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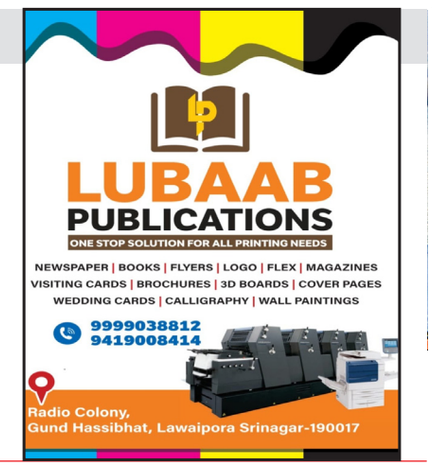
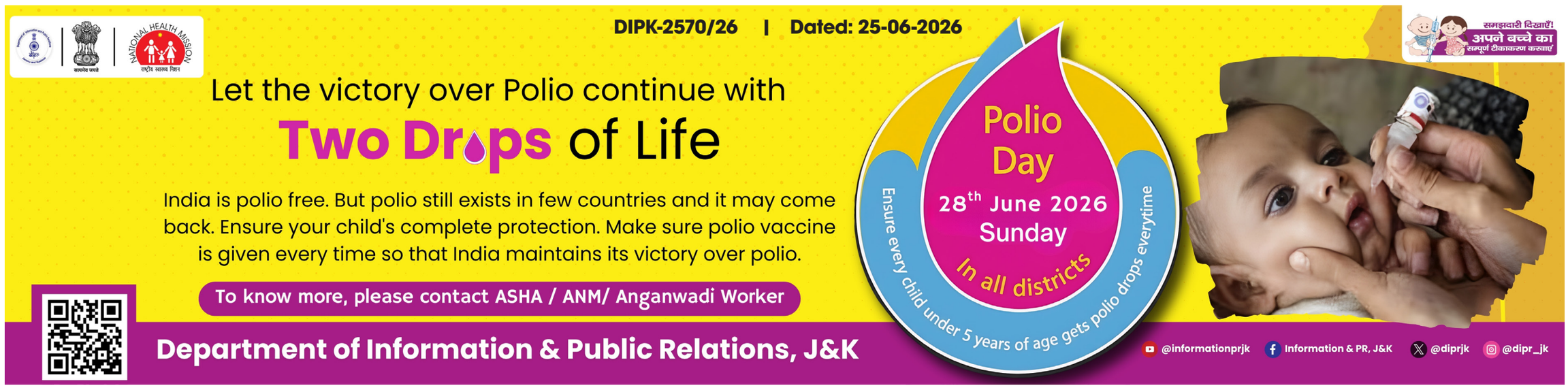
Voice To The Voiceless





Zero Tolerance for Operational Lapses During Pilgrimage: LG Manoj Sinha

Administration, security agencies and shrine board have finalized preparations

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 25: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday directed all departments involved in the annual pilgrimage to adopt a "zero tolerance for operational lapses" approach, stressing comprehensive planning, coordinated execution and stringent safety measures for the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage beginning July 3.

Chairing a high-level review meeting at Pahalgam, the Lieutenant Governor undertook a detailed assessment of preparations and instructed all departments to ensure seamless arrangements, strong security measures and quality services for pilgrims.

Senior officials from the civil administration, police, security forces and the shrine board attended the meeting, where preparedness across logistics, accommodation, healthcare, sanitation, power and water supply, road connectivity, crowd management, traffic regulation and security arrangements was reviewed.

Sinha emphasized that managing the pilgrimage requires a comprehensive and integrated strategy capable of addressing challenges posed by difficult terrain, unpredictable weather and large crowds. He directed officials to establish weather-based evacuation protocols, deploy Mountain Response Teams at critical locations and ensure all transit shelters meet safety standards, including the availability of fire-fighting equipment.

The Lieutenant Governor also called for the use of real-time crowd monitoring to identify and remove bottlenecks along the route. He stressed the need for effective traffic management plans and designated parking areas to prevent congestion and ensure uninterrupted movement of pilgrims and essential supplies.

Directing all departments to maintain close coordination, Sinha instructed officials to complete pending infrastructure works well before the

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'Project Hawk Eye'; To Ensure Comprehensive Monitoring of Amarnath Yatra Route

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JUNE 25: In a major security initiative ahead of the annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, police in Anantnag district have launched "Project Hawk Eye", a technology-driven surveillance programme designed to provide comprehensive monitoring of the pilgrimage route and ensure the safe, secure and peaceful conduct of the pilgrimage.

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All Agencies Must Remain on High Alert for Peaceful and Secure Pilgrimage: DGP Nalin Prabhat

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JUNE 25: Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Thursday directed all security agencies to remain on high alert and maintain round-the-clock vigilance to ensure the peaceful, secure and incident-free conduct of the annual Amarnath pilgrimage.

Chairing a high-level security review meeting, the DGP assessed the preparedness of security forces

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Lake Conservation Must Be Guided by Scientific Assessment and Environmental Sustainability: CM Omar Abdullah

Directs Expedited Execution of Restoration Projects While Reviewing The Progress

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 25 : Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday underscored the need for science-based and envi-

ronmentally sustainable conservation of Jammu and Kashmir's lakes, directing authorities to accelerate ongoing

● Turn on Page 2

Cabinet Reshuffle Speculation Grows As Amit Shah Meets President Murmu

High-level consultations and recent ministerial changes intensify expectations

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUNE 25: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan, fuelling speculation that a reshuffle of the Union Council of Ministers may be on the horizon.

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GoI Clears J&K's First National Centre of Excellence in Sports

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 25: In a major boost to the sports ecosystem of Jammu & Kashmir, the Government of India has accorded approval for the establishment of the first National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) in Sports for J&K, to come up in Kashmir. The proposed Centre, to be developed in Kashmir, marks a transformative step in

positioning Jammu & Kashmir as a premier destination for high altitude sports, elite athlete development, advanced sports science, and world-class training infrastructure.

Expressing gratitude on the occasion, Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha thanked Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr Mansukh

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CM Omar Abdullah leads resumption of Gondola operations at Gulmarg

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

GULMARG, JUNE 25: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today oversaw the official resumption of the Gulmarg Gondola service, marking the full restoration of operations after a temporary suspension.

The Chief Minister took a Gondola ride to Phase-I at Kongdoori, where he personally inspected the system and reviewed the extensive restoration works undertaken following a recent technical malfunction.

During the visit, officials from the J&K Cable Car Corporation briefed the Chief Minister on the technical specifics of the restoration and the stringent safety audits conducted before

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Gondola Services Resume After Necessary Repairs and Maintenance

■ HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JUNE 25: The Gulmarg Cable Car, one of Jammu and Kashmir's most visited tourist attractions, resumed operations on Thursday after remaining closed for nearly a month following a technical

● Turn on Page 2

BRO Restores Vital Road Link In Kishtwar With Construction Of New Bailey Bridge

■ HT NEWS NETWORK / AGENCIES

JAMMU, JUNE 25: The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has restored road connectivity between Gulabgarh and Machail in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district with operationalisation of a 140-foot bailey bridge at cloudburst-hit Chishoti.

The bridge was virtually inaugurated by White Knight Corps Commander Lt Gen P K Mishra on Thursday, in the presence of Jammu and Kashmir Assembly leader of opposition and Padder-Nagseni MLA Sunil Kumar Sharma, officials said.

The triple-double reinforced bailey bridge replaces the earlier structure which was washed away in a devastating cloudburst on August 14, 2025,

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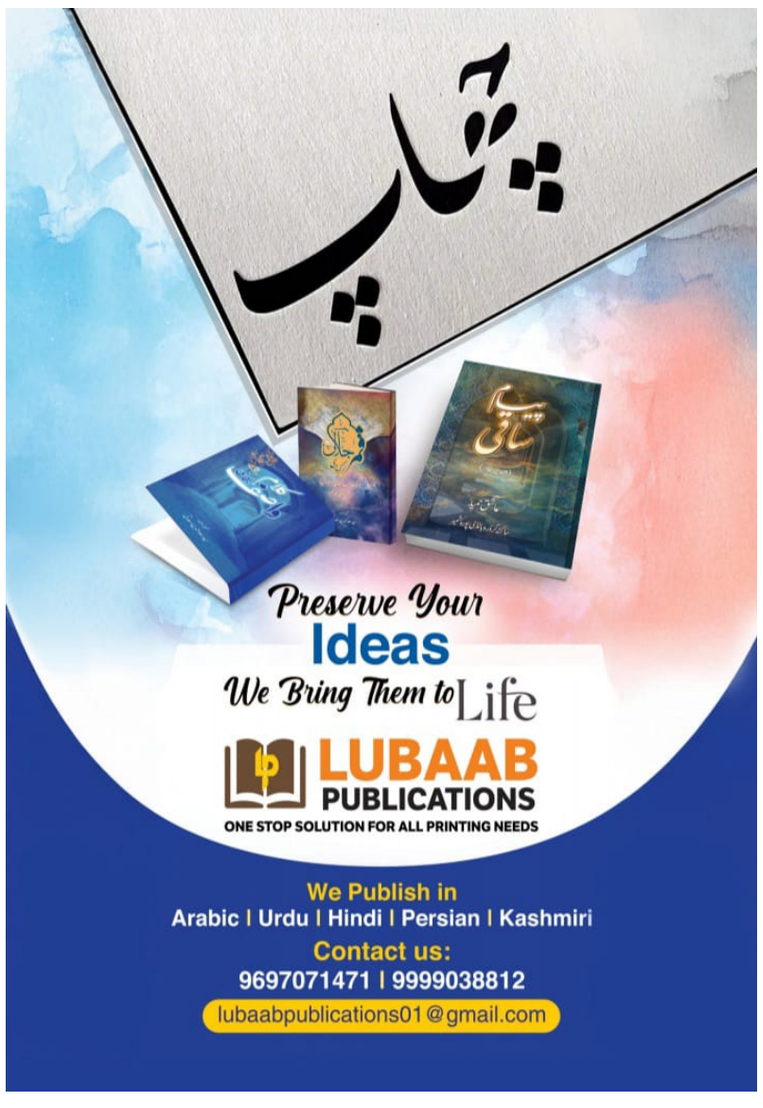

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Zero Tolerance.....

commencement of the pilgrimage. He also emphasized regular inspections and continuous monitoring of ongoing works to address any deficiencies without delay.

Special attention was given to ensuring adequate facilities at transit camps and halt points, including trained personnel, reliable power supply and sufficient drinking water for pilgrims and service providers.

During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag presented an overview of administrative arrangements, while the Senior Superintendent of Police outlined the multi-layered security framework designed to safeguard pilgrims throughout the route.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, the Lieutenant Governor said that the Jammu and Kashmir administration, police, security forces, the Government of India and the shrine board had finalized all preparations for the pilgrimage.

He said every effort had been made to provide devotees with a safe, secure and spiritually fulfilling experience, adding that local residents and stakeholders were prepared to welcome pilgrims arriving from across the country.

'Project Hawk.....

The annual yatra is scheduled to begin next week from both the Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the Baltal route in Ganderbal district amid an extensive security deployment. Authorities have already declared the pilgrimage routes from Jammu to the holy cave shrine as no-fly zones as part of enhanced security arrangements.

According to police, Project Hawk Eye combines advanced surveillance technology with strategic deployment of security personnel to create a multi-layered security network covering both aerial and ground operations along the route.

As part of the initiative, five drone units have been deployed at key locations to provide real-time aerial surveillance and improve situational awareness. Police said the drone network would enable rapid assessment of emerging situations and facilitate swift response by ground forces whenever required.

To strengthen observation and monitoring capabilities, authorities have established 28 elevated observation posts at vulnerable and sensitive locations along the route. In addition, 22 specially trained sniper teams have been positioned at designated points to reinforce the overall security framework and enhance response preparedness.

The surveillance system has been further expanded with the installation of 416 high-resolution closed-circuit television cameras and facial recognition technology at critical points along the pilgrimage route.

Police said these systems would provide continuous real-time monitoring and assist in the timely detection of suspicious movements or activities, thereby strengthening preventive security measures.

Officials said Project Hawk Eye has effectively created an integrated surveillance network extending from the sky to the ground, ensuring comprehensive oversight of the route used by thousands of pilgrims each year.

The initiative reflects the commitment of the police to adopting modern technology and professional security practices to safeguard pilgrims and ensure the smooth conduct of one of the country's largest annual religious pilgrimages.

All Agencies.....

for the pilgrimage and reviewed the ongoing counter-terror operations across Kashmir. Senior officers of Kilo Force, the Central Reserve Police Force, Sashastra Seema Bal, Border Security Force and Indo-Tibetan Border Police attended the meeting, reflecting the coordinated security framework being put in place for the event.

During the review, Senior Superintendents of Police from Srinagar, Budgam, Bandipora and Ganderbal presented detailed briefings on the security arrangements. The presentations outlined deployment plans, route security measures, surveillance systems, emergency response mechanisms and inter-agency coordination strategies designed to provide comprehensive protection to pilgrims.

Reviewing the prevailing security situation, Prabhat emphasized the need for enhanced intelligence sharing and seamless coordination among all agencies. He instructed officers to maintain strict vigilance and ensure that security measures remain effective at every stage of the pilgrimage.

The DGP also assessed the status of ongoing counter-terror operations across the Valley and stressed the importance of sustaining operational pressure on terrorist networks while strengthening the overall security grid. He said that close cooperation among security forces, supported by robust intelligence gathering and rapid response capabilities, remains vital for safeguarding the pilgrimage and preserving peace and stability in the region.

The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment by all participating agencies to ensure foolproof security arrangements and a safe environment for pilgrims throughout the annual religious journey.

Lake Conservation.....

restoration projects while ensuring strict compliance with environmental safeguards and statutory requirements.

Chairing the 27th Board of Directors meeting of the Jammu & Kashmir Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) at SKICC, the Chief Minister reviewed the progress of major conservation initiatives concerning the Dal, Nigeen, Khushalsar and Gilsar lakes and examined a range of policy, administrative and infrastructure-related matters aimed at strengthening lake management.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Finance Shailendra Kumar, Commissioner Secretary Forests, Environment and Ecology Sheetal Nanda, Commissioner Secretary Housing and Urban Development Mandeep Kaur and other senior officials.

The Board assessed the implementation of decisions taken during its previous meeting and reviewed progress on several key projects, including the Integrated Management Plan for the Dal-Nigeen lake ecosystem, development of lake-side communities, expansion of sewerage infrastructure, lake cleaning operations and other measures designed to improve the ecological health of the region's water bodies.

Emphasising that the protection of lakes requires sustained institutional coordination, scientific planning and timely execution, Omar Abdullah directed all concerned departments and the LCMA to fast-track ongoing works and ensure that environmental standards are strictly maintained throughout the implementation process.

The Board also held detailed discussions on strengthening the Authority, modernising sewerage management systems, advancing conservation efforts in Khushalsar and Gilsar lakes and enhancing institutional capacity for long-term environmental management. The Chief Minister instructed officials to revise and resubmit proposals requiring further examination after incorporating observations made during the deliberations.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to preserving the fragile lake ecosystem, the Chief Minister stressed that all conservation measures must serve long-term public interest and be supported by scientific evaluation and sustainable environmental practices. He also called for regular monitoring of projects and stronger inter-departmental coordination to ensure tangible improvements in the conservation and management of Jammu and Kashmir's lakes.

Cabinet Reshuffle.....

The President's Office confirmed the meeting through a post on X, stating that the Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation had met the President at Rashtrapati Bhavan. No details of the discussions were disclosed.

The meeting assumes significance as it comes amid growing political buzz over possible changes in the Union Cabinet. Earlier this week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also met President Murmu, a development that further strengthened speculation about an impending reorganisation of the Council of Ministers.

Recent changes involving members of the government have added to the expectations. Senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader George Kurian stepped down from the Council of Ministers following the completion of his term in the Rajya Sabha on June 21. Kurian had served as Minister of State for Minority Affairs and Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying. The party did not nominate him for another term in the Upper House.

Likewise, Minister of State for Railways Ravneet Singh, who also held charge of Food Processing Industries, was not renominated after the end of his Rajya Sabha tenure on June 21.

Political observers have also linked the reshuffle speculation to recent organisational assignments within the ruling party. Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways and Corporate Affairs Harsh Malhotra was recently appointed president of the party's Delhi unit, while Union Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary was earlier entrusted with leading the party organisation in Uttar Pradesh.

While there has been no official confirmation from the government regarding a Cabinet reshuffle, the succession of high-level meetings and recent political developments has heightened expectations that changes in the Union Council of Ministers could be announced in the coming days. (Agencies)

GoI Clears.....

Mandaviya, for approving the landmark project, which will create a new era of sporting opportunity for the youth of Jammu & Kashmir.

"This state-of-the-art Centre will bring world-class infrastructure and elite coaching right to our Union Territory, training the next generation of Olympic and international champions," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The approved NCOE is envisioned as a premier national centre for High Altitude Sports and various athletic competitions, while also serving as a major platform for skilling thousands of local youths in multiple sporting disciplines. The Centre is expected to significantly strengthen the sports-development architecture of the Union Territory by integrating training, talent identification, sports science, performance enhancement, rehabilitation, residential facilities, and competition infrastructure within one advanced campus.

The NCOE campus will include athletics tracks, indoor courts, football turf, hockey turfs, kabaddi and kho-kho courts, shooting range, swimming pool, taekwondo hall, sports Skilling centres, integrated strength & conditioning and rehabilitation complex, hostels, sports science centre, and sports medicine centre. Together, these facilities will create a high-performance ecosystem capable of nurturing talent from the grassroots to the elite level.

The establishment of the NCOE is expected to put Jammu & Kashmir leaps and bounds ahead in its capacity to produce athletes of national and international standing. For the first time, the Union Territory will have access to an integrated, national-standard institutional platform where promising athletes can train under scientific conditions with the support of modern infrastructure, recovery systems, residential facilities, and specialized performance services. This will not only enhance sporting outcomes but also reduce the distance between local talent and elite opportunity.

The Centre is particularly significant for Jammu & Kashmir because of its strategic suitability for high altitude training, a proven advantage in building endurance, stamina, and competitive performance across several disciplines. Once established, the NCOE will enable athletes from J&K and beyond to train in an environment ideally suited for long-term athletic development, while also creating opportunities for the region to host training camps, coaching programmes, national-level competitions, and performance-based sports initiatives.

The project is also expected to have a far-reaching developmental impact beyond competitive sports. By creating a robust institutional structure for sports training and youth engagement, the NCOE will help generate a stronger culture of discipline, aspiration, and achievement among young people. It will open pathways for local youth not only as athletes, but also as coaches, trainers, technical officials, physiotherapists, sports science professionals, fitness experts, and support personnel. In this manner, the Centre will serve both as a high-performance sports institution and as a long-term engine of youth empowerment, skilling, and social development.

The NCOE has already undergone preliminary feasibility assessment, which has found the location suitable for development of a major sports training facility. The availability of a large tract of government land at the site gives the project the scale and flexibility needed for a national-standard integrated campus of international standards.

The establishment of the Centre reflects the sustained efforts of the Jammu & Kashmir administration to secure high-impact sports infrastructure for the Union Territory. The proposal for the NCOE was submitted by the Department in April 2026 Chintan Shivir held at SKICC Srinagar and was taken forward under the guidance of Chief Secretary Shri Atal Dulloo, who heads the Apex Committee for Centrally Sponsored Schemes, with the proposal being led by Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary.

For coordinated facilitation of the next stages of the project, including inspections, inter-departmental coordination, surveys, and DPR-related processes, Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, will be the Nodal Officer.

The sanction of the first NCOE for Jammu & Kashmir is being seen as a defining milestone in the Union Territory's sporting journey. With this national-level institution set to come up in Kashmir, J&K is poised to emerge as a strong centre of excellence in sports, capable of producing the next generation of Olympic, international, and national champions.

CM Omar.....

clearing the service for public use.

Expressing his appreciation for the dedication of the entire corporation staff, the Chief Minister lauded their round-the-clock efforts in restoring this vital infrastructure project—one of the country's premier tourist attractions—within a remarkably short span of time. To honor their exceptional service, the Chief Minister announced a reward of 50,000 for each official and crew member who participated in the swift relief and rescue operations during the technical glitch in May.

During the visit, the Chief Minister was accompanied by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Gulmarg Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Senior Superintendent of Police Baramulla, Managing Director of the J&K Cable Car Corporation Syed Qamar Sajad, the CEO of the Gulmarg Development Authority, and other senior officers.

Gondola Services.....

malfunction that stranded hundreds of passengers and prompted a large-scale rescue effort.

Officials of the Cable Car Corporation said the facility was reopened after completing essential repairs and maintenance work, along with a comprehensive series of safety inspections and operational trials.

"Gondola services have resumed today after the project underwent necessary repairs and maintenance," a corporation official said, adding that several tests were conducted over recent days to ensure the system was functioning safely and efficiently before being opened to the public.

With services restored, visitors can once again access the popular cable car facility by booking tickets through the corporation's official online platform.

Operations were suspended on May 25 after a technical fault disrupted the service, leaving more than 300 tourists and local guides stranded in suspended cabins. The incident triggered an extensive rescue operation involving the Army, police, the National Disaster Response Force and the State Disaster Response Force, all of whom worked together to safely evacuate the passengers.

In response to the incident, the Jammu and Kashmir Government constituted a five-member committee on June 10 to investigate the causes of the malfunction and review operational and safety procedures. The panel was directed to submit its findings within ten days.

The reopening of the cable car is expected to provide a significant boost to tourism in Gulmarg during the peak travel season, while authorities maintain that all necessary measures have been taken to ensure the safety and confidence of visitors.

BRO Restores.....

severing the only road link to the remote Machail region, they said.

A cloudburst struck Chisoti village -- the gateway to the Machail Mata temple in Kishtwar district -- on August 14 last year, killing 65 people, mostly pilgrims, while more than 30 persons are still missing.

According to officials, the new bridge was constructed in 12 days by 118 Road Construction Company (RCC) of 35 Border Roads Task Force (BRTF) under Project Sampark.

The work involved extensive site preparation, construction of abutments, transportation of bridging stores, erecting the bailey bridge and development of approach roads in challenging terrain and adverse weather conditions, they said.

Army Engineers also provided technical expertise and support during the execution of the project.

Commending the efforts of BRO personnel and Army Engineers, Lt Gen Mishra lauded their dedication, resilience and professionalism in completing the challenging task within an exceptionally short timeframe.

He said the restoration of connectivity reflected BRO's operational readiness, engineering capability and commitment to serving people in remote and strategically important regions.

Mishra said the achievement embodied BRO's motto, "Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam (Everything is achievable through hard work)".

Officials said the Gulabgarh-Machail road was identified for takeover by BRO following an announcement by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during his visit to Jammu and Kashmir on August 24, 2025. The proposal received operational approval from the Ministry of Defence in March this year, while formal transfer orders are awaited.

Pending the transfer, Project Sampark undertook construction of the bailey bridge based on a requirement projected by the civil administration to restore immediate connectivity to Machail.

The Gulabgarh-Machail road forms part of the strategically significant Kishtwar-Gulabgarh-Kundal-Machail axis and has future connectivity potential through the proposed Umasi La Pass linking the region with Nimmu in the Zanskar Valley of Ladakh.Travel Guides & Travelogues

Apart from its strategic importance, the route serves as the primary access road to the revered Machail Mata temple, a major pilgrimage destination in Jammu and Kashmir. More than three lakh devotees visit the shrine annually.

Officials said the timely completion of the bridge will ensure uninterrupted connectivity ahead of the annual Machail Mata Yatra scheduled to commence in July. "Besides facilitating the movement of pilgrims, the bridge is expected to restore socio-economic lifelines for residents of the remote region and improve mobility in the sensitive border district."

The successful construction and launch of the bridge stands as a landmark achievement for BRO and reflects effective civil-military coordination in restoring critical infrastructure in difficult terrain, officials added. (Agencies)

LG attends Rudra Abhishek ceremony on the auspicious occasion of Shivacharya Abhinavgupta Jayanti and Nirjala Ekadashi

The life and teachings of Shivacharya Abhinavgupta, foremost exponent of Kashmir Shaivism, continue to illuminate India's spiritual heritage: LG Sinha

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 25: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha attended Rudra Abhishek ceremony on the auspicious occasion of Shivacharya Abhinavgupta Jayanti and Nirjala Ekadashi at Shri Anandishwar Bhairav Nath Ji Maharaj Asthapan, Maisuma, Srinagar, today.

The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the devotees and extended his heartiest greetings. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor observed that Shri Anandishwar Bhairav Nath Ji Maharaj Asthapan continues to occupy a cherished place in the collective consciousness of Jammu Kashmir.

He offered his deepest prayers for the peace, well-being, and prosperity of all. He said the vision of great sages reminds us that our collective growth and harmony are beautifully interconnected.

"The life and teachings of Shivacharya Abhinavgupta, foremost exponent of Kashmir Shaivism, continue to illuminate India's spiritual heritage. From aesthetics to profound philosophy of Self-recognition, his vision remains a timeless beacon of non-dual consciousness," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The members of Shri Anandishwar Bhairav Nath Asthapan Trust's Organizing and Management Committees including Shri Omkar Nath Bhat, President; Shri Hari Krishan Koul, Vice President; Shri Hira Lal Koul, Executive Member; Shri Pushpati Nath Koul, Joint Secretary, and Shri Vijay Sas, Secretary were present.

Shri VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Shri Tejinder Singh, IGP CID; Dr. GV Sundeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar and senior officers also accompanied the Lieutenant Governor.

CM Omar Abdullah pays tribute to Imam Hussain (AS), Karbala martyrs on Ashoora

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 25: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today paid rich tributes to Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and the martyrs of Karbala, recalling their unparalleled sacrifice for truth, justice and righteousness.

In his message on the solemn occasion of Ashoora, the Chief Minister said that the tragedy of Karbala remains an eternal symbol of courage, steadfastness and resistance against tyranny. He observed that Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS), along with his devoted family members and companions, upheld the highest ideals of faith, justice, compassion and human dignity through their supreme sacrifice.

"The message of Karbala transcends time and geography. It inspires humanity to stand firm in the face of injustice, uphold moral values and safeguard the principles of truth and righteousness, irrespective of the challenges," the Chief Minister said.

CM Omar Abdullah emphasized that the teachings and sacrifice of Imam Hussain (AS) continue to serve as a beacon of hope and guidance for people across the world, reminding society of the importance of selflessness, integrity and unwavering commitment to justice.

The Chief Minister urged people to imbibe the timeless values exemplified by the martyrs of Karbala and work collectively towards fostering peace, harmony, mutual respect and brotherhood in society.

On the occasion, Omar Abdullah joined the people in solemn observance of Ashoora and prayed for lasting peace, communal harmony and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also prayed for eternal peace to the revered martyrs of Karbala and for the well-being of all.

Senior Engineers accord warm welcome to first Secretary Technical in Jal Shakti Department

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 25: The senior engineers and officials accorded warm welcome to Manoj Gupta, on his joining as first Secretary Technical in Jal Shakti Department here at Civil Secretariat Srinagar.

The post of Secretary Technical was created by the Government in the recently ordered reorganization of Jal Shakti Department. The officers in the department have described it as an historic step towards strengthening the technical governance and improving the efficiency of the department.

The officers in Jal Shakti department have congratulated the new incumbent and have expressed confidence in technical acumen of Er. Manoj Gupta.

Er. Reyaz Bhat Technical Advisor Jal Jeevan Mission, Er Samiullah Beigh Superintending Engineer UEED and Er. Ambreen Anjum Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Srinagar personally congratulated the new incumbent in his office chambers here in civil Secretariat Srinagar.

The officers extended full support to the Secretary in his endeavour to improve the technical aspects in water governance in the UT.

Satish Sharma thanks PM Modi, Union Sports Minister, CM Omar Abdullah for sanctioning J&K's first National Centre of Excellence

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 25: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, has expressed profound gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for approving Jammu and Kashmir's first National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) in sports.

He described the move as a landmark decision that will transform the sporting landscape of the region and open new avenues for the talented youth.

In a statement issued here, the Minister said that the sanctioning of the first-ever NCOE for Jammu and Kashmir is a matter of immense pride for the people of the Union Territory and a major milestone in the journey towards building a strong and vibrant sports ecosystem in the region. He said the approval reflects the commitment of the governments of India and Jammu and Kashmir towards empowering the youth, strengthening sports infrastructure and ensuring that aspiring athletes from J&K receive world-class training and support facilities within their own region.

Satish Sharma said that the proposed National Centre of Excellence will be equipped with modern, state-of-the-art infrastructure, including athletics tracks, football turf, hockey turfs, a shooting range, swimming pool and a dedicated sports science centre, which together will provide a comprehensive platform for nurturing sporting talent across disciplines. He said that the facility will serve as a high-performance training hub for the young athletes and will help bridge the gap between grassroots talent and elite sporting achievement.

The Minister observed that Jammu and Kashmir has consistently produced talented sportspersons with exceptional promise in various disciplines despite limited access to top-level infrastructure and specialised coaching. He said establishment of the NCOE will be a game-changer for the youth of the region, enabling them to train under professional systems, benefit from scientific support and compete at national and international levels with greater confidence and preparedness.

"On behalf of the people of Jammu & Kashmir, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, Union Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya Ji and our Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Sahib for this visionary decision. The approval of J&K's first National Centre of Excellence is not merely the creation of a sports facility; it is an investment in the aspirations, energy and future of our youth. It will lay the foundation for a new sporting era in Jammu & Kashmir and inspire thousands of young boys and girls to pursue excellence in sports," Satish Sharma said.

The Minister said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and with the active support of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing renewed focus on youth development, modern infrastructure and inclusive opportunities in every sector, including sports.

Satish Sharma reiterated that the Youth Services & Sports Department will work in close coordination with all the concerned agencies to ensure that the benefits of this major initiative reach deserving athletes across Jammu and Kashmir. He expressed confidence that the facility will help produce the next generation of national champions, international medal winners and Olympic hopefuls from the region.

The Minister said that the approval of the National Centre of Excellence stands as a historic and forward-looking step that will redefine the sporting future of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dy CM reviews development works, public services in Sunderbani, Kalakote

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI, JUNE 25: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today reviewed the status of developmental activities and public service delivery in Sunderbani and Kalakote during his visit to Rajouri district.

While proceeding towards Kalakote, the Deputy Chief Minister held an interaction with the officers at Sunderbani and assessed the progress of ongoing developmental works and implementation of various public welfare initiatives. He emphasized the need for efficient service delivery and timely completion of development projects to ensure that the benefits reach the people at the grassroots level.

The Deputy Chief Minister also visited the Sub-District Hospital, Sunderbani, where he inspected the ongoing renovation works being undertaken to strengthen the healthcare infrastructure and improve patient facilities. He directed the concerned officials to maintain quality standards and ensure timely completion of the works.

During his visit to Kalakote, Surinder Choudhary paid obeisance at the revered Barohi Darbar and prayed for peace, harmony and prosperity for all. He highlighted the importance of preserving the region's rich spiritual and cultural heritage.

The Deputy Chief Minister also held an extensive interaction with the local residents, public representatives and party leaders in Kalakote. He patiently listened to their concerns, suggestions and developmental demands, assuring them that their genuine issues would be addressed on priority.

Later, at Dak Bungalow Kalakote, the Deputy Chief Minister interacted with the officers and members of the public to review the ongoing development works and discuss the issues related to public welfare. He stressed the importance of responsive governance, transparency and people-centric administration.

Surinder Choudhary reiterated that the government remains committed to accelerate the developmental initiatives, strengthen the public infrastructure and ensure that the aspirations of the people are fulfilled through effective and accountable governance.

He said that continuous public engagement and feedback from the people remain essential for achieving sustainable growth and improving the quality of life across Jammu and Kashmir.

Satish Sharma visits Chandanwari took stock of preparedness for SANJY-2026

Attends sports event at Kashmiri Pandit Colony, Vessu

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JUNE 25: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Science & Technology, ARI & Trainings, and Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma, today reviewed the arrangements and facilities being put in place at Chandanwari for smooth conduct of the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026.

During his visit to Chandanwari, the Minister took stock of the preparedness and reviewed the facilities being established for the annual pilgrimage. He stressed the importance of seamless coordination among all the concerned departments to ensure that adequate arrangements are put in place for the convenience, safety and well-being of the pilgrims. He emphasised that all necessary works and services must be completed in a timely manner so that the pilgrimage is conducted in a smooth, safe and well-organised manner.

Later, Satish Sharma attended a sports event at Kashmiri Pandit Colony, Vessu.

While addressing the gathering at Vessu, Minister said that sports are a powerful instrument for shaping a healthy, disciplined and progressive society. He said that the youth possess immense talent and energy and it is the collective responsibility of society and the government to provide them with the right platforms, facilities and encouragement so that they can excel in sports and contribute positively to the society.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from local youth, residents and sports enthusiasts, reflecting the growing spirit of sports and collective community involvement in the area.

Satish Sharma said that sports are not merely recreational activities but a powerful medium for building discipline, confidence, leadership and social harmony among the youth. He said that such events at the grassroots level play a vital role in channelising the energy of young people towards positive and productive pursuits, while also helping in identifying the emerging talent.

"Events like this not only promote physical fitness and competitive spirit but also strengthen the bonds of unity, brotherhood and mutual respect within the community," the Minister said.

Satish Sharma said that the government is committed to take sports infrastructure and youth-centric initiatives to every nook and corner of Jammu and Kashmir. "We are working with a clear vision to create more opportunities for young people, identify talent at the grassroots and ensure that our youth have access to modern facilities and proper guidance. Sports must become a mass movement in Jammu and Kashmir, and such community-level events are an important step in that direction," he added.

The Minister emphasised that the government is committed to create a robust sports ecosystem across Jammu and Kashmir by strengthening infrastructure, expanding access to sporting facilities and ensuring greater opportunities for youth participation in sports and allied activities.

Interacting with the participants and local residents, the Minister appreciated the enthusiasm shown by the youth and encouraged them to actively take part in sports and other constructive activities.

ACS Jal Shakti releases Groundwater Resource Reports; chairs UT level Coordination Committee Meeting

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 25: Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra, today chaired the meeting of the Union Territory Level Coordination Committee (UTLC) for assessment of groundwater resource potential in Jammu and Kashmir for the year 2026.

The meeting was organized by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) to initiate the annual Groundwater Resource Assessment (GWRA-2026) and review the ongoing groundwater management initiatives in the Union Territory.

During the meeting, a detailed PowerPoint Presentation was delivered by Pir Rayees Ahmad, Senior Scientist of CGWB, highlighting the activities of CGWB in J&K, along with various completed and ongoing studies related to groundwater assessment and management. Technical aspects concerning the groundwater resource evaluation, aquifer studies and sustainable management were discussed in detail and technical guidance was extended to UT Government departments by the CGWB officers.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on groundwater resource assessment, inter-departmental data sharing and implementation of the National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM).

The committee reviewed the roadmap for assessment of dynamic groundwater resources across 149 assessment units in J&K and emphasized timely sharing and validation of data by all the stakeholder departments.

On the occasion, the ACS formally released two important publications of the Central Ground Water Board titled "National Compilation on Dynamic Ground Water Resources of India – 2025" and "Dynamic Ground Water Resources of Jammu & Kashmir – 2025".

The reports provide an updated assessment of groundwater availability, utilization and sustainability besides will serve as important reference documents for scientific planning, groundwater conservation and sustainable water resource management in the Union Territory.

The meeting also reviewed the findings of aquifer management studies conducted in parts of Kathua district and discussed proposed NAQUIM studies in Jammu Urban Agglomeration and parts of Anantnag district and Rajouri district, aimed at strengthening the groundwater management and conservation in J&K.

The report on Groundwater Resources Assessment of Jammu & Kashmir UT, prepared by CGWB, Jammu, was also formally released by the ACS in presence of Rakesh Rana and Pir Rayees Ahmad, Senior Scientists of the Central Ground Water Board, North Western Himalayan Region, Jammu.

The Additional Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of scientific groundwater assessment, coordinated inter-departmental action and adoption of sustainable groundwater management practices to ensure long-term water security in Jammu & Kashmir.

Various issues pertaining to groundwater management in the Union Territory were deliberated upon and suitable management plans and recommendations were presented by the officers of CGWB for sustainable utilization and conservation of groundwater resources.

DE&CC Srinagar organizes Job Fair at GPC Gogjibagh

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 25: District Employment & Counselling Centre (DE&CC), Srinagar today organized a District-Level Job Fair at Kashmir Government Polytechnic College (GPC), Gogjibagh, Srinagar.

The event was graced by MLA Lal Chowk, Ahsan Pardesi, as the Chief Guest.

The Job Fair witnessed an overwhelming response from the youth, with around 400 job seekers participating in the event. A total of 15 reputed private companies from diverse sectors participated and offered employment opportunities to aspiring candidates.

In addition to the participating companies, six line departments established awareness and facilitation stalls to disseminate information regarding various government schemes and livelihood initiatives. A dedicated Mission YUVA Stall was also installed at the venue, which attracted considerable attention and witnessed significant footfall from youth interested in self-employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.

During his visit, MLA Lal Chowk, Ahsan Pardesi, toured all the stalls and interacted with representatives of the participating companies, line departments, Mission YUVA officials, and job seekers. He appreciated the efforts of the Employment Department in organizing the Job Fair and stressed the need for conducting more such programmes in the future to provide enhanced employment opportunities and career guidance to the youth. He observed that such initiatives play a vital role in bridging the gap between employers and job seekers and contribute significantly towards youth empowerment and economic development.

The Job Fair provided an effective platform for direct interaction between employers and job seekers.

Following screening and interviews conducted during the event, 37 candidates were shortlisted by the participating companies for further stages of selection and placement.

The programme concluded successfully with enthusiastic participation from employers, government departments, and job seekers, reaffirming the commitment of the Employment Department towards employment generation and youth empowerment in the district.

CRC Jammu conducts RCI-Accredited CRE Programme in Baramulla

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 25: The Composite Regional Centre (CRC) for Skill Development, Rehabilitation and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Jammu, successfully organized a Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) Accredited Continuing Rehabilitation Education (CRE) Programme in the Aspirational District of Baramulla under the National Fund for Conducting Rehabilitation Education (CRE) Programmes.

The State-level CRE Programme was organized on the theme "Recent Developments in Prevention, Diagnosis and Management of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities" and witnessed enthusiastic participation from more than 150 rehabilitation professionals, special educators, therapists, academicians, and stakeholders from across the region.

The programme was attended by Nasir Ahmed, Chief Planning Officer, Baramulla; Dr. Rohnika Sharma, Director, CRC Jammu; Naveen Gupta, Administrative Officer, CRC Jammu; Rahul Singh, Rehabilitation Officer, CRC Jammu; and Dr. Rayees Zahoor Shah, CRE Coordinator and Developmental Therapist, CRC Jammu.

Addressing the gathering as the Chief Guest, the Chief Planning Officer, appreciated the efforts of CRC Jammu in bringing quality professional training programmes to aspirational districts and underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in ensuring inclusive development and better rehabilitation outcomes for persons with disabilities. Director, CRC Jammu, emphasized the importance of capacity building among rehabilitation professionals and the need to remain updated with recent advancements in prevention, diagnosis, and management practices relating to intellectual and developmental disabilities. She reiterated CRC Jammu's commitment to strengthening rehabilitation services and professional competencies across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Developmental Therapist, CRC Jammu and CRE Coordinator, Dr. Rayees Zahoor Shah, highlighted the significance of continuous professional development in the field of rehabilitation.

During the technical sessions, valuable insights on contemporary practices and emerging developments in the management of intellectual and developmental disabilities were highlighted. Experienced rehabilitation professionals and subject experts, while speaking on the occasion, covered various aspects related to the prevention, diagnosis, assessment, intervention, and management of intellectual and developmental disabilities. The sessions provided participants with evidence-based knowledge, practical strategies, and updates on recent developments in the field.

Certificates were distributed to all participants and resource persons in recognition of their active participation and contribution. The CRE Programme served as an important platform for knowledge sharing, professional networking, and strengthening rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities, reflecting CRC Jammu's continued commitment towards excellence in rehabilitation education and capacity building

DE&CC Bandipora organizes One-Day Job Fair; over 450 unemployed youth participate

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 25 : District Employment & Counselling Centre (DE&CC), Bandipora, on Thursday organized a one-day Job Fair at the Employment Office premises under the theme "One Platform for Employment and Entrepreneurship."

The event aimed to bridge the gap between job seekers and employers by providing a common platform for employment opportunities and career advancement.

The Job Fair witnessed an overwhelming response from the youth of the district, with more than 450 unemployed candidates from different areas participating enthusiastically in the event. Around 15 reputed companies and private-sector employers representing diverse industries took part in the recruitment drive, offering employment opportunities across various sectors.

During the course of the event, 450 candidates submitted their applications for different job profiles. Following preliminary screening and interaction sessions, 140 candidates were shortlisted for the next stage of the selection process, while six candidates secured on-the-spot placements, marking a significant achievement of the recruitment drive.

To further strengthen employment and entrepreneurship initiatives, a dedicated Mission YUVA Facilitation Stall was established by the Block Handholding and Development (BHD) team. The stall provided guidance and registration support to aspiring entrepreneurs and unemployed youth under various Mission YUVA schemes. Participants were sensitized about livelihood generation opportunities, skill development programmes, self-employment initiatives, financial assistance schemes, and other socio-economic empowerment programmes aimed at promoting sustainable entrepreneurship and employment. Assistant Director Employment, Bandipora, Akil Khateeb, appreciated the active participation of the youth, employers, and all stakeholders. He expressed gratitude to the participating companies, officials, and organizing teams for their collective efforts in making the Job Fair a grand success and reaffirmed the department's resolve to continue organizing such initiatives for the welfare and empowerment of the youth. Speaking on the occasion, the Career Counselling Officer, DE&CC Bandipora, encouraged the participants to register themselves on the J&K Employment Portal, which has been integrated with the National Career Service (NCS) Portal. He highlighted that the platform offers a wide range of free services, including online career counselling, video resume creation, skill enhancement programmes, job-matching services, and timely notifications regarding employment opportunities in both the public and private sectors across the country.

The officer also emphasized the importance of continuous skill development and urged the youth to take advantage of the various employment-oriented schemes and services being provided by the Employment Department. He reiterated the department's commitment to supporting unemployed youth by connecting them with relevant opportunities and enhancing their employability.

Inter-Zonal District Level Kabaddi Championship for Under-17 Boys commences in Baramulla

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 25: The Inter-Zonal District Level Kabaddi Championship for Under-17 Boys, organized by the Department of Youth Services & Sports (DYSS) Baramulla, commenced with great enthusiasm and competitive spirit at BHSS Baramulla today.

The championship was officially inaugurated by Mubeen Ahmad Khan, Physical Education Master (PEM) and Activity Incharge DYSSO Baramulla, in presence of Mohammad Arif Bhat, Physical Education Lecturer (PEL) and Convenor/Chief Selector of the competition, along with other senior officials and technical experts of the department.

A total of 13 zonal teams from across District Baramulla are participating in the prestigious championship. The tournament is being conducted in a league format, with each team scheduled to play four matches, providing ample opportunities for players to showcase their skills, fitness, and sporting excellence.

Addressing the participants on the occasion, Mubeen Ahmad Khan highlighted the importance of sports in shaping the character and personality of young students. He urged the athletes to display discipline, teamwork, commitment, and sportsmanship throughout the competition. He also appreciated the efforts of the Department of Youth Services & Sports in providing a vibrant platform for nurturing talent and promoting a healthy sporting culture among youth.

Mohammad Arif Bhat, Convenor and Chief Selector of the championship, encouraged the participants to make the most of the opportunity and perform to the best of their abilities. He emphasized that such competitions not only help in identifying talented players for higher-level events but also contribute significantly towards the overall physical, mental, and social development of students.

The opening day's matches witnessed intense competition and remarkable performances from various teams. At the conclusion of the league-stage fixtures played today, eight teams successfully qualified for the quarterfinal stage of the tournament.

The quarterfinals, semifinals, and grand finale of the championship are scheduled to be played on June 27, 2026, at the same venue, where the district champion will be crowned following a series of high-voltage encounters.

GDCs organise NMBA Awareness Programmes to promote Drug-Free Society in Bandipora

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 25: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), Degree Colleges across Bandipora district on Thursday organised a series of awareness and plantation programmes aimed at sensitising students about the harmful effects of substance abuse while promoting environmental conservation.

At HKM Govt Degree College (GDC) Bandipora, the NSS Units, in collaboration with the Literary Club, organised a counselling session for newly admitted students on substance abuse and its preventive measures. The session focused on creating awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse and preventive measures among the new entrants, encouraging them to adopt a healthy and responsible lifestyle from the beginning of their academic journey.

The programme was organised under the guidance of the NSS Programme Officers and Convener of the Literary Club, Prof. Sadaf Shafi. Students actively participated in the session and appreciated the initiative for providing valuable guidance and awareness.

Meanwhile, the NCORD Cell of HKM Degree College Bandipora also organised an awareness programme titled "Ek Ped Nasha Ke Viruddh" under the convenership of Prof. Irfan Ahmad Wagay. Faculty members and students participated enthusiastically in the programme, which highlighted the harmful consequences of substance abuse while promoting environmental responsibility through tree plantation. The participants reiterated the importance of adopting a healthy, drug-free lifestyle and preserving the environment.

Similarly, Government Degree College Gurez organised a plantation drive titled "Ek Ped Nashay Kay Virudh" under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan under the supervision of Principal, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir. Students and faculty members planted saplings within the college campus, symbolising their commitment towards environmental conservation and a drug-free society.

Addressing the participants, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir said that every tree planted represents hope, responsibility and a pledge to safeguard nature as well as society from the menace of substance abuse. He urged students to become ambassadors of environmental stewardship and actively contribute towards the vision of a Nasha Mukt Bharat.

The plantation drive concluded with a collective pledge by participants to protect the planted saplings, preserve the environment and work together towards building a greener, healthier and addiction-free nation.

Similarly, Government Degree College Sumbal, organized a Plantation Drive titled "Ek Ped, Nashay Ke Viruddh" under the aegis of the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan, in collaboration with the National Service Scheme (NSS).

The initiative was carried out under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Shabeena Iqbal Shawl, Principal, Government Degree College Sumbal, with the objective of promoting environmental awareness while reinforcing the message of a drug-free society. Faculty members, NSS volunteers, and members of the NMBA Committee actively participated in the drive.

As part of the activity, saplings were planted at various locations within the college campus, symbolizing growth, hope, and a commitment to a healthier future. The participants pledged to contribute towards environmental conservation and support the vision of a healthy, sustainable, and drug-free society.

The plantation drive highlighted the strong connection between nurturing trees and nurturing a life free from substance abuse.

DC Shopian chairs monthly District NCORD meeting

Directs stronger action against drug trafficking and substance abuse

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, JUNE 25: Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta, today chaired the monthly District Level NCORD meeting to review the progress of anti-drug abuse initiatives and strengthen measures for curbing drug trafficking and substance abuse in the district.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the performance of enforcement departments and the implementation of decisions taken in previous NCORD meetings.

He stressed the need for intensified efforts to identify drug peddlers, dismantle supply networks and strengthen inter-departmental coordination to effectively combat the drug menace.

Reviewing enforcement measures, the meeting was informed that 31 FIRs have been registered against poppy cultivators, while 18 driving licences of persons involved in NDPS-related offences have been suspended. It was further informed that one medical shop has been sealed for violations under the relevant provisions.

The meeting was also informed that out of 27 kilometres of road identified for wild cannabis growth, four kilometres have been cleared through joint action by the Police, Excise Department and the Sub-Divisional Administration.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Police, Revenue, Excise, PMGSY, R&B, Education and Irrigation Departments to launch coordinated drives for the removal of wild cannabis, particularly in the vicinity of schools, water bodies, along roads and canals across the district. He emphasises on counselling services be further strengthened at Addiction Treatment Facility at DH Shopian to ensure sustained de-addiction support for victims of substance abuse.

The DC also directed concerned departments to intensity facilitation of registration of recovered victims under various self-employment and livelihood schemes so that they can be rehabilitated economically and reintegrated into society through sustainable means of livelihood.

Emphasising preventive measures, the DC directed the tehsildars to identify suitable land for development of playgrounds in pending panchayats to promote constructive youth engagement. He also instructed the concerned departments to activate Youth Clubs across all panchayats and involve religious leaders, community elders and civil society organisations in strengthening awareness and prevention efforts against drug abuse.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of activities being carried out under the ongoing 100-day Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan and directed all departments to further intensify awareness campaigns to ensure wider impact of the campaign.

Among others, the meeting was attended by SSP Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmad Chaudhary; ADC Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; ACR Shopian, Shakoor Ahmad; SDM Zainapora, Bilal Ahmad; SE, R&B, DIO and officers from Health, Education, Excise, MVD, Drug Control, Irrigation, Social Welfare, Tehsildars and other concerned departments.

CIPMC Srinagar organizes Khet Bachao Abhiyan at Pulwama

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

PULWAMA, JUNE 25: Crop Integrated Pest Management Centre (CIPMC), Srinagar, today organized a Khet Bachao Abhiyan at the field of progressive farmer Ghulam Nabi Ganai at Sether Gund village, Kakapora, Pulwama, in collaboration with the Agriculture Department and local farming community.

The programme witnessed the participation of around 30 farmers and aimed at promoting sustainable agricultural practices and creating awareness about the conservation of natural resources for safeguarding Mother Earth.

Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Plant Protection Officer, Abir Shankhari, demonstrated various tools and techniques of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and highlighted the importance of the safe and judicious use of pesticides. He also sensitized farmers about the National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS) Mobile Application and its role in pest monitoring and management.

Scientific Assistant, Kawal Nain Singh, delivered an informative lecture on the significance of 100 percent seed treatment and the conservation of natural enemies in crop ecosystems. He also demonstrated the use of neem oil, pesticide label claims, QR code verification, pheromone traps and yellow sticky traps as effective components of eco-friendly pest management.

Meanwhile, Junior Agriculture Extension Officer (JAEO), Kakapora, Ashiq Hussain, apprised the participants about the precautions to be observed while spraying pesticides and elaborated on the adverse effects of indiscriminate pesticide use on human health and the environment.

The participating farmers appreciated the initiative and actively interacted with experts on various aspects of integrated pest management and sustainable farming practices.

Two-Day National-Level Seminar concludes with fervour and devotion at Mattan Sahib

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JUNE 25: The two-day National-Level Seminar dedicated to the 350th Martyrdom Anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji concluded with great fervour, devotion, and peaceful participation at Gurdwara Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Mattan Sahib, Anantnag.

The concluding day featured soulful Shabad Gurbani Kirtan by Bhai Popinder Singh and Jatha, Singhpora, Anantnag, and Bhai Jagtar Singh from Jammu. Giani Harmeet Singh Raina from Jammu and Giani Harbhinder Singh, Incharge Sikh Mission, Jammu & Kashmir, delivered spiritually enriching Gurbani Vichar and Katha, highlighting the life, teachings, supreme sacrifice, and enduring legacy of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji.

The devotional performances and discourses created an atmosphere of deep spiritual reflection and reverence.

The seminar, organized by the North Zone Cultural Centre (NZCC), Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages (JKAACL), witnessed the participation of scholars, religious leaders, intellectuals, and members of the Sikh community from across the region.

President, District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (DGPC), Anantnag, expressed gratitude to the dignitaries, scholars, organizers, volunteers, local administration, and the Sikh Sangat for their wholehearted support and cooperation in making the event a grand success.

The organizers reiterated their commitment to preserving and promoting the rich spiritual, cultural, and humanitarian legacy of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, whose supreme sacrifice continues to inspire generations across the world.

The seminar was held alongside an Exhibition on the Life, Teachings, and Martyrdom of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, which was formally inaugurated on 24 June 2026.

The exhibition will remain open to the public till 30 June 2026, up to 5:00 PM, providing visitors, students, and devotees an opportunity to learn about the Guru's invaluable contribution to humanity, religious freedom, and communal harmony.

FDA issues advisory to FBOs on safe procurement and use of Milk Products

FBOs directed to ensure traceability, quality compliance and consumer safety

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE, 25: In view of the extensive consumption of milk and milk products by the general public and their widespread use in hotels, restaurants, catering establishments, cafes, sweet shops, bakeries and other food vending establishments, the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), Jammu & Kashmir, has issued an advisory to all Food Business Operators (FBOs) regarding the procurement, storage, use and sale of milk and milk products.

Commissioner, Food and Drugs Administration, J&K, Khalid Jahangir, stated that Food Business Operators must adhere to the prescribed standards and safety norms while procuring and using milk and milk products to ensure food safety, consumer protection and public health.

The advisory states that it has come to the notice of the authorities that in certain instances milk products, particularly Paneer, Ghee and Khoa/Mawa, are being procured, supplied or used without adequate disclosure of the procurement chain, quality assurance mechanisms and traceability records. Such practices may pose serious risks to public health and can mislead consumers regarding the quality and authenticity of food being served.

In this regard, all Food Business Operators, especially hotels, restaurants, catering establishments, cafes, sweet shops, tea stalls, dhabas, itinerant vendors and food vending establishments, have been advised to strictly adhere to the guidelines and instructions issued through the advisory on key compliance parameters viz. Procurement and traceability of milk and milk products, their notified Standards and Regulatory Compliance with packaging and labelling requirements, consumer information, menu disclosure and Food Safety Display Boards.

The advisory reiterates that under the Food Safety and Standards Regulations, it is prohibited to sell or serve milk containing added water; dahi/curd not prepared from boiled, pasteurized or sterilized milk; skimmed milk as regular milk; milk and milk products containing substances not naturally found in milk, except where specifically permitted under the regulations.

The advisory issued by the Food & Drugs Administration further emphasized that compliance with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and regulations framed thereunder is mandatory for all Food Business Operators and all stakeholders dealing in milk and milk products were called upon to strictly adhere to food safety standards and departmental advisories issued from time to time in the interest of public health and consumer welfare.

The Commissioner also appealed to consumers to remain vigilant, read labels and display boards carefully, and report any concerns regarding the quality or safety of food products. Complaints may be lodged through the Toll-Free Number 104, by email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in, or through the FSSAI consumer grievance portal https://foscos.fssai.gov.in/consumergrievance.

SKUAST-K ranks 4th in IIRF University Rankings 2026

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 25: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) has been awarded 4th rank nationally (Agriculture & Horticulture University category) in the International Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) University Rankings 2026, reinforcing its growing stature as one of India's leading institutions in agricultural education and research.

Ranked just behind three of the country's most prestigious agricultural universities, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi; Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana; and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, SKUAST-K's achievement reflects its remarkable rise as a leading center of excellence in agricultural education, research, innovation, and rural transformation.

The recognition places SKUAST-K among the country's top agricultural universities and reflects its expanding academic, research, and innovation footprint. The ranking is based on IIRF's comprehensive evaluation of over 2,500 institutions nationwide, using key performance indicators such as academic reputation, student diversity, research outcomes, innovation, infrastructure, community engagement, and international outlook.

SKUAST-K registered a strong performance across multiple ranking indicators, including academic excellence, research, innovation, inclusivity, community engagement, infrastructure, and global outreach. The university currently offers 14 undergraduate programs, the highest among state agricultural universities in the country, and has nearly 30 percent of its students from outside Jammu and Kashmir.

In research and innovation, SKUAST-K's IPR tally stands at 123 IPRs, including 117 in the last four years, holds an H-index of 115, and has over 200 extramural research projects in operation. The university has also strengthened its profile through large-scale community engagement and development initiatives, such as the Student Rural Exploration Program, which covers 400 villages, involves about 4,000 students, and is expanding its national and international collaborations with reputable institutions and industries.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, said the achievement reflects the sustained efforts of the university's faculty, scientists, students, and staff.

He said SKUAST-K remains committed to strengthening research, promoting innovation, and supporting farming communities through education, community engagement, and technology transfer. Prof. Ganai said the university has repositioned its strategic focus from local to national in 2022.

District wide anti drug initiatives continue under Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan in Shopian

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, JUNE 25: The ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan continues to witness sustained public participation across Shopian district, with a series of awareness, outreach, and preventive initiatives being carried out to strengthen the fight against substance abuse.

As part of the campaign, various government departments, educational institutions, health institutions, civil society organizations, traders' associations, youth groups, and local communities organized activities to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promote a culture of healthy and responsible living.

As part of these initiatives, the Drug Control Organization Shopian, in collaboration with the Chemists and Distributors Association, organized a drug free awareness rally at Keller.

The rally witnessed active participation from members of the medical fraternity, chemists, civil society, and local residents, reinforcing the message of collective responsibility in preventing substance abuse and building a drug-free society.

Public awareness programmes, rallies, interactive sessions, pledge-taking ceremonies, and community outreach activities were conducted at different locations across the district to educate people, particularly the youth, about the social, legal, and health consequences of drug abuse.

In addition to awareness initiatives, preventive measures also remained a key component of the campaign. A special drive for the identification and eradication of wild Bhung (wild cannabis) continued across various areas of Sub-Division Zainapora with the active involvement of the concerned departments.

The initiative aims to eliminate the illegal growth of narcotic plants and strengthen preventive measures against substance abuse while promoting a safer and drug free environment.

Higher education and youth services department also engaged youth and students in various sports competitions and awareness activities.

DC Doda reviews banking sector performance; stresses enhanced credit flow and financial inclusion

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

DODA, JUNE 25: Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal chaired a joint meeting of the District Level Review Committee (DLRC), District Level Review and Advisory Committee (DLRAC) and District Consultative Committee (DCC) at the DC Office Complex Doda, to review bank performance for the quarter ending March 2026.

The meeting covered sector-wise and bank-wise lending under the Annual Credit Plan (ACP) 2025-26 and ACP 2026-27, the Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio, and institutional credit flow to agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, sheep husbandry, dairy development, self-employment ventures, MSMEs and weaker sections. Progress under PMEGP, PM MUDRA Yojana, Stand-Up India, PMFME, SHG financing, PM Kisan, social security schemes and PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana was reviewed bank-wise across receipt, sanction and disbursement.

The Deputy Commissioner directed banks to ensure timely disposal of loan applications, improve rural credit outreach and strengthen coordination with line departments to extend support to entrepreneurs, farmers, women self-help groups and unemployed youth without delay. Special focus was placed on Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs), with stakeholders directed to furnish tehsil-wise and block-wise beneficiary data and enhance disbursement under KCC Crop Loans and KCC-linked financing for dairy, animal husbandry, sheep husbandry and fisheries. Banks were further directed to increase support to MSMEs, enhance education loan disbursements and expand credit coverage to healthcare institutions, schools, SHGs, distressed persons and other weaker sections.

On financial inclusion, the DC directed banks to increase Aadhaar and mobile number seeding, strengthen Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanisms, enhance financial literacy and improve the functioning of Customer Facilitation and Learning Centres. Expressing concern over low CD Ratios in certain areas, he directed all banks to improve productive lending in priority sectors and expedite PMEGP processing. The meeting also reviewed the functioning of SBI RSETI Doda, promotion of Joint Liability Groups among landless farmers and measures to strengthen entrepreneurship and livelihood generation.

Among those present were Chief Planning Officer Doda Manesh Kumar Manhas, General Manager DIC Doda Mohd Asfaq, Lead District Manager Parveen Kumar, district officers from various line departments and representatives of NABARD, RBI, Lead Bank Office, RSETI and district coordinators of different banks.

HT EDITORIAL

As J&K Battles Drug Addiction, Religious Leaders Must Lead a Moral Movement Against The Menace

Drug addiction has emerged as one of the most dangerous social challenges confronting Jammu & Kashmir today. What was once considered a limited problem has now assumed alarming proportions, affecting families, educational institutions and entire communities. The growing number of young people falling prey to narcotic substances is a matter of grave concern, threatening not only individual lives but also the future of the region.

Behind every addict is a family struggling with pain, uncertainty and despair. Substance abuse destroys health, weakens moral values, fuels criminal activity and robs society of its most valuable asset—its youth. In a region where aspirations for peace, prosperity and development are high, the spread of drug addiction poses a serious obstacle to social progress.

Recognising the severity of the crisis, the administration and various agencies have launched sustained efforts under the ongoing Nasha Mukt Abhiyan. The campaign has generated awareness and encouraged community participation in the fight against drugs. Yet, while enforcement measures, awareness programmes and rehabilitation centres are essential, the battle against addiction must also be fought at the level of conscience, character and values.

This is where the role of Imams and religious preachers assumes immense significance.

Every Friday, thousands of people gather in mosques across Jammu & Kashmir to listen to sermons and seek guidance. These well-attended platforms offer a unique opportunity to address one of society's most pressing concerns. Religious leaders enjoy the trust and respect of the people, and their words often carry a lasting impact on hearts and minds.

Islam provides abundant teachings that can inspire and guide young people away from harmful influences. The Holy Quran and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) strongly condemn intoxicants and all practices that harm individuals and society. More importantly, Islamic teachings promote self-discipline, responsibility, hope, repentance and positive living—values that can help vulnerable youth resist addiction and rebuild their lives.

Religious preachers should make greater use of their platforms to speak openly about the dangers of drug abuse. They can educate congregations about the devastating consequences of addiction, encourage parents to remain vigilant, and motivate young people to choose a path of dignity and purpose. At a time when many youngsters are searching for direction, faith-based guidance can provide the moral compass they need.

Mosques can also become centres of awareness and social responsibility. Discussions on addiction, mental health, peer pressure and family values can complement the broader objectives of the Nasha Mukt Abhiyan. By addressing these issues regularly, religious institutions can contribute significantly to prevention efforts and help create a stronger community response to the drug menace.

Jammu & Kashmir has a rich spiritual heritage that has historically guided society through difficult times. Today, that moral strength is needed once again. The fight against drugs is not merely a law-and-order issue; it is a struggle to protect a generation from self-destruction. Religious leaders, educators, parents and community members must stand united in this mission.

The challenge is enormous, but so is the opportunity. If Imams and religious preachers use their influential platforms to spread the timeless message of Islam against intoxicants and moral decay, they can become powerful agents of change. Religious teachings and guidance, combined with ongoing social and governmental efforts, may well prove to be the most effective way of motivating the youth of Jammu & Kashmir to break free from the grip of addiction and build a healthier, brighter future.

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Hazrat Ali Asghar (A.S)

The Eternal Symbol of Innocence in Karbala

■ GULFAM BARJI

The tragedy of Karbala occupies a unique and unparalleled place in Islamic history. It is not merely a historical event but a timeless symbol of sacrifice, steadfastness, and the struggle between truth and falsehood. The sacrifices made by Imam Hussain (A.S.), his family members, and his loyal companions ensured the preservation of the true teachings of Islam and continue to inspire millions across the world.

Among the martyrs of Karbala, the most heart-rending story is that of Hazrat Ali Asghar (A.S.), the six-month-old son of Imam Hussain (A.S.). His martyrdom stands as one of the most poignant examples of innocence suffering at the hands of tyranny and oppression.

The events of Karbala unfolded in the scorching desert plains where Imam Hussain (A.S.) and his family were deprived of water for several days. The suffering of the children in the camp became increasingly severe as thirst and hunger took their toll. Among them was the infant Ali Asghar (A.S.), whose condition grew weaker with every passing moment.

On the Day of Ashura, when all appeals for justice and humanity had been rejected, Imam Hussain (A.S.) carried his infant son into the battlefield. Holding the child in his arms, he addressed the opposing forces, saying that if they considered him guilty, the innocent infant had committed no offense and should at least be given water.

History records that this plea for mercy was met with extraordinary cruelty. Instead of offering water, a soldier from the enemy camp, acting on orders from his commanders, shot an arrow that struck the infant in the neck. The six-month-old child was martyred in the arms of his father, becoming the youngest martyr of Karbala.

The martyrdom of Hazrat Ali Asghar (A.S.) remains one of the most moving episodes of the Karbala narrative. It highlights the extent of suffering endured by the family of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and serves as a powerful reminder of the moral principles for which Imam Hussain (A.S.) stood. The tragedy demonstrates that the struggle of Karbala was not for worldly power or political gain, but for the preservation of justice, truth, and the values of Islam.

Every year during Muharram, Muslims around the world commemorate the sacrifice of Hazrat Ali Asghar (A.S.) alongside the other martyrs of Karbala. His memory continues to evoke deep emotions and serves as a symbol of innocence, patience, and ultimate sacrifice in the face of oppression.

More than thirteen centuries later, the name of Hazrat Ali Asghar (A.S.) continues to resonate in the hearts of millions. His martyrdom remains an enduring testament to the values of courage, faith, and unwavering commitment to truth that define the legacy of Karbala.

The author from Harwan, Srinagar

The Contribution of Uthman (R.A) Towards Islam Through Wealth, it is a trust from Allah and should be used responsibly

■ ER ISHFAQ KHALIQ

Among the greatest companions of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, Uthman ibn Affan (R.A) holds a unique position because of his extraordinary generosity, humility, and dedication to Islam. He was a successful businessman who possessed great wealth, but his greatness was not in the amount of wealth he owned; rather, it was in how he used that wealth for the sake of Allah, the support of the Muslim community, and the welfare of humanity. Islam teaches that wealth is a trust from Allah, and Uthman (R.A) became a remarkable example of a person who fulfilled this responsibility. His life demonstrated that material prosperity can become a means of earning eternal reward when it is spent in the service of faith and society.

■ **Early Life and Wealth of Uthman (R.A)**

Uthman ibn Affan (R.A) belonged to the respected Quraysh tribe of Makkah. He was known for his honesty, good character, and excellent business skills. Through trade, he became one of the wealthiest merchants of Makkah. Despite his wealth and social status, he was a person of simplicity and modesty. After accepting Islam in its early days, he dedicated his resources, time, and energy to strengthening the new Muslim community. His wealth never became a source of pride for him. Instead, he viewed it as a blessing from Allah and a responsibility that had to be used for righteous causes.

■ **Supporting Islam During Difficult Times**

When the early Muslims faced persecution and hardship in Makkah, Uthman (R.A) stood firmly with the Prophet (S.A.W) and the believers. He used his financial resources to help those who were suffering because of their faith. At a time when many people protected their wealth for personal comfort, Uthman (R.A) sacrificed his wealth to protect and support the religion of Islam. His generosity became a source of strength for the Muslim community and showed that financial sacrifice is one of the greatest forms of devotion when it is done sincerely for Allah.

■ **The Purchase of the Well of Rumah**

One of the most famous examples of Uthman's (R.A) charity was the purchase of the Well of Rumah in Madinah. After the migration to Madinah, Muslims faced difficulty obtaining clean drinking water. The Well of Rumah was controlled by a person who charged people for its water. Seeing the hardship of the Muslims, Uthman (R.A) purchased the well and made it freely available for everyone. This act became a form of continuous charity (Sadaqah Jariyah), as generations of Muslims benefited from it. It remains one of the greatest examples of how wealth can be transformed into a lasting source of reward.

■ **Contribution During the Expedition of Tabuk**

One of the greatest financial contributions of Uthman (R.A) came during the preparation for the expedition of Tabuk. The Muslim army was facing severe challenges due to shortage of resources. The journey was long, the weather was harsh, and many people lacked the necessary equipment and transportation. Uthman (R.A) responded by providing enormous financial assistance. He donated large numbers of camels, horses, and wealth to equip the Muslim army. His generosity played a significant role in strengthening the Muslim forces. The Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) appreciated his sacrifice and praised his contribution, showing the high status of such generosity in Islam.

■ **Expansion of Al-Masjid an-Nabawi**

As the Muslim population increased in Madinah, the mosque of the Prophet (S.A.W) became too small for the growing number of worshippers. Uthman (R.A) contributed financially towards its expansion so that more Muslims could pray and gather there. His contribution was not limited to immediate needs; he invested in the development of institutions that benefited the Muslim community for generations.

■ **Helping the Poor and Supporting Society**

Uthman (R.A) continuously spent his wealth on helping the poor, needy, widows, orphans, and travelers. His generosity was not occasional but a consistent part of his life. He understood that wealth is temporary, while the reward of using it for good deeds remains with Allah. His lifestyle teaches Muslims that true success is not measured by what a person accumulates but by what a person gives for the benefit of others.

■ **His Role as the Third Caliph and Preservation of the Qur'an**

After the passing of the Prophet (S.A.W) and the leadership of Abu Bakr (R.A) and Uthman (R.A) became the third Caliph of Islam. During his leadership, the Muslim state expanded greatly. One of his most important contributions was the preparation and distribution of standardized copies of the Qur'an throughout the Muslim world. This great service protected the unity of Muslims and ensured that the Qur'an remained preserved and accessible to future generations.

■ **The Character Behind His Generosity**

The generosity of Uthman (R.A) was not based on seeking fame or recognition. He was known for his humility, kindness, and fear of Allah. His wealth was a means to serve others, not a means to increase his status. He showed that a believer can possess wealth while remaining spiritually humble. His life provides a powerful lesson: wealth in the hands of a righteous person becomes a blessing for society.

■ **Lessons From the Life of Uthman (RA)**

The life of Uthman (R.A) teaches several important lessons:

Wealth is a trust from Allah and should be used responsibly.

Helping people in need is among the greatest forms of worship.

Charity creates benefits that continue even after a person leaves this world.

True honor comes from sacrifice and service, not possessions.

A successful believer balances worldly success with spiritual responsibility.

Uthman ibn Affan (R.A) remains one of the greatest examples of generosity in Islamic history. His wealth became a powerful instrument for spreading Islam, supporting Muslims, helping the needy, and building a lasting legacy. He proved that wealth itself is not the measure of a person's greatness; rather, greatness lies in how that wealth is used. Through his sacrifices, Uthman (R.A) showed generations of Muslims that spending in the path of Allah is an investment whose reward continues forever. May Allah be pleased with Uthman ibn Affan (R.A) and grant Muslims the ability to follow his example of generosity, sincerity, and service.

The author is a Dadasara Tral

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Hazrat Mohsin-E-Millat Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi Sahab (R.A)

Student of Mohsin e millat Mahmood Dawar Bhat (Kashmir)

■ MAHMOOD DAWAR BHAT

Hazrat Mohsin-e-Millat Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi Sahab Rahmatullah-alai was a respected Islamic scholar, spiritual mentor, author, and social reformer who dedicated his life to the guidance and welfare of the Muslim community. He was widely known for his deep understanding of Islamic sciences, his expertise in spiritual counseling, and his efforts to serve humanity through religious and charitable initiatives.

■ Early Life and Education of Hazrat Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi (Rahmatullahi Alaih)

Hazrat Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi (Rahmatullahi Alaih) was born into a respected and religious family that valued Islamic learning, piety, and service to humanity in 10 April 1949. His name was Hassan Ahmad Siddique but after some time he put the name Hashmi with his name due to the love of his father as his father's name was Muhammad Hashim. Although Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi sahab's birth name was Hassan Ahmad Siddiqui, he achieved greater renown and popularity by the name Hassan-ul-Hashmi. From an early age, he displayed a keen interest in religious studies, moral discipline, and spiritual development. His family nurtured in him a deep love for the Holy Qur'an, Islamic teachings, and the rich scholarly traditions of Islam. He received his primary education in his hometown, where he memorized portions of the Qur'an and acquired a sound foundation in Urdu, Arabic, Persian, and the basic Islamic sciences. His exceptional intelligence, dedication to learning, and eagerness to acquire knowledge soon distinguished him among his peers. To pursue higher Islamic studies, Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi enrolled in renowned religious institutions, where he studied under eminent scholars of his time. Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi received a traditional Islamic education and was associated with the scholarly environment of Deoband, one of the most influential centers of Islamic learning in the Indian subcontinent. During this period, he gained proficiency in Tafsir (Qur'anic exegesis), Hadith, Fiqh (Islamic jurisprudence), Arabic literature, and other traditional Islamic sciences. His teachers recognized his scholarly abilities and encouraged him to continue his pursuit of knowledge and service.

Alongside his formal education, he devoted considerable attention to spiritual training and self-purification. His association with learned scholars and spiritual mentors helped shape his character and prepared him for his future role as a religious guide, writer, editor, and social reformer. The knowledge, discipline, and values acquired during his formative years became the foundation of his later achievements in the fields of Islamic scholarship, Urdu journalism, literature, spirituality, and community service. His early education not only molded him into a respected scholar but also laid the groundwork for his lifelong mission of serving Islam and humanity

■ Character and Legacy of Mohsin-e-Millat Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi Sahab

Mohsin-e-Millat Hazrat Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi Sahib was a distinguished Islamic scholar, spiritual guide, writer, editor, and humanitarian whose life was devoted to the service of Islam and humanity. He was widely respected for his piety, humility, sincerity, and unwavering commitment to the welfare of society. One of the most remarkable aspects of his character was his deep concern for the spiritual and moral well-being of people. He welcomed individuals from all walks of life, offering guidance with compassion, wisdom, and patience. His teachings emphasized faith, good character, self-discipline, and service to humanity, inspiring countless people to lead righteous and meaningful lives. As an editor and author, Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi made significant contributions to Urdu Islamic literature. Through the monthly magazine Tilismati Duniya, which he edited for many years, he spread religious knowledge, spiritual guidance, and social awareness among Urdu readers. Archived editions of the magazine identify him as its editor and reflect his long-standing literary engagement. His literary legacy was further strengthened through his books on spirituality and practical religious guidance. Works such as Amal-e-Nasooti and Tohfatul-Amileen demonstrate his efforts to make spiritual knowledge accessible to ordinary readers while preserving the rich traditions of Islamic scholarship. Beyond his literary achievements, Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi dedicated himself to social welfare and community service. The institutions associated with his name, including educational, spiritual, and welfare initiatives, reflected his belief that knowledge and spirituality should be accompanied by practical service to society. His efforts earned him the title "Mohsin-e-Millat" (Benefactor of the Community), a recognition of his lifelong dedication to the upliftment of the Muslim community and humanity at large.

The legacy of Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi continues through his writings, his students, his institutions, and the countless individuals whose lives were touched by his guidance. He is remembered not only as a scholar and spiritual mentor but also as a compassionate reformer who combined learning with action, spirituality with service, and faith with humanity. His life stands as a shining example of devotion, scholarship, humility, and selfless service. Future generations will continue to draw inspiration from his teachings and his enduring contributions to Islamic learning, Urdu literature, and community welfare. His legacy continues through the educational, spiritual, and charitable work carried forward by the Hashmi Roohani Markaz and by those inspired by his teachings.

■ Establishment of Idara-e-Khidmat-e-Khalq, Deoband 1983

One of the most significant achievements of Mohsin-e-Millat Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi was the establishment of Idara-e-Khidmat-e-Khalq, Deoband in 1983, a welfare and humanitarian institution dedicated to serving the poor, needy, and underprivileged sections of society. Realizing the growing social and educational needs of the community, Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi laid the foundation of the organization with the objective of promoting education, healthcare, social welfare, and relief activities. Under his guidance, Idara-e-Khidmat-e-Khalq became a center of charitable and community service initiatives. The institution worked to provide assistance to deserving families, support students in their educational pursuits, organize medical and relief programs, and foster a spirit of social responsibility among the people. The establishment of Idara-e-Khidmat-e-Khalq reflected Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi's lifelong commitment to the welfare of humanity. Through this institution, he sought to transform the ideals of compassion, service, and brotherhood into practical action, leaving a lasting legacy for future generations. Over the years, Idara-e-Khidmat-e-Khalq has earned respect for its commitment to public welfare and its contribution to the social and educational development of Deoband and surrounding areas. The institution continues to uphold the values of selfless service and dedication to the betterment of humanity."Khidmat-e-Khalq" (service to mankind) remains the guiding principle of the organization, inspiring its workers and volunteers to serve society with sincerity and devotion.

■ Establishment of Hashmi Roohani Markaz Foundation, Deoband (1987)

Among the most notable contributions of Mohsin-e-Millat Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi was the establishment of Hashmi Roohani Markaz Foundation, Deoband in 1987, a center dedicated to spiritual guidance, religious education, and the moral reform of society. Founded with the objective of serving people through Islamic teachings and spiritual counseling, the Markaz became a source of guidance for thousands of seekers from different parts of India and abroad. Hazrat Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi envisioned an institution where the principles of faith, spirituality, and service to humanity could be combined. Under his leadership, Hashmi Roohani Markaz promoted the teachings of the Qur'an and Sunnah, encouraged moral and spiritual development, and provided guidance to individuals facing religious and social challenges. The Markaz

also served as a center for the dissemination of Islamic literature and scholarly works. Through lectures, publications, correspondence, and personal guidance, Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi strengthened the connection of people with Islamic values and spiritual discipline. The establishment of Hashmi Roohani Markaz stands as a testament to hazrat Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi's lifelong dedication to the service of Islam and humanity. Its continued work reflects his vision of spiritual enlightenment, education, and social welfare.

■ The Title "Mohsin-e-Millat"

Hazrat Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi (Rahmatullahi Alaih) was widely honored with the title "Mohsin-e-Millat" (Benefactor of the Community) in recognition of his outstanding services to Islam, Urdu literature, spiritual guidance, education, and humanitarian welfare. This distinguished title reflected the deep respect and admiration that scholars, students, readers, disciples, and members of the public held for him. Through his lifelong dedication to the dissemination of Islamic knowledge, the promotion of moral and spiritual values, and his tireless efforts in serving humanity, Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi left a profound impact on society. His contributions as an author, editor of Tilismati Duniya, spiritual mentor, and founder of various welfare and educational initiatives earned him a reputation as a sincere servant of the community. He devoted his life to guiding people, supporting the needy, and fostering intellectual and spiritual growth among the masses.

The title "Mohsin-e-Millat" was therefore not merely an honorific designation but a reflection of his character, selfless service, and enduring legacy. Even after his passing on 4 November 2020, he continues to be remembered by this esteemed title, which symbolizes his lifelong commitment to the welfare and upliftment of the Muslim community and humanity at large. Indeed, Hazrat Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi (Rahmatullahi Alaih) exemplified the true meaning of a benefactor of the nation—one whose knowledge, compassion, and service continue to inspire future generations.

■ Spiritual Leadership

Hazrat Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi gained recognition as a spiritual guide who helped people address religious, moral, and personal challenges through Islamic teachings. His approach emphasized sincerity, good character, remembrance of Allah, and service to humanity. Many individuals sought his guidance for both spiritual and social matters.

■ Maha-nama Tilismati Duniya 1994

Mahanaama Tilismati Duniya is a well-known Urdu monthly magazine published from Deoband, Uttar Pradesh. From 1994 Before the monthly magazine Tilismati Duniya, Hazrat Maulana Hassan Ul Hashmi Sahab continued the publication of the Mahanama Tajalli for full four years after the demise of Maulana Aamir Usmani Sahab R.A---a magazine that was originally started by Hazrat Maulana Aamir Usmani Sahab rahmatullah alai. The magazine(tilismati duniya) gained popularity among Urdu readers for its unique combination of Islamic teachings, spirituality, literature, social guidance, and educational content. Over the years, it has served as an important platform for scholars, writers, and researchers to share their knowledge and ideas with a wide readership.The magazine is closely associated with Hazrat Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi, who played a significant role as its editor and guide. Under his supervision, Tilismati Duniya became a respected publication in the field of Urdu journalism and Islamic literature. The magazine addressed a variety of subjects, including Qur'anic studies, Hadith, Tasawwuf (Islamic spirituality), moral reform, social issues, and contemporary challenges facing the Muslim community. Archived issues available in literary collections show that Tilismati Duniya was being published from Deoband during the 1990s and 2000s, and Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi was listed as its editor in several editions. Apart from religious and spiritual discussions, the magazine also promoted Urdu language and literature by publishing articles, essays, poetry, and research-based writings. Through its informative and engaging content, Tilismati Duniya contributed significantly to the intellectual and cultural development of its readers.

Today, Mahanaama Tilismati Duniya remains an important part of the literary and journalistic legacy of Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi and is remembered for its contribution to Urdu Islamic journalism and public education.

■ Literary Contributions

Hazrat Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi Sahib was not only a distinguished religious scholar and spiritual guide but also a prolific writer, editor, and promoter of Urdu literature. His literary services greatly enriched Islamic and spiritual literature in the Urdu language and helped make religious knowledge accessible to the common reader. One of his most significant literary achievements was his association with the Urdu monthly magazine Tilismati Duniya, which he edited and developed into a widely read publication. Through its pages, he published articles on Islamic teachings, spirituality, ethics, social reform, and contemporary issues, thereby guiding readers towards a balanced religious and moral life. Various issues of Tilismati Duniya bearing his name as editor or contributor are preserved in literary archives today. Expanding his journalistic footprint, Hazrat Aqdas Maulana Hassan Ul Hashmi Sahab(RA) published a complete newspaper titled (Ijtima). His inaugural major publication, however, was a monthly magazine he managed for four straight years after passing of his father-in-law, Maulana Amir Usmani Sahab(ra). Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi also authored numerous books and booklets on spirituality, religious practices, and moral reform. His writings combined scholarly depth with a simple and engaging style, making them popular among both scholars and ordinary readers. some of his known works is Amal-e-Nasooti, Ilm Ul Aadaad, Asma E husna, Bacho ke naam rakhne ka fun, Seerat ki anokhi kitaab, Sanam khana e amliyat. which reflects his interest in spiritual and devotional literature. As a writer, he sought to preserve the rich traditions of Islamic scholarship while addressing the needs and challenges of modern society. His articles and books emphasized faith, character building, self-discipline, and service to humanity. Through his literary efforts, he inspired countless readers to strengthen their religious understanding and moral conduct. The literary legacy of Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi continues through his published works, the influence of Tilismati Duniya, and the institutions associated with his name. His contributions occupy an important place in contemporary Urdu Islamic literature and remain a valuable source of guidance for readers and researchers alike. His writings reflected his interest in combining traditional Islamic scholarship with practical spiritual guidance. Hazrat Maulana Hassan-ul-hashmi sahib wrote under the pen name "Wasil Shifayi". Under this pseudonym, he explored short story writing (afsana nigari) and poetry, alongside authoring an impressive corpus of approximately 425 novels.

■ Demise of Hazrat Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi (Rahmatullahi Alaih)

After dedicating his entire life to the service of Islam, spirituality, education, literature, and humanity, Hazrat Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi (Rahmatullahi Alaih) departed from this world on 4 November 2020. His demise was deeply mourned by his family, disciples, admirers, readers, and countless individuals who had benefited from his guidance and services.

Throughout his life, Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi remained committed to the dissemination of Islamic knowledge, spiritual reform, literary excellence, and social welfare. His passing marked the end of an era, but his teachings, writings, institutions, and humanitarian efforts continue to inspire people across generations. The news of his death was received with profound sorrow by the religious and literary circles associated with him. Tributes poured in from scholars, students, and well-wishers who remembered him as a compassionate mentor, an accomplished author, a dedicated editor, and a sincere servant of humanity.

■ Conclusion

Hazrat Mohsin-e-Millat Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi Deobandi occupies an important place among contemporary Islamic scholars and spiritual personalities associated with Deoband. His lifelong service in the fields of religious guidance, spiritual reform, authorship, and community welfare has left a lasting impact on countless individuals. His memory remains a source of inspiration for those seeking knowledge, spirituality, and service to humanity. Although Hazrat Maulana Hassan-ul-Hashmi (Rahmatullahi Alaih) is no longer among us, his legacy lives on through his scholarly works, the institutions he nurtured, and the countless lives he touched with his wisdom, guidance, and kindness. May Allah Almighty shower His infinite mercy upon him, elevate his ranks in Jannat-ul-Firdaws, and allow his contributions to continue benefiting humanity for generations to come. Ameen.

This article seeks to explore the life, contributions, and enduring legacy of this remarkable scholar whose influence continues to inspire generations.

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Pancreatic Cancer: Cigarette Smoke May Fuel Tumor Growth and Spread

A new study has shed light on how cigarette smoking can worsen pancreatic cancer. It has long been understood that there was a link between smoking and pancreatic cancer, but the exact mechanism was unclear.

Now, a group of scientists has discovered that certain chemicals in cigarette smoke actually reprogram the immune system in a way that helps tumors grow and spread. This could point to new treatment strategies for pancreatic cancer, which currently has very few options.

According to the authors, their findings are significant because pancreatic cancer is one of the deadliest types of cancer, with only a five-year survival rate of 13%. The full results of the study were published on September 4 in Cancer Discovery. The Hirshberg Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research adds further context, noting that it is the third leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States. In 2025 alone, it is estimated that more than 67,000 Americans will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and nearly 52,000 will die from it.

Effects of smoking on pancreatic cancer

The research, carried out by a team at the University of Michigan, combined lab experiments, mouse models, and human tissue samples.

They focused on a group of chemicals in cigarette smoke called aryl hydrocarbon receptor ligands (AhRLs).

These include well-known carcinogens such as dioxins. To mimic smoking, mice were treated with cigarette smoke extract or with 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD), a powerful AhR ligand.

The researchers then implanted pancreatic cancer cells directly into the animals' pancreases to track tumor growth.

They also used genetically engineered mice to tease apart how different immune cells responded to these smoke-related chemicals. Finally, they compared the mouse findings to human pancreas tissue from organ donors and cancer patients.

The results were striking. Both cigarette smoke and TCDD accelerated pancreatic tumor growth in mice — but only if their immune system was intact. That means the chemicals weren't damaging tumor cells directly. Instead, they were altering the immune response.

The key player was a receptor called AhR on CD4+ T cells. Once activated, these cells began producing more of a molecule called IL-22 and also boosted the number of regulatory T cells (Tregs).

Normally, Tregs keep the immune system in check. But in this case, they prevented CD8+ T cells — the ones that usually attack cancer — from doing their job. In other words, smoking tipped the balance of the immune system away from fighting tumors and toward letting them grow. The team also saw that exposure to TCDD promoted early precancerous changes in the pancreas, suggesting that chemicals in cigarette smoke may play a role not just in cancer progression but also in its initiation.

Human tissue samples told a similar story. Smokers had more activation of the AhR pathway, and pancreatic tumors from smoking patients contained more Tregs. The number of these suppressive cells also tracked with how much the patient had smoked over their lifetime.

Future treatments for pancreatic cancer

According to the authors, what they have learned could potentially lead to new treatments that block AhR activation or reduce the suppressive effect of Tregs.

This could help the immune system mount a stronger anti-cancer response, especially in smokers.

They additionally note that, since AhR ligands are also found in pollutants and industrial chemicals, the findings may carry wider public health significance.

However, Asfar Azmi, PhD, director of the Pancreatic Cancer Research Initiative at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, who was not involved in the study, urges caution in interpreting what the findings mean.

"Although this research represents an important step forward, it's still early," Azmi said, adding that much of the evidence comes from labs, animal studies, and findings from human tissues.

"That means the results show a mechanism linking smoking and pancreatic cancer, but they don't prove that every smoker will develop this cancer, or that blocking this pathway will automatically prevent it," he told Healthline. Azmi noted that more clinical research is necessary before these findings will actually change doctors' practices regarding the treatment of pancreatic cancer.

Quitting smoking lowers pancreatic cancer risk

Najeeb al Hallak, MD, MS, a medical oncologist with the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, said that "the message is clear that quitting smoking is one of the most important steps people can take to lower their risk of pancreatic cancer." al Hallak wasn't involved in the study.

He further pointed out that smoking cessation may help reduce people's risk of many other cancers, as well as heart and lung diseases.

"Even reducing exposure helps," al Hallak told Healthline, "but the greatest benefit comes from complete cessation."

If you are a heavy smoker, al Hallak recommended speaking with your doctor about pancreatic cancer risk and whether you qualify for specialized monitoring or risk-reduction programs.

He also acknowledged the difficulties of smoking cessation, offering smokers some encouraging words. "Quitting is hard, but it is absolutely possible, and thousands succeed every day," he said.

The first step in quitting? Speak with your personal physician. "They can guide you to nicotine replacement (patches, gum, or lozenges) or medications that reduce cravings," al Hallak said.

Finally, al Hallak added that seeking support is essential. "Counseling, support groups, and quit lines (e.g., 1-800-QUIT-NOW) double your chances of success," he said. Additionally, al Hallak suggests planning for your triggers. For example, if you are accustomed to smoking after meals or with coffee, create a healthier alternative that you can do instead.

Finally, he urged that you don't give up after slips. "Many people need several tries before quitting for good," al Hallak said. "Each attempt builds skills for the next."

Courtesy Healthline

Rising Heat Fuels Dengue Spread to New Regions

■ Rodielon Putol

There's a heat-driven health crisis creeping in – not with coughing or fevers in a doctor's office, but with buzzing mosquitoes.

Dengue fever, a disease that used to stick mostly to tropical zones, is breaking borders and heading toward cities and countries that never had to worry about it before. The reason? It's getting warmer.

Dengue is far more than a nuisance. The illness often starts with high fever, headaches, and body aches. In some cases, it spirals into internal bleeding, organ failure, and death.

Once mostly seen in places like Brazil and the Philippines, it's now on track to affect millions more across both Asia and the Americas.

Until now, scientists had a pretty good hunch that heat played a role in dengue's spread. What this new study makes clear is just how big that role is – and how dangerous the trend could become.

The analysis looked at 1.4 million records of dengue across 21 countries, mainly in Central and South America, plus Southeast and South Asia. The research shows that even small increases in average temperature are already making dengue infections worse and more widespread.

"The effects of temperature were much larger than I expected," said Marissa Childs, the lead author from the University of Washington. "Even small shifts in temperature can have a big impact for dengue transmission, and we're already seeing the fingerprint of climate warming."

Dengue doesn't spread well in just any heat. It thrives in a narrow band of temperatures. The peak danger zone? Around 82°F. That's the sweet spot where mosquitoes are most active and the dengue virus replicates fast.

This means that as previously cooler cities and regions warm up, they're becoming perfect breeding grounds for mosquitoes that carry dengue. This includes major population centers in Mexico, Peru, and Brazil. Many are just now reaching that danger zone, and that's where the biggest spikes are expected.

The study found that hotter areas already above this optimal temperature might actually see slight dips in dengue spread. But those declines don't come close to canceling out the massive increases elsewhere. The total global impact is still a steep rise in infections.

Between 1995 and 2014, warmer temperatures were responsible for 18% of dengue infections across the 21 countries studied. That's not a future estimate – it's already happened.

Based on current rates, over 4.6 million extra dengue cases have been caused by climate-driven warming every year.

Looking ahead, things could get worse, and fast. Depending on how much greenhouse gas emissions rise, cases could jump another 49% to 76% by 2050. That means more than double the current number of dengue infections in places that are already home to over 260 million people.

"Many studies have linked temperature and dengue transmission," said Erin Mordecai, senior author of the study. "What's unique about this work is that we are able to separate warming from all the other factors that influence dengue – mobility, land use change, population dynamics – to estimate its effect on the real-world dengue burden."

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Public Notice

I, Ishfaq Ahmad Mir, S/o Abdul Gani Mir, R/o Bangdara Reshipora, Tehsil Kreeri, District Baramulla, J&K, hereby inform the general public that I have lost my Discharge Certificate issued by Government Higher Secondary School, Authoora Reshipora.

The particulars of the lost certificate are as follows:
Admission No.: 1646
Certificate No.: 168
Date of Issue: 25/09/2009

Despite thorough searches, the said certificate could not be traced and is presumed to have been lost permanently.

Through this public notice, I request that if anybody finds or possesses the above-mentioned certificate, he/she may kindly return it to the undersigned. If any person has any objection regarding the issuance of a duplicate certificate in my favour, he/she may contact the undersigned within 7 days from the publication of this notice. Otherwise, no objection shall be entertained thereafter, and I shall proceed to obtain a duplicate certificate from the concerned authorities.

Ishfaq Ahmad Mir
S/o Abdul Gani Mir
R/o Bangdara Reshipora, Kreeri
District Baramulla, J&K

Public Notice

This is for the information general public that MOHMAD SHAREFF SHAH S/o: NOOR SHAH R/o: KACHWA MUQAM Tehsil WAGOORA district BARAMULL expired on 06 of April 2026. Now the family of deceased including BILAL AHMAD SHAH (son), GOUSIA SHAREEF (daughter), SHAZIA SHAREEF (daughter), & SHAHMEEMA BEGUM (wife), want to apply for issuanc 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.

SHAHMEEMA BEGUM, W/0: LATE.MOHMAD SHAREFF SHAH, R/o :KACHWA MUQAM, Tehsil: WAGOORA BARAMULLA.

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written as SHAHNAZA GANI in my Bank Account bearing Account No ,0486040100006724 while my correct name is SHAHEENA GANI as per Adhaar record which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may contact with J&K BANK WAGOORA within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...SHAHEENA GANI
ACCOUNT NO..0486040100006723

UNION TERRITORV OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION DORU

FINAL NOTICE

Tariq Ahmad Itoo,
S/o: Nazir Ahmad Itoo,
R/o: Arampora.
Phone No: 7006689549

No: EED/ 1042-44
Dated: 25/05/2026

Subject: Construction of 02 ACR under sr. secondary strengthening at HSS Qammer.
Reference: Allotment No. Exen/Div-II/Allot/316-320/23 Dated 24-06-2023.

In continuation to this office Letter No. 999-01 dated 26-06-2024, 1387-89 dated 25-07-2024, 2069-72 dated 04-09-2024 and 988-91 dated 17-06-2025, wherein you were directed to resume the work within one day from issuance these notices, but it has been observed that you have failed to achieve the satisfactory progress. The stipulated time period for completion of work has already expired as reported by the concerned Assistant Executive Engineer. Despite repeated instructions through verbally and notices issued by this office and the concerned Assistant Executive Engineer for resume and expediate the work on aforementioned building, but you have failed to respond positively. Further, it has been observed that after laying the slab the work has been left unattended, resulting in the deterioration of brick masonry due to the heavy rainfall, as the site falls in the hilly terrains. Furthermore, the intending department is continuously pressing hard for handing over of said building where as the prescribed completion period of the said building has already been elapsed.

As such you are finally directed through the medium of this notice to mobilize your resources and start the truss work and finishing work of the said building within one day from the issuance of this notice otherwise it shall be presumed that you are not serious about the completion of work and this office then left no option to put the balance work to fresh tenders at your risk and cost and strict action under rules as per the conditions of NIT/allotment shall be initiated against you and your registration card shall be recommended for black listing without giving any further notice.

Sd/- (Er. Mohd.Ashrat Khan)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division Dooru

DIPK: 2557/26 | Dated: 25-06-2026

Government of Jammu & Kashmir (UT)

Office of the Executive Engineer Machinery Division Kashmir, Mechanical & Hospital Engineering Department, Kashmir

Fax No: 0194-2497093 | website: www.medkashmir.org

Corrigendum 01 for Date Extension

Name of work: - Rate contract of electric works at various offices of M&HED Complex Shalteng Srinagar.
Reference: - This office e-NIT No.: - MDSK/TS /2026-27/09 Date:16-06-2026 (Tender ID: 2026_PWDJK_312638 _1)
Due to poor response, the critical dates of the above referred e-NIT is extended as under:

S.No.	Description	Previous Dates	New Dates
01	Last date of downloading/ submission of bids	24-06-2026 upto 06:55 PM	03-07-2026 upto 06:55 PM
02	Date of opening of bids online	25-06-2026 at 02:00 PM	04-07-2026 at 02:00 PM

All other terms, conditions and specifications as stipulated in the e-NIT shall remain unchanged.
No: MDSK/TS/1118-21 | Date: 25-06-2026

Sd/- Executive Engineer Machinery Division, Kashmir.

DIPK: 2558/26 | Dated: 25-06-2026

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG

NIT 39 OF R&B/Anantnag/2026-27 /E-TENDERING/3113-22, DATED 25-06-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	T.D Cost (in Rs)	E/M (In Rs)	Time	MHA	Class
1.	Repairs/ Augmentation of Chain link fencing at fruit Plant Nursery Bijbehara	12.29 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 10.41 + (18% GST Amount 1.88)	600	24580/-	60 Days	Capex Budget 2026-27	BEE, CEE, DEE Class & MSME's Only
2.	C/O Drain from HO Mohd Ashraf Bhat to Health Sub Centre Reshi Mohalla Mir Danter.	2.00 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 1.70 + (18% GST Amount 0.30)	200	4000/-	20 Days	CDF 2025-26	DEE Class & MSME's Only

Project Authority : 1. Directorate of Horticulture Kashmir.
2. District Development Commissioner, Anantnag.
Position of AAA : 1. Accorded vide Order No. 239/Plan of 2026, Dated 30.04.2026.
2. Accorded vide Order No. 243 DDCA of 2026, Dated 11.06.2026.

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms-and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental websitewww.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S. No.	Particulars	Dated		
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice		25-06-2026	
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From	25-06-2026	(01:00 PM)
		To	01-07-2026	(04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From	25-06-2026	(01:00 PM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To	01-07-2026	(04:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid(online)		02-07-2026	(10:30 AM)
		In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag.		

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag [Tender Inviting Authority] (NIT No. Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag(Tender receiving Authority).(The Date of EMD{CDR/FDR/BG} should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date and validity of EMD at the time of opening of Bids shall be a period of 45 Days beyond Bid Validity of 120 Days). The same EMD should not be used in more than one Tender/ Bid.

2. All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/ FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.

3. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released 60 days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. The date of Performance Security (CDR/FDR/BG) should be after the date of issuance of letter/ LOI to deposit the performance security. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor be forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.

4. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released 60 Days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.

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

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

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

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

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

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

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

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

f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

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

8. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.

9. Scanned copy of cost of tender document in the shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Anantnag must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document), EMD and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.

10. Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.

11. Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.

12. Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.

13. All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

Sd/-
(Er. Mohammad Waseem)
Executive Engineer, R&B Division Anantnag

DIPK: 2547/26 | Dated: 25-06-2026

Space Devoted by Headlines Today, Purely in Public Interest

Javid Dar inaugurates Centre of Excellence for Lavender, Aromatic Crops at Srihama, Anantnag

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

ANANTNAG, JUNE 25: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today inaugurated the Centre of Excellence for Lavender and Aromatic Crops at Srihama, Anantnag.

The project has been established at a cost of 371.62 lakh with the objective of promoting cultivation of lavender and other aromatic crops through scientific and technology-driven interventions.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by MLAs Dr. Bashir Ahmad Veeri, Altaf Ahmad Wani, Zafar Ali Khatana, Abdul Majid Bhat Larmi and Advocate Reyaz Ahmad Khan, besides senior officers of the Agriculture and allied departments, progressive farmers and local residents.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister described the Centre of Excellence as a landmark initiative aimed at providing farmers with access to modern technologies, scientific cultivation practices, quality planting material and expert technical guidance. He said the centre would serve as a hub for training, demonstration and capacity building, enabling farmers to adopt innovative farming methods and enhance productivity and income.

Highlighting the vast potential of lavender and other aromatic crops in Jammu and Kashmir, Javid Ahmad Dar said that diversification towards high-value crops is essential for increasing farm profitability and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for rural households. He added that the government is committed to strengthen the agriculture sector through improved infrastructure, research-backed interventions, extension services and better market linkages.

Referring to the ongoing "Khet Bacho Abhiyan", the Minister emphasized the importance of safeguarding the agricultural land and ensuring its optimum utilization. He urged the farmers to bring more cultivable and rain-fed areas under productive use and explore the immense opportunities offered by aromatic and medicinal crop cultivation.

The Minister also highlighted several flagship schemes and initiatives being implemented by the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments for the welfare and empowerment of the farming community. He said that the government is extending comprehensive support to the farmers through interventions aimed at increasing productivity, promoting horticulture development, facilitating farm mechanization, strengthening irrigation infrastructure and encouraging the adoption of modern technologies.

Reiterating the government's commitment towards transforming agriculture into a sustainable and remunerative sector, Javid Ahmad Dar said that focused efforts are being made to improve farmers' incomes and ensure the socio-economic upliftment of rural communities across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the event, the Minister inspected various stalls established by the Agriculture and allied departments showcasing innovative technologies, successful farming models, horticulture interventions and farmer-centric schemes. He interacted with the farmers and exhibitors and appreciated their efforts in promoting awareness about modern agricultural practices and government welfare programmes.

Among others present on the occasion were Director Agriculture Kashmir, Director Horticulture Kashmir, Director Enforcement J&K, senior officers of the Agriculture and allied departments, representatives of farmer organizations and members of the local community.

Indian Army Strengthens Community Bond Through Blood Donation Camp in Langate

■ DR.AB QAYOOM

LANGATE, JUN 25: In a remarkable display of community service and humanitarian spirit, more than 50 volunteers donated blood during a blood donation camp organized by the Indian Army (RR) Langate in collaboration with the District Red Cross Society Kupwara and Government Medical College (GMC) Handwara on Thursday.The blood collected during the camp will be preserved at GMC Handwara to meet emergency medical requirements and support patients in need of life-saving blood transfusions. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents and Army personnel, reflecting a strong commitment towards social welfare and

public service.Participants and local residents appreciated the initiative, describing it as a noble effort aimed at saving precious lives and strengthening the bond between the Army and the local community. Speakers on the occasion highlighted the importance of voluntary blood donation in addressing shortages during medical emergencies.Residents also lauded the Indian Army for its multifaceted role beyond security duties. They noted that the Army has consistently extended support during natural disasters and emergencies, earning the trust and appreciation of people across the district.Locals further observed that in recent years the Army has been actively organizing cultural heritage festivals, sports tournaments, and youth engagement programmes, providing a platform for young talent to flourish. Such initiatives have helped many aspiring youth participate in district, state, and national-level competitions, while also encouraging social integration and positive community development. The blood donation camp concluded with a message of unity, compassion, and collective responsibility, reaffirming the importance of humanitarian service in building a healthier and stronger society.

Javed Rana reviews Jal Shakti works in Pampore constituency

Seeks early operationalisation of near-complete projects

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 25: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today reviewed the progress of various Jal Shakti sector works being executed in Pampore constituency.

The meeting, held at Civil Secretariat Srinagar, was attended by MLA Pampore, Hasnain Masoodi, Director Finance, Jal Shakti Department; Director Planning, Jal Shakti Department; Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Division, Pulwama; Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Department, Awantipora/Pulwama; Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division Pulwama and Executive Engineer, Ground Water Division Srinagar.

During the review, the Minister asked the officers to explore all possible options for commissioning the schemes that are nearing completion but are pending due to minor works, so that these projects are made operational at the earliest and the intended benefits accrue to the people.

Emphasising the need for timely execution of works, Rana directed the concerned officers to resolve all pending land compensation cases in a time-bound manner to ensure that developmental projects do not suffer delays.

The Minister also reviewed the status of works being undertaken under the AMRUT scheme for Pampore town and stressed the need for maintaining quality standards while ensuring timely completion of the projects.

Reviewing flood management measures in the constituency, Rana directed the concerned authorities to strengthen the flood protection works well in advance to avert any untoward situation during the rainy season. He stressed that all preventive and preparedness measures should be put in place proactively so that people do not face inconvenience at the last moment.

The Minister underscored the importance of close coordination among all the stakeholder departments for effective implementation of the schemes. He reiterated the government's commitment towards providing improved drinking water and flood protection infrastructure to the people of Pampore.

Javed Rana directed the officers to make judicious use of available resources and ensure that no funds lapse under any scheme, emphasising that optimum utilisation of allocated funds is essential for achieving the desired developmental outcomes.

Sakeena Itoo interacts with Himachal Pradesh's Education Minister at Srinagar

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 25: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today held a detailed interaction with the Education Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Rohit Thakur at Srinagar, focusing on the exchange of ideas, best practices and innovative reforms aimed at further strengthening the education sectors of both regions.

During the meeting, the two Ministers engaged in comprehensive discussions on various aspects of school and higher education sectors, including elementary education, including academic excellence, digital learning, teacher capacity building, skill development and educational infrastructure.

Speaking on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo highlighted the significant strides made by Jammu and Kashmir in the education sector in last around two years. She informed that the Government is committed to ensuring quality, inclusive and equitable education through modernization of educational institutions, expansion of digital learning facilities, strengthening of teacher training programmes and promotion of skill-based education.

The Minister highlighted that the school education department achieved significant achievements in last around two years, with results improving for both 10th and 12th classes. She reiterated that the government is focused on creating a robust academic ecosystem aligned with national priorities and global standards. The Minister also shared details regarding ongoing initiatives to improve educational access in remote and far-flung areas, enhance learning outcomes, encourage innovation and research, and provide greater opportunities for students through technology-enabled education. She emphasized that education remains the cornerstone for empowering youth and accelerating socio-economic development across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Himachal Pradesh Education Minister briefed the gathering about various reforms undertaken by the state government to strengthen school education, improve academic standards and expand access to quality learning opportunities across rural and mountainous regions. The Minister highlighted Himachal Pradesh's achievements in literacy, community participation in education and efforts towards improving educational outcomes through innovative teaching practices.

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KALANTRA / KREERI

Subject: Application of MOHD ISMAIL GOJER DEADER for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujjar and Bakerwal)in favour of self ,JABEENA BANO ,FAYAZ AHMAD GOJER DEADER , MOHAMMAD RIZWAN GOJER ,ASMAT BANO

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above, the applicant has submitted the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of ST . in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in village BANDI BALLA and belongs to the ST caste and GOJER DEADER community, having annual income is 150000 the details of the family of the applicant are as follows

1...MOHD ISMAIL DEADER self 50 years Govt employee
2.... JABEENA BANO Daughter 27 years student
3...FAYAZ AHMAD GOJER DEADER son 22 years student
4...ASMAT BANO Daughter 18 years student
5...MOHAMMAD RIZWAN DEADER son 14 years student
6...NASEEMA BEGUM wife 50 years H/W

The applicant has applied for Issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar & Bakerwal) certificate in favour of Self.

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

Public Notice

My daughter's date of Birth has been wrongly written as 05/09/2016 while her correct date of Birth is 04/02/2018 which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he / she may file his/her objection in the office of GREENLAND ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL DOWLATPORA ATHOORA within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name...RAYEES AHMAD MIR
F/O...AAYAT RAYEES
R/O...SALOOSA KREERI

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on the name FAROOQ AHMAD PARRAY

Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040010425 wants to be registered on my name TAHIR MANZOOR S/O Late Manzoor Ahmad Zargar... .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication ofthis notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name.TAHIR MANZOOR
S/O LATE MANZOOR AHMAD ZARGAR R/O KREERI

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly written as SHAOIB AHMAD BHAT in my Bank Account bearing Account No ,0486040100006724 while my correct name is SHAOIB MOHAMMAD BHAT as per Adhaar record which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may contact with J&K BANK KREERI within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name... SHOIB MOHAMMAD BHAT
S/O Gh MOHAMMAD BHAT
R/O TILAGAM TANGMARG
ACCOUNT NO..0139040100011913

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that I am intending to applying for the registration of a Tour And Travel license under the name MOUNTAIN JOURNEY TOUR & TRAVEL located at CHANDOOSA District Baramulla, at the office of Assistant Director Tourism Gulmarg. If anyone has any objections regarding in this regard, they may file their objection at the Department of Tourism office of the Assistant Director Tourism Gulmarg, within 15 days from the date of publication, of this notice. After this period, no objections will be entertained.

OWNERS NAME ...TANZILA NAAZ
W/O SHAMEEMA ANWAR BAIGH
R/O MASJID ANGAN KACHWAMUQAM Baramulla
contact number.. 9622414653

Jamco hands Bengaluru global aerospace design role in $150-million investment

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BENGALURU, JUNE 25: In a significant vote of confidence in India's aerospace capabilities, Japan's Jamco Corporation will give its Bengaluru engineering centre full design authority and product ownership for advanced aircraft cabin systems, backed by a US$150 million investment over the next five to six years, senior company executives said on Wednesday.

The move marks a shift from the traditional outsourcing model that has long characterised India's role in global aerospace engineering, with the company positioning Bengaluru as a centre for innovation, certification and end-to-end product development rather than a support or back-office operation.

Jamco, the world's sole supplier of lavatories, galleys and cockpit security doors for Boeing's 787 Dreamliner aircraft, said engineers in Bengaluru will be entrusted with complete responsibility for designing, developing and delivering products for global customers.

"We are not bringing low-value engineering work to India. If India owns a product, it owns the engineering, innovation, customer interaction and supplier engagement associated with that product," Jamco Interior Executive Chair and CEO Kate Schefer said replying to a series of UNI questions in a media interaction.

Schaefer said the Bengaluru facility will handle the entire product lifecycle, from concept and proposal development to certification and customer delivery, enabling Indian engineers to exercise design authority and technical signatory responsibilities that are often concentrated at global headquarters.

Schaefer said the decision was driven by the depth of engineering talent available in Bengaluru and growing confidence in India's ability to undertake complex aerospace programmes.

"It looks like wherever the talent is, is where the work is done. We came here because we believed there was a pool of engineers eager for full ownership of design work, and the response has been remarkable," the executive said.

The company currently employs around 5,000 people globally and about 150 engineers in India. The Bengaluru centre is expected to expand as more engineering and manufacturing capabilities are transferred to the country, Schaefer said.

She clarified that the US$150 million investment is intended for engineering talent and infrastructure creation and does not include future investments in supplier development and manufacturing partnerships.

The company is also building an Indian supply-chain ecosystem to support its global operations, citing capacity constraints in Japan and the need for long-term manufacturing partners capable of scaling with demand.

According to Jamco Interiors Chief Operating Officer Sanjeev Sen, around 90 Indian suppliers are currently being evaluated across multiple commodity categories, with selected firms already receiving work packages.

Unlike industries driven by short-term cost considerations, aerospace partnerships are typically measured in decades, Sen said.

"We are looking for suppliers who can grow with us for the life cycle of the product. Once qualified, these relationships can last for many years because aerospace certification requirements are extremely demanding," he noted.

The Bengaluru centre will focus on advanced cabin-interior products for wide-body aircraft, including galleys and lavatories, while also supporting airlines seeking customised cabin configurations and retrofit programmes, Schaefer said.

Schaefer stressed that the India expansion is not aimed at reducing costs or increasing market share but at building a globally integrated engineering organisation where responsibility is assigned according to talent rather than geography.

"This is not about moving work from one country to another. We are growing in Japan, the United States and India simultaneously. We want a global engineering organisation that is not centred on a single location," he said.

The company also sees India playing a growing role in future aerospace technologies, including the application of artificial intelligence to automate drafting and routine engineering processes, allowing engineers to focus on innovation, certification and product development, Schaefer said.

Industry observers view the move as further evidence of India's transition from an engineering-services destination to a hub for high-value aerospace design, ownership and innovation, as global manufacturers increasingly entrust Indian teams with mission-critical programmes.UNI

BCCI apex council member Chamundeswaranath invests in Truzon Solar

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, JUNE 25: Truzon Solar, a solar energy company and flagship brand of Suntek Energy Systems Pvt. Ltd., on Wednesday announced a strategic investment from V. Chamundeswaranath, former Andhra cricket captain, former IPL Governing Council member and current BCCI Apex Council member.

In a release, the company said the investment comes at a crucial phase of its expansion as it strengthens its presence across multiple states and enters the Karnataka market. Truzon Solar provides solar energy solutions for residential, commercial, industrial and institutional customers.

Chamundeswaranath joins a group of prominent investors associated with the company, which includes cricketers Sachin Tendulkar, Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma.

Commenting on the development, Truzon Solar Founder and Managing Director Bhavani Suresh Charugundla said the association with Chamundeswaranath would further strengthen the company's mission of promoting clean and sustainable energy solutions across the country.

He said the confidence shown by leading investors would help the company accelerate its growth, expand its reach and contribute to India's renewable energy ambitions.

Chamundeswaranath said India's transition towards clean energy presented significant opportunities and noted that Truzon Solar had demonstrated a clear vision, strong execution capabilities and a customer-focused approach.

He expressed confidence in the company's expansion plans and said he looked forward to supporting its efforts to promote sustainable and affordable energy solutions.

The company said it remains focused on accelerating solar adoption, reducing carbon emissions and supporting India's clean energy transition through innovative solar solutions.UNI

Gautam Adani outlines three foundational initiatives to enhance workforce welfare

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 25: Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group, outlined three foundational initiatives aimed at strengthening execution, improving efficiency, and enhancing workforce welfare across the conglomerate at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2026.

Adani said the group was preparing for future economic and technological shifts rather than merely responding to them. "We are now one of the very few global companies that are not reacting to the future but are prepared for it," he said.

The first initiative involves simplifying organisational structures by moving to a three-layer management framework across headquarters and project sites. The objective is to reduce bureaucracy, sharpen accountability, and ensure that every role and process creates measurable value, he said.

The second initiative focuses on reimagining how the group works with contractors and partners. Adani said that long-term partners in nation-building must have their interests protected and be empowered to deliver projects with greater speed, transparency, and accountability.

The third pillar centres on worker welfare and dignity. Adani said that nearly 400,000 people are associated with the group's operations, with around 85 per cent working at project sites and industrial facilities.

Adani also said that the group continued to expand despite intense scrutiny, strengthening its position as one of the world's most integrated infrastructure platforms across energy, transport, logistics, and industrial manufacturing.

"While others debated, your group built. This progress did not come in calm conditions for us. It came in the middle of extraordinary scrutiny. However, we did not bend. We did not pause," he said.UNI

India's steel future will be shaped by data, AI, smart factories: H D Kumaraswamy

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUN 25: union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries H D Kumaraswamy on Wednesday said Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning, Industrial Internet of Things, Digital Twins, Robotics and Advanced Data Analytics are redefining steel manufacturing globally and must be adopted extensively in India.

He was speaking at the Chintan Shivir 2026 on Digitalisation in the Steel Sector at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

The union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries asserted that digitalisation is no longer an option but the "foundational cornerstone of long-term survival" for India's steel industry, underscoring the need for the sector to embrace emerging technologies to remain globally competitive.

Addressing the Chintan Shivir 2026, Kumaraswamy said the future of the steel industry would not be determined merely by production capacities, but by its ability to build intelligent, connected, and data-driven manufacturing ecosystems.

Invoking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047, Kumaraswamy described the steel sector as a strategic pillar of India's economic transformation, powering infrastructure creation, manufacturing, renewable energy, urbanisation, transportation, and defence production.

"Steel is the backbone of nation-building," he said, noting that India has consistently retained its position as the world's second-largest steel producer since 2018, even as steel demand remains subdued in several advanced economies.

Highlighting the sector's robust growth trajectory, the Minister pointed out that crude steel production has expanded at an average annual rate of nearly 8 per cent since FY 2021-22, while finished steel consumption has grown by approximately 13 per cent annually, reflecting strong domestic demand and rapid industrialisation.

Kumaraswamy reiterated the government's long-term vision of increasing India's steelmaking capacity to 300 million tonnes by 2030 and 400 million tonnes by 2035.

However, he cautioned that achieving these targets would require the industry to simultaneously address challenges related to raw material security, operational efficiency, decarbonisation, modernisation, and export competitiveness.

He observed that digitalisation and automation can significantly improve productivity, optimise energy consumption, reduce operational costs, and enable predictive maintenance systems capable of identifying equipment failures before they occur. Such interventions, he said, would help minimise unplanned downtime, reduce human errors, and enhance workplace safety.

The Chintan Shivir featured thematic sessions on AI-led mining solutions, digital transformation of steel plants, PM Gati Shakti, Industry 4.0 applications and case studies showcasing measurable business impacts.

Leading startups and industry stakeholders also participated in discussions aimed at accelerating the sector's technological transition.

Expressing confidence in the deliberations, Kumaraswamy said the insights emerging from the forum would contribute towards building a smarter, greener, more efficient, and globally competitive steel industry aligned with the Prime Minister's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat 2047.

Held under the Ministry of Steel, the conclave brought together senior officials of the Ministry, along with Chairman and Managing Directors of major steel public sector undertakings, including SAIL, NMDC and MOIL, besides industry leaders, startups, and technology experts. UNI

CENTURY IMMENCITY TO HOST 1 LAKH PROFESSIONALS IN NORTH BENGALURU

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BENGALURU, JUNE 25: North Bengaluru's fast-transforming airport corridor is set to gain a major new economic anchor, with Century Real Estate announcing that its upcoming integrated development "Century Immencity" is expected to eventually accommodate over 1 lakh professionals at full scale.

Planned in Jakkur along the International Airport Road corridor, the 50-plus acre mixed-use project is being positioned as a large-scale urban ecosystem that brings together offices, residences, retail, hospitality and lifestyle infrastructure within a single, integrated district.

The developer said the scale of employment concentration reflects the project's ambition to evolve beyond a conventional commercial hub into a self-sustaining urban destination, designed to support both business activity and daily urban life within the same precinct.

Century Immencity spans nearly 11 million sq. ft., with close to 10 million sq. ft. of commercial leasing space planned alongside residential towers, high-street retail zones, hospitality components and curated public spaces. UNI

CSR is shifting from philanthropy to capability building: Abhejit Agarwal, Axis Bank

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MUMBAI, JUNE 25: India's growth journey is increasingly being shaped by inclusion, bringing a visible shift in how corporate social responsibility (CSR) is being approached.

Traditionally associated with grant-making and welfare-led initiatives, CSR is now evolving into a more strategic function focused on enabling long-term economic participation. The emphasis is moving beyond one-time support toward creating sustainable pathways that build capabilities and empower communities to become active contributors to growth.

This shift reflects a broader understanding that meaningful development requires more than isolated interventions, leading to greater focus on skilling, market access, digital inclusion, education, healthcare, and ecosystem strengthening.

Public-private partnerships are also gaining importance as they combine the scale of government systems, the innovation of civil society, and the efficiency of private-sector resources, allowing programmes to move beyond pilots and create sustained, long-term impact.

India's padel market set for 10-fold growth to USD 300 mn by 2036: Report

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BENGALURU, JUNE 25: India's nascent padel industry could emerge as a USD 300 million market within a decade, driven by surging participation, rising investor interest and a severe shortage of playing infrastructure, according to the India Padel Report 2026 released by sports-tech platform Hudle in partnership with CAA Portas.

The report, described as India's first data-backed assessment of the padel ecosystem, estimates that the market will expand nearly ten-fold from its current size of USD 25-30 million to USD 250-300 million by 2036, positioning the country among the world's fastest-growing racket sports markets.

The study points to a sharp demand-supply mismatch as a key investment opportunity. Despite a rapid increase in courts across major cities, demand continues to outpace infrastructure creation, with Delhi-NCR recording 636 active players per court and Mumbai 505 players per court.

Industry analysts said the figures underscore the significant scope for investments in sports infrastructure, real estate partnerships, club formats and ancillary services linked to the emerging sport.Participation has increased 100-fold in the past three years, with the player base reaching an estimated 100,000. The report projects that figure could touch one million players by 2036 if current growth trends continue.The findings also suggest that padel is moving beyond being a novelty sport to becoming a recurring recreational activity. Data from Hudle showed games played per padel user on the platform rose 73 per cent, indicating growing consumer stickiness and repeat engagement.

For investors and operators, the report highlights increasing utilisation rates and stronger monetisation potential at existing facilities.

India, US edge towards trade truce as Greer concludes Delhi visit

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUN 25: US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and India's Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal appeared to draw closer to a trade pact as the USTR wound up his three-day tour to the Indian capital.

Officials on both sides described the negotiations as entering their final phase after days of intensive discussions. However, a final print on the pact may still take time as both sides continue to have sticking points, according to sources.

A statement issued by Goyal's office said, "Both sides noted substantial progress by negotiating teams in recent months and welcomed the momentum from successive technical and ministerial-level engagements. Discussions focused on pathways to conclude an interim agreement as an important milestone toward a comprehensive Bilateral Trade Agreement."

Diplomats and trade negotiators involved in the talks described the outcome as a near-complete framework agreement requiring only "final touches" before conclusion, but some of them also pointed out that the pact was taking time as it was "buffeted by tariff disputes, judicial interventions in the US and growing geopolitical uncertainty."

"The significance of Greer's visit lay less in any breakthrough than in its timing. With a July 24 deadline looming for the expiry of Washington's temporary 10 per cent universal tariff regime, negotiators are facing mounting pressure to settle the contours quickly," said officials.

The talks have acquired urgency following an unexpected intervention by the US Supreme Court earlier this year, which struck down the legal basis for a series of Trump-era reciprocal tariffs.

Sooryavanshi to change separately from India team-mates in England

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

ENGLAND: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi will be required to use his own dressing room that is separate from the rest of his India team-mates during the upcoming five-match T20I series in England, in accordance with ICC and ECB safeguarding regulations for players who are under the age of 16. Sooryavanshi, 15, will be allowed in the India dressing room during matches and for team talks but will have to use the separate dressing room while getting changed. Alternatively, he could change at a designated time in the main dressing room on his own, and leave when his senior team-mates change. The development was first reported by the Guardian on Wednesday.

Cricinfo understands that similar regulations will apply to India's two T20Is against Ireland in Belfast this week. India have been given three separate rooms in the pavilion at the Civil Service Cricket Ground in Stormont, and have been advised of the relevant laws.

In Premier League football, Arsenal players Ethan Nwaneri and Max Dowman were required to use separate changing rooms from team-mates when playing first-team matches before they turned 16 under similar regulations.

"This is an ICC event, with their safeguarding procedures active as they have jurisdiction," an ECB spokesperson said. "A safeguarding concern occurring during the event may be managed by the ICC. In addition to this, the ECB Safe Hands policy applies at all times.

"The Cricket Regulator is in contact with the Team Liaison Officer (TLO) for the Indian team to discuss requirements and expectations for the player while he is in the UK. Each County Safeguarding Officer for the relevant cricket venue is also working closely with the Team Liaison Officer to ensure venue protocols and arrangements are understood and adhered to. This is conducted via safeguarding risk assessments.

"It is our understanding that the player's parents will be travelling with him at all times. They are staying in the same hotel, which is outside of usual protocol, but agreed on this occasion due to his age. This additional measure provides us with further confidence that he has family members that can provide the additional level of support and care."

Pandey: 'Harmanpreet Kaur's strike rate is a cause for concern'

■ AGENCIES

MANCHESTER: Shikha Pandey sees Harmanpreet Kaur's strike rate as a worry for India's middle order. She hopes that the India captain stops thinking about the wickets falling around her and focuses on playing her natural attacking game.

Harmanpreet has scored 72 runs at a strike rate of 109.09 in the T20 World Cup so far. She has batted at Nos. 4, 5 and 6 in three games. Pandey suggested that she might stay up the order and would benefit by getting away from rescue mode. "Harmanpreet Kaur's strike rate is a cause for concern for India's middle order," Pandey said on JioStar's Game Plan. "If a wicket falls early, we have seen Yastika Bhatia walk in, with Jemimah Rodrigues at number four.

For Zeeshan Ansari, India A red-ball call-up feels 'a bit like magic'

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

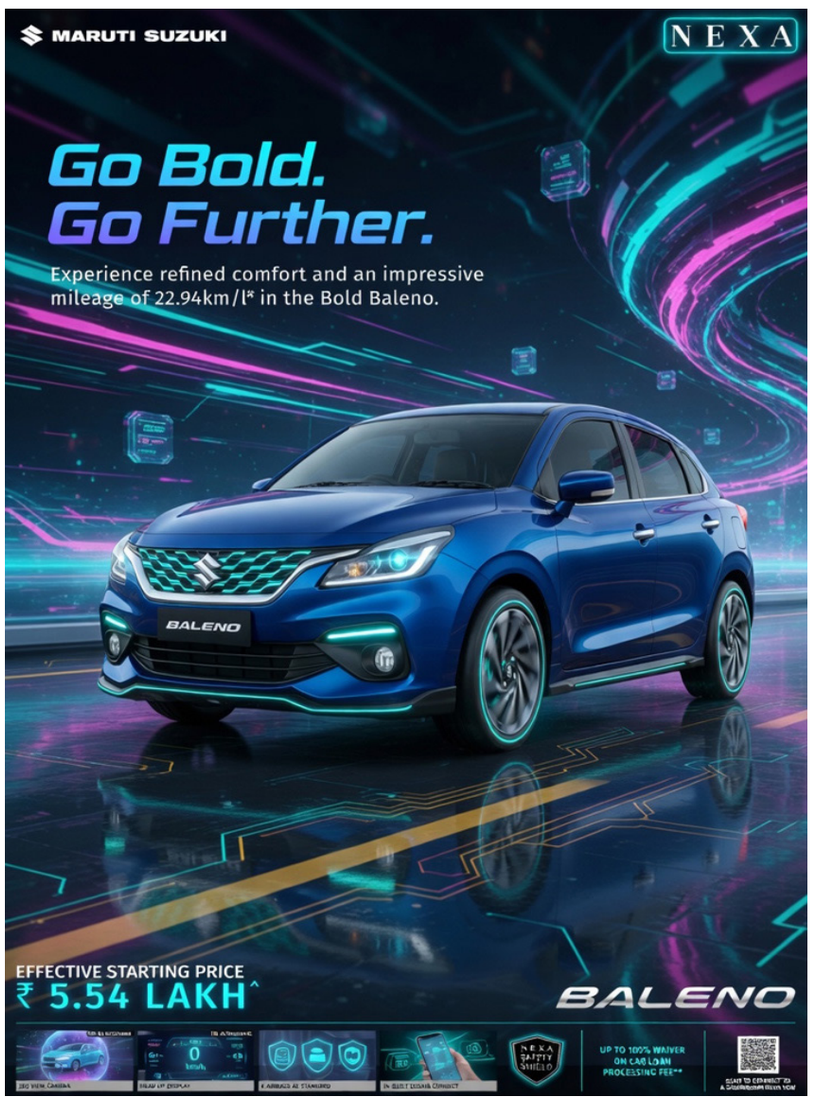
LUCKNOW: When Uttar Pradesh legspinner Zeeshan Ansari received the news of his selection in the India A red-ball squad for the Sri Lanka tour, there was a sense of disbelief. After all, he hadn't played a Ranji Trophy match since 2020, the last of his five first-class appearances, and had come in the spotlight - including getting into the IPL with Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) - through the UPT20 League as well as the Vijay Hazare Trophy in 2025-26, where he was the joint-second-highest wicket-taker (21 wickets in eight matches at an average of 16.52).

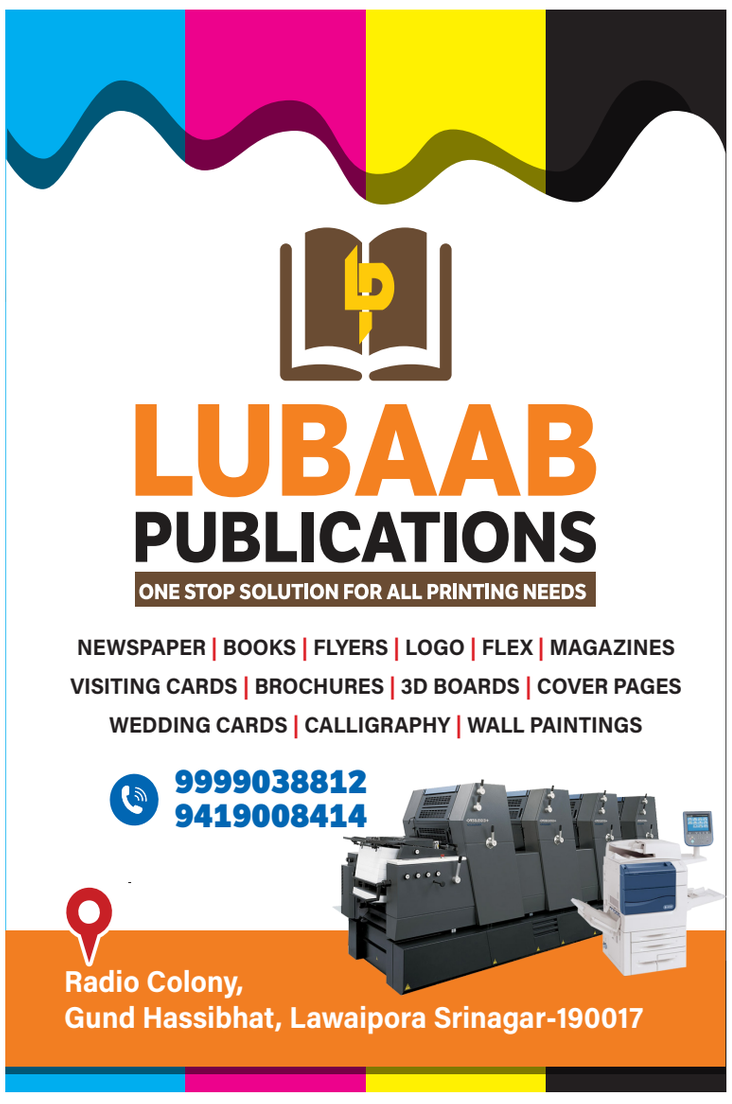
"To be honest, it feels a bit like magic because at one point I was nowhere," Ansari told Cricinfo, fresh off a stint as a net bowler during the India vs Afghanistan Test in New Chandigarh earlier this month. "It was a surprise. I had done well in white-ball cricket this season, so I felt that even if my name came up somewhere, it might be in a white-ball team.

"But being selected in the red-ball team is a huge thing. I love bowling with the red ball, and I have spent my entire life practising with the red ball. Even the 40-over league matches in

Lucknow are played with the red ball, and I've been playing those regularly for the last ten years." Interestingly, even though Ansari has got all the attention he has because of white-ball cricket, it's a format he has been properly active in only in the last three years. The last Vijay Hazare Trophy, for instance, was his first domestic 50-over competition even though he made his state team debut in 2017-18, on the back of representing India at the Under-19 World Cup in 2016 alongside Rishabh Pant and Ishan Kishan, among others. Limited opportunities within the state left him searching for opportunities elsewhere. Apart from regularly featuring in Lucknow's local tournaments, he has played some league cricket in Kolkata. The closest he got to the state team until the start of 2025 was as net bowler. Even at IPL 2026, the regular presence of Shivang Kumar in the XII meant Ansari didn't get a game. Still only 26, Ansari hoped good things were around the corner.

"I don't think much about the past and only focus on the future. I know that as a cricketer, life cannot always be full of good things. One day you perform well and become happy, and if the next day is not good, you get upset. These small things don't affect me as much anymore"





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