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Let Us Unite to Make This Year's Pilgrimage a Beacon of Faith, Unity and Devotion: LG Sinha

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday called upon all sections of society to join hands in ensuring the successful conduct of the annual pilgrimage, describing it as a powerful symbol of faith, unity and social harmony while urging citizens to transform their devotion into compassionate service for visiting pilgrims.

Addressing a meeting with civil society groups, religious leaders, business representatives and senior officials in Srinagar, Sinha appealed for collective participation in making the pilgrimage a safe, dignified and spiritually



tural unity. Scheduled to commence on July 3 and conclude on August 28, the pilgrimage has shaped the region's spiritual and cultural identity for generations, Sinha said. He noted that pilgrims bring with them not only personal faith but also the hopes and aspirations of millions, making it the collective responsibility of society to ensure their safety, comfort and well-being.

The Lieutenant Governor described civil society members, religious leaders, business organisations and social workers as custodians of the nation's moral and spiritual values, urging them to continue preserving the

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LG Addresses Interfaith Dialogue Event

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today addressed 'Interfaith Dialogue' organised by the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language and Inter-Faith Harmony Foundation of India. The Lieutenant Governor highlighted India's legacy as an ancient civilization rooted in mutual respect, where diverse faiths coexist, flourish, and teach the world the wisdom of peace.

"The world recognizes that Hinduism-

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Private Cab Firms Using 'Unfair Competition' to Stop Bharat Taxi: Amit Shah

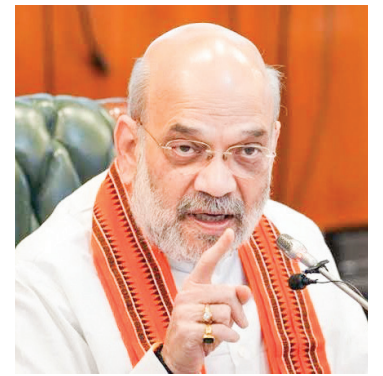
HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

GANDHINAGAR, JUNE 27: Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Saturday accused private ride-hailing companies of resorting to "unfair competition" to block the growth of Bharat Taxi, alleging they are operating at a loss and slashing fares in an attempt to drive the cooperative platform out of the market.

Launching Bharat Taxi in 14 major cities of Gujarat, Shah asserted that the driver-owned mobility service would expand to more than 500 cities and towns across India within the next two years.

Addressing the launch event at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Shah dismissed reports claiming Bharat Taxi's fares are higher than those of competing platforms, saying rival companies reduce fares only when Bharat Taxi enters a new market.

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NIA Chargesheets Three More in Red Fort Blast Case

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUNE 27: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday chargesheeted three more persons, including an absconding paediatrician, in connection with the high-intensity vehicle-borne bomb blast near Delhi's Red Fort last year, taking the total number of accused chargesheeted in the case to 13.

The supplementary chargesheet, filed before the Patalia House Court, names Zameer Ahmad

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Seychelles Is A Valued Maritime Partner: PM Modi

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

VICTORIA (SEYCHELLES), JUNE 27: Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Seychelles on Saturday on a three-day state visit aimed at reinforcing India's longstanding partnership with the Indian Ocean nation and expanding cooperation in key strategic sectors.

Modi was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour at Seychelles International Airport, where he was received by President Patrick Herminie and a high-level



delegation. Shortly after his arrival, the Prime Minister described Seychelles as

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Dr Jitendra Unveils Future of Precision Medicine

HT NEWS NETWORK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, JUNE 27: On the eve of Doctor's Day, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, who is himself a noted physician and diabetologist, illuminated the practice of "Precision Medicine" in the future and said India is steadily developing homegrown solutions for global health challenges through gene

therapy, nuclear medicine and other emerging technologies, positioning itself as a global hub for cutting-edge healthcare innovation.

Dr Jitendra Singh said India's vast genetic diversity, heterogeneous disease profile and rapidly expanding scientific capabilities offer an unprecedented opportunity to develop Indian data for Indian treatment for Indian patients, while contributing affordable and globally relevant healthcare solutions.

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Stay Vigilant, Mission-Ready: Army Chief To Troops at Ladakh

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday called on troops deployed in Ladakh to remain vigilant, mission-ready and operationally agile as he reviewed the operational preparedness of the Fire and Fury Corps amid evolving security challenges.

During his visit to the headquarters of the Leh-based Fire and Fury Corps, the Army Chief was briefed on the prevailing security situation, combat preparedness, infrastructure development and ongoing initiatives aimed at strengthening

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ACB Attaches Multiple Assets in Disproportionate Assets Case Against Former Administrative Clerk

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Saturday attached multiple immovable properties belonging to a former administrative clerk in the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Srinagar, as part of an investigation into a disproportionate assets case.

The action was taken against Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Firdousabad, Batamaloo, in connection with a 2025 First Information Report (FIR) registered at Police Station ACB Srinagar

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Operation Sheruwali Continues Until All Objectives Are Achieved

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

RAJOURI, JUNE 27: Operation Sheruwali entered its 36th day on Saturday, with security forces continuing an extensive counterterrorism operation in the Dorimal forests of the Gambhir Mughlan area of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district.

The multi-agency operation, launched in late May, is aimed at locating and neutralising armed infiltrators believed to be hiding in the dense and mountainous forest region. Personnel from the Jammu and Kashmir Police, along with other security agencies, remain

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'Drug Abuse Must Be Defeated Through Collective Action': Book on Narcotics Unveiled in Tral

Justice Bashir Ahmad Kermani, IAS officer Miraj Ahmad Larkar and prominent citizens call for stronger social awareness to combat the growing drug menace

MUSHTAQ AHMAD
 HT CORRESPONDENT

TRAL, JUNE 27: A book highlighting the growing threat of drug abuse and the urgent need for public awareness was unveiled during a well-attended ceremony at Siddiqui Hall, Ikhlas Manzil, Sadar Bazar, Tral, on Saturday.



The event marked the release of "Mirror of Narcotics" (Aina-e-Manshiyat), authored by Dr. Nisar Ahmad Bhat Trali, founder-president of Ikhlas Trust. Around 150 people from different walks of life attended the function.

The ceremony was presided over by IAS officer Miraj Ahmad Larkar, while Justice Bashir Ahmad

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Let Us Unite.....

centuries-old tradition of welcoming pilgrims with dignity and respect. Emphasising the inclusive nature of the annual event, Sinha said people from different faiths and communities have consistently come together in the service of pilgrims, demonstrating the region's commitment to unity and mutual respect. He also highlighted the significant improvements made in recent years by the administration and the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, including wider roads, upgraded communication facilities and enhanced infrastructure, which have contributed to making the pilgrimage safer and more convenient.

Representatives of civil society and trade bodies assured the Lieutenant Governor of their full cooperation in ensuring the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage. They also appreciated the extensive improvements in infrastructure, security, healthcare, sanitation and pilgrim facilities, stating that these measures have substantially enhanced the overall experience for visitors.

Sinha welcomed the suggestions offered by participants and assured them that all constructive recommendations would be carefully examined for implementation.

The meeting was attended by legislators, senior civil and police officials, representatives of religious organisations, trade and business associations, and prominent members of civil society.

LG Addresses.....

Sanatana Dharma, the world's oldest living religion, never imposed itself. Instead, it embraced diversity and coexistence. Ancient India built a foundation of respect, giving Christianity, Islam, Judaism and Zoroastrianism freedom to flourish.

In a world facing conflicts and intolerance, the core spirit of Sanatana Dharma and Indian philosophy can serve as a guiding light. Today, the world may be divided by religion, language, and race, but Indian thought has the unique power to bridge these divides," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that India is a living idea that declares humanity should live together as one family. He said the young generation must carry this vision forward, reminding the world that peace is possible through mutual respect.

In intellectual, spiritual, and cultural vocabulary I call this 'Indianness'- 'Bhartiyata', the ethos that offered the world the vision of equal respect for all religions, the pursuit of truth, unity in diversity, the idea of the world as one family (Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam), and a shared cultural consciousness. Our ancient texts, the Vedas and Upanishads, symbols of a knowledge tradition older than five thousand years, have always taught harmonious living. They taught humanity that people of different faiths should live together while respecting one another's beliefs. That is the eternal principle.

Thousands of years ago our sages said that truth is not confined to a single path. Truth is infinite, and there are many routes that lead to it. That is why India has always seen diversity not as division but as a blessing. This outlook is reflected in the crown jewel of India, Jammu Kashmir, where for centuries the spirit of harmony and coexistence has been part of life.

People often use the word 'Kashmiriyat', which actually springs from the philosophy of 'Indianness'- 'Bhartiyata' and symbolizes the fundamental sentiment India has taught the world since the Vedic age, equal respect for all religions, cultures, and traditions," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that when Islam came to India in the 12th and 13th centuries and many Sufi saints and Islamic scholars came here, they found unique Indian culture rooted in love, spirituality and compassion, and equality.

"Sufi saints were inspired by the vision of Vedas, Upanishads, Buddhism, and Jainism and they learnt the ideals of co-existence from Indian scriptures. Moreover, numerous repositories of Sanskrit knowledge were translated into Arabic. Our ancestors prayed, 'Sarve Bhavantu Sukhina , Sarve Santu Niramaya ' - may all be happy, may all be free from illness. This prayer is not for one religion or sect but it is a prayer for the welfare of all humanity. I believe this is India's identity.

India and its ancient philosophy have never told anyone to abandon their faith. India has always said to the people to bring your faith with you, bring your traditions, and live with us in harmony. That is India's distinctiveness. That is the greatness of the Indian spiritual tradition," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Dr. Karan Singh, former Union Minister; Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir; Dr. Khwaja Ifthikhar Ahmed, President, Inter-Faith Harmony Foundation of India; Dr. Md. Shams Eaqbal, Director, National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, New Delhi; Dr. Jyotsna Singh, Founder Director, Dara Shikoh Centre, Srinagar; Dr. Nasreen Shama, Director, Operations, Inter Faith Harmony Foundation of India; Shri Fida Firdous, President, Kashmir Writers Association; Shri Navaid ul Islam Khan; National Coordinator, Inter Faith Harmony Foundation

of India, Dr. GV Sundeeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; senior officials, prominent citizens and literary personalities were present.

Private Cab.....

"Wherever Bharat Taxi is launched, competing companies immediately slash fares and offer higher incentives to drivers. Their objective is not competition but to stop Bharat Taxi from establishing itself," Shah said.

He alleged that some private transport companies deliberately incur losses to eliminate competition and later regain complete control over the market.

"They want to prevent Bharat Taxi from succeeding so that they can once again operate arbitrarily," he said, adding that such practices would not succeed because the cooperative movement is rooted in public welfare rather than profit.

The service was formally launched in Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot, Dwarka, Somnath, Jamnagar, Bhavnagar, Junagadh, Mehsana, Amreli, Anand, Nadiad and Valsad. Bharat Taxi had been introduced on a pilot basis in Gujarat in December last year.

Describing Bharat Taxi as India's first cooperative-owned, driver-operated ride-hailing platform, Shah said the initiative follows a zero-commission model that enables drivers to retain their entire earnings instead of paying commissions to an intermediary.

He also accused private cab aggregators of exploiting both drivers and passengers by deducting commissions, delaying payments and suspending drivers without giving them an opportunity to explain their case.

"Bharat Taxi has been created to ensure that neither drivers nor customers are exploited," Shah said.

The platform has been launched with services for two-wheelers, auto-rickshaws and four-wheelers.

During the event, Bharat Taxi signed agreements with several government agencies and public institutions, including Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation, Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, Gujarat State Cooperative Bank, airports in Ahmedabad, Surat and Rajkot, the Ahmedabad Division of Western Railway, and local traffic authorities to strengthen its operations.

Shah announced that Bharat Taxi would be introduced in Nagpur, Pune, Mumbai, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Jaipur and Kolkata before July 31, before expanding to more than 500 cities and towns over the next two years.

He said the initiative reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of expanding the cooperative movement into new sectors and expressed confidence that similar cooperative models would be introduced in other areas of the economy. (Agencies)

NIA Chargesheets.....

Ahanger, Tufail Ahmad Bhat and absconding Muzafar Ahmad. All three are residents of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the NIA, the case already includes the deceased prime accused, Dr Umer Un Nabi, who allegedly drove the explosive-laden vehicle used in the November 10, 2025 blast that killed 11 people.

The agency identified Muzafar Ahmad, a paediatrician, as the elder brother of co-accused Dr Adeel Ahmad Rather and alleged that he was a founding member of a terrorist module linked to Al-Qaeda. Investigators claimed he was among the principal conspirators behind the attack and played a key role in planning and executing the conspiracy.

The NIA further alleged that Muzafar attended a secret meeting in Srinagar in June 2022 where the terror module was formed. It also claimed that he was involved in the manufacture, testing and storage of improvised explosive devices at a clandestine facility in Faridabad.

A non-bailable warrant has been issued against Muzafar, who remains absconding, and efforts are underway to trace and arrest him, the agency said.

The investigation also found that Zameer Ahmad Ahanger allegedly worked as an overground worker for the module and acted as a courier for arms, ammunition and funds while remaining in contact with handlers.

Tufail Ahmad Bhat, described by the NIA as a former overground worker of the banned Pakistan-based terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba, allegedly supplied weapons to the module. The agency said he procured an assault rifle, a compact assault rifle, a pistol, magazines and live ammunition through concealed deliveries and handed them over to the deceased prime accused for 3 lakh.

The NIA said its investigation, supported by forensic examination, geo-location mapping and financial trail analysis, is continuing to uncover the full extent of the conspiracy.

Seychelles.....

"a valued maritime partner and a close friend in the Indian Ocean," expressing confidence that the visit would further strengthen bilateral relations and enhance cooperation for the benefit of both countries.

During the visit, Modi will hold compre-

hensive talks with President Herminie to review the full spectrum of bilateral cooperation and exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual interest. The discussions are expected to focus on maritime security, defence, sustainable development, climate resilience, healthcare, education, capacity building and the blue economy.

Modi is also attending Seychelles' golden jubilee National Day celebrations as the Guest of Honour. A contingent of the Indian Armed Forces and two Indian Navy ships will participate in the celebrations, underscoring the close strategic and defence partnership between the two nations.

Ahead of his departure from New Delhi, the Prime Minister said Seychelles is a key maritime neighbour and an important partner in India's vision for security and sustainable growth across the Indian Ocean region. He expressed confidence that the visit would further advance shared prosperity and regional stability.

Besides official engagements, Modi is scheduled to address the National Assembly of Seychelles and interact with members of the Indian diaspora.

The visit marks Modi's first trip to Seychelles since 2015. President Herminie had visited India earlier this year, reaffirming the commitment of both countries to deepen their longstanding partnership.

In a statement, the Office of the President of Seychelles said the visit reflects the enduring friendship between the two nations, which have maintained diplomatic relations since Seychelles gained independence in 1976. It noted that bilateral cooperation has steadily expanded over the past five decades across a wide range of sectors, with both sides expected to explore new opportunities for collaboration during the visit. (Agencies)

Dr Jitendra.....

Interacting at a special Doctors' Day Conclave, Dr. Jitendra Singh said healthcare is entering a transformative era where treatment will increasingly be tailored to an individual's genetic profile, lifestyle and environmental factors. He said precision medicine and personalised healthcare will redefine the future of medical practice by enabling more accurate diagnosis, targeted therapies and improved patient outcomes.

The Minister said India's diversity itself has become one of its greatest scientific strengths. Unlike countries with relatively homogeneous populations, India presents an extraordinary range of genetic variations and disease patterns across different regions, creating immense opportunities for biomedical research. He said this unique advantage enables India not only to address its own healthcare challenges but also to develop solutions that can benefit the global community.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said the Genome India Mission has already completed genome sequencing of over 10,000 individuals and is progressing towards building one of the world's largest genomic databases. He said this scientific foundation will accelerate the country's transition towards precision medicine while strengthening research into genetic disorders, rare diseases and personalised therapies.

Referring to recent scientific achievements, Dr. Jitendra Singh said Indian researchers have successfully demonstrated gene therapy for haemophilia, marking a significant milestone in indigenous medical innovation. He added that gene medicine and nuclear medicine are emerging as some of the most promising areas of healthcare and will fundamentally transform disease management in the years ahead through highly targeted and patient-specific treatment.

The Minister said India's research ecosystem has also acquired a stronger institutional framework through the Anusandhan National Research Foundation, which integrates modern science with social sciences, humanities and India's traditional knowledge systems. He said this multidisciplinary approach reflects India's own model of scientific development while encouraging innovation that addresses national priorities alongside global challenges.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said Artificial Intelligence has emerged as a powerful enabler across the healthcare ecosystem. From genome sequencing and biomedical research to disease diagnosis, medical education and telemedicine, AI is significantly reducing the time required to analyse complex medical data while enhancing the quality of clinical decision-making. He said technology-enabled hybrid healthcare models are connecting patients in remote areas with specialists, expanding access to quality healthcare across the country.

The Minister said recent policy reforms have opened new opportunities for advanced research in nuclear medicine and related disciplines by encouraging greater collaboration between government institutions, academia and the private sector. He said institutions such as Tata Memorial Centre are undertaking pioneering work in nuclear medicine for cancers and other life-threatening diseases, creating new possibilities for safer and more precise treatment.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said India is also witnessing a major shift in pharmaceutical innova-

tion. After decades of largely manufacturing medicines discovered elsewhere, the country has now begun developing new drugs through indigenous research, clinical trials and innovation. He said the successful development of India's first indigenously researched antibiotics for drug-resistant infections demonstrates the country's growing capability to deliver globally relevant healthcare solutions.

Highlighting the rapid growth of India's biotechnology ecosystem, the Minister said initiatives such as the BioE3 Policy and the Bio-RIDE Mission are accelerating research, bio-manufacturing and healthcare innovation while promoting stronger partnerships among research institutions, academia, startups and industry. He added that India's medical devices sector is also producing globally competitive technologies that are strengthening affordable healthcare delivery both within the country and abroad.

Dr. Jitendra Singh described Ayushman Bharat as one of the world's most inclusive public health insurance programmes, providing financial protection even for individuals diagnosed with serious pre-existing illnesses. Alongside the rapid expansion of government medical colleges, digital health infrastructure and telemedicine, he said these initiatives are steadily strengthening India's healthcare network and improving access to quality medical services.

Calling preventive healthcare the next major national priority, Dr. Jitendra Singh said India is witnessing a growing burden of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, cancer and fatty liver disease, many of which are increasingly affecting younger age groups. He said early detection, regular screening, public awareness and timely intervention will play a decisive role in protecting the health of the country's youth and achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

The Minister said India's healthcare transformation has earned growing global recognition in recent years. From indigenous vaccines and genomics to precision medicine, biotechnology and advanced medical research, India is increasingly being recognised as a trusted destination for affordable, high-quality healthcare. He said the country is attracting patients from across the world while simultaneously contributing innovative and cost-effective solutions to global health challenges.

Concluding the interaction, Dr. Jitendra Singh expressed confidence that continued investments in science, innovation and collaborative research, supported by close partnerships between government, academia and industry, will establish India as a global leader in next-generation healthcare. He said India's scientific progress reflects the larger vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Vishwa Bandhu Bharat, where the country serves humanity through accessible, affordable and world-class healthcare driven by indigenous innovation.

'Drug Abuse.....

Kermani attended as the chief guest. The programme began with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Hafiz Faizan Ahmad Qureshi, followed by a devotional recitation by Hafiz Rais-ul-Islam.

Introducing his book, Dr. Bhat described drug addiction as one of the most pressing social challenges facing society today. He said an increasing number of young people are falling victim to narcotic substances due to illegal trafficking, easy availability, curiosity and a lack of awareness.

Referring to Kashmir's geographical location and prolonged socio-political challenges, he said the region has become more vulnerable to the spread of narcotics. He also noted that mental health issues, including depression and anxiety, have increased significantly over the years, making many young people more susceptible to substance abuse. Dr. Bhat stressed that public awareness, moral education and community participation are essential to protecting society from the devastating consequences of drug addiction. He urged scholars, teachers, social activists, religious leaders and other influential members of society to lead sustained awareness campaigns against drug abuse and promote ethical values, compassion, honesty and social responsibility.

Former Doordarshan Srinagar Director Shabir Mujahid praised the author's efforts, describing him as not only a dedicated physician but also an outstanding social worker. He said Dr. Bhat's lifelong commitment to public welfare had earned him the reputation of a "One Man Army" for his remarkable

contributions to society.

In his address, Miraj Ahmad Larkar (IAS) appreciated Dr. Bhat's literary contributions, including his earlier books on diabetes and cancer awareness. After reviewing parts of the 300-page publication, he said drug abuse had emerged as a grave social challenge that required immediate and collective action.

Chief guest Justice Bashir Ahmad Kermani said that while government agencies would continue their efforts to curb drug abuse, families and communities also had a crucial responsibility in preventing addiction and guiding young people towards a healthy future.

The speakers commended both the author and Ikhlas Trust for their sustained social initiatives and efforts to create awareness about issues affecting society. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks, while participants expressed appreciation for the author's work and extended their support to the initiatives of Ikhlas Trust. The proceedings were conducted by Mohammad Yousuf Dabu, who served as the master of ceremonies.

Stay Vigilant.....

surveillance, mobility and integrated operational capabilities in the strategically important region.

According to the Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI), General Dwivedi commended the officers and soldiers of the Corps for their professionalism, dedication and steadfast commitment while serving in one of the world's most demanding operational environments.

He urged the troops to maintain a high level of readiness and remain prepared to effectively respond to emerging security challenges.

Earlier, General Dwivedi also presented the Veterans Achievers Awards to five distinguished retired Army personnel in recognition of their exceptional service and continued contributions to the welfare of former servicemen and society.

The recipients were Colonel Tondup Wangail, Major Rinchen Dolma Kolto, Subedar Major Honorary Captain Sonam Morup, Subedar Major Honorary Captain Tashi Chhepal, a Vir Chakra awardee, and Naik Ghulam Haider.

The ADGPI said the awardees have played a significant role in improving healthcare services in remote areas of Ladakh, supporting former servicemen and widows of fallen soldiers, promoting skill development and self-reliance, securing welfare measures for veteran families, strengthening community welfare and assisting veterans in need of medical care.

ACB Attaches.....

after a secret verification into allegations that he had amassed assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

According to the ACB, the attached assets include a residential house at Firdousabad, Batamaloo, three land parcels at Nambal, Nowgam, registered in the names of his wife and daughter, and approximately 1.266 kilograms of gold ornaments seized during the investigation.

The Bureau said Bhat was arrested during the investigation and is currently on bail under court orders.

Investigators alleged that the former public servant had accumulated substantial movable and immovable assets beyond his legitimate income. Following approval from the competent authority, two teams led by Deputy Superintendents of Police completed the legal formalities and attached the properties located at Batamaloo and Nowgam.

The ACB said signboards have been erected at the attached properties to indicate their legal status and advised the public not to purchase or enter into any transaction involving the attached assets while the case remains under investigation.

Operation.....

engaged in the prolonged search and surveillance mission.

Officials said security forces have maintained a high level of vigilance while carrying out coordinated search operations across the area. The operation is being conducted with close coordination among all participating agencies to ensure its objectives are met.

Security personnel continue to dominate the area through sustained searches and enhanced surveillance, while additional security arrangements have been put in place to prevent any untoward incident. Officials said the operation will continue until the entire area has been thoroughly cleared and all operational objectives have been achieved. (Agencies)



Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather visits Dreygam

Reviews development works, assesses public grievances

HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, JUNE 27: Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today visited the revered Ziyarat of Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani at Dreygam in Budgam district to review the ongoing and proposed development works and interact with the local residents.

During the visit, the Speaker listened to the public demands and grievances and assured them that all their genuine concerns would be addressed on priority. Informing the gathering about the developmental initiatives, the Speaker said that works around Rs. 40 lakh have already been approved for development and beautification of the revered Shrine. He stated that the tenders have already been floated and the execution of these works will commence shortly.

The people also demanded construction of protection wall to protect the Shrine and con-



nectivity between the Eidgah park and the Shrine for easy access to the people.

Later, the Speaker visited Nallah Shaliganga, where the local residents highlighted the long-pending

demand for construction of a bridge across the nallah at Reshweni-Tilwandaji near playground to

improve the connectivity.

Responding to the demand, Abdul Rahim Rather directed the concerned officers to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the proposed bridge at the earliest.

The Speaker observed that the bridge would significantly enhance the connectivity, facilitate hassle free movement for the residents and benefit a large population living around and the adjoining areas. The Speaker also visited Banderpora and Kremshore villages and interacted with the people there. He gave patient hearing to the delegations and assessed their problems. He assured them that their genuine grievances will be redressed at the earliest.

Reiterating his commitment to the welfare of the people, Abdul Rahim Rather assured the public that every genuine demand would be taken up for appropriate action and that sustained efforts would continue to ensure the overall development of the area.

CEO Launches Tourism Modernisation Drive at TRC Borihalan, Shopian

Digital Video Wall and Time-Temperature Display Installed to Boost Tourist Footfall in SDPKG Region

FAROOQ RATHER

SHOPIAN, JUNE 27: In a significant step towards modernizing tourism infrastructure and enhancing visitor experience, the Tourism Development Authority SDPKG on Saturday launched a comprehensive tourism modernization drive with the installation of a state-of-the-art Digital Video Wall Screen and Time & Temperature Display Clock at the Tourist Reception Centre (TRC), Borihalan in Shopian district.

The initiative has been undertaken under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer, SDPKG, Mohammad Rouf Rehman (JKAS), with the objective of promoting the immense tourism potential of the SDPKG region and attracting a larger number of tourists to the area.

The newly installed digital facilities are expected to provide visitors with real-time information, tourism-related promotional content, weather updates, and visual displays showcasing the scenic beauty, cultural heritage, and tourist attractions of the region. Officials believe that the modern infrastructure will significantly enhance the overall visitor experience and strengthen the area's appeal as an emerging tourism destination.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO SDPKG Mohammad Rouf Rehman (JKAS) emphasized the need for adopting modern technologies to promote tourism and improve public facilities. He stated that the modernization drive forms part of a broader strategy aimed at exploring and harnessing the untapped tourism potential of the SDPKG area while creating new opportunities for economic growth and employment generation.

He further said that the authority is committed to developing world-class tourism infrastructure and introducing innovative initiatives that will help place the region prominently on the tourism map of Jammu and Kashmir.

The CEO noted that increased tourist inflow would not only benefit local businesses, shopkeepers, transport operators and hospitality stakeholders but would also provide a substantial economic boost to the entire region. He reiterated SDPKG's commitment to undertaking more developmental projects in the coming months to improve tourism facilities and promote sustainable tourism growth.

Local residents and tourism stakeholders welcomed the initiative, describing it as a progressive step towards modernizing tourism infrastructure and enhancing the visibility of the region among domestic and international tourists.

The Tourism Development Authority SDPKG is expected to continue similar modernization and beautification initiatives across various tourist destinations under its jurisdiction as part of its vision to transform the region into a vibrant and attractive tourism hub.

International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking observed at Kaloosa

HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 27: Social Welfare Department Bandipora today observed the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking at Auditorium Hall Kaloosa with the aim of creating awareness about the ill effects of substance abuse and promoting a drug-free society.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from officials, students, teachers, representatives of various departments, and members of the local community.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Junaid Zargar from ATF Bandipora highlighted the serious health and social consequences of drug addiction. He urged the youth to stay away from narcotic substances and



emphasized the importance of early intervention, counselling, and community support in preventing substance abuse.

Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Sumbal, Fayaz Ahmad Lone, in his address, stressed the need for collective efforts by families, educational institutions, civil society, and government agencies to eliminate the menace of drug abuse. He highlighted the objectives of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and called upon everyone to actively participate in creating a healthy, drug-free society.

Other speakers also addressed the gathering and underscored the importance of awareness, prevention, and rehabilitation in combating substance abuse.

A Nasha Mukht Bharat pledge was administered to all participants, reaffirming their commitment to building a drug-free Bandipora and a Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir.

Social Welfare Department Bandipora reiterated its commitment to continue organizing awareness programmes and community outreach initiatives to protect society, particularly the youth, from the menace of drug abuse.

Commissioner Secretary Tribal Affairs reviews development initiatives in Teetwal, Amrohi under Vibrant Villages Programme-II

HT NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA, JUNE 27: Commissioner Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Prasanna Ramaswamy G, today conducted an extensive visit to Karnah Sub-Division to review the implementation and progress of development projects being executed in the border villages of Teetwal and Amrohi under the Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II).

The visit focused on assessing the pace of developmental works, reviewing the implementation of key government schemes and engaging with the local population to understand their aspirations and developmental needs.

During the visit, the Commissioner Secretary chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Mini Secretariat, Tangdar, attended by officers of the district administration and various line departments. He reviewed the overall developmental profile of Teetwal and Amrohi, with particular emphasis on infrastructure creation, public service delivery, connectivity, livelihood generation and the status of projects sanctioned under VVP-II.

While reviewing the progress, he

directed all the concerned departments to ensure timely completion of approved works. He stressed the need for close inter-departmental coordination for effective implementation of the programme. He observed that the Vibrant Villages Programme aims to transform the border villages into self-reliant and sustainable communities by strengthening basic infrastructure, improving essential services and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities.

The Commissioner Secretary also underscored the importance of regular monitoring to ensure quality execution, transparency and adherence to prescribed timelines. He instructed the officers to proactively identify the development gaps and address them through a coordinated approach so that the benefits of various welfare schemes reach every eligible household.

Later, the Commissioner Secretary visited Teetwal, where he presided over a public interaction camp and held a detailed interaction with the local residents. The participants projected various demands relating to civic amenities, road connectivity, drinking

water, education, healthcare and other developmental issues.

Giving a patient hearing to the grievances and suggestions, he assured the public that all genuine concerns would be taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate action. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to holistic development of border villages. He emphasized that community participation is essential for successful implementation of developmental initiatives.

Addressing the gathering, the Commissioner Secretary outlined the government's vision for comprehensive development of Teetwal and Amrohi under VVP-II. He stated that the programme is designed to improve the socio-economic conditions of border residents through enhanced infrastructure, better public services, improved connectivity, promotion of sustainable livelihoods and greater access to government welfare schemes.

He expressed confidence that the initiative would significantly improve the quality of life in these villages and transform them into vibrant and resilient border communities.

Satish Sharma calls for making J&K a national hub for D2C Innovation at D2CIA National Conclave

Industry-Govt collaboration key to J&K's economic transformation: Nasir Aslam Wani

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, Science & Technology and ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, today attended the D2CIA first National Conclave 2026, where the Jammu and Kashmir Chapter of the D2C Industry Association (D2CIA) was formally launched.

Advisor to Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, Film makers, entrepreneurs, startup founders, industry leaders and stakeholders were present on the occasion.

The Minister said that the launch of the D2CIA J&K Chapter marks a significant milestone in the journey of building a robust innovation-driven economy and reflects the growing confidence of investors and entrepreneurs in Jammu and Kashmir.

Satish Sharma said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, the Government is committed to create an enabling ecosystem for the entrepreneurship, innovation and employment generation. He said that transparent governance, progressive



politics, digital transformation and skill development initiatives are opening new avenues for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the immense potential of the Direct-to-Consumer (D2C) sector, the Minister said that the future of Indian commerce lies in innovation-led, technology-driven enterprises capable of reaching customers directly. He emphasized that Jammu and Kashmir must become an active participant in this transformation by empowering startups, MSMEs, artisans, farmers and young entrepreneurs

with digital platforms, market access and policy support.

Referring to the tourism sector, Satish Sharma said that Kashmir is steadily reclaiming its position as one of India's premier destinations, with record tourist footfalls, improved infrastructure and new tourism circuits creating unprecedented opportunities for local businesses and entrepreneurs. He said every visitor contributes to the local economy, strengthening the livelihoods and creating sustainable employment.

The Minister reiterated the government's commitment

towards promoting sports as a vehicle for youth empowerment and nation-building. He said that investments in sports infrastructure, coaching facilities and athlete development are investments in the future of Jammu and Kashmir.

Emphasizing the government's uncompromising stand against drug abuse, Satish Sharma said that the anti-drug campaign remains a top priority. He called upon the educational institutions, civil society, families and community leaders to join hands with the government in protecting the

youth from the menace of drugs and building a healthier society.

Calling upon the entrepreneurs and industry leaders to invest in Jammu and Kashmir, the Minister assured them that the government will continue to facilitate ease of doing business, encourage innovation and strengthen industry-government partnerships to make the region a preferred investment destination.

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, also addressed the gathering and said that the government is focused on creating an enabling ecosystem where the entrepreneurship, innovation and technology become the driving forces of economic transformation. He observed that Jammu and Kashmir possesses immense potential in the D2C, startup and MSME sectors and initiatives such as the D2CIA Chapter will provide a strong platform for local enterprises to connect with national and global markets.

Nasir Aslam Wani emphasized that sustained collaboration between the government, industry bodies, educational institutions and young entrepreneurs is essential for building a resilient and future-ready economy.

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Commissioner SMC reviews progress of Council Hall Project; directs timely completion

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, today conducted a comprehensive inspection of the ongoing Council Hall project at the SMC Headquarters to review the progress of the vital infrastructure initiative aimed at strengthening the Corporation's institutional capacity and enhancing public service delivery.

During the inspection, the Commissioner reviewed the status of construction works and inspected various components of the project.

The visit was attended by the concerned Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE), who briefed the Commissioner on the scope of work, physical progress achieved, and the scheduled timeline for completion.

The Commissioner was informed that construction activities are progressing satisfactorily, with work currently in full swing. He reviewed the pace of execution and directed the concerned officers to ensure that all works are carried out in accordance with the approved schedule.

While expressing satisfaction over the progress achieved so far, Haseeb, emphasized that timely completion of the project must be ensured without compromising on quality.

He instructed the concerned officers to maintain strict adherence to approved technical specifications, engineering standards, and quality control measures at every stage of construction.

The concerned AEE informed the Commissioner that, subject to the present pace of progress being maintained, the project is expected to be completed during the next financial year.

Upon completion, the Council Hall will significantly strengthen the infrastructure of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation by providing a modern and well-equipped facility for the proceedings and deliberations of the Council.

The facility is expected to enhance the Corporation's institutional efficiency and support more effective municipal governance and public service delivery.

DM Bandipora chairs NCORD Meeting

Reviews Anti-Drug enforcement and awareness measures

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 27: District Magistrate (DM) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar, Saturday chaired a meeting of the District Level NCORD Committee at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, Bandipora, to review NDPS/PIT NDPS cases and the implementation of anti-drug measures across the district.

During the meeting, the SSP Bandipora presented a police station-wise status of FIRs registered under the NDPS and PIT NDPS Acts, highlighting significant recoveries of charas, ganja, heroin and contraband tablets. It was informed that FIRs registered in connection with poppy cultivation during 2026 had increased significantly compared to previous years.

The SSP also briefed the meeting on action taken to freeze and attach financial assets of drug traffickers. It was informed that several movable and immovable properties of drug peddlers had

been attached, while two additional structures raised on encroached state land were demolished.

As per the data presented, recommendations had been made for cancellation of 53 driving licences, impounding of five passports and flagging of 259 Aadhaar cards linked to drug accused. The DM directed the concerned departments to expedite the cancellation of driving licences, passports, arms licences and the flagging of Aadhaar cards in accordance with the prescribed procedures.

Deputy Director Prosecution apprised the meeting about the status of acquittals, bail cases and ongoing court proceedings. The DM stressed the need for timely challenges to bail orders before the competent courts wherever warranted. District Information Officer Bandipora, Aadil Manzoor Wani, presented the progress achieved under the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA). He informed that 38,745 awareness and outreach activities had been conducted across the district. Major initiatives included

Dosti Discussions in schools and colleges, NMBA wall painting campaigns by students, Nun Chai Talks, awareness through Friday sermons, Mega Pad Yatra and extensive IEC activities.

The Excise Department presented its report on action taken against illicit crop cultivation, while the Assistant Drug Controller briefed the meeting on inspections conducted at medical shops and enforcement measures against violations. The DM directed strict implementation of the Computerised Billing System and installation of CCTV cameras in all medical establishments.

Medical Officer, Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF), informed the meeting that a significant number of new patients had been registered since the launch of the NMBA campaign, alongside a considerable number of follow-up consultations and counselling sessions. It was further informed that patient registrations at the ATF have shown steady growth since its inception, with a substantial number of beneficiaries currently receiving Opioid Sub-

stitution Therapy (OST).

The meeting also reviewed the status of CCTV installation in educational institutions and implementation of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003 and the Juvenile Justice Act (JJA), 2015. The DM directed all concerned departments to ensure strict compliance and expedite CCTV installation in schools, colleges and coaching centres.

Emphasizing the importance of sustained and coordinated action, the DM called for continuous monitoring and proactive inter-departmental coordination to effectively curb drug abuse and illicit trafficking in the district.

Reviewing awareness initiatives, the DM directed all departments to intensify grassroots campaigns and ensure regular anti-drug programmes in wards and Panchayats. She emphasized sustained engagement with religious leaders, educational institutions and community organisations to strengthen public awareness against drug abuse and directed departments to maintain the momentum gener-

ated under the ongoing 100-Day NMBA campaign.

The District Administration also appealed to individuals recovering from substance abuse and those willing to rebuild their lives through skill development and sustainable livelihood opportunities to approach the District Administration for necessary support. Such individuals may contact the District Administration's dedicated support helpline at 7006235244 for guidance, counselling, skilling and rehabilitation-related assistance.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl, who participated virtually, District Information Officer Bandipora, Aadil Manzoor Wani; Assistant Regional Transport Officer Bandipora; Chief Medical Officer; Medical Superintendent, District Hospital; Deputy Superintendent of Police (DAR); Assistant Drug Controller; District Officer, Excise and Taxation; Medical Officer, Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) Bandipora, besides other concerned officers.

District Admin Bandipora issues Traffic Advisory for 12th Muharram; Announces Diversions on Srinagar-Sumbal-Bandipora Road

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA, JUNE 27: District Administration Bandipora has issued a traffic advisory in view of the Muharram procession scheduled to be taken out from Dangerpora to Shaltulpora on 12th Muharram (June 28, 2026).

According to the advisory, the movement of vehicular traffic along the Srinagar-Sumbal-Bandipora Road shall remain affected from 12:30 PM to 10:00 PM.

The general public has been advised to avoid unnecessary travel

on the said road stretch during the notified period.

To ensure smooth traffic management during the procession, the following diversions and re-routing plan shall remain in force: Gurez-Bandipora-bound traffic from Srinagar shall be allowed via Sopore-Bandipora-Gurez Road.

Likewise, Srinagar-bound traffic from Gurez-Bandipora shall be diverted at Chewa-Safapora via Gandarbal towards Srinagar.

Similarly, traffic from Sumbal towards Srinagar shall be diverted via Naikkhai-Hamray-Narbal-Sri-

nagar.

Traffic from Srinagar towards Sumbal shall be routed via Takanwari through Shadipora Bridge towards Sumbal.

Furthermore, Dangerpora-Shaltulpora road stretch shall remain a complete No-Ply Zone during the procession.

The District Administration appeals to commuters to cooperate with the traffic arrangements, adhere to the advisory, and plan their travel accordingly to ensure the smooth and peaceful conduct of the Muharram procession.

DC Budgam, SSP visit Magam, Beerwah areas to oversee 11th Muharram arrangements

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM, JUNE 27: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, along with SSP Budgam, Hari Prasad KK, today visited Magam and Beerwah areas to oversee the arrangements put



in place for the observance of the 11th Muharram. The officers also joined the Muharram procession in Magam.

They were accompanied by Additional SP Budgam, Syed Sajjad Bukhari; Sub-Divisional Magistrate Beerwah, Toufeeq Gazi; Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Gulzar; SDPO, Tehsildar Magam, SHO Magam, and other concerned district officers.

Comprehensive arrangements for security, traffic management, parking, electricity, water supply, health and medical facilities, sanitation have been put in place.

DC Kulgam conducts inspection of Urban Development, Civic Infrastructure Projects in district

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, JUNE 27: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today conducted an extensive inspection of Kulgam town to review ongoing urban development initiatives and identify priority interventions aimed at improving civic infrastructure, traffic management, sanitation facilities, and the overall aesthetic appeal of the town.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner finalized the proposed sites for the establishment of a vending market and a public convenience (pub-

lic toilet) at Laroo Adda.

The proposed vending market is envisioned to provide an organized space for street vendors, enhance livelihood opportunities, reduce roadside encroachments, and improve pedestrian movement. The proposed public toilet will further strengthen sanitation infrastructure for commuters, shopkeepers, and the general public.

The Deputy Commissioner also visited Ghanta Ghar to review the proposed revival of the landmark and inspected plans for footpath beautification under the Kulgam Beautification Plan. Emphasis was laid on devel-



oping aesthetically designed pedestrian pathways, improving landscaping, installing street furniture, enhancing lighting, and creating clean, attractive, and pedestrian-friendly public spaces that reflect the town's heritage and identity. Subsequently, the Deputy

Commissioner inspected the area surrounding District Hospital Kulgam to identify suitable locations for on-street parking with the objective of easing traffic congestion and ensuring smooth vehicular movement in the hospital vicinity.

The proposed parking arrangements are expected to improve accessibility for patients, attendants, emergency services, and the general public while strengthening overall traffic management in the area.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited the hospital premises and inspected the ongoing developmental works being

executed within the campus. The progress and quality of the projects were reviewed in detail, and the concerned officers and executing agencies were directed to expedite the pace of work while strictly adhering to prescribed quality standards.

Stressing the importance of creating modern and efficient healthcare infrastructure, the Deputy Commissioner instructed that all ongoing projects be completed within the stipulated timelines so that the enhanced facilities become operational for the benefit of the public without unnecessary delay.

DIPR's Cultural Unit organises Awareness Programme under NMJKA at GGHS Naseem Bagh

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: Cultural Unit of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Kashmir, today organised a comprehensive awareness programme under the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan (NMJKA) at Government Girls High School (GGHS), Naseem Bagh, Srinagar.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers and the school administration. A speech competition was organised wherein students passionately highlighted the alarming consequences of drug abuse and stressed the collective responsibility of society in safeguarding the younger generation through awareness, education and positive engagement.

Adding a powerful cultural dimension to the campaign, artists of the Dilkash Dramatic Club presented a thought-provoking thematic skit depicting the devastating impact of substance abuse on individuals, families and society. Blending entertainment with a strong social message, the performance effectively reinforced the objectives of the Nasha



astating impact of substance abuse on individuals, families and society. Blending entertainment with a strong social message, the performance effectively reinforced the objectives of the Nasha

Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, inspiring students to stay away from drugs, adopt healthy lifestyles and become active ambassadors of a drug-free society.

The presentation received wide appreciation from the audience for its impactful message and artistic excellence.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal of the School Rehana Masoodi, on behalf of the school administration, expressed sincere gratitude to the Department of Information and Public Relations for organising such a meaningful and informative awareness programme. She appreciated the Department's sustained efforts in sensitising students through educational and cultural initiatives.

The programme concluded with all participants collectively taking a pledge to remain committed to the ideals of the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan and to work together towards building a healthy, responsible and drug-free society.

Art & Culture Sector Proposes Cultural Initiatives for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra at High-Level Review Meeting in SKICC Sgr

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: A high-level review meeting to assess the arrangements for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra was held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Srinagar, on Saturday under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble



Lieutenant Governor of J&K Shri Manoj Sinha. The meeting was attended by senior government officials, heads of departments and representatives from various sectors to review preparedness and discuss measures for the smooth, safe and successful conduct of the annual pilgrimage. Representing the Art & Culture sector Mr Gulzar Ahmad Bhat Chairman J&K Artists Association representing the artists community highlighted the vital role of art and culture in enhancing the spiritual and cultural experience of pilgrims visiting the Union Territory during the Yatra. He proposed the organisation of traditional Kashmiri folk music and dance performances, cultural exhibitions, handicrafts displays and heritage-based awareness programmes at designated locations along the Yatra route. He said these initiatives would showcase the rich cultural heritage of J&K while offering pilgrims an opportunity to experience the region's vibrant artistic traditions. Mr. Bhat further emphasized that such cultural initiatives would provide a meaningful platform for local artists and artisans promote communal harmony, strengthen the spirit of hospitality and contribute to preserving the region's rich cultural legacy. The meeting also deliberated on coordinated efforts among various departments to ensure the smooth, secure and well-organised conduct of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026, reaffirming the administration's commitment to providing all necessary facilities for the pilgrims.

Ashura Camp Organized at Alamgari Bazar by Shahr-e-Khaas Literary & Cultural Welfare Society

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: On the solemn occasion of Ashura, the Shahr-e-Khaas Literary & Cultural Welfare Society, in collaboration with Angel's Cultural Academy, organized a one-day camp at Alamgari Bazar, Srinagar. The initiative was aimed at commemorating the sacrifices of Muharram through acts of community service.

Led by Dr. Tariq Ahmad Shera, President of the Society, the volunteers distributed juices and water bottles among mourners and the general public. Dr. Shera emphasized the importance of Ashura as a



symbol of sacrifice, resilience, and service to humanity. He also announced that the camp would be held annually to uphold the spirit of Muharram.

Prominent Guests & volunteers including Ajaz Ahmad Bhat (SSP Traffic), Ishfaq Ahmad (SHO Lalbazar), Saira Shah, Umar Wani (Chairman We The Helping Hands Foundation), Farooq Ahmad, Hakeem Manzoor Ahmad, Nazir Ahmad Salmani, Hakeem Farhaal Manzoor, Hakeem Mowhid Manzoor, Syed Zulfkar, Sahil Fayaz, Zuhaib Manzoor, Riyaan Ahmad, Ayaan Rafiq, Inayat Manzoor, Nadeem Zahoor and Ubaid Showkat, contributed to the smooth execution of the camp.

The event concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony to recognize the efforts of volunteers and supporters. Dr. Shera extended heartfelt thanks to all government officials, community members, and organizations who contributed to the success of the initiative.

The camp stood as a meaningful tribute to the values of unity, compassion, and remembrance during the holy month of Muharram. This programme was supported by Rampage Advertising Agency, New Wani Ornaments, Sheen-The Designer & Tale of Heavens (Tour & Travels).

Folk Lore of Kashmir Showcased Under Ministry of Culture Repertory Grant Scheme at AIEMS in Budgam

GULFAM BARJI

BUDGAM, JUNE 27: Sweet Screen Productions organised a cultural programme titled "Production of Folk Lore of Kashmir" at AIEMS International Pre-Secondary School Mounchwa, Budgam under the Repertory Grant (Guru Shishya Parampara) Scheme of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The programme aimed to preserve and promote the rich folk traditions, performing arts and cultural heritage of Kashmir among students and the local community. Traditional performances and interactive sessions familiarised the audience with the significance of Kashmiri folklore and its role in preserving the region's cultural identity. Chairman of AIEMS International Pre-Secondary School, Mr. Danish Yousf, attended the programme as the Chief Guest and appreciated the efforts of Sweet Screen Productions in promoting traditional art forms among the younger generation. Mr. Sandeep Chaudhary Coordinator, NSD (TIE Centre) Srinagar, and not-



ed Theatre-in-Education expert, attended as the Special Guest. He highlighted the importance of the art and folk arts in education and personality development.

Chairman of the All Kashmir Folk Artist Association Mr. Shah-e-Jahan Ahmad Bhagat also addressed the

gathering and stressed the need for collective efforts to preserve and revive Kashmir's traditional performing arts. Students, teachers, artists and members of the local community participated enthusiastically in the programme which concluded with a vote of thanks.

Education Must Produce Responsible Citizens, Not Just Degree Holders: PSA Leaders

FAROOQ RATHER

ANANTNAG, JUNE 27: The Private Schools' Association (PSA) on Friday organized a grand School Leaders' Conference and Felicitation Ceremony at Dak Bangla Verinag, bringing together school owners, newly elected Zonal Presidents, Secretaries, and senior representatives from across District Anantnag to deliberate on the future of education and the challenges confronting the private education sector.

The conference, the first major event organized by the newly elected District Anantnag leadership, served as a platform for meaningful interaction between the Central Executive Body and grassroots representatives to discuss educational reforms, student welfare, policy challenges, and organizational strategies.

The event was attended by PSA Chief Patron and NISA Joint Secretary Dr. G.N. Var, Chairman PSA Pir Panjal Range and Chenab Valley Division Khurshid Bismal, PSA State President Bilal Ahmad Bhat, Senior Vice President Manzoor Ahmad Rather, General Secretary (Organisation) Mohammad Syed Wani, members of the Central Executive Body, District Executive Body, and representatives from various educational zones.

A special felicitation ceremony was held in honour of Chairman Pir Panjal Range and Chenab Valley Division Khurshid Bismal in recognition of his valuable contribution towards strengthening the private education sector



across Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. G.N. Var emphasized that the primary responsibility of educational institutions is to provide quality, child-centric education rooted in values and character-building.

"Schools must focus on academics, meaningful learning and character formation. Infrastructure and buildings are important, but they should never overshadow the core objective of education, which is to produce knowledgeable, responsible and morally upright citizens," he said.

Dr. Var expressed concern over the growing social challenges facing society, including declining moral values, corruption and drug abuse, and stressed the need for introspection within the education system.

He also highlighted the difficulties being faced by private schools due to increasing regulatory requirements and multiple NOCs, stating that several institutions had been forced to shut down in

recent years.

"Private schools are not opponents of the Government; they are partners in nation-building and knowledge creation. We seek constructive engagement with the Government and a supportive environment that enables educational institutions to serve students more effectively," he added.

Chairman PSA Pir Panjal Range and Chenab Valley Division Khurshid Bismal called for a broader role of educational institutions in addressing social and moral challenges.

"Education is not merely about securing degrees. Schools must produce responsible citizens equipped with ethics, leadership qualities, discipline and social responsibility. Academic excellence alone cannot build a strong society," he said.

Expressing concern over the growing menace of drug abuse, Bismal urged educational institutions to establish robust awareness, counselling and early intervention mechanisms to protect

students from substance abuse.

He also stressed the need for skill-based education, innovation and entrepreneurship-oriented learning to prepare students for the demands of a rapidly changing world.

"The future belongs to innovation, skills and entrepreneurship. Schools must equip students with communication skills, digital literacy, creativity and problem-solving abilities so that they emerge as job creators rather than job seekers," he remarked.

PSA State President Bilal Ahmad Bhat congratulated the newly elected office bearers and urged them to work with unity, dedication and transparency.

"Quality education and student welfare will always remain PSA's top priority. Our collective responsibility is to protect the interests of students and ensure that every child receives quality education," he said.

Senior Vice President Manzoor Ahmad Rather emphasized educational excellence, organiza-

tional discipline and stronger coordination between the Central and District leadership, while assuring full support to the newly elected representatives.

General Secretary (Organisation) Mohammad Syed Wani highlighted the importance of communication, discipline and collective responsibility within the Association.

"A strong organisation is built through unity and coordination. Every representative must remain connected with the grassroots so that the concerns of schools are effectively represented and addressed," he said.

The conference witnessed extensive discussions on regulatory issues, academic reforms, teacher capacity building, student welfare, policy advocacy and future organisational strategies.

The newly elected Zonal Presidents and Secretaries reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the Association and working collectively for the welfare of private educational institutions across Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by District Coordinator Anantnag Aijaz Ahmad Wani, who expressed gratitude to the Central leadership, distinguished guests and participants for making the conference a success. The participants pledged to work in close coordination to strengthen the private education sector and promote quality, value-based and child-centric education throughout Jammu and Kashmir.

HT EDITORIAL

Beyond the Trap: Winning the War Against Corruption

The Anti-Corruption Bureau's (ACB) latest operation, in which a Senior Assistant of the Labour Department was allegedly caught accepting a 40,000 bribe on behalf of an Assistant Executive Engineer, is more than the exposure of an individual act of misconduct. It is a reminder that the battle against corruption remains central to the credibility of governance. Every successful prosecution reinforces the principle that public office is a position of trust, not a means for personal enrichment.

The prompt registration of a case, recovery of the alleged bribe money, and follow-up investigations reflect the growing resolve of law enforcement agencies to tackle corruption decisively. More importantly, such actions reassure citizens that accountability is not merely a slogan but an essential component of public administration.

Over the past few years, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a noticeable strengthening of its anti-corruption framework. Under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, transparency, accountability, and clean governance have been consistently projected as key administrative priorities. The Anti-Corruption Bureau has been encouraged to pursue cases without regard to rank or influence, and its increasing number of successful operations reflects an institutional commitment to enforcing the rule of law.

The elected government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has also repeatedly affirmed its commitment to transparent and citizen-centric governance. The convergence of intent between the Union Territory administration and the elected government sends a positive signal that integrity in public life must remain above political considerations. Such shared resolve is essential because public confidence in democratic institutions depends not on promises alone but on visible and impartial action against corruption.

Yet, while enforcement is indispensable, it is only one part of the solution. Arrests expose corruption; they do not eliminate the conditions that allow it to flourish. Lasting reform demands systemic changes that reduce opportunities for abuse and strengthen institutional safeguards.

The continued digitisation of government services should remain a top priority. Minimising direct interaction between officials and citizens reduces opportunities for illegal gratification and enhances transparency. Time-bound delivery of public services, supported by online monitoring and tracking systems, can make administrative processes more efficient and accountable. Departments dealing with inspections, approvals, contracts, and licensing should undergo periodic audits, while regular rotation of officials can help prevent the development of entrenched networks of influence. Equally important is the protection of whistle-blowers. Honest public servants and citizens must be able to report corruption without fear of intimidation or retaliation. Accessible, confidential, and responsive complaint mechanisms, supported by stronger departmental vigilance units, can encourage greater public participation in exposing wrongdoing. Ethics and integrity training should also become an integral part of public administration, reinforcing the values expected of every government employee.

Justice must not only be done but be seen to be done without undue delay. Speedy investigation, timely prosecution, and firm disciplinary action against those found guilty are essential to maintaining the credibility of anti-corruption institutions. At the same time, governments should actively recognise and reward officials who demonstrate exemplary honesty and professionalism, creating an administrative culture where integrity is valued as highly as performance.

Corruption is not merely a financial offence. It diverts public resources, delays development, weakens institutions, discourages investment, and erodes citizens' faith in government. Every bribe demanded or accepted imposes an invisible cost on society, particularly on the ordinary citizen who depends on public services.

The latest ACB operation should therefore be viewed not simply as another bribery case, but as part of a larger and continuing effort to build a governance system founded on transparency, accountability, and public trust. The fight against corruption cannot be won through enforcement alone. It requires sustained political will, institutional integrity, technological innovation, judicial efficiency, and active citizen participation.

Only when these elements work together Jammu and Kashmir will definitely move beyond isolated anti-corruption successes and establish a governance model where honesty will be the norm, accountability is unquestioned, and corruption finds no space to survive.

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The Reflection of Every Great Teacher

The Teacher Who Shaped My Life: A Tribute to an Extraordinary Educator



SHAFIYA SHABIR BANDAY

There are teachers who complete a syllabus, and there are teachers who transform lives. I was fortunate enough to meet one such teacher during my seventh standard a teacher whose influence continues to guide me even today. If I could wish for one quality in every educator, it would be the qualities I found in Mr. Tanveer Ahmad Dar.

To us, he was never just a teacher. He was a mentor, a guide, a father figure, an elder brother, and a true friend. He understood human emotions and treated every student with kindness, respect, and compassion. He believed that education was not merely about textbooks but about building character and shaping responsible human beings.

Mr. Tanveer Sir taught us lessons that extended far beyond the classroom. He instilled in us the values of honesty, discipline, respect, humility, and responsibility. He taught us to speak respectfully to our elders, to be kind to those younger than us, and to value good character above academic success. His words and actions left an impression on our hearts that time has never erased.

Among the many lessons he taught us, one remains especially close to my heart—the value of time. He was the first person who taught me how to read time from a clock. More importantly, he taught me that every minute is precious and should never be wasted. He inspired us to be punctual, sincere, and responsible. Even today, whenever I look at a clock, I remember his lessons about respecting time and making every moment



meaningful.

His teaching style was truly unique. I still remember how he would spend an entire class explaining the title of a chapter before beginning the lesson. He wanted us to understand the purpose and significance of what we were about to learn instead of simply memorizing facts. His approach encouraged us to think, understand, and apply knowledge in our daily lives.

He was also a constant source of motivation. Whenever a student felt discouraged, he offered words of encouragement and reminded us to believe in ourselves. He celebrated our achievements and patiently supported those who struggled. No student was ever ignored. He listened carefully to our concerns, understood our feelings, and guided us with wis-

dom and patience.

Every child admired him because he made each student feel important. He treated every student with equal care and respect, always making us feel heard and valued. Students who found learning difficult never felt left behind because he patiently guided them until they gained confidence in themselves.

I am talking about none other than Mr. Tanveer Ahmad Dar, a respected educator from Ahgam, Rajwar. Over the years, he has taught thousands of students, but more importantly, he has won countless hearts through his kindness, dedication, and genuine concern for his students' well-being.

I still remember our school picnics, where he personally looked after every student, ensuring that everyone

felt safe, happy, and included. Such small acts of care reflected the depth of his character. They showed us that teaching is not only about imparting knowledge but also about nurturing young minds with love and compassion.

Today, Mr. Tanveer Sir is a successful educator who runs the well-known SKIMS School in Zachaldara. His dedication to education continues to inspire countless students and shape their futures. Sometimes I wish I could return to my childhood and study at his school because I believe I would have learned even more valuable lessons about confidence, discipline, leadership, and life itself.

It has been several years since I last met or spoke with him, yet his memories remain vivid. The lessons he taught, the values he instilled, and the kindness he showed continue to influence my life. He once taught us that whenever someone does something good for us, we should always remain grateful and never forget their kindness. Today, I am simply following that lesson.

Dear Tanveer Sir, Thank you for believing in your students, for guiding us with patience, and for teaching us lessons that continue to shape our lives. Your kindness, wisdom, and dedication have made a lasting difference, not only in my life but in the lives of countless students. Teachers like you do not merely educate; they inspire, motivate, and transform lives.

It is my sincere wish that every child is blessed with a teacher like you someone who teaches not only with knowledge but also with compassion, integrity, and love. Your influence extends far beyond the classroom and will continue to inspire generations to come.

A great teacher can change a classroom, but a teacher like Mr. Tanveer Ahmad Dar changes lives.

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Ashura: A Universal Moral Awakening



MOOL RAJ

Throughout human history, certain moments transcend the boundaries of time and place. They become enduring symbols of values that speak to successive generations. The Day of Ashura occupies such a place in the Islamic historical and spiritual imagination. It is a day associated with remembrance, reflection, moral responsibility, and the perennial struggle between justice and oppression. Its significance extends beyond a single event and invites reflection on a broader pattern that has appeared repeatedly throughout sacred and human history. One of the most widely recognized associations of Ashura is the story of Prophet Moses and the liberation of the oppressed Israelites from the tyranny of Pharaoh. This narrative is not merely a historical account; it represents a universal principle. Throughout the ages, human societies have witnessed the recurring conflict between power and justice, arrogance and humility, oppression and freedom. The story of Moses demonstrates that material power, however formidable, is never absolute. Pharaoh possessed authority, armies, wealth, and influence, yet his power ultimately proved fragile in the face of truth and moral conviction.

The enduring lesson is that justice may face setbacks, but oppression does not possess permanence. The powerful often appear invincible in their own time, yet history repeatedly shows that systems built upon injustice eventually decline. The memory of Ashura therefore serves as a reminder that moral legitimacy is more enduring than political dominance and that the fate of societies is determined not only by power but by the values upon which that power rests. Within Islamic history, another event associated with Ashura is the martyrdom of Husayn ibn Ali at Karbala. His death remains one of the most painful and emotionally powerful episodes in Muslim memory. Yet the significance of Husayn's sacrifice is often best understood not as an isolated exception but as part of a much larger ethical tradition.

The central lesson of Husayn's stand was not merely that he suffered or that he was martyred. Rather, it was that he recognized what he believed to be his

moral responsibility and acted upon it with sincerity, conviction, and unwavering commitment. Whether success appeared likely or unlikely, whether the odds were favorable or overwhelming, he remained faithful to what he understood to be right. The enduring power of his example lies in this profound sincerity of purpose. Seen in this light, Karbala was not the beginning of a new moral principle. It was a continuation of a longstanding tradition of sacrifice, responsibility, and devotion to truth that runs throughout the history of prophets, reformers, righteous leaders, and principled individuals. Husayn's stand belongs to a chain of moral witness that stretches from the prophets of old through the earliest generations of Islam and beyond.

Indeed, Islamic history contains numerous examples of individuals who endured hardship, persecution, and even death because they remained committed to principles they considered sacred. Many leading figures of the early Muslim community paid a heavy price for their convictions. Some faced assassination, others imprisonment, exile, slander, or violence. Among them were distinguished personalities such as Umar ibn al-Khattab and Uthman ibn Affan, whose lives and deaths remind us that the challenges facing a community often emerge from within as well as from external forces. History repeatedly demonstrates that individuals may share a common religious identity, cultural background, or political affiliation while profoundly disagreeing on matters of leadership, justice, and public responsibility. Consequently, moral evaluation cannot be reduced to labels or identities alone. What matters is conduct, integrity, and adherence to ethical principles.

"Ashura proves that moral conviction and courage outlive empires and shape history more than political power. It serves as a timeless call to stand for truth, justice, and human dignity."

The existence of conflict among people who belong to the same community is one of history's recurring tragedies, and it serves as a reminder of the need for humility, self-criticism, and moral vigilance. For this reason, the legacy of Ashura should not be confined to mourning a past tragedy or celebrating a historical victory. Rather, it should encourage reflection on the responsibilities that confront every generation. The questions raised by Ashura remain relevant: What does it mean to stand for what is right? How should individuals respond when faced with injustice? What responsibilities accompany leadership and influence? How can one remain faithful to conscience when confronted with pressure, fear, or uncertainty? These questions transcend historical circumstances and continue to challenge people in every era. Another

important lesson associated with Ashura is the distinction between outward success and moral success. History often celebrates military victories, political achievements, and material accomplishments.

Yet some of the most influential figures in human history appeared unsuccessful according to conventional standards. Many prophets faced rejection. Reformers were often marginalized during their lifetimes. Individuals who stood for principle frequently encountered resistance rather than immediate triumph. Nevertheless, their influence endured because their commitment was rooted in values rather than expediency. Their success was measured not solely by outcomes but by fidelity to their mission. Husayn's legacy reflects this broader understanding of success. The significance of his stand lies not merely in what happened to him but in the values his conduct continues to symbolize. Ashura also reminds us that sincerity is one of the most transformative forces in human life. Material resources, political authority, and social influence may shape events for a time, but genuine sincerity possesses a unique capacity to inspire generations. History remembers individuals not simply because they were powerful but because they were authentic in their convictions and willing to bear personal costs for principles greater than themselves.

This sincerity can be found in countless individuals across different eras and cultures. Some became famous, while others remained largely unknown. Yet their lives testify to a common truth: meaningful change often begins with individuals who are prepared to accept responsibility rather than avoid it.

The broader message of Ashura therefore extends beyond any single historical episode. It speaks to the perennial struggle between justice and oppression, courage and fear, principle and expediency. It reminds people that moral choices matter, that power is temporary, and that integrity possesses enduring significance. In a world often preoccupied with immediate results, public recognition, and material success, Ashura offers a different perspective. It encourages reflection on character rather than status, responsibility rather than convenience, and commitment rather than calculation. It teaches that true greatness is found not merely in achieving one's goals but in remaining faithful to one's principles. Ultimately, the most enduring lesson of Ashura may be that history is shaped not only by those who possess power but also by those who possess conviction.

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER

HT SUNDAY-GOSSIP

The Road to The Mosque, The Journey to The Heart...



■ USUF MIR

Sahil was not the kind of worshipper who could be seen in his local mosque five times a day. The demands of work and his government job kept him away from home for much of the time. Yet one desire remained alive in his heart: to become a regular worshipper at his local mosque. Whenever he raised his hands in prayer, he would ask Allah to make him steadfast in worship and to shape his life according to His guidance.

In recent months, he had begun visiting the local mosque more frequently. During these visits, however, one thing continued to trouble him.

Inside the mosque, everything was spotless. The carpets were clean, the walls were well maintained, and every facility was arranged for the comfort of worshippers. Yet the narrow lane leading from the main road to the mosque was filled with dust, dry weeds, and scattered litter.

Each time he walked along that path, he felt a quiet uneasiness.

"How can the road leading to the House of Allah be neglected like this?" he often wondered.

One afternoon, after the Zuhr prayer, he met Saqib. The regular imam was absent that day, and Saqib had led the congregation.

As they walked through the mosque

courtyard toward the road, Sahil pointed to the lane.

"Saqib Sahib," he said, "have you ever noticed how untidy this path to the mosque has become?"

Saqib glanced at it and nodded. "You are right," he replied. "I have thought about it many times. God willing, I will ask the madrasa students to clean it."

Sahil nodded in agreement.

When they reached the road, they went their separate ways. Saqib headed home, but Sahil stopped after only a few steps.

The words lingered in his mind. I will ask the students to clean it.

Suddenly, a memory from several years earlier resurfaced.

He had once travelled to a large congregational mosque in another district to offer Friday prayers. The mosque was magnificent, a multi-storey structure capable of accommodating thousands of worshippers.

Yet while praying on the upper floor, he noticed a layer of dust covering parts of the carpet and flooring. When he rose from prostration, traces of dust marked his forehead.

After the prayer, he approached one of the mosque administrators.

"The mosque is beautiful," he said politely, "but it deserves more attention when it comes to cleanliness."

As he spoke, he took five hundred rupees from his pocket and handed it to the administrator.

"Please use this to hire a worker for a day and have the place cleaned."

The administrator thanked him warmly and assured him that it would be done.

Satisfied, Sahil returned home.

But when he visited again the following Friday, nothing had

changed.

The dust remained. The cleaning had never taken place.

It was not the money he regretted. What troubled him was the realization that an important responsibility had been ignored.

The memory returned with surprising clarity.

"Perhaps the same thing will happen here," he thought.

Without hesitation, he turned around and walked back toward the mosque.

After looking around, he found a broom in one corner of the veranda. He picked it up and began cleaning. There was no proper tool available to collect the dust and debris. After searching for a while, he found a broken piece of tile and used it like a small shovel.

He bent repeatedly, pulling out dry weeds, gathering dust, and clearing the pathway.

As he worked, words of remembrance flowed quietly from his lips. "La hawla wa la quwwata illa billah."

The afternoon was warm. Sweat ran down his forehead, yet an unusual sense of peace settled in his heart.

Sometimes he swept. Sometimes he paused and looked toward the sky.

"O Allah," he whispered, "without Your help, a person can do nothing. Whatever happens is by Your will."

A few moments later, another prayer rose from within him.

"O Allah, just as this path is being cleaned, cleanse my heart as well. Forgive my shortcomings. Make me a better person, a better Muslim, and bring goodness to my community."

While sweeping, his eyes fell upon a string of prayer beads half-buried beneath the dust. He carefully picked it up, brushed it clean, and placed it in

his pocket.

A thought crossed his mind.

"I have only cleared the dust from this path. Perhaps Allah is reminding me that it is time to clear the dust from my own heart as well."

At that moment, the prayer beads no longer seemed like an ordinary object.

They felt like a silent message.

A reminder that inner purification is just as important as outward cleanliness.

His eyes grew moist.

It seemed to him that not only the road to the mosque was being cleaned, but something within him was being cleansed as well.

After a long effort, the courtyard, the veranda, and the entire lane leading to the mosque had been transformed.

Just then, the last worshipper leaving the mosque approached him.

The man had a thick beard and wore a maroon cap. As he came closer, he embraced Sahil without saying a word and gently kissed his forehead.

Sahil stood there in surprise.

"Please pray for me," the man said with a smile. "And recite a prayer for me as well."

Sahil looked at him curiously.

"Why do you say that?"

The man smiled again.

"Because today I have seen a truly good human being."

They introduced themselves to one another. The man's name was Rashid Dar. He was not from the village but had come from another town to visit a friend.

During their conversation, Sahil said,

"I am not a particularly devout person. I constantly pray that Allah makes me regular in the five daily prayers. But one thing has always

troubled me. If everything inside the mosque is clean and beautiful, yet the road leading to it is neglected, it does not feel right. That is why I did not wait for anyone else. I simply started cleaning."

Rashid listened quietly.

Sahil continued,

"A few years ago, I even gave money to a mosque administrator to have a mosque cleaned, but nothing came of it. Since then, I have learned that some tasks are better done with your own hands than left entirely to others."

Rashid nodded.

"May Allah preserve this spirit within you," he said.

A little later, he prepared to leave. Before departing, he gently pressed Sahil's hand and looked at him with deep respect.

Sahil remained standing there for a moment.

Then he returned the broom to its place and looked once more at the freshly cleaned path.

A deep sense of contentment filled his heart.

That day, Sahil had not only cleaned the road leading to the mosque.

He had also cleared from his heart the habit of waiting for others to act first.

This short story explores the role of proactive action by individuals. It highlights how many positive changes in society begin when individuals choose to act instead of waiting for others. It is also a story about self-reflection, sincerity, and the connection between outward deeds and inner transformation.

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Work, Ideology and Poverty: From the Mindset of Slavery to the Courage of a Lion



■ YAWER HAMID

Poverty is not merely the absence of wealth; it often creates an invisible prison of fear, silence and submission. For generations, many poor people have been conditioned to believe that they must always bow before the powerful, tolerate injustice and remain grateful even when they are exploited. Such a mindset is more dangerous than poverty itself because it robs individuals of confidence, dignity and self-respect. As Karl Marx observed, "The ideas of the ruling class are in every epoch the ruling ideas," reminding us that domination is sustained not only through economic power but also through controlling people's beliefs. Likewise, Paulo Freire argued that the oppressed must develop critical consciousness before they can achieve genuine liberation. Every human being, regardless of economic status, possesses equal worth and deserves justice, opportunity and respect. Poverty should never become a reason to surrender one's dignity. Education, awareness, hard work, and unity are the strongest tools for breaking the chains of exploitation. When people understand their rights and believe in their own abilities, they become difficult to manipulate or intimidate. The greatest victory over poverty is not only earning more money but also refusing to accept humiliation as destiny.



True transformation begins when the poor replace the ideology of slavery with the ideology of courage, self-belief and dignity. To act like a lion does not mean embracing violence or hatred; it means standing firm for one's rights, refusing humiliation, speaking truth to power through lawful and peaceful means and never allowing fear to silence one's voice. B. R. Ambedkar's timeless call, "Educate, Agitate, Organize," remains one of the most powerful messages for every marginalized community. Similarly, Frantz Fanon believed that liberation begins when the oppressed reject the inferiority imposed upon them. History honours those who challenged injustice with courage rather than those who accepted oppression in silence.

Every worker, farmer, labourer, student and citizen must remember that respect is not a gift from the powerful; it is a birthright. Poverty may limit material possessions, but it should never imprison ambition, courage, or character. The day the poor walk with confidence instead of fear, exploitation begins to lose its power. A just society will emerge not when the poor beg for dignity, but when they recognize that dignity has always belonged to them. The path to freedom is built on self-respect, education, lawful resistance, and the unwavering belief that no human being is born to live as a slave.

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Peace in the Lap of Nature

*Peace is in the lap of nature,
I love it in every way.*

*Nature is full of living creatures,
Each one is special every day.*

*We all live here together,
Though we have different feathers*

*Under the open sky we play,
While birds fly high every day.*

*Trees dance in the gentle breeze,
Flowers bloom with fragrant ease.*

*Butterflies look bright and fair,
Adding beauty everywhere.*

*The summer wind may blow so strong,
Yet nature keeps my heart along.*

*Its sweet fragrance fills the air,
Bringing peace beyond compare.*

*Nature is all around me,
A place where I feel free.*

*Its peaceful lap gives me rest,
A gift that I love the best.*

Sahil Manzoor Bhatti



True transformation begins when the poor replace the ideology of slavery with the ideology of courage, self-belief and dignity. To act like a lion does not mean embracing violence or hatred; it means standing firm for one's rights, refusing humiliation, speaking truth to power through lawful and peaceful means and never allowing fear to silence one's voice. B. R. Ambedkar's timeless call, "Educate, Agitate, Organize," remains one of the most powerful messages for every marginalized community.

Genetic Engineering: Reimagining Life Through the Lens of Molecular Precision

■ Bisma Ashraf

Introduction: A New Frontier in Biological Innovation

Genetic engineering stands as one of the most transformative scientific advancements of our time. It offers humanity the ability to not only understand the blueprint of life but to rewrite it with precision. As a student pursuing an MSc in Genetics, I view this field as both a marvel of molecular science and a mirror reflecting our ethical responsibilities. From curing inherited diseases to enhancing agricultural resilience, genetic engineering is reshaping the boundaries of possibility.

What Is Genetic Engineering?

Genetic engineering refers to the deliberate modification of an organism's DNA using biotechnological tools. Unlike traditional breeding, which relies on generational cycles and chance mutations, genetic engineering allows scientists to make targeted changes at the molecular level. This includes:

- **Gene editing:** Techniques like CRISPR-Cas9, base editing, and prime editing enable precise alterations to DNA sequences.
- **Synthetic biology:** Designing new biological systems and organisms from scratch.
- **Epigenetic modulation:** Influencing gene expression without altering the DNA sequence itself.

These innovations have ushered in the era of programmable biology, where life can be designed with intention and foresight.

Medical Applications: From Treatment to Cure

In the realm of medicine, genetic engineering is revolutionizing how we approach disease:

- **Gene therapy** involves correcting defective genes responsible for conditions like cystic fibrosis, sickle cell anemia, and muscular dystrophy.
- **CAR-T cell therapy** reprograms immune cells to target and destroy cancer cells, offering hope for previously untreatable malignancies.
- **Pharmacogenomics** tailors drug treatments to individual genetic profiles, enhancing efficacy and reducing side effects.

- **mRNA vaccines**, developed using synthetic genetic sequences, have proven vital in responding to global pandemics like COVID-19.

These breakthroughs are not merely treating symptoms—they are addressing the root causes of disease at the genetic level.

Agricultural Innovation: Feeding a Growing World

Genetic engineering has dramatically improved agricultural productivity and sustainability:

- **Climate-resilient crops** such as drought-tolerant maize and salt-resistant rice help farmers adapt to changing environmental conditions.
- **Nutrient-enhanced foods** like Golden Rice (rich in Vitamin A) and fortified cassava combat malnutrition in vulnerable populations.
- **Pest-resistant varieties** such as Bt cotton reduce the need for chemical pesticides, promoting ecological balance.
- **CRISPR-edited crops** with optimized growth cycles and yield potential are paving the way for food security in the face of population growth.

Gene-edited livestock and vertical farming systems are also emerging as sustainable solutions for future food demands.

Industrial and Environmental Impact

Beyond health and agriculture, genetic engineering is driving innovation in industry and environmental conservation:

- **Biomanufacturing** uses engineered microbes to produce biofuels, biodegradable plastics, and pharmaceuticals.
- **Environmental remediation** involves genetically modified bacteria that can clean oil spills, absorb heavy metals, and detoxify polluted ecosystems.
- **Carbon capture technologies** are being enhanced through modified algae and plants that sequester atmospheric CO₂ more efficiently.
- **Space biology** explores the use of engineered organisms to support life in extraterrestrial environments, including



food production and waste recycling.

These applications demonstrate the versatility and potential of genetic engineering to address global challenges.

Ethical Considerations: Editing Life with Caution

With the power to alter life comes the responsibility to do so ethically. Genetic engineering raises profound questions:

- Should we enhance human traits such as intelligence or physical ability?

- Is it ethical to edit the germline—DNA that is passed to future generations?
- How do we prevent misuse, such as the creation of biological weapons?
- Who decides which traits are desirable, and who has access to these technologies?

The controversial case of He Jiankui, who edited human embryos in China, sparked international debate and highlighted the urgent need for global ethical frameworks. As scientists and citizens, we must ensure that innovation is

guided by compassion, equity, and transparency.

Regulation and Global Governance

Regulatory approaches to genetic engineering vary across regions:

- | Region | Regulatory Body | Approach |

|-----|-----|-----|

- | USA | FDA, USDA, EPA | Case-by-case safety assessment |

- | EU | EFSA | Strict GMO labeling and approval |

- | India | GEAC | Oversight of genetically modified crops and trials |

- | Global | Cartagena Protocol | International biosafety standards |

There is growing momentum for a unified bioethics charter to ensure responsible innovation and equitable access.

The Future: Bio-Intelligence and Beyond

The next decade promises even more radical advancements:

- CRISPR 3.0 will allow multiplex editing and epigenetic control.
- Digital DNA synthesis will enable on-demand creation of genetic code.
- Biocomputing may use DNA for data storage and logic processing.
- De-extinction efforts aim to revive lost species like the woolly mammoth.
- Human-machine biology will merge synthetic biology with neural interfaces, redefining the boundaries between organic and digital life.

As biology becomes programmable, our understanding of life itself may evolve.

Conclusion: Engineering with Purpose

Genetic engineering is not just a scientific tool—it is a philosophical turning point. It challenges our notions of identity, evolution, and ethics. As we gain the power to sculpt genomes, we must also cultivate wisdom, humility, and inclusivity. The future of genetic engineering will be shaped not only by what we can do, but by what we choose to do.

The Author is a MSc Genetics, Maya Devi University, Uttarakhand, Contact: bismaashrafone@gmail.com

Adverse Impacts of Tobacco Consumption

■ Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

Tobacco belongs to the nightshade family and is cultivated for its dried leaves. The plant, growing 1-3 metres tall, produces broad leaves that are dried, processed, and manufactured into cigars, cigarettes, and chewing products. These forms of tobacco are lethal to human health and are linked to severe medical and social consequences.

Tobacco use dates back to 1492 when Christopher Columbus discovered that natives of Tobago Island used dried leaves for pleasure. Since then, its consumption has spread worldwide. However, what was once seen as a pleasure has now become a global health crisis.

Chemical Composition & Toxicity

Cigarettes contain nearly 4,000 chemicals, of which 43 are carcinogenic. These include: Polycyclic hydrocarbons (cancer-causing agents). Ammonia (causes cellular irritation). Formaldehyde (toxic chemical used for preservation). Oxides of nitrogen (respiratory irritants). Carbon monoxide (reduces oxygen-carrying capacity of blood). Nicotine (addictive substance that affects the nervous system). Tar (causes lung cancer)

Nicotine, though used agriculturally as an insecticide and in limited medical applications, is primarily harmful, making people dependent, irritable, and prone to diseases.

Major Health Hazards

1. Heart Diseases:

Increases risk of atherosclerosis (plaque buildup in blood vessels). Causes peripheral artery disease (PAD) due to narrowed arteries. Leads to strokes and heart attacks

2. Lung Damage:

Smoking is responsible for 90% of lung cancer deaths



(CDC report). Increases risk of COPD, chronic bronchitis, and emphysema. Triggers asthma attacks. Smokers are 25 times more likely to die from lung cancer

3. Fertility Issues:

Women: disrupts hormones, reduces chances of pregnancy. Men: increases risk of erectile dysfunction

and poor sperm quality

4. Weakened Immunity:

Makes the body more vulnerable to infections and chronic illnesses

5. Vision Problems:

Increases risk of cataracts and macular degeneration

tion. Can cause glaucoma, dry eyes, and diabetic retinopathy

6. Oral & Dental Issues

Smokers have twice the risk of gum disease. Symptoms: swollen gums, bleeding, loose teeth, sensitivity. Stains teeth and reduces ability to taste/smell

7. Skin & Hair Damage

Causes premature ageing, wrinkles, and skin cancer (especially lips). Leads to hair loss, balding, and unpleasant odor

8. Cancer Risks Beyond Lungs:

Pancreatic cancer (20-30% linked to smoking). Bladder cancer (3x higher risk). Stomach cancer (especially near oesophagus). Mouth, throat, oesophageal, kidney, cervical, liver, colon cancers. Acute myeloid leukaemia Impact on Others & Society Passive smoking harms non-smokers, especially children, causing coughing, sneezing, and respiratory problems. Environmental pollution increases due to cigarette smoke. Economic burden on families and healthcare systems. Addiction leads to loss of dignity, unhygienic lifestyle, and poor quality of life.

Awareness & Global Observance

Every year on May 31st, World No Tobacco Day is observed across the globe. Schools, colleges, and public organizations conduct campaigns, seminars, and rallies to raise awareness about the devastating impacts of smoking. Tobacco is not just a personal choice but a public health threat. From damaging the lungs, heart, and reproductive systems to causing numerous cancers, its effects are devastating. It ruins not only the life of the smoker but also the lives of passive smokers and the environment.

As responsible citizens, we must educate youth, reduce tobacco consumption, and actively participate in anti-tobacco campaigns to build a healthier society.

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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 CHANDOOOSA 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

Public Notice

I am applying for fertilizer License under the title of MALIK FERTILIZERS & related items, situated at TILAGAM KREERI Baramulla. In this regard if anybody is having any objection may file the same to Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla a within the time period of 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name...SAJAD AHMAD MALIK , S/o.ALI MOHD MALIK R/o.TILAGAM KREERI, Distt....BARAMULLA

Public Notice

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on the name FAROOQ AHMAD PARRY Now this Connection bearing Consumer IDNO 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 of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

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

Public Notice

I have changed my name from Old name BAREERA IRSHAD WANI to New Name BAREERA IRSHAD WANI in future I'll be known as BAREERA IRSHAD WANI if anybody has any objection kindly report to passport office Srinagar within 7 working days after that no objection will be accepted.

BAREERA IRSHAD WANI ASHAI KOCHA FATEH KADAL SRINAGAR

Public Notice

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the electricity consumer agreement standing in the name of Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, S/o Abdul Karim Bhat, R/o Malroo, Gulshan Pora, District Srinagar, bearing Consumer No. 02030530002640 and Installation No. 42/10-R1, is proposed to be transferred to the name of his son, Ali Mohammad Bhat, S/o Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, R/o Malroo, Gulshan Pora, District Srinagar. If any person has any objection to this proposed transfer, he/she may submit the same to the concerned authority within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, no objection shall be entertained thereafter, and the transfer shall be processed accordingly.

Ali Mohammad Bhat, R/o Gulshan Pora, Maloora District Srinagar. Cell no 9469790245

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

Subject: Application of MOHD ISMAIL GOJER DEADER for the issuance of ST (SCHEDULE TRIBE Gujar 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 shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

NAIB TEHSILDAR KALANTRA

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

JKSHC JAMMU & KASHMIR STATE HAJ COMMITTEE
Government of India Ministry of Minority Affairs Haj Committee of India

HAJ 2027 (1448 H) IMPORTANT GUIDELINES

- PASSPORT VALIDITY**
• Passport must be valid till **31 December 2027**.
• Passport must be valid on the date of application.
- COVER / GROUP**
• A group can have maximum **5 members**.
• Minimum age – **18 years** on the date of application.
- COVER HEAD**
• Cover Head must be a **male member**.
• Minimum age – **18 years** on the date of application.
- MOBILE NUMBER & WHATSAPP**
• Cover Head must use his own mobile number.
• WhatsApp must be active on the same number.
- FORM SUBMISSION**
• Fill the form yourself.
• Do not let anyone else fill the form using your mobile number.
• Do not share your OTP with anyone.
- NOMINEE**
• Nominee: Son / Daughter / Parents / Spouse (Legal heir preferred)
• Add only one nominee who will perform Hajj in your place.
- BANK DETAILS (ACCOUNT HOLDER MUST BE COVER HEAD)**
• Account must be in the name of the Cover Head.
• Provide correct & active bank account details.
• Account must be active.

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR HAJ – 2027 (1448 H)

- The Haj Committee of India invites applications from eligible intending pilgrims for Haj – 2027 through the online Haj Application Form available at <https://www.hajcommittee.gov.in> or HAJ SUVIDHA mobile app.
- The application window shall remain open from **22.06.2026 to 20.07.2026** (up to 11:59 PM). After Qurbah (Digital Random Selection) process to be conducted in the last week of July, each provisionally selected pilgrim shall be required to deposit an advance amount of **₹1,52,300/-** on or before **10.08.2026**. No relaxation or extension in these timelines shall be feasible.
- Applicants must carefully read the Guidelines and Undertakings to ensure their eligibility and upload scanned copies (not photographs) of the following:
a. Front and back pages of machine-readable Indian Passport (1200 x 800 px, JPG/JPEG, 100–500 KB), issued on or before the application closing date and valid up to at least 31.12.2027;
b. Passport-size photo with white background (480 x 640 px, JPG/JPEG, 5–20 KB);
c. Bank passbook or cancelled cheque (590 x 750 px, JPG/JPEG, 80–250 KB); and
d. Address proof (590 x 750 px, JPG/JPEG, 80–250 KB).
- Cancellation of a Haj seat is strongly discouraged, as it causes operational difficulties. Accordingly, cancellation shall attract substantial penalties in accordance with the Guidelines for Haj 2027. Intending pilgrims are advised to apply only after careful consideration of their preparedness and firm commitment to undertake the pilgrimage.

JOIN OUR OFFICIAL WHATSAPP GROUP For Haj 2027 Updates
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/Lxp9Sdes7r0Ad0RmRdcAfm?z=qt&p=a&ml=1>

Bait-ul-Hujaj (Haj House), Bemina, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, India - 190017
+91 194 249 5365
<https://www.jkshc.org/>

Aapki Tayyari – Aapka Aaram – Hamari Zimmedari

Space Devoted by Headlines Today, Purely in Public Interest

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore

E-Auction Notice No: 23 of 2025-26 | Dated: 25.06.2026

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K (UT), it is hereby notified for the information of the General Public that e-Auction Notice/ sale of Auction of old Principal office quarter and old Chowkidar quarter Building at GDC Sopore. through e-Auction on the basis of "As it is where it is" is hereby made as given below:

S.No	Name of work	Minimum reserve Bid (Rs. In lacs)	T.D Cost (In Rs)	E/M (In Rs)	Time
1	Auction of old 02 No buildings (principal quarter and Chowkidars quarter) in the premises of Govt., Degree College Sopore.	3.52	200/-	7040/-	30 days

Time & Date of Opening of Bid: 04-07-2026

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the scheduled date given below.

S.No	Date of issue of Auction Notice	25.06.2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 25.06.2026 To 03.07.2026 4:00 PM
3	Bid submission Start date	25.06.2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	03.07.2026 upto 4:00PM
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	04.07.2026 upto 11:00AM in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore.

Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 mentioning there in the Auction Notice Number in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore.

The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in. The Bids uploaded on the website up to due date will be opened on date mentioned above, in the office of the Bid Receiving Authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore.

The original instruments in respect of EMD etc. must be uploaded by the bidders. However, the bidder who is declared H-1 after opening of bids shall submit hard copies of original instruments in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore within 03 days.

CDR means 'Call Deposit Receipt' and FDR means 'Fixed Deposit Receipt' issued by any Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank pledged to the Bid Receiving Authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore.

Bids will be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore by the committee comprising of following members under the chairmanship of Executive Engineer R&B Division, Sopore:

- Prop: Zahoor Ahmad Shah Convener College Development committee GDC Sopore.
- Asstt. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore.
- Asstt. Executive Engineer R&B Sub- Division Zaingeer.
- Technical officer to Xen RNB Sopore
- AAO R&B Division Sopore.
- Drawing Branch R&B Division Sopore

In case of some un-foreseen circumstances, holiday or otherwise, the date of opening of the bids as specified shall be the next working day, or else notified separately.

The bidders shall be required to submit a sum as Earnest Money Deposit specified in the bid document for due performance of contract. The bid for work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 07 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder withdraws his/her bid before the said period or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid, the Earnest Money shall be liable to be forfeited.

- If the bid is accepted, the Earnest Money will be retained as part of security for due fulfillment of the contract.
- Bids uploaded without details of Earnest Money Deposit of requisite amount shall be rejected.
- In case it is found that the bidder(s) has/have furnished misleading/wrong or fraudulent information/documents, the Earnest Money Deposit of the bidder(s) will be forfeited.

Terms & Condition

The prospective bidders shall have to deposit earnest money equal to the amount as shown above in the shape of CDR/FDR, corresponding to the location above pledged to the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore. The same shall be treated as security deposit in respect of the Successful Bidder.

No person shall be allowed to participate in the auction unless he/ she deposit the earnest money in the shape of CDR/FDR. The successful bidder (H-1) shall have to deposit 25% of the bid amount within 03 days and balance 75% within a period of next 07. The bidder shall have to draw an agreement with the department. The terms and condition of this auction notice shall be part of the agreement. Cash/ Cheque will not be accepted.

In case the successful bidder does not deposit 100% payment within the stipulated time, The earnest money in addition to twenty five percent deposit shall be forfeited.

The security deposit of the successful bidder shall be released after the successful completion of the work within a prescribed time schedule.

Successful bidder have to demolish the structure and remove the salvage material from the site within a period of 30 days from the date, work order is issued.

Once the offer of the highest bidder is accepted and the acceptance is communicated in the shape of allotment, the contract shall come into force and it will be obligatory on the part of the successful bidder to fulfill the contractual obligations

The successful bidder shall have to use the standard tools and equipment's, required for extraction work at his own cost and without causing damage to other infrastructure, e.g Cable lines, electric poles, telephone lines Govt. and public property.

The watch and ward of all material shall be responsibility of the bidder/ agency.

The successful bidder/ bidders shall have to pay GST/Tax in addition to the bid value as admissible under rules.

Only PAN Card holder shall participate in the auction process.

The Auction Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bid with assigning any notice or reasons.

No: 2884-93 | Dated: 25-06-2026

Sd/- Member Secretary (Auction Committee) Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore

DIPK: 2585/26 | Dated: 27-06-2026

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

NIT No: 37/EEA/R&B of 2026-27/2402-12 | Dated: 27-06-2026

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

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	T.D Cost (In Rupees)	Time	Class
1.	Revival and Restoration of Shiv Haven Shala at Wuyan Pampore.	26.99	1100/-	120 days	AAY, BEE

Earnest money (In Rupees) : 2% of Adv cost

M.H of Account: Relevant Head of Account

Project Authority: Directorate of Archives, Archaeology and Museums J&K

Position of AAA: Accorded vide No. DAA&M-177 of 2026 Dated: 01.06.2026.

Position of funds: Committed.

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

S.No	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27-06-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	27-06-2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	28-06-2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	09-07-2026 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	10-07-2026 12:00 PM

Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department)

The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure- A of the NIT and submit/ upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid).

Bids must be accompanied with 2% of Tender document/Tender Fee to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG)

All the bidders must deposit Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG)

The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value to be deposited in Cash in Centralized Designated Pooling JK Bank Account Bearing No: 0470010200000099, IFSC: JAKA0LALANG),which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period.

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 Awantipora (tender receiving authority).

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

DIPK: 2615/26 | Dated: 27-06-2026

Sd/- Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora

Sakeena Itoo holds public darbar at Sailkhanen, dedicates Ambulance for patient care

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, JUNE 27: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today visited Sailkhanen village in Kulgam district and held a public darbar to directly engage with the people and listen to their grievances and developmental aspirations.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that the Omar Abdullah-led government is committed to people-centric governance and is making concerted efforts to fulfil the developmental aspirations of the people and ensure improved services at their doorsteps.

She said that several projects of public importance have been initiated in recent months and healthcare facilities have been upgraded across Jammu and Kashmir, with particular focus



on rural and far-flung areas. The Minister also highlighted various welfare schemes aimed

at different sections of society, especially women. She urged the youth to avail benefits of skill development initiatives. She stressed the importance of community participation in ensuring accountability and accelerating development.

During the public darbar, the locals projected several demands, including inclusion of the area on the tourism map, augmentation of drinking water supply and early completion of the Pan-chayat Ghar.

Responding to the demands, the Minister directed the concerned authorities to identify suitable land for a playfield. She dedicated an ambulance for patient care at the local hospital, considering the area's far-flung nature. She assured the public that all other genuine demands would be taken up and addressed in a phased and time-bound manner.

Agriculture Dept Cracks Down on Pesticide Dealers

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN, JUNE 27: As part of the ongoing drive to ensure the availability of quality agricultural inputs to farmers and to curb the sale of unauthorized and substandard pesticides, the Director Agriculture Kashmir conducted a surprise inspection of various pesticide dealers in District Shopian.

During the inspection, stocks of pesticides and related records maintained by dealers were thoroughly examined to verify compliance with the provisions of the Insecticides Act and Rules. The inspection aimed to safeguard farmers' interests and ensure the use of quality plant protection chemicals in the farming sector.

During the drive, a quantity of 235 kilograms of 'Super M-45' pesticide was seized on suspicion of non-compliance with prescribed standards and regulatory requirements. The seizure was carried out in the presence of the Executive Magistrate, Shopian, following due legal procedure.

The Director Agriculture Kashmir reiterated the department's commitment towards maintaining strict vigilance over the sale and distribution of agricultural inputs and warned dealers against indulging in the sale of spurious, misbranded or unregistered pesticides. He emphasized that strict action shall be taken against violators under the relevant provisions of law.

Farmers were advised to purchase pesticides only from authorized dealers, insist on proper bills and invoices, and use plant protection chemicals strictly as per the recommendations of the Agriculture Department.

The Department of Agriculture Kashmir shall continue such inspection drives across the Valley to ensure the availability of genuine and quality agricultural inputs to the farming community.

Javid Dar launches development projects in Rafiabad, reaffirms commitment to grassroots growth

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 27: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today undertook an extensive tour of Rafiabad in Baramulla district, where he laid foundation stones and inaugurated several key developmental projects aimed at strengthening the public infrastructure and enhancing civic amenities in the area.

As part of the visit, the Minister laid the foundation stone for construction of a 1x30-metre RCC Plate Girder Bridge at Doabgah over Nallah Vijibal under the NABARD Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF). The bridge, to be executed by the Public Works (R&B) Department, will be constructed at an estimated cost of 629.41 lakh and is expected to significantly improve connectivity and facilitate safer movement for the local population.

The Minister also laid the foundation stone for strengthening and upgradation of 6 kilometres of inner link roads in Ladoora to be raised with an estimated cost of 507.24 lakh. The project would provide all-weather road connectivity and improve transportation facilities for the residents.

On the occasion, Javid Ahmad Dar inaugurated a Clock Tower at Rohama Chowk, dedicating the landmark project to the people of Rohama. He directed the concerned officers to install informative signboards highlighting the nearby tourist destinations to facilitate the visitors and promote tourism potential of the area.

The Minister further laid the foundation stone for construction of an additional accommodation block at Dak Bungalow, Chijhama.

Later, the Minister chaired a public outreach programme at Dak Bungalow, Chijhama, where he interacted with local residents and gave a patient hearing to their grievances and develop-



mental demands. He assured the people that all genuine issues raised during the interaction would be examined and addressed in a phased and time-bound manner.

Addressing the gathering, Javid Ahmad Dar said that the government is committed to ensure equitable and inclusive development across Jammu and Kashmir by creating durable public assets and strengthening the basic infrastructure. He observed that several of the projects launched today were long-pending demands of the local people and would substantially improve their quality of life.

The Minister also stressed the importance of timely completion of all the sanctioned works while maintaining the highest standards of quality and transparency.

The Minister directed the executing agencies to strictly adhere to the prescribed timelines so that the benefits of these projects reach the people without delay.

Senior officers of the district administration, engineers from the executing departments, local representatives and locals were present on the occasion.

JKEDI, University of Kashmir's IOT join hands to boost Innovation & Startup Culture in J&K

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) today organized a high-impact mentorship session at its Sempora Main Campus, bringing together industry leaders, technology experts, academicians, startups, students and aspiring entrepreneurs to promote innovation, strengthen entrepreneurial capacities and foster collaborative growth within the startup ecosystem of Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme was attended by Mohammad Younis Malik, Director, JKEDI; Tariq Banday, Director, Institute of Technology (IOT), University of Kashmir, Zakura Campus, along with eminent speakers and experts including Dr. Mohammad Mutaheer Zarger, Assistant Vice President and Head, Franchise Expansion and Portfolio Division, Lenskart; and Faisal Kawoosa, Co-founder and Chief Analyst, Techarc.

A major highlight of the event was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between JKEDI and the Institute of Technology, University of Kashmir, Zakura Campus. The MoU aims to strengthen institutional collaboration in the areas of entrepreneurship development, innovation, startup incubation, capacity building, skill enhancement and mentoring support for students, innovators and aspiring entrepreneurs.

Addressing the gathering, Director JKEDI, urged the youth to move beyond stereotypes and conventional career choices and develop the confidence to embrace entrepreneurship as a viable and promising career option. He said that the insecurities associated with risk-taking can be overcome through proper mentorship, institutional support, innovation and sustained effort.

Referring to the evolving startup landscape in Jammu and Kashmir, the Director said that although the J&K Startup Policy is still at a nascent stage and requires careful nurturing, JKEDI has made a

humble but meaningful beginning towards shaping the startup ecosystem and entrepreneurial culture in the Union Territory. He observed that a strong foundation has been laid, but much more needs to be done through sustained institutional efforts, wider outreach, capacity building and continued support to innovators and startups.

He further observed that rapid technological advancements have significantly reduced generational gaps and transformed the way businesses are conceived, developed and scaled. He said that society is increasingly becoming technology-driven and innovation-oriented, creating immense opportunities for young entrepreneurs. He reiterated JKEDI's commitment to providing mentorship, incubation support, handholding and a conducive ecosystem for startups and aspiring entrepreneurs across Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the occasion, Tariq Banday underlined the importance of continuous upskilling in the present competitive environment. He also highlighted the opportunities available under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 and encouraged young entrepreneurs, students and innovators to make full use of the incentives, institutional support and enabling provisions available under the policy.

Dr. Mohammad Mutaheer Zarger, while sharing his entrepreneurial insights, emphasized the importance of perseverance and reinvestment during the initial stages of a startup. He explained the concept of "burn" in the startup journey, wherein entrepreneurs reinvest available resources back into the business instead of focusing only on immediate profits or losses. He also elaborated on the concept of "3-1-Q" - three years of research, one year of execution and quarterly quality checks, as a disciplined approach for building sustainable ventures.

He further observed that modern commerce has evolved into a "phygital" ecosystem, integrating physical and digital experiences.

Justice Moksha Khujuria Kazmi visits Baramulla, Sopore Court Complexes Inaugurates Key Judicial Facilities, reviews Court functioning

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA, JUNE 27: Justice Moksha Khujuria Kazmi, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Administrative Judge for District Baramulla, paid an official visit to the District Court Complex Baramulla and Court Complex Sopore on Saturday to review the functioning of the district judiciary, assess judicial infrastructure, and interact with Judicial Officers and members of the Bar. During her visit to the District Court Complex Baramulla, the Judge inaugurated the newly established Ladies Advocates' Bar Room, created to provide a dedicated workspace for women advocates and further enhance the professional working environment within the court complex. The inauguration was attended by the Principal District & Sessions Judge, Baramulla, Jawad Ahmad; Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Dr. S.F. Hamid;



Senior Superintendent of Police Baramulla, Gurinderpal Singh; Judicial Officers, senior officers of the Civil Administration and Police, and members of the Bar Association Baramulla.

Interacting with members of the Bar Association Baramulla, the Judge appreciated the vital role of advocates in the justice delivery system and emphasized the importance of continued

cooperation and coordination between the Bench and the Bar to ensure the effective administration of justice.

The Judge also inspected the functioning of various courts at the District Headquarters and reviewed different aspects of judicial work. During her interaction with Judicial Officers, she encouraged them to continue discharging their duties with

sincerity, dedication, and commitment, while stressing the need for timely disposal of cases and ensuring that justice remains accessible, efficient, and responsive to the needs of the people. She also held a meeting with the district administration to discuss matters relating to judicial infrastructure and other requirements of the district judiciary. Deputy Commis-

sioner, Baramulla, assured the Judge that all genuine infrastructure-related issues would be taken up on priority and addressed in a phased manner in coordination with the concerned departments. Later, accompanied by the Principal District & Sessions Judge, the Judge visited the Court Complex Sopore, where she inaugurated the newly established e-Seva Kendra to provide litigants and advocates with improved access to digital court services. During her visit to Sopore, the Judge also inspected the functioning of the courts and interacted with Judicial Officers and members of the Bar Association Sopore. She appreciated their collective efforts in ensuring the effective administration of justice and encouraged all stakeholders to continue working together to strengthen public confidence in the justice delivery system by ensuring efficient, transparent, and timely delivery of justice.

MSME DFO Srinagar celebrates MSME Day 2026

■ HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, JUNE 27: Branch MSME Development & Facilitation Office (DFO), Srinagar, under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), celebrated MSME Day 2026 at the MSME Technology Development Centre (Extension Centre), Sanat Nagar, Srinagar, under the theme "Empowering MSMEs through Innovation and Sustainable Industrial Development."

The programme brought together representatives from leading incubation centres, academia, the Ministry of MSME, MSME Technology Development Centre (Extension Centre), Srinagar, start-ups from the service sector, and other stakeholders to deliberate on strengthening the MSME ecosystem through innovation, technology, and collaborative support.

The event was organized and coordinated by Branch MSME DFO Srinagar under the leadership of Saheel Alaqband, Assistant Director, Ministry of MSME and Mohammad Tariq Ishtiaq, Assistant Director, Ministry of MSME with the active support of the officials and staff of MSME Technology Development Centre (Extension Centre), Srinagar.

The programme featured insightful deliberations by Professor Saad Parvez, Head, MSME Incubation Centre, NIT Srinagar; Professor Parvez Mir, Head, CIED



Foundation, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST); and Dr. Shahid Jibrani, Chief Executive Officer, Atal Incubation Centre, who shared their perspectives on fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology-driven growth for MSMEs.

The primary objective of the programme was to strengthen collaboration among incubation centres, academic institutions, MSME support institutions, startups, and other stakeholders to build a robust innovation ecosystem for MSMEs. The discussions focused on how these institutions can collectively provide mentoring, technology support, product development assistance, business incubation, market linkages, and capacity building to MSMEs in a more effective and efficient manner.

The speakers emphasized that sustained collaboration between government, academia, incubation centres, and industry will play a pivotal role in making Indian MSMEs globally competitive and transforming them into MSME Champions capable of succeeding in international markets. Participants also exchanged ideas on promoting innovation-led entrepreneurship and sustainable industrial development in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Goldman Sachs upgrades India's growth outlook to 6.8 per cent after US-Iran peace deal

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUN 27: Following the recent US-Iran peace deal, India's growth outlook for the calendar year 2026 has been revised by Goldman Sachs to 6.8 per cent.

In a report titled India: Improved macro outlook after the US-Iran deal, Goldman Sachs raised its CY26 gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast to 6.8 per cent and lowered its projections for inflation and the current account deficit. It had earlier projected the economy to grow 6.1 per cent in the current fiscal year.

In its report, Goldman Sachs said the sharp decline in oil prices has reduced macroeconomic risks for India.

"On balance, with the recent downward revision in the oil price forecast by our commodities team (USD \$82/bbl average in Q3-Q4 CY26 versus US \$92/bbl earlier, and US \$75/bbl average in CY27 versus US \$80/bbl earlier), we raise our real GDP growth forecast for CY26 by 0.3 percentage points to 6.8 per cent year-on-year," Goldman Sachs said.



It further lowered its retail inflation forecast for FY27 to 4.9 per cent from 5.1 per cent earlier. "India's economy remained resilient despite disruptions arising from the West Asia conflict, as fiscal and quasi-fiscal measures absorbed much of the increase in energy costs and limited the pass-through to consumers," it said.

It also cited stronger-than-expected economic activity in the first quarter of CY26 as a factor supporting the upward revision in its growth forecast. India's real GDP grew 7.8 per cent year-on-year during the quarter, driven by resilient investment activity and robust expansion in the services sector.

It lowered its current account deficit forecast for CY26 by 20 basis points to 1.1 per cent of GDP and now expects a balance of payments surplus of 0.7 per cent of GDP.

Recently, S&P Global Ratings cut down India's GDP growth to 6.6 per cent in the current fiscal riding on energy stress, sub-par monsoon and slowing global growth.

"We project real GDP growth will slow to 6.6 per cent in the fiscal year ending in March 2027, compared with 7.7 per cent in fiscal 2026, amid the energy stress, expectations of a sub-par monsoon, and slowing global growth," S&P said in its report. S&P's FY27 growth projection is in line with the RBI estimate of 6.6 per cent. UNI

Civil Aviation Min launches first 'Easy Connect' flight from Varanasi under Hub-and-Spoke Model

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI/VARANASI, JUNE 27: In a major step towards strengthening international air connectivity from smaller cities, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu has launched India's first 'Easy Connect' flight under the Hub-and-Spoke model from Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport in Varanasi.

The initiative, launched on June 25, is aimed at enabling passengers from Tier-II and Tier-III cities to begin their international journeys directly from their home airports without having to complete immigration and customs formalities at major metro hubs.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation said the Hub-and-Spoke strategy is part of the government's broader vision of making India the preferred aviation hub for Indian travellers by 2030 and a global aviation hub by 2047.

Under the new system, passengers travelling abroad from Varanasi will complete check-in, immigration and customs clearance at Varanasi itself before boarding a domestic flight to a designated hub airport such as Delhi. At the hub airport, they will seamlessly transfer to their international flight without repeating departure formalities.

Speaking at the launch, Naidu said the initiative marks a major milestone in making air travel more accessible and building a future-ready, self-reliant and globally competitive aviation sector.

"Our new Hub-and-Spoke model paves the way for a monumental shift in how our citizens travel. Regardless of the city one lives in, one can now begin their international journey from their home city and travel across the globe with ease and confidence on India's own wings," he said.

To mark the inaugural service, the minister presented commemorative boarding passes to the first passengers checking in for the 'Easy Connect' flight.

According to the ministry, the benefits of the Hub-and-Spoke model extend beyond aviation. Improved international connectivity is expected to boost trade, tourism, investment and regional economic development. Studies con-



ducted by the ministry estimate that the development of aviation hubs could generate around 400,000 direct and indirect jobs and add nearly USD 30 billion to India's GDP by 2030. By 2047, the cumulative economic impact could support around 16 million jobs and contribute close to USD 1.4 trillion to the economy.

The ministry said several safeguards have been built into the new operational model to ensure security and passenger segregation. Both the domestic and international segments of the journey will be treated as international operations, with separate boarding passes issued for domestic and international passengers to prevent intermixing. International passengers travelling under the model will not have access to customs declaration facilities at the hub airport.

The launch event was attended by Civil Aviation Secretary Samir Kumar Sinha, Additional Secretary Puneet Kansal, Airports Authority of India Chairman Vipin Kumar, Air India CEO and Managing Director Campbell Wilson, and senior officials from the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Airports Authority of India, Directorate General of Civil Aviation and the airline.

The government said similar Hub-and-Spoke international operations are planned to be introduced from more Tier-II and Tier-III city airports across the country, further expanding seamless international connectivity beyond the metropolitan centres. UNI

DRI busts major gold smuggling syndicate, seizes 15 kg gold worth Rs 23 CR; 15 arrested

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 27: In a major crackdown on organised gold smuggling, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has dismantled a sophisticated gold smuggling syndicate operating through Mumbai Airport and seized nearly 15 kg of foreign-origin gold worth around Rs 23 crore in coordinated operations across multiple locations.

The nationwide operations also led to the seizure of 45 kg of silver and the arrest of 15 persons allegedly involved in different stages of the smuggling network, the Finance Ministry said on Friday.

The biggest breakthrough came in Mumbai, where DRI unearthed a well-organised syndicate that allegedly smuggled foreign-origin gold through the airport with the help of insiders. Investigators also busted an illegal gold melting facility that was being used to melt smuggled gold to conceal its foreign origin before it entered the domestic market.

About 6 kg of smuggled foreign-origin gold was recovered from the melting unit.

Nine persons, including an airport staff member, a handler, three intermediaries, the operator of the melting facility and three workers engaged in melting the gold, have been arrested in connection with the case.

According to the DRI, the operation highlights the increasing sophistication of organised gold smuggling syndicates, which are exploiting insider access at airports and using multi-layered distribution networks to evade law enforcement agencies.

In a separate operation at Bengaluru, DRI officers intercepted an international passenger and recovered 1.8 kg of 24-carat gold in paste form ingeniously concealed within the layers of his garments. Follow-up searches at his residence led to the recovery of around 1.5 kg of gold jewellery, 45 kg of silver, and Indian as well as foreign currencies. The accused has been arrested.

Earlier this week, DRI also conducted coordinated operations at airports, railway stations and land customs stations in Hyderabad, Rajkot, Calicut, Visakhapatnam, Guwahati and Petrapole. These operations resulted in the seizure of another 6 kg of foreign-origin smuggled gold and the arrest of five more persons.

Officials said the coordinated action demonstrates DRI's continued efforts to dismantle organised smuggling networks and curb the illegal import of precious metals through multiple routes into the country.

Overall, the recent operations resulted in the seizure of about 15 kg of foreign-origin gold, 45 kg of silver, with a combined value of around Rs 23 crore, while 15 persons have been arrested in connection with the cases. UNI

Piyush Goyal urges Indian exporters to aim beyond incremental growth

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 27: Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal cautioned Indian businesses against settling for modest growth in exports.

Minister said if India were satisfied with such incremental gains, it would fall short of what the country is capable of delivering, especially as it expands participation in comprehensive free trade agreements and seeks a larger share in markets such as the United Kingdom.

While speaking at a Business Plenary Session in London, Goyal said, "there was a tendency to fall into a comfortable rut

by treating 5-7-10 percent growth as success, warning that such an outlook would be inadequate for India's ambitions in global trade." "Very often, in our cosy comfort, we lose track, and we get into the typical rut of claiming success when we have 5-7-10 percent growth," he said, adding that global trade typically expands at around 4-5 percent annually.

"India had barely scratched the surface of its potential in the UK import basket and stressed the need for exporters to focus on scale, quality, mechanisation, branding, and packaging to drive transformational growth rather than incremental gains. UNI

BigBasket CEO says 'initially dismissed quick commerce' as he steps down

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JUNE 27: The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and co-founder of the Tata Digital-backed BigBasket Hari Menon after stepping down said he initially dismissed quick commerce saying the company had to rethink its business after consumers rapidly embraced 10-minute grocery delivery.

In a farewell post on LinkedIn, called the rise of quick commerce the biggest disruption the com-

pany had faced. "I've said it before and I'll say it again, I was in denial with the idea of QC. If you'd asked 100 people back then whether they wanted groceries in 10 mins... most of them would've said no. But the moment we gave it to our customers, they lapped it up," he wrote.

Former Amazon executive Amit Nanda taking over the top role. However, Menon and co-founder Vipul Parekh will continue to serve on BigBasket's

board. Reflecting on the company's early years, Menon said, BigBasket was built around four operating principles including maintaining high order fill rates, ensuring on-time deliveries, keeping product availability above 95 percent and delivering strong customer satisfaction.

"We had no real template for what that would take. But we knew the four things we had to get right and that nothing else mattered until we did. We saw immense success and our mod-

el working beautifully. That changed with the emergence of quick commerce. Then came the disruption roaring in... quick commerce," he said.

Menon recalled that by 2014, BigBasket had established itself in Bengaluru, Mumbai and Hyderabad before expanding across the country. The company later roped in actor Shah Rukh Khan as its brand ambassador as it scaled its online grocery business. "Today, as I hand over the baton to Amit, I genuinely

could not be more excited about what comes next. He brings such sharp instincts, deep consumer understanding, and exactly the kind of energy this next phase needs," he wrote. BigBasket was founded in 2011, and pioneered online grocery delivery in India before reinventing itself for the quick commerce era. The company is now among the country's largest rapid delivery players as competition in the sector continues to intensify. UNI

Sachin fronts 'God Promise' campaign of Spinny

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

BENGALURU, JUNE 27: Used car retail platform Spinny has launched its latest campaign, "God Promise", in Karnataka featuring cricket legend and strategic investor Sachin Tendulkar, aiming to make the car-selling process simpler, fairer and more trustworthy for customers.

The campaign highlights Spinny's seller-first proposition, "SellRight", which is designed to offer customers a transparent and hassle-free

experience while selling their vehicles. The company said the initiative seeks to address common concerns around pricing, negotiations and paperwork in the used-car market.

The Karnataka campaign builds on the nationwide "God Promise" brand platform, using a familiar expression to reinforce the company's commitment to trust and transparency in every transaction.

Commenting on the campaign, Tendulkar said trust is earned through

consistent actions and that the initiative reflects values of sincerity and simplicity in buying and selling cars.

Spinny Founder and CEO Niraj Singh said selling a car is often viewed as a stressful process due to uncertainty over pricing and negotiations. He said SellRight is intended to simplify the experience by providing fair pricing, transparent processes and convenience for customers. UNI

Eurogrip Tyres Opens Five New Exclusive Retail Stores in Hyderabad

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, JUNE 27: Eurogrip Tyres, the two- and three-wheeler tyre brand of TVS Srichakra Ltd., on Thursday announced the opening of five new exclusive retail stores in Hyderabad as part of its expansion strategy to strengthen its retail presence across India.

Of the five outlets, three have been launched under a franchise model in collaboration with the company's business partner and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).

The new stores were inaugurated in the presence of Eurogrip Design Head (Milan) Silvio Montanari.

Speaking on the occasion, TVS Srichakra Ltd Chief Operating Officer T.K. Ravi said Hyderabad is a key market for the company owing to its rapidly growing two-wheeler population.

He said the new stores would enable customers to access Eurogrip's complete range of products and services while enhancing the overall ownership experience.

The outlets will offer the company's entire portfolio of tyres and tubes catering to scooters, commuter motorcycles, mid-segment performance motorcycles, adventure touring bikes and superbikes.

In addition to tyre sales, the stores will provide services such as professional tyre fitment, tyre care, puncture repairs, air pressure checks and support for warranty-related requirements.

The company said the expansion forms part of its broader strategy to strengthen its branded retail footprint across key markets and provide customers with a consistent and reliable service experience. UNI

FTCCI, ICAI Conduct GSTAT Outreach Programme Ahead of June 30 Appeal Deadline

■ UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

HYDERABAD, JUNE 27: The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI), in association with the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI), on Thursday organised a GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) Appeals Outreach Programme to create awareness among taxpayers and professionals on filing appeals before the Tribunal ahead of the June 30 deadline.

The programme attracted more than 150 participants, including chartered accountants, cost accountants, company secretaries, advocates,

tax consultants, GST practitioners, finance professionals, MSME representatives and business executives.

Speaking on the occasion, FTCCI Senior Vice-President K.K. Maheshwari said the operationalisation of the GST Appellate Tribunal marked a significant milestone in India's indirect tax administration by providing a dedicated forum for speedy resolution of GST-related disputes.

He said the programme was organised in view of the June 30 deadline for filing GST appeals before the Tribunal and to provide clarity on appeal proce-



dures, statutory timelines, documentation requirements and the newly introduced e-filing system.

Justice Dr. Sanjaya Kumar Mishra, President of GSTAT, New Delhi, and GSTAT-NIC Project Consultant Vivek S. Chandel participated virtually and interacted with participants during a question-

and-answer session.

The technical session was presided over by GSTAT Hyderabad Bench members, including Judicial Member and Vice-President Sushil Kumar Sharma, Judicial Member A.P. Ravi and Technical Member D.K. Srinivas.

The members explained the jurisdiction and functioning of the Tribunal, appeal filing procedures, statutory timelines, documentation requirements and best practices to be followed by appellants.

They also responded to queries raised by participants regarding the appeal process. A special session on the

GSTAT e-filing portal was conducted by officials of GSTAT Hyderabad. Chandel demonstrated the online filing process and clarified practical issues faced by taxpayers and professionals during an interactive session.

ICMAI Chairman D. Venkata Ram Babu and CA Mohd. Irshad Ahmed were among those present.

The programme concluded with an open-house interaction, enabling participants to seek further clarifications from GSTAT members and experts on appeal filing and compliance-related matters. UNI

AASHURA THROUGH HT LENZ...

HT Pictures through the lens of ASHIQ HUSSAIN, Dr AB. QAYOOM, ABU HASNAIN & JAMEEL ANSARI



Alam-e-Sharif and Tazia Procession Held in Delina, Baramulla on Ashura

- Thousands of Mourners Participate in the Procession of Mourning
- District Administration and Police Ensure Comprehensive Security and Public Arrangements

JAMEEL ANSARI

BARAMULLA: A grand and traditional Alam-e-Sharif and Tazia procession was taken out on the occasion of 10th Muharram (Ashura) in Delina area of Baramulla district under the auspices of Anjuman-e-Hussaini Delina. The procession was held in a peaceful and deeply spiritual atmosphere, with thousands of mourners, including men, women, youth, and children from different parts of Baramulla district and adjoining areas, participating to pay tribute to Imam Hussain (AS), Hazrat Abbas (AS), and the martyrs of Karbala.

The procession commenced from Imam Bargah Qadeem and followed its traditional route through Bargah-e-Zainabiya, where mourning gatherings and religious rituals were observed. It later concluded at the historic Imam Bargah Qadeem, Delina. Throughout the procession, mourners recited elegies (Noha), performed mourning rituals, and



raised slogans in remembrance of Imam Hussain (AS) and the sacrifices made at Karbala.

Addressing the gathering, religious scholars and speakers highlighted the eternal message of Imam Hussain's (AS) sacrifice, describing it as a timeless symbol of truth, justice, patience, steadfastness, and resistance against oppression. They said that the tragedy of Karbala continues to

inspire humanity to stand firmly for righteousness and moral values.

To ensure the peaceful and smooth conduct of the procession, the District Administration Baramulla, District Police Baramulla, the Health Department, Municipal authorities, and other concerned departments made elaborate arrangements, including security deployment, traffic

management, medical assistance, and other essential public facilities for the convenience of the mourners.

The office bearers of Anjuman-e-Hussaini Delina expressed their gratitude to the district administration, police, government departments, volunteers, and the general public for their cooperation, which ensured the successful, dignified, and peaceful completion of the procession.

It is pertinent to mention that a traditional Alam-e-Sharif procession was also taken out from Imam Bargah Qadeem on the 9th of Muharram, drawing thousands of mourners from across the district who paid homage to Imam Hussain (AS) and the martyrs of Karbala.

The Ashura commemorations in Delina once again reflected the community's profound devotion to the Ahlul Bayt (AS) while promoting the universal values of peace, unity, brotherhood, sacrifice, and humanity embodied in the message of Karbala.

Over 150 Units of Blood Donated at Mega Ashoora-Eve Camp in Sgr



GULFAM BARJI

SRINAGAR: The People Development Trust and Medical Aid, in collaboration with the JK United NGOs Forum and the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Srinagar, organised a Mega Blood Donation and Free Medical Camp at Alamgari Bazar, Srinagar, on the eve of Ashoora. The programme witnessed an overwhelming response from volunteers, mourners, and local residents. More than 150 units of blood were collected by the Blood Bank team of SMHS Hospital, Srinagar, reflecting the spirit of sacrifice, compassion, and

service inspired by Imam Hussain (A.S.). A free medical camp was also organised, where doctors and healthcare professionals provided medical consultations, health check-ups, and essential medicines to the public. The organisers thanked all blood donors, volunteers, medical teams, SMHS Hospital Srinagar, and the Health Department for their valuable support in making the event a success. They said the initiative was a tribute to the values of humanity and selfless service and encouraged people to participate in voluntary blood donation to help save lives.