengthened security measures along the traditional Pahalgam route. Specialised teams are carrying out anti-sabotage checks, area domination exercises and sanitisation drives from Khanabal to Pahalgam, covering transit points, parking areas, accommodation centres and vulnerable locations."

"The operations are being supported by bomb disposal squads, sniffer dog units and technical surveillance teams," he added. "Security personnel are also conducting inspections of vehicles, including abandoned and unattended vehicles, while surveillance has been enhanced in forest areas and along key stretches of the pilgrimage route," the official said.

Authorities, he said, have also introduced QR code-based verification for service providers associated with the yatra, including pony operators and other workers, to strengthen identification and monitoring mechanisms.

"As part of broader preparedness efforts, security forces conducted a mock drill at the Chichi Mata Temple in Jammu's Samba district to assess response capabilities in the event of a terror attack or other emergency situation," the official added.

The exercise involved coordinated action by multiple agencies and focused on evacuation procedures, emergency response and crowd management, he added.

NORTH KASHMIR

Meanwhile, a large-scale joint security exercise was held in North Kashmir's Baramulla district under the supervision of the Army's 79 Mountain Brigade.

The drill brought together personnel from the Army, CRPF, BSF, Jammu and Kashmir Police, Special Operations Group (SOG), civil administration, Fire and Emergency Services and medical teams.

Officials said the exercise simulated a range of scenarios, including crowd mobilisation, misinformation campaigns, road accidents, stone-pelting incidents and casualty evacuation.

The drill tested command-and-control systems, intelligence-sharing mechanisms and rapid response procedures among participating agencies.

Security arrangements have also been reviewed at railway stations, bridges, culverts and other critical infrastructure in several districts. "Regular searches and area sanitisation drives are being undertaken as part of preventive measures," the official added. To strengthen administrative coordination during the pilgrimage, the Jammu and Kashmir government has temporarily deputed 63 officers from various departments.

The officers will assist in managing logistics, pilgrim facilities, inter-departmental coordination and other operational requirements during the yatra. (KNO)

Public outreach remains integral part of transparent, accountable governance: Sakeena Itoo

Meets public delegations, individuals at Jammu

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JUNE 16: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today met several public delegations and individuals at Civil Secretariat here and listened to a wide range of public issues and developmental concerns raised by them.

The delegations, representing different areas and sections of society, apprised the Minister of matters pertaining to healthcare services, education, social welfare initiatives, civic amenities and local infrastructure. Individual citizens also projected issues requiring timely administrative intervention and sought appropriate redressal.

Giving a patient hearing to all the representations, the Minister assured the visiting delegations and individuals that their genuine concerns would be examined on prior-



ity and taken up with the concerned departments for necessary action. "Public outreach remains an integral part of transparent and accountable governance as sustained engagement with citizens helps in identifying and addressing grassroots issues effectively", Sakeena Itoo stated.

The Minister reiterated the Government's commitment to ensuring equitable development, efficient public service delivery and welfare-

oriented governance across Jammu and Kashmir. She stressed that coordinated efforts among departments are being encouraged to resolve public grievances in a prompt and effective manner.

The Minister also urged the officers concerned to maintain close coordination with stakeholders and ensure that developmental initiatives and welfare schemes reach the intended beneficiaries in a timely and transparent manner.

Peace boosts tourism along LoC areas in Kashmir

Army launch platforms to promote frontier destinations, strengthen visitor economy

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUN 16: Once known for cross-border shelling and insecurity, villages along the Line of Control (LoC) in North Kashmir are witnessing a tourism boom. According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) destinations such as Keran, Machil, Teetwal, Tangdhar, Gurez and Bangus Valley are emerging as major attractions.

Situated on the banks of the Kishenganga river in Kupwara district, Keran has become one of the most visited border destinations in Kashmir. The river forms the LoC between Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), offering visitors a rare glimpse of life across the border.

Tourists can often be seen gathering along the riverbanks, exchanging waves with people on the opposite side and enjoying the scenic landscape of forests, mountains and flowing streams.

The surge in tourist arrivals has opened new economic opportu-

nities for local residents, many of whom have converted their homes into homestays and tourism facilities.

"We have learned from established tourist destinations like Gulmarg and Pahalgam. People have decorated their homes, prepared homestays and even arranged horse rides for visitors to explore nearby scenic areas," said Suhail Ahmad, a homestay owner in Keran.

He said tourism has become a major source of livelihood for residents who for decades lived under the shadow of conflict.

"Before the ceasefire, shelling was a regular occurrence and life was extremely difficult. Today, tourists are visiting throughout the year and local families are benefiting from it," Ahmad said.

Residents credited the February 2021 reaffirmation of the India-Pakistan ceasefire agreement for bringing stability and creating conditions conducive to tourism and development.

"Over the past few years, we have witnessed a complete transformation. Earlier, people would

leave their homes during shelling. Now, those same homes are welcoming guests from different parts of the country," said Abdul Majeed, a resident of Karnah.

Official figures indicate that more than 4.30 lakh tourists have visited border destinations in north Kashmir this year. Of these, nearly three lakh visited areas in Kupwara district, while Gurez recorded around 60,000 visitors and the Uri sector witnessed about 70,000 tourist footfalls.

Apart from Keran and Karnah, destinations such as Bangus Valley, Lolab, Machil, Teetwal, Tangdhar, Gurez and Tulail Valley are drawing increasing numbers of visitors seeking offbeat travel experiences.

Locals said the tourism boom has generated employment opportunities for youth and encouraged small businesses, including transport services, pony rides and hospitality ventures.

However, the rapid increase in tourist footfall has also created challenges. Tanveer Ahmad, a resident of Keran, said improper disposal of waste by some visitors

was becoming a concern.

"Tourists should avoid littering along riverbanks and scenic spots. Proper waste management is essential to preserve the natural beauty of the area," he said.

Visitors also highlighted the need for improved mobile connectivity and additional public facilities. Officials said work was underway to improve infrastructure, including the construction of public washrooms and the formulation of plans for scientific waste disposal.

They said cultural events organised by the administration, tourism department and security forces had helped bring border destinations onto Kashmir's tourism map and attract visitors from across the country.

Meanwhile, a tourism portal and a tourism magazine aimed at promoting North Kashmir's tourist destinations and boosting border tourism were launched in Kupwara by the Indian Army.

Officials said the portal and magazine have been designed to showcase the tourism potential of North Kashmir and provide

visitors with information on destinations, cultural heritage, adventure tourism activities, local traditions and travel experiences across the region.

The platforms feature several destinations in the frontier districts, including Keran, Machhal, Karnah, Lolab, Tangdhar, Gurez and Kupwara, which have witnessed a rise in tourist arrivals in recent years.

"The objective is to create a comprehensive platform that highlights the unique attractions of North Kashmir and facilitates access to information for tourists planning to visit the region," an official said.

Officials said the tourism portal would serve as a digital gateway for visitors by providing details about destinations, accommodation facilities, local attractions and tourism-related services available in North Kashmir. The tourism magazine, meanwhile, seeks to document and promote the region's scenic landscapes, cultural traditions, local crafts and emerging tourism circuits—(KNO)

Govt committed to preservation of Kashmir's houseboat heritage: Javed Rana

MLAs raise constituency specific concerns

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 16: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today said that the government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is committed towards protecting and preserving the treasured houseboat heritage of Kashmir.

He made these remarks during a meeting with the All Kashmir Houseboat Owners Association (AKHBOA) held at Civil Secretariat Srinagar.

The meeting was also attended by MLA Zadibal constituency, Tanveer Sadiq.

Rana said that the houseboat remains a symbol of the Valley's cultural identity and a vital pillar of its tourism economy and



every effort will be made for welfare of the communities de-

pendent on it.

The delegation, led by Chairman AKHBOA, Manzoor Ahmad Pakhtoon, apprised the Minister of various issues concerning the houseboat sector, particularly the requirement of timber for repair, renovation and maintenance of these heritage structures.

The representatives underscored that houseboats constitute a unique heritage asset of Jammu and Kashmir and play a significant role in sustaining tourism and providing livelihood to hundreds of families. They requested for enhancement of the existing timber quota to meet maintenance requirements while seeking easier process of timber procurement.

Responding to the issues raised by the delegation, the

Minister assured that the concerns raised would be examined sympathetically for appropriate consideration. He said the government remains committed to safeguard the region's heritage assets while ensuring the welfare of communities dependent on them.

The delegation expressed gratitude to the Minister for his positive response to their long-pending demands.

Legislators Ranbir Singh Pathania and Mir Saifullah also called on the Minister and apprised him of various development and public welfare issues pertaining to their respective constituencies.

The Minister assured them that their concerns would be looked into and addressed in a time bound manner.

BOPEE conducts Common Entrance Test for M.Sc. Nursing Courses

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 16: The Jammu and Kashmir Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE) today conducted the Common Entrance Test (CET) for M.Sc. Nursing Courses for the academic session 2026-27 at Jammu and Srinagar Centres.

The test was conducted at S.P. College, M.A. Road, Srinagar, in the Kashmir Division and at Government Gandhi Memorial Science College, Jammu, in the Jammu Division, with a total of 447 candidates appearing across JK&K.



To ensure smooth conduct of the entrance test, adequate arrangements had been made in collaboration with the respective College administrations and law enforcement agencies, under the guidance of Professor Minu Mahajan, Chairperson, JK&K BOPEE.

The examination was conducted under the vigilant supervision of staff from the respective institutions and no incident of misconduct or malpractice was reported.

The Chairperson, along with the Members, the Secretary, the Controller of Examinations and the officials of the JK&K BOPEE actively monitored the Common Entrance Test at both the centres in Jammu and Srinagar.

They thanked the staff members of the respective Colleges and the staff deployed under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioners in the respective District Headquarters for smooth conduct of the said Entrance Test.

DC reviews arrangements for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 in Udhampur

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 16: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting of officers from various line departments to review preparedness for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026.

The review covered arrangements along the Yatra route from Tikri to Chenani, including security, safe drinking water, power supply, health-care, sanitation, lodgement centres, temporary toilets, langar arrangements and traffic management.

The DC directed all departmental heads to ensure foolproof arrangements well in advance



and stressed close inter-departmental coordination for timely execution.

Department-wise, JPDCL was directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply, Jal Shakti Department to deploy round-the-clock water tankers, the Traffic Department to regulate vehicular movement, CEO Municipal Council to install dustbins and deploy vehicles for scientific waste disposal and the CMO to ensure round-the-clock medical facilities, healthcare personnel and emergency response services.

Among those present were Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh and senior officers of the departments concerned.

KVK Gurez organises Awareness-cum-Distribution Camp at Gujran, Tulail under Khet Bachao Abhiyan

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 16: Under the leadership of Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai and instrumental support of Director Extension, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, KVK Gurez today organised

an awareness-cum-distribution programme of organic inputs at Gujran, Tulail, the last village of Gurez Valley, as part of the ongoing national programme Khet Bachao Abhiyan.

During the programme, KVK Scientists Dr. Jauhar Rafeeq and Dr.

Shahida Altaf sensitised farmers on biological approaches to insect pest management and measures for improving soil health.

Latest SKUAST-K developed technologies, biopesticides and biofertilisers were distributed among participating farmers.

DC Pulwama chairs DLRC/DCC meeting, reviews banking performance

Stresses priority sector lending, timely disposal of credit cases, saturation of flagship schemes

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, JUNE 16: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) and District Consultative Committee (DCC) meeting for the fourth quarter of the financial year 2025-26 at Circuit House, Pulwama, to review the performance of banks and the implementation of various credit-linked, employment generation and financial inclusion schemes in the district.

At the outset, Lead District Manager (LDM), Pulwama, presented a detailed overview of the district's banking performance. The Chair was informed that as on March 31, 2026, the district recorded deposits of Rs 5,902.15 crore and advances of Rs 6,218.79 crore, while the district's Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio stood at 105.36 per cent.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed bank-wise and sector-wise performance under the District Credit Plan

(DCP). A detailed review of employment generation schemes, including Mission YUVA, PMEGP, PM Vishwakarma, PM Surya Ghar, PMFME, NRLM, HADP, Artisan Credit Card and Weavers Credit Card, was also conducted.

Reviewing the progress under Mission YUVA, the DC directed banks to expedite the sanctioning and disbursement of pending cases and ensure that aspiring entrepreneurs receive timely financial assistance. He stressed close coordination among banks, line departments and beneficiaries for effective implementation of the scheme and directed that pendency be reduced through regular follow-up at all levels. He also directed the concerned departments and banking institutions to ensure timely processing of applications and improved credit flow to eligible beneficiaries under various government-sponsored schemes. He emphasised the need to strengthen credit linkage initiatives to generate



sustainable livelihood opportunities and promote entrepreneurship in the district.

The Chair also reviewed the status of Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) issued under the Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries sectors. He directed the concerned departments and banks to intensify efforts for saturation of eligible beneficiaries under KCC and ensure timely disposal of pending applications. He stressed the inclusion of all eligible PM-KISAN beneficia-

ries under the KCC scheme to enhance access to institutional credit and strengthen the agricultural economy of the district.

The DC also reviewed the implementation of social security schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY) and Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY). He directed banks and line departments to intensify enrolment drives, undertake targeted interventions and achieve saturation targets in a time-bound manner.

Emphasising financial inclusion and public outreach, the DC directed banks and concerned institutions to conduct more financial literacy and awareness programmes in rural and far-flung areas. He emphasized the importance of creating awareness regarding digital banking services, social security schemes and credit-linked livelihood opportunities.

The DC further reviewed the functioning of RSETI and highlighted its role in skill development and entrepreneurship promotion. He stressed strengthening post-training handholding and credit linkage of trained candidates to facilitate self-employment and enterprise creation.

The meeting also discussed preliminary preparations for the Potential Linked Plan (PLP) 2027-28. The DC directed all stakeholder departments to work in close coordination with banking institutions and NABARD to ensure realistic credit planning aligned with the district's developmental priorities.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Pulwama; General Manager, DIC Pulwama; Lead District Manager; representatives of RBI and NABARD; Cluster Head, JK&K Bank; officers of line departments; and representatives of various banks and financial institutions.

DC Anantnag chairs RTA meeting

29 LA applications, 13 permits cleared

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JUNE 16: To review and strengthen traffic management in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC), who is also the Chairman Regional Transport Authority (RTA) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mo-hiuddin Bhat today chaired a meeting of the authority at DC Office.

The meeting was attended by SER&B, ARTO, DySP HQ, DySP Traffic, Exen R&B, Inspectors MVD and Traffic, CEO MCA and other officials. At the outset, the ARTO presented an overview of the existing traffic management system and briefed the chair about different measures that have been adopted for streamlining traffic and vehicular movement in the district. He informed that enforcement actions including penalties are being taken against the traffic violators and officials have been deployed to manage traffic both in urban and rural areas.

Addressing the meeting, the DC emphasized the need to identify and develop designated parking areas and to map routes for e-rickshaws to prevent congestion, directing MVD, Traffic Police and MCA to conduct a thorough survey



for the purpose. He instructed that consultations be held with e-rickshaw operators and companies to address safety and operational concerns. He further asked the ARTO and Traffic Police to take immediate steps to prevent avoidable traffic jams at Bijbehara and other places, which are causing inconvenience to the public. On the occasion, directives were issued to the ARTO to introduce special service days for slot allocation to applicants, identify land for fitness and trial grounds and conduct regular awareness programmes on road safety in educational institutions, taxi stands and other important places.

After thorough deliberations, the RTA approved 29 LA applications and condonation of delay in respect of 13 expired permits against appropriate fines.

JKTPO organizes Workshop on Export Awareness-cum-E-Commerce onboarding Drive on India-European FTA in Srinagar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 16: Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) organized a One-Day Workshop on Export Awareness-cum-E-Commerce Onboarding Drive on India-European Free Trade Agreement in Srinagar as part of its activities for the financial year 2026-27.

The programme was conducted in collaboration with the District Administration Srinagar, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), and other stakeholder institutions.

The workshop aimed to equip Mission YUVA entre-

preneurs, MSMEs, artisans, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and aspiring exporters with practical knowledge on export procedures, government support schemes, market access opportunities, and the benefits of digital commerce. Special emphasis was laid on emerging opportunities under the proposed India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA), with participants sensitized to the prospects of enhanced access to European markets and the need to improve quality standards, packaging, and export readiness.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest, Masrat-ul-Islam, Director, Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, appreciated JKTPO's efforts towards strengthening the export ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir.

He highlighted the Department's initiatives in de-

sign innovation, quality enhancement, and the promotion of GI-tagged products, while emphasizing the immense global potential of Srinagar's renowned handicrafts, particularly Kashmiri Silk Carpets, the district's flagship product under the ODOPI initiative.

The programme was also attended by officers of JKTPO, the Industries and Commerce Department, and other line departments.

During the technical sessions, Maqbool Shah, Senior Consultant, GeM, briefed participants on seller registration and business opportunities available through the Government e-Marketplace.

Ullas Kumar, Branch Manager, ECGC, explained export credit insurance and risk mitigation mechanisms for exporters.

Joining virtually, Kiran Pa-

tel from Amazon Karigar shared insights on leveraging e-commerce platforms, digital marketing, and online branding to expand market reach.

The workshop witnessed participation from over 120 entrepreneurs, including Mission YUVA beneficiaries from Srinagar district, who actively engaged with experts and expressed keen interest in exploring export opportunities and onboarding their products onto digital platforms.

The initiative forms part of JKTPO's ongoing efforts under the Districts as Export Hubs (DEH) Scheme and the One District One Product (ODOPI) Initiative to strengthen Jammu & Kashmir's export ecosystem, improve market access for local producers, and integrate them with national and global value chains.

Dr. Shahid Iqbal reviews progress on 100 Day Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir Campaign in Rajouri

HT NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI, JUNE 16: Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, who is also District Mentor under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), today reviewed the progress achieved under the ongoing 100 day Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Campaign during a meeting held here.

Dr. Shahid Iqbal stressed the need for active youth engagement, robust data management and continuous monitoring to ensure success of the campaign. He emphasized that the privacy and confidentiality of data related to affected individuals must be maintained at all levels. He observed that the 100-day campaign serves as a catalyst towards a larger objective and called for formulation of long-term sustainable measures to effectively combat drug abuse.

Highlighting the importance of rehabilitation, Dr. Shahid Iqbal directed the concerned departments to ensure proper follow-up and tracking of individuals after treatment so that recovery remains sustainable. He underscored the need to transform the initiative into a lasting movement rather than a short-term intervention.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, presented a detailed account of the



district's efforts under the campaign. He informed that a comprehensive youth engagement strategy has been devised which is being implemented vigorously across the district. He elaborated on the mechanisms adopted for identification, counselling, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of substance abuse.

The Deputy Commissioner informed that two de-addiction centres are presently functional in the district including one at Government Medical College (GMC) Rajouri with a 20-bedded facility and another at the Old Hospital Rajouri. He stated that the systematic counselling ser-

vices are being provided and day-wise analysis of cases is being conducted to monitor the progress. Individuals requiring advanced care are being shifted to IPD services for better treatment outcomes, he added.

The meeting was informed that extensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities are being conducted to generate mass awareness against drug abuse. Multiple departments have actively contributed to the campaign. Schools and educational institutions have been mobilized through sports and recreational activities, including chess, volleyball and other com-

petitions. A recently organized night tournament at Government Boys Higher Secondary School Rajouri received an encouraging response from the youth.

The Deputy Commissioner further highlighted the active participation of Mahila Nigrani Samitis in community-level monitoring and awareness generation. Special training programmes have also been conducted for the counsellors to strengthen rehabilitation services. Simultaneously, efforts are being made to connect recovered youth with skill development initiatives and gainful employment opportunities, he added.

It was informed that more than 3.62 lakh events and activities have been conducted under the campaign so far, covering all the Panchayats across the district.

Senior Superintendent of Police Rajouri, Gaurav Sikarwar, briefed the meeting on the enforcement measures undertaken against drug trafficking and peddling. He informed that strict legal action has been initiated against the offenders, resulting in cancellation of 16 driving licences, 12 vehicle registrations and attachment of four immovable properties linked to drug-related activities. He also presented a detailed account of FIRs registered against drug peddlers and other enforcement actions carried out by the police.

Appreciating the coordinated efforts of the district administration, police, health department, educational institutions and community stakeholders, Dr. Shahid Iqbal urged all the stakeholders to continue working with commitment and synergy to achieve the vision of a drug-free Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by ADDC; ADC; ADC Nowshera; ADC Kalakote; SDM Thanamandi; Chief Planning Officer; Assistant Commissioner Development; District Social Education Officer; Chief Medical Officer; ARTO and other concerned officers.

Natrang organises Yoga Workshop in Summer Theatre Workshop

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU, JUNE 16: Adding a significant dimension of holistic learning to its ongoing Summer Theatre Workshop, Natrang today organized a special session on "Yoga for Well-Being" for participating children. The session was conducted in collaboration with the AYUSH Department, Jammu & Kashmir, with the objective of promoting physical fitness, mental wellness and emotional balance among young theatre enthusiasts.

On the occasion, Padmashri Balwant Thakur, Director Natrang, expressed his gratitude to the Director, AYUSH, J&K and Dr. Aruna Bhat, Medical Superintendent, Government Ayurvedic Hospital, Jammu, for extending their valuable support and making this meaningful initiative possible. He appreciated the efforts of the AYUSH team in spreading awareness about the importance of yoga among children and integrating wellness practices with creative learning.

It is pertinent to mention that since 1990, Natrang has been providing a unique platform for children to utilize their summer vacations creatively through its annual theatre workshops. Over the years, this pioneering initiative has helped shape the personalities and careers of thousands of participants by nurturing confidence, creativity, discipline, communication skills and teamwork in a vibrant atmosphere of fun and learning.

The yoga session was ably conducted by Dr. Arun Gupta, Medical Officer, and Mr. Rajesh, Yoga Instructor, who introduced the children to various yoga practices and explained their numerous physical and mental health benefits. They also highlighted the relevance of yoga in theatre, emphasizing how it enhances concentration, body awareness, flexibility, breathing techniques and stage performance.

The Summer Theatre Workshop is being conducted by experienced theatre experts under the supervision of Padmashri Balwant Thakur. The workshop is being coordinated by Gauri Thakur, Pawan Verma, Mohd. Yaseen, Kananpreet Kaur, Ayn Bholu, Mahikshit Singh, Sheetal Sen and Kartik Kumar.

Those who attended the Yoga for Well-Being Session included Aarush Choudhary, Adhrit Suri, Amayra Mahajan, Anika Sharma, Anvie Sharma, Bhavyashree Sharma, Haneet Vishal Salhotra, Jayantika Mahajan, Kamakhya, Kaustubh Sharma, Mohd. Saad Bandey, Namisha Mahajan, Priyansh Mehra, Rabhya Sharma, Riddhish Gupta, Riyaarth Sharma, Sanatan Gupta, Sharvil Mahajan, Shivanya Sharma, Shranav Mahajan, Tapas Shikhar, Twisha Sharma, Vaibhav Mahajan, Vamika Verma and Jayaditya Jamwal.

Commissioner Secretary YSS visits Vibrant Villages in Nowshera; reviews development initiatives

HT NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI, JUNE 16: Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports (YSS), Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, today visited Vibrant Villages in the border area of Nowshera and convened a meeting with the district officers, prominent citizens and local residents to review the development initiatives and assess the public issues.

During the interaction, the public projected various demands and developmental concerns.

Dr. Shahid Iqbal, while responding to the issues raised, assured the people that all their genuine demands would be taken up with the concerned authorities for appropriate action.

Addressing the gathering, the Commissioner Secretary emphasized the Prime Minister's vision of transforming border villages from the "last villages" into the "first villages" of the country. He stressed the need to accelerate the developmental activities in these strategically important areas and highlighted the immense potential of sports in empowering the border youth.

He said that sports infrastructure and opportunities in border areas would be strengthened to encourage greater participation of youth in constructive activities. He also appreciated the efforts of the district administration, particularly Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, for effectively projecting the livelihood generation projects under the Vibrant Villages Programme.

Dr. Shahid Iqbal lauded the cleanliness and upkeep of the border villages and remarked that the Ministry for Defence and Ministry for Home Affairs have consistently accorded priority to the development and welfare of border areas.

The Deputy Commissioner briefed the Commissioner Secretary about the ongoing initiatives being undertaken under the Vibrant Villages Programme. He stated that the district administration is committed to develop the identified villages as model villages through focused interventions in infrastructure, livelihoods, tourism and heritage conservation.

The DC highlighted the youth-centric livelihood projects, including establishment of milk collection and processing centres, aimed at generating sustainable employment opportunities. He also outlined plans for promoting border tourism and religious tourism to unlock the economic potential of the region.

He informed that several heritage revival projects have been projected to preserve and promote the rich cultural legacy of the area. He said that the visit of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to the district had significantly enhanced the seriousness and commitment of the field officers towards implementation of the developmental programmes.

He also briefed the Commissioner Secretary regarding the proposed Border Marathon and its role in promoting sports, tourism and youth engagement in the border belt.

Among others, ADC Nowshera, PO ICDS, CPO, ACD, DSWO and other district and sectoral officers besides the prominent citizens and public were present on the occasion.

Students Join 15-Day Traditional Rouff Dance Workshop at GGHSS Kothibagh Sgr



GULFAM BARI

SRINAGAR, JUNE 16: A 15-day traditional Rouff Dance Workshop, organized by the North Zone Cultural Centre (NZCC) Patiala, under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India commenced at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Kothibagh Srinagar. The workshop will continue till June 30, 2026. The inaugural function was attended by National Awardee Shah-e-Jahan Ahmad Bhagat as the Chief Guest. Speaking on the

occasion he highlighted the importance of preserving Kashmir's rich folk traditions and encouraged young people to actively participate in cultural activities. The workshop is being conducted under the guidance of noted folk artist and choreographer Mudasir Gulzar Naqeeb "Sonu Sagar". Addressing the participants he stressed the need to safeguard Kashmir's cultural heritage and said that such initiatives play a vital role in promoting traditional art forms among the younger generation.

A large number of students have enrolled in the programme and will receive practical training in Rouff dance, traditional songs, costumes and stage presentation techniques. The workshop aims to create awareness about Kashmir's folk heritage and strengthen

efforts for the preservation of traditional performing arts. The organizers expressed gratitude to the North NZCC Patiala and the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India for their continued support in promoting and preserving the region's cultural traditions.

DC Srinagar visits Gurdwara Shaheed Bunga at Barzulla Baghat on Martyrs' Day of Guru Arjun Dev Ji

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 16: On the occasion of the Martyrs' Day of Guru Arjun Dev Ji, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Tuesday visited Gurdwara Shaheed Bunga at Barzulla Baghat to pay obeisance and participate in the religious observances held to commemorate the sacrifice of the fifth Sikh Guru.

During his visit, the DC interacted with members of the Sikh community, Gurdwara management and devotees present on the occasion. He conveyed his heartfelt message to the Sikh community and emphasized the enduring relevance of the teachings of Guru Arjun Dev Ji, which continue to inspire generations to uphold the principles of brotherhood, humility, social justice and communal harmony.

Public Notice

I, Zahida Begum, W/o Ab. Hameed Sheikh, resident of Habak Tangoo, Pattan, Jammu & Kashmir, holder of Savings Bank Account No. 0227040800002116, do hereby declare that my name has been changed/corrected from Zahida Akhter to Zahida Begum. Henceforth, I shall be known and identified by the name Zahida Begum for all purposes including bank records, Aadhaar records, government documents, and all other official records.

If any person has any objection regarding this name change/correction, he/she may submit the same within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Zahida Begum
W/o Ab. Hameed Sheikh
A/C No. 0227040800002116
Habak Tangoo, Pattan, Jammu & Kashmir

MINISTRY OF CULTURE
Government of India

राष्ट्रीय नाट्य विद्यालय
NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA
(An Autonomous Institution of the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)

THEATRE IN EDUCATION CENTRE, SRINAGAR

In collaboration with
J&K ACADEMY OF ART, CULTURE & LANGUAGES

ORGANISES

SUMMER CHILDREN THEATRE WORKSHOP

WITH SCHOOL CHILDREN DURING SUMMER VACATION

The National School of Drama, Theatre in Education Centre, Srinagar in collaboration with J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages is going to organize two separate 15 days Theatre / Drama in education summer workshops with school children during summer vacation.

THE WORKSHOP AIMS TO:

- ★ Develop and strengthen life skills
- ★ Explore latent potential of the students

ELIGIBILITY

School children of age group
8 - 12 & 12 - 16 years
as on **20th June 2026.**

Interested aspirants may collect the application forms from NSD, TIE Centre, Srinagar, Cultural Academy Campus, Lal Mandi, Srinagar from **10th June 2026 between 11:00am to 4:00pm** before the announcement of summer vacation.

"REGISTER YOUR NAME BEFORE SUMMER VACATION STARTS"

FREE

ADMISSION IS TOTALLY FREE.

AFTER THE COMPLETION OF WORKSHOP CERTIFICATES WILL BE AWARDED TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:

1. Copy of Aadhar Card & identity card issued by school authorities.
2. Consent from parent /guardian

For further information contact Director

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HT EDITORIAL

A Bold Move Against the Growing Menace of Begging

The District Administration Srinagar's decision to enforce a complete ban on begging under the SMILE Scheme deserves appreciation as a bold and timely intervention aimed at addressing a problem that has increasingly become visible across the city. For years, residents have expressed concern over the growing number of people seeking alms at markets, traffic intersections, religious places, and other public spaces. The administration's move signals a clear intent to tackle the issue in a structured and decisive manner.

Begging is not merely a social concern; it also raises questions about public welfare, urban management, and the effectiveness of support systems meant for vulnerable sections of society. While compassion for the needy remains a fundamental value, allowing the problem to grow unchecked cannot be regarded as a solution. The administration's decision acknowledges this reality and seeks to replace dependence on alms with opportunities for rehabilitation and self-reliance.

What makes this initiative noteworthy is its emphasis on rehabilitation rather than punitive action. The promise of providing healthcare, education, skill development, and livelihood opportunities reflects an understanding that lasting change can only come through empowerment. If implemented effectively, the programme has the potential to transform lives and help many individuals regain dignity and independence.

At the same time, no one should underestimate the challenges involved. Identifying genuine cases of destitution, addressing the needs of those suffering from disabilities or mental health issues, preventing the re-emergence of begging networks, and ensuring continuous support for rehabilitated individuals will require significant administrative effort. Success will depend on coordination among departments and sustained commitment well beyond the initial enforcement phase.

This is precisely where the public's attention is focused. While many have welcomed the announcement, the question being asked across Srinagar is straightforward: Can the administration successfully implement what it has promised? The answer will lie not in official notifications or special drives, but in visible results on the ground.

The government has undoubtedly taken a courageous step. It has chosen to confront a difficult issue that many administrations prefer to avoid because of its social sensitivities and practical complexities. Such decisions often invite scrutiny, but governance is ultimately measured by the willingness to address problems rather than ignore them.

The coming months will therefore be crucial. If rehabilitation measures are implemented sincerely and consistently, Srinagar could witness a meaningful reduction in begging while ensuring that vulnerable individuals are not left behind. The initiative offers an opportunity to create a cleaner, more orderly, and more compassionate city at the same time.

For now, the administration deserves credit for taking the initiative. The challenge ahead is to convert intent into impact. The people have welcomed the boldness of the decision; they are now waiting to see its successful execution.

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Muharram: Our Responsibility, Our Mission, Our Faith



■ SYED GAZANFAR RAZVI (KEI'S POET)

Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar, is far more than the beginning of a new year. It is a month of reflection, sacrifice, remembrance, and spiritual awakening. It reminds the Muslim Ummah of one of the greatest events in human history—the tragedy of Karbala, where truth stood firmly against falsehood, faith confronted oppression, and righteousness triumphed through sacrifice.

The story of Karbala is not merely a historical account; it is an everlasting message for humanity. It is a school of courage, patience, dignity, and unwavering commitment to divine principles. In the burning desert of Karbala, Imam Husayn (A.S.), the beloved grandson of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), demonstrated that the preservation of truth is more valuable than worldly power, wealth, or even life itself.

When Imam Husayn (A.S.) refused to pledge allegiance to tyranny and corruption, he was not seeking political authority or worldly recognition. His objective was to safeguard the teachings of Islam and protect the moral and spiritual values that his grandfather, the Holy Prophet (PBUH), had established. Faced with overwhelming odds, deprivation, and suffering, he remained steadfast in his commitment to Allah and the truth.

The sacrifice of Karbala teaches us that faith is not merely a matter of words but a commitment that must be upheld in every circumstance. Imam Husayn (A.S.) and his companions showed that a believer must remain firm upon truth, even when standing alone. Their courage transformed a battlefield into a timeless lesson for all generations.

Our responsibility during Muharram is not limited to mourning and remembrance. True remembrance of Karbala requires understanding its message and implementing its values in our lives. We must strive to embody honesty, justice, compassion, patience, humility, and devotion to Allah. The tears shed for Imam Husayn (A.S.) should inspire positive



change within our hearts and strengthen our commitment to righteousness.

Muharram is also our mission. The mission of Karbala is to resist oppression, defend human dignity, and promote justice in society. Every gathering held in memory of Imam Husayn (A.S.), every sermon, every elegy, and every act of remembrance should remind us of our duty to stand with truth and oppose injustice in all its forms. Karbala calls upon humanity to reject silence in the face of wrongdoing and to uphold moral principles regardless of personal cost.

Above all, Karbala is our faith and conviction. Love for Imam Husayn (A.S.) is inseparable from love for the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his noble family. The light of Karbala continues to illuminate hearts across the world, inspiring millions to live lives of purpose, sacrifice, and devotion.

Indeed, if Islam has survived after every Karbala, it is because of Husayn. Iqbal also paid tribute to the Imam's sacrifice by saying:

"The secret of the Qur'an lies in Husayn;

The flame of freedom is kindled by Husayn."

As the crescent of Muharram appears, let us renew our pledge to the ideals of Karbala. Let us honour the sacrifices of Imam Husayn (A.S.), Hazrat Abbas (A.S.), Sayyida Zaynab (S.A.), and the loyal companions of Karbala by living according to the principles they defended. Let us make truth our path, justice our mission, and faith our strength.

Karbala is not confined to the past. It lives wherever people stand for truth against falsehood, justice against oppression, and faith against corruption. The message of Imam Husayn (A.S.) continues to echo through the centuries, reminding humanity that dignity is greater than power, principle is greater than comfort, and truth is greater than all worldly gains.

May Muharram strengthen our faith, deepen our love for the Ahul Bayt (A.S.), and inspire us to carry forward the eternal message of Karbala with sincerity, courage, and devotion.

"Every day is Ashura, and every land is Karbala."

The author From Tantraypora Magam

Parents Should Never Send Their Children to Buy Cigarettes



■ SAHIL MANZOOR BHATTI

Smoking is a dreadful and lethal habit that continues to affect our society. It is alarming to see minors becoming involved in smoking and other harmful tobacco-related products. One of the most concerning practices is that many smokers send their children to purchase cigarettes for them. Such exposure often normalizes smoking in the minds of young people, and some eventually fall into the same trap.

When children begin smoking, parents frequently blame friends, peer pressure, or the surrounding environment. However, they often overlook the influence of their own actions. Many adults smoke in front of children, unintentionally giving the impression that smoking is a normal or even relaxing habit. Instead, parents and elders should educate children about the serious dangers of tobacco and make them understand that smoking is never a good option.

Every year on 31 May, World No Tobacco Day is observed through awareness programmes, seminars, and campaigns across the globe. Despite these efforts, many young people continue to take up smoking, while numerous adults remain addicted to tobacco. This dangerous trend must be discouraged so that people can protect both their health and their hard-earned money.

Smoking causes serious health prob-



lems and remains one of the leading causes of preventable diseases and deaths worldwide. Cigarettes contain thousands of harmful chemicals, many of which are cancer-causing. Nicotine, the primary addictive substance in tobacco, damages the heart, lungs, nervous system, and many other organs. Smoking also harms passive smokers, exposing them to significant health risks through second-hand

smoke.

As responsible citizens, we must understand the factors that lead young people towards tobacco use and work collectively to address them. Parents, teachers, healthcare professionals, and community leaders all have an important role to play in protecting the younger generation from this harmful habit.

In conclusion, tobacco products are

never a good option. Parents should never send their children to buy cigarettes or expose them to smoking as a normal behaviour. By quitting smoking, spreading awareness, and setting positive examples for children, we can build a healthier society and secure a better future for the coming generations.

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KARBALA: Misunderstandings and Message



■ RAQIF MAKHDOOM

Abdullah ibn Saba, a Jewish man who took Islam as a cover, sowed the seeds of division in the Muslim Ummah during the time of Hazrat Uthman bin Affan (RA). He went to people and told them it's Hazrat Ali (RA) who should have been the Caliph but Hazrat Uthman (RA) took away his right.

Both Shia and Sunni share the view that this man was the first "Ghulat". But this man isn't spoken of commonly while event of Karbala is narrated. For whatever the reason may be but this man Abdullah ibn Saba has a very big role in creating division among Muslims. The misconception that Hadhrat Ali (RA) is the only one who had the right to be the first caliph was introduced by this man.

Another man Named Abu Lu'lu'a Firuz or Abu Lulu – the cursed man who killed Hadhrat Umar Al-Farouq (RA). Ironically, he has a tomb in Iran and a festival named "Omar Koshan" (The killing of Umar) used to be celebrated. But due to the pressure from the Muslim world the shrine of this cursed man is closed.

While Hazrat Ali (RA) become the Caliph, Hadhrat Muawiya (RA) refused to accept him as Caliph. But he never was against Hazrat Ali (RA) or his Caliphate. He just wanted Hadhrat Ali (RA) to take action against those who were involved in the brutal murder of Hazrat Uthman (RA) which for various reasons is a valid thing to demand. The testimony that Hazrat Muawiya (ra) was never demanding the caliphate is verified by the reply that Hazrat Muawiya (ra) gave to Ruler who wrote to Muawiya that he shall support him in fight against Ali. But Hazrat Muawiya (ra) wrote back to him "If you even step on our land, I'll be the one to separate your head from your



body"

Even after the clear evidence being available Hazrat Muawiya (ra) is being held responsible for things that never happened.

Time passed and finally Hazrat Muawiya (RA) became the Caliph. Hadhrat Hassan (RA) and Hazrat Muawiya (RA) both were on the edge of a war that fortunately didn't happen. Hazrat Hassan (RA) wanted Hazrat Muawiya (RA) to accept some points and only then Hazrat Hassan (RA) would accept Hazrat Muawiya (ra) as the Caliph.

Hazrat Muawiya (RA) sent a blank paper with a stamp on it to Hadhrat Hassan (RA) and asked him to write whatever he wants to. The treaty was signed and Hazrat Hassan (RA) accepted him as Caliph.

The twenty-year rule of Hadhrat

Muawiya (RA) are regarded as among the best years in the Islamic history. Peace prevailed everywhere. No wars were fought. No injustice was done. Everything was at total peace.

Hazrat Muawiya (RA) is being held responsible for the martyrdom of Hazrat Hassan (RA). The reasons are best known to the people who make fake and false allegations against Muawiya (RA). People unfortunately have no knowledge of what happened before and after the Karbala.

Now the question here arises from where these people get explanations to abuse and curse Hazrat Muawiya (RA). Hadhrat Muawiya (RA) was "Katib e wahi". His sister, Hadhrat Ummeh Habiba (RA) was one of the noble wives of the Prophet (peace be upon him). Prophet Muhammed (peace be upon him) made

dua for Muawiya (RA). I don't think a true Muslim should have doubt that was Muawiya (RA) on the right path or not when the Prophet (peace be upon him) himself makes dua for the guidance of Muawiya (RA).

Instead of concentrating on the teachings of Karbala people are busy cursing Hazrat Abubakar (RA), Hazrat Umar (RA), Hazrat Uthman (RA), Hazrat Ayesha (RA), Hazrat Hafsa (RA), Hazrat Muawiya (RA) and many others. When asked for the reasons behind it they – instead of giving a valid reason, start abusing for asking them for the reasons.

Hazrat Hussain (RA) and the other 71 martyrs of Karbala sacrificed their sacred lives for standing with truth and against the falsehood. Nobody can say that the martyrs of Karbala didn't had the most heart-breaking martyrdom in the his-

tory of Islam. But the martyrs don't die and every Muslim desires to die as martyr. There's no point of mourning the martyrs or offer them condolences. The martyrs are paid tribute.

The Islamic history is full of martyrs. The first martyr of Islam is Hadhrat Yasir (RA) and Hazrat Sumayya (RA). Hazrat Yasir (RA) was tied to health camels. His two arms to two camels and two legs to other two camels, and the camels were made to run in opposite directions. His body tore into pieces. Hazrat Sumayya was martyred by shooting an arrow in her anus. The first and the most heart-breaking death in the history of Islam.

But are these deaths mourned? No, because there's no reason to mourn a martyr. A dead man is mourned, a martyr never dies.

I quoted this event because when they are asked why do they mourn martyrs of Karbala, they reply because they were martyred in a very brutal way. No one denies that. I say the most brutal martyrdom that anyone can have but there's no reason to mourn the martyrs.

We take inspiration from Karbala. The teachings of Karbala should not inspire us only during the month of Muharram but the whole year. The most important lesson from Karbala is to stand against falsehood even if you are handful in number.

"No compromise" is what Hadhrat Hussain (RA) taught us. He could have accepted the terms and could have lived a normal life but he left us with a great and very important lesson which we must not forget till we are alive.

All the 71 martyrs of Karbala have a very special place in our hearts. May their supreme sacrifices keep inspiring us all through our lives.

By targeting the Nobel Companions of Prophet (saw) in the name of Karbala is nothing but helping the agenda of Abdullah Ibn Saba. He started it and it was his propaganda to make people hate companions of prophet (saw)

The author is a Human rights activist.

When Words Fail Before Karbala



■ SYED MAJID GILANI

A few days ago, a dear friend of mine, Azhar Abbas, came to my office and asked me a question that stayed with me long after he left.

He said, "Majid, you often write about pain, loss, separation, and the struggles of ordinary people. But why have you never written about Karbala? After all, it is one of the greatest tragedies in human history."

For a moment, I did not know what to say.

Then I smiled and replied, "Azhar, it is not that I do not want to write about Karbala. It is that every time I try, my pen stops."

Whenever I think of Karbala, I feel too small for such a story. My mind always goes back to my childhood.

I remember Abaji, my grandfather, during the days of Muharram.

He was a gentle and deeply religious man. He did not speak much about his feelings, but they could be seen in his eyes.

Every Muharram, he would take out his old copy of the marsiyas of Mir Babbar Ali Anees. He would gather the family, recite the verses, and explain their meaning to us.

The book was old and worn. Its pages had turned yellow with age.

After the recitation, he would sit quietly near a window and continue reading. Soon, his eyes would fill with tears.

Slowly and silently, tears would roll down his face.



As a child, I did not fully understand those tears.

I also remember Amma, my grandmother, and my mother preparing babri treysh during Muharram. My father would distribute it among the passers-by as an expression of love and respect for the Ahlul Bayt (RA). Amma would also observe voluntary fasts during those days.

At that age, I did not fully understand these traditions either.

I only knew that something in the story of Karbala touched the hearts of the people around me so deeply that it brought tears

to their eyes year after year. I would quietly watch them.

Without realizing it, I was learning something that stayed with me for the rest of my life.

I learned that faith can ache. I learned that love can weep. I learned that some memories never leave us.

Abaji had a deep love for the Ahlul Bayt (RA), the noble family of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The marsiyas of Anees touched him deeply. Through those verses, he seemed to relive the sorrow, courage, and sacrifice associated with Karbala.

Even today, whenever Muharram and Safar arrive, I remember him sitting by that window, lost in remembrance.

For me, Karbala was never just a chapter in history.

It was something I first saw in the tears of my grandparents and parents.

Whatever little I know about Karbala comes from what I saw as a child, what I heard from elders, and what I felt whenever Karbala was remembered.

Perhaps that is why I hesitate to write about it.

Like millions of people around the world,

I know the names of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), Hazrat Abbas (RA), Hazrat Zainab (RA), and Hazrat Ali Asghar (RA). I know of the sacrifices they made for truth, dignity, and faith. I know that their memory continues to live in the hearts of people generation after generation.

And I know that Karbala is remembered not only because of what happened there, but because of what it continues to mean to those who remember it.

Whenever Muharram arrives and I hear a marsiya or attend a gathering where Karbala is remembered, I still find it difficult to hold back my tears.

A few minutes after our conversation ended, Azhar left my office.

But his question remained behind. Why do you never write about Karbala?

That evening, my thoughts returned to Abaji.

I could see him once again sitting quietly by the window.

Anees's marsiyas in his hands. Tears gently rolling down his face.

And perhaps the answer to Azhar's question was there.

I first came to know Karbala not through books, but through the tears of those who loved and remembered it.

That is why I hesitate.

And perhaps that is why some stories are not written easily.

They are remembered. OK They are felt.

They are carried quietly in the heart.

Because when it comes to Karbala, words often fail.

The author is a Government Officer, storyteller, and opinion writer who writes about family, faith, resilience, and human values. He can be reached at syedmajid6676@gmail.com



Hypertension: Understanding The Importance Of Measuring Blood Pressure Accurately

Maintaining normal blood pressure reading is highly important to one's health. A high blood pressure can lead to various health issues like high risk of heart attack, kidney failure, brain hemorrhage or dementia. Hence, to avoid fatal consequences of high blood pressure, it is important to timely monitor your blood pressure and maintain the factors causing a high blood pressure.

Hypertension or a high blood pressure is a condition in which your blood vessels have a persistently raised pressure. It occurs when the force of blood is increased against the wall of arteries. Blood is carried in the vessels to all parts of body with each heartbeat. Hence, the

higher the pressure gets, the harder the heart has to pump. Ideally the normal blood pressure is 120/80 mm Hg. A high blood pressure is defined by levels greater than 130/80 mm Hg or 140/90 mm Hg, as per the various guidelines.

Chronic stress is a major contributor for hypertension. With a kind of lifestyle many are living today, no physical work out or increased stress levels add to the negative work load of body and hence the chances of developing a high blood pressure becomes very common.

Hypertension: The importance of measuring blood pressure
 Improper measurement of blood

pressure can make it difficult for people to get an appropriate diagnosis and medication. As even the slightest difference in the blood pressure levels can vary the treatment administered. It is important to check your blood pressure correctly as high blood pressure may show no significant symptoms; it gets hard for people to know if they are having a high blood pressure. Also measuring your blood pressure regularly can make you more aware about your body and can help your doctor diagnose a health problem early (if any).

Where can you get your blood pressure checked?

You can get your blood pressure checked at a health practitioner's clinic or at your home using a blood pressure monitor, it should be basis the advice of your doctor. Also, as a part of administering the treatment for high blood pressure, your doctor might ask you to make a chart of your blood pressure readings. This chart lets your doctor understand the trends of your blood pressure and helps him/her to make an effective and appropriate diagnosis.

How does the blood pressure readings get affected? Numerous factors can affect the blood pressure readings like-

- Anxiety of having your blood pressure taken: It is called 'white

coats syndrome'. One out of every three patients having a high blood pressure checked at the doctor's clinic/hospital may get a normal blood pressure readings outside of it.

- How do you sit while taking the readings: Resting your arm on a table at the level of the blood pressure monitor and putting the measuring cuff correctly is the correct position and way of taking your blood pressure readings.
- What you drank, ate or did before taking the readings: If you smoked, consumed alcohol or caffeine or engaged in an exercise within 30 minutes of taking the readings, it might be

higher.

The correct way of measuring your blood pressure
 Here are a few tips on the correct way of measuring your blood pressure:-

- Empty your bladder before taking the readings.
- Sit in a comfortable and straight posture for 5 minutes before taking the readings
- Keep your legs uncrossed
- Rest your arm at a table at the chest's height
- Do not talk while your blood pressure is being taken.
- The blood pressure cuff should be above the bare skin, not over clothing. **Courtesy Healthline**

Suffering from Knee Pain? Try These Basic Knee Strengthening Exercises

Weak knees are a problem that many face. The seemingly simple issue can bring your life to a standstill or at the very least create hindrances in your regular activities. Touching upon this subject, health expert Yasmin Karachiwala said on Instagram that there can be several factors that could cause knee pain and it is important to identify them. Offering a solution that may provide relief, she shared a set of simple exercises that you could practise to strengthen your knees. Along with the video, she also added a note that said that it was extremely important to consult a doctor to evaluate the cause of pain.

Knee pain exercise: Try these exercises for relief

In the note, she said, "The most effective thing to do is ice it (knees) for 15-20 mins. Next, consult a doctor to evaluate the cause of the pain. Whether it's due to overuse, tight muscles around the knee, a sudden injury which has caused a tear or any underlying condition like arthritis, bursitis, chondromalacia patella."

Demonstrating some easy exercises that focus on strengthening the joint, she further added, "Today, I'm sharing with you some basic knee strengthening exercises."

The following exercises are part of the special routine

1. Bridging with Pillow (15 reps)
2. Double Leg Kick (10 reps)
3. Modified Clams (20 reps each side)
4. Seated on Chair, Leg Extension (5-10 reps each side)
5. Staggered Sit to Stand with Pillow on Chair (5 reps each side)

Yasmin also added, "If you have pain or swelling please consult your doctor before doing these exercises."

Previously, the celebrity fitness trainer had shared a bunch of videos that would help you say fit from the comforts of your home. One of the most popular video series on her list is the Cardio/Fat Burn HIIT Series. The trainer has dedicated the entire month to focus on fat-burning routines. She has also added a modified version for those who want to scale down the intensity of exercises.

The latest video in the series comprised exercises such as Reverse Lunge + Alt Knee Up + Kick (left leg), Reverse Lunge + Alt Knee Up + Kick (right leg), Push-up + Alternate Leg Lift, Superman + Reverse Angel. Sharing the video, she had written, "Perform 3 rounds of 45 seconds each, take 15 seconds of active rest in between exercises and a full minute between rounds!"

So, keep your knee pain in control with these exercises at home. **Courtesy Healthline**

Working From Home?

Try These 3 Stretches To Give Your Body The Required Break

The COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown has kept us indoors for a large part of the last 18 months. With the lockdown came hectic work-from-home (WFH) routines that force us to stay glued to our desks and computers for long hours at a stretch. While experts have recommended periodic breaks from work to walk around and stretch the body, a large part of the population does not get the time to indulge in such healthy practices. But now celebrity fitness expert Rujuta Diwekar has come up with a set of three simple stretching exercises that you can do on a workday, all while sitting on a chair.

Work from home: Take a break with these three stretches

Sharing a video on Instagram, Rujuta said that the first few steps involve shutting your laptop, turning the chair away from the desk and sitting on it while looking ahead. This is important, she says,



as you have not looked at anything except a screen for hours. Explaining further, Rujuta wrote in the caption, "3 easy stretches to break your sitting" and demonstrated the simple

stretches.

1. Take your arms up. Ensure that you are not pushing your stomach in front. You need to tuck your stomach in and thrust you back in front. Don't raise your

shoulders. Extend your arms and wrists. Now, look straight and bring your arms downwards on either side. Spread your legs on either side of the chair. Take your arms up once again and bend

forward. When you bend forward ensure that your hip is not rising. Now, squeeze your shoulder blade and take your arms backwards.

If possible, hold the back of your chair and stretch. While stretching, open your chest and keep your chest and chin raised. Hold this position for five counts. Slowly come back to your original positions and relax.

2. In the second stretch, spread your legs on either side of the chair and try to push the knee backwards. "Many women are experiencing period issues, leg cramps etc due to work from home. It is important to ensure that your thighs remain strong," she said.

Hold the position for 5 counts.

3. If you find this difficult, Rujuta suggested that you can sit facing the back of the chair. In this position, the edges of the chair can be used to push the inner thighs outwards. Hold the back of the chair, roll your shoulder backwards and lift the chest and open it. Hold the position for 5 counts. **Courtesy EMJ**

Weight Loss Tips: Mistakes You Should Avoid For Sustainable Weight Loss

Losing weight should be a gradual process, requiring a lot of patience and perseverance, along with a balanced diet and workout regime. Taking a shortcut, such as eating less or starving, has never helped. At the same time, people also should not fall for fad or quick-fix diets, which promise to make losing weight an easy process and appear too good to be true. In short, there is no magic formula for weight loss. That's what even nutritionist Nmami Agarwal reiterates in her latest post on Instagram, where she says that a restrictive diet plan is never a good idea.

Weight loss tips: Why you should not try fad diets for sustainable weight loss

Nmami captioned the clip, "Things we go wrong on while planning to lose weight. Yo-yo effect. Following a restrictive diet plan is never sustainable. You end up craving a lot, demotivated



to follow, and eventually give up." In the clip, the nutritionist explains the vicious cycle that restrictive diets engulf us in. She says, "You tend to pick up a trending diet style, you get motivated, lose weight, which is generally the water weight, then you hit a plateau, get

confused and give up. Then again, you start everything back because you're feeling guilty. Finally, again you end up picking another trending diet and get motivated." She tells her followers to "choose wisely and start doing something which is more sustainable".

Earlier, Nmami had busted a few myths around a strict juice diet for detox and weight loss. "Remember there are no shortcuts and no magical drinks. All you need is dedication and motivation to work hard. Listen to your body and your body will listen to you back," she added in the note. Nmami clarified that the liver and kidney perform the function of detoxifying. "A glass of vegetable juice is okay but not an exclusive juice cleanse diet," she said.

Even celebrity nutritionist Pooja Makhija, too, had stated facts around eating less for losing weight. While it is necessary to follow a disciplined routine to stay fit, it should not be done without verifying the authenticity of the remedy.

So, next time you think of following any fad diet, just remember that it's always better to instead take up some healthy food resolutions you're likely to keep for life. **Courtesy Healthline**

Notice

Subject: Grant of Registration of the Proposed Travel Unit under the name & style Mehmoona Tour and travels Situated at chadoora Budgam 191113.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas I Fayzaan Ayoub Wani S/O Mohammed Ayoub Wani R/o Bachroo Chadoora Budgam, Kashmir intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for Registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name of "MEHMOONATOURANDTRAVELS" situated at Chadoora Budgam-191113

Whereas, I will submit State Subject/Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, PAN Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate (Police Department), Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000), Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Printing Material (Letter Head/Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size photographs to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration (e-mail Id: darzfaizu37547@gmail.com within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained.

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREERI

Subject: Application of AADIL AHMAD DAR S/O GH MOHAMMAD DAR R/O SHEIKHPORA Tehsil KREERI for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of self for the issuance of RBA in his own favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of SHEIKHPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the DAR community having annual income 2,60000// the details of family of the applicant are as follows.

- 1...GH MOHAMMAD DAR Father 58 years Farmer
- 2...HAJIRA BAGUM Mother 57 years House wife
- 3...AADIL AHMAD DAR self 31 years student

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

NAIB TEHSILDAR KALANTRA

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of QURAT UL AIN D/O FAYAZ AHMAD MIR R/O SHEIKHPORA Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of OBC (Other Backward classes in his/her their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of SHEIKHPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the MIR community having annual income 1,64000// the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1...MOHD AKBAR MIR Grand Father 73 years Farmer
- 2...SARA BEGUM Grand Mother 63 years HouseWife
- 3... FAYAZ AHMAD MIR Father 46 years Labour
- 4...FAHMEEDA Mother 40 years H/W
- 5...QURAT UL AIM self 20 years student
- 6...AITSHAN HUSSAIN Brother 14 years student

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Public Notice

This is for 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), BISMA 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.

Public Notice

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that I, Shabir Ahmad Lone S/o Abdul Ahad Lone, R/o Puthar Reshipora, Tehsil Kreeri, District Baramulla, have applied before the office of the AEE, KPDC, Wagoora for transfer of the electricity connection/agreement bearing Consumer ID No. 0212040014363, which stands in the name of my deceased father.

Any person having any objection, claim, right, title, interest, or dispute regarding the transfer of the aforesaid electricity connection/agreement in my favour may submit the same in writing along with supporting documents to the office of the AEE, KPDC, Wagoora within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

In case no objection is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that there is no objection from any quarter, and the concerned authorities may proceed with the transfer of the said electricity connection/agreement in favour of the undersigned as per rules.

Shabir Ahmad Lone
S/o Abdul Ahad Lone
R/o Puthar Reshipora, Tehsil Kreeri

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written as HAJAM KHAZIR MOHAMMAD in my passport bearing passport No..K0678371 while my correct name is KHAZIR MOHD HAJAM S/O GHULAM NABI HAJAM as per aadhaar record Which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the passport office srinagar within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....KHAZIR MOHD HAJAM
S/O...GHULAM NABI HAJAM
R/O...DOLIPORA KREERI
Distt.... BARAMULLA

Public Notice

In the school record the mother's name of my children has been mentioned as ROHI BEGUM instead of REHANA BEGUM . Now I am applying for its correction if anybody having any objection in this regard he / she may file same to the PRINCIPAL ISLAMIA PUBLIC SCHOOL DUNGARA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....ABDUL HAMEED GANAIE
R/O DUNGARA

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PWD (R&B) CIRCLE DODA-KISHTWAR

(Ph. No.01996295189 | E.Mail:supengeroadsdoda@gmail.com)

Subject: Common Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for cancellation / suspension / withdrawal of Passport, Driving License, Ar,s License, Aadhar Card, Contractor's License, Security and Allotment of Government accommodation in respect of accused/detenues under the NDPS Act, 1985 and the PITNDPS Act, 1988 in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir - Initiating of necessary action in term of Government Order No. 240-JK (HOME) of 2026 Dated. 17.04.2026 regarding NDPS/PITNDPS case thereof.

Reference: 1. Common Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by Government Order No. 240-JK (Home) of 2026 Dated: 17-04-2026, under endorsement No. Home- HR/34/2026-03 (CC:7740753) Dated: 17-04-2026.
2. District Magistrate Doda's communication No. 1028-31 / DM / Doda Dated: 22.05.2026.

ORDER

Whereas, the Government vide Order No. 240-JK (Home) Dated: 17-04-2026 has issued a Common Standard operating Procedure (SOP) for effective exercise of relevant powers and functions under the Passport Act, 1967, the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 the Aadhar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and services) Act, 2016 the Arm Act, 1959, J&K Registration of Contractors act, 1956, the NDPS Act, 1985 and the PITNDPS Act, 1988 and all other enabling provisions of law.

This SOP shall require all Investigating Officers (IOs), Superintendents of Police, Senior Superintendent of Police, District Magistrates, Regional Passport officers, Regional Transport Officer/ Assistant Regional Transport officer, UIDIA Regional Officer, the Bureau of Immigration, Director Estates, Head of Security Wing of J&K Police, Head of the Department of Contractor's Registration and all other concerned agencies for taking appropriate necessary steps in accordance with applicable legal provisions.

Whereas, step-By- Step procedure has been enumerated in the SOP, under Step-8 of the said SOP regarding cancellation of Contractor's License, Sub-Para 4.8.1 provides as under:-

" The IO, after obtaining approval from SP/SSP shall immediately write to the Head of Department which as registered the accused/detenu under the Jammu and Kashmir Registration of Contractors act, 1956 along with details of his/her involvement in drugs related crime. In the letter to the written to the Head of the Department, the IO shall recommend the cancellation of the Contractor's license."

Whereas, as per communication received from District Magistrate Doda vide his No. 1028-31/DM/Doda Dated: 22-05-2026 has enclosed list of persons involved in NDPS cases communicated by the SSP Doda to District Magistrate Doda to take immediate necessary action for cancellation of the Contractor Cards/ License and after scrutiny from the record of Contractor's Card / online portal; JKPWDOMS, only two persons appearing at S. No 11 and 22 in the list found registered under J&K Registration of Contractors Act 1956.

Now, therefore, in compliance with the Government Orders and communications referred to above the following D-Class Certificate of Registration (Contractor Card) of the persons involved in the NDPS Cases is hereby cancelled with immediate effect.

S. No	Name of Accused Persons with Address	Contractor Registration No.	FIR NO.	Police Station	Aadhar No.	Pan No.
1	Mohd Taki S/O Mushtaq Ahmed Rather R/O Moothi (Marmat) Tehsil & Distt. Doda	PWDJNK-CONT-2023-601128	FIR No. 28/2026 U/S 8/21/22-NDPS Act.	Doda	292901108035	CIIPT8367D
2	Mohinder Singh S/o Faquir Chand R/o Dudwah Bharath (Doda)	30/DEE/PWD/2018-19	FIR No. 122/2026 U/S 8/20/NDPS Act.	Doda	551902382278	MPHPS8735Q

Encl: As above

Sd/- Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle, Doda-Kishtwar

DIPK: 2204/26 | Dated: 16-06-2026

Lubaab Publications Group Mourns Demise of Habibullah Malla Manzoor Ahmad Bhat Bereaved



Habibullah Malla, a well-known businessman of Sheikhpora Ompora and father-in-law of Manzoor Ahmad, Manager of Lubaab Publications passed away today.

The management and staff of Lubaab Publications Group expressed profound grief and sorrow over his demise. In a condolence message, the Group extended heartfelt sympathies to Manzoor Ahmad and the bereaved family, praying for strength and patience for them to bear the loss.

The Group also expressed solidarity with the family during this difficult time and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that my Date of Birth has been wrongly mentioned in adhar regard bearing aadhar no 6162 2499 2328 DOB 06/03/1977 instead of DOB 07/03/1977 as for School record now I have applying for it's correction of the same if any person have any objection in this regards may file the same to the office of the concerned authority / Block Development Office Langate within the period of 6 days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained.

IFTIKHAR ALI MALIK DOB 07/03/1977
S/O ALI MOHAMMAD MALIK
R/O TWAHEED ABAD GLURA TEHSIL LANGATE
DISTRICT KUPWARA

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that my son Name spelling DOB has been wrongly mentioned in adhar regards bearing aadhar no 6073 2293 5134 Ayaan Zahoor DOB 10/11/2009 instead of Pir Ayan Ahmad DOB 26/05/2010 as for School records now I have applying for it's correction of the same if any person have any objection in this regards may file the same to the office of the concerned authority / Block Development Office Magam within the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained.

PIR AYAN AHMAD , DOB 26/05/2010
S/O ZAHOOR AHMAD PIR
R/O NEELIPORA MAGAM TEHSIL HANDWARA
DISTRICT KUPWARA

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREERI

Subject: Application of UMER JAVID SOFI S/O JAVID AHMAD SOFI R/O KAKOTHAL Tehsil KREERI for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of self for the issuance of RBA in his own favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of KAKOTHAL of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the SOFI community having annual income 95000// the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1..JAVID AHMAD SOFI Father 44 years Labour
- 2..SARA BAGUM Mother 47 years House wife
- 3...UMER JAVID SOFI self 22 years student

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

NAIB TEHSILDAR KALANTRA



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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 Srinagar visits Yatra Transit Camp Panthachowk; finalizes arrangements for smooth conduct of upcoming annual Yatra

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 16: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Tuesday undertook a site visit of Yatra Transit Camp (YTC) at Panthachowk to oversee the arrangements being put in place for the Yatries expected to participate in upcoming annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra (SANJY-2026) set to begin in July.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected various facilities and arrangements put in place for the convenience, comfort and safety of pilgrims expected to participate in the annual pilgrimage during their halt at the transit camp Srinagar. He reviewed the preparedness of different departments and assessed the overall readiness of the transit camp.

On the occasion, the DC was apprised that all necessary facilities including provision for drinking water, electricity,

sanitation, public convenience facilities, boarding, lodging, bedding, KYC & RIDF registration counters, medical facilities, etc have been made available at the Yatra Transit Camp. The DC reviewed the condition and operational readiness of various facilities at the camp, ensuring that all arrangements were functioning effectively so that pilgrims do not face any inconvenience during their stay.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of seamless coordination among all stakeholder Departments to ensure a safe, seamless and hassle-free experience for the yatries. He directed the concerned Officers to maintain high standards of service delivery and ensure that all facilities remain fully functional throughout the Yatra period.

The DC directed maintaining proper cleanliness and sanitation measures, ensuring availability of water, uninter-



rupted power supply, medical facilities, and other civic amenities, besides strengthening facilities at Langars (community kitchens) to provide wholesome meals to the pilgrims.

During the visit, the DC was informed that an adequate number of bathrooms, urinals, and mobile toilets have been established at the Transit Camp for the convenience of the yatries. He was also apprised that comprehensive sanitation and cleanliness measures have been put in place, with regular cleaning and maintenance being carried out in and around the camp premises.

Additionally, sufficient manpower has been deployed to ensure efficient management and upkeep of the facilities throughout the Yatra period.

Similarly, regarding water supply, the DC was informed that besides a dedicated water supply to the camp, standby water storage tanks with a capacity of 80,000 litres have

been installed to cater to the needs of the visiting pilgrims at the halt camp.

While inspecting the arrangements made to ensure hassle-free queue management at newly established registration counters for RFID and KYC registrations at the Camp, the DC directed the concerned to ensure all required machinery and electronic gadgets are functioning properly.

Regarding healthcare facilities, the DC was informed that adequate arrangements have been put in place for providing first-aid and emergency medical assistance to the yatries.

In addition, necessary measures have been taken for effective crowd management, traffic regulation and parking arrangements at the Yatra Transit Camp to ensure the seamless conduct of the temporary halt of pilgrims at the Srinagar camp.

The DC was further informed

that two mobile ATM machines are being deployed at the venue for the convenience of the yatries.

Reviewing safety measures, the DC directed the Fire & Emergency Services Department to take all requisite fire safety measures at the camp and conduct a comprehensive fire safety audit of the Yatra Transit Camp.

Besides, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas, Superintending Engineer R&B, Tatheer Manzoor, SP South, Imtiyaz Ah, Deputy Commandant (IR), K.Sahu, SDM East, Zubair Ahmad, Deputy Director Information, Zubair Ahmad Lattoo, SDPO Panthachowk, Zohaib Hassan, Tehsildar Panthachowk, Muzamil Zamaan, the DC was accompanied by Chief Medical Officer, Executive Engineers of R&B, PDD, PHE, Fire & Emergency and other senior Officers of Police and Civil Administration.

DDC Doda reviews progress of road projects across the district, directs timely completion within stipulated timeframe

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

DODA, JUNE 16: District Development Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Doda, to assess the progress of ongoing road infrastructure projects being executed across the district.

Officials from the engineering departments concerned presented detailed updates on the status of various road construction and upgradation works. The review focused on project execution, physical progress, adherence to timelines and measures required to remove bottlenecks affecting implementation.



Road-wise projects under Doda, Baderwah, Assar, Thathri and Gandoh divisions, along with other ongoing works across the district were discussed and reviewed thoroughly.

The DDC directed all executing agencies and officers concerned to accelerate the pace of work and ensure completion of projects within the stipulated time frame.

The District Development Commissioner further instructed officers to maintain quality standards and ensure regular field-level monitoring of works to achieve the desired outcomes. He also reviewed the situation arising from recent floods in Thathri Division and directed the authorities concerned to expedite restoration and related road works to minimise public inconvenience.

Among those present were Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Doda, Chief Planning Officer Doda, Executive Engineers of R&B Doda, Assistant Executive Engineers and other officers and officials concerned.

District Admin Bandipora organizes Anti-Drug Awareness Activities across Educational Institutions

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 16: Various educational institutions across Bandipora district organized a series of awareness and creative activities under the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) campaign to sensitize students about the harmful effects of substance abuse and promote a drug-free society.

At HSS Gadakhud, a morning assembly was conducted, followed by a Creative Writing Event. Students composed articles and letters highlighting the dangers of substance abuse, preventive measures, and its adverse impact

on individuals and society.

Similar NMBA activities were organized at HS Panar, HS Koragbal, and HS Ketson, where students actively participated in awareness programmes designed to strengthen anti-drug messaging and encourage healthy lifestyles.

At HSS Quilmuqam, a Creative Writing Activity (Letters and Articles) along with an Anti-Drug Pledge was conducted under the 100-Day Nasha Mukta Campaign. At PM SHRI GHS Odina, a Creative Writing Activity was organized under the theme "Words Have the Power to Inspire Change." The programme was followed by the anti-drug pledge, reinforc-



ing the campaign's message among students.

Likewise, BHSS Alooosa or-

ganized a Creative Letter Writing Activity under the banner of NMBA, providing students with an opportunity to articulate their thoughts on the importance of staying away from drugs and promoting social responsibility.

Meanwhile, the NCORD Cell of HKM Degree College Bandipora, under the convener'ship of Prof. Irfan Ahmad Wagay, organized a Poster Campaign titled "Say No to Drugs" under the banner of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan. Students actively participated by preparing and displaying creative posters carrying impactful messages against substance abuse. The

posters highlighted the social, physical, and psychological consequences of drug addiction and encouraged young people to make positive and healthy life choices.

The activities conducted across these institutions reflected a strong commitment towards creating awareness, fostering responsible citizenship, and empowering students to become ambassadors of a drug-free society.

The organizers emphasized that sustained awareness and active student participation are vital for achieving the objectives of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

Amit Sharma chairs Census review Meeting at Kupwara

Cautions public against Cyber Criminals

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, JUNE 16: In a streak towards covering all districts of both the UTs, Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director Census Operations (DCO), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma along with Principal Census Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Kupwara, Shrikant Balasaheb Suse today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex Kupwara to assess the progress of the ongoing House Listing Operations (HLO) being conducted under Census 2027 in the district.

During the Meeting in strategic Border district Kupwara, CPCO, Amit Sharma specifically cautioned public against Cyber fraudsters and criminals who want to dupe masses by fetching their vital information like Bank Account Numbers, Credit Card details, etc on the name of ongoing phases of Census 2027. He requested public to act as responsible and awakened citizens and counter all such challenges smartly and also report such instances to Police and Census Helpline of 1855 so that swift action can be taken against such criminals. Initially, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kup-

wara shared a brief profile of the district with the CPCO regarding the preparedness and progress for Census 2027. Reviewing the progress of Kupwara district, Amit Sharma appreciated its performance during Self Enumeration and the IEC activities undertaken here. He stressed the importance of maintaining the highest standards of accuracy during data collection and directed enumerators and supervisors to ensure that every entry is recorded correctly and verified thoroughly. He cautioned that even minor errors or conceptual misunderstandings can adversely impact the quality of Census data and affect future policy planning. The CPCO while mentioning Census 2027 as country's largest administrative and statistical exercise, forming the basis for planning, resource allocation and socio-economic development for years to come. He also directed Charge Officers to ensure that Supervisors undertake regular field inspections and conduct random quality checks instructed to intensify monitoring and ensure strict adherence to Census guidelines. Special emphasis was laid on ensuring comprehensive coverage of migratory and seasonal populations during the ongoing

Census exercise so as to meticulously track migration routes and collect details of all eligible tribal population and individuals. Before culmination of the review meeting, Amit Sharma said the digital mode of data collection would enhance efficiency and improve the quality of information gathered. Principal Census Officer Kupwara assured full administrative support for the smooth conduct of Census operations and directed all concerned officers to closely monitor field activities to ensure timely completion of the exercise. Later, Amit Sharma along with PCO Kupwara briefed the media regarding the progress achieved under the ongoing House Listing Operations (HLO) of Census-2027 in Kupwara district and highlighted the extensive preparations undertaken to ensure smooth, accurate and timely completion of the exercise. He appealed to the public of Kupwara and overall public residing in UTs of J&K and Ladakh to fully co-operate with Census functionaries and provide accurate information, stating that reliable Census data serves as the foundation for informed governance, developmental planning and equitable distribution of resources.

Sheep & Goat Breeders from Baramulla participate in Exposure Visit to IGFR Srinagar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 16: Department of Sheep Husbandry Baramulla organized an Exposure Visit-cum-Kisan Gosthi for 32 progressive sheep and goat breeders under the ATMA/SAME programme at IGFR Rangreth, Srinagar.

The farmers were flagged off from the District Sheep Husbandry Office, Baramulla and were exposed to modern fodder production technologies, scientific livestock management practices, and research activities at IGFR. Scientists briefed participants on high-yielding perennial fodder varieties, multi-cut fodders, and their role in improving livestock productivity.



The delegation also visited the ICAR-Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH), Srinagar, where experts highlighted sustainable farming practices, judicious fertilizer use, and eco-friendly alternatives to chemical inputs. Scientists described sheep manure as "Black Gold" due to its rich nutrient value and importance in enhancing soil health.

The programme also featured awareness sessions on the One Health concept, emphasizing the link between animal, human, and environmental health. Participating farmers appreciated the initiative and called for more such exposure visits to enhance their knowledge of modern scientific farming practices.

Director Agriculture leads Awareness Campaign under Khet Bachao Abhiyan at Srinagar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 16: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, today led an awareness campaign under the Khet Bachao Abhiyan at the Directorate Park, Lal Mandi, Srinagar.

The programme, organized by Chief Agriculture Officer, Srinagar, Ajaz Hussain Dar, witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers and officials of the Agriculture Department, progressive farmers, and students, who were sensitized about the objectives of the campaign and the importance of safeguarding agricultural land for future gen-

erations. As part of the programme, a plantation drive was also organized during which the Director Agriculture, along with officers, farmers, and students, planted saplings in the Directorate premises, reaffirming the department's commitment towards environmental conservation, ecological sustainability, and a greener future. Addressing the gathering, the Director Agriculture emphasized the need for the effective implementation of all objectives of the Khet Bachao Abhiyan. He highlighted the importance of judicious and balanced use of fertilizers to maintain soil health and ensure sus-



tainable agricultural production. He advocated for the increased adoption of liquid fertilizers, organic manures, and natural farming practices to improve soil fertility, reduce dependence

on chemical inputs, and promote climate-resilient agriculture.

The Director further stressed the need to create widespread awareness among farmers regarding various flagship initia-

tives of the Government, including the PM-KISAN Scheme and the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) programme, so that eligible farmers can avail themselves of the benefits provided under these schemes. He urged the field functionaries to intensify outreach activities and strengthen farmer engagement at the grassroots level. The programme concluded with a collective pledge by all participants to protect agricultural land, promote sustainable farming practices, conserve natural resources, and work towards the holistic development of the agriculture sector in Kashmir.

ATGC Biotech Signs Global Commercialisation Agreements at Bharat Innovates 2026

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, JUNE 16: ATGC Biotech Pvt. Ltd., a Hyderabad-based deep-tech agricultural biotechnology company, on Monday announced strategic international agreements aimed at supporting the global commercialisation of its sustainable agricultural technologies.

The agreements were exchanged during Bharat Innovates 2026, billed as the largest global showcase of Indian deep-tech innovation held outside India, in France from June 14 to 16, the company said in a release here.

Selected among 120 high-potential startups from across the country, ATGC Biotech represented India's growing capabilities in agricultural biotechnology, sustainable crop protection and precision agriculture technologies.

The event was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron, underscoring the importance of innovation-driven collaboration between India and France.

As part of the event, ATGC Biotech exchanged a licensing agreement with a Swiss partner covering six products and strengthened its international expansion plans through its Semio-phore joint venture with Luxembourg Industries Ltd. (LIL),

advancing a portfolio of 18 products targeted at global agricultural markets.

The agreements were exchanged in the presence of Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood and BIRAC Head (RFID) Dr. Manish Diwan.

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal also interacted with the company's international partners during the event.



"ATGC Biotech's selection for Bharat Innovates 2026 is a significant milestone and a strong validation of India's growing leadership in deep-tech innovation," said Dr. Markandeya Gorantla, Chairman and Managing Director of ATGC Biotech.

He said sustainable crop protection solutions would play a critical role in addressing global agricultural challenges and ensuring future food security. "The partnerships announced

at Bharat Innovates strengthen our ability to take Indian-developed agricultural technologies to global markets while contributing to more sustainable farming practices worldwide," Gorantla added.

Commenting on the Semio-phore joint venture, David Luxembourg, Executive Chairman of Luxembourg Industries Ltd., said the collaboration demonstrated how Indian innovation and global market expertise could

come together to accelerate the adoption of sustainable crop protection technologies worldwide.

Dr. Manish Diwan said ATGC Biotech's journey from indigenous innovation to global commercialisation exemplified the strength of India's deep-tech ecosystem in creating science-driven solutions with international relevance and societal value.

ATGC Biotech has developed pest management technologies based on pheromones and semiochemicals that seek to control insect populations by disrupting mating behaviour and preventing future pest generations rather than relying on conventional insect-killing approaches.

The company said its participation in Bharat Innovates 2026 reflected the growing global recognition of Indian agri-biotech innovation and the role of home-grown scientific research in addressing challenges related to food security, agricultural productivity and environmental sustainability.

With expanding international collaborations and commercialisation initiatives, ATGC Biotech said it remains focused on delivering India-developed agricultural technologies to farmers across global markets. UNI

Vedanta Group lists four demerged companies on BSE, NSE

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BHUBANESWAR, JUNE 16: Vedanta Group has marked a major milestone in its corporate restructuring journey with the listing of four newly demerged companies on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and National Stock Exchange (NSE).

According to a company release here, the listing creates a portfolio of focused businesses across strategic sectors including aluminium, oil and gas, iron and steel, power, metals and critical minerals, aligning with India's long-term industrial growth and self-reliance goals.

The newly listed entities – Vedanta Aluminium, Vedanta Oil & Gas, Vedanta Iron & Steel and Vedanta Power – began trading alongside Vedanta Limited, the Group's flagship listed company backed by Hindustan Zinc and a diversified natural resources portfolio.

Addressing the listing ceremony, Vedanta Group Chairman Anil Agarwal said the restructuring reflects the company's long-term growth strategy and commitment to creating sector-specific leaders.

He said Vedanta was the first Indian company to list on the London Stock Exchange and later became part of the FTSE 100. Over the past five years, the Group delivered shareholder returns of over 300 percent and a cumulative dividend yield exceeding 70 percent.

Agarwal said India currently imports nearly half of its raw material requirements and stressed that the newly listed businesses would contribute significantly towards reducing import dependence and strengthening the country's industrial capabilities.

Vedanta Aluminium begins operations as India's largest aluminium producer and the world's third-largest outside China. Anchored by its Jharsuguda smelter in Odisha, the business currently has a production capacity of 3 million tonnes annually and plans to double it to 6 million tonnes over the next three years.

Vedanta Oil & Gas enters the market as India's largest private-sector producer in the segment. The company plans investments of about US\$5 billion over the next three to five years to increase production to 500,000 barrels per day and expand across multiple hydrocarbon assets.

Vedanta Iron & Steel, currently producing about 4 million tonnes annually, aims to scale up capacity to 15 million tonnes. The company said its integrated resource base, including iron ore reserves and metallurgical inputs, positions it strongly to meet rising domestic demand.

Vedanta Power, currently operating 4.2 GW of thermal power capacity, plans to expand to 20 GW as India's electricity demand continues to grow over the coming decade.

Meanwhile, Vedanta Limited will continue as the Group's flagship natural resources company. Through Hindustan Zinc and other operations, the company plans expansion in fertilisers, nickel, copper and ferrochrome production to support India's industrial and energy transition requirements. (UNI)

India's exports rise 18 pc in May; trade deficit widens to USD 28.21 bn

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 16: India's merchandise exports rose 18 per cent to USD 45.2 billion, while imports grew 20.62 per cent to USD 73.41 billion in May, with the total trade deficit recorded at USD 28.21 billion, according to the commerce ministry data.

India's merchandise exports rose to \$88.91 billion during April-May 2026-27, marking a 16.09 per cent growth over the corresponding period last year, as per the government data.

India's cumulative exports (merchandise and services combined) during April-May 2026-27 are estimated at US\$ 162.69 billion, compared with US\$ 141.89 billion in the same period last year, registering a growth of 14.66%, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

Non-petroleum exports also witnessed strong momentum, rising to US\$ 70.74 billion during the period, compared with US\$ 64.03 billion a year ago, an increase of 10.49%.

Key contributors to merchandise export growth in May 2026 included petroleum products, engineering goods, organic and inorganic chemicals, electronic goods, and gems & jewellery.

Petroleum product exports jumped 54.89% to US\$ 8.42 billion in May 2026 from US\$ 5.44 billion in May 2025. Engineering goods exports increased 24.48% to US\$ 12.31 billion, while organic and inorganic chemicals exports grew 12.71% to US\$ 2.72 billion.

Electronic goods exports rose 11.62% to US\$ 5.10 billion, while gems and jewellery exports increased 6.66% to US\$ 2.53 billion during May 2026. India's total exports in May 2026 are estimated at US\$ 81.96 billion, compared with US\$ 70.76 billion in May 2025, reflecting a growth of 15.83%. Imports during May 2026 stood at US\$ 92.47 billion, higher than US\$ 77.55 billion a year earlier, resulting in a trade deficit of US\$ 10.51 billion. UNI

Stock Markets cheer US-Iran peace agreement, Sensex closes 700 points high

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 16: Indian stock markets on Monday cheered the announcement of a peace agreement between the US and Iran, ending the session with strong gains in line with a rally across global markets. At the close, the Sensex was up 736 points, or 0.97 per cent, at 76,264, while the Nifty ended the session at 23,854, gaining 231 points, or 0.98 per cent. During the day, Sensex touched a high of 76,821.07. Among sectors, all NSE indices, except pharma, settled in the green led by the Nifty Realty index, which surged nearly 4 per cent. Real estate stocks witnessed strong buying interest.

Key gainers included Prestige Estates Projects, Phoenix Mills, DLF, Godrej Properties, Aditya Birla Real Estate, Sobha, and Oberoi Realty. Auto stocks also posted robust gains, with UNO Minda, Eicher Motors, and Ashok Leyland among the top performers. Crude oil-sensitive stocks remained in demand as well. Oil marketing companies (OMCs), tyre makers, paint manufacturers, textile firms, and chemical companies all ended in green. The rupee appreciated by 47 paise to settle at 94.71 against the US dollar, supported by a sharp decline in global crude oil prices. Profit booking in OLA Electric continued for another session, with the stock tumbling 3.5%. The capital

market-focused companies surged after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman indicated that the government's recent measures to attract foreign capital were only the "first step" and that additional initiatives could follow. Shares of HDFC Asset Management Company rising nearly 7 percent, Motilal Oswal Financial Services gaining about 6 percent and Nippon Life India Asset Management advancing nearly 5 percent.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi jumped over 5 percent, while Japan's Nikkei 225 index climbed nearly 5 percent. Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index also ended higher. UNI

Four demerged Vedanta Cos make debut on stock exchanges

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI, JUN 16: Equity shares of the Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta group's four newly demerged companies, namely Vedanta Oil & Gas Ltd, Vedanta Aluminium Metal Ltd, Vedanta Power Ltd as well as Vedanta Iron & Steel, made their debut by listing on the BSE and the NSE here today.

The listing date of these Vedanta demerged entities was fixed as June 15 (Monday), and the shares got listed on both the BSE and the NSE, after a special pre-open trading session.

All four Vedanta stocks underwent price discovery in the special pre-open session which ran from 9 am to 10 am today

morning on both the BSE and the NSE, after which formal trading in these Vedanta group firms' shares began at 10 am.

According to stock exchange notices, Vedanta Aluminium Metal, Vedanta Oil & Gas, Vedanta Power as well as and Vedanta Iron & Steel equity shares have been initially placed in the Trade-to-Trade (T2T) segment.

After regular trading commenced, equity shares of Vedanta Aluminium Metal listed at Rs 522 on the NSE and Rs 527 on the BSE, while Vedanta Power opened at Rs 41.80 on the NSE and Rs 41.30 on the BSE.

Vedanta Oil & Gas debuted at Rs 38 and Rs 39, while Vedanta Iron & Steel shares opened



at Rs 20 and Rs 21 on the NSE and BSE.

The demerged companies have been spun off from the Vedanta group's aluminium, oil and gas, power, and iron and steel businesses into demerged and separately listed companies,

with shareholders receiving one share in each entity for every Vedanta share held as of the record date.

Despite the declines from listing prices, the combined value of Vedanta Ltd and the four demerged entities remained significantly above Vedanta's pre-demergence valuation. Based on prevailing market prices, the five demerged companies were collectively valued at around Rs 901 per original Vedanta share, compared to Vedanta's pre-demergence closing price of Rs 773.6 on April 29.

The aluminium business continued to account for the largest share of the group's value. Even after Monday's decline, Vedanta Aluminium

Metal was valued at nearly Rs 498 per share, making it the most valuable of the four demerged companies and underscoring investor preference for the group's flagship aluminium operations.

The listings of the demerged Vedanta companies mark the culmination of a restructuring aimed at creating focused sector-specific businesses with independent management teams and capital allocation frameworks. These separately listed companies are expected to improve transparency and allow investors to value each business independently, thus potentially reducing the conglomerate discount which had weighed on Vedanta's valuation earlier. UNI

Markets surge, crude oil tumbles after Iran-US peace talks announcement

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 16: The Indian Stock Markets witnessed a sharp uptick at the opening on Monday, reacting to the announcement of peace talks between Iran and the United States (US), which are likely to be held on June 19 in Switzerland. The global crude oil prices also witnessed sharp relief of up to 5 per cent. At open, Sensex was up 1,126.36 points or 1.49 percent at 76,654.31, and the Nifty was up 339.25 points or 1.44 percent at 23,962.15. Among the sectors, Realty, Auto, and Financial Services were the top gainers while Pharma and Healthcare were the

top losers. US crude oil futures for July delivery were down 4.85% at \$80.76 per barrel while Brent futures, the international benchmark, for August delivery traded about 4.35% lower to \$83.51. Further, the Indian rupee opened sharply higher, gaining 43 paise to 94.68 against the US dollar compared to Friday's close of 95.11. Crude oil prices retreated sharply from around \$113 per barrel to nearly \$83, and investors are closely watching a proposed Iran deal bringing more relief to the falling rupee. The Asian markets also responded sharply to the peace talks announcement as South Korea's Kospi jumped nearly 6

percent, while Japan's Nikkei 225 index climbed more than 5 percent. Further, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index also traded higher.

The market's fear gauge, India VIX, also declined 4 percent to 14.18, indicating easing concerns among investors and generally supporting risk appetite, aiding gains in equities. Analysts believe that the return of overseas investors could provide an additional boost to both Indian equities and the rupee. Kaynat Chainwala, AVP Commodity Research, Kotak Securities said, "With the agreement due to be signed in Switzerland on June 19, attention shifts to the

Fed's first meeting under Chair Kevin Warsh on June 16-17. The FOMC statement and Summary of Economic Projections will be decisive, as a median dot showing even one hike in 2026 would mark a meaningfully hawkish revision from March's outlook. If crude's slide persists, the oil-to-inflation transmission that pressured bullion during escalation should flip to support gold and silver as lower energy driven inflation expectations would reduce Fed tightening odds, compress real yields and weaken the dollar, keeping precious metals well bid even as the geopolitical premium fades." UNI

RBI unveils measures on Foreign Currency deposits, external borrowings to boost Forex inflows

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 16: The Reserve Bank of India's latest measures to boost foreign currency inflows are set to strengthen India's forex reserves, improve banking system liquidity and support the rupee, with total inflows estimated at USD 40-50 billion in FY27, said Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd (MOFSL) in a report. The RBI has introduced special facilities for Foreign Currency Non Resident account FCNR(B) deposits and external commercial borrowings (ECBs), enabling banks to access overseas funds at significantly lower costs. The initiatives are aimed at attracting foreign capital, improving resource mobilisation and

enhancing overall liquidity conditions within the banking system.

According to the report, banks stand to benefit from a 200-250 basis point reduction in borrowing costs through the ECB route under the RBI's concessional swap framework. Lower funding costs are expected to support credit growth while helping banks maintain funding efficiency.

The report highlights that the RBI's move mirrors a similar initiative introduced in 2013, which led to FCNR(B) deposit inflows of USD 27 billion and overall NRI deposit inflows of USD 34 billion. The programme also contributed to stronger forex reserves and greater stability in the currency market. UNI

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

Sooryavanshi, Halambage in heated exchange after Super-Over finish



DAMBULLA: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Vishen Halambage were involved in a heated exchange that involved physical contact on the field after Sri Lanka A beat India A in a Super-Over finish in the one-day tri-series in Dambulla. Sri Lanka A wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella intervened to diffuse the tension between the two players in the fading light at the end of the game. After the match was tied at the end of 50 overs, a Super Over was needed to separate the two teams. Sri Lanka A scored 16 in the Super Over. In response, India A could manage only nine as rookie Kugathas Mathulan, a slinger in the mould of Matheesha Pathirana, denied Sooryavanshi and Suryansh Shedge.

Following the conclusion of the match, visuals emerged that showed Sooryavanshi and Halambage shoving each other, and Dickwella separating the two. Sooryavanshi was also seen gesticulating as he walked off the field.

The final half hour of play was full of drama as India A's left-arm quick Arshad Khan conceded only four runs off the 50th over, when Sri Lanka A needed five to win. However, with light fading fast, the umpires appeared reluctant to take the game into a Super Over. The cut-off time was 5.30 pm but it is understood the match officials had the option of extending play until they deemed natural light was fit for purpose.

India A captain Tilak Varma appeared to be strident while speaking to the umpires in favour of a Super Over, and the match officials agreed once Sri Lanka A were also on board. By the time the Sri Lankan batters came out to bat, it was already 6.17 pm and sunset time in Dambulla was eight minutes away.

There was more drama when Sri Lanka A played their Super Over. The last ball was a high full-toss from Arshad to Avishka Fernando, who failed to clear the infield and was caught, only for the TV umpire to check the delivery for height and rule it a no-ball. The Indian players had already left the ground to allow their batters to chase before the light worsened. Tilak, along with officials from the India team management, spoke to the reserve umpire and they had to come back on the field to bowl the final delivery again. In a game of small margins, India A also ended up conceding ten penalty runs to Sri Lanka after the on-field umpires Prageeth Rambukwella and Shantha Fonseka penalised Vipraj Nigam for running on the danger area of the pitch in the 34th and 37th over. As a result, Sri Lanka A started their chase with ten runs even before a ball was bowled. Sri Lanka A currently lead the tri-series points table with four points (two wins in three games). India A and Afghanistan A are level on two points, though India A have played three games to Afghanistan A's two.

Sammy pleased with West Indies' 'thoughtful and smart cricket' in T20I series decider

AGENCIES

KINGSTON: "Being under pressure and having the nerve and the calm and the cricket smarts to do what it takes to come out over the line," is what pleased head coach Daren Sammy the most about West Indies' series-clinching five-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the deciding T20I in Kingston on Sunday.

After Sri Lanka had scored 169, West Indies were going nowhere three-quarters of the way in the chase, the scoreboard reading 110 for 4 after 16 overs, still 60 to get in four overs. That's when Sherfane Rutherford and Rovman Powell upped the ante, and Jason Holder crashed three sixes in the 19th over, bowled by Dushmantha Chameera, to all but finish the job.

"I wasn't too nervous. I was just hoping that we get over the line. But today it was a lot more thought-



ful and smart cricket, especially by Rovman and Sherfane and followed by Jason Holder," Sammy told reporters after the match at Sabina Park, before talking up Shamar Joseph, who returned a career-best 5 for 33 in the first half. "But I think the game was set up upfront when we bowled. Shamar Joseph, he continues to impress. So we needed a victory. It's been a while since we won a T20 series at home in front of the Jamaican fans. I know they wanted a victory for us. So I'm glad that we could finish the series on a high." The last time West Indies won a bilateral T20I series at home was in August 2024, when they beat South Africa 3-0.

"I remember just before World Cup 2024, we played South Africa here [in May 2024]. That was probably the first time we played cricket in years in Sabina. But you could see, I always tell the guys, we have to give the Sabina fans something to shout about," Sammy said. "They are quite knowledgeable about the game. And if there's one thing I appreciate, the announcer, every time it seems like the opposition is getting the better of us, he tries to, you know, rile up the crowd to be a 12th person, a 12th man for us, and give the guys some sort of confidence. It's a place that we've done well and the guys enjoy being here as well."

'I have faith that I will bounce back' - Vastrakar eyes India return after long rehab

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

CHENNAI: Pooja Vastrakar remembers sitting with Radha Yadav and Smriti Mandhana on the eve of the WPL 2026 final. It was her first high-profile tournament in close to 15 months. She was making a comeback from shoulder surgery, but her return had been delayed further by a hamstring injury.

Vastrakar had butterflies in her stomach, but her two Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and India team-mates were pretty relaxed. Only a few months earlier, they had been part of something much bigger and more daunting: India's maiden ODI World Cup win. Vastrakar had missed that tournament because her recovery from shoulder surgery took

longer than expected.

The fast-bowling allrounder had a tear in her right shoulder, and she was managing it for close to 18 months with injections after her doctors advised that surgery wasn't immediately necessary. But months after India's league-stage exit at the Women's T20 World Cup in 2024, the pain worsened. She had already taken four injections in a year, and eventually underwent surgery in March 2025. Typically, recovery takes six to eight months, but took longer for Vastrakar.

"We had planned the surgery in a way that I would have had eight months to recover, but that didn't happen because even after eight months, I hadn't got my range back," Vastrakar told ESPNcricinfo on the sidelines of



the Madhya Pradesh Women's T20 League. "After being in these

situations so many times, it doesn't bother you anymore. You know how to deal with it. "I would have felt bad if I hadn't done things the right way. But I know that I worked honestly and hard every single day, every single night. So I didn't feel bad about not being a part of [the ODI World Cup], and obviously, the team did so well."

Vastrakar is no stranger to injuries. Much before her India debut, she underwent a right-knee ACL surgery in 2017. In 2018, she had surgery on her left knee, which made her miss that year's T20 World Cup. But this shoulder injury kept her sidelined longer than any previous setback, forcing her to miss both the ODI World Cup last year and the ongoing T20 World Cup.

